

# THE Bulletin

March 21, 2001

## Countdown to Red Mountain!

Just as the desert blossoms this time of year, the new Red Mountain campus is burgeoning with new life as well. Interior walls are no longer panels of nail-studded Sheetrock; instead, they carry the brilliant colors of purple mountains, deep green sage, and sandy red earth, but in bolder hues than Nature herself could muster. Cabinets, flooring, windows and lights are set in place, stamping the spaces with a sense of permanence. Red Mountain campus staff and faculty express their excitement and anticipation openly, but with an underlying tone of urgency. Before summer's end, they must be ready to greet 5,000 students at the registration counter.

Here are the specifics on Red Mountain's progress:

- The Mesquite Building, housing Services and Administration, nears its May completion date.
- Palo Verde (Instruction) and Desert Willow (Library/Commons) buildings follow hot on the heels of the Mesquite, with their completion scheduled for June.
- The existing office and classroom complex will have not only a new look (after renovation) but also a new name, the Acacia Village; the complex will be ready for occupancy by August.
- President Christiansen has sent faculty recommendations to the District HR Office for posting.
- The process for hiring non-faculty employees is underway.



*Visualize the future: The three main buildings on the new Red Mountain campus clasp hands to surround a beautiful riparian desert area in the circular Commons. Spring rainwater is harvested from nearby desert arroyos and then channeled through a culvert system to the riparian vegetation. Today's muddy bog will be tomorrow's riverbank garden. Red Mountain's faculty and staff assign high priority to ecological issues and are making a long-term commitment to preserve the campus' desert environment.*



*Each of the main buildings at Red Mountain can be accessed from the upper level by a covered walkway connecting all three structures. Numerous patios and balconies, as well as the walkways, provide panoramic views of surrounding*

## Faculty Drive the Success of Assessment Week

Thanks to the efforts of a large number of MCC faculty and staff, Assessment Week 2001 can safely be called a huge success. For the first time since our general education assessment program began several years ago, we conducted assessment tests in individual classrooms with the help of a host of faculty volunteers. In all, 136 faculty members offered class time to contribute to the general education assessment effort. Of those who volunteered, 116 were chosen because their classes best met the selection criteria, and with our volunteer instructors acting as proctors, 163 sections from 15 different departments participated. As a result, 3,053 of our students were involved in assessment testing, each student taking a test in one of the following areas: oral and written communication, problem solving, numeracy, scientific inquiry, information literacy, and the arts and humanities. From that number, we should be able to extract a very significant sampling of students who meet the selection criteria for our assessment program, and thus we are virtually certain to obtain valuable data on student learning at MCC. Thanks again to all of you who volunteered your time and energy for this project.

In addition to faculty who volunteered their classes for assessment testing, a number of MCC staff members played key roles in supporting the assessment effort. And a few of our colleagues went well above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the assessments could be conducted with as few glitches as possible. Look for an acknowledgment of their supreme effort, along with a rundown on some of the feedback we got from instructors who participated in assessment testing, in an upcoming issue of *The Bulletin*.

Another significant development in the assessment program this year is that we will be giving our first tests ever in workplace skills and developmental education. Those tests will be administered after Spring Break. Look for results from all assessments when this year's report is made available in the fall. In the meantime, thanks once again for making Assessment Week 2001 an overwhelming success!

*Faculty Senate president-elect Mark Gooding submitted the above report.*

## President's New Assistant Comes On Board



One of the sunniest rooms on the Southern/Dobson campus is located on the third floor of the Library. Since the office has no windows, its cheery brightness has more to do with the outgoing personality of its occupant than its access to sunlight.

Native Arizonan **Lynn Keeling** resides in this office. She recently accepted a position as the President's Executive Assistant, which means her primary focus will be to help Dr. Christiansen get things done.

As the middle sibling in the Flowers family, sandwiched between two brothers, Lynn no doubt began honing her negotiating skills at a tender age. She also received an early education about the inner workings of a community college district through her relationship with Dad, a former MCCD vice chancellor.

Lynn earned her bachelor's degree in Education (Math) and later channeled her teaching skills into the computer field, where she taught

people in business to use computers. At age 37, she entered the fast-track to a law degree (24 months) at California Western in San Diego, one of two schools in the West that offered such a program.

