THE NEW SCIENCE-MATH-NURSING BUILDING AND MORE

It's not quite finished--the horizontal light shelves have yet to be installed, but it is impressive, inventive, so radiant with energy, so fitting for the house for math, science, nursing and the Kentfield campus' geothermal central plant. The old Austin Science building, originally scheduled to be demolished, still serves as swing space in the short term--it inhabits a flood zone, so moving the new science facility to high ground and close to the arts and administration etc. is doubly effective. The new bridge across the creek serves as the second entry point to the core campus, and parking lots 15 and 9 will now be the convenient place to park. As you walk the bridge to enter the building, you can see the campus through the open balconies that frame the view into the inner campus, a nice salute to transparency. (Continued on Page 2.)
(Continued from Front Cover.) Originally another architect presented a preliminary design featuring a high-rise tower, but the neighbors much preferred a two story, more residential scale, and architects ED2 accomplished this brilliantly by a stepped layering of floors ascending from Laurel Avenue. This is the biggest building on campus, but all views appear to be two stories high. Form follows function--indicated on the east entry facade by the vertical exhaust shafts for the many labs--a frame for the horizontal light shelves that shield the sun. Facade color is not merely decorative--the pale orange wall panels house Teaching, the apple green panels define the Central Plant and lab exhaust vents--you get to "read" the building. The interiors are filled with light and the corridors are lively with color and glass display cases. I like the random alcoves for students to sit and talk amidst all the designated smart organized function. Some day I hope to take the elevator to the telescopes on the roof to see the stars--do the planets really resemble the painted concrete spheres in the Orbit Plaza?

Close by you can visit the new spacious Dance Center in the Performing Arts Building, and above it, the new Art Gallery across from the Fine Arts Building. For a year or so the Emeritus Center has been the lone art gallery on campus--we now await the return of the Main Art Gallery as our prime space for showing art. Everything and everyone is connected--here's to you all, the nurses, mathematicians, scientists, artists, philosophers--may you mingle and flourish.

Len Pullan

EDITOR'S NOTES

The next Newsletter staff meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 10:00 AM, at the IVC Emeritus Center.

Reminder: The deadline for submission of limericks for the contest is March 31.

NEWS FROM THE ESCOM COUNCIL

The Council conducted its February meeting at the Emeritus Center of the Indian Valley Campus. The well-attended meeting also hosted several ESCOM members interested in future service on the Council, and a visit by Dr. Jason Lau to introduce newly appointed Program Specialist Tom Hodges.

Co-President Marian Mermel reported that demolition work has begun for the new Administration Building at the Kentfield Campus, and that the preservation of notable architectural features may be incorporated into the new construction. She also reported that Dr. Lau’s presentation to the C.O.M. Board of Trustees of the proposed Gold Card Membership Program was well received by the Trustees. (Stay tuned for information concerning this unique membership alternative to be announced this summer.)

Treasurer Art Ravicz reported the status of the treasury and moved for the appointment of ESCOM member Eric Sitzenstatten to the Financial Advisory Committee, passed unanimously.

Co-President Dick Park discussed the results of a recent meeting of the Executive Committee on the subjects of Council appointments and an off-campus meeting on April 18, 2013, for the purpose of “assessing the current state of the organization and brainstorming about its future.” A non-member facilitator will be engaged to assist in the conduct of this meeting.

Dick Park also submitted his report of the Curriculum Committee meeting during which newly appointed Program Specialist Tom Hodges was introduced and the just-published Spring Catalogue was distributed. This catalogue contains extensive information about ESCOM, including a complete schedule of ESCOM-sponsored club meetings and contacts. The Committee will resume its scheduling of interviews during its next meeting on March 20.

Karen Hemmeter’s Office Report showed the staffing schedule of the office volunteers and reported the addition of three new volunteers who had completed the training for this job. Also reported was an increase in ESCOM membership
due to a surge of new members and renewals in January. The number of members receiving the Newsletter electronically is also increasing. All good news.

Chairman Cole Posard of the Marketing Committee gave a comprehensive report of the Committee’s accomplishments since its inception. He announced his withdrawal from the Committee and received the accolades of the Council for his excellent work. Beverly Munyon volunteered to serve as chairman of the Committee.

