



THE CLASSIFIED VOICE

The Newsletter for Merritt College Classified Employees
September-October 2016 Volume 2 Issue 1

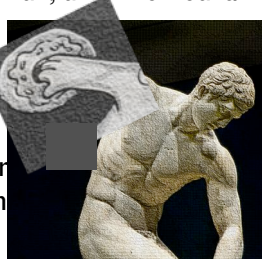
7 Peralta Classified Attend 4CS Conference

Your Merritt College 2016-2017 Classified Senate

Classified elections were held in May and the MC Classified Senate says goodbye and a huge thank you to three outgoing senators whose service timed out: Samantha Kessler, Kinga Sidzinska, and Daraja Wagner.

Continuing to serve are: Waaduda Karim (Madam President), Maria Perez (Madam Vice President), Jamila Saleh (but stepping out of the PIO pen), Charlotte Victorian (although retiring as senate treasurer); re-elected: Walter Johnson (now Recording Secretary) and Ron Perez; and newly elected: Ernesto Nery (donning that Treasurer visor), Margie Rubio, and your new PIO-me, Maril M Bull.

I know Margie and Ernesto also thank you for the honor and the believing in. Your 2016-17 senate is determined to soon bring about an overdue Classified Development Day, is looking at and listening to classified needs and seeking to inspire a greater classified sense of belonging and unity. Plans are in the works for Classified Professional Development opportunities for all, and I've heard talk of dancing and carrying on, Tupperware, dunk tanks, and donut throwing. As far as fundraising, this author has to wonder why his bright idea for a waterless car wash had been received as more of a lead balloon than a cutting edge innovation...



(from left (from Merritt, unless otherwise noted) Maril M Bull, Waaduda Karim, LaShawn Brumfield (COA), Doris Hankins, Margie Rubio, Brenda Lewis (COA), Jamila Saleh

The California Community Colleges Classified Senate's (4CS) 4th annual "Gathering of the Senates" Northern Region Retreat was held August 5, 2016 at Cosumnes Community College in Sacramento. Peralta was well seen (and heard!) among the devoted classified professionals in attendance.

Participants gathered from Merced, Butte, Fresno, Skyline, Contra Costa, American River, CCSF, and more – and Cosumnes, of course! It was an inspirational and unifying experience for all and definitely reinforced the value of classified participation in shared governance. We can influence change- if you are thinking of getting involved, and especially if you are thinking of not getting involved, talk with present and past senators, or come by a Classified Senate meeting, held every 3rd Tuesday, 1:30- 3pm, L132. ...4CS continues on page 3

Stay tuned for upcoming events:

merritt.edu/wp/classifiedsenate

Table of contents

Your Classified Senate...	Page 1
August 2016 4CS Conference	Page 1
The Hourly Minute.....	Page 2
Ask Classie.....	Page 2
Chancellor Open Forum 10/6/16...	Page 3
Tips column.....	Page 4

Contribute to MCCV: mer-lanht@peralta.edu

Don't miss
Ask Classie
page 2



It's the Black Panther 50th anniversary! See merritt.edu for a listing of events

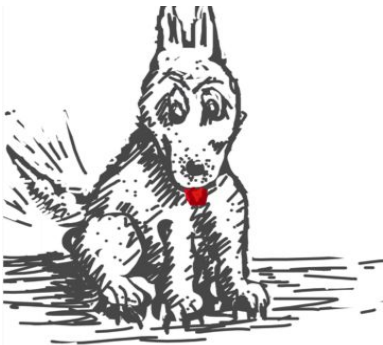
THE HOURLY MINUTE: NIA HILL



Nia Hill and daughter Nailah in the lathhouse

Ask Classie

Last month, the Horticulture Department had a stray visitor, a very friendly Staffordshire-type Pit Bull terrier. In grateful appreciation of our helping him out, he's agreed to help us out with a few classified concerns



• Dear Classie,
I'm so tired of
being in a cubicle,
where would your
ideal office be?

• Classie answers:
The woof!

• Dear Classie,
What do you think is our
most important concern this semester?

• Classie answers:
ARF! Well, students and student learning
always come first, but without a successful ARF
(Editor's note: Classie actually means "AFR"-
Accreditation Followup Report), there'd be no
school! I hear the Merritt College ARF has been
fully vetted and board approved, and besides
that shows all the progress we've made this last
year. I'm ready to wag my tail for the soon-to-
arrive ACCJC visiting team, are you?

The Hourly Minute is a column that spotlights one of Merritt's hourly employees each issue. Have an outstanding hourly we should feature? Are you an hourly who would like to be featured? Contact your editor today!

Nia- a natural at helping plants --and people-- grow

Nia Hill first came to Merritt College Landscape Horticulture Department to refresh her gardening skills, and to gain knowledge to help others to learn to garden through her nonprofit, Nourish Wellness. In the process of taking classes, Nia discovered her love for nursery management. "This, coupled with my desire to teach others, has made my school and work experience here quite fulfilling." says Hill. And like so many other classified who have found their way at Merritt, she could easily see further fulfillment in a permanent job here.

As the Hort Dept.'s substitute* Science Lab Technician and Nursery Manager, Nia feels a great connection to helping people in their education and does a beautiful job providing the ideal learning environment for growing and nurturing plants.

Nia can't help but to assist others in need. "We have leftover annual crops from our plant sales that we donate to food banks and school or community gardens. We've raised money for the Merritt Children's Center. Every semester there is an urban community gardening class, LH 501 (open entry/exit- sign up any time!), that grows produce and donates it to a center for the developmentally disabled (the fabulous Clausen House!- ed. note). These activities are along the lines of what I want to do with my nonprofit." The biannual plant sales are a highlight too. I love seeing the range of burgeoning to professional gardeners eagerly browsing the plants. Our customers, (usually repeat), often remark on the wide selection and affordable prices".

... Nia Hill continues on page 3

The Bull... Maril M Bull, that is

Hi there, I'm honored to serve as your Classified Senate Public Information Officer. I do apologize for the delay in getting this issue into your hands. So go the best of intentions...



We're looking for a much longer list of credits in the next issue. Help that next issue get out so much sooner than later. Help to make this your Classified Voice! Have an idea? Contribute!
Please email: mer-lanht@peralta.edu