

IN SEARCH OF ALL MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI

In an effort to bring alumni from around the globe back together, Mesa Community College is proud to announce the publication of an all-new Alumni Directory.

Scheduled for release in the spring of 2008, our Alumni Directory will be the most up-to-date and complete reference of more than 43,000 Mesa Community College grads ever compiled! This comprehensive volume will include current name and name when a student (if different) as well as class year(s) and degree(s) earned from Mesa Community College. Each biographical listing will also include home address and phone number, names



of spouse and children, in addition to detailed professional information. The new 2008 edition will list alumni alphabetically with the information outlined above, by class year, by geographic location, and by occupation in our special career networking section. The Alumni Office has chosen Harris Connect to produce this special edition. Harris Connect will soon begin researching and compiling the data to be included in the directory by mailing a questionnaire to each alumnus/a. Please be sure to fill it out and return it as soon as you receive it. (If we don't have your current address, please contact the Alumni Office as soon as possible so we can make sure you receive a directory questionnaire!)

With your participation, the 2008 edition of the Mesa Community College Alumni Directory is sure to be a great success. Look for more details on the project in future issues of this newsletter.

Alumni & Friends

SPRING 2007

Outdoor enthusiast finds dream job

Scott Mackey's job at the Arizona Game and Fish Department often takes him out into the middle of nowhere. But for Mackey, an avid outdoor enthusiast, that's exactly where he wants to be.

due to trampling and foraging. The enclosures protected the sensitive fauna from elk while allowing for the passage of smaller wildlife such as deer, turkey, and eagles to have access to the creek.

"The thing I love most about my current job is the hands-on nature of field work," said Mackey, who is currently performing habitat assessments of potential bighorn sheep transplant sites. "I spend the majority of my time in the field, collecting data and samples and taking pictures. I am led to areas I would otherwise never see and I have experienced more of Arizona's vast landscape than I ever would have on my own."



Scott Mackey is currently performing habitat assessments of potential bighorn sheep transplant sites.

Mackey's future plans involve being an observer on a fishing boat for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and continuing studies at ASU in applied biological systems. Mackey keeps in touch with MCC biology instructor Ron Dinchak and traveled to Alaska with Dinchak last summer.

"The opportunities and experiences made possible by the instructors at MCC sparked my interest (in conservation biology) and gave me the contacts to pursue the career I have today," Mackey said.

The classes Mackey took in MCC's Life Science Department started Mackey on his career path. After a half-hearted attempt at majoring in business, Mackey soon discovered his true interests lie in conservation biology. He became active in MCC's Environmental Action Club and went on field trips with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which eventually led to his current job.



"I have experienced more of Arizona's vast landscape than I ever would have on my own." ~ Scott Mackey

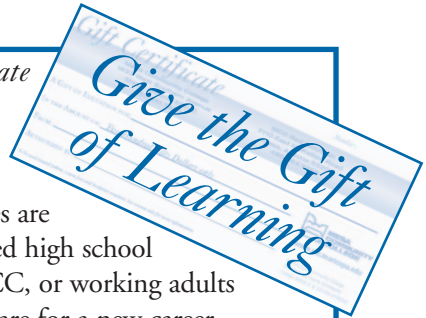
"The teachers in the MCC Life Sciences Department provided me with guidance I couldn't have received anywhere else," said Mackey, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology from Arizona State University. "The diversity of the teaching staff offered any biological path I could have chosen - Bonnie Kalison's forte of oceanic wildlife, Andy Baldwin's knowledge of herpetology (amphibians and reptiles), and Ron Dinchak's vast knowledge of desert plant life. All of these disciplines contributed to my understanding of wildlife biology."

Mackey's previous project for Arizona Game and Fish involved the construction and maintenance of two elk-excluding fences around the riparian habitat of Canyon Creek in the Tonto National Forest. The area was burned in the 1990 Dude Fire and due to the abundance of elk in the area, the vegetation was being stunted

Seeking Volunteers

Looking for a chance to promote your alma mater? Nominations are being accepted for the MCC Alumni Board. Join our group of volunteers to plan the activities and opportunities offered to MCC's more than 40,000 alumni. **How much time is required?** Board members attend quarterly meetings and an annual retreat. To complete an Alumni Board interest form and learn more about the association, visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumniboard or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 480-461-7792.

