
Includes link to transcript of spring Convocation address

In this week’s State of the Union Address, President Barak Obama touched on something that we see all too often. Many of our bright students are priced out of the education that they are seeking. With 40 percent of the nation’s college students choosing community college for their higher education, the president’s proposal to make the first two years of a community college education free acknowledges and underscores the important work being done here at our campuses. For those who were not able to attend last week’s Convocation, I elaborate more on this in my talking points if you would like to read more.

Welcome New Employees

A number of new employees hired since the fall 2014 Convocation were introduced and welcomed to the COM community. Please take a moment to read the brief bios posted along with their photos, and say hello if you see them on campus.

Kudos

Social Sciences Professor Walter Turner was honored on January 14 with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 4th Annual Be the Dream Awards Celebration sponsored by Marin Grassroots. Turner was also the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on January 19 in Marin City. He spoke on the theme of making the dream, living the dream, and keeping the dream. Congratulations and thank you, Walter, for continuing to be such an incredible ambassador for the College, as well as a terrific role model for our students and community!

Hats off to the Drama Department! They received five nominations for the 2014 Excellence in Theatre Awards given by the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle. Out of four shows this year, two were ranked with professional companies. The awards will be presented on March 9, 2015, at the Victoria Theatre in San Francisco. Read the complete list of categories and nominees online.

The Taming of the Shrew and Little Women both earned spots in the Marin Independent Journal’s Year in Review. This list detailed the ten most memorable plays IJ reviewers saw in Marin in 2014. Congratulations, and thank you for providing our students the opportunity to act and gain technical theater skills in these highly regarded performances. Read more online in the article.
January Data Nugget
You can now find student and faculty responses to all Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) questions on the PRIE website. As PRIE continues to explore these data, brief topic-focused reports will be posted there as well, such as the one that shows us how College of Marin differs from other colleges. This report compares COM to two national groups of community colleges and a small group of San Francisco Bay Area community colleges that participated in the CCSSE survey. Take a look to see how we measure up.

Upcoming Events

Willard Dixon: Portraits—Artist Talk and Reception Tomorrow
The artist will speak about the current exhibition at a reception this Saturday, January 24, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Chris West for more information, (415) 485-9494.

Artist Talk and Reception
Saturday, January 24
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Fine Arts Gallery, Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

Free Tax Preparation at Single Stop
The Single Stop Office will be offering free tax preparation January 26 through April 15, every Monday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To qualify for free tax help the previous year’s income must be less than $53,000. U.S. citizenship is not required. This service is available on a drop-in basis only, no appointments will be taken. Call Single Stop Coordinator Tara Arenas at (415) 457-8811 ext. 7761 for more information.

Biology Professor Presents Lecture on Mutualism
As part of the Martin Griffin Preserve Lecture Series, Biology Professor Joe Mueller will present Mutualism—The Overdue Paradigm on Saturday, January 31, 2015, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The free public lecture will take place at the Audubon Canyon Ranch, Martin Griffin Preserve. The presentation will discuss evidence for why mutualism is foundational for ecological systems, how it can be applied to human systems, and why following this type of natural philosophy would solve the human predicament. Space is limited. RSVP by January 29 to RSVP@egret.org or by calling (415) 868-9244 ext. 110. More information is available at the Audubon Canyon Ranch website.
Drama Department Presents *Love Letters*—a Special Fundraiser Performance
By A.R. Gurney
**Robert Wilson**, director

A limited engagement production of A.R. Gurney’s *Love Letters* starring **James Dunn** and **Anne Ripley** will be performed Valentine’s Day weekend. Characters Andrew Makepeace Ladd III and Melissa Gardner are lifelong friends whose correspondence begins with early childhood notes, and continues over their lifetime. This piece is evocative, touching, and frequently funny. It’s eloquently clear that their attachment to each other remains strong through both good times and bad. Get in the spirit of Valentine’s Day; this is a true love story you won’t want to miss!

**Friday, February 13 (final dress preview), 7:30 p.m.**
Suggested donation: $10

**Saturday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 15, 2 p.m.**
Studio Theatre (PA 32), Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus
Suggested donation: $25

Please contact **Kim Foulger**, (415) 485-9555 to reserve your seats. This performance is not part of the subscription season. Proceeds benefit the COM Drama Department.

*Love Letters is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York*

**ESCOM Presents Afternoon Author Series**

As part of the Haddie Mini Lecture Series, Emeritus Students College of Marin (ESCOM) is delighted to partner with Book Passage in bringing a free series of outstanding authors to the community. The series begins with Author Don George discussing *An Innocent Abroad*. In the book more than 20 well-known writers and celebrities share the travel experiences that shaped their personalities and changed their lives. A book signing will follow the lecture and books will be available for purchase. More information is available on the [Community Education website](http://www.communityeducationwebsite.com) or by calling (415) 485-9652.

**Friday, February 27**
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Learning Resources Center, Library
Kentfield Campus
Ongoing Events

Covered California Navigator on Campus
The open enrollment period for health insurance through Covered California started on November 15, 2014, and ends February 15, 2014. Single Stop has arranged to have a navigator from Covered California on campus to give information about the different options and help individuals enroll. The navigator will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays, January 23 and 30, and February 6 at the Single Stop Office. For more information contact Tara Arenas at (415) 457-8811 ext. 7761.

Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
    January 30
    February 6

Single Stop Office, Student Services Building
Kentfield Campus

Seasonal Flu Shots Now $5 for Students
The College of Marin Health Center will be offering seasonal flu shots to students for $5, faculty and staff for $10; and to the community for $20. Fees go to help support our Nursing Program. Appointment dates and times are listed online. Call (415) 485-9458 for an appointment or more information. The Health Center is not a Medicare provider and is not able to bill insurance plans. Anyone wishing to receive a flu shot must be 18 years of age or older.

Fall Sports

Men’s Basketball
COM vs. Los Medanos College
Saturday, January 24, 1 p.m. in Kentfield
COM vs. Contra Costa College
Wednesday, January 28, 5:30 p.m. in San Pablo
COM vs. Napa Valley College
Friday, January 30, 5:30 p.m. in Kentfield

Women’s Basketball
COM vs. Los Medanos College
Saturday, January 24, 3 p.m. in Kentfield
COM vs. Contra Costa College
Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. in San Pablo
COM vs. Napa Valley College
Friday, January 30, 7:30 p.m. in Kentfield
Baseball
COM vs. College of San Mateo
Tuesday, January 27, 2 p.m. in Kentfield
COM vs. Hartnell College
Friday, January 30, 2 p.m. in Salinas
COM vs. Hartnell College
Saturday, January 31, noon in Kentfield

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President