

# Alumni & Friends

SUMMER 2007

## Audio Production Program Prepares Students for Careers in Today's Music Industry

Mesa Community College's Audio Production Technology Program boasts not only the latest in industry-standard recording equipment, but something even more valuable—the opportunity to learn from instructors with real-world experience in the music industry. And there's no better qualified person than Program Coordinator Andy Seagle.

With more than 25 years experience as a recording engineer and producer, Andy has worked with music giants such as Paul McCartney, Johnny Cash, Lyle Lovett, Alice Cooper, and others. He has received gold albums for his work with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and the Escape Club. Andy also runs his own recording company, Clear Cut Acoustic, that regularly records the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra.

Former MCC student, Sivan Koren, a 2006 graduate of the program, said Andy provided him with excellent insights into the industry.

“It was definitely helpful to have advice from an expert in the field,” said Sivan, who is now employed by Saltmine Studios in Mesa.

Andy said he strives to make the students adaptable and flexible—important traits in the music industry.

“We give students a generic road map so they are able to adapt to different recording studios and consoles,” Andy said. “I also try to model how to work with artists during recording sessions.”

The program's curriculum emphasizes studio recording, live concert sound, digital audio workstations and electronic music. Students get experience in recording sessions and live music events. Andy said the equipment available for students to use, including a plethora of microphones, is incredible for a community college.

“MCC has two fully-equipped recording studios with large-format analog consoles as well as digital recorders—Macintosh G5 computers and Pro Tools software,” Andy said. “This gives the students both tactile and virtual-world recording experience.”

Along with the sometimes glamorized aspects of the industry, Andy strives to keep his advice realistic.

“I'm candid with students,” Andy said. “I stress that it's a competitive field and they need to be passionate to succeed.”

*read more on page 5*



Andy Seagle displays MCC's state-of-the-art audio equipment

## MedAire Founder Joan Sullivan Garrett

MedAire founder and CEO Joan Sullivan Garrett, who began her career with a nursing degree from Mesa Community College in 1978, is today a recognized leader committed to providing emergency medical care to people in remote locations throughout the world.

Her company is credited with establishing the world's first global emergency response center dedicated to providing immediate, real-time medical assistance to more than 2,000 clients worldwide. Each month, MedAire's Global Emergency Response Centers manage more than 4,000 medical cases in all corners of the globe – on land, at sea or in the air.

She's come a long way from her days as an MCC student and single mother to two young sons. Joan, who comes from a family of nurses, enrolled in MCC after researching other local nursing programs. “The program had a great reputation and

an excellent focus on clinical work,” Joan said. “It was great preparation in giving me the confidence to pursue anything in the field of nursing.”

The idea to develop her own company came when Joan, who was employed as a critical care registered flight nurse, recognized the need for remote medical assistance after assisting a seriously injured eight-year-old boy in a remote desert area.

Joan started MedAire in 1986 and successfully grew the company based on three factors—education, equipment and expertise. 20 years later, MedAire is an international company and a leading force in providing medical safety services to the aviation industry.

Joan won the Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2001



and serves on the Board of Governors for the Flight Safety Foundation. She consults with the US Federal Aviation Administration, has provided congressional testimony, and was awarded the Business Aviation Meritorious Service Award.

Joan's goal for MedAire's future is to expand into other areas that have a need. Joan said her associate's degree has provided her with many opportunities and the lack of a bachelor's degree in nursing has not been an obstacle. She stresses the importance of education and tells other young women about the rewards of those extensive “18 hour days” she experienced as a young mother establishing a career.

“There are a lot of young women who are struggling to overcome obstacles and make a living,” Joan said. “Nursing is a phenomenal way to do that.”

## Alumni Audio Production

Michael Hill earned a Certificate in Audio Production in 2003 at MCC and today works for Rainbow Studios in Phoenix, one of the largest video game developers in the Southwest. Michael is a sound designer who works with sound effects that give video games a sense of realism, whether it's the sound of tires squealing or cars crashing.

“It's an ideal job,” Michael said. “I work with really talented programmers and artists who are really smart and creative. It's incredibly interesting.”

In addition, Michael has experience working with a wide range of musicians, including the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and the

Valley Chamber Chorale. He also teaches a weekend studio recording class at MCC, providing useful tips to students.

