



Alumni eNewsletter – July 2010

Alumni Association News

Alumni Association Elects New Officers

Your Alumni Association elected officers for 2010-11 during its annual general meeting in May. The group will continue providing opportunities for mentoring, social networking, family fun and scholarship development (Pima Alumni at Zoo Lights is scheduled for December 13).

Elected Officers:

Chair/President	Jake Kagele
Vice Chair	Sean Mendoza
Treasurer/Secretary	Terrell Bivins
Members at Large	Juan Ciscomani and Moniqua Lane
Immediate Past Chair	Mark Hanna

Recommend Outstanding Alumni

The Alumni Association is currently compiling names of successful alumni. Submit nominations on those whom you would like us to honor at a future event or in a PCC publication. We welcome nominations and information via e-mail at alumni@pima.edu.

Be a Mentor!

The PCC Alumni Association is looking for alumni volunteers to serve as mentors to current Pima students. Students have indicated they are interested in having mentors and the Alumni Association wants to fulfill that request.

The goals for the PCC Alumni Association are:

1. Encourage Alumni to support current and future students and academic projects through financial and volunteer opportunities.
2. Educate and motivate Alumni to be informed advocates for the College.
3. Recognize and celebrate the achievements of Alumni.
4. Inspire Alumni to pursue life-long learning.
5. If you are interested in serving as a mentor and/or would like more information about it, please contact the PCC Alumni Association at (520) 206-4646 or alumni@pima.edu.

Alumni Salute

Alumni Spotlight: Shawn Agut



I was working different jobs here and there. I even worked in the construction field for a while before coming to the realization that I needed a change.

I was 22 years old when I decided to make this change. I knew I had an interest in science and math so I decided to go to Pima Community College to register for physics and math courses.

I always enjoyed academics and learning new things, and Pima seemed like a great opportunity for me to improve and challenge myself.

PCC provided me with just the right balance of academics and support that I needed for returning to school and entering college. Pima was also a significant link to completing my Bachelor's degree.

The faculty and administrators at Pima were always so accessible. I liked the fact that Pima felt like a small community. I also had great mentors that helped me through the program.

Dr. Tony Pitucco was my role model and mentor. In fact, I still talk to Dr. Pitucco. Dr. Pitucco was always very involved. He kept me engaged on the subject matter and he kept me motivated and enthused.

I worked full-time while juggling a full-time course load at Pima. It was always somewhat of a challenge to balance my job along with my school load and my personal life. This challenge taught me to stay focused and to not be distracted by any outside influences.

I graduated from Pima in 1995 and the University of Arizona in 1997. I received a job offer from Raytheon Missile Systems in 1997 and I have worked at Raytheon ever since. I attribute my success to the education, mentorship and support that I received at Pima Community College.

Graduation 2010

Thousands Graduate

A total of 3,144 Pima Community College students graduated this year. The oldest graduate, 71-year-old Wanda L. Gioe, earned an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts. The youngest graduate, 16-year-old David A. Williams, also earned an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts.



There were 1,746 female graduates and 1,398 male graduates. The college awarded 4,658 degrees and certificates to these students. Many PCC students earn more than one certificate and/or degree.

A total of 63 graduation candidates, or 2 percent of the class, had a grade point average greater than 3.90 and met the requirements for graduation with highest honors.

The five programs with the highest number of graduates from among the college's more than 65 associate degree programs were:

- 741 Liberal Arts
- 419 General Studies
- 238 Business
- 236 Nursing
- 166 Science

All other degree programs within the college graduated less than 40 students with associate degrees.

PCC/UA Partnership

Pima and UA Streamline Early Childhood Education Degrees

Pima has partnered with the University of Arizona's College of Education to increase the number of Pima graduates who obtain baccalaureate degrees in early childhood education at UA.

This partnership is called the Early Childhood Education Pathway Agreement. Students who earn an associate in early childhood education from Pima and meet the grade point average and other requirements, will be given priority status when they apply to the UA College of Education early childhood education bachelor's degree program. They also will be guaranteed enrollment in the required courses for the major.

Earning an associate degree from Pima satisfies the requirements of the Arizona General Education Curriculum. Pima students completing this degree also satisfy the coursework requirements in math, science and history to meet the Arizona Department of Education requirements to obtain the state teaching certification. Completion of the UA program will result in a bachelor's degree with state certification to teach children up to the third grade in Arizona schools.

