



Microsoft IT Academy Breeds Student Success

By Mark Anthony Febbo

Southern Arizona Community Academy's first year as a Microsoft IT "certiport" center has been quite successful according to Annie Carpenter.

Carpenter is an IT specialist and Microsoft Master Instructor at SACA.

As a "certiport" center, SACA agrees to use official Microsoft curriculum to help students reach proficiency in the use of Microsoft technology.

The Microsoft IT Academy program allows students and faculty at SACA to take certification courses in various

computer applications.

The program currently offers courses in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook.

According to Carpenter, the program will expand to offer courses in other programs in the future.

"We've been very successful," Carpenter said. "These are college level courses and adult certification tests, and we have freshman finishing them."

Carpenter pointed out that these are skills that are easily transferable to the working environment that students will encounter once they graduate from

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Chess Club Back on Board

By Kayleigh Wilke

Ah, chess: That epitome of intellectual competition, that practice field in which one hones one's indispensable weapons of strategy, cunning, and foresight, that game which many

participate in, yet few master. In the past, SACA had the weekly chess afternoon, where those interested could learn the ways of this noble pastime, or gather for a casual game or three among friends.

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Photo by T.J. Feck

From left to right: Mark Anthony Febbo, Melissa Haller, Barry Fox, Gia Leonetti and Jose Rodriguez.

Faculty Debuts:

An Introduction to New Teachers

By Mark Anthony Febbo

Southern Arizona Community Academy is pleased to announce the addition of five new faculty members.

We welcome Mr. Barry Fox, Mrs. Melissa Haller, Mrs. Gia Leonetti, Mr. José Rodríguez, and Mr. Mark Anthony Febbo.

Mr. Fox brings with him six years of experience in

adult education at Pima Community College, and will be heading up the special education program.

Prior to accepting her position as English teacher, Mrs. Haller was the assistant director of the Temple Emanuel Preschool in Tucson, Arizona.

Mrs. Gia Leonetti, a new face in the East classroom as chemistry teacher,

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Photo by Mark Anthony Febbo

Gregory "Rory" Ksionda (left) and Kayleigh Wilke (right) hone skills of logic and cunning in order to get ready for competition as part of SACA's chess team.

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Now, though, we are taking a more serious approach.

The time for the annual round-robins held by local high schools has come once again.

Last year, we were mercilessly beaten by our opponents through a combination of factors, though it was mostly due to lack of players.

If you are a chess player, or interested in learning to become one, then consider

this a call to arms. If this year's plans for competing are to get off the ground, we need people, and soon.

This will involve getting up quite early on some Saturdays and spending a good part of the day at the competition, but if you are the kind of committed individual who is willing to put forth the effort (or if you're just naturally an early

riser with a passion for the game) then by all means, join the SACA chess team.

Even if you don't know a knight from a rook, you may be surprised to find that you've got a talent for chess.

Maybe you'll even enjoy it. And *if* (and I admit this is a big "*if*") we manage to squeak through the round-robins, there are tournaments to be won, and possibly even highly shiny

award-type objects to be obtained.

Keep in mind, however, that while we were shorthanded last year, there are only five people on a team, and if you want to be a part of it, you had better get in on it fast.

If you are interested, please let Mr. Fech know immediately. Chess meetings will be at 2pm on Tuesdays.

SACA Partners with YMCA to Offer Physical Education

By Mark Anthony Febbo

Southern Arizona Community Academy will be offering physical education to qualifying students beginning in September.

This independent study will be offered through a gym membership at the YMCA downtown. Students can apply by filling out a YMCA membership form and a SACA athlete form.

In order to qualify for the program, students need to show two weeks consecutive perfect attendance. In addition to this, students must refrain from smoking and drinking.

Violation of this policy will result in removal from the physical education program.

Students will also be required to attend an orientation session at the YMCA and must complete at least five hours weekly at the gym.

Credit for the program will be determined by the amount of time students invest.

Twenty-five hours of gym time will be considered equal to one quarter of a credit.

Interested students should see Mrs. Kain for applications and details.



Graphic by Mark Gomez

Take advantage of SACA's partnership with the YMCA and pump yourself up.

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taught Italian at the UA for three years, and spent an additional seven years doing asthma research for the university. As a UA graduate, she holds degrees in molecular biology and Italian. Mr. Rodriguez, joining the social studies team, holds two bachelor degrees from the University of Arizona

in communications and history respectively. Mr. Mark Anthony Febbo, English teacher, graduated magna cum laude from the UA in May of 2006 with a degree in English and Creative Writing, and has had work published in the Arizona Daily Star and Persona Literary Magazine.

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"Where Life and Learning Connect"

MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to prepare mature high school students and adults (18 to 21 years old) in humanities and science for post secondary education, social responsibility, employability and lifelong learning.

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This Month in History with Mr. Fech & Mr. Rodriguez

As the calendar page turns, we will be bringing to you the highlights of the month throughout all of history. We hope that you will find them interesting, insightful, or at least a little amusing. This was a busy month, but here (in order by day, not by year) are the top 10 historical events of the month of September.

September 2, 31 B.C. - Roman legions under Augustus Caesar defeated Mark Antony's naval force at Actium. This event is accepted by some scholars as the transition of the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire.

September 2, 1752 - The British ended their use of the Julian calendar, switching instead to the Gregorian calendar, resulting in a major adjustment as Wednesday, September 2, was followed by Thursday, September 14. The "correction" resulted in rioting by people who felt cheated and demanded the missing eleven days back.

September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States. And we're proud to be Americans...

September 7, 1822 - Brazil declared its independence from Portugal after 322 years as a colony. To give a bit of perspective, 322 years ago from today (1685) is when Father Kino started traveling around California and Arizona when it was all under the control of Spain.

September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. History occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons.

September 17, 1787 - At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, delegates from twelve of the thirteen states voted to approve the proposed U.S. Constitution. This was much to the joy of Daniel Shays and everyone else who was sick of the Articles of Confederation.

September 19, 1893 - New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

September 26, 1888 - Writer T.S. Eliot (1888-1965) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He rejected conventional verse and language in favor of free expression.

September 28, 1066 - The Norman conquest of England began as Duke William of Normandy (later to be known as William the Conqueror) landed at Pevensey, Sussex; thus causing Old French to be integrated into the Old English language.

September 30, 1955 - Actor James Dean of Fairmount, Indiana was killed in a car crash in California at age 24. Although he made just three major films, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *East of Eden* and *Giant*, he remains one of the most influential actors in the history of American cinema.

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high school.

Carpenter noted that even if students end up using a slightly different program in the workplace from that which they learn to use at SACA, competing programs are sure to have similar functions and students will have a head start when they encounter this in the workplace.

Becoming officially certified in Microsoft applications may also benefit students' future salaries, according to Microsoft.

Microsoft statistics show that 82% of certified Microsoft Office Specialists report a salary increase after certification.

Microsoft also notes that 88% of managers believe that certification gives employees an advantage in hiring and promotion.

SACA's first year as a "certiport" center boasts 33 certifications according to Carpenter. Nineteen of these are in MS Word. PowerPoint certification comes in second with seven students having completed the course. Five students were certified in Excel, and two more in Access and Outlook respectively.

