

Volume 31, Issue 4 March-April 2023

## NEW FRONTIERS CALENDAR

**SUMMER & FALL PROPOSALS WANTED**  
<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/propose-a-class.html>

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
[9:30 AM] Monday, March 6, 2023

**OUT TO LUNCH**  
[11:30 AM] Thursday, March 9, 2023  
Charleston's Restaurant  
[Google Map Link](#)  
1623 S Stapley Dr., Mesa, AZ 85204  
<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/social.html>

**MCC SPRING BREAK**  
March 13 - 19 the campus is closed.

**ANNUAL PICNIC**  
Thursday, April 6, 2023  
Details will be coming!  
*Bring a Friend!*

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
[9:30 AM] Monday, April 10, 2023

**STUDY HALL**  
[4:00 PM] Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
Check website for more information.  
<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/social.html>

Remember, you can find a calendar of all our events, meetings and activities on our website.  
<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/calendar.html>



## ENGAGING CLASSES

Classroom – Full Attendance at Thomas E Sheridan's class "Arizona, A History" Part II.



## GUEST SPEAKERS

Police – Motor Officer George Chwe shares tips on what to do if you encounter police during a traffic stop, explains the traffic unit and their enforcement efforts, and common misperceptions of law enforcement.



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Hikers – The hiking group scours Union Peak Trail at the Sonoran Preserve in Phoenix.

# CURIOSITY NEVER RETIRES

*Come Join Us!*

Membership is open to anyone interested in lifelong learning. While the majority of our members reside in the East Valley, we have members from all around the greater Phoenix area. Winter visitors are also welcome.

## NFL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

NFL awarded three, \$2,000 scholarships for the current school year (2022-2023). As a lifelong learning organization we are grateful to be able to offer some financial support to students pursuing their education. The three students are: Erica Marr, Ranya AbuElian, and Paige Kestian. We thought you'd like to meet a couple of them and read their stories.

### Ranya AbuElian

#### Nursing Student from Mesa Community College

I am a twenty-two-year-old newlywed young lady living in Mesa, Arizona. However, I did not always grow my roots in America. At the age of four, I moved here from a heavily politicized and volatile country. My parents had big dreams for their children which included an education, healthcare, and a mighty opportunity for a future.

When I arrived in America, I did not speak one word of English and was placed in a solo English as a second language course with a one-on-one instructor. From kindergarten to the sixth grade, she ensured that I was supported in every way possible. To this day, I still remember the countless hours we spent together learning from one another.

As I worked through our public education system, I was greeted with exceptional instructors that supported my ambitions and nurtured my creativity.

Once I hit high school, I delved into STEM with a ferocious appetite. Every single science course that was available and offered was on my roster. Biomedical research, biology, chemistry, biostatistics, and more! Instead of a gold rush, I struck a science rush! I believe this foundation is the reason behind my nursing success. When college loomed around the corner, there was no doubt that nursing is the field for me. It offered me a chance to give back to this outstanding country that has given me so much. Standing by the side of our most vulnerable population and feeding the same encouragement my instructors fed to me is an honor.

I take pride in my chosen career field because as the most trusted profession for twenty plus years in a row, there is a reasonability placed on our shoulders. It is not a light weight; however, I am glad I have been called into this extraordinary path.

*"You don't build a House without a Foundation"*

*- Ibrahim Abuelian*

*(DAD)*

I owe much of my success to my parents' sacrifice because I am fortunate enough to call America my home because opportunity is found left and right. No matter where you are or how you are raised up, there will always be a window cracked open for you to pave a way to a better future.

### Erica Marr

#### Nursing Student from Mesa Community College

My name is Erica Marr: former elementary school teacher, mom to a beautiful daughter in kindergarten, and wife of 15 years to a police officer. We are a pet-loving family with 2 dogs, 3 cats, a hamster, a turtle and a fish tank. They keep us busy and entertained! In the summer we love to paddleboard and are working on teaching the new puppy how to ride with us.