“The thing that's great about the program at MCC is that students end up with a lot of varied experiences,” Michael said. “The more knowledge you can pick up the better, whether it's in class or in an internship.”



from start to finish,” Sivan said. “I love the people and the environment here.”

Along with the usual recording work, Sivan also works on unusual requests, such as recently recording a phone ring tone for a race car driver.

Sivan plans to continue working at Saltmine Studios and is also enrolled at Arizona State University, working on a degree in Film and Media Production. He said the MCC Audio Production program was a great way to get started in the industry.

“They take you from point zero to being able to take a band from start to finish,” Sivan said.



Sivan Koren earned an Associate in Applied Science in Audio Production in 2006. While he was a student, Sivan did an internship at Saltmine Studios in Mesa and is now employed at the studio as a sound engineer. He has worked with Sister Sledge and Steve McCarty of the Steve Miller Band. The studio records a multitude of artists and commercials for local companies.

“I do recording, mixing, setting up microphones—taking a band

## Alumni Top Four – 4 easy ways to promote MCC and get involved

Alumni are among MCC's most important ambassadors. How often do you tell people that you're an MCC alum and share your positive experiences? We'd like to invite you to become an ambassador for MCC and get involved. Here are four simple ways.

### Speaker's Bureau

The alumni association is gathering names of alumni who are willing to be part of a speaker's bureau. There are two groups we would like to serve:

1. Faculty who are looking for alumni who are willing to speak to classes or clubs.
2. Students who are interested in speaking to alumni to find out more about a particular career path and/or industry. You'll be asked to provide a variety of information – including college degrees, present employer, and topics you can address – to make it easy for faculty and students to find the perfect match. This is an electronic resource being developed as part of our online community (see page 6).

### Recruit new students

MCC's Recruitment Office is seeking alumni to represent the college at recruiting events that occur outside of Maricopa County. Training and materials will be provided. It's a great opportunity to promote your alma mater's award winning programs and commitment to teaching and learning!

### Email distribution lists

To serve as an ambassador for the college, you need to know what's going on! Electronic resources such as web and email are making it easier for us to provide information based on your interests. Here are some of the options:

1. The Bulletin – MCC's employee newsletter, features a variety of news on college programs
2. President's mailing list – Learn about college initiatives directly from the President
3. Event schedules for Performing Arts, Athletics, or the Alumni Association
4. Educational Lectures sponsored by the Psychology Department or the Center for Global Tolerance and Engagement
5. Course schedules, including Community Education and Non-Credit

### Events

The association hosts a variety of events each semester as a service to our alumni. We also promote college events such as Theatre and Athletics. Events are a great opportunity to network with other alumni, learn more about the college and our community, and show your support for MCC by filling every seat in the house.

Contact Marcy Snitzer, MCC Alumni Coordinator, at 480-461-7792 or [marcysnitzer@mccmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:marcysnitzer@mccmail.maricopa.edu) to learn more or sign up for any of the above opportunities.



## MCC's Alumni Online Community

Don't let time and distance keep you from getting involved. Join the association online!

- Provide career advice to a student via email or telephone
- Post notes about your career and accomplishments
- Reconnect with old friends
- Represent MCC at a Recruitment Fair
- Search our events calendar and register online
- Search for alumni who live in your area
- Sign up for email lists that provide the type of information you want to receive



A Maricopa Community College District is an EEO/AA institution.

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Alumni Relations



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## MCC Awards and Accomplishments 2006-07

The following list captures just a few of the many accomplishments that instill pride in the fact that MCC is our alma mater.

### Alumnus Mark Milliron Receives National Leadership Award

Mesa Community College alumnus Dr. Mark Milliron received the 2007 National Leadership Award from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) for his long-standing and significant contributions to community colleges. Mark's accomplishments include leadership roles for the League for Innovation in the Community College, Mayland Community College in North Carolina, and the University of Texas at Austin. He was named one of the top Shapers of the Future by Converge Magazine and awarded the PBS Adult Learning Service O'Banion Prize for transformational work in support of teaching and learning.



Mark currently serves as Endowed Fellow, Senior Lecturer, and Director of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) at the University of Texas at Austin. NISOD is the outreach vehicle and service arm to the Community College Leadership Program at UT Austin.

