May 29, 2014

As a college student, I most enjoyed summer quarter. The entire campus had a more relaxed feel; faculty dressed more casually, discussions were less structured, and fewer students made it much easier to access the bookstore, snack bar, and library. I have been enjoying the more relaxed atmosphere of the early summer term at MJC. Similar to what I experienced as a student, there is a powerful positive feel that you can accomplish those projects that you could not get to during the fall and spring terms. Summer also brings opportunity for maintenance and renovation. Last week the trees on the East Campus quad and surrounding Morris Memorial were trimmed. The beautiful deodar cedars look refreshed and some sunlight now makes its way through the professionally thinned branches. The Business Services Office in the Student Center on East Campus has been refreshed with new carpet and the Bookstore flooring has been completed. The renovation of the Art Building patio is scheduled to begin next week and media services is upgrading instructional technology in many classrooms. The Great Valley Museum is expected to be complete in August and the GVM storage facility construction is underway.

**Nursing in the news** – the MJC registered nursing program was featured in the Work in Progress section of the May edition of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce magazine *Progress*. The article features an interview with RN Program Director, Professor Lisa Riggs, who shared some of the highlights that make the MJC program so successful. You can read the article on page 23 [here](#).

**Phlebotomy Renewal** - over the past year, the Community Education department has completely revised the phlebotomy program. Community Education Specialist, Martha Rice, led the program revision process including the required document submission for program accreditation by the California Department of Public Health. Congratulations on renewal of the program through 2016 by the Laboratory Field Services of California Department of Public Health.

**ACCJC approves Distance Education Substantive Change** – MJC recently received formal notice from the Committee on Substantive Change of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The substantive change proposal was approved for the 37 associate degrees and four certificates that can be earned from MJC at 50% or more via distance education. The report preparation was led by faculty accreditation chair, Dr. Jennifer Hamilton who received commendation from the Commission for the completeness and clarity of the proposal!

Tuesday morning when I arrived on campus at 6:45 AM, I was immediately approached by an individual that did not appear to be a student. There were only a couple of cars on South Drive, no cars passing on College Avenue, and no students or staff stirring near the Performing and Media Arts Center. The slightly disheveled man walked up as I climbed out of my Jeep and asked a few questions unrelated to MJC. When I turned to head into Morris Memorial, I noticed that one of our groundskeepers had idled the gas blower and was standing, silently observing the interaction. Thank you for going above and beyond in service to YCCD and MJC; I appreciate you being aware of the situation surrounding your work. The tragedy near UCSB last weekend is a vivid reminder of the importance of being aware of what is taking place around us. I am so grateful for the time he gave to ensure my safety and thankful that there was no cause to intervene.

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.*

Maya Angelou