In midlife, Lynn not only launched into her new career as a lawyer, but also became wife to Michael Keeling and stepmom to his son Brad, who was best man at their wedding. Through her law school and work experience, Lynn gained a solid background in corporate work, public participation, and environmental and legislative issues. Lynn served as a liaison to the business community to help government and business work together. As a lobbyist, she developed a relationship with legislators. She has written regulations, drafted legislation, and has helped to implement environmental programs.

Lynn outlined three immediate tasks on her "To Do" list: (1) to assist with legislative issues; (2) to participate on technology issues that need resolution; and (3) to help the President get things done. Among the strengths Lynn contributes to this position are her abilities as an organizer and her talent for bringing closure to difficult situations. Her perspective is panoramic. "I view the faculty, staff, students, and community as my customers, and I believe that MCC needs to be responsive to all of them," Lynn said.

## Innovative Projects Move Right Along

For academic year 2000-2001, **President Christiansen** released \$200,000 from entrepreneurial earnings to jump-start nearly two dozen Innovative Projects. At both MCC campuses, the committees for these projects have been working diligently to accomplish their goals and see their plans through to completion. Following are updates on two of the projects that were selected for funding:

### **Desert Preserve and Ecology Awareness Project**

The purpose of this project is to heighten awareness of and promote respect for the Red Mountain campus Sonoran Desert environment. Through signage and pamphlets, the project will showcase desert vegetation, rocks and wildlife; highlight local landmarks; and educate the students and community about native and non-native plants, with a focus on water conservation.

Red Mountain faculty member **Gwen Argersinger** said that the ongoing construction of the campus makes this project even more challenging. The project committee must not only coordinate with the new campus' contractor and landscape architect, but also be attentive to the commercial construction happening on adjacent properties.

The Desert Preserve and Ecology Awareness Project incorporates MCC's considerable student talent and expertise in art (for creating signs), agriculture (for planting vegetation and creating a water feature), and geology (for rock

structures). Speech faculty member **Bruce Peterson** is involving students in a city contest to design walkways in the area.

Dedication to preserving the desert environment is part of the mission statement for MCC's new Red Mountain campus. "Our focus on ecology and environmental studies is not just an interest," Gwen said. "It's a commitment." Committee members hope to have at least some of the project completed when the campus opens in the fall.

### **Math, Life Science/Physical Science Courtyard**

The first project of its kind on the Southern/Dobson campus, an existing courtyard (west of the physical science building, east of the remodeled math building, and southwest of the nursing building) will be transformed into a year-round outdoor learning space. The comfortable setting will include a water feature, plants, boulders, and wireless Internet connections and will be available for use by multiple disciplines. Mathematics faculty member **Carol Achs** said the committee's vision is to create a friendly place for students and faculty to collaborate.

The Courtyard Committee has already begun its initial field work. With cameras in hand, committee members visited ASU to look at their outside study areas and also made a trip to the Botanical Gardens to see their plants and fountains. They have identified three water features they really like and have already

made their first purchase: a one-ton boulder.

Plants and rocks chosen for the courtyard have a purpose beyond visual appeal. "Everything we put there will be things that classes in Physical Science and Life Science can identify," Carol said. Teachers and students can create activities in the courtyard that will tie into their coursework and study. Biology classes are already eagerly anticipating algae growth on the rocks as a resource for their experiments.

Faculty and students are participating in the planning phase as well. **Kaatje Vanderhoeven** and her geology students are providing input on the rock display, and students from **Cindy Odgers'** agriculture classes are creating drawings and growing some of the selected plants from seed. Students are also exploring ideas for bringing Math into the picture.

"By June 30, we'll know what we want," Carol said, "and our goal for a completion date is fall." She said the Innovative Projects funding may not allow the committee to do everything they want to do, but they will decide what they want and find more money later, if necessary. Part of the funding for this project provides \$500 scholarships for each of six students (two from Life Science, two from Physical Science, and two from Math) who serve on the committee.

Carol said the committee wants the courtyard to have an identity—a name that reflects its design and who it serves. Committee members are planning an all-campus contest to name the courtyard when it is completed.

