Welcome to Hon-Our Way

Welcome to a new and exciting edition of *Hon-Our Way*, the newsletter that brings you the scoop of what’s going on in Mesas exciting honors world. In this Issue you will find everything that has been going on the last few weeks, from the BHC Berkeley trip to the scholarship awards for our hard working fellow honors students. So enjoy this exciting issue, and stay up to date.

It is the end of the semester and finals are going on right now, so on behalf of the *Hon-Our Way* team I wish you good luck on your finals and have fun during summer. We hope to see you well rested and ready for a new semester in the fall, and to all of you who are transferring, good luck in your new endeavors.

-Raphael Doelker

Honors at the Gala

Imagine being accepted to prestigious school with a full paid tuition, or a $30,000 a year scholarship, or being recognized for all the hard work put for your time at Mesa. It seems too good to be true, but it wasn't for Joshua Ray, Summer Dunsmore, and the high caliber students recognized at the 17th annual San Diego Mesa College's Scholarship Awards Gala. On Friday, May 8th, 2010 students who had received scholarships from various Mesa organizations and officials arrived at the Double Tree Hotel in Mission Valley to celebrate their successes. 

The Scholarship Gala was organized to recognize the outstanding achievements of Mesa College students and present them with awards. Recipients of the Honors Program Scholarship were Kathryn Humphrey for her 4 semesters of service as Honors Club Secretary provided, the ceremony transpired successfully, and there were some choice surprises left the end. After the official ceremony, students and their guests were invited to dance and socialize. Some were more than ready to let go of the end-of-the-semester tension, and did so!

The Scholarship Gala...
Honors Club member and past Treasurer, Summer Nicole Dunsmore, was surprised to learn that she had won the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship at the Mesa College Scholarship Banquet on May 7, 2010. Summer had prepared a speech to encourage students to take on the extra challenge of Honors, which she was told, she would present immediately after all the scholarships had been awarded. President Rita Cepeda made the off-the-program announcement of Summer’s award, immediately after former Honors Club President, Joshua Ray, accepted the President’s Scholarship. President Cepeda described the award without naming the winner until the very end of her speech. She told the audience that this was the fourth Jack Kent Cooke winner Mesa had had in the past 5 years. She explained that we had 18 applicants this year, and 6 finalists out of whom only 2 could be nominated from Mesa. Of the several hundred nominees, from all over the world, The JKC Foundation selected only 40 winners. The JKC scholar-

Summer Dunsmore Wins it Big!

and extensive volunteering, Joshua Ray, for his sterling leadership and organization as President, and Cody Schauwecker for his community involvement and dedication to the Honor’s office. President’s -lence and Service was awarded to Joshua Ray. Joshua accepted his award with grace and an appropriate recognition of all of this "Mesa mothers" in the spirit of Mother's Day, as well as thanks to Mesa for reinvigorating his academic zeal. Joshua served in the U.S. Navy, was one of the first to respond to the recent Tsunami disaster, founded the Student Veteran’s Union, and headed/supported various clubs on campus. He is majoring in International Relations and Spanish, and very diplomatically wished everyone the best of success. He was also surprised to find out he had been accepted to Brown with a full scholarship. Summer Dunsmore was lured to the event by Dr. Primoza with the promise of presenting a speech on the benefits of Honors Program. When it was announced she had Jack Kent Cook scholarship (a prestigious $30,000 a year) she was shocked beyond words, deciding to stick to her original speech.

The Honors Club was well represented that night. The genuine gratitude and well-deserved praise with a strong sense of community reflected the Honors Program and made the Scholarship Awards Gala a memorable night, indeed.

-By Kate Humphrey-
ship will provide Summer with up to $30,000 per year until she graduates. At which point, she will be eligible for the JKC graduate scholarship for a flat $50,000 sum to cover her graduate school expenses. As President Ce-peda described Summer’s many accomplishments, such as her impeccable GPA, her work to save San Diego’s harbor seals, her work on the Vagina Monologues, the praise of her professors and her future plans, Summer realized she had won the award. In shock and surprise, Summer made her way to the podium with thunderous applause. Despite her surprise, Summer maintained incredible poise and made a gracious and inspiring speech in which she thanked those who had helped her achieve this accomplishment, including professors, classmates, and her mother, Dawn Dunsmore, who has been her biggest mentor and who was in attendance. Summer also encouraged her listeners to believe in themselves and work hard to achieve their dreams.

