



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

Conductor

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July/August 2025

President's Corner

Peter Purdue
President



Fellow Gentrainers, Greetings!

As the Academic Year (AY25) and the Fiscal Year (FY25) are rapidly nearing the end I am happy to report that both the GENTRAIN Society (the Society and the GENTRAIN Program (the Program) had successful years. The dedicated faculty who teach, organize and integrate subject matter for each of the four+ courses that make up the Program have continued to make the Program challenging and rewarding for both credit-earning students and registered local community members. The Society has supported the Program by expanding the intellectual components of the Program by organizing a lecture series by outside speakers, visits to museums and other education activities, materials needed to support student access to needed educational assets and through a scholarship program for adult students registered at MPC.

The Program has received continuing support from the College through the provision of teaching budgets that cover not only the direct lecturing activities of the faculty, but adding teaching budget units to support a coordinator, team teaching activities, faculty attending classes of other program faculty, group coordination efforts. This "extra" teaching budget has been a major factor in the Program's development and effectiveness over the last 50 plus years of the Program. However, the AY26 faculty budget zero's out this "extra" teaching budget. MPC is clearly under extreme pressure to reduce expenses, but this action would essentially close a highly effective and faculty/administrator designed program for MPC students and adult learners. Is this the best action to take?

The Society Board will work with MPC administration to see how this action can be reversed or mitigated before the next academic year begins. Society members can help in the effort through their contacts with MPC Board of Trustees, MPC administrative officers, or other interested parties.

Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meetings will be held on campus on **July 16 and August 20, 2025** at 2:45 pm

in MPC Social Sciences 104. These Meetings are open to all Gentrain Society Members.

Membership Report

Merry Nolte, Membership Chair

Welcome to these new Gentrainers: **Jamie Sue Brooks, Pam Diggins, Gin Donohoo, Jim and Deborah Murchison and Catherine Van Aken.**

Look for your Gentrain renewal letter in early August. It will as usual include the next parking sticker. Remember that our membership period follows the academic year, from September 1 to August 31.

Registration for Gentrain

Mary Alice Rennick

Gentrain Society Treasurer and Webmaster

MPC has adopted an entirely new system for Registration Procedures. Their website still offers links to the old WebReg system, but they are not functional and will be removed soon. Do not try to use them. The new system is called MyMPC and is part of a comprehensive software package that manages all aspects of the college administration. Like any such massive installation, its rollout suffers from a few glitches. For general help, go to <https://admissionshelp.mpc.edu/support/home>. Caveat: Explore only the "MyMPC Portal Student Guides" links near the top of the page. The "Admissions & Records" links are obsolete. The following are some Gentrain-specific recommendations from your Webmaster. If you need more help, or do not have internet access, the staff at the Office of Admissions and Records offer inperson assistance. Make your way around the construction site to the lower level of Bldg. 22, near the softball field.

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Gentrain Board Nominees Proposed for the 2025-26 Gentrain Society Board

Mary Pendlay

Gentrain Society Immediate Past President

The Nominating Committee has voted for candidates to fill the Gentrain Board positions which are: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Three members-at-large are also required. At the June 18 Board meeting, the candidates were named and told of their nominations. Since we will not have a July 2 Wednesday lecture (too close to the holiday), we will announce the candidates to our membership on the third

Wednesday of July. August 1 is the deadline for other nominations, and the voting will be held at our August 6 Wednesday lecture by a show of hands. If anyone has a nominee to add to our list, please text or email Mary Pendlay at 831-224-0478. We look forward to your participation!

These are the nominees so far for The Conductor-

President: Nancy Johnson

Vice-President: Becky Taylor

Secretary: Carol Harpster

Treasurer: Mary Alice Rennick

Members-at-Large: Ruth Alota, Melissa Newlin and Star Reiersen

Scholarship Report

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

Meet Christopher and Mary Barraza - a husband and wife team who won \$1000 Scholarships each from the Gentrain Society.

In memory of Chuck Kimzey:

Here is a recommendation from Dr. Alfred Hochstaedter; "I met Chris Barraza over a year ago at a "STEM" event. He is currently taking my Oceanography class and absolutely ACING IT. Every day he is sitting in the front of the class and absorbing everything he can. I often tell colleagues that the success of a class is dependent on one or two students who, through their enthusiasm and interest demonstrate to the rest of the class that the content is interesting and worth learning. Chris is that student. Chris has completed every assignment on time and his interest in the natural world compels him to excel. Beyond his leadership roles, Chris has made significant contributions as an academic mentor. He serves as a student Tutor for introductory Biology, Marine Biology, and Oceanography helping his peers succeed in their studies. His passion for education extends into his work as Lab Assistant in the LS building where he supports facility, staff and students in setting up the Lab and making sure that the students have everything that they need to succeed. He also works for the MPC MESA center helping students get connected to academic and counseling services."

