The San Diego Mesa College Honors Program helps students transfer and reach their goals. The Honors Club is a Mesa College organization that seeks to unite honors students and share volunteer opportunities, scholarship information, and the benefits of social networking. Even if you are not a participant in Honors, you are more than welcome to join us in all the things that we do. Meetings are every other Monday at 4:15 p.m. in room B-108. See you there!

**UCLA TAP Site Visit**

Are you in the honors program and interested in attending UCLA? Then you need to know about the recent visit to Mesa College by the UCLA Transfer Alliance Program team. TAP is a collaboration between community college Honors/Scholars Programs and UCLA’s College of Letters and Science. What that means to Mesa Honors students is that UCLA wants YOU!

There are advantages to being involved with the TAP program. TAP program students have an 85% chance of being accepted over students without TAP. Also there are special scholarships offered, library card privileges, and the opportunity to attend special events such as TAP day at UCLA where students can attend workshops on a number of issues. Since Mesa is part of the TAP program, all a student must do to qualify is to complete Mesa’s honors program.

This was TAP’s first visit to Mesa since Mesa became a member of TAP in 2001. The purpose for the team’s visit to Mesa College on February 15, 2012 was twofold. Their first goal...continued on page 3

**We are proud to announce the Mesa College Honors Program Graduates of 2012! See page 13**
was to renew the agreement UCLA has with the Mesa College Honors Program. Part of that process is to visit the honors program administrators, determine that the Mesa College Honors Program continues to meet or exceed TAP guidelines and do paperwork. Their second goal was to help empower our honors program to provide the highest possible level of assistance to honors students. One of the things they did to achieve that goal was to invite the honors students at Mesa to a luncheon which was catered by the Mesa College Culinary Arts Program students. This luncheon was exclusive in that only honors students were invited; Mesa faculty were excluded because the TAP team had questions for the students and they wanted honest, candid answers.

There were close to thirty honors students in attendance. The event started with introductions. The UCLA TAP luncheon team consisted of Lena Brown of the UCLA Undergraduate Admissions Department, Marc Levis-Fitzgerald and Shannon Toma, both of Survey Research and Curricular Assessment, Carolyn Kuykendall, Director of the Mount San Antonio College Honors Program, Alannah Rosenberg, Director of the Saddleback College Honors Program, and Jennifer Wilson of the UCLA Honors Program. Students gave their names, majors and why they had chosen to be involved with the honors program. During these introductions we discovered that many of the students didn’t get started with Honors right away.

There were two most frequently cited reasons for this. First, a lot of the students didn’t know the honors program existed and didn’t have time between finding out about honors at Club Rush and the deadline for submitting an honors contract. The second reason stated was that students said they received postcards in the mail congratulating them on their GPA and inviting them to join the Mesa College Honors Program, but they could have benefitted from more information about the program and how it could be to their advantage to join. We talked about what could be done to educate students about the honors program at the soonest possible time through a greater focus on high school outreach.

One of the main requirements to complete the Mesa College Honors Program is to complete 15 units of honors courses. It is difficult to complete the program when getting a late start. Fortunately, Mesa and all other schools in the San Diego Community College District have a solution to that, the honors contract. With an honors contract, any course Mesa offers (with the exception of college prep courses) can be made into an honors course. This sounds like a great idea and for the most part it works well. However, a number of students at the luncheon have been experiencing
frustration trying to enter into honors contracts with their professors. Some instructors have had a bad experience or two with students who entered honors contracts but didn’t hold up their end of the agreement, which has made these instructors hesitant to enter into these contracts again. There was some discussion regarding how to get adjunct professors to accept honors contracts. One idea mentioned was to find a way for students to negotiate honors contracts with their professors before the first day of class, giving students and their professors more time to put together and turn in their contracts. We also talked briefly about possible measures which could be implemented in order to encourage adjunct professors to accept honors contracts.

Drawing the event towards its close, Dr. Levis-Fitzgerald asked students what they wanted to see changed or added to make the honors program at Mesa better. There were lots of ideas about this. One student mentioned that the current honors office is a tiny room in the G building immediately adjacent to the offices of various professors. This is problematic for both professors and students due to the amount of conversation inherent in disseminating information to honors students. Some professors have complained about the noise level around the honors office which discourages some students from going to the honors office to get their questions answered. A number of students agreed that this is a problem which could be easily solved by giving the honors program a dedicated classroom-sized office where honors students could come for conversation, official business, studying, committee meetings and other uses. In short, the Mesa College Honors Program needs a place to call home. With that, Dr. Levis-Fitzgerald and his team thanked us for coming and for sharing our thoughts with them and bid us a fond farewell.

