

Meet the Alumni Scholarship Recipients



JOSHUA HAMMER
Bioengineering

After spending 21 days in the hospital for 6 reconstructive surgeries in an attempt to save his leg after a bicycle accident, Joshua became passionate about his pursuit of a career in bioengineering.

"With the Alumni scholarship, I will be able to continue down the path toward my goal of obtaining a doctorate, and help people the way I was helped when I needed it most."



SHEREENA J. OLD ELK
Biology/Physical Therapy

Working as a massage therapist has given Shereena experience with the healing process, and she would like to have a bigger role in the therapeutic process. Her career goal is to become a pediatric physical therapist, but her family has been hit hard financially with the current economic environment. She is married and the mother of two young children.

"I would like to go to school full time and finish the last 6 classes needed to complete my degree. With the help of the MCCA scholarship I will be able to move forward and achieve my associate degree."



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Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING THROUGH

ACTIVE SERVICE



"I have them build a project around their passion," Petra said. "Some have never done any service and are excited to give back to their community. Sometimes I have students who start out saying they are not interested in working with small children and then find out they are."

Petra has her students make a scrapbook at the end of their project. The scrapbooks show projects as diverse as the students themselves and include teaching nature lessons at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, lighting luminary candles at the Desert Botanical Garden or planting a garden at New Leaf.



MCC student Nikelle Mackey, 20, said she was amazed to find a wealth of opportunities for service-learning experiences at MCC. Despite a heavy work and school schedule, she put in 100 hours at the Mesa Arts Academy and did 300 hours of service with AmeriCorps. Mackey also organized an after-school day camp for kids.

"It was fun to see the kids grow and learn to be leaders and be aware of their community," Mackey said.

In 2009-10, MCC had 1,265 students serve 30,298 service hours in independent and in-course service learning programs. In addition, 349 students completed more than 65,678 hours in the MCC UCAN Serve AmeriCorps.

The AmeriCorps program awards money to students that can be used to attend college or to repay qualified student loans in exchange for volunteer service.

The total number of community service hours completed by MCC students for those two programs since 2002 equals more than 1 million hours.

As a result of MCC's dedicated students and staff, MCC has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the last three years. This is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

The Center for Service-Learning at Mesa Community College is nearly always a whirlwind of activity. Each year, thousands of MCC students discover their skills and passions by serving our community in hundreds of different ways.

The goal of service-learning is to integrate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, encourage lifelong civic engagement, and strengthen communities for the common good.

MCC students provide service to more than 300 community partners, including Mesa Public Schools, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, New Leaf, Mesa Arts Academy and the Desert Botanical Garden, among many others.

Duane Oakes, Director of the Center for Service-Learning and Liz Meyer, Program Specialist, both became involved with service-learning when they were in college and now encourage MCC students to engage in their community.

"The reason I work in service-learning and encourage student and faculty involvement is because it was so meaningful to me when I was a student," Meyer said. "Service-learning affords a tremendous opportunity to clarify your values, explore career fields, give back to your community, and make learning come to life. As an art student, I can't imagine a better way for me to have learned about the power of a work of art than to create projects with elementary students and then to exhibit those works in a community gallery."

Recently, MCC volunteers turned out in droves for the Special Olympics Arizona Summer Games. Meyer said nearly 140 students, faculty and staff completed almost 700 hours of service at the event.

In the classroom, MCC communication faculty member Jodie Kay Petra uses service-learning projects as the core learning experience for her Small Group Communication class. The students plan a day of service for a non-profit agency. Petra said nearly all find it to be a good experience.



Find MCC's new Facebook page on facebook.com. Type "Mesa Community College" in the search box then click the "Become a Fan" box.

Follow MesaCCCollegeAZ at: twitter.com/mesaCCCollegeAZ

View videos at: www.youtube.com/user/mesacc

MCC Alumni Association
EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

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MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUMMER YOUTH COLLEGE OFFERS CAMPS AT TWO CAMPUSES



Openings are still available for Mesa Community College's Summer Youth College for children ages 4-18, with new openings available at MCC's Red Mountain Campus at Power and McKellips Roads. Camps are designed to give kids a head start on a lifetime of learning.

