



**ESCOM**

Emeritus Students  
College of Marin

## College Council Notes – 12/12/2024

1. ESCOM celebrated its year with a Holiday Celebration at the COM Cafeteria on December 7. 68 people attended with piano music by Ed Bogas. 10 volunteers kept order on food, drinks, chairs, handouts and the rowdy audience. There was a presentation from the Astronomy club, a reading (by Lois St Sure and Jay Connor) of a short play by David Ives, reports by the Digital Literacy and Program Committees (Harvey Abernathy). We ended with a brief finance report and a last minute caroling song or two.
2. The ESCOM Community News newsletter is almost finished with pages for news from our major groups and a full Event Calendar. This is an independent Wordpress blogsite that can be distributed and accessed easily. [www.ESCOMCommunityNews.net](http://www.ESCOMCommunityNews.net)
3. We have five new computer workshop trainers ready to present our free to our older adult community in Marin. Our first workshop will be "Google Photos for the Holidays" at the Fairfax Library on December 20.
4. We just completed a Spotlight talk with Jennifer Olsen, CEO of the Rosalynn Carter Institute on Caregiving. Dr. Carter came in from Plains Georgia on ZOOM for the presentation.
5. We are looking forward to having Spotlight talks with Assemblyman Damon Connolly in January, Michael Pritchard in February and two Authors (one is Arlie Hochschild) in April and May.
6. ESCOM Connects hosted a career panel for the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams. Panel members shared their extensive sports experiences to help these students with their COM work and beyond.

## Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane

Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Let your heart be light

From now on, our troubles will be out of sight

Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Make the Yuletide gay

From now on, our troubles will be miles away

Here we are as in olden days

Happy golden days of yore

Faithful friends who are dear to us

Gather near to us once more

Through the years we all will be together

If the fates allow

So hang a shining star upon the highest Bough  
And have yourself a merry little Christmas now



## ESCOM FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 7, 2024

Celebrating our

Clubs and Teams

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Doing

Lifelong Friends





## Program

1:00 – “Doors Open” and people start to arrive

Ed Bogas to play background Christmas Music

1:30 – Welcome notes

1:40 – Computer Literacy (Gary Gonser)

1:50 – Highlights of the Astronomy Club (Michael Patrick)

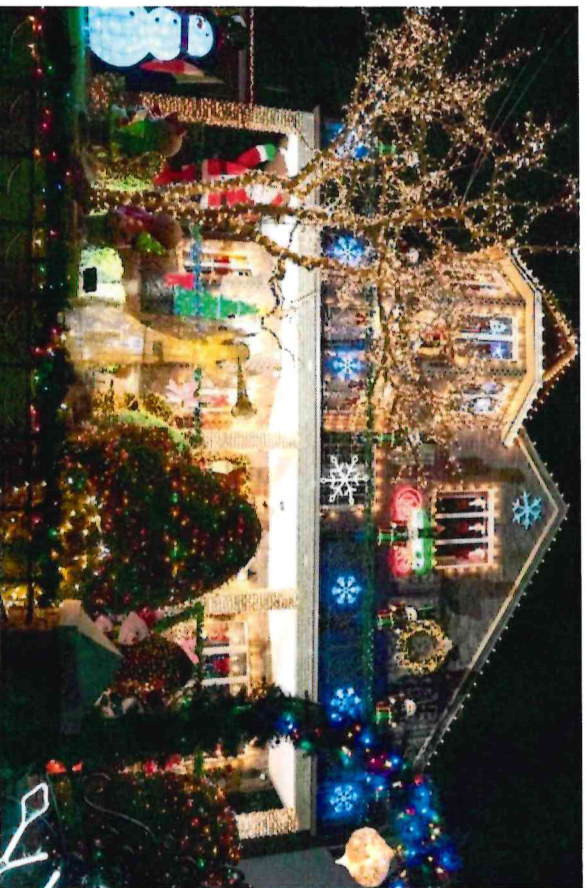
2:00 – Playreading Club (Lois St Sure and Jay Conner)

“Sure Thing” by David Ives

2:10 – ESCOM Connects Review (Leonard Weingarten)

2:20 – Spotlight Programs report (Harvey Abernathy)

3:00 – Closing sing-along (two songs) with Ed Bogas



## Let It Snow

Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne

Oh, the weather outside is frightful  
But the fire is so delightful

And since we've no place to go

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

It doesn't show signs of stopping

And I brought some corn for popping

The lights are turned way down low

Let it snow, let it snow

When we finally kiss good night

How I'll hate going out in the storm

But if you really hold me tight

All the way home I'll be warm

The fire is slowly dying

And, my dear, we're still goodbye-ing

But as long as you love me so

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow





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## ESCOM Community News

<https://escom.marin.edu>

Home



Clubs

Spotlights

Digital Literacy

ESCOM Connects



Events

### Main Page



ESCOM is generally on hiatus in December to take a break from our busy schedule. However, we had our general membership / Holiday meeting on December 7 at the Kentfield cafeteria. There were speeches, music (piano with Ed Bogas), food, hot cider and more to celebrate ESCOM. 68 people attended with some 10 volunteers to help it work. Jump over to the [Clubs](#) and [Digital Literacy](#) pages to find out the latest news.

