

MAT and PSA unite



Jule Dicken



Kristie Adamson

The Professional Staff Association (PSA) and Management, Administrative, and Technical (MAT) employee groups have united to bring *Leading the Ownership Spirit* to MCC employees. Kristie Adamson, PSA President, and Jule Dicken, MAT President, are excited to join forces and anticipate further collaborative activities between PSA and MAT. Jule stated, "We hope that by combining such an important development opportunity, PSA and MAT employees will be better able to support each other as they implement the concepts learned into their daily activities."

The seminar teaches attendees life changing principles that encourage teamwork and

stronger working relationships while promoting personal growth. Topics include:

- Defining, creating, and leading a culture of ownership
- The Othello Principle: A tool to leverage rapid personal and team improvement
- Applying principles that unify and ignite the mind, will, strengths, and talents of the team
- Detecting and transforming victim thinking into owner thinking
- Tough-Minded Optimism

The seminar is open to all employees. Please contact Kristie Adamson at 654-7738 or Jule Dicken at 461-7429 to register.

February 14, 2003
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Kirk Student Center, Navajo Room

or

February 21, 2003
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Kirk Student Center, Navajo Room

Newsbytes

- 2002 W-2's were mailed out from the District office January 16 and 17, 2003, through U.S. Mail. If you did not receive your W-2 or if you misplaced it, contact Payroll at payroll@domail.maricopa.edu, by fax (731-8405), or in person. A form is available at the payroll website: www.dist.maricopa.edu/hrweb/payroll.
- A new state of the art speaker system was recently installed in the Theo J. Heap Gym. MCC is the first business in the country to purchase this type of system.
- MCC at Red Mountain now has an ATM.
- The MCC phone directory is accessible via MCC's homepage. Visit: www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/collegeinfo/contacts.jsp. A printable PDF version as well as a searchable version of the phone book is available.



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College Launches Accreditation Self Study

Mesa Community College will have its 10-year accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) in academic year 2004-2005. Preparations are under way for the self-study process, which will result in a self-study report to be submitted in Fall 2004. The visit to the college will be scheduled for Spring 2005.

Dr. Cecilia Lopez, Associate Director of the Higher Learning Commission, helped launch the college's self-study at a luncheon held on January 16. In her address to the self-study committee, Dr. Lopez reinforced the value of this self-reflective process to the college community. This is an opportunity for us to examine what we do to accomplish our mission, to provide evidence of these

accomplishments, and to better position the college for the future.

According to the Commission's *Handbook for Accreditation*, the purpose of a self-study is for an institution to "formally examine itself, assess its strengths and challenges, and plan how to capitalize on those strengths and eliminate or alleviate those challenges." The self-study is conducted by a committee comprised of faculty members, staff, and administrators representing all areas of the college, as well as students and community members. The committee was formed under the leadership of Dr. Gail Mee, Dean of Instruction, and Dr. Gayla Preisser, Self-Study Coordinator and faculty member in the Psychology Department.



Dr. Cecilia Lopez, Associate Director of the Higher Learning Commission, (left) and Dr. Gail Mee, Dean of Instruction

continued on inside, see Accreditation

continued from front, Accreditation

Committees are organized around each of the following five Criteria for Accreditation which are defined by the Commission with significant input from its membership:

- Criterion One: Mission and Integrity
- Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future
- Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
- Criterion Five: Engagement and Service

Three additional committees will undertake other aspects of the self-study. These include providing data related to the Commission's "Operational Indicators," preparing information needed to seek approval to offer an on-line degree program, and coordinating the many communications and events necessary to complete the self-study. The committee will share information regularly with the entire college community to keep all informed and involved in this important process. Look for the accreditation icon in future communications; it indicates new information or updates about MCC's accreditation process.

Dr. Lopez visits with Dr. Barry Vaughan, Faculty Senate President.



