# SAN DIEGO ESAN SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

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

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#### This Month at Mesa: June

This campus-wide events listing is not published during the summer; it will resume in August.

## Uplifting Prelude to Commencement by Mesa Academy



Fifteen members of the **Mesa Academy** were honored with a precommencement recognition event on May 15. **President Pam Luster**, administrators, counselors and faculty congratulated the soon-to-be graduates with pendants celebrating their African-American heritage. Everyone viewed a slide show of photographs that students had submitted, created by **Carlos Wales**. Students, including the college's 2012 commencement speaker, Andrew James, also shared their unique

paths to graduation and their Mesa experience. "It was a most uplifting and inspirational event," said advisor **Leroy Johnson**. Mesa Academy is open to all students.

# Commencement by the Numbers

On May 19, Mesa College celebrated student achievement at the college's 48th commencement. The 2012 graduating class is comprised of 1,046 students who received 1,110 associate degrees and 321 certificates. Of this group, 622 are men, and 809 are women. Twenty-eight students received two or more degrees and 413 students graduated with honors designation. The class of 2012 includes 21 valedictorians that achieved the rare and perfect grade-point average of 4.0. The official count of participants was 316 students, supported by faculty, family and friends. Student speaker **Andrew James** was a hit with the crowd, as were the video and recognition honoring the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus, **Coach Arnie Robinson**. Great job, all, and especially to our staff volunteers! (Watch the video tribute to Arnie Robinson on Youtube. Just click on the image in the homepage slideshow.



#### **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 was loaded with trivia, surprises and a nacho fiesta. The week culminated with the Classified Service Awards that honored staff for their years of services. Congratulations to all award recipients, including Ivonne Alvarez, Wayne Koppel and Juan Ortega (25 years). Custodian Bill Hardin was selected from over a dozen nominations to receive the 2012 Employee of the Year Award. Bill's been described as quiet and soft-spoken, someone who exercises and works out "no matter what it takes" and hardly ever misses a day of work. Employed by the SDCCD since 1999, Bill is also big-hearted, has a great attitude, and "is flexible despite the myriad changes occurring in his department." Maybe that's why the room exploded in a round of applause as he was named the 2012 Mesa College Classified Employee of the Year.







According to Classified Senate President **Angela Liewen**, Classified Week "is a lot of work, but we have fun putting the week together." She offers a big shout-out to the Classified Senate for all their collective efforts, and especially to **Mike McLaren**, awards ceremony emcee, **Rocio Sandoval**, event chair, and all who helped make the week a huge success.

Nearly 140 staffers participated in the 2012 Classified Staff Development Conference, held May 22-23. With a health and fitness focus, the most popular sessions were: Cardio Fitness, Yoga, Creative Art Workshop, CPR, Healthy Nutrition, and Know Your AFT Contract. According to attendees, the greatest benefit of the conference 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. This year co-chaired by Charlotta Robertson and Caterina Palestini, the conference has become a model for staff development training across the state.













# Diana Hickam Named Mesa's Unsung Hero of 2012



Approximately 171 classified staff persons work at Mesa. But only one is named each year as the college's Unsung Hero – someone who demonstrates one or more of the following characteristics: unselfishly shares his/her time and expertise; consistently and willingly extends a helping hand; and demonstrates trustworthiness, caring and leadership. This year, a record 16 staffers were nominated for the award. At the awards ceremony on May 23, Diana was recognized by President Pam Luster as, "having one of the best attitudes of anyone they have ever worked with.... A team player and always ready to jump in to help with any meeting, event, project or chaotic situation." Diana's name has been added to the Unsung Hero plaque, which is on display in the President's Conference Room. The roster also includes: **Zod Schultz, Tony Provenzano**, 2006 (a tie!); **Janet Harris**, 2007; **Robert Booth**, 2008; **Kathy Wells**, 2009; **Pat Vine**, 2010; and **Jesse Reyes**, 2011.

# A Whole Lot of Construction Going On...

Prop S and N summer construction projects include the following: Lot 1 Phase 2: Fencing off the majority of Lot 1, redirecting of traffic, 80 spaces will be left for Modular Village parking. 12 kV Electrical and Communications Loop: Trenching down Mesa College Circle, starting in Lot 2 and 3, moving towards MV as the summer progresses. East Campus Water Loop: Trenching down Mesa College Circle, starting at MV/ Central Plant hillside, moving towards Lot 2/3 as the summer progresses; trenching in roadway between M&S and SSC starting 5/29/12; through traffic will be maintained. Prop S and N construction concerns should be directed to VP **Tim McGrath**.

## Ospreys in the News

Union Tribune photographer John Gibbins stopped by Mesa in May to take a a few shots of the newest osprey chicklets born to the pair who nest in the lights above the soccer field. His photos are available for viewing and purchase at http://sdut.us/Kcii7Q.



### Kudos to...

#### 2012-13 Classified Senate Officers:

President: Angela Liewen Romeo; Vice President: Monica Romero; Secretary: Rocio Sandoval; Treasurer: Mike McLaren; Member-at-Large: Joshua Taylor; Senators: Lynn Dang, Cris Palmiter, Farideh Farheidar, Cindy Hess, Kathy Fennessey, Amanda Torres.



