

Nia Hill (continued from page 2)

Nia works wonderfully with students, helping to create a bridge to their goals. "Our students have a range of backgrounds, ethnicities and experiences. There are retirees, backyard gardeners, newbies, community gardeners, teachers, permies, landscape designers, artists, landscapers, arborists, and more. I love sharing what I've learned to help students gain a greater understanding of horticulture, nursery management and life itself. Additionally, I am thankful to serve as a role model for all who come to our department, particularly people of color."

Nia finds her biggest challenge to be trying to get everything done in her 20 hours per week. Because this is a labor of love, she often works at home on her inventory database, creating signage, and more. She'd love ten additional hours to complete more nursery work onsite.

Nia is always working to improve the department's growing houses and to ensure that the greenhouses, lath house and nursery are the best possible learning environment for students, and that there is ease of access to the facilities.

Nia's long-range goal is to start a small nursery to help fund her non-profit (which provides food for those in need, and helps people learn to garden, cook, and eat healthy foods. "Merritt College Landscape Horticulture Department is not just a stepping stone towards that goal, but is a springboard with the sky as the limit!"

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*Anders Vidstrand remains on academic leave

4CS Conference (continued from page 1)

Besides hobnobbing with our fellow classified professionals from across Northern California and consuming a delicious lunch, those present raptly listened while taking serious notes during presentations and discussions on fundraising, leadership, student equity, and drafting and putting forward resolutions. Focus of latter was on Merced College's Classified Senate's resolution to update the terminology used when referencing college employees from "classified staff" to "classified professionals". One little word, but there is power in language! The Merritt Classified Senate encourages all to adopt this terminology. It was inspiring to be amongst so many classified professionals who are willing to go that distance for students. Who knows?- the next gathering of the senates could be hosted right here at Merritt College. Watch this space!

CHANCELLOR LAGUERRE'S OPEN FORUM AT MERRITT COLLEGE

Oct. 6th- Merritt constituents ask questions, comment as Chancellor Addresses Perceived Preponderance of Peralta Vice Chancellors

Merritt hosted an open forum with Chancellor Jewel C. Laguerre gave a 45 minute presentation that touched on many current issues, framing recent moves and appointments as moves to address these problems and improve accountability through newly defined delineations of responsibility. Laguerre acknowledged the need to maximize use of what many of us have felt is one of our most underused resources- institutional knowledge, explaining that some of the recent administrative moves were in an effort to fully utilize our existing knowledge base.

The power of our knowledge was echoed during audience commentary, particularly by Molly Sealund, stressing the need for increased opportunities for classified advancement and professional development toward advancement, and by My Williams on behalf of students looking to employment advancement within Peralta. Williams cited the need for mirror programs to that of federal work study opportunities— while FWS programs are firmly in place, there is a need for greater innovation, support, and development of programs to assist non-financial aid qualifying students to gain work experience. Williams said that her own employment is the result of Merritt's own pilot program toward such advancement and acknowledged the efforts of Dr. Lilia Chavez in the development and support of this program. See next issue for more information on these opportunities!

The chancellor's decisions and the way our dollars are spent do remain a concern to many. There will be other forums and Peralta Board of Trustees meetings (usually the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month) which feature space for public commentary. One student (who encountered so many roadblocks while trying to enroll and so could easily still not be an active student in the system)...

... Open Forum continues on page 4



TIPSY! LITTLE BILL'S BRIGHT IDEAS

The Puzzle Place
(answers below) Trivia question:
What the heck is that thing?

Share your tips & tricks here! Share your how-to knowledge, tools for dealing with touchy people and situations, operations advice- anything that



could help your colleagues work flow a little smoother. Send in your tips (as well as any other comments, ideas, critiques, praises, what have you & what-nots- for The

Classified Voice to: mer-lanht@peralta.edu Don't presume "Oh, everyone knows that"- you'd be surprised. I'll kick off this initial column with this nerdy tip: Save time! Remember where you are! You can even view more than one webpage at a time. Don't rely on that 'back' button while browsing, just open a new window or tab (warning: won't work in PROMT, but will work in epafs). Instead of your usual link single click, you can hold the wheel down on your wheel mouse while hovering and the link will open in a new tab. No wheel? You can (usually) right click and choose "open in a new tab" or "open in a new window". No right click on your mouse? No wheel? On a Mac- hold down 'control' while clicking, the menu appears. On others, there is a way but it depends on your device and your keyboard. Consult the web, consult a cheat sheet, consult a friend, consult me and hope I don't steer you wrong!

Open Forum (continued from page 3) ... did get the attention of the chancellor and those board members and administrators present at the Sept. 13th meeting. Speaker (first name unknown) Davis outlined the troubles and trials of getting enrolled in the Peralta system and even more pitfalls encountered to successfully get enrolled in a class. The infamy of Passport pains have been known to those of us on the ground for some time, but somehow this speaker's story of woe has brought these problems and the need for solutions into the sightline of the powers that be. Admin now seems to be recognizing that it's not just community outreach and recruitment that are needed to boost Peralta's enrollments, but a user-friendly experience for those who wish to join us, and a need for true continuous improvement of that experience just could help to retain the students who somehow already managed to get here.

Will the district restructuring and recent appointments lead to the solutions to these and other problems that have plagued Peralta for some time? Can the chancellor's renaming and reframing redefine the 'Peralta way'? Stay tuned here, dust off your megaphone, have your say and bend some ears, listen and see what you hear.

Tell us what you're thinking: mer-lanht@peralta.edu

...And We Have No 'Classifieds' either... but send in your stuff and we'll publish it next issue!

THE SUGGESTION BAG? THE LETTER BIN?



Yes, We Have No Letters...yet but tell us what you're thinking for next issue!

(until the Classified Senate has its own address: mer-lanht@peralta.edu)

Pizza Fork for Sale: As seen on TV! Don't miss this bargain. You need send no money now. bigfork@donotreply.com.

In case you haven't heard... An 8# baby boy named Jayden was born to a certain president's office staffer on Oct. 6th @ 4:02am



Fall 2016 Degree/Certificate Petition Deadline is October 21, 2016

Classified professionals aid students on the road to success. Besides the counseling dept., students get the information they need from us- everything from degree/certificate requirements to petition forms... Post notices in your department to remind students of the upcoming deadline to file. Offer to share the valuable knowledge you possess!



Puzzle answer:

