On Wednesday, February 25, 2015, the Monterey County Office of Education held a press conference to talk about Monterey County’s Truancy Abatement Program, which won the prestigious Golden Bell Award by the California School Boards Association. Hermelinda Rocha-Tabera, Coordinator of Academy for College Excellence (ACE), was invited to speak on the ACE program and how it impacts the youth. She brought two of our current students in the ACE program. Carlos Jimenez and Danielle Rodriguez both experienced bullying at home and at school; for them, school was not a priority and in some cases became a painful ordeal due to the lack of support and increase verbal abuse by peers. They left school but shortly after, officers from the Silver Star program brought them in and showed them there was an alternative for them to find their purpose in life. Now they are focused, have an educational plan, and goals to transfer to a university. Carlos wants to go into pharmaceuticals, while Danielle wishes to continue her studies in biology. Others in attendance included County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nancy Kotowski; Monterey County District Attorney, Dean D. Flippo; Assistant Superintendent, MCOE Student Services, Dr. Faris Sabbah, among others.

To view the entire conference, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvjvs3f4xS8
2. ECE CONFERENCE FILLS UP STEINBECK HALL

On Saturday, February 28 I provided the welcome for the Monterey County Early Childhood Education Spring Conference at Steinbeck Hall. The theme of this event was ‘focusing on leadership in a world of change and uncertainty.’ The guest speaker was Dr. Roberto Dansie who talked about attitude and aptitude in striving for excellence as leaders and teachers.

This year a delegation from New Mexico attended the conference for the first Las Cruces and Salinas interchange of ECE professionals. In May, a group of forty students will attend the Las Cruces Conference.

Pictured with me are guest speaker Dr. Roberto Dansie and ECE Instructor, Jeanne Garda.

3. MANDATORY TRAINING FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

On Friday, March 6, 2015, Hartnell College will host a training session titled “Hiring the Best While Developing Diversity in the Community College Workforce,” given by Laura Schulkind, an attorney with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore.

The presentation will be made twice, so there is some flexibility with schedules and office operations. The training sessions will be on Friday, March 6, at Steinbeck Hall, room C-124:

- Presentation A: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- Presentation B: 10:30 a.m. - to 12:30 p.m.

This training is a mandatory meeting for all full-time faculty, managers, and regular classified staff. Supervisors of classified staff should coordinate employee attendance to ensure the continuous operation of offices, as no offices will be closed during these training sessions.

Part-time faculty members are invited, but attendance is not mandatory. Full-time faculty members whose Hartnell teaching or other obligations conflict with these times, and other employees with already approved absences (e.g., vacation, conference attendance), will have an opportunity to view a recording of the training on Friday, March 20, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m. in Steinbeck Hall (room C-124).
The Math Club had its second Mathletics training last weekend at Los Padres Elementary in Salinas. The Club had 65 students from around Salinas (5th – 8th grade) in attendance and had support from Salinas High School students. They participated in the training, and helped coordinate transitions between the activities. Students played math games, had an hour and a half of training, took a (very challenging) mock exam, played more math games, and then participated in a raffle, with about $500 worth of prizes. Mathletics is offered by the Math Club under mentor Brian Palmer, Mathematics Professor at Hartnell. The idea is to prepare students within five sessions for the Mathletics Competition.

The Agricultural Business and Technology Institute is hosting three Technical Career Readiness Welcome Breakfasts at the Alisal Campus to middle and high school counselors, teachers, administrators, government agencies and industry. The purpose of the breakfasts is to discuss careers leading to various jobs in the agriculture industry, workforce demand, pay scale and educational training required to pursue those careers. Presentations are from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. followed by site tour and hand-on activities for attendees. The program and agenda are similar, thus feel free to register for the date most convenient for you. Below is the schedule and the links to register:

- **March 6, 2015 – Counselor Welcome Breakfast**
- **March 20, 2015 – CTE Teachers Welcome Breakfast**
Monterey County Agriculture is a $4.3 billion sector that supports 45,000 local jobs annually. The total impact to the local economy is approximately $9.2 billion including all support sectors.

6. MARIA TEUTSCH WINS AWARD – BOOK WILL BE PUBLISHED

Congratulations to our full-time English faculty member, Maria Teutsch, who was awarded the Minerva Rising Chapbook poetry prize, which is a cash award, for her book *The Revolution will Have Its Sky*. In addition, the prize includes publishing her book later this year and will provide her with ten free copies. “I am honored to have been chosen for the Minerva Rising Award, especially by the judge, Heather McHugh, who is a poet whose work I greatly respect.” Expressed Maria, “As a former community college student, it makes me feel very proud to be an example of all that one can accomplish through a combination of hard work and following one’s dreams.” Join me in congratulating Maria in such special achievement!

