

September 04, 2007



the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008 registration will be impacted by new SIS rollout

October 4 – 9, 2007 business performed in the Student Information System will cease as the district transitions to the new system. The college will have VIEW ONLY access to Legacy SIS (our existing system) during this time. Since records cannot be added or changed, most enrollment services will be temporarily limited including many of the online enrollment services.

Please help to inform students about limited availability of services and their registration options for Spring 2008.

* Thursday, October 4, approximately 5:00 p.m. – View only access to Legacy SIS begins

* Tuesday, October 9 – New SIS available for staff and faculty

* October 10 – New Student Center available to students

* October 22 – 26 – Priority registration for MCC continuing students only!

* October 29 – January 18 – Registration open to all students through the new online Student Center at my.maricopa.edu.

If you still need to attend a SIS overview or training session, contact Alison Whiting at whiting@mail.mc.maricopa.edu or Steve Gerlock at steve.gerlock@mcmail.maricopa.edu or login to HRMS for a list of options.

Steve and Alison have also been compiling lists of frequently asked questions that occurred during training and questions that needed to be researched. Q & A is below: Q. What username and password do I use?

A. Your User Id is your Enterprise ID and you will use your memo password as the password. (Just as in the current HR/Time and Labor system).

Q. Can the New Student Information System be accessed from off-campus?

A. Yes, the New Student System will be accessible from off-campus. Students, in particular, will be able to use the Student Center from home or wherever they are. Staff and faculty can access the System off-campus also.

Q. Does the New Student Information System session "time-out" or expire after a certain time?

A. The "time-out" period for employees on campus will occur after an hour of inactivity. This means that the system will automatically log you out. People using the system off campus, including students accessing the system, will be timed-out after 20-minutes of inactivity.

Q. How do I practice what I learned in training or just login to preview the system?

A. Beginning September 17, you can access the practice database, called EASIS Plus, in two ways: Go to www.maricopa.edu/nss/login and click on the link for EASISPL. Or you can use this link: <https://easis.maricopa.edu/psp/EASISPL/?cmd=login>.

Be advised – at this point you can view the entire system. When the District goes live, you will only see the portions necessary for you to complete job duties.

Beginning September 17, login to EASIS Plus. Click here for detailed instructions.

Video Game Careers

For a generation that grew up on Super Mario Brothers and Donkey Kong, it's only natural that today's college students might consider gaming and multimedia technology as a career option. But students who choose to enter this fast-growing industry find that a love of video games is not the only requirement. Game development jobs require serious skills.

Mesa Community College offers several programs geared toward educating students for a variety of careers in interactive multimedia. MCC business faculty member Nicki Maines said student demand for classes in these fields is continually growing because so many students are passionate about multimedia and gaming.

"Students in classes often tell me that they spend hours on their projects because they get lost in them," Maines said. "This is what passion is all about...working hard on something that you would do for free."

But in reality, annual salaries in the fields of Multimedia and Gaming can range from \$61,000 – \$80,000, based on information from Game Developer Magazine. Maines' research shows that in 2005, the computer and video game industry in the United States took in about \$7 billion, with global revenues of about \$30 billion a year.

MCC offers students different career tracks as they prepare for work in the industry.

MCC's Gaming Technology Program teaches skills that can lead to careers as game designers, graphic artists, animators or modelers. Or students can pursue the Multimedia Technology Program, which teaches skills for employment as webpage designers, digital graphic designers, multimedia producers, and animators. Both of



these programs are through MCC's Business Department, but include classes from the art and music departments.

To pursue the art or music component of the industry, MCC offers programs in Media Arts (digital animation) and Sound Design. The Media Arts



Program teaches students to produce the graphics and environments for gaming, film and web applications. For students interested in producing video sound effects, MCC's music department offers a unique Sound Design Program that prepares students for work in the field of audio post-production, which incorporates sound effects for

video games, voice-over work, and a variety of radio, television, and film applications. Students work with the latest industry-standard equipment, including MacintoshG5 computers and Pro Tools software.

