

October 2, 2007

the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Student Survey

CSPAN or ESPN? Text messaging or instant messaging?

What are the most popular methods used by Mesa Community College students to gather information and communicate?

The college will soon know more about the lifestyle choices and media preferences of MCC students. Responses from students who participate in a national marketing survey will be used to help the college with its future planning. From Sept. 24-Oct. 5, students are invited to go online and complete a 10-15 minute survey. Those who participate in the national survey may enter a drawing to win an Apple iPod or \$150 iTunes gift card.

"It's critical to know how to reach potential students and what type of media they prefer," said Mary Jordan, MCC's Coordinator of Marketing.

Students will be asked about television and radio preferences and website likes and dislikes. The survey also seeks student opinions on print versus web usage for critical college materials (catalogs and schedules) and explores the student's attitude

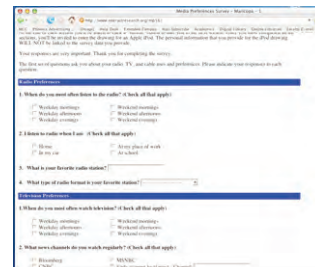
toward their college's website. Lifestyle questions that examine a student's exposure to marketing messaging are also included.

Several Maricopa college's are participating in this national survey conducted by Interact Communications. All responses are confidential.

The survey is only available for a short period of time, so faculty are encouraged to spread the word.

If a student wishes to participate, direct them to: www.interactresearch.org/mp56.

Username: maricopa, Code: arizona



Single Moms Network offers support to students

A new club at Mesa Community College is helping single mothers face the stresses of balancing parenthood with academic pursuits. Tina Brambury, co-facilitator of MCC's Single Moms Network, said single mothers often feel alone, overwhelmed and isolated from other students. The organization is designed to offer support, resources and encouragement for single women.

"This is a great venue for single moms to build mutually supportive relationships, where they know that they are not alone," Brambury said. "We provide a safe place. Where what is said there, stays there."

Tia Brown, an MCC student and mother of a three-year-old daughter, became a single parent last year when her husband, a recently returned veteran from Iraq and MCC student, died in a motorcycle accident. She said that not having enough time and money are constant concerns.

"It's the guilt of trying to do everything and not being able to do it," Brown said.

The club meets the third Saturday of each month at MCC and offers a variety of interactive motivational speakers and recreational activities at no charge. Topics covered include

empowerment, time management, goal setting and academic resources. Meetings also include a continental breakfast sponsored by local businesses. Scheduled outings to SunSplash and the Phoenix Zoo provide entertainment to families of single moms that they would not otherwise be able to afford.



The Single Moms Network is modeled after a chapter at Glendale Community College and is sponsored by the Turnbow Foundation and Helping Hands for Single Moms. Brambury is hoping that their numbers will grow as students find out about the network. Future plans for the club include individualized support for the moms.

Brown said that her goals include completing her associate degree at MCC before her daughter starts school next year. She is the recipient of a Turnbow

Foundation scholarship.

"I've learned to ask for help and people are more than willing," said Brown.

More information about the Single Moms Network can be found by contacting Tina Bambrury at (480) 641-3345 or tinabambrury@cox.net.



Revised go-live dates for Resource 25 and SIS

District leadership announced that the go-live date for SIS has been changed to spring 2008. MCC has opted to also move the go-live date for Resource 25, the space scheduling system that interfaces with SIS, to allow for additional staff training. Resource 25 will go-live before the end of the calendar year.

Email from Darrel Huish, "Additional information concerning moving go-live for the SIS."

Dear Maricopa,

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide additional information concerning this morning's announcement that we are moving the go-live date for the Student Information System.

As I mentioned this morning, this decision was made in order to avoid any potential disruptions of student and faculty utilization. The underlying reason is that our load testing of the system is showing that without more trouble shooting the system could freeze or become unstable. We will not deliver the system until we can assure users that there will not be interruptions in service.

