Welcome to Hon-Our Way

This new issue of Hon-Our Way, reports the latest and greatest from the Mesa Honors world. We present all the exciting things that happened during the second half of the spring semester, to all the great upcoming events that are happening in the fall semester of 2011.

The Chancellor's Award

At this year’s Scholarship Gala, numerous scholarships were awarded to highly motivated students in the honors community. Among those, one particular student stood out. Cody Schauweker earned the honor of receiving the Chancellor’s award. In an interview with Cody, he stated: “The single scholastic accomplishment I am most proud of is receiving the Chancellor’s Scholarship in 2011. Of all the scholarships available through San Diego Mesa College, this award is the highest honor available to a student planning to attend Mesa again the following year. I believe I was selected as this scholarships recipient because I have been able to achieve great things while overcoming enormous obstacles.” In addition to maintaining a 4.0 GPA while attending San Diego Mesa College, Cody has been very active in a number of campus clubs. During the 2010/2011 school year he was the President of the Beta Beta Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa as well as the Vice President of the Honors Club. Through both of these positions Cody was able to work with other highly motivated students in order to fundraise for multiple charity organizations as well provide aid to fellow students through the means of on campus workshops.

San Diego Mesa Honors Club
excel farther than many people believed would ever be possible. I’ve accomplished all this and more after sustaining a multiple skull fracture which led doctors to tell my parents that if I was able to survive I’d be severely mentally handicapped for the rest of my life. Years after the head injury I began having grand mal seizures and it took years of trial and error until finally finding a medication to control them. During that time I was unable to work, or go to school, because of the frequent occurrence of seizures, in addition to the debilitating side effects of the various medications. After over five years I finally became medically stabilized, and cognitively able to attend college, at which time I began my educational journey at San Diego Mesa College. Although I must overcome a great deal of both physical and cognitive obstacles, the drive that I have to make a positive impact on society has, and will continue to push me to achieve my dreams.”

-by Cody Schauweker and Raphael Doelker-

The Prestigious Juan Lara Award

During the award ceremony of the HTCC conference, Mesa students were proud to see their fellow student, Valeria Ruiz, named the recipient of the prestigious Juan Lara award. As a Hispanic first generation college student she has struggled with a lack of support from her parents to go to college. In the humble beginning of her scholastic path she suffered from lack of motivation and was a below average student. In a few short years, however, she has turned her fate around and become a shining example of an Honors student. It was the obstacles in her path, that she overcame, which molded her into the great student she is today and al-

Valeria & Dr. Lara
On behalf of the Honors Club, I would like to welcome all newcomers and welcome back all of our returning honors students to San Diego Mesa College! My name is Michael Rodriguez and it is my honor to serve as President of the Honors Club 2011-2012.

Our club provides students an opportunity to take full advantage of their college experience by fostering a community of motivated students. The opportunities to make new friends, network, develop leadership skills, learn about scholarships, transferring, and building unforgettable memories are among the countless other advantages that we strive to provide. Our mission is to become the active link between the Honors Transfer Program and you, the honors student.

Our short and long term goals are dedicated to you. So I ask you to please feel free to join us in fellowship at our bi-weekly meetings, and get to know us as an organization, and see for yourself what we can accomplish by sharing our time, talents, and ambitions.

The San Diego Mesa Honors Club meets every other Monday at 04:15 in room G105, beginning on 8/29/2011.

I hope that your busy schedule will allow you the time to come out and join us. I look forward to meeting you, and working together with you to promote a more enriching educational experience to all.

-by Michael Rodriguez-

A Word from the new Honors Club President!
Mesa Happenings

Honors Club Orientation on August 15th, from 2:00pm—4:00pm in room H117

New to honors, and want to know more about it? Or are you a well established members, that can provide guidance to new students who are joining honors? Either way, join the honors club in their annual orientation.

CC2U at Mesa

The CC2U (Community College to University) event will take place at Mesa College on Nov. 9 (Wed) in room H117 at 4:00pm.

UCLA TAP/Transfer Conference

The Honors Club will join the annual UCLA tap trip on Friday, November 18, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - visit various locations at UCLA (For more information, visit: www.tap.ucla.edu/conference.htm and see your campus honors coordinators to sign up.)