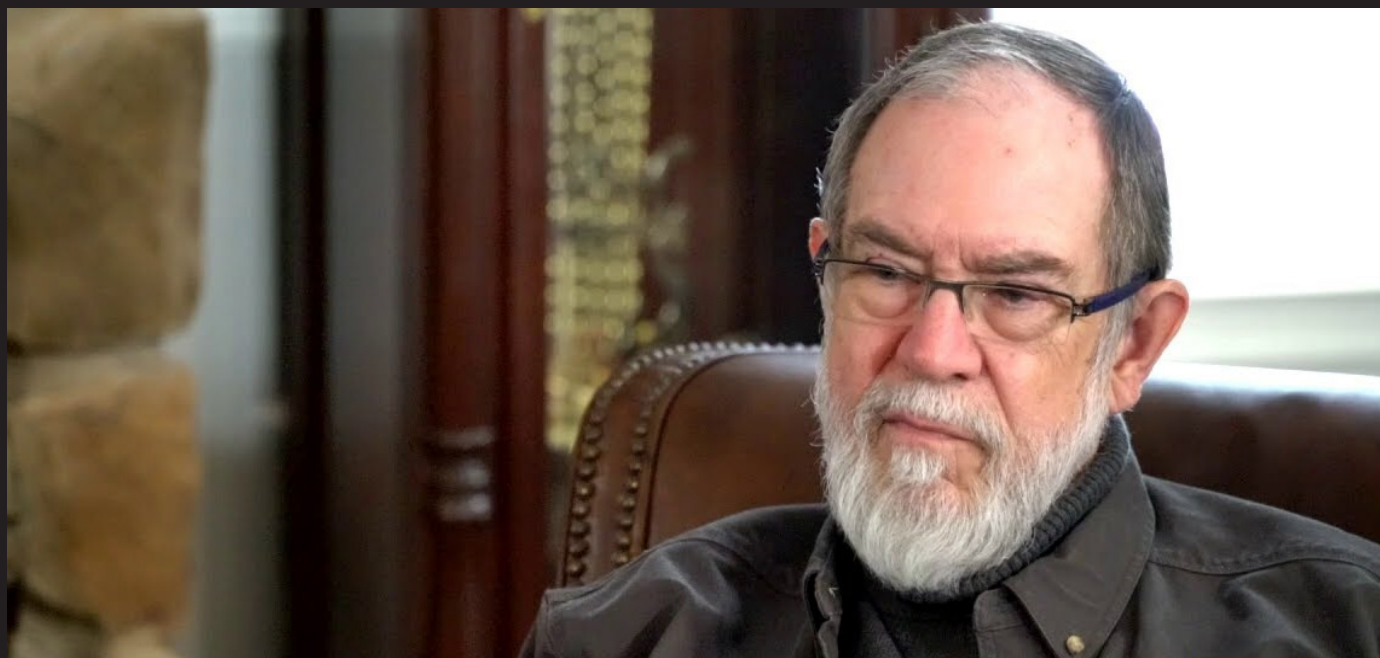
I am also a nursing student pursuing two additional degrees in my 30s. I am in a Concurrent Enrollment Program to earn my Associate's degree in nursing at MCC in addition to my MSN degree at GCU. I greatly appreciate this scholarship which helps to ease the financial burden of my decision to attend two colleges at once.

I work days as an LPN on a cardiac unit, and my husband works nights for Tempe PD. We try to arrange our schedules to allow one of us to be home with Scarlett, our 6-year-old as much as possible. All the juggling can feel tough in the moment, but I know the trade-off will be worth it when I finish school this May.

I look forward to continuing work as an RN on the cardiac unit, and would like to eventually pursue a degree as a Nurse Practitioner.

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of your award!

## AFGHANISTAN



**MICHAEL METRINKO**  
*IRAN HOSTAGE SURVIVOR*



**Ali Sina Sharifi**



**Sadar Sharifi**

Afghanistan has been a favorite topic of Bob Dukelow ever since he served with the first NATO International Security Assistance Force in Kabul 2003-2004.

The Afghanistan Update Class on Zoom that featured three presenters from Pennsylvania was a huge success. Michael Metrinko, Iran Hostage Crisis Survivor and a friend of Bob's arranged for us to speak directly to Afghan refugees Ali Sina Sharifi, now a student at Shippensburg College and his sister, Sadar Sharifi, a high school student in Carlisle, PA. The candid insights of these young people who were sponsored by Mike, regarding the current situation in Afghanistan, was amazing.



## NEW MEMBER COFFEE



Getting to know New NFLL Members at the New Member Coffee!

## OPEN HOUSE 2023

In a collaboration, on January 20, 2023, Nancy Spence (Curriculum), Mary Boehlen (Membership) and Peggy Randolph (Communications), together with Neva Hansen and Sammy Trujillo of the Office of Community Partnerships of MCC, we held our first Open House in three years!

After completing membership, the new members went to the Cashier to pay their \$80 membership fee.

