

# DEC 06 '05

# the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



## **New SIS Deployment Date Delayed: What Next?**

Plans to deploy the new Student Information System (SIS) in February 2006 were delayed earlier this semester, and a new deployment date has not been selected. Instead, project leadership is examining all aspects of the project. As part of the review, the newly formed Project Oversight Group will determine if it is best to set a timeline to determine the project scope or let the scope determine the timeline.

“Publications from other colleges who have implemented new student systems are steering us toward looking at the scope of the project and viewing it as a series of steps to complete rather than attempting to set an arbitrary deployment date,” stated Joni Grover, MCC’s College Implementation Team Project Manager and Dean of Student Services.

The project review is being led by Darrel Huish, Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, and consists of three groups.

**Project Manager** – The District will hire a consultant who is knowledgeable about Oracle products as well as project assessment and project management. Their role – to examine the project as it currently exists, identify gaps, and make recommendations to the newly formed Project Oversight Group.

**Project Oversight Group** (replaces SIS Executives group) – Comprised of leadership from the District Office and the colleges, the group will make decisions on content and process issues such as:

What kind of Helpdesk model will be used?

Should the underlying database be changed from Microsoft to Oracle? (note: Oracle purchased PeopleSoft, the software running MCCC’s new SIS, in 2004)

How is Maricopa going to approach finishing the Project?  
Set a timeline to determine scope or let scope determine timeline?

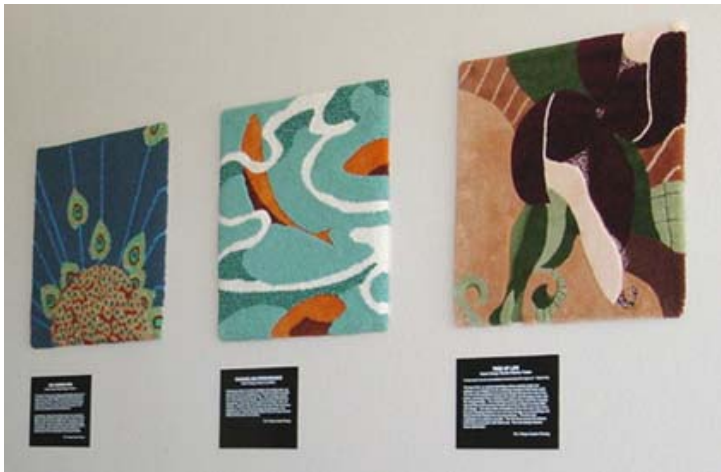
**Functional Project Groups** – These groups have existed since the project’s inception and are charged with looking at specific functions within the system (such as admissions or financial aid) and determining how the new system needs to operate to support those functions (what kind of data needs to be collected, what kind of reports must be generated, etc).

Huish hopes to have the Project Manager hired and the first Project Oversight Group meetings completed by the end of the semester. In the meantime, functional groups are gathering information under the leadership of Steve Creswell to share with the Project Manager and Project Oversight Group.

“MCC continues to prepare for the new system, with trainers using the decision not to deploy in February as an opportunity to further develop training lessons for college end users,” said Joni. “MCC also has numerous employees involved with Functional Project Groups and Dr. Christiansen serving on the Project Oversight Group.”

To learn more about the new SIS, visit MCC’s SIS website at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/sis/>.

## Innovative Project Provokes Conversation



Custom rugs designed by MCC students provoke conversations on cultural diversity

Custom rug design may seem like an unusual way to raise cultural awareness, but Janice Jennings has found a way to turn the unlikely combination into a beautiful display.

Janice, an MCC Interior Design faculty member, used custom rug design as the core of her 2005-2006 Innovative Project, "Imagery to Provoke Conversation about Culture on Campus." The display of five colorful carpet squares that grace a formerly drab hallway in the AS building causes people to pause and consider the designs.

"By putting up the display, our hope is that the informal display will get students talking," Janice said. "We are taking our discussions of cultural diversity out of the classroom."

