The San Diego Mesa Honors Program is an outlet for everyone who joins to become recognized for their hard work and dedication to excellency. Every year members of the program receive the opportunities that this special program offers. Everyone also gives back to the Honors community by volunteering, performing leadership, participation, and much more. Everyone shares in scholarship information, networking, and discovering a group of people that are committed to their education. We all deserve to be honored for our efforts. Meetings are every other Monday at 4:00 pm in G-105. Join Us!

Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sandiegomesahonors
There is only one more week before kicking off a fresh fall semester at San Diego Mesa College. Even though classes have not started yet, members and potential members of the Honors club gather for the annual Ice Cream Social! Over 90 people met in room H117 to not only enjoy ice cream, but to learn all about the Honors Program and to hear about what makes it such a strong and popular program for students. The Ice Cream Social was started with a fun ice breaker activity. Once everyone was settled, the District Honors Transfer Officer Alison Primoza rose to greet everyone and discussed an overview of what the Honors Program does for students. Important benefits about the program were emphasized, such as special contracts that San Diego Mesa College has with universities to make transferring easier for students. Scholarships as well as the process of honors contracts was also covered in depth. Many guests to the event had questions about how to join the program once classes started. Sure enough, after experiencing just one of the many honors social activities, the number of participants in the Honors Program quadrupled by the time classes began!

For Honors Scholarships visit http://www.sdmesa.eduhonors/scholarship.cfm
Congratulations to our newly elected officers! As per usual for the start of every new year here at Mesa, the Honors club had their yearly in-house elections. It was a close race with so many capable nominees, but in the end only a select few can be an officer. Without any further ado, here is our updated list:

- **Advisor:** Alison Primoza  
- **Advisor:** Wendy Smith  
- **Advisor:** Leticia Lopez  
- **President:** Alisa Boyko  
- **Vice President:** Jym Varnadore  
- **Treasurer:** Eli Mizrachi  
- **Secretary:** Soo Yeon Kim  
- **Director of Opportunities:** Danielle Savage  
- **Director of Service:** Alexandria Marasigan  
- **Co-Director of Service:** Victoria Harris  
- **Director of Media:** Sara Smith  
- **Director of PR:** Sohrab Fini  
- **Co-director of PR:** Luis Rosales  
- **Newsletter Editor:** Magan Hall  
- **Co-Editor:** Sarah Farmer  
- **Director Ambassadors:** Ashley Sapp  
- **ICC Representative:** Pavel Ryzhov  
- **ICC Representative:** Julia Townsend  
- **ICC Representative:** Maggie Bauer  
- **ICC Representative:** Jason Boyd  
- **Photographer:** Luis Gubriel  
- **Director of Fundraising:** Jane Han

**Honors Club meetings take place every other Monday from 4-5 pm.**
On Wednesday afternoon, November 7, 2012, at 2:30 pm, Professor Joe Safdie hosted a UC personal statement workshop for students at Mesa College. The turnout was great. Around twenty students waited anxiously for the workshop to begin, and within a few minutes more students arrived. Professor Safdie introduced himself to the students and began a rundown of what the personal statements should include, as well as warning students of what to avoid. He did a great job of clarifying what colleges are looking for in a statement. Students were given a good amount of time to get together in groups and exchange what they had written so far. Professor Safdie informed students that one of the most valuable resources available to them was having their essays critiqued. While students exchanged their work he made his way around the room to offer his assistance to as many students as he could in the time that was available. He even gave the generous offer of his email address and office hours to further assist students after the workshop was through. This workshop was not only a service for those applying to UC schools, but to all colleges in general. We thank you Joe Safdie for making this very helpful opportunity available to the students of Mesa College.
On September 13th the quad next to the cafeteria was flooded with crowds of students and faculty, all eager to attend the annual Student Services fair. As per tradition, the first five hundred lucky students would circle the quad with a card that was supplied by the Student Services staff, visit the assorted booths to collect stamps, ask questions, and earn a free lunch. This enticing process brought students together and encouraged them to gain knowledge on the services offered to students and the various opportunities that are available here on campus. The Honors Club participated in this event alongside counselors, the Associated Student Government, Student Affairs, DSPS, Financial Aid, the Career Center, Student Health Services, and a variety of other clubs and departments that can be found here on campus. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and the outstanding reception, there is no doubt that the word about the Honors program and Honors club have spread because of the successful event.
Proposition 30
By, Aliyha Beiruti

Education is essentially the lubricant for mobility. Without it, we as a whole are left paralyzed. The fact that school starts at as early as kindergarten and, well, never really ends, comes to show that it is a major contributing factor to society. School can go on for the rest of our lives: climbing up from high school to university. The possibilities are endless. So, in a nutshell, a good education = a better world.

