MESA Counseling
Hours for Fall 2012
Mon 12:30– 3:00pm
Tues 3:00– 5:30pm
Wed 3:00– 6:00pm
Thurs 9:30–11:30am

MESA Center
Room 434
Hours:
Mon 8:30am-4:00pm
Tues 8:30am-12:30pm
& 1:00-5:30pm
Wed 8:30am-6:00pm
Thurs 8:30am-3:00pm
Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

MESA Student Seeks Cure
By Shemila Johnson, Public Relations SCC

FAIRFIELD, CA, MAY 22, 2012: Solano Community College (SCC) produces phenomenal students and the success story of graduating student, Abraham Gacad is no exception. A six year SCC student; graduating with five degrees in Physics, Chemistry, Math, General Science and Liberal Arts; accepted to University of California, Davis in the Fall to major in Chemical Engineering, recipient of the 2012 National Science Foundation- Scholarship for Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics; and Solano College Outstanding Students Achievement in Excellence Award, Abraham plans to build a career in the field of Cancer research. His ultimate educational goal is to earn his Doctoral Degree in Chemical Engineering; however Abraham’s objective for summer 2012 is to obtain an internship in science or engineer-

Abraham Gacad, Chemical Engineering
Students Choose Path to Leadership

By Danielle McNamara, Assistant Director of Communications-MESA Statewide

that eight SCC students: Alonzo Brown, Raul Ramirez, Bibiana Mejia, Sante Thomas, Leah Ferrell, Jenna Gu, Asifa Wong and Antara Finney were selected to attend a Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) leadership conference. The event was held at the Happy Valley Conference Center in Santa Cruz, CA April 13-15. The retreat was an opportunity for community college students to interact, network and build leadership skills.

More than 150 MESA community colleges students from throughout the state met in the Santa Cruz area for the MESA Student Leadership Retreat. Students were chosen based on their leadership potential. The event included field experiments handling chemistry and engineering design, industry speakers and hands-on breakout sessions.

Presenters from Genentech, Oracle, NASA and the Society of Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) spoke to students. The Hispanic College Fund partially funded the event. MESA is an award-winning academic enrichment program that provides educationally disadvantaged students with the tools to earn bachelor’s degrees in math-based fields. With tutoring, mentoring, study sessions, transfer counseling and study centers, MESA provides an environment that allows students to succeed and navigate the transfer system more easily. MESA has programs in more than 30 community colleges in California and one hundred percent of MESA students who go to four-year College enter as math-based majors.

MESA Student Receives $5,000 Grant

By Shemila Johnson, Public Relations SCC

Arturo Castillo was awarded a $5,000 grant from the 2012 Dwight David Eisenhower Community College Fellowship Program. Arturo will also have the opportunity to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual meeting this coming January in Washington, DC.

As stated in their website, “The Transportation Research Board engages professionals worldwide in a broad range of interdisciplinary, multimodal activities to lay the foundation for innovative transportation solutions.” The Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program (DDETFP) awards fellowships to exemplary students pursuing degrees in transportation-related disciplines. This program advances the transportation workforce by attracting the brightest minds to the field through education, research, and workforce development.

This scholarship will be helpful to Arturo as he pursues his major in Civil Engineering where he plans to transfer to Sacramento State University in the Fall of 2013.

In addition to being a dedicated student, Arturo has taken the lead in working with a non-profit organization and fellow MESA students to plan and build a K-12 school in Cherette, Haiti. In 2011 Arturo was elected by the students as the Associated Students of Solano College’s Legislative Advocate. Throughout his academic career Arturo has held leadership positions in the Puente club and the MESA Student Society. As one of the country’s most innovative and successful programs, MESA works with thousands of educationally disadvantaged students they excel in math and science and graduate with math-based degrees. MESA works closely with industry partners and the University of California, California State University, the California Community Colleges, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the State Department of Education. MESA is nationally recognized for its innovative academic development program.
2012 SACNAS Conference - A Whole New World of Opportunities!
By Bibiana Mejia, Biology-Fall 2013 & Antara Finney, Biology-Fall 2014

We all have had experiences that change the direction in which our lives are moving. A number of people also had experiences that allowed them to realize their purpose in life in terms of academic goals and personal development. Such moments of awareness are forever to be remembered. Not too long ago, we thought we had a clear vision of what needed to be done in order to fulfill our academic goals. Antara Finney and I, Bibiana Mejia, attended the 2012 SACNAS National Conference that took place in Seattle, Washington from Wednesday October 11th through Sunday October 14th and we have realized how clueless we were about the variety of opportunities that are offered to help us reach our final goals. This event opened our eyes to a whole new world we did not know existed. It encouraged us to continue reaching our goals and dreams.

