

October 2015



Colleagues:

Here we are in harvest season, a time to reap what we have sown and enjoy the change of seasons. As we wend our way into soups and sweaters, I hope you'll have a chance to enjoy the beginning of autumn. I am inspired by our work together as we create the conditions for our students to be successful.

Here's a snapshot of what's happening on the Mesa...



The "***Celebrando de Familia***" kicked off the Mesa College month-long program for Hispanic Heritage Month. The college and our community enjoyed a wonderful evening of dance, singing, music and family fun. It was a beautiful evening in the quad, and enhanced our feeling of familia while learning about and celebrating our hispanic cultural heritage.

More events are planned for this month; check out the [events calendar](#) for more information.

New Classroom Tutoring Program Gets Under Way!

Mesa has launched its Classroom Tutoring pilot. The Classroom Tutor Program is an academic assistance program that increases student performance and retention. Funded by our HSI-Title V grant, Classroom Tutors (CTs) provide **free** weekly review sessions to students enrolled in a targeted historically difficult course. CT sessions are interactive review sessions that incorporate course content (what to learn) and study strategies (how to learn). Student attendance is voluntary. The CT Program aims:

- To increase retention within targeted historically difficult courses
- To improve student grades in targeted historically difficult courses
- To increase the graduation rates of students

Mesa currently is piloting the CTs in nine classes (English 43, 47A, 48 and 101, Math 92, and Astronomy 101). For more information please contact the CT coordinators Sim Barhoum or Brad Hughes.

Sustainability Week begins October 20th!



Enjoy many activities for Sustainability Week at Mesa College. From the Organic Garden party on Tuesday October 20th, to Cross-Disciplinary Dialogues on Wednesday, Film Festival on Thursday and culminating in the Sustainability Summit on Friday, there is something for everyone. Professors Lopez and Ray are

coordinating a massive effort on our campus and in outreach to our high schools and local community.

To sign up for free tickets...[click here](#)

SDCCD and Mesa College win Landscape Architecture Orchid Award for Math + Science Gardens

We were fortunate to win the [San Diego Architecture Foundation Orchid for Landscape Design](#) for the beautiful gardens surrounding the Math + Science building. Kudos to Leslie Seiger, without whom none of the 3 gardens would have been possible, Don Barrie, the genius behind the geowalls, with a special nod to Ray Rector who spent his own time and vehicles collecting the necessary stones in the walls, and to Donna Budzynski and Bill Brothers who co-chaired of the decade long building committee. Thanks to our landscape design team of Wimmer, Yamada and Caughey who worked alongside our faculty to bring the vision to life.



**Board of Trustees Mesa College Meeting -
Thursday, October 8th**

The SDCCD Board of Trustees annual Mesa College Meeting will be held in the Z building beginning at 4 PM. From 3:30-4 PM the Board has an open session which anyone can attend to share their perspectives related to our work. The college session titled: *Opening Doors, Breaking Down Barriers, Celebrating Success* is a focus on how the college is transforming its work around the commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Presentations on Summer Cruise, SEEDS@ Mesa, Classroom Success, Professional Development, Mobile Counseling, CDAIE and the Student Success and Equity Committee are some of the highlights. Students will be centrally featured both in person and video. Thank you to the many faculty, staff, and students who are presenting.

New Hires bring new energy to Mesa College!

We are fortunate to have resources to hire new faculty and staff, and this month it is 7 new classified staff. Some are familiar faces and some are new to the family welcome all!

Financial Aid

Lilibeth Rodriguez - Lilibeth has three years of experience working in the San Diego Community College District. Her time and talent has been spent at Mesa College in the offices of Financial Aid and Admissions, where she currently serves as a Student Services Assistant. Lilibeth is a compassionate, team-player who is attentive to the needs of students. Financial Aid is delighted to have her return to their department where she will coordinate the Dream Act, Cal-Grant and Chafee Program for former Foster Youth.

Student Services Technicians

Counseling

Adriana Rivas-Sandoval – Adriana possesses a great amount of experience in working with first-time students. She was part of San Diego City College's first

year program as a program support technician. She is described as being very student-centered and resourceful. She has strong skills as it relates to processes and is continuously providing suggestions on how to improve service to students. Adriana is caring and approachable. She is a good listener and is always looking for ways to not say “no” to students.

Vang Thao – Vang has over 20 years of experience working in the San Diego Community College District. Currently she is an evaluator at the District. In her 20 plus years, Vang has held positions in admissions, testing, transfer center, counseling and on-campus evaluations. She is highly regarded by her peers for her expertise and knowledge of the matriculation process. She is consistently described as very student focused with strong organizational skills and a problem solver. She respects students, is very personable and loves working with people. Her references indicated that it would be excellent to have her back at Mesa.

Evaluations

Ginger Davis – Ginger has been employed at Mesa College since 2011. She has held several positions during her tenure at Mesa which have provided her with a wide breadth of institutional knowledge. In addition to her experience at Mesa, Ginger has several years of experience as a Registrar. Colleagues spoke to her interpersonal skills, her attention to detail and her organizational skills. Ginger is student-centered, possesses a calm demeanor and is an excellent listener. She has excellent customer service skills and is great with students.

