President’s Weekly Briefing—November 21, 2014

The Kentfield and Indian Valley Campuses will be closed November 27 – 30 for Thanksgiving. Campuses will reopen Monday, December 1.

A Day in the Life of Gardener Phil Fahy

As you may recall, we took a moment to recognize and thank our hard working SEIU colleagues during the spring 2014 Convocation—Purple Haze and all! Last Friday I had the opportunity to fulfill my commitment to spending a “day in the boots” of one of our employees, Phil Fahy, one of our dedicated gardeners, was the lucky “winner.” I began the day with Phil early in the morning at the Indian Valley Campus. He had me pulling weeds in front of Building 27. It’s a good thing we only did that for an hour, or I wouldn’t have been able to walk the rest of the weekend! From there we met up with Steve Garrett, another gardener extraordinaire, for tree trimming and trail clearing. It was an honor for me to work alongside this hard working dynamic. It was also a great reminder of the important role that each of our employees play in the overall success of the college.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday I would like to thank all of you for the dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm you bring to campus. Each of you contribute to creating and maintaining a successful learning environment for our students, and for that I am incredibly grateful. As we take time to enjoy the company of our friends and family, I wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Kudos

College of Marin celebrated its 2nd International Education Week on November 19 and 20. It was an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.

An enormous amount of planning and dedication went into the two days of campus activities, which started off with a Korean drumming performance led by Jong Lee and Dr. Emily Wu, Dominican University professor, as well as community members, Nancy Lyle Bennett and Sandy Wong. This year’s celebration also featured the very first Puerto Rican food truck in the Bay Area, desserts around the world, a discussion on global climate change hosted by Model United Nations Club and led by Instructors Paul Cheney and Dr. Fernando Agudelo-Silva, and a study abroad and exchange information fair with country display boards prepared and hosted by Intensive English Program students.

It took a number of College faculty, staff, and students to make the event a success. Many thanks to: Rebecca Freeland, event coordinator; Nanda Schorske, Sara Oser, Valerie Marckwordt, Jesse Klein, Tara Arenas, Dr. Magda Levin, Sueli Bertuol-Okun, Dr. Andrei Barashkov,
Dr. Fernando Agudelo-Silva, Minjae Laws, Paul Cheney, Mikaela Bennett, Uyen Tran, Lisa Ling, Miles Popplewell, Soledad Aguilar, Grethel Bermudez, Mariana Weber, Vickie Lamke, Shook Chung, Nicole Cruz, Jeff Cox, John Rodriguez, ASCOM, Model United Nations club representatives, Intensive English Program students, Borinquen Soul, CORT Furniture Rental, and Cultural Homestay International.

Photos from the event can be viewed online: 2014 International Education Week Photo Album

Save the Date—Holiday Party
College faculty, classified professionals, and administrators are invited to celebrate the season at the holiday party on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Woodlands Café. Hors d’oeuvres will be served; bring cash for the no-host bar. A celebratory toast will be held at 5 p.m. RSVP online for automatic entry in the raffle. I look forward to seeing you there!

EOPS Giving Tree Is Back
Last year the EOPS Giving Tree fulfilled wishes for our COM low-income families, bringing holiday joy and gifts to children whose parents would not have otherwise been able to afford them. You are invited to stop by the EOPS Office on the Kentfield Campus and pick up information on the child’s age, gender, and items they want or need. An ornament will be added to the Giving Tree each time a child is chosen. Donors can feel free to bring in a personalized ornament to add to the tree as well.

Bring your unwrapped toy(s) back to EOPS by Monday, December 8, to make sure there is time to get the gifts to the families. If you don’t have time to shop and would like to make a monetary contribution, staff will be purchasing toys and/or gift cards for the children not chosen. Contributions of wrapping paper and anything that would help towards a holiday meal are also appreciated. For more information, contact Tim Schneider, Becky Reetz, or call (415) 485-9605.

