



Alumni eNewsletter - March 2009

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Alumni Association News



Alumni at Zoo Lights a Success

Alumni and PCC family and friends got into the holiday mood at PCC's night at the light-spangled Reid Park Zoo. The Behind the Scenes Tour and fundraiser was a highlight at the event. "I got to pet a rhinoceros!" one happy child shared with anyone who would listen. A number of artisans offered last-minute gift items at the event. Entertainment included the Seven Pipers Scottish Society bagpipes and drums band and the PCC Chorus, jazz combo, flute trio and tuba/euphonium serenaded guests.

The Alumni Association board is thankful for the help and support of the Wealth Management Partners and the many student volunteers from the Respiratory Therapy program.

Nominate Outstanding Alumni

The Alumni Association is compiling names of successful alumni whom you would like to celebrate at a future event or in a PCC publication. We welcome nominations and information via email at alumni@pima.edu.

Consider a Contribution to Alumni Scholarship Fund

Our students need your help now more than ever. Make a donation to the PCC Foundation's Alumni Scholarship Fund and change a student's life.

You can now [donate online](#). To donate to the Alumni Association Family Scholarship (which

goes to alumni and their dependents), click on the “donation” button, select general scholarships and fill in “Alumni Association Family Scholarship.” Check out other scholarships offered by the PCC Foundation at www.pima.edu/foundation.

Message from the Chancellor

The current national economic crisis affects all of us. The College is particularly hard hit because state revenues are in sharp decline as are local tax revenues. The state faces an estimated \$1.6 billion deficit for the current fiscal year and we recently received a \$1.46 mid-year cut in state funding. Prospects for the next fiscal year are even bleaker because the state anticipates a \$3 billion shortfall.

Our first priority remains providing quality instruction for our community. We will ensure the quality and availability of instruction, ensure the safety of our students, staff, faculty, and community members on our campuses, and ensure responsible stewardship of the public funds we receive. These three priorities - instruction, safety, and stewardship - will guide our decision-making for the coming years, ensuring we fulfill our obligations to the community.

The College will be able to absorb the reduction in state revenue this year because we planned for it and have taken cost-cutting measures. Additional cuts next fiscal year will be more difficult and will require that new cost-containment strategies are put in place.

You can help our students through this tough time by voicing your support of higher education. As the legislature tackles the tough task of balancing the state budget, let our legislators know that you value education and its essential role in developing a skilled, competitive workforce.

Opportunities for Alumni

Scholarship form online

The PCC Foundation scholarship application form for the 2009-2010 academic year will be available at scholarships.pima.edu, beginning February 27, 2009. There are a wide variety of scholarships available through the PCC Foundation.

Discover Southern Arizona!

Whether you are a newcomer or have lived in southern Arizona forever, there is much to learn about this special place we call home. PCC’s Community Education Program is offering a free series of presentations, lectures, classes, workshops and study tours that focus on the history and cultures of our Southern Arizona community.

Flavors of Southern Arizona - A PCC Study Tour Sampler

Thursday, March 5, 2009

PCC Community Campus - 401 N. Bonita Ave.

6:30 pm

An introduction to PCC Study Tours from a sampling of PCC tour leaders and representatives including Tallia Cahoon, John Dell, Jack Lasseter and Jeff DeGregorio. Learn about day-trips to ghost towns, ranches, hiking our mountains and more.

Fresh Ink: Student Stories from Sunnyside and Desert View High Schools

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Sunnyside High School - 1725 E. Bilby Road

6:30pm

A multi-media presentation of student works from these two area high schools.

Alumni Salute!



Diane Downing, M.D., '95

Sometimes, a deferred education leads one on a more meaningful career path. Diane Downing's 10-year hiatus from computer studies in college included marriage to her high school sweetheart, three children and jobs as a property manager, bookkeeper and manager for her husband Dan's budding landscape business.

When she decided to return to college, Diane's goal was to become a physician. PCC was the ideal starting place for a busy mom. "Dan had gone through the landscape program at PCC and encouraged me to start there. PCC was a fabulous experience. There was such an eclectic mix of students that I never felt out of place."

