

Science Day wins big in fall



Every spring more than 300 local elementary school students descend upon the Southern and Dobson campus to immerse themselves in the wonders of science. It's called Science Day. On November 19, MCC launched a new autumn version of this popular event under the capable direction of faculty members Ron Dinchak and Andy Baldwin. The focus for the event was Life Science.

Associate Dean of Instruction Carol Achs described the mid-November Science Day as smaller, hosting approximately 50 students. As in the larger spring event, students rotated through workshops presented by college students enrolled in MCC science classes. The younger students enjoyed interacting with all sorts of reptiles – snakes, turtles, and iguanas – and took home an activity book to reinforce their newfound knowledge. The event took place in the desert gardens on the west side of campus.



Chat with the Chancellor



Thursday, December 11, 2003

Southern and Dobson campus
LB145

10:00 AM–11:00 AM

Light refreshments served

Red Mountain campus

Community Room

11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Light lunch served

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REACH gives students a jump on college



ACE (Achieving a College Education) is a scholarship-based program that makes it possible for high school students with limited resources to seriously consider attending college. Mesa Community College's ACE program, which has a service-learning component, is called REACH

(Raising Expectations for Achievement and Community Service through Higher Education).

The program recruits sophomore high school students to enroll in college classes at MCC. By taking classes in the summer and on weekends throughout the school year, a REACH participant can earn up to 24 college credits by the time he or she graduates from high school. A college scholarship covers the tuition, but students provide their own textbooks and transportation to and from campus. Currently the program is primarily funded through At-Risk monies from the District.

Associate Dean of Instruction Carol Achs serves on the REACH advisory committee and has led the effort to develop this program at MCC. With the help of Naomi Story, Stella Torres, and Liz Warren, planning began in 2002. By summer 2003, REACH welcomed its first cohort of 60 students, recruited from Westwood and McClintock high schools. In the upcoming year, MCC will recruit from all of Mesa's

high schools and two in Tempe. "We will probably begin recruitment for the next cohort in January," Carol said. "Our goal is to have 70 more students in the program."

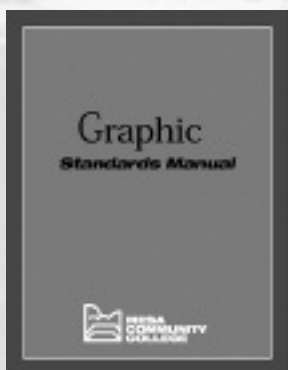
Considerations for a student's eligibility to participate in REACH include family income and the number of people in the household. The student must be a first-generation college student and live in a single-parent family. To apply, students write an essay explaining why they want to be in the program and submit three letters of recommendation (two from teachers).

Carol said she is pleased that the REACH program has been so well received by all of the departments on campus. "This program has instructional support, District support, and the support of our college administration," she said. "This program is not going to die."

For more information, contact MCC's REACH director, Angela Chavez, 461-7927.

Newsbytes

- Tempe High School is MCC's newest extended campus location. Classes will be offered at Tempe high, located on the Northwest corner of Broadway and Mill, beginning February 4, 2004.
- MCC will be closed December 25, 2003–January 2, 2004.
- Due to the holiday closure, the paycheck that would normally be distributed on December 26 will be delivered one week early on December 19. The December 19 check will still cover a normal two-week pay period. The next check will be distributed three weeks later on January 9.
- All employees except faculty return to work on January 5, 2004.
- First day of accountability for faculty is January 12, 2004.
- Spring 2004 classes begin January 20, 2004.
- MCC has adopted a new Graphic Standards Manual. Get your copy through the Institutional Advancement website at www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/employees/ia/test/IAOverview/index_ia0.html. You may also request a copy by calling 461-7445.



