

MCC

Fall 2007

Snapshot



MESA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Event photos for are now online
at www.mc.maricopa.edu/snapshot
By publishing online, you can see
many more photos than we can
publish in print and they're in color!
ENJOY!





PSA Excellence, Nominated by Kathleen Perales
Sherri Soria

Sherrie Soria's uncompromising dedication, professionalism, and high level of excellence allowed for the Recruitment & Outreach department to engage in activities and daily operations despite the fact that beginning in spring 2007 she was the only employee in what is normally a 4-person operation.

During this time, Sherrie met the increasing competition of ASU with unwavering recruitment strategies that included quadrupling her visits at 3 feeder high schools. She also coordinated, facilitated, and implemented two signature events: the MCC Vidas y Valores program, designed to reach out to Hispanic high school students, and ThunderDay, which brings 250 high school seniors and their counselors to MCC. In addition, Sherrie engaged in administering Asset testing and Advisement/Registration at 20 feeder high schools; visiting assigned feeder high schools on a monthly, bi-monthly and weekly basis; attending a variety of middle and high school education fairs; and providing Campus Tours and New Student Orientation.

At a time when most individuals and/or departments would have scaled back, Sherrie continued to maintain and exceed the responsibilities of the department and her role. Her dedication to MCC, our prospective students, and her core belief in the value of higher education is unmatched.

PSA Excellence, Anonymous nomination
Dawn Rhodes



Dawn Rhodes serves as the Program Advisor to the Center for Service-Learning. Her role is to work with our local community in creating partnerships for the thousands of students that participate in Service-Learning.

Dawn has a strong commitment to student development and provides outstanding service to our students. She coordinates the Service-Learning Assistants program where she regularly mentors 40+ students a year to help support service-learning in MCC's classes. Her attention

to detail contributed to the successful design and implementation of a new online database that lists over 300 community partners.

She also serves as Phi Theta Kappa advisor, receiving recognition in 2004 with the Paragon Award for new Advisors and again in 2007 with the Distinguished Advisor Award. These awards are only given to the most outstanding advisors in the nation and students provide all of the support and work for each nomination. The Omicron Beta Chapter at MCC is one of the best chapters in the nation because of Dawn's leadership.

Dawn was one of only two people in Arizona to be recognized in 2007 with the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for Service-learning. As stated by Kelley Stewart, 2004 PTK Vice President of Red Mountain, Dawn is the epitome of a successful leader, always leading by example.

FOCUS ON

EXCELLENCE

M&O Excellence, Nominated by Marlene Forney

Anthony Kneale

Anthony Kneale, whom most know as Tony, consistently provides exceptional care for Mesa Community College through his work with Maintenance and Operations. Tony is always on task and exudes a sense that his work is important and worth doing well. His care and thoroughness have been regularly observed regardless of the task at hand.



This behavior is typical of Tony as he tackles important needs immediately and sees them through to the end. When he sees us he remembers us personally and his good-natured demeanor is valued by all. Faculty and staff all over campus observe his service and attitude and appreciate the opportunity to work with him.

MAT Excellence, Nominated by Barbara Jordan

Judy Taussig

MCC's international students have been blessed to have Judy Taussig as a lifelong friend and advocate for their special needs and concerns. When I transferred to this campus eight years ago, Judy held the position of Director of Advisement. She was an encouraging voice in International Education meetings when the topic of international student needs arose.



In the late 1980s, Judy participated in surveying international students to find out what they wanted and needed from the college; the students responded that they wished for more social interaction with Americans. From this need the International Student Association was born, "created to encourage and promote goodwill among international students, to increase awareness and appreciation of other cultures, and to provide an opportunity to develop lifelong friendships." Judy was the first faculty advisor, and for many years she devoted much personal time and emotional energy to making the club a success. She has many stories to tell of former MCC international students who now hold high positions in a variety of industries and of lifetime friendships that began here at MCC.

Judy always brings the human quality of compassion to her interactions and values people for their uniqueness. When others see a student with a problem or a deficiency, Judy zeroes in on the student's special talents and abilities.

MAT Excellence, Nominated by Trisha Brazda with support from Jerry Davis and Donna Adams

Shirley Henderson

As MCC's Occupational Health and Safety Manager, Shirley Henderson has created safety programs for the college. She has developed training and safety awareness materials for common college/occupational issues and has worked with many departments on our campuses to bring our college into compliance with the local, state, and federal regulations—all with no support staff. She has created a departmental website and posted downloadable forms for all to share in her belief that safety and risk management are important.



