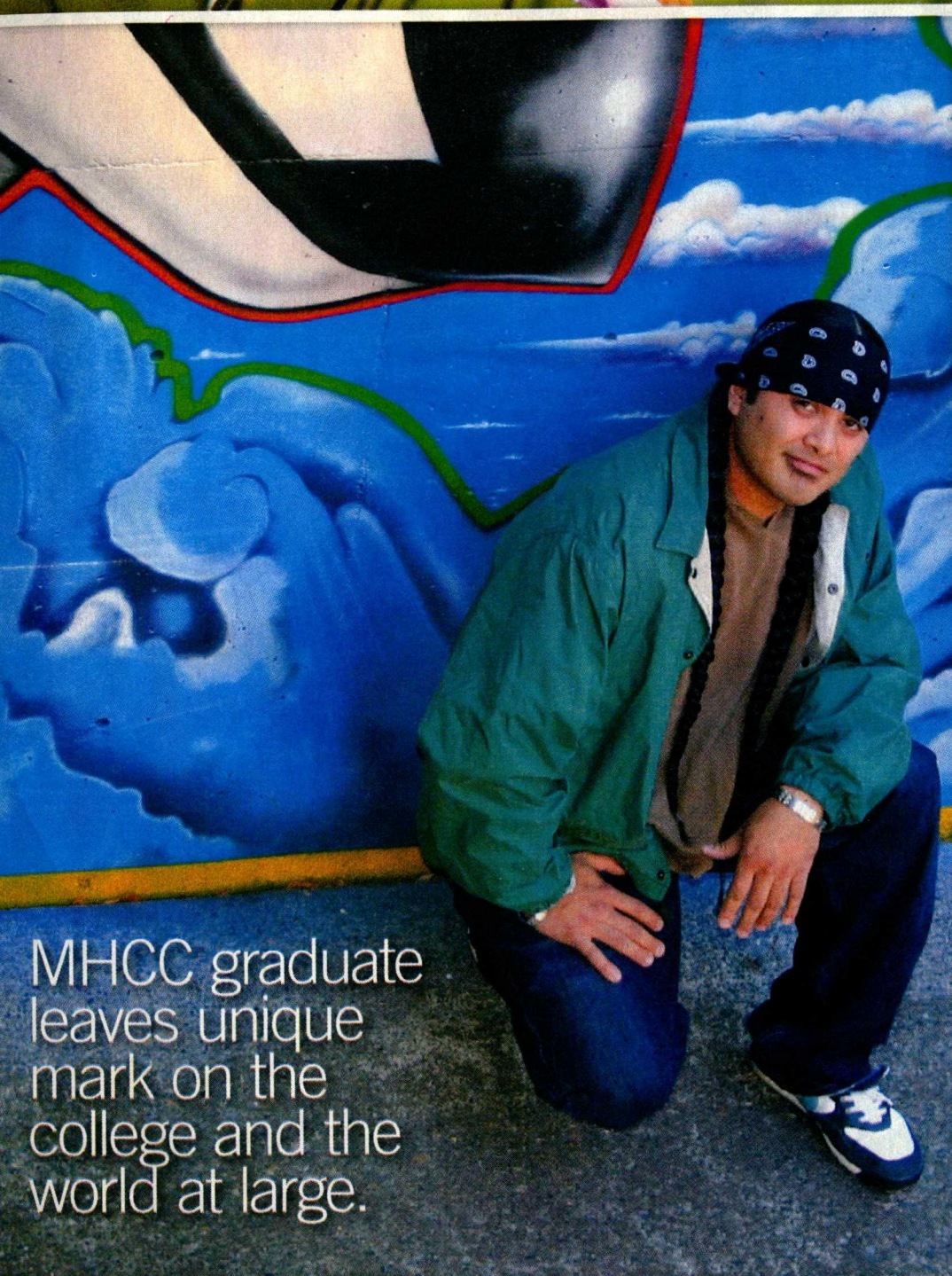


MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

08
SPRING



MHCC graduate leaves unique mark on the college and the world at large.

MHCC's own **Student Scholars** recognized with scholarships.

story inside

Study Abroad opportunities in Italy, Mexico and Japan.

story inside

Earn Bachelor's degrees at MHCC.

story inside

Pará información en español vea la pagina 3.

Web registration is available for returning students at **www.mhcc.edu**.



MT. HOOD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Successful MHCC Graduate

TOMA VILLA

Urban style meets native roots

When Nike needs a Native American image for posters or advertising, Toma Villa is one of the local artists they call. His bold artistic designs combine urban style and native themes. Nike recently asked him to collaborate with two other artists to create images for their new Native American line of shoes.

"I mix my graffiti style with my native background," explained Villa, a Mt. Hood Community College graduate. "The graffiti writing style really attracts me—it's a mysterious kind of thing, it's another identity you create."

Villa has been creating urban art since fourth grade, but it wasn't until he enrolled in the art program at MHCC that he was able to find his unique voice through experimenting with new mediums and art forms.

"They exposed me to a lot of other art," he said. "Before I came here I'd never even touched a paint brush before; it was all rattle can."

Through his studies, he realized he most enjoyed working with airbrush on canvas, and started creating paintings that explored traditional Native American stories and images in an urban style.

Villa was not only challenged into experimenting with new mediums, he was given incredible opportunities as an artist, including a trip to the United Kingdom.

Tamsie Ringler, sculpture instructor, chose Villa to be one of two MHCC art students to attend the International Conference of Cast Iron Art because he was one of her top sculpture students.

"I got to see more of the world," said Villa. "Those kind of opportunities don't happen for a lot of people."

Before Toma Villa graduated from MHCC, he left his stamp on campus, a 23-foot-tall mural of an Orca whale. The geometric whale is surrounded by swirling waves and bubbly clouds, its fin stretching to the second story like a backwards seven.

Since most of the pieces of art and murals in the MHCC collection are by professional artists, commissioning Villa to paint the mural was a testament to his reputation as a talented artist.

"The great combination of graffiti style and Native American motifs is what made the Orca so successful," said Tamsie, sculpture instructor. "They're both visually bold styles that go well together."

Soon Villa's bold style might be seen walking around town on the new Nike shoe, images that reflect the perfect combination of urban cool and Native design.

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