

## MEET THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### Nancy Adams

Major: **Biochemistry/Pharmacy**

"As far back as I can remember I have always wanted to be a doctor. I believe it all started when I was about six years old and received a toy doctor set for Christmas. However, during my formative years I came to feel that a college education and medical school was beyond my grasp and not a realistic goal."

During the process of raising her children Nancy saw the difference that quality instruction can make in a person's life and now sees the value of a college education. Her experiences at MCC have prepared her for success. "I now feel that my dream of becoming a doctor and completing my education is within my reach."

Nancy plans to graduate from MCC with an A.S. degree then transfer to the University of Arizona to complete a B.S. degree in Biochemistry and attend the College of Pharmacy to receive a PharmD degree.

### Laura Gale Weber

Major: **Special Education**

"I love children and all of the various elements included in special education." Laura is inspired to teach special education because her sister is disabled. She's seen her sister have positive and negative experiences with special education teachers/aides and Laura wants to be able to make a difference in other children's lives.

Laura plans on attending MCC for two years then will transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Education. After becoming certified, she plans on working as a special education teacher or personal aide in an Arizona school.



## Volunteer to be a Career Advisor



**POSITIVELY IMPACT MCC STUDENTS**

*As an alum, you can make a tremendous difference to students who are currently exploring career options.*

**WHAT YOU'LL DO:** Be available for an informational interview about your career and educational pathway. You will be advising students who have completed a Career Interest Inventory and advisement through MCC's Career and Re-Entry Services Department.



PHONE



EMAIL



IN PERSON

**TIME COMMITMENT AND MEETING FORMAT:** The interview can occur via phone, email, or in person. Your time commitment would be the length of a single interview and possibly a few questions in a follow-up interview.

Since contact is based on student interest and initiative, some Career Advisors may not be contacted in a given academic year and some may be contacted frequently. Mentors who have been contacted multiple times during a semester may temporarily disable their profile.

**Complete an online profile today.** Visit [www.mesacc.edu/alumni/career-advisor](http://www.mesacc.edu/alumni/career-advisor). The first 25 mentors will receive an acrylic cup!



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# Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

## MCC Faculty Awards

The Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona recently recognized MCC's dean of academic instruction, Carol Achs, for her outstanding work in the community to prevent drowning and increase water safety education.



Carol Achs

Carol Achs, Water Watchers at Phoenix Children's Hospital and Mesa Community College, received the President's Award. She founded Water Watchers with her daughter Druann Letter after her grandson, Weston, drowned in a backyard pool in 1998. The organization, established to teach children how to be safe around water, developed the concept of "Water Safety Day," which is now widely known as the kick-off event for the season.

Achs continues to be active in planning the

annual event, in addition to regularly speaking about how this tragedy affects a family and how preventable such an event can be. The President's Award is usually given by the president of the DPCA to recognize outstanding efforts in water safety.



Nora Reyes

Professor Nora Reyes received the 2010 Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) "Excellence in Education" Award. Reyes was presented the award at the RMHC Phoenix Scholarship Breakfast, which raised more than \$200,000 to help Arizona high school students attend college, making it one of the largest scholarship programs available to Arizona high school seniors. Ronald McDonald House Charities presents the "Excellence in Education" Award each year

to collegiate educators that exemplify commitment to education, innovation and leadership in the community.

MCC's Faculty Professional Development Coordinator, Shelley Rodrigo, was selected to attend the



Shelley Rodrigo

Google Teacher Academy in London last July based on her passion for using innovative tools to improve teaching and learning. She was selected along with 50 other educators from all over the world. Upon completion, academy participants become Google Certified Teachers who share what they learn with other primary and secondary educators in their local region.

Jo Wilson, acting provost of MCC's Red Mountain Campus, was awarded Mesa's Woman of the Year Award for 2010. Wilson's exhaustive volunteer work, which extends her already long weeks as acting provost of the Mesa Community College Red Mountain



Jo Wilson

campus, was praised by Sally E. Downey, superintendent of the East Valley Institute of Technology.

"Jo is an outstanding role model for younger members of our community," Downey said. "She is a woman of quiet strength who demonstrates leadership, commitment and high achievement in her everyday life."

Wilson's late parents, Wilma and Warren Langfitt, are former recipients of the award.

