Welcome to Hon-Our Way

Inside this issue:

- Transfer Workshops 1-3
  - Personal Statement Writing Workshop
  - Transfer Workshop

Honors Orientation

Blood Drive 4

Upcoming Events 5

Mesa Happening’s 6

A Blast from the Past 7

Current Officers 8

Personal Statement Writing Workshop

This year Mesa Honors students had the incredible opportunity to learn how to best go about writing a personal statement including, what needs to be included, and how to keep focused. The seminar was hosted by Professor Jennifer Cost, who did an amazing job teaching and explaining the process of creating a personal statement.

Professor Cost focused on two main areas: prewriting and writing the personal statement. In the prewriting phase Professor Cost emphasized brainstorming a list of accomplishments and experiences, and gathering your thoughts on what your ultimate goal is. In addition she drew attention to the impotence of an outline.

In the writing phase, Professor Cost’s first point was to answer the application prompts and stay focused on the area the prompt addresses. The other area she focused on was how to address your target audience. You should know who your statement is intended for, write with purpose, and stay within the word count. Lastly Professor Cost stressed writing multiple drafts. She also made a point of the importance of having your final drafts proofread and critiqued.

In the last part of her workshop Professor Cost had the students write excerpts of their life experience to encourage the thought processes that are involved in brainstorming material that is needed for the statement. In addition to that exercise, she also asked students to focus on one specific part of the writing prompt from the UC transfer application and to write a paragraph on that prompt. Both exercises were discussed afterwards with the group. Students were given helpful hints on how to effectively tackle the beast of the personal statement.

The seminar was a complete success and the attending students where very grateful.
Transfer Workshop

See How The Honors Club Gets You In To Your First Choice College!

If you were one of the 60 lucky attendees of our very fabulous and informative transfer workshop on October 4th, you will know why we owe Naomi Grisham and UCSC Representative Felicia Young a great debt of gratitude. Room B101 was filled to standing room only. We were able to video tape the first hour. So if you are one of the unfortunate students who could not attend, fear not! You can borrow the DVD’s from Dr. Primoza Naomi Grisham, Mesa’s Transfer Center Director, arranged for a great guest speaker, UCSC Admissions Director, Felicia Young, who gave us the inside scoop on how to get in to any UC. She focused on the UC application process giving us a wonderful presentation on how to apply, what Admissions decision makers look for, and how to make the personal statement and application as strong as possible. The students who came benefitted greatly from such an effective presentation! Students took an active role in the workshop by posing a ton of questions which were addressed in detail by Ms. Young. Many thanks to Meredith Yuen, who took copious notes on which the following detailed summary is based!

What follows is the detailed summary of the actual tips and advice given by Ms. Young.

Transfer Tips and Advice

On the application: always check 60-89 units (even if you have over or under this limit) If you want to correct or change something on your application, make sure that you ONLY use the “previous/next” buttons from the application itself. If you try to change it using the browser previous/forward buttons, your information won’t be saved.

UCLA allows you to list your major as well as an alternate major, if you are in honors. You can only select an alternate major that is NOT IMPACTED. UCLA will only look at majors for TAP students (these students have 15 honors credit from Mesa and complete the Honors Program). You need to complete all the prep for your major before transfer in order to be competitive! Take all necessary classes for your alternate major (That’s why they allow over 60 units). You can only pursue the major you got accepted for, but after the first quarter, you can apply for a minor. Go to assist.org to find out what classes you need for prep for your major and alternate major. While in assist.org, IT’S IMPORTANT TO READ the paragraph right above the requirement section for your major, as it clarifies all requirements that are needed to transfer! If you cannot find a class at Mesa that corresponds, you should e-mail the school of your choice and ask them what would be equivalent courses—
or Anthony Reuss
areuss@sdccd.edu or Dr. Pri- 
moza aprimoza@sdccd.edu. 
You must have all your Eng-
lish and math courses com-
pleted the spring before you 
transfer. (They cap credits at 
70 units) Also, they never use 
AP units against you.

