

HONORWAY

San Diego Mesa Honors Newsletter • December 5, 2011



The San Diego Mesa College Honors Program helps students transfer and reach their goals. The Honors Club is a Mesa College organization that seeks to unite honors students and share between them: volunteer opportunities, scholarship information, and the benefits of social networking. Even if you are not in Honors, you are more than welcome to join us in all the things that we do. Meetings are every other Monday at 4:15 p.m. in room G 105. See you there!

ICE-CREAM *Social*

by Kali Hatfield

What better way to kick off the start to a great year than to socialize with your peers and eat ice-cream? Mesa Honors students and those interested in learning more about the program were invited to meet the Honors coordinators, counselor and fellow Olympian scholars on August 15, all while snacking on a cool, summer treat. As if the opportunity to get involved in Honors wasn't appealing enough without satisfying your stomach, too!



To top it all off, a bit of friendly competition was present as well. Students were challenged to build the tallest, freestanding structure using uncooked spaghetti noodles, marshmallows, tape, and string -- all in only 3 minutes. The tallest structure made was over 3 feet tall!



The Ice-cream Social Honors Orientation was a great way for students to interact with the Honors community of Mesa College in a fun and tasty way.

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Join us on Facebook for more photos and the latest updates!
www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoMesaHonors



CLUB *Rush*

by Vanessa Moreno

The Honors Club was an active participant in the Fall 2011 San Diego Mesa College Club Rush. Knowledgeable volunteers were available throughout the day to answer questions and to promote the club to interested students that passed by. The Honors table offered a vast array of informative flyers and other resources such as links to the Mesa Honors Program Facebook group and the newly created Twitter page.

The success of this event did not lie in the amount of materials available to the students, but in the enthusiasm and dedication of the Honors Club members and volunteers who keenly addressed the concerns of the students. Among the most frequently asked questions were "How does the Honors Program work and what are the requirements?", "What is the difference between a regular class and an Honors course?" and "How can I become more involved in the Honors Program?"



By the end of Club Rush, the Honors Club had substantially increased its e-mail database due to the number of students who had signed up to receive updates from the club. Students walked away with a better understanding of all the wonderful opportunities the Mesa Honors Program has to offer.



UCLA TAP *Scholars*

by Angie Rosal-White

Today, transferring from a community college to an elite four-year university is difficult, but surely possible with hard work and a little help from programs offered from your desired institution. Mesa College Honors has a partnership with UCLA: TAP, The Transfer Alliance Program. TAP allows prospective UCLA students a greater chance to transfer at the junior level from Mesa College. In order to be eligible, one must complete the Mesa Honors Program. This means completing fifteen units of UC transferable Honors courses, achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher at transfer, participating in four Honors activities, and completing ten hours of community service. The completion of the Honors program may seem rigorous, but the outcome is great.



Are you interested in becoming an Honors Club Officer? The Director of Social Media position may be for you! Attend an Honors meeting for more details.

UCLA's TAP program grants students priority consideration for admission. Also, students who are a part of TAP are allowed to choose an alternate major that they have finished pre-requisites for. This allows the student to be admitted for their alternate major if they are not admitted for their first choice major. TAP provides prospective students great opportunities and also financially aids San Diego Mesa College students.

Sasha Cecilia Davila, and Miguel Antonio Liera transferred to UCLA from San Diego Mesa College and are among the 80 students who received a Transfer Alliance Program Scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year. TAP offers an annual scholarship for transfer students entering UCLA. Students must complete the Honors program and they will be recognized as participants in the TAP Scholars Program. The TAP Scholarship entitles transferring students at least \$5,000 per year and is renewable for a second year. In order to renew the scholarship students must achieve a UCLA GPA of at least 3.0, complete 45 quarter units by the following Fall season, and participate in an undergraduate research or an off-campus internship.

Your first step to participating in TAP is to join the Mesa Honors Program online at <https://studentweb.sdccd.edu/honors>. The Transfer Alliance Program isn't something to miss for anyone who has their eyes set on UCLA.

DIRECTOR OF *Social Media*

by Jaleesa Johnson



Facebook. Twitter. YouTube. Tumblr. Most people in today's society are plugged into at least one of these social networking profiles. Virtual media sites are making the world a much smaller place in a unique and highly efficient way. The Honors Club is proud to announce that their newly appointed Director of Social Media, Vanessa Moreno, has plenty experience in the field of social media.