Mary Barraza's goal is to obtain a degree in Photography and her aspiration is to become a Wildlife Conservation Photographer. Together they are raising two lovely daughters, age six and eight. They are truly an MPC family. Mary has this to say, "For my family this is not just financial aid, this is my husband wanting to make a difference in the world, this is my 8-year-old learning perseverance and to never stop shooting for her goal to be a NASA scientist, this is my 6-year-old opening the bakery she swears she will own one day, this every single time I ever closed my eyes dreaming of the day I would walk across that stage with a smile on my face and a diploma in my hands. This is hope, opportunity and a brighter future for our family, this is

breaking the cycle of financial struggle and paving the way for our futures, and our children's success."



The Barraza family

Another successful year of giving scholarships through the Gentrain Society thanks to the generosity of the past and present Gentrain members.

\$1000. Each:

Brown, Donovan III, psychology, in memory of Chuck Kimzey

Barraza, Christopher, marine biology, in memory of Chuck Kimzey

Barraza, Maria, photography, in memory of Chuck Kimzey

Beck, Ryan, Marine Biology, in memory of Lynn Swerrie

Birkdar, Maiada, accounting

Camberos, Athian, math, in memory of Jack and Isaline Sedan

Oh, Tiffany, nursing

Clark, Christopher, Computer Science

Dominguez, Dyani, psychology

Garcia, Maria Elena, Interpreter

Hoffman, Nicole, visual arts,

Jimenez, Jesus, goal, Medical Doctor, in memory of Anne Flynn

Kleinsorge-Latham, Catherine, nursing

Ortiz, Josue, Chemistry, in memory of Mary Ann Kane

McBride, Susan, teacher, in memory of Jack and Isaline Sedan

Rendon, Aylin, medical assistant (from Turkey)

Skiera, Brooke, nursing

Gentrain Program special scholarship in the amount of \$2500 to Inayat Hundal

Special Events

Mike Sovereign and Rene Kimzey, Co-chairs

The movie event, *A Man for All Seasons*, and our (Nearly) End of Semester Gathering were well-received. Although the Gentrain Program is under attack, we are still hopefully planning for the fall.

Transportation costs have soared so we are looking for local venues to continue our social and educational programs. The Peninsula is rich culturally and historically so there are lots of possibilities. For example, the recent Tor House tour and concert was a sell out. We have contacted the History and Arts Association about joint programs at the Stanton Center where they have a nice theater, interesting art, and we can serve wine (not allowed on campus). In addition they have the historic Casa Serrano adobe which can be used for food events such as tea, lunches and dinner with wine (are you seeing a theme here??), and lectures too.

Best wishes for a glorious summer!

The Gentrain Book Club

Gerard Kapolka



Erasmus

The Great Books discussion group will begin reading *The Praise of Folly* by Erasmus on June 25. After we finish with this book we will discuss some of Shakespeare's tragedies: *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*. We will follow this with a discussion of *Steppenwolf* by Herman Hesse.

We welcome any new members, and you don't

have to join the group at the beginning of the readings to participate. We meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. The discussions last about an hour. If you wish to join our group, email me, Gerry Kapolka, at gtkapolka@gmail.com to receive a reading list and Zoom invitations. We welcome all newcomers.



Shakespeare

Wednesday Lectures

Gentrain Wednesday Lectures are held in LF 103 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Visitors are welcome; no charge or registration is required.

Wednesday, July 16, 1:30 pm

The Declaration of Independence: An Enduring Solution for the Challenges of Our Time



Professor Richard Kezirian will focus on the Declaration of Independence as a statement of principles, emphasizing that those principles are among the noblest in world history. After reviewing key sections of the Declaration, Dr. Kezirian will ask if the time has come to reclaim our nation's patrimony by recognizing its national commitment to equality.

In Homer's *Odyssey*, crafty Odysseus faced the irresistible song of the Sirens, adapted to each listener. Have the internet algorithms of today created a digital Siren song that confirms what each of us wants to hear, enveloped as we are in an invisible, personalized "filter bubble?" Dr. Kezirian will suggest that the Declaration's lofty ideals can inspire us once more to promote community and egalitarian values, countering the malign neglect so often fostered by the bubbles that characterize our individualized online lives.