Come to the next Honors meeting on Monday, May 14 in room B-108. We’ll see you at 4:15 p.m.!
“What is research? In my opinion, it is a lot of hard work, it is an investigation, it is a passion in every aspect of study, it is limitless creativity and freedom of choice.” P.R.

The halls were buzzing with excitement that Saturday morning, March 31st for the Honors Transfer Council of California Research Conference at UC Irvine. It was a cloudy day but spirits were high, as well as nerves, as the clamor rang through the building. Students from across California came to present the research they had been working on for months. All fields were represented—Psychology, Economics, Dance, Literature, Sociology, and many more.

The day started in earnest with an invigorating and heart-felt opening ceremony which included thanks to all who poured their hearts into the creation and continuation of the HTCC Conference. Motivational speeches were given, encouraging students to reach their full potential and to lead the upcoming generation into a brighter, more confident, more brilliant future. An upbeat performance by the Mt. San Antonio College Forensics Team also promoted the teaching of all aspects of history in depth. The plenary concluded with cheers and hoots, giving all in the room the confidence to achieve a higher goal and to further their academic understanding of the world and how it influences us all.

“The poster presentations were displayed in the main ballroom and in the halls. Meaningful issues and topics were brought to light that were either neglected or unfamiliar to our society, including the debate of the U.S. and French health care, military and health statistics, lab experiments, and many more.” L.F. and W.X.

The conference was split into three sessions. The first started with...
Former Mesa College Honors Program Student, April LaLone, is the new Honors Program Assistant for the Fall 2012 semester!

excitement as the attendees made their way from the plenary to separate conference rooms in which various presentations were about to commence.

After preparing for months and holding numerous practice sessions presenting research was still an adrenaline rush, the work paid off when students glowed with brilliance after sharing the work they had put so much effort into.

“Thinking back, I was certainly nervous about speaking in front of people, especially presenting something that was a testament of my research skills. When I got up to speak it all flowed so well, and the speech went better than I thought. It was definitely encouraging to shake hands and hear ‘thank you’ and ‘great presentation’ from the audience.” R.C.

“The idea of presenting my research was intimidating, but I found that people were very intrigued and insightful, making me feel confident as a researcher and in myself.” M.V.

“In addition to our presentations, we had a satisfying lunch experience in the campus dining hall, that provided a huge variety of food that pleased everyone.” W.X.

Lunchtime offered a perfect break for students to introduce themselves and gain new friends and future contacts. Pictures were

Upcoming Events for Fall
(dates are subject to change):

• August 14
  Honors Orientation
  H117-118
  1:00-3:00 p.m.

• September 7
  Honors Contracts Due by 3:00 p.m. to the Mesa Honors Office

• September 7
  Book Award Scholarship Applications Due by 3:00 p.m. to the Mesa Honors Office

• September 13
  Student Services Fair in the Mesa Quad

• September 25
  UC Application Workshop
  LRC 435

• September 28
  Personal Essay Writing Workshop with Professor Cost

• October 9
  Transfer Day Fair in the Mesa Quad

...continued on page 7
Mesa College Honors Program student, Kiet Lam, won the Outstanding Abstract Award at the HTCC Conference. Congratulations!

taken to remember the eventful and exhilarating day – students, family, and friends with immense smiles. Congratulations were exchanged as well as embraces and high-fives.

“I was amazed by how much could come out of a simple question that I pondered. If I’m wondering about something so simple, chances are that others are too and would be interested in finding out the answer.” A.L.

“I would suggest that future students start researching their topics early. Select a specific direction or goal that you want to accomplish with your project, otherwise you will end up trying to research more than you can handle.” K.L.

“Not only was I able to present my views and hear opposing ideas, but I was also able to engage with educated peers and discuss the controversial aspects of my topic. Sometimes you don’t realize how much you have learned until given the opportunity to discuss and share it with others.” T. S.

The inspiring closing ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of all the students who attended. Outstanding students received awards with cheers of excitement and best wishes for all the recipients and also are “eligible for monetary awards as well as the prestigious opportunity for their work to be published in the HTCC anthology, Building Bridges.” M.H.

“I was honored to have my art chosen for this year’s conference publicity design. It astounded me every time I looked at a presenters badge, at the program cover, or at a t-shirt. I knew how proud my parents would be to see my artwork all over the conference.” A.B.

The sessions were over, the day at its close. However, the energy in the halls refused to end with the conference.

“The study of public speaking is hardly anything compared to the act of public speaking itself. I realized this was the purpose of the conference. HTCC gave students the chance to speak for themselves and show everybody who they really are.” P.R.
All students from Mesa Community College have reason to be proud of our school and its name. One significant factor that makes Mesa so distinct is the fact that students attending this school are so interactive. For students in the Mesa College Honors Program, going further than just participating in the program is common; there is constant effort from members to reach out to other students so that they can learn the benefits of being in the Mesa College Honors Program.

