



Mt. San Jacinto College

One Free Copy



# the TALON

The Holiday Edition

**Dec. 18, 2012**  
Volume I Issue II

Mt. San Jacinto College student Robert Venegas smiled as he received the iPad he won from the Riverside Transit Agency's recent ridership contest and knew right away what he would do with it.

"I'm giving it to my father who just had open heart surgery," Robert said. "This is the first thing I've ever won. My father deserves it because he postponed his surgery in order to make it to my high school graduation."

The RTA's iPad giveaway contest for Mt. San Jacinto College students ran through the month of November. The contest was held to commemorate the flourishing Go-Pass and U-Pass programs that for six years have given students unlimited rides on RTA buses by simply swiping their school IDs, according to the RTA. The winner was selected

randomly from the batch of student ID numbers collected during the month when MSJC riders swiped their cards.

The Go-Pass program at MSJC started when students voted in Spring 2011 on the program. For a \$6 per semester fee, MSJC students can ride RTA buses anywhere.

Robert, who is majoring in music, was in his Theatre Scenic Design class on Nov. 26 when the announcement was made that he won the iPad. Robert said he rides RTA about four times a day, from school to work and back home.

"I like it because it is an inexpensive way to get around," he said.

Brad Weaver, an RTA spokesman, says that a large portion of RTA's riders are students.

"We have noticed the trend for students is not one bus to one place but multiple buses to multiple places," Weaver said. "This

Student Wins Ipad from



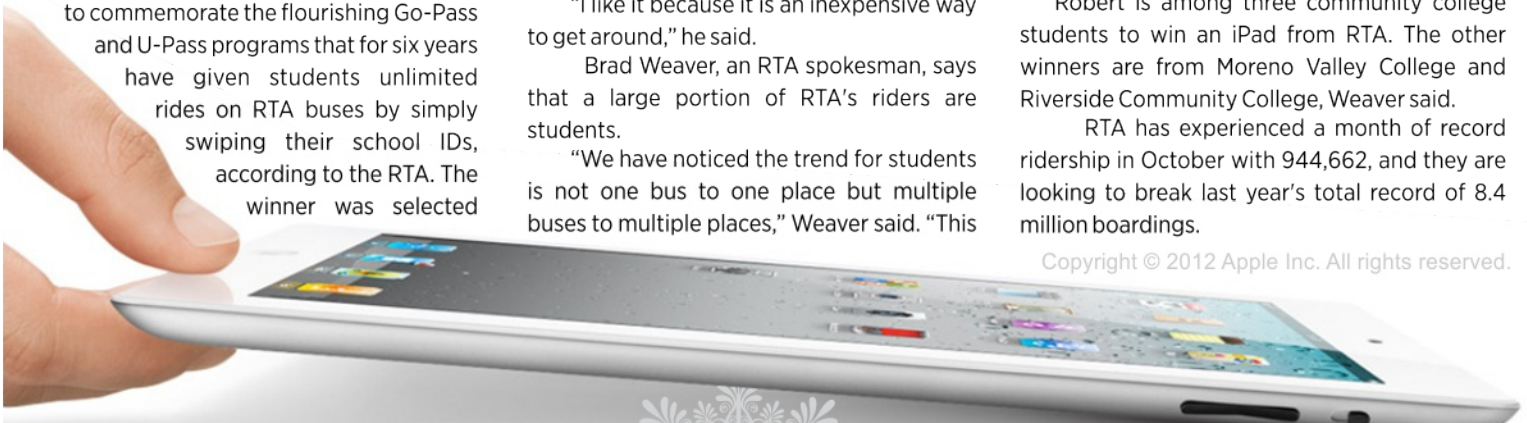
**Riverside Transit Agency**  
BY JEFFERY PATTERSON  
Public Relations Officer, the Talon

is our way of celebrating and saying thank you to the students who ride the bus."

Robert is among three community college students to win an iPad from RTA. The other winners are from Moreno Valley College and Riverside Community College, Weaver said.

RTA has experienced a month of record ridership in October with 944,662, and they are looking to break last year's total record of 8.4 million boardings.

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## FOUNDATION AWARDS **72** STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

by Shawnees Peacock Staff Writer

The annual Fall Scholarship Awards Ceremony held by the Mt. San Jacinto College Foundation took place on Nov. 14 at the Menifee Valley campus and awarded nearly \$55,700 to 72 students.

Since 1983, the nonprofit Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships. It also provides funding for instructional equipment and facility improvements. The Foundation actively seeks support from donors to boost scholarships.

Students may feel that applying for scholarships is time consuming and a waste of time since chances of winning are slim, but Lesia Navarro, the foundation scholarship



PHOTO COURTESY OF MSJC

coordinator, stated, "Our scholarships are primarily for MSJC students only, so you have a better chance of winning the scholarship as opposed to the ones provided elsewhere."

