



MCC Alumni Receive Emmy Nominations and Award for Webisode Series

If you look closely at the Emmy Award-winning webisode series, *Probed: Signals*, you might catch a glimpse of Mesa Community College's Southern and Dobson campus, where part of the series was filmed.

But even more impressive is the success that MCC alumni Kevin Herrmann and Joel Cranson have had with this creative venture.

Herrmann won a 2010 Rocky Mountain Emmy award from the regional chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy Awards for On-Screen Talent. The series received 5 nominations including: Special Program, Talent (Kevin Herrmann), Audio, Lighting, and Photography.

Writer/director Joel Cranson created the short screenplay, inspired by the TV series, *The X Files*. He explored the same character archetypes and situations as the show, but used the setting of a high school.

Wanting to explore the new concept of a webisode series, a web-based TV show, Cranson decided to use the short film as a pilot and expand the film into a series. Joel enlisted the help of Herrmann to write a 5-episode web series. After several re-writes, and months of shooting weekends, production was complete and post production was quickly underway.

"It was an experiment for our team," Cranson said. "It's a new media. People are turning more and more to the Internet for entertainment."

Cranson said the experience was an adventure and people are still watching the completed series online, so they must have done something right.

"Webisodes are so new, even the very successful ones don't know if what they are doing is right," Cranson said. "We had a lot of fun doing it, but we have no further plans for more episodes."

The series also won the 2010 Best of Phoenix award for "Best Fiction Web Show." Congratulations, Kevin and Joel!

View the series here: www.probedsignals.com

The recent production of "Matt & Ben" at the Mesa Arts Center was produced by a new local company, Class 6 Theatre. Multi-

talented Mesa Community College alumna Sarah Hayes helped start the theatre and has acted and directed in other Class 6 Theatre productions. She also serves as treasurer and assists with marketing efforts for Class 6 Theatre.

Eric Schoen, Artistic Director of Class 6 Theatre, said Sarah was very helpful with the start of the theatre.

"Sarah is a tremendously talented actor/director/singer, plus, she's good at art and marketing," Eric said. "I could go on and on (about her contributions)."

THEATRE ALUMNA SARAH HAYES USES TALENTS IN LOCAL PRODUCTIONS

Sarah started her career in theatre at MCC, attending from Fall 2001 to Spring 2003. She then transferred to The University of Arizona where she received a BFA in Acting/Directing in 2006.

"I probably wouldn't still be involved in theatre if it weren't for the Acting program at MCC," Sarah said. "I had just moved from Iowa to Arizona without really knowing what I wanted to do with my life. I think I enrolled about 3 days before the semester started, and was really excited to see they had an acting program."

Sarah named MCC instructors Lyn Dutton and Sandy Elias as her biggest influences at MCC.

"Lyn cast me in my first role (Marianne in *The Miser*) at MCC and she also taught me everything I know about stage make-up," Sarah said. "It's a small world, because now we're fortunate enough to have Lyn on the board of Class 6. Sandy Elias was also a huge influence. I was in two shows that he directed (Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Cherie in *Bus Stop*), and I had never had a director push me so far out

of my comfort zone. I learned so much, and without that I don't think I would have made it into the program at UA." Sarah said before becoming involved with

C6T, she had no idea how much it takes to put on a show.

"It sounds really silly, because I'd been in a lot of shows, but I guess I always took for granted the amount of work that it requires," Sarah said. "I am so proud of Eric Schoen for having the courage to start a new theatre company, and am so thankful I get to be a part of it. Eric always says that he hoped the work he produces complements the theatre already in the Phoenix area, and I think he achieves that."

Sarah is excited to be involved with productions at the Mesa Arts Center.

"It's a great venue, and I think it's a great thing that it's so close to MCC," Sarah said. "I was always looking for shows to go see when I was a student, so I'm thrilled to be a part of bringing more options to current students. All of our Wednesday performances have been Pay What You Can nights, for students who don't have to have a lot of extra cash to see our shows. There's no suggested donation, so it's truly whatever each student can afford... which is especially nice considering that many classes require students to do reviews."

The next Class 6 Theatre production will be at the John Paul Theatre at Phoenix College in September.

Will Class 6 do more shows at the Mesa Arts Center?

"We have found such a wonderful and appreciative audience in Mesa, so I'm sure we'll be back at the MAC before long," Sarah said.

For more information on Class 6 Theatre, visit www.class6theatre.org



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Alumni & Friends

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Virtual Incident Command Center to Open

Scenarios of burning buildings, explosions, chemical spills, natural disasters and airplane crashes will come to life in Mesa Community College's soon-to-be-opening Virtual Incident Command Center.

