

The official e-communication  
for Colorado MESA

# eNews



Welcome to the May 2009 - Volume 3, Edition 5 of the Colorado MESA e-News electronic newsletter. Please let us know how we can assist your MESA program and make a positive difference for our MESA students. For more information on any item mentioned in

the newsletter, please contact our office at 303.352.3869 or via email at [ColoradoMESA@ucdenver.edu](mailto:ColoradoMESA@ucdenver.edu). In this edition, you'll find information on 2009 Spring Design Challenges, MESA's Social Networks and our MESA Advisor Spotlight and much more. To view past newsletters or print a pdf version of the current issue, visit [www.cmesa.org/news/e-news.html](http://www.cmesa.org/news/e-news.html)

## Thanks Lockheed Martin and Jared Polis



Colorado MESA received generous contributions from both the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company and the Jared Polis Foundation last month. Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, headquartered near Denver, Colo., is one of the major operating units of Lockheed Martin Corporation. Space Systems Company designs, develops, tests and manufactures a variety of advanced technology systems for space and defense.

The Jared Polis Foundation was established in 2000 to support educators and students, involve parents and families, and strengthen Colorado's schools and communities.



On behalf of over 3,600 MESA students, we thank Lockheed Martin, Jared Polis and all of the organizations whose financial and in-kind support make it possible to provide MESA programs.

## 2009 Spring Design Challenges

Contributed by: Tonya Ewers, University of Colorado Denver on 4/20/2009  
YourHub > Denver



### MESA DAY – April 17, 2009

Challenging a group of middle school students to build a bridge might seem daunting, but not for Colorado's Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) students.

More than 600 MESA middle school students from across the state made it through the rain and snow on Friday, April 17, to demonstrate their math, science and engineering skills during the 9th annual MESA Day, hosted by the University of Colorado Denver.

"MESA Day events encourage teamwork, parent

and teacher involvement in student activities, and honesty and fair play in life situations through competition," said Victor Vialpando, program director of Colorado MESA at the College of Engineering and Applied Science at UC Denver. "The events also foster interpersonal and group skills as well as responsibility and integrity."

At the annual event, students compete in a series of improvisational and built-in-advance engineering challenges including a balsa wood bridge, an electronic school spirit presentation and MESA video challenge. At each of the design challenges, students showed off their skills, knowledge and creativity in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, teamwork and communication.

This year's event was sponsored by the MillerCoors Hispanic Employees Network (CHEN), which provides more than 60 judges and funding for the event.

### **High School Engineering & Science Jamboree – April 9, 2009**

Over 400 high school students from around the state attended the annual High School Engineering and Science Jamboree at Colorado School of Mines. Students designed, tested and competed in several renewable energy projects including the MESA USA Wind Energy Design Challenge, the Basic Wind Turbine and the Multitask Trebuchet.

The highlight of the event was the annual Helicopter Packaged Egg Drop, where students design containers that can safely protect raw eggs from breaking from the impact when dropped from a helicopter approximately 300 feet in the air.

Owner, Jack Ferguson from Rocky Mountain Rotorcraft graciously donated his time and helicopter (pictured above) for the event. Rocky Mountain Rotorcraft (RMR) is a unique partnership of professionals dedicated to helicopter sales, professional flight services, maintenance and training with an emphasis on Enstrom Helicopters. RMR was formed by Jack Ferguson and Andy Litteral after years of flying, teaching and aircraft sales in the Rocky Mountain Region. **THANK YOU Rocky Mountain Rotorcraft!**

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in this year's competitions! Both events were a huge success and we look forward to next year. To view photos visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/coloradomesa/sets/>.

## **Colorado MESA's Social Network**

The MESA Program will soon celebrate our 30th year in Colorado and would like to take this opportunity to reconnect with our current students, alumni, friends and partners to learn what they are currently doing.

