



History of ASU Book Written by MCC Alumna

Do you know the details of how Arizona State University's "Sparky" mascot originated, or the history of the campus Victory Bell? Find out by reading "Arizona State University," a new book by Mesa Community College alumna Stephanie R. deLusé, co-authored by Denise Bates.

Current and past students will enjoy learning about ASU's history and how

the university has grown to include four campuses and 70,000 students. Stephanie, whose relationship with the university began when she was a child who roller-skated around the campus, offers a photographic narrative of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and citizens of ASU.

Stephanie earned an associate's degree in communication at MCC in 1988 and went on to earn a master's degree and Ph.D. in Psychology at ASU. She has work forthcoming or in literary journals such as The Griffin, The MacGuffin, Emrys, Wild Violet Magazine, The Legendary, and TRIVIA: Voices of Feminism, and in academic journals including Family Court Review, Issues in Integrative Studies, and Family Process. On the popular side, she has essays in books like: The Psychology of Survivor, The Psychology of Joss Whedon, and The Psychology of Superheroes. By day, she professes in Barrett, the Honors College at ASU. Her teaching has won her awards, including "Last Lecture," and her writing has earned a Pushcart nomination.

Stephanie shared a few thoughts with our readers on her journey after MCC:

Q: How did your MCC experience help prepare you for your current career?

A: MCC gave me an excellent base on which to build. The classes I took were rigorous and taught by strong faculty. They were fine examples to draw on when I later became a professor myself. In terms of the Communication degree, I transferred seamlessly to ASU to continue majoring in Communication. There I dug into three emphasis areas—interpersonal, intercultural, and organizational communication. I shot to the top of my classes at ASU and surely MCC deserves some of the credit for that. I went on to get a Masters and PhD in Psychology (emphasis in social psychology) and continue to draw on communication skills and theory to this day in daily life and in academic pursuits.

Q: How did the book project come about?

A: As an Arizona native, I am amazed at how much the Valley of the Sun has changed just in my lifetime. I witnessed a lot of change at ASU as well, and was worried that so much of the great history would be lost if it wasn't collected and shared. I've spent my adult life at ASU either as a student or a teacher, and while I appreciate the changes and growth, it seemed important to remember its exciting origin story and honor the great citizens, students, faculty, and staff that helped make what ASU is today possible.

There's so much interesting and important work that goes on at a university that many might not realize...this book helps show some glimpses of that and illustrates the tight connection between the community and the university. They really are tightly intertwined institutions like MCC and ASU are critical to the well-being of the community on so many levels, and the institutions wouldn't be there without the community. It's a win-win.

Q: Tell us about the process.

A: My co-author and I read researched information, interviewed as many "old-timers" as we could find to collect memories and old photos to capture history from the very beginning until now. In the end, we used 229 photos of thousands that we saw, and it really is a beautiful and easy-to-read book while still conveying a lot of information.

Q: Tell us about your role in MCC's 1988 Commencement Services.

A: I was one of the commencement speakers in spring of 1988. All the 4.0 students were invited to audition to deliver the student speech. I don't remember how many of us actually auditioned for a group of faculty, but they made a very interesting decision. Apparently three of us had done a fine job but took very different perspectives on the graduation speech—one focused on the past, one focused on the present (me), and one on the future. Each had something unique to offer so instead of picking one, they had all three of us speak in that order! I think that was the first year (and probably the last) they did that. It was very exciting to be on the stage on the football field to address an audience of graduates and their families and friends in the stands. I remembered from my public speaking class to gesture BIGGER to be seen by those all the way across the field, way back in the stands. It wasn't my first public speech but it was my first in front of such a large audience, and it was an excellent experience. I continue to speak to large audiences to this day and am sure that early experience helped build the skills I'm praised for now.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: Denise and I are at the early stages of another book that is historic and community oriented.

For a brief video book preview of the ASU book, visit: www.ASUhistory.com.



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Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

Biology Student Conducts Research at Petrified Forest

Mesa Community College biology student Andy Bridges has really had a "hands on" experience working in Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park. In the past two seasons at the park he captured, marked, measured and weighed more than 1,200 lizards, snakes, toads and small mammals.

In his paid position as a Seasonal Biological Technician in the park, Bridges gathered data to contribute to a long-term research study documenting reptile and amphibian populations. He also did some analysis of the collected data and reported the results to park management.

Bridges said when he first moved to the Phoenix area four years ago, he thought volunteering for outdoor projects would be a great way to see the state and help conservation efforts. While working on volunteer projects he noticed how most of the volunteers weren't just spectators in the outdoors giving a few hours of service on a weekend, they were people who knew natural places needed to be protected and were actually doing something to help.

