

September 16, 2008

# the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## Physical Science/Planetarium Grand Opening

Mesa Community College, Barton Malow and SmithGroup join together to invite the public to the dedication and opening of MCC's new physical science building and planetarium Monday, Sept. 22 at 9 a.m. Tours of the facility will follow the ceremony.

The 60,000 square foot building coupled with the 2,100 square foot planetarium will be the first LEED certified building at MCC and first major LEED certified building in the Maricopa County Community College District. Barton Malow was the Construction Manager at Risk.



The SmithGroup-designed facility houses state-of-the-art classrooms and labs to serve the nearly 5,000 students a semester that enroll in astronomy, chemistry, engineering, geology and physics courses. The building's design also reflects the college's focus to provide an intellectually engaging environment which supports student/faculty collaboration and innovative teaching methods responsive to a variety of learning styles.

"In the building design, we tried to maximize the opportunity for students to learn in formal, informal and impromptu settings," said Mike Sims, MCC physical science department chair. "We also tried to make the instructional technology seamless from both student and faculty perspectives."

SmithGroup, the architecture and engineering firm, incorporated sustainability features to meet the strict environmental standards needed for LEED certification and equipped the building with technology to continually assess energy performance, temperature and air flow. Energy from the sun will help power the 53-seat planetarium through solar panels donated by SRP. The panels also double as a shade canopy for the Astronomy Plaza below.

"Last semester I had a class in the old building, which didn't capture my enthusiasm to learn," said Philip Garcia, MCC aeronautical science transfer student. "This building motivates me to take physics and do well."

MCC students, visiting school groups and the public will experience the night sky and universe in the 53-seat planetarium through an IMAX quality,

Digistar 3 projection system built by Evans & Sutherland Computer Co. A rooftop observation deck complements the planetarium for telescopic viewing of the night sky.

"I'm particularly excited about providing students with a state-of-the-art experience to see the planets and Milky Way first hand without going outside of the city," said Kevin Healy, MCC astronomy professor. The \$20 million budget included \$16 million in construction costs with \$4 million in technology, furniture, fixtures and equipment. The project was supported by funds made available from the MCCCCD bond initiative of 2004.

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## Bond Report Card

Fall 2004, voters approved a \$951 million bond initiative for the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) which included \$90 million for Mesa Community College (MCC). Following is an update on how MCC is using its bond monies to build new facilities and improve existing buildings.

### Construction Cost Outlook

It is important to note that the 2004 bond package accounted for a 3% increase in materials and labor costs each year; however, costs have increased by 37% since January 2004 and continue to rise. MCC is responding by looking at innovative solutions, including collaborations and partnerships, to supplement the College's bond dollars so that all projects can be completed.

*Note: Project completion dates are subject to change based on construction schedules.*

### Southern and Dobson Campus

#### *Physical Science and Health and Wellness Buildings*

MCC's original plans for Southern and Dobson called for the construction of both a new Physical Science building and a Health and Wellness building. Given the rise in construction costs, MCC elected to build a new Physical Science facility which opened this fall and to refurbish the old Physical Science building into a state-of-the-art facility for Health and Wellness, which is scheduled for completion fall of 2009.

#### *Communication and Humanities*

Capital dollars were originally allocated for a new building to house Communication and Humanities. As a result of rising costs, the existing Humanities and Communication buildings will be refurbished. Renovations are slated to begin in 2009.

#### *Performing and Fine Arts*

The construction of a new Performing and Fine Arts building was originally scheduled to begin in 2010. Due to the increase in construction costs, MCC moved forward with a new option.

In May 2008, the College purchased the Harkins Theatre and Fuddruckers buildings and property located southeast of the Southern and Dobson Campus. The Harkins Theatre will be remodeled into a performing arts complex with construction scheduled to begin in 2010. Discussion is underway concerning specific plans for the Fuddruckers building.

#### *Site Development*

The Kirk Student Center is scheduled to be refurbished beginning May 2010 to add additional space for students to gather and socialize.

Following are some of the site development projects completed to date:

- Upgrades to heating and cooling systems to improve energy efficiency
- Creation of 8 new tennis courts
- Installation of additional security cameras, a state-of-the-art monitoring system, an improved communication system and increased building safety measures to enhance campus security
- Creation of 231 additional parking spaces for students
- Upgrades to old servers and software and hardware replacements

### Red Mountain Campus

Due to increasing construction costs, one large building will replace the original plan for three new buildings. The new building will include classrooms and laboratories, a performing arts facility, faculty offices, spaces for students to gather and study, a Cyber Café and an undergraduate research classroom. Groundbreaking took place May 2008 with a completion date of fall 2009.