Summer will use her JKC scholarship to attend the University of California, Berkeley this fall where she will study International Development. Summer hopes to work abroad to help women in developing countries. The Honors Club’s most recent winner, former Honors Club President, Nasra Nimaga, is graduating from UCLA School of Architecture in June. She has been accepted at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. She will use her JKC graduate scholarship to attend Princeton this fall. If you have an excellent GPA, compelling financial need, and accomplishments of your own, please apply this fall for the Jack Kent Scholarship. The application will be available this October at www.jkcf.org where you will also be able to read about Summer and our previous winners, Quang Phung, Autumn Hayes, and Nasra Nimaga.

-By Alison Primoza-

Study hard,
Play hard,
Apply your self in the community and apply for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

DON’T FORGET TO SIGN UP ON THE HONORS PROGRAM DATA BASE FOR THE FALL SEMESTER 2010!!!
YOU CAN DO IT ANY TIME, SO DO IT!!!
HERE IS THE LINK:
HTTPS://STUDENTWEB.SDCCCD.EDU/HONORS/
Presidents Award for Josh

When I went to check if I got any scholarships in Student Affairs, I remember my reaction to Josh getting the President’s Award. I was loud and ecstatic. The person in charge was surprised; I was more glad about Josh’s award than my own. It was a bit unusual, considering I had applied for it myself. But I told her it could not have gone to a better person. Just look at Josh’s resume at Mesa College. ASG Senator. President of the Honors club. Vice President and co-founder of the Student Veteran Union. It’s a long list of accolades that anyone would love to have. But if you ask Josh to talk a little about himself, he’ll probably turn the question on you and ask you how you’re doing. That is just the type of person he is.

We are shaped by the moments of our life. As a veteran, Josh has experienced in life a lot more than I ever could. And yet, he manages to embrace his past experiences by his without being defined by them. I would define him by his genuine passion for helping Mesa College students. In his speech, Josh told the story of his own education. After the loss of his grandmother, he lacked the will to pursue education for the longest time. Mesa reinvigorated his passion for education, his will to learn. It became more than a school to him. It became his family. For many students, Mesa College can be a reset button. It can be an opportunity to renew themselves and the community around them. Josh took that opportunity and made sure he gave it to those around him.

I’ve known Josh for roughly a year and half. I met him in English 205. I can tell you that I am a better man and person because of Josh. He’s inspired me to look more into myself and change myself for the better. Another thing Josh mentioned is you don’t just learn from books and professors at Mesa College. If you did just that, it would probably help you keep up your GPA, but you will miss an opportunity. Mesa College students come from all walks of life. We can all learn a little bit from each other. Before Mesa College, I had never met someone with the life experiences of Josh Ray. We don’t always agree, but we always try to understand each other’s position. I learned from him, and I hope he’s learned a little from me. I am proud to call him my friend and the 2010 recipient of the President’s Award for Academic Excellence & Service.

-By Jay Aquino-
UCLA: The Goal

With transferring to a four-year university being a common goal for many Mesa college students, Casey Hunter, the UCLA Student Affairs Officer, came to answer questions and offer advice to students. The meeting started out very casually, Mr. Hunter insisted that people call him Casey, used phrases like ‘sup and ensured everyone that he had no real agenda or speech he was just there to answer questions and open up communication. After he introduced himself and passed out informative brochures on the University and its majors he asked each individual their name and major preference. With each person he was impressively able to offer course requirements and recommendations off the top of his head as well as provide commentary as far as competitiveness of each major and similar, ‘back-up’ majors. Elaborating on the overall admissions process, he highlighted certain do’s and don’ts and shared examples that he had encountered through his time working in his position. He answered questions relating to every type of major from the ever so popular, and thus impacted, majors such as psychology and life sciences to the more liberal arts such as film or music. Students asked questions like ‘should I apply to this major because it’s easier to get in?’ or ‘if I want to change from one major to the other will it be possible?’ Other popular topics that he was able to answer ranged from financial aid to benefits of certain classes or how to write an effective personal statement.

