May 2, 2014

I can hardly wait for Professor Erik Maki to raise his baton signaling the musicians to begin *Pomp and Circumstance*. As a band member (grades 4-12), the traditional graduation anthem brings a lifetime of memories each time I hear it. I remember special friends, faculty, and colleagues that were part of each graduation celebration and the journey it took to get there. Walking into the stadium this evening will bring an incredible rush of awe and thankfulness as we celebrate the success of our students – this is the highlight of each year and a maker of memories.

**Still Making News** – The MJC Debate Team finished the 2013/14 season ranked 4th in the nation for all community colleges. The National Parliamentary Debate Association trophy will soon be encased in Founder’s Hall for all to enjoy. Further, the MJC Debate Team is ranked 15th in the nation against all schools. This ranking includes colleges, universities, and community colleges. Congratulations to Professor Todd Guy, forensics coach, and the entire MJC Speech and Debate Team!

**Faculty Honors** – Two MJC faculty have been offered opportunities to engage in unique summer projects. Professor Steve Miller received a two-week fellowship with the Japan Studies Institute sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The fellowship focuses on incorporation of Japanese studies into the undergraduate curriculum. Dr. Debi Bolter has been invited to participate in a month long workshop at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. The goal of the workshop is to describe new hominid (biped) fossils recently excavated from a cave site outside of Johannesburg. You can read more about the *Rising Star Expedition* [here](#).

As we reach the end of the year, I extend my thanks and congratulations to the MJC team. Much has been accomplished through a positive and collaborative approach to meeting the challenges of an ever-changing higher education environment. I look forward to starting again next fall!

*Writing about music is like dancing about architecture.*

Martin Mull

**JILL STEARNS**  
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