Here are some pictures of the event:



### Current Events

December is Human Rights Month and Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month. Check out our [Events](#) calendar for all events.

We continue to present our free computer workshops in December. We are presenting a workshop on "Google Photos for the Holidays" at the Fairfax Library on December 20 at 2:00 pm; find out more on our [Digital Literacy](#) page. Club news is on





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## What is ESCOM?

The Emeritus Students College of Marin (ESCOM) was founded at the College of Marin in 1973 to pioneer using community colleges to provide lifelong learning to older adults in Marin; this program is cited as a national model.

There are no financial or educational requirements to join and the only requirement is a desire to learn, grow, share and enjoy!

We offer a rich variety of interactive and engaging programs, online and in person, including:

1. over 20 interest groups or “clubs,”
2. monthly speakers on local and international topics,
3. free computer workshops with the Commission on Aging,
4. a professional bi-monthly Journal of our members’ writings and photography,
5. partners with Book Passage for author presentations,
6. in-person events,
7. presentations to large events like the Senior Fair and service provider groups, and
8. Inter-generational programs to support COM students.

We are an all-volunteer organization. All are free to join and all our programs and activities are free to our members.

[www.escom.marin.edu](http://www.escom.marin.edu)  
[escom@marin.edu](mailto:escom@marin.edu)





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## ESCOM CONNECTS Activities

1. Business Department (2022) ...ESCOM panel presented about leadership. We shared about our careers and leadership experiences. Engaging Q & A conversation with the students.
2. Transfer and Career Center (2022 to present) tabling at career and industry fairs.
3. Tabling (2022 to present) at campus events attended by administration, faculty, staff and students.
4. Mapping Academic Pathways for Success (MAPS) (2023) participated in a speed career networking event.
5. Fall 2023...Lorrie (and Christie?) surveyed 76 students at various COM events to learn how ESCOM adult members could be of help to current COM students, in terms of job/career and success in school
6. Behavior Science Department (2023) ESCOM member interviewed by a COM student (single mother with three children who decided to go back to school) for her term project. Post interview, student received a scholarship from College of Marin to continue her studies in Psychology.
7. (2024) Presented a "brown bag" lunchtime presentation about interviewing to about 40 Behavior Science students
8. (2023) Helped ESL Students who have English as their second language practice their networking and job interviewing skills.
9. Nursing Department (2024)
  - Sat in on the orientation for 40 first time COM nursing students.
  - ESCOM member who was a midwife was available to students and the instructor to provide support throughout the Fall Semester.
10. Athletic Department (2024) ESCOM member who has an extensive local to international sports management background shared his experiences with the Men's Basketball Team
  - Hosted a career panel for the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams. Panel members shared their career and life experiences and recommendations to help these student-athletes maximize their COM experience and as they move forward in their lives.

## RESULTS: "ESCOM CONNECTS" STUDENT NEEDS SURVEY

### Executive Summary, Fall, 2023

#### SURVEY:

ESCOM CONNECTS members spoke with 76 COM students at the Fall, 2023 Resource Fair, ClubFest, and ASCOM Leadership meeting. The survey's overarching question:

*"Members of ESCOM are active adults who have had experience with college and careers. They now continue to enjoy lifelong learning here at the COM.*

*How might ESCOM adults be of help to current COM students, in terms of jobs/careers and success in school?"*

**FINDINGS:** On a scale from 0-5, where 0 = "no interest" and 5 = "much interest" . . .

**1. Overall strong need for additional support**

Students expressed strong needs in a full range of career and college topics, with 14 of the 21 survey items scoring an average score of 4.0 or higher.

**2. Goal setting strongest need.**

The two strongest needs addressed goal planning: long and short term goal setting (4.3 score) and planning your next steps after graduation (4.4).

**3. Professors bring in ESCOM guests to discuss careers.**

Re: preparation for jobs/careers, two of the strongest needs called for students' professors to invite ESCOM members to class to discuss their careers (4.2) and to help students prepare for interviews and resume writing (4.1).

Additionally, students expressed a strong interest in skills employees are looking for.

**4. Drop-in centers to talk to adults other than family about school concerns.**

Re: success in school, students expressed a strong interest in having an experienced person, other than family, to talk to on occasion (4.2). They also expressed a strong interest in a drop in center, where they could talk to someone about various school success topics (4.1).

Topics of most interest: study skills, time & money management, communication skills (each 4.1).

#### TAKE-AWAYS

- Professors can play a significant role in creating opportunities for students to meet with ESCOM members, either in class or outside of class.
- Student Service offices may wish to offer drop-in hours for ESCOM members to discuss specific topics with students (such as: study skills, money management, time management).
- Student Service offices may wish to offer workshops delivered by ESCOM members, addressing the topics of high student interest. (See full report for list of these topics.)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

"ESCOM CONNECTS" program flyer: <https://www1.marin.edu/sites/default/files/ESCOM-Connects.pdf>

For full Student Needs Report: Contact EC Co-chair Lorrie Verplaetse, [Verplaetse.lorrie@gmail.com](mailto:Verplaetse.lorrie@gmail.com)

To discuss possibilities: Contact EC Co-chair, Leonard Weingarten, [lweingarten1@gmail.com](mailto:lweingarten1@gmail.com)