7. DEBORAH STEPHENS DEVELOPS LIBRARY ORIENTATION

Deborah Stephens, our Systems/Technology Librarian, just earned a Master of Science degree in Instructional Science and Technology from CSU Monterey Bay. For her Capstone project, Deborah developed an online version of the library orientation, to be made available in Études, the College’s learning management system. The orientation is being piloted soon. Deborah developed the orientation designing content and assessments, creating videos, screencasts, and interactive lessons, and finally incorporating it all into Études. To check out a summary of what Deborah wrote for the CSUMB Capstone Festival, click [summary](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/technical-career-welcome-teachers-breakfast-registration-15853547387).

Congratulations Deborah!
An apple on the desk. A card of thanks in June. These are things that a teacher might receive from a grateful student. But having an algae named after you?

Biology instructor Jeffery Hughey honored a mentor in this way. He named a species of red algae after his master's degree advisor, Chris Kjeldsen, from Sonoma State University. The new seaweed, *Chondracanthus kjeldsenii*, was described in a 2008 article Hughey published in the journal *Phycologia*, the scholarly publication of the International Phycological Society, with co-author Max Hommersand from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where Hughey earned his Ph.D.

The paper presents the results of their 10-year study of the red algal genus *Chondracanthus*, using DNA sequences and anatomical evidence to reclassify this group of seaweeds. Their data support the recognition of two species from the Gulf of California and nine from the Pacific coast, including two previously un-described algae. In November, Hughey was honored with an invitation to Chungnam National University to present his work on seaweed genomics and extraction of DNA from Bronze Age human fossils. The visit was part of a program to bring internationally eminent scientists to South Korea.

Now, Dr. Hughey is mentoring a new generation of marine biologists at Hartnell. In the spring of 2014, he co-authored a paper with student Mayra Silva in the journal *Mitochondrial DNA*, and another paper with Ms. Silva, alumna Jaqueline Tortolani, and others in *Scientific Reports*.

Before long, his students may name one of their discoveries after him!

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Dr. Brian Lofman, Dean of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, Carol Kimbrough, Academic Senate President, and I presented a workshop at the Annual Conference of the Association of Community College Administrators (ACCCCA). The workshop focused on our model for integrated planning and continuous quality
improvement. The presentation was well-received and we have already been asked by several workshop attendees to provide additional information.

Here is the description of the workshop:
The Embodiment of Continuous Improvement:
Embarking On, Embedding & Embracing It!
Administrators, educators, and accrediting agencies all highlight the critical importance of continuous improvement (CI), but how can colleges ensure that CI is tangibly represented in ongoing institutional practice? This session explores how Hartnell College embarked on a comprehensive approach to evaluation and assessment, systematically embedded CI into its activities and workflow, and has embraced the integration of institutional effectiveness and sustainable continuous quality improvement. Participants will be introduced to pragmatic ideas and tools that may be utilized on their campus.

A copy of the presentation is posted on the Hartnell web site at this link.

10. PANTHER CLUB DAYS

We now have 30 student clubs on campus and they are doing great things to support students and our community at large. During Panther Club Days, club members ask for your participation in purchasing their goods in support of their fund raising efforts.

11. COFFEE SHOP ON CAMPUS

Did you know that you can get your Mocha fix here on campus? If you have not noticed, we have a Coffee Shop open in the Student Center, just next to the Grille. They serve espresso drinks - hot and cold, plus hot chocolate. In addition, they sell biscotti, crumb cakes, lemon and poppy seed bread,
humus, parfaits, fresh fruit, and cold drinks. Smoothies are coming up soon! If this shop gets the necessary support and there is enough demand, hours of operation will increase. For now, hours are:

- Monday 7:30-9:45 a.m./1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday 7:30-11:30 a.m./1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Wed 7:30 – 9:45 a.m. /1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday 7:30 -11:30 a.m./1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Friday 7:30- 9:45 a.m. only

12. HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS SPECIAL READINGS

SpringFEST is in full bloom at The Western Stage with Holmes for the Holidays. The staged reading March 7 and 8, 2015, will be performed by Actors Collective Media Entertainment. Adapted for the stage by local playwright Cindy Womack, a full production by Actors Collective is planned for this winter at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in Carmel.

Meanwhile Womack invites local residents to be the first to enjoy a new theatrical holiday tradition in the offering.

Staged readings will take place in the Studio Theater, Hartnell Performing Arts Facility, Building K-116, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2015. Admission is on a first come, first seated basis with a suggested donation in support of The Actors Collective of $5.00 at the door.

The Actors Collective Media Entertainment is comprised of Western Stage veterans and professionals, plus amateur actors. Holmes for the Holidays includes Jeffrey T. Heyer as Sherlock Holmes, Nina Capriola as the deadly Mrs. Culverton Smith, Thomas Burks as Dr. Watson, and portraying various characters: Ron Cacas, Fred Herro, Niki Moon and others.