Art and Exhibitions Chairman Len Pullan announced an exhibit by Anna Ladyzhenskaya to begin in April. An Artist’s Reception is scheduled for April 24, at the Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Len attended a recent meeting called by Laura McCarty to discuss the possible retention of historic elements from the buildings being razed for the new Administrative Center. A consensus focused on the plaster arches that presently grace the gangway at the existing Administration Building.

Paul Tandler will prepare a Membership Drive Schedule in time for the beginning of the Spring Semester and will be assisted by several members of the Council who will visit the various class rooms where “EC” classes are conducted. The increase in new member enrollments since the Fall II semester drive, as reported by Karen Hemmeter, validates the effectiveness of classroom visits as a way to attract new members.

The next regular meeting will be at the Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center on March 21, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Reported by Paul Tandler

COM IN THE NEWS

College Removed from ACCJC/WASC Accreditation Warning List -- Per letter received recently from the ACCJC/WASC (Commission for Community and Junior Colleges) College of Marin has been removed from their warning list. This is due to the continuing effort and dedication of COM faculty, staff, students and Board of Trustees. Meeting accreditation standards requires a strong institutional commitment to continuous quality improvement including a variety of planning processes needed and working effectively. College of Marin has made significant progress in all areas, particularly that of ensuring student success, which is among the Commission’s greatest concerns. Accreditation can now be linked with Student Learning Outcomes (SLDs); and College of Marin received high marks in this area throughout both campuses.

New Human Resources Executive Director -- On January 28, 2013, Kristina Combs took the helm as Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations. This executive plays a key role at College of Marin which employs 564 people including 109 full-time faculty, 233 adjunct faculty, 188 classified staff members and 34 supervisors, managers and administrators. Director Combs arrived at College of Marin from Alliant International University headquartered in San Francisco where she was responsible for academic and staff human resource programs. Alliant is an accredited university comprised of five professional schools, 4000 graduate and undergraduate students as well as 1,600 represented and non-represented faculty, staff and student employees.

Enrollment Decline - Student Fee Increases -- Student fee hikes have been a significant contributing factor to major decline in enrollment this semester. Spring enrollment dropped to 6,620 at COM, down 9.8 per cent from 7,337 in Spring 2012. Fees also rose by $10 per unit to $46 per unit or approximately $1,104 per year for a full-time course load. COM officials will work to ensure that scholarships, once funded by the Foundation, will be awarded on schedule this Spring semester. College of Marin is committed to continuing the scholarship program this year.

New Academic Center Project -- Formerly named "The Gateway Complex", the project has been renamed "New Academic Center" and will take the place of several aging COM buildings which will be demolished this summer. The more conservatively-designed version of the project appears to be moving forward as planned. It will include 44,000 sq. ft. of classrooms, computer labs, offices and other space located in a two-story building at the corner of College Avenue and Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski
Presidential Bridge: COM staff and students gathered informally with President Coons in the Career Study Center at IVC for updates on Kentfield Campus events and building. Graduation is set for Friday afternoon May 24, with Gavin Newsom as commencement speaker. Dr. Coons also gave details of swing space moves to accommodate demolition needed before new Administration Center, and dedications for Performing Arts Center and Science buildings. The need for a staff lounge was noted because presently the staff lounge is in the mailroom.

Emeritus Bridge: The ESCOM Council has scheduled another meeting at IVC on June 21 at 10 AM, giving all members another opportunity to meet the volunteers who help keep ESCOM a viable COM organization. Several guest observers were welcomed by Co-Presidents Dick Parks and Marian Mermel when the ESCOM Council met at IVC in February, and Dr. Jason Lau, Director of Community Education, introduced his staff.

Community Bridge: COM/IVC recently hosted Leadership Novato, a project of the Novato Chamber of Commerce that continues Project Based Learning designed by the Buck Institute of Education. LN offers vital curriculum, expert moderators and lecturers, and examines aspects of government, transportation, culture, and today’s vital complex issues. COM/IVC is the site of some of the conferences and classes that make up the September to May program.