I, Jaleesa Johnson, Director of Public Relations, had the pleasure of interviewing Moreno to find out more about this new position, her background, her goals, and the optimism she has for the Honors Program.

Upcoming Events for December:

- *December 5*
Honors Gift Drive for Colonia 5 de Mayo, Mexico
- *December 9*
Application Due: Jack Kent Cooke \$30,000/year - Mesa Honors Office 3:00 p.m.
- *December 9*
HTCC Applications Due to Present at UC Irvine - Mesa Honors Office 3:00 p.m.

*Come to the next Honors meeting on Monday in G 105.
We'll see you at 4:15 p.m.!*

Tell me a little about your prior knowledge and experience in social media.

It all started in November 2010 when after applying for a couple of internships using InternQueen.com, I was contacted by the CEO herself. Impressed with my résumé, she asked me to join her team of campus ambassadors, and since then I have been blogging and filming videos on topics relevant to both interns and college students. Being an Intern Queen Campus Ambassador has given me the opportunity to network with professionals I never dreamed possible, among them Hollywood producers and New York PR professionals. At my first internship with AArrow Advertising I was introduced and truly immersed in social media. The company has 50 franchises worldwide so we used Skype and Google Docs to communicate. I was the Executive intern at the corporate office for 6 months before they had me training the other virtual interns, one of whom goes to Brown. My second internship was this last summer. It was a virtual PR and Editorial Internship at a college love-advice website called The College Crush.

How does Social Media, in your opinion, influence our generation and, more particularly, how will it contribute to the Mesa Honors Society?

Social Media is our generation's fundamental mode of communication. It has never been easier to express one's opinions, maintain long distance friendships, and be informed on any topic possible. Social Media has become a part of our generation's collective personality. I intend to fill the void in the Mesa Honors Program's virtual presence by reaching out to students in the medium of their choice – be it Facebook, Twitter, or any other online platform.



How do you feel about the reactions you have received from others on our Twitter and Facebook accounts? What impression do you get from it in regards to the future of the Honors Program?

Once the Honors Twitter account started being followed and mentioned by big universities such as Discovery Education, Stanford, and many UCs and CSU, I knew I was using Twitter in the right way to network and form relationships with these notable institutions. Students have responded very positively to the Facebook group, saying that the information is presented in a very organized fashion and are grateful for the important updates posted there that otherwise might have been lost in their inbox. It's very flattering to read such responses! I hope the Facebook Group remains an interactive and fun forum for all future Mesa Honors students.

What are you most excited for this semester pertaining to your new officer position in the Honors Club?

I'm definitely very excited to interact with other Mesa Honors students! Promoting the happenings of the Honors Club gives me a chance to interact with everyone involved in the program (more than 500 people!) as



*Not taking a designated Honors course next semester?
Consider filling out an Honors Contract to take your favorite class to the next level!*

well as with my fellow officers and advisors. I could not have asked to be involved in a greater team. All the officers are extremely talented and hardworking. I have a feeling we'll become great friends.

Moreno is ambitious, considerate, and never hesitates to take initiative. It has been a pleasure to work with her these past few weeks, and I look forward to the rest of what I anticipate to be a successful and fun-filled academic year. I am absolutely certain that she will take our Honors Program to a level of extreme positive publicity like never before.

PERSONAL ESSAY *Workshop*

by Vanessa Moreno

To me, the phrase, "I'm not a morning person," means that before 9:00 a.m. I do not possess the brain agility to function in a productive manner. I always prefer my classes to start later in the day, to make sure that I'm awake enough to take in the material. In fact, I'm writing this at my most productive period, 9:00 p.m. So you can imagine my reaction when I found out that the Personal Essay Writing Workshop was to be held on Friday, September 30 at 8:30 a.m.

Even with my anti-morning policy, mustering up the strength to get up early wasn't nearly as difficult as I thought. Knowing that I had the opportunity to get valuable feedback on writing my personal essay made attending the workshop a no-brainer.