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Follow MCC at [www.twitter.com/mesacc](http://www.twitter.com/mesacc)

**You Tube**

View videos at [www.youtube.com/user/mesacc](http://www.youtube.com/user/mesacc)

**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

SPRING ALUMNI EVENTS – REGISTER TODAY AT [WWW.ALUMNICONNECTIONS.COM/MCC](http://WWW.ALUMNICONNECTIONS.COM/MCC) AND CLICK ON THE EVENTS CALENDAR

**February 17- March 11**  
Open during Library Hours  
**Congo/Women Portraits of War: The Democratic Republic of Congo**  
Paul A. Elsner Library

**February 18, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Family Discovery Series**  
The Science of Volcanoes  
Saguaro Building

**February 23, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Congo Exhibit Opening Reception**  
Southwest Reading Room

**March 3-5, 10-12 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**March 5, 12 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee**  
Theatre Outback

**March 4, 6:00-10:00 p.m.**  
**Astronomy Nights**  
Planetarium shows every half hour  
Southwest Physical Science Building

**March 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**  
**Evening Lecture Series in Psychology**  
Happiness Studies:  
Positive Psychology  
Navajo Room

**March 23, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Honors Forum**  
Civil Liberties and Current Challenges for the FBI  
Navajo Room

**March 24-25, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Spring Dance Concert**  
Theatre Outback

**March 25, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Family Discovery Series**  
Life of a Rattlesnake Researcher  
Saguaro Building

**March 26, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Dance Scholarship Showcase**  
Theatre Outback

**April 1, 6:00-10:00 p.m.**  
**Astronomy Nights**  
Planetarium shows every half hour  
Southwest Physical Science Building,

**April 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**  
**Evening Lecture Series in Psychology**  
Psychopaths: What Are They and How is One Created?  
Navajo Room

**April 7-9 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**April 10 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**I'm Not Rappaport**  
Theatre Outback

**April 11-21**  
**Student Art Show**  
Awards and Reception, April 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Navajo Room

**April 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**  
**An Evening of Art**  
Navajo Room

**April 15, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Family Discovery Series**  
Where's the Math?  
Saguaro Building

**April 22-23, 28-30 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**April 24, 30 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Almost Maine**  
Theatre Outback

**May 6, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Broadway Bound**  
Theatre Outback

**May 13, 8:00 p.m.**  
**Commencement**  
Center Courtyard

- Southern and Dobson Campus
- Red Mountain Campus

For a complete listing of events and times, check out our online calendars.  
**GENERAL MCC EVENTS** [mesacc.edu/alumni](http://mesacc.edu/alumni) then click EVENTS CALENDAR **ATHLETICS** [athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules](http://athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules)

## Spring 2011

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## President's Corner

Studies of the community college movement confirm that our unique open-access, community-focused educational institutions are a remarkable success. Yet, today community colleges across the nation are a focus of much criticism over college completion rates, including MCC.

Completion in higher education is typically measured by the number of students who earn a degree or certificate. A recent report measured completion by only including full time students who are attending college for the first time. At MCC, this is only 3% of our student population. While we take this criticism seriously and certainly want our students to obtain a degree or certificate, we also feel it's important to look at our entire student population.

Students come to MCC with different educational goals:

- 47% plan to transfer to another college or university
- 33% take courses to prepare to enter the job market, improve skills for a current job, or change jobs
- 16% take classes for personal interests
- 4% indicate intent other than those listed above.

Transferring to a university prior to achieving a two-year degree from MCC constitutes student success under MCC's mission, but these successes are not reflected in data collected for completion rates.

MCC's student population also includes a high percentage of students who come to us under prepared for college-level work. Next to this article I've included data on MCC's fall 2010 student profile. You can also learn more about the many new initiatives focusing on retention and completion by viewing the MCC Student Success and College Completion Fact Sheet at [www.mesacc.edu/orp](http://www.mesacc.edu/orp).

MCC is committed to working with other educational institutions to focus energy and resources on answering the call by President Obama to increase graduates by five million by 2020. As alumni, you are valuable ambassadors for community colleges, telling the success stories that aren't always reflected in the reporting data.

I invite you to tell us your story by visiting the alumni website at [www.mesacc.edu/alumni](http://www.mesacc.edu/alumni). Your story will be collected in an online database, and, with your permission, may be used to promote MCC.