COM Library Bridge: Library services for students at IVC are expanding under the direction of John Erdman, Information Literacy Instructor, Faculty Librarian. Dick Bradshaw, part-time librarian, pointed out that in addition to a growing collection of reference books, there is a section for best sellers, current paperbacks and magazines, plus MAC and PC computers available for students. The sunny reading corners are welcoming, and ESCOM members are encouraged to check out the attractive developing space in Building 27, the newest IVC building.

4th Annual Indian Valley Organic Farm Spring Celebration: Saturday & Sunday, April 21-22, 10 AM - 3 PM. Join the fun, music and tasting at the Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden and buy spring produce and plants for your own garden.

Proposed Club: Glenn Miller offered to head a new art club that will meet on the IV Campus every Wednesday 9 AM to noon and 1 to 4 PM. The proposed club will meet in Miwok 122. The focus of the club is life drawing.

Digital Camera Club:
4/1 Photo outing
4/15 Club Meeting 1-3 PM, ESCOM/IVC Building 10, 140AS.

The new Digital Camera Club had a great turnout of thirteen for its start in February, followed by its first group outing at the beginning of March. Regular Club Meetings are set for the 3rd Monday each month, at ESCOM/IVC, from 1-3 PM; and Monthly Outings will be the 1st Monday each month. New members are welcome to join in at any time. For more information, contact Laura Milholland at milholland_l@hotmail.com or at 578-2972. Happy shooting!

Film Noir DVD Theater Club:
3/30 SPECIAL - A FILM NOIR CLASSIC. Shown a few years ago and for those who love noir it is worth seeing again and again. The title will be announced on March 23.
4/13 The Brothers Rico ’57. Richard Conte, Diane Foster, Kathryn Grant. Director Phil Karlson.

Rudy Ramirez offers DVDs for rent from his Film Noir library as a means to contribute to a fund for updating video equipment. The list of available titles is posted on the board in ESCOM/IVC. Give Rudy a call at 491-0522.

Global Issues Club:
4/19 Friday 2 PM, Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune. In this brilliantly constructed film, interview and performance footage of Ochs is illuminated by the ruminations of Joan Baez, Tom Hayden, Pete Seeger, Sean Penn, Peter Yarrow and others.
**Humanities Club:** Current Lecture Series *The Other 1492: Ferdinand, Isabella, and the Making of an Empire*, by Teofil F. Ruiz.

4/6 Lecture 5, Isabella and Ferdinand--An Age of Reform; Lecture 6, Iberian Culture in the Fifteenth Century.


**Great Books Club** continues the second Tuesdays with Classics Worth Rereading.

3/12 Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms*.

4/9 Dickens: *Tale of Two Cities*.

**IVC Book Forum:** *Steve Jobs*, by Walter Isaacson, sparked a spirited and enthusiastic discussion because its relevance to the Age of Technology. One of 6 Best Business books of the Year.


4/22 *The Very Thought of You*, Rosi Alison.

5/20 *The Testing of Luther Alright*, McKenzie Bezos

The 2013 Reading List is available from Louise Kerr, LRKerr210@gmail.com.


**MARIN COUNTY NEEDS YOU!**

Marin County needs you to be a member of the 2013-14 Civil Grand Jury. What is the Grand Jury? The Grand Jury is a watchdog body of 19 members committed to helping County and City government. This is not a criminal Grand Jury. It is a civil Grand Jury empowered by the judicial system to conduct investigations and submit solutions to a wide range of problems.

What can you gain by serving on the Grand Jury? You will benefit by working collaboratively with a stimulating, thoughtful group of people committed to making government more efficient and account-

able. You will investigate areas of concern. You will meet our County leaders. All in all you will make a difference through meaningful public service.

What does it take to be a good juror? Ask yourself these questions: Can you cooperate with others toward a common goal? Are you a good listener? Can you keep secrets? Can you ask thoughtful questions? Can you commit to working 20 hours per week for a year? If you answered “yes” to all of these questions, and you are a U. S. citizen as well as a resident of Marin County and are at least 18 years of age, you have what it takes to be a member of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury.

For more info: www.marincounty.org/grandjury or contact Patti Bascheart at 473-6132. Applications due to Patti by April 2, 2013.

