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CCC Fire Science students get a bead on fire behavior



Local fire officials use thermal-imaging devices to observe fire behavior with CCC's newly acquired Max Fire Box.



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Flagstaff, Ariz. - Understanding fire behavior is one of the most critical skills a firefighter learns, said Marc Goldberg, Fire Science Coordinator and Instructor at Coconino Community College.

To that end, CCC purchased a Max Fire Box training prop this year with the help of a Science Technology Engineering and Math grant from the state. Shawn Bloemker from Max Fire Box came to Flagstaff last week to offer demonstrations. More than 30 representatives from CCC's regional partners and fire service professionals attended the two-day event.

The training prop will be used for CCC Fire Science classes, such as Fire Investigation, Firefighter I and II, Building Construction for the Fire Service, and Emergency Scene Management, Goldberg said. The prop will also be

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used for public education and outreach as well as shared with partnering agencies during academies and to teach current firefighters already in the field, including the Flagstaff Fire Department, Summit Fire Department, Pinewood Fire Department and Highlands Fire Department.

"Fire events such as flashover and backdraft kill firefighters every year," Goldberg said. "Recognizing the warning signs and understanding how to interrupt this deadly sequence of events can literally mean the difference between surviving or becoming a fire fatality."

Additionally, firefighters use "thermal imaging" cameras to help see through smoke in buildings to find victims, fellow firefighters and where a fire is located, Goldberg added.

"Obviously, the quicker we can locate fire victims and the fire, the quicker we can take actions to save lives and protect property," Goldberg said. "Like any technology, it requires training to correctly utilize thermal imaging cameras."

The Max Fire Box fits the bill on all points, Goldberg said.

Shawn Bloemker, Illinois-based creator and owner of Max Fire Box, said, "I developed it for firefighters, trainers and first responders."

The intent was to create an illustration that would bring definitions, coldly explained without context in classrooms, to life in order to allow students and other firefighters to understand what was truly taking place during a fire.

Bloemker said that when Max Fire Box, which is a containment area filled with a "fuel load," is engaged, firefighters can see-first hand, and without putting themselves in any danger, how fire and smoke behave, and how to use thermal imagers to locate and map a fire's spread.

Although he came up with the idea years ago, it took him some time to develop it to the point that would allow it to be a valuable educational tool that could be used over and over again. He used extra money from his teaching salary at Lewis and Clark Community College and cashed in his pension to get the idea off the ground.

Why is it important to understand fire behavior?

"It's a very diverse subject, and the more that they can understand and learn, the better service that they're going to provide to the public," Bloemker said. "And at the end of the day, if we can prevent one firefighter from being injured, it's a homerun for us."

Firefighters must be able to make life-and-death decisions in rapidly changing environments, Bloemker said. And to do that, they need to recognize the factors that cause the environment to change during live events simulated by the Max Fire Box.

Goldberg said that the Max Fire Box will also serve well to recruit Coconino County residents interested in pursuing a career in the fire service.

For more information about the CCC Fire Science degrees and certificates, visit <https://www.coconino.edu/degrees-and-certificates>

New scholarship helps students

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're-boot' at CCC



Retired CCC Science Instructor Bryan Bates received emeritus status from the District Governing Board after serving CCC students more than two decades.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Coconino Community College students who may have had difficulties with the rigors of college in the past now have a chance to "re-boot" their college careers.

A new Re-Boot scholarship is now being offered at CCC through the CCC Foundation with the generous help of Bryan Bates, emeritus professor who recently retired from the College.

"Rather than losing students to issues they may or may not have had control over, let's see if we can give them a little nudge so they can help themselves," Bates said.

Some students stumble, Bates added. And when they do, they don't have the resources or support to pull themselves up. Therefore, they might never try again at gaining a college degree, which puts them at a disadvantage in the job market.