Upcoming Honors Club Meetings

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TO HELP US SERVE YOU, THE HONORS PROGRAM INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL ONLINE HONORS SURVEY PLEASE GO TO:

HTTP://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/S/YJRDCDY

AND TAKE A SHORT SURVEY.
Receive the Mesa Honors Global Competencies Certificate

The Honors Global Competencies Certificate of Achievement is useful for those students considering careers in numerous fields, including: law, politics, international affairs, education, nonprofit organizations, social service, and labor studies. If you are a student who is interested in distinguishing your academic record by studying more about international perspectives, the Certificate of Global Competencies is for you. There is a strong international emphasis in this certificate program. Program goals and objectives include: contemplation of the interconnectedness of cultures and nations through time, exploration of world ecologies and technologies, analysis of economic, political, and social systems, teaching of world languages, customs, and religions, recognition, anticipation, and management of change, and leadership opportunities. You will take courses in world political, economic, and social systems, and you will reflect critically on intercultural issues. Contact the Honors Coordinators, Dr. Leticia López or Dr. Michael Reese, for more information.

-by Dr. Leticia P. López-

My Experience at the Bay Honors Consortium Symposium at Stanford University

It was an honor to attend the Bay Honors Consortium Symposium this year at Stanford University. To present my essay in front of an audience at my dream school was a unique experience that I will always cherish. To get there, I made a short road trip with three friends that weekend which was a very fun experience on its own. Once I got to the conference Saturday morning some nervousness kicked in but, the practice I got from the HTCC conference helped. Since I had already prepared to present at Honors Transfer Council of California Conference at UC Irvine, the extra weeks I got afterwards were just extra practice for Stanford -so I felt pretty confident with myself. My audience was significantly bigger than at HTCC with thirty-some people attending my session. They all seemed interested in my topic “The Brain and its Effect on our Decisions” and had many questions for me at the end of my speech. Presenting at the symposium was a great accomplishment for me and an awesome memory. I look forward to attend next year and hopefully even transfer to Stanford someday.

-by Alejandro Ibarra-
Is the Mesa Honors Program Elitist?

College honors programs are often accused of being "elitist." I agree. For example, at San Diego Mesa College, several hundred students each semester sign up for honors courses or register for honors contracts. While this may seem like a large number, compared to the tens of thousands of students served each semester at Mesa, a few hundred is tiny. In such a sense, honors students do belong to a small minority and therefore could be considered at least "special" if not "elite." Furthermore, honors students must maintain high grade point averages, hence in an academic record sense, they are indeed "elite" compared to most of their peers.

Why do students enter the Mesa Honors Program? Many want improved chances of admission and transfer to good universities and they know that honors programs provide this opportunity. Others want a deeper understanding of their subjects of interest. Some enjoy innovative teaching methods often offered in honors courses. A variety of other reasons exist for participating in honors at Mesa; however, snobbery does not appear to be one of them. I have yet to meet a Mesa honors student who considers him or herself "better" than non-honors students. Indeed, many honors students come from pretty humble beginnings and must struggle to develop and maintain the requisite GPA for honors. While Mesa honors students may be "elite," they are not "the elite" nor do they consider themselves so.

I have only been an honors coordinator at Mesa College since the beginning of the calendar year but, from what I have seen, Mesa honors students are certainly elite in one respect, and that is attitude. They tend to be students who own their education, take control of their future, and feel personally responsible for their learning and academic grades. They love learning, and they look forward to increased opportunities at good universities. I applaud them and invite all interested Mesa students to join the Honors Program!

-by Dr. Michael Reese-
At the start of the fall semester 2011, Mesa College Honors Club will be sponsoring the first Mesa College Book Club and will be featuring, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot as our first book selection. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is a book that students of all backgrounds can enjoy and learn from. It was picked because of its inspiring story and fascinating look at the history of how one woman unknowingly helped shape the course of modern medicine. It tells a riveting story of collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew. It’s a story connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we’re made of.

All Mesa College students will be given the opportunity to participate in several coming events and scholarship opportunities in the Mesa College Book Club. Honors students are encouraged to start reading the book now, so they will be prepared to participate in the upcoming events and opportunities.

If you would like to begin reading the book, the Mesa library will be getting extra copies in soon, the book is also available online, and in book retail stores. The Honors Club is encouraging everyone in honors this year to read this book, participate in the book club, and incorporate the book into their studies were applicable. One example of this would be students presenting research on the book or topics related to it at the spring conference at Mesa, the HTCC conference, and then may be selected to present at the Cal Berkeley conference. Rebecca Skloots will be coming to town in the fall, and will be presenting at Grossmont College which will be an event open to all students. Grossmont will also be hosting several events leading up to the authors visits. They have set up a webpage full of excellent information regarding all their coming events that are open and free to the public. For more information regarding the
upcoming events leading up to the Rebecca Skloots visit in October please visit, [http://www.grossmont.edu/english/lacks/](http://www.grossmont.edu/english/lacks/).