Now moving on to our local UC School - UCSD! There are 6 colleges within UCSD and they have certain requirements that you HAVE to fulfill once you get accepted. For example: the ERC (Eleanor Roosevelt College) must have TAG/IGETC completed, and take 1 year of classes on Making of the Modern World (you can find more on this on their website). Keep in mind that each college has different requirements that have to be fulfilled AFTER you begin school at UCSD. Complete the online application for Fall 2011 (best turned in well before the deadline!) For scholarships, there are links to multiple scholarships from the drop-down menu. For the biographic section of Application, none of the demographic information is required and it is not used against you, only for statistical purposes but it gives a fuller description of the applicant. For family size/income, try to be a part of the EOP. You can also try to get an application fee waiver. Make sure you enter your income correctly! (You can get up to 4 free. Nice!) For your academic history, make sure you have a copy of your transcripts in front of you! It makes it simpler and helps you make sure that you enter the correct course title. (Do not use the CRN) You have to write where you went to high school. It will ask for school code; only California schools will have them.

You can put more than one high school attended. Put start/end date. Proficiency exams are allowed (in lieu of graduating). For your Academic History (college), enter the name of school, semester system, college courses and grades. You need to list the classes for fall, and also be thinking about what to take for spring because it shows them how you are preparing for your major. You need to include all your grades (including good, bad, withdrawals, retaken classes, etc). This also includes non-transferable classes, academic renewals, etc. You can add courses that won’t show on the drop down list, by entering them at the bottom of the section. Make sure that you specify honors courses if they don’t have them expressly shown!

You must include EVERYTHING that is on your transcripts. If you have gaps in your education, succinctly explain the absence (took time off, work, travel, etc). Make sure that you click whatever transferrable programs that you are participating in. Under Activities/Awards, Just list extracurricular activities -- High school counts, but try to focus on college. Make sure to add whichever AP courses you have taken (Even if you didn’t pass). Be positive on your personal statement. You are allowed 1000 words TOTAL - for both prompts. They are strict on the limit. It is super important to have people read and critique your statement! So, type your statement into a Word document well before you cut and paste it into the box. UCLA and Cal Berkeley really focus on your Personal Statement! It is used as a main criterion for acceptance and can help with scholarships. The optional prompt at the bottom (let’s you talk about anything else you want to elaborate on from the activities/awards that you did not talk about in your personal statement. And lastly, make sure you include proper residency information that you can formally prove, with documentation, to get in-state tuition. Check their website for more information. Do not forget to update your courses and grades by mid-January!

-Ben Azoulay-  
-Meredith Yuen-

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, DON’T FORGET TO SIGN UP ON THE HONORS PROGRAM DATABASE FOR FALL SEMESTER 2010!!!  
YOU CAN DO IT ANY TIME, SO DO IT!!!

HERE IS THE LINK:  
HTTPS://STUDENTWEB.SDCCD.EDU/HONORS/
Honors Orientation

As you all know, the Honors Program had orientation on August 17th! The meeting started out with a lovely introduction from our truly inspirational Dean of Student Affairs, Ms. Ashanti Hands. Ashanti informed us about Club Rush along with other great ways to become involved with student campus life at Mesa. Ashanti also is involved with the scholarship program and if you’d like more details please visit room H-500! Meredith Yuen, president of our Honors Club touched on ways to get involved within the Honors Club and the various interactive workshops that are offered to honors students looking to transfer! Transfer students – join the honors program so you can join us at the HTCC Research conference in Irvine. All you have to do is submit an abstract about a research presentation you did in any one of your honors classes, submit it, and wait to hear back from them. If you are chosen to participate, you drive up to UC Irvine with various other honors students and present your project! It’s a lot of fun guys and it’s an awesome opportunity to be able to put something like that on your transfer application. If you go to HTCC, you are also eligible to apply to go to another research conference at Stanford. Don’t miss this golden opportunity!

We had Jay Aquino, our former Honors Club president come in and talk about his experience at UCLA. We also had Cody Schauweker in to talk to everyone about how wonderful of a club PTK is and how great it looks on your transfer application. If you would like to join PTK, which is an International Honors Society, meetings are on Thursdays in G-105 at 4:05pm. Special guest, Stacey Sinclair came in and talked about the San Diego State Honors Program. There are so many wonderful opportunities that the Honors Program at SDSU offers such as: extra personal attention between honors professors, a great emphasis on interdisciplinary studies, study abroad programs, leadership opportunities and much more! SDSU loves Mesa Students!

