

# possibilities

Pima Community College Foundation

FALL 2006

## Putting A Charge In Learning

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) is putting a charge in career opportunities in the electrical utility industry in a joint program with Pima Community College that started this fall.

Through the Building for Success scholarship program, students who complete a two-semester curriculum at Pima, with tuition, fees and books paid for by TEP, receive preferred consideration for a Technical Craft Support Trainee position at Southwest Energy Solutions (SES), a subsidiary of UniSource Energy Corp. that provides supplemental workers to TEP.

While employed at SES, trainees determine an area of interest for a possible future Pre-Apprentice position with TEP by working in several different craft areas over a one year period. They remain in a Pre-Apprentice program for at least a year, after which they may be selected for a three- to four-year Apprenticeship.

Upon successful completion of an Apprenticeship, workers may attain Journeyman status, where the average pay is over \$30 per hour.

According to Gretchen McClanahan, a training coordinator at TEP, "We are very pleased with the success of this program during our inaugural year. I look forward to seeing the continuing growth of this program and recognize the significance to TEP in ensuring a highly skilled and competent workforce."

## TEP Injects Energy Into Nursing Program

A five-year, \$150,000 grant from Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) has generated success in bringing students to—and through—Pima Community College's Nursing Program.

Although the health care industry's nursing shortage has been well documented, nursing enrollment numbers weren't a problem at Pima, explained Richard Patze, Division Dean, Health Related Professions.

"Instead, we had nursing students leaving the program, most often because they didn't have time to study." Many are single parents who are working part-time while going to college.

The solution: use TEP's financial support to provide scholarships to lighten students' financial burden.

"Nursing program completion takes a lot of time and money—on both the student's and the school's part," said Elizabeth Maish, Chief Nursing Officer at Northwest Medical Center Oro Valley, and a member of the Pima Community College Foundation's Board of Directors.

"TEP's support means that students don't have to work—or work as much—and may not have to take out a student loan. This creates a much better scenario for students—they are less stressed and can focus on the goal, which is to become a professional nurse," she added.



The outcome has been exceedingly positive. Since the program began in the 2001-02 academic year, nearly 300 students have benefited from TEP's support. More important, the completion rate for these students is over 90 percent, according to Patze.

"By supporting a program that is outside of its industry, Tucson Electric Power has clearly demonstrated its commitment to our community's well-being," said Dr. Roy Flores, PCC Chancellor.

While focusing on students' success in the nursing program, Pima also offers some distinct advantages.

For example, a student with an Associate of Applied Science degree from Pima can take the national RN exam alongside graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. There is no need to transfer to another institution to get an additional degree. Pima also offers a LPN Certificate program.

Additionally, Pima has instituted an "exit option" for students who have completed two semesters plus another course, Nursing 180, according to Patze. Thus, students can progress more quickly through the program and into nursing jobs.

Finally, Pima has launched an accelerated program for the Associate of Applied Science degree with evening and weekend classes throughout the year (including summer). The goal is the same: to move students through the program and into nursing jobs.

"It makes sense that a nursing student with strong community ties would likely stay and work in Tucson, rather than move away after receiving a degree," said Jim Pignatelli, TEP's Chairman, President and CEO.

"An evening program also makes sense because Pima can train more nurses using existing facilities. I'm pleased with the great success that the students and Pima have had."

For more information about Pima's Nursing and other Allied Health programs, visit [www.pima.edu/program/health-professions](http://www.pima.edu/program/health-professions).

*"Grants like the one from TEP mean that students don't have to work—or work as much. They are less stressed and can focus on the goal, which is to become a professional nurse."*

*—Elizabeth Maish*

## Imagine the Possibilities!

The fall semester has begun, and the Pima Community College Foundation has helped hundreds of Pima students attend classes by providing them with scholarships from private donors.



In this issue, we describe partnerships between the

Pima Community College Foundation and community philanthropists, both individual and corporate, who are making higher education a reality for many of our fellow citizens.