The event's speakers were both highly accomplished English professors: Professor Cost, the English Department Chair, and Professor Moreno-Ikaria, English professor and member of the Writing Center staff. Since I had not taken any core English courses with them, this was my chance to get the perspectives of two of the best professors Mesa has to offer. Their opinions on my essay would surely be worth getting up early.

Among the many topics discussed, the importance of proofreading was heavily featured. There are more aspects to proofreading than just checking your spelling and grammar though. Applicants should consider tone and audience, too. These



Honors Officers:

- *Advisor*
Alison Primoza
- *President*
Case Griffiths
- *Vice President*
Vanessa Moreno
- *Secretary*
Adeleine Tran
- *Treasurer*
Nina Bunicic
- *Director of Honors Opportunities*
Morlette U. Adame
- *Director of Services*
Danny Paylor
- *Director of Fundraising*
Eric Xue
- *Co-director of Fundraising*
Jose Cabllero
- *Director of Public Relations*
Carmen Maria Gonzalez
- *Co-director of Public Relations*
Bronte Benesh
- *Co-director of Public Relations*
Paloma Dominguez
- *Director of Social Media*
Vanessa Moreno
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*Read our tweets! The Mesa Honors Club now has twitter.
Follow us at www.twitter.com/SDMesaHonors*



are extremely important characteristics that can make your statement stand out in a positive or negative way. One must be very careful to convey exactly what one means.

Because the University of California has a comprehensive review system for applications, meaning they take into account not only your grades and personal statement, but your personal circumstances and background, it is of the utmost importance to show the admissions officers a clear picture of yourself, your life, and your academic and career goals.

This workshop is one of the many resources the Honors Club provides to students seeking to transfer. I am certain that as the dreaded deadline of November 30 approached, all of the students who attended had additional confidence when submitting their personal statements. Good luck to all of those who applied!

TRANSFER DAY *Fair*

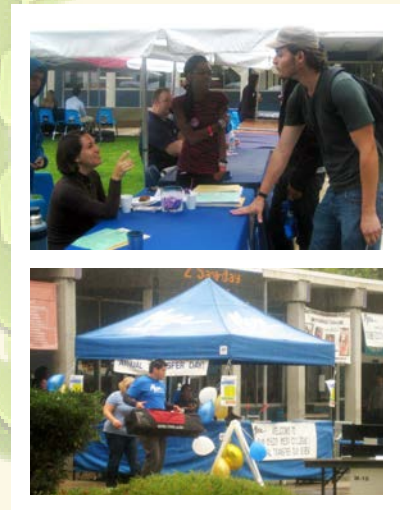
by Michael Rodriguez

October 4 didn't turn out to be the brightest or hottest day in San Diego Mesa history, but neither the temperature nor the weather stalled our annual Transfer Day. In fact, all of the students that took part in this event hardly seemed fazed by it. Transfer Day allowed Mesa's students to meet and greet transfer counselors, programs representatives, and admissions faculty of their top choice universities. The end result was a success.

Over 70 local public and private institutions were in attendance: San Diego State University, University of San Diego, Point Loma Nazarene, University of Hawaii, National University, and UCSD were all present – just to name a few. Special programs were also highlighted; from our local ROTC programs to SDSU School of Nursing.

Events like this permit students to ask questions and network directly with an array of universities and colleges. Remember that regardless of budget restrictions and the increasing competitiveness in transfer admissions, these institutions are here to recruit students like you, our Honors students.

In closing, judging by the many smiling faces and the hundreds of business cards circulated during Transfer Day, I am happy to report on our ongoing success. I look forward to the many success stories to come from our Honors students upon admittance to the program of their choice, and for those that follow in their footsteps to take advantage of future Transfer Days to come.



Over \$90,000 in scholarships will be awarded exclusively to Mesa College students!
Visit www.sdmesa.edu/scholarships to apply by February 29, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

ASG LEADERSHIP *Retreat*

by Kali Hatfield

The ASG Leadership Retreat, which took place on October 8-9, was a fantastic experience for leaders of various clubs across campus to learn the skills necessary for leading not only their respective clubs, but for everyday life leadership application. Two representatives from the Honors Club, Bronte Benesh and Vanessa Moreno, were invited to attend the retreat at the Hilton in Carlsbad. They were able to meet leaders from the San Diego Community College District such as the Chancellor and the Vice President of Student Services.