Additionally if he wasn’t able to give as specific of an answer as you were looking for he would know the name and contact information of someone who would know. Students were so inquisitive and he was so informational that even though the information session was supposed to be from 1:00 – 1:30 pm, he stayed and answered questions until 2 when the next session started and even invited us to stay for the next 2:00 - 2:30 pm time slot to get all of our questions answered.

The best part about the information session, however, was that he was relatable. He made UCLA a feasible goal for a community college student with even the oddest of transcripts and educational history. Mentioning his story many times, he was a transfer from a community college who got into UCLA after taking classes for over 5 years and accepting a few ‘W’s along the way. Mr. Hunter was welcoming, informational and warm. He conducted an information session that was definitely something I would recommend to anyone who was thinking about transferring to UCLA.

-By Wendy Plante-

**REMEMBER, THE HONORS PROGRAM OFFERS FREE SYMPHONY TICKETS.**

**SYMPHONY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HONORS OFFICE AT THE THIRD FLOOR IN THE G BUILDING, SO GO GET SOME!!!**

**AND DON’T FORGET TO FILL OUT YOUR RESPONSE FORM, SO IT COUNTS AS AN HONORS ACTIVITY!!!**
Bay Honors Consortium Berkeley

Reach

Cal Berkeley is the gold standard for public colleges in California. For many community college students, the university seems to be something of an unattainable dream. But it is an achievable reality. The faculty works with students to get into the college. The college is not just the university. The town itself is a part of the Cal Berkeley experience. There is no real line where the college ends or the town begins. They meld together as part of the overall experience. The college itself benefits from its prestige; a sense of intellectual strength is felt when you sit in its rooms and walk its halls.

The Cal Berkeley Research Conference differed from HTCC in that it focused on more analysis rather than field research. Since a majority of our students use their psychology studies, I was disappointed in the lack of representation of psychology. Hopefully future honors students can change that. The level of critical thinking required is great, especially in the talks I attended. Make sure your research approaches a high level of critical analysis, especially if it is easy to relate to contemporary times.

In talking to other honors programs, I discovered other community college’s disposition towards their programs. Many of them did not go beyond in the way that our program does. Some included more volunteer hours or different items such as subject seminars. I think the changes we have made will make our community college standout. I will close with what most of emails end with: “Never settle for less because you’re afraid of reaching for more.” Berkeley may seem difficult or out of reach, but striving beyond the average student is what Mesa Honors is all about.

-To Be a Golden Bear-

Growing up in a family of Golden Bear graduates set me up for an unrealistic expectation of the University. In my eyes, it was go Berkeley or go home. For many community college students, their dream of attending this top rated public university seems to be unattainable. They feel as though they are just another cog in the machine, yet this is not the case. After attending the conference at UC Berkeley, I saw another side to the Berkeley faculty and students. They were excited to see the hard
work put in by the community college students and were eager to ask questions. It differed significantly from the HTCC conference because all of the students were even more prepared. There was no note reading and no awkward silences. I was impressed with my fellow community college students because they presented themselves like university undergraduates.

The university is reminiscent of a green island amidst a small city. It is like a haven to those who sometimes want to escape the loud city life and retreat to an area of natural beauty. If one walks down Telegraph, there are multiple street vendors, every type of restaurant one can imagine, and a sense of unrealism (I say this because I saw a homeless man with a solar paneled shopping cart--only in Berkeley!). To be able to attend this university is truly something special. UC Berkeley has it all: a wonderful athletic department, amazing academics, and beautiful architecture.

-By Meredith Yuen -

History and Legacy

The trip to UC Berkeley proved to be a very enlightening experience. First off, the campus, which I learned was built in 1868, reminds me of a community as well as a college. Telegraph avenue runs right along side it. Students and residents of Berkeley intermingle as one. There are street vendors set up along side the road. There are buildings that remind me of old Roman Empire structures. The atmosphere is one of serious study. The feeling of accomplishment reigns as you walk the campus. During our trip, there was a protest in good old fashioned manner. The administration had built a billboard of sorts that the students disagreed with, so they decided to splash paint all over it, defacing it. Being in Berkeley was almost surreal. You hear so much about it, to finally be there was exciting. Attending the University, is almost like participating in history.