Pictured - actor Jeff Heyer as Sherlock Holmes

13. BLAHA AND GROVER LEAD PANTHERS AT MPC OPEN

The MPC Open saw freshman Taylor Blaha show her athletic talents with fellow frosh Malena Gover achieving the first state automatic qualifying mark for the Lady Panthers. The meet was attended by host MPC, Hartnell, Diablo Valley College, City College of San Francisco, DeAnza College, and Fresno City College.

Blaha, who prepped at North Monterey County High School, was a double event winner in both the long jump (16’5”) and triple jump (33’0”) with marks meeting the provisional
qualifying distance for the regional championship. She also competed in the 100 hurdles (17.71) and ran the 4x100 relay. Grover dipped under the state qualifying mark of 18:32.60 in the 5000 meters with her winning time of 18:27.59. Grover also placed second in the 800 meters in 2:28.14. Linda Delgado was a winner in the 200 meters (26.80) with fellow former NMC HS Condor Tori Teraji taking top honors in the discus with a toss of 125'9". Others who achieved regional qualifying marks were Brandi Hobson(19:09.03), Rachel Shimabukuro (19:36.52), Cynthia Tovar (20:08.74), and Maritza Ruelas (20:12.39) in the 5000 meters. Kim Gilmour (31'11.50) joined her teammates Eva Joachin and Tori Teraji with a shot put mark for regionals. Sophomore Quentin Minor joined fellow sophomore Diego Leon as an event winner. Minor won the 200 meters in 22.20 and also ran 11.12 in the 100 meters. Leon easily won the 800 meters (1:57.64) and 5000 meters (15:21.50). Nathan Bishop soared higher than all others in the pole vault (12'11"). Chase Pacheco placed second in the 100 meters (11.05). Rene Siqueiros got qualifying marks in the 1500 meters (4:09.55) and 5000 meters (15:40.55) as did Justin Carrancho (15:44.03) and Javier Garcia (16:07.47).
For full MPC Open results: http://www.directathletics.com/results/track/37673.html

14. SOFTBALL TEAM LOOKS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

As reported by Coach Andy Watt.
We are still trying to find our stride as a team. We did take a big stride forward with a 4-3 victory against league rival, Gavilan. We started off quickly in the bottom of the first when after a walk to Izzy DeLeon, Alma Gallegos doubled to left center. With runners on 3rd and 2nd in her first at bat of the season, Jo Salao doubled to the right center fence driving in 2 runs. Two passed balls brought Jo to 3rd and then home. Angie Savoldi lead us off in the bottom of the 2nd with a single to left then stole second. Alma, still hot, then doubled again to drive in Angie. Those 4 runs held up as our pitcher, Danielle Blaylock, allowed 3 runs off 4 hits. We are 1-0 and on the go in league, tied for 1st, I like that!
Our future is still uncertain, but we seem to be coming together. The good news is that our shortstop, Sam Moore, has her cast off now after breaking her hand in the second game of the season.
15. **MEN’S BASKETBALL HIGHLIGHTS**

Hyram Miskin was honorable mention student-athlete of the month of January for CCCAA. Hyram Miskin was voted Coast South Honorable Mention All-Conference - one of only 3 freshmen to make All-Conference recognition. Blake Claxton was voted by Coast South Conference to participate in Sophomore Showcase at LA Southwest College during State Final Four March 15.

16. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Educator in Residence - Dr. Anne Benvenuti**

Public talk on Thursday, March 12, at 6:00 PM, K-125

  Topic – Gender, depression, and social change

**Music Extravaganza 2015**

March 20, 2015
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in building K – Performing Arts
All ensembles to perform!
Food, prizes, and wine.

**Save the Date**

**Agricultural Business and Technology Institute**

**Open House at Alisal Campus**

Saturday, April 18, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Program features: ag business, ag production, food safety, diesel, ag industrial technology, auto program, horticultural technician, sustainable ag/pest management, welding, construction technology, drafting, CSIT-in-3, NASA SEMAA and more.

**At the Planetarium this March**

- **March 6, 13, 20, & 27**
  - **at 7pm**
  - Hartnell Planetarium
  - Call 770-6161 for more info

- **March 6, 13, 20, & 27**
  - **at 5:30pm**
  - Call 770-6161 for more info

**Friday Kids Show**

- **March 6, 13, 20, & 27**
- **at 5:30pm**
- Family Friendly Fun at the Hartnell Planetarium
\section*{IN THE NEWS}

\textbf{MoCo truancy program features our ACE program/students}  

\textbf{Truancy abatement program}  

\textbf{Story on Truancy - Spanish}  
http://www.ksmstv.com/2015/02/25/departamento-de-educacion-del-condado-de-monterey-recibe-reconocimiento-estatal/

\textbf{Salinas field worker’s son now studies plant disease}  

\textbf{CoderDojo program preps kids for tech careers}  

\textbf{Hartnell offering coding classes for youth}  

\textbf{Cristian Soratos runs nation’s leading time in mile}  

\textbf{Smiles, scowls, sighs says it all}  
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2015/02/28/smiles-scowls-sighs-says/24169475/