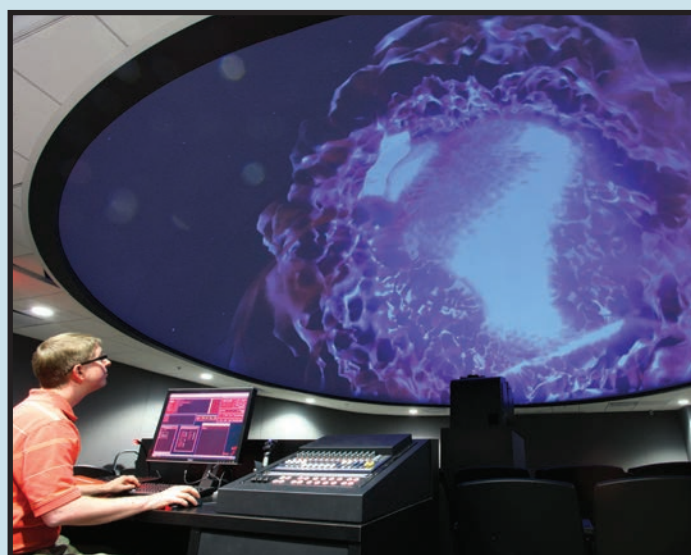
The two camps held at the Red Mountain Campus include:
Getting to know "ALICE," Animating 3D Worlds, grades 7-10, July 12-15.
MACHINIMA — STUDIO 180 — Video Game Design, ages 13-16, July 19-22.

Camps held on the MCC Southern and Dobson campus in July include:
Babysitting 101, grades 6-9, July 12-15
Summer Jazz Workshop, HS-young adult, July 12-16
Mesa Youth Actors Academy, Performance, grades K-8, July 12-22
Camp Runway, Fashion Camp, grades 8-12, July 12-15
Math in Action, Learning with Computers, grades 6-8, July 12-15
Rock Music Camp, grades 6-9, July 19-30
Organic Animation Studio, grades 6-8, July 12-15

Details: www.mesacc.edu/communityed/summeryouth or by calling MCC's Community Education office at: 480-461-7493.

For a complete listing of events and times, check out our online calendars.
GENERAL MCC EVENTS mesacc.edu/alumni then click EVENTS CALENDAR ATHLETICS athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules

ASTRONOMY NIGHTS



MCC's state-of-the-art Planetarium opens to the public the first Friday of every month to offer FREE shows. Explore the amazing Universe with shows such as *Secrets of the Sun*, *Stars of the Pharaohs*, and *Wonders of the Universe*.

During Astronomy Nights, we also offer telescope viewing of the Moon, planets, and other celestial sights. Telescope viewing will only occur if the skies are clear.

Planetarium shows begin at 6:00pm and repeat every half hour. The last show begins at 9:30pm and ends at 10:00pm. FREE show tickets are handed out at the event on a first-come, first-served basis. Wait times are usually no more than 30 minutes. If a staff member does not approach you about tickets during the event, please ask for them!

No reservations are required. However, if you plan to bring a group of 20 or more, please contact 480-461-7015 with the showing you plan to attend so we can hold tickets for your group.

Visit www.mesacc.edu/dept/d43/ast/planetarium/ for the show schedule and descriptions.





President's Corner

Our academic year culminated with MCC's 45th Commencement Exercises on May 14. More than 3,300 students were awarded degrees and certificates in 2009-10. As a college we have a long-standing commitment to student success, and Commencement is the quintessential event that reflects this commitment. I am proud of all our graduates and would like to highlight two student success stories.

Each year, MCC students participate in the All- USA Academic competition. This year, two of our students received national recognition through the All-USA Academic Team competition sponsored by USA Today newspapers, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and Coca-Cola Company and administered by Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for community colleges.

Mr. Robert LeDesma was selected as a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar based on his scores in the All-USA Academic Team competition. Robert plans to attend Columbia University for creative writing and environmental science. After graduating, he plans to travel around the world promoting clean energy.

Mr. Devin Hon was named a Coca-Cola National Finalist. Devin plans to complete an organic chemistry degree through MCC and a biology degree from ASU, so he can continue on to be a primary physician.

MCC has many student success stories, and we enjoy sharing them with you. This summer, you'll receive a letter that highlights another student and asks you to consider making a donation to support student scholarships. We realize that it's a difficult economy for many, but encourage you to give as you are able.

In the fall, we will be publishing a Report to the Community that provides an overview of various initiatives and accomplishments. The Report will be sent out electronically. If you would like to receive a copy, please send your email address to the Alumni Office.

Sincerely,

Shouan Pan, Ph.D.

Students Take the LEED on New Health/Wellness Building

MCC's newly-renovated Health-Wellness Building at the Southern and Dobson Campus is on track to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.



Left to right: Andrea Carrillo, Tammy Elliott, Keri Pollard and Hannah Buchman

The certification is thanks in part to the active involvement of four interior design students.

The students' involvement also makes them eligible to take the LEED AP Interior Design and Construction exam. Passing the exam earns them LEED Accredited Professional status, the internationally recognized mark of professionals who are experts in the LEED certification of building interiors. Becoming a LEED AP makes the students more valuable on the job market.

