

Vistas & Voices

MJC to host human rights activist and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu!

The faculty and staff of Modesto Junior College and Central Services are invited to **“An Evening with Archbishop Desmond Tutu”** on Saturday, March 5, 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. Archbishop Tutu’s presentation will focus on “Ubuntu” which is a Bantu word that represents a philosophy of human interconnectedness – “A person is a person through other persons.”

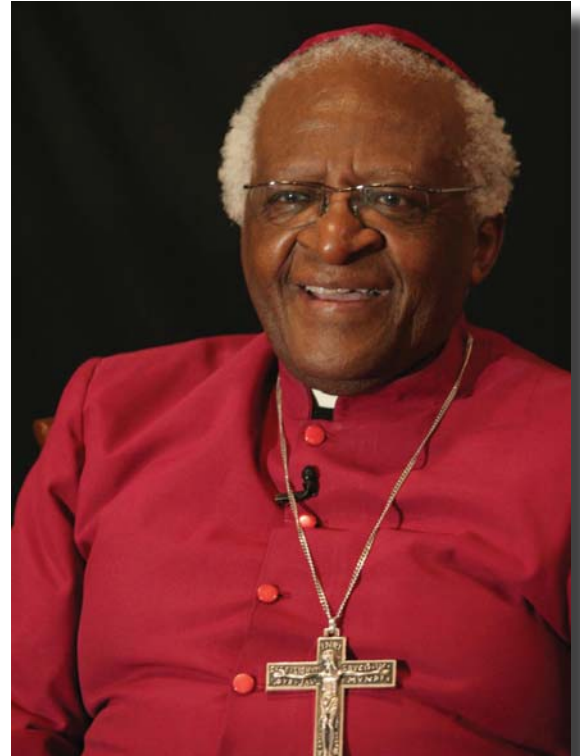
This chance of a lifetime is being presented as a faculty and staff development event and free tickets will be given away only to MJC and Central Services employees on a first-come-first-served basis. The ticket distribution will take place on February 15 – 17, 12 noon – 5 p.m. in the Lobby of the Auditorium on East Campus. Employees may sign for and pick up two free tickets.

The evening’s program will also include a dance performed by the MJC Off-Balance Dancers, vocal music by the MJC Chamber Singers and the reading of a new poem by Professor **Sam Pierstorff** written specifically for this event. Following the speech, attendees are invited to participate in an informal conversation on the concept of “ubuntu” while enjoying refreshments in the Student Center Fireside Lounge. Partial funding for these staff development activities is being provided by the U.S. Department of Education through the MJC Title V Grant.

Archbishop Tutu is a world-renowned human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Beginning with his opposition to apartheid in South Africa, he has worked tirelessly to spread peace, justice and democracy, and to end racial divisions throughout the world.

Tutu was born in Klerksdorp, South Africa on October 7, 1931. His father was a schoolteacher and his mother a domestic worker. He entered the Anglican ministry in 1958 after working for three years as a high school teacher. Tutu received his Licentiate in Theology in 1960 from St. Peter’s Theological College,

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“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another.”

— Desmond Tutu

Features

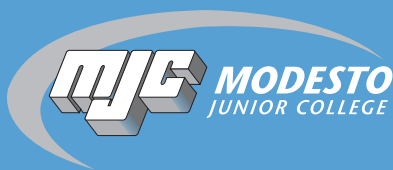
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Vistas and Voices is a newsletter developed to inform, update, and communicate to the community of Modesto Junior College. If you would like to inquire regarding information in this newsletter please contact the Public Information Office at 575-6703.



The President's Voice

by Dr. Gaither Loewenstein

This message was sent by MJC President Gaither Loewenstein to the College community on January 18, 2011

By this time, many, if not most of you have begun to hear news concerning Governor Brown's proposed State budget for the 2011 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2011. Simply put, the news is not good for California community colleges. Essentially, the Governor has set forth two alternative scenarios. The first scenario, contingent upon voter approval of a five-year extension of various previously enacted "temporary" tax increases, posits a reduction of \$400 million for the community college system; this translates to a reduction of approximately \$6 million for our District and roughly \$3.5 million for MJC. The second scenario would apply in the event that the June ballot measure were to fail to achieve majority voter support. Under this scenario, budget reductions to the District and the College would increase to approximately \$13,500,000 and \$7,830,000, respectively. To make matters worse, none of these estimates take into account automatic increases in "steps and columns" scheduled to go into effect on July 1st, which will add \$1.1 million to the projected District deficit under either scenario.

In an ordinary year we might have the alternative of waiting until budget discussions at the state-level progress further prior to making any specific budget recommendations or decisions. Unfortunately, in light of the magnitude of the potential reductions, this is anything but an ordinary year. Because the outcome of any special election including a tax measure will not be known until mid-June, we have no choice but to build our preliminary budget on the worst case scenario. Consequently, it will be necessary to identify up to \$8 million in proposed reductions to the MJC budget for 2011/12.

Discussions of the budget situation have already been initiated among the Chancellor's and Presidents' Cabinets and will begin shortly at the deans' level. Prior to making any recommendations regarding budget reductions at MJC I would like to give the entire college community an opportunity to make suggestions for potential budget cuts. Toward this end, we will be devoting the February 4th meeting of the Planning and Budget Committee to a discussion of possible budget cuts for 2011/12. You are invited to submit your budget reduction suggestions to your PBC representative in advance of this meeting; alternatively, you may wish to deliver your suggestions in person at the February 4th meeting.