In all, **thirty-one people became New Frontiers' members**, of which sixteen were new members and fifteen were returning members. The recent increase brings our membership to 223 members.

As a follow-up to the Open House, a New Members Coffee was held on Friday, February 3, where new members mingled with old members.

A few people have already committed to joining one of the Committees.

*Jennifer Wong/Mary Boehlen*



# OPEN HOUSE



Marie Ganansia (seated) and Nancy Spence were actively greeting attendees.



New members first came to Room M200, at the MCC Red Mountain campus.



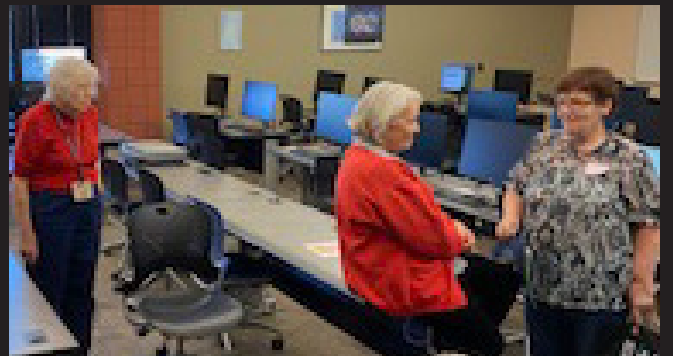
New members received an Orientation package and had refreshments.



All attendees had the chance to talk with Class Instructors/Facilitators.



They followed color-coded footsteps to the elevator, down to the ground floor, and to the public computer room where they attended Orientation, Registration, and Pre-enrollment.



Peggy Randolph and her team helped members register for New Frontiers.

Check out pictures of many of our activities at: <https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/photos-2022-2023.html>



## AZ COWBOY STORIES

Rolf Flake, cowboy poet and Arizona storyteller

One could hardly imagine a classroom full of our lifelong learners being interested in raising beef cattle. When Rolf Flake, cowboy poet and treasured Arizona storyteller took the stage, it would seem many of the class, mostly from the midwest, knew exactly what he was talking about when he spun his yarns about ranching on his 50 square miles of the desert. At 92-years-old, he interrupted his day of branding several hundred steers to entertain the New Frontiers. We hope we can get him back again.

## SUMMER COURSE PROPOSALS WANTED

Deadline April 15

The Summer Session of classes will run June 5 – August 6, 2023. Class proposals are being solicited now. If you want to share your knowledge in-person or online, or just help facilitate a DVD course, the Curriculum Committee will appreciate your help!

Course formats may be a single class or multiple classes. New this year will be a few blocked courses being offered several days a week for one or two weeks. Would you like to start a knitting, crochet, cross-stitch, woodcarving, or other special interest group? Summer is a great time to do a trial run! Want to share your latest trip pictures? NFLL members love seeing the adventures others have been on. If you missed a class and want a repeat series, let us know.

This summer we will once again welcome non-members to online classes as a recruitment enticement, so if you are out of state, please share our links and join yourself to keep in touch with your NFLL friends.

Submit your proposal or ideas on our Google Form found at: <https://forms.gle/oG3LH2b2jH9HWU1H8>

## FALL COURSE PROPOSAL OPEN

The Fall Course Proposal site is up and accepting your classes for Fall 2023 at:

<https://forms.gle/9qTUYPJbBrbRkKrX7>

The Fall Term will begin September 18, 2023 and classes end on December 8, 2023. Course formats may be a single class or multiple classes. Would you like to start a special interest group to meet with others? In the past special interest groups have included art, bridge, knitting, woodcarving, etc. NFLL with MCC can help find a spot to meet, provide communication support, and monitor participation.

Want to share your latest trip pictures? NFLL members love seeing the adventures others have been on. If you missed a class and want a repeat series, let us know. If you want a Great Course repeated, let us know!

We also need facilitators both in-person and online to help introduce speakers, monitor attendance and be the ‘face’ of NFLL during the class, training is provided.

If any of these things interest you, join the Curriculum Committee by contacting Suzanne Brown, Chair at [Suzannebrownpt@gmail.com](mailto:Suzannebrownpt@gmail.com) or Jacki McDugle, Co-Chair at [mcdugle@gmail.com](mailto:mcdugle@gmail.com).



## YOUR GRAPHIC DESIGN SKILLS ARE NEEDED

Curriculum Committee is looking for a volunteer to assist with publishing the Fall, Spring, and Summer Schedules.

