



# HONORABLE MENTION

Volume V, Issue I

Fall 2008

## Faculty Learn About the Value of the Honors



Every fall, the Honors Program hosts a workshop for faculty interested in teaching an Honors course or contract. The event is rotated among the three campuses. This year the event was held at Miramar College.

Friday, October 17 was the day when faculty gathered to discuss the benefits of Honors for students and the details of proposing an Honors class or contract.

The workshop featured presentations of Honors courses and questions were answered.

### Inside this issue

<i>City College Book Fair</i> .....	2
<i>Mesa E-Waste Drive</i> .....	2
<i>Miramar Honors Student on Life Lessons</i> .....	3
<i>Miramar Student on What Honors Meant to Me</i> .....	4
<i>Mesa CC2U Event</i> .....	5
<i>Former City College Honors Student Joins the Peace Corps</i> .....	5
<i>Schedule of Honors Classes</i> .....	6

## UCLA Tap Day Helps Honors Students Prepare for Transfer

By YoonJoo (Terry) Na, Miramar College Honors Student



Front to back: Sociology Professor Marilyn Espitia, Ladylyn Dominguez (Counseling Intern), Mollie O'Meara, Luis Lopez, Ana Lopez, Sami Haddad, Marques Fields, Jonathan Dotson and Janet Evans.

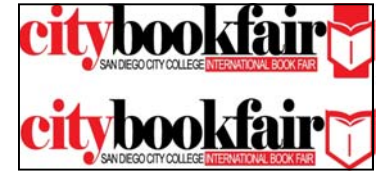
The UCLA TAP conference was an exciting experience. I found it exhilarating to be at the campus that I hope to attend in the future. The conference has given me even more to look forward to.

Additionally, the speakers were motivational and it was very encouraging to see current UCLA students who were previously community college attendees. They let me know that I could also transfer to a four-year university and meet my educational goals. One aspect of the day that I didn't expect, but found to be a pleasant surprise, was meeting other students from Miramar College with the same aspirations as me.

I am very glad to have taken part in the conference and I definitely look forward to the conference next year. UCLA is a great campus with a vibrant ambiance and I take much joy in anticipating my future at the school!

## City College Book Fair Helps Students Interact with What They Read!

By Thomas Aristide, City College Honors Student



How often do you get a chance to chat with the author of a required reading you were assigned in your Honors English 101 course? How often are you able to ask him or her questions about background or personal writing style? Or have an author sign a book they wrote of particular interest to you? I had the opportunity to do just this at the Fourth Annual San Diego City College International Book Fair this October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Rain or shine, the Book Fair brings students in contact with the authors they read and gives them a sampling of books they may not have considered reading. I had an opportunity to sit with my Honors professors and classmates alike, all getting a glimpse of and into the minds behind the text. It was a great bonding and networking experience for any aspiring student—especially for those of us in the City College Honors Program. It really gives you a chance to interact with what you read and to talk to others and ask questions while indulging in free refreshments or biting into something a little more substantial from one of the other vendors.

Our Honors Core had the opportunity to volunteer at the Book Fair this year and help book vendors set up their booths. This gave us a bird's eye view into the operation of the event. I helped by coordinating my fellow classmates—assigning them to various vendors, lifting boxes, giving encouragement, and generally helping out where I could. This was a wonderful experience and gave me the chance to get close to several authors as well as share a good time with my Honors cohort!

So regardless of whether you spend a portion of your day or visit multiple times, everyone can enjoy being a part of our college's community at the book fair. You can find new topics worth your interest and consideration while having fun. You may even find yourself as a volunteer with your fellow Honors students, with a free t-shirt and sense of being a part of an event—owning part of the success of another the San Diego City College International Book Fair.

## Cleaning Up the Environment for a Better Tomorrow

By Sara Halelooya, Mesa Honors Club President

This semester, the Mesa College Honors Club teamed up with Associated Student Government (ASG) to pull off a very successful recycling event. Students collected all sorts of old and unused electronic items ranging from computer monitors to toasters and electronic cables, and donated them to Goodwill Industries. Goodwill will sort the electronic items and send them to their designated recycling facilities.

