

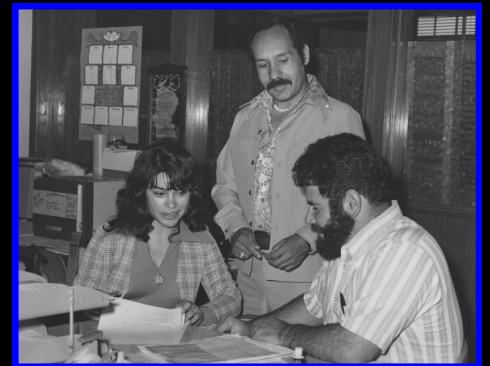


Preserving MJC History

For the past few years the Alumni Association has been meeting with many members of the MJC community in an effort to learn the entire history of Modesto Junior College. Additionally, the association has spent a great amount of time going through the college archives. All of that research has led to the Alumni Association reconnecting with many terrific alumni and bringing their stories back to life.



MJC From the Beginning?
In 1921, new California Legislation was formed to allow for college districts to be formed. Prior to this community colleges had only existed as extension of high schools on high school campuses. At a local Lions Club meeting members addressed the idea of Modesto opening a Community College. A formal vote of the members in attendance took place, the vote was unanimous to pursue opening Modesto Junior College.



On September 19, 1921 Modesto Junior College was born. Classes were held for the first 3 semesters at Modesto High School. MJC campus hosted its first classes in the Spring of 1923.

MJC Fun Facts

- The two original sites considered for MJC was Dry Creek and what is now the McHenry Village.
- College Avenue was considered too far on the outskirts of Modesto.
- The Original two mascots considered but never used were the Gorilla and the Blue Devil. The students decided against both and chose the Pirate. We have been the Pirates since the beginning .
- The First MJC building was North Hall, it's total cost \$90,000. This money was raised by a \$0.50 cent local tax.

MJC Fun Facts

- The first MJC Graduation took place in June of 1923. The first class consisted of 17 graduates.
- The original library, gym, and bookstore were purchased by the student body.
- MJC's first ever transfer student was Richard D. Husband who transferred to Stanford University.
- The first evening classes took place in 1938, but were a separate college.
- In September of 1940, 17 faculty members resigned to enlist in the military and fight in World War II.

