

Turf Teams Finish Strong in STMA Student Challenge



The Eighth Annual Student Challenge took place in Long Beach, California at the Sports Turf Managers Association's 23rd Annual Conference and Exhibition. The conference was held January 10-14, 2012. For the first time ever, Mt. SAC enrolled four teams into the competition.

Also, it is the first time we have had females competing on teams. In fact, we had one team composed entirely of females. This was the first time in STMA history that a team composed entirely of females entered the Student Challenge. I am proud to report that we had two teams finish in the top three places. Team "209" finished second, team "211" finished 3rd, Team "210" finished 9th and Team "208" finished 10th in the nation in the Two Year College category. Team 209 members are **Kevin Marsh, Christopher Romo, David Plascencia and Kay Hoewel**. Team 211 members are **Fleur Nooyen, Kelly De La Peza, Danielle Booth and Raquel Zepeda**. Team 208 members

are **Tobias Patino, Geoff Hollenbeck, Ruben Flores and Isaac Chavez**. Team 210 members are **Matthew Janney, Freddy Gonzalez, Roy Ibrahim and Paul Carrillo**. The team coaches are **Brian Scott**, Professor of Horticulture, **Steve Dugas**,

and **Morphology, Soil Management, Soil Fertility, Water Management, Drainage, Turfgrass Mathematics, Pest Identification and Management, Sports Field Management** (both turf and non-turf areas), and essay questions pertaining to real life sports

Mt. SAC "209" scored **higher than any 4 year team** on the Pest and Turfgrass Identification section! Mt. SAC "209" scored 87 on Multiple Choice, the **third highest score by any team** and was only **one point away from the score of the top 4 Year Team (Purdue)**. Mt. SAC "210" scored a **perfect 25 on short answers which was the highest score achieved beating out all the top 4 year teams!** Way to go Mt. SAC!

This year one of our students won the **top Two -Year scholarship award in the Nation**. **Christopher Romo** was awarded the **Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship**, which is named in honor of the first turfgrass extension specialist in the United States. Congratulations Chris!

The 2011 Mt. Sac Turf Team would like to thank the following sponsors for making it possible for them to compete this year: **West Coast Turf, the Greater Los Angeles Basin Sports Turf Managers Association, Jerry Budnick and Sandy Gillis**. The donations of these organizations and private individuals fully funded the team's trip this year. We truly could not have done it without their support. Thank you all!



Back Row L to R: Paul, Roy, Isaac, Tobias, Kevin, Chris, Freddy, David, Matthew and Ruben
 Front Row L to R: Fleur, Kelly, Dani, Raquel and Kay
 Not Pictured: Geoff

adjunct Professor of Horticulture, **Chaz Perea**, Adjunct Professor of Horticulture and **Pat Escalera**, and employee of the Mt. SAC Facilities Department.

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Student Challenge consists of several parts. Included in the test are Turfgrass Identification, Selec-

turf management scenarios.

This year there were 37 teams from across the country, 13 of which were two year colleges.

A few interesting facts about our test scores this year are:

