President’s Weekly Briefing—December 5, 2014

Spring 2015 Flex Week Events
It is a busy time of year as we complete the semester and prepare for the holidays. With the spring semester approaching, I want to let you know about our upcoming Flex Week events.

Spring Flex Week is from Tuesday, January 13 to Friday, January 16, 2015. Spring classes will begin on Tuesday, January 20, the day after the Martin Luther King holiday. (Weekend classes begin Saturday, January 17.) As a departure from our usual schedule, we will have the College Convocation and department meetings on Wednesday, January 14. Our convocation speaker will be Diego Navarro of Cabrillo College who will discuss how we can build on the ideas of character, grit, productive persistence, and hope to help our students succeed academically. Professor Navarro will follow up his convocation speech with another session for a more in depth look at how we can help students achieve success.

We have a large and diverse slate of Flex Week activities for employees. This semester, we are pleased to include art and wellness activities in addition to those focusing on technology training, student success, and institutional and employee effectiveness. The schedule has been put together by members of the Professional Development Committee with the help of faculty and staff across campus who will share their knowledge with us during the week. We also have a number of activities brought to us by the Human Resources Department and the Retiree Support Group.

As a final Flex reminder for faculty, Flex Verification forms are due in Human Resources by December 20, 2014. The form can be found on the Professional Development webpage. Because we have four Flex days in the spring, the Flex obligation for full-time faculty is 16 hours.

Also, I hope to see you at the College Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 10, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Woodlands Café.

Student Characteristics Report Now Online
The fall 2014 student characteristics report is now posted on the College website. Here you will find data on credit students including full-time/part-time status, race/ethnicity, gender, education level, age, geographic location of residence, educational goal, and degrees conferred.

COM Library Hours of Operation
On Friday, December 13, the Kentfield and Indian Valley Campus Libraries will have modified hours. The Kentfield Library will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the IVC Library will be open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Libraries at both campuses will be closed during winter break from December 15, 2014, to January 19, 2015. During winter break, you can return COM Library items in the book return in the parking lot behind the Learning Resources Center or outside the mailroom.
Socks in the City

Socks are one of the items in greatest need at this time of the year for our homeless population. St. Anthony’s Socks in the City program was started in response to the dire need for socks for homeless men and women. St. Anthony’s aims to collect 10,000 pairs of new or gently used socks by December 21, 2014. You can help reach that goal by donating socks. Donation bins are located at the Student Services Building, first floor; and at the main entrances on the first and third floors of the Science Math Nursing Building, Kentfield Campus. For more information contact Deirdre Martinez, (415) 485-9573.

Moodle Open Lab at the SMN Computer Lab

You are invited to the Moodle Open Lab Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. in the Science, Math, Nursing Building, room 130. Ask questions, share with colleagues, or update your skills. To see the latest schedule, check out the Moodle home page. No registration is necessary, just drop in. For more information, call (415) 485-9578. The extended hours on December 11 are to accommodate faculty with course imports and Turnitin.

Thursday, December 11

Noon – 2 p.m.
Science, Math, Nursing Building, room 130
Kentfield Campus

Nightly Shelter Available Through REST Program

The Job Placement and Housing Office has recently acquired resource information for the Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) Program. Shelter is provided for up to 20 women and 40 men on a nightly basis for the winter months. The REST season runs from November 15 to April 15. If you know of a person in need of shelter during this time frame, encourage registration at the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Monday through Friday, from noon to 2 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. REST evolved out of necessity due to the lack of capacity in Marin’s existing shelter system and is generously supported by the County of Marin and a grant from the Marin Community Foundation.

EOPS Giving Tree—Stop by Today

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. Stop by the EOPS Office on the Kentfield Campus today 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.

(Continued on next page)
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.

**Cop’s Corner: Emergency Preparedness**

College of Marin’s Emergency Guidelines Handbook is available on the [Police Department website](http://policedepartmentwebsite.com). It is best to prepare yourself before an emergency happens by reviewing the handbook and learning about campus emergency response centers, evacuation areas and procedures, and emergency phone numbers for various issues or disasters. There are also suggestions for dealing with suspicious or disruptive people, and information regarding fires, earthquakes, and other environmental threats. These handbooks are available near all exits of buildings, and online as a pdf from the [Police Department website](http://policedepartmentwebsite.com).

**Upcoming Events**

**Final Weekend of The American Dream / The Zoo Story**

*W. Allen Taylor*, director

Play by Edward Albee

The Drama Department pairs two iconic one-acts by Pulitzer Prize-winning American playwright Edward Albee, capturing 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.

**December 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m.**

**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](http://buyticketsonline.com)
College of Marin Sinfonia
Tara Flandreau, director

The COM Sinfonia performs a program of baroque holiday music.

Saturday, December 6, 3 p.m.
Performing Arts Lobby
Kentfield Campus
Free admission

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 Drive, Sausalito.

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

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

Monday, December 8, 11:10 a.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (PA 72)
Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus
Free admission to both performances
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
Free Admission

Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Open House
The Marin County Flood Control District invites you to an open house on Saturday, December 13, to learn about the local watershed, flooding history, and the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program. The open house will include hands-on, family friendly activities, updates on flood mitigation projects, and opportunities to speak with staff and community representatives.

The Town of San Anselmo, in partnership with FEMA, will also be unveiling its High Water Mark Campaign with new signs posted throughout the downtown corridor indicating the height of historic floods. This campaign is part of FEMA’s Know Your Line initiative to develop community awareness of local flood risks. Hear from local and regional leaders at 9:30 a.m. and learn about protecting your family in the event of a flood.

The open house is being held in conjunction with the San Anselmo Recreation Department’s Annual Breakfast with Santa at the Ross Valley Fire Department in downtown San Anselmo.

Saturday, December 13
8 a.m. to noon
Ross Valley Fire Department
777 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo

College Chorus and Chamber Singers—Winter Scene
Boyd Jarrell, director
Jeffrey Paul, accompanist

Tuesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m.
James Dunn Theatre, Preforming 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**

**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
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.

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. 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.

Fall Sports

Men’s Basketball
Lassen Tournament
December 12-14 in Susanville, time TBA
Santa Rosa Junior College Tournament
December 18-20 in Santa Rosa, time TBA

Women’s Basketball
COM vs. Monterey Peninsula College
Thursday, December 11, 6 p.m. in Gilroy
ELAC Holiday Tournament
December 27-29 in Los Angeles, time TBA

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President