Now we come to the mechanics of the education situation. It is an unfortunate fact that educational funds are not fed as much as they should be, leading to the budget cuts that our state of California has been facing these past years. Within the winds of this vicious cycle are books that are not up to date, teachers and professors being laid off, classes being downsized, students being forced to pay higher tuitions, basic facilities requiring maintenance - the list goes on.

The reality of things is that we must understand what a consequence this is having upon all of us. We know that cliché saying - our children are our future, but let us really think about that. Our children are quite literally our future. The world is being inherited by them.

Prop 30 is defined to bring temporary taxes to fund education and guaranteed Public Local Safety funding, but that word we all strongly dislike is in there - taxes. Increased taxes does not sound very pretty, however we must consider the long term effect.
To know that we are paying just a little more for the long term benefits of us all should provide our hearts and minds with comfort. If it passes, the sales tax rate would increase by one quarter cent (0.25%) in the midst of the years 2013-2016. It would also affect the personal income taxed on high income tax payers. That could make it safely when said, then, that the tax increase is the only “con” in this proposition. The pro’s pungently outweigh that single and temporary con. If Prop 30 fails, the state’s spending will be reduced by $6 billion, almost entirely in K-14 education and public universities. This leads to a great impact on instructional years and community college enrollment. We all must do our part, and vote YES on 30 for all of our futures. Every vote counts.

A big thank you to the Honors photographer Luis Gabriel for his expertise!
Becoming Involved

By, Niko Graham

So, you’re new to Mesa and you can’t help but wonder, “How can I get involved on campus?” Rather than check your so-far muted community college experience up to a lack of overall student participation or the absence of school-sponsored social events, try one of our clubs on for size. Believe it or not, Mesa has quite a diverse array of clubs and organizations—at least one of which will certainly pique your interest.

Listed below are just a few clubs or organizations that Mesa has to offer. For a complete list, visit http://www.sdmesa.edu/campus-life/index.cfm. For more information regarding a particular club or organization, contact the advisor (listed at the end of each club/organization’s bio paragraph). Continued...
**Associated Student Government** – The Associated Student Government (ASG) is the representative body of the students in the shared governance process at Mesa College. The ASG provides students with practical leadership experience in the areas of budget/financial planning, parliamentary procedures, and in the development of programs and services which are designed to meet student needs. Advisor: Ashanti Hands, Dean of Student Affairs

**Black Student Union** - Encourages and creates a support structure for a more positive awareness of the Black History, Unity, and Racial Harmony by presenting activities and current events to assist the Black Student in achieving personal and academic goals. Advisor: Professors Thekima Mayasa and Starla Lewis, Black Studies

**Fashion Club** - The purpose of the organization is to provide education and extracurricular activities in the area of fashion that complement and extend beyond what can be covered in the classroom. Advisors: Professor Susan Lazear, Fashion Design Program

**Fencing Club** – Purpose is to seek the improvement and repair of Mesa College’s fencing equipment and create a training program for professional fencers, with the foremost goal of bringing trophies back to Mesa College. Advisor: Professor Paul Sykes, Biology

**Inter Club Council (ICC)** - Created to support the functions of the active clubs, and inform the A.S.G. on matters which directly or indirectly affect the functions of I.C.C. Also to establish and maintain communication among all active clubs on campus and to actively promote the creation of new clubs. Advisor: Courtney Lee, Senior Student Services Assistant.  

