

THE Bulletin

April 17, 2002

Kids and Science, a Powerful Concoction



April 9, 2002, marks a new beginning in Mesa Community College history. It's the date of MCC's first-ever Science Day, the brainchild of **Donna Benson** and colleagues, created as a way to excite kids about science. Donna is a faculty member of the Cultural Science Dept. and the coordinator for the Science Day event.

The program began with an invitation to local schools (grades 4 and 5) to participate in science activities at MCC. Since this year was the first, the program planners decided to cap enrollment at 300. On the very same day that the announcement was sent, the 300-slot enrollment was filled. They had to turn away 750 students!

Involved in this event were faculty members and students from all of the disciplines in the Physical and Life Science departments: Geology, Chemistry, Engineering, Astronomy, Physics and Biology. Five stations were set up, under giant tents in the center of the Southern and Dobson campus, where students could participate in various experiments. Three hundred elementary students from underprivileged schools in Chandler, Mesa, Tempe and Phoenix interacted with 130 Mesa Community College students who are enrolled in education and science courses. MCC students taught concepts they learned in their own classes. One class of young student visitors spoke only Spanish, so bilingual MCC students had the pleasure of working with them on their experiments.

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Continued from page one, Kids and Science

Science Day was a big hit with everyone. "It's fun," said **Mike Sims**, chair of MCC's Physical Science Dept. "It's almost as much fun for the faculty as it is for the kids." Mike explained that it is especially good to get kids in this age group excited about science because they start thinking about science as a career.

MCC's Science Day program not only reinforces the science curricula in the students' neighborhood schools but also offers a much appreciated hands-on opportunity for kids who attend schools with only limited science programs or none at all.

Will there be a Science Day program next year? Donna Benson said she would like to make Science Day an annual event at MCC, but finding consistent funding is an ongoing challenge. Spending for this year's event was \$3,000. The return on the investment is priceless: 300 young students caught up in the joy of discovery.



Following is a letter to Donna Benson from an elementary school teacher who attended Science Day with her class:

Thank you so much for providing this wonderful opportunity to Holdeman School 5th graders. They *loved* getting to actually *do* the science. Children who don't speak English, learning disabled children, gifted children and "just regular kids" all worked side by side and were all equally successful. Providing notebooks and writing tools allowed them to process what they experienced immediately, before anything was lost, and carrying away little mementos, such as the rocks, will help them remember their time here. Also, having "cool" college kids take a special interest in them for one day goes a long way toward balancing some of the negative role models they have encountered.

I could go on and on about the positive impact provided by Science Day at Mesa Community College, but I think the most important positive may be their exposure to the Community College system that is available to them as Maricopa County residents. Most of my students come from homes where parents did not finish high school, and they exist in varying degrees of poverty. If even one child has been given a vision of higher education in their future, then the gift you have given is immeasurable.

Thank you for caring.

Patricia L. Wilson
Holdeman Elementary
Tempe

PRESIDENT HOSTS PRESIDENTS



MCC hosted presidential receptions to welcome **Dr. Gina Kranitz** (March 27), the new president of Paradise Valley Community College, and **Dr. Eugene Giovannini**, (April 3), the new president of Gateway Community College.

Team, Employee and Catch for March*



Left to right: Ron Harry, Jonathan Baney, Wade Harris, Mike McCallister, Andrew Kasian, Jonathan Trottier and Randy Stapley.

Team of the Month—Programming Team

The programmers in IT are extremely helpful in designing, maintaining and updating the computer system in the Transfer/Advisement office. The team has been wonderful working with development and financial aid to get MCC scholarship applications on the Internet. They set up a database to track the applications, and they provide online services for the college scholarship committee to score application essays directly from the web and submit final scores to financial aid. This saves committee members' time and allows them to work from their home offices. The programmers devote many personal hours to fine-tune the portal and e-mail tools and to help employees understand the new technologies available. They are a real asset to MCC!

Nominated by **Lots of Folks**

Employee of the Month—LoAn Tabar-Gaul

As one of MCC's professional growth representatives, LoAn has gone out of her way to help the MCC faculty process a record number of summer project applications. LoAn helped me prepare my own summer project by reviewing it and making recommendations. She even critiqued my draft during Spring Break (by e-mail) so that I could meet the deadline for submitting my project. I'm sure she helped others also. As the deadline approached, the traffic of summer project people in and out of her office was constant. If my summer project is approved, it will be because LoAn offered such precise direction for preparing the application. The MCC faculty can take pride in the professional manner in which LoAn fulfills her duties.

Nominated by **Ed Welsh**



Catch of the Month—Jennifer Broaddus

I nominate Jennifer Broaddus, from the Social Science Dept., for her enthusiasm, competence and willingness to help whenever there is a need. Due to a recent series of disasters, an employee was having difficulty sending a grant application online. Jennifer overheard the frustrated employee lamenting her situation and calmly stepped in to take care of it, which required considerable effort. She stayed until the e-mail was properly sent. Such initiative and willingness to go the extra mile is truly laudable.