The general requirements for many of the available scholarships are that the student must have at least 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Depending on the source of the scholarship, the criteria may also include that a student declare their major on the application, write an essay, and/or be a part of an organization affiliated with the donor.

One major tip that Navarro stresses to students hoping to win a scholarship is to pay close attention to the questions on the application. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** >>>>

# Q and A

with Tom Ashley



MSJC's Newly Elected Trustee

By Emily McKellar *Editor-In-Chief*

Tom Ashley is the new Mt. San Jacinto College Trustee for Area 5, which covers Murrieta and Temecula students. Ashley ran against Guy Romero when Joan Sparkman stepped down from her position.

Ashley is currently a World History and AP Human Geography teacher at Paloma Valley High School. He is also a member on the Perris Union High School District Educational Planning Committee, which approves UC transferrable courses for students.

"I have a background in teaching and administration, so I'm a perfect fit for knowing the kinds of students who go into a community college," he said.

I got the opportunity to sit down with Ashley and talk about his plans for MSJC.

**Q:** Why did you run for a position on the MSJC Board of Trustees?

**A:** I ran because I want to make a true impact on my home community. My family has always been involved in the community. When the position became available, it was like a door opened, and now I have a great opportunity to contribute. Now I'm transitioning from campaign mode to rolling up my sleeves and governing.

**Q:** As the new trustee, what are some of your goals?

**A:** My goals are student-centered. I want us to offer as many classes as possible in the areas students need in order to decrease their travel time. I want to hire more fulltime professors to be there at all hours in order for students to build better relationships with them. If we hire more fulltime faculty, it creates an atmosphere of scholarship and academia that students recognize.

**Q:** Do you plan to focus on anything specific in your area?

**A:** My direct constituents are students in Murrieta and most of Temecula. We need to focus on the issues of losing students to Palomar Community College, because the commute time to our campuses is too far. We need to look at what makes Temecula and Murrieta special and take advantage of those resources, or we'll lose students.

**Q:** What about the Temecula Education Complex?

**A:** In the long run, we need to look at serving students in Temecula, because I don't think an office building is going to do it. The parking is a nightmare, and the rent is expensive. The state will never put money into a rental, so we need to secure land in Temecula.

**Q:** Even though it's not in your area, what do you think of the San Jacinto campus?

**A:** The San Jacinto campus needs a lot of TLC. I want students to know I care deeply about that campus because it's in a good spot to serve a large population, but it needs some care.

**Q:** Our football team is on that campus, so what would like to do with our athletics?

**A:** We deserve better than what high schools have. I would like to have state of the art facilities, not just for football, but for every sport.

**Q:** One of your goals you talked about during your campaign was to restore funding. Can you elaborate on that?

**A:** The funding mechanism is favorable for our school because of the number of students we have. We need to put money into our

community colleges because it's the most affordable way for students to get their general education or vocational training. If we're not educating people, then they're not as employable, so we have to deal with a state that is falling behind.

**Q:** You have a lot of fresh ideas, so how do those come to fruition when you're on a governing board?

**A:** I'm only one of five people, so I'll have to work with everybody on the board on a shared vision. But we can't accept what we have as the new normal, or we'll miss out on opportunities to grow.

**Q:** You're a product of community college. You attended RCC and transferred to Berkeley. How have things changed?

**A:** The cost of education prevents students from following their true dreams. We're not paying it forward like we should be. When I was a student it was almost free to go to community college. Now it's about \$1,300 a year to go fulltime, which is around what I paid to go to Berkeley.

**Q:** What is your advice to community college students?

**A:** You have to believe in yourself. Once I got engaged and tried my hardest, I had an epiphany. It lit a fire under me.

Follow the trustee's every move at  
[FACEBOOK.COM](https://www.facebook.com/VoteTomAshley)  
[VoteTomAshley](https://www.facebook.com/VoteTomAshley)

# Menifee Campus Opens



# Veterans Resource Center



With more than 800 student veterans in attendance, Mt. San Jacinto College has made a priority to give back to those who have fought for our country.

The school opened the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) on the Menifee Valley campus on Nov. 8 during a ceremony that coincided with the school's Veterans Day celebrations.

Located in room 1017, the VRC provides a wide variety of resources for veterans and their dependents. These students will have access to services such as a specialized veteran's counselor, free tutoring, and information on the benefits available to them. Thanks to generous donors who gave items to the center, it is also a sanctuary for veterans, complete

with couches, computers, and even a foosball table.

MSJC Superintendent and President Roger Schultz said in a speech given during the ceremony that the school has been recognized as one of the "top 15 percent of schools offering veterans services." This new center will make it easier for the school to serve those who served our country and have returned to further their education.

Ransford Davis, president of the Veterans Club on campus, is highly enthusiastic about the help this center will provide to veterans. He is hopeful for a positive outlook for the future.

"This center will help create

camaraderie among veterans, and the services and benefits it provides will hopefully promote the educational and mentoring aspects of this college," he said.