"One Hundred Eyes," by Meghan Carlson, for example, depicts peacock feathers, an important symbol in India. The koi fish that swim upstream in Lisa Butler's vivid blue design demonstrate "Courage and Perseverance" in Japanese culture. The rugs of Heather Sjoberg, SuzAnne Christ, and Melissa Trottier also illustrate symbolic designs.

"The things that inspired the students that had cultural underpinnings were fascinating," Janice said. "And they are beautiful as well."

Inscribed on plaques beneath each rug are the names of the student designers and a description of the cultural concept. The artwork is tactile so viewers with visual impairments can also enjoy it. The display is permanent and will be used as an example for students learning rug construction techniques.

Janice said the idea to integrate cultural awareness into the project stemmed from her involvement with the Student Outcomes Committee. The project incorporates the student learning outcomes for general education in regard to cultural diversity.

For assistance in constructing the rugs, Janice reached out to the community.

"RK Frisque Carpets in Scottsdale offered to put the designs on display in their showroom so the professional designers who came in could vote on the student designs," Janice said.

Frisque Carpets constructed the winning rug designs at no cost for the students to take home. Janice used Innovative Project money to pay for the campus display rugs, plus inscribed signs.

"I really appreciate the Innovative Project money being available," Janice said. "I couldn't have done it without it."

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### Closing the Assessment Loop: Faculty Meeting the ROC Challenge

The college's annual Assessment Week is scheduled for February 27- March 3, 2006. Mesa Community College's (MCC) student outcomes assessment program is in its 10th year of successfully measuring and documenting the impact of the MCC college experience on student learning.

For the past three years, the Results Outreach Committee (ROC), a subcommittee of the Student Outcomes Committee (SOC), has been charged with closing the assessment loop by providing a mechanism and the resources to support faculty and/or departments in developing outcomes-based initiatives directly linked to assessment results data. Interdisciplinary teams of faculty or entire departments are encouraged to submit proposals that will benefit students, programs, and departments. Faculty have been given the challenge with ROC's call for proposals for faculty projects to be developed during summer 2006 and completed in the following academic year. All forms for ROC proposals can be found by clicking on the Results Outreach Committee link at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/organizations/employee/facultysenate/soc/roc.html>.

ROC's challenge was certainly met for the 2005-2006 academic year. Cinthya Ippoliti, a librarian faculty, is leading an interdisciplinary team of faculty to focus on the information literacy general education outcomes. Three of five workshops on information literacy have taken place and two more in the series are scheduled for the spring semester: Gaining In-Cite: Issues of Plagiarism and Copyright (January 13, 2006) and Going Public: Strategies, Activities, and Lessons Learned (March 24, 2006). Another ROC proposal led by Jonelle Moore, an English faculty, will focus on Writing for the Brain: Transforming Student Learning (scheduled for February 8, 2006).

The success of the student outcomes assessment program is because of you! Your on-going support and cooperation reflects a common goal of making student learning a priority at MCC. Thank you!



If you have questions or would like to learn more about student assessment, please contact SOC Chair Ly Tran-Nguyen at: [lytran@mail.mc.maricopa.edu](mailto:lytran@mail.mc.maricopa.edu).

## Exploring Displacement and Immigration Issues Through Art



Julie Moorehouse shows elementary school students how far Samoa is from Ireland

The word home evokes powerful images for most individuals, but for those displaced from their original homes by immigration, natural disasters, and other changes, the word can bring a range of emotions, sadness, or magnify feelings of loneliness. Mesa Community College elementary education majors were able to explore some of these issues with local elementary students through fine art and discovered many valuable lessons in cultural diversity.

The exploration began because of a partnership between MCC's International Education office, education faculty, and Irish artist Julie Moorehouse. She was invited to facilitate a program here which she had created in Ireland that allows elementary students to explore displacement issues and then express their perceptions through different art and murals.

"The project created a great opportunity for my MCC students to get real hands-on experience in the classroom," said Karen Guerrero, education faculty for MCC. "They helped with project research and the final art projects as well as facilitating and teaching some of the smaller projects and pieces."

