



President’s Weekly Briefing—August 26, 2015 *Convocation Edition*

Welcome to the fall 2015 semester! Those who returned after being away during the summer semester will likely notice that there has been a transformation on campus with the completion of the new Academic Center and the ongoing demolition of Austin Center. On the Kentfield Campus, Fusselman Hall received new exterior paint and new windows are in the process of being installed. ADA accessible ramps were installed in the Quad and at entrances to the Learning Resources Center. ADA accessible bathrooms were also installed in the Student Services Building and Learning Resources Center. Parking lot 2 was repaved and restriped. And, the Campus Bookstore, now operated by Follett was remodeled. In the center of campus, a donor wall was created using pillars from the former Administrative Center and brass melted down from old door hardware. Names on the donor wall recognize our pillars of philanthropy—those whom have made six- or seven-figure contributions to the College. At the Indian Valley Campus, the Pomo Cluster received new roofs, new interior paint, and carpet. ADA improvements that began over the summer—new restrooms, ramps, and an elevator—are in progress and will be completed this semester. Building 10 underwent a remodel that included a new roof and Building 17 will receive a new roof in the near future. For those of you who worked all summer serving our students, keeping the College open, and making this transformation possible, thank you!

I hope you all enjoyed hearing from our student and faculty/staff panel at Convocation. The stories shared about their educational journeys were inspirational and reminded us of the difference we can make when we join with students as partners on the journey. With great appreciation I extend thanks to panelists **Cattleya Sankham, Chuck Becker, William Ellis, Diana Arnold, Marco Gonzalez, Dayna Quick, and Emy Bagtas**. Thanks are due as well to the dedicated members of the Professional Development Committee for arranging an outstanding week of Flex activities.

We also heard from members of the Faculty Led Inquiry Team (FLIT)—**Gina Cullen, Marco Gonzalez, Maula Allen, Meg Pasquel, and Tonya Hersch**—whose research led to meaningful discussions about strategies and programs that will enhance the college experience at COM. Thanks to this team, and all who participated, the College has feedback from 38 focus groups comprised of students, faculty, and staff indicating nine areas where we should concentrate our efforts. The areas identified were:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1) College 101: Orientation | 4) Community Building | 7) Cultivating Student |
| 2) Knowing and Engaging Your Audience | 5) Assessment/Placement/Advisories/Prerequisites | Competency |
| 3) Student-Faculty Interaction | 6) Instructional Support | 8) Clear Communication |
| | | 9) Scheduling for Success |

I would like to again welcome all of our newly hired full-time employees. I encourage you take a moment to [read their bios](#) and make them feel at home here on campus.



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Fall 2015 Marks the Beginning of COM's Umoja Program

The College of Marin Umoja program is part of a statewide community of educators and learners committed to the academic success, personal growth, and self-actualization of African American and other students. The Umoja program provides a variety of support services to support student retention, graduation, transfer to four-year institutions, and overall academic success. These include first year classes, which students take together as a learning cohort; academic counseling; student mentoring; financial support, including course materials and potential scholarships; special seminars; cultural workshops; and field trips.

COM Umoja, coordinated by Social Sciences Professor **Walter Turner**, is committed to equity and access by utilizing existing services, faculty, staff expertise, and community resources. The program is open to all COM students. For more information, contact umojaprogram@marin.edu.

Professor Turner Keynote Speaker at Umoja Mixer

Professor **Walter Turner** will be the keynote speaker for the Umoja Mentorship Mixer held at Santa Rosa Junior College on Wednesday, September 9, at 6 p.m. The mixer marks the historic commencement of the first African American learning community at the Sonoma County Community College District. Turner is a leading authority and commentator on contemporary African Affairs. He is the host and producer of the weekly Pacifica Radio Program *Africa Today* which airs on KPFA Radio in Berkeley. Turner has traveled extensively throughout southern and western Africa and worked as a journalist in South Africa, Kenya, Cuba, Nigeria, and Venezuela. His commentaries have appeared in the *Black Scholar*, and on Pacifica National News, National Public Radio, and PBS. He is one of the authors of the book *No Easy Victories: African Liberation and American Activists over a Half Century, 1950-2000* (Africa World Press 2007).

Wednesday, September 9

6 p.m.

Lawrence A. Bertolini Student Center,
Girvin Family Student Activities Center
1501 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Online Writing Center Open for Fall Semester

As of August 24, 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. In order to best support students with their writing needs, we need your help getting the word out and customizing the OWC for your students.





If you would like an in-class orientation for your students, please contact the fall 2015 OWC Coordinator [Alisa Klinger](#). If you would like to submit your writing assignments for posting in the OWC so that instructional specialists can best guide your students, or if you would like a course forum folder created for your particular course(s), please send your request to Alisa at your earliest convenience.

Online writing services are available to faculty and students in all disciplines until the end of the fall semester. Thank you for your support of the OWC!

Kudos

Over the summer, Political Science Instructor **Robert Ovetz, Ph.D.** convened a panel on the emerging division of academic labor strategies in the community colleges at the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) 100th anniversary meeting on the State of Higher Education on Friday, June 12, in Washington, DC. He will also be joining the editorial board of the journal *Working USA: The Journal of Labor and Society*.