I would like to share with you two specific occasions that have furthered the efforts of spreading honors program knowledge -- the first being The African American and Latino Male Leadership Summit on March 9, and the second being the Honors Ambassadors Orientation on March 30, 2012. Whether recruiting students on the Mesa campus itself or other campuses, including high schools, Mesa College Honors Program members strive to spread the knowledge of the program’s existence. I will personally vouch for the difference that this program can make in the educational experience of being a student in Mesa College, because I myself was once a high school student sitting in the back of the classroom with a growing feeling of excitement as I watched honors program members from Mesa present to me what would become my future.

The African American and Latino Male Leadership Summit took place on March 9, 2012 on Mesa College’s Campus. This event was geared toward high school students, therefore being a perfect opportunity to communicate with future college students about their plans for Mesa College. Sure enough, an honors program table was planted near the event where two members of the honors program, Diana Polyak and Georgina Candia, were greeting the arriving high school students and capturing potential future honors students. These members discussed with the high school students how the honors program at Mesa greatly enhances the community college experience as the next step between high school

Several officer positions will be available during elections in the Fall. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Alison Primoza at aprimoza@sdccd.edu
and university. With honors program members so willing to reach out to younger students in events such as the African American and Latino Male Leadership Summit, it sends a clear message to future members that we all hold pride in being a part of this honors club because it helps fulfill our education in a number of ways.

We see that there are already members of the honors program meeting potential members, but the desire to spread the word is growing as many new people are becoming honors ambassadors. On Friday March 30, 2012 in room MV32 was the Mesa Honors Ambassador Orientation. There sat a room full of students, waiting to learn what it would take to become an ambassador. I was among these students ready to learn how to pay it forward. Benefits, such as the partnerships and contracts Mesa Honors has with other schools, how most classes can be turned into honors credit with an agreement between professor and student, and many more, reminded the students in this room that we were part of something special. Not only do we promote the educational benefits of being in honors to upcoming high school students, but we promise a welcoming environment. Listening to the honors ambassadors that visited my high school gave me the drive to plan on joining Honors as soon as possible. Once I did, I never regretted it because of the friends you can’t help but make the stimulated encouragement to succeed, and to always remain positive in the many opportunities that come through honors.

When high school students learn about the options and opportunities waiting for them, they become excited about the college experience and have a higher chance of succeeding in whatever they want to. When students feel that way, they bring positive energy to places such as the Mesa College Honors Program where our members cooperate with each other and reach out to others to keep the family growing. It will never be big enough, and that is why honors club tables will continue to pop up in various events and honors ambassadors will travel to high schools to deliver knowledge that changes a student’s entire perspective on college and what opportunities await them.

Mesa Honor student Bronte Benesh and her fellow Mesa Olympians on the swimming and diving team won the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Championship!
The *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* Essay Contest served as an engaging outlet for students to express their opinions on the subject of HeLa cell lines. The two winners of this contest, Tammy Schwinegruber and John Garrison, both from San Diego Mesa College, found that their ideas landed on opposite sides of the belief spectrum!

The subject of Rebecca Skloot’s non-fiction book, and also of this contest, was Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman (1920-1951) whose cells were taken from her cancerous tumor without her informed consent. Her cells became the first immortal cell line, referred to as the HeLa cell line. The medical research derived from the HeLa cell line lead to chemotherapy, vaccines for Polio, and much more. These undying cells have been mass produced for medical research and commercial use since the 1950’s.

The *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* Essay Contest required a 1200-1500 word essay, due December 2011, discussing any ethical concerns, historical context, spirituality, educational, or scientific topics having to do with this non-fiction book, by Rebecca Skloot, which relates the HeLa cell line to Henrietta Lacks the person. In an exclusive interview with one of the winners, Tammy Schwinegruber, she explains how her motivation to enter this contest stemmed from reading the non-fiction book in a book club and appreciating the opportunity to discuss her viewpoints of the topic through the contest. She also disclosed that “it was an honor to be recognized in this contest because the criterion asks ‘What do you think?’ and it was more personal.” Both winners of this contest presented their winning essays in the 2012 HTCC (Honor’s Transfer Council of California) conference on March 31, 2012.

The attendees of the HTCC Conference at the University of California...continued on page 11
It is every entertainer’s dream to have their name up in lights, but I’d say Carmen Maria Gonzalez, the Honors Club Director of Public Relations, has got them all beat! The name “Carmen Maria Gonzalez” will be featured on a commercial aircraft -- a.k.a. a PLANE!

At first glance, Carmen may appear to be fairly quiet and reserved, but do not be fooled! She is impossible to ignore. Carmen’s actions and her success are nearly as loud as her voice.