Obviously, in light of the extremely high amount of reductions that may be required, suggestions

for small adjustments, such as installing dimmer switches or reducing the amount of reprographic paper consumed will not get us very far down the road toward meeting our target. In fact, as a result of decisions that were made in recent years regarding the deferral of layoffs and the backfill of categorical budget cuts with general fund dollars – decisions that were arguably warranted in light of the reasonable assumption that the state's budget crisis would, like similar crises in the past, be resolved in a few years – the proportion of MJC's budget allocated toward salaries and benefits has increased from 85 to 94 percent, making significant program reductions and associated reductions in force all but inevitable. This is why it is especially important to engage in a broad-based campus-wide dialogue on this matter.

Once suggestions have been received from the College faculty, staff and administration, the vice presidents and I will compile a comprehensive budget reduction proposal for 2011/12. I will send this proposal out to the college community for their information and review in advance of the March 4th meeting of the Planning and Budget Committee. ***On March 4th from 10 a.m. to noon in Forum 102 on the East Campus, PBC will conduct a public hearing to receive testimony concerning the proposed budget reductions.*** Following this hearing I will submit my final recommended budget reductions to the Interim Chancellor for transmittal to the Board. Any reductions in personnel necessitated by these budget cuts will be acted upon by the Board of Trustees at its March meeting.

In the event that the final 2011/12 state budget as it pertains to community colleges proves less severe than the Governor's "Scenario 2" projections, it may be possible to revisit some of the programmatic reductions and personnel actions to be considered by the Board in March. For the time being, however, fiscal prudence and responsible stewardship of public resources demand that we plan for the worst and hope for the best. Be assured that the difficult decisions that will have to be made will be based, to the greatest possible extent, on the need to adhere to the College Mission Statement, our Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives and our overall commitment to the success of our students. We will be as transparent and participatory as possible in seeking solutions to the budget dilemma and communicating the rationale for the decisions that ultimately get made.

I hope that I can count on your participation and collegial support during these trying times.



Faculty and staff offered "Let's Chat" opportunity with the president!

Bring your lunch and join Dr. Loewenstein on the second or fourth Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for an informal conversation. On the second Thursday he will be available on the West Campus in the Staff Lounge, located in Yosemite Hall 205, and on the fourth Thursday he will be lunching in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room on the East Campus.

Feel free to stop by and talk about whatever's on your mind!

MJC's student success rates show improvement Task Force strategizes for continued progress

How do you measure student success? There are a number of different "indicators" that Modesto Junior College uses to analyze how our students are doing. As a college we are required to collect and report "student success" data to California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), and one of the most important tools used is the Accountability Reporting for the Community College (ARCC) Data.

Two standard indicators that are used by our college and the CCCCCO are course retention rates and success rates, and both rates have increased steadily at MJC. Retention rates increased from 81.2% in Fall 2007 to 83.2% in Fall 2009. Course success rates for MJC students have increased from 62.1% in Fall 2008 to 63.5% in Fall 2009.

Course retention rate, as defined by the CCCCCO, is the number of enrollments with grade of A,B,C,D,F,CR,NC,I*,P,NP divided by the number of enrollments with grade of A,B,C,D,F,CR,NC,W, I, P,NP,DR. Success rate is defined as the number of enrollments with grade of A,B,C,CR,P divided by the number of enrollments with grade of A,B,C,D,F,CR,NC,W, I, P,NP,DR.

Another success measurement that MJC looks at and reports to the State Chancellor's Office is the basic skills course completion rate, which was 57.7% for Fall 2009, up from 53.8% in 2006-07.

Dr. Karen Walters Dunlap, Vice President of Instruction, and **Brian Sanders**, Dean of Science, Mathematics and Engineering, presented this information as part of the college's annual Student Success Report to the YCCD Board of Trustees during their January meeting. They cited a number of

strategies MJC has put in place that have assisted the college in achieving these results. Among the strategies credited were the Basic Skills Initiative and the addition of a basic skills counselor and more math faculty. The college has also invested in professional development for faculty and staff, providing On Course training, site visits to other colleges and attendance of student success conferences. Additionally, MJC has supported student learning through the Writing Center, Math Drop-In Center and Tutoring Center.

Special attention has been given to targeted student populations, including implementation of EOP&S Bridge Learning Communities – basic skills learning communities for students who are former foster youth or students looking for a stable beginning to college. Bridge students take Math, English, Reading, and Study Skills while exploring various career fields. Bridge students receive a variety of additional services and tutoring.

Additional Basic Skills Learning Communities have also been implemented at MJC. In a learning community, when English 49 is paired with 1-unit supplemental one-unit reading or grammar support course, the English 49 students have had success rates that are 9% to 20% greater than when taking a "stand alone" English 49 course. Students who passed the above mentioned English 49 courses went on to pass the next course (English 50) at rates 5% to 7% greater than students not taking the support courses.

Another important tactic in helping students to succeed has been the coordination of Friday tutoring

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Student success rates

Continued from page 3...

sessions by Basic Skills Counselor **Tina Giron**. The data shows that tutored English 49 students had a higher success rate (5%) than the non-tutored students, and tutored Reading 40 students had a higher success rate (24%) than the non-tutored students.