The PCC Foundation is working diligently to create even more partnerships in the community, giving businesses the qualified workforce they need, and ensuring that deserving students get the necessary training for rewarding careers.

The Pima experience continues even after classes are completed through the Pima Community College Alumni Association. Executive Director Toppo Burke is lining up community leaders for a community advisory board, and several alumni have begun working together as a steering committee this fall.

Two new Board members have been elected to the PCC Foundation's Board of Directors: Bill Conrad, project manager at Camwest Group Inc. and recipient of two Associate's degrees from Pima, and Tomás León, president of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

I urge you to experience and enjoy the outstanding array of programs Pima offers residents of all ages. Visit a campus, attend an arts performance, learn more about programs and discover how the Pima Community College Foundation is helping to build our community by encouraging students' success.

Sherry Hall, Chair  
Pima Community College  
Foundation  
Board of Directors

# Living History: Jim Cocke Recalls Pima's Early Years

If there is institutional memory at Pima Community College, it's because of loyal boosters like Jim Cocke.

Cocke speaks in a soft Southern voice, reminiscent of legendary baseball broadcaster Red Barber, as he recites with amazing recall dozens of names and dates in Pima's past. Far from just an avid observer, Cocke has experienced—and influenced—Pima's history directly.

In 1966, Cocke was a member of the Planning Committee for a proposed junior college (which became Pima Community College four years later) and headed the Subcommittee on Community History, Growth and Development and Junior College Objectives. This was in addition to his "day job," as Vice President and Manager of Economic Development at Valley National Bank.

In 1967, Cocke campaigned for a \$5.9 million bond issue to create the college. In a radio interview at that time, Cocke said emphatically, "I think we need a junior college because in this community we expect to have approximately 4,500 students who will desire to pursue some sort of higher education."

He also urged voters to pass the bond issue "because the need is now, not three years from now."

The bond issue passed and Pima Community College opened its doors in September 1970 in what Cocke described as "the old wooden hangars at Tucson International Airport" with an enrollment of 3,790 students.

But his affiliation with—and affection for—Pima didn't end there.

After retiring from Valley National Bank, he taught business, public relations and real estate classes as an Adjunct Instructor at the Community Campus for five years.

Later, he was contracted by the Dean of Instruction at the Community Campus (at that time, Jana Kooi, now President of the Community Campus), to visit every class on campus to get feedback from students on the college and its courses.

"The students I encountered were mature, serious and they did the work," he recalled.

He served as Chair of the Pima Community College Foundation from 1983-84 and was the Chairman of the Foundation's first Annual Recognition Dinner in 1985. He has been an active supporter of Pima's progress and programs ever since.

In 2006, PCC Foundation's Board of Directors honored him with a Spirit



*"I enjoy seeing people grow as they continue their education. Seeing students blossom is a real joy to me."*

—Jim Cocke

of Philanthropy award, at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' National Philanthropy Day luncheon.

What has kept him involved and interested over these four decades?

"I found this to be the most rewarding kind of community service," he said. "I am a person-oriented individual. I enjoy seeing people grow as they continue their education. Seeing students blossom is a real joy to me."

As for the future, he counsels Pima to provide for the population growth in and around Pima County, especially the fast-growing areas to the northwest and southeast. He believes Pima is perfectly positioned to benefit directly from that growth.

And you can be sure he'll be involved however he can.

## PCC News

**The largest grant award in the history of Pima Community College,** \$5.4 million in Federal Title V funds, will be awarded over the next five years to improve programs and facilities in healthcare, aviation and early childhood education. In addition, the grant will match endowment funds raised by the PCC Foundation, up to \$310,000.

**PCC will partner with Indiana University,** giving students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's degree by taking 90 college credits at Pima, followed by 30 upper-division credits through distance education and online courses offered by Indiana University. PCC students will pay IU's in-state tuition rate for those classes.