## Dr. Mangala Joshua Selected as Carnegie Scholar



Nationwide, thirty outstanding faculty from diverse fields have been selected as Carnegie Scholars by the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL). **Dr. Mangala Joshua**, a Mesa Community College faculty member who teaches Physics, has been selected as a Carnegie Scholar for 2001-2002. She is not only the very first Carnegie Scholar from the Maricopa Community College District, but also the very first participant in this program to represent the discipline of Physics.

Carnegie Scholars serve a one-year term, during which they investigate and document work on issues in the teaching and learning of their field. While the Scholars work primarily in their own academic settings, they spend two 10-day summer sessions together at the Carnegie Foundation and additional time during the academic year.

CASTL's purpose is to support work that fosters significant, long-lasting learning for all students, enhances the practice and profession of teaching, and brings to teaching the recognition and reward afforded to other forms of scholarship.

The Carnegie Scholars Program is one component of CASTL, which involves teachers in elementary and secondary schools, as well as faculty

members from higher education. The higher education component includes the Pew National Fellowship Program for Carnegie Scholars, the Carnegie Teaching Academy Campus Program (coordinated by the American Association for Higher Education), and collaborations with scholarly and professional societies. The \$6 million, five-year effort is funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and The Carnegie Foundation. Mangala will be participating in the fourth class of Carnegie Scholars.

In conducting research with her students, Mangala said she will focus on two things: (1) the transfer of knowledge and (2) student self-assessment. She emphasized the importance of attaining knowledge and understanding concepts rather than merely memorizing information. A conceptual understanding allows students to transfer knowledge and apply what they have learned to situations outside the classroom. Self-assessment is a tool that students can use to measure their own learning and understanding.

A requirement of the Carnegie Scholars is that they share the results of their research with others. Mangala said she plans to present her work at the annual convention of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). She will also submit her work to a publication that focuses either on Physics or Education.

For more information on the Carnegie Scholarship Program, visit this Web site: [www.carnegiefoundation.org](http://www.carnegiefoundation.org).

## Calendar

**Sat., March 24, Homeownership Fair,**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Kirk Student Center

**Thurs.-Sat., March 29-31 and Sun., April 1**  
Chamber Opera Theatre, "Cliff Notes," of Broadway's Best  
**March 29-31** at 7:30 p.m.  
**April 1** at 2 p.m.  
MCC Theatre Outback  
(Tickets available; contact Theatre Box Office, 461-7170)

**Sat. & Sun., March 31-Apr. 1,**  
*Reptile Show*, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Navajo Room.

**Wed., April 4, Student Art Reception**  
**Mon.-Fri., April 16-27, Student Art Show**

**Mon.-Fri., April 9-13, National Library Week**

**Wed., April 11, Spring Bash and ASMCC elections**

**Fri., April 13, Good Friday – Holiday**

**Fri.-Sat., April 13-14, Stagedoor Players Showcase**

### LEADERSHIP CLASSES

**Thursdays, March 22 – May 10, 12:30-5 p.m.,**  
"Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," COV 110 -3678, Pima  
Room. A 32-hour course that focuses on personal and interpersonal  
levels of leadership development. Participants learn how to see, think,

and act more effectively in order to get better results, take  
responsibility, and become more opportunity-minded.  
Materials cost \$70. The course is offered for 2 college credits.

**Friday, March 23, 1:30-4:30 p.m.,**  
"Getting Along Means Getting Ahead,"  
NC 500, Section 9759, Room TBA.

(To register for the Leadership Classes, go to the following Web page:  
[www.dist.maricopa.edu/learn](http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/learn) or call 480-731-7700.)

### MCLI (MARICOPA CENTER FOR LEARNING AND INSTRUCTION) CLASS

**Fri., March 30, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.,**  
"The Power of Narrative in the Classroom,"

A Storytelling Dialogue Day, Kiva Room (approved for 5.5 clock  
hours of Faculty Professional Growth, non-academic credit advance-  
ment). Storyteller **Pat Mendoza** will provide a multicultural work-  
shop about the power of story in all its forms: oral traditions, song,  
music, dance, art, and poetry to cross cultural barriers. Participants  
will be included in a variety of exercises and storytelling activities  
designed to reinforce the link between curriculum and story. Pat, a  
Vietnam veteran and former policeman, will also focus on how to  
cooperate, collaborate, and create stories by working with others with-  
in and between disciplines.

