



MJC Reflection

August 30, 2013

Fall 2013 began with the expected rush and excitement of a new beginning. I have heard touching stories of the many ways that staff and faculty have reached out and helped students struggling to find the right classroom, textbook, or office. I enjoyed spending early mornings providing directions to students and helping a few to find open class sections to add to their schedules. A hug from first time freshman, Al, made my Monday! Even at 40+, he might have been the happiest new student at MJC.

The week had a strange sense of being incomplete with our Columbia College colleagues away from campus due to the smoke from the Rim Fire. Many at MJC have asked if there was a way in which we could help Columbia and the greater community impacted by the fire. Nursing Professor Glad Schmitt has organized a clothing drive to help families who have lost their homes to the Rim Fire. Gently used clothing, bedding, toys, books, and shoes brought to the Glacier Hall Skills Lab by September 6 will be delivered to support services in Sonora.

Purdy Awards – Director of Associate Degree Nursing, Professor Lisa Riggs and Performing Arts Costume Specialist Anne Shanto were honored with the 2013 Purdy Awards for Excellence in Education. The Purdy Ward, created and funded through an endowment of the MJC Foundation by the Raymond and Carolyn Purdy Estate, recognizes distinguished performance and excellence in teaching and service at MJC. Congratulations to Lisa and Anne!

Institute Day – Thank you to the Institute Day Planning Workgroup for an outstanding day of professional development. Highlights included the conversation with the MJC veteran student panel led by Ron Tingley and keynote speakers Dr. Kelvin Jasek-Ryshdahl and Dr. David Hosley presenting on regional economics and actions.

Accreditation - MJC moves closer each day to a completed Follow-Up Report to Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges. The document was reviewed by the campus community last week and a second open reading is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2013, at noon in room 116 of Mary Stuart Rogers Student Center.

Tidbits – MJC alumni have been making headlines at CSU Chico. [Christine Hobby](#) and [Corey Carpenter](#) are highlighted on the Chico State website as star students and linked here. It is extra special to note that Christine is the daughter of our own Bill and Sue Hobby!

*A mind that is stretched by a new experience
can never go back to its old dimensions.*

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

A weekly communication from MJC President Jill Stearns