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the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Who ya gonna call? Tree Busters!

Wink Harner's co-workers helped soften the blow of misfortune last month when a 70-foot eucalyptus tree fell and smashed a portion of Wink's home. Several employees from Mesa Community College and South Mountain Community College responded quickly to help Wink clear and clean up the damage from the tree.

Wink, manager of MCC's Disability Resources and Services, said the tree snapped at ground level and fell onto her home, splitting the back roof joist and breaking the weight-bearing wall. The tree crushed her shed and pierced the roof of her laundry room.

"I was sitting at the dining room table about two feet from the wall when the tree struck the house," Wink said.

Wink was unharmed, but her house was severely damaged. Wink called a tree removal company that removed the tree from the roof, but in the process, the workers stole several items from the house—electrical cords, tools, etc. Understandably, Wink was reluctant to have the workers who stole the items do any more work. So at that point, the tree was off the house, but the tree remnants still had to be cut up and removed from the damaged area before the insurance company could do a damage estimate.

"I was stuck in a conundrum—the insurance company wouldn't pay to remove the tree because the tree was no longer on the house," Wink said. "It would have cost me about \$2,500 to call another company and have them cut up the tree and remove the remains."

So Wink, who said she decided not to be victimized by these circumstances, sent out a plea for help. She made up a slide show presentation of the damage and emailed it to several co-workers with the title, "Wanted: Men with Chain Saws!"

Jared Langkilde, Executive Assistant to the MCC president, was the first to respond, arriving at Wink's house the next day with a chain saw and his brothers.



"The man deserves to be sainted for what he did," Wink said. "I could never repay him for his kindness."

Jared cut the tree into small logs and stacked them in Wink's front yard. But there was more work to be done. The email found its way to Wink's SMCC colleagues and soon Diloylo Pulvino and Kathleen Hawkins from SMCC were on their way to help, along with MCC student Shayne Woodards.

The trio helped Wink empty the shed, box up the back porch, clean up the yard, and take some items to the dump.

"The only thing left is the stump," Wink said. "I'm overwhelmed by the kindness of all of these people. Their friendship is amazing to me."

As Wink awaits the outcome of what will happen once the structural engineer and contractor assess the damage and determine the soundness of the house, she keeps her sense of humor.

"Jared did such a nice job with the wood—my granddaughter and I are talking about taking the logs and creating 'stumphenge' with it!"

Spring Construction Update

The coming months will bring a few changes to the Southern and Dobson campus as construction begins on the new physical science building. Groundbreaking for the 60,000-square-foot building is scheduled for late April or early May. The building will be located on the west side of campus, just south of the Life Science building.

To prepare for this construction project, parking lots on both sides of campus will undergo several changes. On the east side, the tennis courts are being relocated to allow for the expansion of the parking area. This project is scheduled for completion by the end of May or early June.

On the west side of campus, the new building will occupy what is now the gated employee parking area that is south of the Life Science building. This employee parking lot will be relocated slightly south of its current location and occupy the area in front of the Social and Cultural Science building. Both parking areas will be open until the end of March, but on March 31, the current employee parking area will be shut down and construction fencing will go up in early to mid-April.



Employees may then use the new employee parking area in front of the College Safety building in place of the old employee parking area.

Power shutdown:

Employees should also make note that the power will be shut down during spring break in the Maintenance and Operations offices (building 48), the Technology/Faculty offices for Design, Family, and Consumer Sciences (building 50), and the Greenhouse/Land Lab (building 51).

Power will be shut off to route power to other areas of campus as part of the parking lot construction project. Employees should turn off equipment and clean out refrigerators that will be affected by the power shutdown.

Parking lot construction is under way at the Southern & Dobson campus.

MCC alumnus receives National Leadership Award

Mesa Community College alumnus Mark Milliron has been selected to receive the 2007 National Leadership Award from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Larry Christiansen, an AACC member CEO, nominated Milliron for his long-standing and significant contributions to community colleges. South Mountain Community College President Ken Atwater and Rio Salado College President Linda Thor also wrote letters of endorsement for Mark.

Mark's strengths and contributions on both a professional and personal level are numerous. His relationship with community colleges began at MCC, where he completed 60 credit hours before transferring to Arizona State University, where he graduated summa cum laude. He returned to the community colleges while completing his doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin to complete an internship with the Maricopa County Community College District at MCC.