E-waste is an important and often overlooked factor in the manufacturing of other electronics and the safety of the environment. E-waste contains many precious metals that can be reused in other electronics. If improperly disposed of, e-waste is a huge source for acid rain and other environmental issues and must be recycled appropriately. The clubs were happy with the turn-out and hope that people learned to recycle their electronics properly as oppose to tossing them in the trash.



From left: Kate Humphrey, Jesse Romero and Honors Club Vice President Michael Marwan.

# Important Life Lessons Honors Has Taught Me

By Franchesca Gade, Miramar College Honors Student

I am an Honors student at Miramar College and have done Honors work in various subjects ranging from Anthropology and English to Political Science. Honors has made a positive impact on my life by helping me to understand that I have the potential to become more than I ever dreamed of if I strive for excellence. I am a single mother of three, a veteran, low income, first generation college student, full time student, and cancer survivor.

The Honors Program has helped me extend myself beyond normal requirements to pursue higher academic standards for myself, regardless of my situational limitations. I have learned that academic excellence includes involvement in leadership activities, community service and participation in scholarly pursuits of all levels. The Honors Program has helped me learn that I have amazing potential if I believe in myself and have the courage to pursue my dreams. I had the privilege and honor of attending two honors banquets, receiving multiple scholarships, and becoming a member as well as being involved with Phi Theta Kappa. I have presented research to my peers and professors in research symposiums, and I have been provided several chances to teach my peers in the classroom. I have found endless support in my professors, and the faculty and staff at Miramar College.

My professors have encouraged and supported me, through many life altering trials and illness. Due to the fact that I am an Honors student, my professors have raised their expectations for me and motivated me to maintain my determination and desire for an outstanding academic experience. It is because of these professors that I have not given up my dream of attaining a college degree. I have been afforded the opportunity to help represent the voice of the students by sitting on campus committees, and participating in multiple campus clubs and organizations. In addition, I was elected by my peers to an officer position in the Associated Student Council for this academic year. I have been able to grow as an Honors student, a parent and an individual. I would encourage all of my fellow peers to become involved in programs such as the Honors Program, and to avoid settling for merely passing a class but instead to overcome the hurdles in their lives and challenge themselves to strive for excellence in every pursuit. One of my recent accomplishments is that I have been nominated to take part in the International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP) Delegation on Anthropology and Archaeology to be held this summer in China. Being asked to participate in this delegation means so much to me because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Until now I have only dreamed of such experiences. This program gives me a chance to expand my academic pursuits to an international level, and gives me the ability to show my daughters, and fellow peers, that hard work can be very rewarding. This honor will allow me to experience an Archeological dig first hand, and will expose me to a society that is rich with history, culture, beauty, and tradition.

I would recommend programs like Honors and involvement in Phi Theta Kappa to all of my fellow students. The Honors Program is an opportunity for students to push themselves towards the higher echelons of learning. When students participate in the Honors Program they create a situation in which they become leaders of their own college endeavors. Students become confident, motivated and more invested in their own futures. Not only do Honors students have the opportunity to explore their potential but they are the ones who raise the bar and set the standards. Looking back, I can only relate the Honors Program with hard work, and reward. To be honest it's not always easy, but it is the challenge that expands the horizons of the student and broadens their scope not only in an academic sense, but in a way that allows them to better understand their own capabilities. The Honors Program encourages students to live up to their full potential and get the most from their college experience.



