President’s Weekly Briefing—February 27, 2014

College of Marin Topping Out Ceremony Marks Milestone in Construction of New Academic Center

Friday, March 7, 11 a.m.
New Academic Center
Kentfield Campus

Come join me in celebrating the work of our construction team at a traditional topping out ceremony for the new Academic Center at the Kentfield Campus. It’s a major milestone in the construction of the last major Measure C project, and a celebration for the entire team, from the tradespeople to the designers. Everyone is invited to share the accomplishment. Refreshments will be served. The event will include the signing and hoisting of a final steel beam, an evergreen tree, and American flag atop the 28-foot skeletal structure of the new Academic Center. School trustees, officials, construction workers, the design team, and members of the community will be on hand to sign the beam before a crane sets it in place. The symbolic ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of the workers, the community, and the campus; and signifies that the highest point of the structure has been achieved. The evergreen tree signifies that no building shall be higher than the tallest tree.

It’s also a thank you for the vision of our trustees, the rich involvement of the community, and the tremendous effort of our construction team, including Wright Contracting, Mark Cavagnero Associates, TLCD Architecture, Jacobs Project Management Co., Marin County Building & Construction Trades Council, and community leaders.

The Academic Center, located at the corner of College Avenue and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, will be the welcoming front door of the Kentfield Campus. At about 43,000 square feet, it will house 17 classrooms, two computer labs, faculty offices, and the president’s office. It is being built to surpass the highest standards of environmental sustainability and is expected to earn a Gold LEED Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. The project is on schedule for completion in mid-2015.

Open Forums with the Superintendent/President
Please join me for one of two open forums scheduled on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend with their ideas, questions, and other topics of discussion.

**Indian Valley Campus**
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Building 17, Room 100

**Kentfield Campus**
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Deedy Staff Lounge
Student Services Building
Welcoming Our New Director of IT
I would like to extend a warm welcome to Patrick Ekoue-totou who has accepted the position of Chief Information Officer/Director of Information Technology. Ekoue-totou comes to the College from Santa Rosa Junior College, where he was manager of Campus Data & Telecom and managed the overall IT operations of all four sites at the Sonoma County Junior College District. Prior to that, he was Information Technology Supervisor, Senior Network Administrator and Telecommunication Specialist at Novato Unified School District, managing technology at 17 sites. A Microsoft-Certified System Engineer, he has a bachelor’s degree in business management: computer information systems and a master’s degree in business administration: computer information systems. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in business administration: computer and information security.

College of Marin Measure C Bond Citizens’ Oversight Committee Solicits New Members—Applications Due March 28
Committee members are being sought to serve on the College of Marin Citizens’ Oversight Committee for the Measure C bond program. We especially need a member from a business organization located in the District. The committee is seeking applications for members to represent various interests such as:
- a community at-large resident
- a bona-fide taxpayers association member
- a student enrolled and active in a community college support group
- a member of a senior citizens organization
- a member representing the business community located in the district
- a member active in a college support organization

Applications are due Friday, March 28. College of Marin Board of Trustees will appoint new members on Tuesday, April 15. Oversight committee members cannot be employees, officials, vendors, consultants, or contractors of the College of Marin. For application information, contact the Department of Modernization at (415) 485-9518.

Measure C was a Proposition 39 bond that required the formation of a Citizens’ Oversight Committee to ensure the financial accountability for projects funded by a $249.5 million bond earmarked for facilities modernization. More than 63 percent of Marin County voters passed Measure C in November 2004. College of Marin Board of Trustees established the independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee on December 14, 2004.
February 18 Board of Trustees Meeting
Information from the February 18 Board of Trustees meeting is available online. You can also watch the meetings online at justin.tv. The next meeting regular Board meeting is:

Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.
Building 5, room 188
Indian Valley Campus

College Trustees Pass Resolutions Honoring Black History Month and National Engineers Week
The College trustees passed two resolutions at their meeting on February 18, one that recognizes February as Black History Month and one to honor National Engineers Week. The first proclamation honored the past and continuing special contributions and achievements of African Americans in the formation of the nation, the pursuit of civil rights and the monumental achievements and gains for all disenfranchised people. In the resolution, the trustees noted the importance of diversity at the College of all racial, religious, and ethnic groups and said they were proud to recognize the re-election of Barak Obama, the country’s first African-American president.

