

## ECOTOURISM IN BORNEO

Following up on the very successful tour management and enology-oriented tours of Europe last May, the HMTA department will offer an ecotourism Borneo tour this coming May (2004).

The tour will leave Denver on May 30th and return on June 15. The first two nights will be in Shangrila in Kota Kinabalu and participants will explore Sabah's cultural landscapes. Next, the tour moves to the Danum Valley and participants will stay at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge. After visiting a viewing platform by the river where flying squirrels, orangutans, and unique flora and fauna may be viewed, there will be a night drive with a primary rainforest wildlife tracker to explain what is being seen.

Later, thousands of bats will be witnessed exiting the Gomantong Cave at dusk and the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanc-

tuary will be visited. Animals in this area include proboscis monkeys, long-tailed macaques, and Asian elephants.

A jetty boat ride along the Kinabatangan River, a Sungai home visit, and the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary are other highlights to be savored. Many tour members will elect to climb to the summit of Mt. Kinabalu while others may choose hikes on trails around the base of the mountain. A final tour highlight will be a visit to the 'tamu' market.

Meals range from simple to elaborate, with the emphasis on eating local foods.

There is still space on the tour. If interested, contact Ms. Sorensen in the HMTA suite of offices. Her phone number is (303) 556-3241.



*HHERO Attendees from L to R: Jim C. Allen, V.P. & HHEROS Founding President, Tam Nguyen Travel Administration Major at MSCD, and Dr. John R. Dienhart Chairman HMTA at Metropolitan State College of Denver*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *A Message from the Chair of HMTA page 2*
- *Sorensen presented at ISTTE—see page 2*
- *The New York trade show benefited many student officers of CHLA. See page 2*
- *Faster Than Jets is a new book authored by HMTA grad, Brad Swartzwelter. For more information see page 3*
- *Southern Wine & Spirits provides \$28,000 in scholarship money for HMTA students—see page 3*
- *The HHEROS Awards recognize excellence in hospitality among the Colorado Hispanic Community. Find out more on page 3*

### HMTA WEBSITE

Visit the HMTA website at [www.mscd.edu~hmt](http://www.mscd.edu~hmt) for information on current happenings around the HMTA department and to obtain information regarding the various programs.

## PROFESSIONAL CONVENTION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (PCMA) HELPS NEEDY

Twelve students from the Rocky Mountain PCMA Student Chapter at Metropolitan State College participated in the 10th Annual Network for the Needy Luncheon. They donated non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of the Rockies. The Food Bank supplies food to needy fami-

lies throughout the state of Colorado.

The students also purchased two tables at the luncheon, sampling food from various Colorado restaurants and hotels. Students got to network with hundreds of in-

dustry professionals in attendance. This is the second year the RMPCMA Student Chapter has participated in the Network for the Needy. They plan to make it an ongoing effort.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Change is defined as a transformation, and we in HMTA at Metro State have and will continue to embrace change. With the uneasiness of change, the Department will remain service oriented in its teaching and learning. The faculty will sustain a focus on the teaching of theory that is enhanced through hands-on experiences. Knowledge that is learned and then applied tends to stick. The faculty will continue to maintain and improve the systems, advising opportunities, classrooms, labs, online classes, technology resources, and field experiences to strengthen learning encountered by HMTA students.

Faculty understand that the learning experience is very demanding psychologically and will stay committed to the development of human knowledge and understanding within the HMTA students. Learning is a transformation, a transition of a student's knowledge base and skills. Learning is a demanding experience that needs to be guided, influenced, focused, and disciplined. Faculty is challenged to transform the students' knowledge base, and the students are challenged to respond to the guidance and influence provided by the faculty.

## **SORENSEN PRESENTS AT ISTTE**

*"Creating a Hands-On Tour Management Learning Experience"* was the title of the presentation made by Helle Sorensen at this year's annual International Society of Travel and Tourism Conference held in Providence, Rhode Island. Educators from throughout North America (and several other countries) heard Ms. Sorensen discuss how to teach students to lead tours while on tour in Europe. The workshop involved presenting ways to create, teach, lead, and grade a study-abroad trip. This included teaching participants how to incorporate tour management job skills into a study abroad curriculum. After the presentation several educators stayed behind to further discuss tour management as a study-abroad experience. "The ultimate honor," stated Ms. Sorensen, "was being asked to forward more information on my presentation topic to educators across the world."

