



The Merritt Connection

February 17, 2016

Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz, President

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Merritt Connection Gets a Facelift: More News, More Often – From You!



In order to bring you more news from the President's Office and the Merritt community, we are changing the format of The Merritt Connection and will be sending it to you twice a month – in the middle and the end. In this more informal, community-like style, you will have the opportunity to contribute ideas, your own short article (1-3 paragraphs), and/or photos to share with your colleagues. It can be news of an event or award, committee highlight or department news, a classroom project or student achievement, new employee announcement or profile idea, student life activity or sports event – anything you think will be of interest to the Merritt community. Please send your contributions or ideas to Merritt Connection Editor Susan May (smay@peralta.edu) along with any questions or comments. (See more contribution details at end of newsletter.) So click on the link and enjoy! We look forward to sharing news with you!

–Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz, President

Super Saturday Success: Enrollment Gets Boost Thanks to Weekend Hours

In an effort to boost Spring 2016 enrollment, Merritt offered current and new students three Super Saturdays (Jan. 16, 23, and Feb. 6) to allow them the extra time to register in an on-the-spot process or to update any issues which may be preventing them from continuing. According to Dean Romeo Garcia, preliminary numbers show that on those three days, 150 students went through Admissions, 90 got help with Counseling and 90 with Financial Aid, 43 completed Assessment, and 25 went through Orientation.

“The Super Saturdays were a big success,” says Dean Garcia. “Students were very appreciative of the extra time we gave them. “New students were able to complete the registration process and current students could complete such in-person tasks as removing holds on their accounts.” Dean Garcia also applauded Merritt’s Student Services staff who showed their commitment to student success by working on Super Saturdays. “Merritt staff stepped up to work on Saturdays because they are committed to student success.” Pictured: *Dean Romeo Garcia with new Merritt students Mariah Swafford and Isaac Pittman.*



Dr. Rosemary Delia Named Division II Dean

With more than 25 years of instructional and administrative experience on both the secondary and postsecondary levels, Dr. Rosemary Delia has been named Dean of Workforce Development & Applied Sciences after serving in an interim position for five months. Most

recently, Dean Delia served as curriculum director for Oakland's Mentoring Academy and instructor at Maybeck High School in Berkeley. Before that, she was Director of Chabot College's new San Leandro Center, where she worked to develop the Center's program of basic skills courses and workforce training. At Merritt, she is responsible for programs in the sciences and math and for the majority of the College's Career and Technical Education programs, including Allied Health and Biosciences/Biotechnology as well as landscape horticulture, business, computer science, and real estate."

"I'm excited to be at Merritt where I can use my background and experience to support students in Oakland and neighboring communities," says Rosemary. "Learners who come to Merritt are counting on us to provide them with the education and training they need to serve their communities in essential and vital ways. I'm proud to work with our faculty and partners in industry and business to give our students the necessary tools, state-of-the-art resources, and hands-on learning experiences to help them create success in their work and lives."

Microscopy Reports Banner Opening to the New Year!

Microscopy's signature Craigslist-driven Open Houses were a success once again, with the last of the three bringing more than 40 potential students. Says instructor and program guru Gisele Giorgi, "It was the usual



exciting mix of backgrounds that makes community colleges so exciting. Some students were new to college and even to biology, a lot were re-entry students, a few had other degrees (BS, MS, MD). We had folks from Morocco, Serbia, and Russia, but mostly from Oakland. We had two previous students who have jobs in the field, but are interested in further training in histotech."

Gisele also reports on an exciting partnership with Dewey High School that stems from Microscopy Mentors (a CPT grant project). "Our incredible MMP mentors, Cristina Watson, Angela Lane, Lashawn Fountain and Jacob Loffsner (aka Jacobo Fonzarelli) have been working with an amazing Dewey High School biology instructor, Erinn Godfrey, to provide curriculum and in-class co-teaching for three of her classes for several weeks. The students are solving a forensics case (a dognapping) by using microscopy skills. In February, instructor Cliff Cockerham will work with the Dewey students on a module that ties in asthma, climate change, and environmental racism. Much thanks to George Alonzo of OUSD, and Dean Rachel Antrobus for making this happen. It's been eye-opening and transformative for our team, and hopefully it is also a remarkable experience for the Dewey students."

