Dear Alumni,

Welcome to the summer issue of the Pima Community College Alumni Association (PCCAA) eNewsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading about what is happening at Pima College, and we look forward to receiving your updates for publication in a future PCCCAA electronic newsletter, and other feedback at alumni@pima.edu.

Thank you,
Pima Community College Alumni Association

This is an official communication from PCC Alumni Association. If you have any questions about the legitimacy of this e-mail, please call (520) 206-4646 or e-mail alumni@pima.edu.

In this issue...

News
Upcoming Events
Alumni Salute!
Alumni Outreach
The Arts
Athletics
Ongoing Events

News

Congratulations Class of 2013!!

In May, PCC celebrated the largest graduating class in history! A total of 3,726 students graduated this year.

"Once again, this year's commencement is one for the record books," said Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Dr. Jerry Migler. "It's a testament to our graduates' love of learning, as well as to the work of the College's faculty and staff, who provide the instruction and services that put our students on the path to success."

This year, the commencement address was given by PCC graduate, 20-year-old Joshua Allen Place. Joshua received two associate degrees and one certificate. He received a Computer-Aided Drafting, Integrated Circuit Layout Design-Associate of Applied Science degree, a General Studies-Associate General Studies degree and a Computer Aided Drafting Advanced Certificate.
Joshua is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society with his 3.9 grade point average, and was one of only 73 PCC graduating students with a GPA of 3.9 or higher, qualifying to graduate with highest honors.

He currently works at a pottery studio in Amado. He began attending PCC at age 16 after being home schooled all of his life. His goal is to become an integrated circuit layout designer immediately after graduation.

"Texas Instruments and Intel are at the top of my list," Joshua said.

Unlike larger schools that bring in big names to give speeches, PCC's commencement address will be given by one of its students, 20-year-old Joshua Allen Place.

The oldest PCC graduate was 70-year-old Enriqueta E. Fassler, who earned a post-degree Paralegal Certificate. The youngest was 17-year-old Stephania Vasilieva, who earned three associate's degrees in liberal arts, science, and business administration; and an AGEC-B Certificate.

Over 5,800 degrees and certificates were awarded this year - another record. Many PCC students earn more than one degree or certificate. (Click here Quick Facts for the 2013 Class Profile details.)
"Call me Lee." This is what PCC's new Chancellor Lee Lambert says when he meets new people. He prefers to be addressed by his first name, saying we are all equal and each one of us plays a different role and each role is important to our mission.

Chancellor Lambert officially started on July 1. This is what he said on his blog regarding his first couple of weeks at Pima: "There's an old saying that you have two ears and one mouth for a reason. In that spirit, I have spent my first two weeks as Chancellor listening to the College's many constituents. I have met and heard from business and education leaders, groups of concerned community members, individuals impacted by the former Chancellor, PCC employees, and government leaders at the federal, state and local levels.

"I am heartened by what I've heard. People care deeply about Pima because it has such a broad and deep connection to the community. They want Pima to be at its best. In that context, I appreciate the apology included in the Message to the Community in the draft Monitoring Report that PCC is preparing for the Higher Learning Commission. We need to own the fact that we didn't live up to our ideals. We need to acknowledge that the wheels on the bus came off before we begin making substantive improvements to our processes.

"I also have been heartened that many community members are hopeful the College will successfully emerge from probation. Granted, theirs is a cautious optimism, and is tinged with healthy skepticism. But many people realize PCC takes the probation sanction very seriously, and has put in place an effective process, led by Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jerry Migler, that will allow us to reflect, learn from our mistakes and improve our service to the community.

"The College's decision to reaffirm its open-admissions policy is a strong first step in that direction. The Governing Board, at a Special Meeting June 25, supported a resolution removing language from Standard Practice Guide 3501/AA in order to make permanent an earlier one-year suspension of minimum-level scoring on assessment examinations. The reality is that open access historically has been the reason for the existence of community colleges. The College shouldn't turn someone away any more than a hospital should.

"I have also heard widespread agreement that PCC has a crucial role to play in the economic development of our region. Many jobs of the future will be concentrated in industries that make and service new products. These jobs will not necessarily require a bachelor's or advanced degree but can be the backbone of a prosperous, stable community. PCC is perfectly positioned to teach machinists, mechanics and other workers - many of whom will require sub-baccalaureate scientific, technical and engineering training - to meet new opportunities in the rapidly evolving global economy. I look forward to collaborating with the business community so that the College can continue to provide the best equipment and expertise to its students. I am
committed to listening to the College's stakeholders, the students, employees, and community members whom I am proud to serve."

Chancellor Lambert is very active on social media. You can follow his blog at pimachancellor.wordpress.com, follow him on Twitter @LeeLambert3, or friend him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lee.d.lambert.

**PCC Addresses Probation**

Pima Community College is moving forward to address the concerns of its accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

On April 6, 2013, the HLC placed the College on probation. While on probation, the College remains fully accredited. For more detailed information, go to PCC addresses probation.