*Continued...*
**Mesa College Gamer’s Legion** - The Gamer’s Legion was founded to support and encourage Mesa College's expansive population of gamers. Tell us which games you love to play, because we would love to play them with you! Advisor: Courtney Lee, Senior Student Services Assistant

**Mesa Robotic Organization (MRO)** - The mission of the Club is to inspire and motivate curiosity, critical thinking, and generosity of both mind and spirit at Mesa College campus and the community at large. Advisor: Professor Walter Duane Wesley, Computer Science

**Pre-Med/Pharm** - Purpose is to inform members about the art and science of medicine and pharmacy also to inform members about the opportunities available to them in San Diego. Participate in Seminars, activities, field trips and information session that will enlighten our paths. Advisor: Professor Farshid Zand, Chemistry

**Puente Club** - A companion organization to the Puente Program at Mesa College. Advisor: Guillermo Marrujo, Counseling, and Professor Christie Allred, English

**STAR Club** - The purpose of the STAR club will be to provide opportunities for leadership and to help encourage student participation in extra-circular activities. Advisors: Marichu Magana and Thuan Le, STAR Program

**Women's Union** - A group dedicated to the support of women attending Mesa College. Advisor: Professor Tanya Kravitz, Sociology, and Professor Starla Lewis, Black Studies.

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*Did you know SD Mesa is the 16th largest community college in California?*
San Diego Buddy Walk

Maggie Bauer

The San Diego Buddy Walk was held at Balboa Park on October 20th, 2012. The Organ Pavilion was packed with people of all ages and from all walks of life who came out in the rain to support the National Down’s Syndrome Association. Booths lined the outside of the space providing information about local organizations working together to make a difference in the lives of those with special needs. Music was blasting and a 70s themed dance party helped kick off the event. Over 2,000 people began to walk around Balboa Park with a marching band leading the way. Teams participating in the event ranged from first timers, like me, to ten year veterans. Once the walk started, nothing else mattered but the experience of being surrounded by people who support a wonderful cause.
Putting together the annual blood drive was such an enriching experience. I learned so many stories from students who were interested in wanting to donate blood. For instance one told me that her father was in a car accident once and a blood donor saved his life. It felt good to know that people really appreciate our annual drive on campus. We even have donors who come from the neighboring communities to assist with our annual drive as well. We had 151 donors registered and 117 pints of blood donated, each pint saves up to 3 lives. In total we were able to save up to 351 lives! I would like to thank Dr. Primoza, Leslie Eagan from the SD Blood Bank, Victoria Harris Co-Director of Service, Luis Gabriel for his wonderful work on the eye catching flyer, and all the volunteers that stuck with us till the very end of the drive. We really could not have made this impact without the help of all of these people.

**Blood Drive**

Alexandria Marasigan

Hours for the LRC are 7am-10pm Monday through Thursday and 7am-5pm on Fridays.
New Honors Center

Chris Owen

The Mesa Honors Program has some excellent news! We’re moving into a NEW space! What was previously the Associated Student Government (ASG) Building is now our new Honors Center! It’s located right next to the cafeteria and is a great spot for students to hang out, eat, study etc. It’s an open area with a lot of room, a conference table, study space, computers, and windows. We’d love for all the honors students to come by to check it out and spread the word!

Thank you Lestat’s coffee house for hosting Honour Way editing sessions
Every November there is the annual field trip to the University of California Los Angeles. Students from the SDCCD school district gather on a bus at Mesa to embark on the lengthy drive to UCLA. One of the students who attended, Gulya, said, “We spent a couple of hours on the bus getting to UCLA and coming back and I liked having the confinement on the bus to talk to people and discuss different majors and academic goals”. Not only was TAP day a bonding experience, but it was also enlightening; “The Conference was very well planned and the workshops, such as the professional school, application, and UCLA honors workshops, answered many questions I had about life in UCLA, scholarships, Honors and Majors” stated another one of the students. At the end of the day, students who transferred to UCLA from Mesa visited with the current Mesa students and encouraged them to take all of the opportunities from Mesa as possible before transferring, such as the Honors Transfer Council of California research conference.

