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the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Faculty share summer experiences with students

Ask Mesa Community College faculty what they did over the summer and you're likely to get an interesting assortment of answers. Many instructors pursue interests outside of the classroom during summer break that enhance their classroom teaching. They return with photos, educational material, and real-life experiences that can't be found in textbooks. Here's a rundown of just some of MCC's summer faculty pursuits:

MCC life science instructor Ron Dinchak spent 10 days in Alaska, a place he calls "the final frontier—from a biological standpoint." He snapped photos to share with his class and observed the wildlife.

"I see new things every time I go," said Ron, a repeat visitor to Alaska. "Right now there is a very large arctic hare population. Bringing back that real-life example is always valuable and improves classroom discussion."

Ron, a local expert on xeriscape landscape design, also attended a National Wildlife Federation conference in Utah where he obtained ideas for creating outdoor habitats and information on environmental issues.

Andy Baldwin, another MCC life science instructor, spent part of his busy summer conducting a "Learn Your Lizards" walk every month at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. He also worked on a scorpion identification project that took him on excursions into the Superstition Mountains, a project that will involve MCC students as it progresses. In addition, Andy published a research paper on cobras in southern Africa, a subject he says is "just another interest of mine," and one of the many subjects Andy is excited to share with his students.

In the medical field, several MCC nursing instructors work in health care jobs over the summer to keep their skills current and bring back stories of real-life medical situations. MCC pediatric nursing instructor Diana Breed worked full time at Maricopa



Ron Dinchak, left, on a trip to Alaska this summer, with Scott Mackey, who currently works with Arizona Game and Fish. Scott is a former MCC student and former president of MCC's Environmental Action club.

County Hospital this summer. Not only did the experience update her skills, it also provided supplemental information for classroom textbooks.

"Even if textbooks are brand new, some of the information is about five years old," Diana said. "In order to stay current, I can add to the textbook information and prepare my students for when they graduate in two years. It also helps students remember more if I use real-life examples."

Another MCC nursing instructor, Anna Drazenovic, worked at Chandler Regional Hospital this summer. Her job not only provided a wealth of experiences to tell her students about, it also gave her an inside track on expanding her student's learning environment.

"It's great because I work there and know the staff, so I can bring the students in during the semester for hands-on learning," Anna said.

Spotlight on Careers

Be sure to look for a dynamic new section on MCC's Web site called Spotlight on Careers. The page provides potential students with the opportunity to view short video clips on today's hottest occupations. The videos are a collaborative effort between MCC Media Arts Instructor Cyndi Greening, MCC Media Arts students, and MCC's Marketing Department. Mary Jordan, MCC's Coordinator of Marketing, said this pilot project came to life when Cyndi approached Marketing with the idea of promoting programs online via videos featuring interviews with professors, students, and career professionals.

"Our collaborative intent was to further position MCC as the primary educational resource for preparation for today's job market," Mary said. "Utilizing MCC's Web site for marketing purposes responds to the desire of today's students to find key information online and reduces our dependence on print materials."

The four career programs that are spotlighted include biotechnology, dental assisting, media arts, and nurse assisting. Gail Mee, former Vice President of Academic Affairs, selected the featured programs. The four programs were chosen based on course availability and employment opportunities. In

addition to interviews with MCC professors and students, Gov. Janet Napolitano's economic policy adviser, Darcy Renfro, is featured on the videos and provides job opportunity statistics.

Mary said Cyndi was instrumental in overseeing the project.

"Cyndi brought her teaching and real-world expertise to the project," Mary said. "She divided the students into teams and immediately started filming interviews and editing the footage."

The end result was very advantageous for both MCC students and MCC's Marketing Department. The students gained valuable hands-on working experience while producing a high-quality marketing product for the college. Plans are in the works to create a specific Media Arts class to produce more videos for the college.

"We will be developing this project further by building on the collaboration with Instruction, Marketing, and MCC's Media Arts Department to highlight more programs and transfer opportunities," Mary said.

