

April 08, 2008

# the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## Facilities Master Plan

Dr. Pan held his first open forum discussions March 25 at Southern and Dobson and March 26 at Red Mountain focusing on facilities planning primarily as it relates to the allocation of 2004 Bond monies. Following are highlights from Dr. Pan's opening remarks and the Question and Answer discussion. You can view Dr. Davis' PowerPoint presentation here.

### Highlights from Dr. Pan's Opening Remarks

- We are facing some very tough challenges including competition from ASU and private schools like the University of Phoenix. We need to have the mindset to say: we can and we will serve these students. It is truly our mission to provide quality education at an affordable price. It's good for families, for our community and for our state.

- Construction price increases and overall inflation have had an enormous impact on the dollars allocated to MCC from the MCCC 2004 Bond. Every dollar we now have is worth 70 cents. So we will not be able to do all the things we want to do.

- We face some difficult decisions regarding the use of our bond dollars. I'm committed to open discussions at all of our campuses. I am committed to more transparent decision-making. And, I am committed to a collective, collaborative process.

### Highlights from Dr. Davis' Presentation:

- Among the difficult issues we face are;

- Nursing has already given up \$7 million to the physical science building. We need an additional \$3 to 4 million for the most basic remodel of the current physical science building.

- Regarding the humanities clusters, the original thinking was to remodel the current building plus build one new building. We are shy \$5 million to do this.

- We have purchased two buildings (The Harkins building and the Fuddrucker's building). These buildings will be used for the College's performing and visual arts. Remodeling will probably cost another \$5 million.

- We must also consider that we have water pipe issues that are costly. Last summer we repaired three broken water pipes at a cost of \$20,000 each. There is a real potential that another 40+ water pipes will need repairs. All are eight feet underground. The repairs could cost \$2 million.

- Enrollment is down. It is critical that we talk about creating a vibrant space for our students. \$1.2 million to renovate the Kirk Student Center is not enough.

Questions & Answers from Southern & Dobson and Red Mountain Open Forums

(Q&A sessions at both campuses have been consolidated into one Q&A)

Q. What is happening regarding the development of a security plan? Are there plans for "rekeying"? Is there money available from the District to help with security issues and improvements?

A. First, we must have an institutional emergency plan. This is important and it is a priority. People have asked about "rekeying" which is one component of the plan. The plan must provide information and instructions on what everyone on campus must do if we face an emergency situation. I will be working with Jerry Davis and Steve Corich. Jerry and I will look into the possibility of some District money that we can tap into.

Q. We had a plan for an art gallery. The original plan was to commit a dollar amount and raise matching funds. It has never come to fruition because we could never get the dollar commitment from the College. Where do we stand with an art gallery?

A. An art gallery was part of the plan and we need to keep our commitment. We must explore the possibilities for creating an art gallery.

Q. Please address the \$2 million set aside for the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT).

A. If I understand correctly, originally there was a promise made to allocate \$2 million to an MCC/EVIT partnership. The partnership opportunity did not work out the way it was planned and is no longer on the table.

Q. Are students ever used for building projects?

A. It depends on the project. Generally speaking, our building projects are large and carry too much liability to use students. But thank you for thinking of it.

Q. I have heard that some of the wellness programs like fire science and nursing will move to the Downtown Campus. Is that still in the plans?

A. Some programs are already at the Downtown Campus. For example, Fire Science and Network Academy are at the Downtown Campus. We are actually facing another issue that must be factored in. Chandler Gilbert has asked

us to vacate the Williams Gateway campus where our Mortuary Science program now resides as well as three or four classrooms dedicated to our Fire Science program. We are currently discussing where to move these classes.

Q. Would you clarify how much money is left of the \$62 million from the 2004 Bond allocated to Southern and Dobson.

A. Dr. Davis response: There is \$29 million left. We have spent \$33 million so far which includes the \$4 million spent to purchase the Harkins Theater and Fuddrucker buildings.