As we continued to test the new Student Information System, we found a number of factors which, when taken together, could have disrupted our students' ability to register for next semester's courses. Because all of us within Maricopa are focused on creating successful experiences for our students, we decided to avoid the possibility of that disruption.

As we look at a typical college schedule, we know there are only a few windows of time when you can implement a major change such as the Student Information System without running into such activities as registration. To minimize potential disruptions, our goal is to introduce the system at a time when traffic is not at its high point and the system is not being relied upon for the peak registration process.

We could and did anticipate the kinds of issues that have arisen, and we have been able to deal with them. What we did not fully anticipate were the number of issues and their complexity. Given their number and complexity, we could

The links below capture emails distributed on September 20, 2007, by Darrel Huish, Chief Information Officer for the Maricopa Colleges, and Joni Grover, MCC's College Implementation Team (CIT) Project Plan Manager. The emails are captured for your reference. Updates regarding SIS and Resource 25 will be published in future issues of the Bulletin.

not be sure we could eliminate all the obstacles before the October go-live date. Rather than face that risk, we decided to move the date.

We have confidence that we can bring the system on-line early next year. We know this because we know how other organizations have accomplished these tasks with similar systems. There are multiple steps to be taken. We know what they are and how to accomplish them. Dealing with the issues that arise might be thought of as detective work - identifying and solving a series of problems. We have been proceeding successfully with that work. Based on our progress and the work of other people with other systems, we're confident we can deliver an effective system by the time the next "window" opens.

In the days ahead we will be working to clarify training schedules, establish a new go-live date, and taking action to keep momentum on the project. We will keep you informed.

I want to let you know how much I appreciate all the hard work done to date by so many of you on the implementation of the new Student Information System. There are hundreds and hundreds of employees who have contributed directly and indirectly to this project, and I want to thank you, personally, and on behalf of all of our colleges, for your hard work. I hope you understand that you are making a major contribution to fulfilling the District's primary mission of student success, and I'm confident we can count on your continued support.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Darrel Huish, Chief Information Officer
Information Technology Services
Maricopa Community Colleges
Work: 480-731-8102

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email from Joni Grover, "Questions and Answers about SIS."

Dear MCC Community:

As many of you know, the Chancellor's Executive Council has decided to move the go-live date for the New Student Information System to Spring 2008. Below are answers to some of the questions you may have regarding the decision to move the implementation date and how this decision affects MCC.

Q & A PROVIDED BY MCC'S SIS COLLEGE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

1. Will the college move forward with training MCC employees on how to use the system?

* At this point, the plan is to continue training for certain modules such as Academic Advising, Financial Aid, and Student Records. Discussions will begin immediately as to a revised training schedule based on the new deployment time frame.

2. Will the MCC registration dates change for the Spring '08 semester?

* The registration dates will stay the same. Pre-registration for continuing students will begin October 22. Open registration will begin October 29.

3. When will student tuition be due for Spring '08?

* The first tuition due date will be November 28.

4. What will happen to the College Implementation Team?

* The College Implementation Team will remain intact to ensure successful deployment at the college level in Spring 2008.

5. Will the delay in implementation result in additional costs to the college?

* The College Implementation Team will be reviewing any costs associated with the delay and will provide the findings to MCC's Administration.

6. Will the roles and expectations of the many MCC employees involved with this project continue to be the same?

* Yes

7. How will this impact MyMCC?

* MyMCC will remain the same as it is today until further notice.

Q & A PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE

1. What was the CEC's decision and why was it made?

* The CEC decided to move the go-live date for the new Student Information System to some time after the completion of normal registration for the spring semester. This decision was made in order to avoid any potential disruptions of student and faculty utilization. We will not deliver the system until we can assure users that there will not be interruptions in service.

2. Why was the date moved?

* As we continued to test the new Student Information System, we

found a number of factors which, when taken together, could have disrupted our students' ability to register for next semester's courses. Because we are focused on creating successful experiences for our students, we decided to avoid the possibility of that disruption.

