

May 2016

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Colleagues:

Incredible....that we've reached the end of the semester and another Commencement is upon us. I am continually reminded of all of the good work that goes on here on behalf of our students. Often its when I travel in Mesa gear and am asked " What you do at Mesa?", and then the person tells me about their time at Mesa, or that of their family and how it changed their lives. It's events in our community like the recent Linda Vista Parade and Multicultural Fair and hearing the crowds cheer as our contingent goes by. Wherever I go, people tell me how much they love our college. I share with them that five years in...it's still the best job in the world leading this amazing place.

Lest you think April was busy, May holds the same promise for activities celebrating our students and our own. As we finish with Commencement, this

summer marks the largest summer school schedule that we have had since before the downturn. We will be opening the Commons and begin work on the Center for Business and Technology. No rest for the weary!

I hope to see you all at one of the many celebratory events over the next few weeks. Whether its in a fancy hat at Golden Scissors, eating yummy cake for Classified Appreciation, the Speech and Debate Showcase, Research Conference, honoring STAR Awards for Athletes, enjoying the Transfer or Honors Luncheon, or more....its all special and important. Enjoy!



New Hires !

Nancy Gabriel-Admin Tech-Printing and Mail Services

Nancy Gabriel is the newest employee to join Printing & Mail Services as an Administrative Technician. Nancy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Old Dominion University, VA, and an Associate's Degree in early childhood education from Tidewater Community College, VA. Nancy worked for over 10 years with the Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP) as a School Office Manager where she was responsible for complex administrative duties, budgeting, financial analysis, personnel duties, and student services duties working with several managers, several schools, and varied student bodies, and peers. Nancy recently moved to San Diego with her husband Ariel Gabriel, who

recently retired from serving 20 years with the United States Navy, and is a mother to 5 beautiful children of their blended family, one of which will begin the Culinary Arts program at Mesa College this Fall. Besides her extensive background in office management, Nancy is a free-lance makeup artist, applying makeup for brides and special events, as well as a previous singer and performer for Virginia's regional theater, in which she was cast as part of ensemble for, "Miss Saigon, Seussical the Musical and Man of La Mancha." She also volunteered her time as co-author for a book entitled, "In Our Uncle's Words," published by the Filipino American National Historical Society of Hampton Roads, as well as worked as a co-host for the VBTV show, "Mom Always Said," sponsored by Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

Miranda Adelman-Mitchem-Assistant Professor-Biology

Miranda is currently an adjunct instructor at Mesa College, where she has just begun teaching this semester. Previously she taught as an assistant professor, and served as a graduate program chair, Faculty Mentor, Postdoctoral research associate, teaching assistant and graduate teaching assistant for over 15 years at the University of Arizona. She is currently the Owner and Consultant for Mitchem, et al, Patient Advocacy and Navigation Services in San Diego.

She holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Arizona. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Miami (FL).

Miranda has extensive research experience, having served in several roles at the University of Arizona Medical School, Immunity and Infection Block, Department of Chemistry, Department of Medicine, Rheumatology and the Contemporary Health Department of the College of Public Health. She has won several awards for her academic work and research, including 5 separate awards for Outstanding and Innovative research in collaboration with the Lupus Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Todd White-Assistant Professor-Biology

Todd is currently a tenure-track faculty member at El Camino College, where he has

served for 2 years. Previously he taught as an adjunct instructor at El Camino and Cerritos Colleges and the University of Arizona, for the 4 years previous to his current position.

He holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Arizona with a minor in Pharmacology and Toxicology. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from UCSD. Todd also completed courses and requirement for his TAG transfer to UCSD from Mesa College.

Todd has extensive research experience, having served at Sauer Lab at the Scripps Research Institute as a post-doctoral research associate studying T Cells. He has also been a researcher at DeLuca Lab at the University of Arizona, Eye Care and Cure Association of Tucson and LXN Corporation in San Diego.

Todd grew up in Clairemont, and having graduated from Mesa College has always wanted to return to teach here. He speaks highly of the opportunities afforded him here as a young person. Welcome home Todd!

Cara Smulevitz-Assistant Professor-Art History

Cara is currently and adjunct instructor at the University of Illinois, Chicago and an online instructor for Northern Virginia Community College. She taught previously at the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago. She is also the Creative Director for a volunteer program called Art Girls 47, a program that brings young girls from under-served areas of Chicago together to create all forms of art.

She holds a Master of Arts degree in Art History from the School of the Arts in Chicago. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from the University of Illinois, Chicago. She has completed all the components for the Ph.D in Art History, Modern and Contemporary Art with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Illinois, Chicago, to be awarded at the end of May 2016.



Outreach Is In Full Swing!

Mesa College at the Linda Vista Multicultural Fair – Held annually is intended to promote cultural awareness and understanding within the City of San Diego, specifically celebrate the rich diversity of Linda Vista. This years theme was "educating :Linda Vista" and I served on the main stage with USD President, Dr. James Harris, and the Honorable Shirley Weber and Toni Atkins. The crowd loved the decorated Mesa Golf Cart along with the staff and students who marched beside.

The Outreach and Summer Cruise Table enjoyed interacting with over 1,246 visitors.

On Saturday, April 30th College: **Mesa College Financial Aid and Outreach offices hosted "Cash In on Community Pathways to College Success"** - an event geared towards helping prospective students understand their various financial aid options while exposing them to the different student support services Mesa can provide them. Roughly 250 prospective students and their families and friends attended and were treated to workshops on financial aid and financial literacy, transfer and career services, and counseling support. Admissions and the Testing & Assessment Office were open so that students could take care of any records/application issues and complete their placement tests all in one day. Opportunity drawings were also held and three students walked away with \$200 Mesa Bookstore gift cards to help with books and supplies in the Fall. While the majority of the students were from San Diego County, we had students attend from as far away as Yuma, AZ and Napa, CA. The following is a list of the San Diego County schools represented:

- Madison HS Mission Bay HS
- La Jolla HS
- Helix Charter HS
- Clairemont HS
- Twain HS
- Charter School of San Diego
- Bonita Vista HS
- Julian HS
- Patrick Henry HS
- Southwest HS
- Kearny HS
- Horizon Christian Academy
- High Tech High
- Cathedral Catholic HS

Hearty thanks to all of the following folks who braved the rain to deliver this important event.

- Financial Aid – Gilda Maldonado, Pilar Ezeta, Skyler Dennon, Randall Gambill, Julissa Samano, Alma Godinez, Florisel Guzman, Cathy Springs, and Guadalupe

Bueno.

- Outreach – Ambassadors: Adrian Michel, Cassie Casares, Grace Osoimalo, Lynn Nguyen, Melissa Oliva-Sanchez, and Vann Chhum.
- Counseling – Ailene Crakes, Barbara Plandor, Amber Alatorre, Vang Thao, and Adriana Rivas-Sandoval.
- Career and Transfer – Claudia Estrada, Mary Garcia, Danielle Short, and staff.
- Summer Cruise – Monica Romero, Agustin Rivera, Fabiola Beas, Minette Lizaraga
- Student Health Services – Suzanne Khambata and staff.
- SEEDS – Leticia Lopez and staff.
- ASG – Igor Burgos Maron
- EOPS – Nellie Dougherty, Jackie Szitta
- Bookstore – Carol Rohe and staff.
- Admissions – Ivonne Alvarez, Cheri Sawyer, and staff.
- Testing – Joshua Taylor, Naayieli Bravo, and Amy Bettinger

Pre-Assessment Workshops and Assessment Services - The pre-assessment workshops were administered to students a few weeks prior to their scheduled assessment date(s). This combination makes testing more accessible and provides students with strategies for success while informing them of the importance and implications of testing and their individual placement. This Spring cycle, we were able to provide buses to transport participating high school students to our campus to take the math and English assessments in our testing lab. 326 students completed their application for admission and 189 students have completed assessment.

