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# News from Merced College

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MERCED COLLEGE PRESENTS** **2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND LECTURE SERIES**

Last year's inaugural season of Merced College's Performance and Lecture Series was so popular with local audiences that another series has been scheduled for the 2015-2016 year.

This year's series kicks off on Friday, September 25 with the return of *World Guitar Night*. The series continues with three more lectures through next spring.

According to Arts Division Dean John Albano, "the Performance and Lecture Series is dedicated to providing informative, enlightening, and accessible cultural opportunities for the citizens of Merced County and surrounding areas."

*World Guitar Night* features world-renowned guitarists Francesco Buzzurro and Richard Smith. The performance is scheduled for September 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Merced College Theater. Tickets are \$14 general admission and \$10 for students, seniors, and military. The duo's performance has sold out before, so early ticket purchases are recommended.

Italian classical guitarist Buzzurro and American master guitarist Smith are celebrating their 10-year collaboration. Their first recording, 2011's *Un Mondo, Due Chitarre*, takes its audience on a musical journey outside each respective player's genres to explore new dimensions in the sound of two guitars. The duo is returning to Merced College in celebration of two prior sold-out concerts in which they performed eclectic mixes of original, folk, classical, jazz and popular pieces that earned them an international following.

The series continues on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. with Yosemite National Park geologist Dr. Greg Stock, who will present the lecture *The Fate of Sierra Nevada Glaciers*.

The spectacular scenery of the Sierra Nevada owes its existence to glaciers, and a few small glaciers still cling to the highest peaks. These iconic ice bodies have been studied for more than a century by the likes of John Muir, Israel Russell, and Francois Matthes. However, Sierra glaciers are disappearing fast and may be gone in a matter of decades, leading to a significant loss of both natural and human history.

Stock's presentation will explore the climatic reasons for the advance and retreat of Sierra glaciers through time, and the ongoing work to understand the future of the Sierra Nevada's alpine environment without ice.

The lecture, held in Leshar Student Services Building, Room 111, is free and open to the public.

On Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., the third in the series will feature Merced College Chemistry Professor Dr. Paul Fregene's lecture *Going Home: One Man's Journey to Save Lives*.

Every summer Fregene travels to his home town in Borgu Province of Niger State Nigeria to help save lives of his native countrymen. About 46 percent of the Nigerian population in 427 communities in the region have become infected with the life-threatening water-borne disease Schistosomiasis.

After being treated and cured of the disease himself in Binghamton, New York, Fregene set out to combat the disease on a much larger scale. He co-founded the nonprofit Grace Outreach Coalition (GOC) in 2010, which resulted in the spearheading of a pilot program to eradicate the disease. Through his exemplary leadership, over 90,000 inhabitants of Borgu Province have been cured of the disease. This inspired and enlightened presentation will detail the five year efforts of GOC to prevent the re-occurrence of the disease through the provision of water filters, water wells, and education.

The lecture, held in Leshar Student Services Building, Room 111, is free and open to the public.

The series concludes on Friday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. with Merced College Landscape Horticulture Professor Bryan Tasse's presentation *We Are in A Drought . . . Now What?*

Discover what Governor Brown's water reduction mandate means to Merced College and the local community and how the Merced College has responded.

Tasse will discuss the Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance and how it will affect irrigation practices in the future. There will be tours of key areas on campus that showcase updated practices and new plant introductions lead by the speaker and the college's Horticulture students. The tours will provide guests with an informal setting to ask questions and see irrigation products and plant material firsthand.

This lecture is offered in association with the College's annual Horticulture Plant Sale the following morning on Saturday, March 26. Don't miss this opportunity to view and appreciate the diverse array of plant varieties alongside our local expert and horticulture students.

This lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Allied Health Building, Room 123.

For more information on Merced College's Performance and Lecture Series, contact the Arts Division at 209. 384-6644.

**2<sup>nd</sup> LECTURE SERIES August 2015**

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