

MARINA MOMENTS



Newsletter Issue No. 1, August 2021

Hi [Name], Welcome to Marina Moments, the official newsletter of the Marina Education Center!

Monterey Peninsula College's Marina Education Center (MEC) gives residents of northwestern Monterey County an opportunity to pursue a college education close to home or work. We offer a variety of day and evening courses including English as a Second Language, basic skills, general education and business.

This is our first newsletter issue and we are excited to share with you the latest up to date information on services, events, and more! Stay tuned, we will be sending out a new issue intermittently as information develops.

Message from the Dean



Hello everyone and welcome back!

I hope that you are as excited as I am to begin our 2021-2022 academic year. I has been an unusual year and a half and we are happy to return to campus and to have so many of you back with us. The Marina Center is open for in-person and remote services to our community and we look forward to seeing you this semester.

As we start this year, I want like to thank and congratulate each and every one of you:

- our faculty & staff who quickly pivoted and adjusted so that we could continue the work of the college and provide instruction, support, and services;
- our students continued their courses once our campuses closed to the public;
- our students who had to step out and pause their educations; and
- our new and returning students.

It's been a challenging year and a half and you persevered and made it through. And now, here we are with a new school year beginning. It's been heartwarming and rewarding to see so many of you back walking across the campus and handling business. We enjoy and are invigorated by your smiling faces, eager to come back together.

This semester, two new faces have joined the Marina Center team. We'd like to welcome Jihan Ejan, Counselor/Coordinator, and Henry Guevara, Administrative Assistant! You can learn more about them below. Make sure to stop by our offices, MA-101 and MA-102, and welcome them to our Marina Center community!

If you need or want to see a counselor, Jihan is available Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Make sure to schedule an appointment to see her for help with creating your education plan, career exploration, and more.

There are exciting times ahead for our Marina Education Center this year. Our Engage, Promote, and Connect (EPC) Title V grant is live and active. EPC helps us be better able

- to increase and provide robust support at the Marina Center,
- to increase course offerings at the Marina Center that increase and promote career and academic pathway completion and transfer, and
- to strengthen opportunities and connections that enhance career and financial development at the Marina Center.

The EPC grant has already begun to bring new faces and energy to our campus so keep a look out for news as the year continues!

There are some exciting renovations coming that allow us to continue to support and increase our services to our community. Our multipurpose room, MA-102, will shift from it's role as the Lobo Lounge to become our Lobo Center. In addition to it's previous role as an open study and lounge space for students, the Lobo Center will become the home for our expanded services: tutoring, internship support, career design lab, and connections for our community members seeking to become teachers. Another of our classrooms, MA-104, will be renovated to better serve as a science lab for courses offered at the Marina Center.

We're expanding our partnerships with the community and the Monterey County Workforce Development Board is providing job center services on our campus. Interested members of the general community can drop in or schedule an appointment by calling (831) 597-2858.

So come stop by and see us.

Meet the Team



LaKisha Bradley
Interim Dean of
Student Services



Jihan Neda Ejan
Counselor/Coordinator



Georgina Reinke
Unit Office Manager



Jessica Cerritos
Bilingual Categorical
Services Coordinator



Henry Guevara
Administrative Assistant



Erik McDonald
Computer Support
Technician

MEC Counselor/Coordinator

Jihan Ejan is excited to be at MPC as the Counselor/Coordinator for the Marina Education Center. Her professional work experience includes over 17 years in higher education. Jihan's previous roles include: Admissions Recruiter, Retention Advisor, Student Success Coordinator, and most recently, Director of Academic Affairs. She was inspired to work with college students because of her own challenging experience navigating college and because of her fear of asking for help. As a Filipina-American, she was also empowered to work with students of color and her community in making college more accessible and equitable.

Jihan earned her B.A. degrees at UC Davis, majoring in Sociology and Asian American Studies. She also attended San Francisco State University and completed her master's degree in Counseling with an emphasis in College Student Personnel. Born and raised in Oxnard, CA, she has made the Monterey Bay area her home for the past 11 years. She has lived in Marina for the past 5 years and loves her community! She is looking forward to expanding resources and elevating the profile of MPC's Marina Education Center.