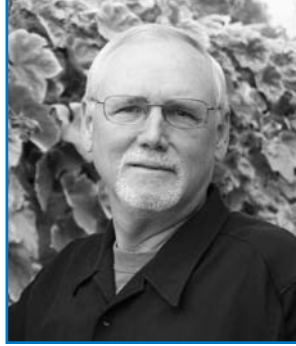
Shirley has gone above and beyond to mitigate risk and responsibility to MCC by providing guidance and leadership in areas such as smoking ordinances, updated building signage, fire extinguisher updates and training, emergency and evacuation maps, utility cart training and licensing, hazardous waste pickup and disposal, and aerial lift training. She is well known in the District as a leader in this area and has been instrumental in helping Risk Assessment Managers on other campuses to develop materials for their constituents.

Shirley does not hesitate to offer encouragement, support, and advice to individuals and departments dealing with risk issues and is always a non-judgmental, open, and interested listener. She participates willingly in many committees and demonstrates her commitment to MCC's community by serving as MAT President.

Faculty Excellence, Nominated by Bonnie Kalison and Vince Gorge

Ron Dinchak

As a Life Science faculty member, Ron has made many important contributions to MCC and our community. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he has been an advisor of the Environmental Action Club since 1989 and instrumental in getting the first recycling on campus. Life Science Day is spearheaded by Ron as an outreach activity for grade school students to learn about the Sonoran desert and animal life.



His legacy includes the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, the Deserts of North America display on the west side of the Life Science building, and the development of the course and texts for both the Environmental Science and Natural History of Arizona classes. Ron currently serves on the Green Committee and oversees the greenhouse, helping students grow organic plants. He brings students on numerous field trips, including semi-annual weekend trips to Arizona's last remaining free running river, the San Pedro, near Sierra Vista. Students benefit from his organic cooking on these trips.

In the community, he teaches xeriscape classes at the Desert Botanical Garden, among other locations. He is our personal "environmental hero" and truly walks the talk!



Service Excellence, Nominated by Tammi Taylor Bryant
Steve Bass

Geography instructor Steven Bass has taken on the commitment to making MCC a little bit greener. He founded the Green Group, which is comprised of faculty, staff, and students who get together to brainstorm ideas to "Green" MCC. He was also part of the first FLPC for Sustainability.

Steve took action to propel the MCC Recycling Program to a higher, more visible level by submitting a grant proposal to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. A \$46,000 grant was awarded to MCC, a major accomplishment and gift to the MCC Community. Steve partnered with the City of Mesa to have 40 large barrels installed in high traffic areas where students, employees, and all campus visitors could begin immediately diverting waste from Arizona's landfills. Through the grant, he was able to order interior bins which were installed in several buildings where volunteers generously agreed to assist him in making this program a success.

Everyone around campus has been touched by his efforts as they receive recycling information on emails, take part in the Dumpster Dive Day, or change everyday behaviors to recycle just a little more.

Steve is also setting a "green" example by riding his bicycle into work everyday.

Faculty Excellence, Nominated by Ann Ewing, Maria Chavira, and Skip Pollock
Ly Tran-Nguyen

Ly Tran-Nguyen was a long-time member of the Learning Outcomes Committee and served as chair of both the ROC and SOC committees. Her service as the SOC chair was a critical part of the successful NCA committee visit.

In addition to her full-time teaching responsibilities, Ly spent over five years as the director of the Departmental Psychology Laboratory or PIRC, which more than 5,000 students and faculty utilize. This complex role is comparable to operating a small business or academic department.

Ly is a true academic. Her project, *Influencing Student Learning Through the Use of Interactive Activities*, earned her the nomination as a research fellow for the Maricopa Institute for Learning and brought her national recognition. She has presented her findings at numerous conferences and has had peer-reviewed articles published in many well-regarded journals.

As a result of her research, Ly demonstrates EEG, EKG and EMG tests in the classroom. Her classes come alive when students personally participate in real psychological science and see brain waves, heart rhythms, and muscle messages.

Ly is a respected scientist and valued educator whose contributions are valued by us at MCC and beyond the boundaries of the district.



Service Excellence, Nominated by Dawn Rhodes
Erika Harp

Erika Harp has been an invaluable asset to the Center for Service-Learning. In September 2002, we received a large grant to coordinate an AmeriCorps program. Erika was instrumental in getting the grant program started by attending training, designing program materials, and recruiting new members.

The program has grown to one of the largest in the nation. Erika has coordinated 704 members through completion of their service contracts and is currently tracking 447 additional students. Upon completion, all students will earn an educational award of \$1,000-\$2,363! In addition, she has conducted numerous AmeriCorps workshops and orientations. Her most recent, for the MCC Connectors program, had more than 100 attendees.

One AmeriCorps members state that Erika "is very supportive to students' needs and encourages academic and personal growth. She is a joy to be around and vivacious." Another student credits Erika with keeping him on track and motivated in the program.