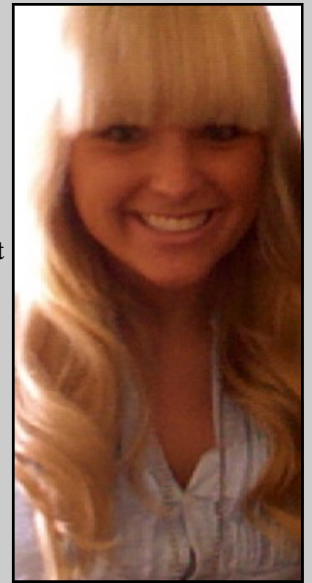
## What the Honors Program Meant to Me

By Krista Burner, former Miramar College Honors Student

As a current third-year student at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), I cannot help but reflect on the preceding two years of my formal education within the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) and its direct influence upon my continued success. At Miramar College, specifically, I participated in the Honors Program, that provided me not only with a more rigorous and academically intuitive schedule as a first- and second-year student, but also with a support system, to which I am forever indebted.

As a third-year transfer student from the Honors Program, I have had a myriad of pathways opened for me at the university level. These include, but are not limited to automatic enrollment in the University of California's Honors Program, exclusive on-campus counseling and tutoring, priority enrollment each quarter, as well as the acquisition of a Regent's Scholarship. I am one of forty incoming students to have obtained the Regent's Scholarship at UCLA. This is a full-ride scholarship with the demonstration of financial need, but for others, a \$6,000 annual honorarium. This scholarship has been given to me as a direct result of my academic success and, in my opinion, as an indirect result of the influence of the Honors Program.

I feel that the Honors Program encourages students to more actively participate in the evolution of their education at an accelerated rate. Again, I am thankful to have been such an active member of the program and to have been a part of a collection of academically motivated and ambitious young scholars to whom I send my congratulations and my hopes that they continue to regard their education with such elevated esteem.



## CC2U: A Hidden Gem for Community College Students

By Jeremy Macedo, Mesa College Honors Student



Attending the CC2U Transfer Seminar (Community College to University Taskforce SDCCD-UCSD collaboration) really gave me an idea of what the transfer process would be like. Tons of valuable information was delivered in a smooth and coherent manner and everyone from UCSD was friendly and eager to help.

I learned about scholarships, mentor programs and research opportunities from students and teachers alike. The series of student guest speakers really sparked an interest in research opportunities for me. They all spoke on a personal level, each student giving his or her own story on how UCSD and the SDCCD helped them achieve their goals. It is very exciting to know that I have the opportunity to be paid for my research.

I have enrolled in the Health and Medical Professions Program at UCSD—something I would have not known about without attending the meeting. Being a freshman at Mesa, I understand the questions and concerns transfer students have. By attending the seminar, everything is now clearer for me. I now know what opportunities await me at UCSD and how I can get there. I am a human biology major, so the Amgen Scholar Program and professor mentor program really stood out to me. This

CC2U Transfer program is a hidden gem that more students should take part in. It definitely helped me in planning for my academic journey.



**SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DISTRICT HONORS PROGRAMS**  
*City College, Mesa College, Miramar College*

1113 Park Blvd. Suite A111  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: 619-398-3518

Phone: 619-398-3591  
e-mail: h.onors@sdccd.edu



## Former City College Honors Student Makes a Difference in the Peace Corps

By Carlos Diaz Livingston, former City College Honors Student

On 16 June 2008, I begin my two-year service as a Peace Corps health education volunteer in rural Ecuador. The City College Honors Program inspired my interest in international issues. I enrolled in the core program in 2003, taught by Candy Waltz, Kelly Mayhew, Jim Miller, Steven Bouscaren and Hector Martinez. I grew up exposed to issues about poverty; disenfranchisement and lack of opportunity, but my mother's stories about her childhood had little effect on my outlook on life as the son of a Filipina immigrant who lived in a poor, rural village. I, like most adolescents, rolled my eyes and interrupted life lesson speeches with an "Okay, you have told me this story a million times!"

The Honors Core program taught me to consider these issues on an international level. For example, my mother often talked about the oppression of Afro-Filipinos (and indigenous Filipinos). I took the story to be an unfortunate reality of Filipino society. After completing the Honors Core Program, I became more inquisitive and asked my mother if she sees any similarities of the treatment of Afro-Filipinos and African-Americans, and if immigrant Filipinos might bring prejudicial thoughts about Afro-Filipinos with them to the United States.