View the video presentations at:
<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/academics/spotlight>

Accreditation for MCC Programs

MCC's Veterinary Technology Program and Interior Design Program proudly begin the 2006-07 school year with new accreditations. Just what does accreditation mean for MCC students? Accreditation assures the educational community and the general public that a program has clearly-defined objectives and guidelines for assessing educational effectiveness. An accredited program prepares students for the professional world and increases job opportunities.

Vet Tech Program

In April, the American Veterinary Medical Association accredited MCC's Vet Tech Program, effective Feb. 1, 2006. MCC is one of only three AVMA-accredited programs for training Certified Veterinary Technicians in Arizona, and the only accredited community college program in the Phoenix area. There is currently a shortage of CVT's nationwide, with an estimated 10 jobs for every CVT. MCC students who complete the program earn an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology/Animal Health.

The program includes a state-of-the-art teaching facility at Southern Avenue and Horne Road, plus a large animal facility at the southeast corner of MCC at Southern and Dobson.

Interior Design Program

In August, the Commission of the Council for Interior Design Accreditation accredited MCC's Interior Design Program. MCC is one of only 6 community colleges in the United States to have CIDA accreditation. Currently, there are 155 CIDA-accredited programs in the United States and Canada, the majority of which are bachelor's level programs. MCC's program was evaluated by the same standards as 4- and 5-year bachelor's level programs.

The accreditation team commended MCC faculty on their dedication and professionalism. Some of MCC's program strengths included emphasis on experiential learning, use of teamwork in studio projects, and inclusion of a 240-hour internship requirement.



Interior design students displayed their work during the accreditation process.



Joscelyn Johnston, MCC Interior Design student, displayed her work for the accreditation process.

Mesa Life Options holds Voting Series

For voters who are “ballot bewildered,” Mesa Life Options offers four lunchtime discussions during the month of September to help decode the ballot before stepping into the polls in November. Facilitator-led community conversations will explore ballot issues every Wednesday at a downtown location. Program director Barbara Thelander said the upcoming Midweek Brown Bag Discussion Series is one way Mesa Life Options encourages community engagement.

“We think these sessions will be really energizing discussions that will help people make better decisions at the polls,” Barbara said.

The September voting discussions are free and open to the general public every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at a downtown location.

September Midweek Brown Bag schedule:

Wednesday, September 6th

Where Have All the Voters Gone?

A facilitated discussion led by Alberto Olivas, Director of Voter Education and Outreach Programs, MCC Center for Civic Participation.

Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, 120 N. Center St., Mesa.

Wednesday, September 13th – Session One

Discussion: English as the official state language; the marriage amendment; minimum wage changes; proposed smoking bans; the humane treatment of farm animals.

Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, 120 N. Center St., Mesa.

Wednesday, September 20th – Session Two

Discussion: Voting by mail; proposed voter rewards; early education funding; public program eligibility; the State Trust Lands Initiative and referendums.

Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, 120 N. Center St., Mesa.

Wednesday, September 27th –Session Three

Discussion: Eminent Domain reform; municipal debt; legislators’ salaries; local property tax levies; bailable offenses; standing in civil actions; probation for methamphetamine offenses.

Mesa Fire Station #210, 360 E. First St., Mesa.

Mesa Life Options is a non-profit organization that partners with Mesa Community College, the City of Mesa, and East Valley Senior Services to provide Arizona baby boomers with options for lifelong learning, leisure and lifestyle, community involvement, and wellness. The organization strives to provide people in the second half of life with information and resources so they can craft their own unique retirement and use their life experience to work for the greater good.

For more information on Brown Bag Discussions or Mesa Life Options, call 480-461-6252. Mesa Life Options will hold Midweek Brown Bag Discussions every Wednesday through Dec. 13. During October, November, and December, topics feature retirement possibilities and concerns.