"They also knew a lot about the area's geography, natural history, current management efforts and political situation, had outdoor skills, and used their common interests and experiences to develop strong friendships," Bridges said. "Working alongside these other volunteers, I felt a little inadequate and unprepared



to contribute fully, which sparked a desire to learn more about our state and its diverse plants, wildlife, and resource issues."

So Bridges, who held an undergraduate degree in political science, began taking classes at MCC's Red Mountain campus.

"Based in large part on my volunteer experience and the enthusiasm of teachers and colleagues at MCC, I chose to pursue a career in the biological sciences, specifically working with wildlife," Bridges said.

His MCC classes provided him with a foundation to pursue an advanced degree in biology and prepared him for internship opportunities.

"MCC's classes in natural history, geography, and biology, plus the outstanding opportunities for undergraduate research, and field experience, helped me prepare to be successful in a summer wildlife internship for a state agency and work effectively as a field biologist for a federal agency," Bridges said.

Additionally, the recommendations and support of MCC teachers helped him get accepted to, and be successful in graduate school. He transferred to the Arizona State Polytechnic campus and graduated this past December with a master's degree in applied biological sciences.

Bridges said he continues to volunteer outdoors and now feels much more effective and enjoys the experience even more. He is excited about his chosen career path.

"I have enjoyed researching animals in the field with MCC, ASU, Arizona Game and Fish Dept. and the National Park Service, and hope to continue to do more of the same," Bridges said.

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MCC Alumni Association
EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN
Alumni & Friends is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) for the alumni of Mesa Community College.
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Mark Your Calendar

ALUMNI EVENTS – REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.ALUMNICONNECTIONS.COM/MCC AND CLICK ON THE EVENTS CALENDAR

February 9, 7:30 p.m.
Scripts on Strike, Improv Troupe
Southern/Dobson Campus, Theatre Outback

February 28, 7:00 p.m.
Destination Station: Visit with NASA Astronaut Cady Coleman
Southern/Dobson Campus, Event tent, east side of campus

March 1-2, 6-9
The Pirates of Penzance
Southern/Dobson Campus, Theatre Outback

March 1, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour
Southern/Dobson Campus, Physical Science Building

March 21-22, 7:30 p.m.
Spring Dance Production
Southern/Dobson Campus, Theatre Outback

March 23, 7:30 p.m.
Dance Scholarship Showcase
Southern/Dobson Campus, Theatre Outback

April 5, 7:00 p.m.
Meet and Greet the Animals of the Sonoran Desert
Red Mountain Campus, Saguaro Building

April 5, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour
Southern/Dobson Campus, Physical Science Building

April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Scripts on Strike, Improv Troupe
Southern/Dobson Campus, Theatre Outback

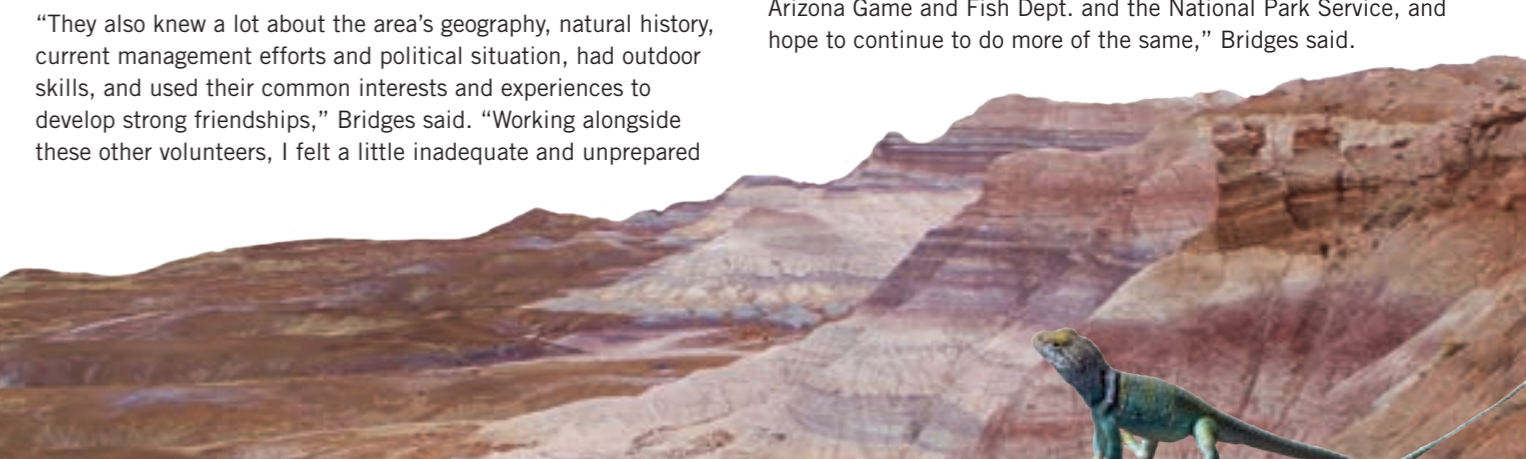
April 19-20, 25-27
The Cripple of Inishmaan
Southern/Dobson Campus, Theatre Outback

