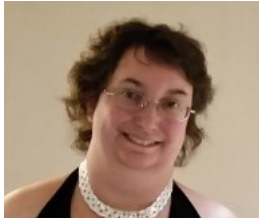


President's Message



Greetings!

It's May, and the weather continues to be a roller coaster—90's one day, 60's the next! That's fine, though—I'm not looking forward to the heat!

I am looking forward to the relative quiet of summer with fewer students and faculty around. We classified folk will be hard at work, though! Fridays off are a bonus!

Thank you to everyone who came out to Classified Professional Development Day. The day was a huge success thanks to you! A huge shout out to the committee! Congratulations to Elena Altamirano, Classified Employee of the Year. Don't forget to congratulate her the next time you see her! Classified Senate and this newsletter will be taking a break over the summer. See you in August!

Welcome: New Classified Professionals

April

Deidra Brinson, Career/Transfer Center Asst
Sabrina Gudgel, A&R Clerk II
Melissa Mitchell, Training Asst
Ethan Ravensdale, A&R Technician

May

Brian DeMoss, Systems Analyst
Aaron Law, Instr Supp Tech III

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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:

LaDenta Smith

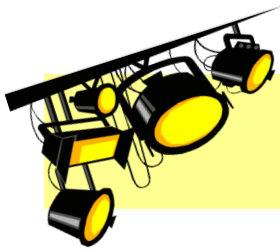
Web Site:

Shannon Gragg.

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/>



Department Spotlight

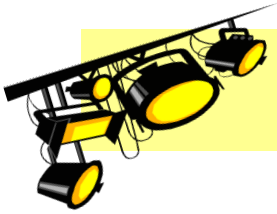
Office of Institutional Effectiveness

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness was established July 1, 2016. The Office's mission is to facilitate the institutional effectiveness of ongoing planning and assessment, and resource development and allocation processes, based on sound research and evidence that foster continuous quality improvement. Primary responsibilities include planning, institutional research, federal and state reporting, accreditation, grants, and Program Review/SLO assessment.

The Office is led by Dr. Baba Adam, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness. Dr. Adam has a long and successful history of directing institutional research programs in community colleges and universities, most recently as the director of institutional research at Butte College, which serves students in Chico, Oroville, and nearby communities. He directs a staff consisting of two institutional researchers, an SLO/SAO Program Review Assistant, and an administrative assistant.

“With the nation's growing concern for accountability, which is driven by our accreditation agencies, as well as state and federal regulations, becoming more efficient and successful with our limited resources is good for our students and good for our taxpayers,” Dr. Adam said.

The Office is housed in SU-139, across from the gym.



Student Services Spotlight

The Guardian Scholars program

The Office of Student Equity and Success is proud to offer the Guardian Scholars program to assist Foster Youth enrolled at Merced College. The Guardian Scholar's program is designed to improve student outcomes on each of the success indicators: Access, Course Completion, Transfer, ESL & Basic Skills, Degree & Certificate attainment. Through targeted resource disbursement, the Guardian Scholars program strives to eliminate obstacles to access and success for Foster Youth.

Robbie Deen functions as the Guardian Scholar's liaison, collaborating closely with students and programs on campus to improve student retention and success. Moreover, the Guardian Scholar's program serves students through counselors, Tony Lewis and Tracy Potts, dedicated to serving Foster Youth. The Guardian Scholar's program has also worked to implement a bus pass program to improve access, a mentor program in collaboration with AGS to improve retention and success, a book service and meal card program, and a number of other services to improve student outcome measures. Through collaboration and a dedication to students, the Guardian Scholars program seeks to improve student outcomes for Merced College foster youth.

Around Campus

Associated Students of Merced College (ASMC)

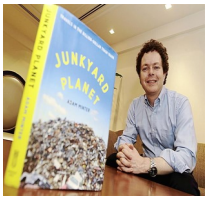


ASMC has moved to a new location in the Student Union Building due to the Merced College Bookstore renovations.

The ASMC office space was completely renovated by the contributions from the Student Services Division. ASMC also contributed some funds for the furniture. Labor for the renovations and materials for the flooring and the decorations were donated by several on and off campus groups.

Book Review

JUNKYARD PLANET by ADAM MINTER



When you throw something away, where is “away”? Minter’s fascinating book shows us the up and down sides of the global trash trade. Entrepreneurs in China, India and Taiwan are making fortunes off what more prosperous nations toss out. For example, the plastic waste that American recyclers don’t take is compressed into giant bricks and sent on container barges to a plastic megalopolis in China. Chinaplas 2017, the 31st International Exhibition on Plastics and Rubber Industries, is slated for May 16-19, 2017 in Guangzhou. I’d love to go, but in Guangzhou, air particles regularly exceed 200 micrograms. The World Health Organization recommends daily exposure under 25 micrograms per cubic meter over a 24-hour period, and any reading above 200 is “heavily polluted” even by Chinese standards.

It doesn’t stop at plastics. Scrap metal processing was (and often still is) a 24-hour-a-day activity in southern China. It has to be: modernization ratchets up infrastructure: airports, highways, apartments, cars. All these need metal, as do electronic gadgets, which the Chinese are now snapping up at twice the volume of the United States. 2013 was the tipping point for electronics sales, when Asia exceeded those in North America, reported tech website venturebeat.com.

And yet, the toll of reuse industries is rivaled only by that of gold mining in China—the world’s top gold producer. Silicosis affects an estimated six million workers in gold, coal, or silver mines or in lapidary industries. It’s the #1 occupational illness, leading to slow and painful death. The men waste away, their lungs scarring and hardening from dust they breathed years earlier. The disease is irreversible—a lung transplant is the only known cure—but is preventable with protective gear and ventilation during drilling.

So, literally, Chinese industries are damned if they do (reuse materials) and damned if they don’t (use virgin metals and fresh polymers). Progress = pollution. And as one blogger wrote, “It’s not just the story that’s sad...It’s also sad that as a Chinese I have to read about this on a foreign website. You don’t get to see people’s plights on Chinese TV nowadays.” (*National Geographic* magazine, June 2015)

Another reader writes that Chinese workers are “the real heroes of the economic miracle.” (Ibid. May 2015) Minter would agree – his book focuses on colorful characters and their families and, as good reporting does, makes us care about them. Nobody is guilt-free, but there are no demons here either: just entrepreneurs in a short-sighted economy that seems willing to trade water, land, health and well-being for the relentless dynamo of manufacturing.