

March 31, 2009

# the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## New Hiring Process Approved for Non-Faculty Positions

### PAF IMPLEMENTED FOR NON-FACULTY POSITIONS

Managers and Department Chairs: If you have a vacant position, an idea for a new position, an emergency hire, or other personnel actions related to a board approved position, then please note this new procedure. Effective immediately a new Personnel Action Form (PAF) has been implemented that will provide justifications for personnel actions, better coordination with fiscal and HR, and centralize approval of actions through the President's cabinet.

The PAF, available from your Vice President, is filled out by the manager/department chair, reviewed with HR and Fiscal, and submitted to the VP. The VP will then present the requested personnel action to the President's cabinet for approval. Once approved, the signed form will be routed to HR for implementation and next steps.

Please note: The PAF process is for non-faculty positions. Faculty positions will still go through the faculty staffing process and the VP will present to Cabinet following that process.

A hallmark of the PAF is the inclusion of the Guiding Principles for Strategic Decision Making ([http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/employees/ia/bulletin/Oct14\\_08/PresCorner\(3\).html](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/employees/ia/bulletin/Oct14_08/PresCorner(3).html)). Every position is scrutinized to determine its impact on Student Success and Teaching and Learning. Using the PAF will also benefit MCC decision making. The information on the PAF will be utilized to keep a data table of budgeted and reallocated positions up to date and accurate. This information can then better be used to aid institutional decision making.

### WATCH YOUR PYC's!

For the last two years, MCC has held the District record for the highest number of employment related Prior Year Commitments. Prior Year Commitments are monetary expenditures that should have been submitted prior to the end of a fiscal year in a prior year. One goal of Human Resources this year is to reduce the number of prior year commitments by 75%. Your help is needed to meet this goal. Attached please find a list of things every employee can keep in mind as we approach the end of this fiscal year. Please call your assigned HR Analyst or the MCC Human Resources department if you have questions about this list.

COMING SOON: Your opportunity to discuss how you MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of students, community members, and your colleagues.

## MCC Open House

To help parents who are looking at all the options for their children as they approach college decision time, MCC is holding an open house on April 22 at the Red Mountain Campus and April 23 at the Southern and Dobson Campus.

Thuy Cao, manager of recruitment and outreach at MCC's Red Mountain Campus, said the open house will give parents and students the opportunity to meet and greet faculty, administrators and MCC students. There will be opportunities for informal conversations, financial aid Q & A's and tours of the campus. Families can tour MCC's new Studio 180 and the new physical science building which houses a planetarium.



*Renee Harvey and her daughter, Megan, look over college options. Megan will attend college next fall and will major in either education or law.*

“We hope to prepare students for college and get them to feel comfortable so they can get a good start and be well prepared for a four-year university,” Cao said.

Families can also explore MCC sports, arts and drama programs, inquire about the Honors Program and apply for financial aid. Students interested in applying for financial aid are advised to bring their 2008 tax information. To round out the evening, there will be music and popcorn in the courtyard at Southern and Dobson and a prize drawing.

**Special note to MCC employees:** Opportunities are still available for MCC faculty to volunteer to represent their discipline at MCC's Open House. Please contact Barbara Boros at 480-461-7477.

### Open House Details:

**Description:** Discover why 23,000 + students chose MCC this year. In addition to high academic standards, the MCCC governing board strongly supports keeping tuition affordable, which is currently \$71 a credit hour. Last year the college awarded more than \$36 million in federal grants, loans, and student employment, along with \$3 million in scholarships. Never has there been a greater need—or greater urgency—for an education beyond high school.

**When:** 5:30 – 8 p.m.. April 22. at Red Mountain; 5:30 – 8 p.m., April 23, at Southern and Dobson.

6 - 6:30: Financial aid, Getting Started at MCC, Transfer Session.

6:35-7:05: Financial aid, Getting Started at MCC, Transfer Session.

7:10-7:40 ESL, Honors, Transfer Session.

## Special Olympics 2009

Mesa Community College is proud to host 1,500 athletes for the Summer Olympic Games in partnership with Special Olympics Arizona. The three-day event will be held at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus from April 30-May 2, under the direction of MCC's Disability Resources and Services and MCC's Athletic Department.

A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are still available for MCC staff and students, including setting up, escorting athletes, staging, tearing down or just cheering on the athletes as they compete. SOA provides their own volunteers, but MCC volunteers are also welcome to participate. SOA recommends volunteers be age 16 and up, or with a family member. Volunteers receive a t-shirt, lunch and beverage.

