



September 11, 2015

The first three weeks of fall 2015 have so quickly passed! Today is a Friday filled with activity as the Curriculum Committee is engaged in their annual training day under the leadership of Co-Chairs Barbara Adams and Chad Redwing. Beginning at 11:00 am, MJC will gather for a college conversation and Data Summit as the first interactive step in our Achieving the Dream planning year. Today's activity provides the critical opportunity for us to have a shared look at MJC student data. This will allow us to develop a common understanding of the placement of our incoming students, the persistence of students from fall to spring and fall to fall, GPA in relation to unit load, progress through sequential courses, and completion. The disaggregated data will also allow us to explore and understand the highest and lowest achieving identified student groups. Dr. Ken Gonzalez, our ATD Data Coach, and Dr. James Todd will facilitate today's conversation.

New Species – Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Debi Bolter, received an MJC Foundation mini-grant two years ago that assisted with the cost of travel to South Africa where she had been invited for a professional development opportunity. Debi was not able to share much information at the time, and remained quiet for two years after her return. Then yesterday, *Homo naledi* was introduced to the world! Usually, I would provide a link, but you really need to Google this and explore the print and video media covering this revolutionary discovery. The NOVA and National Geographic special airs Wednesday, September 16th. Congratulations Dr. Bolter!

Record degrees awarded – The Art Department awarded 66 degrees in 2014/15, more than double their previous best. According to the CCCCO this included 42 degrees in Studio Art (including 16 ADTs), 15 degrees in Art History (including 14 ADTs), and 9 degrees in Photography. These numbers reflect the faculty advising, Visual Arts Club, and Art Gallery connections through which faculty provide a supportive environment for art students.

MJC's Got Talent – English Professor Sam Pierstorff won the Specialty Talent Achievement Award at the Valley's Got Talent competition. Sam performed two shows at the Gallo Center to sold out crowds in the 1,200 seat theater! MJC Off Balance Dancers and some vocalists also competed and represented MJC in this event. Congratulations Sam!

Veterans Center of Excellence – Congressman Jeff Denham’s office notified MJC this week that we were awarded the Veterans Center of Excellence grant. This three year award provides just under \$500,000 to address the academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students.

*Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness,
Is a way to honor those we lost,
a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.*

President Obama

JILL STEARNS

President



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