**DAD’S CHAIR**

I loved to sit in Dad's chubby club chair. I liked the shape of its round arms and the comfort of its soft cushions. It was covered in a Hershey chocolate color with a raised velvety pattern that looked like large cocoa commas. I traced the soft fuzzy edges with my fingers as I sat, legs tucked under, reading *Dr. Doolittle* or the *Bobbsey Twins* books for hours in the comfort of his chair. It had developed lumps and dents in the cushion shaped by his large body. He sat in the chair after supper, smoking a pipe while still dressed in his teacher suit. The chair smelled of my Dad. The faint odor of bay rum, mixed with the sweet tobacco circled the room like the smoke rings he blew to entertain me. Sometimes I climbed onto his lap and he read to me, shaking with laughter over the *Reader's Digest* jokes. Later he pulled out his watch from its place in his suit vest, a well-worn leather strap attached to the gold medal he won for being a world champion javelin thrower while at Purdue. He opened the gold case, exposing the face that had letters instead of numbers, which confused me until I learned Roman Numerals in school.

"Eight o'clock, bedtime, Alice Jean."

I reluctantly slipped off his lap, no arguments allowed. Then he would enjoy his chair himself.

*Alice Arbuckle Webb (Writers Workshop)*
MORE ON EDUCATION: CAN WE LEARN FROM FINLAND?

All countries agree that education is the key to success in the knowledge-based global economy. For the past decade Finland's school system has won the distinction as one of the highest performing school systems in the world, as measured by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) which assesses reading, mathematical literacy, and scientific literacy of fifteen-year-old students in all thirty-four nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including the United States. The irony is the Finns believe in minimal testing, whereas our Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, and other American "reformers" emphasize high stakes testing, firing teachers because their students score too low, charter schools, vouchers, abolishing teacher unions, adopting corporate-world management models--all policies opposed by the Finns. We have a history of looking to other nations for inspiration. We travelled to England in the 1960's to marvel at its progressive schools. In the 1980's we admired Japan's economic success, attributed to its school system. Now it's Finland.

This is what the Finns believe in: The philosophy of John Dewey--equality of educational opportunity, individual instruction and cooperative learning. Finnish students experience less anxiety and stress than students in other countries--only 7% feel anxious doing math at home compared to 52% in Japan and France. Homework is light. Grades are not given until high school. Children start compulsory school late, at age 7. There are no separate classes for gifted students--or Special Education. Testing is rare, and they are encouraged "to know, to create, and to sustain natural curiosity." The central aim: to develop each child as a thinking, active and creative person, stressing co-operation, not competition--except in how teachers are selected. Only 10% of some 6,000 applicants are accepted annually to the Faculty of Education in the Finnish Universities. A masters degree is the basic requirement to be permanently employed as a teacher in a Finnish school. There are no teacher's colleges, no private schools--all tax money is available for public education. Teachers are paid about the same as here, sharing social status equal to doctors and lawyers. The national debt is low, and the standard of living is high. It was not always so--in the early 90's Finland's economy was in crisis, they strained to qualify for inclusion into the European Union, and the Finnish education system became the key driver that saved the country.

"The best predictor of low academic performance is poverty, not bad teachers." - Diane Ravitch, (former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education). This is also the wisdom of the Finns. Since the 1970's, their key objective has been to provide all citizens with equal opportunities to receive high quality education, regardless of age, domicile, gender, economic situation or native language. A student receives a free meal every day, free healthcare, transportation, learning materials, counseling, free pre-school if desired, and college is free and college students taking a full load of classes are paid 500 Euros per month by the government to go to school! Income taxes are high: Finland is a democratic welfare state similar to adjacent Sweden, yet their education system has slowly evolved from highly centralized control to what it is today--local municipal schools run by teachers and principals, and cooperating parents who trust their teachers as professionals. That 20% of our children live in poverty, but only 4% do so in Finland, is disturbing. Our great country needs to end poverty at home and relearn the lessons of John Dewey. Recent good news: California is switching from multiple choice testing to answers by essay. Could this be the beginning? What's next, "equality of educational opportunity?"