Mark's leadership roles range from Vice President and Chief Operating Officer as well as President and Chief Executive Officer for the League for Innovation in the Community College to Vice President for Academic and Student Services at Mayland Community College in North Carolina and Distinguished Visiting Faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin.

Mark's passion for exploring the worlds of learning and leadership are evident in his books, monographs, and articles. He has spoken at colleges, corporations, and conferences across the country and around the world.

Mark has served as a key resource for local, state, and national programs and serves on numerous non-profit, and corporate boards. He is author and moderator of the Catalytic Conversations Blog. He was named one of the top Shapers of the Future by Converge Magazine in August 2000. In 2005, PBS Adult Learning Service named Mark the recipient of its annual O'Banion Prize for transformational work in support of teaching and learning.

Mark currently serves as Endowed Fellow, Senior Lecturer, and Director of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) at the University of Texas at Austin. NISOD is the outreach vehicle and service arm to the Community College Leadership Program at UT Austin.

Mark's long list of accomplishments on his vita ends with these words to live by from playwright George Bernard Shaw: This is the true joy in life...being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one...being a force in Nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy...I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

Mark will receive his award in April at the 2007 AACC Annual Convention in Tampa, Florida.



Dr. Mark Milliron

Theatre Arts and Film students achieve top ratings at Kennedy Center Festival



MCC students Angel Moreno and Chris Vehon in front of their display at KCACTF in Utah.

Sixteen Mesa Community Colleges students in the Theatre Arts and Film Department competed for both acting and design titles at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) on Feb. 12 – 17 at the campus of Southern Utah University in Cedar City. MCC competed against 45 four-year colleges and universities and

14 other community colleges in Region VIII of the KCACTF competition, which includes schools from California, Utah, Nevada, Hawaii, and Arizona.

“The competition was exceedingly tough,” said MCC Performance Faculty Kevin Dressler, who received an Award of Meritorious Achievement in Play Direction for MCC’s production of *13 Rue de L’Amour*. “Our students represented MCC exceptionally well as a two-year program.”

Out of 70 designers, with the vast majority representing four-year schools, three MCC students made the finals, the most of any of the two-year schools attending. MCC student Chris Vehon took a third place honorable mention in Sound Design; Mercedes O’Bannion was a finalist in Costume Design; and JennAfer Spruell was a finalist in Make-up Design. Most of the design winners were graduate students. All three MCC finalists were selected to attend KCACTF for their exemplary work in MCC Theatre Arts and Film Department’s production of

George Feydeau’s *13 Rue de L’Amour*, which was presented in the Theatre Outback this past December. MCC’s Kara Thomson, Design Faculty, coached all of the designers with the assistance of Troy Buckey, Technical Theatre Coordinator.

270 actors competed in KCACTF’s Irene Ryan Scholarship Competition. MCC nominee Jason Kleinschmidt was a semi-finalist, and one of only a handful of community college students competing in the semi-final round. All final round competitors were from four-year colleges and universities. Jason was selected to compete at KCACTF for his work as the character of Moricet in *13 Rue de L’Amour*. Kevin, who directed *13 Rue de L’Amour*, coached Jason and three other MCC Irene Ryan Competition nominees.

MCC placed more semi-finalists and finalists than any of the other community colleges in attendance at KCACTF.

In addition to these accomplishments, MCC’s Theatre Arts and Film Department’s box office and house management staff received an Award of Meritorious Achievement for House Management and Audience Services for *13 Rue de L’Amour*. MCC Music Faculty Keith Heffner, who coached the sound design students, presented a workshop at the festival. Keith and Kara also acted as adjudicators on some of the design panels.



MCC student Mercedes O’Bannion poses with her costuming display at KCACTF.

Women's Rights in Jordan: The Case of "Honor Killings"



Lutfi Hussein

Each year in Jordan, 20 to 25 women are killed by a family member to protect the family's "honor." Males who commit these "honor killings" are often protected by a law that appears to condone the practice of honor killings, specifically two penal codes that imply a family's honor is "inscribed" in the body of a woman and is to be protected by a male relative.

Lutfi Hussein, MCC English Faculty, will present this topic

during Mesa Community College's Women's History Conference on March 8. Hussein said his presentation, "Women's Rights in Jordan: The Case of "Honor Killings," will discuss a nationwide campaign in Jordan to repeal the two articles that make it easy for males to kill female relatives that are suspected of sexual misconduct.