### CHEA Award for Progress in Student Learning Outcomes

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), a leading Washington-based, private, nonprofit organization, awarded the 2007 CHEA Award for Institutional Progress in Student Learning Outcomes to Mesa Community College. Mesa was one of five institutions picked from a nationwide pool of 31 to receive this honor. The institutions were judged on the basis of four criteria—all centered around student learning outcomes. "We are delighted to recognize this distinguished institution with this award," said Judith Eaton, president of CHEA.

### U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Mesa Community College was named to the U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for accomplishments during the 2005-06 academic year. The Honor Roll recognizes colleges and universities for their commitment to student service and increases public awareness of the impact that college students have on their local communities.

### Electronics Program Partners in \$900,000 NSF Alternative Energy Technologies Grant

The MCC Electronics Program announced that it will participate in a newly-awarded \$900,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to develop alternative energy courses. The grant will help establish an Arizona-Texas educational consortium to educate more and better prepared technicians, engineering technologists, and engineers to meet the workforce needs of national energy, transportation, and electronic industries.

### SRP partners with MCC to provide solar energy to new Physical Science Building

Salt River Project will partner to provide solar panels to power MCC's new Physical Science Building, set to open in 2008. The college has adopted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles for the new building. The LEED Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

### 20 Individuals Inducted into MCC's Inaugural Sports Hall of Fame

Twenty athletes, coaches, administrators, and community leaders who contributed significantly to the success of MCC athletics over the past 40 years were honored at the first annual induction dinner of the MCC Sports Hall of Fame.



<b>John Riggs Administrators Award</b>	
Dr. John Riggs	President, 1965 - 74
Theo Heap	Athletic Director, Dean, President - 1966 - 79
Gerald Smith	Equipment Manager/Sports Information Director, 1965 - 2001
<b>Dwight Patterson Community Leaders Award</b>	
Dwight Patterson	Maricopa County Community College District Board Member
Tom Ikeda	Community Benefactor
<b>Outstanding Coaches Award</b>	
Lot Christensen	Tennis, 1965-86
Jim Brock	Baseball, 1965-71
Carvel Jackson	Track & Field, 1969-76
Paul Widmer	Football, 1977-80
<b>Hall of Fame Athletes</b>	
Baseball	Jim Otten, 1969-70
Basketball	Jim Christensen, 1966-67
Basketball	Ed Weatherspoon, 1969-70
Football	Mike Mills, 1969-70
Football	Paul Schmidt, 1972-73
Football	Paul Serrano, 1972-73
Football	Jimmy Smith, 1970-71
Golf	Louis Bustillo, 1972-73
Tennis	Bill Byron, 1971-72
Track & Field	Mark Murro, 1967-68
Wrestling	Mike Medchill, 1968-69



## Collage of Alumni Events

## ALUMNI BOARD RETREAT

## Update on Giving

Each year, thousands of individuals turn to Mesa Community College for educational opportunities. For many, financial limitations keep higher education just beyond reach. Scholarship money can help bridge this gap by covering tuition, fees, books, or living expenses so students can complete their education as they strive for a higher quality of life.

In 2007, MCC had nearly 19,000 students apply for aid, with 9,412 receiving grants and scholarships. The need for these students was more than \$152 million. After awards were made, there remained an unmet need of more than \$121 million. To help fill the gap, MCC alumni can help students, faculty and programs with various types of gifts that can be used to support several different types of scholarships. Donors can set application criteria such as financial need, grade point average, academic performance, or area of interest. Gifts can also be made to any of MCC's existing scholarship accounts which award scholarships to students throughout the year based on the pre-established criteria. Most contributions qualify as charitable deductions through federal and state income taxes. Any donation, be it a one time gift or a multi-year pledge, will benefit the students and our community in ways that are immeasurable.

For more information on types of gifts and current scholarships, visit <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/community/development/index.html> or call 480-461-7356.

### Terri Whited

There came a point in Terri Whited's life when she knew it was time to make a change. As a single mom to a young son, she was living on state benefits and food stamps.

"I applied at MCC because I wanted to better my life and my son's life," Terri said. "At age 36, I was scared to go back to school, but I knew I had to do it."

She took it slow, working her way through nursing classes and searching for scholarships. Terri received a number of scholarships and graduated in 2006 with an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing degree.

"Those scholarships and MCC in general changed my life for the better," Terri said. "It not only changed me, but it will change my son's life. My actions will impact his life."

Terri is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing at Arizona State University.

