April 2012

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

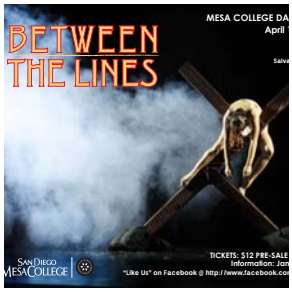
MESA N WS

WELCOME TO MESA E-NEWS, the monthly e-zine of college-wide events, activities and news.
www.sdmesa.edu/e-news/index.html.

www.facebook.com/sandiegomesacollege

This Month at Mesa: April

For upcoming events and activities, go online to sdmesa.edu/news/month.cfm



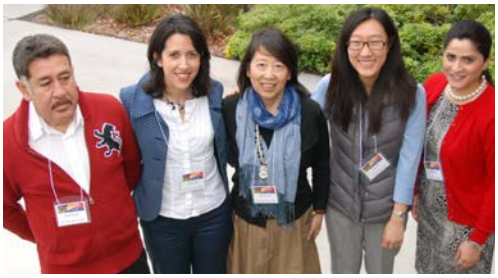
Mesa Lecture Series Honors Educator Activist Gracia Molina de Pick

Noted educator, reformer, community activist and feminist **Gracia Molina de Pick** was on hand to launch a new lecture series that honors her legacy at San Diego Mesa College on March 6. The lecture series is named for the founder of the San Diego Mesa College Chicano Studies Department and recognizes her life-long commitment to education, feminism, and dedication to the mission of the community college. Education activist and 2010 Medal of Freedom recipient **Sylvia Mendez** was the inaugural speaker. She and her family fought to integrate schools in California in 1945, seven years before Brown vs. Board of Education. To a packed lecture room, Ms. Mendez shared her personal story and how she continues the legacy left by her parents to campaign for education. "We are proud to be inaugurating the first annual **Gracia Molina de Pick** Feminist Lecture Series and look forward to bringing unique feminist voices to enrich the Mesa College experience," said **Professor César López, Ph.D.**, Chair, Chicano Studies Department.

Languages Conference a Hit

The March 23rd 9th Annual Mesa College Languages Conference, "Human Brain and Language Learning" attracted more than 110 language educators from the county. "The theme of the conference was what grabbed the attention of attendees," said Prof. Leticia Lopez. Keynote speakers included a UCI postdoctoral scholar, a UCSD psycholinguist and Mesa's own Psychology Prof. Jaye Van Kirk, who spoke on the "Psychology and Neuroscience of Language: A View

from the Left Hemisphere." Evaluation comments noted: "Superior academic quality," "Fascinating topic," "It's been a long time since conference programs were so informative," and "I really enjoyed that you brought the science of language to us so that both language and science instructors can have a meaningful dialogue." Congratulations to conference organizers, pictured here.



"Education is Key" at Sixth Leadership Summit

The message that "education is the key" echoed throughout the day at the sixth African American Latino Male Leadership Summit held in March at San Diego Mesa College. About 175 male students from Mesa College feeder high schools attended event. Following a powerful spoken-word performance by **Rudy Francisco**, **President Dr. Pamela T. Luster,** welcomed the attendees. "What Mesa College wants you to do today," she said, "is for you to take steps to figure out who you are, to experience what college is like, and to know that it can be in your future." The keynote address was given by **Dr. Francisco Rodriguez**, superintendent/president of MiraCosta College in Oceanside. "Education is the key," he told the group as he shared his personal struggle to achieve success. "It's about perseverance and persistence." Later, the students broke into what attendees ranked as the most popular part of the day: small-group sessions co-led by an African American and a Latino professional role model. The day wrapped up with closing remarks from diversity expert **Dr. Steven Jones**. **Angelo Estrada**, a student at Kearny SCT, summed up the day. "The role models could relate to what I'm going through. They made me feel more confident in myself," he reflected. "They opened my heart and my mind."

State Senator Kehoe Speaks on Women's Rights

A relentless fighter for women's rights, State Senator **Christine Kehoe** spoke on "Women's Education, Women's Empowerment" at one of a dozen lectures, exhibits, performances and presentations that celebrated Women's History Month at San Diego Mesa College. "She had a world of experience in working diligently in the public arena to support women's issues as well as men's issues for our District and all State residents," said Professor Angela Oberauer, "We wanted our students to hear what she had to say." In particular, the Senator spoke on how women are being targeted federally and in certain states with bills trying to deny women their rights to privacy that they received in Roe v. Wade (1973). She encouraged all students to receive a solid education, thereby having the best start to enter the career world ahead of them.