Wireless Access

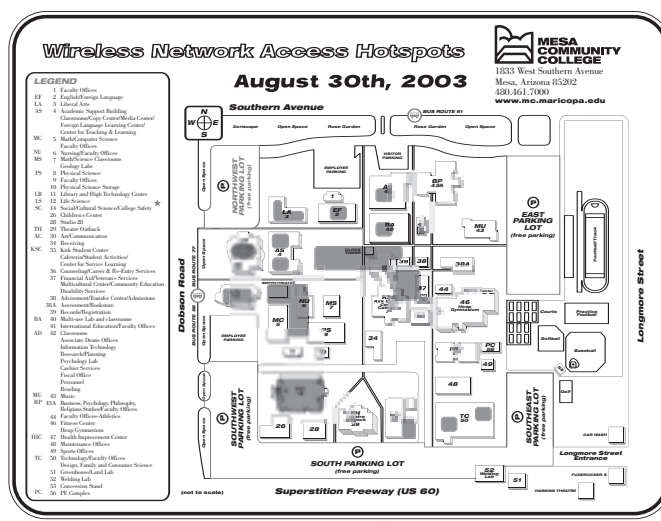
Wireless access is now available at the Southern and Dobson campus! The MCC Information Technology Services (ITS) department has been working hard over the last four years to expand the wireless connectivity to classrooms and other campus locations. The Southern and Dobson Campus now has 14 buildings with wireless connectivity and the Red Mountain campus is completely wireless.

What does this mean for you? Those of us with wireless laptops, specifically 802.11B wireless specification, can access the MCC wireless network. Not only will the wireless network work with laptops, it also works with personal digital assistants, also known as PDAs.

Some may be wondering what is required to access this new wireless haven? Not much, and most if not all employees and students already have what is required: an MCC username and password. If you or your students do not have an MCC account, please visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/mymcc/CreateAccount.jsp and your account will be ready in a few minutes. Once you have your MCC account you will be able to surf the web when and, more importantly, where you want.

The wireless network is just now being advertised to students and faculty as a viable alternative to the wired way of life. "MCC's wireless network is still in the growing stage," says Tim Grant, Supervisor of Network Services. Currently there is on average 29 employees and 52 students that login between both campuses, and Tim expects daily increases as students and faculty become aware they have a wireless alternative.

For additional information about MCC's wireless network, please visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/its/wireless/.



Cultural exchange with Dubai Women's College

"We have to be educated to understand what is happening in our rapidly changing world."

- Student representative,
Dubai Women's College

MCC recently hosted a delegation of nine students and two administrators from Dubai Women's College. Dubai is one of seven United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is located in the Middle East, bordering Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. During an afternoon panel discussion sponsored by MCC's Center for Global Tolerance and Engagement, the women spoke about education and culture.

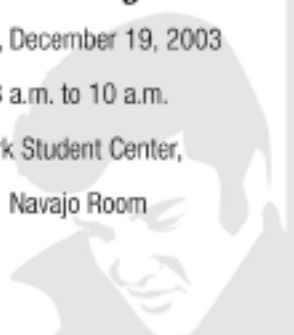
Significant changes are happening in their region, with traditional roles of women shifting. One student stated, "Upcoming generations see the value of women being educated and participating in the workforce." The UAE has seen an increase in the number of women in the workforce, with many working in the technological and communications industries. The panelists expressed a desire to be catalysts for change by continuing to work professionally and to continue their educations



once they are married. Cultural change is often difficult and slow, however, with many of the women noting that they will have to make sure that when they marry their husband not only supports their decisions, but will allow them to follow their chosen paths.

As our global perspective of the world continues to expand and evolve, gaining a better understanding of other cultures through international visits is vital. Thank you to the many departments who work together to bring international visitors to MCC.

You are cordially invited to
MCC's Holiday Brunch
Friday, December 19, 2003
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Kirk Student Center,
Navajo Room



Dubai students respond

What surprised you the most about the U.S.?

How friendly and helpful people are

What is the silliest thing you've observed?

The number of fast food restaurants; they're EVERYWHERE!

Where would you go if you had more time in the U.S.?

Top choices: Disneyland and Las Vegas.

Others included the Grand Canyon, Sedona, and shopping.