



February 19, 2016

The bright green, returning grass along College Avenue is beautiful this morning in the sunshine. The restoring rain this week has increased my awareness of just how much I have missed grass! The MJC campuses look fantastic – clean and inviting as we approach our New Student Days scheduled for April 9th and May 21st. A few more weeks of rain will go a long way in maintaining the current state of new growth, so I keep checking the weather outlook in hope that more is on the way.

Scholar Athletes – Congratulations to the MJC 2014/15 Men’s Basketball Team for their recognition as the California Community College Athletic Association Scholar Team. Under the leadership of head coach Paul Brogan, the team combined for a 3.62 cumulative GPA! The award will be presented on March 30 at the annual CCCAA Convention.

Cross Discipline Experience – Dr. Debi Bolter, professor of anthropology, and Joel Hagen, professor of computer graphics, are collaborating to enhance student opportunity and experience. Using the open source *Homo naledi* scan details, the team is guiding student work that includes creation of graphic images and 3D fossil prints. Adam Baba in the Magic Lab has joined the team and is providing careful watch over the 3D print process leading to the successful print of an entire reconstructed cranium and entire hand. Student Clayton Gomez reconstructed the complete skull from remains of three individuals using the software and resources available in the Magic Lab.

Song Brown Nursing Support – Just yesterday, Director of Nursing, Professor Lisa Riggs shared the great news of an increased award of Song Brown Funds. These grants will provide \$245,000 next year in support of our associate degree nursing program and are a result of the dedicated efforts of nursing faculty who authored the grant proposals.

Achieving the Dream – A team of sixteen from MJC travels to Atlanta next week for DREAM, the annual Achieving the Dream conference. Eight faculty will engage in the broad conference activities around the theme of “Equity and Excellence” and join colleagues from across the United States as they reflect on and share lessons from experience, deepen understanding about ways to increase student success, and increase capacity for data analysis including

program evaluation and student centered, data-informed decision making. All will have opportunity to participate in workshops designed to develop a student-focused culture that fosters overall systemic transformation. I can hardly wait and will remind myself of that when the alarm goes off at 3:00 a.m. to catch my flight.

***Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;
courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.***

Sir Winston Churchill

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

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