Parents/Students Learn at Canyon Classroom

"I learned so much today," said **Nathan Bogardt** at Canyon Classroom. "I learned that especially that I live so close to this canyon, yet know so little about it!" The comment came not from a student attendee, but from a parent chaperone of the 60 second and third graders from Holmes Elementary School, this year's attendees of the Canyon Classroom at Mesa College. Orchestrated by **Prof. Laurie Lorence** and her teacher education students, organized chaos led teams of children through a half-day of fun and learning. Activities ranged from creating dream catchers, Kumeyaay pottery, a potting exercise at Mesa's organic garden, and even a surprise visit from the llamas, ferrets, miniature horse and other animals that live at the Animal Health Technology facility. Of course, there was a tour of the Tecolote Canyon. Canyon Classroom is part of Canyon Day at Mesa College. The Canyon Clean-up slated for March 17 was called off due to rain and will not be rescheduled this year due to conflicts with other community events. The Canyon Day committee is led by co-chairs **Prof. Donald Barrie** and **PIO Lina Heil**. Please contact them if you'd like to get involved. Photos are posted online at facebook.com/sandiegomesacollege

Keeping Up with ASG

In March the Associated Student Government and InterClub Council were advocating for students in Sacramento, and, with American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) in Washington, D.C. **ASG President Cherie Deogracias** reports that these two advocacy efforts were on behalf of all Mesa College students at the state and national levels. They addressed issues such as cuts to education in California, increases in the interest rate for student loans, and cuts to Pell Grants. Students had the opportunity to march, rally, and speak with legislators, such as **Assemblyperson Marty Block**, **Senator Barbara Boxer**, and the representatives of California Department of Finance.

In April, the two groups will be attending the Student Senate of California Community College's General Assembly in Ontario. "We student attendees will be able to actively participate in statewide student politics," said Cherie. "We'll witness how decisions unfold and resolutions are put into place within the governing body of all 112 student governments in California."

Mesa Students Win World Capitals Scholarships

Five Mesa College students were selected to receive full scholarships valued at $8000 each to participate in the summer World Capitals Program, sponsored by the Global Institute of Comparative Studies (GICS) at Chancellor University. **Diana Polyak**, **Tyler Wescott**, **Jacqueline Ibarra**, **Diego Manrique** and **Alexander Gonzalez** are the lucky recipients of this award. Two City College students also received awards, with City and Mesa students representing the entire West Coast. The students will embark on an 8-week trip this summer through Berlin, Paris, and Strasbourg while completing a demanding global studies curriculum. Scholarships were awarded to the five based on a competitive essay and GPA. For more information on the scholarship program, please contact **Prof. Leticia Lopez**.

Kudos and Accolades

A standing-room only crowd voted **Melissa Adao**, Mesa Dance Faculty, one of the top four choreographers at the San Diego Young Choreographer's Showcase. These amazing choreographers were chosen by audience vote and by three distinguished community dance activists, **John Malashock**, **Pat Launer**, and **Shoba Sharma**. **Prof. Adao** will receive a $1,000 prize.

Geology **Prof. Don Barrie** took first place in the Anza Borrego Desert Institute's 2012 photo contest in the category of "people enjoying the desert." He reports that the judges' critique was that "it was too perfect." Don's wife, Naomi, a Native American artisan, is pictured in the photo, taken at sunrise at Clark Dry Lake.

Photography by Geology **Prof. Don Barrie**

Adjunct Fashion **Prof. Rachael Libolt** was honored at the annual California Affiliate of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (CA-AAFCS) Conference at Point Loma Nazarene in March. She received the New Achiever Award and was also nominated for the National Award from the same organization.

Mesa College journalism students were honored this past weekend at the 2012 Journalism Association of Community Colleges' annual state conference in Burbank, Calif. ***The Mesa Press*** website, took the "General Excellence" award for Online Journalism, underscoring its recognition as one of the top student news web sites in California. The site debuted back in 2007 and underwent a site redesign in 2011; check it out at mesapress.com. Mesa Press staff writer **Rashad Muhammad** earned honorable mention in on-the-spot opinion writing

competition at the conference. Elsewhere, former Mesa Press editor in chief **Gisela Lagos** was named a finalist (top 3) in the college opinion writing category by the Society of Professional Journalists Region 11 journalism competition. If she is awarded first place, her work will then be judged at the national level.