Students at the retreat also participated in workshops and team-building activities throughout the two days. Vanessa Moreno described a personality test that was given to each of the leaders, "According to our personality, there are different ways to be a leader. That was really helpful because when you realize what you are and how you are naturally inclined to work, you are better able to work your best with others." We are fortunate have learned these fresh, new skills which we can apply to our club today.

Honors Officers Continued:

- *ICC Representative (1)*
Ethan Vaughan
- *ICC Representative (2)*
Alisa Boyko
- *Editor*
Kali Hatfield
- *Co-editor*
Angie Rosal-White
- *Director,
Honors Ambassador*
Cody Schauweker

AN AFTERNOON WITH *UCSD*

by Case Griffiths

Transferring proves to be a difficult task, especially if you're carrying a full load and working part-time. In order to help prospective students find their way through the maze of websites and faculty departments and bring their hopes of a successful transfer to fruition, UCSD held an on-campus seminar.

The event, which happened on October 10, was held in front of the G-Building on Mesa's campus. It covered everything from basic questions about TAG to financial aid, on-campus housing, and even Chicano studies where students could learn about the minor in-depth with the Chicano Studies Advisor, Haydee Cervantes. Many students were encouraged to speak out and had their questions answered, and

The HTCC Conference is coming up quickly! Make sure to submit your application to present by December 18, 2011.

afterwards, were allowed to mingle with UCSD faculty.

One of the most exciting parts of the event was the opportunity for prospective transfer students to mingle and make connections with students who had already transferred from community colleges across California. One such student had transferred from our very own Mesa College, giving attendees a first-hand look at, not only how to transfer, but what life is actually like on campus as a transfer student.

The Village at Torrey Pines, an on-campus community for transfer students, was another focus of the event. According to the pamphlet handed out by coordinators, "The Village is a residential community designed especially for transfer students." Meaning for all you students who weren't aware, UCSD caters to their significantly large transfer community.

All in all, there were many reasons to spend the afternoon with all the friendly and cooperative staff from UCSD. But in the end, a successful transfer is up to the student.

To answer your questions about transfer, coordinators encourage you to visit transfer.ucsd.edu or contact the All Campus Transfer Association by sending an email to transfer@ucsd.edu or add them on Facebook at [facebook.com/ucsdata](https://www.facebook.com/ucsdata).

A WALK TO END *Alzheimer's*

by Ana Camus

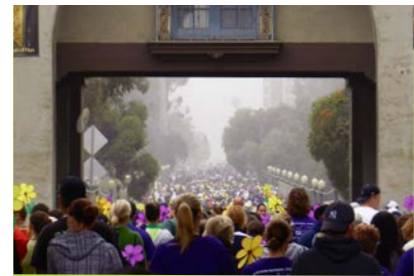
San Diego Mesa College Honors students had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Walk to End Alzheimer's the morning of Saturday, October 22.

Over one thousand people gathered in Balboa Park and walked the 5K to raise more than \$300,000 for the Alzheimer's Association. Everyone in attendance walked in solidarity by holding flowers of various colors. Each color held a different meaning. Participants that carried blue flowers had Alzheimer's, those with yellow flowers knew of somebody who suffered from the disease, and those with purple flowers were walking for moral support.

People from all over San Diego participated in the event, including Mesa students who joined in and showed support by volunteering to walk the 5K.

Although the event was not hosted by the Honors Club, volunteering to help at events such as this, college-centered or otherwise, will count toward the 10 hours of community service needed to earn the Honors Program Completion Certificate.





Another Beautiful Photograph from the Walk to End Alzheimer's
Photo Credit: Ana Camus

A BIT OF *Blood*

by Angie Rosal-White

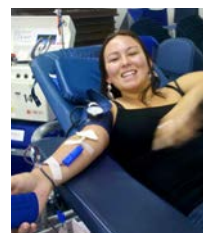
What's a Halloween at San Diego Mesa College without a little blood? October 31 and November 1, 2011 the Mesa Honors Club hosted their annual blood drive. The San Diego Blood Bank came to the College armed with certified Blood Bank nurses, six beds, and a lot of needles.

