

# Alumni & Friends

FALL 2003

## Homecoming 2003: Roundup at the T-Bird Corral



Looking forward to cooler temperatures this fall? Come watch it "snow" on November 1 as the MCC Thunderbirds tackle the Snow College Badgers. We're roundin' up MCC alumni for Homecoming 2003, so dust off your boots and cowboy hats and come on down to

the Thunderbird Corral for our Homecoming Barbecue.

### Barbecue

The barbecue, hosted by MCC President Larry K. Christiansen, boasts food, games, and entertainment (Please call 480-461-7501 for reservations). MCC alumnus Rick Elward will provide musical entertainment with his band, the *Classic Four*. The Alumni Board is sponsoring a silent auction to raise funds for the alumni association scholarship program. Since the program's inception in 1997, the alumni association has awarded scholarships to six MCC students. Booths for memorabilia will be set up by decade. Please bring items from your time at MCC to help take a walk down memory lane. The pregame festivities will conclude with a walk to the stadium for the 7:00 p.m. kickoff.

### Recognition

Join us in recognizing MCC's 1973 football team. Under the direction of head coach Paul Widmer and assistant coaches Allen Benedict, Bob Minitti, and Paul Waddell, the undefeated 1973 team won the national championship and the Sunkist Bowl. The season was topped off with head coach Paul Widmer being named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Coach of the Year.

MCC's Nursing Alumni chapter will be officially chartered as part of the festivities. Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of this exceptional group of professionals.

### Football

Dan Dunn returned this season for his second tenure as MCC's head football coach. In fact, over half of the coaching staff have either coached or played football for MCC before. The Thunderbird team will benefit from the experience of nearly 30 returning sophomores and transfers from schools such as the University of Arizona and Brigham Young University. The Thunderbirds are hoping their strong passing



The Office of the President and the Mesa Community College Alumni Association invite you and a guest to attend Mesa Community College's

## 2003 Homecoming Celebration

Saturday, November 1, 2003  
honoring MCC Alumni and Friends

**Barbecue 4:30 pm**  
(east side of bookstore, grassy area)

**Homecoming Football Game 7:00 pm**  
MCC Thunderbirds vs. Snow College

**RSVP Required:** Please call 480-461-7501

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**MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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*Alumni & Friends* is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) three times a year for alumni of Mesa Community College.

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## Nominations due for outstanding alumni

Presidents and CEOs, attorneys, teachers, doctors, business owners – MCC's alumni are accomplished professionals and community members. Please join the MCC Alumni Association in recognizing our outstanding alumni. Nominations are being accepted for the Alumni Achievement Award and the Outstanding Chapter Service Award.

In its second year, the MCC alumni awards and recognition program is designed to recognize the accomplishments and service contributions MCC's alumni make to their professions, communities, and the college. Awardees will be recognized on Thursday, May 6, 2004, at the Community Recognition Luncheon hosted by MCC President Larry K. Christiansen.

**Nominations are due Monday, December 15, 2003.**

### Nomination Information:

- Visit the alumni website at [www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni) to learn more about the awards and recognition program and the nomination process.
- OR
- Contact the alumni office at 480-461-7792 or [marcy.snitzer@mccmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:marcy.snitzer@mccmail.maricopa.edu) for information and nomination materials.



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

just carved out time for class, then discovered that we had to do service learning. I told Sue I didn't have time to do it."

Later Debbie learned about the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) and chose to work with them to satisfy the service-learning requirement. "It was a wonderful experience," she said, "and I think that's where my interest in Social work started."

Debbie graduated from MCC and transferred to ASU, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work. She graduated with a 4.0 in all three programs. Debbie works as an employment services coordinator at House of Refuge East, a transitional housing program for homeless individuals and families. "The majority of people I work with are single mothers who are leaving domestic violence situations," she said. "That is my passion. I get to help women strive toward economic self-sufficiency, which is the only way to break the cycle of violence in personal relationships."