Sweets Sell Fast at Classified Senate Fundraiser; More \$\$ Events Planned

The first Classified Senate fundraiser of the year brought faculty, staff, students, and administrators who bought bags filled with Butterfingers, Milky Ways, Kit Kats, and other goodies for Valentine's Day. "Wow, we had a great response," said Classified Senate President Waaduda Karim, enthusiastically. "We made a profit of \$376. Everyone wanted our candy bags."

According to Waaduda, there will be a fundraiser every month with a fun theme. For March, she says, it will be 'St. Patrick's Madness.' The profits, she says, are going to a good cause.

"The money will go toward staff development so we can have workshops outside of professional day when many of us have to work, she says. "We're planning lots of activities so the money will be put to good use. Thanks to everyone for supporting us." *Pictured: Jon Murphy, Ron Perez, Samantha Knappenberger, and Jamila Saleh.*



Idea for STEM Club Brings Together Creative Science and Math Minds



Wherever it started, the thought of bringing together math and science students and faculty in and out of classroom environment that would breed creativity quickly picked up steam and drew ideas. Tom Renbarger, who teaches, astronomy and physics, had cool ideas for activities like star gazing, a liquid-nitrogen ice cream social, and a scavenger hunt, possibly with participation from the Boys and Girls Club in Oakland. Math instructor Nora Trow-Shaw, who was president of her math club in college, thought of a trip to the Exploratorium, table games using math strategy and billiards which combines math and physics. To take advantage of the beautiful, hilly campus, Jason Holloway suggested a walk/run where participants use statistics skills to predict their times and win a prize.

To start the process, faculty announced the idea to their class and set up a table at Club Rush on Feb. 10 and were excited to get a page full of signatures. Watch for more news on the new STEM Club! Pictured: *Nora Trow-Shaw and Tom Renbarger*

Merritt Women's Basketball Player is 6th to be Inducted into CCAA Hall of Fame



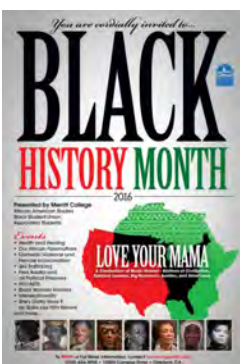
Women's Basketball Coach Fred Brown is proud to announce that Merritt's sixth player/coach has been chosen for the state's California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Audrey (Moore) Jones, who played for Merritt between 1986 and 1988, will be inducted into the 2016 Hall of Fame at the Banquet of Champions at the State Tournament on March 10, at the Double Tree/Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton.

Audrey is a 1986 graduate of McClymonds High School in Oakland, attended Merritt from 1986-88, and went on to graduate from Oregon State University in 1991. She is one of 13 children and the first to graduate from a four-year university. As an athlete at Merritt, she played both point guard and off guard on two championship teams, according to Coach Brown, who nominated her. "She hit a game-winning "3" to put Merritt in the State Final 8 at ARC and was a major factor in leading Merritt to a 51-17 record and two championships in two different conferences and to the State Finals." And, he adds, as outstanding as Audrey was on the court, she was just as outstanding in the classroom. "She has continued her passion for helping others and has a full-time job working in probation in the Sacramento area while raising two children with her husband."

Coach Brown should know how it feels to achieve this honor. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1998, followed by then-Coach Inga Marciulionis in 1999. The other three are Yasmin Gray and Tiddra Hardy in 1996 and Jurate Zukauskaite in 2002. Congratulations to all!

