

Disability Resources and Services available at Red Mountain



Wink Harner (MCC @ Red Mountain) and Gene Heppard (MCC @ Southern and Dobson) are two program advisors that help provide assistance for students with disabilities.

Now that enrollment has increased at MCC, student service departments have expanded services in anticipation of increased need. The Disability Resources and Services Office (DRS) is one of those offices. DRS has lengthened its hours of service at the Red Mountain campus in order to accommodate the need and have hired Wink Harner as a new DRS program advisor.

Disability Resource Services currently assists 400 students, 25 of which attend MCC @ Red Mountain. DRS has approximately 800 records on students who have required assistance at one time.

Both campuses provide the same services. Some of those services are providing testing accommodations appropriate for a disability (such as extended test times), providing aides to assist with note taking, or acquiring interpreters for hearing impaired students. Other services include use of adaptive equipment, such as print enlargement, computer adaptations, assistive listening devices, and closed-caption video services.

The hours of operation for Red Mountain Disability Resources are Monday 1–5 P.M., and Thursday 9 A.M.–12 P.M. You can contact 480-654-7771 at Red Mountain for more information or to make an appointment.

Newsbytes

- MCC's copy service, Ikon, is now offering fee based copy services for faculty, staff, and students wishing to have copies made for personal projects. Faculty and staff requests for class and work-related items remain the priority, ensuring that the new service will not interfere with the instructional process.
- ARAMARK, the food service provider for MCC at Southern and Dobson, now accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover.
- Have you noticed that the grass at the Southern and Dobson campus is beginning to die? In an effort to respond to Arizona's water shortage, winter grass will only be planted in the center mall, the Rose Garden, and one of the baseball fields.

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Bits & Snippets

What is the shortest term ever served by an MCC president?

Answers to last issue's trivia: The clock tower located in the center of the Southern and Dobson campus is approximately 56 feet and the word MESA was added to the tower base during 1998–'99 school year.

Submit ideas for "Bits & Snippets" to Marcy Snitzer at marcy.snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu.

Red Mountain walk goes native

Energized by \$20,000 from MCC's Innovative Project funds, administrative secretary Yvonne Schmidt leads a committee with a cause: landscape the walkway from Red Mountain's Acacia Village to the new main campus. With a display of plants and trees

native to MCC's Red Mountain environment, the committee creates a walking experience that is not only beautiful and pleasurable but also educational. "We want to heighten people's awareness of the native desert vegetation and hopefully inspire

them to use these drought-tolerant plants in their own landscaping to promote water conservation," Yvonne said.

Signage plays a key role in educating walkway pedestrians. Already onsite are three large interpretive signs that offer

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Netherlands visit fosters cultural exchange



A few of MCC's travelers to the Netherlands (l-r): Gailynn Valdes, Sue Anne Lucius, Brian Johnson, and Wynn Call.

Twice a year, a team from Mesa Community College visits the Netherlands to exchange ideas with faculty at Koning Willem I College. These visits represent a decade-long partnership between the two colleges in a continuing effort to improve leadership and education. The president, faculty, and staff from King William I



The Netherlands...miles ahead of the United States in transportation. Less asphalt, cleaner air, healthier bodies.

reciprocate by visiting colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District each year.

Dr. Wynn Call, Psychology chair at MCC, and Gailynn Valdes, director of International Education, participated in a Netherlands visit for the first time in September. "Both colleges have benefited from sharing their unique programs," Wynn said. He explained that King Williams I College now has a Center for Teaching and Learning, modeled after MCC's. "They also instituted a structure for department chairs," Wynn said. "They did this after seeing how our system works. It's experimental—department chairs are a new thing there."

Mesa Community College also learns much from its European counterpart. Gailynn was especially intrigued by King William's "School for the Future" and its focus on the "environment" in which students experience their education. Colors in spaces vary, she explained, depending on the type of activity. Warm colors inspire energy and creativity, while



In honor of their American guests, the city of 's-Hertogenbosch (yes, it is spelled correctly) flew the U.S. flag outside Town Hall.