3. Why move the date until after registration for next semester?

* When you look at a college schedule, you find there are only a few windows of time when you can implement a major change such as the Student Information System without running into such activities as registration. To minimize potential disruptions, our goal is to introduce the system at a time when traffic is not at its high point, nor is it as critical to the registration process.

4. What caused this change?

* A number of factors contributed to this decision. The core issue is that we want to provide a fully tested and fully stable SIS in order to ensure the best experience possible for our students. The best way to accomplish that is to change the go-live date. The process of testing a system involves running it under load, and troubleshooting any issues that develop. We have been carrying out this process, but the number and complexity of the issues we are dealing with exceeded our expectations.

5. Could you foresee the factors that have contributed to this schedule change?

* We could and did anticipate the kinds of issues that have arisen, and we have been able to deal with them. What we did not anticipate were the number of them and their complexity. Given their number and complexity, we could not be sure we could eliminate all the obstacles before the October go-live date. Rather than face that risk, we decided to move the date.

6. Do you have confidence that you can deliver the system early next year?

* We have confidence that we can bring the system on-line early next year. We know this because we know how other organizations have accomplished these tasks with similar systems. There are multiple steps to be taken. We know what they are and how to accomplish them. Dealing with the issues that arise might be thought of as detective work -- identifying and solving a series of problems. We have been proceeding successfully with that work. Based on our progress and the work of other people with other systems, we're confident we can deliver an effective system by the time the next "window" opens.

7. Do you anticipate additional costs?

There may be additional costs, which would be paid from the proceeds of the 2004 bond issue. However, if those costs involve updated hardware, they could involve purchasing items that we were planning to purchase, anyway. IT systems are constantly being updated and upgraded, so it would not be a surprise if an investment that we need to bring the SIS on-line is something we planned to do in 2008.

Community member becomes author thanks to MCC's New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning

Retired nurse Sheila Le Sueur wandered into an open house for New Frontiers after seeing an ad in the Tribune newspaper. "The entire concept sounded interesting, this life-long learning, but I thought it was for old folks," Sheila said. "I couldn't have been more wrong."

She was drawn to a booth on World War II and began talking to the facilitator, Millicent Salm. She was delighted to discover a connection – mutual friends from Sheila's childhood home of Jersey, France, a small island off the coast of Normandy.

Sheila found that New Frontiers drew upon its members' vast experience and skills to present many opportunities including a smorgasbord of classes, valuable social interactions, and a rich exchange of ideas.

"I happened to find my niche in history, politics and writing. It coincided with my earnest desire as a naturalized American to study American democracy. "

Around that time, Sheila began researching Alexis de Tocqueville, a historical figure whose journey to America and discovery of democracy at age 25 mirrored Sheila's own journey to America at age 25.

C-SPAN had run a series on de Tocqueville that Sheila followed religiously and when they sponsored a national viewers' competition on the impact of the series, Sheila was eager to enter. She ended up submitting a first place entry through the

support of New Frontiers peers and technical assistance from MCC employees Ken Costello and Ron Rangel.

"I was seventy years old and for me the honor was as good as winning a gold medal in the Olympics. I told the world, called friends in Jersey."

Opportunities continue to open up for Sheila through her classes and interactions with New Frontiers. Her research on de Tocqueville's wife was recently included in renowned English historian's Hugh Brogan's biography; and through encouragement by New Frontier's Peers, NAU professor Marty Sommerness, and C-SPAN employees, she wrote her autobiography. Her book, *Two Flags, One Heart*, is an account of growing up in the midst of the German occupation of her home off the coast of Normandy during World War II.

Sheila continues to be an active member of MCC's New Frontiers.

New Frontiers is a sponsored membership organization for retirees to continue learning. They host peer-led and peer-taught courses, volunteer at MCC and award a student scholarship each year. Their community education courses enroll more than 1,500 individuals each semester.



