



April 22, 2016

Under the leadership of Associate Dean Marks, the MJC Commencement Committee has been carefully planning the endless details that make our graduation a wonderful celebration of student achievement. The cloudy conditions this morning are a poignant reminder of the importance of the rain contingency planning that is a regular element of the committee work. My thanks to the many, many individuals who collaborate in planning and execution of MJC Commencement. I am looking forward to next Friday and the opening bars of *Pomp and Circumstance*.

USATF Head Coach – Professor of Physical and Health Education, Dr. Dave Shrock, was selected to serve as the head Men’s Coach for the PanAm Cross Country Championships. The event was held in Carraballeda, Venezuela in March and featured the Western Hemisphere’s best cross county athletes in a lead-up event to the summer 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Shrock shared with colleagues that he was touched and saddened by the state of the economy and the very direct impact it is having on the athletes.

Writer’s Event – Tomorrow, Fresno hosts a [LitHop](#) event featuring many past and present writers from MJC’s Literature and Language Arts Division. The line-up of MJC featured authors includes Zaid Shlah, Sam Pierstorff, Paula DeBoard, Lillian Vallee, Daniel Chacon, Karen Davies, and Stella Beratlis.

Coach of the Year – Congratulations to Professor Milan Motroni! Coach Motroni was just honored as the Coach of the Year at the CCCAA State Championships in Ojai for women’s tennis. What a wonderful recognition of excellence in MJC athletics.

Music in the Quad – Thank you Professors Anne Martin and Erik Maki from the MJC music department for providing concerts in the quad. I was delighted to catch the Beginning Strings performance a couple of weeks ago and the MJC Jazz Band yesterday. The students, staff, and community members in the audience really appreciated the opportunity to hear what’s happening in the MJC world of music!

As always seems to be the case, the list of summer projects is long! However, MJC councils, committees, and workgroups have done a tremendous job this year in terms of establishing the framework that is shaping the drafts of several key documents. Thank you for your continued participation in the development process that will lead to an updated Strategic Plan, an Educational Master Plan, revision of *Engaging All Voices*, and the Institutional Self Evaluation. I am pleased and impressed with the quality and quantity of engagement, information, and input that has brought us to this point and look forward to review of drafts as the narrative is developed.

*In school, I could hear the
leaves rustle and go on a journey.*
Clint Eastwood

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.
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