Kaleidoscope showcases faculty innovation

Kaleidoscope: "A series of changing phases or events—Kalos, beautiful"

Have you been searching for time to work on that brilliant educational plan you've had in the back of your mind? The Kaleidoscope provides faculty the time and means to research educational projects. Faculty selected to participate have two semesters to create and implement their projects. The five selected each semester join five faculty members from the previous semester to form a cohort that meets weekly to discuss projects and brainstorm various approaches. At the end of each semester, the senior five members present their findings, and a new group of five is selected through an application process. This fall's presentations displayed a diverse and vibrant approach to education, while demonstrating the dedication of MCC Faculty to innovation.

Ron Dinchak, Life Science: Ron created several "learning gardens" that connect the existing Xeriscape Garden to the Rose Garden. The project focused on involving other departments, establishing community partnerships, obtaining grant funds, and increasing utilization. The resulting gardens have unlimited potential because of the tremendous community and intercampus support received.

Judy Christensen, Philosophy/Religious Studies: Judy worked with several mediums to develop online curriculum and interactive web pages. Her religion website provides general information and assignments, as well as a video link of several religious practices, so that her students can better understand different religions.



Ron Dinchak (top); Suzy Horton, Judy Christensen, and Peggy Johnson (bottom, left to right)

Peggy Johnson, Life Science: Peggy focused her energy on developing reusable learning objects to make abstract concepts come to life. Through trial and error, she created several pieces using Flash animation and video streaming.

Suzy Horton, Psychology: Suzy explored new measurements in love, sex, and friendship. Her evaluations of self jealousy, desire, love attitudes, friendship capabilities, trust, passion, and overall relationship approach provided intriguing and somewhat entertaining revelations to students as well as faculty and staff participating in her presentation.

The Kaleidoscope presentations provided a casual atmosphere where faculty peers could celebrate achievements, laugh about mistakes, inform, and inspire. For more information on the Kaleidoscope program, please contact project chair Ann Ewing at 461-7028.

Mark Your Calendars

Assessment Week 2003
February 24–28, 2003

More information to come!

Bits & Snippets

Who are the distinguished retirees displayed below?



Submit ideas for "Bits & Snippets" to Marcy Snitzer at marcy.snitzer@mccmail.maricopa.edu.

Ann Ewing receives WPA Outstanding Teaching Award



Ann Ewing, MCC Psychology professor, is the first person from a community college to win the Western Psychological Association (WPA) Outstanding Teaching Award. She shares this distinction with colleagues from institutions such as Stanford University, Claremont McKenna College, and San Diego State University.

The WPA's Outstanding Teaching Award was established in 1993 to recognize individuals for their contributions to the teaching of psychology. Leona Aiken, a psychology professor at Arizona State University, and past president of WPA, nominated Ann for the award. Leona's letter states:

"Ann is gifted, creative, indefatigable, filled with joy about teaching. She has touched her students in ways that are so very rare by giving them an excitement about psychology and a sense of ability to 'do psychology' very early in their careers. She has created innovative curriculum. She has been a sustained leader in teaching at the department, campus, state, and national levels. I marvel at all she accomplishes."

The selection process is quite rigorous. After the initial nomination is made, candidates must submit supporting materials, including letters of recommendation, a curriculum vita, and samples of work. The three-member Fellows & Awards Committee then evaluates the materials based on the following criteria: outstanding teaching in the classroom, creation of innovative teaching techniques, and publications on teaching techniques.

When asked what she thought this award meant for community colleges, Ann replied, "I think it's a reflection of an awareness of the role community colleges play in teaching psychology."

Over her 25 year career at MCC, Ann has won numerous awards, including the American Psychological Association Division Two Teaching Excellence Award for Two Year Colleges, 2000; MCC Faculty Excellence Award, 1997; Certificate of Distinction from the Association of College Honor Societies for Psi Beta, 2000; and Psi Beta Advisor of the Year, 2000. Psi Beta is a Psychology Honor Society, and Ann co-advises this club with colleague Suzy Horton.

Ann serves on the Executive Board of the WPA, is a member of the American Psychological Association (APA), and is the chair of Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges (PT@CC). PT@CC is a national organization that was founded last year.

Ann will travel to Vancouver, British Columbia to receive her award at the annual WPA Convention. She is also invited to address the 2004 convention and is automatically awarded fellow status in the WPA. Congratulations to Ann!