MCC graduate Michael Hill, who works for Rainbow Studios in Phoenix, credits MCC for preparing him for the job he has today, creating sound effects for video games.

"The digital audio workstation class covered digital recording so that you can mix and edit," Hill said. "It is one particular program (that) taught the skills needed to get a job and keep a job."

New Multimedia Lab:

MCC's business department is creating a state-of-the-art multimedia lab to enhance the new gaming and multimedia programs. The lab is referred to as "the green room" because it has a chroma key green screen. The screen allows students to create special effects by superimposing videos of a person against a backdrop, or by removing or adding objects inside a video. In addition, the lab will have high-end computers and a Nintendo Wii system.

"We're planning to have a vote on campus to determine the official name of the lab," Nicki said.

MCC professors to participate in 24-hour BioBlitz

For 24 hours on September 15, scientists and volunteers join forces at Boyce Thompson Arboretum's BioBlitz to count and document as many species as possible in a defined area of the arboretum. The results of the BioBlitz will serve as a baseline for monitoring species change in years to come.

“We really don't have a comprehensive inventory of everything that flies, crawls, hops, slithers, or swims here at the arboretum,” said Jana Baldwin, instructional specialist at the arboretum. “It is amazing that scientists conducting the surveys are coming from all over the state and are giving their free time to contribute to the event.”

BioBlitzes have been conducted in numerous locations throughout the nation to raise



awareness of biodiversity and the importance of conserving this diversity for a

healthy and strong environment. The area being surveyed at the arboretum is a section of Queen Creek and Ayer Lake, a unique and critical desert riparian habitat in the Arizona Uplands. BioBlitz findings will be used for making decisions regarding conservation of native plants and animals within the arboretum and for creating educational materials.

MCC professors Andy Baldwin and Mike Thomas will conduct the scorpion and lichen survey at the event. MCC lab tech Vincent Gorge and MCC student Dennis Morgan are also participating, with Morgan staffing the scorpion and spider exhibit. Jana said the participation of both volunteers and scientists is vital to the BioBlitz.

“Without the help of these researchers, we would not have a good understanding of the diversity of those life forms

that occur here,” Jana said. “Without volunteers like Dennis, visitors would not have an opportunity to learn about and see live scorpions and spiders.”

Andy is excited about the opportunity to lend his scorpion expertise to the endeavor.

“It's quite an honor to be part of the first annual BTA BioBlitz and to work along side such respected scientists toward a common goal,” Andy said. “I have been volunteering at the BTA for years for various events but never for anything at this magnitude.”



Although scientists will perform much of the survey, the arboretum welcomes the public to the BioBlitz. Citizen-scientist volunteers will join survey

teams and relay information and results from the scientists to the public.

Educational booths, lectures, slideshows and short films are scheduled throughout the day.



Where: Boyce Thompson Arboretum, 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ

When: Open to the public on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A special after-hours sneak peek of night time survey activities is open to arboretum members only from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Cost: Admission to the arboretum is \$7.50 for adults, \$3 for kids 5-12, free for kids under 5.

To Get Involved: Visit <http://cals.arizona.edu/BTA/> or call (520) 689-2723.

Photos Courtesy of Boyce Thompson Arboretum

ADEQ Grant Helps MCC Launch Expanded Recycling Program

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has awarded Mesa Community College \$46,020 to increase the scope of its recycling program. The grant is part of ADEQ's Waste Reduction Assistance grants program, which funds projects devoted to waste reduction, recycling and composting. MCC will match the amount of the grant, contributing an equal quantity, primarily as in-kind contributions.

MCC geology professor Steve Bass, who heads up the college's environmental initiatives, said the grant will be used to hire a campus recycling coordinator, purchase recycling bins and establish used battery collection sites. But Bass said the most significant benefit of the expanded recycling program is the way it supports the mission of MCC to provide education and promote continuous learning.

"By engaging students in recycling activities we reinforce our academic curriculum and serve as a role model within the community," Bass said.