The Early Childhood Education program at Pima is part of a Title V grant the Desert Vista Campus received in 2006. The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) challenged the College to raise \$310,000 by September 30, 2011, to create a permanent fund to advance the Desert Vista Campus. You can make a meaningful impact on education in our community with a contribution to the Desert Vista Endowment that will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the DOE Title V grant. To make a contribution, go to www.pima.edu/foundation.

Best Practice

Video Relay Service Laboratory

A Carl Perkins basic grant helped in the funding of a new lab dedicated to students in the Interpreter Training Program.

The year-old Sign Language Interpreting Lab is one of just a few interpreting labs in the nation. This lab allows students to practice voice-to-sign interpreting and sign-to-voice interpreting, prepare for National Certification testing and burn CDs or DVDs of their work for instructor feedback.

The lab is also equipped with web cams that allow students to practice their skills in Video Relay interpreting, a new service that is in high-demand in the interpreting field. Video Relay interpreters, or VIs, typically earn \$30 to \$45 an hour. A deaf person may use a Video Relay Service in order to communicate in everyday situations, such as making an appointment or participating in a meeting.

This state-of-the-art lab allows students to get hands-on interactive training using the web cam system. A student is able to take a call from a deaf person, who is also using a web cam or video phone. With information provided by the deaf person, the student interpreter calls the hearing party and translates the conversation using American Sign Language.

These web cams will also be used for the new course, ITP 286, Video Relay Interpreting.

Decision Support Data

Decision Support Data reports assist the College in making decisions about policy and practices. One area covered in these reports is the number of degrees awarded.

According to the 2008-09 Graduates Report published by Planning and Institutional Research, PCC has seen a steady increase in the number of degrees being awarded.

The number of associate degrees increased from 1,833 in 2004-05 to 2,232 in 2008-09, an increase of 22 percent. The most frequently awarded degree was the Associate of Arts (AA). This was followed by the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and the Associate of General Studies (AGS). The top three degree programs, by quantity of degrees awarded, are AA-Liberal Arts, AGS-General Studies and AAS-Nursing. The top two certificate programs are AGECA Liberal Arts and AGECA Business Administration.

According to the 2008-09 Graduate Exit Survey Report, also published by Planning and Institutional Research, students were asked to rate their experience at PCC. Ninety percent of respondents indicated that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the content of courses in their program, up from 85 percent in 2007-08. Class size also rated high- 90 percent of respondents were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the size of their class, up from 80 percent in 2007-08. When asked how satisfied they were with their overall PCC experience, 87 percent were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied.”

College Plan: Strategy 1.2

Pima has taken many steps to fulfill Strategy 1.2: Create effective learning environments to ensure student success, of its 2008-2011 College Plan.

The College set the foundation for success by providing assessment programs at the high schools in the area to prepare students for college admission. The College has provided the Web-based ACCUPLACER® assessment to sophomores’ at several high schools to test their basic competencies in preparation for college admission.

Once they arrive at Pima, students are given college-based assessments and programs to evaluate their readiness and to help them reach their goals. The College requires new credit-seeking students to take math, reading and writing assessment exams before they register for classes.

The College also has established collaborations, such as the Joint Admissions partnership with the University of Arizona. Joint Admissions has 68 new students in the program, which streamlines their path to a bachelor's degree. Joint Admissions students are enrolled at both institutions simultaneously, with PCC courses automatically credited to UA as they are completed.

As part of College Plan Strategy 1.2., the College is expanding its tracking of students in occupational, career and technology programs that receive funding through the Carl Perkins basic grant. The College tracks which classes these students have taken and are taking. As a part of this initiative, the redesigning of the Career Services will include a tool for tracking the students' employment opportunities, such as part-time or full-time work and internships. These methods, combined with a re-emphasis on internships and cooperation with the Alumni Association, are intended to improve tracking and job placement of these students.

2010-2011 Tuition

Board Approves Increase to Tuition and Fees

The Board of Governors voted to increase in-state tuition and fees by \$2.50 per unit for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The new per-unit cost of \$58 is comprised of a \$2 increase in tuition to \$53.50, a 50-cent increase in the Student Services fee to \$2.50 and a \$2 Information Technology fee, which remains unchanged. The Board voted to increase the Student Services fee to offset Athletics equipment costs.