In the second resolution, College trustees honored the nation’s engineers proclaiming a campus-wide National Engineers Week, February 16 – 22, to emphasize the importance of learning math, science, and technical skills and the profession that provides so much to society. National Engineers Week was started in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with the birthday of President George Washington, who is considered the nation’s first engineer for his survey work.

Kudos
Ten College of Marin student government representatives weathered record snowstorms in the East to attend the annual Community College National Legislative Summit earlier this month and advocate for community college priorities. The group included Steven Petker, ASCOM president; Analaura Arredondo, IVC senator-at-large; Brian Rowland, IVC senator-at-large; Ben Wilson, State student senate representative; Alexander Zavala, ASCOM director of Public Relations; Mariana Weber, ASCOM auxiliary member; Puyun Yen, ASCOM director of Student Services; Lance Reyes, student trustee; Nichelle Lyster, COM student; Melanie Wolf, COM student; and Arnulfo Cedillo, director of Student Services and student advisor. Between storms, they attended the Association of Community College Trustees National Congress and visited local legislators to advocate for Pell Grants, the Dream Act, and veterans’ rights. They also had the chance to visit the White House and meet with Congressman Jared Huffman, representative of the Second District. Huffman has been involved in several pieces of legislation important to our students.
February 2014 Data Nugget

Here is a fun test of your knowledge about our students and a chance to learn to understand them better through data. Below are some of the educational goals listed on COM’s Credit Application for Admissions form. Students taking credit classes are asked to select from the list as representative of their purpose in attending COM. Question: Which two goals did incoming students identify more often in fall 2013 than they did in fall 2012, despite a decrease in enrollment during this time period?

1. Obtain two-year technical degree without transfer
2. Advance in current job/career (update job skills)
3. Earn a career technical certificate without transfer
4. Obtain an associate degree without transfer
5. Prepare for a new career (acquire job skills)
6. Transfer to four-year institution without an associate degree
7. Four-year college student taking courses to meet four-year requirements
8. Obtain an associate degree & transfer to four-year institution
9. Improve basic skills
10. Maintain certificate or license

Answer: (from largest to smallest increase):
Most students cited number 7, four-year college student taking courses to meet four-year requirements. Number 10, to maintain a certificate or license, was the second most popular reason cited.

Source: COM Data Dashboard, Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness

Upcoming Events

Award-Winning Western-Style Taming of the Shrew Opens This Weekend;
Encore Performance Honors 50 Years of COM Theater
By William Shakespeare
Directed by James Dunn

Yee haw! We’re back in the saddle again with Director James Dunn’s iconic Wild West take on courtship gone wrong. Remounted to celebrate the Drama Department’s 50th anniversary (1964–2014), the western Shrew won the “Best of the Fringe” at the Edinburgh Festival in 1971 and was presented in a command performance to Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret and her family. This show is great fun for the whole family and is a terrific way to introduce youngsters to Shakespeare. Note that there will be a talkback with the director and members of the production following the March 9 performance.
Thursday, February 27, 8 p.m. (Final dress preview $10)
Fridays and Saturdays, February 28, March 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15, 8 p.m.
Sundays, March 9 and 16, 2 p.m.
James Dunn Theatre
Kentfield Campus
Tickets: $20 general; $15 seniors; $10 COM employees, students and alumni (free weekend parking)
Box Office: (415) 485-9385. Open Tuesday through Friday, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and one hour before Saturday and Sunday performances.
Online tickets: Brown Paper Tickets

Moodle Open Lab at the new SMN Computer Lab
You are invited to the Moodle Open Lab every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. in SMN 130. Ask questions, share with colleagues, or update your skills. To see the latest schedule, check out the Faculty Support Services webpage. No registration is necessary, just drop in. For more information, call (415) 485-9540.