MCC will purchase 100 interior and exterior recycling bins for recycling use in campus buildings and walkways. Used battery collection sites will be established to properly dispose of batteries comprised of heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel that can contaminate the environment.

Other initiatives include educational campaigns and a campus "dumpster dive" to assess the amount of



recyclable products in the college's trash collection. By sorting through waste collected during a 24-hour period, students and staff can analyze what percent of volume is recyclable.

Students will be actively involved in various ways, through service learning, student government, the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, the International Student Association and the Environmental Action Club.

In addition to these recycling efforts, a partnership with the City of Mesa will provide MCC with 36 barrels, free of charge, for weekly curbside pickup. Mariano Reyes, a community outreach specialist from the City of Mesa Recycling Office, said their department is excited to partner with MCC.

"We not only encourage recycling in the home, but also in workplaces and schools," Reyes said. "We look forward to launching a successful recycling program at MCC and will use the positive results to serve as a model for other businesses and schools. The key to a successful program is the commitment by the staff and the participation by the students."

Scouts install flags in classrooms

Thanks to the efforts of Richard Cluff, MCC's Director of Maintenance, and his hard-working nephews, Robson Cluff and Taylor Crandell, the college is now in compliance with ARS 15-1445, which requires that all classrooms display an American-made flag and copies of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Robson, 17, and Taylor, 16, took on the project as a way to complete the requirements to become Eagle Scouts. The scouts outfitted 225 classrooms with the help of about 40 friends and family. It takes less than five minutes to install brackets and outfit each room, but with more than 200 classrooms, the time adds up.

"I'm really grateful to the scouts," said Richard, who also credits MCC employee Steve Strickler for helping to complete the job. "It's an unbelievable task and this is greatly appreciated."

Where possible, the flags were placed to the right of the lecturer and to the left of the students. Richard is confident that they have outfitted every room, but MCC employees can notify Richard if they discover a classroom without a flag and a copy of the U.S. Constitution.

The Maricopa County Community College District spent \$14,000 for 1,692 flags to outfit classrooms throughout the district. Copies of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights were donated through a group of sponsors including Salt River Project, State Farm Insurance, Qwest Communications and the National Center for Constitutional Studies, among others.

Recognition to...

Judy Taussig's article, "Multiphase Advisor Training Program," appeared in The New Advisor Guidebook: Mastering the Art of Advising Through the First Year and Beyond, National Academic Advising Association, Monograph Series Number 16, 2007.

Applause for the Theatre Outback and Act One Musical Productions for receiving 26 AriZoni nominations for the 2006-07 season. To see a list of MCC nominees, click here, or the AriZoni website at http://www.arizoniawards.com/06-07_Nominees.pdf.

Thank you to all the employees that volunteered at the Welcome booths at Southern & Dobson and Red Mountain. Students greatly appreciated the information, free beverages, and snacks. We had more volunteers this year than ever before!

There were also many, many employees that wore red or blue so students would know to ask them for help. Some employees even carried maps in their pockets all week, so they were constantly ready to help the wandering masses! Thank you to all who went the extra mile to create a warm welcome for our students, and special thanks to all our booth volunteers.

Welcome Booth Volunteers

Laura Alvarez, Vamika Beale, Lori Beaudry, Trisha Brazda, Pattie Cardenas-Adame, Angela Chavez, Jerry Davis, Deb Devore, Kent Duffy, Kristi Fok, Wink Harner, Matt Healy, Shirley Henderson, Erica Horihan, Mary Jordan, Kaatje Kraft, Jennifer LaForge, Jose Leyba, Alyne Lijewski, Judy Macqueen, Chris Nash, Darlene Newman, Spencer Peterson, Ron Rangel, Greg Reents (both campuses), Yvonne Schmidt, Doug Shumway, Debby Smith, Marcy Snitzer, Sherrie Soria, Elise Sweet, Judy Taussig, Dee Vital, and Daniel Zabaneh