So, Bates and his wife Barbara, with the help of the Foundation, are offering matching funds of up to \$1,000 a year to help as many students as they can receive the Re-Boot scholarship. The scholarship is to help students complete the requirements for an Arizona General Education Certificate, or receive a passing grade in a course in their required major. Students must have a minimum 1.5 grade-point average, and they must create a plan outlining how they will manage their time and energy so they can pass a class if they take it again. Additionally, the students have to contact the former instructor they had when they received a failing grade, share the plan and ask for a short letter of reference stating that they are a good candidate for the scholarship. The scholarship will pay for half the tuition of the class the student is retaking.

"If we can get them through the AGEC, then they're likely to get through their AA degree," Bates said.

He also said that the scholarship is his way to help move the needle on the education of people who have grown, or matured, or who have found



direction, and, but for a few dollars and an "F" on a transcript, don't go back to school to improve their lives.

"I am asking for your gift so that we can reignite the fire of learning, earning and caring in another human who can then contribute, yet again, to our community," Bates said.

People interested in donating to the Re-Boot scholarship may do so by visit www.coconinofoundation.org.



CCC magazine gives voice to county artists, writers

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CCC English Instructor Sandra Dihlmann shows of multiple years of CCC's very own literary magazine, Curios.

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Flagstaff, Ariz. - The poet Carl Sandburg is reputed to have said, "Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance."

Artist Pablo Picasso once said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Writer Isabel Allende said, "Write what should not be forgotten," and photographer Dorothea Lange said, "Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still."

The sentiment from these well-known people is that poetry, writing and art are vital to the human experience, and in the furthering of that experience, Coconino Community College strives to give voice to northern Arizona artists and writers in search of an audience with its magazine, *Curios*. The magazine is accepting submissions for the May 2018 issue.

"If you have a story to tell, you have an audience for it," said Sandra Dihlmann, faculty advisor for *Curios*. "Get it out there. Share your creativity."

The mission of *Curios* is to "foster the breadth of creative expressions across our northern Arizona community by providing publication opportunities to local writers and artists." The magazine is produced by



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students enrolled in CCC's COM 181 class, with guidance from the College's faculty and staff.

Dihlmann said the idea to create *Curios* came about in 2006, when former Northern Arizona Book Festival director Rebecca Byrkit coordinated with CCC to create a poetry- and fiction-writing contest, called *Curios*. The contest winners would read their winning pieces during the book festival.

Those pieces would then be published in an already-established publication dedicated to literature and art at CCC, called *OnCourse*, but *OnCourse* has a mission that is devoted exclusively to CCC students, and the book festival-winning pieces didn't quite fit that criteria. So, Dihlmann said the budget for *OnCourse* was split to include the publication of a sister magazine, *Curios*, and it has been published every year since then.

"We created *Curios* because we discovered that there wasn't a literary magazine for northern Arizona artists," Dihlmann said.

Northern Arizona features other literary magazines, printed and online, but they do not cater specifically to artists and writers who live and work in northern Arizona.

Curios publishes, in print and online, a wide array of northern Arizona's emerging writers and artists. Each edition features fiction, poetry, essays, photography and art, Dihlmann said. Even genre writing, like science fiction, is considered by the COM 181 students for publication.

"We want to have a presence in the community to support our local writers and artists, especially those who don't have a place to publish their work," Dihlmann said. "We want to provide a place where they can share their ideas, their words, their craft, with our awesome local community."

And, *Curios* is seeking submissions from all corners - including Williams, Page, Fredonia and Sedona.

"We want more of the great diversity of voices in our county heard," Dihlmann said.

Dihlmann said that *Curios* is always on the lookout for locations throughout northern Arizona interested in the distribution of the free, printed magazines. She added that local printers get the job, too, in the interest to keep the publication as local as possible.

Dihlmann credited the COM 181 students to the success of getting *Curios* out to the world each year.

"None of this would be possible without our dedicated students who drive the entire process from edit to layout and design," she said. "And they do so with no prior experience and very little direction from faculty."

