October 17, 2014

I spent last week in Southern California leading an external evaluation team on a comprehensive accreditation visit. I appreciate the unique opportunity that evaluating another institution brings to think about how MJC reflects the Standards and where we have room for improvement. College visits also provide opportunity to borrow excellent ideas from our colleagues and this trip was no exception! In particular, I enjoyed learning how this college was approaching development and implementation of their Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) and Student Equity Plan (SEP) plans. The process used at MJC to approach SSSP and SEP planning paralleled the process used by our distant colleagues and we are at the similar points in the process. This provided a great informal process and progress check on these newly established requirements of California Community Colleges.

**Dairy Judging** - The MJC Dairy Judging team brought home a third place victory from the 2014 World Dairy Expo in Madison Wisconsin. MJC student, A.J. Vaz placed in the top five in every breed judged, earning and All-American designation. Congratulations Professor Hobby and team!

**Geotripper** – Professor Garry Hayes was lauded in a recent Washington Post article for his Geotripper blog. You can read the blog here, but make sure you have plenty of time to enjoy the photos and conversational exploration of geography!

**Speech and Debate** – The MJC Speech and Debate team has had two very successful weekend competitions. The most recent event in Santa Rosa concluded with MJC being recognized as outstanding overall, taking sweepstakes awards in every category. Congratulations to our new director of speech and debate, Instructor Ryan Guy!

**Veterans Fair** – Yesterday the East Campus quad was filled with activity centered on information and resources for veterans. The event was planned and managed by the student staff of the MJC Veterans’ Resource Center and featured presentation of the colors, presentations by representatives of Congressman Jeff Denham, the national anthem, and the Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom Wall display. This was a wonderful inaugural campus event.

**Women’s Soccer** - Congratulations to the MJC Women’s Soccer team who just broke the record for the best start ever at MJC! Their 3-0 win versus San Joaquin Delta College on Tuesday earned them a 13-0-1 record, undefeated in 14 games, and a #7 National Ranking. You can catch the Pirates at home on October 28 at 3:30 versus Diablo Valley College. Congratulations Coach Aristotelous!

*A student never forgets an encouraging private word, when it is given with sincere respect and admiration.*

William Lyon Phelps

**JILL STEARNS**

*President*