Debbie Ciesielski

Paul and Debbie spoke highly of their educational experiences at MCC and the faculty who guided them. "When I started at MCC, I was unsure of myself and didn't have a career path in mind," Debbie said. "I had positive role models who motivated and encouraged me when I thought I couldn't do it. I defined my career goals while I was at MCC." Paul's experience was similar. "I think the MCC Social Work Dept. gave me a firm foundation for undertaking my upper division coursework at ASU," he said. "MCC faculty were very supportive to me as a working adult and encouraged me to make the most of my opportunities."

"Being a social worker is an important calling for those of us in the field," Paul continued. "It is the investment in the potential of individuals, couples, families, organizations, and communities that will be among the greatest challenges and rewards of our work."

Debbie shares Paul's enthusiasm for Social Work: "I love what I'm doing. Ultimately I would like to influence social policy. It's the job of social workers to act as advocates to promote social change."

**Social Work classes, Fall 2004**

- One of three core classes in Social Work will be offered on weekends. Check the college website for days and times: <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/>
- Introduction to Social Welfare will be offered at the Red Mountain campus.

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Sue McAleavey, lead faculty member in Social Work and Sociology, takes pride in MCC's Social Work students who move on to achieve success in their field. To give MCC students the best advantage in their education, Sue works to ensure the transferability of classes, especially to Arizona State University (ASU). As the Instructional Council Chair (District), Sue keeps the Social Work curriculum up to date, develops new courses, and "grows" the program.



Sue McAleavey

Two of Sue's former students, Paul Rock Krech and Debbie Ciesielski, exemplify the spirit and intent of those who choose Social Work as a career. "People have an image of social workers as paraprofessional volunteers," Sue said. She would like to see this misconception replaced with a healthy respect for the unsung heroes in Social Work.

## Spotlight on alumni in Social Work



**Paul Rock Krech** is a Native American who graduated from MCC with high distinction. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work from Arizona State University (ASU) and occasionally returns to MCC to teach. This fall Paul is teaching a course called "Working with the chemically dependent," and next spring he will teach "Effective helping in a diverse world." In early

October Paul gave an hour-long brown bag lunch presentation entitled "Substances of abuse: What everyone in education should know." He is employed at ASU as a clinical social worker.

Now on his way to a Ph.D., Paul recently earned a minority fellowship from the American Psychological Association. For the fellowship, Paul will develop a tool to measure attention and mindfulness in elementary school-age children. "The ultimate goal is to help children pay attention," Paul said.

**Debbie Ciesielski** came to MCC as a mother of four. She enrolled in Sue's Sociology 101 class, which has a service-learning component. "I was a little upset at first," Debbie said. "I had



The possibility of a Mesa Community College campus in downtown Mesa has generated energy and enthusiasm in our preliminary and exploratory discussions and dialogues and has garnered much media attention as well.

While a recent *Tribune* editorial points out that this partnership project between MCC and the City of Mesa has

"tremendous potential" and that city, college, and business leaders need to "think big," there is still much ground to cover. This includes the absolute necessity of a successful bond election which has yet to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Maricopa County Community College District.



Message from the President

Exploring an urban campus correlates directly with the need to meet the demands of our escalating student population. In 20 years, we expect to see a 50 percent increase in enrollment. Studies show that we must double our building capacity at our Southern and Dobson campus over the next two decades and that it is highly probable that our Red Mountain campus will reach its maximum population within this same time frame.

An MCC downtown campus makes good sense from both an education and business perspective. For MCC, our Business & Industries Institute is already housed downtown. Collaborating with the new Mesa Arts Center could see our college become a progressive community college for the arts, and the Mesa aquatic center could lead to the expansion of our competitive sports and fitness programs.

In turn, MCC's downtown presence would benefit Mesa's urban economics and downtown revitalization efforts. An energetic, vibrant student population would support group meeting spaces, retail, housing, and entertainment.

Equally significant for both MCC and the City is the opportunity for joint use and multi-use facilities to leverage scarce resources.

There is much work to be done to bring this project to fruition including a bond election. Should a bond election be called, we will need the support of our alumni who know the value of their MCC education. I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Larry K. Christiansen

## Career Connections

### Internship program provides career advantage

Internship programs have long been a part of the college experience, providing students an opportunity to increase professional knowledge in their areas of study through work experiences while earning college credit. Once considered an advantageous but optional opportunity, experience gained through an internship has become virtually a necessity in today's job market.