These scenarios are part of a training and research facility created by MCC to provide students and emergency services workers with greatly needed experience in major incident command.

The project began when MCC received bond funding for regional fire service education. Administrators from MCC met with East Valley Fire Chiefs to determine what was the greatest need for the East Valley fire departments. After listening closely to the specific requests, it became clear that a virtual incident command center would be the most efficient way to provide students with critical skills that would take years to master without virtualization.

"Young people are coming up much more quickly to assume leadership roles than they have in the past," said MCC Dean of Instruction Larry Thacker. "They need to

learn how to manage a major incident. In the past this was accomplished through years of observing and working with senior officers. That is not possible now because of the many retirements that are happening all at once."

Younger people will be expected to assume this difficult task with much less experience.

Since this project began, interest in it has spread. The skills taught in this simulator are greatly valued by all emergency responders including police departments as well as the Arizona Division of Emergency Management.

This project has grown since its inception to include an Emergency Operations Center training lab as well. "An Emergency Operations Center kicks in when an incident grows to a larger scale and requires coordination between several state, city, and county governmental departments," Thacker said.

Real World vs. Virtual World

In the real world, a mobile command unit travels to a major incident, where a command post is set up and personnel are

given a great deal of information very quickly from a variety of sources. In the virtual command center, students will sit in a mock mobile command unit and experience all of the sights and sounds of the emergency surrounding them.

"The mobile command unit is where real life and death decisions are made, based on information provided to them," Thacker said. "Since we can't go around burning down buildings just for training purposes, we do it in the virtual world. We will have the most sophisticated visuals, including sounds, radio traffic and lighting conditions that would be experienced in the real world. We will keep people in this stressful environment and monitor their abilities to make the correct decisions."

Project leaders are in the process of combining high definition digital photos and software to create the scenarios. This center will be able to create scenarios that are specific to an agency's needs regardless of municipality or type of agency such as police, fire, or military.

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EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

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MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUMMER YOUTH COLLEGE OFFERS CAMPS AT TWO CAMPUSES

Openings are still available for Mesa Community College's Summer Youth College for children ages 4-18, with new openings available at MCC's Red Mountain Campus at Power and McKellips Roads. Camps are designed to give kids a head start on a lifetime of learning.



July Classes	Grade of Participant	Location	Dates
Summer Jazz Workshop!	Grades HS – Young Adult	S&D	Jul 11 – 15
"ALICE", Animating 3D Workshop	Grades 7-10	RM	Jul 11 – 14
3D Modeling with Blender, Business	Grades 8-12	RM	Jul 18 – 21
Machinima — STUDIO 180 – Video production	Grades 8 – 12	RM	Jul 25 – 28
The Organic Animation Studio, Art	Grades 6-8	S&D	Jul 11 – 14
Kids Culinary Camp, A Hands On Experience	Grades 3-6	S&D	Jul 12 – 14
Girls Out Loud! Empowerment	Grades 7-9	RM	Jul 11 – 14
Babysitting 101, The Basics Plus!	Grades 6-9	S&D	Jul 18 – 21

Details: www.mesacc.edu/students/summeryouth or by calling MCC's Community Education office at: 480.461.7493.

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

Summer 2011

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Student from Tokyo Discovers Calling in MCC Fire Science Program

When Shinji Nakamura arrived in Mesa in the late '90s as an exchange student from Tokyo, he had no idea what career he wanted to pursue. Then he took a fire science class with Mesa Community College instructor Lewis Jones. After Jones invited the young student to take a ride-along in the fire truck, Nakamura said he could suddenly picture himself working in the field.

"Lewis was very approachable and nice," Nakamura said. "He was open-minded and made me feel comfortable. He turned out to be a good mentor."

Today Nakamura works for the Peoria Fire Department as an engineer paramedic, driving the truck and working the hoses to get water to fight fires.

"It's different every day and I love coming to work," Nakamura said. "You never know what the day will bring. I like to be out and running around."

He also finds himself occasionally working alongside his former mentor from MCC. Jones is part of the technical rescue team in Phoenix and Nakamura is on the same team in Peoria.

"Here was a kid who knew what he wanted to do," Jones said. "He wanted to be a U.S. citizen and finish his education here."

With some help from Jones and others, Nakamura dealt with immigration procedures and eventually became a citizen. Along the way, he completed his associate degree in fire science at MCC and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in fire science management at Arizona State University. He found work with the Peoria Fire Department and they sent him back to MCC to become certified as a paramedic.