Diane finished many of her pre-med science classes at PCC and added general education coursework to her load. "With a one-year-old and two older children I took it slowly at first." She took just one course the first year but in two semesters had worked up to a full-time load.

During her years at PCC, Diane earned membership in the Golden Key Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa. Diane credits her husband's help and flexibility and a strong family bond for being able to follow her dream. "It was such a positive influence on my children to see me studying and managing a class schedule as well as family responsibilities."

Diane continued her 14 year journey toward her goal at the University of Arizona, where she earned both her undergraduate and medical degrees and completed her family practice residency. Following a strong interest in preventive medicine, her post-graduate training included an Integrative Family Medicine Fellowship and a two year associate fellowship with the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine.

With a focus on women's health and preventive medicine, Diane is now on the medical staff at Canyon Ranch Resort, where she is able to use her training in an integrative approach to health and wellness, combining therapies from both conventional and alternative medicine in order to facilitate patients' innate healing ability.

Where Are They Now?

George Wimberley, '69 and '00

As a returning student, George completed his studies in the Criminal Justice program in 2000, but he began his college education in the temporary hangar of the newly established Pima Junior College in 1969. At the time, George was a returning vet with an honorable discharge, having served in the Viet Nam war as a jet mechanic.

George's subsequent careers included work with the Arizona Highway Patrol, the UA police department and more than 15 years with a criminal law firm in northern California. Returning to PCC for his degree after nearly 30 years "was something I'm most proud of. It made me realize that you never lose it and that rekindles your hope and energy."

George is retired and he and wife, Lesley, are raising three grandchildren.

Eugene Vlassis, '06

Eugene began his studies at PCC in '89. He joined the U.S. Army shortly after earning his AA with a focus on nursing. Now a Specialist, he completed the U.S. Army Practical Nurse Course and is working at a hospital in South Korea where he continues to take online courses for a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

He says he is enjoying Korea in spite of constant rain. A marathon runner, he trains by running around the city on weekends. His plans while overseas include a visit to China's Great Wall and Tokyo.

"The Alumni Association has sent me online letters that I have enjoyed reading. I am closer to home than ever with these in my mailbox. It is a great service that you provide, and I encourage you to keep up the good deed."

These PCC Alumni are current faculty or administrators!

(2008-09 PCC catalog listing; only PCC degrees or certificates are listed)

- Barbara C. Armenta, Mathematics, A.S.
- Max. R. Atwell, Dental Lab Technology, A.A.S.
- Stewart F. Barr, IV, Humanities and Philosophy, A.A.

- Kelly F. Brumbaugh, Automotive Technology, A.A.S.
- Roberta L. Casper, Mathematics, A.S.
- Suzanne Desjardin, A.A.
- Rita V. Flattley, Psychology, A.A.
- Terry T. Forster, Div. Dean of Instruction, Industrial Ed., A.A., A.A.S.
- Melinda Franz, Counselor, A.A.
- Patricia A. Gardiner, A.A.S.
- Ronald D. Hale, Automotive Technology, A.A.S.
- Mark R. Heywood, Aviation Technology, A.A.S.
- Ana Jimenez, Mathematics, A.G.S.
- Sharon Anne Jordan, Counselor, A.G.S.
- Dr. Sylvia Lee, President, NW Campus, A.A.S.
- Sarah A. Marcus, Dental Assisting Education, A.G.S.
- Robert J. McLaughlin, Nursing, A.D.N.
- Leticia Menchaca, Vice President of Student Development, A.A.
- Dr. Luvy Nuanes, Spanish, A.A.
- Joy D. O'Donnell, Legal Assistant Studies, A.A.
- Susan M. Pritchett, Computer Aided Drafting, A.A.S.
- Susan R. Rondeau, Counselor, A.A.
- Carlos D. Sotomayor, Counselor, A.G.S.
- David Stephenson, Automotive Technology, A.A.S.
- Daniel David Stogsdill, Aviation Technology, A.A.S.
- Pamela B. Truitt, Dental Assisting, A.A.
- Judith Watry, Writing, A.A.

Send your updates for “Where Are They Now” to alumni@pima.edu. We love hearing from you!

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](#).

Comments or suggestions are welcome at: alumni@pima.edu

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