October 19th deadline for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship! Good Luck!
GICS Study Abroad

Diana Polyak

This past June, I left San Diego to study abroad with the Chancellor University GICS (Global Institute of Comparative Studies) European Capitals Program. The planned day trips and excursions were the perfect complement to the program. The visit to the German and European Parliament was inspiring. My highlights from the trip are these excursions which were very informative and inspiring. I met so many interesting people and “journeyed back in time” to experience historical events, situations and landmarks; including the train station bunker used during World War II in Berlin, the underground nuclear shelter and the somber concentration camp. The program was well organized and I felt that the coordinators were very enthusiastic and helpful. They got to know us personally and this made us feel safe and secure.

I could analyze Germany and France from a new perspective—forming perceptions and seeking information and opinions from natives. For instance, I interviewed a German high school language teacher on the education system, citizenship, economy and her own personal viewpoint on global relations. I feel that this gave me a well-rounded education on the topics and helped build my ability to think critically. I feel that I have expanded my mind and my capacity to succeed in new situations, while facing new challenges.

Congratulations to Abdirisak Hussein for winning the 2012 Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship award!
My TAP day trip to UCLA was quite the experience! As everyone anxiously waited for the bus that morning, Dr. Primoza passed out snacks. When it finally arrived, we were on our way. When we arrived, we trekked across campus as a group to get to the transfer conference. The campus was alive with a student activity. On this particular day, there were vendors selling merchandise in the quad, students promoting their research, and so much more! At the conference, all students had to check in and were given a schedule of events. We were encouraged to attend as many seminars and tours as we could. We split up into groups or by ourselves to check out the seminars. The seminar I went to was held by the on-campus student services. I listened to a faculty member speak about her experience at UCLA followed by a current students story.

Don’t forget to look for Honors Volunteer Opportunities!
I was able to ask probing questions about what it was like to live off campus and just be in LA as a young college student. After I ate lunch at the food court, I joined a campus tour. It was so exciting and fun: the guide was really energetic and made the tour interactive for everyone. At the end of the day, we reconnected as a group and spoke with previous Mesa College students who have transferred to UCLA. One of the guest speakers shared my major, so I of course drilled her for questions. By this time it was late afternoon and we all returned to the bus for the drive home.

Needless to say, I felt at home when I was on the UCLA campus. I loved the campus: it’s the perfect combination of vegetation, architecture, and student life. Its location is not too shabby either- just a walk or bike ride away from Wilshire Blvd, which is a very city-like part of LA. Based on my experience, I encourage not only honors students to go, but for anyone who is simply flirting with the idea of applying to UCLA. You never know, you just might fall in love!

Come and attend HTCC on March 23rd at UC Irvine!
What is the best thing you could do if you are planning to transfer to a UC school? You could attend the UC Application Workshop on November 5th at the LRC in room 435, at 2pm, sponsored by SD Mesa College Honors Program in cooperation with UC Santa Cruz admissions. Thanks to Felicia Young, the Regional Admissions Representative, for giving a great step-by-step presentation of how to fill out the UC Application! She went over every page in the UC application, guiding students along the way. In two hours she covered many questions, starting from how to fill out one page in the application to what to write about in the personal statement. The atmosphere was very relaxed and casual, but serious at the same time. More than 40 students attended the Workshop and actively participated in the Q and A session. Now I feel more prepared for my own UC Application! Stay in touch with the Honors Program if you want to transfer to the school of your dreams!
Thank you to the Honour Way Writers!

Alexandria Marasigan
Blood Drive
Alisa Boyko
UC App Workshop
Aliyha Beiruti
Proposition 30
Chris Owen
New Honors Center
Dalton Holcombe
Personal Essays
Magan Hall
Ice Cream Social
Maggie Bauer
SD Buddy Walk
Niko Graham
Becoming Involved
Sarah Farmer
Fall Officer Elections
Student Services Fair
UCLA Experience

Upcoming Events

- Welcome Week January 28th-24th
- Club Rush February 4th-7th
- Art Gallery Reception February 7th
- Mesa Scholarship deadline February 28th
- HTCC Conference at UC Irvine March 23rd
- 20th Annual Scholarship Gala April 26th

Tune in over Spring Break for our next edition of Honour Way!

If you want to transfer with honors be sure to set up a meeting with Dis-
Transfer Officer Alison Primoza (G239) Mesa Campus