Nominated by **Betsy Hertzler**

*Nomination letters have been edited to conserve space.



CHECK IT OUT!

Philosophy and Religious Studies at MCC (new bilingual Internet site): <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d34/rel/index-esp.html>

C A L E N D A R

April 25 and 26
ABODA All-State

Wednesday and Thursday,
April 17 and 18

Last Two Days of Multicultural
Week (S&D campus)

Celebrating different cultures daily, in or near the Kirk Student Center
Food, music, dancing, presentations and more
Contact: Student Activities, 461-7218, or Office of Multicultural Services, 461-7453

Wednesday and Thursday,
April 17 and 18

Annual Library Book Sale

9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 6 p.m., Main Lobby of the Library, S&D campus

Wednesday and Thursday,
April 17 and 18

Final Days of the Student Art Show

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Center, S&D campus

In celebration of National Library Week

Thursday, April 18

Library Book Review

Indochina Memoir: Rubber, Politics, and War in Vietnam and Cambodia, 1955—1972 will be discussed by the author, Michel M. Michon, Dr. John Ohl (MCC), and Dr. James Rush (ASU)
1:30 p.m., Paul A. Elsner Library, 3rd floor, Southwest Studies Reading Room

Mr. Michon's book is published by the Program for Southeast Asian Studies, Monograph Series Press at Arizona State University. The Introduction to the book states that "Michel Michon first encountered Vietnam in 1951 as a young French soldier in what he called the French-Communist War.... Michon subsequently returned to Vietnam as a planter and for some fifteen years managed French-owned rubber plantations in South Vietnam and Cambodia." His book speaks of his experiences and of the changing Vietnamese environment during the years he spent there. Mr. Michon is a familiar face on the MCC campus and is a tutor of French in the Learning Enhancement Center of the MCC Library.

Books will be available for purchase and signing at a reception following the book review.

Thursday, April 18
Careers in Communication

11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kiva Room, Kirk Center, S&D campus
Contact: Jule Kuhn, 461-7592

Friday, April 19
Wellness Testing

Health Screening appointments every 5 minutes
9 a.m. to noon, Kiva Room, Kirk Center, S&D campus
Contact: Gail Herndon, 461-7578

Monday, April 22
Athletic Banquet

By Invitation
Contact: Elena, 461-7541

Tuesday, April 23
Governing Board Regular Meeting

Contact: Gloria Smith, 480-731-8889

Tuesday, April 23 and
Wednesday, April 24
Multicultural Week (RM campus)

Food, music, dancing, presentations and more
Contact: Student Services at RM (Krista Walker) 654-7758, or Office of Multicultural Services, 461-7453

Wednesday, April 24
3rd Annual Water Safety Day

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Activities near the Theatre Outback and Clock Tower
Visit this web site: www.mc.maricopa.edu/water-watchers
Contact: Carol Achs, 461-7742

Thursday, April 25
Community Recognition Luncheon

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Navajo Room
Contact: Center for Service Learning, 461-7393

Thursday and Friday,

Jazz Festival

MU 14 and MU-3, S&D campus
Contact: Music Dept., 461-7575

Thursday, Friday and Saturday,
April 25, 26 and 27 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

A drama by Tennessee Williams, directed by Sandy Elias
Theatre Outback

Monday, April 29
Psychology Evening Lecture Series

Simplifying Human Behavior with ABC Theory, presented by Dr. Christopher Berry
7 to 9 p.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Center, S&D campus (arrive by 6:45 p.m. for seating)

Wednesday and Thursday,
May 1 and 2

Directors Showcase

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Theatre Outback
Scholarship fund-raiser tickets: \$5

Thursday, May 2
Academic Honors Banquet

6 to 10 p.m., Navajo Room

Saturday, May 4
Broadway Bound

Musical Review
7:30 p.m., Theatre Outback
Contact: Music Dept., 461-7575

Saturday, May 4
ASMCC Banquet

Student Government Awards Banquet
By Invitation
Contact: Student Activities, 461-7218

The Bulletin is published on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, during the fall and spring semesters, for employees of Mesa Community College. Deadline for submissions is the Monday after publication (for the next issue). Send articles for submission to the Office of Institutional Advancement, e-mail ia@mccmail.maricopa.edu, phone 480-461-7445.

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The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AA Institution.



Congratulations to Mesa Community College's MIL Fellows!

