President’s Weekly Briefing—March 13, 2015

Enrollment Update
Similar to enrollment data at other California community colleges, College of Marin’s census report shows a decline in the head count for spring. There are 5,660 students enrolled in credit courses for spring 2015 compared to 6,305 students that enrolled in the spring 2014 semester; a decrease of about 10 percent. This semester’s average student load saw a slight decrease to 7.3 credits compared to 7.4 credits for spring 2014. There are 1,142 students currently enrolled in noncredit courses, and another 1,762 enrolled in Community Education courses.

On a positive note, the number of high school students concurrently enrolled increased by 17.5 percent, with 222 students enrolled this semester compared to 189 in spring 2014. Last fall, the College offered to cover up to 11 units of spring 2015 enrollment fees for students who wanted to earn college credit while still in high school.

COM CARE Early Alert and Intervention System
As we reach the midpoint of the semester, I wanted to remind all faculty and staff that the College of Marin Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation (CARE) Team is available to help students struggling with academic, psychological, and behavioral issues. The team works to assess and respond to potential crisis, provides academic support and intervention, and assists in protecting the campus academic environment.

The Academic Care Team (ACT) provides assistance and referral for those students who are identified as having negative academic performance. ACT helps students turn negative academic performance into positive academic behavior. The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) helps to prevent any particular instance of disturbing behavior from falling through the organizational cracks. The Student Conduct Team (SCT) assesses and evaluates disruptive behavior of referred students and determines the necessary discipline to comply with the student code of conduct.

Faculty and staff can submit a COM CARE report the employee tab of the MyCOM Portal.

Kudos
In January I reported that the Drama Department had received five nominations for the 2014 Excellence in Theatre Awards given by the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle (SFBACC). The awards ceremony was held Monday at the Victoria Theatre in San Francisco, and I am proud to announce that COM Drama took home three awards. Instructor Patricia Polen received the award for Best Costume Design; *The Taming of the Shrew* received the award for Best Ensemble; and in the specialties category, Instructor Richard Squeri received the award for Best Fight Choreography for his work in *Shrew*. Congratulations on the awards, and for the successful openings of *The Comedy of Errors* and the 50-Years on Stage Gallery Retrospective.
March Data Nugget
Results of the formal evaluation of the Mini-Medical School (MMS) are in, and they affirm the event’s success. There were 207 community members at the event held on Saturday, January 24, at the James Dunn Theatre. The half-day program on the science of aging well was hosted by COM’s Community Education Department in partnership with the UC Davis School of Medicine. Four highly respected medical experts from UC Davis spoke about the anatomy of aging, the aging mind, heart health, and nutrition. Of those present, 188 participants responded to the evaluation survey; a 91 percent response rate. The response was overwhelmingly positive:

- 95 percent of participants said the information helped them better understand their body and health
- 84 percent said the information would lead to changes in their daily habits
- 90 percent said they would participate in future MMS events

Community Partners and Workforce Development
College of Marin continues work with the Marin Economic Forum (MEF) and other regional partners to address Marin’s workforce development challenges. More on this topic can be found online in the Marin Economic Forum e-newsletter. The March edition includes an article titled Unemployment and Workforce Development and What They Can Do for Marin from Executive Dean of Indian Valley Campus, Workforce, and Economic Development Nanda Schorske.

Upcoming Events

Drama Department Presents The Comedy of Errors
By William Shakespeare
Directed by James Dunn

As the final production celebrating their 50-year anniversary, the Drama Department presents William Shakespeare’s hilarious farce, The Comedy of Errors. This entertaining and accessible work was the first play ever presented at the College in 1964. Directed by COM’s own James Dunn, The Comedy of Errors is full of chase sequences, mistaken identities, ridiculous brawls, and so much more.

March 13, 14, 20, and 21, 7:30 p.m.
March 15* and 22, 2 p.m.
James Dunn Theatre, Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus
Non-subscription single ticket prices: $20 general, $15 seniors, $10 students/COM employees and alumni. Proceeds benefit the College of Marin Drama Department.

*Talkback with the director
Screening and Discussion of the Documentary *Straightlaced*

The College of Marin Diversity and Equity Advisory Committee along with Students for Social Justice will show the documentary film *Straightlaced* on Tuesday, March 17. The powerful documentary, directed by Debra Chasnoff, addresses the complexities of conceptions of masculinity and femininity for Generation Z, viewing the lives of teens and young adults through the lens of gender. All are welcome to view the film and participate in a conversation afterwards. For more information please contact Susan Rahman.

**Tuesday, March 17**
6:10 p.m.
Fusselman Hall, room 120
Kentfield Campus

**One Book One Marin**

Every spring in Marin County everyone is invited to read the same book at the same time. This year’s book, *At Night We Walk in Circles* by Daniel Alarcón, is available through the library. Events related to the book began this week at libraries throughout the county, including at College of Marin. On Thursday, March 19, Social Sciences Instructor Yolanda Bellísimo will offer a public lecture “Peru’s Struggle for Democracy” at the College of Marin Library in Kentfield. More information is available on the One Book One Marin website.

**Thursday, March 19**
10 a.m.
Learning Resources Center, Library
Kentfield Campus

**Sinfonia Concert**

Just added! College of Marin Sinfonia will perform a one-hour concert of Dvorák’s music.

**Saturday, March 21,** 3 p.m.
Performing Arts Lobby
Kentfield Campus
Cop’s Corner: Campus Safety Forum
The Campus Police invite you to attend a lunchtime safety forum. Learn about a wide variety of health and safety issues that affect us on and off our campus. The event will include presentations on how to deal with an active shooter, consequences of driving under the influence, education and prevention of sexual assaults, and prevention of summer fires. A light lunch will be served and prizes will be raffled off.