Three local classes participated and were able to learn about Samoa, China, and Vietnam through classmates and their families that were recently displaced from their homes. Although each student and their families had positive experiences, the elementary and MCC students were surprised by many of the issues they had to deal with.

"The process enlightened our students on what impact displacement actually has on a family as well as the American culture in general," said Guerrero. "They were also surprised at how many families are affected by displacement and have had to make these major life adjustments."

The elementary classes and their teachers embraced the project and turned a simple assignment into a multitude of projects that immersed the elementary students in the displaced individual's culture, food, customs, and traditions.

This unique experience opened the minds and eyes of both the elementary and college students and allowed three young displaced students to enrich the lives of their peers and community. The collages and art that were created have hung at MCC, the Irish Cultural Center, and will soon return to the individual classrooms, where the students and their teachers can be reminded daily of the lessons learned through art and their classmates.



## Ebrary Does Research

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No check outs required. Any number of students can use ebrary's DCP at the same time, from any computer with Internet access.

Electronic access to a collection of more than 25,000 full-text books is now available through the MCC libraries. Over 70% of the books have been published within the last five years. Ebrary spans academic subject areas including: business & economics, career & general education, computers, engineering & applied science, humanities, science, medicine & allied health, and social & behavioral sciences. Simple or advanced searches can be performed by keyword, full-text, publisher, or author.

A key feature, InfoTools, provides nearly instant access to definitions (dictionaries), explanations (encyclopedias), geography (searchable maps and atlases), biographical information, and translations (foreign language dictionaries). Personal bookshelves allow you or your students to archive links of highlights, annotations, and bookmarks as research is conducted. Text can be copied and pasted into e-mails or any text application and automatically printed with bibliographical citations in four different citation formats.

Training for this awesome research tool will be held on Thursday, January 12 from 9-11 am in the CTL computer lab at Southern & Dobson (AS175). A portion of the training will be dedicated to using ebrary in WebCT classes.

For more information, contact Zoë Luter, Outreach Librarian, at 461-7286.

To access Ebrary from your office, visit the Library's website at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/library/begin.html> and select Electronic Resources then Off-Campus Access. After you enter your MCC user name and password, click on Ebrary (located under the Ebooks header).

## Gold Award for Aramark



Aramark has added a variety of new menu items. This delectable sensations is fried rice, sweet and sour chicken, beef and broccoli, and chicken cow mein. Yummy!

The Maricopa County Board of Health recently issued a Gold Award Certificate to Aramark Inc., the company that operates the Thunderbird Cafe in Mesa Community College's Kirk Center. The Gold Award is the highest restaurant inspection report rating possible from the Board of Health and is issued to establishments that score in the top 25 percent for their category.

Following on the heels of that good news, John Milburn, manager of the cafe, said remodeling plans are also in the works for the food service area, with most of the changes occurring during the winter break. Plans include updating the Grounds for Thought section with new tile that will match the tile currently in place in the rest of the Kirk Center.

"We are also putting new tables and chairs in the cafeteria area to replace the antiques we have in there now," Milburn said. "Along with that, we may change the layout a little bit."

Other recent food service changes that have met with success this semester include:

- **A new chef.** Aramark promoted Bobby Floyd to the position of head chef. John said Bobby, who has worked in the cafeteria at MCC for four years, cooks home-style meals that are well received by diners.
- **New food selections.** The "make your own waffle" station is new this semester, which offers hungry students and employees the chance to become their own chef. Whipped cream and fruit toppings are available upon request.
- **New drink offerings.** The popular Red Bull energy drink is now available at MCC, just in time for finals.

"Red Bull is already selling better than I thought it would," John said. "We figured it would do well during finals week. Sales of all caffeinated beverages almost double during finals week."

*You are cordially invited to*

**MCC's  
Holiday Brunch**

**Friday,  
December 16, 2005  
8 AM to 10 AM**

**Kirk Student Center  
Navajo Room**

*Broadcast to Red Mountain,  
Community Room*



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

