

May 21, 2010

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE - May 21, 2010

I once said that communities are created through celebrations and at the end of the academic year it becomes apparent that this is true of the Mesa Community—highlighted below are just a few of our traditions and celebrations.

FACULTY TENURE AND PROMOTION CELEBRATION AT MESA COLLEGE

On May 5, we convened under sunny skies in the gathering area in front of the Mesa Art Gallery to participate in Mesa's Faculty Tenure and Promotion Celebration. This is the third year that such a celebration has taken place on our campus and it is a tradition that is now very much part of the saying "We Are Mesa!" Pictured below are members of the faculty who were able to attend the ceremony followed by a full listing of those who were eligible to participate in each category.

Mesa's New Professors

Jill Baker, Library

Henry Browne, Physical Education

Donna Budzynski, Chemistry

Karen Geida, Counseling

Edward Helscher, Physical Education

Erika Higginbotham, DSPPS

Kim Lester, Physical Education

Leticia Lopez, Spanish

Dina Miyoshi, Psychology

Leslie Seiger, Biology

Juan Carlos Toth, CBTE

Seung Kai Wong, Physics

Mesa's New Tenured Associate Professors

Kenneth Berger, Geography

Nathan Betschart, Fine Art

Kristina Ortiz-Carson, Counseling

Jarred T. Collins, Mathematics

Edwin H. Fields, Political Science

Kimberly Gerhardt, Speech

Tanya D. Kravatz, Sociology

Robert Pickford, English

Leslie A. Saline-Styles, English

Barbara Sexton, Art/Fine Art

George Jiri Svoboda, Music

Francisco Zabaleta, Spanish

Many of us are not aware of the arduous and rigorous process that constitutes the promotion of faculty from Instructor to Associate Professor and ultimately to Tenured Professor. In fact, it begins with a rigorous annual peer review of faculty work for a period of four years culminating in the attainment of the rank of Associate Professor. These four years are followed by four more years and it is at the end of that time that faculty become tenured achieving the rank of full professors. This level of commitment and dedication to the profession merits extraordinary recognition, hence the "Faculty Tenure and Promotion Celebration."

Take time to congratulate our colleagues.

MESA COLLEGE 17TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY

On May 7, 2010, San Diego Mesa College hosted the 17th Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. This year, due to the generosity of faculty, staff and community partners, we awarded more than \$91,000 in scholarships. Three of the most prestigious scholarships include the Chancellor's Scholarship, and this year's recipient is Miguel Murillo. The President's Scholarship was awarded to Josh Ray, and, last but not least, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship was awarded to Summer Dunsmore. As an aside, Mesa students have submitted applications for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship for the last five years, and we have been extremely fortunate in that in four of those five years, one of our students has been selected. One of the most amazing aspects of this scholarship is its monetary value, providing \$30,000 per year for a student transferring from a community college to a four-year college or university until he or she receives the baccalaureate degree. Subsequently, if that student continues with graduate studies, an additional \$50,000 is awarded. It is important to recognize the work of Professor

Alison Primoza. She has been the motivating force each year, urging students to apply and supporting them with letters and advice through the process. Finally, it was clear to me this year as always, that each of the scholarship recipients would be forever changed by the recognition even more so than the ultimate monetary value of the award. I don't know about you but I remember my first scholarship and it was by no means the largest scholarship I would receive.

I wish to thank the San Diego Mesa College Foundation for making this event a centerpiece of their work and Dean Ashanti Hands for coordinating this event so magnificently along with a willing and cheerful cast of thousands who volunteer each year to make this a memorable evening.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION DINNER

The purpose of this celebration is to honor not only scholarship but also service. Each student club identifies three individuals that have distinguished themselves for their volunteer work and service to community. The outcome is two-fold, peer recognition for selflessness and institutional recognition as we reinforce a critical learning outcome, namely civic engagement.

After I received a group picture from this event, I noticed with great satisfaction how beautifully diverse we are and the global nature of our student leaders. "We Are Mesa!"

SIGNING OF MESA'S ACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY

No, we don't have a picture for this one—Can't imagine how we missed it.

On Tuesday May 11, it became official. The signature page of our 2010 Accreditation Self-Study was duly signed by each of the required constituents of the College. This signing represented the culmination of nearly two years worth of work and the successful conclusion of a detailed, systematic and engaging look at ourselves against the four standards for accreditation established by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College as follows:

Standard I – Institutional Mission and Effectiveness

Standard II – Student Learning Programs and Services

Standard III – Resources (Human, Physical, Technology and Financial)

Standard IV – Leadership and Governance

If you would like to take a look at the Magnus Opus – just click on the link below

<http://sdmesa.edu/instruction/accreditation/index.cfm>

CLASSIFIED STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

At Mesa College, we are all very proud, thankful and grateful for the work of our classified staff. We recognize that they are the glue that keeps our instructional ship afloat. At Mesa, we teach or we support someone who teaches and thus we are all engaged in the teaching and the learning process. One of the things you may not know is that our Classified Senate has worked diligently with Dean Yvonne Bergland to develop what I consider to be a model staff development program. This will be Mesa's 3rd Annual Classified Staff Professional and Interpersonal Development Conference and it is scheduled on May 26 and 27. The logo adopted for the conference is "The Strength of Many—What We Do Makes A Difference." In a nutshell, this program allows classified staff to receive targeted training and development in areas that they themselves have identified as high priority. Because the program is held on campus, we can maximize two things: resources and the number of classified staff that actually benefit from the program. One little touch of my own that I am proud of is the "Unsung Hero Award" that recognizes community work, volunteerism and engagement (do you see a theme here?). This year's recipient will be announced on Wednesday, May 26, at the Classified Development Conference luncheon.

COMMENCEMENT—THE GREAT CLASS OF 2010

Mesa's 46th Commencement – By the Numbers

With this commencement, Mesa College will have awarded a total of 46,394 TOTAL DEGREES and CERTIFICATES. That's nearly a 1,200 for each year since our first commencement class.

- Mesa College's 46th graduating class was comprised of 853 students who received a total of 1,131 academic degrees and certificates. This is because 18 of our students graduated with two or more degrees. There were 522 Associate in Arts degrees and 326 Associate in Sciences degrees, of this group, 353, or 42 percent are men, and 495 or 58 percent are women.
- In addition, 283 students received certificates of achievement and of this group, 105 -- or 37% -- are men, and 178 -- or 63% -- are women.
- There were twelve students who graduated with a 4.0 earning them the title of valedictorians. There were 164 students who earned a grade point average of 3.5 or above and 308 students that graduated with honors.
- At 18 years of age our youngest graduate, was Rissa Kymble (KIM-BEL) DICKEY, and our oldest graduate was and our oldest graduate at 75 years of age was TAM KIM FAM.

What the figures cannot tell you however is what a flawless and wonderful event it was. If you weren't able to attend, just ask someone who did. It was a beautiful day filled with high hopes and aspirations. Our students, faculty and staff provided just the perfect atmosphere to make it memorable.

*Note: All updates are posted on the San Diego Mesa College Website at:
<http://sdmesa.edu/president/updates.cfm>*

Rita M. Cepeda, Ed.D.

President

San Diego Mesa College