Upcoming Events

2015 Fine Arts Department Faculty Exhibit

Don't miss the faculty show in the Fine Arts Gallery through September 17. The exhibition showcases the many art disciplines taught at the College. Exhibiting Fine Arts Department faculty members include **Chester Arnold, Carol Beadle, Tron Bykle, Nate Castillo, Jason Dunn, Lisa D'Agostino, Elisabeth Doermann, Patricia Hulin, Suzanne Lacke, Carol Lefkowitz, Heather Murray, Barbara Obata, Jack Scott, Polly Steinmetz, Christopher West, Al Widenhofer, Logan Wood, and Brian Young**. A reception for the artists will be held Friday, September 4, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All are welcome to attend.

Friday, September 4

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Artists' reception
Fine Arts Gallery
Kentfield Campus





Measure C Capstone Celebration and Academic Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Save the date! The completion of the Academic Center marks the successful completion of the Measure C Modernization Bond. To thank Marin County voters and recognize the hard work of those involved, the College will hold a Measure C Capstone Celebration and Academic Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 24, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. All are invited to the Academic Center Courtyard to commemorate the transformation that has taken place on both campuses. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, September 24

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Academic Center Courtyard
Kentfield Campus

Athletic Hall of Fame to Honor New Inductees

The sixth annual College of Marin Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 10, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. This year six new inductees will be honored: **Tom Arrington, John Dohn, Tom Elliot, Mike Fulton, Carl Jensen, and Maureen McGrath**. The no-host cocktail hour begins at 5 p.m., followed by the dinner and induction ceremony at 6 p.m. Cost to attend is \$65 per person. RSVP by October 1 to [Lindsay Bacigalupi](mailto:Lindsay.Bacigalupi@marin.edu), (415) 485-9580.

Saturday, October 10

5 p.m., no-host cocktail hour

6 p.m., dinner and ceremony

Embassy Suites in San Rafael
101 McInnis Parkway
San Rafael, CA 94903

Ongoing Events

Classified Senate Meetings

The [Classified Senate](#) represents the voice of classified professionals in all participatory governance matters. They also actively collect, evaluate, and disseminate information to classified professionals; provide classified professionals with a formal representative voice in recommending institutional policies and procedures, College goals, plans and priorities; and represent the collective interests of the classified professionals before or on any governance or College committee. The Classified Senate holds regularly scheduled meetings the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. in LC 53 at Kentfield and ISC 201 at IVC. All meetings are open to the public. Their next meeting will take place on September 1.



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In Memoriam

Duane Aten, one of our retired fine arts instructors, passed away on May 26, 2015. He was 66 years old. Aten was an active member of the faculty for many years. He was a COM student in the mid-70s before attending California College of the Arts (formerly California College of Arts and Crafts). He worked with museum exhibition designer Ted Cohen and spent time in Italy before returning to take over the gallery classes from Ann Jack. He had worked as an airline steward in addition to a long career teaching in our design and jewelry programs. Aten was very personable and kind. He was an excellent colleague and instructor. He will be missed by his students, fellow faculty, and friends.

Call for Submissions—Kudos Section

Please help recognize the exemplary work and outstanding achievements of our faculty, staff, and students by submitting information for the kudos section of the President's Weekly Briefing.

Deadline

Submit the information in the format described below by noon Wednesday for publication in the following week's briefing. Submit information by e-mail to [Nicole Cruz](#) with the word **kudos** in the subject area. Please include the following information:

Awards recognition

If the individual has won an achievement award, please include the name of the recipient, their COM title, the name of the award, the name of the organization bestowing the award, the date that the award was given, where the award was given, and why the award was given.

Publications

For books, please include the title of the book, the name of the author, their COM title, the name of the publisher, and date of publication. Also, include a brief description about the book and any special recognition that the book and/or the author has received.

Articles

For articles, please include the name of the author, their COM title, the title of the article, the name of the periodical, the volume number, the date of publication, a brief description of the article, and any special recognition about the article and/or the author.

Art shows

For fine arts shows, please include the name of the artist, their COM title, the location of the show, the name of the show, the title of the work, the medium in which the work was created (oils, ceramics, water color, metal sculpture, etc.), a brief description, and any special recognition that the artist or work has received.





Professional presentations

For presentations at conferences or other events, please include the name of the employee, their title, the name of the conference, the date of the conference, the title of the presentation, and a brief description of the presentation.

Performing Arts

For performing arts events including theater, dance, and music, please include the name of the faculty or staff member, their COM title, the name of the performance, date of the performance, time of the performance, location, fee, contact information, and description.

Athletics achievements

Include the name and title of the coach or coaches, name of team, and a complete description of what they have achieved.

Other

You may also submit recognition of faculty and staff for other reasons at your discretion, including appointments to statewide or local professional organizations, grant awards, development of new program or class, or other acknowledgements.

Call for Submissions—Events and Community Calendars

To promote a campus event, please submit information four weeks in advance by e-mail to [Nicole Cruz](#). Include the title **events** in the subject area. Please indicate if the public is or is not invited to attend. If the public is invited, the information also will be distributed to local media outlets.

Please forward the information using the following format:

- Name of the event
- Date(s)
- Time(s)
- Location
- Fee
- Contact name and phone number
- Ticket information

Also, include a paragraph describing the event, biographies of performers, and other pertinent information.

Have a great semester!

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President

