President’s Monday Briefing – Nov. 15, 2010

Section 125 Benefit Plan – Open Enrollment
The college’s Pre-Tax Section 125 program year ends on Dec. 31, 2010. You will be receiving the open enrollment memo for the Section 125 Benefit plan in your campus mail box shortly. Employees who wish to enroll or make changes in their current plan(s) will need to do so by Dec. 14, 2010. Participation in the pre-tax plans is voluntary and the enrollment period is limited to once annually.

Section 125 of the IRS Code provides options to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain health and welfare benefits. The employee share of health care premium contributions, dependent/child care expenses and out-of-pocket medical/dental expenses, including office visit and prescription co-pays, are all eligible for payment with pre-tax dollars and provide a reduction in tax withholding and reportable wages. Enrolling in the Flexible Spending Account program allows you to set aside funds for un-reimbursed medical/dental expenses, childcare or dependent care expenses, and supplemental insurance premiums and have those funds deducted from your paycheck before your taxes are calculated. Pre-taxing these expenses may save in taxes on the money you are currently spending.

IMPORTANT: We anticipate increases in monthly premiums for both Kaiser and Health Net this year as well as increases in office visit and prescription co-pays for some employees effective Feb. 1, 2011. Depending on your individual situation, you may wish to consider looking into tax saving options under this program. There are also changes due to Health Care Reform related to over the counter medicine and drug reimbursements. These items may not be reimbursable unless prescribed by a physician. Please contact our AFLAC representative, Donna Reeve, if you have questions about what is covered and reimbursable.

Donna Reeve will be on campus for individual appointments Nov. 29 through Dec. 3. You may make an appointment by calling Kathy Joyner at ext. 8101 or via e-mail at kathy.joyner@marin.edu. You may also contact Ms. Reeve directly at (415) 250-0540 or at donnareeve@comcast.net.

Enrollment forms are available in the Human Resources and Payroll offices.

Please note that the Health Benefit Open Enrollment period will occur December through January. More information regarding health plan open enrollment will be forthcoming.
January Flex Workshops—Call For Proposals
The Professional Development Committee is calling for proposals for January Flex workshops. In particular, the committee is interested in building the Flex program around the topics identified as top priorities by faculty and staff in last spring’s Professional Development Needs Assessment: strategies for student success, SLOs, assessment, CPR, health and wellness and online learning courseware development including Moodle. If you are willing to present a workshop on one of these topics or another topic of interest or suggest a trainer, please e-mail **Kathleen Kirkpatrick** at **Kathleen.kirkpatrick@marin.edu**. The committee is currently reviewing proposals but will accept submissions through Dec. 7, 2010.

Head Start on Campus This Week
The Health Science Dept. will be hosting the Head Start Program on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 16 and 17, in Harlan Center. The children arrive by bus and are here for the morning with plenty of adult supervisors. During that time the Registered Nursing students screen the children’s health and motor skills and the Dental Assisting students, along with volunteer dentists do dental screening. There may be a little extra noise in the area those mornings—we appreciate everyone’s understanding!

Indian Valley Campus Harvest Day Lunch
Mark your calendars for the Harvest Day Lunch on Nov. 18, 2010, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Indian Valley Campus, Building 12, Room 100. (Room 100 is the former Internet Café.) Please bring a donation of canned goods or feel free to make a cash donation. Canned goods and proceeds will be donated to the Marin Food Bank. This event is sponsored by Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) and Emeritus Students College of Marin (ESCOM).

Safety on COM Campuses
The campus police department is here to ensure your safety. Throughout the year they come in contact with disruptive students and non-students on campus. If you encounter such a situation the quickest, safest, and most effective way of resolving these disruptions is to call the police dispatch at ext. 7696. A campus police officer will respond and investigate the problem. It is crucial to the success of the investigation, as well as to maintain the privacy of the individual involved, that the officer(s) be allowed to work without interference. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Kudos
Curriculum and Articulation Technician **Tom Hudgen’s** all-purpose cookbook, *The Commonsense Kitchen*, was recently reviewed in the San Francisco Chronicle and described as the “cream of the Bay Area’s new crop of cookbooks.” Congratulations, Tom, and continued success to you!

Director of Communications and Community Relations **Cathy Summa-Wolfe** is serving on the Golden Bell Awards Planning Committee for 2011. The Golden Bell Celebration will take place on May, 26, 2011, at Dominican University of California where outstanding educators will be honored.
Seasonal Flu Vaccines—Now Only $15
Influenza (“flu”) is a contagious disease which can be spread by coughing, sneezing, and nasal secretions. For most people the flu lasts only a few days and includes symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue. By getting vaccinated, you can protect yourself from influenza and may also avoid spreading influenza to others. The Health Center will continue to offer flu shots as long as the supply lasts for $15. Please call (415) 485-9458 for an appointment.

Upcoming Events

15th Annual Peer Summit
On Fri., Nov. 19, 450 Marin County middle school students will be on campus for the annual Peer Summit, now in its 15th year. Healthy Teens Marin organizes and funds this full-day experience for middle school students who attend interactive workshops on nutrition, relationships, healthy choices, and teen legal rights. Workshops are led by youth and community agencies, and College of Marin ASCOM leaders will facilitate a workshop on college planning. This is the fifth year that COM has hosted this countywide student event.