Another area of focus by the college was the ESL Needs Assessment Project, which led to programmatic changes, curriculum revision, and student assessment and attendance accountability. This project, led by Professors **Ruth Luman** and **Michael Strangio**, has dramatically increased the class participation of ESL students.

The StartSmart Program has also proved to be a viable tool in giving new students a strong beginning their first semester. The retention rate for StartSmart attendees in Fall 2009 was 7% higher than students who registered for, but did not attend, a StartSmart session. The retention rate for StartSmart attendees was 5 percent higher than all other enrolled MJC students.

Other initiatives that are assisting MJC in making improvements in student success are the college-wide assessment efforts, department conversations that strengthen course sequences and curriculum, and establishing Student Services and Administrative Unit Learning Outcomes. These steps have led to the engagement of all college personnel in student success and achievement and in developing a culture of evidence at MJC.

The Student Success Task Force will use the Fall 2009 numbers as benchmarks as they move forward in their charge of developing new strategies to improve these numbers and achieve the target goal of 5% increase over the next five years. The college is already putting in place a First Year Experience (FYE) program for Fall 2011; looking at learning communities for college-ready students; reviewing counseling services, and establishing

Integrated Learning Centers (ILC) in place of what are currently the Libraries. The ILC will combine different tutoring services into one go-to location for students, and will include the addition of group study rooms, supplemental instruction sessions, and skill-building seminars.

However, in order to reach this ambitious goal, MJC is going to also have to work on the alignment of curriculum with the area high schools and transfer Institutions, look for grant opportunities, and continue to invest in faculty and staff professional development and distance education. The Student Success Task Force will also continue to assess the college's progress by gathering statistics through the annual ARCC Data Report, Institutional Effectiveness Report, MJC Climate Survey, Community College Survey of Student Engagement and development of a Performance Dashboard to monitor the college's progress.

More information on the ARCC Report is available online in the Institutional Effectiveness Report: <http://www.mjc.edu/common/general/Institutional%20Effectiveness%20Report%202010%209%20August%202010%20w%20Cover.pdf>

Members of the Student Success Task Force include:

Dr. Karen Walters Dunlap, V.P. of Instruction

Dr. Don Low, Interim V.P. of Student Services

Brian Sanders, Dean of Science, Math and Engineering

Patrick Bettencourt, Dean of Literature and Language Arts

Martha Robles, Dean of Matriculation, Admission and Records

Dean Tsuruda, Interim Dean of Counseling

Jaymes Michelena, Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Ken Hart, Director of College Research and Planning

Storytelling workshops offered

MJC is offering two "Storytelling: Building Community" events with storyteller Diane Ferlatte on Thursday, February 10. The first event is "Storytelling Across the Curriculum," a workshop for faculty and staff who are interested in enhancing their storytelling skills, held 3 - 5 p.m. in the Student Center Fireside Lounge. Anyone interested in attending is asked to make a reservation by calling **Shirley Miranda**, ext. 7799. "We are all Storytellers" is the theme of the student workshop offered 7 - 9 p.m. in the Pirates Village 125. Students will learn how to engage an audience and add a historical and cultural perspective to their personal storytelling. Students must make a reservation by contacting **Kim Guyan**, ext. 6174.





Who are MJC students and what are their goals?

by Dr. Ken Hart, MJC Director of Research and Planning

Students enrolling at Modesto Junior College have somewhat unique demographics. MJC has a larger percentage of students enrolling that are younger (19 or less) than the combined California Community Colleges. Also, MJC has a smaller percentage of students enrolling that are older (50+). By race/ethnicity from Fall 2004 to Fall 2009, the White, Non-Hispanic group declined 7.5 percentage points, the Asian group declined 1.2 percentage points, the Black group declined 0.3 percentage points, other groups declined slightly, but the Unknown group increased 8.8 percentage points, and the Hispanic group increased 0.2 percentage points. The total percent of the “Unknown” group (18.5%) has an impact on the meaning of the percentages of all other groups’ percentages. MJC enrollment by gender reflects the state and national enrollment trends of approximately 60 percent female and 40 percent male.

Table 4.2: Modesto Junior College Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009
African-American	3.1%	3.2%	2.9%	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Asian	6.2%	6.2%	5.8%	5.4%	4.9%	5.0%
Filipino	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Hispanic	29.4%	29.0%	28.1%	27.4%	27.9%	29.6%
Pacific Islander	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%
White Non-Hispanic	47.3%	46.1%	42.0%	39.3%	39.5%	39.8%
Two or More Races	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0%
Unknown	9.7%	11.3%	17.0%	21.1%	20.8%	18.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The “Other Non-White” category has been removed since it is no longer an option in DataMart.

Almost 84 percent of MJC students reside in Stanislaus County, over 9 percent reside in San Joaquin County, and 1.3 percent reside in Merced County. MJC students live, proportionately, in the same cities and towns that students in prior semesters lived. The city of Modesto is home to almost half (48%) of all MJC students. Almost 11 percent of MJC students live in Turlock, over 7 percent live in Ceres, and almost 4 percent (each) live in Oakdale, Riverbank, and Manteca.