Many MCC student athletes will also participate as part of their service learning component. Athletes from the various athletic programs will help oversee the full spectrum of events taking place on their home fields, including track, shot put, hurdles, volleyball, gymnastics, softball and even kayaking at Tempe Town Lake. There will also be athlete wellness checks between competitions with local doctors donating their time and talent.

The games will begin on Thursday with registration at 2 p.m., followed by various competitions on Thursday and Friday. On Friday evening there will be dinner, the athlete march, opening ceremonies and a dance. More competitions and award presentations finish up the event on Saturday. Those who are interested in volunteering are asked to indicate date/time they want to volunteer and provide alternate times of availability.

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. The money from the scholarship will be awarded to students who meet specific qualifications, to be decided by the DRS, used for technology or other approved needs.

MCC has been bidding to host the event for the past two years. Wink Harner and Jared Langkilde invited the athletic department to participate after SOA notified them that MCC would be hosting the games this year.

Jeff Fore, MCC's Athletic Director, said it's a perfect event for the service learning component to the athletic program.

"One thing I required when I came to MCC was that every team be involved in a community service project of some sort," Jeff said.

Wink said for the past two years, the event has been held at Arizona State University, where SOA was under contract and had to pay a hefty facility fee. Organizers say MCC's campus is ideal for the event with the locations of the fields in relation to the parking lots and classrooms. MCC will provide updates on parking restrictions that will affect students and staff as the event draws near.

Gail Gilmartin, VP of Corporate Fulfillment and Volunteerism at SOA, said the response for help from MCC has been fantastic.

"We are so happy to hold this at MCC," Gilmartin said. "You have no idea how easy MCC is making this for us. I've had such a great experience working here with everyone at MCC."

Gilmartin said she wants people to realize that the event is not just about the sports competition.

"Special Olympics is part of life and it's about trying to get everyone in the community involved," Gilmartin said. "It's about inclusion and unification."

*Special Olympics Arizona is part of the world's leading program of sports training and athletic competition for people with intellectual disabilities, and boasts a 30-year track record of creating positive attitudes towards its athletes worldwide, and a commitment to athlete empowerment, dignity and leadership.*



*Special Olympics Arizona CEO and President, Tom Fraker, presents Mesa Community College President, Shouan Pan, Ph.D., with a \$10,000 scholarship endowment for MCC students with disabilities. The Special Olympics Arizona 2009 Summer Games will be held at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus April 30 – May 1. Persons in the photo include (L-R) Nadine Armstrong, Special Olympics Arizona Director of Competition and Training, Jeff Fore, MCC Director of Athletics, Shouan Pan, Ph.D., MCC President, Tom Fraker, Special Olympics Arizona CEO and President, Jared Langkilde, MCC Executive Assistant, Wink Harner, MCC Manager of Disability Resources and Services*

## MCC offers summer programs for K-12

This summer, Mesa Community College offers several new workshops, classes and camps for young people in grades K-11. Programs include opportunities in music, computers, culinary arts, science and sports. The programs, designed and taught by MCC faculty, are offered at the Southern and Dobson Campus in a safe, supervised environment.

Many of the programs, like Camp Runway and Math in Action!, are new, but some, like the Magic of Musical Theatre Workshop, have been perennial favorites of East Valley parents.

Deryn Reed, a Mesa mother, has four daughters ages 7 through 16 who have participated in the music workshop for the past six years. She said her family has loved the instructors and go back summer after summer.

“We have a love for the arts, and with the economy the way it is, I don’t know what will happen to arts funding,” Reed said. “To have this avenue for them to explore music and all that it offers is a fantastic opportunity.”

Here are just a few of the offerings from MCC’s Summer Youth College (please call MCC’s Community Education at 480-461-7493 for complete schedule). Check the MCC website for a complete list of the Summer Youth College Workshops and Camps at [www.mc.maricopa.edu/community/communityed/](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/community/communityed/). Register from the site, or call the Center for Community Education at 480-461-7493. The SYC print schedule will be available the end of April.

### June:

Magic of Musical Theatre Workshops, Performance  
Grades 1-5, 5-12

Camp Runway, Fashion Camp  
Grades

Math in Action!, Learning with Computers  
Grades 6-8

Storm Chasing, Exploring Severe Weather  
Grades 7-9, 10-12

Kids Potpourri, Make and Take  
Grades 1-3

Kick Start Kindergarten, Preparing for Success  
Pre-K

So You Think You Can’t Write, For reluctant writers  
Grades 4-6

Babysitting 101, The Basics Plus  
Grades 6-9

Extreme Sciences, Exciting Experiences  
Grades 4-6

Academy for the Gifted Child Interdisciplinary Classes  
Grades 1-6

### July:

The Organic Animation Studio, Art  
Grades 6-8

Studio 180, Video Game Design  
Grades 8-11

Kids Culinary Camp, A “Hands On” Experience”  
Grades 3-10

### Thunderbird Sports Academy:

MCC’s Athletics Department also offers the Thunderbird Sports Academy from June 8-12, open to girls and boys entering grades 3-8. The academy features a series of sports-specific development programs coordinated and run by the professional MCC coaching staff.

