

# STUDENT LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES

A College of Marin Newsletter

Fall 2015

## FLIT—An Engaging Approach to Improving Student Success

The Basic Skills Master Plan Task Force (known as FLIT) - Faculty Led Inquiry Team, has been conducting interdisciplinary Flex sessions this fall. In each session, the discussions have been robust and new ideas/recommendations are being generated. One of the primary recommendations is the implementation of College 101, a semester-length course (articulated for UC/CSU general elective credit), which would focus on a particular topic from multiple perspectives/disciplines. In a given semester, there would be several offerings of COM College 101, but each one would focus on a different topic throughout the semester. For instance, one might study food from multiple academic perspectives and another section might focus on sports from multiple academic perspectives.

The flex sessions are being attended by faculty, staff, and administrators, and it is heartening to see that new people attend each successive event. The next session will be "Scheduling for Success", Tues., Dec. 1st, 3:30 – 5 p.m., AC 255. FLIT will be releasing its findings and complete recommendations spring term.

It's hard to believe Fall 2015 is nearing its end already. But as you look at the small sample of items showcased in these pages, I am sure you will join me in marveling at the phenomenal work our faculty and staff are engaged in.

*-Jonathan Eldridge*

Vice President of Student Learning & Student Services



Fall semester kick-off for International Education Program students, staff and faculty.

## In This Issue

- FLIT
- FAFSA "Train the Trainers"
- COMPASS Update
- New Faces
- Career & Technical Education
- Modern Languages' Name Change
- Athletic Hall of Fame
- COMmon Read



COMPASS Terra Linda High School students touring an art class on their field trip to the KTD campus.

## Career & Technical Education Grants Promote Faculty Engagement and Innovation

### Adult Ed Block Grant (AEBG)

The work of the AEBG Governance Team continues. Members include Marin County Office of Education, Novato Unified School District, Tamalpais Union High School District, San Rafael City Schools and COM. The Marin AEBG Consortium has been awarded \$750,000 for 2015/2016. COM is proud to be the fiscal agent for this important effort.

### Northern California Career Pathways Alliance (NCCPA)

In October a Call was completed for faculty members interested in working on the promising pathways areas for the NCCPA Grant: Agri-tourism, Health Sciences & Medical Technology, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), and Entrepreneurship. Congratulations to the faculty members selected: Jeff Abouaf, Fernando Agudelo-Silva, Sima Boyce, Gina Cullen, Ross Goodwin, Wendy Johnson-Rudnick, Sheila Whitescarver, Nancy Willet, and Derek Wilson. They will be working closely with Dean Beth Pratt to develop work plans and have also been invited to attend the 2015 Educator Symposium, on December 2nd, hosted by NCCPA.

### Additional NCCPA Grant News—Medical Assisting Articulation

The NCCPA grant was designed to provide high school students with articulated career pathway credit from community colleges via credit by examination. Terra Linda High School (TLHS) and COM have been working to establish articulated credit for the students enrolled in TLHS's Regional Occupational Program (ROP) in medical assisting. Cesar Pomajulca, Kathy Takemoto, and Dean Marshall Almeida have been meeting with TLHS faculty on curriculum alignment, and articulation agreements have been created for MEDA 160 (2 units) and MEDA 174LB (2.5 units), and agreements for MEDA 164 and 164L (2.5 unit) are planned. Further work will be completed to assess if articulated credit for TLHS students is possible to meet the requirement of CIS 170 or BOS 151 (3.0 units), which is required in the COM certificate of achievement.

### Youth Entrepreneur Program (YEP)

The COM Youth Entrepreneur Program is a pilot with the mission to align career pathways in the business/entrepreneurship sector and to provide project-based learning through a business plan competition project. A mini-grant of \$30,000 was awarded by the Deputy Sector Navigator of Small Business/ Cabrillo College and additional funds (\$13,000) are being provided from Napa Valley College Small Business Development Center. COM faculty will work with students and teachers at Novato and San Marin high schools throughout spring term.

## NEW FACES IN IMPORTANT ROLES

### Classified:

Ruby Reyes—Enrollment Services Asst. II  
Ben Matthews—Assessment/ Testing Tech.  
Hugo Guillen- EOPS/CalWORKS Specialist  
Allyson Martinez—EOPS Interim Coordinator  
Paige Jenkins— Transfer Ctr. and Veterans Interim Tech.  
Karen McSween—Library Tech. III (circulation services)  
Joey Della Santina—Library Tech. III (technical services)  
Alison “Brier” Welch— International Education Temp. Office Tech.  
Amber Gougis—Community Education Temp. Admin. Assist.  
Alex Suarez—Interim OIM Curriculum/Articulation Specialist

### Faculty:

Javier Urena—EOPS/CalWORKS Counselor

### Retirements:

Dee Frites— Assessment/ Testing Coordinator

Kim O’Gara—OIM Curriculum/ Articulation Specialist



Parents of COMPASS students from Terra Linda High School at a workshop learning how to help their students achieve their college goals. Many parents are considering taking COM classes right alongside their students!