Kerry Proctor, secretary of the Veterans Club, described this center as a way of "serving those who serve," and said that its presence is a constant reminder that "we're here because they're there."



PHOTOS BY FREDDIE GARCIA

## Clubs work with community to bring Thanksgiving to homeless

by Lizette Muñoz  
Staff Writer

Nonprofit organizations from all over the Inland Empire came together this holiday season. They provided the homeless in Hemet with a full course Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 17 at Weston Park.

Mt. San Jacinto College clubs, such as the Black Student Union, A Second Chance Club, and the STEM Club donated food and helped serve those who lined up during the event. A total of 8 turkeys were bought and prepared, as well as traditional fixings, such as stuffing, mashed potatoes, and green beans.

"I have no family for Thanksgiving, so it's nice to know they care," said Hemet local Brenda Wright.

Southern California Social Clubs United organized the event, and worked with the Sentimental "Sistahs" of Compton, Arms of Love Hemet Church, Pink Panties Social Club of Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Real Women S.C., and 4ever Standing Strong Divas.

"The more love you give, the more strength you receive," said Bonnie Hughes, the founder of 4ever Standing Strong Divas.



PHOTO CREDIT TO KESIA CRAWFORD

"Some applications are more general, but some require that a student reveal who they really are and what they've overcome," said Navarro.

The donors who provide these endowments care about the background and future of applicants. "They want to hear about the adversities or challenges you've had to overcome," said Navarro. "When writing your essays, be honest. Don't hold anything back. If you've struggled through something, let them know."

The college's scholarships are also scam-free, as opposed to some websites that students



Honors Mentors Receive Scholarships

PHOTO COURTESY OF MSJC

may find. "You have to be really careful when searching and applying for scholarships through miscellaneous websites," warned Navarro. "You should never pay to do an application since there is no guarantee that you will get the scholarship."

She also added that not all the websites providing scholarships are scams. "We do have fastweb.com which is a great resource," she said. "But scholarships from websites like this are more competitive since students across the United States are trying to get it."

The deadline for spring scholarship applications is Feb. 22, 2013.

"In the future, I hope to have even more scholarships available," said Navarro.

# WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER IS A DIAMOND IN THE VALLEY



BY AARON HANSEN CONTRIBUTOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER

Located on the outskirts of Hemet at the base of Diamond Valley Lake is a modern, sleek and massive building known as the Western Science Center (WSC).

The WSC opened its doors to the public in 2006 and has provided curious museum-goers a glimpse of Southern California's rich pre-historic and historic past.

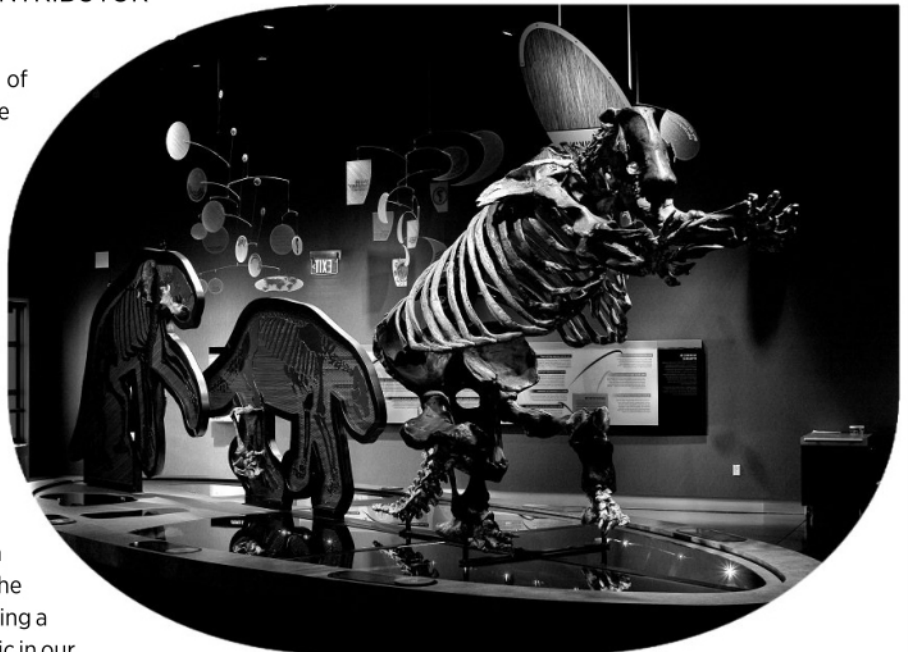
The museum has permanent exhibits that include a 270-degree "Movies in the Theater" that recreates life at a time when mammoths and mastodons roamed the area, and "Snapshots in Time" that amazes visitors with life-size replicated fossils of mammoths, mastodons, giant sloths, and other fascinating creatures.

The museum also has special visiting exhibits like its current one, "Weapons & War in the Iron Age," which is presented in partnership with La Sierra University. The special exhibits ensure that each visit is unique by offering a distinct experience of cultures that range from the music in our society to warfare in the Near East and beyond.