(For more information contact: **Linda Evans**, MCC, 461-7340, or  
register at [www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/dd/](http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/dd/) or call Tina Emmons or  
Shelly Laug at 731-8300 (MCLI).  
Space is limited so please RSVP by March 23.

## Special Employees Deserve Special Recognition

Not once but twice, Dean of Administrative Services **Ron Etter** was nominated to be January's Catch of the Month—for his exemplary effort on the job and for being a nice guy. **Chas Moore** nominated Ron for his role in getting a left-turn signal at MCC's Dobson/Hospital Drive entrance and thereby making life easier for many frustrated students and faculty. **Wynn Call** nominated Ron for admitting Psychology Dept. faculty to an after-hours meeting in LB 145. The department had scheduled the meeting for 6 p.m., not realizing that the main library would be closed by then. Ron stayed an extra hour, standing near the outside library door to let faculty inside to attend their meeting.



For February's Catch of the Month, **Barbara Thelander** nominated **Lori Robinson**, who works at Grounds for Thought, the coffee bar on the Kirk Center's main floor. Barbara's office had scheduled a very large event in the Navajo Room, which necessitated moving all lobby and employee lounge furniture and stacking it in the Center's coffee/game room. This random stacking of furniture created not only a danger for passing students, but also an unattractive first impression for the 300 guests to the event, some of whom entered through the coffee/game room. Lori offered to see that the room was rearranged to accommodate the extra furniture and to make the entire area as attractive as possible. (Picture not available)



**Stan Kinard**, Veterans Services and Financial Aid Technician, is the Employee of the Month for January. **Ray Grant** nominated Stan for the many times he has assisted students and helped veterans. He described a recent incident that exemplifies Stan's commitment to his work: One of



Ray's students had been suspended from financial aid and didn't know where to turn. The student's mom called Ray, saying that she would take off work, come to campus, and straighten things out. Ray called Stan for help. Stan helped the student get the financial aid he needed, explained to the student why he had been suspended, and thereby obviated an extra trip and time off work for mom.



**Lyvier Conss** nominated **Ken Costello**, from the Center for Teaching and Learning, as Employee of the Month for February. In her nomination letter, Lyvier wrote: "Mr. Costello's creativity and knowledge of multimedia presentation can take an ordinary video of a speech and convert it into a spectacular keynote address. He is generous with his time, even when he is extremely busy; he is patient and has

wonderful follow-up on all of his projects, for all those he is assisting. His talents are award-winning, and his thoughtfulness, kindness, and ability to work with others is to be emulated."

## Who Wants to Be the Leader?

On Wed, Feb. 21, **President Christiansen** invited employees to a Lunch/Conversation to explore the topic of "Shared Governance." Approximately 40 people accepted his invitation. English faculty member **Donella Eberle** graciously agreed to record comments from the meeting and then share her notes with the Office of Institutional Advancement. Following is a brief summary of Donella's notes:

Defining "Shared Governance" was first on the docket, and generally the consensus of the group reads something like this:

### SHARED GOVERNANCE MEANS

- Open communication
- In a safe/trusting environment (where everyone's opinion is respected)
- With broad-based input (including everyone)
- Where both work and leadership duties are shared by all
- And where each participant
  - has sufficient information and enough time to make sound decisions
  - understands the process for moving from the initial idea to the end result
  - knows who is responsible for the ultimate decision (where the buck stops)

Suggestions for making Shared Governance work:

- Create frequent opportunities to discuss "Shared Governance" more fully and be willing to devote the time it takes to make progress
- Consider a spoke/wheel model to represent the relationship among employees instead of a top-down hierarchy
- Provide training to educate everyone about the process of sharing "governance"
- Provide complete information about issues that will be tackled
- Test the Shared Governance process on upcoming issues, like the bond proposal or the new budget proposal, and then build and refine the process from our experiences with these issues
- Set qualifying criteria for issues that will be addressed through Shared Governance (example: It must be an issue that affects everyone)
- To begin, identify only a few issues and maintain a tight focus

For the complete minutes of the President's Lunch/Conversation on Shared Governance, visit the following Web site:  
[www.mc.maricopa.edu/users/eberle/senate/sharedgov.html](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/users/eberle/senate/sharedgov.html)

*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](mailto:ia@mccmail.maricopa.edu), phone 480-461-7445.

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