Employee Group Representatives for 2006-07



Karen Hardin

Karen Hardin, Chair of Chairs,
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“The Department Chair Association will work closely with the Faculty Senate to address concerns that benefit students and the college. September 18th will convene the first meeting for the Department Chair Association for this academic year and priorities for the year will be determined after the first meeting. Several issues that are important to the college are: MCC On-line, Development of the Downtown Campus, and our MCC Partnership with NAU. Student retention is a topic that affects the entire college and may be an agenda item for this year.”--Karen



John Seims

John Seims, Faculty Senate President,
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"I look forward to serving the MCC faculty this year as the Faculty Senate President. In addition to our regular responsibilities of upholding faculty's RFP rights and acting as liaison between faculty and administration, the Faculty Senate and I are excited about some of our goals for this year. We will be holding one faculty social at each campus each semester in which we hope to receive feedback from faculty, discuss the Senate's and Association's roles at the college and in the district, and allow faculty to interact with their colleagues. In addition, the Senate will be conducting its second faculty opinion survey this year. This allows for faculty to share areas of concern with the Senate. Issues of enrollment and faculty staffing are also of concern to the Senate. I am proud to represent the faculty this year."--John



Anita Dusek

Anita Dusek, Professional Staff Association (PSA) President, Phone: 461-7551, Email: anita.dusek@mccmail.maricopa.edu

"We are heading into a very exciting year with many challenges ahead of us. There are well over 200 PSA members at MCC and I would like to see more of them have

the opportunity to get involved with their employee group, by attending meetings, events or one of the many other opportunities that we offer. As this year's president, I would like all PSA employees to know I am here for you to help with whatever you may need."--Anita.



Shirley Henderson

Shirley Henderson, Management, Administrative, Technology (MAT) President, Phone: 461-7360, Email: shirley.henderson@mccmail.maricopa.edu

"If I can accomplish one thing for the MAT group it would be to provide a means for us to better communicate and help one another to provide the level of leadership that this group is meant to provide. My colleagues are of many talents and skills and it is a privilege to be "a" voice leading this effort. The MAT officers here at MCC will be making every effort to touch base with each member of this group and make sure their voice is heard." --Shirley

Ray Fowler

Ray Fowler, Maintenance and Operations Delegate, Email: fowler@mail.mc.maricopa.edu

"I would just like to thank M&O for the opportunity to be the delegate again this year. We had a great year last year and hope for the same this year."— Ray



Faculty and Professional Learning Communities Program

The August kick-off event for MCC's Faculty and Professional Learning Communities Program included breakfast, group discussions, and a show-stopping performance by Donna Gaudet of MCC's Center for Teaching and Learning, who performed a lively rap about program possibilities.

It's not too late to fill out an application to participate in this year's program, according to Brad Kincaid, acting director of the CTL and MCC Biology faculty member. Participation is open to both residential and adjunct faculty, as well as all members of the college community who have an interest in a particular FPLC topic. But hurry—applications are due by Sept. 13 and an opening retreat is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30.

What is an FPLC? A Faculty and Professional Learning Community, as defined by Milt Cox at Miami University in Ohio, is an interdisciplinary group of faculty and staff (ideally 8-12 members) who engage in an active collaboration focused on teaching and learning.

MCC's communities for 2006-07 include:

- Nature of Science, facilitated by Kaatje Kraft.
- Undergraduate Research, facilitated by Dennis Wilson and Niccole Cerveny.
- Globalism, facilitated by Shereen Lerner.
- Sustainability, facilitated by Janice Jennings.
- Podcasting, facilitated by Donna Gaudet.

- Humanities, facilitated by Richard Feltnagle.
- MOSAIC Inclusiveness Program, facilitated by Paul Harasha.
- Kaleidoscope, facilitated by Tom Shoemaker.

What are the goals of the program?

- To promote connections among faculty, staff, and students at MCC.
- To promote reflection and engagement in improving teaching and learning at MCC.

MCC physical science instructor Kaatje Kraft, who participated in the Nature of Science pilot group, was enthusiastic about her experience as part of the pilot group.

"I formed many good friendships and the discussions we had brought a clarity to my teaching," Kaatje said.

Other participants in the pilot group said they began to set goals and develop a common language to better serve students who take classes from a wide range of disciplines. The members enjoyed the varied input from members of different disciplines.

"The interaction I had with others was one of the highlights of the program," said MCC psychology instructor Ly Tran-Nguyen. "I learned so much. I plan to incorporate those ideas into my classes and share them with my colleagues."

For more information and to fill out an application, go to: http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/ctl/_facultyDev/FPLC/faculty_dev_FPLC_about.html

To view more pictures of the event, go to: <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/~costello/FPLC/index.htm>