UC/CSU Application Workshops
If you know students who need assistance with their UC/CSU application and/or personal statements, encourage them to attend any workshops scheduled throughout the months of October and November. Workshops are scheduled during the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type of Workshop</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>UC Personal Statement</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>SS Conference A/B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>UC Personal Statement</td>
<td>3 p.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
<td>SS Conference A/B</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>UC Workshop</td>
<td>4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>SS 238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>CSU Workshop</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>SS 238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>UC Workshop</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
<td>SS 238</td>
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Performing Arts

Piano Ensemble
Paul Smith, Director
Thursday, Nov. 18, at noon
Fine Arts Theatre
Donation suggested, parking $3

The Piano Ensemble class presents a variety of works for one piano, four hands; and two hands. Performance will include works by Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Fauré, Mahler, Bizet, and many others.
COM Symphony Orchestra  
Tara Flandreau, director  
Saturday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m.  
St. Hilary Church, Tiburon  
Sunday, Nov. 21, 4 p.m.  
Unity in Marin, Novato  
Admission: $20 general, $10 students, staff, seniors, and COM alumni

The College of Marin Symphony Orchestra performs the beautiful symphonic masterpiece *Symphony No. 2 in D*, by Jean Sibelius. Former COM Music Major Aaron Redner, now with the renowned string band Hot Buttered Rum, returns to perform the *Mendelssohn Violin Concerto*.

Symphonic Band  
Douglas Delaney, director  
Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.  
Fine Arts Theatre  
Donation suggested, parking $3

The Community Symphonic Band performs challenging music, which is always well received by our audiences. On this program the band will perform Don Gillis’ *Symphony 5 ½*, the *William Byrd Suite* by Gordon Jacob, and Bernstein’s *Overture to Candide*.

Two Evenings of Chamber Music  
Jessica Ivry, director  
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, at 7:30 p.m.  
Lefort Recital Hall (FA 72)  
Suggested donation $7, free parking

College of Marin music students perform in a variety of small ensembles, including trios, quartets and quintets. There will be a different program each evening. Call (415) 485-9460 for program details.

Almost Maine  
By John Cariani  
Molly Noble, director  
Thursday, Dec. 2, is a pay-what you will preview at 8 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3, 4, 10, and 11, at 8 p.m.  
Matinees on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4, 5, 11, and 12, at 2 p.m.  
Studio Theatre (FA 32)  
$20 general, $10 for students, seniors, COM employees, and alumni

Set in the mythical town of Almost, Maine, this play is a quirky, romantic mid-winter dream—a roundelay of vignettes, all set at precisely 9 p.m. on the same night in the depths of winter. Guaranteed to eradicate the blues, this show will leave you with a warm fuzzy feeling, make you laugh, and make you cry as it explores the mysteries of the human heart.
**Cabaret Songs of William Bolcom**  
Advanced Voice Class  
**Linda Noble Brown**, instructor  
Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m.  
The Tamalpais Retirement Community  
501 Via Casitas, Greenbrae

**Jazz Ensemble**  
**Douglas Delaney**, director  
**David Jones**, choreographer  
Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m.  
Fine Arts Theatre  
Donation suggested, parking $3

This fall’s concert will again add vocal soloists and jazz dancers to the jazz band. Choreographer and COM Dance Instructor David Jones and his students will bring excitement with his interpretations of Jazz and Latin classics. Student vocal soloists from the COM Music Department will be featured on such classic jazz tunes as *Chega de Saudade*, *Fever*, and *Lush Life*.

**Concert Band**  
**Douglas Delaney**, director  
Wednesday, Dec. 8, at noon  
Fine Arts Theatre  
Donation suggested, parking $3

The Concert Band will perform selections from *Aladdin*, Prokofiev’s *Train Ride*, and a suite from the opera *Carmen* for a noontime audience. Come join us during the lunch hour to hear a selection of musical favorites.

**Parking Information**  
Due to construction at College of Marin parking availability is reduced. Performances may be accessed by using Parking Lot 16 after 5pm (at the corner of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Laurel Avenue) and Parking Lot 2 (across Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, accessed via traffic signaled crosswalk.) Additional parking across campus can be accessed via College Avenue. On weekdays and Monday through Thursday evenings, please park in student parking only. There is very limited disabled parking behind the Fine Arts Building in the remaining vestiges of Parking Lot 4. Daily parking passes may be purchased from the machines in Parking Lot 2 for $3. Parking for events on Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays is free.
Ongoing Events

Watercolor Exhibit at Fine Arts Gallery—Final Week
A collection of watercolor landscapes by Caroline Archer, John Cooper, and Barbara Wheeler, are on display through Nov. 18, 2010, at the Fine Arts Gallery. The pieces focus on the magnolias, cypress and gazebo areas at the Marin Art and Garden Center. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (415) 485-9494.

COM Athletics
Men’s Basketball Mendocino Tournament
  Nov. 18 through 20 in Mendocino

Women’s Basketball vs. Skyline College
  Wednesday, Nov. 17, 5:30 p.m. in Kentfield

Women’s Basketball vs. San Mateo College
  Saturday, Nov. 20, 3 p.m. in Kentfield

Women’s Volleyball vs. Laney College
  Tuesday, Nov. 16, 6 p.m. in Oakland

Results
Women’s Volleyball
  Nov. 13: COM 78, College of Redwoods 66

Watch the Board of Trustees Meetings Live
College of Marin Board meetings are now broadcast live at http://www.justin.tv/comtrustees. The next broadcast will be Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Have a great week,

A.J. Harrison II
Superintendent/President