



Greetings, History Buffs....as we begin the run-up to our 30<sup>th</sup> SMCC commencement ceremony on May 14, it's a good time to look back at our very first....from *The Arizona Republic*, May 20, 1981. We had a grand total of three graduates that first year....but that modest ceremony set the course for thousands more who would pass through our campus over the next three decades.....remember any of these names?

Extra 8

## College officials praise support, student effort

Grass-roots support and the efforts of dedicated students have made South Mountain Community College a success, school officials said at the institute's first commencement ceremony last week.

Associate degrees were conferred upon three students. Twenty others received awards for academic achievement, leadership and service to the college.

"We are especially grateful for the wisdom of the entire community in addressing the vital need of expanding educational facilities into this area," Raul Cardenas, founding president, said.

Robert Martinez, Maricopa County Community College District board member, pledged his support for South Mountain.

Fred Stahl, dean of instruction, called the graduation "a night of pride, inspiration and hope."

He added, "I'd like to honor two specific groups: the family and friends of the graduates and the classified and support staff of the college. They played a vital role in the success of the school."

The new college seal, designed by art instructor Randall Gunther, was unveiled, and James Galbraith, director of admissions and records, announced the school motto: "Knowledge for Life."

Patti Clarke and Karen L. Hender-

son received associate degrees in general studies. Lawrence Eugene Jack earned an associate in arts degree.

Wil Counts, dean of student development, presented service awards to Veronica Alvarado, Isaac Alvarez, Josie Barsey, Anita Batt, Jacque Beale, Michelle Bentz, Ona Brown, Jose Carrillo, Ms. Clarke, Shirley Cruise, Laurie Davis, Abram Garcia, Antonia Garcia, Toni Gomez, Gerald Guadagno, Loretta Johnson, Ramona Lacy, Theresa Martinez, Mario Matus, Jose Mendoza, Joyce Pittman, Margaret Ray, Paris Simmons and Judith Wennersten.

Special scholarships were awarded to Paul Chacon, Raymond Fennell, Audrey James, Mary Sims and Ms. Wennersten.

Those on the President's List are Kathleen Aguilera, Stephen Callahan, Ms. Clarke, Donna Ealim, Nina J. Harper, Sonia Hernandez, Catherine Huguez, Ms. James, Ms. Johnson, Judy Jones, Ruben Montalbo, Barbara Moya, Lisa Quinonez, Frederick Schmoll, Shelly Watson and Ms. Wennersten.

South Mountain, the newest of the seven Maricopa County community colleges, opened classes to more than 800 students in August 1980.

Classes have been held at various locations. The permanent campus at 7050 S. 24th St. is scheduled to be completed this summer.