

June 2011

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE

MESA NEWS

WELCOME TO MESA E-NEWS, the monthly e-zine of college-wide events, activities and news.

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NEWS and EVENTS at SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

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This Month at Mesa: *This Month at Mesa is not published during the summer; it will resume in August.*

New Mesa College President is Dr. Pamela T. Luster



On May 20th, Chancellor Constance M. Carroll announced that the new president of Mesa College had been named.

“Pam Luster will be a wonderful addition to the leadership team of both Mesa College and the SDCCD,” said Dr. Carroll. “She is experienced in campus leadership; is known for her organizational skills; understands the multi-college environment... and has a refreshing sense of humor.” Dr. Luster brings expertise in both instruction and student services. Her current assignment is at Las Positas College (Livermore, California). She has served there as Interim Vice President of Academic Services while on leave from her permanent position of Vice President of Student Services, which she has held since 2003. From 2000 to 2003, she served as Dean of Academic Services. Pam Luster earned a B.A. and M.A. (Speech Pathology and Audiology) at San Jose State University and an Ed.D. at Fielding Graduate University. She has numerous awards, presentations, and publications to her credit, as well as an impressive record of involvement in the local community and service at the state level.

Of her new role, Dr. Luster said, “I am honored to serve as the next President of San Diego Mesa College. The college enjoys a stellar reputation of academic excellence and student success; together we can build on these accomplishments, embracing a shared affinity for diversity and equity as the foundation of our work. I join the college and community with an open heart and open mind, ready to lead and learn.” Dr. Luster’s first day at Mesa will be Monday, July 18. Information on welcome activities and events will be forthcoming.

Jesse Reyes: Big Man on Campus

He’s a dedicated employee, an accomplished columnist, a giving volunteer, and a friend to many. He’s also one of the most popular employees at Mesa College. This year, stockroom clerk **Jesse Reyes** was named San Diego



Mesa College 2011 Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year. Less than a week later, he also received the president’s Unsung Hero Award for his volunteer work in the Filipino-American community, for his former high school in the Philippines, and at St. Charles Parish, where he is an usher. Since December 1996, Reyes has penned a column for The Filipino Press, a local publication with a readership of 35,000. He recently filed his 1,000th Saturday column, “Filipino Potpourri” (access at www.filipinopress.com). Ask Jesse about his secret to success and he smiles and softly replies, “Having a goal, being involved in the community, and having the energy and courage to continue.”



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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Commencement Rocks!

On May 14, Mesa College celebrated student achievement at the college's 47th commencement. Almost 1,400 students actually earned degrees and/or certificates in 2011, an increase of 18 percent over the number awarded last year. Nearly 350 students "walked" – or participated in the ceremony at the USD Jenny Craig Pavilion. A record number of faculty -- more than 105! -- honored their students by participating in this joyful occasion with the students and their families. If you haven't seen the photos, link to the gallery at www.sdmesa.edu/news.



AALMLS Wins Innovation Award

Mesa College's **African American/Latino Male Leadership Summit (AALMLS)** was among the 2011 League for Innovation award winners. The AALMLS is a pre-collegiate recruitment and outreach program designed to empower and educate this student population while addressing the ever increasing problem of declining college enrollment for this group. The annual Mesa College event is open to up to 200 students from the college's feeder high schools. Created in 2007, the event is believed to be the first event of its kind in California, and has inspired similar events at other colleges. According to one attendee, "The summit got me motivated. Going to college was always in the back of my mind, but now its moves to the front." Donations have underwritten up to \$25,000.

Farewell to Yvonne

On June 6th, more than 100 colleagues and friends from throughout the District bid a fond farewell to **Yvonne Bergland**, who retires from the SDCCD after 30 years of service. A 1978 graduate of Mesa College, Yvonne completed an A.S., a B.V.E., her M.A. and her Ph.D. within nine short years. She first came to Mesa in 1974 as an Adjunct Instructor. In 1988, she was named Dean, School of Health and Natural Sciences (later the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences). In 2000, she assumed the role of Dean of Instructional Services, Resource Development and Research. Yvonne has been a mentor to many. She served and co-chaired numerous committees, most notably Program Review, Research, Staff Development and Classified Staff Development. She will forever be engraved in Mesa's institutional memory and we wish her all the best in her retirement. As Prof. **Rob Fremland** noted, "Yvonne has always been one to 'do things by the book,' in many cases she is the only one who has 'read the book,' and often times... she even 'wrote the book.'"