### Downtown Center

MCC's Fire Science Program is the driving force behind the Downtown Center and will provide regional fire training. Negotiations are in progress with the City of Mesa to purchase the fourth floor of the Carousel View building on Centennial Way in downtown Mesa, where MCC and NAU are currently offering classes. Bond dollars will be used for the purchase, remodel, and acquisition of new technology for a state-of-the-art Fire Training Program.

Original plans called for the creation of a new facility in downtown Mesa. Due to inflation and the recent purchase of the Harkins and Fuddruckers property, the new facility has been relocated to the southeast corner of MCC's Southern and Dobson campus. With partners Mesa Public Schools and Northern Arizona University, MCC will build a P-20 center that will eventually offer educational programs ranging from preschool through the master's level. Construction of the P-20 building is slated to begin summer of 2009 with a projected completion date of summer 2010.

### Distance Learning

MCC's distance learning program, particularly online classes, has tripled in size over the last several years. A new content management system and additional computer hardware have been purchased and access to online student services has been enhanced.

MCC will be seeking accreditation to offer an online degree. nificantly more electronic locks than Southern and Dobson.

## MCC In the News: explore the archives

Ever wonder where the older press releases in the News section of the homepage go when new ones appear? Looking for an article on MCC that you saw in the newspaper a few months ago?

Click on the word “News” on the homepage and you’ll be taken to an archive packed full of news stories. Browse through the three categories of news: “In The News,” “MCC Press Releases,” and “MCC Press Release Archives.” There’s also a list of most viewed articles and recent articles.

Thanks to the new News database, designed by Jonathan Baney in Web Services, the Office of Institutional Advancement now has the capability to maintain an organized, searchable database of press releases and news story links. Photos and working links can also be included in the press releases, something that was not possible with the old News section.

The “In The News” section has a searchable archive of more than 160 news stories and video segments that have appeared in local publications. These are the stories that are sent out by email to MCC staff and faculty. Most of the links to the more recent stories are still accessible online, but if not, a summary is provided and the IA office has copies of the entire story.

The “MCC Press Releases” section contains only the most current press releases written by the IA staff. But upon examining the “MCC Press Release Archives” section, you’ll find older press releases archived by semester and year.

After reading a release or news story, employees are encouraged to use the “rate it” function to rate the story. Visitors can also see how many viewers have visited the page and email the story to a friend. The press release with the most viewers so far has been the Financial Aid Night announcement, with 1,181 viewers.

So take some time to explore the News section and keep up to date on the latest MCC news!

## Art/Math Murals Project

Four new ceramic tile murals grace the outer walls of two buildings at Mesa Community College, designed and handcrafted in painstaking detail by MCC faculty and student artists.

The murals are a fusion of art, math and culture, designed to educate the community about mathematics and art in different cultures. Madelaine Chowdhury, an MCC math instructor who is Muslim, said the project also serves another purpose as the nation remembers the anniversary of Sept. 11.



*Linda Speranza, Madelaine Chowdhury and Sam Hodges create ceramic tiles for the new mural.*



visualization of Islam,” Chowdhury said.

As a math professor, Chowdhury was not sure how to accomplish the visual aspect of the goal, but the project came into focus as she researched tessellations of girih (geometric star-and-polygon) patterns common in Islamic art and architecture. The patterns are mathematical in nature. Art murals with similar patterns were created from the ninth through the 15th century across Europe, Africa and Asia.

Chowdhury said she was inspired by these patterns, noting that Christians, Muslims and Jews all used similar designs in art and architecture as they worked together to build a thriving society during this period.

So Chowdhury teamed up with MCC art instructor Linda Speranza to create four beautiful murals with similar patterns.

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“We wanted to replicate what they might have done during this period in our murals,” Chowdhury said.

The names of the murals are representative of harmony and peace among the people of various cultures: “Umma” (community); “Tawhid” (making one); “Salam” (peace); and “Mizan” (balance).

The actual production of the murals began four months ago, with Chowdhury, Speranza, and MCC students Sam Hodges and Stephanie Lomatewama working more than 50 hours per week designing, cutting, firing, glazing, grouting and sealing hundreds of ceramic tiles. Doug Carlson designed the metal templates and MCC’s maintenance crew installed the murals.

“Every piece of these murals is completely handmade,” Chowdhury said. “Each piece had to be very precise, like a jigsaw puzzle.”

Chowdhury said the team is pleased and proud of the final project.

“I’m hoping the murals add to the aesthetics of the campus and at the same time they are educational mathematically, artistically and culturally,” Chowdhury said. “The entire time we were always in awe of the amount of creativity during the time these types of murals were created. It was amazing to mimic some of that creative synergy.”



The murals are located on the west and south walls of the Art/Communication Building and the east and north walls of the Math/Computer Science Building at MCC’s Southern and Dobson Campus.

