President’s Weekly Briefing—April 24, 2015

William Keith Room Dedicated
On Tuesday the William Keith Room was officially dedicated with the reading of a resolution by Board of Trustees President Wanden Treanor. The room was created to serve as a quiet, comfortable space in the Kentfield Campus Library for individuals, lectures, and literary events. The room was also created to showcase six Keith paintings given to the College by his family.

Keith was a Scottish-American painter famous for his California landscapes. After immigrating with his mother and sisters to the United States in 1850, they settled in New York City. There he attended school, became an apprentice wood engraver, and later was hired to do illustrations for Harper's Magazine. In 1858 he visited Scotland and England and briefly worked for the London Daily News. From there he was offered an opportunity in San Francisco and that is what brought him to the Bay Area.

Keith was a great friend of John Muir and their travels together resulted in illustrations for the many scenes depicting California’s landscape. We are incredibly fortunate to house these paintings—not only because of their historical importance, but because almost 3,000 of his paintings were destroyed along with his San Francisco studio in a fire following the 1906 earthquake.

Completed in March, the William Keith Room has already seen a considerable amount of activity. The Afternoon Author Series brought three authors on campus to read excerpts from their books and engage in discussion related to the story, but touching on topics such as the writer’s process. Social Sciences Instructor Yolanda Bellisimo gave a lecture on Peru’s struggle for democracy that tied in to One Book One Marin’s selected book for this spring, At Night We Walk in Circles by Daniel Alarcón. I look forward to more thought-provoking events here in the upcoming semesters.

I would like to express my great appreciation to those whose contributions and support helped create this wonderful space: Jeff Cox, Joey Della Santina, John Erdmann, Sarah Frye, Gabriel Lambert, Lan-Ling Long, Dr. Pearl Ly, Jeff Marcum, Greg Nelson, Trang Nguyen, Monica Oggero, Lupe Oropeza, Dr. David Patterson, Heidi Rank, Annie Ricciuti, John Rodriguez, Chris West, Paul Wilson, Harry L. Murphy, Inc., Hedgecock Creed, and Starnet Worldwide Commercial Flooring Partnership.
**Kudos**

**Dr. Lisa Morse** was named Educator of the Month by the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce. The chamber selected Dr. Morse for her outstanding curriculum and overall program improvement, instructional excellence, personal involvement, and leadership at the College. In addition to teaching theatre history, acting, improvisation, directing, and introductory theatre classes; Dr. Morse also directs a play each fall. She also spearheaded all activities surrounding the department’s 50th anniversary celebration and fundraising efforts. Her passion for this area of study extends beyond the campus. She has put forth a tremendous effort to connect with Marin County K-12 schools and their students. Last fall, students from Kent Middle School read *Little Women* and created artwork about the novel in advance of COM’s performance. Their artwork was displayed in the lobby of the Performing Arts Building and they were treated to a special daytime presentation of the production.

**Dr. Mani Subramanian**, one of three recipients of the 2014-2015 McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition to teaching at the College, he has taught at Napa Valley College (NVC) for over ten years. The McPherson Award selection committee is composed of a current NVC student, a faculty member who was a previous McPherson winner, an NVC Foundation member, a member of the NVC Board of Trustees, and NVC’s Vice President of Instruction. The committee selected Dr. Subramanian for his vast knowledge and his ability to be fair and understanding with his students. In addition, the committee recognized his methods of presenting difficult material in such a way that students can grasp the subject more easily. Dr. Subramanian is empathetic toward his students, he cares about them as people and expects a lot of them in regard to their performance in the classroom because he has their best interests at heart. The McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award is sponsored by the Napa Valley College Foundation.

Congratulations to both of you, and my thanks for your remarkable work inspiring students!

**Upcoming Events**

**Student Success Speaker Series**

The Student Success Speaker Series continues next week with tips on budgeting and saving your money from Certified Financial Planner Sarah Wotherspoon. 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.

**Next Session**

Sessions take place at noon in the Student Services Building, cafeteria.

**April 29**

Tips on Budgeting your Money and How to Save

*Sarah Wotherspoon, Private Ocean, certified financial planner*
Final Session of the Semester
May 6
From Use to Abuse to Addiction: Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco
Ginny Hanna, COM counselor

Juried Student Art Show
The Fine Arts Department will exhibit selected student work from April 27 through May 14 in the Fine Arts Gallery, Kentfield Campus. A reception for the artists will be held Saturday, April 25, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the gallery.

Two Evenings of Chamber Music
Directed by Jessica Ivry

The chamber music class performs trios, quartets, and quintets from three centuries of the classical repertoire. Two free performances, with a different program each evening.