Designs on Instruction

A dedication ceremony for the new **Mesa College Design Center** was celebrated in May. The Prop S and N bond project is unique in that it is a renovation of the former six-building square foot Beale Elementary School. At \$5.4 million, the project was roughly \$6 million less than new construction might have cost at \$330 per square foot. Department Chair **Ian Kay** commended faculty members **Carl Strona, Mimi Moore, Holly Hodnick, Pam Chapman, Larry Horseman** and others who were instrumental in saving the school and converting it to a new design facility. "There were many hands in this including our wonderful adjunct faculty who put in many unpaid hours to review documents, designs, and more as the process evolved," commented Professor Kay. Construction involved interior alterations, repairs, technology upgrades and accessibility enhancements, along with exterior building and site improvements. The Union-Tribune called it "a 24,000-square-foot lesson in sustainability for the school's 700 students in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design and construction management."



Interior Design Program Receives NKBA Excellence in Education Award



The San Diego Mesa College NKBA-accredited Interior Design Program received an Excellence in Education award at the National Kitchen and Bath Association/Kitchen and Bath Industry Show and Conference in Las Vegas on April 25, 2011. During the Educators Forum, an etched glass trophy was presented to Professor **Mimi Moore** and Adjunct Professor **Helene Lindquist**. Among the conference attendees was Mesa alumna **Elizabeth Leahy**, AKBD and VP/Academic Relations for the San Diego Chapter on NKBA. The trophy will be displayed in a case located in the student break room at the Mesa College Design Center. This is Mimi's second time winning this prestigious award.

A Classified Success...

That's what the evaluations are sure to show about this year's **Classified Week** and the **Classified Staff Development Conference**, both held in May. Classified Week, sponsored by Classified Senate, was loaded with trivia, surprises and a nacho fiesta, and culminated in the annual service awards presentation. Congratulations to all service award recipients, including **Michael Gast** (30 years), **Terri Galusha** (35 years) and **Catherine Sullivan** (40 years); and Employee of the Year **Jesse Reyes** (see page 1.). According to awards emcee extraordinaire Mike McClaren, "it's a lot of work, but we have fun putting the week together." He offers a big shout-out to **Rocio Sandoval** and **Danielle Short** for all their hard work, along with **Robin Watkins, Claudia Cuz, Ruth San Filippo, Jessica Gonzales, Josh Taylor, Robert Booth, Thuan Le, Irma Buchin, Lina Heil, Kathie Day, Aaron Trapp, Kathy Wells, Carol Rohe, Michael Fitzgerald, and Cathy Bruce**.

Organizers of the **Classified Staff Development Conference** were pleased with 123 pre-registrations and nearly 50+ walk-up participants who chose from a range of presentations and workshops to attend during the two-day conference. The most popular sessions were: Internet Safety, RAD (rape aggression defense) Workshop, Know Your AFT Contract, and Creating a Healthy Work Environment (attendees loved learning how to do yoga at their desks!). According to attendees, the greatest benefit is the opportunity to interact with colleagues and just 'get out of the office' and participate in activities that are not part of the regular work assignment. The conference, coordinated by Angela Liewen Romeo and presented through the Staff Development Committee, has become a model for staff development training across the state. (For a complete list of the committee, see <http://www.sdmesa.edu/governance/committees/staff-development.cfm>.)



Kudos to...

