

December 2011

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE

MESA NEWS

WELCOME TO MESA E-NEWS, the monthly e-zine of college-wide events, activities and news. Go to www.sdmesa.edu/e-news/index.html for more information on the following December 2011 items:

NEWS and EVENTS at SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

This Month at Mesa: December

www.facebook.com/sandiegomesacollege

Click here to view November events. You can also view it online at <http://www.sdmesa.edu/news/month.cfm>.

Seeking Distinguished Olympians!

Everyone is encouraged to nominate a former student for the 2012 Mesa College Distinguished Alumni Award. The purpose of the Distinguished Alumni program is to recognize alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of academic excellence at San Diego Mesa College. This distinction will reflect on one or more of San Diego Mesa College's core values – Access, Accountability, Diversity, Equity, Excellence, Freedom of Expression, Integrity, Respect, Scholarship, and Sustainability. Recipients will be accomplished in the following areas: Professional Achievement and Career Distinction; and Service to Society/Community-based service. See details at www.sdmesa.edu/alumni.

Live United in 2012

That's the theme for this year's United Way campaign, underway now through Monday, Dec. 12. The campaign is winding down, but if you have not yet responded, we invite you to help some of our most vulnerable neighbors and our own students achieve their dreams. By now, you should have received an email describing how you can access the United Way website. If not, please contact **Tiffany Yarling** at 858-636-4175 or tyarling@uwsd.org. Also, please note that you have the option to designate your funds to the San Diego Mesa College Foundation. For each dollar you contribute to the Mesa Foundation, 87 cents will go to the Foundation and 13 cents to United Way. Your participation in the campaign, at whatever level you can give, makes a big difference.

We're 50% There!

The Student Services Facility at Mesa College is now approximately 52 percent complete, with completion slated for August 23, 2012. This project is tracking a very low change order rate of 0.55% and has had very good safety reports. As of late, crews have preparing the site for the second concrete pour of the grand stairs that will link the lower levels of the facility to the upper campus. Exterior curtain wall glazing and metal panel installations continue on multiple levels of the project. On average there have been 97 workers on the project each day.



Ways to Give, Mesa Style



- Students, faculty and staff turned out in mid-November to turn pillow cases into pretty little dresses for young girls in Africa. Here's some photos of the sew-a-thon, organized by Prof. **Susan Lazear** and students of the Mesa Fashion Club. A big thanks to all who showed up to cut, sew and trim the dresses, and those who donated pillow cases, notions and buttons. The non-profit Little Dresses for Africa will distribute the dresses through orphanages, churches and schools in Africa "to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy." See: <http://www.littledressesforafrica.org/blog/>. The EOPS/CARE program is having its annual CARE Kids Holiday Celebration on Dec. 15, for Mesa's CARE students and their children. If you would like to help, please donate suitable new children's books for ages 0-14. The celebration is for CARE students are students who are receiving CalWORKs and attending college. Contact Karen Geida.

- **Prof. Jeff Berry's amazing annual holiday transport** to help impoverished children and their families in the colonias of Ensenada is now under way. Please contact Jeff directly to receive a list of items needed to fill 25 individual gift bags for the children – infants on up. In addition, Jeff is collecting jackets for gang members, blankets, and monies to help pay for the barbeque for 500 in 13 de Mayo on January 17. The Honors students are once again assisting with the program.

- Handcrafted holiday **ornaments created by Mesa College Art faculty** are up for auction! Ornaments will be on display in the LRC Lobby, through Dec. 13 at noon. Silent auction will end with a closing reception on Tue., Dec. 13, 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Art Gallery, D101. All proceeds support art department student programs and projects.

- **SDCCD Classified Senates** are once again sponsoring the Helen Woodward Animal Center "AniMeals" benefit. Your donations of dry or canned pet food will be distributed to the pets of the homebound elderly or disabled members of our community. Treats, Ziploc bags (quart, gallon and sandwich sizes) and monetary donations are welcome! Donations can be made through Dec. 12; please contact Robin Watkins for drop off locations.

- The SDCCD Police is partnering once again with the San Diego Chargers to collect gifts for the **children of the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Center**. Collection bins are located at College Police, Room Q-100 and the Mailroom, K-203. All items will be picked up by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday December 14, 2011.

- The **Child Development Center** is conducting its annual Lending Library Book Drive, Nov. 5-Dec. 10. Drop off preschool age books, puppets and puzzles at the CDC or call 619-388-2812.

In the News

Professor **Starla Lewis** discussed select sections of the classic TV series "Roots" Nov. 15 at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park. The miniseries based on **Alex Haley's** work, Roots: The Saga of an American Family. Her talk addressed the impression the 1977 television miniseries had on African American history, race relations, and the impact it had nationally.



Kudos:

• Fashion Professor **Diana Cavagnaro** received the 2011 Gaslamp Quarter Association's Armond Award for Lifetime Achievement. A milliner, fashion columnist and photographer, Diana received the award at the Gaslamp Quarter Lamplighter Awards at the Omi San Diego Hotel on Nov. 7. San Diego Councilman **Kevin Faulconer** presented Diana with the award, which recognizes "merchants and individuals who are leaders in their community and have made a positive impact ... through exceptional service, high-quality products and enthusiastic concern for the historic district." Diana was recognized for her countless hours of dedication to improving the downtown area, in recognition of her business, Designer Millinery, for her service to the fashion community, and for 13 years of conducting the annual Easter Parade & Hat Contest for children with cancer at UCSD.