"I am still blown away by the beauty and meaning of the exhibits at the WSC," said Pam Ford, associate professor and chair of the Anthropology Department at Mt. San Jacinto College on the San Jacinto campus. She is also a key member and archaeology consultant for the museum. "It doesn't matter how many times I walk into the exhibit areas, they still have the power to astonish me."

But this place is more than a museum.

"The WSC is a community organization that aims to advance the knowledge of our region's natural history and cultural heritage," said Darla Abigt, the curator of archaeology at the museum. "The center has a purpose of conveying to students and the general public an appreciation of science and mathematics in order to understand the natural world, human



cultures, and how the two interact. It also plays a leading role in meeting the challenge to build a sustainable future for California."

**"It doesn't matter how many times I walk into the exhibit areas, they still have the power to astonish me."** Pam Ford

The WSC is one of only a few bastions of science and knowledge that our area has to offer. In its attempt to help our nation reinvigorate the waning science education in America, the museum hosts a public chartered middle school that focuses on science. Riverside County K-12 students also frequent the museum on field trips.

"It benefits our area because it provides a place for students to go to learn about science and scientific careers," said Erik Ozolins, associate professor and chair of the Anthropology Department on MSJC's Menifee campus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »»»»

# STUDENTS GO GREEN AT ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

During Mt. San Jacinto College's first Environmental Conservation Conference held Nov. 15, MSJC President Dr. Roger Schultz said in a speech, "The environment impacts us on a societal and a personal level."

This is true. Everyday we make the conscience or unconscious environmental decisions to either recycle that bottle, or conserve our water by turning off the faucet when we brush our teeth. As inhabitants of this growing world and as students, we should take the imitative to think "green" and eco-friendly.

There is a large misconception that being green is expensive and time consuming, when in fact it is quite easy. The easiest way we can all make a difference is by recycling and reducing our use of water. In addition to these simpler ways, the Environmental Conservation Conference presented more changes people can make to help the world on a larger scale.

The Southern California Gas Company sponsored the conference. This gas company works closely with institutions like MSJC, businesses, and homeowners who want to use their

by **Christina Flores**  
Environmental Writer



energy more efficiently. They offer a variety of programs and incentives to customers who opt to become more eco-friendly.

This company also supports clean energy, such as solar and wind power, and biomethane. Solar energy reduces harmful greenhouse gas emissions and uses light from the sun instead of gas. Many businesses and homes convert to solar power in California because of the constant sunshine we receive. By installing solar panels, a single home for a family of four can save an estimate of \$100,000 a year. As for wind energy, Palm Springs is known for using giant wind turbines to generate electricity.

Unlike solar and wind power, biomethane is renewable energy that is available 24/7. Biomethane is a mixture of methane and other natural gases. It's created from a biodigester that ferments organic waste from sludge, food, and manure in an anaerobic process. Using biomethane saves money and energy by lowering harmful emissions, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and cutting down production and waste disposal. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>>>**

Phi Theta Kappa of Mt. San Jacinto College is proud to host its annual



## HOLIDAY FOOD & TOY DRIVE

Ends December 20th

### suggestions

- |   |   |                     |
|---|---|---------------------|
| <b>Toys for Boys &amp; Girls</b><br><small>(OF ALL AGES)</small>  | <b>Mashed Potato Mix</b>                                  | <b>Stuffing Mix</b> |
| <b>Gift Cards for Young Adults</b><br><small>(AMAZON, TARGET, BEST BUY, BARNES AND NOBLE, ETC.)</small> | <b>Corn Bread Mix</b>                                     | <b>Cereal</b>       |
| <b>Toys &amp; Food for Pets</b>   | <b>Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b><br><small>(CANNED)</small> | <b>Coffee</b> ®     |
| <b>New &amp; Gently Used Coats</b><br><small>(FOR ALL AGES)</small>                                     | <b>Cake Mix &amp; Frosting</b>                            | <b>Soups</b>        |
| <b>Canned Gravy</b>   | <b>Grocery Gift Cards</b>                                 | <b>Tea</b>          |

**PLEASE DROP OFF DONATIONS DIRECTLY TO PTK OFFICE**

San Jacinto Campus - Room 1114 | Menifee Campus - Portable 2007 Cubicle M

Learn more about how to join Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at [MSJC.EDU/PTK](http://MSJC.EDU/PTK).



# Mentor Program Turns Honors Students Into Leaders

BY RETA BIDI & AMY BARTEL

The Honors Mentors Program is helping students become more competitive applicants when they are ready to transfer from Mt. San Jacinto College. Honors mentors are here to navigate students through the Honors Enrichment Program (HEP), put on academic events, and promote student involvement.

The program was established after Erik Ozolins, honors coordinator for the Menifee Valley campus, met with honors directors and faculty last year during a national conference.

"The idea of having peer mentors, or peer honors leaders, came up over and over," he said. Ozolins thought it was a great program to implement at MSJC because it would provide students with perspectives from their own peers, and not only from honors faculty.