Outside of school Jihan is a wife and mother to a soon-to-be 5 year old girl. You can find her at the beach or at one of the neighborhood parks.

MEC Administrative Assistant

Henry Guevara has been involved with Monterey Peninsula College since 1989, when he performed in the MPC Theatre Department's productions of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *You Can't Take It with You*, and *Hello Dolly*. He has appeared in numerous other shows at MPC and The Western Stage, as well as Pacific Repertory Theatre, where he was Box Office Manager for over 4 years. In 2000 Henry began working at MPC in the Theatre Scene Shop, and in the MPC Theatre Box Office. Later that year he became the Box Office Manager, a position he held for over twenty years. Now Henry is truly excited to be at the Marina Education Center, where his years of customer service and patron care can benefit our Monterey Peninsula College students.



Alex Hulanicki

Adjunct Faculty
Communication Studies, English, Humanities Division

What do you teach at the Marina Education Center and how long have you been with Monterey Peninsula College?

English 2 Argumentative Writing and Critical Thinking

"With MPC"? I am MPC. I was a student at MPC 50 years ago. I was editor of El Yanqui, which was the campus newspaper, and a player on the Lobos' baseball team. I am in my 24th year teaching at MPC, becoming an adjunct instructor after 22 years as a newspaper reporter and editor at the Monterey County Herald. I also served for eight years on the board of the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation, and I represent the Robert K. Bullock Journalism Scholarship Fund, which awards about \$75,000 a year to students majoring in mass media studies and related courses.

What do you like most about teaching at the Marina Education Center (MEC)?

I like the mix of students in classes at MEC, from students coming from high school to returning students and immigrants. I get to learn from all of these student backgrounds.

What drew you towards or inspired you to work in your field?

Being a journalist, doing research and telling stories is much like being a teacher in the classroom; the canvas of the newspaper, magazine, web news sites is much like the whiteboard and Zoom session of today's classes. The commonality is being compelling, provoking interest and reporting and interpreting information accurately and ethically.

When you're not working, how do you like to spend your free time?/What is an interesting or fun fact about yourself?

My wife Joan and I enjoy watching Giants and Warriors games. We are news junkies. We also walk and talk. I play golf, swim daily at the YMCA, work in my garden and love to cook. I also keep in touch with friends in Japan with postings and conversations on social media.

How have you adapted your curriculum and teaching methods to support students who are learning from home?

The methods are virtually the same. The key is to ask questions and promote curiosity and answers to those questions from students. It's a conversation, not a lecture. I am glad to be back in the classroom face to face with students.

What is the most impactful piece of advice you ever received in relation to your expertise and field of study?

Respect your students.

What would you like students to know about you and what advice do you have for students interested in taking your course(s) and/or taking classes at the MEC?

I am the son of immigrant parents who were displaced by World War II in Poland. Ironically, my first home was at Fort Ord in civilian housing near the MEC. My father taught Russian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

What's New

The Marina Education Center offers a variety of different service to students, faculty, and staff.



Student Corner

Visit the calendar on our website to see when you can meet with a representative from the Financial Aid, Student Health Services, and Counseling offices. You can also view any upcoming MEC events and activities.

MEC Event Calendar

Stay Connected!

- Office Hours
Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 6 pm; 6 - 8 pm by appointment only
Friday: 8 am - 12 pm
Zoom Virtual Office Hours
Monday: 9 am - 12 pm
Wednesday: 1 pm - 4 pm
Friday: 8:30 am - 12 pm
MEC Event Calendar
Phone Number
831 - 646 - 4850
Email Address
marinaedcenter@mpc.edu

Brain Teaser

Until I am measured, I am not known. Yet you miss me, when I have flown. What am I?

Submit Announcements

If you have information you would like to share in future newsletters, please email us at marinaedcenter@mpc.edu or through the MEC Newsletter Submissions form.