Former Community Education Instructor Inducted to AAAM Hall of Fame
Dr. Peter Stanek, former Community Education instructor, was inducted to the inaugural Asian-American Alliance Marin (AAAM) Hall of Fame at the annual community dinner on November 14. This prestigious award was established by AAAM to acknowledge people who have made unique contributions to the Asian-American community. He received the award posthumously for his significant contributions to the development and advancement of the Asian-American community while contributing to the American experience. Stanek taught a Community Education course on the History of the Pacific War at College of Marin. The honorable James Chou, Marin County superior court judge, presented the award to Dr. Stenek’s family.
Cop’s Corner: Power Failure
Blackouts or power failures can happen at any time. In the event a power failure occurs during daylight, the College will remain open. The phone and emergency systems will continue to operate and most rooms on campus will have enough ambient light to continue activities. If a power failure occurs at night, classes may be excused after 15 minutes. When the lights go out, remain calm, use whatever light sources you have, and wait in your room or area for 15 minutes. If the lights have not come back on students, faculty, and staff should carefully make their way to their cars and leave campus.

Please refer to page 16 in College of Marin’s Emergency Guidelines Handbook to start preparing in the event of a power failure. Handbooks are attached to the wall near the exits inside College of Marin buildings.

Upcoming Events

Drama Department Presents The American Dream / The Zoo Story
W. Allen Taylor, director
Play by Edward Albee

This pairing of two iconic one-acts by Pulitzer Prize-winning American playwright Edward Albee, captures with humor and poignancy the frustration of a vulnerable society steeped in materialistic values. The American Dream is a ferocious, uproarious attack on these pervasive values. Taking an absurdist view of a dysfunctional, consumer-driven American family, their bizarro-world is revealed. Its companion piece, The Zoo Story, illustrates the potential consequences of the values of isolation and alienation on the human race. It dissects a chance meeting between two strangers from different sides of the societal spectrum, where futile attempts to relate end in tragedy. The November 30 performance is followed by a talkback with the director.

November 21, 22, 29, December 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m.
November 30 and December 7, 2 p.m.
Studio Theatre, Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

Admission is $20 general; $15 seniors; $10 students, COM employees, and alumni. Buy tickets online.
College of Marin Symphony Orchestra
Tara Flandreau, director

Masterworks of the classical and romantic eras presented by the full orchestra.

**November 22, 7:30 p.m.**
James Dunn Theatre
Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

**December 6, 3 p.m.**
Performing Arts Building, Lobby
Kentfield Campus

**Student Success Speaker Series—Reduce Stress and Relax**
It’s the holiday season, final exams are approaching, but you can minimize your stress and relax with tips from Mental Health Coordinator Kathy Page from the Canal Alliance. Join Kathy on **Wednesday, December 3, at noon** in the Student Services Building, Kentfield Campus and learn what you can do to keep your stress levels down.

**Hooked on Marin Speaker Series—Strong Cognitive Health**
The Community Education Department, along with collaborating Marin County public service agencies and educational districts, presents **Strong Cognitive Health** as part of the Hooked on Marin Speaker Series. Unquestionably important is the health of your brain—in particular, avoiding cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s. Be part of state-of-the-art scientific research that originated at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging. Join Dr. John Q. Walker as he describes a high-tech systems approach that is tailored precisely to an individual’s blood chemistry, genetics, and medical history.

**Strong Cognitive Health**
Presented by **John Q. Walker**, Ph.D., founder of Muses Labs

**Wednesday, December 3, 7 p.m.**
Corte Madera Community Center
498 Tamalpais Dr., Corte Madera

For more information or to purchase tickets call (415) 927-5072 or visit [www.HookedonMarin.com](http://www.HookedonMarin.com). General admission tickets are $15.
College of Marin Symphonic Band—Marching and Dancing!
Trevor Björklund, director

The Symphonic Band presents a concert of works including great American and Italian marches plus powerful and elegant music inspired by romantic ballet…and a piece about Martians. Tap your feet to Gustav Holst's First Suite in Eb, Danse Bacchanale from Saint Saens' Samson et Delila, Glieré's Russian Sailors Dance, Funeral March of a Marionette by Gounod, and the indescribable March of the Martians, by Emil Soderstrom. Bring the whole family!

December 3, 7:30 p.m.
James Dunn Theatre, Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

An Evening of Chamber Music
Tara Flandreau, director

The chamber music class performs trios, quartets, and quintets from three centuries of the classical repertoire. A different program will be presented each evening.