**PCC's 2004-2006 College Plan** resulted in improved curriculum, better use of technologies, increased access and support for

students, and more efficient and effective college operations. The planning effort, which started in 2003, involved more than 1,300 faculty and staff and more than 100 community leaders. The 2004-2006 College Plan Final Report, as well as the 2006-2008 College Plan, are available online at [www.pima.edu/collegeplan/](http://www.pima.edu/collegeplan/).

**It's a Fact:** More PCC students than ever before – 808 – transferred to the University of Arizona in Fall 2006.

## Board of Directors

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# Theatre Arts Program Has A Budding Starr



PCC's cast of "Kiss Me Kate" entertained guests at the PCC Foundation's 21st Annual Recognition Dinner on April 19, 2006.

Performances will go on—and on—thanks to a new \$10,000 endowment for Theatre Arts students at Pima Community College.

Friends and family of the late Molly Starr, a lifelong entertainer and a familiar face on Tucson's performance stages, established the Molly Starr Scholarship Endowment to support Pima's aspiring thespians. Part-time or full-time students who have completed at least two semesters while maintaining a 2.5 GPA are eligible for the scholarships.

Recipients—selected by a committee comprised of Pima Theatre Arts faculty and staff and a representative from



Molly Starr (shown here circa 1948) was a lifelong entertainer with a passion for theatre.

Tucson's theatre community—will receive \$250 per semester for two semesters, provided they meet and maintain the eligibility requirements.

There are about 100 students in the Theatre Arts program, a third of whom are Theatre Arts majors.

"These kids are coming from a background where

they have to work. If they do that, and add something like our program outside of the classroom, they have to sacrifice the work money to be in a show. We rehearse five nights a week

for six to eight weeks. That's a lot to ask students to do," said Todd Poelstra, Program Coordinator, Pima Theatre Arts Program.

"This scholarship money may make the difference between staying in school or not."

Molly Starr moved to Tucson in the early 1950's, bringing her performance experience in theatre at the Pasadena Playhouse and television: she had a cooking show in Texas when the medium was new.

She performed in various productions around Tucson, including at the old Playbox, the University of Arizona, the Arizona Theatre Company, the Invisible Theatre, and the Gaslight Theatre.

She encouraged many young people to embrace the craft by offering drama workshops in Tucson's public schools and by giving private acting lessons—for free.

"Somehow, the word got out in Tucson," said Laurie Starr, Molly's daughter. "Young people would come to her and she would coach them in our house—but never for money."

"She was a giving person, and loved people. She couldn't walk out the door

without wanting to know every person she bumped into. Everyone was a friend. And she was always there to help," said Laurie.

"It is so appropriate to have this scholarship in Molly's name, because Pima Community College is the same way. It embraces everybody."

"She was a truly inspirational woman on a simple level," Poelstra added. "Theatre is full of crises, but you just knew from her that everything was going to be fine. For that memory to be carried forward is an honor for us."

To learn more about Arts programs at Pima, see [www.pima.edu/program/the-arts](http://www.pima.edu/program/the-arts).

*"It is so appropriate to have this scholarship in Molly's name, because Pima Community College is the same way. It embraces everybody."*

—Laurie Starr

## New IRA Rules Allow Larger Charitable Distribution

Thanks to a new federal law, donors who are 70<sup>1/2</sup> or older can now make donations of up to \$100,000 to a qualified charitable organization, such as the PCC Foundation, through a direct rollover from an IRA, without having to include the distribution in their taxable income.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed into law on August 17, 2006, provides an exclusion from gross income – but not a tax deduction - for qualified charitable distributions made during 2006 and 2007. The new rules apply only to outright lifetime transfers from owners of traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs. The rules and benefits applicable to testamentary transfers remain unchanged.

"For the person who already knows where her heart is in the community, the new law makes it easier to be proactive in tax planning and gifting. For someone seeking a home for her heart, it's a great opportunity to build a relationship and make a difference," said Susan Ernsky, Senior Vice President/Portfolio Manager at Mission Management & Trust Co.

For more information about IRA rollovers and other planned giving opportunities, contact your plan administrator or the PCC Foundation, (520) 206-4646.

