

OCTOBER 17, 2006

the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Director of Public Safety to train Afghan National Police



MCC Public Safety Director,
Steve Corich

When the U.S. State Department in Afghanistan approached Steve Corich about an opportunity to train and mentor members of the Afghan National Police, he carefully weighed both the drawbacks and benefits to the assignment. While he was excited about the chance to use his skills on behalf of his country, he knew leaving his family and job

for an entire year was not an easy decision to make. Steve found plenty of support, however, after discussing the opportunity with his family and MCC's President's Office.

"The president decided to give me a year's leave," said Steve, MCC's Director of Public Safety. "I'm a little apprehensive to go, but it's such a good opportunity to make a difference and utilize my skills."

Steve will serve 12 months as an International Police Officer, practicing law enforcement in a foreign land where the ethnic and political issues are complex and challenging. The United States has taken over the national police training in Afghanistan from the Germans who had been working in that capacity since 2002.

In his leave of absence request for MCC, Steve wrote, "officers of all ranks return home with enhanced problem-solving skills, a strong multi-cultural awareness, and a profound appreciation for the value of diversity." Steve said he also looks forward to working with police officers from all over the world.

Steve leaves on Oct. 21 to do a 12-day training session in Alexandria, Virginia. Once he passes the training session, he will be deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan via Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. The specific nature and location of his assignment will be revealed once he arrives in Afghanistan, but he will be stationed in one of eight training centers in Afghanistan.

Service with the International Police includes establishing police stations, determining training processes for police officers, demonstrating democratic police practices, advising local police, and reporting humanitarian violations.

"I think it's an exciting opportunity to get a chance to see how they go about establishing a democratic police force," Steve said.

During his 12-month commitment, Steve is granted a two-week vacation. He said he might have his wife, Linda, and 11-year-old son, Adam, meet him in Italy.

"They are very supportive," Steve said. "They would rather not see me go, but they understand that it's a great opportunity and are very supportive."

MCC explores becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)

Mesa Community College continues to join together with the community to promote a greater understanding of Mesa's changing demographics and the implications for the college and community. According to MCC's Changing Demographics Project, Mesa experienced a 150 percent increase in the Latino population from the 1990 to 2000 census. Latinos now account for approximately 28 percent of Mesa's general population.

One way MCC is addressing the community's changing demographics is with the newly-created Latino Advisory Committee, part of MCC's Commission on Excellence in Education. Members include Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, community liaison for MPS and MCC; David Luna of MPS; and Jose Leyba, Vice President of Development and Community Relations at MCC, among others.

"We have opened the door to discuss the changing demographics of this area and whether MCC becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) is a goal," Jose said.

The criteria to achieve HSI status is enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic full-time-equivalent students, 50 percent of whom belong to low-income households, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

How would the designation benefit MCC? Jose said receiving HSI status would enable MCC to apply for grants and develop programs to enhance the opportunities for all students. In the Maricopa County Community College District, three out of 10 colleges—Phoenix College, South Mountain Community College, and Estrella Mountain Community College—are HSI schools.

The designation has enabled those schools to develop a variety of strong educational programs.

Jose said the discussion about pursuing HSI status is still in the early stages, but they are gathering information on the benefits to MCC.

"The college has a great opportunity to improve services for all students," Jose said.

Another way that MCC helps bring the community together to discuss issues affecting Latinos is the 2006 Mesa Latino Town Hall on Oct. 21 at MCC. This event, founded by the Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens in 2002, has become an annual gathering of Mesa's Latinos and public leaders, providing educational and networking opportunities as well as serving as a catalyst to create positive change.

This year's program gives participants six different track sessions to choose from, with topics that include economic development, education, leadership, and neighborhoods. MCC and Mesa Public Schools (MPS) are the signature sponsors of the event.



Jose Leyba

Employee Donor Recognition Square

Mesa Community College's new Employee Donor Recognition Square is nearing completion. With just a few finishing touches, the area north of the clock tower will showcase the generosity of MCC employees who have donated more than \$500 to MCC student scholarship funds. Deb DeVore, Assistant Director of Development, said she hopes the new square will pave the way for others to consider donating money to support student scholarships.