## PRESERVING MESA'S PAST

Lisa Anderson, executive director of the Mesa Historical Museum, is doing all she can to keep the doors of the city's museum open and preserve the 80,000-piece collection of artifacts inside. Last year's city budget cuts resulted in a 40 percent loss of funding that left Lisa and her staff struggling to cover operational costs.

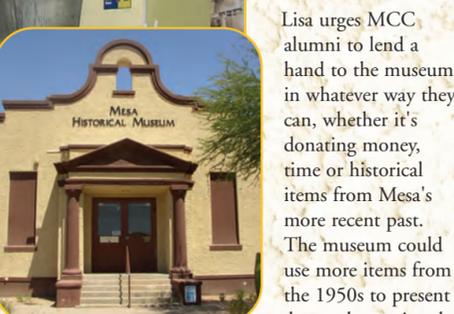
Lisa, who began her career in anthropology at Mesa Community College in 1986, said the museum needs help from the community to preserve Mesa's past.

"We need people to care about their heritage," Lisa said. "It's a great location and we have a large collection. Now we need the public to stand behind us and support their heritage."

The museum boasts two historical buildings—the Lehi School, built in 1913 and now the oldest remaining schoolhouse in the East Valley, and its accompanying auditorium, which houses the main part of the museum. Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors can view pioneer exhibits from the 1800s and learn about Mesa's early history. In addition, the museum also offers educational programs geared to state standards.

Lisa, who took the position of director two years ago, has taken numerous steps to rejuvenate the museum and attract new visitors. The museum recently installed its first new exhibit in 20 years and more exhibits and educational programs are in the works, including a Wallace and Ladmo exhibit this fall. Lisa and her staff are busy applying for grants and now charge admission and rental fees for use of the historical auditorium.

Lisa urges MCC alumni to lend a hand to the museum in whatever way they can, whether it's donating money, time or historical items from Mesa's more recent past. The museum could use more items from the 1950s to present day, such as printed materials, textiles, or collectibles from local schools, including MCC memorabilia. Volunteer opportunities can be tailored to fit individual interests.

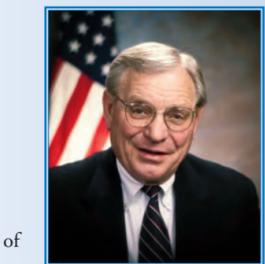


While Lisa dedicates herself to preserving Mesa's past, she remembers her own past at MCC.

"I enjoyed my time at MCC," said Lisa, who finished her bachelor's degree at Brigham Young University and earned her master's degree at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., "I was in charge of planning Fall Bash and Spring Bash. I made a network of people that I'm still involved with today."

If you are interested in donating money, materials or time to the Mesa Historical Museum, please contact Lisa at (480) 835-7358 and visit <http://www.mesaz.org>.

## Message from our Alum



Mesa Community College has a long history of outstanding professional leadership — John Riggs, Theo Heap and Larry Christiansen quickly come to mind. These individuals — among others — were instrumental in establishing MCC as one of the leading community colleges in our country. These individuals also valued — and made sure — MCC played an integral role in helping create a dynamic, forward-looking community where we all want to live, work, play and raise our families.

As a MCC alum, a member of the business community and the father of five children who have all taken classes at MCC at one time or another, I can tell you I am proud of this college.

This Fall, MCC will begin a second search for a new president. As you undoubtedly know, the first search process was closed by Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District, because he believed despite months of hard work by the search tri-chair and committee that the right candidate did not materialize. I congratulate Dr. Glasper for his courage, perseverance and commitment to finding a great leader for MCC, one who will no doubt be as outstanding as those who have gone before.

MCC is important to our families and to our community. Today, more than 27,000 students are enrolled at MCC. These students are the backbone of our community. They are — and will continue to be — our workforce, and they are our current and future community and business leaders. Education keeps our families strong and our economy flourishing. I happen to think that at one time or another, most of the young people who obtain their education in Arizona and many elsewhere, will use the Community College Systems to augment their education in one way or another.

As MCC alumni, we must do our part — whether that's serving on a college advisory committee, attending events or providing scholarship dollars — to ensure MCC continues to be a college of choice for our community.

I have no doubt that the upcoming search for a new MCC president will culminate in a progressive, forward-thinking leader. I pledge my support in this important endeavor.

Roc Arnett

MCC Alumni Board Member  
President, East Valley Partnership