This increase amounts to a 4.5 percent change in in-state tuition. PCC's cost per-unit tuition is below the average for all other Arizona community colleges.

This increase is in line with the past PCC unit increases, in keeping with the Board's aim to not unnecessarily burden students financially.

The Board also increased tuition for nonresidents, depending on how many units they take and when they take them:

Non-Residents	
Cost Per Credit Hour	
6 Credits or Less	\$94.50
More than 6 Credits	\$273.50
Summer Classes	\$179.50

Finally, the College has made changes to Fiscal Year 2011 cost-recovery fees that support instructional delivery associated with specific courses, tests or services. Fees for most courses will increase \$5.

Athletics

Women's and Men's Basketball Finish 5th and 7th in NJCAA



Congratulations to the women's and men's basketball teams for their fine seasons. The women finished fifth and the men finished seventh in their respective NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) National Tournaments. The women's team beat Parkland College of Champaign, Ill., 77-65. The Aztecs finished the season with a record of 28-8.



Sophomores Tia Morrison (Copper Canyon High School in Phoenix) and LeAndra Lucas (South Mountain High School in Phoenix) were named to the All-Tournament Team. Morrison averaged 18.75 points and 12.25 rebounds per game through the 12-team tournament, while Lucas averaged 7.25 points and 3.25 rebounds per game.

The men's team beat St. Clair County Community College of Port Huron, Mich., 59-52 to claim seventh place in the tournament. The Aztecs ended the season 20-16. Sophomore JaMier Morris (Tucson High Magnet School) was named to the All-Tournament Team. He averaged 13.5 points and 5.75 assists per game in the tournament.

Kudos

Chancellor Wins National Award from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



Chancellor Dr. Roy Flores is one of 17 recipients of the 2010 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from the Phi Theta Kappa international scholastic honor society for two-year colleges.

The national award is given to community college CEOs and presidents who provide extensive support for their colleges' Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapters.

PCC's chapter has been recognized as a Distinguished Chapter at the international level for nine of the past 12 years, placing it in the top 2 percent of the 1,250 PTK chapters worldwide.

The Award of Distinction is named after the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, who served as chair of Phi Theta Kappa's board of directors for more than 20 years. Dr. Gordon was President Emeritus of Highline Community College in Des Moines, Wash.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in higher education, with more than 250,000 active members in 1,250 chapters worldwide. More than 2 million students have been inducted into PTK since it was founded in 1918.

Pima Instructor Wins Bellwether for Fiction

Congratulations to Pima writing instructor Naomi Benaron, recently announced as the winner of the 2010 Bellwether Prize for Fiction.

The Bellwether is the largest monetary prize for unpublished fiction in North America. Benaron will receive \$25,000 and see her manuscript – *Running the Rift* – published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, N.C.

Benaron's novel is about a young Tutsi boy growing up in Rwanda during the years that lead up to the genocide and then beyond, to his life after the genocide as he tries to deal with his experiences. It is about the factors that led to genocide in Rwanda and can lead to genocide anywhere if the conditions are ripe.

Prize founder, author and former Tucsonan, Barbara Kingsolver described Benaron's manuscript as culturally rich and completely engrossing.

The Bellwether Prize is awarded every other year to a promising first-time novelist working in the tradition of socially engaged literature. The goal of the Bellwether is to reward serious literary fiction that addresses issues of social justice. The winning manuscript is selected from a national pool of entries.

"In my writing, what has always mattered most is to carry the human consequences of injustice to the reader's heart and, thus, in some small way, bring healing," Benaron said. "From the moment I heard about the Bellwether Prize, I knew it addressed exactly those principles I have strived for in telling the stories I tell. I cannot imagine a greater honor, a greater validation."

Benaron has been an adjunct instructor at Pima since Fall 2006. She teaches Writing 101 and Writing 102, and has taught a weekend workshop in fiction writing.

Upcoming Events

A complete list of key dates, events, Athletics, and the College Center for the Arts can be found on the [Pima Community College Online Calendar](#).

Membership in the PCC Alumni Association is free. Anyone who has taken courses at PCC is eligible to become a member of the Alumni Association. As a member, you will receive regular notices of College news and events and opportunities available to alumni. The benefits of membership include invitations to alumni events, volunteer opportunities and use of College services, such as career and job search counseling and access to the libraries and recreation centers. To become a member, simply fill out the [Online Registration Form](#) found at www.pima.edu/alumni.

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