According to Vault Incorporated, a New York-based provider of career information and research, upon graduation, students with pre-professional intern experience secure jobs at roughly twice the rate of those without internship experience.

Recognizing this important trend, MCC's Career Services Department took action, creating an Internship Program in the spring of 2002. "MCC is the first college in the Maricopa County

### "MCC is the first college in the Maricopa County Community College District to create a formal internship program."

Jule Dicken, Director of Career and Re-Entry Services

Community College District to create a formal internship program," stated Jule Dicken, Director of Career and Re-Entry Services. "We felt it was critical to provide students with real work experience in their fields of study to aid them as they enter the job market."

The Internship Program matches interested students with employers who have registered with the college as an official internship site. MCC faculty advisors play an important role in the process, working with both the student and the internship site supervisor to establish expectations, work activities appropriate for the internship, and start and end dates.

The internship program has been so successful that Career Services is looking to expand the number of internship sites. "Initially, we focused on developing internships for MCC's career and technical programs, but now we're ready to branch into the traditional academic areas," stated Jule. Alumni can play an important role in increasing the number of internship opportunities available to students.

Consider introducing MCC's Internship Site Program as part of your business plan.

Participating as an internship site provides a valuable service to your alma mater by helping prepare students who are entering the work force. Businesses enjoy access to and the opportunity to help build a qualified work force, the ability to screen for potential employees, and earn community recognition.

The process for registering your business as an internship site is easy. For additional information, contact MCC's director of Career Services, Jule Dicken at 480-461-7429 or [jule.dicken@mccmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:jule.dicken@mccmail.maricopa.edu). You can also learn more through Career Services' website at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/services/career/internships/index.html>.

## Interior Design students provide direction for cyber café

Students in MCC's interior design program are leaving their mark on the college community. Plans for a cyber café complete with coffee, computers, and a collegiate atmosphere have been part of the vision since construction of the Paul A. Elsner Library and High Technology Center on the Southern and Dobson campus in 1999. Those plans recently came to fruition with the opening of the Jazzland Cyber Café. The high-energy campus destination has evolved in large part to student initiative.

MCC interior design students Bonnie Danielson, Monica Curiel, and LeaAnn Walker had the opportunity to work as interns with the space's designer, Michael Fisk of DWL Architects. Completing an internship is a program requirement for a degree in Interior Design. Bonnie, Monica, and LeaAnn used skills they acquired from their interior design classes to select the furniture, accessories, and paint hues to unify the ambience.

"We have had a chance to see a project start with bare walls and develop from there. We have experienced programming, schematic design, design development and specifying, plus tracking furniture orders from

dealerships. We have done space planning and used what we learned in our color design class again and again and again," stated Bonnie.

Michael provided the direction for the overall design but supported the students and allowed them wide latitude on his piano cloud theme. Michael came up with the concept of piano clouds to harmonize with the jazz theme. Piano clouds are acoustical tiles hanging from the ceiling in the shape of piano keys. With Michael's help, the students integrated the piano cloud theme by designing the counter to resemble piano keys. Of course the café wouldn't be complete without a baby grand piano. The piano is a digital player piano but can also be played if patrons wish to create their own music and add to the energy of the café.

The café has wireless Internet connections and 12 stationary computers. Students, staff, and community members are welcome to come take a break in a cool, relaxing environment and listen to some jazz before venturing to the next class or meeting. "The Cyber Café has the potential to be the single most important space on campus," stated Ron Bleed, Vice-Chancellor of Information Technologies.

The students' success with the cyber café has led to additional opportunities. Students in the Interior Design program's Custom Design course submitted proposals to remodel the Kirk Student Center. "The students are



thrilled with the opportunity to practice their skills in an actual working environment," stated Janice Jennings, instructor for the Interior Design course.