A Mesa Community College gift certificate is an investment in a student's future. Let your favorite student know you believe in the value of a college education, and help them achieve their career goals. Certificates are perfect for graduating seniors, dual-enrolled high school students, students currently attending MCC, or working adults wishing to enhance their job skills or prepare for a new career.



- Certificates may be used for tuition, fees and books. They are available in \$50, \$100 and \$250 increments.
- Purchase gift certificates in the cashier's office at both the Southern and Dobson and Red Mountain campuses.
- For more information, contact Cashier Services. Call (480) 461-7400, option 3.

MCC gift certificates are not refundable, not redeemable for cash and are non-transferable.

The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AA institution.

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Message from the President

As the school year opens, we look forward to ground-breaking for the physical science building on our MCC Southern and

Dobson campus. February 2007 is the deadline for the completion of construction documents and the ground-breaking is anticipated to occur in April.

The new building will house geology, physics, astronomy, and chemistry and is designed based on several guiding principles. First and foremost is addressing student learning by encouraging student/faculty interaction and designing spaces that are flexible and adaptable to a variety of teaching and learning styles. Also important is well-placed and planned technology that allows for expansion and adaptability in the future.

We are also excited about two new initiatives related to the building. The first is to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for new construction. LEED certification denotes a commitment to the environment and provides benefits such as reduced operating costs, better conservation of our natural resources, and healthier and more productive environments.

The second is the creation of an astronomy plaza and planetarium. Both areas will provide opportunities for outreach to our community, particularly in the K-12 area where we already have strong connections through our science day program. Due to funding limitations, the infrastructure for the planetarium will be put in place and partnerships will be pursued to fund the remainder of the project.

Plans are underway for additional buildings at our Southern and Dobson, Red Mountain, and Downtown campuses using funds approved in the 2004 bond package. We will provide updates on the projects as they move into the construction phases.

Larry K. Christiansen, President

ALUMNA NANCY DONSBACH FOLLOWS PASSION FOR FURNITURE DESIGN

Nancy Donsbach believes every piece of furniture has its own personality. As an avid do-it-yourselfer for many years, she constantly spotted ways to breathe new life into old chairs and tables. Her passion for furniture design eventually led Donsbach to Mesa Community College, where she earned a Certificate in Mechanical Drafting in 2006. While finishing up her schooling, she acquired a full-time position as a furniture designer with All Wood Treasures in Tempe. "For me, this is my dream job," said Donsbach, a former stay-at-home mother of four children. "Furniture is a very personable expression of who you are and it's satisfying to be a part of that."

When Donsbach first entered MCC, she knew she wanted to build and design custom furniture, but there was no program specifically for that career path. She took several classes that interested her – woodworking, drafting, and interior design – and turned to MCC drafting program director Todd Verch and manufacturing technology program director Tom Reyman for advice. "They helped me choose classes that would be helpful to my career pursuit," Donsbach said. "I took classes in three different areas and found instructors who were excited about the same things I was. They exposed me to the career possibilities and it was really neat how it all came together and I was able to make it work."

Donsbach said that while at MCC, she did a massive amount of research and created a huge notebook full of furniture styles for her History of Modern Architecture class.

Girl Scouts honor MCC Alumna



The Girl Scouts-Arizona Cactus-Pine Council recently honored MCC alumna Kelley Stewart with the Women of Distinction World of Courage award. Honorees are chosen for their exceptional community service and leadership.

Stewart is a 2004 graduate of the MCC Red Mountain campus and is currently double majoring in applied psychology and multi-media writing and technical communication at Arizona State University's Polytechnic campus. Most of Stewart's civic

engagement activities have been tied to promoting MCC and/or ASU student leadership development, and many of her community service activities, including the annual MCC holiday charity ride, support the Mesa Fire Department.

Stewart, who also completed two 900-hour volunteer service terms in homeland security through the AmeriCorps program, regularly leads MCC scholarship workshops and shares student success tips.