Participants spend two hours in three sports of their choice. Sessions, which run 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., cost \$150. Choices include football, baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, golf, soccer, volleyball and track. The academy also offers a camp store, lunch bunch and a guest speaker or performer each day. Please call the MCC Athletics Camp Hotline at 480-461-7517 to register.







## Dr. Seuss' Birthday at Mesa Community College

By Elizabeth Meyer

On **Monday, March 2, and Tuesday, March 3, 2009**, 295 elementary school students from Stevenson and Nevitt Elementary Schools, Mesa Arts Academy, and Sunshine Acres found their way to Mesa Community Colleges' campuses at Southern & Dobson and Red Mountain. They came to celebrate the birthday of children's book author Theodore Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss.

MCC students, faculty, staff, and community members lent a hand in showing students around campus and hosting various activities. At the Southern & Dobson campus, the World Languages Department sang songs and read books with students in Spanish and French.

**The Physical Science Department's** Donna Benson, John Weide, Heidi Van Tassell, and their students wowed our young visitors with the wacky experiments of Dr. Weirdo and his crew of mad scientists. The talented faculty and students in Dance showed off their best moves and invited young students to join them. The wonderful **Business and Information Systems** faculty and Connie DeRosa, Chris DeRosa, and Bob Chapman of the **MultiUse Lab** gave students the opportunity to stand in front of a "green screen" just like a T.V. meteorologists in Studio 180. And Pam Schuler and students in the **Music Department** not only demonstrated their guitar abilities, but taught students how to make music of their own with a special craft. At Red Mountain, **ASMCC** pitched in to coordinate craft and reading activities.

In addition to the great activities within our campus departments, visiting elementary school students, read books, ate birthday cake, and did crafts with faculty, staff, and student volunteers. Students were given a balloon creature courtesy of AmeriCorps VISTA Eric Meija from Bridging AZ Furniture Bank, ate a slice of delicious cake donated by **Sam's Club or Food City**, colored with supplies donated by **Wal-Mart**, and enjoyed refreshingly cool water from John Jordan and his staff at **Aramark**.

A world of thanks is due to our committed **66 volunteers** who gave more than **160 hours** of their time; faculty, staff and departments who showed a great willingness to lend a hand; partnering agencies who donated their time, goods, and talents; the hard-working staff of the Center for Service-Learning; and the dedication of Mesa Community College to serving people in the larger community.



The work of our campus and community does not go unnoticed. As teacher Holly Baumkratz, who attended the Dr. Seuss event wrote, "I thought the trip was fantastic and the whole school is now talking about it...Thanks, we cannot wait to come back next year!"

## Expert Drummer Shares Knowledge with MCC Students

Mesa Community College instructor Andy Seagle's studio recording students recently had the opportunity to pick up a few tips on the fine art of tuning drums from expert drummer Dan Tomlinson. Tomlinson visited Seagle's class at MCC to speak about and demonstrate drum-tuning techniques.

Tomlinson has been the tour drummer for musician Lyle Lovett for the past 16 years and has performed on *The Tonight Show*, *David Letterman*, *Grammy Award* shows and music video segments. Dan has recorded albums with Lyle Lovett and Acoustic Alchemy. Dan is also the author of *The World of Flams*, voted best drum book of the year 2000 in *Drum* magazine.



Seagle, program director of MCC's audio production technology program, said MCC students are fortunate to have a high-caliber drummer share his expertise.

"Drum tuning is a lost art and it makes all the difference in the world when you are recording (to have a well-tuned drum)," Seagle said. "It's a unique thing and students get an appreciation for how hard it is. Plus, he's just a really great guy."

Tomlinson attended MCC during the late '70s and played in the MCC Big Band. He then went on to play for Lyle Lovett and today enjoys doing a combination of playing, recording and teaching.

Tomlinson said tuning drums is difficult because drums have the largest amount of overtones, so it's hard to hear pitch. There is no machine to measure overtones.

"Most professional drummers don't know how to tune drums," Tomlinson said. "It's kind of an art that I learned by trial and error from 35 years of playing drums."

For more information on MCC's Audio Production Technology Program, visit: <http://www.mesacc.edu/dept2/audiotech/>.