"The walk is just the college's way of thanking the employees for supporting our students," Deb said. "We want them to know that what they do makes a difference."

The Development Office team brainstormed last spring to spearhead the project to replace the existing donor recognition tree in the staff lounge, which previously recognized donors with a gold leaf, with something different. The committee wanted an area with high visibility so students, staff, and visitors could see donors' names. They received an Innovative Project grant and began work on the project.

The new walkway has room for 900 bricks, with three slightly different colors of bricks, depending on the level of giving. Individuals who donate a minimum of \$500 over any period of time have a brick with their name on it placed in the walk. Donors who previously had a leaf on the giving tree now have their names on a brick. Legacy donor bricks represent donations of \$10,000 or more and acknowledge the highest level of giving.

The walk has growth potential so MCC employees have the ability to move from one level to another as their level of giving increases. The bricks will be updated approximately every six months as needed.

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Deb said employees are already talking about the bricks because they are located in an area that nearly everyone on campus walks by at one time or another. Even alumni and community members are wondering how they get a brick with their name on it. Sounds like a new innovative project in the making.

“It is getting noticed more than the giving tree,” Deb said. “It’s funny how many people want to know how to get their name on a brick. I let them know that any amount they have already donated counts toward reaching the \$500 minimum that it takes to get their name on a brick.”

A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for later this fall after the project has been finalized.



Film crew returns from Africa

Mesa Community College’s film crew is back from a month-long adventure in Africa shooting Zambia’s very first feature film, *Bad Timing*. The film, directed by Jabbes Mvula and produced by professors and students from MCC’s Digital Filmmaking program, is a contemporary tale combining a dramatic narrative of modern life with the customs and culture of Zambia. Cyndi Greening, the producer of *Bad Timing* and MCC’s Media Arts program director, described making a movie in a country with no film industry and limited resources an “insanely difficult task.”

“We went with \$6,000 worth of lights, but as soon as we got there, we fried the transformer and blew several bulbs,” Cyndi said. “This is where the students really learned problem solving and reasoning skills—we went into town to the electrical store and for \$200 we built our own light kit.”

MCC faculty member Kai Kim and associate producer Pam Bowman said they were extremely proud of the professional attitude of the students and how they adapted to the challenges.



The Zambia Group led by Cyndi Greening (center front)



Zambian Dancers

“The very first day, everything started to fall apart,” Pam said. “But that’s where the growth came. Everyone rose to the occasion. We solved problems every single day. You can’t get that experience in a classroom.”

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Other highlights for the crew included Carlos Espinosa's hair-raising experience filming footage of Victoria Falls while nearly hanging out of a helicopter, Gingher Leyendecker's tasty snack of giant black caterpillars, and Jeniece Toranzo's role as make-up artist for the actors.

The crew recently completed the task of editing more than 30 hours of footage for *Bad Timing* and more than 40 hours for the companion documentary, *Voice of an African Nation*, which chronicles the making of Zambia's first feature film. They've submitted both films to the Sundance Film Festival and won't find out the results until the first week in December. After spending a month together in Africa and devoting weeks to post-production work, the crew has developed a solid sense of trust in each other.



Zambian Film Crew

"We had a phenomenal team dynamic," said M.K. Racine, an MCC student in charge of publicity. "There were challenges and obstacles that helped us grow as individuals. I learned an enormous amount."

Cyndi's most treasured memory is the growth she saw in the country's fledgling filmmakers after a one-day training session with the MCC film crew. Gingher, who represented MCC's educational exchange program, said the country is excited to have them return.

"It was so beautiful that we were able to be part of this production," Gingher said. "All the talent was already there. We just provided the tools to give them a voice."

All photos courtesy of Mike Montesa

Herps Alive! Reptiles and Amphibians are coming to MCC!