The percentage of MJC students who are First-time Students began declining in Fall 2005, dropped sharply in Fall 2007, and remained low until Fall 2009. In Fall 2009, the percentage of First-time Students increased dramatically to 20.1 percent of total MJC enrollment. The percentage of Continuing Students declined slightly from 59.1 percent in Fall 2008 to 57.3 percent in Fall 2009. The percentage of First-time Transfer Students increased from 2.9 percent in Fall 2008 to 4.8 percent in Fall 2009. The percentage of Returning Students dropped dramatically, from 30 percent in Fall 2008 to 12.4 percent in Fall 2009. Possible explanations for the shift between First-time Student and Returning Student percentages may involve shifts in employment and/or leaving the area and decreased number of service area high school graduates enrolling directly in the CSU and UC systems.

Table 4.7: Modesto Junior College Student Enrollment Status Fall 2004-Fall 2009

Enrollment Status	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009
Continuing Student	53.1%	56.6%	54.8%	58.1%	59.1%	57.3%
First-Time Student	23.7%	17.2%	12.4%	4.2%	3.6%	20.1%
First-Time Transfer Student	6.5%	4.1%	3.7%	2.7%	2.9%	4.8%
Returning Student	10.0%	17.4%	25.0%	29.7%	30.0%	12.4%
Uncollected/Unreported	3.5%	2.9%	3.0%	3.6%	3.1%	4.0%
Not Applicable	3.2%	1.8%	1.1%	1.7%	1.3%	1.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The percent of Modesto Junior College students qualifying for the California Community College System Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waivers has increased from 40 percent in 2004-2005 to just over 63 percent in 2008-2009. Fee waivers, though not the only type of financial assistance available to students, are the most common and can be used to indicate the level of financial need for students attending community college

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MJC Measure E projects underway!



Despite the soggy weather the modern Allied Health Building is on target for completion this June.



The Science Community Center, largest of the Measure E projects, is underway. The foundation and profile of the planetarium has begun to take shape! While the Allied Health Building can be seen in the the background the begining stages of the observatory can be seen in front.

Some may have noticed a newly completed building just behind the new Softball Field. This is the Central Plant that houses the chillers and power for the new Allied Health and Science Buildings. It was designed separately for cost efficiency and to keep noise to a minimum for our students!





Construction on the impressive Agriculture Pavilion has been delayed due to issues with the steel fabricator. The project is now expected to be finished in August 2011.



Construction of the Student Services Building continues on schedule with completion expected in October 2011.

MJC Foundation Updates

MJC dean adds role as executive director of the college's Foundation



George Boodrookas, Modesto Junior College's Dean of Community and Economic Development, has been appointed to serve as the Executive Director of the Modesto Junior College Foundation effective immediately. Boodrookas has served as an administrator at MJC for the past 21 years.

In addition to his duties orchestrating community education, college in the community, and various community and regional partnership activities, Boodrookas will oversee the Foundation's operations related to major gifts, alumni relations, annual giving, special events and community relations. He follows former fulltime Foundation Executive Director Gene Hill who resigned at the end of June 2010.

"MJC has a positive reputation for excellence and impact," said Boodrookas. "This reputation is enhanced by our deep involvement in this community. I view the foundation as a vital way to advance the college in support our students, staff and faculty. In concert with the foundation board and the college administration and staff, I'll seek to maximize our partnerships with the community to positively affect students' lives."

Under the general direction of MJC President Gaither Loewenstein and Paul Neumann, President of the Foundation Board of Directors, Boodrookas will serve as chief fundraising officer for the Foundation, responsible for the overall development, planning, and execution of the Foundation's policies, procedures, and activities.

Boodrookas holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of California, Berkeley and a Masters of Public Administration degree from California State University, Stanislaus, where he is also currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program.

Boodrookas serves on numerous campus and community organizations including the Modesto Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Stanislaus County Economic Development and Workforce Alliance Education Committee and the Central Region Consortium of Community Colleges, for which he serves as co-chair.

For more information on the MJC Foundation and to discuss ways to support MJC, Boodrookas may be reached at (209) 575-6714 or george@mjc.edu.

Gallo donates \$10,000 to Passport to College and pledges \$40,000 more over next four years!



George Boodrookas, Sandy DeWalt, Eva Lopez (Gallo) and Gigi Sherriffe

The E. & J. Gallo Winery stepped forward in support of MJC's and Modesto City Schools' Passport to College program, presenting the MJC Foundation with a check for \$10,000 on Tuesday, January 25. The presentation was made at Hanshaw Middle School in front of a large group of hopeful Passport students and their proud parents. In addition to this generous donation, Gallo pledged to make an annual donation of \$10,000 a year to the program for the next four years, for a total contribution of \$50,000 by 2015.

Stanislaus County has one of the lowest college going rates in California, and the Passport to College program is aimed at improving the area's college going rate by helping students to make early plans to attend college. Passport to College is an early-outreach project that offers students, beginning in fifth grade, academic support services to encourage them and their families to set goals for college. Participants who graduate from a Modesto high school will receive scholarships to pay for enrollment fees for two years of education at MJC. **Thank you, E. & J. Gallo Winery, for believing in MJC's future students!**

Foundation again offers mini grants opportunity

Modesto Junior College Foundation Board agreed to set aside 30 percent of the proceeds of this year's Employee Campaign to support a faculty and staff mini-grant program. As a result of the successful employee campaign last fall a total of \$13,000 has been allocated for this initiative. Faculty and staff were already given the opportunity to apply for spring grants, with \$7,000 of these funds designated for spring. Those awarded spring mini grants will be notified soon.