**Fiesta! Honors Students and Donors**

The PCC Annual Scholarship Recognition Fiesta featured a student speaker who considers education a gift and hopes to make a difference.

"I work hard for my education and take advantage of what is offered to me," said Jeanette Alcaraz, the scholarship recipient who spoke at the event. "I treat education like the gift it really is. It is valuable."

Jeanette earned her Associate of Liberal Arts degree and an Honors Certificate in May 2011 and is currently working on earning an Associate degree in Business Administration. She plans to transfer to The University of Arizona to pursue a bachelor's degree in Business.

"I received several scholarships from the PCC Foundation," she said. "They've been very supportive of my dreams."

Jeanette helps her mother care for her younger and older brother who are blind and have mental disabilities. "My brothers inspire me on a daily basis," she said. "My younger brother, who is blind and autistic, taught me to look at life in a perspective I have never seen before."

Alcaraz sees herself as a leader in her community striving to make a difference. She believes that people who do not take advantage of education are losing out on an enormous opportunity of academic development and intellectual growth. While attending school full-time and helping her mother, she also works at a restaurant to assist with her expenses.
The Fiesta celebrates PCC scholarship recipients, honors donors and raises scholarship funds for coming semesters. In 2012-13, the Pima Community College Foundation awarded nearly $1 million in scholarships to 1,500 students, but more funds are needed to meet student demand.

**Use SALT to Help Pay for College**

Pima Community College has teamed up with American Student Assistance (ASA) to provide a unique membership program that teaches students and alumni money-skills for life. The program-SALT-teaches students how to pay for college with the least amount of debt possible, successfully manage any debt they do take on, and ultimately earn the greatest return on their investment in education.

What is SALT? It is a game-changing educational membership program that equips students and alumni with money skills for life so they reduce their student loan debt, improve student loan repayment outcomes, and increase their overall financial empowerment. Combining online and offline interactions, SALT delivers decision support, engaging content, and one-on-one loan repayment guidance in a simple, useful, and motivating experience. Through SALT, ASA aims to spark a movement to address the college affordability issue by revolutionizing how students and alumni finance and repay their higher education. This win-win approach helps students better manage their consumer debt decisions after college.

Who can benefit from using SALT? Any college student or alumni who needs to become more financially savvy, whether they have borrowed student loans or not can benefit from SALT.

How does it work? SALT uses different channels to educate, empower, and engage members. The program includes:
- Proactive communication about student loan repayment options.
- One-on-one repayment counseling with student loan experts.
- Personalized online dashboard to track all their federal and private student loans in one place and compare payment options.
- Highly interactive Web financial education curriculum and other educational content.
- Multiple self-serve tools and calculators to assist with budgeting.
- In-person group financial education training.
- Advocacy and assistance in resolving complex student loan related problems.
- Benefits and incentives that lower the total cost of college attendance, such as scholarships, job/internship searches, and discounts on discretionary items.

How to sign up: Students and alumni can sign up at [www.saltmoney.org](http://www.saltmoney.org) or call 855-469-2724. If members have questions about their student loans, they should contact a SALT loan counselor at 877-523-9473. Members can also follow SALT at facebook.com/saltmoney or on Twitter at @salt_money.

**Upcoming Events**

*Center for Training and Development's 50th Anniversary Gala*
You are cordially invited to Pima Community College's Center for Training and Development's (CTD) 50th Anniversary Reception Gala and Silent Auction.

CTD is celebrating 50 years of providing hands-on, practical training for students who are ready to go to work. On September 4, CTD will host its 50th Anniversary Reception Gala and Silent Auction to celebrate community partners, alumni and students, and the impact CTD has had in the community.

**What:** CTD's 50th Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction  
**When:** Wednesday, September 4, 2013  
**Where:** Lodge on the Desert (306 N. Alvernon Way)  
**Time:** 4:00-8:00 P.M.  
**Cost:** $35 per person

To purchase a ticket online, go to [CTD Gala](#). For more information, call (520) 206-5100.

### 31st El Tour de Tucson

Ride for Pima! Join Pima Community College's team in the 31st Annual El Tour de Tucson, November 23, 2013. Riders in America's largest perimeter bicycling event can choose from 111, 85, 60 or 42 mile routes. All cyclists pay a $120 entry fee plus raise a minimum of $100 in contributions to PCC.

To participate, complete [El Tour de Tucson application](#) and mail it with your $120 entry fee, payable to PCC Foundation, by October 21, 2013, to 4905 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85709-1320. (Sorry, online registration is not available for this event.) Collect $100 or more in contributions for the PCC Foundation and receive additional benefits, including a water bottle, socks and a cycling jersey. For more information, call (520) 206-4646 or email [foundation@pima.edu](mailto:). Ride on, Pima!

### Alumni Salute!

#### Alumni Spotlight: Maria Mazon

"I fell into the culinary and food service business by accident," said Maria Mazon, a self-taught chef.