Q. What programs will be utilizing the Harkins and Fuddrucker buildings?

A. The remodeled buildings will be used for classroom and performance space for Music, Theater and Dance.

Q. Of the remaining money for Southern and Dobson, what can we reallocate?

A. We have some flexibility to shift money although we cannot use bond monies for any operational items such as salaries and benefits.

Q. Can the \$10 million for the Downtown Campus be moved to Southern and Dobson?

A. Taxpayers approved an MCC Downtown Campus so I don't think we can shift the money allocated to this campus. It's important to remember that our Board approved the Downtown Campus; Mesa Public Schools has committed \$10 million for the P-20 concept; and NAU is very interested in partnering with us by leasing space.

Q. Regarding the P-20 concept, why can't we remain committed from a curriculum perspective instead of a space perspective? Why can't P-20 be part of Southern and Dobson or Red Mountain? What exactly is our obligation to P-20?

A. I hear what you're saying. Why can't P-20 be done without space? What is our obligation to our P-20 partners? Why do we need a Downtown Campus?

These are all good questions. The forum today was basically to provide you with the facts I have at this point in time and to look at the complexity of the issues we face. This is where we are right now with the Downtown Campus: we are leasing space from the City for about a half million dollars. We are currently negotiating our lease. But the fact remains we still don't have enough space. I do know the Network Academy is growing. I don't know if the P-20 concept was in the original plan. But as I said earlier, the Downtown Campus has been approved by our Board and we do have P-20 partners to consider.

Q. How do you see us moving forward?

A. For one, we do need to move forward quickly. We have many issues in front of us. I have heard your comments and agree with many of them. I'd like to hear more from the various areas impacted — nursing, humanities, performing arts, Downtown Campus, etc. It's important to me that everyone has a chance to participate in the process and to share their ideas and provide their recommendations. One way that you can provide me with your insights and ideas is to call or email me.

Q. Can you include student affairs? The Kirk Center?

A. Yes, most definitely. I will invite student representatives to the table. I have already met with many students. I know our student center is not inviting. It is important that we create a space where students want to stay and engage in college life.

Q. I would like to schedule a time to meet with you about the plan we have for the Kirk Center. Is that possible?

A. I would be very interested in meeting with you.

Q. We have certainly grown and changed over the years and maybe we could utilize our current space better. We have departments that are split and service departments that are not clustered (such as having our cashiers separated from records). What do you think about revisiting the use of space?

A. We need to do that. And, we need to move forward quickly. I will be putting together advisory teams in the next few weeks to help us make informed and inclusive decisions.

Q. Let's look at custodial and maintenance. I think we should maintain our buildings before we do anything.

A. I agree. It all boils down to resources. How can we more effectively use our resources and do it better?

Q. Remodeling existing space is critical. The humanities department needs robust learning labs and areas. I want to make sure our learning areas are not just white walls.

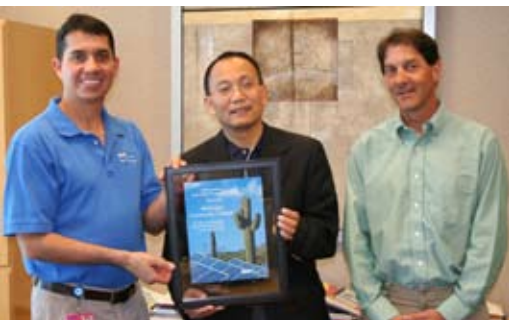
A. Thank you for your candid thoughts. The reality is not everyone will be happy. There are many issues in front of us. I will be pulling together small group meetings to address as many of these issues as possible. What is best for our students and how we remain accountable to the taxpayers will guide us as we move forward and make important decisions.

I hope you will keep your suggestions and recommendations coming. Feel free to call or email me or Jerry with your questions or suggestions: shouan.pan@mccmail.maricopa.edu, 480-461-7300 jerry.davis@mccmail.maricopa.edu, 480-461-7410

## SRP Solar Energy Award

Salt River Project recently recognized MCC with an award for our participation in the EarthWise Solar Energy Program. Jerald "Chico" Hunter, Sr. Engineer, Sustainability Initiatives and Technologies, presented MCC President Dr. Shouan Pan with the award.