Since Carmen first began to speak, she has been singing (in more than one language, I might add). With her father’s talents as a composer and her mother’s natural ability to sing, she has grown up with music all around her and rhythm flowing through her veins. There has been much growth in Carmen’s musical career since she composed her first song at age 13, and she is now being recognized for her musical ingenuity on a much larger scale -- about 12,500 lbs larger!
Carmen is the winner of a contest called Viaja a tu Ritmo, which means “Travel at Your Rhythm.” The prize for which is 1) a year of free travel with a friend on any of Volaris’ planes to any and all destinations, national and international, and 2) Carmen’s name will be featured on one of the carrier’s 34 planes.

In an interview with Carmen Maria Gonzalez, she shares details about the contest and her future plans.

How did you find out about the contest?
A friend of mine, Karen Mejia, heard of it on the news and randomly called me to tell me all about it. She sent me the link through Facebook and was insistent that I make a song and participate in order for me to visit her to Guadalajara.

What motivated you to apply? (Was there a certain feature of the prize that enticed you? Was it an easy application? Is there a certain place you’ve always dreamed of going?)
What motivated me to apply was that writing songs and singing has always been a part of my life and I thought it wouldn’t be so hard to do it. I also have a cousin doing an internship in New York and I had been saving up money to visit her.

What was required to apply? What was the process like?
The process was very simple, my friend sent me the link directly to the page called ponletunombreaunavion.com which means “put your name on a plane. com.” On the webpage you could listen to all the songs people were uploading, in fact if you go to the link you can still listen to them. After that, you had to “Sign up” give them your email address and name.

How did you go about writing the song?
I wrote the winning song in my closet, on my MacBook and my dad walked...continued on page 13
into my room and told me that we should do something more original. So we wrote a song together and submitted them both. Then I thought I should go the extra-mile and called a studio in Tijuana to see if they could record both songs with better quality.

I took the trolley from Mesa College to Tijuana and met with my dad in the studio. We recorded both songs again, with more quality, and submitted them, also.

But in the end, the song that won was the first one that I recorded in my closet.

**How did you feel when you found out you were the winner of the contest?**

I couldn’t believe it! I was checking the website to see if there was any news, and suddenly I saw a difference. There was a sign that read, “We have our winners now! Meet them.” At first, I supposed I hadn’t won anything because I had just checked my e-mail and there wasn’t any prize information. Then I clicked on the sign and there was my name. I started jumping up and down in my room, super excited! And I instantly called my dad.

**How did your friends and family react?**

I felt like it was my birthday. Friends and family were calling me to congratulate me and to ask me all about the contest, and to ask who I would pick to travel with me. They were all incredibly excited.

**Where do you plan to go and who with?**

I’m planning to take some online courses in college, so that I can travel all around with my friend Adriana Victoria. We have family and friends in New York, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Chicago, Mexico City, Puebla, Monterrey, Guadalajara, Los Mochis, and many more places. We are super excited!

I’m planning on taking a “light” college year. I will be working in order to maintain my trips and I plan to buy a cool camera so I can make a blog about how it feels to travel for a year.

**Is there anything you have learned from applying to this contest that you would like to share?**

What I learned from this experience is to hold on to any opportunity and just do it. We sometimes plan and procrastinate and dream. What I learned is that sometimes the best way of winning or accomplishing anything is by believing in yourself and just setting aside some time in your day to do what you have to do without giving it too much thought.

For more information, you can check out the contest website at: [http://www.viajavolaris.com/ani-versario/ganadores.html](http://www.viajavolaris.com/ani-versario/ganadores.html) and you can listen to Carmen Maria Gonzalez’s winning song at: [http://www.viajavolaris.com/ani-versario/detalle/si-quieres-tu-conocer-el-mundo.html](http://www.viajavolaris.com/ani-versario/detalle/si-quieres-tu-conocer-el-mundo.html)
It’s finally here. The moment most Community College students strive for. At the end of the semester, many Mesa College students will be transferring to a 4 year university. But only a small number will be able to say that they graduated with honors.

Graduating from the honors program at Mesa means a lot more than getting a special transcript. It means that the student made a conscious decision to embark on an intellectually stimulating college journey. It means that the student immersed him or herself into the service of his peers and his community. It means that by completing the program, he or she is now more culturally aware and involved in global happenings. A Mesa College Honors Program student is a competitive, prepared and ambitious person.

These students deserve nothing short of a standing ovation. Recognition for their hard earned GPAs will show in the way their graduation gowns are adorned with blue and white chords, representing the Honors colors, and in a special section in the commencement program.

In this edition of the Hon-Our-Way Newsletter, we wish to congratulate those who have finished the honors program here at Mesa and send them off to the next successful stage of their lives with our biggest appreciation, because it is students like them that make the honors program what it is: a community of like-minded people looking for one thing -- excellence.