Sincerely,

Shouan Pan



### FALL 2010 STUDENT PROFILE

- **Student enrollment** – all sites: 26,408 (35% or 9,224 were new to MCC)
- **Average age:** 26; age breakdown – < 17 (2%) 17-20 (34%) 21-30 (43%) 31-40 (11%) 41-50 (6%), >50 (4%)
- **Gender:** 52% female 47% male 2% undecleared
- **Ethnicity:** 60% White 17% Hispanic 6% Black 5% Asian/Pacific Islander 4% American Indian 8% Other/Not Specified
- 8,893 (34%) of students are full-time
- 17,515 (66%) of students are part-time
- 59% of students attended classes during the day; 22% attend during the evening; 18% attend in a non-traditional manner such as online or on the weekend
- Average class load is 9 credits
- More than 200 international students (on a student visa) from 50+ different countries
- 69% (4,337 of 6,252 testing) of all students completing placement testing, tested into at least one
- 70% (1,965 of 2,818 testing) of recent high school graduates tested into at least one developmental course and 33% tested into two or more.
- 15,683 students (59%) reported working in addition to attending classes. 9,660 students (37%) enrolled reported working more than 20 hours a week.
- 11,786 students (45%) are first generation college attendees.

Note: Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.



## Sorting Through Sustainable Efforts at MCC

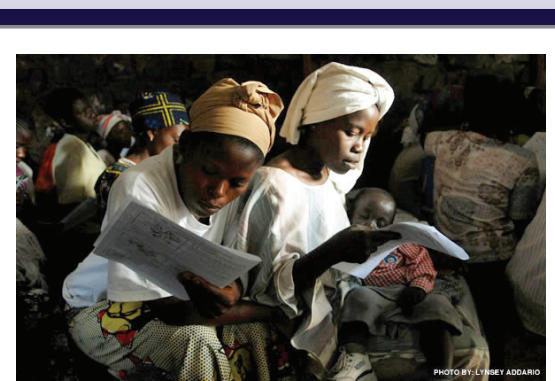
**“Congo/Women, Portraits of War: The Democratic Republic of Congo,” a traveling photography exhibit, is on view at Mesa Community College's Southern and Dobson Campus from Feb. 17 through March 11.**

The exhibit and educational campaign raises awareness of the widespread sexual violence facing women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The exhibition features powerful life-size photographs that convey the strength and courage of Congolese women. Accompanying essays contextualize the impact of the crisis from a range of perspectives.

*“The Congo is the most dangerous place in the world for women,”* said Ivy Esquibel, director of the MCC Psychology Instructional Resource Center and one of the organizers bringing the event to campus. “Millions of people were killed there in the last decade and yet it slips under the radar.”

Esquibel hopes the exhibit accomplishes two goals: to raise awareness and to encourage individuals to take positive action.

The photographs in this exhibition, taken by award-winning photojournalists Lynsey



## Traveling Photo Exhibit on Congo Coming to MCC

Addario, Marcus Bleasdale, Ron Haviv and James Nachtwey, tell the story of daily life in the Congo – political, economic, cultural, medical and personal.

The photos show women, along with their families, who have survived oppressive dictators, the violent passage to democracy, economic crises, and an ongoing struggle of regional and tribal warfare. These challenges have been accompanied by lack of both general and reproductive healthcare, HIV/

AIDS, and extreme sexual violence against women and children of all ages.

Essays accompany the photographs and provide a context for understanding this humanitarian crisis.

*“The crisis is not just damaging to women and children,” Esquibel said. “It’s also damaging the souls and psyches of the men and boys.”*

“I want people who view the exhibit to leave with a hopeful message,” Esquibel said. “We want to encourage them to take action and make a positive difference in the lives of the Congolese people.” For more information on the Congo, including how to help, visit [mesacc.libguides.com/congo\\_women](http://mesacc.libguides.com/congo_women).

For more information on the exhibit, visit [congowomen.org](http://congowomen.org).

### WARNING: Graphic Imagery

Congo/Women is co-produced by Art Works Projects and the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, with major funding provided by UNFPA United Nations Population Fund, Humanity United, The Oak Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sponsored by MCC International Studies, MCC Women and Gender Studies Departments, and MCCC International and Intercultural Education Innovation Grants.

