

December 2015

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Colleagues:

Welcome to the December issue of First Monday on the Mesa. In this issue we will focus on many of our students' accomplishments, new Mesa College faculty and staff hires and a few college-wide activities of note. Enjoy!



Mesa Students Lead the Way!

San Diego Mesa College athletics, speech and debate, business and journalism students have had quite the successful Fall 2015 semester, taking home championship victories, major awards, and top honors in competitions throughout Southern California.

At the top of the list is Mesa's Women's Water Polo team, which became the best in the state when they won the 2015 CCCAA Women's Water Polo Championship on November 21 at Pasadena City College. Mesa beat Riverside 9-7 in the finals to take the championship for the first time in school history. The result caps off a historic season that included a Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Championship, an 8-0 conference record, and a 22-2 overall record.

Both the Women's and Men's Water Polo teams made PCAC history just weeks earlier as the first teams from the same school to win PCAC Tournament Championships in the same season. The Men's team finished 9-1 in their conference and 20-5 overall.

Women's Cross Country – who clinched the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) championship on October 30 – scored 131 points and took an incredible third overall at the Southern California Regional Championship on Friday, November 6. Freshman Kristina Tovilovic was Mesa's top placer in the 5k Run, finishing 14th out of 186 athletes and becoming an All-American in the process.

Women's Soccer has been just as impressive. On November 13, the team secured their third straight conference title by finishing the regular season with an 8-0 record in the PCAC South Division. For the 15th time in 18 years, the team will play in the Southern California Regional Championships, held Thursday, November 19 at Orange Coast College.

Mesa College's Speech and Debate team put in a strong performance at the Palomar/Grossmont Swing Tournament held November 14-15. Jordan Grant took first place in the "Programmed Oral Interpretation" event and third in "Poetry Interpretation," while Dylan Kawalec and Kendall Quan finished second overall in "Dramatic Interpretation" and "Speech to Entertain," respectively.

Mesa student, Kevin Kirk, has been receiving some good press for winning First Place at the recent Mega Start-Up Weekend in San Diego. The event focused on hardware as well as software innovation and the best teams found a way to take their ideas and

combine the best of both worlds. Teams blended the traditional entrepreneurial skills in web and mobile software development with new means of making: 3D printing, robotics, laser cutter, hack-able hardware, and more. Kevin Kirk, and his teammates Robert Powell, Alejandro Saenz, and Karim Roushdy won with Pet Hash, a simple, cheap way to reconnect a lost pet with their owner. Thanks to Asst Professor Lisa Shapiro for alerting us to her student's success!

Meanwhile, members of the Mesa Press – Mesa's team of student journalists – took top honors at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges' annual Southern California conference, held Saturday, November 14 in Fullerton. Staff writer Linda Nguyen took first place in the "Profile Feature Story" category for her portrayal of Holocaust survivor Rose Schindler. Additionally, Mesa Press editor-in-chief Enriko Pratt earned third place in the on-the-spot "Critical Review" competition, where students had just 1 hour to write a story about a performance of A.R. Gurney's play "Love Letters." Nyugen's story and more can be found at www.mesapress.com.

These are just a few highlights of our students great accomplishments. As you are aware of these kind of wonderful achievements, please let us know!

New Staff in Student Services

Claudia Estrada, Supervisor, Career/Transfer/Evaluations

Claudia has been working in higher education for over 10 years. She began as a student ambassador and worked her way up to Career Counselor/Career Peer Advisor Coordinator at CSU San Bernardino. Claudia also has experience in Admissions as an evaluator and counselor. Claudia has extensive experience working with underrepresented students. This past fall she presented at HACU.



Jennifer Roachford, Student Services Assistant-Admissions

Jennifer has over six years of experience at SDCCD. She has worked at all three of the colleges – City, Miramar and most recently at Mesa College. Her experience includes working in Admissions, Counseling and as a Student Ambassador. Her skills and qualifications will complement the Admissions staff and Jennifer will be a great addition to the Admissions team.

Amy Myers, Student Services Assistant-Admissions

Amy Meyers has worked Arizona State and CSU Chico. At both institutions Amy performed various Admissions and Records duties. She was also an academic advisor at ASU. During her tenure at ASU she played a key role in the conversion of the Registrar's operations to PeopleSoft. Given Amy's skills and qualification she will definitely be an asset to the Admissions operations.

Trung Huynh, Student Services Assistant- Admissions

Trung has worked at Miramar College in several offices to include Financial Aid, Outreach and currently in the Admissions and Records Office. He is a fast learner, a good listener and has the skills and qualifications to be a great Admission's team member. He is highly recommended by his references and would be an excellent addition to the Admissions department.

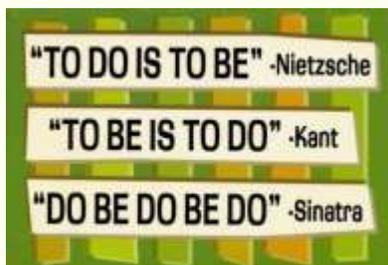
Karla Trutna, Student Services Technician - Outreach

Karla has over 10 years of experience of community college service within our District. She began as an Instructional Aide at the Mid-City Continuing Education campus working in the placement office proctoring ESL tests, Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) competencies make-up tests, and helped students prepare for the US citizenship exam as well as the EL Civics semester exams. In 2011, she was hired as the Student Services Assistant in Outreach at Mesa College where she has continued to help our diverse community of students make informed decisions about their post-secondary options and has guided them through the matriculation process. She is dedicated to the students that she serves and our District as a whole and approaches students and her work with compassion and enthusiasm.