Note: most of the above was taken from the book Finnish Lessons by Pasi Sahlberg, Director General of Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation at the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. Also, you can google his article in American Educator, Spring 2012, plus please see bio of Diane Ravitch at Wikipedia or her article "Schools We Can Envy" in The New York Review of Books.

Len Pullan

Falling Acacia
Out the window
I saw it fall
like a yellow
crowned queen

Her curtsy
making
a sound like
knees cracking.

Now on her side,
withering limbs
no longer sustain
starchless leaves.

Alice Webb
The work of artist Anna Ladyzhenskaya will be on display at Emeritus Center, Kentfield, from April 1 through June 30. A reception will be held on Wednesday, April 24, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.

DANUBE LAND AND RIVER CRUISE FREE TO NEWSLETTER STAFF MEMBERS

The Emeritus Students College of Marin Newsletter Staff is pleased to announce its first annual Danube Land and River Cruise. All members of the Newsletter staff will be eligible for this trip without charge. This has been made possible by a Trust left to the Newsletter by former editor Joan Hopper. Mrs. Hopper was a woman of great integrity, creativity, and had the foresight to bring the Newsletter into the twenty-first century.

Through the efforts of Alumna Iris Tandler we have been able to join the Alumni Program of the University of Missouri on the Danube Land and River Cruise from Sept. 15 to Sept. 30. We will meet in New York and fly to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. We will visit a fourth century church and a former palace which houses the National Art Gallery.

From there we board the MS Amadeus Brillante and travel to the ancient city of Vidin, one of Bulgaria’s oldest towns. This town was settled by the Celts more than 2000 years ago. There are many beautiful Renaissance buildings.

From Vidin, we will explore the Drobeta-Turnu Severin. These three hamlets compose a village that dates from Roman times. One of the most dramatic sites is the narrow passage where the Danube rushes through a natural site to form the boundary between Serbia and Romania.

Before resuming our journey toward the west we stop in Budapest, the charming city which was once a kingdom, established by the reigning Hapsburgs. Divided by the majestic Danube into two enclaves, Buda and Pest, each side has many attractions, not the least of which is the Fisherman’s Bastion, that overlooks the river and affords a picture postcard view of the sprawling Parliament Building. But now let us cruise alongside the Danube to the west and that other magnificent river city – Vienna.

The cultural spirit of Vienna lives in its opera houses, theaters and historical sites. We will stroll down the Ringstrasse, explore the gilded city that was home to Strauss, Mahler and other great composers. We will visit the Hofburg Palace, the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein and the Vienna Philharmonic.

Our cruise concludes here but we invite you to join us on this cultural journey to explore Eastern European cities and Old World towns along the Danube River, one of Europe’s integral waterways. A dedicated staff is committed to ensuring many fond memories of your journey. This is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture and cuisine of eight countries on a deluxe travel program.

We are currently negotiating with Jason Alexander, also an alumnus of the University of Missouri, to host the latter part of this trip as he is not committed elsewhere at the present time. This is a definite possibility. The fare for this Land-Cruise tour is covered for all members of the Newsletter Staff by the Joan Hopper Trust. We welcome everyone else! The fare has been negotiated to an affordable amount. Please call Iris Tandler at her Private Number for more information. Call soon because space is limited.

When we return to Marin after September 30, we plan to have a tremendous GALA at which time we will auction off all the tchotchkes we bought on the trip.

(Continued on Page 8.)
HYPNOTISM: SCIENCE OR SIDESHOW?
by Don Polhemus

Part I. With no good reason Franz Mesmer is often referred to as the founder of hypnotism. His story is, to say the least, unusual and even mesmerizing. Born in 1734 in Austria, he attended several universities, including Vienna, where he studied medicine. His doctoral dissertation concerned the influence of the moon and the planets on the human body.

Soon after receiving his degree, Mesmer married a wealthy widow and established himself as a physician in Vienna. He lived on a splendid estate and patronized the arts. The first opera composed by the twelve-year-old musical prodigy, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was performed on the grounds of this estate.

Mesmer believed that a kind of psychic ether pervades all space, and that the astral bodies far and near cause tides in this fluid. When the ether is flowing naturally, it results in a normal healthy condition, but when the natural flow of this ether is impeded in any way, all sorts of sicknesses result.