Richard Kezirian is Professor Emeritus, Monterey Peninsula College, after a forty-year teaching career, and currently a professor at The Panetta Institute for Public Policy. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at the Naval Postgraduate School and the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Kezirian was the recipient of the Allen Griffin Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1986 and the Monterey Peninsula College President's Award in 2014. He received his Ph.D. in History from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

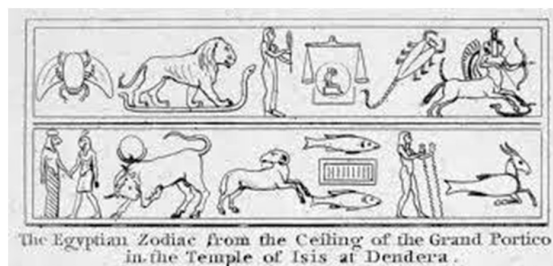
Wednesday, August 6, 1:30 pm Ancient Egyptian Astronomy as a Portal to the Afterlife

For the ancient Egyptians the night sky was a phenomenon. With clear skies and no electricity, the Milky Way was truly milky. So the belief arose that the Milky Way was produced by a celestial goddess: a cow goddess. In addition, the night sky seemed alive. Over weeks there was (and is) movement that can be discerned. And the star Sirius would first appear in the morning sky just as the Nile entered flood stage. Thus the stars and constellations must be divine.



Tom Logan was a History and Gentrain instructor at MPC. He was also an associate curator of the Egyptian department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and lead several archaeological excavations in Egypt.

The Zodiac from the temple of Dendera. Can you find your astrological sign?



Wednesday, August 20, 1:30 pm Last Year's Snow

Join the Society's Interim Vice President, Becky Taylor, as she reads the provocative poem "Ballade des dames du temps jadis" ("Ballade of Ladies of Time Gone By") by François Villon {as heard in Dr. Haffa's French Poetry lecture in GENT 7: Early Renaissance } to set the stage for a discussion of Gentrain's history, current events, and future.

Let's remember the stories of those who attended the first session of Gentrain lectures back in 1974 and then those who founded the Gentrain Society in 1983 to keep the Gentrain Program going for over fifty years. Then we can hear about (and maybe directly from!) some of our recent scholarship award winners, before ending with a discussion about the future of the Gentrain program and how the Society can contribute.

Becky Taylor is a currently enrolled student at Monterey Peninsula College, after a twenty-year career in the Air Force. Taylor was the recipient of the Academic Achievement Award and also the Distinguished Graduate from Airman Leadership School in 2008. In 2006, she graduated from the Defense Language Institute with an AA in the Korean language, and then she earned her BA in Asian Studies in 2011 from the University of Maryland, cum laude.



Ballade du Temps Jadis (*The Ballad of the Dead Ladies*)

[translation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti]

TELL me now, in what hidden way is

Lady Flora, the lovely Roman?

Where's Hipparchia, and where is Thaïs?

Neither of them the fairer woman?

Where is Echo, beheld of no man,

Only heard on river and mere--

She whose beauty was more than human?

But where are the snows of yesteryear?

Where's Héloïse, the learned nun,

For whose sake Abeillard, I ween,

Lost manhood and put priesthood on?

(From Love he won such dule and teen!) [grief
and pain]

And where, I pray you, is the queen

Who willed that Buridan should steer

Sewed in a sack's mouth down the seine? . . .

But where are the snows of yesteryear?

White Queen Blanche, like a queen of lilies,

With a voice like any mermaidén--

Bertha Broadfoot, Beatrice, Alice,

And Ermengarde, the lady of Maine--
And that good Joan whom Englishmen
At Rouen doomed and burned her there--
Mother of God, where are they then? . . .
But where are the snows of yesteryear?

Nay, never ask this week, fair lord,
Where they are gone, nor yet this year,
Except with this for an overword--
"But where are the snows of yesteryear?"



Francois Villon by Utrecht

MPC Fall Gentrain Program

August 19, 21, 26, 28 and September 2, 4, 9, 11
GENTRAIN 8/408: LATE RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION (1520-1600 AD)

The course examines the events and some of the consequences of the Protestant Reformation in Northern Europe, while Southern Europe is in the last flowering of the Renaissance, in literature, art, philosophy and music. The works of Michelangelo, Cervantes, and Shakespeare are featured.