"This is a great stimulus for the college," Pan said. "We will keep moving in this direction."



Steve Bass, an MCC geography professor who heads up MCC's Green Group, said MCC currently has two solar projects on campus—one on

the new physical science building and one on the social and cultural science building.

The six panels on the social science building were formerly test panels at ASU East. The panels were donated to MCC to avoid shipping charges to send them back to the manufacturer. A grant from SRP helped pay for most of the installation of the panels at MCC.

The panels, which are hooked into a meter, network into the grid of the building and generate electricity. Plans are underway for a project this fall in which SRP is hoping to install a comparison meter that measures the savings in electricity. Once this is done, Steve hopes to use this information in the classroom and is seeking software assistance from SRP.

Steve said these solar projects are "just the beginning" of many environmental initiatives at MCC.

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## MCC ranks 15th for Community College Study Abroad Students: New Prague Program Expands Offerings

According to a recent report published by the Institute of International Education, Mesa Community College ranked 15th in the nation for the total number of community college study abroad students. Of 6,321 community college students who studied abroad in 2005/06, MCC had 107.

The report found that the 10 most-popular study abroad destinations for community college students are: Italy, Spain, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Costa Rica, Greece, China, Japan and Czech Republic. Many of these destinations are offered by MCC's Study Abroad Program this summer, with openings still available.

The newest addition to MCC's program is Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. Situated on the River Vltava in central Bohemia, Prague has been the political, cultural, and economic center of the Czech state for over 1,100 years.

Diana Larowe, who teaches the course Cultural Dimensions of International Trade for the Prague program, said the city offers the perfect setting to study the influence of geography, history, politics, and religion on a culture.



Openings are also still available for the following programs:

Guanajuato, Mexico: 5/27 – 6/27  
Athlone and Dublin, Ireland: 5/30 – 6/30  
Xalapa, Mexico: 5/30 – 6/28  
Nottingham, Britain: 7/3 – 8/3  
Cuernavaca, Mexico: 7/18 – 8/3

For more information, contact Yvonne Schmidt, Education Abroad Coordinator, at 480.461.7870 or visit <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/services/international/studyabroad/programs.html>

## **MCC Student Art Show**

Finding treasure in what others might consider trash is Mike Putman's specialty. Using anything from sprockets to springs to matchbox covers, Putman turns found objects into works of art. His work will be on display during MCC's annual Student Art Show.

Putman, 35, a mixed media artist, was working as a non-profit art teacher when he realized he needed to update his skills and learn some of the new software programs available to artists. So he began taking classes at MCC and quickly saw the technology elevate his art to a whole new level.

"I learned the technology to make my art go from canvas to digital," Putman said. "My instructors helped me create a portfolio that can be placed on the computer so I can share and promote my work."

Putman said the piece that was chosen for the show, *Passion is Key*, is the epitome of what he wanted to accomplish as a mixed media artist.

"Digital art is the new frontier," said Putman, who teaches part-time at Mystic Paper in Mesa. "It's a scary time for artists, but once you do learn it, your opportunities are unlimited."

MCC art instructor Tom Klare said Putman is an excellent artist with a clear direction.

"Mike has a unique style that is very distinctive and based on personal interests," Klare said. "His work has commercial potential."

Putman's work is just one of more than 100 pieces that will be on display at the art show. The pieces shown are selected by MCC art instructors and represent the best work of MCC art students. Klare said it's always hard to choose what will be shown with the multitude of high-quality work produced by MCC students.

"The show contains a really nice cross section of what comes out of the art department," Klare said. "There's some incredible work."