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**San Diego Mesa Honors Student Transfer Results 2011**

- Raphael Doelker will be attending UCSD.
- Yasaman Alamsahebpour will be attending UCSD.
- Pooria Daryabeygi will be attending SDSU.
- Sasha Davila will be attending UCLA.
- Dan Eden will be attending UCLA.
- Ryan Hare was accepted at SDSU.
- Michelle Hickman will be attending UC Santa Cruz.
- Deborah Kim will be attending UC Riverside.
- Rebecca Kronenberg will be attending UCSD.
- Songhee Claire Lee will be attending UC Berkeley.
- Miguel Liera will be attending UCLA.
- Jenea Marjama will be attending SDSU.
- Ji Young Mun got into UCLA.
- Danielle Nelson will be attending CSU Pomona.
- Evan Ruwe will be attending USD.
- Travis Tasto will be attending UC Berkeley.
- Jessica Lee Wells will be attending UC Berkeley.
- Aaron West got into UCLA

- Lola Marrero got into UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, and UCSD and still thinking about her best fit.
- John Romero got into UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UCSD, and others, he is still deciding.
- June Kim was accepted at UC Berkeley, UCLA and UCSD and is still deciding which to attend.
- Manus Clinton, IV was accepted to UCLA and Cal State and is currently deciding which to attend.
HTCC 2011

The eleventh annual HTCC conference was this year’s hub of activity for honors students and faculty alike! The innovative ideas, research and information were in abundance as was shown through the poster and oral presentation sessions. You were able to enjoy complimentary breakfast while touring the posters that many students had made for their research projects. Topics that were covered ranged from biochemistry in everyday life, to concepts of high-speed transportation, human trafficking, and marijuana’s medicinal effects. The HTCC conference is a place where honors students from community colleges from all over Southern California can share their in-depth research with others, as well as learn from hundreds of other students and their topics of interest. What made this particular year a most rewarding one is that aside from the large turnout, we had the pleasure of seeing our very own Valeria Ruiz win the most prestigious Juan Lara award granted by Juan Lara himself. To any future students that are interested in expanding their horizons and exploring the vast amount of scientific research going on by your peers, we encourage you to attend next year’s event! Whether you end up presenting yourself, volunteering, or just supporting your peers, you will be glad that you took the time to check it out! The bright young minds of southern California colleges showed us that there are no limits to what we can achieve if we work hard to reach our goals. You could be the student to present your research and drive the bar even higher at next year’s HTCC!

-by Renee Donaldson-
Student, Valeria Ruiz spoke about her evolution, through honors and the help of inspiring professors, from a failing student to the student who won this year’s Juan Lara Award and who is headed for UCLA this fall.

Students were honored that so many of the most important people in the San Diego Community College District came to wish us well. Among them Chancellor Constance Carroll, the presidents of all 3 campuses, many of the SDCCD Board members, as well as deans and faculty from all campuses were in attendance. We were also very happy that a generous sponsor, Enterasys donated the funds that made it possible for us to hold this event even during the budget crisis. Mr. Curtis Quimby attended the reception and said that he was very impressed by our accomplishments. The reception is also a great place for networking and meeting students from our sister campuses. Join the honors program and enhance your personal and educational development, and be rewarded for all the hard work you have done at the next Honors Reception.

-by Pooria Daryabeygi-
Honors Club Officers for 2010-2011

Officers

Alison Primoza
Michael Rodriguez
Case Griffiths
Daniel Alcaray
Nina Bunicic
Morlette U. Adams
Allyson Werner
Cody Schauweker
Glen McVay
Max Delbruck

Position
Advisor
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Director, Honors Opportunities
Director, Service
Dir. of Honors Ambassadors
Director, Public Relations
ICC Representative

Positions of Editor, Co-Editor, 2nd ICC Representative, and Director of Fund-raising are still open. Please come prepared to the first Fall Honors meeting if you are interested in any of the positions.

WE ARE HONORS!!!

HONORS CLUB MEETINGS HAPPEN EVERY TWO WEEKS
COME JOIN THE MEETING
THERE IS ALWAYS FREE SNACKS OR PIZZA !!!