

Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

MCC Launches Online Community for Alumni



More than 43,000 former MCC students comprise our alumni community. We have created a place for that community to connect online via the computer – at a time and place that's convenient for you.

To access the community, you must register! Registering to use the community is easy:

1. Visit www.alumniconnections.com/mcc
2. Under the First Time Visitors header, click Register Now
3. Follow the step-by-step instructions.
4. On step 3 you'll be asked to verify your record with an 8-digit security number. **It is printed with the address for this newsletter.**

(The security number is NOT your Social Security Number)

Why should you go online?

To reconnect with old friends, find lost classmates, and network using the Online Directory. Take it a step further and post a Class Note about what's happened since you left MCC. For those who want to meet in person, check out the Events Calendar for a list of alumni and college events.

The Career Center is packed with opportunities to post and

search job and resumé listings. You can also volunteer to offer (or receive) Career Advice. An in-depth look at the Career Center is featured below.

The online community is free and accessible only to MCC alumni, faculty and staff. In the future, currently enrolled students will have access to the Career Center section.

Once you have registered, be sure to visit My Page to update your Personal Profile, revealing only the information you choose to share. At the bottom of My Personal Profile click on the Miscellaneous tab to let the Alumni Office know about the activities and information that interest you.

Career Center Highlights

NETWORKING IS HELPFUL IN FINDING A JOB, AND WITH TODAY'S STRUGGLING ECONOMY THAT'S MORE TRUE THAN EVER.

- **Local Job Postings** – Maricopa Career Network powered by Jobing.com connects you with great employers right here in Arizona. Post your resumé, search jobs, and find information about local career fairs.
- **International Network of Job Postings** – Post your resumé and search job listings and resúmes offered by members of your MCC alumni community and other college and university alumni communities throughout the U.S. and abroad.
- **Career Links** – Utilize valuable career resources such as career assessments and profiles, occupation outlook, and interview and resumé tips.
- **Career Advice and Mentoring Services** – Create a mentor posting to volunteer to share your career experiences with other alumni and current MCC students or find a mentor to help advance your career. Faculty and staff may search this network to invite alumni to speak to a class or club.

Sign up Today!

Register to be part of MCC's Online Community. (see directions in the blue box). Once you're registered, click on Career Center link.

MCC Career Services provides alumni individual consultations, resume review, interview practice sessions, and interest inventories. Contact Career Services at career@mcmail.maricopa.edu or 480.461.7592 for additional information. Please visit www.mesacc.edu/alumni to take a brief survey so that we can develop programs based on your interest and needs.

Spring 2009

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MCC Awarded NSF Grant

Mesa Community College is the recipient of the largest portion of a grant from the National Science Foundation for a rock art conservation project. The project will be under the direction of MCC's geography faculty member, Niccole Cerveny, in collaboration with Ronald Dorn at Arizona State University and Casey Allen at the University of Colorado Denver.

MCC's portion of the grant is \$119,469, ASU's portion is \$64,804 and UC Denver's portion is \$15,666, bringing the total grant to \$199,939.

The project, "Collaborative Research: Using the Rock Art Stability Index to engage community college students in field-based interdisciplinary research," will expand undergraduate research opportunities at the community college level and bring enhanced meaning about science to underrepresented groups.

Cerveny, who is the author of a Ph.D. thesis and several papers on rock art conservation, said she was extremely pleased to be part of bringing community colleges into the NSF funding area.

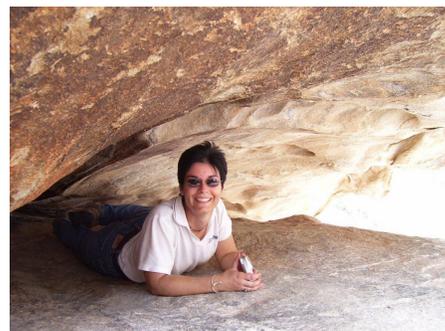
"Normally NSF funding is awarded at the university level, but there's been recent interest in community college funding," Cerveny said. "An NSF grant is what all scientists try to get and it's incredible to get it at the community college level."

Cerveny and her students have been invited to do field work at South Mountain Park in Phoenix and the Petrified Forest National Park in northern Arizona, where students will record the cultural resources of the park, assess the stability of the rock art

and make observations of normal rock weathering as well as human impact.

The grant will also prepare students for transfer to higher education.

"This gives students experience with research and working with the university at the same time, so transfer isn't so scary," Cerveny said. "It lets universities and our own students see us do quality work."



Alumni NewsClips



Wink Harner, MCC Director of Disability Resources and Services, shakes hands with Nadine Armstrong, Director of Competition and Training for the Special Olympics.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mesa Community College's Disability Resources and Services and Athletic Department have set up a partnership to co-sponsor and host the Summer Olympic Games for the Special Olympics at MCC April 30 through May 1. In exchange for hosting this event, the Special Olympics will donate \$10,000 into an endowed scholarship fund for students with disabilities for every year MCC hosts the event.