Music students to participate in Songwriter's Expo

Mesa Community College students are polishing up their songwriting skills to participate in a nationally acclaimed songwriting conference in Tucson next month. The 11th Annual Durango Songwriter's Expo is a combination of workshops, listening sessions, panels, showcases and open mics. More than 40 music industry pros and hit songwriters will participate.

Registration is still available and open to any songwriter in the community. A special discounted price of \$200 has been arranged for Maricopa County Community College students.

Alexandra Perdue, MCC Music Business Faculty, has been working with event organizer, Jim Attebery, to also secure a limited number of student internships for the event. Interns will help support the event organizers in exchange for free registration.

Perdue said the expo is a fantastic opportunity for music students and songwriters.

"Durango Songwriter's Expo provides participants a great opportunity to network and showcase their talent to A&R executives from major labels," Perdue said. "The intimate, low-key atmosphere of the event allows participants the

chance to meet other songwriters who are producing number-one hits."

Perdue, a former vice president of AOL Music, said songwriters can pre-register to showcase their talent in front of major music industry decision-makers, representing all genres of music. In past years, new artists/writers have been signed to deals at the expo and two number one songs have been written there by participating songwriters.

Special guests include Jill Sobule ("I Kissed A Girl"), Matt Scannell from Vertical Horizon, budding Nashville songwriter, Kylie Sackley, BMI Songwriters of the Year, Big Al Anderson and Chuck Cannon, Gary Baker, Walt Aldridge, and a who's who of music industry pros.

The expo takes place Oct. 4-6 at the Esplendor Resort in Rio Rico, AZ, 45 minutes south of the Tucson airport.

To register, visit <http://www.durango-songwriters-expo.com/>.

To receive the discounted MCCC price, contact Jim Attebery at (970) 259-9747. For those interested in internships or traveling to the expo as a group, email Perdue at musicbiz@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

AriZoni Awards Recognize MCC Performing Arts

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown Receives Five Awards

MCC's Youth Theatre, Act One Musical Productions, recently received five ariZoni awards for their performance of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Awards include the Zoni for Overall Production in the category of Children's Musicals and individual awards for Lori Towne for Director and for Choreography, Jennifer Crandall for Musical Direction and Rebekah Burnham for Actress in a Major Role.

"They did a marvelous job," said MCC music department chairperson Sue Anne Lucius. "We are thrilled and proud of the fact that these awards recognize the hard work, dedication and talent of these individuals."

The ariZoni awards have been a part of the local theatre scene since 1991. This year 160 theatres participated with more than 3,000 actors. Lucius, Lyn Dutton and Lori Towne were all presenters for the awards ceremonies.

Towne assumed that because she was presenting the children's musical director's award, she would not be winning. Consequently she was caught off guard to look down and see her own name listed.

"It was my first time to win, so it was very exciting," said director Lori Towne. "You never know how the judges see the show and hope that they enjoyed your vision and performance of the show."

The red carpet, flashing cameras and well wishers greeted the 26 MCC nominees from the music and theatre departments to the black tie awards ceremony held at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts.

All seven actors in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, ages 13 through 17 were nominated for awards. Recipient Rebekah Burnham and cast members, James Burnham and Meredith Baker who played Sally, Schroeder and Lucy respectively, performed *My New Philosophy* from the production as a part of the entertainment for the evening.

"Overall it is a very supportive event of the arts in Arizona," Lucius said. "Anyone nominated is a star in their own right."

Recipients received an inscribed hardwood plaque in the shape of the state of Arizona.

Recognitions

**Do you know someone who should be recognized?
Send your suggestions to Marcy Snitzer.**

Recognition to...

Josh Rathkamp, MCC English Faculty, on the publication of his book of poetry *Some Nights No Cars at All*. Josh will be doing readings in support of the book, including one at Changing Hands bookstore in October. Congratulations Josh!