The Mesa Honors Club set up a table at room H117/118 taking appointments and helping students fill out papers to donate blood. Because the first day of the event was on Halloween, Honors students who were working the blood drive added a little fun by dressing up as vampires and zombies. The Honors Club received an overwhelming amount of donations and support from the San Diego Mesa Pre-Med/Pre-Pharm Club and the San Diego Blood Bank.



The San Diego Blood Bank has been around since 1950 and is dedicated to "saving lives with quality blood services in partnership with the community." On October

31 and November 1, Mesa college was that community. Over the two days, the Honors Club was able to help the San Diego Blood Bank collect 125 units of usable blood from San Diego Mesa students, a number that the Honors Club is proud to report.



A Special Thanks to Our Writers:

- Ana Camus
Alzheimer's Walk
- Case Griffiths
An Afternoon with UCSD
- Kali Hatfield
Ice-cream Social
ASG Retreat
Devlin at UM
Summer Dunsmore
- Jaleesa Johnson
Social Media Director
- Vanessa Moreno
Club Rush
Essay Writing Workshop
- Michael Rodriguez
Transfer Day
- Angie Rosal-White
UCLA TAP
Blood Drive

If you are interested in having your writing featured in the next newsletter, please contact Kali at kalihatfield@gmail.com

DEVLIN AT THE *University of Miami*

by Kali Hatfield

As high-achieving Honors students, we find ourselves so caught up in our day-to-day lives, running here and running there, that we find difficulty in taking the time to imagine what all of this hard work will amount to. The Mesa Honors Program, and all that we do here on campus, is a stepping stone on the path to achieving our dreams.

When Devlin McGlohn attended Mesa College, he found the Honors Program to be his catalyst to a bright future. Devlin now attends the University of Miami School of Medicine and really enjoys where he is at both academically and in life. Looking back, he is able to fully appreciate the tremendous opportunities afforded to him during his time here at Mesa.

We are given the chance to peer into the future when reading the letter below from Devlin at the University of Miami. Next year, or the year after, this could be you!

Hi Dr. P.

I just wanted to give you an update on where I am and what I have been doing. I was accepted into the MPH program at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and everything happened so fast so I am already here in Miami and school started last week. I am loving the program and I will be transitioning next year into the MD program as well. I am also starting next week my work at the Sylvester Cancer Center at UM and that will be nice since I will be in the area that interests me. Miami is really nice and so is everyone at the school (professors and students). Thank you so much for helping me arrive where I am today, I really appreciate it and I will keep in touch. Hope all is well in San Diego, hopefully I will be able to visit soon.

Sincerely,
Devlin McGlohn

DREAM BIG LIKE *Summer Dunsmore*

by Kali Hatfield

She may not be one to toot her own horn, but I sure will! Summer Dunsmore, who recently attended Mesa College and transferred to UC Berkeley, is making amazing progress toward her life goals. Not only did she earn the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship and make it to the university of her dreams, but she was also able to study abroad in England at Cambridge University.

Summer is now juggling a full schedule up at UC Berkeley while writing and photographing for *Consequence of Sound*, a reputable music blog site. She also landed a position with *XL Recordings* working as the campus promoter at UC Berkeley, in which she is able to design the marketing campaigns to specifically target her fellow students.

And that's not all! After graduating with her Bachelor's Degree, she hopes to travel abroad and spend her time volunteering. Then she plans to apply to work at BBC as a journalist and go on to

graduate school.

Upon reading Summer Dunsmore's recent review of the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival, I was impressed by her stylistic use of imagery and excited by her stunning photographs.

This piece is definitely worth taking a look for yourself. The article can be found at <http://consequenceofsound.net/2011/10/festival-review-cos-at-hardly-strictly-bluegrass-2011>.

It is so inspiring to hear about Summer Dunsmore's success because she started here at Mesa College as we did. She walked our campus, learned from our professors, and sat in the very seats that we do for Honors meetings. Don't be afraid to dream big and before you know it, we'll be the ones pushing our dreams to the limit.



A Special Thanks to Our Photographers:

- Carol Beilstein
Blood Drive
- Ana Camus
Alzheimer's Walk
- Vanessa Moreno
Club Rush
Transfer Day
Writing Workshop



Honors Club Fall 2011

Have you registered to be a part of Honors for Spring 2011 yet?
Go to <https://studentweb.sdccd.edu/honors> to apply.