Dates of upcoming sessions:
- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27

Memorial services for Janet Thormann-Mackintosh
A memorial service is scheduled for College of Marin Instructor Janet Thormann-Mackintosh, a former English/Humanities professor, who died January 3. All are welcome to attend. Potluck items will be appreciated.

Saturday, March 1, 3 p.m.
2288 Vineyard Road, Novato
RSVP to Connie Lehua, Human Resources Specialist, (415) 485-9361; or to Elizabeth Spinner, (415) 388-6912.
Classified Senate Governance Monthly Meeting
The Classified Senate represents the voice of the classified staff in participatory governance matters. All meetings are open to the public. You may contact any of the Classified senators listed online to ask questions or get information about the Senate.

Tuesday, March 4, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Teleconference room, LC 53
Kentfield Campus
Teleconference room, ISC 201
Indian Valley Campus

Free Thursday Brown Bag Theatre: “Contemporary Comedy”
You are invited to enjoy the Brown Bag Theatre’s free student-directed scenes. On select Thursdays only, Actors Without Lines (A.W.O.L.) students from both beginning and advanced improv classes perform in the drama classroom. Auditions for the next show—“Anti-Naturalism”—will be on Thursday, March 13, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 13, 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.
PA 134/136
Kentfield Campus
Free

Jazz Ensemble at the Sausalito Seahorse
Cayce Carnahan, director

The COM Jazz Ensemble performs the second Thursday of each month at the Seahorse in Sausalito. Enjoy great music, great food, and great atmosphere. Bring your dancing shoes and swing the night away. There is no cover charge. More information is available online or call (415) 485-9460. To receive performance notices electronically, subscribe by email.

Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Sausalito Seahorse
305 Harbor Drive, Sausalito
Free
Ongoing Events

Emeritus Student Center Features Watercolor and Pastel Artist
Boston-born painter Judith Klausenstock is the featured artist in the current exhibit sponsored by the Emeritus Students of College of Marin. She attended the Massachusetts School of Art and received her BFA at Harvard University. She also studied at San Francisco State University, the University of California, and here at COM. Klausenstock uses watercolor and pastel as her main media and focuses on rendering the essence of the subject matter as she uses light and shadows to emphasize space, color, and dimension. Her works have been shown throughout the country and many are now part of private and public collections.

Exhibit runs through March 28
Gallery hours: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Emeritus Center
Student Services Building, room 147
Kentfield Campus

Alumna Establishes NABT Award in Honor of Professor Gordon Chan
Nominations for the Award Will Be Accepted Until March 15
The National Association of Biology Teachers will be presenting the first Professor Chan Two-Year College Award for the Engaged Teaching of Biology this year thanks to a former student whose decades-old memories of her professor still inspire and illuminate her career. Professor Gordon Chan taught at the College for 28 years until his death in 1996. Alumna Sarah McBride, a physical therapist in the Portland, Ore. area, and her husband John Melville, a biology staff scientist and director of biology at Vernier Software & Technology, created the award to honor unsung heroes at two-year colleges. McBride describes Chan as a creative, inspiring and unforgettable professor. The award will be presented to a two-year college faculty member who has successfully developed and demonstrated an innovative, hands-on approach in the teaching of biology and has carried their commitment to the community. Online nominations will be accepted for the NABT award until Saturday, March 15.

Honoring Our Athletes—Hall of Fame Nominations Due Tomorrow
Nominations to the fifth class of the College of Marin Athletic Hall of Fame are being accepted until Friday, February 28. Please consider recommending former COM athletes so their legacy may be celebrated. You can find information about previous celebrants online and find the nomination form online as well. Send nominations and questions to Lindsay Bacigalupi, administrative assistant, College of Marin Athletics and Kinesiology Department, or contact her by phone at (415) 485-9580. Nominations may also be mailed directly to: College of Marin Athletics and Kinesiology Department, 835 College Avenue, Kentfield, CA 94904.
College Police Department Offers Digital Fingerprinting Services

The College Police Department now offers Live Scan fingerprinting services for staff, students, and the general public. The service is for anyone who requires a certified provider to electronically capture and submit fingerprints for licensure, certification, volunteer positions, business permits, record review, immigration clearance or licenses, or employment purposes. Please fill out a request for Live Scan prior to your appointment and provide valid, government-issued photo identification such as a driver license, passport, or other ID card.