-By Brennan Maclean -
Berkeley Conference

This trip has proven to me that Cal Berkeley is definitely the most fascinating university in California. Cal has a very interesting and dominant personality that I believe many of the other public universities in California lack. I feel that Berkeley gives the students the small college town feel, while still being surrounded by a large, unique city. Walking though the school and the town it is easy to lose yourself in the vastness of Berkeley. Forgetting that Cal isn’t the center of the universe is nearly impossible. The many small, but interesting quirks make Berkeley such a desirable place to want to go to college. Berkeley has an acceptable amount of important benches that add to the character of any distinct college. I had the opportunity to see and try out the whisper bench and echo bench, both living up to their names. Before this trip I never considered that Cal was a possibility and that I could fit into the funky Cal lifestyle. But this trip has showed me that Cal has a place for everyone.

The Berkeley Honors conference was definitely different then the Irvine conference. During the three sessions, the level of understanding of the topics that were being discussed and the depth of the questions the audience asked were more intense. Also, the presenters at the conference seemed to be very prepared and passionate about their subject. I learned a few important things for next year when I apply to present at this conference. The first is that they like controversial topics and want to hear your opinion, even if it goes against the majority. Second, is that you have to show that you are passionate about the subject you want to present in your abstract. You can’t expect to present a project you were forced to do in some class. The project has to show your intellectual interest on the subject.

Reflecting on the conference and after talking with students from other honors programs, I feel that Mesa is definitely more unified than many of the other honors programs in California. The amount of support we give each other compared to the support students of other honors programs give their peers isn’t even on the same scale. This support system we’ve created will help Mesa stand out from the rest of the honors programs in California. Also, the fact that we have an amazing advisor that puts in the extra effort to make sure that we reach are dream school, separates us from the rest. Dr. P gives our program a strong foundation that we as students can easily build off of and reach our goals.

-Allison Scofield-

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP ON THE HONORS BOOK SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER 2010!!! ($250 FOR FULL TIME, $125 PART TIME)
DEADLINE IS FRIDAY AUGUST 28, END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES!!!

HERE IS THE LINK:

HTTP://WWW.SDMESA.EDU/HONORS/INDEX.CFM
Honors is a vast group of students. It spans across three community colleges: Mesa, Miramar, and City. There are so many intelligent and wonderful students at these campuses. If you are lucky, you might meet a quarter of them. Of course, as the busy students we are, our schedules rarely match up. At the Honors Reception, we got a chance to talk with many of these students. For some of the people I talked with, it was the first time I had met them.

Many of these students are at different stages of their education. Some students just began this semester, while others were preparing themselves for transfer. The Honors Reception recognized all their accomplishments. From HTCC to TAP, the accomplishments were numerous. In particular, the event recognized those students transferring. They read off a list of all the schools that each of the students got into. If the students had already made their decision, they also announced those decisions. For some cases, Dr. Primoza asked the students on the spot what their choice was. Even though they were probably surprised, they responded loudly with their decisions. The students were proud of themselves and their fellow classmates, as they should be.

Each of the colleges had a speaker that captured the spirit of honors. One speaker said something that really captured what I like about honors. I’ll try my very best to paraphrase: “People had faith in me so that I could believe in myself.” Honors is not just a collection of faculty and students. It is a community of people who want you to succeed. The faculty want to work with you to reach your goals. The students cheer you on every step of the way. Sometimes that’s all that any student needs.