The 2012 SACNAS National Conference is one of the largest national gatherings for minority students seeking or pursuing a career in the science field. We were both first time attendees at the conference this year. Upon arrival, we registered at our hotel, got settled in, and made our way to the conference room to register. We were welcomed by a group of people who explained to us what we were going to do for the next few days. The following day we started networking with different people who had similar majors as ours. Some of those majors were biology, economics, pre-med, pre-vet, etc. We felt welcomed and had a feeling that we were going to have a great time. We were overwhelmed by the number of students presenting their research projects, as well as the number of university representatives recruiting students and giving information about research opportunity programs. We attended a field trip to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, which allowed us to get a sense of what it feels like to work in a lab. Not only did the conference provide numerous opportunities such as workshops, networking, career research, and inspiring speakers, it also brought together students from different ethnicities and cultural backgrounds and promoted a sense of community.

As you can imagine, this has been a tremendous experience and we are beyond thankful to have been a part of this wonderful event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)</th>
<th>MESA Student Society (MSS)</th>
<th>Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President: Alonzo Brown</td>
<td>President: Antara Finney</td>
<td>President: Alonzo Brown/Jenna Gu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Info: <a href="mailto:boyod@ymail.com">boyod@ymail.com</a></td>
<td>Vice President: Vincent Gacad</td>
<td>Vice President: Leah Ferrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact Info: <a href="mailto:antarafinney@gmail.com">antarafinney@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Contact Info: <a href="mailto:boyod@ymail.com">boyod@ymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Medical Student Association (AMSA)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vincent.gacad@gmail.com">vincent.gacad@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennakoo@yahoo.com">jennakoo@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President: Matthew Pinkerton-Lloyd</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:leahfrll@gmail.com">leahfrll@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President: Chris Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Info: <a href="mailto:sccamsa@gmail.com">sccamsa@gmail.com</a></td>
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Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) Clubs
MESA High-Achievers

Anamaria Eljach has been the Student government Trustee, Vice President of SACNAS, President of MESA Student Society, Recipient of Solano College 2012 Excellence in Achievement Award, and Spring 2012 Haiti Humanitarian Volunteer/Participant.

Jiaxing (Jenna) Gu was a recipient of Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic 2nd Team Award. She is co-president of SHPE, an active member of MESA Student Society and Rotaract, and is treasurer for International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering. She volunteers as a tutor for the MESA Program and continues to volunteer for other various organizations.

Matthew Pinkerton-Lloyd was a recipient of Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic 1st Team Award and the Solano College 2012 Excellence in Achievement Award. He is President of AMSA, an active member of MESA Student Society, and Rotaract. He was a Spring 2012 Haiti Humanitarian Volunteer/Participant, and he continues to volunteer for various organizations on and off campus.

Abraham Gacad was MESA Student Society Vice President, Recipient of MESA NSF S-STEM Scholarship, Recipient of Solano College 2012 Excellence in Achievement Award, Spring 2012 Haiti Humanitarian Volunteer/Participant and Tutor for the MESA program.

Science Funnies

Have a laugh before your next class!

- An ion walks into a bar looking really depressed, the barman asks why he looks so sad and the ion says he has lost an electron, the barman asks is he sure and the ion replies, “I am positive!”

- A neutron walks into a bar; he asks the bartender: "How much for a beer?" The bartender looks at him and says: "For you, it’s no charge".

- A frog went to visit a fortune teller. "What do you see in my future?" asked the frog. "Very soon," replied the fortune teller, "you will meet a pretty young girl who will want to know everything about you." "That’s great!" said the frog, hopping up and down excitedly. "But when will I meet her?" "Next week in science class." said the fortune teller.

- Biology is the only science in which multiplication means the same thing as division.

A Special Thanks

The MESA Program of Solano Community College would like to thank the following for their support and generous donations to the MESA Foundation in Spring 2012:

- Tara Dacus
- Kitchell Construction Management
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Tara Dacus
Kitchell Construction Management
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
In the summer of 2011, Water Education International approached Solano College’s President Jowel Laguerre to work on a project in his home village of St. Georges, Haiti. While reluctant at first, Dr. Laguerre accepted the challenge and has shared it with some of the students in the MESA program. Over the last year three trips have been made by Dr. Laguerre, the MESA director Mostafa Ghaus, and several MESA students to renovate a seriously dilapidated school site in a nearby village of Cherette and host medical clinics in these villages. I was so fortunate to be a part of the team that went on this trip last April.

It was really life changing to see people so hungry for knowledge, education, and ways that they might better their lives and the lives of their neighbors. They are very capable people and I am so thankful to take part in a project that will empower those capabilities. It has been special to me to build a bridge with some of the people I met along the way and cultivate relationships with other MESA students. By far, the greatest reward was being a part of the medical clinics and not only helping in the impactful empowerment of literally hundreds of people, but being open to them touching my life. I look forward to returning.