"The benefit of the honors mentors program is to increase the program's visibility on campus through the events that mentors hold," said Christina Yamanaka, honors coordinator for the San Jacinto campus. "The events create a sense of honors community on campus."

Coordinators selected honors mentors based on their responses to questions about what it means to be an honors student, and how they would help other students.

"Becoming an honors mentor will hopefully help students improve their skills interacting with others, gain an understanding of what is involved with developing an event, and increase the sense

of honors community on campus," explained Ozolins.

Mentors are responsible for maintaining at least one office hour each week so that new honors students have the opportunity to ask them for advice. Office hours are held in the designated honors spaces located on the Menifee and San Jacinto campuses.

Mentors are also responsible for planning and holding their own events. This semester, Amy Bartel and Norberto Gonzalez conducted a month long voter registration drive, Wayne Bauwens made a tribute to author H.P. Lovecraft, and Omar Hassan directed a student film festival. Honors students showed their support at these events and encouraged others to join the program.

There are many benefits being involved in the HEP. Students in the program get priority registration, more access to scholarships, have their own honors counselors, and are able to work closer with their professors.

"It's important to become an honors student to challenge yourself academically and to set you up well for transfer and applying for scholarships," said Ozolins.

Another benefit is the exclusive access to the honors spaces where students can hang out, study, and meet with their professors. These rooms are complete with tables, chairs, whiteboards, and computers. The honors space on the Menifee campus is located in the 800 building in the back of the Learning Resource Center, and the one on the San Jacinto campus is located in

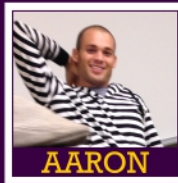
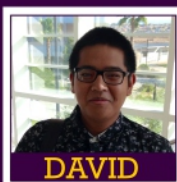
room 1253. Both rooms are available all semester long during the same operating hours as the college.

Honors students are hoping to make the rooms more comfortable and more resourceful. To donate used furniture or textbooks, email Amy Bartel at [abartel815@student.msjc.edu](mailto:abartel815@student.msjc.edu).

Coordinators are seeking new mentors for next semester. The program is open to all honors students who have completed at least two honors classes and have maintained a sufficient GPA.

"It's great to have a leadership role while at a community college," said Yamanaka. "It enhances lifelong skills, such as public speaking and team building, and helps enrich transfer and scholarship applications."

To learn more about the HEP or how to become a mentor, talk to a counselor or visit the HEP page under student services at [www.msjc.edu/honorsenrichmentprogram](http://www.msjc.edu/honorsenrichmentprogram)



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Interested in joining MSJC's Student Government Association? Find out how on the Meniffee campus in room 1016B, on the San Jacinto campus in room 1114, or email Nathan Brais at NBRAIS@MSJC.EDU. Make a difference on your campus and develop your leadership skills. Join today!

# MEET KATHY DONNELL

BY SANDI M. COLBY CONTRIBUTOR

Kathy Donnell has come a long way since attending Mt. San Jacinto College. She is now the director of the superintendent/president's office.

"The thing I want people to know about me is that I was a student here," said Donnell, who works for Dr. Roger Schultz, the college's president.

Donnell enrolled at the college in 1967. As a student, she was involved in the Student Government Association, worked with the first college president, Dr. Milo Johnson, and was very close to many of her instructors. She describes the people of MSJC, then and today, as her family.

"It's one of my favorite things about the school," she said. "It's a family and everyone works together during the good times and the hard times."

After graduation Donnell continued her education and worked at other places, but MSJC drew her back. She has worked here for over 18 years in several different departments. Some of her background is in instruction, business services, and student enrollment.

"At the time, I wasn't sure why I was doing so many different things," she explained. "But it was the path that led me to the role I have now."

She considers herself fortunate to have experienced different facets of the school because it has given her empathy for every department, which is valuable when resolving issues or planning for the future.

Donnell is usually the first face people see when they are trying to contact the college's president. On a daily basis she interacts with students, college faculty and administration, and the general public. She also acts as the recording secretary for the board meetings, and is the author of most of the written communication between the president's office and various committees, legislators, and community members.

She is known as Schultz's "right hand person." Schultz relies on her help to resolve issues and keep track of his busy schedule.

"She is one of the most amazing women," he said. "I am very fortunate to work with somebody of her caliber."

Schultz is quick to praise her analytical and public relations skills, and admires her ability to understand the effects of difficult decisions made by the school.

"She is a tireless worker," he continued.

"And she has a great sense of humor."

Schultz isn't the only person who appreciates Donnell. Students who meet her are impressed, too.

"When I first met Kathy Donnell, I was immediately moved by her warmth and her ability to welcome any student she meets," said Danielle Perez, who got to interview Donnell for MSJC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project. Like Perez, others agree that Donnell is dedicated to the college and the students.

"The college has my heart," she said.