Mesa College Honors Program Completion List
* Signifies UCLA TAP Certification in addition to the honors program

Kimberly Alarcon
Anna (Nina) Buncic
*Andrew Chan
*James Chang Jr.
*Eric Chiang
Leyden Daniels
*Matthew Gray
Dustin Johnson
Parham Hakimi
Christine Kim
*Lois Kim
April LaLaone
*Marco Perez

Michael Rodriguez
*Simon Rydin Gothberg
Ashley Salas
Khanphaphone SayKanya
*Aviana Salom
*Cody Schauweker
*Taylor Smith
*Tagart Sobatka
*Kelvin Tran
*Monique Van Houten
*Ethan Vaughan
*Weilin Xu
*Meredith Yuen

This year’s Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship was awarded to former Mesa College student Autumn Hayes!
Honors Club Scholarships
by Stephanie Doan

There is nothing as valuable as an education and alas, it does indeed come with a price. Fortunately, students are presented with several options to help alleviate the oftentimes hefty price tag – one being the option to apply for scholarships.

One of the many scholarships offered at San Diego Mesa College is the Honors Club Scholarship. This scholarship is given to members of the Honors Club who play an active role within the honors community as well as giving back to an even wider community through volunteer work and community service.

Last year, two students received this scholarship. This year, however, six of our own have been honored with this scholarship – Alisa Boyko, Kali Hatfield, Danny Paylor, Pavel Ryzhov, Sara Smith, and Weilin Xu. The Mesa Honors Club is very proud of them and their achievements.

A large number of Mesa Honors Club members have also been awarded other scholarships given out by the school, proving that this club is full of ambitious and accomplished people. Hopefully these scholarship recipients will inspire every member of the Mesa Honors Club to apply for future scholarships. Once again, congratulations to every member who has received a scholarship.

Gala Address
by Danny Paylor

It was Ms. Kathy Fennessey who first told me I would be speaking at the Scholarship Gala. The Sr. Secretary of the Student Affairs office, Ms. Kathy is a kindly woman to whom my sincerest thanks are due for her friendly and useful assistance with a number of my affairs on campus. She told me I would do great with my speech; and hearing that helped.

I have been asked about how I felt at the prospect of speaking in front of so many significant people. The truth is that I wasn’t nervous at all. Interestingly, my best friend—a dark-haired, sarcastic girl of the sort who always say just what she thinks—once told me that I am a person of the sort who ought to be a little more nervous about opening his mouth. That way, perhaps, I would speak less nonsense. With her words ringing in my ears, and bouncing around my mind, I set to work.

My only thought and purpose (for this and other reasons) was to try and say something really significant, something that would ring true to people, something that would for a moment encourage in people a greater passion for doing good in their lives. I did not work with the idea that I knew anything special that could make my words somehow more worthwhile than anyone else’s; I did

Pictures of the 19th Annual Scholarship Gala are posted online! Check them out at http://www.sdmesa.edu/scholarships/ On the bottom, right-hand side there is a link to “Program Shots” and “Students/Awards.”
work with the idea that words can help. So I made a few drafts, solicited a few editors, and finally I stood up and said a few things—things that I simply thought might be a little helpful to hear. Perhaps. So here is what I said:

“It’s an honor to be asked to speak to tonight. I will do so briefly. First I want to thank Dean Maxey, the Mesa College Foundation and the folks here with the Double-Tree Hotel; it’s been delightful tonight. Thank you.

“People find their identity in many different ways: by how they think; by how they feel; by what they do; by who they know; by what they wear; and even by what they eat. Yet there is one thing I think says the most about a person: where they come from. Great American writers like William Faulkner and F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote their greatest stories on this theme of place. Where do you come from and who does that make you?

“On a very similar note, there is one thing, it can be said, that every student in this room has in common: a shared experience, a shared location, a hence shared identity. It’s simple. We are from San Diego Mesa College. As the T-shirt puts it: we are ‘property of Mesa College.’ Tonight, I will comment on three qualities that for me define the legacy of students who are ‘property of Mesa College’: diligence, knowledge, and responsible citizenship.

“The genius of Mesa College is that it is structured to reward diligent individuals. And I think we owe a debt of gratitude to those professors who pushed us into the realm of diligence. I owe such a debt of gratitude to professors Andrew Hoffman, Kevin Cox and Martine Lusby, among others. And as I look out on my friends, classmates and club-mates here tonight, I see students who have worked diligently, not just to earn the grades, but to win the scholarships that we have so gratefully received this evening. That brings us to the second quality: knowledge.