In 1774 he first used a magnet to produce an "artificial tide" in a patient for the purpose of dislodging the blockage of her ether. Mesmer had her swallow a preparation containing iron, and then attached magnets to various parts of her body. She reported feeling streams of a mysterious fluid running through her body and was relieved of her symptoms for several hours. Mesmer believed that he had transmitted "animal magnetism," which had accumulated in his own body, to her. Other patients claimed to be healed by Mesmer, and his practice boomed when word of this new miracle cure spread. No doubt the combined faith of both healer and patient was the persuasive factor in these cures.

As his recognition grew, so did the outrageousness of his methods. Mesmer devised a simple apparatus purported to distribute the magnetic forces to whole groups of willing patients. He constructed a system of healing tools designed to reach the most people in the least amount of time, beginning by immersing magnets in several jars of water connected with steel bands. He then collected the jars into a wooden tub filled with iron filings and more water, and attached a hose and nozzle to this contraption to help spray the magnetized healing about the room or garden area busy with patients lounging and holding hands by the dozens. The results were astounding.

His women patients invariably were outfitted in a loose smock to insure a freer transference of his magnetic powers, and it appears that his technique included the hands-on kneading of their breasts, thighs, buttocks, and wherever. In fact, it was known that Mesmer believed many female maladies were due to sexual repression.

A scandal involving a young blind girl who was a patient forced him to move from Vienna to Paris, where he was welcomed. Mesmer’s sensual healing techniques became the talk of society, women and men. King Louis XVI offered the practitioner a lifetime pension if he would sign a contract to remain in Paris and furnish proofs of his discoveries. Mesmer declined both conditions and threatened to leave France unless the pension was granted without conditions.

The conflict was finally settled when his wealthy followers created a slush fund, larger than what was proposed by the King, each contributing for the privilege of being a ground floor shareholder in a new enterprise based on the magnetic healing techniques of their beloved Franz Mesmer. Flushed with success, he established training centers in major cities across Europe.

The King was not convinced and appointed a commission to evaluate “animal magnetism.” This group included the chemist Lavoisier, physician Guillotin, astronomer Bailly, and ambassador Benjamin Franklin, all men of fame in their own fields. The commission conducted a series of experiments and reported that whatever benefit Mesmer’s treatment produced was due to “imagination.”

At this point Mesmer seems to have retired from the public scene, leaving us with only his name in words, such as mesmerize, meaning to fascinate or hypnotize. But our story had just begun because the discovery of the hypnotic state was soon stumbled upon by acci-
dent by one of his disciples, the Marquis de Puys-
gur. One day when trying to “magnetize” a young
shepherd boy by rubbing his head he put the lad
into a hypnotic, or “spasmodic sleep” (as he called
it). Trying to arouse the boy to consciousness, the
Marquis gave several commands, such as stand up,
walk, and sit down, and was astounded to observe
him obey, yet remain in his sleeping state. When
the shepherd boy finally woke up, he had no mem-
ory of these events.

And thus began the practice of hypnotism. But did
it have a future?

(To be continued in a later issue.)

**OPERA CLUB BEGINS YEAR LONG CELEBRATION OF VERDI'S 200th BIRTHDAY**

The chances are that if you drop in to an Emeritus Opera Club meeting in the year 2013 (and you're welcome), you're more than likely to hear the mu-

sic of one of the opera world's great geniuses and talk about him. Club members will be sharing their favorite arias and scenes from the more than 20

operas that Verdi created, beginning with *Oberto*
in 1839 and ending with *Falstaff* in 1893. In be-
tween, he gave the opera world such enduring class-
cics as *Rigoletto, La Traviata, Il Trovatore, Don
Carlo, Aida* and *Othello*, to name a few of his most
popular works.

On August 7th, club leader **Gil Deane** will be pre-
senting a program of his favorite Verdi recordings
and videos, as part of the San Rafael Wednesday
Art Talks, beginning at 1:00 PM in the Council
Chambers. The program is free and is open to the
public. Viva Verdi!!!!!!!
Another Aspect of the New Science-Math-Nursing Building