

# THE Bulletin

May 8, 2002

## **ELIZABETH THOMAS-HOFFMAN EMBRACES CHANGE**



**Elizabeth Thomas-Hoffman** is the Mesa Community College Commencement speaker for the Graduating Class of 2001-2002. It's a position she has achieved through deliberate effort, something she has wanted to do nearly since her education began at MCC. Elizabeth moved here from Seattle almost 5 years ago, just about the time she married husband Dan. Her son, Ian, is now 11.

As a new student at MCC, Elizabeth joined the Speech and Debate Team with coach Erin Rawson. "Knowing Erin and being on her team was the single most absolute wonderful experience of my life," she said. Elizabeth counts her participation in the Model United Nations with Dr. Brian Dille as another landmark experience. "I have had some amazing professors," she said. "I have developed personal relationships with them, and they have mentored me. I want to have the opportunity to say how much this has meant to me—and to give something back to my professors and class-

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## **Third Annual Water Safety Day Brings Awareness**



On April 24, the Third Annual Water Safety Day made a big splash at Mesa Community College. Starting at 9 in the morning and continuing into the afternoon, the event drew participants of all ages from surrounding communities.

The purpose of Water Safety Day is to promote drowning awareness and prevention. Local firefighters presented water safety instruction and offered a close-up look at fire engines, emergency helicopters, ambulances and even the Sheriff's Dept. diving boat. Children, parents, college students and others observed water rescue and swimming demos and learned tips for being ever mindful of water-safe practices.

MCC's very *first* Water Safety Day was created through the efforts of **Larry Thacker** (Fire Science and EMT), **Sonia Filan** (Institutional Advancement), **Carol Achs** (Math, Physical and Life Sciences, Physical Education Science and Wellness) and Carol's daughter, **Druann Letter**. Water Safety Day honors the memory of Carol's grandson, Weston Letter.

Among the major sponsors for Water Safety Day 2002 were Valley Toyota Dealers, The Home Depot and SRP, though 30 community agencies and private companies contributed to the success of the event. Faculty, staff and students from several MCC departments collaborated to bring this important resource to our community. More than 2,500 children participated.

## Students Make Community Connection



On April 13, MCC students volunteered at the International Children's Festival hosted by CARE Partnership. Clockwise from left are Delphine Poola, America Reads, Native American booth; Rumbu Mukatshung, International Education Office; and Elina Kapeliela (left in photo), vice president of Communications for the Associated Students of MCC, performing a Hawaiian dance with family members.

On a sunny Saturday in mid-April, more than 20 MCC students were hanging out with kids at the International Children's Festival, an event that took place at the CARE Partnership Opportunity Center. CARE is a neighborhood organization that works to improve neighborhoods in south central Mesa. These are "pick yourself up by your bootstraps" neighborhoods that deal head-on with gangs, drugs and poverty. CARE has created opportunities for health care, jobs for teens, and after-school tutoring programs where there were none.

It takes dozens of volunteers to make these programs work. MCC faculty, staff and students volunteer regularly at CARE's neighborhood center, so it was not surprising to see such strong representation from MCC at the International Children's Festival. The whole idea behind the event was to create an appreciation for the many wonderful cultures all around the world.

Some of the MCC students who volunteered came from the America Reads program and the Center for Service Learning. Others came from MCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, student government (Associated Students of MCC) and the International Education Office. At least one student was fulfilling a service-learning requirement for her honors program. **Fernando Graf**, a member of MCC's All-Arizona Academic Team, coordinated all of the booths representing the various cultures. All together, they involved kids in music, dance and fun activities from cultures on six continents. Mesa Community College was one of several schools, colleges, organizations and agencies that contributed to the success of the festival.

## PHI THETA KAPPA OMICRON BETA CHAPTER SMILES PROUDLY



Contributing their energy to the International Children's Festival are MCC Phi Theta Kappa members (left to right) Maia Clark, Edilyn Gan, Matt Walters, Hayden Alzubaidi and Cathy White (seated). Matt and Cathy are on the 2001-2002 Executive Board, serving as VP of Communications and VP of Service, respectively.

MCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa deserves to crow a little. Even with a late start (October), the Omicron Beta Chapter has been recognized internationally, in competition with 1,400 chapters, for the following awards:

- Distinguished Member, **Edilyn Gan**
- Distinguished Officer, **Fernando Graf**
- Distinguished Advisor, **Duane Oakes**
- International Hallmark for Service, **Cathy White**
- Distinguished Chapter (For this award, members of Omicron Beta credit the excellent leadership of their president, **Cristina Ramos**)

The following members have been elected to regional posts:

- VP of the Central District, Cathy White
- VP of Communications, **Mary Rahm**

As a service project, MCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter taped books for dyslexic students. Congratulations to the 2001-2002 Executive Board for a successful year!

## Congrats to Team, Employee and Catch for April!



*Congratulations to Red Mountain's hard-working Admissions and Recruitment Team! Left to right: Corky Palacios, Patty Kolesky, Spencer Peterson, Char Nicholuson, Linda Bridwell, Lisa Edwards, Diane Brown, Carol Vaughan, Helga Denison, Shelly Morris and Paul Raia.*

### **Team of the Month—Admissions and Recruitment, Red Mountain**

Kathleen, Kristi, Cynnamon, Dave and the whole Red Mountain Admissions and Recruitment team have been working hard, especially at this time of year, visiting groups of seniors at high schools all over the state, helping them to choose MCC. Their efforts continue beyond the five-day workweek as they travel and participate in various career fairs and other events. I am not directly involved with the work they do, but I see how they are always in the service of the students, ready at any time for almost anything, from questions about the enrollment process to surprise tours for traveling students. Our enrollment numbers show how hard they work, and they deserve a round of applause. Nominated by **Shelly Morris**



### **Employee of the Month—Linda Collins, Business Dept.**

Linda has been Acting Department Chair of the Business Dept. this semester. She has demonstrated remarkable leadership skills in guiding our department through change and crisis. Linda has created a friendly supportive environment, and her management style has helped to facilitate a collaborative working environment among faculty. She is sincerely interested in our ideas and opinions. At the recent death of one of our colleagues, Linda reached out to help all faculty who had problems dealing with the sad event. Among her most notable accomplishments this semester are the following.

