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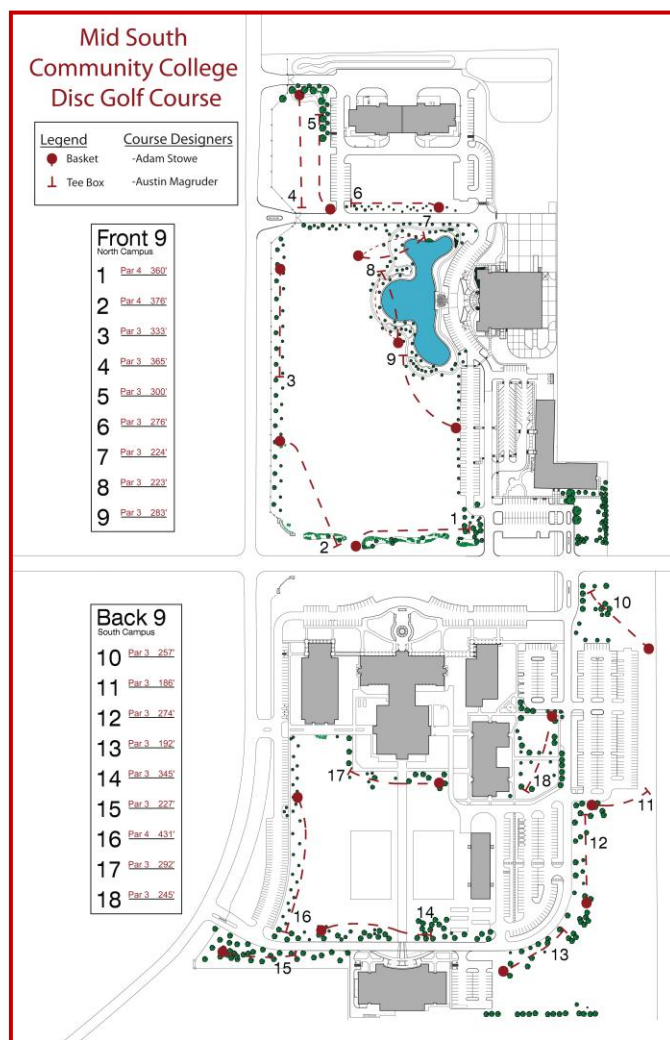
## MSCC Unveils Redesigned, Expanded Disc Golf Course

Eight years after becoming a player in the disc golf craze, Mid-South Community College has taken the recreational activity to the next level with a redesigned and expanded venue.

Thanks to assistance from student interns from the Fay Jones School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas, MSCC has become home to a fun and challenging 18-hole course that will draw competitors from far and wide.

“The disc golf course is another nice addition to our campus, and we believe it gives people another good reason to come to West Memphis and Mid-South Community College,” said MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter.

“You would be amazed at the number of folks across the country who are already aware of the fact that we have disc golf course. The sport actually has a significant following across the nation and the world, and players travel all over to play and rate courses. Our



campus is a beautiful setting for a course, and we anticipate that we will have visitors from around the globe.”

The course will also have local implications as well.

“Not a lot of young people from our region have ever had a chance to play disc golf,” Dr. Fenter said. “We’re going to expose them to the sport and broaden their perspective on life.”



MSCC’s first foray into disc golf came in 2004 when it enlisted eight-time world champion Tom Monroe to design a nine-hole course on the South Campus. This past summer, architecture students and disc golf enthusiasts Adam Stowe and Austin Magruder put their mark on the venue.

“We had the opportunity to access a couple of young architectural school students who also happen to be disc golf nuts,” Dr. Fenter said. “They designed an entirely new layout and did a great job for us. We think this is one of the coolest 18-hole disc golf courses in the country.”

Stowe, a fifth-year student pursuing a bachelor’s degree from the U of A program, said he welcomed to the opportunity because of his affinity for the sport. Stowe has worked at Pat Kelley Magruder Architects in West Memphis the last two summers as an intern, and he collaborated with Austin Magruder on the project. Stowe has been playing disc golf for more than 10 years.

“Once I knew I’d be staying in West Memphis for an extended period of time, I looked up courses in the area, and the one at MSCC was the closest,” he said. “Due to construction on the campus and the addition of a new parking lot, a few holes were missing, but my friends and I were still able to play.”

“This last summer Dr. Fenter asked PKM Architects to put together a potential disc golf master plan that would encompass both the South and North campuses, and the task was given and Austin Magruder (also an intern and a third-year architecture student at the U of A) and me.”

Stowe and Magruder walked the campus a number of times during the summer to determine the best locations for “holes” (which are actually raised metal baskets).

“We used the existing landscape features on the campus to act as obstacles that would shape the new course,” he explained. “Some of the most interesting holes are on the North Campus because they allow the disc golfer to attempt a couple of water shots over the pond.”

“I think this course will not only be a fun recreational hobby that most students could pick up between or after classes but will also bring many disc golf enthusiasts over from Memphis to play. The intrigue of a new course, let alone one located on a campus, is appealing to many people because campus courses are hard to find.”

The course, which is open to the public during daylight hours, includes water and tree hazards that make it challenging and entertaining. MSCC charges no fee for disc golfers.

MSCC’s president said the campus addition provides a good bang for the buck.

“This project actually cost us very little money but will give us lots of good exposure,” he pointed out.

The front nine is located on the North Campus, and the back nine is located across the street on the South Campus. Stowe and Magruder designed the course so that it doesn’t interfere with existing buildings and will not hinder future campus expansion.

Formalized in the 1970s, disc golf has become one of the fastest growing games. The United States features more than 3,000 formal courses, and additional venues are located around the world. It has been estimated that between seven and nine million people participate in the sport.

The sport provides a low-impact exercise that requires mental strategy while providing an avenue for people of every skill level to play together. It is easy to learn and is accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels.

The game is played much like traditional golf; the object is to complete each hole in the fewest number of throws. Equipment is generally inexpensive; new discs cost less than \$20 (most are in the \$8-\$15 range).

For information about disc golf or other recreational opportunities at MSCC campus, call (870) 733-6728, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, email [admissions@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:admissions@midsouthcc.edu), or see the College's website at [www.midsouthcc.edu](http://www.midsouthcc.edu).