The powerful Mesa College Art Gallery exhibit **"Domestic Disobedience: Redefining the Feminine Space**, curated by former Mesa student **Nuvia Crisol Guerra**, is garnering excellent reviews from the local arts media. A feature article is expected to run in the April 1 Sunday Arts section. Google U-T "Domestic Disobedience" to view the article./

Pictured: Prof. Janna Braun with the award for Online Excellence-General

On-Track with the Olympians

For the first time since 2006, the Olympians softball team is on top of the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference with an impressive 18-4 record and is ranked as the #8 team in the state thanks to their offensive strength. The team has amassed 199 runs in 22 games for an average of 9 runs earned per game. On the men's diamond, baseball has been facing some tough teams and has beaten 7 of their opponents. The bats of the Olympians have been very strong this season as they have crossed home plate 79 times in 16 games. Down on the track, Mesa runners have been outperforming their competition. The men's team took 2nd at the UCSD Collegiate Challenge where they faced off with runners from UCSD, CSU San Marcos and Pt. Loma Nazarene. Against the same teams, the women's team took 5th place with top marks given to Cassandra Kennison who took 1st in the shot put with a throw of 45'3". The men's volleyball team faces some of the toughest teams in the state and has been holding their own. Despite the final scores of the match, Mesa continues to be competitive in every game and doesn't allow their opponent to outscore them by large margins. Also during this month, 3 female student-athletes were named the "PCAC Athlete of the Week" (**Darlene Truong** of softball, **Alisha Weaver** and **Alina Duran** for swimming) **Brandon Ford** of the men's swimming team was also named for the men's "PCAC Athlete of the Week."

Volleyball Coach **Kim Lester** proudly announces the signing of **Karlee Anderson** to the Division I, Manhattan College. The 5'11 Paso Robles native will start as a middle blocker and will bring a wealth of experience and a high level of competition to the team. Anderson had nine total offers from colleges across the nation.

Good luck to all of our athletics teams, and a big shout-out to Men's Track, now ranked in the top five. As Head Coach Renee Ross proudly reports, "We've never been this high in the rankings!" Onward to Conference, So Cal, and then State!

Gone Electric?

Owners of electric cars can now charge their vehicles on campus, thanks to a partnership between the SDCCD and ECOtality, a company that manages clean transportation and storage technologies. A total of 16 EV stations have been installed throughout the District. At Mesa, five (5) stations are located in the lower level of the parking structure next to the Mesa College Police Station (lower level).

Comings and Goings

Administration:
Dave Evans, Dean of Physical Education/Health Education Athletics is now also serving as Acting VPSS
Larry Maxey is Interim Dean, Student Affairs
Ashanti Hands is Acting Dean, Student Development

Passings

Prof. Sam Scharber. One of the founding fathers of the Mesa College Chemistry Department, Dr. Scharber passed on Mar. 20 after injuries suffered in an accident. An alumnus of Notre Dame, Dr. Scharber taught chemistry for Mesa College before the college was built. He moved into the "new" facilities in 1964. Dr. Scharber was instrumental in development of the chemistry curriculum. He spent his career teaching at Mesa College and was beloved by his students and respected by his colleagues. "He always had a story to tell," said department chair Prof. Rob Fremland. "We remember him as a colleague, a mentor, a dear friend and contributor of key lime pie to our holiday parties."

OUT AND ABOUT

Eighteen fashion students just left for study abroad in Milan, Lyon and Paris with Professors **Andrea Marx** and **Susan Lazear**. Here is their Blog address if you would like to follow what they are up to.
http://mesafashionprogram.blogspot.com/

Kenneth J. E. Berger, D.Env., Associate Professor, Geography, has been awarded a fully paid scholarship to attend the weeklong American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar on Military Numismatics in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

STAY INFORMED & ENGAGED

- Year-end closing deadlines for the Business Office are fast approaching. If you have any questions, please call 619-388-2771.
- Shared governance committee agendas, minutes and reports can be found at http://www.sdmesa.edu/governance/committees.
- The San Diego Community College District Police Department is hosting Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training for women only at Miramar College. Interested? Email CSO Holcombe at jaholcom@sdccd.edu by April 9th.
- The Mesa Library has recently converted its subscription to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) to the online version. You can access it by simply entering their CSID and last name when prompted.
- Online or hybrid? Mesa Students talk about why they think of online classes and what needs improvement in "Online Classes: A Student Panel Discussion". Thu., April 19, 2-3 PM: G-101. District FLEX available: #66277
- Enroll in FLEX workshops of your choice! For questions, contact the Flex Office at (619) 388-2509 or visit A-109.

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