- Linda established a testing site for our Microsoft Officer User Specialist program.
- She revamped the Open Entry/Self-Paced program so that students can access all courses online.
- She created a “learning community” within our department.
- While keeping the department running smoothly, Linda also managed to enhance her own professional growth by attending workshops and meetings to improve her skills.

In summary, Linda has demonstrated great leadership skills in a professional and caring manner. She is supportive of faculty and of their needs. We feel fortunate to be working with Linda and to have her as our department chair. Nominated by **Business Faculty: Jayne Halterman, Christine Held, Juan Marquez, LoAn Tabar-Gaul and Deb Weberg.**



**Catch of the Month—Angeline Surber, Business Dept.** When hearing about the unfortunate loss of Patricia Harris, Angie immediately stepped forward to help as she has done many other times. Without hesitation, she stepped up to assist by gathering information, going through stacks of files, locating diskettes, assignments and grades. Angie spent countless hours recalculating grades and designing lesson plans and a course path for the remainder of the semester. She also worked with residential faculty to meet with Pat's students. The transition for the students was made easier through Angie's care and compassion. Students have even made special efforts to share their feelings and appreciation for Angie's help and support. In addition to her already demanding schedule, Angie also volunteered to teach two of Pat's classes. Angie is a dedicated instructor and has been a great asset to the Business Dept. instructional team. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Angie and let her know how much she is appreciated. Nominated by **the Business Dept.**

Other nominees for April awards were Kelli Santistevan, Science Day Faculty and Staff (Donna Benson, lead), Jim Tipton, Shawn Wood, Victor Cornell, Daniel Buffington, Cynthia Greening, Donella Eberle, Nancy Hellner, Marjaneh Gilpatrick and Spencer Peterson.

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The desire to “give something back” provided the impetus for Elizabeth’s pursuit of the title “Commencement Speaker.” She first learned of the opportunity in her second semester at MCC, and she has been dreaming of Graduation Day ever since.

After collecting her Associate degree in Business from MCC, Elizabeth plans to transfer to Arizona State University where she will study Economics. She was introduced to this field while working in Seattle for a small business development and lending company. Elizabeth’s husband is pleased that she chose to earn her degrees from MCC and ASU because he, too, graduated from these two schools nearly 20 years ago.

## MCC CELEBRATES COLORFUL CULTURES



Lidia Segura-Mandarino, from the Fiscal Office, learns Flamenco dance steps from Yumiko Takahashi. Yumiko and guitarist Curt Cichon performed for an appreciative audience in the Community Room at Mesa Community College’s Red Mountain campus. During the last two weeks of April, Student Activities and the Office of Multicultural Services sponsored Multicultural Week celebrations at both of MCC’s campuses.

### PRESIDENTS COMING...



On April 16, **Dr. Christiansen** hosted a reception for **Dr. Corina Gardea**, the new president of Phoenix College. On May 2, MCC employees offered best wishes to **Arnette Ward**, former Dean of Students and founding president of Chandler-Gilbert Community College. President Ward is retiring.

### AND GOING...AT MCC



## C A L E N D A R

### Wednesday, May 8

#### Nursing Preceptor Luncheon

Noon, Kiva Room

#### Boswell Nursing Pinning

7 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Methodist Church

### Thursday, May 9

#### Mortuary Science Convocation

10 a.m., Navajo Room, S&D campus

#### Mortuary Science Reception

11 a.m. (immediately following convocation)

Kirk Center Patio Area

#### Nursing Pinning Ceremony

7 p.m., Theatre Outback

#### Nursing Reception

9 p.m., Theatre Outback Green Room

### Friday, May 10

#### All-Employee Spring Brunch

8-10 a.m., Navajo Room

MCC Graduation

#### Student Rehearsal

7 a.m., Center Courtyard

#### Platform Dinner

6 p.m., Kiva Room

#### Faculty Reception

6:30 p.m., Patio Area

#### Ceremony

8 p.m., Center Courtyard

#### Student Reception

9:30 p.m. (immediately following Graduation)

Navajo Room

### Tuesday, May 28

#### Governing Board, Regular Meeting

Contact: Gloria Smith, 731-8889

### Thursday, June 20

#### Fire Science Convocation

7 p.m., Navajo Room

#### Fire Science Reception

5:30 p.m., Employee Lounge

### FOUR GOOD REASONS TO CATCH RUMORS:

1. It's a play written by Neil Simon so you can expect a wonderfully entertaining evening!
2. It's a fundraiser for the America Reads/America Counts program. Sponsors who have worked enthusiastically to bring you this outstanding production are the Center for Service Learning and the English, Reading and Math departments at MCC.
3. It's a great price and a good investment in our youth at \$10 per ticket. (You can purchase tickets at the MCC bookstore.)
4. It's a summer's night out that's close to home: August 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. in the Bulpitt Auditorium, Phoenix College, 1202 E. Thomas Road.

Contact: Gene Fazio, English Dept., 461-7614 or visit this web site: [www.primeview.com/mccliteracy](http://www.primeview.com/mccliteracy)

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