The Conference Planning Committee, 
Shannon Shi, Nancy Cano, Raul DeLeon, 
Paula Matthews, Sophia He, Leticia Lopez

Would like to thank:
Office of the President
Office of the VP of Instruction
Dean of the School of Arts & Languages
The Department of Languages
Humanities Institute
Committee of Global Awareness
Mesa Communication Service
VISTA Higher Learning Inc.
Cheng & Tsui

and all our colleagues who teach languages and humanities, adjunct and contract
instructors, within and outside the district, who contribute to making the profession more
vibrant, worthwhile, and inspiring.

Handouts for all conference presentations can be found on the San Diego Mesa College Languages
Department web page: http://www.sdmesa.edu/languages/conferences.cfm

Flex #66171
Room G-101

Friday
March 23, 2012
8:30am-1:30pm

The Human Brain
& Language Learning
9:00 - 10:00am Workshop 1:
The Psychology and Neuroscience of Language: A View from the Left Hemisphere
Presenter: Jaye Van Kirk, M.A. Professor of Psychology, San Diego Mesa College, Department of Behavioral Sciences
Language acquisition is influenced by a complex interaction of factors: neural, psychological and cultural factors. This presentation provides an overview of brain systems related to language processing for understanding spoken words, speaking and reading. Coverage of research from Psychological Sciences highlights factors related to developmental processes, as well as cultural factors influencing language acquisition and processing.

10:10 - 11:10am Workshop 2:
The Neurobiology of Language Acquisition: Meaning & Discourse
Presenter: Anna E. Holt, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Scholar, UCI, Brain Circuits Laboratory
It is well-known that children master the phonology and syntax of a non-native language much more readily than adults. While they have this comparative advantage, they also show deficits in discourse processing even in their first language. These deficits last throughout childhood. Adults rarely have such trouble with a first language but often have difficulty applying these skills in a non-native language. I will discuss recent neuroimaging work from children and adults in our lab that sheds light on brain networks used in “higher-order” language. How might what we are learning about the neurobiology of language processing, specifically in discourse, eventually help adults to acquire a second language?

11:20am - 12:20pm Workshop 3:
You are what you speak (or sign): Effects of Language Acquisition on Brain Anatomy and Physiology
Presenter: Robert Kluender, Ph.D., Psycholinguist, UCSD, Department of Linguistics
In this talk I review evidence that (1) students should be exposed to second languages early, but (2) we shouldn’t worry if we get them late, as the adult brain is more plastic than we thought. Therefore, (3) a lot more is getting through than we think—the brain learns even when students appear not to. In fact, (4) students learn things they’re not even consciously taught. Thus we can all stop fretting about which teaching method is “the right one,” because if we regularly provide our students with consistent language input, the brain will simplify organize itself around it.

Program
8:30 - 9:00am
Breakfast and Welcome Remarks
Pamela T. Luster, President, San Diego Mesa College, Ed.D.
Jonathan Fohrman, Dean of Arts and Languages

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12:30 - 1:30pm – Lunch
Catered by San Diego Mesa College Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program