May 3, 7:00 p.m.
Dance Classes Showcase
Southern/Dobson Campus, East Gym

May 3, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour
Southern/Dobson Campus, Physical Science Building

May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Commencement
Southern/Dobson Campus, Center Courtyard

June 7, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour
Southern/Dobson Campus, Physical Science Building



Spring 2013

Dream JobPage 2
MCC Soccer CoachPage 3
Alumni Board.....Page 3
Deputy Chief is MCC Alumnus.....Page 4

John Ohl ScholarshipPage 4
Continuing & Community EducationPage 4
ASU Book Written by MCC AlumnaPage 5
Mark Your CalendarPage 6





Harmony Colella's "fascination with destruction" began when she was seven years old. Living in California at the time, she remembers hearing a loud noise and feeling the ground shake. Colella reports that she wasn't frightened, in fact, she found it extremely interesting. Her mother yelled to her to get underneath the door for safety. When it was over, they surveyed the damage. The earthquake left a large crack in the pool.

"I remember thinking, wow, there's a phenomenon that did this," Colella said. "Something happened that destroyed our yard. From then on, all I ever wanted to study was earthquakes."

But she didn't know how to academically accomplish that. Her family moved to Arizona and soon she was a top student at Highland High School in Gilbert. She didn't take any earth science classes because "all the smart people took biology." She decided to be a civil engineer so that she could learn to build structures to withstand earthquakes. Colella graduated early and took several classes at Mesa Community College before transferring with a full ride scholarship to Arizona State University.

"By the second year, I realized how much I hated engineering," Colella said. "I did really well, but the material was boring and the professors were not engaging."

So with her grades slipping, she asked a professor in the ASU geology department how to make a career studying earthquakes. He told her to become a geologist. At last, at age 20, she felt she knew where she was headed.

Then, to the astonishment of her friends and family, Colella decided to take a break and completely quit school. She knew she would go back to school eventually, but first she

From MCC to a Dream Job: A Non Traditional Path

worked at some menial jobs and then moved to California. There she found full time work as an accountant and started taking classes at a community college in accounting. But her interest in geology continued and led her to enroll at California State University, Fullerton.

"By then I was 24 years old and finally got to work on some earthquake projects," Colella said. "It was hard. I had a lot of classes that didn't transfer and I had to take some classes with 18-year-olds, but I made a deal with myself that I would be done with my bachelor's degree by age 25."

She received her bachelor's degree in geological sciences on her 26th birthday and, after a hard decision-making process, went on to enroll at University of California, Riverside for graduate school. She set another goal: to finish her Ph.D. by age 30.

"Graduate school was the worst and the best time of my life," Colella said. "I worked hard, but didn't really know what I was doing. The first three years of my Ph.D. I was scared to death of my advisor because he was so famous

in our field, but he was the nicest guy. The worst day was when he told me I really should be a lot further along."

Again, she thought about quitting, but dug in her heels and came up with a solid research project on earthquake processes in subduction zones and volcanic environments.

"I started studying slow slip events, a very new phenomenon that very few people had studied," Colella said. "I was really excited about the research."

Six months later she realized she was on to something when she went to a geology conference in Portland and experts in the field now asked her questions about her research and she was able to provide all the answers. Colella calls this her "coming out party," an experience that was both scary and overwhelming.

Colella spent the next year writing papers and finishing her Ph.D. She earned her Ph.D. by age 31. During this time, she traveled extensively, something she never got to do as a kid, to Australia, Hawaii, Costa Rica, and New Zealand.

After graduating, she worked for a time as a petroleum geophysicist at ExxonMobil, where she made an excellent salary, but she knew the job was not a good fit.

"It just wasn't for me," Colella said. "But the take away was that now I know I'm a scientist."

She recently received a prestigious National Science Foundation Grant and is now an NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Miami University in Ohio. The award is based on drive, enthusiasm and scholastic achievement.

Her work on slow slip events is a big step toward forecasting earthquakes. Colella is one of only a few people with this expertise and her research is expected to have a huge societal impact.

