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the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Locks of Love



Mesa Community College student Christina Haase is willing to cut off 10 inches of her long blond hair to make a child's life a little happier. She's also seeking others who are willing to do the same.

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, Christina has arranged for haircutters from Toni and Guy Hairdressing Salon to cut hair on MCC's Southern and Dobson campus from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hair

lengths of 10 inches or longer will be bundled into a ponytail and donated to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss due to a condition called alopecia areata. Donated hair will be used to make hairpieces to help restore self-esteem and confidence to the victims of this disease, enabling them to face the world and their peers.

Christina, who is organizing the event for an MCC honors project and global citizenship certificate, said she couldn't imagine how hard it would be to go through childhood with no hair.

"I've always wanted to do this—I've been growing my hair for the past year and a half," Christina said. "I don't mind cutting my hair. It's just hair and it will grow back. These kids don't have that option."

Locks of Love Details:

- Participants who donate hair will receive a free cut and style.
- Hair donations must be a minimum of 10 inches tip to tip. Curly hair can be pulled straight to measure.
- Hair is needed from men and women, young and old, all colors and races.
- Hair may be colored or permed, but not bleached or chemically damaged.
- No gray hair.

Locks of Love has helped over 2,000 children since 1998. The manufacturer hand-assembles each piece, which requires approximately four months. Children receive a custom, vacuum-fitted hairpiece made entirely from donated human hair. The vacuum fit is designed for children who have experienced a total loss of scalp hair and does not require the use of tape or glue. Custom hairpieces such as these usually start at \$3,000 retail.

Christina isn't the only one willing to cut her hair for the organization. Sonia Filan, Director of Institutional Advancement at MCC, said her daughter, Taylor, has been growing her hair for a long time so she can donate it to Locks of Love. Eight-year-old Taylor said she is looking forward to donating some of her long brown hair to children who can't grow their own.

"If it was me, I would want hair," said Taylor. "So I'm excited that a person can have some of my hair."

Christina encourages others like Taylor to donate their hair at the MCC event.

"It takes 10 ponytails to make one wig," Christina said. "So the more people the better."

Haircutters will be at MCC's Kirk Student Center in the Navajo Room.

Appointments can be made, or walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call MCC's Student Life Office at (480) 461-7285 or email Christina at chaase@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

Elsner's *Le Movement* Trilogy

On Nov. 2, audience members can find out why Paul Elsner's fascinating *Le Movement* play is just as relevant today as when he wrote it in 1984. The Nov. 2 performance is the first of three plays in the *Le Movement* trilogy that will be presented by MCC's Theatre Arts Interpreter's Theatre, with performances by MCC alumni who are active in theatre and film.

The *Le Movement* trilogy is a 21st Century morality epic that examines the future of higher education, with a main character who is the embodiment of the community college movement. The first play was originally presented in 1984 at five colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), has been presented at the convention of the American Association of Community Colleges, and was used in various leadership workshops.

Elsner, who served as Chancellor of the MCCCD from 1977 until 1999, said he wrote the plays to emphasize the importance of change, transformation, and self-examination.

"These plays help us to think about ourselves and our leaders," Elsner said. "There are many points of view today about where we are headed, both as a community college system and as a general society."

History

Elsner, a key player in the beginnings of the community college movement during the 70s and 80s, said there was a lot of zeal and enthusiasm at the time about spreading access to education to more people, but the movement lacked self-analysis. The movement successfully expanded, but Elsner believes there should have been more examination as to what the purpose of a community college should be.

The first play, *Le Movement*, was written in 1984, but is set in the future year 2000. The character of Everyman dies in the midst of his speech to an annual community college convention. He is ushered into heaven, frustrated at his many unfinished agendas, and encounters the characters of Introspection, Renewal, Braggadocio, Social Class, and Amphibian.

The second play, *Manaus! Manaus!*, is set 100 years later and shows the earth in demise and preaches man's fallacies and errors. The third play, *The Petri Dish: Princess Amphibian and the Techno-Feminist Queen*, takes place another 100 years into the future and examines leadership and a workable future society.

"I wrote this as a way of collating my own thoughts," Elsner said. "I'm always very nervous when it is presented, and the fact that people want to put it on is always surprising to me."

Reader's Theatre

The trilogy will be presented in Reader's Theatre style, a minimalist approach that features a strong focus on the text. Lyn Dutson, MCC's Director of Theatre, said Reader's Theatre is an ancient performance style that was popularized by the Romans.



Hayley Larsen, costume assistant for MMM and other theatres in the Valley; Daniel Tauscher, sound designer, works in independent film; Joel Cranson, director for Picasso at Lapin Agile, creates independent films; Gary Stephens, adjunct faculty, director of Zoni winner Death of a Salesman; Jason Kleinschmidt, actor, Zoni nominee, currently in 13 Rue de l'Amour; Lyn Dutson, faculty; seated—Bryanna Tauscher, adjunct faculty and director at MCC.