Nakamura said the training he received from Jones and other instructors at the MCC Fire Academy was invaluable when he first started working with his current employer. Because of the training at MCC, he had hands-on experience pulling hoses, searching for victims and fighting fires.

"When I went through the Peoria training academy, my experience at MCC really helped," Nakamura said. "What I learned in the leadership classes is also really useful in my job now."

When Jones heard the news of the recent earthquake in Japan, he called Nakamura to make sure his family in Tokyo had survived the quake. Nakamura reported that he had spoken to them and all was well.

Jones has high regard for Nakamura and his accomplishments.

"He's just an incredible human being and his family is so very nice," Jones said.



Shinji Nakamura in Sedona fighting the Brins Fire in 2006.



MCC SCHOLAR SELECTED FOR NASA ROBOTIC PROGRAM

Mesa Community College student Bryan Plummer was one of 80 students from community colleges in 28 states and

Puerto Rico who were selected to travel to a NASA center to develop robotic rovers. The National Community College Aerospace Scholars program encourages students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

Plummer visited NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. Participants were selected based on completion of Web-based assignments during the school year.

The students established teams and formed fictitious companies pursuing Mars exploration. Each team shaped a company infrastructure to develop and design a prototype rover. The on-site experience included a tour of NASA facilities and briefings from agency scientists, engineers and astronauts.

"This innovative experience allows students to take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it to technical questions in the real world, simulating what NASA engineers and scientists do every day," said Leland Melvin, NASA associate administrator for education. "It will help them develop the skills they need to be the problem solving explorers of tomorrow."

Plummer, who graduated in May from MCC and plans to earn a Ph.D. in Robotics, said the experience was very inspiring. His team's robot received a perfect score and their fictitious company "won" a contract with NASA.

"The chance to be with other engineers and work together on a project was amazing," Plummer said. "If nothing else, just being in that environment was exciting. We got to sit in on a meeting about the Mars rover and learn what it would be doing over the next few days."

The program is based on the state of Texas' Aerospace Scholars, originally created in partnership with NASA and the Lone Star state's educational community. The programs are designed to encourage community and junior college students to enter careers in science and engineering and ultimately join the nation's highly technical workforce.

Through this program, NASA continues the agency's investment in educational programs that attract and retain students in STEM disciplines critical to NASA's future missions.

In addition to this program, Plummer will also work as an intern at the Goddard Space Center in Maryland this summer.



MCC Student Youngest Member of Phi Theta Kappa on Record

Vincent Moore isn't your ordinary college student. He is a

fourth-grader who attends Sandra Day O'Connor Elementary School during the day and takes classes at Mesa Community College at night. His 4.0 GPA and completion of 12 credit hours at MCC made him eligible to be inducted into MCC's Omicron Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa's prestigious honor society recently.

"We congratulate Vincent on his accomplishments and welcome him as the youngest member of Phi Theta Kappa," said Dr. Rod Risley, Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. "By accepting his invitation to membership, Vincent joins more than 125,875 students from 9 to 90 who became members of our Society in 2010."

College algebra, computer science and astronomy are a few of the classes Vincent has taken to be stimulated academically.

"College helps you learn the things you don't already know," said Vincent. "It's not too easy and it challenges me."

In addition to joining Phi Theta Kappa, Vincent serves as the secretary of MCC's Math Club and has participated in the AVNET games this past spring. He is considering a future

career in computer programming like his father.

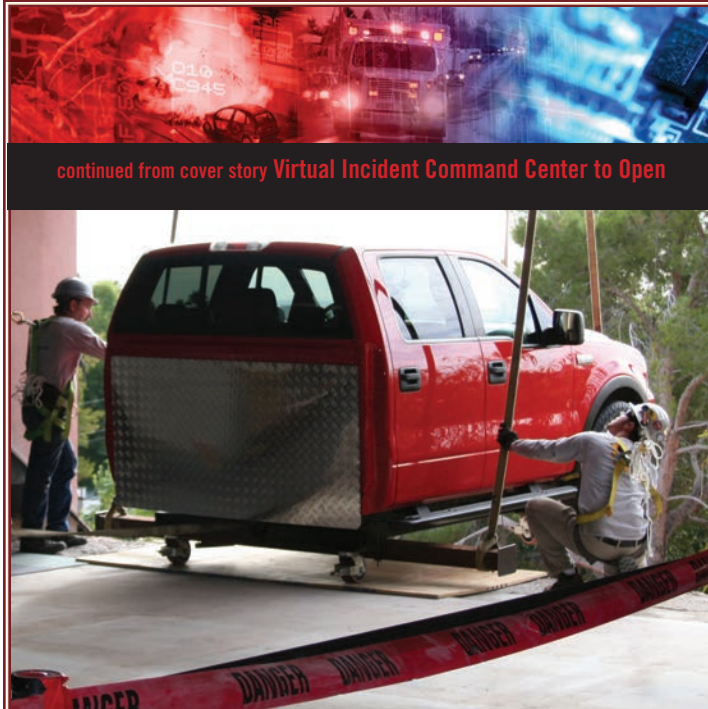
"Vincent picks up things fairly easily. He's on task and ready to absorb the next detail," said Chuy Carreon, Vincent's mentor and MCC mathematics department chair. "He could be a computer scientist or medical doctor. It depends on what he wants to do, but I think at heart he is still a nine-year-old kid."