"I came to MCC with a heart for service, and through MCC service-learning programs I discovered that I could give more of myself to the community than I ever thought possible," Stewart said.

When she applied for her current job, she took the notebook to the job interview. "It was an impressive amount of work I had



done," said Donsbach, who is convinced that the notebook helped get her hired. "They could see I wasn't afraid to do research and find designs." Today Donsbach uses that knowledge, along with her drafting skills, to design furniture and



generate AutoCAD drawings to fit customer requests. She's not in the shop making the furniture herself, but her woodworking skills help her understand how to design the piece with an eye toward how they will be built.

Donsbach would ultimately love to own her own furniture design shop, but her current job is exactly what she was seeking to find when she started at MCC.

"I tell everyone, 'Don't settle for just a job you like, do something you absolutely love,'" Donsbach said.

Internships benefit students and employers

When MCC student Richard Bumbernick, 19, hits the books, he knows that what he's learning applies directly to his job. Bumbernick, a ground support equipment technician at the Boeing Company's Mesa plant, works on helicopter hydraulic and electronic systems while pursuing an associate degree in automotive technology at MCC. Bumbernick uses what he learns in his auto electronics class and adapts it to his full-time paid internship position at Boeing.

"For college students hoping to find a job after graduation, completing an internship is virtually becoming a prerequisite"

Los Angeles Times

Bumbernick is one of many MCC students who pursue internships to get practical, on-the-job experience and a head start on their careers.

"This internship opened my eyes to the job opportunities in this field," said Bumbernick, who will be offered a full-time position with Boeing after graduation. "I've always liked to work with my hands and I like this job very much. The offer of a full-time position is a good incentive to finish my degree."

Ron Gaschler, director of MCC's Career and Re-Entry Services, said internship positions benefit both students and employers.

"Many employers use an internship as a recruiting

avenue to first attract students to their company, and second, to train them prior to offering a regular full-time position," Gaschler said. "Students benefit from internships because they absolutely need applicable work experience and on-the-job training to be marketable in today's competitive global economy. They gain experience on social etiquette and communication styles that can't be learned in everyday classroom settings."

Available internships at MCC include local companies such as Boeing, the City of Chandler Police Department, the Maricopa County Department of Public Works, the Phoenix Coyotes, and Bank of America, among others. Out-of-state internships include Newsweek in New York City, Disney World Theme Parks and Resorts in Florida and California, the Federal Aviation Administration, and others.

An internship at MCC is defined as a student or recent graduate undergoing supervised training in a temporary position with an emphasis on instruction, training, networking, and gaining applied work experience. Positions may be paid or unpaid.

MCC alumni who would like to offer internships may contact Suzanne Hippias at (480) 461-7594 or Ron Gaschler in MCC's Career Services Department at (480) 461-7429.



Get in shape

Feel like getting some fresh air and exercise after the busy holiday season? The fitness trail at MCC's Red Mountain campus offers faculty, staff, students, and the community the opportunity to exercise while experiencing the beauty of the native Sonoran desert.

This 2-mile footpath begins just outside the Mesquite building and wraps around the perimeter of the campus. Boulders etched with desert critters mark quarter-mile increments for walkers and joggers as they make their way around the loop.



Red Mountain fitness trail

The campus employs sustainable gardening practices along the trail that conserve natural resources and reflect the mission of the college to be environmentally responsible. In addition, the campus recently conducted a Native American blessing of the trail to symbolize a harmonious relationship with the land.

The trail is open to the general public everyday during daylight hours. Maps are available inside the fitness center in the Mesquite building. MCC's Red Mountain campus is located at 7110 E. McKellips Road in Mesa.

Experience the Arts at MCC

For a complete list of college events, visit the college's online event's calendar at www.mc.maricopa.edu/events.

February 22 - 25

Buried Child

March 7 - 10

Smokey Joe's Cafe

March 23 - 24

Spring 2007 Dance Concert

April 2-12, 2007

Student Art Show

Reception on April 14, 2007

April 26 - 29

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

To view schedules for MCC's excellent athletic teams, visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/athletics/calendar/.