Delectable dishes prepared by a young chef in King William's state-of-the-art Culinary School.

cool colors evoke meditation and contemplation. Artwork is everywhere.

President Christiansen and King William's president, Dr. Coen Free, have nurtured the longstanding intercultural relationship that benefits both colleges. "It's not usual," Gailynn said, "to have two presidents involved in an exchange to the extent that they are." Wynn added, "They work at keeping the relationship viable."

Both Wynn and Gailynn were impressed by the royal treatment they received on their visit. "They flew the American flag in the town while we were there and took us to meet the mayor," Wynn said. As a special treat, students at King William's Culinary School prepared an elegant banquet for their MCC guests.

Any employee interested in traveling to the Netherlands may submit a proposal supporting his or her purposes for making the visit. A call for proposals will be announced prior to the next trip.

AFA unites adjunct faculty Districtwide

Adjunct faculty members are like ships passing in the night. They travel to and from campus on widely varying schedules, work from a briefcase instead of an office, and rarely get a chance to "connect" with other faculty.

That's why the Adjunct Faculty Association—a nonprofit organization for adjunct faculty in the Maricopa County Community College District—is so important. It's a way for part-time faculty to communicate, address issues, set goals, and get to know each other.

Serving on the AFA governing board are representatives from each of the District's 10 colleges. The group's most recent major accomplishments include

- negotiating a 5 percent pay increase to \$630/credit hour for adjunct faculty members, beginning 2002-2003;
- winning approval to count adjunct experience for pay purposes when hired as full-time faculty (every 30 credit hours of teaching time will count as one year of experience);
- making a presentation to the District's Governing Board in May 2002, outlining the Association's long-term strategic goals; and
- pursuing health insurance options for adjunct faculty.

To learn more about the AFA or to register for the upcoming AFA conference (see below), visit www.dist.maricopa.edu/afa or call MCC's representative, Anne McDowell, 480-829-4125.

Contributors to this report are former MCC representative and secretary of the AFA board, Angeline Surber; AFA president Paula Garner; and MCC's new AFA rep, Anne McDowell.

Annual Fall Adjunct Faculty Conference

Saturday, October 19

8:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M.

Phoenix College

Dome Conference Room

Includes breakfast and lunch

- Update on AFA Activities
- Highlight All Recommended Outstanding Adjuncts

Morning and Afternoon Sessions:

- Technology—Blackboard/PowerPoint
- Classroom Survival
- Diversity
- Hiring Practice

Meet MCC's new AFA rep, Anne McDowell, who teaches English 102 at both Mesa and Chandler-Gilbert community colleges. After 20 years with AT&T, Anne went back to school to earn a teaching certificate; she wanted to share her passion for literature. Before coming to MCC, Anne taught high school English, served as an assistant director for a local charter school, and worked for NCS Pearson, the world's largest standardized testing company. On her own time, she volunteers through her church as a counselor for women. Anne said her experiences at MCC as both student and teacher have been very positive, and she appreciates the opportunity to serve as MCC's new representative for the Adjunct Faculty Association.



Yvonne Schmidt takes personal pride in Red Mountain's newly landscaped walkway. She carries a rag to wipe the signs, stops to check an ailing tree, and notes young bushes needing chicken-wire protection from rabbits.

continued from front, Red Mountain

information about the Sonoran Desert, plant strategies for desert survival, and wildlife habitat in the landscape. Smaller signs identifying the various plant species will be set in place by semester's end. "We have installed approximately 200 plants and 28 trees, all native to the local Sonoran desert, representing 60 different species," Yvonne said. (Arid Zone Trees donated all of the trees for this project.)

Yvonne noted two unique areas in the landscape design. "We revegetated an undisturbed wash (arroyo) with native plants," she said. "We also have a 'pullout area' displaying plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds."

Serving on the committee with Yvonne are Gwen Argersinger, Jim Giles, Cindy Odgers, AJ Lombard, Dennis Wilson, and Dee Jokilehto. Ron Dinchak has also volunteered time to this effort.