### CONGO/WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**When:** Feb. 17-March 11 during regular library hours.

**Where:** MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus, Paul A. Elsner Library, Room LB145.

**Opening Reception:** MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus, Paul A. Elsner Library, Southwest Reading Room, Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6pm with Leslie Thomas, curator and producer of the exhibit.

**Under the energetic supervision of MCC's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Suzi Dodt, MCC saved an impressive amount of money and helped the environment immensely in 2010. The changes were based on the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.**

### OFFICE SUPPLY REDISTRIBUTION:

Departments with office supplies that were no longer being used turned them over to the Recycling team for redistribution. The dollar value of office supplies that were redistributed at MCC was \$12,564. Reusing office supplies also saves other costs not able to be calculated, such as waste cost of sending all the old supplies to landfill, waste cost of packaging of new supplies, reduction of shipping fuel involved in the delivery of new items, and awareness of the value of reuse of items.

### RECYCLING ESTIMATES:

Much effort was made to recycle trash to reduce the amount of tonnage sent to the landfill, which costs the college \$66.50 per ton.

### SPECIFIC SAVINGS IN 2010:

- Paper: Average value for recycling 6 tons plus rebates: \$774.
- Cardboard: Average value for recycling 16 tons plus rebates: \$2,164.
- Cans/bottles: Approx. 25 tons recycled saved: \$1,662.
- Ink/toner cartridges: Earned \$640.

### DUMPSTER DIVE:

To demonstrate how important sustainability efforts are, MCC held the 5th annual Dumpster Dive in November, using lawn space to conduct an audit of campus waste that is collected over a 24-hour period. MCC students teamed up with the Rhodes Junior High Environmental Club to participate in a modern-day archeological dig. Results of past Dumpster Dives have saved money and made a significant impact on the recycling efforts at the college.



## MCC BRINGS HOME THE GOLD! AND SILVER AND BRONZE!

MCC won 6 Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). Winning entries are:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Gold</b>   | <b>Media Success Story</b><br>Saguaro Building   |
| <b>Gold</b>   | <b>Print Advertisement Single</b><br>He's prepared for a whole lot more than an interview. |
| <b>Silver</b> | <b>Printed Publication, Viewbook</b><br>Graduate to a Better Life                          |
| <b>Silver</b> | <b>Printed Publication, Viewbook</b><br>An Ideal Learning Environment                      |
| <b>Silver</b> | <b>Brochure/Flier</b><br>Art on Campus   |
| <b>Bronze</b> | <b>Printed Publication, Newsletter</b><br>Alumni and Friends                               |

The NCMPR is the only organization of its kind that represents marketing and PR professionals at community and technical colleges. The Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications.

# MCC Outreach to the Community



### Reynard the Fox

Mesa Community College's Theatre & Film Arts Department went on tour last semester with a children's play production to area elementary schools. The play, Reynard the Fox, was comprised of a cast and crew of MCC's theatre students, under the direction of MCC adjunct faculty

member Esther Brown. The production toured nine schools in the Mesa Public School District during October and November.

The idea for doing children's productions began with Kevin Dressler, co-director of theatre at MCC. Having worked in professional children's theatre companies, Kevin believed that it would provide good exposure for the college, plus marketable performance and technical experience for MCC's students. Esther Brown followed up with this idea and approached Rod Castillo, Creative Arts Director for Mesa Public Schools, who then promoted the production to the elementary schools. The production was originally offered for three days in November, but those dates sold out to the elementary schools so quickly that two additional performance days were added in October.

A side benefit of touring the production was that Reynard the Fox was most likely seen by more people than any other production in MCC's 40-plus year history.

### Empty Bowls



This year's annual Empty Bowls Event at Mesa was a great success. The event raised \$21,000 for Paz de Cristo Community Center in Mesa. Paz provides anti-hunger and empowerment support for the East Valley's homeless, unemployed, working poor and their families.

MCC has been involved in Mesa's Empty Bowls event for about 20 years. It's a tradition that many art lovers look forward to each year. Attendees can buy a handcrafted bowl for a \$10 donation and dine on a lunch of soup and bread with proceeds going to the needy.

A special thank you goes out to the MCC ceramics faculty and students in the Art Department who create the bowls all year long for this event.