On the most recent trip in July, much progress was made. Our hope is that the reconstruction of the school facilities will be completed by the end of October of this year. However, much work still needs to be done, most notably by way of fundraising. If you have any great ideas please share them with Mostafa Ghaus, Arturo Castillo, a member of the MESA Staff, or myself. Also stay open to the possibilities of participating in similar projects in the near future as I know they are in the works.
Solano Community College Graduate Seeks Cure

By Shemila Johnson, Public Relations SCC

Seeks Cure…. Continued from page 1

“I learned professionalism, responsibility, leadership, and mentoring through the academic programs and clubs. The resources offered at the school were a great support, my grade point average increased every semester after joining MESA,” shared Abraham. “The project for Haiti (building a school in a remote village) has also taught me invaluable life lessons. We raised about $20,000 to fund this project through fundraising activities and building partnerships with local business owners. Not only have I learned the curriculum for Chemical Engineering, but also Civil Engineering through my experiences and opportunities at SCC!”

Abraham’s siblings, Farrah Gacad (older sister) and Vincent Gacad (younger brother) are also SCC student successes. Farrah graduated from SCC and will graduate with her Bachelor’s degree from Sacramento State University in December 2012, and Vincent currently attends Solano planning to run for Presidency of the MSS club in the fall. The Gacad family embodies the SCC mission and vision, congratulations Abraham on your present and future success!

Congrats to Students on MESA Director’s List!
The following students earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher for Spring 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latifah Alexander</th>
<th>Colin Ferguson</th>
<th>Baban Malhi</th>
<th>Donna Sandoval</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Amin</td>
<td>Leah Ferrell</td>
<td>Gregory Maring</td>
<td>Lakshay Seth</td>
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<td>Walid Arghandewal</td>
<td>Antara Finney</td>
<td>Karen Martinez</td>
<td>Pei-Ju Shih</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chanratha Augustus</td>
<td>Abraham Gacad</td>
<td>Monica Moelk</td>
<td>Akashdeep Singh</td>
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<td>Naser Baig</td>
<td>Vincent Gacad</td>
<td>Amr Mohamed</td>
<td>Naila Souder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casey Bess</td>
<td>Jenna Gu</td>
<td>Silvia Murguia</td>
<td>Bita Teymouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gurdev Biring</td>
<td>Tony Guevara</td>
<td>Nehemiah O’Neal</td>
<td>Mitra Teymouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Bock</td>
<td>Edgar Guzman</td>
<td>Matthew Pinkerton-Lloyd</td>
<td>Sante Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Braich</td>
<td>Sandy Harapetian</td>
<td>Jimmy Quach</td>
<td>Khon Tram</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alonzo Brown</td>
<td>Michelle Johnson</td>
<td>Hazel Quintanilla</td>
<td>Sean Tran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arturo Castillo</td>
<td>Alamgir Kandhari</td>
<td>Ciclady Rodriguez</td>
<td>Maria Vasquez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Cox</td>
<td>Candace Lambert</td>
<td>Jamie Rodriguez</td>
<td>Qi Wang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Dang</td>
<td>Rickey Lee</td>
<td>Joel Rodriguez</td>
<td>Asifa Wong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie DaRosa</td>
<td>Sijie Lin</td>
<td>Viridiana Ruiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anamaria Eljach</td>
<td>Ting Lin</td>
<td>Julio Sanchez</td>
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Mission Statement:

MESA supports and enables educationally and economically disadvantaged students to prepare and graduate to a four-year college or university with a math-based degree in areas such as engineering, the sciences, computer sciences or computer engineering, and mathematics.

Through MESA, students develop academic and leadership skills, increased educational performance, and gain confidence in their ability to compete professionally…. MESA students will be able to make significant contributions to the socioeconomic well-being of their families and their communities.

GROUP TUTORING SCHEDULE FOR:

FALL 2012

AMR MOHAMED
MATH 104
Monday & Wednesday
10am – 12pm

GEOFFREY FREIRE
CIS 1, 15, 22  IT 101
MT 120, 122, 140, 162
MICROSOFT OFFICE 66,90
Monday 1 – 2pm
Wednesday 12 – 2pm

ANGIE CORTES
M.A. Mathematics
B.S. English
MATH 2, 4, 11, 20, 21, 30, 31, 51, 103, 104
ENGLISH 1, 2, 4, 30
Friday 1 – 3pm

JENNA GU
MATH 104, 20, 21
CHEM 160, 1, 2
Friday 10 – 11am

VINCENT GACAD
MATH 104, 20, 21
PHYSICS 6
Friday 10am – 12pm

ANTARA FINNEY
MATH 104, 30 & 31
CHEM 160, 1
Tuesday 9:30 – 10:30am

LEAH FERRELL
MATH 104
CHEM 160
BIO 16
ENGLISH 1
Monday & Wednesday
12:30-1:30pm

All tutoring sessions will take place in the MESA Center. Please check the white board in the Center for any last minute schedule changes.
The Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program at Solano Community College was started in 1992 to serve economically and educationally underrepresented students. The focus was to encourage them, through a wide range of services, to develop the pre-requisite academic and leadership skills necessary to transfer to, and later graduate from, a four-year university with a degree in mathematics, engineering, and/or science. This semestral newsletter keeps the wider community and participants informed of what is happening at the MESA Center and the MESA/Solano community.