"The experience was really exciting and intense," said interior design student Keri Pollard, who was part of the team that included design students Hannah Buchman, Andrea Carrillo and Tammy Elliott. "I learned so much, especially about the LEED scorecard."

MCC Design Department Chair, Janice Pierson, said, "I'm so proud of these students. Their motivation was intrinsic and they showed so much energy. This was the ideal time for students to become eligible for the exam and they capitalized on this opportunity."

The 38,000-square-foot building is a combination of renovation and new construction. The building is the former physical science building and will house both the Exercise Science and Nursing Departments. The project was supported through funds made available from the



MCCCD bond initiative of 2004 and built by McGough Construction and SmithGroup.

As part of the project, the students created interactive signs designed to encourage students and visitors to think about sustainable living.

"The interactive signage allows us to translate the information from the scorecard to the layman, with Q & A's and multiple choice questions," Pollard said. "The signage will be placed strategically so students and visitors to the building can learn how the building qualified for LEED certification."

Pollard said one of the most important aspects in regard to LEED qualifying factors is that 75 percent of the old structure remains.

"You really can't tell, though, because it's so bright and open," Pollard said. "The roofing, flooring and one wall were saved."

The building highlights natural lighting, but is well insulated, with special coating on the windows. The roofing reflects light to keep the building cool.

Exercise Science and Nursing students will begin taking classes in the building this summer. The two departments are eager to use the building to promote individual and community health and wellness. Watch for information on an official Open House for the community, to be held in fall of 2010.

AWARD ROUNDUP

MCC RECEIVES MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARDS

Mesa Community College recently won Gold and Bronze Paragon awards in national competition through the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

MCC won the gold award in Social Marketing for the college's social media campaign that raised awareness of MCC's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites. The campaign resulted in a 60 percent increase in Facebook fans, a 70 percent increase in Twitter followers and a substantial boost in YouTube viewers. Efforts included social media messages based on data collect from the MCCconnect survey, the distribution of 3,000 customized water bottles that highlighted MCC's social media sites, and a TwitterFest that provided a constant stream of information to students during the first two days of fall semester.

MCC won the bronze award for Online Marketing/Advertising for email blasts that are sent to Alumni and Friends advertising MCC events. The email blasts are sent every 1 - 2 weeks and reach more than 7,000

people. The open rate for the messages is 14%, indicating a high level interest when compared to traditional direct mail rates. In addition, less than 1% of all people have opted to be removed from the list.



Student employees prepared 3,000 customized water bottles for the campaign.



PTK AWARDS

Congratulations to MCC's Omicron Beta Chapter for returning from the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Orlando as one of the top chapters in the world!

Over 400 chapters competed for the society's most coveted awards recognizing excellence in programs that promote the PTK Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship. The MCC chapter received the following awards, many of which are given to the top 30 chapters in the world:

- Leadership Hallmark Award
- Distinguished Chapter Award
- Top 100 Chapter
- Distinguished Chapter Advisor Award - Duane Oakes
- Distinguished Member Award - Steven Schaub

PTK recognizes academic excellence and is the largest and the most prestigious honor society serving two-year colleges around the world.



ArtWalk Features Student and Faculty Talent

MCC is an environment rich with a wide variety of artistic expressions. MCC's Office of Institutional Advancement (IA), in collaboration with the Art Department, has created an ArtWalk brochure showcasing the work of MCC students, faculty and acclaimed artists on the Southern and Dobson campus.

The self-guided tour was developed to invite students and the community to view more than 30 pieces that represent ceramic, metal and architectural art forms. The brochure itself is a tribute to MCC artists, as it showcases the talents and skill of Tom Klare's photography students, who took the photographs for the piece, and IA student intern Patricia Moore.

You can pick up a copy of the brochure in the IA Office (located by the Library at Southern and Dobson) and take the ArtWalk yourself or invite a friend. ArtWalk brochures are available for guests coming to campus, at nearby chambers of commerce, and at local hotels. An online version can be accessed at www.mesacc.edu/about/artwalk/.

NEW VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Sonya Pearson



Sonya Pearson has been named as the new Vice President of Student Affairs. She is a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma and joined MCC in November 2007. She has held various positions within student affairs including her last senior level position at Crowder College in Missouri.

Pearson earned her master's degree in counseling and psychology from NE State University in Oklahoma and her Ph.D. in organizational psychology from Walden University in Minneapolis. She is also a former Licensed Professional Counselor in Oklahoma and plans to complete her jurist doctor degree by 2012. In addition to her educational and work experience, service to the community is also Sonya's personal mission and has previously been involved with the Red Cross, Relay for Life, Economic Security, Urban League, Department of Workforce Development, and United Way.