MCC Interior Design students have won a number of prestigious awards recently. Jaci Furrey won first place in the Second Annual Home Show Student Interior Design Room Competition this past spring. Jaci was competing against other students representing most of the interior design programs in Arizona. Kailie Maggetti and Niki Koogan were also recipients of an honorable mention in this competition. In addition, Sheena Geohagan won the R.K. Frisque custom rug event. This event is held every semester in the INT175 Custom Design studio. We are very proud of the students' accomplishments.

### Website creates new connection with alumni

With its brand-new website, Alumni Relations, part of MCC's Office of Institutional Advancement (IA), has created a direct alumni-to-college connection.

Visit the Alumni and Communications webpage to learn about ways to reconnect with MCC and get involved. You can also update your address information and sneak a peek at IA's publication archives to see what's happening at the college.

Keep in touch:  
<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni>



## Red Mountain growth prompts change

Barely two years old, MCC's Red Mountain campus is experiencing the growing pains of increased enrollment. Jo Wilson, Special Assistant to the Dean of Instruction, commented on the campus's response to its growing student population. "From an instructional standpoint, we're gearing up on services," Jo said. "Administratively, we are piloting a new concept of having assistant department chairs."

Jo listed additional campus changes prompted by growth:

- Red Mountain's Acacia Village will soon have instructional support, a student area, and additional parking space.
- A conference room has been converted into classroom space.
- By January, portable buildings will be set up to provide four more classrooms.

One of the most noticeable indicators of growth is the hiring of new employees. "When the campus first opened, people



were multi-tasking," Jo said. "Now we're bringing people onboard in certain areas—in the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) for example." Employees are also being hired to run the tutoring service, help in the science labs, and operate the computer lab.

"We're growing with students, but we're also growing with the concept of how we provide service," Jo said.

Completing Phase Two of Red Mountain's master plan might also bring relief from growing pains, though the project awaits funding. "We are actively beginning the process for the next phase of planning," Jo said. "We're reorganizing the advisory committee for this purpose.

"In the meantime," Jo continued, "I think we're going to concentrate on developing some partnerships; economically everybody feels we need to partner." Arizona State University East already works closely with the Red Mountain campus, and MCC is developing a downtown campus concept with the City of Mesa.

### Enrollment sets record

*The East Valley Tribune* heralded Mesa Community College's growth in a recent article entitled "MCC enrollment sets record." MCC's Records and Registration office recorded the following high-point enrollment figures for Fall 2003:

MCC (all sites)	Red Mountain
<b>27,106</b>	<b>3,741</b>

Below is only a sample of events we have planned for this semester. Visit the calendar online for additional events and information:  
<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/apps/calendar/startcal.jsp>.

**October 9-19**  
*Life Is a Dream*  
A drama by Pedro Calderon de la Barca  
Theatre Arts  
Theatre Outback

**October 16**  
**Evening Lecture Series in Psychology**  
*It's Not How Smart You Are, It's How You are Smart: Multiple Intelligences, Creativity, and Neuroscience*  
René Diaz-Lefebvre, Ph.D.  
Navajo Room  
Kirk Student Center

**October 29-November 2**  
*Grease*  
Act I Musical Theatre Production  
Theatre Outback

**November 1**  
**MCC 2003 Homecoming**  
MCC vs. Snow College  
John D. Riggs Stadium

**November 4**  
**Evening Lecture Series in Psychology**  
*The Uses of Metaphor In Hypnosis and Psychotherapy*  
Stephen R. Lankton, MSW, LMFT, DAHB

Navajo Room  
Kirk Student Center

**November 5-21**  
**MCC Faculty Art Show**  
Navajo Room  
Kirk Student Center

**November 7-8**  
**Fall Dance Concert**  
Theatre Outback

**November 11**  
**Veterans Rose Garden Dedication**  
MCC Rose Garden

**November 14**  
**Professional Staff Association (PSA) Holiday Boutique**  
Kirk Student Center

## Fall Happenings

**December 4-7**  
*The Hostage*  
A comedy by Brendan Behan  
Theatre Arts  
Theatre Outback

**December 12**  
**Broadway Bound**  
Musical Theatre  
Scholarship Fundraiser  
Theatre Outback