Student Success & Equity (working with the Categorical Programs)

Johanna Lynn Nelson Aleman – Johanna currently works as a Senior Student Services Assistant within the DSPS program here at Mesa College. She has been employed with the district for 14 years having previously served at San Diego

Miramar College as an Instructional Lab Tech and Student Services Assistant. Of particular interest is Johanna's experience working within the TRIO department at Miramar where she performed numerous duties that will be of great benefit to this position. She is overwhelmingly described as detail oriented and student focused; and her completion of her Master's Degree is notable accomplishment.

Digital Communications Specialist

Anabel Pulido – Anabel has served as a graphic artist/photographer at Mesa College for 8 years. She is well known to those who have events for being the wonderful person who designed graphics and takes pictures. She has been responsible for the college's social media for the past several years, and now that we established this new position, has been selected as the successful candidate. Anabel has a creative and focused eye for visual and digital communication, and will serve the college well as we adopt new strategies for reaching our students where they are.

Senior Secretary- Exercise Science, Health, Dance and Athletics

Simone Sherrard – Simone has spent the last twelve years in the School of Exercise Science and Athletics. Her career began in 2003 as an Assistant Softball Coach at Mesa College. She was hired in 2007 as a part-time hourly position where she served as an office assistant and the Sports Information Director for seven years. In Fall 2014 she was promoted to the role of Senior Clerical Assistant.

Simone is described as being a can-do person, always jumping in to get things done. She is well liked and respected by her colleagues and students.

SDMC Foundation African Art Collection

on display at the SD Central Library



Guardian Spirits
OCTOBER 4 - DECEMBER 17, 2015

San Diego Mesa College proudly presents select pieces of African art from its permanent collection. These pieces embody ancestral energy that ensures the health, sanctity and prosperity of their respective communities. The materials, design, and spiritual symbolism demonstrate the beauty that is inherent in African sculpture and the rich cultural heritage of the people of this continent.

Opening Reception:
Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
San Diego Central Library Auditorium
Exhibition Curated by Dr. Denise Rogers, Professor of Art History,
San Diego Mesa College

San Diego Mesa College African Art Collection
San Diego Central Library (1st Floor), 330 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101
October 2 - December 17, 2015

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SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Sacred sculptures from San Diego Mesa College Foundation's permanent African art collection will be on display at the San Diego Central Library Auditorium October 4 through December 17. *Guardian Spirits* features select pieces of African art from the San Diego Mesa College permanent collection. The pieces embody ancestral energy that ensures the health, sanctity and prosperity of their communities.

The opening reception on October 7th will open with live African drum and dance performance just before 6:00 p.m. in the Neil Morgan Auditorium. Following the performance will be a viewing of the exhibition on the first floor of the library. Professor Dr. Denise Rogers will give a brief history on the collection and pieces on display.

Homecoming 2015



Join us for the annual homecoming events on October 24th beginning with the Fall Fun Run benefiting veteran students of Mesa College. A Street Fair will also be held this year culminating with kickoff at 1PM with our Mesa Football Olympians taking on San Bernardino College. Even if you can't attend, you can be a part of our efforts by sponsoring parts of the Run. [Click here for details](#)

New Website



On Friday, Sept. 25, San Diego Mesa College launched its new website. The new design features functional and design elements that improve the user experience, especially for students. Highlights include:

- Easy, intuitive navigation
- Expanded academic information pages, which link to the catalog, program requirements, prerequisites, and class descriptions
- Direct links to student services and campus life pages
- Expanded events calendar
- New campus directory

The project was led by VP Rachele Agatha, PIO Lina Heil, Web Developer Joel Arias, and the Web Advisory Group: Anabel Pulido, Bri Hayes, Danene Brown, David Fierro, Ginger Davis, Hank Beaver, Karen Owen, Penny Hedgecoth, Sara Beth Cain, Susan Topham, Taj Krumholz, Veronica Gerace, and student Minsun Jung, as well as input from those that filled out surveys, and the nearly 100 program content managers and editors who received training and helped to develop their pages.

After just a few weeks, improvements have been added such as a feedback function on each page to measure and improve user experience. The internal and

external Google search features are now functional and will improve as Google continues to index the site. Additional features, including a newsroom and an “Ask Mesa” intelligent response system, will launch later this fall. Training sessions will continue each Friday; contact Joel at x2955.



Last week we shared in the shock and sorrow of the shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon. Our Chancellor wrote an open email to the SDCCD community last week in support of all of us, and our colleagues in Oregon. It is indeed sobering to grapple with this level of violence, and that it occurred on a community college campus.

Also shared was a [link to a video](#) that we have used in training for active shooter scenarios. I have embedded it here for those who would like to review it.

There is so much to do and see this month, including the Mesa College Theater Company production The Elephant Man, Archtoberfest, and so much more. Find your way to our new [Events Calendar](#) to check out all of the activities on the Mesa.


I hope to see you at one of our many October events. As always there we are a buzz of activity and there's something for everyone. Enjoy the moderate temps and here's to embracing the change of seasons and enjoying those soups and sweaters.

Pamela T. Luster, President

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