SUMMER YOUTH COLLEGE

MCC offers several new workshops, classes and camps for young people of all ages this summer during June and July. Classes are held at the Southern and Dobson Campus in a safe, supervised environment and include:

- **Magic of Musical Theatre Workshops, 21st year**
- **Studio 180 Camp**
- **Fashion Design Camp**
- **Robot Camp**
- **Networking Camp**
- **Computer equipment and repair classes**
- **Youth Culinary Camp**
- **Science Camp**
- **Fun and Fitness—Healthy Kids Camp**
- **Thunderbird Youth Sports Camp**

For additional information please call the Center for Community Education at 480.461.7493 or visit www.mc.maricopa.edu and click on Community Education.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

STILL WALKING: THE FILMS OF HIROKAZU KORE-EDA

When: 7 p.m., March 3-7, 2009

Where: Harkins Arizona Mills 24, 5000 Arizona Mills Circle, Tempe

Description: This year's MCC International Film Festival will feature the films of award-winning Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda with a Q & A session by the director after each film. All films are free and open to the public.

FILMS:

Tuesday, March 3: Maborosi

Wednesday, March 4: After Life

Thursday, March 5: Nobody Knows

Friday, March 6: Hana

Saturday, March 7: Still Walking



MCC Recruiter's Life Experience Inspires Students

Thuy (Twee) Cao's passion for education began with a promise she made to her mother in 1987. That promise led Cao to Mesa Community College—once as a student and now, as MCC's manager of recruitment and outreach. Today, Cao shares her story with students as they prepare to enter the world of higher education.

Cao was born in Saigon, the youngest in a family of 10 children. Her life changed dramatically when communist forces took over the country in the '70s. Shortly after the takeover, her father passed away, leaving her mother on her own to raise nine children.

"We lived in extreme poverty," Cao said. "There were many nights we went to bed without food."

Cao's mother moved the family to Arizona in 1986. Shortly after the move, her mother became gravely ill and passed away, but not before Cao made her mother a promise.

"I made a promise to her that I would continue my education because that's why she brought us to America, so we could have a better life," Cao said.

It was a difficult time for Cao, age 15, in a new country, with no parents and no English language skills. She was bounced around among family members until she was brought into the home of an American family, Spud and Patty LaVallee. Patty, who worked as an ESL teacher at Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe, provided support and encouragement for Cao.

It was Cao's older brother, Nam, who encouraged her to attend MCC.

"MCC absolutely prepared me for a great education and taught me about diversity and responsibility," Cao said. "I had great instructors who touched my life."

Cao went on to graduate from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in education and a master's of business administration degree from the University of Phoenix.

"I want every student's life to be touched just like mine has been," Cao said. "Without MCC and my family and people who have touched my life, I would not be where I am today. I tell students that dreams are possible and become reality if you put your heart and desire into it."

MCC's Music Business Program

By Alexandra Perdue and Sally Mesarosh

Students looking to learn about the music business and build dream careers now have a local resource to help them receive the hands-on experience needed to succeed on a national level.

Under the guidance of new program director Alexandra Perdue, the Music Business Program at Mesa Community College has developed relationships with major music brands such as Live Nation, Sony Music Group, Warner Music Group, Universal and EMI Music Group and Clear Channel.

The program's connections to major music companies in Los Angeles, Nashville, New York and Phoenix provide students access to highly-competitive industry internships, normally reserved for students with four-year or legal degrees.

"The value of Mesa's program is how well it helps students build a knowledge base of technical skills and real-world business experience to prepare them for music careers," Perdue said. "For those students who are focused and passionate, the career possibilities are wide open."

Many graduates from the program say the career guidance they received from MCC instructors proved invaluable in securing music business internships and jobs. Students who earn an associate degree in music business or audio production technology at MCC also have transferability options to many four-year programs across the nation.



In addition to national internships, MCC's Music Business program also offers students assistance in obtaining top local internships in radio promotion, concert and event production, public relations, musical instrument marketing and artist management. The program also offers other innovative hands-on experiences, such as site visits to music businesses like Fender Music Instrument Corporation and the New Times Music Department.

For more information on this program, contact 480.461.7869. View profiles of MCC Business Program alumnae Sara Bingham, Jasmine De La Paz, and Rebecca Magenheim at www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni.



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MCC
Alumni Association

EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

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

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VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE – TO OUR STUDENTS, OUR COLLEGE, AND OUR COMMUNITY!

MCC offers a variety of volunteer options so that you can find one that fits your interest and availability. To sign up for volunteer opportunities, register in the Online Community (see front page for directions). Once you're registered, click on My Page then My Personal Profile. Scroll down to the Miscellaneous header and choose Click to Update.

To view a list of all our volunteer opportunities, visit our brochure at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/community/alumni/support> or request a printed brochure by contacting Jennifer LaForge at jenner@mesacc.edu or 480.461.7794.

SPRING ALUMNI EVENTS – REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.ALUMNICONNECTIONS.COM/MCC AND CLICK ON THE EVENTS CALENDAR

Mark Your Calendar



**April 14, 2009
Culinary Food Tasting**

East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT),
1601 W. Main St., Mesa, AZ

\$20 per person

Prepare to relax and indulge as MCC's Culinary Studies students prepare a gourmet six course meal for you. Entertainment and menu will be coordinated around a specialized theme. For more details on this event check the online calendar.

Event postcards moving to email

VERY SOON POSTCARDS ABOUT MCC'S EVENTS WILL NO LONGER BE DELIVERED TO YOUR MAILBOX – THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY VIA EMAIL AND THROUGH THE ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR. TO ENSURE THAT YOU STAY CONNECTED, PLEASE VISIT THE MCC ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY AT WWW.ALUMNICONNECTIONS.COM/MCC AND REGISTER TODAY!



For a complete listing of events and times, check out our online calendars.

GENERAL MCC EVENTS www.alumniconnections.com/mcc **ATHLETICS** www.mc.maricopa.edu/athletics/schedules