



The Honors Program at Mt. San Antonio College

# My HonorsSpace

**Honors Office 15-3**  
(909) 594-5611, ext. 4665  
Mon—Thurs 9:30—4:00; Wed. 9:30—6:30

<http://honors.mtsac.edu>  
[honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:honors@mtsac.edu)

### Inside this issue:

Writing Personal Statements	2
Tips for Communication Majors	2
Workshops and Deadlines	2
Welcome to Professor Dafna Kohn	3
Phi Theta Kappa update	4
BUSC 1AH hosts a luncheon	4

## Want a feather in your cap? Present at the Building Bridges Conference at UC Irvine!

**Set yourself apart** and strengthen your application by presenting at the annual Building Bridges Conference at UC Irvine on March 17, 2007! Every year, the Honors Program takes honors students to UC Irvine to present their work at this annual conference. Students work with a faculty mentor to develop a presentation based on a paper or project from a class or intern-



ship.. Presentations may be individual, group, posters or performance. Students may also debate on the topic: *Blurred Boundaries: Exploring the Economic and Cul-*

*tural Benefits and Challenges of Immigration* Students may also volunteer as a Conference Moderator- moderators introduce the speakers and help lead discussion.

Email [honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:honors@mtsac.edu) for an application. You will submit a 100-word abstract with your faculty mentor's approval **by December 4th**. You will have until March to complete the presentation.

We hope you'll join us!

### Special Events

**November 9, 6 p.m. Room 15-1**

Film: "The Times of Harvey Milk"

**November 11, 9 a.m.** Bower's Museum trip. Carpool from Mt. SAC. **RSVP** to [ptk@mtsac.edu](mailto:ptk@mtsac.edu).

**November 11, Diamond Bar** PetsMart Help pets find homes. To help, email Nora Castrejon ([nora\\_hik@hotmail.com](mailto:nora_hik@hotmail.com)).

**November 16, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Room 15-1** Let's talk about War: a panel discussion

**November 18: Visit the Getty Museum!** RSVP by Nov. 13 to [Honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:Honors@mtsac.edu).

**November 30, 5:30—7:30 p.m., Room 15-1** Film: "Water"

**December 7, 12 to 4 p.m.:** Honors cultural potluck- bring a dish from your culture

**More events in the Honors Center**

## This summer, study history *where it happened!*: Go to London with Professor Spaulding By Megan Stoner



Add excitement and academic challenge to your summer! Join Professor Ralph Spaulding, Mt. SAC history professor for nearly 37 years, for a month in London (mid June to late July).

You can study World Civilization (HIST 3/3H, 4/4H) with Professor Spaulding, and English (ENGL 1A/AH, 1B/BH, 1C/CH) with Professor Mary Brackenhoff. Instead of the repetitive environment of a stuffy classroom, you will experi-

ence hands-on learning and excursions to historical landmarks and cities. With only 20 hours in the classroom during the entire trip, you will be immersed in the culture and history will come alive around you. Use your four-day weekends for independent travel to destinations like Paris, Amsterdam, Prague, and even Barcelona!

\$6,300.00 includes airfare, housing, transportation in London, trips to the theatre, and adventures to Stonehenge and Edinborough. Contact Americo Marano in Room 15-17 (909-594-5611 x5273), or [RSPAULDING@mtsac.edu](mailto:RSPAULDING@mtsac.edu) for an application and more information. See you in London!

**Workshops and  
Important Deadlines**

**November 8, 3 to 5 p.m.**  
Workshop: Get feedback on your Personal Statements- Bring a rough draft.

**November 28th, 4 to 5:30 p.m.** What Mt. SAC classes should you take for the UCs?

**November 29th, 4 p.m.**  
**Honors Orientation-** Required once for all honors students. Please RSVP to [honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:honors@mtsac.edu)

**November 30, 4:30 p.m.**  
**Honors Orientation-** Required once for all honors students. Please RSVP to [honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:honors@mtsac.edu)

