

Friday, October 17, 2008

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." - Anais Anin

At Mesa, life expanded with an amazing week of events some extraordinary and some inspiring and reassuring, that provided provided us with a sense of continuity and contribution to the community in which we live and work.

Good News came our way as we learned that a "side letter" agreement had been established between our District and the AFT Guild that permits colleges to expand part-time faculty loads from 60% to 67%. This opportunity was made possible through the recent enactment of AB 591 (Dymally), a bill that gives flexibility to colleges enabling the assignment of part-time faculty to courses that carry high unit designations (i.e. 5 unit courses). Logistics just became a great deal easier for department chairs!

Vice President for Instruction Selection Committee-- The first meeting of this group took place this week as we start our search for Mesa's next Vice President for Instruction. In the meantime, I continue to be thankful and amazed at the level of professionalism and contribution by faculty, administrators and other staff persons who do their best to sustain an excellent level of educational services and program delivery for Mesa students.

Mesa Tapped to Participate in the 2008 Women's Conference - A week ago Friday, I received a call from Diane Woodruff, State Chancellor asking Mesa to be one of seven community colleges statewide to participate in expanding access to the program for the 2008 Women's Conference scheduled for October 22, at the Long Beach Convention Center. Hosted by California's First Lady **Maria Shriver** and Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, The Women's Conference is the nation's premier forum for women. The stated mission for the Conference is:

"to inspire, empower and educate women from all walks of life to be Architects of Change in their own lives, in their communities and around the world. Every year, the non-partisan Women's Conference gathers the world's greatest hearts and minds to address the topics and concerns that matter to women."

It is expected that a roster of more than 70 world opinion leaders will participate in a series of panel presentations. Mesa will host a live feed in the LRC on the day of the Conference itself and has made arrangements for a delayed replay of the presentations scheduled in H-117-118 beginning 10/22 at 11:15 and concluding on 10/23. This delayed replay is scheduled to coincide with the regular class schedule thus enabling students to participate in the process through the use of campus based moderators. Attached to this e-mail you will find a copy of the program. In addition, if you would like more information, I invite you to log on to the conference's website at:

www.californiawomen.org

Guidelines for Use of Campus E-mail - A short note to inform you that we continue to struggle with understanding the appropriate and inappropriate uses of campus e-mail. I have sent two communications regarding this matter and the issue continues. We all acknowledge that this is a complex matter, and several members of the faculty and staff will work with me to find ways in which we can work to maintain civility, accommodate issues of academic freedom and most of all to behave in a manner that is consonant with the statement of professional ethics that we have adopted as a college. There are rules and regulations, but the most important thing to have in a "shared governance" environment is the sense of responsibility to maintain a climate of mutual respect and professionalism. I am confident we can learn by going through this experience and that we can be fair, equitable but firm in dealing with continued transgressions on a case by case basis.

Dinner and a Drama- An evening of great food, great conversation and inspiring performances by Mesa students-- a pleasure for the senses all around! Friday evening Mesa launched a very successful experiment, the pairing of a fine dining experience entirely prepared by students in our Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program. Dinner was followed by a preliminary brief lecture from Professor Maria Bolivar on the symbolism and imagery associated with Federico Garcia Lorca's play, *The House of Bernarda Alba*. We all were stars for a second or two, delivering lines in English and Spanish after we finished our dinner before heading to the Apolliad Theatre to enjoy the performance of very talented students in a very complex dramatic interpretation. The experiment proved a great success and we can look forward to continued programs of this type. This was truly a collaboration in every sense of the word, standing as a clear example of "linked-course" instruction that maximized the talents of the Drama Department, Culinary Arts/Culinary Management, Music Department and Mesa's Public Information Office, where the idea first germinated.

Campus Life

10/11 - Mesa Organic Garden Kickoff. Students and faculty broke ground, tilled the soil, added compost and planted the first seedlings in the Mesa College Organic Garden, which will serve as a laboratory, community resource, and garden for Mesa's culinary arts program. Local experts offered sustainable gardening tips and the public was invited to attend.

10/15 - Spoken Word Event. A motivating and inspiring event reflecting on the importance of diversity on-and-off campus.

10/15 - Music Recital featuring the contemporary classical sounds of the Ellen Weller Ensemble.

10/16 - Film and Discussion "The Angry Eye:" Film screening and discussion of a remake of Jane Elliot's "Blue eyed/brown eyed" experiment highlights with striking force the subtle forces of discrimination that continue to exist in our society.

10/17 - 18th Annual Future Educators Conference. More than 100 high school students attended this forum for students who are interested in pursuing a career in teaching. This event is

a collaboration between Mesa's Teacher Education Program, San Diego State University and Cal State San Marcos.

President's Cabinet Update

This portion of the update provides you with a summary of key actions from our shared governance body, President's Cabinet.

At its meeting on Tuesday, October 14, the following actions were taken:

- Approved the following major events:
 - (a) "Interlude" Concert Performance, October 24, 2008
 - (b) Continuing Education Student Day Events, November 12, 2008
- Heard Chemistry Professor Joseph Toto's presentation resulting from the work completed as part of his participation in the **@One Scholar Project**. The research question posed was: to what degree will mini-lecture movies (MLM) improve student homework and final exam scores in a first semester online general chemistry course? If you would like more information please log on to: www.cccone.org/scholars/06-07
- Viewed a comprehensive presentation on the history, development and current status of Propositions S and N Projects. The presentation also established agreed-upon ASF (Assignable Square Footage) for every project on the list. The presentation will be posted on Mesa's website. In addition, Vice President Perez will be making the same presentation through various other venues on campus.