Unfortunately, if you haven’t signed up for the Honors Program this semester it is too late to take any of your classes in honors, BUT make sure you apply next semester! Also, at orientation, students got to enjoy a very interactive Transfer Workshop. Questions were asked and answered very thoroughly about SDSU, UCSD, USD, Berkeley, UCLA, USC and Colombia. If you guys have any questions feel free to stop by the Honors meetings every Monday at 4! Don’t forget to start your Transfer Applications! CSU and UC deadlines for Fall 2011 are November 30.

-Sophia Gumina-
Mesa Honors Blood Drive

The Honors Club blood drive was very successful. The club recruited 82 donors, including a very high percentage of first time donors, which the Blood Bank especially appreciates. 59 usable units of blood were collected, which likely saved the lives of over 100 San Diegans! We would like to thank the entire San Diego Mesa College community of students, faculty and staff who came and donated at our blood drive in spite of the rainy weather! The San Diego Blood Bank sent a special thank you to the event organizer Allison Scofield and her great team of volunteers who made it all possible.

By sponsoring the blood drive with time spent providing volunteers, and with some members of the club donating their own blood on the day of the event, on Oct. 4, the San Diego Mesa Honors Club displayed courage and responsibility as true heroes to their community. With every pint of blood only being good for approximately 35 days after the draw, blood drives are constantly needed to save lives, and drive sponsors are always looking for new and current donors.

On top of knowing they have helped to save a life, blood drive donors are also eligible for a whole spectrum of different rewards, depending on how much they donate. Donors can track their progress online at www.sandiegobloodbank.org and purchase rewards such as t-shirts, dinners or even things like this messenger bag to show their friends and family that they are willing to go through a little pain today for the chance to save a life tomorrow. The bag displayed on the right can be purchased for 350 points which is the equivalent of about four donations. According to the blood donor website it only takes 24 hours for our bodies to replenish themselves, so we really aren’t losing that much!

Being a first time donor, I can share the experience. I donated my first time on the Honors Club’s drive day, and can say that the biggest, most painful experience was going through the front door. Knowing that I was donating and that I was doing a very ethical thing was pivotal in my decision to donate. Once I was inside, it was smooth sailing. I was given free juice and foods to snack on prior to the event, and once I was called up, talking to the nurses I barely noticed the procedure. After having a pleasant conversation about the process, with the donor in the lounge chair next to me, to my surprise I was already done; the longest part of the procedure was registering as a donor. I was informed they would perform a blood test and send me my donor card in the mail! So now I’m a donor, and I can say that it feels good, and I will be back. I hope you all join me!

If you’re really driven to donate, call 1-800-GIVE LIFE and set up an appointment!

-By Case Griffiths-

Blood Donation Messenger Bag.
Photo courtesy of San Diego Blood Bank

Honors Club Officer Case Griffiths gets his photo taken after donating blood at Mesa College on Oct. 4. Photo by SDBB Operator

HONORS CLUB MEETINGS HAPPEN EVERY TWO WEEKS

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON NOVEMBER 8TH

COME JOIN THE MEETING

THERE IS ALWAYS FREE SNACKS OR PIZZA !!!
Mesa Happenings

CC2U -Community College to University-

Coming up in November is the CC2U workshop at Mesa College. With a great panel, the goal is helping students transfer successfully to a four year Institution.

Are you curious about transferring to a four year university?

Do you want to know about research opportunities BEFORE you transfer?

UCLA TAP Conference

Friday, November 19, 2010 from 8:30am to

The UCLA TAP conference includes an information fair, workshops, and tours. It provides attendees an opportunity to learn more about UCLA; and helps prospective students prepare for a successful transfer.

Do you want to build a community now so you can land safely later?

Students who have transferred to UCSD will share their experiences, and Faculty and staff in programs that can help you will be there to answer questions.

While Mesa’s CC2U workshop will be held on Wednesday November 10th from 4 to 6 pm in room H117/118, you also have the option go to Southwestern College, room L238 on Wednesday November 3 from 3 to 5 pm if this time and location fit your schedule better:

Important!!! REGISTER NOW at http://cc2u.eventbrite.com

For more information contact: Dr. Alyson Lighthart at alightha@sdccd.edu

Transfer Day

On October 5th San Diego Mesa College had its annual Transfer Day. Despite the weather, it was a very successful event with as many as 71 universities represented, who were able to provide students with transfer information. The many universities we saw include all the UC’s, numerous state universities, including out of state universities as well as private institutions, such as the prestigious Columbia University. Many of our representatives mentioned the quality of student questions and the huge interest in transfer.