Black History Month Continues with Films, Lectures, Dance, and Drums

If you haven't had a chance to attend any Black History Month events, don't miss out on the rest of the month!



The theme of this year's events is "Love Your Mama: A Celebration of Black Women: Mothers of Civilization, Spiritual Leaders, Big Momma's, Aunties, and Sisterhood." Dr. Siri Brown and students lined up a fascinating array of events to commemorate the annual celebration. The month of events was highlighted on Feb.17 by keynote speaker Dequi Kioni-Sadiki, who gave a powerful talk on "Free Assata Shakur and All Political Prisoners." On Feb. 18, instructor Jason Seals will facilitate a panel discussion on "Black Women, Relationships and Dating; on Feb. 22, come Open Mic Expression: A Tribute to Black Women; on Feb. 23, "Domestic Violence and Black Female Incarceration," by

Phylcia Jones; on Feb. 24, “Women of the African Diaspora Tournament & Competition; on Feb. 25, African Women’s Health Fair; and culminating on Feb. 26 with “Honoring Black Women Workers at Merritt College.” For the schedule details, go to www.merritt.edu. The month of events is presented by African-American Studies, the Black Student Union, and Associated Students of Merritt College.

Assessment Update: The Communication ILO

At the end of the fall semester, Merritt College faculty met to discuss their assessment of the Communication ILO (Intended Learning Outcome). About 20 faculty from a wide variety of disciplines brought samples of student work and scoring rubrics that allowed us to consider student achievement in the areas of written and oral communication.

The faculty participants aggregated the data from the scoring rubrics and found that students were exceeding expectations in their understanding of the assignment but needed to work on the mechanics of their writing and speaking. Specific areas identified as needing improvement included building confidence, punctuation, citation mechanics, and appropriate vocabulary usage. As a group, we identified two important actions to focus on during the spring semester. First, the group will work collaboratively to develop an ILO rubric that can be shared college-wide; student success will improve if students have consistent, clear expectations from all instructors. Second, the ILO will be revised to include communication using visual aids; the ILO will now read: “Communicate with clarity and precision using oral, visual, and/or written language, expressing an awareness of audience, situation, and purpose.”

This spring, we will turn our attention toward the assessment of our Quantitative Reasoning ILO. If you are teaching a course that maps to this outcome, please watch your email for a call to participate.

--Jennifer Shanoski

Announcements & Events

- **Study in China Scholarship (deadline Fri., Feb. 19)** – Peralta students have the opportunity to visit and study in China for two weeks, June 10-25, for only 250. Get an application from the President’s Office, Q-300.
- **Wed., March 9, 12 Noon - Talk by Miguel Fraga, First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy, “Has U.S. Policy Toward Cuba Really Changed?”** Open to faculty, staff, and students and the public. Student Lounge
- **Sat., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. Lecture by Bobby Seale, Founding Chairman of the Black Panther Party, “Chaos or Community: Where Do We Go From Here?”** Barbara Lee & Elihu Harris Lecture Series. Student Lounge. Call to RSVP, (510) 434-3988.

Share Your News with the Merritt Community

Please send your suggested ideas, articles and/or photos to Merritt Connection Editor Susan May at smay@peralta.edu. Articles should be 1-3 paragraphs and may be edited for space or held for future publications. Photos must be high-quality and have permission of the people in it to be published. If others outside of Merritt-FAS want to be on the newsletter distribution list, please send their emails.

Suggested topics for sharing:

Announcements or Reviews of Events
Awards and Achievements
Division and Department News
Community Outreach Activities
Community Partnerships/Internships
Committee Highlights
Innovative Class Projects

Alumni News
New Employee Announcements
Campus Visitors
Student Achievements/Highlights
Student Activities
Sports News/Highlights
Travel/Conference News

Deadline for contributions for the next edition: February 25.

All past issues of *The Merritt Connection* can be found on the Merritt website homepage under Important Links.