In addition to Americorps, Erika coordinates our Independent Module (or stand alone credit courses), and serves as an advisor of Phi Theta Kappa. Erika is a past president of PSA and currently serves as chair of the PSA service committee. Last year she graduated with her associate's degree and plans to continue her education.

Adjunct Faculty Excellence, Nominated by Steve Bass
Clem Ligocki

Clem Ligocki has been teaching geography at MCC since 2004. During this time he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to student learning. Clem can frequently be spotted on campus over the weekend, preparing equipment for his laboratory activities and leading field experiences to locations such as South Mountain Park. Because Clem instructs during the evening, his students must sometimes miss class in order to meet obligations in their workplace. Clem offers a weekend make-up lab session every semester to facilitate their needs.

Clem constantly develops innovative curriculum that he willingly shares with colleagues. When an instructor must be absent from class, Clem is one of the first to offer to fill in. He is active in Adjunct Faculty Orientations and in meetings to establish priorities for lab equipment purchase.

He regularly introduces students to "real-world" experiences, such as air quality deliberations where students take the role of decision-makers and engage in role-playing to solve public policy issues.

In the words of one of his students, "Clem is awesome. I was nervous about taking another science course, but he made it fun and interesting. I am recommending him to all my friends! Clem Rocks! GIVE HIM A RAISE."



YEARS OF SERVICE

FALL 2007 RETIREES



WALT DAHLGREN



DAVE GERLACH



LINDA LARSON



JOHN OHL



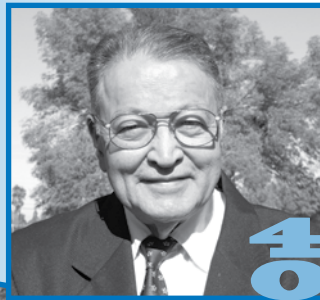
RICHARD OKEZIE



JOE PEARSON



JUDY TAUSSIG



Rajinder Kalia



James Mancuso



Gary Gonzales



Joni Grover



Mary Jo Steig

Twenty five

Herlinda M. Canez
Walter J. Dahlgren
Robert E. Galloway
Karen L. Kinzer
Jose J. Montemayor
Alan Sheffield

Twenty

Maria Gardeta-Healey
Edward J. Lesko
Kathie S. May
Jacqueline Peterson
Janice M. Rohloff
David Salazar
Lidia Segura
Valerie K. Vigil

Fifteen

Heidi-Christa Adams
Debra J. Campbell
Kenneth P. Costello
Carolyn G. Fay
Marcella Fierro
Sonia Y. Filan
Nancy A. Hellner
Margaret L. Hunt
Shereen A. Lerner
Armand J. Lombard
David F. Nachman
Patricia J. Pullenza
Rochelle L. Ramirez-Clark
Tina P. Rangel
Rose See
Litsa P. St. Amand
Mary A. Stewart
Anne H. Vandeventer
Sylvia H. Vasquez

Ten

Jefferson S. Akins
Susan L. Alatorre
Donna M. Benson
Trisha J. Brazda
Maria Romo Chavira
Lyvier Conss
Brooke K. Estabrook-
Fishinghawk
Susan C. Glascoe
Rosa E. Gonzalez
Mark A. Gooding
Linda L. Gregg
Mary R. Hefter
Alma J. Howard
William Johnson
Andrew S. Kasian
Loretta Kissell
Lora Lassitter
Judy A. MacQueen
Sam B. Martinez
Palmerino Mazzucco
Marc G. McCool
Jonelle D. Moore
Colleen Norris
Paul A. Nunez
Roy Scott Olson
Susan K. Pollock
Susan K. Pyles
Erin K. Rawson
Nora A. Reyes
Derek N. Rushing
Mora L. Shahan
Scott D. Shaw
Thomas P. Shoemaker
Hans W. Silberschlag
Timothy J. Sterk
Delia T. Vital

Five

James L. Adams
Mary E. Aldridge
Adam C. Avilez
Mark S. Brenneman
Douglas J. Dwyer
Carol Fain
Gail E. Herndon
Janice Jennings
Mary E. Jordan
Michael L. Lavella
Margie L. Lyscas
Steven Daniel Maez
Ben-And B. Makelele
Alice B. Marino
Eileen Kay McBride
Christina M. Nash
Mark F. Neeley
Lewis E. Obermiller
Dorothy Olson
Dawn M. Rhodes
Rochelle L. Rodrigo
Christina L. Santacruz
Del Rosario
James V. Shipman
Paul R. Springall
Jeremy T. Venema
Amelia Wilson
Brandon S. Yee
Karl B. Zerangue