December 4, 8 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (PA72), Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

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, December 5, 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.
   December 5, 2014
   January 23 and 30, 2015
   February 6, 2015

Single Stop Office, Student Services Building
Kentfield Campus
Jazz Ensemble
Cayce Carnahan, director

Take a seat at the James Dunn Theatre for a night of instrumental and vocal jazz. Joined by W. Allen Taylor and members of the COM Dance Department, enjoy the music of Count Basie and classic songs from the Rat Pack. The evening will feature some of the finest swing music ever written. The Jazz Ensemble also performs at the Sausalito Seahorse each second Thursday of the month, 305 Harbor Dr., Sausalito.

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.
James Dunn Theatre, Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

Advanced Voice Class Recital: Stars and the Heavens — Celestial Songs
Linda Noble Brown, director

Man has long been fascinated with gazing into the sky. Composers, likewise, have embraced the mystery and vastness of the night sky. This recital will explore the universe beyond the Earth's atmosphere, both real and imagined, with songs chosen from a variety of genres (arias, art songs, musical theatre), each captivated by the stars and the heavens.

Sunday, December 7, 3 p.m.
The Tamalpais Retirement Community
501 Via Casitas, Greenbrae

Beginning Voice Class—Audience Ready! First Open Recital
Linda Noble Brown, director

Our beginning singers have been working all semester on their first onstage performance. Share the thrill and excitement as our singers courageously step in front of the audience. You will hear a lovely mix of folk songs and art songs, and perhaps even a short aria, as the singers are allowed make their own choices from within the class repertoire.

Monday, December 8, 2:10 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (PA 72)
Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus
Marin Oratorio Presents *Messiah*
Boyd Jarrell, director

The most frequently performed of all oratorios, Handel’s Messiah is grand entertainment with a transcendent sense of dramatic pacing and force. The poetry and majesty of Handel's vision of birth, passion, and resurrection are quintessentially familiar, yet ever fresh. This timeless masterpiece will be presented in its original orchestration by Marin’s premier oratorio society with full orchestra and guest soloists Erina Newkirk, Heidi Waterman, Michael Belle, and John Bischoff.

**Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m.**  
James Dunn Theatre, Performing Arts Building  
Kentfield Campus

Box office: (415) 485-9385 [www.marinoratorio.org](http://www.marinoratorio.org)  
Suggested donation: $20 general; $15 students, seniors, COM employees, and alumni  
All proceeds go to support Marin Oratorio.

**Ongoing Events**

**Selected Works by Robert Brady—Final Week**  
An exhibition of Robert Brady’s selected works is on display at the Fine Arts Gallery and runs through November 26. This free exhibition is open to the public and has been made possible courtesy of the artist and the Jack Fischer Gallery. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please email all inquiries to Chris West or call (415) 485-9494.

**ASCOM Food and Toy Drive**  
ASCOM is sponsoring a food and toy drive, and will be collecting donations in bins that are set up in the lobby of the Student Services Building, Kentfield Campus. The food bank is always in need of nutritious, non-perishable foods such as canned fruit, vegetables, stew, chili, soup, tuna, and meat; peanut butter, cereal; fruit juice; rice; flour; and sugar. Toys should be new and unwrapped. Drop off your donations now through December 5.

**Emeritus Center Exhibit Featuring Nancie West Swanberg**  
Nancie West Swanberg is the featured artist in the Emeritus Center’s current exhibition; read more about her [online](http://www.marinoratorio.org). The Emeritus Center on the Kentfield Campus is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The show runs through the end of December.
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

The Men's Basketball team home opener is Thursday, December 4, at 7 p.m. against Santa Rosa Junior College. Bring an unwrapped toy to receive free admission. Halftime festivities will include a raffle.

Men’s Basketball
COM vs. West Valley College
Saturday, November 22, 5 p.m. in Saratoga
COM vs. Santa Rosa Junior College
Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m. in Kentfield

Women’s Basketball
COM vs. Shasta College
Saturday, November 22, 3 p.m. in Kentfield
COM vs. Gavilan College
Friday, December 5, 6 p.m. in Gilroy

Have a great Thanksgiving,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President