A balance of \$6,000 is set aside for fall grants and employees will be offered the opportunity to apply later this year. The maximum grant amount is \$1,000 and all full and part-time MJC faculty and classified staff members are eligible to apply for these mini-grants. The grant activity must promote the improvement of MJC instructional and/or student support programs. Examples of eligible activities include instructional or non-instructional equipment or supplies, travel to conferences or workshops, and purchase of books, publications, subscriptions.





GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives offers students and employees an opportunity to make a difference

Are you interested in helping others? Do you know students who would like to acquire new knowledge and sharpen technical skills? Modesto Junior College students, faculty and staff have a unique opportunity to gain valuable training in solar installation, and to use these new skills to make a difference in Stanislaus County. GRID Alternatives is a non-profit that brings solar energy, energy efficiency and job training to low-income communities.

Powered by thousands of generous volunteers and guided by expert professionals, GRID Alternatives is helping thousands of low-income families to save money in their energy bills by installing solar roofs and grid-tied inverters in their homes. Volunteering with GRID Alternatives helps to build a better community, is good for the environment, and helps students to develop new technical skills needed to enter the solar industry.

The new Central Valley chapter of GRID Alternatives is offering a free basic technical orientation that is open to all MJC students, faculty and staff who are interested in getting involved in this project. The meeting will be Friday, February 25, 1 – 3 p.m. in Sierra Hall 132 on West Campus. Those volunteers who go through this training session will be eligible to participate in GRID Alternatives' future installations.

The first step towards getting involved with GRID Alternatives is to fill out an online [volunteer application](#) and the second step is to attend the basic technical orientation on February 25. After that, the applicant will be eligible to sign up for installations in the GRID Alternatives installations calendar.

For more information on this new opportunity contact **Adrian De Angelis**, MJC Professor of Electronics Technology at ext. 6088.





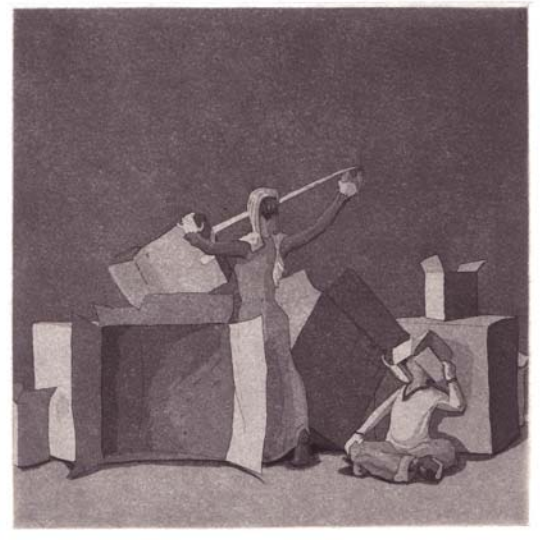
MJC Art Gallery presents “50,000 Words” exhibit of works by Robert Stevenson

The Modesto Junior College Art Gallery is offering “50,000 Words,” an art exhibit featuring new works by MJC Professor of Art **Robert Stevenson**, on display January 24 through March 2. A reception will be held on Friday, January 28, 5-7 p.m., with a gallery talk presented by the artist at 5:30 p.m. Both the art exhibit and the reception are open to the public and admission is free. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is wheelchair accessible and located on East Campus.

“A picture is worth a thousand words” is a commonly heard phrase that speaks to the narrative and journalistic ability of images. In the exhibition, Stevenson seeks to test whether one image is truly equivalent to one thousand words. He explored the verbal value of the image by participating in National Novel Writing Month, in which writers attempt to produce a new novella of fifty thousand words or more. This exhibition chronicles his initial drafts and showcases the resulting novella, a traditionally-produced artist’s book featuring 50 new etchings, with the premise that if a picture is worth a thousand words, then these fifty etchings should be worth fifty thousand.

Stevenson has been a full-time instructor at MJC for the last ten years. He also has taught at Ohlone College in Fremont, the San Francisco Art Institute’s ACE program, Studio Arts Center International in Florence, Italy, and University of California, Berkeley’s DeCal program. He received his Master of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute and a Bachelor of Arts in Art Practice and Art History from UC Berkeley.

Stevenson’s work has been shown throughout the United States as well as in South America and Europe. His works can be found in public collections including the Morrison Library in Berkeley, CA, McNeese University in Lake Charles, LA and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, NY. Robert has also worked as a printer or as master printer with such noteworthy artists as Peter Voulkos, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Terry Allen.



Sam Pierstorff receives Award of Merit from CATE

Modesto Junior College Professor of English **Sam Pierstorff** has been selected to receive a California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) Award of Merit for 2011. He will be honored as part of select group of educators receiving this award on Saturday, February 12 at a luncheon held during the CATE Conference in Sacramento.

Pierstorff is the founding editor of *Quercus Review*, a journal of literature and art and is the host of “Slam on Rye,” Modesto’s monthly poetry slam. He also acts as the faculty consultant to the Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees.

Pierstorff served as Poet Laureate for the City of Modesto from 2004 to 2008. In 2010 he published his first book of poetry entitled *Growing Up in Someone Else’s Shoes* and he was nominated to be in *Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers* in 2004 and 2006.

Pierstorff received his Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from Long Beach State University where he was also selected valedictorian of the College of Liberal Arts. He began teaching English at several community colleges in Southern California before joining MJC as a fulltime faculty member in 2000.

Congratulations!