Curios functions on a meager budget, and submissions that are used are repaid to the artists and writers in the form of complimentary copies. For more information about *Curios*, to submit, and to view past issues, visit <https://www.coconino.edu/curios>

CCC Foundation endows scholarship
for the arts



CCC art student Lydia Peterson received a scholarship supported by the Palette to Palate event last year. The CCC Foundation Board in January created an endowed scholarship from the Palette to Palate funds.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Art students who attend Coconino Community College will now have the ability to apply for scholarships to help with their expenses in perpetuity.

During the January meeting of the CCC Foundation Board, the board voted to create a \$40,000 endowment from funds raised by the annual CCC Palette to Palate event.

Artwork, filled with color and beauty, adorns the walls of all of the Coconino Community College campuses, much of it created by students. Carrying on that rich tradition in the arts, CCC has hosted the annual Palette to Palate event for the last 16 years in an effort to raise funds for the Fine Arts Department. The event, a popular one, has garnered tens of thousands in funds that helped purchase needed supplies and equipment for the Fine Arts Department, particularly at a time when funding for community colleges continues to dwindle.

Among the items funded with Palette to Palate funds include a new kiln and hood for ceramics classes, lighting for the art studio, a pug mill that kneads clay for potters to easily use, blinds for the dance studio and scholarships for Fine Arts students.

"Since CCC's inception, art has been truly woven into the fabric at Coconino Community College," said Scott Talboom, Executive Director of the CCC Foundation. "I think what is amazing is the fact that many of the artists who are making a living in Coconino County as artists have either taken classes or earned an associate degree from CCC."

Talboom added, "I believe that fact is to the credit of the dedicated full- and part-time staff who have worked at the College the past 26 years."

The funding assistance to the Fine Arts Department at CCC was made possible by the generosity of thousands of donors and sponsors of the Palette to Palate event. The endowment will allow for students to receive two \$1,500 scholarships a year in perpetuity.

"The endowment of the Fine Arts scholarship represents a major step

forward in the support we can offer our art students and is the culmination of 16 very successful Palette to Palate community events," said Alan Petersen, art faculty at CCC. "Endowing the scholarship fund creates a support system for our art students that will continue into the future. We would like to thank the CCC Foundation Board for this commitment to our art students."

The dream of the endowment is to continue to build the fund from future Palette to Palate proceeds, foundations supporting the arts, and individuals who love the arts. Talboom added that the goal is to eventually create an endowed chair position to support a full-time art faculty member for the College for the benefit of the students.

Program Spotlight

Putting the visual in CTE



*CCC Fire Science Students recently participated in a life-fire drill at the Flagstaff Fire Department training facility in Flagstaff.
(Click on image for video)*

Coconino Community College features a number of degrees and certificates in Career and Technical Education.

Click on the following links to view video highlights of some of CCC's current CTE programs:

- [Nursing/Certified Nursing Assistant/Phlebotomy](#)
- [Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic](#)
- [Construction Technology Management](#)

For more information about CCC's degrees and certificates, click [here](#). To get to CCC's YouTube channel, click [here](#).

Page CCC student 'Springs to Success'



CCC Page student Marissa Tsinnajinnie is the first student to receive the Spring to Success scholarship.

Page, Ariz. - A student at Coconino Community College in Page will be springing to success after receiving a newly created scholarship.

Marissa Tsinnajinnie of Bitter Springs received the first-ever Spring to Success scholarship to attend classes at CCC in Page. The \$750 scholarship was specifically created for a CCC Page student to attend in the Spring 2018 semester, said Kay Leum, Director of Special Projects and Grants.

"I didn't really expect to win, and I am just so thankful for this opportunity," Tsinnajinnie said.

The funds will help with Tsinnajinnie's commute to Page to attend classes and to pay for her books, she said. She is currently enrolled in two new "hybrid" classes being offered at CCC Page, which include instructors teaching at CCC's location in Page twice a month.