Hope you join us for The MPC Gentrain Program in August !

July 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 lect1 meet	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 lect2	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 unit8	20 lect3 meet	21 unit8	22	23
24	25	26 unit8	27	28 unit8	29	30
31						

Key to Calendar

**lect1= LECTURE - THE
DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE: AN
ENDURING SOLUTION FOR
THE CHALLENGES OF OUR
TIME**

**lect2 = LECTURE - ANCIENT
EGYPTIAN ASTRONOMY AS A
PORTAL TO THE AFTERLIFE**

**lect3 = LECTURE - LAST YEAR'S
SNOW**

**meet = GENTRAIN SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING**

**unit8= GENT 8: THE EARLY
RENAISSANCE : Part 2 (1520-
1600)**

Yes, I would like to contribute to the

Gentrain Society Scholarship Fund

980 Fremont Street, Monterey CA 93940

(Please make your checks payable to MPC/Gentrain Society)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Invitation to Join

Dues: \$35 per year, \$50 Couples

Send your check payable to the *MPC/Gentrain
Society*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please clip out and send to:
Membership, *Gentrain Society* - MPC
980 Fremont St., Monterey CA 93940

Continued from page 1.

To access MyMPC, first log in to your Lobo Apps account.

Go to <https://mpc-edu.clearlogin.com/login>, enter your credentials and click the Log In button. (If you have trouble, follow the help link in the lower right hand corner of the screen.)

An assortment of application options will appear. Select MyMPC.

Open the Registration Dashboard.

Several choices will be offered. Explore them at will. To follow the most direct path to Gentrain registration, select "Register for Classes".

Select term—Fall 2025; Click Continue

A search box appears at the top of the screen. If you have already registered for any Fall 2025 courses, they will be displayed in the lower part of the screen. You can use this to search by Subject for Gentrain and or World Civilization courses or by CRN (Course Reference Number). All courses that match your criteria will be listed. View the details (time, dates, credits) by clicking on an item.

The most efficient way to register only for Gentrain is to click "Enter CRNs", from menu across the top of the Search Box.

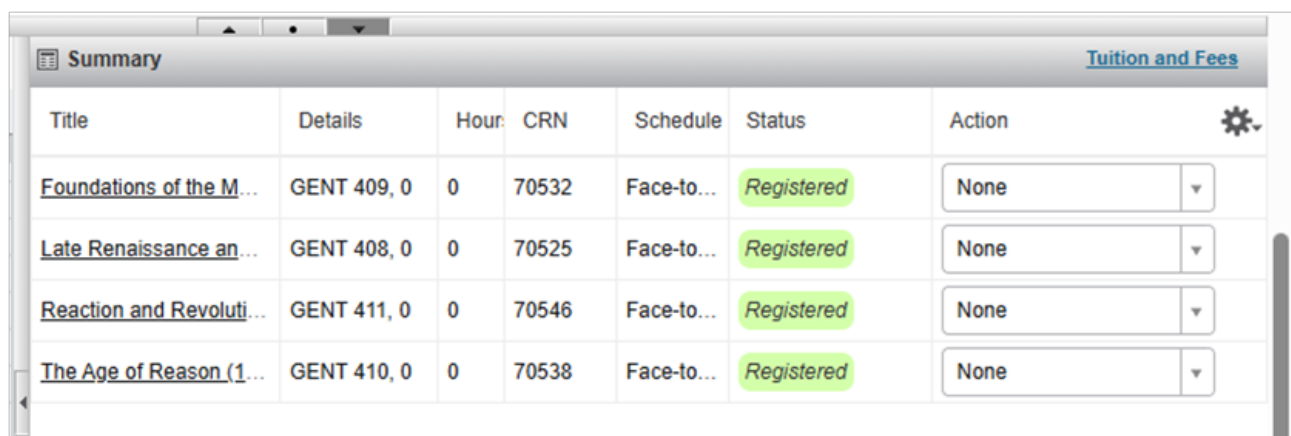
If you have previously registered for fall classes, you will probably see a full-width upper panel in with instructions to "Enter Course Registration Numbers" and two half width panels "Class Schedule" and "Summary" below it. If the "Summary" panel it is not visible, do one of two things.

Click on the "Panels" tab in the lower left part of the screen.

Find the three icons near the bottom center of the screen. Click on the middle icon.
Find the CRNs for the sections you want to add from this table.

