



MJC Reflection

November 1, 2013

This morning there was a pleasant surprise in my email from The Chronicle of Higher Education. The Chronicle announced [Vitae](#), proclaiming it “the only online career hub dedicated to making it easier and more rewarding for faculty and administrators to do their job each day.” Intrigued, I followed the links to the three sample articles and was hooked. The [Vitae](#) site is free and directions to login are easy to find. You can access the articles through these links without logging in: From [Welfare to the Tenure Track](#), [Unburdened by an Office](#), and [Should Academics Write for Free?](#) Whether this site will rival LinkedIn for higher education is uncertain, but they are sharing interesting articles on a wide variety of topics.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the City of Patterson celebration of the flipping of the switch on their new sustainable energy program. The city, in partnership with Chevron Energy Solutions, has brought solar to the community and energy education internships to Patterson Unified School District students. It is exciting to have what is sure to become a model program for the Valley in Stanislaus County. I enjoyed hearing the students share their experiences as energy interns and especially of their conversion from major consumers to careful monitors of home electricity use.

Big fair, big win – Congratulations to the MJC livestock judging team that did extremely well at the Big Fresno Fair competition. The team made a clean sweep bringing home first place in high team overall, high team reasons, high team beef, high team sheep, high team swine, and high team question novice under advisement of Instructor Amanda Schnoor.

International guests – Six outstanding students from Khmelnytsky, Ukraine included MJC in their United States visit on Wednesday. The students competed for the opportunity to travel to California and were incredibly impressed by all that they experienced at MJC. In particular, they noted the size of our campuses, the friendliness of faculty and staff, fine and performing arts programs, and the opportunity to learn by doing. It was discouraging to hear of the strict book based approach that is used in the Ukraine universities. Even with their excellent English skills, the students struggled to put into words their amazement of the simulation lab in Glacier Hall.

Accreditation – Final preparations for the accreditation follow-up visit on November 14th are being completed. The evidence binders are being carefully checked, plans for moving assessment outcomes records to the team room are being made, and technology and human logistics are being planned. I am looking forward to welcoming the team and discussing our follow-up report.

*Love the trees until their leaves fall off,
then encourage them to try again next year.*

Chad Sugg