Thursday, March 26
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (please note: corrected time)
Student Services Building, Deedy Staff Lounge
Kentfield Campus

For more information contact Chief Lemay at (415) 485-9455.

ESCOM’s 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. Next in the series, author Cara Black discusses Murder on the Champ de Mars. Black is the author of 15 books in the bestselling Aimée Leduc series. A book signing will follow the lecture and books will be available for purchase. Parking is free for this event. More information is available on the Community Education website or by calling (415) 485-9652.

Friday, March 27
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Learning Resources Center, Library
Kentfield Campus

Paul Smith – Solo Piano Recital
Performing Arts Instructor Paul Smith will perform two rarely heard sonatas by Beethoven and two monumental masterpieces of the romantic literature. As director of Contemporary Opera Marin, as well as in his instruction, Smith specializes in the production of new and modern operas. Sonata in F Major, Op. 54 and Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90 by Ludwig van Beethoven; Dante Sonata by Franz Liszt; and Fantasie, Op. 17 by Robert Schumann will be performed.

Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 29, 3 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall / PA72
Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

March 29, 2015, 7 p.m.
The Dance Palace
503 B Street
Pt. Reyes Station
Advanced Voice class Recital: Canzoni Italiani – Italian Songs and Arias
Directed by Linda Noble Brown

After Suor Cristina Scuccia clinched the final of The Voice of Italy television talent show last spring she said, “I have a gift to give, and I am giving it to you… It wouldn’t be worth much if I kept it for myself.” The Music Department agreed and are borrowing some of her country’s most popular songs to share their own gifts as they perform traditional Italian art songs, arias, and popular Italian music. Buon ascolto!

**Date changed to Wednesday, April 8, 11:10 a.m.**
Lefort Recital Hall / PA72
Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

Spring 2015 Solkov Work of Literary Merit Events
Social Sciences Professor Walter Turner will present James Baldwin and History at Santa Rosa Junior College as part of the Work of Literary Merit Events series. Turner also hosts the radio show Africa Today on KPFA. More information is available on the SRJC website.

**Monday, April 6**
Noon – 1 p.m.
Santa Rosa Junior College
Newman Auditorium

Ongoing Events

**Drop-in Massage Therapy in the Student Services Building**
Take a few minutes to relax and rejuvenate with a mini-massage session. Certified Massage Therapist Aaron Irons is offering drop-in chair massage sessions, Mondays from noon to 2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. Stop by the carpeted area on the first floor of the Student Services Building, Kentfield Campus, and unwind for $1 a minute.

**Library Hosts Event to Help Students Pay Fines**
The library is hosting a Food for Fines drive to help COM students pay off their library fines. Through March 20, students and community members will get $2 in current fines waived for each can or package of non-perishable food they donate during the drive, up to $10 per person. Replacement fees for lost or damaged materials are not included. Donations will be accepted at the Circulation Desk only.
Please, no perishables, damaged/expired items, condiments, or glass containers. All donations will be reviewed by staff before acceptance. Donated items will go to College of Marin's Single Stop food bank. Especially needed items are: peanut butter, rice, pasta, beans, canned meats (tuna fish, beef stew), and canned vegetables and fruit. For more information contact Library Technician Bonita Dyess at (415) 485-9656.

**Drama Department Retrospective Exhibition Commemorating 50 Years of Performances**
To celebrate 50 years of outstanding performances the Drama Department has created a retrospective exhibition showcasing photographs; reviews; programs; audio clips featuring directors, actors and set designers, and video clips of past performances. Former students, staff, and faculty are invited to travel back in time through nearly 3,000 photographs and find themselves as they walk through the gallery and celebrate their contributions to the department’s history. Current students, faculty, staff, and the public can learn all about the department’s rich history. Historical photographs will be available for purchase with all proceeds benefiting the Drama Department.

**Through March 22**
Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fine Arts Gallery, Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus
Free admission, contributions welcomed

**Free Tax Preparation at Single Stop**
The Single Stop Office will be offering free tax preparation for students every Monday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through April 15. 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.

**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.
Sports

Congratulations to the Men’s Basketball Team
The College of Marin men’s basketball team had a great season, coming out on top as the Bay Valley Conference champions. That win earned them the number three seed, and our men’s team fought hard all the way to round four of the Northern California regional playoffs. Fans gave the team a standing ovation after the game ended. The season wrapped up last Saturday leaving the Mariners with an outstanding 24-6 record.

Baseball

COM vs. Solano College
Saturday, March 14, 1 p.m. in Fairfield
COM vs. Solano College
Tuesday, March 17, 2:30 p.m. in Kentfield
COM vs. Napa Valley College
Thursday, March 19, 2:30 p.m. in Kentfield

Swim and Dive
The swim and dive team hosted the 10th Annual Mariner Invitational on Saturday, March 7, at the Indian Valley Campus. Eight teams from Northern and Southern California competed.

The Mariners notched several top ten finishes include:
- Oldhina Alatriste, 1st place, 1 meter diving
- Elena Hobden, 3rd place, 100-meter individual medley
- Emma Pedlar, 5th Place, 50-meter fly
- Oden Hunt, 8th Place, 200-meter individual medley
- Lauren Kimmeter, 9th Place, 50-meter breast

Track and Field
The College of Marin men's and women's track team competed at the Cal State LA Invitational over the weekend with some excellent results. Kevin Petersen finished 7th out of 21 competitors in the javelin throw, while Kelly Campagna had a strong showing in the 400-meter hurdles. The team is hosting their first meet in over a decade tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Kentfield.

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President