

September 2011

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE

MESA NEWS

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

You can also view this online at www.sdmesa.edu/e-news/index.html.

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NEWS and EVENTS at SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

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Honoring Our History and Defining Our Future

San Diego Mesa College welcomed back faculty and staff at the annual fall faculty orientation and classified staff breakfasts. Hosted by President Pam Luster, the events broke from tradition to engage participants in "Honoring our History and Defining our Future" through three questions: 1) What makes Mesa College great? What do we need to preserve?; 2) Where have we stumbled? What holds us back?; and 3) Where is Mesa College headed in the future? How do we help our students succeed? The President's Office is now compiling the many responses, and will be reporting back shortly.



WELCOME BACK WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

Student Affairs Dean **Ashanti Hands** reports on a hugely successful welcome week and sends a big, campus-wide thank you for help. Welcome Week 2011 took not only the dedication of a (Modular) village, but the involvement of the entire campus. Dean Hands reported that the weeklong events included information booths (special thanks to Financial Aid, LRC, Athletics, Modular Village, ASG and Student Affairs), sounds of music, tobacco awareness/ smoke free Mesa College celebrations, ice cream giveaways, orientations and even a drum circle. These events totaled over 80 student programming hours, and included 13 student volunteers, 8 staff members, 7 faculty volunteers, 5 administrators, plus numerous people who worked "behind the scenes," and many department and program sponsors. Way to go, Team Mesa! Click here to check out more photos at www.facebook.com/sandiegomesacollege.



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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On Location! Mesa College Transformed into “Music High”

For four weeks in July, Mesa College looked more like a high school than a college. On purpose. That’s because film crews from Angelic Pictures took over offices, band rooms, outdoor areas and the Apolliad Theater to film “Music High: Not Just Another High School Musical.” The funny, young-adult antics film about a teacher (Jonathan Bennett) who is trying to save his career by turning around an unruly class of students deeply divided by cliques based on different genres of music. Rivalry and competition ensue, with the film ending with a rousing, happily ever-after, musical performance. Among the local musicians featured in the film was East County pop country singer Dannie Marie, pictured here with star Joe Slaughter. The family film is expected to be released in early 2012 in 65 countries by Universal Pictures.



Transforming Mesa... with a little bit of help from our friends



When contractor Rudy Alonzo of Alonzo Bobcat overheard Facilities Landscape Supervisor Dave Warczakowski talking about the problems Facilities had maintaining a water hungry plot of grass in front of Student Health Services (L-504), Alonzo came up with a neighborly solution. The SDCCD contractor donated boulders and decomposed granite, plus labor and equipment that beautified the area and created a low-water use solution for the college. The value of his donation is estimated to be approximately \$12,000. When asked about his generosity Mr. Alonzo said, “I have kids going to college myself, and I just wanted to do something to help Mesa... it was just something from me to Mesa.”

Mesa Robotics Organization Places in Prestigious Competition

Professor Duane Wesley, Computer Science, reports that the Mesa Robotics Organization (MRO) placed in the highly competitive 2011 AUVSI Robosub competition this past summer. The San Diego based international event offers two- and four-year college students an opportunity to put their skills to the test to overcome engineering challenges, and develop innovated solutions and strategies in order to accomplish the mission objectives. The annual competition sponsored by AUVSI (Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International), SPAWAR and the Office of Naval Research. The competition is steep with top, nationwide colleges and universities competing. The MRO team’s decision to use a low cost pre-paid “Android” equipped mobile phone as a central processor was received with surprise, and immediately garnered the attention of the judges, as this was a first for the Robosub competition. MRO was thrilled to achieve recognition from the judges this year, receiving the Innovation on a Budget award and a check for \$500. See more at www.robosub.org.



RadTech Rocks

On August 5, 2011, twenty-eight students officially completed the requirements for the Radiologic Technology Program at San Diego Mesa College. The program completion event was held following a 24-month intensive clinical training program at one of the 10 major regional medical centers in San Diego, as well as lecture and laboratory training at new Allied Health Education and Training facility at Mesa College. The new facility boasts five state-of-the-art, energized radiologic laboratories. Graduates from the program continue to score very high on the national registry exam (ARRT) and currently rank in the 96th percentile nationally.