Regardless of the issue I contemplated, I wondered about its meaning internationally. Poverty and lack of opportunity, in particular, struck a personal cord. So I joined the Peace Corps because it provided me the opportunity to combat these two issues on a global scale. I will provide rural, poor Ecuadorians with access to health education.

Aside from motivating me to join the Peace Corps, City's Honors Program influenced my life in many ways. It is the reason I obtained I majored in International Studies at my transfer school and Alma Mater as of this year, Washington University in St. Louis. I was able to skip a required writing class at Washington U because the English department chair felt the writing portfolio I submitted—that reflected lessons taught in my core classes—showed that I had been sufficiently exposed to advanced-level topics. Read: The same discussions I had in my core classes are being had at a top-ranked university, like Washington U. Finally, for my senior thesis, I wrote about the cultural and military contributions of Mexicans of African descent to Mexican society because I was inspired by the discussions I had in my core classes about race.

City's Honors Program has given much to my life and I highly recommend enrollment in it.

## Honors Classes Offered for Spring, 2009

### City College Offerings

Course #	Course Title	CRN	Class Meets	Instructor
Anthropology 102	Physical Anthropology	69617	T/TH 8-9:25 am	Maria J. Tavakoli
Biology 102	Plants and People	92969	T/TH 8-9:25 am	Erin Rempala
Child Development 141	Child, Family & Community	05887	TH 12:30-3:40 pm	Sue Martin
English 205	Critical Thinking/Int. Comp.	61142	T/TH 11:10-12:35	Paul Alexander
English 249	Intro to Creative Writing	68934	T/TH 12:45-2:10 pm	Mandilawi/Watson
Gender Studies 101	Intro to Gender Studies	03933	M/W 11:10-12:35	Sarah Pitcher
Humanities 101	Intro to Humanities I	64901	T/TH 9-35-11 am	Candace Waltz
Psychology 101	General Psychology	71478	T/TH 8-9:25 am	Veronica Welch
Psychology 165	Theories of Consciousness	03925	T/TH 11:10-12:35	Marie St. George
Sociology 110	Contemporary Social Problems	03944	M/W 9:35-11 am	David Gauss

## Honors Classes Offered for Spring, 2009 (cont.)

### Mesa College

Course #	Course Title	CRN	Class Meets	Instructor
Architecture 226	Architectural Theory	98701	T/Th 11:10-12:35 pm	Carl Strona
Art-Fine Art 107	Contemporary Art	03420	M/W 2:20-3:45 pm	Emiko Lewis-Sanchez
Art History 111	Renaissance to Modern	89440	T/Th 9:35-11:00 am	Beate Bermann-Enn
Black Studies 155	Afro-American Literature	99426	M 6:35-9:45 pm	Theresa Ford
Economics 121	Principles of Economics II	98134	M/W 11:10-12:35 pm	Rebecca Arnold
English 205	Critical Thinking/Int. Comp.	54839	T/Th 11:10-12:35 pm	Tracey Walker
Fashion 176	Computer Fashion Design II: Illustrator	97993	M/W 11:10-1:40 pm	Susan Lazear
Fashion 178	Comp. Publishing & Portfolio	98007	T/Th 9:35-12:05 pm	Susan Lazear
Humanities 101	Intro to the Humanities I	02842	T/Th 2:20-3:45 pm	Geoff Johnson

### Miramar College

Course #	Course Title	CRN	Class Meets	Instructor
English 205	Critical Thinking/Int. Comp.	59291	T/Th 11:10-12:35 pm	Carmen Jay
Psychology 101	General Psychology	61227	T/Th 1:00-2:20 pm	Michael McPherson
Sociology 101	Principles of Sociology	68346	T/Th 11:10-12:35 pm	Marilyn Espitia
Spanish 201	Third Course in Spanish	65970	T/Th 11:10-1:40 pm	Virginia Naters