Applying to Mesa

Students from the Mesa College Honors Program Is driving up to UCLA for the conference. SO for every one that is interested, sign up on Dr. Primoza’s office door at G 239 as well as the UCLA Tap website. www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/tap/conference.htm

The deadline is November 1st.

Applications for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship are now available. For more information visit Dr. Primoza’s office at G239 or take a look at the flyer posted on the honors office door at G223

Apply now for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

HTCC coming up

HTCC is coming up Saturday, March 26, 2011. If you want to go, be sure to submit your work in time. To find out the deadline or for any other questions talk to Alison Primoza

To learn more, go to honorstcc.org

Reach Higher

Through our Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program, we provide scholarships worth up to $30,000 per year to community college students to help them earn a four-year degree.
A blast from the past

Here are some testimonials from our former honors students. Summer Dunsmore was awarded the JKC scholarship award and is now at Cal Berkeley. Angel Hu transferred to UCLA and is very happy with her new school as well.

Summer’s Cal Berkeley Experience

I am almost finished with my first official week of school, and it has been pretty good. The groove here is a lot different than community college, where teachers in Community College create an agenda for you, assigning homework and responsibility; teachers here leave it up to the student to follow reading and assignments, knowing that the true signifier of whether we're following along is at test time. I kind of like this concept, and I think I'm going to get used to it. Right now I am just balancing between school stuff and social stuff. Living at I-House provides a million different distractions, but I have had the best time getting to know people. My roommate is from Norway and becoming one of my best friends, and I am also learning a little Norwegian.

I am applying to join the school paper, and probably going to join the Kiwanis International Club here on campus. I want to engage in activities, not only to meet people and supplement my interests, but also to build my resume. Anything you know that looks especially good for Grad school? I've heard it's not like Undergrad, where you're trying to fit in a lot of different activities, but they really want to see that you have progressed far with one or two things. I plan on staying with the paper for the next two years, I want to volunteer in India over the summer, and before I apply for Grad school I'm going to take a year or two off to travel, volunteer, and learn Spanish and French. I've already met a girl here who has been volunteering in Tanzania the past few summers and might come volunteer with me in India!

-Summer Dunsmore-

Angel’s UCLA Experience

I'm writing to tell you the great news that I just got hired to be an assistant at the Anderson School of Management! My experience from HTCC helped me tremendously in attaining this valuable job and I have to thank you so much for being encouraging all along the way. Also, I was just informed that I was selected to be my residential floor's Vice President in charge of external affairs. It has been going so well for me and I cannot be more grateful. Please let me know when this year's TAP event is and I am more than happy to meet with Mesa students and share with them what it's like to be here! I still vividly remember my excitement to see the UCLA campus at last year's TAP event. ...And now I'm here! Thank you so much for helping me along the way. I wish you all the best

-Angel Hu-
Honors Club Officers for 2010-2011

**Officers**

Alison Primoza
Meredith Yuen
Cody Schauweker
Ebene Thomas
Pooria Daryabeygi
Omar Miyazaki
Allison Scofield
John Rinaldo
Danielle Nelson
Amanda Venegas
Nadifa Mohamed
Lihua He
Raphael Doelker

**Position**

Advisor
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
(Director, Honors Opportunities)
(Director, Service)
(Director, Fundraising)
(Co-Director, Fundraising)
(Director, Public Relations)
ICC Representative
ICC Representative
Editor

San Diego Mesa College
7250 Mesa College Drive
San Diego, CA 92111-4998

Raphael Doelker, Chief Editor
Email: r.doelker@gmail.com
Meredith Yuen, President
Email: mesahonors@gmail.com

**WE ARE ON THE WEB:**
Sdmesa.edu/honors

**Writers:**
Raphael Doelker
Case Griffiths
Sophia Gumina
Summer Dunsmore
Angel Hu
Ben Azoulay
Meredith Yuen

**Pictures provided by:**
Case Griffiths

**EDITOR:**
Raphael Doelker

**WE ARE HONORS!!!**