April 30, 12:30 p.m.
May 3, 7:30 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (PA72)
Performing Arts Building, Kentfield Campus

Drama Department Presents: The Seagull
By Anton Chekhov
Directed by Molly Noble

A masterwork by Russia’s well-known nineteenth century playwright Anton Chekhov features unforgettable characters caught up in the passions and pathos of everyday life. When famed actress Arkadina returns home to her family with a young lover, Trigorin, in tow; they become tied up in tragicomic triangles of romance, intrigue, and unrequited love. The play is viewed by some as a tragedy involving eternally unhappy people. Others believe it is a humorous, and at times bitter, satire poking fun at human folly. Attend a performance of The Seagull and decide for yourself.

April 30, 7:30 p.m. (pay-what-you-will preview)
May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16, 7:30 p.m.
May 10* and 17, 2 p.m. (*talkback with the director)
Studio Theatre, Performing Arts Building, Kentfield Campus
Non-subscription single ticket prices: $20 general, $15 seniors; $10 students/COM employees and alumni
College of Marin Symphonic Band: *America vs. the World!*
Directed by Trevor Björklund

Both celebrating and opposing the European traditions that inspired their music, this concert will showcase composers of the American symphonic band sound. Free performance featuring a variety of works across the spectrum of musical reaction.

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

**Jazz Ensemble**
Directed by Cayce Carnahan

Enjoy this free concert celebrating the music of Bay Area composers.

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

**Transfer Recognition Reception**
The Transfer and Career Center will be hosting the Transfer Recognition Reception to honor and recognize our students who are transferring to four-year institutions. The event will be held Thursday, May 7, in the Student Services Building, first floor, Kentfield Campus. The evening will begin with light refreshments served at 5 p.m. followed by a ceremony at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate the students’ achievement and success. After the ceremony, students, their guests, and faculty and staff will enjoy a catered reception. You are invited to celebrate our students as they make their transition from College of Marin. For additional information, please contact Andrea Mann, (415) 485-9671.
College Success Saturday
Graduating high school seniors are invited to attend College Success Saturday to learn about COM and get access to priority registration. Check-in and a light breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. followed by a morning of student and parent orientations, help with academic path planning, and campus tours. Faculty, staff, and student ambassadors will be available to answer questions and provide information. A financial aid workshop will be held from noon to 12:45 p.m. RSVP by May 1. Parking is free for those attending the event. Call (415) 457-8811 ext. 7860 for more information.

Saturday, May 9
8:30 a.m. – noon
Check-in tables in front of Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

Fine Arts Department to Hold Open House
The Fine Arts Department will hold an open house for the College and community Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet the instructors and students of the Fine Arts Department. There will be free demonstrations, food, activities, and tours of the Fine Arts Building.

Saturday, May 9
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Fine Arts Building
Kentfield Campus

Katrina Wagner’s 2-Dimensional Art Fundamentals class will be having a display of milk cartons and line/texture books May 11-31 at Art Works Downtown, located at 1337 Fourth Street in San Rafael. All are invited to stop by and check out our students’ work.

May 11 – 31
Art Works Downtown
1337 Fourth Street
San Rafael

Mark Your Calendars: Commencement
Our 88th Annual Commencement will take place Friday, May 22, at 6 p.m. in the Diamond Physical Education Center gymnasium. More information is available on the commencement webpage.
Ongoing Events

Art Exhibit Featuring Anita Toney and Diane Johnson
Watercolors by Diane Johnson and etchings by Anita Toney are on display at the Emeritus Center, Kentfield Campus. All are invited to join the artists for a gala reception Thursday, May 7, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Student Services Building, room 146. Exhibit runs through June 30, 2015. For more information call (415) 485-9313.

Sports

Baseball
The baseball team completed a perfect 3-0 week with a trio of victories over Contra Costa College, Solano College, and Napa Valley College. The week began with a pair of road victories at Contra Costa 8-5 and Solano 16-8. The team followed up with a home victory over Napa 8-3 on Saturday. The players of the week were Steven DeMartini, and Ryan Schalch. DeMartini batted 5-12 with two triples, three RBIs, and seven runs scored. Schalch batted 6-14 with a home run, six RBIs, and eight runs scored.

Swimming and Diving
The men’s and women’s swimming and diving team completed the season with a 4th place finish for the men and 5th place for the women at the Bay Valley Conference Championships. Emma Pedlar led the women, finishing 3rd in the 50 meter freestyle, 4th in the 200 meter freestyle, and 5th in the 50 meter breaststroke. Pedlar will transfer to Dominican University in the fall to pursue a nursing degree. Oldhina Alatriste took second in one meter diving while her teammate Diana Valdes took third in the same competition. Andrew Frost led the men's team, finishing 6th in the 200 meter breaststroke, 8th in the 100 meter breaststroke, and 8th in the 100 meter freestyle. Frost will transfer to UC Santa Cruz in the fall to study engineering.

Track and Field
A small track and field contingent competed at College of San Mateo last week. Milton Jackson made his season debut for the team and was victorious in his 100 meter heat. He recorded a time of 11.77 seconds earning him 5th place at the meet.

Have a great weekend,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President