In order to be in the running for the scholarship, Tsinnajinnie was required to turn in an application and write an essay, which she was to turn in during CCC's "Get the Scoop" event in Page on Dec. 15. The topic of her essay was "What is the value of college education, and how can I personally benefit from a Coconino Community College degree?" Nearly a dozen people submitted applications and essays.

"We were thrilled with the number of submissions and with the overall quality of the essays," said CCC Page Director Jim Hunter. "We have a fine and deserving group of students."

Tsinnajinnie, who works at the hospital in Page after graduating from Page High School, is currently studying pre-health careers at CCC. Her ultimate goal is to become a labor and delivery nurse, and she wants to keep her studies as close to home as possible. That is why she takes courses at CCC in Page. She has benefitted from receiving a number of scholarships from

the CCC Foundation during her educational career.

"I'm making my dream come true," she said.

Spreading love - one quilt at a time



CCC student Marsha Monestersky spent the holiday season handing out quilts to people in need on the Navajo Nation.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Coconino Community College has some of the most captivating students. Each of them has something special to bring to the College. One student in particular, Marsha Monestersky, has an extraordinary passion for helping others. The warmth in her heart - and the warmth of her delivered quilts - hasn't gone unnoticed.

Monestersky is the Program Director for Forgotten People, a Navajo Nation organization that helps to build homes, sanitation structures and water systems, and to give out solar systems and lights, food items and blankets to support the development of Indigenous Holistic Sustainable Communities.

This past December, Monestersky collaborated with Quilts Beyond Borders (QBB), a charity dedicated to providing handmade quilts to those in need in different areas of the world. She and the organization gave more than 500 quilts to individuals on the Navajo Nation in northern Arizona. She's lived on the Navajo Nation for 23 years of her life and does everything in her power to give back.

"This is my fifth year working with Quilts Beyond Borders," Monestersky said. "[We are] mostly focused on the former Bennett Freeze, where people were denied the ability to fix and repair homes for over 40 years, and the Hopi Petition lands where people are affected by relocation by the U.S. government."

The CCC General Studies student explained that time, effort and love go into the making of each quilt. Plus, no two quilts are alike. They come in various sizes -- for the lap, to hang on the wall and to put on the bed.

Monestersky visited schools, communities, various Chapter Houses and

senior living areas to make sure everyone could reap the benefits of the comforting quilts.

"I was contacted by Quilts Beyond Borders [several years ago] and I heard about the work of their organization, and I said, 'Wow, it would be really wonderful [if] we could set up something and give out quilts,'" Monestersky said.

Since then, she has delivered the handcrafted pieces in Big Mountain, Black Mesa, Tuba City, Cameron and Leupp.

She explained that she does this deed around Christmas time, because she wants people on the Navajo Nation to have something to look forward to during the holiday, in addition to keeping warm and cozy.

"Christmas can be a lonely time, you know, if you don't have the family support network," Monestersky said.

Furthermore, Monestersky added that she wanted to do something special for the Navajo Code Talkers. She spoke with the President at QBB and decided to nominate them for Quilts of Valor.

According to the Quilts of Valor website, "The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."

Monestersky noted that she was honored to spend her winter break away from CCC to give to the community.

"I've been able to sit with them [Navajo Code Talkers] and hear stories of their battles they were engaged in. It's like a front seat to experiencing something that's totally unique," Monestersky said.

The next step for the scholar is to bring quilts to veterans because there are many individuals on the Navajo Nation who have served in the military.

"I feel like the true meaning of the holiday season is giving, not receiving," Monestersky said.

-- *Brittany Viar*

Around CCC

CCC to feature 'ED Talks' at Fourth Street Innovation Center



CCC Provost Dr. Dudley Gardner (right) will kick off a new public series at the Fourth Street Innovation Center, called ED Talks, by sharing about "Outlaws of the Old West."