-By Jay Aquino-
**What is a CV?**

This year the Mesa Honors students had the incredible opportunity to create and update their curriculum vitae. A CV is a brief biographical résumé of one's career and training, as prepared by a person applying for a job. This seminar was hosted by Professor Jaye VanKirk, who did an amazing job teaching and explaining the process to create a CV. Why does one need a CV? In a nutshell, it is a list of one's accomplishments, qualifications, and a space for one to market one’s skills and abilities. A CV refers to one’s life. Within the vitae, an employer can learn the educational and academic background, research opportunities, awards, publications, and affiliations that the job seeker has been a part of. It is important to tailor the CV to the prospective job; therefore, having multiple CV’s is wise. For those of us who are making a CV for the first time, it is necessary to put in certain things like: personal information, education (university, major/minor, awards, etc), internships or professional positions (be sure to state the relevant positions first), and professional organizations and activities (i.e. projects, committees, etc). References are a must; it is typical to have around three to five. Be sure to ask before you put someone’s name down! It is important to keep the information relevant and succinct. Do NOT pad your CV with useless information like hobbies, pets, or high school activities! The appearance of a CV is similar to that of a resume. Use professional font (times new roman is most commonly used), nice paper, and use the correct spacing and headings. Having a CV in progress gives you an extra benefit when you go to look for a professional job. In conclusion, to those that have not started a CV yet, you should start one immediately! And to those that have already created one, be sure to update it frequently. Good luck!

-By Meredith Yuen -

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-By Meredith Yuen -
The Mesa 2010 Spring Semester Transfer Workshop

As we all know, if you want to transfer to a good four year institution, Mesa is the launch pad to do it. To give students a better understanding of what to look for, how to approach it, and how budget cuts affect transfer opportunities, the Honors Program held a transfer workshop lead by Naomi Grisham. One of the main points that has been stressed is that with the budget cuts, private schools seem more and more attractive, because the price difference is decreasing, with the increase of tuition for UC’s and State schools. She also said that private schools can work with students and put together a financial package that helps to pay for school. Naomi Grisham, transfer counselor for the Honors program also emphasized that she is more than willing to help, but she can’t do anything if students miss the application deadline. Students beware of the bottleneck effect. With the bad economy, seniors at the four year institution don’t want to graduate for lack of job opportunities, and stay in school as super seniors. This affects the number of students that can be accepted into the school. So make sure to apply to multiple schools.

To get a better idea of what universities are out there and which one is right for you, Naomi suggested we check out the National College Fair at the San Diego Convention Center. Overall it was a great workshop with lots of good information. Students got a better grasp of what they need to do to get to where they want to be. And there was lots of information on what’s going on with transfer opportunities for UC’s and CSU’s and other institutions.

-By Raphael Doelker-

END OF YEAR HONORS PARTY
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR YOUR INVITATION EMAIL.

DATE: MONDAY, MAY 24, 2010
TIME: 3:00PM - 11:00PM
LOCATION: CASE GRIFFITH’S HOUSE

(MESSAGE HIM FOR THE ADDRESS)
Honors club Officers for 2010-2011 School Year

Officers

Alison Primoza
Meredith Yuen
Cody Schauweker
Ebene Thomas
Pooria Daryabeygi
Omar Miyazaki
Allison Scofield
Dominic Maleknia
Amanda Venegas
Nadifa Mohamed
Lihua He
Raphael Doelker
Case Griffiths

Position

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

Honors Courses Fall 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art History 110 (CORE)</td>
<td>Prehistory to Gothic</td>
<td>Beate Bermann-Enn</td>
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<td>U.S. History from a Black Perspective</td>
<td>Chuck Ambers</td>
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<td>Economics 120</td>
<td>Principles of Economics</td>
<td>Becca Arnold</td>
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<td>English 101 (CORE)</td>
<td>Reading &amp; Composition</td>
<td>Ron Israel</td>
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<td>English 249</td>
<td>Intro. to Creative Writing</td>
<td>J. Cost/W. Smith</td>
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<td>Comp. Flat Pattern Design I</td>
<td>Susan Lazear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fashion 175</td>
<td>Comp. Fashion Design I</td>
<td>Susan Lazear</td>
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<td>Psychology 166</td>
<td>Intro. to Social Psychology</td>
<td>Joline Bourdages</td>
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<td>Spanish 202</td>
<td>Fourth Semester in Spanish</td>
<td>Dora Schoenbrun-Fernández</td>
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<td>Art – Fine Art 220A</td>
<td>Life Sculpture I</td>
<td>Emiko Lewis-Sanchez</td>
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Special thanks to Lina Heil and the Public Information Office staff for the Gala Pictures