



## **MERRITT COLLEGE**

### **Office of the President**



#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Board Meeting – November 14, 2011**

- The Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series Featuring Dorothy Cotton and Jack Odell, was held on Thursday, October 20, 2011, 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., P307, and an evening event occurred at 7:00 p.m., Oakland Marriott Hotel.
- Transfer Day was held October 20, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Newton/Seale Student Lounge.
- The Phi Theta Kappa Fall Induction Ceremony was held on Friday, October 28, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00p.m, Newton/Seale Student Lounge.
- On Friday, November 4, 2011, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Merritt College's Administration of Justice Program held a Youth Public Safety Conference "Accepting the Challenge, My Life is Worth Saving".

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Merritt College's COSER Program Presents Dr. Robert Trivers on Thursday, November 17, 2011, Merritt College, Newton/Seale Student Lounge. Dr. Trivers is the author of "The Folly of Fools" and currently serves as a Professor of Anthropology and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University

Dr. Robert Trivers currently serves as a Professor of Anthropology and Biology Sciences at Rutgers University.

In the 2008-09 academic year, he was a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin). Dr. Trivers was on the faculty at Harvard from 1973 to 1978, and then moved to the University of California, Santa Cruz where he was a faculty member 1978 to 1994. Dr. Trivers was recently awarded the 2007 Crafoord Prize in Biosciences for "his fundamental analysis of social evolution, conflict and cooperation."

## The Folly of

# Fools

*The Logic of Deceit and  
Self-Deception in Human Life*



Robert Trivers

*Dr. Robert Trivers will  
discuss the FOLLY OF  
FOOLS and books will  
be available for sale.*

## ***Program***

### ***Welcome***

Dr. Linda Berry,  
Vice President of Instruction

### ***Historical Path and Relationships***

Professor, Melvin Newton

### ***Introduction***

Dr. Wise Allen, Chancellor,  
Peralta Community College District

### ***Guest Lecturer***

Dr. Robert Trivers,  
Professor of Anthropology and Biology

### ***Closing Remarks***

Professor, Dr. William Love

***Book signing following the program***

In *The Folly of Fools*, leading evolutionary theorist Robert Trivers argues that in order to deceive others, we often deceive ourselves first. To lie to others, we hide our intent to deceive and the details of our deception; we selectively recall information and bias our arguments. But deception is more than just a verbal game. Trivers marshals evidence-spanning everything from immunology to neuroscience to group dynamics to the relationships of parents and children-of a co-evolutionary struggle between deceiver and deceived at every level of biological complexity. The urge to deceive ourselves and others is not without risk, however, and as Trivers convincingly shows, this urge has had, and continues to have, negative effects, undermining everything from academic endeavors and air safety to economic markets and international relations.

The culmination of four decades of research, *The Folly of Fools* is a testament to the power of evolutionary analysis to unravel the riddles of human life.

“The problem of why natural selection favors self-deception is as poorly understood as it is riveting. Robert Trivers uses examples from insects to international relations to guide us to the fundamental logic. The result is a startlingly original and important book that should start a global conversation on a topic of both scholarly and personal interest.”

—Richard Wrangham, Professor of Biological Anthropology, Harvard University, and author of *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human*

“[A] provocative and wide-ranging book...Trivers touches on wide-ranging issues: the role of evolutionary biology in the social sciences; the placebo effect; lie detectors; genocide; the scientific method. But he conveys a powerful and focused message: if we can learn to recognize and fight our own self-deception, we can avoid negative consequences at levels from the individual to the national, and live better lives.”

—*Nature*

“This is an enjoyable, thought-provoking book on how our mind systematically creates distorted perceptions of reality and how these distort our presentation of self to others. I believe the book is an important contribution to psychology and social science more generally and will undoubtedly stimulate debate on these important questions.”

—David Haig, Professor of Biology, Harvard University

# Merritt College COSER Program

*Presents*

## Dr. Robert Trivers

Thursday, November 17, 2011

1:00 p.m.

Merritt College's Newton/Seale

Student Lounge R110

12500 Campus Drive

Oakland, CA