Chancellor Fred Gaskin recently announced the Maricopa Institute for Learning Fellows for 2002—2003. On this list of new MIL Fellows are two MCC English faculty members. Both **Susan Miller** and **Jonelle Moore** are to be congratulated for being recognized by the Institute and by the colleagues who nominated them. Following is a brief overview of their research projects:

Susan Miller proposes to conduct a research project to investigate effective design and delivery of web-based writing

courses. She will investigate which design and delivery options students prefer in web-based learning environments and what students need both on the screen and in a general learning environment in order to succeed in an online course.

Jonelle Moore will research and develop strategies for community-based research and writing instruction; projects that encourage civic engagement through implementation of community action plans; and materials and activities that support community-based learning.



Susan Miller (left) and Jonelle Moore

District Honors Carol Achs as "Woman of Distinction"



Every year the MCCCC Women's Leadership Group honors exceptional women from each of the Maricopa Community Colleges and the District Office. Mesa Community College's 2002 award winner for this distinction is **Carol Achs**. She and 11 other outstanding achievers were recognized at an April 1 luncheon for their leadership, innovation, service and contributions to women.

Carol joined MCC as a math faculty member in 1975 and has served as a full-time faculty member for 25 years. For the past 10 years she also served as chair of the Math Dept. Carol entered the active retirement program in 2000 and willingly

stepped forward that fall to accept a retirement assignment as the acting Associate Dean of Math and Science. This past year Carol was the first person in the District to take advantage of new legislation that allows a retiree to return as a full-time employee. She is now serving as Associate Dean of Math and Science. Carol has also served in many other capacities: MCC Faculty Senate president, chair of the Department Chair Association, and as a member of numerous campus and district committees.

In memory of her grandson, Carol organized the first Water Watchers Day at MCC in 2000. Its purpose was to promote water safety for children. On April 24, under Carol's leadership, MCC will host the 3rd Annual Water Watchers Day. More than 2,300 school-age children and numerous adults will be exposed to water safety awareness through the collaboration of over 25 community agencies, eight first departments and numerous private companies.

MCC is proud to honor Carol Achs for her contribution to our community by recognizing her as MCC's Woman of Distinction.

SPOTLIGHT ON BEST INNOVATIONS

One of the most highly prized honors for Maricopa Community Colleges is the Dr. Paul M. Pair Award for Innovation of the Year. Each of the colleges and the District Office submits one "innovation" that represents the best of all programs or ideas from their respective campuses throughout the year.

On April 2, **Paradise Valley Community College** won the districtwide honor for "The First Year Experience." This program integrates academic and general learning to help new students make a successful transition into the college environment. Team-building activities and service-learning experiences are key elements of this program.

The winning innovation from Mesa Community College was "One College, Two Campuses, a Model for the District's Future." MCC's Innovation Team includes **Dr. Joseph Pearson** and all **Mesa Community College Employees**.

To view the winning programs from each, visit <http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/marketing/innovation>.

MCC's Music Tech Program Gets New Equipment and Software



Andy Seagle looks right at home with the new Digital Audio Workstation equipment in MCC's Music Dept.

Media technology has taken a step forward in MCC's music department with the new addition of a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) laboratory, available to students interested in studio recording. The DAW lab consists of nine Macintosh G-4 computers with Pro Tools DIGI-001 hardware and the LE version 5.1 software with two sets of headphones for two students at every station.

Studio recording instructor **Andy Seagle** said, "Our new degree, an Associate of Applied Science in Music Technology, would not be complete without offering education in the Pro Tools Digital Audio Workstation. Pro Tools, of all the different software available, is the only software that has permeated the professional recording studio world."

Andy said that one of the benefits to operators of Pro Tools DAW multitrack recording and editing equipment is being able to actually see the waveform on the flat screen monitors. "If you can see the sound you're editing in addition to hearing it, that's obviously a huge advantage."

Andy also said the music department has recently purchased an SSL 6000 G Series Master Studio System for the studio control room (MU 14). "The solid state logic recording console is known for being one of the best analog recording consoles in the world," he said. "Typically, recording studios in community colleges don't have this type of recording console."

MCC also offers a Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Music Technology: Studio Recording. The Certificate of Completion is a shorter course of study for those already employed in this field and interested in upgrading their technical skills.

studentartshow2002



Once again, entries in MCC's Student Art Show impress and amaze. At the bottom of pages 4 and 5, we present just a few of the students' creative works.

Far left, artist **Michael Simon**, *Untitled*, Jurors' Award.

Near left, artist **Annette Smith**, *Dining Out*, Presidential Purchase Award.

Near right, the work of artists **Corrie Boren**, **Ron Graham** and **Kim Mendoza**. Corrie's work (left in photo, facing back) won Best of 3-D Mixed Media and Kim (wooden chest) won an Emerging Talent Award.

Middle right, artist **Angie Tims**, *Untitled*, Graphic Design Digital Book, Best of Show Award.

Far right, artist **Jeemin Kim**, *Self-*