## PCC Theatre Arts Productions

- Astrid Lindgren's spunky, madcap adventures of **Pippi Longstocking**, directed by Betsy Kruse Craig.

Dates: Sept. 27 – Oct. 8, 2006, Wed. preview, Fri-Sat. at 7 p.m., Sat. and Sun. at 2 p.m., in the Proscenium Theatre. All performances are \$6.



- Tennessee Williams' steamy drama, **The Night of the Iguana**, directed by Dr. Frank Pickard.

Dates: Nov. 8-19, 2006, Wed. preview, Thu.-Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m., in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets: \$6-10



- Musical comedy extravaganza **42nd Street**, directed by Todd Poelstra, David Waggoner and Mickey Nugent.

Dates: Feb. 21 – March 4, 2007, Wed.-Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m., in the Proscenium Theatre. Tickets: \$10-14



- Oscar Wilde's **The Importance of Being Earnest**, directed by Betsy Kruse Craig.

Dates: April 11-22, 2007, Wed. preview, Thurs.- Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m., in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets: \$6-10



All performances are at PCC Center for the Arts at West Campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road.

Box Office: (520) 206-6986

The Pima Community College Foundation was incorporated in 1977 to generate and manage philanthropic financial support for the benefit of Pima Community College.

**Possibilities** is published two times a year by the Pima Community College Foundation's Board of Directors to recognize the positive impact of private giving on education in our community.

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## Pima Alumnus Gets The Big Picture



*J.L. "Woody" Wooden in Tanzania*

**F**rom foreign lands to national forests, award-winning photographer and Pima alumnus J.L. "Woody" Wooden always gets the picture.

Blending a love of nature with a passion for photography, Wooden never doubted what he'd do in life.

After graduating from high school, Wooden went to Vietnam as a combat medical photographer, and returned with three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star—and a wounded back. After recuperating for a year, he enrolled in the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, and worked as a local news cameraman chronicling forest fires.

Woodson moved to Tucson in 1973, hoping to work as a forensic photographer. Unfortunately, his back condition flared up. Using the proceeds from a worker's compensation settlement, he enrolled at Pima and completed an Associate's degree in Natural Resource Management in 1979. His ambition to work for the U.S. Forest Service was thwarted, however, by a poorly timed hiring freeze.

Undaunted, Wooden returned to the Brooks Institute and earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree, and embarked on a 30-year career teaching photography and creating art with the camera.

Wooden's striking images of life in China, Vietnam, South America and Africa have been published in over 20 books and magazines. He has photographed lions at close range as well as captured the visages of Ronald Reagan and Madeleine Albright.

He now lives near Yellowstone National Park and commutes to his college teaching job at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming about an hour away.

From his perspective—teaching college during the academic year, running photographic workshops in the Big Horn mountain wilderness in the summer and fitting travel somewhere in between—his life is right in focus.

*Anyone who has attended a class at PCC is eligible to join the Alumni Association. For more information, go to [www.pima.edu/foundation](http://www.pima.edu/foundation).*

## PCC Alumni Association News

The Pima Community College Alumni Association is off to a great start! With the help of alumni volunteers, Executive Director Topy Burke is working hard to establish an Alumni Association that will bring together former Pima students in a meaningful way, benefiting alumni, current Pima students and the College as a whole.

The establishment of the Alumni Association is a partnership between Pima Community College and the Pima Community College Foundation. A steering committee has been formed to lay the groundwork for the Association, including writing by-laws, electing officers and creating a plan of action. But to be successful, we need you! Anyone who has taken a class, credit or non-credit, at Pima is considered an alumnus, and there is no cost to join.

When you join the hundreds of Pima alumni who have already registered on the Alumni Association Website, [www.pima.edu/alumni](http://www.pima.edu/alumni), you will receive regular notices about College news, events and special opportunities for alumni. If you want to be even more involved, you can volunteer to serve on an Alumni Association committee by emailing [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu).