

November 2015

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING



**Colleagues:**

As you can see this is not the First Monday on the Mesa in November....we

have been busy with the hiring of over 20 new faculty positions, and we will be completing many of those searches and some classified, supervisor and administrative searches as well over the next few weeks. Additionally, you have all certainly seen the flurry of activity...whether it was Sustainability Week, Spirit Week and Homecoming, or our many Veterans events...the Mesa has been a buzz of activity.

We have also seen an amazing string of student accomplishments over the past 2 weeks, in athletics, science, speech and debate, business and art to name just a few. In our December First Monday we will feature all of these exciting student successes.

For this special Thanksgiving edition, I am sharing the good news of the new faculty hired to date who will join the Mesa College family in January of 2016.



#### **New Faculty in English**

**Kimberly Lacher, Jennifer Derilo and Jorge Villalobos**

**Kimberly Lacher** has been an adjunct instructor at San Diego Mesa College, San Diego City College, San Diego State University and Grossmont College collectively for the past five years. She was a SDICCA intern in the 2009-2010 academic year, serving with Professor John Gregg. She holds a Master of Arts degree in English from San

Diego State University, and two Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara.

**Jenifer Derilo** has been an adjunct instructor at San Diego Mesa College, San Diego City College and Southwestern College collectively the past 4 years.

She currently serves as the adjunct Writing Center Coordinator at Southwestern College. She has also served as the Online Writing Center Coordinator at Ashford University.

She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in English and Creative Writing from Mills College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature of the World from UC San Diego. She completed her undergraduate lower division general education at Southwestern College.

**Jorge Villalobos** has been an adjunct instructor at Palomar and MiraCosta Colleges since 2013. Additionally, he served as a teaching assistant and lecturer at California State University, San Marcos, (CSUSM) and an ESL instructional assistant at Palomar College for several years.

He holds a Master of Arts degree in Literature and Writing and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature and Writing with a Writing Emphasis from CSU San Marcos. He graduated from Palomar College with an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies.



## New Faculty in Architecture

### Valerie Abe and Robert Wong

**Valerie Abe** has been an adjunct instructor at San Diego Mesa College for the past eight years. Additionally she is the owner and head designer for Fabricatus, a design company focused on Fine Art built spaces, a company she started 14 years ago. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cal Poly Pomona, which is the five year professional degree recognized by the National Council of Architecture. Additionally she completed her undergraduate work at Mesa College in Architecture and is in the final stages of acquiring her State Architect License.

**Robert Wong** has been an adjunct instructor at San Diego Mesa College for the past 10 years. Additionally he is the Production and Managing Principal for Thomas Wong, INC, Civil Engineers where he has served since 1984. He brings a significant level of experience in civil engineering, project management and architecture to the college. Mr. Wong holds a Master of Arts in Architecture-Real Estate Development and Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture-Facility Planning and Management from Woodbury University. He earned an Associate

of Arts degree from San Diego Mesa College.



### **New Faculty in Psychology**

**Dr. Oscar V Torres**

**Dr. Oscar V. Torres** has just concluded a two-year postdoctoral research and teaching position at the National Institutes of Health related to drug abuse research. Previously he has served as an adjunct instructor at The University of Texas El Paso for three years, focused on behavioral neuroscience.

He holds a Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience, a Master of Arts degree in Experimental Psychology, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, all from the University of Texas at El Paso.



### **New Faculty in Communication Studies**

**Dr. Veronica Gerace**  
**Brian Malinus**

**Dr. Veronica Gerace** has been an adjunct instructor at San Diego Mesa College,

Southwestern College and Grossmont and Cuyamaca College since 1998. Additionally, Dr. Gerace served as the acting Student Success Coordinator under the Mesa College Title V HSI grant, co-directing the Summer Cruise program and leading the design, planning and implementation of the Peer Navigator program.

She holds a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University, and a Master of Arts degree in Communication (Health Communication) from the University of Dayton in Ohio. She holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Colorado in English and in Communication.

**Brian Malinis** has been an adjunct instructor at Orange Coast College, Cerritos College, Cypress College, Golden West College, Santiago Canyon College and Santa Ana College for the last 2.5 years. Additionally, Bryan served as a graduate teaching assistant at CSU Long Beach. He has taught all levels of communication studies courses.

He holds a Master of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree both in Communication Studies from CSU Long Beach. He graduated from Orange Coast College with an Associate of Arts degree in English.

I hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving break and look forward to seeing you at one of the many upcoming events on campus.

*Pam*




***Pamela T. Luster, President***

San Diego Mesa College  
7250 Mesa College Drive  
San Diego, Ca 92111

P: (619) 388-2721

E: [pluster@sdccd.edu](mailto:pluster@sdccd.edu)

 [@sdmesaprez](https://twitter.com/sdmesaprez)

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