PHOTO BY SANDI M. COLBY

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*Clubs invite students of all faiths to discuss life*

*by Kurt Lank*  
*Staff Writer*

"Pizza and the Meaning of Life" is a club where students can talk about a variety of religions while enjoying free slices of pizza.

Formed in December 2011, "Pizza and the Meaning of Life" is a small campus ministry that holds discussions about religions and allows students to share their religious

beliefs with one another. This helps students feel more comfortable about their own faith while learning about others.

"We are an outreach of the Lutheran Church," said Pastor Mark Cansino. "This club involves a conversation about faith and other religions, and tries to provide a non-judgmental, welcoming atmosphere for everyone."

The club's main speaker, Stephanie Lape, is a graduate of Luther Seminary and a professor of Comparative Religions at Riverside Community College. She speaks at the meetings on Fridays from 12 to 2 p.m.

"So far, we have an average of eight people come in, but our total would be about 60 different visitors from time to time," said Cansino.

Most of the students involved are Roman Catholic, Nondenominational Christians, Bahai, and Pentecostal. Other religions, such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Hinduism are also discussed.

"It's a great opportunity to talk about the deep issues in our lives and open up to God's love," said Cansino. "Students need a place where they can integrate faith and knowledge and be accepted for who they are."

## Older College Experience

By Barbara Christopherson CONTRIBUTOR

At the age of 61, unemployed and with no prospects for work, I decided to embrace the college experience for the first time. Being out of work for two years was demoralizing, and I thought I should be doing something constructive. I had written a book and attended some local writing classes, so maybe working toward a goal in college would help my sense of self worth.

I found applying for college to be a totally overwhelming experience. First, I had to get my high school transcripts. I was told they'd have to search the archives since I graduated in 1969. When they arrived by mail my daughter laughed and said she'd never seen a transcript that was hand written! That was my first clue that the world is a different place than when I last attended school.

My 39-year-old daughter encouraged me and helped me through the process

as she had been a student here many years ago. I have severe arthritis, particularly in my feet, and am forced to walk with either a cane or a walker. Standing in line, which others take for granted, became a real issue for me. I had to consider class locations and the logistics of maneuvering the parking lots to get to class on the Menifee Valley campus. Would I be able to walk the distances necessary to attend?

A trip to the book store in the August heat left me exhausted and frustrated. I had to sit on every bench along the way, making the seemingly short trip lengthy and hot. When I arrived, the book store employees were kind enough to sit me on a stool so I didn't have to stand in line, just wait my turn. I was most grateful.

I settled on two classes. One is in the 900 hundred building, which is

December 17, 1969

very close to the handicapped parking. The other is in the 400 building, a considerable distance from the parking lot. It takes me thirty minutes to walk to this class. My classmates often offer to carry my books to lighten my load. My professors let me stand at my seat to speak rather than walk to the front of the room. Every step I save is precious.

I felt that my age and disabilities would ostracize me from the other students, but I have not been made to feel left out in the least. What I discovered is that MSJC is full of compassionate students and teachers who have been more than accommodating to my needs. I am never on campus without someone holding a door for me, offering to help, or going out of their way to make my journey easier. I am touched that so many individuals have taken the time to be kind. That has been the real education for me.



# PTK student seeks help to raise money for American Cancer Society

Students who sign-up may list this event on their scholarship applications in January

COURTESY OF MT. SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Mt. San Jacinto College's Phi Theta Kappa is seeking help from students and faculty in meeting two challenges. The first is the MSJC Superintendent/President's Challenge to collectively amass 50,000 community service hours as an institution in honor of the college's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The second is the PTK challenge to raise \$10 million for the American Cancer Society by PTK's 100th anniversary Annual Convention in 2018.

MSJC student Nik Warren, the scholarship officer for PTK on the Menifee Valley campus, is behind the drive to help the school meet these goals. She is working to get as many members signed up for the Relay for Life (visit [www.tinyurl.com/acs-ptkpdo](http://www.tinyurl.com/acs-ptkpdo)) event in May. She's pounded the pavement at MSJC, knocked on doors, visited offices, sent e-mails and more to get team members signed up. Students who sign-up may list this on their scholarship applications in January.

Warren isn't wasting any time in getting the MSJC team together, and she's already making the school shine. She said she has plans to make MSJC a large team.

"Right now, our team is already quite large compared to the standard-sized team. As of Dec. 15, we are 39 members strong," Warren wrote in an e-mail. "Currently, we are the largest team registered and in first

place as a team for fundraising for the 2013 Murrieta Relay. I am also in first place for individual fundraising for that relay. When May arrives and it's time for the actual relay, I am confident that our team will have made great strides towards meeting the President's Challenge."



Photo by Clarice Gerbel

Nik Warren

This is Warren's eighth year participating in cancer-fighting events. She began in 2005 with the 40-mile Avon Walk as captain of a 31-member team that raised more than \$69,000. She has participated in the Relay for Life for three years. She is the team captain and a member of the American Cancer Society Relay Planning Committee. On top of this and her classes, she is also chairing the PTK Relay Planning Committee and serves as Supplemental Instruction leader and a tutor.