“I took a philosophy class here at Mesa, and we studied the great ancient minds, including Aristotle, Zeno and Cicero. They all speak of...continued on page 17
the same thing: the absolute necessity of knowledge -- of Reason -- to adjudicate what is The Good: for individuals, for families, and for society. So, too, the Founding Fathers of our nation speak of the vital necessity of an educated-citizenry to the success of the American experiment in self-governance. I’d like to quote Thomas Jefferson:

I know of no safe depository [he says] of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion.

“In short, there is no government of the people, by the people, for the people, without knowledgeable people, the kind of educated people that Mesa College has helped us to become.

“In conclusion, there is one final quality that I attribute to the Mesa College legacy: responsible citizenship. To be a responsible citizenry means to be a people of diligent, well-reasoned action. We from Mesa College should not be passive citizens; we should not be the ones to neglect the health and cleanliness of the earth; we should not be the ones to see our economy manipulated by people who are greedy, and neither by people who will spend beyond the nation’s means; we should not be the ones to allow media-influence to control that authentically-informed capacity for reason, which belongs to every American as their power to self-governance; finally, we must not be the ones to passively observe the social demise of our nation, over such issues as the perversion of childhood innocence, the decline of the family, and disregard for the intrinsic value of human life.

“I do not see only great responsibility in these crucial matters; I see great opportunity. ‘So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.’

“I want to thank President Pam Luster, not least for presenting me with this award. My thanks to Dr. P, that’s Dr. Alison Primoza -- and a shout out to the whole Honors Club. I want thank my parents -- mom, dad; my friends, Shelly and John; and my Pastor, Dr. Bombaro. Thank you for everything entirely, for you have given me nothing less than everything entirely. Above all, I thank my Creator. And finally, I wish to thank every teacher and every individual who works for Mesa College for being the true heroines and heroes of our community and of our country. Thank you for your time.”

Federal DREAM Act

by Kiet Lam

What happens to a dream deferred? This is the question that approximately 65,000 high school graduates in the U.S. ask themselves every year. These graduates have one thing in common, they are undocumented. They are undocumented not because of their own choice. They are undocumented not because of their past actions. They are undocumented because they were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents in search of a better future. Now as young adults, they face the constant threat of deportation to a foreign land where they have little to no memories of. They face a future where they have no possibility of pursuing their dreams and aspirations. They are in a perpetual limbo between a land that currently has no future for them – and a land where they have no past.

If you are interested in having your writing featured in the next newsletter, please contact Magan Hall at magancassandrahall@gmail.com
The Federal Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors, or commonly known as the Federal DREAM Act, aims to provide relief for these students. The DREAM Act would provide a conditional six-year legal residency if the students (1) were brought to the U.S. under the age of 16, (2) have resided in the U.S. continuously for at least five years, (3) graduated from a U.S. high school, (4) demonstrated a good moral character (no criminal record), (5) be under the age of 29 on the date of the bill’s enactment, (6) complete at least 2 years of college or serve in the U.S. military for 2 years. If they meet the requirements after 6 years, the conditions on their legal residency would be taken off and they could pursue U.S. citizenship through the normal immigration process.

The DREAM Act was introduced in the U.S. Congress in 2001 with bipartisan support, notably from Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), Harry Reid (D-Nevada), Richard Lugar (R-Indiana), Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), and John McCain (R-Arizona). The bill passed the House in 2010, but fell 5 votes short of the 60 votes needed to break the filibuster in the Senate. Approximately 1.9 million undocumented students would be eligible for the DREAM Act. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the 2010 version of the DREAM Act would bring an economic impact of reducing the deficit by $2.2 billion over the 2011-2020 period due to increased tax revenues from DREAM Act students (CBO). A 2010 study by the UCLA North American Integration and Development Center estimated that the DREAM Act students would generate $1.4 trillion to $3.6 trillion in their working lives (Ojeda). From an economic standpoint, the U.S. stands to benefit from accessing the pool of talent already here. Furthermore, the DREAM Act would strengthen the national defense by allowing the military access to more potential recruits.

Opponents of the DREAM Act often believe the false notion that DREAM Act students can simply return to their country of origin and apply for visas to return to the U.S. Due to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), anyone who is unlawfully present in the U.S. for a period of 180 days is barred from

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Read our tweets! The Mesa Honors Club now has twitter. Follow us at www.twitter.com/SDMesaHonors

Newly Elected Fall 2012 Honors Officers Continued:

- **Director of Services**
  Alexandria Marasigan
- **Director of Fundraising**
  Jane Han
- **Director of Public Relations**
  Luis Rosales
- **Director of Social Media**
  Sara Smith
- **ICC Representative**
  Pavel Ryzhov
- **Editor**
  Magan Hall

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returning to the U.S. for 3 years. The bar is raised to 10 years for anyone unlawfully present for over 365 days. Thus, if a DREAM Act student returns to his/her country of origin, he/she will have to wait 10 years before applying to return to the U.S. Another common argument about the DREAM Act is that DREAM Act students will take away spots from other students whose parents already paid the taxes that subsidized the class. This notion is false because, if you own a home or rent, you will pay property taxes, which go to K-12 and state higher-education. These taxes are helping states like California to keep their education system afloat.