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Ever wanted to know about the history of Flagstaff neighborhoods? Or, what about outlaws of the Old West? Did you ever wonder if voice recognition or fingerprints actually do keep your mobile device safe?

The answers to these questions and others will be answered with the start of a new series of free educational talks, or ED Talks, at Coconino Community College, beginning this month. The talks are part of an ongoing effort for CCC to reach out community members interested in continued learning.

The series kicks off Feb. 12, at 6 p.m., with a presentation by Dr. Dudley Gardner about "Outlaws of the Old West."

Gardner, CCC Provost, will present a wealth of knowledge about the heyday of the outlaw in the American West between 1875 and 1895. He will separate the reality of the outlaws' lives from the romanticized myths that grew in the wake of their exploits.

"The outlaw came to symbolize the West, particularly at a time when the Wild West was transitioning from the frontier to a settled environment," Gardner said, adding that the settling became their undoing because with settlement came technology, and technological advances in communication made it hard for outlaws to outrun the law.

Gardner is an archaeologist and an historian who has worked in the field of archaeology since 1975. He has published several books, articles and archaeological reports of his fieldwork, and he has even collaborated on work with renowned author Annie Proulx.

His specialty is the Formative Period and 18th century archaeology from around the Pacific Rim, and he has conducted extensive archaeological excavations in Western Colorado and Wyoming. Gardner's work has been done in the field and is being brought directly to the audience - because he wants to tell stories of the past so people can appreciate learning about it.

"Archaeologists often go out, complete fascinating projects, and then never tell anybody about their discoveries," Gardner said. "This helps to change

that."

Additional talks scheduled so far in the series include:

- **March 12:** "Navajo Culture," by Derik Yellowhair, CCC Student Life Coordinator
- **April 9:** "Fiji:Paradise of Many Cultures" by Lisa Dorskocil, CCC Anthropology Instructor
- **May 14:** "Todos Unidos: The Hispanic Experience in Flagstaff (with an emphasis on the Sunnyside Neighborhood)," by Breann Velasco, Pioneer Museum
- **June 11:** "Voice, Fingerprints, Eye Scans: Are Biometrics Really Keeping Your Mobile Device Secure?" by Gonzalo Perez, CCC Associate Vice President of Innovative Learning Solutions.

All of the ED Talks take place at the CCC Fourth Street Innovation Center, which is located at 3000 N. Fourth St., in Flagstaff. For more information about CCC, visit www.coconino.edu.

CCC students get social over ice cream

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Coconino Community College students licked their lips in satisfaction during an ice cream social event in the Lone Tree Commons on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Students had their choice of chocolate or vanilla ice cream as well as any toppings, including cookie pieces, sprinkles, chocolate syrup, whipped cream and cherries. Oh, my!

"This is a peer advisor-held Ice Cream Social for clubs and organizations throughout the school," said CCC Peer Advisor Kevin Scholler. "We had an idea of doing this through the peer advisors through Student Development, [and] we wanted to do it to collaborate between clubs and organizations to get a better turnout. This was something I did while I was in Phi Theta Kappa, and it worked really well there, and I want to implement that here as well."



CCC Peer Advisor Michael Walbridge serves ice cream to students at the Lone Tree campus.

American Sign Language, Gaming, Anthropology Club and TRiO were several organizations at the event.

Students wore smiles as they mingled with friends, became members of the clubs available to them and bonded over a sweet treat.

-- *Brittany Viar*

Have a CCC news story or idea?

News and stories abound on the campuses of Coconino Community College.

- Stories of student success
- Stories of faculty and staff who make a difference
- Stories of innovative programs that foster learning
- The latest news and events going on at CCC

The list goes on.

News and story ideas are always welcome. Please contact Larry Hendricks, Public Relations Coordinator, at larry.hendricks@coconino.edu, or 928.226.4374.