Steve Grubb, MJC Adjunct Professor of Music/Organ, was selected to serve as the adjudicator for the Stanislaus Branch of the Music Teachers Association's Annual Baroque Festival. The event, which was held at California State University, Stanislaus on November 14 featured the performances of 24 piano students from Stanislaus County. Following the recital four students participated in a harpsichord Master Class taught by Professor Grubb.

MJC Professor Emeritus **Allen Boyer** was honored as Tutor of the Year during the Stanislaus Literacy Center's Spotlight on Reading event on Friday, January 15 at the Petersen Event Center in Modesto. Boyer spent 45 years in education, most of it teaching music at Modesto Junior College before he retired in 2003. He now tutors General Education Development students at the Turlock Family Resource Center. Boyer was presented with his award during a wine-and-cheese reception followed by a Reader's Theater production titled "Children of the Dust Bowl" that featured several former and current MJC faculty and staff members .



Paul Brogan, MJC professor and head coach for Men's Basketball, will be inducted into the California State University, Stanislaus Athletics Hall of Fame on February 19. A 1984 graduate and former hoops


standout at Manteca High School, Brogan played two seasons at MJC, and established himself as one of CSUS' all-time greats in 1987-89. Coach Brogan is in his 10th season as the Pirates Basketball coach.



Also being inducted into the CSUS Athletics Hall of Fame is Yosemite Community College District Trustee **Abe Rojas**. He is being honored for his many years as a supporter and volunteer for sports in the Turlock community. The 2011 Hall of Fame class is the first to be honored at CSUS in five years.



Martha Robles has been selected as the Dean of Matriculation, Admissions and Records and began her new role on January 3, 2011. In an email to the college President Loewenstein noted, "Martha comes to this new position charged with energy and enthusiasm. Her educational and work history background have her well prepared for this new challenge."



90th Anniversary
MODESTO
JUNIOR COLLEGE

Congratulations!

**MJC is 90 years young
and still getting the job done!**

Join us in the year long celebration!
1921-2011

Art

Dance/Choreography

Film/Short Subject Video

Music Composition

Music Performance

Photography

Speech

Storytelling

Theatre Monologue

Theatre Playwriting

Writing

Modesto Junior College 34th Annual
Celebration of the Humanities

Saturday, April 9, 2011
For additional information visit: www.mjc.edu/celebration
Printed courtesy of donations designated for Celebration of the Humanities

**Gallery Exhibit Opening
Awards Ceremony and Reception**

Gallery Opening: 10 AM - 6 PM
MJC Art Gallery, East Campus

Awards Ceremony: 1 PM - 3 PM
Performing and Media Arts Center
MJC Main Auditorium, East Campus

Reception: Following Ceremony

Exhibition: April 11 - 15, 2011
Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 6 PM

Free to the public and wheelchair accessible.

Co-sponsored by:

Archbishop Desmond Tutu ...

Continued from front cover

Johannesburg, and was ordained to the priesthood in Johannesburg in 1961. Not

long after his ordination, he obtained a Bachelor of Divinity Honors and Master of Theology degrees from King's College, University of London, England.

Tutu served in a number of increasingly prominent positions from 1967 to 1978: lecturer at the Federal Theological Seminary at Alice, South Africa; chaplain at the University of Fort Hare; lecturer in the Department of Theology at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland; Associate Director of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches in Kent, United Kingdom; Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg; and Bishop of Lesotho.

By 1978, in the wake of the 1976 Soweto uprising, South Africa was in turmoil, and Tutu was persuaded to take up the post of General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC). It was in this position that he became both a national and international figure. Justice and reconciliation and an end to apartheid were the SACC's priorities, and as General Secretary, Tutu pursued these goals with vigor and commitment. Under his guidance, the SACC became an important institution in South African spiritual and political life, challenging white society and the government while affording assistance to the victims of apartheid.

A prominent leader in the crusade for justice and racial conciliation in South Africa, Tutu became heavily embroiled in controversy as he spoke out against the injustices of the apartheid system. He was denied a passport to travel abroad for several years. In 1984 he received a Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the cause, and in 1985 he was elected Bishop of Johannesburg.

Tutu was elevated to Archbishop of Cape Town in 1986, and in this capacity did much to bridge the chasm between black and white Anglicans in South Africa. As Archbishop, he became a principal mediator and conciliator in the transition to democracy in South Africa. President Nelson Mandela appointed him Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995, a body set up to probe gross human rights violations that occurred under apartheid. Shortly after his retirement from office as Archbishop of Cape Town in 1996, Tutu was granted the honorary title of Archbishop Emeritus.



MJC Off-Balance Dance performs “Windows of Expression”

The Modesto Junior College Off-Balance Repertory Dancers will offer a dance concert entitled “Windows of Expression” on February 10, 11, 12 at 7:30 p.m. and February 13 at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Performing & Media Arts Center. The modern and contemporary performance is directed by MJC professors **Lori Bryhni** and **Kim T. Davis**.

The evening’s repertoire will include intimate and personal works choreographed by Bryhni and Davis and Off-Balance dancers Lea Austin, Jessica Lee, Tami McQueen and Sandi Scheuber. Guest choreographers will include Heather Cooper-Allen of SJ Dance Company and Rogelio Lopez, former member of the Keith Johnson and Dancers Company.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors and may be purchased online at <http://mjc.tix.com> or through the Auditorium Box Office, Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to curtain at each performance, or call (209) 575-6776 during box office hours.