## Recognition: Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention

Congratulations to nine members of Mesa Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Omicron Beta Chapter, who took home numerous awards at the 2009 Regional Convention in Yuma, AZ. The convention was hosted by the Sigma Beta and Alpha Beta Chi chapters and allowed all PTK chapters in Arizona a chance to meet, elect officers, present awards and plan events for next year.

Chapter president Lea Laffartha said Phi Theta Kappa has given her skills that she would never have learned in a classroom.

"Working with our organization, I have learned how to take one idea or thought and with the help of creative, hard working students, we create events and activities that educate and inspire students to be involved and engaged in strengthening our campus and community," Laffartha said. "Phi Theta Kappa has given us the necessary tools to go out in the world and make a difference."



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Awards are as follows:

MCC's Omicron Beta chapter received:

- \* The Five Star Award
- \* The Scholarship Award, with essay by Eric Thompson.
- \* The Service Award, Honorable Mention, essay by Stephanie Nyman.
- \* The Distinguished Chapter Award
- \* The Leadership Award, Honorable Mention, essay by Julie Kerran.



Individual Awards:

- \* Distinguished Chapter President Lea Laffartha
- \* Distinguished Chapter Officer Stephanie Nyman
- \* Distinguished Member Kevin Keheeler of MCC's Red Mountain Campus

Next month, 10 MCC students will join 3,500 honor students at the International Convention, where 5 students will be selected to represent PTK worldwide.

Many MCC PTK members report they have developed tremendous leadership skills by joining PTK.

MCC PTK member Wendy Wise said, "This was my first convention and now there's no turning back."

For MCC PTK member Eric Thompson, joining PTK was a life-changing experience. "PTK is focused on contemporary issues, community service and encourages us to be student scholar activists," Thompson said. "It allows us to transform learning to meet the needs in the community."

## Newsbytes

**-Nursing Orientation:** Spread the word! If you know an internationally-educated nurse who wants to become licensed in the U.S. as a registered nurse, MCC is holding an important information session:

**Details:**

**What:** Nursing Orientation

**When:** 9 a.m., April 2.

**Where:** MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus, Nursing Dept., building 6, room 161.

**More:** Call 480-461-7660.



The National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA) has selected Gary Filan, the executive director of the Chair Academy, an organization which provides leadership programs and services to post-secondary institutions worldwide, as the recipient of its Outstanding Service to Community Colleges Award. Nominations for this award are solicited from community colleges across the country, with the expectation that a recipient has demonstrated exceptional service in advancing instructional administration in community colleges. The Chair Academy began in 1992, initiated by department chairs of the Maricopa Community Colleges in Phoenix, Arizona and the main office is now located in Mesa, Arizona.

Newsbytes Continued



**Weaving Threads of Change at Maricopa:**

Congratulations to Maricopa Colleges Global Leadership Retreat, consisting of : Program Coordinators/Committee: Bonnie Gass (SCC), Annie Jimenez (CGCC), Ken Bus (GCC), Nellie Torres (PC), Emi Kawasaki (MCC), Mary Ann Walker (MCC), Erma Abeyta (RSCC), Raeann Nunez (GWCC), and Kathryn Howard (DO). Program Assistance: Maria King (SMCC), Jessica Hoffert (SMCC), Lisa Widowski (EMCC), and Chris Hunt (PVCC).

They have been recognized by the District Office with the 2009 Diversity Advisory Council Award of Excellence. On November 7-9, 2008 in Prescott, Arizona, 85 international and residential students of the Maricopa Community Colleges convened for the 2nd Annual Global Leadership Retreat in effort to raise cultural diversity and global awareness among the participants and strengthen the internationalization collaboration between the Maricopa Colleges. Their efforts will be recognized at the Diversity Forum on April 15 along with the awardees from the ten colleges and the Maricopa Skill Center.



**WLG Events:**



\* In conjunction with the MCC Health & Wellness, WLG will be sponsoring the W.O.M.A.N. walk, which is (new) an acronym for Walk One Mile After Noon. This event will be held on Thursday, April 30th. The plan is for WLG to provide pink shoelaces and MCC H&W will also provide a incentive gift for walkers. MCC has also extended an invitation to a guest from Banner Desert Hospital.

\* The last WLG meeting for the fiscal year on May 7 features special guests Gail Herndon, Jim Haggerty and our administrators. This will be a brown bag event. The topic will be "Getting Fit-Creating Balance", starting at 11:45a.m./noon, ending at 1 p.m.



Find us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter: In an effort to spread MCC news to a wider audience, the Office of Institutional Advancement has launched a new Facebook page and a Twitter page. View the Facebook page here (log in for most current updates): <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mesa-AZ/Mesa-Community-College/52293934145?v=posts&viewas=1493348904>



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