Topic	Course#	Units	CRN
Foundations of the Modern World (1600-1690); The Age of Reason (1690-1775); Reaction and Revolution (1775-1815)	GENT 22	3	70513
Late Renaissance and Reformation (1520-1600)	GENT 408	0	70525
Foundations of the Modern World (1600-1690)	GENT 409	0	70532
The Age of Reason (1690-1775)	GENT 410	0	70538
Reaction and Revolution (1775-1815)	GENT 411	0	70546
The Age of Reason (1690-1775)	WRLD 10	1	73104
Reaction and Revolution (1775-1815)	WRLD 11	1	73105
Late Renaissance and Reformation (1520-1600)	WRLD 8	1	73102
Foundations of the Modern World (1600-1690)	WRLD 9	1	73103

Enter the CRNs, one at a time, in the "Enter CRNs" panel. When you have finished, your "Summary" panel will look something like this:



Title	Details	Hour	CRN	Schedule	Status	Action
Foundations of the M...	GENT 409, 0	0	70532	Face-to...	Registered	None
Late Renaissance an...	GENT 408, 0	0	70525	Face-to...	Registered	None
Reaction and Revoluti...	GENT 411, 0	0	70546	Face-to...	Registered	None
The Age of Reason (1...	GENT 410, 0	0	70538	Face-to...	Registered	None

Click the arrow in each Action Dropdown in the righthand column. (You may need to scroll your window to see it.) Select "Add".

If you make a mistake, select "Remove" in the Dropdown.

Click the Submit button in the lower right corner of the screen. Look for a "Save Successful" message.

Payment.

Unlike the old WebReg system, MyMPC allows you to register for classes without paying your fees. You must pay them by the end of the semester, however, or you will be unable to register for the following semester. In any case, you must initiate the payment process yourself. For comprehensive instructions, consult the MyMPC Portal Student Guide link to "How do I pay for classes". Bear in mind that the financial data are updated overnight. It may be best to wait until the day following your registration to pay your fees. Some Gentrain-specific notes.

Fees listed on MPC website are

\$46	Tuition (per unit)
\$20	Health fee
\$10	Student Center fee
\$10	Student Body fee
\$02	Student Representative fee

Note that there is no tuition for non-credit courses. The Health and Student fees apply to everyone. However, several students have reported different charges. The Admissions and Records people advise patience. The procedure itself is reasonably simple. From the MyMPC screen, open the Student Dashboard (different from the Registration Dashboard).

Select "Pay Student Fees" from the list of available actions. This takes you to a TouchNet page. (TouchNet is the service MPC has chosen to process electronic financial transactions.) Your Balance Due is displayed at the top of the screen.

If the balance is \$0, you can go no further. Either wait until the fiscal office initiates contact or request help from student_billing@mpc.edu

If a payment is due, click the Make a Payment button. If this is the first time you have used TouchNet, you will be asked to set up a payment method (credit card, bank transfer, etc.) When your account is set up, you can make your payment.

**The Gentrain Society of MPC
2024 - 2025
Board of Directors**

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Treasurer: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702
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Member-at-Large: Stephanie Booth (831) 393-1679
Member-at-Large: Ruth Alota (831) 392-5034
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Scholarship: Vikki Logan (831) 625-8653
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Michael Sovereign (831) 646-1912
Oregon Shakespeare Festival:
Allison Porter (831) 394-8051
Webmaster: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702

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GENTRAIN SOCIETY JULY/AUGUST

July 16 - 1:30 pm - THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: AN ENDURING SOLUTION FOR THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME - Professor Richard Kezirian will focus on the Declaration of Independence as a statement of principles, emphasizing that those principles are among the noblest in world history. After reviewing key sections of the Declaration, Dr. Kezirian will ask if the time has come to reclaim our nation's patrimony by recognizing its national commitment to equality. Richard Kezirian is Professor Emeritus, Monterey Peninsula College, after a forty-year teaching career, and currently a professor at The Panetta Institute for Public Policy.

August 6 - 1:30 pm - 1968, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ASTRONOMY AS A PORTAL TO THE AFTERLIFE - For the ancient Egyptians the night sky was a phenomenon. With clear skies and no electricity, the Milky Way was truly milky. So the belief arose that the Milky Way was produced by a celestial goddess: a cow goddess. In addition, the night sky seemed alive. Tom Logan was a History and Gentrain instructor at MPC. He was also an associate curator of the Egyptian department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and lead several archaeological excavations in Egypt.

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