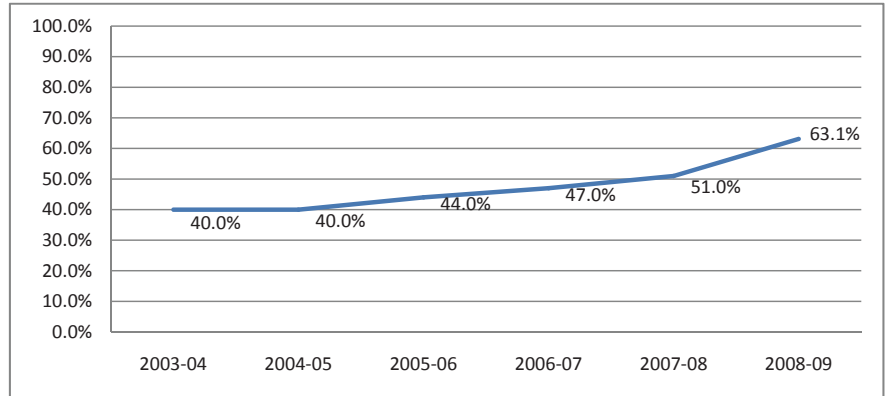
The MJC Dance Department will host a “Tribute to José Limón” performed by the sjDANCEco on Friday, February 11 at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium. The free performance by this San Jose dance company celebrates the work of modern dance choreographer José Limón and will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience. The event is open to the campus and community. For more information contact Lori Bryhni, ext. 6496.

Who Are MJC Students...

Continued from page 5...

Of the three types of BOG Fee Waivers that MJC students qualified for, just over 19 percent of the total MJC student body qualified, based on financial need alone, according to the CCC Chancellor's Office Data Mart.

Figure 4.4: MJC Students Qualified for BOG Fee Waiver 2003-04 to 2008-



Percentages of MJC students assessing and placing in various English, Reading, and Math courses have remained fairly constant from 2006 to 2009. Percentages of students assessing and placing in courses Below Transfer Level for 2009 were 70.9 percent in English and 83.2 percent in Math.

In terms of the percentage of MJC students indicating their educational goals, "Transfer with an AA/AS Degree" has increased from 41.6 percent of all MJC students in Fall 2004 to 61 percent in Fall 2009. The conflicting nature of these two pieces of data seems to pose an issue for the college community.



Modesto Junior College Athletics Department
and
Modesto Junior College Foundation
presents

The 12th Annual

Wine - Gourmet Food Tasting and Silent Auction

Featuring:
Varietal wines for sampling, accompanied by gourmet hors d'oeuvres,
and silent auction including sports memorabilia

Saturday, April 2, 2011
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
MJC Gymnasium
435 College Avenue • Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 575-6270

Tickets: \$35 each benefiting MJC Athletics (\$20 of ticket price considered a contribution)
Must be 21 years of age to attend.

Purchase tickets: Auditorium Box Office Tues. - Fri., Noon - 5 p.m.
575-6776 or mjc.tix.com

Celebrate!

Student learns English and cultivates her educational opportunities at MJC...

Mei's English seems very good for someone who was raised speaking Hakka, a dialect of Cantonese, and Mandarin, which is the national language of China. She grew up in a small village in Hui Zhou City, in Southern China about two hours north of Hong Kong by train, and was part of a large family by Chinese standards, with two brothers and two sisters. Mei met her American husband, Patrick, while he was teaching English for two years at the university Mei was attending, and their romance blossomed. After returning to the U.S. to finish his degree, Patrick brought Mei to Modesto in 2005 and they married shortly after she arrived.

Mei had some English-speaking friends in China and had wanted to become a translator for business, so she could speak some English. However, her skills in writing and reading English were limited, and she began taking basic English classes at Modesto Junior College. "I wanted to work in an office but couldn't get a job until I improved my

English." Her language skills quickly expanded, although she claims that English remains her greatest educational obstacle. Mei is now majoring in Accounting at MJC and only needs to complete seven more classes to achieve her Associate's degree. She plans to transfer to CSUS in the fall of 2011, where she hopes to double-major in Accounting and Finance. Her career goal is to work for a bank or accounting firm. "I figured out that I liked accounting by being responsible for my own budget and checking account."

Mei reports that statistics and financial concepts are much easier for her than grammar, and some of her favorite classes include **John Carter's** Economics course, and Financial Accounting and Business Law with **Patricia Walls** and **Jim McGarry**. "I like the organization and analyzing of financial data." She also discovered that Economic History of the U.S. is very interesting when she took this course with **Cecelia Hudelson-Putnam**. However, the professor she most admires and would like to emulate is **Nancy Sills**, from whom she took Managerial Accounting. "She is very quick, organized, determined, and professional, yet very friendly. I want to be like her."

Mei is also greatly inspired by her church family members who helped the young couple by giving Mei a loving place to stay while Patrick was gone for military training and who also rented them a cottage when he returned. She also reveres the commitment of a missionary family she met in China. "These people are so generous and loving, and they provide living examples of their faith."