So what happens to a dream deferred? With the DREAM Act, that is a question that I hope no future generations will have to address because everyone should have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. To make this a reality, I urge you to spread the message of the DREAM Act and to call your representatives to voice your opinions.

Bay Honors Symposium
by Eli Mizrachi

Even though it has been weeks since the Honors Research Conference at Berkeley, I’m still thinking about how fun and informative it was. Ever since I heard about the conference I wanted to go, not to present, but to get an idea of how the whole process worked, and it couldn’t have gone better.

The conference took place on the campus of Cal, Berkeley on April 28, 2012. The topics were quite varied and thought provoking; from videogames, to Batman, to even homeless people (done by Mesa Honors students April LaLone and Victoria Charles). Not to mention that I got a fantastic tour of Berkeley in the process and on top of that, I’ve been more inspired than ever to create a project of my own.

District Honors Reception
by Alisa Boyko

The 24th Annual Honors Reception was one of the most memorable events of the academic year. It took place at the Prado Restaurant in Balboa Park on May 2nd. That beautiful morning, honors students, faculty, and staff were recognized for their hard work of the academic year. Many of my friends from Mesa, among many students from our sister campuses, were lauded for their accomplishments, including acceptance in four-year universities. The most important people were there to congratulate them, such as Chancellor Constance Carroll, the presidents of our three colleges, and

Honors is expanding! In addition to the current honors office in room G-223, there will be a new Honors satellite office in room LRC-472. Both offices can be reached at: (619) 388-2341
many members of the Board of Trustees.

I felt encouraged, motivated, and simply honored to be there, listening to both faculty and students speakers, who shared what they had accomplished and wished us all the best in our future endeavors. One of the honors students, Cody Schauweker, was chosen to represent the Mesa College Honors Program. His speech was about how he succeeded academically despite all the obstacles he had to overcome with the help of his supportive parents, honors coordinators, and inspiring professors. I think it was very encouraging and touching. Moreover, he was accepted to all the schools of his choice, and now he is headed to UC Berkeley.

The warm and inspiring atmosphere, along with the great food, was definitely worth it leaving my class early. This event was like a fresh breath before the “final madness,” that helped me personally finish spring semester strong. I highly recommend that you to come to the Honors Reception next year to be recognized for all your hard work.

Honors Club Elections
by Magan Hall

Another academic year has come to a close for Mesa College. For the Honors Club, this means the holding of elections for new club officers to replace the graduating officers who have inspired the upcoming candidates to keep the Honors Club thriving. The elections were held during the last Honors Club meeting of the Spring 2012 semester on Monday, May 14th. All nominees were asked to prepare a one-minute speech to describe why they should be chosen for the position they were running for.

Congratulations to our new Honors Club President Alisa Boyko, Vice President Jym Varnadore, Secretary Soo Yeon Kim, Treasurer Eli Mizrachi, Director of Honors Opportunities Danielle Savage, Director of Community Service Alexandria Marasigan, Director of Fundraising Jane Han, Director of Public Relations Luis Rosales, Director of Social Media Sara Smith, and Newsletter Editor Magan Hall.

For those who still wish to take on a leadership role in the Honors Club, there...continued on page 21
For the next two years, Dr. Leticia Lopez and Professor Wendy Smith will not only be Honors Co-coordinators for Mesa College, but they will also be District Honors Coordinators. Congratulations!

There are several leadership positions available. If you want to help spread the word about the Honors Club and inform students of its purpose, you may be interested in running for Representative of Honor’s Ambassadors. The Honors Club is also in need of a Co-Director of fundraising and a Co-Editor of the Honors newsletter. Two of the most important positions are still left unfilled; the Honor’s Club cannot function without two ICC representatives.

If you would like to represent the Honors Club and become more involved, please consider one of the positions described above. Another round of elections will take place at the beginning of our 2012 Fall semester for these vacant honors officer positions.

CV and Resume Workshop

On May 1st and May 16th 2012, the Mesa College Honors Club co-sponsored a resume and CV workshop with EOPS. The workshop was put on by Sarah Moore from the Mesa Career Center in MV-32.

The workshop was a complete success! Students were given a presentation on the most current strategies and effective formats on writing, editing and submitting their resumes and CVs. Those who brought their resumes and CVs were able to ask questions and get expert advice on editing them. They also learned about the differences between writing a resume and a CV.

CV stands for curriculum vitae; they are often used in place of resumes, when applying for academic, scientific or research positions. They are also applicable when applying for fellowships or grants. A CV is a summary of academic achievements, educational background, research experience, affiliations and other relevant information.