Later in the early Renaissance (circa 1400s), plays were read to audiences and since then, similar minimalist theatre productions have been known by names such as Readers Theatre, Chamber Theatre, and Interpreters Theatre. Actors focus on voice and have little in the way of set, costumes, and props.

"Our production will use a little of everything, some costumes, sound, etc., but the basis performance is actors reading and interpreting Dr. Elsner's script, hoping to make some of the ideas more accessible for the audience and engage the audience's imagination," said Lyn, who costumed the play when it was originally done in the 80s.

Lyn said the MCC alumni who were asked to volunteer their time for this type of production readily agreed. She thinks alumni participation will draw other alumni who will be curious to see the production.

"MCC Theatre Arts and Film is dedicated to encouraging opportunities like this one for alumni as well as current students," Dutson said. "This exchange of experience benefits everyone."

Both MCC campuses offer audiences the opportunity to see a part of the trilogy.

- *Le Movement*, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus in LB145.

- *Manaus! Manaus!*, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. at MCC's Red Mountain campus.

- *The Petri Dish: Princess Amphibian and the Techno-Feminist Queen* is April 5 at 7 p.m. at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus in LB145.

Future Educator's Conference

Top-rated speakers and student-driven topics will be the highlights of the 4th Annual Maricopa Community Colleges Future Educators Conference. Mesa Community College hosts "All Aboard: Take the right track, and make a difference" on Friday, Nov. 3. This is the first time the conference has been held in the East Valley and the first time MCC has hosted the event.

Keynote speakers at the conference are Allan Cameron and Fredi Lajvardi from Carl Hayden High School in west Phoenix, who will speak about the phenomenal experience of watching their students win a robot-building competition against students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

To encourage civic engagement among the students, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne and Jason Williams, the Democratic candidate for superintendent of public instruction, will also speak at the conference.

In addition to the speakers, there will be several breakout sessions of interest to education majors. Tawn Hauptli, faculty advisor for the event, said MCC students had an enormous amount of input in designing the conference and choosing the topics.

"What is unique about this conference is that the topics are designed by the students," Tawn said. "We had a planning team of MCC students from the Southern and Dobson campus and the Red Mountain campus who had attended the last conference discuss what worked and what could be improved for this conference."

The students brainstormed ideas and developed a survey to find out what topics would be of most interest to participants. After the survey was sent district-wide, the student planning team took the results and designed the conference topics based around the results of the survey.

Breakout session topics include:

- Voices from the Field
- Classroom Management
- Technology in Education
- Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners



About 200 students will attend the conference, with 60 MCC ambassadors, and 30 presenters.

Tawn said the conference is an excellent opportunity for students to network with others in the profession.

"We want them to be excited, inspired, and network with others so they can feel as though they have taken the right path and can make a difference," Tawn said.

Fall Dance Show features all ages

The truest expression of a people is in its dance and in its music. - Agnes de Mille

Who says you can't tap dance into your 70s?

Yvonne Kutach, 78, loves to dance so much that she has taken MCC dance classes for the last 5 years so she can participate in the annual performances. Yvonne, who has been dancing since she was a small child in Nebraska, says she loves to dance and will continue for as long as she is physically able.

"I might have to work five times harder than the girl next to me," Yvonne said, "but as long as there is no age limit, I'll be there."

This fall's performance, "My Way," presented by the MCC Dance Company, features dancers from age 17 to 78. Tina Rangel, MCC Dance Company Director, says a wide range of ages is what enriches the audience's experience.

"It adds to the show," Tina said. "Audience members relate to a character or dancer, so if you have an older or younger member of the audience, it's appealing to that age group. A good mix of ages and ethnicities appeals to the audience."

Tina said several of the dancers in the show come back semester after semester to take the class just so they can be in the show.

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Yvonne Kutach, 78, will perform with On Tap dance troupe for MCC's Fall Dance Performance.



Yvonne Kutach, 78, plays a tap-dancing detective in MCC's Fall Dance Performance.



Yvonne Kutach, left, with MCC dance instructor Mary Wall.

“These are people who love to dance, who love the camaraderie—it’s a social event for them,” Tina said. “Many of the younger students in the show think the older performers are just so inspiring.”

Tina created, produced, and directed this year’s original show, a murder mystery involving a showgirl who...well, that’s all Tina will reveal at this time. She does disclose, however, that the show contains a good variety of ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, and ballroom dances by the MCC Dance Company, On Tap, and Propel.

Yvonne dances with the On Tap group, taught by MCC dance instructor Mary Wall, whom Yvonne describes as “the best in the West.”

Mary said she’s had a lot of fun teaching tap to Yvonne over the years.

“It seems like Yvonne never gets any older,” Mary said. “She doesn’t let anything get her down. She’s always up and trying.”

Yvonne, who owns her own tax business with her husband in Sun Lakes, says she admits she likes to show off a little.

“It shows the public that you don’t have to quit when you are older,” Yvonne said.

“My Way,” presented by the MCC Dance Company, will be performed at the Theatre Outback on Nov. 2 and 3. Call the Theatre Outback box office at (480) 461-7170 for more information.