While attending college, this hardworking and disciplined young woman has juggled a variety of jobs, including working for a motor parts distributor, teaching Chinese, tutoring math and being a nanny. Mei has now reduced her job hours to focus on college and is currently only working part time in the MJC Community Education Office. She and her husband were also able to purchase a home in 2008 and Mei enjoyed cultivating her first garden last summer, harvesting tomatoes and squash, and discovering a passion for growing things. "I love outdoor activities, and now that I'm working fewer hours, besides having more time for school, I also have more time for gardening, bicycle riding, swimming and hiking." Another activity in which she delights is singing modern praise hymns as part of her church's worship team. One might say that in many ways Mei's life itself "sings," because her enjoyment and gratitude for the opportunities she has been given are so evident.



Mei Xie-McGar

"Education is totally different in China. There you select a major early and the classes and books are all selected for you as part of your major. So the need to see an educational counselor and pick my own classes at MJC surprised me. But now that I'm used to it, I love the flexibility to design my own education."

Dates to Remember

For more dates visit MJC's online [Calendar of Events!](#)

Now - March 2	"50,000 Words" Art Exhibit Featuring Robert Stevenson's work, MJC Art Gallery, free	March 10-16	High School Art Exhibit MJC Art Gallery, free	April 12	MJC Community Orchestra Concert 7:30 p.m., Auditorium \$5 general/\$1 students
February 8	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free	March 10	CEP Film - The One Percent 7 pm, Forum 110, free	April 14	Earth Day at MJC 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Quad, free
February 10	Storytelling: Building Community Workshop with Diane Ferlatte 3 p.m., Pirates Village 125, free	March 11	Jack Albiani Track & Field Invitational 11 a.m., Stadium, free	April 15	New Music Concert 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, free
February 10	Storytelling with Diane Ferlatte 7 p.m., Little Theatre, free	March 11	Steven Thomas Piano Recital 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall	April 15	MAPS "Deep Drilling Across the San Andreas Fault" 7:30 p.m., Forum 110, Free
February 10	CEP Film -The Devil Came on Horseback 7 pm, Forum, free	March 12	Hispanic Education Conference 8 a.m. -2 p.m., Auditorium, free	April 17	Native American Powwow 10 a.m. -7 p.m., Quad, free
February 10-13	Off-Balance Repertory Dance in Performance Auditorium \$10 general, \$8 students/seniors	March 15	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free	April 19	Men's Golf Big 8 Tournament 12 p.m., Spring Creek Country Club
February 15	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free	March 19	Central Valley 11 Dive Invitational 10 a.m., Pools	April 19	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free
February 17-18	MJC Men's Tennis Invitational Tournament Tennis Courts, free	March 22	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free	April 21	MJC Choral and Vocal Extravaganza 7:30 p.m., Auditorium \$5 general/\$4 students
February 18 - 21	Presidents' Holidays Campus Closed	March 24 - April 3	"Pirates of Penzance" Auditorium \$12 general, \$10 students/seniors	April 26-29	Big 8 Conference Track & Field Championships 9 a.m., Stadium
February 22	(Tuesday) Science Colloquium 3:30., Science 208, free	March 25	MAPS "Co-Evolution of Yeast and the Food/Beverage Industry" 7:30 p.m., Forum 110, Free	April 26	MJC Masterworks Chorus Spring Sing! 7:30 p.m., Auditorium \$5 general/\$4 students
February 23	Cash for College Night Financial Aid Workshop for H.S. Seniors 6 p.m., Sierra Hall 132, free	March 29	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free	April 29	MJC Graduation Luncheon 12 noon, Mary Stuart Rogers Center, \$10
February 24	CEP Film - Facing Death 7 pm, Forum 110, free	March 30	Student Job Fair 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Student Center	April 30	2011 Commencement Ceremony MJC Closed Fridays 4/10 work week begins 2 p.m., Stadium, free
February 25	MAPS "Beyond Jaws: Shark Biodiversity and Conservation" 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, free	March 31	Cesar Chavez Celebration East Campus Quad, free	May 6	Track & Field Nor-Cal Championships 1 p.m., Stadium
February 26	African American Education Conference 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Mary Stuart Rogers Center, free	April 1	French Movie Night - A Prophet 6:30 p.m., Forum 110, free	May 30	Memorial Day Holiday Campus Closed
February 27	MJC Music Faculty Recital 2 p.m., MJC Recital Hall \$12 general, \$10 students/ seniors	April 2	"Celebrate MJC Athletics" Wine & Gourmet Food Tasting 6 - 9 p.m., Gymnasium. \$35 (Must be 21)	June 2- 1	"A Street Car Named Desire" Little Theatre \$10 general/\$8 students
March TBA	CEP Film - Cruz Reynoso: Sowing the Seeds of Justice 7 pm, Forum 110, free	April 4	Spring Jazz Band Concert 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, free		
March 1	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free	April 5	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free		
March 3	Men's Golf Big 8 Tournament 10 a.m., Del Rio Country Club	April 7	Faculty Tenure Recognition 3 p.m., Student Center Lounge		
March 4	College Budget Forum 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Forum 102	April 7 - 9	Big 8 South Conference Tennis Tournament		
March 4	French Movie Night -Wild Grass 6:30 p.m., Forum 110, free	April 8	Tennis Courts CEP Film - "Play Again" 7 pm, Forum 110, free		
March 8	Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free	April 9	String Recital 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall, free		
		April 11	Organ Recital, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church Celebration of the Humanities 1 p.m., Auditorium, free		
		April 12	MJC Symphonic Band Concert 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, free		
			Science Colloquium 3:30 p.m., Science 208, free		



Modesto Junior College
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