Maria, graduate of Catalina Magnet High School, came to Pima Community College to major in Nutrition and Food Sciences.

"Nutrition and cooking go hand-in-hand," Maria said.
Chef Maria Mazon

Maria always had a love for food but it wasn't until she began a waitressing job during her time at Pima that she realized she could transport people to Sonora, Mexico via food. So, she offered to cook up the weekend specials while serving.

"Cooking is something that's always been really natural for me," Maria said.

The demand for Maria's cooking grew quickly. By the age of 22, she opened a catering business with a business partner. She became the sole owner of her own taco shop by the age of 30.

"Tacos can showcase everything that's wonderful about Mexican food," Maria said. "Light, fresh and flavorful."

Maria incorporates her knowledge of nutrition into her cooking and always strives to use healthy alternatives and natural ingredients. "You want to eat good food and look good too," Maria said. "Mexican food can be elegant and healthy."

Maria is the owner of Boca Tacos and Tequila and takes pride in using locally grown produce to make her signature salsas.

She has earned numerous local accolades, as well as several area competitions including Tucson's "Iron Chef."

Maria also works with Chef Elizabeth Mikesell, instructor for PCC's Center for Training and Development's Culinary Arts program and Chef Barry Infuso, lead faculty for PCC's Culinary Arts program on various community events and projects.

"Whatever I can do for Pima, I do gladly," Maria said.

(Boca Tacos and Tequila, 828 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, Arizona, (520) 777-8134)

Alumni Outreach

Recommend Outstanding Alumni

The Alumni Association is compiling names of successful alumni. Submit recommendations 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. Remember, you can send us information on yourself too!
**Consider a Contribution to the 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 donate online. To donate to the Alumni Association Family Scholarship (which goes to alumni and their dependents) or any other scholarship/program/fund, go to [Donation to PCC](#), click on "Donate Online" If choosing to contribute to the Alumni Scholarship, select Scholarships and Check out other scholarships and contribution opportunities offered by the PCC Foundation at [Donation to PCC](#).

For more information, contact the PCC Foundation at (520) 206-4646 or via e-mail at foundation@pima.edu.

fill in "Alumni Association Family Scholarship."

**Join PCCAA**

Alumni Wanted: Join the Pima Community College Alumni Association!

Be part of PCC Alumni Association and stay connected to the College. Membership is free. To register, go to [PCC Alumni](#).

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at (520) 206-4646 or via email at alumni@pima.edu.

**The Arts**

**Center for the Arts Announces the 2013–14 Season: "BRAVO!"**

**What:** PCC Center for the Arts 2013-14 Season: "BRAVO!"

**Where:** PCC Center for the Arts, West Campus
2202 West Anklam Road, Tucson, AZ 85709

**When:** September 2013 through May 2014
Open to the public: For performance tickets call the box office at (520) 206-6986 or purchase online at www.pima.edu/cfa. Tickets are available online beginning August 6. The box office opens for ticket sales on August 27. The gallery and all its programs are free, call (520) 206-6942.

Information: (520) 206-6986 or (520) 206-3062, centerforthearts@pima.edu, www.pima.edu/cfa.

PCC's Center for the Arts enthusiastically announces its 2013-2014 Season: "BRAVO!" - an eclectic and lively selection of Pima's theatre, music and dance performances; gallery exhibits of contemporary works by international, national and regional visual artists; and special events worthy of ovation.

Athletics

Hall of Fame

On April 5, the PCC Athletics held a dinner and ceremony to induct this year's outstanding individuals. The Aztec Hall of Fame inductees are:

Administrator: Larry Toledo, PCC's First Athletics Director
Athlete: Horacio Llamas, Men's Basketball
Abdi Abdirahman, Track & Field
Eddie Urbano, Wrestling
Yuliana Rodgers, Track & Field
Coach: Stacy Iveson, Softball
Maureen Murphy, Women's Basketball
Rich Alday, Baseball
Jim Mielke, Cross Country/Track
Service: Ben Carbajal, Head Athletic Trainer
Team of Honor: 2003-2004 Softball, National Championship
1980 Men's Cross Country, National Championship

Recognition

For the 2012-2013 academic year, PCC athletes participated in 11 ACCAC Playoffs, 9 Regional Playoffs, and 9 National Tournaments. 53 athletes received the All ACCAC recognition, 17 All Region and 6 All American.

2012–2013 NJCAA Academic All–American

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Jarrell Betton</td>
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<td>Men's Indoor Track &amp; Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caleb Cabrera</td>
<td>Exemplary</td>
<td>Men's Outdoor Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>Kari Emery</td>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>Men's Cross Country</td>
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<td>Sabrina Montano</td>
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National Awards

Yvette Alvarez: Softball Division I Player of the Year
Ajha Edwards: Women's Basketball Division II Player of the Year
Gretchen Shantz: National Women's Tennis Coach of the Year

Athletic Information

For more information regarding PCC athletics, go to PCC Athletics.

Ongoing 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 PCC 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.