Kaatje Kraft, a geology professor at MCC, met Colella at a geology conference and asked her to return to MCC to explain her non-traditional career path to students. Her speech inspired several students in the audience.

"I like to tell students that you don't always have to know what you're doing," Colella said, laughing. "Don't be afraid to change direction. You can change your mind along the way. It helps to set goals but be flexible."

"I'm so happy now, I love my job," said Colella, a self-described 'rock star.' "Every day I get to do what I love and travel and see the world. Someone pays me to study earthquakes."

Read more: www.users.muohio.edu/colellh/hcolella/About_Me.html



SOCCER COACH HAS FAMILY HISTORY AT MCC

It only seems natural that Mesa Community College alumnus Brian Ronan is back where he started his college career, only this time in a teaching/coaching capacity. After all, there was a bit of family history calling when he came upon the opportunity to be assistant soccer coach at MCC.

Brian, his father, his two brothers and his godfather all attended MCC at one time or another. His godfather, Bernie, is now Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs of the Maricopa Community Colleges.

Brian attended MCC from 2000-01, a graduate fresh out of Mountain View High School in Mesa.

"I played soccer at Mountain View and at that time, MCC had the best team in the Valley," Brian said. "It seemed like a natural progression to attend MCC."

He took general studies classes and then transferred to Grand Canyon University on an academic scholarship that was earned from his grades at MCC. Brian completed a degree in political science and philosophy at Grand Canyon.

Today he shares his knowledge and love of soccer with the men's and women's soccer teams at MCC.

"I love being back at MCC," Brian said. "I have really fond memories of my two years at MCC. To be able to come back has been an awesome experience."



Mike Ronan, Brian Ronan, Jon Papsdorf

In addition to coaching at MCC, Brian is also head soccer coach for the girls' varsity team at Mountain View High School and a financial officer at University of Phoenix.

Working three jobs keeps him busy, but Brian uses the skills he learned in soccer to keep up with it all. Brian said sports skills carry over to all parts of life.

"It's good for young people to be involved in soccer," Brian said. "They learn that your attitude and effort leads to successful outcomes. If you stay focused, you develop invaluable habits."

Brian's goal is to someday run a major soccer program at a community college or university.

In the meantime, he can be found on the field, passing his love of the sport on to his students and keeping the family tradition alive.

"I enjoy the family history that's attached to MCC and I'm proud to be here," Brian said.

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New Deputy Chief of Prescott Police Department is MCC Alumnus



Class of 1993 graduate Andy Reinhardt was recently promoted to Deputy Chief of the Prescott Police Department. He joined the PPD in 2006 after 22 years with the Mesa Police Department.

Reinhardt began attending Mesa Community College as a senior in high school. After receiving an associate's degree at MCC, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree at the University of Phoenix and is now working toward completing a master's degree. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Reinhardt said he knew early on that he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement.

"When looking at a career in law enforcement, I saw that every day was a different day," Reinhardt said. "That appealed to me ... and the career ended up being what I liked."

His experience at MCC has helped him in his career.

"A lot of my instructors were working in the same field," Reinhardt said. "As a young student I didn't understand the importance of networking, but the connections did help."

Reinhardt said he is enthused about his new position as Deputy Chief.

"My goal is to continue the progression of the Prescott Police Department, especially as technology advances,"

Reinhardt said. "I think it's important that an organization does not become stagnant."

In addition to his employment with the PPD, Reinhardt is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the 100 Club, which is a non-profit that provides financial support to families of officers during times of tragedy.

For Reinhardt, his career choice has been a satisfying one. He shared this advice for young people considering a career in law enforcement:

"I believe education is important, which is why I'm working to complete my master's," Reinhardt said. "Also, I'm not convinced young people know the importance of networking, but I believe it is very important."

MCC Student Awarded John Ohl Memorial Scholarship

Mesa Community College student Michelle Rose was presented with the John Ohl Memorial Scholarship award in a ceremony honoring former MCC history professor, John Ohl.

The event celebrated the role that John Ohl played and continues to play at MCC as a scholar who inspired everyone whose lives he touched. John's wife, Maria, and daughter, Jocelyn, were on hand at the ceremony and presented Michelle with a copy of one of John's books, "Hugh S. Johnson and The New Deal." The book is one of three books authored by John, who began teaching at MCC in the '70s.

Michelle is an Honors student and journalism major at MCC. Her projected graduation date from MCC is in the fall of 2013. She plans to transfer to Arizona State University to complete her bachelor's degree.

Michelle said she feels honored to be the first recipient to receive the scholarship.

"Receiving this honor reinforces that I am capable of earning a degree," Rose said. "It's the confidence boost I needed to stay focused on my goals."



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