- **Chancellor Constance M. Carroll** who has confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the National Council on the Humanities. The 26-member council is an advisory panel to the National Endowment for the Humanities, a grant-making arm of government with a \$160 million budget. The humanities are defined as the study of history, literature, languages, philosophy, religion and related disciplines. Members on the Council serve for six-year terms.
- Mesa's New Classified Senate Officers: **Angela Liewen Romeo**, President; **Rocio Sandoval**, Secretary; Senators: **Neil Bhatia**, **Lynn Dang**, **Kathie Day**, **Lynnda Echevarria**, **Cindy Hess**, and **Josh Taylor**. Note: **Robin Watkins** will continue to serve as president through December 2011.

On-Track with the Olympians – Wrap Up!

Comprising of 488 student-athletes, the Olympians competed with honor, integrity and true competitive spirit during the 2010-11 school year. Twenty intercollegiate teams (10 men's and 10 women's) competed over the two semesters. They earned four conference titles and made 11 appearances in their respective sport's regional tournaments and at eight State tournaments. During the fall semester, Men's Cross Country, and Men's Water Polo secured conference titles in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference, with Women's Cross Country, and Women's Soccer both earned spots at regional tournaments with Women's Cross Country team advancing to the State tournament. The spring semester was equally successful as more conference titles were awarded to the Men's Track and Field team and the Men's Tennis squad. Advancing to the regional and State tournaments were the Badminton, Baseball, Women's Tennis, and Women's and Men's Swim and Dive teams. Out of the 488 student-athletes, the Olympians also scored academically with many earning GPAs above 3.0, and 14 athletes that earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Mesa's got style!

Modeling millinery fashions at the May 6th Golden Scissors fashion show were Olympians **Chris Kinney**; **Penny Hedgecoth**; **Ashanti Hands (with daughter Jaylen)**; **Cynthia Rico Bravo**; **Madeleine Hinkes**; **Tim McGrath**; **Rocio Sandoval (with daughter Areli)**; **Val Ontell**; **Anne Geller**; **Irma Buchin**; **Ruth San Filippo**; **Lina Heil**; and **Leanne Kunkee**. Congrats to all, and especially to Professors Susan Lazear and Andrea Marx, who created the gala extravaganza 30 years ago! (Photographs by **Erica Johnson**, daughter of **Chris Johnson**.)



OUT AND ABOUT

- Are you going to the Coronado 4th of July Parade? If you are, watch for the pair of miniature horses and their drivers carrying the City of Coronado and State of California flags. One of the drivers is our very own **Carlynn Allbee**, Adjunct/Business. Carlynn has been riding her full sized horses and driving her miniature horses through the Coronado parade and many others since the early '70s.
- Professor **Alessandra Moctezuma** participated in Political Equator 3, a two-day, cross-border mobile conference held on June 2 and 3. The event is co-organized by the Center for Urban Ecologies at the Visual Arts Department at UCSD, and two community-based, non-profit organizations on both sides of the border, Casa Familiar in San Ysidro, California and Alter Terra in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. Find out more at <http://www.politicaequator.org/>

Comings and Goings:

Administration:

Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D., President

New Hires:

Jenny King,
Student Assistance Technician,
Financial Aid

Retirements

James Alberti,
Instructional Support Services, Chemistry
Maria Bolivar,
Assistant Professor, Spanish
Houria Graves,
Professor, French
James Hannan,
Professor, Biology

STAY INFORMED & ENGAGED

- 10th Annual Online Teaching Conference -- Learn how to become a certified online educator, develop an online program and use technology to deliver and enhance online education. Register for the 2011 Online Teaching Conference June 22, 23, & 24 at Orange Coast College. <http://www.otc11.org>
- Shared governance committee agendas, minutes and reports can be found at <http://www.sdmesa.edu/governance/committees>.
- Starting Summer 2011, there are separate login addresses for online and on campus students and faculty using Blackboard. Online students and faculty will be using the new Blackboard Learn 9.1 system. Students and faculty who use Blackboard to web-enhance their on campus courses will still use Blackboard Vista until Spring 2012. (Please note that WebCT is no longer the name of the course management system). District IT has created a special login page to direct users to the correct version of Blackboard at <http://blackboard.sdccd.edu> .