## FAFSA “Train the Trainers Workshop”

In October COM hosted a FAFSA “Train the Trainers Workshop” led by our community partner 10,000 Degrees. The capacity crowd, consisting of Student Ambassadors, Student Services and Athletics staff, and High School and College Access Counselors, learned about the FAFSA and California Dream Act application process. Filling out the application can be an overwhelming task for students, and there is a growing demand each January and February as students struggle to complete the form by the priority deadline of March 2nd. Based on the great presentation and thoughtful questions, we will be better prepared this year to assist more students. Thanks to all who participated!

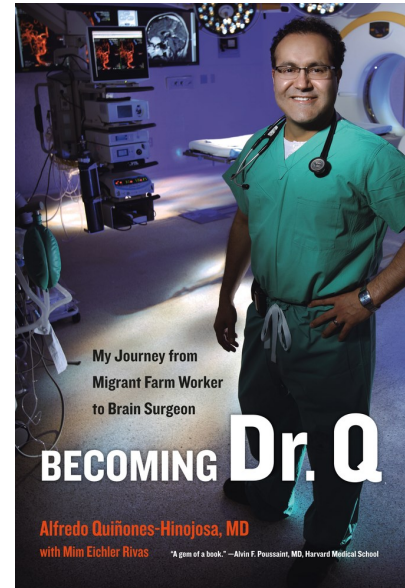
## Introducing the World Languages and Cultures Department!

Formerly the Modern Languages department, faculty determined this rechristening better reflects the department’s broader visions and goals – a more warm, unified, reflection of an inclusive humanity. Since the department’s classes do not involve only languages and linguistics – even grammar classes for transfer requirements have cultural components, and a number of classes focus primarily on culture – conveying the notion of cultures was important in the new title: The World Languages and Cultures department!





Faculty member Shawn Purcell speaks at a “Becoming Dr. Q” COMMON Read event in the William Keith Room of the Library.



On October 10<sup>th</sup> the Athletic Department hosted the sixth annual COM Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony. The 2015 inductees were Carl Jensen (1963-1965) Cross Country and Track, Tom Arrington (1982-1983) Baseball, John Dohn (1969-1970) Football and Track, Mike Fulton (1997-2004) Women’s Basketball Coach, Maureen McGrath (1980-1982) Basketball and Softball, and Tom Elliott (1956-1958) Football. The evening was full of laughter and wonderful stories of great experiences at COM.



## COMPASS (College of Marin Providing Access and Supporting Success) Update

Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade Terra Linda High School COMPASS students have almost a whole semester of college experience under their belts. While they have been busy inside the classroom, they also had some fun outside of class. Thanks to all the faculty, staff, and ambassadors for making the September field trip to COM a great success! From riding Marin Transit using their COM Cards to taking a Zumba class to saving a life in the Nursing simulation lab, to working with ancient rocks to learning about painting and sculpture, the students had a comprehensive day-long college experience, and are fast becoming college students.

So far this semester, Dave Patterson and Beth Patel presented “Becoming Dr. Q” to the students, and even treated each of them to their own book. Meg Pasquel spoke about the meaning of success and three COM students shared their own college experiences. A local firefighter discussed barriers to education and overcoming them, Marco Gonzalez gave a ‘real, live’ college lecture, and Andrea Mann will spoke about college majors and careers. Meanwhile, things are moving along with San Marin High School, and we will be starting the COMPASS program next semester with 25 of their 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

Alongside COMPASS, we also launched MarinCAP (Marin Curriculum Alignment Project) in November. MarinCAP brings together math faculty from COM and county high schools to strengthen academic transitions from high school to college through curriculum alignment. This work supports the COMPASS project and the larger commitment to ensure every Marin County student can successfully transition to college after graduating from high school. A special thanks to faculty Maria Young and Laurie Ordin for their participation.

## Contact Us

Please contact us with any questions or comments.

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**COMPASS students and faculty member Gina Cullen on their way back to Terra Linda High School after their field trip to COM, getting ready to use their COM Cards on Marin Transit.**