"This national movement has gathered much support, but it has been turned down twice by the Lower House of Parliament," Hussein said. "It is a complex social as well as political practice."

Hussein, who was born and raised in Jordan and holds a PhD from Arizona State University, said the purpose of his presentation is to raise awareness of this practice.

"MCC is interested in global awareness, and this is part of educating the student population," Hussein said. "They will get a glimpse of an important political and social issue."

According to Hussein, the role of women in Jordanian society has been growing steadily, as evidenced by their participation in the executive and legislative branches of government and leadership in social institutions. Given this participation, women have launched a national initiative to repeal laws that discriminate against women in honor killings. Although turned down twice, the campaign is still in place, but with no recent progress.

Hussein's presentation is just one of many events that take place during MCC's Women's Conference and Women's History Month. Other events include:

Women's History Conference:

Generations of Women Moving Forward

March 8, 7:30 a.m.-noon, MCC Kirk Center Navajo Room.

7:30-8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:00-8:15

Welcome: Pattie Cardenas Adame

8:15-9:00

Genesis Toole: Keynote: "Moving History Forward--Starting Where You Are"

9:00-10:15 Presentations

Yaqui Room:

Shelley Rodrigo--Resident Feminist: Alice in the Wonder of Web 2.0 Technologies

Navajo Room:

Patricia Pullenza--Preserving "Herstory" through Memoirs

Pima Room:

Jeanette F. Chaplin--Diplomats, Warriors, and Queen Mothers: Old Testament Women Lead the Way

Maricopa Room

Elizabeth Ursic--Feminist Theory and Studies of Nuns

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:45

Navajo Room:

Lutfi M. Hussein--Women's Rights in Jordan: The Case of "Honor Killings"

Yaqui Room

Nicole Lohrbeer--Spiritual Leadership in the Feminist Classroom: Being Present with Conflict

Pima Room

Lois Roma-Deeley --"The Unnamed She" A Feminist Poetry Reading

Maricopa Room

Jason Mallory--Young's "Five Faces of Oppression:" Women and Mass Incarceration

Women's History Month events all month long:

March 6:

Film and discussion: "North Country,"

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Navajo Room.

March 8

Women's Conference, 7:30 a.m.-noon, Navajo Room.

Entertainer LuLu LaFever, noon-1 p.m. Kirk Center Lobby

March 24:

Vagina Monologues, excerpts from Eve Ensler's revolutionary play created from interviews with hundreds of women, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Outback, \$2.

March 30:

"Myself, Alma Mahler," a one-woman play starring Pamela Fields, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Outback Black Box, free.

Contact Theatre Outback Box Office at 480-461-7170 for play information.

Second Annual Fender Guitar Festival



Local students participate in 2006 Fender Festival at MCC.

On March 28 and 29, Fender Musical Instruments, Mesa Community College's Commercial Music Studies Program, and Milano Music will host the Second Annual Valley-Wide Fender Guitar Festival at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus.

The festival offers local junior high and high school guitar ensembles an opportunity to perform and receive instruction from top guitar instructors and Fender representatives. Organizers expect 15-20 guitar ensembles from 20 local schools to participate in the festival. Each will perform three pieces for a panel of nationally recognized guitar educators. Following the performance, the evaluators will spend 15 minutes sharing and engaging with each ensemble.

MCC's music technology teacher, Keith Heffner, said that while high school band, orchestra, and choir students have opportunities to perform and compete at district and state festivals, the guitar ensemble is essentially left out. The festival allows local programs to show off student talent, compete against peers, and receive valuable feedback through evaluations and clinics. This is the second year MCC has hosted the festival.

"The festival went so well last year that we are expanding it to two days this year," Keith said. "We think that once the word gets out, the festival will continue to expand and draw more people."

This year's festival, which is open to the public, will also feature outside tents where attendees can learn how to change guitar strings and view demonstrations of music productions while ensembles play music inside the Theatre Outback.

In addition to supporting local guitar programs, the festival is a chance for MCC faculty and students to reach out in service to the community and build future music programs.

"It's a way to interact with young people in our community," Keith said. "The festival brings younger students to the MCC campus so they can see what MCC offers in music and guitar courses and programs," Keith said.

The Fender Guitar Festival takes place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the MCC Theatre Outback stage and lobby and outside the theater in the grassy area. For more information, contact Keith Heffner at 480-461-7450.