According to Ms. Sorensen, "the conference triggered numerous ideas on how to increase my teaching effectiveness." She attended various sessions on how to improve teaching methods and on incorporating technology into the classroom.

## **COLORADO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION STUDENT CHAPTER**

The five officers of the Student Chapter of the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association attended the American Hotel & Lodging Association annual convention and the International Hotel/Motel & Restaurant Show from November 07 to 11, 2003.

With the functions held in New York City and most events held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, students were able to interface with many of the top names in the hotel industry. In addition, the trade show hosted close to 2,000 exhibitors, giving students and faculty an opportunity to see, touch, and talk about what is new in the industry. Students who attended are also the 2003/2004 officers of the association. They are Melissa Massey, President; Karolina Sutherland, Vice President, Kristin Levy, Secretary; Mandy Corbin, Treasurer, Neil Compton, Chairman of the Board, and Professor Herb Cresswell, Faculty Advisor.

While in New York, students visited the site of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and attended an AH&LA opening reception held in the Conrad Hilton Room of the Waldorf Astoria.

## **GRADUATE AUTHORS BOOK**

*Faster Than Jets* is a newly released book authored by 1999 graduate, Brad Swartzwelter. For most of his life Swartzwelter has been fascinated by trains. While in college, he started a local tour company offering sightseeing trips of Denver and the surrounding area to train passengers who had a change of trains in Denver. Now an Operating Rules Instructor working for AMTRAK and based in Seattle, Brad has become a leader in what he calls the, "ultimate transportation system," an underground vacuum tube maglev system.

The 188 page book starts with a discussion of current transportation problems. It then identifies the criteria a problem solution must meet. Next, the book suggests magnetic levitation in general and the underground vacuum tube maglev system in particular as the best potential solution. Toward the end of the book, Mr. Swartzwelter discusses issues relating to constructing "American-metro", his version of THE answer. He projects costs and finally he identifies political issues surrounding the possibility of getting the American-metro built.

## **\$28,000 GIFT FROM SOUTHERN WINE & SPIRITS**

The third Annual Culinary Elite Showcase and Auction in conjunction with a golf tournament on August 18 at the Lakewood Country Club was a fundraiser for scholarships for HMTA students. A check for \$28,000 will provide for a wide range of student scholarships beginning in the Spring, 2004 semester. This is the second year Southern Wine and Spirits has hosted the function for HMTA. Many students benefited in 2003 and just as many will be able to take advantage of the funds in 2004.

## **WINE CLASSES**

The International Sommelier Guild and The International Wine Guild are now holding wine classes and sommelier certificate and diploma programs in HMTA facilities. As many as eighteen classes are offered by the two institutions each month. In addition to basic classes, there are specialized wine classes, a Sommelier Diploma Program, a guild certification seminar, a Grand Sommelier Diploma program and Senior Program exams included in the schedule. For more information, call HMTA at (303) 556-3152.

## **HHEROS AWARDS**

"Latino's have the highest participation rate of any group in America: they work more hours, they are very family oriented people, and they are service oriented," – Cindy Rodriguez, Denver Post Contributor. The Latino population in Denver now makes up nearly 35% of the population. James Allen, Executive Vice President of Southern Wine & Spirits and the Founding President of HHEROS and others in the hospitality industry created HHEROS Awards to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Latino community that works so very hard in the hotels, restaurants, and clubs.

The HHEROS Awards recognize outstanding Latinos who excel in their jobs in eleven categories of hospitality positions in Colorado. In addition, the program provides scholarships of up to \$3,500 per year to outstanding working Latinos. Last year HMTA student, Renzo Freitas, won one of the two scholarships awarded. It is hoped that as many as five scholarships will be awarded this year. Thanks HHEROS and all who have so generously contributed to its awards recognition program.