Honors ICE CREAM SOCIAL

It was more about fun and friendship than making the grade. About 105 students, faculty and staff got to know each other at the Honors College ice cream social on August 15. The ice cream social provided an opportunity for new and returning Olympian scholars to meet existing honor students, as well as the honors faculty and advisors.



Kudos and Accolades

- Mesa College's **Jaye Van Kirk** Recognized Nationally by Psi Beta

Professor Jaye Van Kirk has been selected as the Psi Beta Faculty Advisor of the Year. Psi Beta is the National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior College and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association. The award is considered the organization's most prestigious. It recognizes the valuable mentoring contributed by an outstanding chapter advisor. Professor Van Kirk was honored at the American Psychological Association national conference in Washington, D.C. in August. She received a plaque naming her the 2011 Virginia Staudt Sexton National Psi Beta Advisor. "It is the caliber of students whom I get to work with in Psi Beta that makes what I do so rewarding and meaningful," said Professor Van Kirk. "Psi Beta provides me with opportunities to work with some of psychology's best and brightest."

- NKBA Excellence in Education Award Goes to Mesa College

The Mesa College interior design program received the 2011 Excellence in Education award from the National Kitchen and Bath Association. The award was presented at the organization's Kitchen and Bath Industry Show and Conference in Las Vegas in April. During the Educators Forum, an etched glass trophy was presented to Interior Design Professor **Mimi Moore** and Adjunct Professor **Helene Lindquist**. In attendance was Elizabeth Leahy, VP of Academic Relations for the San Diego Chapter of NKBA. Leahy is a graduate of Mesa's interior design program.

On Track with the Olympians

Olympian athletics are quickly gearing up for the 2011 season. With a title to defend, the Men's Cross Country team is looking strong all ready with several returners from the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Championship team. The Women's team has brought in some new legs to match with the returners and they are looking for a title of their own this season. In the pool, the Men's Water Polo team is in search of another conference title and they look promising with several sophomores leading the way. The Lady Olympians Water Polo team is hoping to continue their trend of improving and take the 2011 PCAC championship away from the defending Grossmont.

Olympians Soccer is going to be very competitive in 2011. The women's team is bringing back some very strong veteran players to match the speed and agility of the incoming freshmen. The men's team made a strong run in the conference last season and they have all ready shown that they can contend for the PCAC crown for 2011. This fall will be a complete turnaround for the Mesa Football. With the addition of several, highly renowned coaches and a team loaded with quick and agile players, the Olympians will take the conference by surprise. The Women's Volleyball team will prove they belong at the top as they continue their tradition of hard work and success. They return with a very strong core of veteran players to be complemented by the enthusiasm of the newcomers.

All athletics sports event are posted on the Mesa College [Calendar of Events](#).

Friend us on Facebook!

More and more people are finding and forwarding posts seen on the Mesa College official Facebook site. In the month of August alone, the number of people (fans and their fans) who viewed a News Feed story posted on our page was up 124% to 27,560 views. The August 26th mention on how to access BlackBoard had 1,170 impressions (that's the number of times the posting was seen on our wall and the NewsFeeds of our fans). Our "likes" are up 38% to 717, with a goal of reaching 1,000 likes by the end of the year. Facebook has proved to be an effective communications tool; if you have college information or event photos to share, log on to facebook.com/San Diego Mesa College, "Like Us" and post to the wall!

Out and About:

- Art Professor **Robert Sanchez**, Adjunct Professors **Emiko Lewis-Sanchez** and **Misty Hawkins** co-curated the "Color Me Alchemy" exhibit at Voz Alta in July. Voz Alta is a local professional venue for emerging and experimental visual art. The work of art students **Ricardo Islas**, **Kim Garcia** and **Kevin Kao** (aka KK Collective), and **Ricardo Islas** were featured.
- Art Professor **Wendell Kling** was featured at the San Diego Museum of Art's Summer Salon Series on September 1. Kling's light organ was featured in Virtual Cities and Utopian Visions.
- Mesa College was well represented at this past weekend's Art San Diego ART FAIR: "Space For 2 Artists as Art Lab 4" featured the work of students **Kim Garcia** and **Kevin Kao** (aka KK Collective); "OUTSIDE" featured the K&K Collective with **Brian Dick** and **Wendell Kling**.
- An essay written by Adjunct Art Professor **Jewel Castro** has just been published in a new book titled Pacific Island Artists Navigating the Global Art World (Masalai Press). The essay is titled: "Without Boundaries: Contemporary Oceania Artists, A Movement Happening Now," and is Chapter 12.
- Mesa College was the setting for the fictional novel, *The Loving Student*, released in July by CreateSpace. Author **Allan Wagner** an adjunct English professor at Mesa College.