Prior experience with a desktop publishing program is helpful, but not required. Most of the work takes place in August for the Fall schedule, December for the Spring, and May for the Summer.

We’d love to have you and your ideas as part of our team!

Current Curriculum Committee members are welcomed to apply also!

If interested, contact either Suzanne Brown, Chair at [Suzannebrownpt@gmail.com](mailto:Suzannebrownpt@gmail.com) or Jacki McDugle, Co-Chair at [mcdugle@gmail.com](mailto:mcdugle@gmail.com).

## BENEFITS OF NEW FRONTIERS MEMBERSHIP



Since New Frontiers' members are also enrolled as students of Mesa Community College, they have access to perks which are available to MCC students.

- ✓ Free access to Microsoft 360 Office Suite and the premium WebEx video-conferencing app which allows you to hold an online meeting with 99 participants.
- ✓ 50% discount off tuition fee for all MCC classes on a non-credit basis.
- ✓ For gym enthusiasts, MCC's gyms at both Red Mountain and Dobson offer a free membership to New Frontiers' members who have Medicare coverage for the following fitness programs: SilverSneakers®, Active&Fit® and Renew Active/One Pass by UnitedHealthcare®.
  - ✓ If you don't have coverage by one of the above, student membership at both the Red Mountain and Dobson gym (all New Frontiers' members are MCC students) is \$50 per semester, \$25 for a half semester and \$30 for the summer.

**Annual membership to New Frontiers is \$80 for the entire year (Fall, Spring and Summer).**

- ✓ With membership to New Frontiers, at no extra charge, all members are able to attend as many classes as they wish during each semester.
- ✓ Members can participate in monthly social activities which are sponsored by the Social Committee: Tours, Out-to-Lunch times, and Study Hall late afternoon social gatherings at various restaurants around the Valley.
- ✓ You can see the other benefits listed on our website here!

**Come and meet old friends and make new friends at New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning!**

*Jennifer Wong*



## PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT

### NEW FRONTIERS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

New Frontiers is an organization dedicated to adults wishing to continue their discovery of knowledge and advance their learning. Founded in 1995, New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning was created through the sponsorship of Mesa Community College.

The community college is located in Mesa, Arizona and serves the communities of the East Valley of metropolitan Phoenix. We are a peer-led, self-governed organization with interests in volunteer opportunities, travel, hiking, and healthy lifestyles.

Discovering new, lifelong friendships is an added bonus.

New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning  
Mesa Community College  
Office of Community Partnerships  
7110 East McKellips Road  
Mesa, AZ 85207

Phone: 480-461-6330 | 480-461-6266  
Fax: 480-461-6329  
email: [neva.hansen@mesacc.edu](mailto:neva.hansen@mesacc.edu)



### Dr. Brian Dille



Dr. Brian Dille is a faculty member in MCC's Social Science Department. He received his BA from Brigham Young University and his MA and PhD from Arizona State University. In addition to his full teaching schedule including World Politics and Political Issues and Public Policy, both in person and online, Dr. Dille directs the Model UN program for MCC students and high school students each Spring.

Dr. Dille has offered New Frontiers lectures for a number of years. One of the favorites of our members is during election time. One fond memory is the year we had a number of proposals on the ballot. Dr. Dille explained each one to our members in attendance and following his lecture a number of our members adjourned to the Faculty Lounge next door to complete their ballots. It was election day and they needed to get those ballots in the mail.

For Spring 2023, Dr. Dille shared his concern with the health of our democracy. He said that there is a general concern that something is broken in our communities. He has developed the workshop Creating a Community of Belonging, and is working with civic and business leaders to boost civic skills in our community. He shared some of the skills with NF members in attendance and talked about how we can help.

### NEW FRONTIERS GOVERNING BODY

President – Cindy Schrantz  
Vice President – Bob Dukelow  
Secretary – Diane Grogan  
Treasurer – Fred Searing  
Members at Large – Allan Zisner, Ron Schueman, Margo Heaps  
Past Presidents – Roland Tanner, Marlin Fried, Dan Taylor  
Curriculum – Suzanne Brown  
Social – Arlys Medlicott  
Membership – Mary Boehlen, Bob Dukelow  
Volunteer Committee – Mary Adamick  
Community Outreach – Office of Associate Dean Student Services – Monica Margaillan  
Program Coordinators – Neva Hansen, Sammy Rudi Trujillo  
Scholarship – Barbara Thelander