According to Warren, from 2002-2006 PTK has worked closely with the Relay

for Life/American Cancer Society International Service Program "Conquering Cancer." To date, it is the most successful international service program with nearly 800 participating chapters of service.

In 2003 and 2005, PTK was recognized as the top collegiate contributor to the American Cancer Society signature fundraising event: The Relay for Life. PTK is now encouraging chapters to support the relay as part of the Society's Civic Engagement Initiative, she said.

The goal as an honors society is to raise \$10 million for the American Cancer Society by PTK's 100th anniversary Annual Convention in 2018. As of 2011, PTK chapters have raised nearly \$4 million.

"I have hundreds, if not thousands of reasons, why I relay," Warren wrote. "Relay and the Avon Walk are the inspiration for my foray into the academic world. They are the reason that I am a Health Sciences major."

The relay will be held Saturday, May 18, 2013. It starts at 9 a.m. in One Town Square in Murrieta.

Contact [Relay4PTKBD0@gmail.com](mailto:Relay4PTKBD0@gmail.com) to sign up or to get more information. Or, visit the team website at [www.tinyurl.com/ACS-PTKBD0](http://www.tinyurl.com/ACS-PTKBD0).



Keep an eye on [Facebook.com/msjc.edu](https://www.facebook.com/msjc.edu) for official updates on Relay for Life!

## "WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER" CONTINUED FROM ON PAGE 4 >>>>

"As school budgets are cut, the opportunity for [students] to be able to go to a top notch museum to learn and become excited about the past and about the tools used to learn about the past is phenomenal" said Ozolins.

The WSC offers academic lectures every semester that usually coincide with Honors Enrichment Program seminars at MSJC. A previous lecture series was on "Science Fiction, Science Fact," and the current one is on "Sexuality and Society." These presentations are free for members of the museum, \$5 for students, and \$8 for nonmembers.

With its focus on archaeology, the museum also hosts MSJC's 200-level archaeology excavation and lab courses that are taught by Ford in a simulation dig-site and the state-of-

the-art lab. As an archaeologist with many years of experience excavating and analyzing Native American culture in the Northwest and in the Mayan lands of Central America, Ford has witnessed how archaeology links people together.

"I think archaeology connects people because of their interests in specific societies or regions or time periods," said Ford. "It's an opportunity to learn that we may interpret the meanings or intentions of those artifacts differently."

The WSC is a nonprofit organization that survives on donations from supporters, ticket sales, and various grants and sponsorships.

"The support and donations of the community are vital to the mission and

accomplishments of the museum," said Abigt. "Bringing awareness to the community about the great resources available at our institution, and the financial support necessary to ensure our continued efforts can help to guarantee the success of the WSC for years to come."

To learn more about the WSC visit [www.westerncentermuseum.org](http://www.westerncentermuseum.org).



# GREEN COALITION WANTS STUDENTS TO THINK CLEAN, GREEN AND SAFE

BY DENNIS ROWLEY CONTRIBUTOR

The Green Coalition of the San Jacinto Valley is serious about their mission. They want to create a sustainable community that is clean, green and safe.

The coalition's president, "Wiggs" Mendoza, is a former Hemet city-planning commissioner who works as manager of sustainability resources and economic development for the Metropolitan Water District.

"People who join the Green Coalition want to do something right to save their community," he said.

Mendoza is working with Ginger Stack, a Mt. San Jacinto College professor and coalition board member, to get more students involved. In class, Stack often advocates for her students to go green, so much that she refuses to

accept assignments, tests, or homework on paper of any kind.

The coalition is making efforts to make residents aware and to work together to balance ecological, economic and social needs to ensure a clean, healthy and safe environment for all members of society and for generations to come.

In January 2010 the group met with grocery store owners to see how they could try to eliminate abandoned shopping carts. This resulted in new ordinances that were passed in Hemet and San Jacinto.

In order to create an alternative mode of transportation and to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, Green Coalition developed a program to create a bicycle-friendly community for Hemet and San Jacinto. They installed more bike lanes and bike racks all over the

valley, and a children bike safety training and free helmet program.

Since 2008, this nonprofit organization has collected more than 100 tons of recyclable electronic waste by providing convenient drop-off locations in Hemet and San Jacinto three times a year. The next 'E-waste' day is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 16 at the Hemet Valley Mall.

The Green Coalition of San Jacinto Valley serves Hemet, San Jacinto, and parts of Riverside County. It meets from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every other month at First Christian Church, located at 200 E. Acacia Ave. in Hemet. Membership applications are available at meetings.

For more information call (951) 929-0854 or send an email to [greencoal@rocketmail.com](mailto:greencoal@rocketmail.com).