MFusion Opens for Business

The Culinary Arts/Management program at Mesa announces the opening of the **M Fusion Café** lunch service. The active laboratory class for culinary students allows them to master their culinary arts skills while offering faculty, staff and students delicious entrees and increased options for dining at low cost. The menu changes daily, as students work to understand the nuances of this complex industry. Located in H-105 (behind the main cafeteria), luncheon is served Monday through Thursday, 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Olympians on the Move

Mesa's newest administrators are: **Dr. Charles Zappia**, Dean of Social/Behavioral Sciences and Multicultural Studies, and **Charlotta Robertson**, Acting Dean of Instructional Services. Dean Robertson will also serve as the campus Site Compliance Officer during her term as Acting Dean.

PROMOTIONS:

- **Danielle Lauria**, Assistant Professor, Medical Assisting
- **Aracely Bautista**, Administrative Technician, Employment Payroll, Mesa College
- **Michael McLaren**, Acting Support Supervisor, Library, Out-of-Class Assignment

NEW HIRES/DISTRICT TRANSFERS/RESIGNATIONS:

- **Jenny King**, Student Assistance Technician, Financial Aid
- **Elaine Vega**, Administrative Technician, Employment Payroll, Miramar College
- **Susan Mun**, Research Analyst, Instructional Services

RETIREMENTS:

- **Jack Forman**, Professor, Public Services/Library Instruction
- **Houria Graves**, Professor of Language, French
- **Arnie Robinson Jr.**, Professor, Physical Education
- **Fleur Stark**, PBX/Telephone Operator
- **Susan Lalicker**, Athletic Trainer, Physical Education

Passings

James Rounding Clark, professor emeritus of Art, passed away on June 19 of this year. Mr. Clark was hired in 1945 as an instructor at the SDUSD, and later, Mesa College (established in 1964). He retired in 1999. His record of 54 years of service may be one of the lengthiest in the district. A colleague remembered he was a “lover of classical music and especially opera... his classes were always filled with music.”

Kathleen Frances Seipel Davis passed on September 1 after a long battle with cancer. She was the wife of Terry Davis, former Mesa College VP/Administrative Services and later SDCCD Vice Chancellor. You are welcome to stop by the Employment/Payroll Office in A101 to sign a bereavement card.

THE MONTH AHEAD: SEPTEMBER

You can always check out what’s happening at www.sdmesa.edu/events.

- Check out Constitution Day events, they run all week long!
- Math+Science Complex Groundbreaking, 10:00 a.m. Wed., 9/28/11, Quad
- Chancellor’s Forum, SDCCD Progress & Plans, Thu., Sept. 13, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Room G-101.
- 9/25 – **AIDS Walk** San Diego. Join team Mesa for this community tradition that has spanned more than two decades and serves thousands of San Diegans living with HIV. Click here <http://events.thecentersd.org/site/TR?fr_id=1040&pg=entry> to join or support the San Diego Mesa College team. Coordinated by Student Health Services.

STAY INFORMED

- **Shared governance** committee agendas, minutes and reports can be found at <http://www.sdmesa.edu/governance/committees>.
- **TaskStream Workshop: “SLO Assessment Reports in TaskStream”** workshops are scheduled on the following Fridays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in LRC 432: Sept.2, 30; Oct,14, 21, and 28. Flex credit available; all workshops are identical and you can attend as many sessions as you like. For more information, call 619-388-2509.
- **EEO & Diversity Training for Screening Committees** will be held 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wed., Sept. 28 in LRC-Room 435, 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Register by Sept. 21; contact Sondra Frisch, Site Compliance Officer/Educator at 619-388-2989
- Wondering what’s up and what’s ahead for Propositions S&N projects? Read VPA Ron Perez’s monthly reports at <http://sdmesa.edu/parking/>
- The SDCCD Police Department’s website has a new look, redesigned with your feedback in mind. Click here or go to police.sdccd.edu.

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