Art pieces are varied and include fine art, computer graphics, 2D and 3D artwork, digital photography, traditional photography, sculpture and ceramics. Most pieces are for sale and the college buys one piece of student artwork from the sale each year. An awards ceremony is held at the end of the show where students win monetary awards as well as art tools such as drawing tablets and computer software.

### **If you go:**

**What:** MCC Student Art Show

**When:** March 31-April 10. Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fridays 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Awards ceremony is April 9 from 6-8 p.m.

**Where:** MCC's Southern and Dobson campus, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa, in the Navajo Room inside the Kirk Student Center.





"No doubt this beautiful city has experienced a unique melding of both western and eastern influences," Larowe said. "One can easily see the history of the Czech culture through its art and architecture, but more importantly, one can sense its current vitality as a world-class city."

Larowe said people are beginning to understand that globalization is here to stay, with products, people, ideas and money moving across borders twenty-four hours a day. Yet problems often persist due to the challenges of cultural differences and the difficulties people have when trying to communicate.

"Cross-cultural experiences are emotionally intense and profoundly challenging for the participants," said Larowe, who has worked in international relations for the past fifteen years. "The ability to effectively deal with cultural differences plays an important role in any international endeavor be it commerce, research, travel, or exchange. Cross-cultural adaptability can be learned, and the immersion approach to cross-cultural studies enhances the student's learning experience and better prepares him or her for participation in this globalized world."

Openings are still available for the Prague study abroad program, which runs from July 7 to August 8.

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/services/international/studyabroad/programs/czech/>

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## Relay for Life

It's safe to say Mesa Community College student Sarah Shackelford won't get a wink of sleep on Saturday night. Shackelford and her friends will spend the night taking turns walking or running laps around the track at Red Mountain High School. But it's not just for the exercise or the fun. She'll be part of a group of more than 2,500 participants who will gather together to help raise money and awareness during the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event.

For Shackelford, it's a chance to celebrate her dad's remission from stage four non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

"My entire family feels extremely blessed because he is one of the very few who actually have survived the treatment, especially after the cancer was caught so late," Shackelford said. "This event is extremely important to families like mine and survivors like my dad. I think actually participating in a cancer walk rather than just reading about it helps you gain so much more perspective."

Event chair Eric Brown said the relay is a time to remember those lost to cancer and celebrate those who have survived. It's a place where people connect with others, share the cancer experience, and find comfort and solace.

Brown said last year's event raised \$175,000, but organizers hope to raise that amount to \$240,000 this year. More than 100 teams are signed up to walk or run on the track from 1 p.m. Saturday until 6 a.m. the next day. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times, symbolizing that cancer never sleeps and that there is no finish line until a cure is found.

"The neat thing about the event is that it's very youth-driven," said Brown. "Youth bring so much excitement to everything. We have youth teams from elementary schools, high schools and colleges."

Shackelford found out about Relay for Life through MCC's Psi Beta club for psychology students. Both Psi Beta and Phi Theta Kappa at MCC have participated in the event for many years. Shackelford said students should know that just doing small things can make a difference.



"Making a difference doesn't necessarily mean you have to donate tons of money, you can just show up and show your support," Shackelford said. "Support is what it's all about."

Yvonne Schmidt, a cancer survivor and MCC employee who participates in the event every year, agrees.

"Participating in Relay for Life has given me strength during some of the darkest times of my life," Schmidt said. "Thanks to all of the support from organizations such as the American Cancer Society, I have never felt like my cancer was a death sentence."

What: The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life  
When: April 12, opening ceremony at 1 p.m., luminaria ceremony and fireworks at 9 p.m. and closing ceremony at 7 a.m. the next day.

Where: Red Mountain High School's football field, 7301 E. Brown Rd., Mesa

More: For more information or to donate money, visit <http://events.cancer.org/rfeastmesaaz> or email [only2putt@cox.net](mailto:only2putt@cox.net).

## Music Department Country Western Jamboree

MCC's Music Department is taking a new approach to this year's annual scholarship fund-raising event. The campus community and the general public are invited to a special performance of Broadway show tunes presented by MCC's Standing Room Only show choir. Drinks and snacks are included in the ticket price, with proceeds going to music scholarships.