**Dec. 4: Deadline to apply to present** at Building Bridges Conference at UC Irvine in March

**December 5, 2 to 3 p.m.**  
Scholarship Workshop: Preparing a winning application

**December 15, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Honors Orientation-** Required once for all honors students. RSVP to [honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:honors@mtsac.edu)

**February 19 to 22 (9 to 2:30 p.m.)** UCLA TAP applicants- Come into Honors and sign your UCLA TAP Certification Form. *Without your signature, you won't be TAP-certified.*

**March 17, 8 to 4:30 p.m.**  
Present at the Building Bridges Conference at UC Irvine (application deadline is Dec. 4)

**Eat the elephant one bite at a time: *Writing the dreaded personal statement*** By Linda Diaz

Would you rather be buried under cockroaches, be force-fed stinky tofu, or write your personal statement? Chances are the cockroaches would win! But now is the time to be writing those crucial words that help you stand out. The Advising Center offers several Personal Statement Workshops to guide you through the process (dates are in the Honors Center). Although it may seem scary, English Professor John Brantingham points



out that *time* makes the difference between good writing and bad, so start right away! Then bring your rough draft, to the Honors "How to Write your Personal Statement" workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP to [honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:honors@mtsac.edu).



**Become a Certified Honors Program Scholar**

***If you complete*** at least 30 transferable units including, 6 Honors classes with at least a C, and maintain a 3.2,

***then you'll be recognized*** as a Certified Honors Program Scholar on your transcript, and be invited to the Honors Celebration Dinner the spring before you leave Mt. SAC!

**Communication Majors, Read This FIRST!**  
By Professor Liesel Reinhart

Communication is one of the most popular—and most misunderstood- majors. The discipline is extremely broad, and few (if any) schools offer coursework in each facet of the field. It is crucial that students planning to transfer from Mt. SAC into a major in communication know the type of program to which they are applying.

For instance, many of the UC programs in California take a highly theoretical approach to the subject. Students engage in critical reading, writing and discussion about media, culture, politics, and other topics, but do not learn the applied skills that they might at some CSUs and at USC.

To find the right program for you, first narrow the fields in which you want to work, then look at the websites of each school you are considering. Review the required and elective courses in the communication major to see if your goals are compatible. For instance, if you plan to teach college

or attend law school, UCLA might be a good fit. However, if you are interested in public relations, management consulting, or performance studies, you may be better suited for a CSU or USC.

The Mt. SAC Communication faculty can help you make the best match and make sure you are well-prepared for your communication major while at Mt. SAC. All communication majors, for instance, should participate in our national championship forensics team. When you list "communication major" on your resume, employers expect outstanding communication skills. Public speaking and forensics courses tend to be lower division courses, so get this training *before* you transfer. Forensics may also help you to transfer into impacted programs and win scholarships.

Questions about careers in Communication or the forensics team? Communicate with us at [forensics@mtsac.edu](mailto:forensics@mtsac.edu).

## Honors Welcomes Professor Dafna Kohn by Cheryl Jamison

Gone are the days when Physical Geography was defined as a catalog of continents, mountains, oceans and rivers. Instead, students develop a greater appreciation of the earth's landscape and its relation to the global environment which humans face. New Honors Program professor, Dafna Kohn, explains that through investigative research and problem solving, students adopt "a spatial perspective" of earth, utilizing both close views and over-views.

Professor Kohn's enthusiastic lectures, replete with interactive power point displays, guide students through a course which offers relevant information about the "life-sustaining environment that surrounds and infuses our lives." This course allows students to fulfill their physical science requirement, while gaining exposure to a unique discipline that "integrates knowledge from many fields to form a coherent picture of the world." The study of Physical Geography is beneficial to other majors and careers: Sociology (migration of cultures to specific locations); Political Science

(defining boundaries based on physical land forms) or Linguistics (languages specific to certain regions).