• Olympians Named 2011 Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Champions

The Olympians wrapped up another fall season of competition and celebrated THREE Pacific Coast Athletic Conference titles thanks to Men's Cross Country, Women's Volleyball, and Women's Water Polo. All three teams qualified for the Regional Tournament with Women's Cross Country and Women's Soccer also making an appearance in the Regional Tournament. Following some impressive performances in Regionals, both Men and Women's Cross Country advanced to the State Tournament where the men's team took an impressive third place. The women's volleyball team was named Co-Champion of the PCAC as they shared the title with Grossmont. The women went on to face Orange Coast College in the Regionals but fell short losing to the Pirates 1-4 in a best of 5 games series. The women's water polo team made a great run at the conference tournament, taking 1st and then faced off with tough Chaffey in the Regionals who would better the Olympians.

Looking ahead to spring: Basketball season is starting and the men and women's teams are heated things up. The women's team celebrated their first tournament championship title of the season in their own gym at the 1st Annual Jay Mulvehal Coaches vs. Cancer Tip-Off Tournament. The lady hoopsters dominated Cerritos College 57-41 to take the title despite trailing 39-33 with 9:49 left in the game. The women went out on a mission and scored 24 points to Cerritos' 2 thus ending the game with an Olympians victory. The men's team opened their 2011-12 season with a huge win as well over the visiting Reedley College. Regardless of a 13 point deficit the Tigers had over the Olympians, the Mesa men were able to overcome their opponent and beat them in a tight 66-65 victory. In another close game, the Olympian men came from behind against Glendale and beat the Vaqueros 72-67 in Glendale.

Mesa Moves!

New Hires: **Karla Gutierrez**, Student Services Asst., Outreach

Passings:

Dr. Emmett Casey, former dean of the School of Health Sciences and Public Services, Dr. Casey suffered an unexpected heart attack and passed away peacefully on Nov.13, 2011 with his wife by his side. Emmett Casey was instrumental in the development of many programs at Mesa College as well as in the San Diego Community College District. He first came to Mesa College in 1976 and created the college's first services for students with disabilities. He held a variety of positions, including SDCCD's DSPS Administrator. He was recognized with the prestigious **Frank Lanterman** Award for achievements in California Association of Postsecondary Educators of the Disabled. He is survived by his wife, Denise, four children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Richard Peerson, a professor and former Chair of the Counseling Department, passed away last Sat., Nov. 12, 2011 after a long battle with cancer. Richard began his career at Mesa College in 1960, while it was still part of the SDUSD. One of the college's founding faculty, Richard's service to the college and the larger community spanned many areas. In addition to chairing the Counseling Department, he was Acting Dean of Student Affairs and President of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Counselors Association. He served on four accreditation committees and was a member of the Mesa College Foundation Board of Directors for ten years. Richard is survived by his wife, Janice, and three children.

THE MONTH AHEAD: DECEMBER

You can always check out what's in store for by viewing THIS MONTH AT MESA.

Gourmet Meals! -- Prof. and Chef **Tonya Whitfield** reminds us that MFusion is open for luncheon service Tues. and Wed., Dec. 6 and 7 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The students are proud to be serving faculty and staff at the Dec. 9 President's holiday luncheon and will close Dec. 8 to prepare for our celebration. The Supper Club has two more evenings of Gourmet Dinner service: Mon. and Tue., Dec. 5 and 6 from 4:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. "Thank you for supporting our Culinary Arts/Culinary Management programs!" adds Chef Whitfield.

The Mesa College Music Department's Guitar and Vocal Ensembles offers a performance of early-American songs from the "First New England School," as well as carols set for harp, oboe and choir. Sat., Dec., 10, Tierrasanta Lutheran Church, 11240 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Donations appreciated.

Jingle Bell Jazz at Dizzy's! The Mesa Concert Jazz Band, directed by **James Romeo**, and the Mesa Vocal Ensemble, directed by Richard Chagnon, fill the air with holiday cheer, Sun. Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m. at in the event room of the San Diego Wine & Culinary Center, Harbor Club Towers at 2nd Ave & J Street/3rd Avenue & K Street. Enter on the back side of the buildings on Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade, facing the Convention Center. \$15 cover, at the door.

Celebrate the publishing of the **2011 Mesa Visions literary** publication! Readings and awards ceremony on Monday, Dec. 5 in LRC 435. Copies of the Mesa Visions will be available for purchase!

"Corazones rotos" Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the only annual opportunity to see Spanish theatre in San Diego. Three one-act plays written, produced and performed in Spanish by Mesa College students will be showcased on Fri., Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Apolliad Theatre. The plays are written and performed by the advanced Spanish language honors students and produced by theatrical design majors. Guidance is provided by Spanish Professor **Dora Schoenbrun-Fernandez** and Drama Professor **John Polak**, and with the cooperation and help from the Mesa College Theatre Company. General admission of \$5 is requested.

STAY INFORMED

Payday will be Friday, December 16th. For those picking up manual pay checks, Business Services will have them available between 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 3–4:00 p.m. in A101. (Office closed 12 – 3 p.m.). Any warrants left in the office after this time will be taken to the District Payroll Office (Room 380) for pickup there.

Shared governance committee agendas, minutes and reports can be found at <http://www.sdmesa.edu/governance/committees>.

Prop S&N Updates are posted to VP Ron Perez's monthly reports at <http://sdmesa.edu/parking/>. SDCCD Human Resources is providing "2012-Window-Period Orientation" meetings at Mesa College on Tue., Dec. 6, 1-4:00 p.m. in LRC-435. These meetings are open and you are encouraged to attend if you are considering participating in this annual classification review process. The first 90 minutes of each meeting is an overview of the process; the purpose and the outcomes. Followed by questions and answers.

Mesa eNews is published by Mesa Communications Services. To add information items, e-mail lheil@sdccd.edu. Be sure to provide all specifics, and please limit your copy to 75 words or less. Thank you!
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