## Back-to-school haircuts



Bottom photo, from left: Mike McCallister, Randy Stapley Jr., and Randy Stapley

Mesa Community College IT employees are sporting fresh back-to-school haircuts after shedding their long locks for a good cause at Earl’s Academy of Beauty in Mesa.

Mike McCallister, Randy Stapley and Stapley’s son, Randy Jr., 18, donated about 11 inches of hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss due to a medical condition called alopecia areata.

“I feel like I went from Cousin Itt to Uncle Fester,” said Mike McCallister, rubbing his hand over his newly-shorn head.

The haircuts were the culmination of a competition between Mike and Randy, after Mike’s last haircut in January of 2007 spurred a challenge to see who could go longer without a haircut. Randy’s last haircut was in April of 2007, and Randy Jr.’s last cut was three years ago.

All eyes were on the three men as student stylists at the academy lined the men up next to each other and started trimming their locks. Braided lengths of approximately 11 inches were cut from all of their heads. Randy also had his facial hair shaved.

The trio cited a couple of reasons for their haircuts: to provide positive publicity for MCC and to donate to a good charity.

“It’s good to donate hair so someone else can use it,” Randy said. “My daughter previously did a donation. I’ve had family members who have gone through chemotherapy and lost their hair.”

Shad McCoy, director of Earl’s Academy, said the shop gets about 3 or 4 customers a month who donate their hair to the charity.

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“It’s cool to be part of charity work and pay back and be a part of the community,” McCoy said.

As the men posed for a final photo, holding up lengths of braided hair, Randy said the event was a fantastic experience. There’s even talk of another competition, but it will be a long time before their hair is ready for another donation.

“The last time my hair was this short was when I was in basic training in the Air Force,” Randy said

**Newsbytes 9-16-08**

**International Film Festival**

The MCC International Film Festival, through the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, has received a grant from The Scottsdale League for the Arts to help support its sixth annual festival in the spring of 2009.

In five short years, the MCC International Film Festival has become a major cultural event in the southeast valley. Attracting over 6,500 festival goers, the festival has screened 27 films and hosted 10 internationally reknown directors from Poland, India, USA, Mexico, Sweden, and Iran.

Since 1992, the League has contributed more than \$2.5 Million to support art and art education in the Valley. The League intends to award grants on a competitive basis to non-profit 501(c)3 agencies providing direct services or activities related to the arts and art education in our community.

**President’s Cabinet vs. Leadership Council: How are the two different?**

Employees have asked about the newly formed President’s Cabinet and how it differs from the College Leadership Team.

The President’s Cabinet is a decision making body that meets weekly. Cabinet members are:

- Shouan Pan, President
- Patricia Cardenas-Adame, VP of Student Affairs
- James Mabry, VP of Academic Affairs
- Jerry Davis, VP of Administrative Services
- Rodney Holmes, Provost for the Downtown Campus
- Jo Wilson, Dean of the Red Mountain Campus
- Sonia Filan, Director of Institutional Advancement
- Janet Felton, Executive Assistant to the President

Most cabinet members also hold regular meetings with their respective leadership teams that include deans, department chairs, and directors.

The College Leadership Team (CLT) meeting occurs twice a month and serves as a communication group designed to disseminate

information throughout the college and to gather input on key college issues. The CLT is comprised of administrators and employee group leaders; a full list of names is available in the MCC Committee Membership Handbook 2008-09.

**New digital pianos give students added capabilities**

Twenty new pianos are in place this fall at in the piano lab at the Southern and Dobson campus. The new digital pianos, complete with recording capability and head phones, allow students to record original compositions and also accommodate a class of up to twenty students to be taught simultaneously. Piano is a requisite for all music majors.

The new pianos replaced others that were 30 years old and were since relocated to the Red Mountain campus to meet the needs of piano students as the music program expands there.

**Women’s Leadership Group**

The MCC Women’s Leadership Group (WLG) hosts the year’s first membership drive and talent time on Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m in the north lobby of the Kirk Student Center on the Southern and Dobson campus. On the Red Mountain Campus, the event will take place in room M213.

The following events will be featured: Membership sign-up and information, talented women of MCC, snacks, WLG t-shirts for purchase, drawings for prizes. Membership in the Women’s Leadership Group is open to all Maricopa employees (female and male). Membership dues are \$10 per year (July 1 to June 30) payable to WLG.

To all women: If you would like your talent to be featured (or you know of someone who does), please give us a call or we’ll call you! Campus representatives:

- Darlene Newman @ 1-7410
- Nikki Maroney @ 1-7445
- Kaytie Perry @ 4-7702

The mission of the WLG is to provide for the continuous development of a strong and supportive work environment for the diverse women of Mesa Community College and all the Maricopa Community Colleges.