The curriculum for her Honors Physical Geography course "emphasizes critical and creative thinking." Professor Kohn divides students into groups to research specific areas of the global warming debate and present their findings and viewpoints to peers. In addition to writing assignments, students are encouraged to share their thoughts in class. In this manner, students cultivate necessary skills to understand and correlate the occurrence of natural activities to our global environment. The Honors Geography Lab may be taken with this course or at a later date.

Professor Kohn brings to her students a well-developed appreciation of her discipline. After graduating from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor's degree in Geography, she continued her education at CSU, Los Angeles, receiving a Masters' degree in Geography. She worked as a Geographic Information System (GIS) technician for the National Park Service, where

she identified urban land areas used by bobcats and coyotes, digitized archeological sites, and created a virtual atlas of historical maps. Additionally, Professor Kohn has participated in several projects that increase "greening" efforts. She has taught Geography at Mt. SAC since 2001; and we welcome her to the Honors program.

This winter, Professor Kohn will teach GEOG 1H and GEOG Lab 1H. To learn more, please contact Dafna Kohn (ext.4844 or dkohn@mtsac.edu).



### UCLA applicants, consider TAP!

UCLA's Transfer Alliance Program offers priority consideration if you meet the following requirements:

- $\geq 3.2$  cumulative bachelor-level GPA by end of Fall 2006
- Well-prepared for your major by Fall 2006
- Completed  $\geq 6$  Mt. SAC Honors classes by Spring/Summer 2007
- **Not** majoring in Film, Engineering or Communication.

**To apply to UCLA through this program**, come to the Honors Center and sign up for TAP (Transfer Alliance Program) **before** submitting your UC application. In February (Feb. 19 to 22, 2007) come to the Honors Office and sign your TAP Form. *Without your signature, you will not be TAP-certified.* If you are not applying until next year, sign up next fall.

## Phi Theta Kappa blends Leadership, Service and Scholarship

Alpha Omega Alpha, the chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Mt. SAC recently hosted an induction ceremony for its 70 new members . The chapter has been active all semester, with events such as Project Green, a campus cleanup and beautification project, and Global Dynamics of Power, a series of films (Hotel Rwanda, Water) and panel presentations. A recent panel presentations entitled Women and the Global Dynamics of Power featured Mt. SAC History Professors Kimberly Earhart, Kate Cannon, and representatives from Code Pink. The next discussion, "Let's talk about War," will be held Thursday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. in 15-1 and will feature History Professor Ralph Spaulding, AnswerLA and CodePink.

The Alpha Omega Alpha chapter is also partnering with non-profit organization Bridge2Peace to support efforts to educate displaced children by the Sri Lankan tsunami ([www.bridge2peace.org](http://www.bridge2peace.org)). The chapter is collecting donations and seeking Phi Theta Kappa students to teach English in Sri Lanka this summer. To donate or find out more, email [ptk@mtsac.edu](mailto:ptk@mtsac.edu).



### The power of networking: Econ Honors students host a luncheon

Only Honors students would give up their Friday to eat lunch with Administrators and Mt. SAC college staff! Thanks to the efforts of Professor Amrik Dua and Honors student Brenda Win, and with help from the Business Division, the BUSC 1A Honors class hosted a luncheon on October 27th to give students a chance to meet with Mt. SAC administrators and staff. Brenda explained that the event would make students more comfortable asking for help and getting advice. Students had a rare opportunity to talk with Deans Bob Ferris, Cheryl Marshall, and Ginny Burley, and get advice on their major, classes, and transfer applications.



**Honors course reference numbers** have been emailed to Honors students in good standing . If you have not received them, please email Dr. Louie your name and student ID ([honors@mtsac.edu](mailto:honors@mtsac.edu))

**ENGLISH 1C HONORS will be offered this winter, M-Th, 7:30 to 10:10 am!**

#### New Honors Classes

##### Winter 2007

**GEOG 1H (with or without lab)**

M-Th, 10:30 am -12:35 pm

**GEOB 1H Lab** (must take GEOG 1H)

M-Th, 1:20-3:25

##### Spring 2007

**CHEM 50H & LAB** MW 8:00 - 11:10 am and MW 11:30 - 12:55 pm