"The music department is thrilled to present an evening of familiar tunes featuring our talented students in a relaxed outdoor setting," said Pam Schuler, coordinator of marketing and public relations for MCC's music department.

The SRO choir features a cast that will sing, dance, and act (the triple-threat concept) their way through a wide variety of tunes in an intimate setting. The choir has been entertaining audiences for over ten years at cabaret and dinner-theater style performances.

### Details:

**What:** Standing Room Only Presents: Western Jamboree

**When:** 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Sat, Apr 12,

**Where:** MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus, 1833 W Southern Ave, Mesa, MU Building

**Tickets:** \$10 includes show, drinks and snacks. Contact: (480) 461-7894. Proceeds go to music scholarships.

SRO was started by Music Department chair, Sue Anne Lucius, as a means of teaching cabaret-style performing. One of SRO's functions is outreach. The choir visits area high schools to perform and recruit students to MCC's Music Theatre program. Monies collected from SRO performances go to scholarships for students in the MCC Music Theatre program and workshops.

MCC alumni who have gone on to teach in high schools and colleges often recommend local students to MCC's music theatre program. Current director, Lori Towne, is a former student of the program in the early '90s. After earning her degree and working as a performing arts coordinator for the City of Phoenix, Lori returned to MCC to direct musicals and teach music theatre skills.

### Others who have a part in this production include:

- \* Mary Wall, an adjunct dance instructor who also teaches a class in music theatre dance styles.
- \* Ryan Tang, a former member of SRO who has moved on to choreograph for area middle and high schools while pursuing his degree in fashion design.
- \* Cathy Hauan, an MCC instructor for over twenty years.





*This* semester all faculty must submit final grades online using the new Student Information System. See information on guides and training sessions provided by Steve Gerlock at SIS support for Faculty and SIS Faculty Quick Guide.

*The* Artist of Promise dance competition was held at MCC March 22 and marked the first time MCC participated in and hosted the district-wide contest. For more information on the winners and the upcoming Artists of Promise performance event on April 15 at the Orpheum Theater, please visit the News section on MCC's homepage.

*The* MCC communication department has sponsored The Big Speak Out for 12 years. Since its inception it has grown from 25 participants to more than 100. A newly added category for ESL students has also provided an avenue to develop confidence with a new language. This year's competition will be held Friday, April 18 complete with prizes for the winners and a chance for students to face the fear of public speaking.

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## Recognitions

*Note: As MCC transitions into new leadership, "The Bulletin" will recognize faculty and staff accomplishments formerly found in the President's Weekly Communique. Please send your suggestions to Marcy Snitzer at [marcy.snitzer@mcmmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:marcy.snitzer@mcmmail.maricopa.edu).*



MCC Librarian Itibari M. Zulu has two contributions to the March 2008 issue of The Journal of Pan African Studies ([www.jpanafrican.com](http://www.jpanafrican.com)). The first is "Africol-ogy 101: An Interview with Scholar Activist Molefi Kete Asante." The second is "Transdisciplinary African American Studies Approaches and Implications: A Collective Interview with James Stewart." Both of these articles appear online at: [http://jpanafrican.com/currentissue\\_vol2no2.htm](http://jpanafrican.com/currentissue_vol2no2.htm).



Red Mountain Lab Technician Mike Thomas was nominated as "Catch of the Month" by his colleague Emily Dimson for his efforts when she was unexpectedly called away for a family health emergency. The situation worsened and Emily ended up having to take two weeks off. In addition to all of his duties, Mike covered all of Emily's labs, including the preparation, management, animals, plates, and assisting new instructors. When Emily returned, he never once complained or commented on the increased workload, but provided the support needed for a smooth transition.

Emily said, "It was so reassuring to have this caliber of support when I really needed it. I wouldn't have been able to get through those two weeks without it." Congratulations Mike!