Participating High Schools:

- Clairemont HS
- Madison HS
- Mission Bay HS
- Patrick Henry HS
- Twain HS
- High Tech High School

Parent Information Nights - Offer an overview of the college, academic and student services that are provided to students, transfer opportunities, career services, financial aid, as well as a walk through of our 6 steps to successful matriculation – application, orientation, assessment, meeting with counselors and formulating a Student Educational Plan to select classes, register for classes and payment of fees. Offered in a more informal small group session, there are (6) separate sessions, three (3) in English and three (3) in Spanish. Thanks to the following departments participating: Financial Aid, EOPS, Transfer, Summer Cruise, and DSPS.

Participating High Schools:

- Madison HS
- Julian HS
- La Jolla HS
- West City Cont. Ed
- Bonita Vista HS
- Clairemont HS
- Kearny HS

Thanks to everyone in Outreach, especially Karla Trutna and our student ambassadors for helping our prospective students find their way to Mesa!

Accreditation 2017- Telling Our Story

Your Accreditation standard leads are doing a great job as we continue to write our Institutional Self-Study Report. Information regarding writing sessions comes out every week from our Accreditation Liaison Officer, Dr. Danene Brown. If you would like to join the crew, there are no pre-requisites, only the willingness to use the ACCJC guidelines to "Tell Our Story" . Sessions are held every Thursday from 2-

3:30 p in I4-404. If you are interested in knowing more, you can check out the ACCJC link to the standards [here](#).

Faculty Recognition Ceremony

Mesa College honored faculty for Promotion and Retirement on Friday evening, April 29th.

Promoted to full professor:

Nancy Bromma- Student Health Services

Leslie Styles- American Sign Language

Sharon Hughes-Mathematics-ACP

We wished the following folks a wonderful transition to retirement:

Donald Abbott-History

Paul Adams, Exercise Science

Jan Ellis, Dance

Igor Korneitchouk, Music

Karen Owen, Digital Technology

James Romeo-Music

Mike Sanchez, Exercise Science





ClassiCon is back and will be held on May 25, 26, and 27! In addition to the familiar workshops, this year classified professionals will have the opportunity to attend StrengthsQuest during ClassiCon 2016.

StrengthsQuest helps students, staff and faculty achieve academic, career, and personal success. It begins with a 30-minute online assessment prior to ClassiCon 2016. After the assessment, each participant will receive a customized report that lists their top five talent themes. Elva Salinas, the facilitator, will lead the training with action items for development and suggestions about how each participant can use their talents to achieve academic, career, and personal success. Two sessions of StrengthsQuest will be offered during ClassiCon, Wednesday, May 25th, and Thursday, May 26th, so that everyone can attend.

Returning again this year is the Unsung Hero presentation and Karaoke during lunch! Then, get your competitive juices ready for the team competitions on Friday, May 27, as teams will vie for the Ria Phillip Memorial Trophy.

The LOFT Goes Live!

The employee professional development center, the LOFT (Learning Opportunities For Transformation), is now officially open and the happening place to be! Faculty and staff are already finding the collaboration stations an inspiring place to work individually and to engage in projects and productive dialogue together. The computer workstations have been busy with both adjunct and contract instructors preparing for the end of the semester and staff have been spotted talking technology and training. Employees are reshaping their minds as well as the flexible furniture in the LOFT.

The final piece of the the LOFT will be completed once the four contract positions come online by September 2016. The Professional Development Coordinator and Instructional Designer are 12 month, 1.0 FTE, tenure track faculty positions and the Senior Clerical Assistant and Instructional Lab Technician/Learn Resources are 12 month, 1.0 FTE, classified positions. All positions will to the Dean of the Learning Resources and Academic Support. These positions will not only support the LOFT but campus-wide professional development for all employees.

If you missed the Grand Opening of the LOFT - not to worry - you can visit the LOFT any time the LRC is open, just go to the fourth floor and follow the signs to the **Employee LOFT**. You can learn more about the LOFT and Campus Professional Development at www.sdmesa.edu/LOFT.

All the creative and unique spaces in the LOFT begs the question, "What will you do in the LOFT?"



For more info on upcoming events, checkout the events calendar [here](#).

Its been a great year, and I have so many more stories to tell. But it will have to wait til June First Monday on the Mesa! I look forward to seeing you very soon....up on the Mesa....


Rock on Olympians!

Pam

Pamela T. Luster, President

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