President’s Weekly Briefing—March 20, 2015

New William Keith Room Completed
The long-awaited renovation of the new William Keith Room is complete! Students, staff, and the community can enjoy a quiet, comfortable space in the Kentfield Campus Library for reading and literary events.

The light-infused room showcases six original paintings by William Keith, a Scottish-American painter famous for his rich Northern California landscapes in the 19th and 20th centuries. His paintings are displayed in galleries and museums throughout the world.

The renovation project to transform a dusty carpeted area with stacks of reference books into a uniquely inviting environment was a collaborative effort between the library and the Art Department. Among the comfortable reading chairs is a set of vintage yellow Herman Miller chairs that have been in the library since the 1970s.

The paintings, donated to the College in 1945 by the painter’s daughter, Mary H. Harmon, depict Mt. Tamalpais, other local vistas, and the Sierra Nevada mountains. Keith was a long-time friend of John Muir and loved the natural beauty of the area. The paintings, roughly 4x6 feet and 3x4 feet, have been on display at various times. One of the paintings was displayed at the Panama Pacific International Exposition in 1915 in San Francisco.

Yesterday, as part of One Book One Marin, Professor Yolanda Bellisimo presented a lecture on Peru’s struggle for democracy. Bellisimo’s presentation tied in to the selected book for this spring, At Night We Walk in Circles by Daniel Alarcón. Approximately 62 people attended the lecture. Special thanks to Librarian David Patterson for putting this opportunity together for our English and political science students; and our community as a whole. The room will be officially dedicated at the April 21 Board of Trustees meeting where those responsible for creating this wonderful space will be recognized.

Kudos
Last Friday 120 COM students and employees had the opportunity to tour Alcatraz and see the exhibit by Chinese dissident artist Ai Wei Wei. I would like to acknowledge Fine Arts Instructor Jason Dunn for opening the field trip up to all interested members of the COM community. Months of planning and a myriad of details went into making this event possible. For students, it was an incredible opportunity to interact with faculty outside of class. For faculty, it was a great example of how outside activities can be a rich addition to in-class curriculum. Thanks also to the numerous individuals in various departments who had a hand in the event: Beth Patel, David Snyder, Peggy Isozaki, Leslie Barker, David Erlenheim, Theo Sedie, Marilou Fragata, Ellen Shaw, Marixa Barnett, David Patterson, Sarah Frye, Fine Arts Department and Reprographics staff, Nicole Cruz, Chris West, Heather Murray, and Elisabeth Doermann.
Online Writing Center Open for Spring Semester
The Online Writing Center (OWC) is open 24/7 to help students with writing assignments for all college subjects. Students can get free help with grammar, idea development, and organization, as well as with research and essays. There are self-help materials and instructional specialists (tutors) who respond to student posts within 24 hours. The OWC also assists students with transfer, scholarship, and job applications, including resumes and cover letters.

Instructors, please contact the spring 2015 OWC Coordinator Alisa Klinger for more information. Online writing services are available to faculty and students in all disciplines until the end of the spring semester.

Upcoming Events

Final Weekend to See 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 20, and 21, 7:30 p.m.
March 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.

College of Marin Sinfonia—Spring Serenades
Directed by Tara Flandreau

Come celebrate the arrival of spring with a short afternoon concert. Gaze out at the redwoods while you enjoy two beautiful romantic serenades by Antonin Dvorak; the Serenade for Strings, op. 22 and Serenade for Winds, op. 44. Free admission, no tickets required. Seating is limited; come early to guarantee a place.

Saturday, March 21, 3 p.m.
Performing Arts Building, lobby
Kentfield Campus
ASCOM Brings Arrive Alive Tour to Campus
Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) is sponsoring Unite’s Arrive Alive Tour. Unite is a health and wellness organization that visits elementary through college campuses, bringing with them programs designed to heighten awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence and texting while driving. Using their simulation technology, participants will have a chance to sit in a car and see what it is like to do both of those things, but without the risk of potential consequences. All participants will receive a photo of themselves driving and a keychain to remind them not to text or drink and drive. My thanks to ASCOM for bringing this important message to campus.

Thursday, March 26
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Learning Resources Center Quad
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.
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

Student Success Speaker Series
The Student Success Speaker Series is back! Students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to attend these workshops for tips and important information that can be applied to one’s academic, professional, and personal lives. These free presentations are open to the public. Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) will provide refreshments. Contact Single Stop Coordinator Tara Arenas at (415) 457-8811 ext. 7761 for more information.

Upcoming Sessions
All sessions take place at noon in the Student Services Building, cafeteria

April 1
Transfer 101: Find Your Way to a Bachelor’s Degree
Andrea Mann, COM transfer and career center coordinator

April 8
What to Expect Out of a Career in the Military
COM Veterans Association

April 15
Sexual Harassment and Violence: What it is and Finding Support
Dr. Dawn Danz, COM psychologist

April 22
DACA and California Driver License Updates
Jonathan Matthews, Brazilian Alliance legal clinic director

April 29
Tips on Budgeting your Money and How to Save
Sarah Wotherspoon, Private Ocean, certified financial planner
Spring Dance Concert—*By Dance Possessed*
With choreography by Dance Department faculty and production design by e. “Ernie” Ernstrom, *By Dance Possessed* is a performance that will captivate and mesmerize you. The dance concert will feature guest artists from Savage Jazz Dance Company (SJDC). Founded in 1992 by Artistic Director Reginald Ray-Savage, SJDC is distinguished by its disciplined dancers and instructors, and its dedication to the exploration of jazz music’s range of expression.

**April 3, 4, 10, and 11, 8 p.m.**
James Dunn Theatre, Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus
Box Office (415) 485-9385
Tickets: $20 general, $15 seniors, $10 students/COM employees and alumni

**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!

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

**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.
Drama Department Retrospective Exhibition Commemorating 50 Years of Performances—Final Weekend

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
Gallery will be open one hour before performances of The Comedy of Errors
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.

Sports

Baseball
The baseball team completed a 3-0 week in conference play last Saturday. Sterling Champagne scored on an error in the 10th inning, giving the Mariners a 2-1 win over Solano College. With the win the team stands atop the Bay Valley Conference with a 6-1 record alongside Napa Valley and Solano. Earlier last week, the Mariners earned a pair of victories over Contra Costa College, 6-3 and 6-4.

COM vs. Napa Valley College
Saturday, March 21, 1 p.m. in Napa
COM vs. Los Medanos College
Tuesday, March 24, 2:30 p.m. in Pittsburg
COM vs. Los Medanos College
Thursday, March 26, 2:30 p.m. in Kentfield
**Track and Field**

Last Saturday College of Marin hosted their first track meet since 1994. More than 100 athletes from Yuba College, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sacramento City College, and COM competed. Sophomore Keily Campagna was victorious in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 1:11:27. Freshman Ruth Briggs set a personal best of 5:36:15 in the 1500 meters, while Kim Maxwell competed in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and long jump competitions.

Khoumeini Benbouzid set a person record in the 5000 meter with a time of 18:08:95. Peter Tallo set a season record in the 400 meter hurdles in 1:00:23. Kevin Petersen took second in the men's javelin throw with a distance of 43.79 meters.

The team will travel to Sacramento tomorrow, March 20, to compete at the Sacramento State Meet.

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President