MCC's Environmental Action Club offers families a unique way to spend the pre-Halloween weekend. On Oct. 28 and 29, MCC's Kirk Student Center will be filled with reptile and amphibian displays, educational exhibits, slide shows, and more. Experts from Arizona Game and Fish and the Center for Reptile and Amphibian Research will be on hand to give presentations on herpetology, the study of reptiles and amphibians.

Beatty Dimit, co-president of MCC's Environmental Action Club, said herp events held by other organizations often include vendors who sell animals, but sales will not be a part of MCC's event.

"The focus of this show will be on education and conservation," Beatty said. "The purpose of Herps Alive! is to bring together people from an array of professions involving herpetology, with unusual animals and interesting presentations."

A few of the unusual animals include a black python, an alligator snapping turtle, a black pine snake, and several endangered herp species. The show includes an exhibit by the Mesa Southwest Museum, plus hands-on encounters featuring Arizona Herpetological Association volunteers and their animals.

MCC biology instructor Andy Holycross, who has co-authored two herpetological field guides specific to Maricopa County and Arizona, will do a book-signing session at the show on Saturday afternoon from 1-5 p.m.

Beatty said there is something of interest for reptile and amphibian lovers of any age. Herps Alive! is free and open to the public from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Call Beatty at (480) 255-0279 for more information.



Students Photos on exhibit at Irish Cultural Center

The Study Abroad in Ireland (SAI) program and the Office of International Education at Mesa Community College announce an exhibition of student photographs at the Irish Cultural Center, 1106 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. MCC students took the photographs in the summer of 2006 as part of their SAI digital photography class at Ireland's Athlone Institute of Technology.

"It's very rewarding to be a part of the program and to share the study abroad experience with students from around the U.S.," said MCC instructor Robert Farwell, who has taught the digital photography class in Ireland since 2004. "The students range in age from 18 to 60+, and with such a wide array of experience you get a broad spectrum of visual interpretations."

Students took photos while on excursions to Dublin, Galway, Loughcrew (Neolithic passage tombs), Clonmacnoise, the Burren, the Aran Islands, Trim Castle, Emo Court, Kilconnell Abbey, and Clonfert Cathedral. While in Ireland, the students were provided a computer lab and software to give them digital darkroom experience. MCC's Office of

International Education provided museum-mounted and framed gleece prints for the exhibit.



Exhibit dates: Oct. 6 through Nov. 1. Contact the Irish Cultural Center for times at (602) 392-7850.

About the Study Abroad in Ireland Program: MCC's SAI program offers students the opportunity to study a variety of subjects for college credit such as Modern History of Ireland, History of Religion in Ireland, Irish Storytelling, Modern Irish Literature and Culture, Archaeological Field Methods, Traditional Irish Music, and Digital Photography. Students live in Athlone, Co. Westmeath and study at the Athlone Institute of

Technology during summer sessions in June through August. The program affords the students the opportunity to travel with the program on official excursions as well as personal time to explore Ireland. For more information about the Study Abroad in Ireland Program, visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/sai, or contact Dr. Barry Vaughan at bfvaughan@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

Empty Bowls Event

Empty Bowls Event

Join Mesa Community College and Mesa Art Center at one of two annual Empty Bowls events commemorating World Hunger Day. To remind us there are hungry people throughout the world – even in our own East Valley. For information, call 480-461-7534.

What:


- Choose one of more than 2,000 handmade ceramic bowls and enjoy a simple but tasty meal of soup, bread and water (Cost per bowl with meal: \$10)
- Participate in a silent auction featuring signed works of art and other gifts provided by local artist and merchants.

When & Where:

<p>MCC at Southern & Dobson Wednesday, October 25, 2006 10 AM - 3 PM Navajo Room (near clock tower)</p>	<p>MCC at Red Mountain Wednesday, November 1, 2006 10 AM - 3 PM (Power & McKellips) Mesquite Building Community Room, 2nd floor</p>
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Sponsors:

<p>THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC <small>albuquerque</small></p> <p>Paz de Cristo Marjon Ceramics Brown & Brown Chevrolet Trader Joe's</p>	<p>New Frontiers Alpine Vally Bread Co. Aramark Red, White & Brew</p>
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