His mother, Amanda Moore, is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and attends night class with him where they always sit in the front row. The mother and son study together and celebrate his high test scores by going out for ice cream and staying up late. This semester they plan to take CSC 205, a computer science class which focuses on object oriented programming and data structure.

"I can't tell you the hours we spend on college homework," said Amanda. "He usually scores higher in the computer science courses and we both do well in math."

Vincent is involved in Cub Scouts, likes to play LEGOs and board games with friends and fly planes in the park. He is also a member of the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth and has received high honors for his scores for their math and verbal tests.

"College is like one big puzzle book," said Vincent. "I don't know the future, but it's fun."



continued from cover story Virtual Incident Command Center to Open

"There is also an adjacent classroom where we can have 30 students who will be able to see every view and hear all radio traffic," Thacker said. "Students are in there with a veteran instructor who can facilitate this powerful learning experience."

All scenarios are recorded for later playback and analysis of lessons learned.

"In this environment, you could experience in a week what it would take a decade to experience in the real world," Thacker said.

Community Support

To show support for MCC's project, San Tan Ford donated a new pickup truck to serve as one of the props inside the training center. The truck was lifted by crane to the fourth floor of MCC's Downtown Center building, but first the engine and transmission were removed to make it lighter. MCC's auto department cut off the back half of the truck.

MCC fire science student, Clint Musgrave, who was present during the presentation of the donated Ford truck, said he is looking forward to training inside the Virtual Incident Command Center.

"It's awesome," Musgrave said. "Any training equipment is appreciated

by students because resources are limited and it will give us a realistic experience."

In addition to student training, Thacker is also getting requests from several Valley fire departments who are interested in using the facility for continuing education for working captains.

Mesa Fire Assistant Chief Mary Cameli said, **"Any kind of education we can gain through a command center would be advantageous to our fire department members and those interested in joining the fire department."**

The center might also be used to train public safety personnel from surrounding states.

Thacker said he sees the project as part of an economic stimulus for downtown Mesa, bringing business to local hotels, shops and restaurants.

"This is going to be the most sophisticated incident command training facility in the U.S. and will bring a lot of foot traffic to downtown Mesa," Thacker said. "I see this as such a unique project that everyone values so highly, that you would want to come here from other states. No place else in the west would you have access to this kind of sophisticated high-level training."



STUDENTS SIGN WALL FOR COLLEGE COMPLETION

Why are hundreds of students signing their names on the wall of the Kirk Student Center?

It's a Phi Theta Kappa project, based on the national Community College Completion Corps (C4), that encourages completion of a college credential, an associate degree or a certificate among community college students.

Heather Thomas, President of MCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, said the group got the idea after attending a national PTK conference.

"We are asking students to commit," Thomas said. "This is not just at MCC. Everyone in the country is doing this."

President Obama and higher education leaders have pledged to boost college completion rates by 50 percent over the next 10 years, so Phi Theta Kappa is heading the Community College Completion Corps to raise awareness of the importance of college completion.

About 300 MCC students have signed the formerly blank white wall so far. The project will come

down and be replaced with a glass wall after renovation in the student center is complete, but at that time, the group will relocate the signed wall elsewhere on campus.

MCC student Alexandra McMullin said signing the wall symbolizes her commitment to complete a degree.

"I see the importance pushed by this," McMullin said. "The associate degree is a base ground and if I don't complete a bachelor's degree, I will still have that."

Thomas said the wall draws attention to the project and makes people question why they are doing it.

"We want students to know that people care and that we want them to commit," said Thomas, who hopes to cover the entire wall with signatures.

For more information and photos of the project, visit: tinyurl.com/c4wall-photos and www.cccompletioncorps.org