If you would like more information regarding learning these skills and other helpful job related resources, you can contact the Mesa Career office located in room MV-20. Phone number: 619-388-2777 Website: www.sdmesa.edu/career-center

Commencement Ceremony

Well, it’s another year over, and what have we done? As some of us gear up for another year at Mesa, there are those who are gearing up for their new life outside of Mesa College. That’s right; a new throng of fresh faces completed the honors program and were formally recognized for it at this year’s commencement ceremony.
I was one of those students sitting in the crowd waiting to graduate and had a deep sense of pride wearing my honors program chords across my gown. I knew I worked hard for over two years to be able to sport those chords so, to walk across stage with a bit a flare setting me apart from the crowd, was all my family and I needed to show this off to the world. Yes, I was part of a group of hard working students sharing the honor of wearing those chords that day. We all had good grades to earn honors designation already, but for us it was different.

We all went above and beyond what the school required of us and decided to get involved with campus activities, to volunteer time, and hold each other up when times got tough (e.g.: finals). You see, we were more than just smart kids, we were kids with heart and that is what those chords represented to us; the passion and dedication we all knew we had within us. As I posed for pictures after the graduation ceremony, I knew that later, when people asked what those chords meant years down the road, I could tell them I completed the Honors Program and what that meant to me.

A Special Thanks You to Our Writers Continued:

- Kiet Lam  
  HTCC Conference, Federal DREAM Act
- Eli Mizrachi  
  Bay Honors Symposium
- Vanessa Moreno  
  Congrats Grads!
- Danny Paylor  
  President’s Scholarship Address
- Pavel Ryzhov  
  HTCC Conference
- Danielle Savage  
  CV and Resume Workshop
- Tammy Schweinbruber  
  HTCC Conference
- Monique Van Houten  
  HTCC Conference
- Jym Varnadore  
  UCLA TAP Accreditation Team Site Visit
- Weilin Xu  
  HTCC Conference

If you have a personal accomplishment or update that you would like to see included in the Honors newsletter, please contact Magan Hall at magancassandrahall@gmail.com
Just after the start of summer vacation, on Thursday, May 24th, outgoing honors officers and incoming new officers joined with the Honors Club staff and directors to celebrate the hard work accomplished this academic year through the Honors Club.

The BBQ took place in Professor Wendy Smith’s home at 6:00 p.m. The Co-Director of the Honors Club, Dr. Leticia Lopez, gave a short speech to commend all of the outstanding effort that everyone expends to make the Honors Club fun and memorable for everyone.

Having gatherings like this one is another way that members of the Honors Club bond. Through hard work and fun, there are many ways that students and directors support each other to make the Mesa College Honors Program successful.

This coming fall I, Magan Hall, will be the new Hon-Our-Way Newsletter Editor. During the Spring 2012 semester I have observed the tremendous amount of work that the present editor, Kali Hatfield, has put into making the newsletter as great as it is today.

The last few days of the semester I kept hearing what big shoes I have to fill, and I know that is not a lie. Dr. Alison Primoza is so proud of Hon-Our-Way and has, more that once, exclaimed that Kali

Get ahead this summer by reading this year’s Honors Book Club selection Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. You will be eligible for many activities and opportunities honoring the 50th anniversary of this ground-breaking book.
has been the best editor that the honors program has ever had. In the short amount of time that I’ve known Kali, I don’t doubt Dr. Primoza’s words.

*Hon-Our-Way* is not a regular, old newsletter. Kali has put in so much effort to make it a connection to the memories made in the honors program that every member wants to keep. She calls for volunteer writers to write about the events that occur throughout the year and keeps the articles as original as possible. She allots time dedicated to making the article as presentable and easy to read as she can so that we can all enjoy reading what the honors program is all about. Most of all, Kali remains dedicated and passes along all she can to help me have the tools to keep *Hon-Our-Way* something for the honors program to be proud of.

On behalf of the honors program directors and members, I’d like to say, “Thank you so much for being the editor of *Hon-Our-Way*, Kali!”

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Don’t delay. Sign up for honors in the Fall by going to https://studentweb.sdccd.edu/honors/ It only takes a minute!

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A Special Thank You to Our Photographers:

- Carol Beilstein
  Scholarship Gala
- Case Griffiths
  HTCC Conference
- Magan Hall
  Henrietta Lacks Essay Contest Winners
- Kali Hatfield
  Honors Ambassadors Orientation
- Jackie Murphy
  UCLA TAP Accreditation Team Site Visit
- Quang Nguyen
  HTCC Conference
- Anabel Pulido
  Scholarship Gala
- Danielle Savage
  Commencement Ceremony
- With Images Provided by Carmen Maria Gonzalez