## STUDENTS & LOCAL MUSICIANS PERFORM IN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

BY CEDRIC SELIBA STAFF WRITER

The Menifee Jazz Ensemble began approximately ten years ago and is still going strong today. It's a big band style ensemble that has condensed into a smaller group with a powerful jazz foundation.

"I've been directing the jazz ensemble for about five years now," said Dr. Jeremy Brown, associate professor and chair of the Music Department at Mt. San Jacinto College. "I find educating each member individually once a week vital in improving their playability on their instrument."

The jazz ensemble is made up of 21 MSJC students and local community members. Brown selected performers based on how in tune they were with their instruments. "It doesn't depend on exactly how long they've played their instrument," he said. "I look for how well they know their

instrument."

The ensemble plays alto, tenor, and baritone saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, drums, flute, and guitar. With this line up, the ensemble performs songs in different styles of jazz, including big band, swing, Latin, classic, smooth, and avant-garde.

"I enjoy the different song choices Dr. Brown makes because they're all very in tune with the modern generation," said John Tribelhorn, a trumpet player and associate faculty member who teaches musicianship, music theory, and instrumental chamber.

Some members of the ensemble say the most difficult thing about playing jazz is keeping up with the more experienced players. Jazz is also difficult because it requires technique and skill, especially with solos and improvisations.

"One needs to feel the sound of

jazz," said John Hess, a community member who plays trumpet for the ensemble. "It's tough because it requires a lot of experience to lay down a good foundation," he said.

"Everything you do in the ensemble is on you," said Pace Proffitt, a music major who plays bass. "You can't blame anyone else for your mistakes."

Jeryne Noble, a student from Heritage High School, tries to learn everything she can from listening to veteran musicians play in the ensemble. "I joined the jazz ensemble to expand my musical horizons and experience playing with skilled musicians," she said.

What binds members of the ensemble together is passion. In fact, many students will transfer to music programs at University of California, Riverside, University of Redlands, and University of

Southern California to name a few.

"I just love jazz music," said pianist Marci Duncker, a music major who has been trained in classical for 11 years. "It's fun learning from each other and growing as an ensemble because each member adds a unique character to the group."

The ensemble also provides students a break from their studies. "Playing jazz is a stress reliever," said John Ares, a drummer majoring in criminal justice. "It taught me how to enjoy music and the company of my fellow colleagues."

The Menifee Jazz Ensemble performs throughout the year around Temecula and Menifee. Their next big performance will be at the MSJC Gala in February at the Pechanga Resort and Casino.

“CONSERVATION CONFERENCE” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5 >>>>

Dr. Roy Mason, professor and chair of the Biology Department on the Menifee Valley campus, along with faculty members from the science, engineering technology, and environmental disciplines, held a panel during the conference where they discussed the importance of using clean energy to save our planet.

One particularly hot topic they discussed was global warming. Whether or not you believe you in it, there have been drastic changes to our climate and a loss of animal biodiversity. Laws such as the Global Warming Solutions Act fight climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Vehicles that run on gas and electricity were also on display at the conference. Cars like the Nissan Leaf and the Toyota Prius Plug-in, which produce fewer emissions than regular cars, are becoming more popular in America. Drivers can purchase these vehicles from dealers at a lower ticket price, and save money at the pump.

For more information on how to go green visit [www.socalgascompany.com](http://www.socalgascompany.com).



Christina Flores test drives new hybrid!

PHOTO BY FREDDIE GARCIA

# INDIE FINALS PLAYLIST

BY JOEY SHIELDS  
CONTRIBUTOR



Finals are here, and I'm sure everyone is beyond stoked about studying and spending long nights in front of a computer screen. Like many of you, I need to have background noise playing, so I usually opt for some music.

In order to help you get through study sessions and late-night cramming, I have compiled an awesome playlist of indie music. This is a mix of catchy, slow, up-tempo, and overall fun songs that just about anyone can enjoy.



1. "Golden Age" – Beach Fossils
2. "Song for Dan Treacy" – MGMT
3. "Endless Blue" – The Horrors
4. "Polar Opposites" – Modest Mouse
5. "So Bored" – Wavves
6. "I Was a Teenage Hand Model" – Queens of the Stone Age
7. "Fluorescent Adolescent" – Arctic Monkeys
8. "Olde(y) Tyme(y)" – Andrew Jackson Jihad
9. "Thorn Castles" – Gardens & Villa
10. "A Clean Break (Let's Work)" – Talking Heads
11. "Ten Cent Pistol" – The Black Keys
12. "Mykonos" – Fleet Foxes
13. "New Theory" – Washed Out
14. "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa" – Vampire Weekend
15. "Australia" – The Shins



Find Joey's playlist on Spotify by going to The Talon's Facebook at [facebook.com/msjctalon](https://facebook.com/msjctalon).

## The Talon wishes you Happy Holidays!



Not Pictured  
**FREDDIE** THE PHOTOGRAPHER  
**REGINA** THE TREASURER  
**CHRISTINA** THE SECRETARY

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