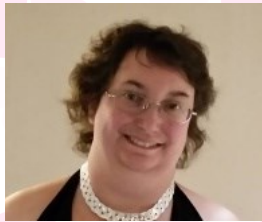




President's Message



Greetings!
It's February and Love is in the air! In that spirit, I want to say how much I love all of you. You are always willing to volunteer for committees, help out with projects, and attend professional development events. I couldn't do this without you!

There's a lot of new faces on campus and a lot of changes in administration. President Vitelli is settling in, and I have met with him to discuss issues relating to Classified Senate, with an emphasis on professional development. Dr. Mike McCandless will be serving as Interim Vice President of Student Services. Dr. Baba Adam has joined the Merced College family as Dean of Institutional Effectiveness.

We wish all of them the best of luck in their new positions!
As always, a big welcome to all the new classified professionals.
We're glad to have you as part of the Merced College family!

New Classified Professionals

- Kenneth Braaksma, Police Officer
- Morgan Fisher, Allied Health Office Tech
- Emma Hundley, Box Office Clerk
- Dustin Mason, Groundskeeper Lead
- Jon Stocker, Ed Tech Specialist
- Cynthia Thomas, Sign Language Interpreter II
- Melissa Ward, HR Technical

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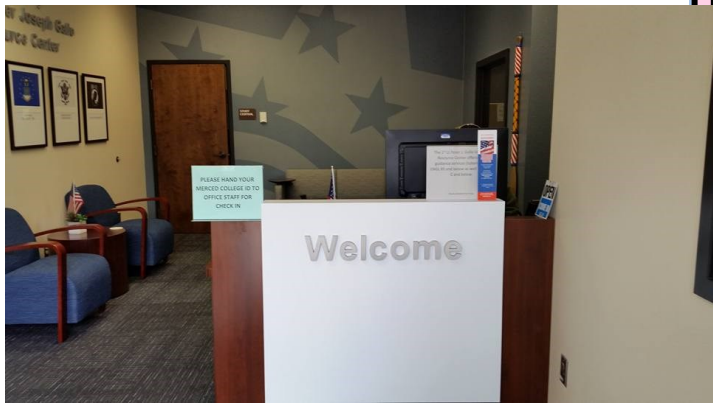
Classified Senate Information
Merced College Classified Senate Officers
 President: Andrea Hall-Cuccia
 Vice President: Gabriela Garcia
 Secretary/Treasurer: Jeanne Bernardi

News Letter:
 Rosa Hernandez
 LaDenta Smith

Meetings
 Third Thursday of every month from 2-3 pm in the Administrative Conference Room unless otherwise specified. Video Conferencing for Los Banos available upon request.

Website:
<https://mc4me.mccd.edu/organizations/class-senate/default.aspx>

Around Campus



The remodeled 1st Lt. Peter J. Gallo Veterans Resource Center is now open!

Stop by and check it out!



Employee Spotlight



Carmen Moreno
Job Title: Area Secretary
Department: Learning Resource Center
Years with college: 3

Duties: Carmen assists Dr. Nancy Golz and LRC staff with administrative tasks and communications, special projects and other tasks as assigned. She produces flyers, posters, and other communications to advertise LRC events and happenings. Carmen also schedules LRC meeting rooms. She does lots of decorating and organizing for events. There is always something interesting happening at the LRC!

Personal Information : Carmen just started at the LRC after 2.5 years as the part-time secretary for Community Services at the BRC. She is glad to be working on campus now, as she has the opportunity to get to know the many wonderful people we have working at the college. She grew up in Merced, graduated Golden Valley H.S. in 2002, and spent two years at UC Irvine. Carmen is currently working on completing my bachelor's degree at FPU's Merced Campus. She has a wonderful husband and an amazing son who is about to celebrate his second birthday. Carmen loves spending time with her family, whether it be out in the beauty of nature (they love Yosemite) or in the comfort of their home (they also love cuddling). She enjoys all sorts of artistic and creative activities, all with a touch of humor (she loves to laugh more than anything), including writing, painting, drawing, cooking, dancing, and crochet. Carmen also likes to read and keep up on politics and current events. Camen says: "I'm so glad to be a part of the classified staff here at Merced College, and especially glad to be working at the LRC. My coworkers are awesome!"

Book Review: Overdressed

“Overdressed” by Elizabeth L. Cline

Book Review by Melinda Cornwell

Cline’s book focuses less on the environment and more on the economics of the “fast fashion” industry. That said, she brings up many crucial issues regarding air, water and land: 80 billion new pieces of clothing are bought worldwide daily. At a world population of 7.5 billion, that’s 10.66 pieces *per person* per day. (Yes, I checked my math twice.) In China alone, 435 textile factory outlets release 32.2 billion tons of wastewater into the sea each year. Just in the United States, 14.3 million tons of textiles are thrown out annually. But let’s back up, to the 1990s. Sharon Stone’s “transgressive” and “unheard of” mix of a Gap T-shirt with an Armani suit legitimized cheap fashion, Cline explains. She compares “fast fashion” with the department-store experience of the 20th century, and finds it sorely inferior.

“Slow fashion” was the norm throughout history, even for the rich and royalty. Wealthy American ladies bought their clothes from couturier Charles Worth but waited a minimum of two years before wearing them in public. Most people literally can’t imagine doing that today.

Haute couture is still a protected term, like Champagne. It refers to certain well-defined standards. Outside France, it means all high-fashion custom-fitted clothing, whether it is produced in Paris, London, Milan, New York City or Tokyo. Ready-to-wear is nothing new, but ultrathin and cheaply made garments are strangling the industry and taking over our closets.

We can’t reverse fashion history, and most wouldn’t want to try. But Cline suggests we be more mindful about what we buy and wear, and has several suggestions:

- Alter
- Buy less
- Donate
- Make your own
- Mend
- Recycle
- Re-purpose
- Swap
- Thrift shop

The Council for Textile Recycling (CTR) wants the US to produce zero landfill-bound textile waste by 2037. Even if Americans can miraculously meet this goal, the rest of the world is still very far behind. Moral: try window-shopping the next time you hear the call of the mall.