Carol Beilstein, Graphic Artist/Photographer extraordinaire. Carol's shot of the May 20th solar eclipse, was included in the Union-Tribune's "Stunning reader images of the solar eclipse." Watch the slideshow at https://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/may/20/stunning-reader-images-solar-eclipse/

## On-Track with the Olympians – Wrap Up!

#### WOW! 10 of 20 Mesa Athletic Teams Take Conference Championships

The 2011-12 year was extraordinary for the blue and gold as 10 of 20 San Diego Mesa College men's and women's teams took first place in each of their conference divisions. Let me repeat: Half of all Mesa College athletic teams took top honors in their individual conferences.

The 10 Mesa College 2012 champions included six women's teams: water polo, volleyball, basketball, softball, swim and dive and track and field. The four men's teams were cross country, tennis, baseball and track and field.

Not only were these 10 teams crowned "Conference Champions" but they all qualified for their sport's regional tournament where they competed with the best of Southern California community college teams. Men's Cross Country took 3rd in the state; Women's Swim and Dive ranked 11th in the state, and men's and women's Track and Field teams placed 8th and 25th respectively.

Standing out for the women's team was throwing sensation, **Cassandra Kennison**. Cassandra not only took first in the state for the shot put with a throw of 14.98m, but she also ranked as the number two female thrower in the nation for community colleges.

Mesa athletes also scored academically as well. **Chanel Putrus** and **Matt Neault** were named the PCAC female and male scholar-athlete for 2012. Each year, approximately 25 percent of Mesa's 500 student-athletes transfer to four-year institutions -- either on an academic or athletic scholarship, or a combination of both.

Olympians coaches also earned the title of "Coach of the Year" as selected by their conference peers. Dual sport head coach, **Mike Hootner** is no stranger to this title as he was named "Coach of the Year" for the fourth consecutive time Men's Tennis, and earned his first "Coach the Year Award" for Women's Basketball this year. Also winning the honor for the 2011-2012 year was head coach **Renee Ross** for Men and Women's Track and Field, **Kevin Hazlett** for Baseball, **Jim Fegan** for Women's Water Polo and Women's Swim and Dive, Thom Hunt for Men's Cross Country, and **Kim Lester** for Women's Volleyball.

"It's been an exciting and incredible experience," said Athleltic Director **Dave Evans**. These scores and rankings speak for themselves. Mesa rocks!"

#### **Fall 2011 PCAC Conference Champions**

Men's Cross Country PCAC
Women's Water Polo PCAC
Women's Volleybal PCAC
Women's Basketball PCAC

#### **Spring 2012 PCAC/Foothill Conference Champions**

Men's Tennis PCAC
Baseball PCAC
Softball PCAC
Women's Swim/Dive PCAC
Men's Track and Field Foothill
Women's Track and Field Foothill



















# **Mesa Style!**

Who needs opening day at Del Mar? Modeling millinery fashions at the May 11th Golden Scissors fashion show were Olympians Pam Luster; Chris Kinney; Penny Hedgecoth; Ashanti Hands and daughter Jaylen; Madeleine Hinkes; Tim McGrath; Dora Schoenbrun-Fernandez; Val Ontell; Wendy Smith; Anne Geller; Ruth San Filippo and daughter Isabella; Lina Heil; Alessandra Moctezuma; Leticia Lopez; Bill Brothers, Carol Rohe, Jill Baker, and JoAnn Matuzas. Congrats to all, and especially to Professors Susan Lazear and Andrea Marx, who created the gala extravaganza 31 years ago!



## **OUT AND ABOUT**

- Thinking about celebrating the 4th of July in Coronado? Then don't miss the parade! This year's Parade Marshall is none other than **Carlynne Allbee**, Adjunct/Business. She'll be driving one of her miniature horses. Carlynne has been riding her full-sized horses and driving her miniature horses through the Coronado parade and many others since 1971.
- Professor Alessandra Moctezuma will be among a panel of four experts to discuss "Creative Placemaking: San Diego in the Innovation Age" at the SDSU Art Council meeting, forum and reception on Tue., June 5, at 5:15 p.m. at the LaJolla/Riford Library. http://artcouncil.sdsu.edu/
- Adjunct professor and alumnae Leah Younker will be showing her paintings of El Cajon Boulevard at "Boulevard Nights," June 15 from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. This is a "must see" event if you're a fan of Annette and Frankie's '60s films. Be sure to stop by and say hi.

# Comings and Goings:

#### Administration:

- Ron Perez, VP/Admin. Services, accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent/VP, Finance and Administrative Services at Palomar College.
- **Denise Whisenhunt** is Mesa's new Interim Vice President of Student Services. Denise comes to Mesa from City College where she served as Dean of Student Affairs since 2008 as well as Interim Dean of Student Development and Matriculation in 2011. She began her SDCCD career as the Associate Dean of Student Services/Outreach in 2001.

#### Retirements

- Russell English, Professor, CSIC
- Roger Gee, Professor, Accounting
- Dana Hall, Professor, English
- Diana Hickam, Sr. Clerical Assistant, Student Services
- Shad Jefferies, Professor, Business Admin/Real Estate
- Mark Trembley, Professor, Geography

#### **STAY INFORMED & ENGAGED**

C-CERT Demystified – Just what is it? Coordinator **Charlotta Robertson** explains that C-CERT is an acronym for Campus-Community Emergency Response Team. The premise of C-CERT is readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. As part of our District/campus emergency/disaster preparedness plans, the SDCCD will conduct C-CERT training at NTC June 18-19-20, 2012. If you're interested in joining Mesa's C-CERT team, please call Charlotta at x2509. Already C-CERTified? Contact Charlotta to enroll in the refresher course scheduled for Monday, June 18 at NTC. Shared governance committee agendas, minutes and reports can be found at http://www.sdmesa.edu/governance/committees.

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