Pahua Vang –Senior Secretary-Dean of Student Success & Equity

Pahua currently works as a Senior Student Services Assistant within the admissions department at San Diego Mesa

College. Pahua has been employed with the district for more than 11 years having served in various student services assignments throughout the district. Pahua has a very professional manner and style that will be an asset to the Student Success and Equity Department. Her diversity of experience and general knowledge of student services will serve her well in this capacity as we continue to develop the role of the SS&E department. I am pleased to recommend Pahua Vang to serve as Sr. Secretary.



New Faculty in Philosophy

Dr. Mary Gwin
Dr. Ian Duckles

Dr. Mary Gwin is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University where she has served since 2006. She has taught all levels and areas of philosophy, with areas of specialty in Epistemology, Logic and Philosophy of Science. She has also taught online courses for Ashford University for 3 years. Previously, Dr. Gwin taught at University of Oklahoma for three years. She holds a doctoral degree in Philosophy from the University of Oklahoma, and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy from Oklahoma State University. She holds a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Ian Duckles is currently an adjunct professor at Miramar, Mesa, Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges where he has served collectively for over 8 years. He also teaches for University of San Diego, Chapman University and UC Irvine. He taught in a tenure track position from 2004-2007 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, PA. He holds a doctoral degree and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy both from the University of California, Irvine. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

New Faculty in Health Information Technology/Management

Holly Jagielinski

Holly is currently an instructor at Kaplan College in San Diego, teaching courses in Health Information Technology. She has served in that capacity since 2010. Additionally, Holly served as the Health Information Supervisor at Scripps Health, La Jolla for two years. She holds a Master of Public Health degree-Health Services Administration from San Diego State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Management from Loma Linda University.



New Faculty in Dance

Donna Fournoy

Donna Fournoy has been an adjunct instructor at Mesa College for over 22 years. She is also a Dance instructor for The Dance Academy in La Jolla. She has previously taught and choreographed for two dance companies, Culture Shock of San Diego and Academy of Arts in La Mesa. She has held various part time teaching assignments in Sweetwater Union High School District, Southwestern College and Creative Dance Expression in South Orange New Jersey. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Dance with an emphasis in Teaching and Choreography from California State University, Long Beach and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance from University of California, Irvine. She earned an Associate of Arts degree

from San Diego Mesa College.

New Faculty in Computer Information Science

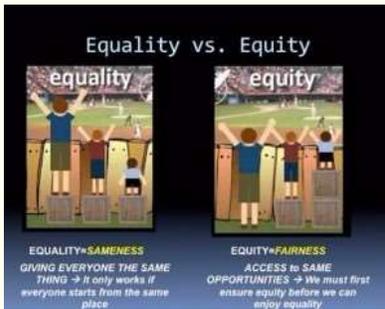


Dr. Tasha Frankie

Dr. Frankie is currently an adjunct instructor at Mesa College and MiraCosta Colleges where she has served collectively since 2012. She also teaches for University of San Diego, both in Computer Information Science and Computer Engineering. She served as a senior teaching assistant at USD from 2003-2011. Dr. Frankie holds a doctoral degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Master of Science degree, both from the University of California, San Diego. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the California Institute of Technology.

James Gappy

James Gappy is currently an adjunct instructor at Mesa College where he has served since 2008. He has also taught at University of California, San Diego in their extension program. He is currently employed full time by Sony Computer Entertainment America as a Senior Software Engineer. Mr. Gappy holds a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. He also holds a certificate in Java Programming from University of California, San Diego.



Student Equity Seminar for Classified Staff Wednesday, January 13

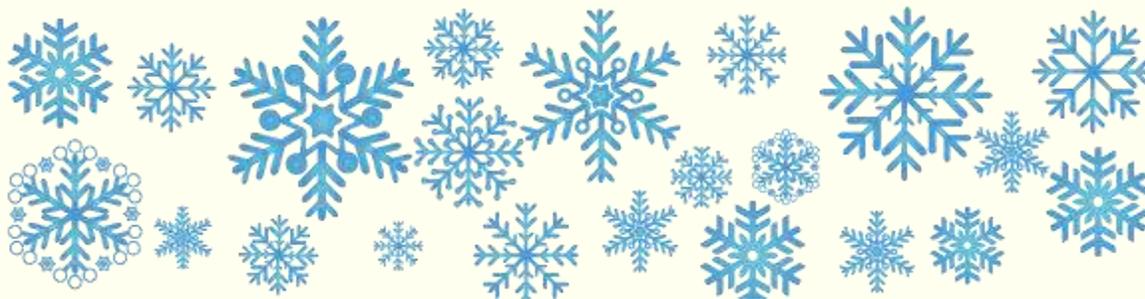
All classified staff will have the opportunity to participate in a half day workshop focused on the valuable role that the classified workforce plays in creating a campus of equity and inclusion and to support one another as we learn skills to become equity- minded practitioners. Each half day session will include lunch. It is the expectation that all staff and supervisors will participate in the seminar, and we are working with all college offices and programs to make that happen. Stay tuned for information on registration and details of the day.

Presidents Cabinet Fall Retreat

Tuesday, December 8, we joined together with the other major planning committees (PIEC, BARC, COA) and governance leaders to address where we are with outcomes assessment, and identify further work towards "Telling Our Story" through accreditation. We are looking forward to creating action plans and will have more to share at our Spring Convocation Forum on Thursday, January 21st.

I hope to see you at our Annual Holiday Luncheon this week. For those that cannot join us, I wish you a safe, restful and fun holiday break. See you in 2016!

Pam



Pamela T. Luster, President

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