Join Colorado MESA in our quest to reconnect with our students and friends by joining us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

MESA alumni and friends can give back to the Colorado MESA and help the next generation of students by volunteering their time in any of the following ways:

- Assisting advisor/school with a project
- Contacting current students and answer any questions about college
- Guest lecturing
- Helping to organize a program or outreach event
- Hosting a visit to your work site or helping students to find job placements
- Judging a design competition
- Mentoring or tutoring students
- Participating in an alumni panel discussion
- Serving on a program advisory board
- Speaking to a MESA chapter

## Colorado MESA's First Annual Video Design Challenge

2009 marked the first year of the Colorado MESA video design challenge. At our annual High School Engineering Jamboree and MESA Day event, both our middle school and high school students had an opportunity to write, direct, publish and present a short short promotion video/commercial for the first annual "Who Wants to be an Engineer" design challenge. A successful video submission is measured by the impact, professionalism, creativity and message. The winning video will be featured on American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and Colorado MESA's websites.



This year's submissions included an array of interpretations from Dorety and John F Kennedy High School and Fountain, Trinidad and Altona Middle Schools. View all the video submissions online at <http://www.cmesa.org/news/MESAvideodesign.html>.

## NOTICE to Advisors Year End Forms Due!

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and it is that time of year again to submit your MESA student's [Senior Information Forms](#) and the [2009 Spring Semester Advisor Report](#). The forms are due no later than **Friday, May 29, 2009**. Please note that we will be contacting you by phone and email requesting the documents over the next few weeks.

Also, as many of you prepare for the summer off from school, please let the state office know if your school email address will be the best email for the summer. If not, please send us your summer email address.

## Colorado Springs District 11 Boat Regatta

Congratulations! On April 23, eight Colorado Springs District 11 Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) Clubs participated in the annual boat-building competition at the Wasson. Four high school teams and four middle school teams were each given 12 empty one-gallon milk jugs, three thin pieces of wood, a ball of twine and a roll of duct tape to design and construct a "boat" that needed to be able to traverse the Wasson swimming pool while supporting several team members.

Special thanks to Wasson for hosting the event, to our volunteer life guards from Mitchell High School, Chelsy Allison and Amy Osborn, and to our volunteer judges who are engineers with El Paso Corporation, Brad Jones, Raul Ronquillo and Chris Lucero.



The first-place winning middle school team from Irving included Lauen Khoshnavo, Josefina Rodriguez,

Ashley Summers, Jaclyn Woods and Jaylyn Woods. And the first-place winning high school team from Wasson included Adrin Liñan, Derek Liñan, Yang Liu, Jareth Morrison, Ben Putnam, Desiree Valdez and Dan Wilson.

The other place winners for the middle school competition were Sabin in second place (Tyler Brown, Sam Chambers, Devyn Fritch, Trevor Gavis, Austin Walker), Russell in third place (Mariah Coultnip, Amy Ghrayheb, Jordan Huffman, Sarah Somers) and Jenkins in fourth place (Rebecca Donohue, Molly Rauscher).

The other place winners for the high school competition were Doherty in second place (Kyle Boss, Mark Grayeb, Natasha Grimm, Samantha Kuhn, Nathan Lindeman, Eric Marzari, Cassie Zach), another Wasson team in third place (Fadi Al Bishara, Manna Chen, Mark Clagett, Mario Collazo, Dustin Haddock, Terran Morrison, Xuyue Tang), and Palmer in fourth place (Anthony Borgia, BreAnne Davis, Anthony Kascak, Dipali Patel, Julia Strandberg, Caleb Ulliman, Amgad Yassa).

## **MESA Advisor Spotlight** **Advisor Helen Douglas**

Colorado MESA would like to congratulate MESA Advisor Helen Douglas from Centennial in St. Vrain Valley for receiving the Outstanding Amgen Science Teacher of the Year Award. She was nominated by her peers for her great work with the MESA program. Congratulations Helen Douglas!



## **2009 MESA Advisor Retreat and Kick Off** **Save the Date!**

### **MESA Advisor & Retreat Kick-Off (MARK)**

September 10 & 11, 2009  
University of Colorado at Boulder

We have started planning for the 2009/10 academic year. Mark your calendars for September 10 & 11, 2009 for the annual MARK event at the CU Boulder campus. More details and registration information coming this summer.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **[CSM SUMMET Summer Camp](#)**

June 7-27, 2009  
Colorado School of Mines

### **[MESA USA National Engineering Challenge](#)**

June 25-28  
University of Colorado Denver

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