**Monday – Thursday**, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
College of Marin Police Department
TB-1, room 105
Kentfield Campus

Services are by appointment only. Drop in to schedule an appointment or call (415) 485-9455. Cost: $20, plus any fees charged by Department of Justice or Federal Bureau of Investigation. Checks only. Please make checks payable to: College of Marin.

Support Scholarships, College Programs, Departments, and Special Projects Through Payroll Deductions

As a result of several requests from faculty and staff, the College Advancement Office is now accepting payroll deduction contributions for the support of departments, programs, student scholarships, and special projects. To start payroll deduction, please complete and submit a Payroll Deduction Form. If you would like to use payroll deduction to establish a student scholarship, please also complete a Scholarship Donation Form. For more information call the Communications, Community Relations, and Advancement Office, ext. 7648.

Free On-Campus Tax Preparation at Single Stop

Get help with tax preparation services, learn about benefits you might be eligible for, and improve your financial skills at Single Stop, an on-campus center that provides FREE services to students, student family members, faculty, and staff. A host of services are available, including certified tax preparation services **through April 15**. Services also include: health coverage information, grocery assistance, affordable housing options, and utility discount assistance. Single Stop also provides referral information for childcare services, cash assistance, financial advising, and legal consultation. To learn about the many services that Single Stop offers or to become eligible to win a Kindle Fire or backpack full of supplies (including an 8 GB flash drive, note book, and index cards), stop by the Single Stop office to participate in raffles during the spring 2014 semester. Contact **Edwin Towle**, Single Stop coordinator, at (415) 457-8811 ext. 7761 to schedule an appointment.

**Mondays – Thursdays**, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
**Fridays**, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Student Services building, room 124
Kentfield Campus
Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden Stand Open Wednesdays
The produce and flower stand for the flagship organic farm and teaching garden is open for business every Wednesday, rain or shine. Bring your own bag and select your favorite fresh produce and flowers. Launched in the spring of 2009, the farm and garden is part of an initiative developed from a countywide commitment to teach Marin residents about the valuable role of agriculture in Marin County and to promote local food systems. It is the only teaching farm in Marin County.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Indian Valley Campus

Police Escorts Available for Staff and Students
The College of Marin Police Department offers on-campus escort services to walk staff and students to and from their vehicles and classrooms. To arrange for an escort, contact Campus Police Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at (415) 485-9455, call Dispatch at (415) 485-9696 to have police personnel contact you to make arrangements, or stop by the Police Department in building TB1 during normal business hours.

Evening Assistance
Evening public service assistants are available on both campuses Monday through Thursday. If you need assistance, please call one of the numbers listed below:

Kentfield Campus, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m., (415) 747-0699
Indian Valley Campus, 4 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., (415) 747-0658

If you would like a campus police officer to contact you, call dispatch at extension 7696 or (415) 485-9696. For life- or property-threatening emergencies, call 911.

Sports

Baseball
Men’s Baseball vs. Modesto
Saturday, March 1, 1 p.m. in Modesto
Men’s Baseball vs. Consumnes River
Tuesday, March 4, 2 p.m. in Kentfield
Men’s Baseball vs. Delta
Thursday, March 6, 2 p.m. in Stockton
Bay Valley Conference vs. Yuba
Tuesday, March 11, 2 p.m. at Marysville
Softball
Women’s Softball vs. Solano
Thursday, March 6, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Kentfield
Women’s Softball vs. Yuba
Tuesday, March 11, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Marysville

Track and Field
Kim Duyst Invitational
Friday, March 1, 10 a.m. at CSU Stanislaus, Turlock
49er 5-Way Meet at Yuba
Saturday, March 8, 11 a.m. in Marysville

Swimming and Diving
Mariner Invitational
Saturday, March 8, all day at the Indian Valley Campus in Novato

Submissions to the Weekly Briefing
Please submit information no later than Friday for the next week. Submissions received later than Friday will be included in the following week’s edition.

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President