



CLASSIFIED FOR EXCELLENCE



MERCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSIFIED SENATE

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President's Message:

Greetings!

November is a month for thankfulness.

First of all, I want to give thanks to all our veterans who served for our country. You are much appreciated.



Second, I am thankful for all the Classified Professionals who support Classified Senate. To those who attend meetings, serve on Shared Governance committees, help plan Classified Professional Development Day, serve on hiring committees, contribute to production of the newsletter and website, or otherwise help give a voice to Classified Professionals at Merced College, I extend my deepest gratitude.

Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as your Classified Senate president. It is a rewarding experience.

Thanks to all who make the college great!

-Andrea Hall-Cuccia, Classified Senate President

Classified Senate Information:

Officers:

Andrea Hall-Cuccia, *President*
Gabriela Garcia, *Vice President*
Delia Esquivel, *Secretary*
Maria Soto, *Treasurer*

Meetings:

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

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT:

Disabled Students Program & Services

THE mission of the Merced College Disabled Students Program and Services (DSPS) is to empower students to reach their full potential in every aspect of their lives by providing support to their education through service, support and advocacy. The DSPS office provides academic adjustments, auxiliary aides and services for all students with qualified disabilities according to state and federal law. DSPS is also a resource for faculty and staff who have questions or concerns about working with students.

Providing equal opportunities for students with disabilities is a campus-wide responsibility and commitment. Disabilities include, but are not limited to, orthopedic, visual, hearing, learning, chronic health and psychological disabilities. Merced College demonstrates its core values of individual growth, development, civility and diversity by recognizing students with disabilities as an integral part of its student body.

Disability-related information is confidential. Because of the stigma attached to disabilities, some students may choose not to register with DSPS and are not required to share their specific disability with anyone other than DSPS. Referring a student without awkwardness is a common question received by the DSPS office. Start by asking a general question such as, *"I see you are struggling, here are some resources on campus that might provide you with support..."*

"The barriers people with disabilities face begin with attitudes that are often rooted in misinformation and misunderstandings about what it is like to live with a disability."

-Team Access University of Hawaii

Give the student a list of two or three different resources such as Study Central, Math Lab,

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Welcome

New Classified Employee:

Jennifer Altenberg, *Library/Media Clerk*
Michael Lara, *Secretary*
Valerie Ruiz, *A&R Clerk*

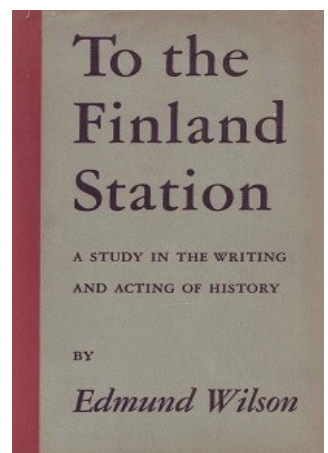
BOOK REVIEW:

To the Finland Station by Edmund Wilson

Reviewed by Melinda Cornwell

IT'S been 100 years since that failed experiment called the Russian Revolution. I'm no historian, but you don't need to be one to enjoy Wilson's book, originally published in 1940 and never out of print since. Besides being ferociously learned in a way that no one is today, Wilson had quite a sense of humor, dry and often sarcastic. ("Karl Marx Dies at His Desk" was the best chapter title.)

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Website Maintenance:
Denise Dupree
Jeanette Martin

Please visit our website on MC Portal for more information:
<https://mc4me.mccd.edu/organizations/class-senate/default.aspx>

Educational Master Plan Overview

from Mike McCandless, Vice President of Student Services

AS many of you are aware, Merced College has initiated a comprehensive Educational Master Plan (EMP) process. This is an exciting direction for the District as the EMP will provide the District with a foundation for long-range planning, the structure to provide direction for a multi-year Strategic Plan to operationalize the EMP, and a vision to construct a Facilities Master Plan to guide District growth. We have begun this process in concert with the Collaborative Brain Trust (CBT) a consultant firm that will help guide the process and develop the data portfolio, including complete internal and external scans of Merced College and the service area. Both quantitative and qualitative data will be utilized to enhance dialogue regarding trends, projections, and the direction of the District.

The project will be completed in three phases:

- 1) Discovery Phase
- 2) Preparation of the Data Portfolio
- 3) Goal Setting

The EMP process is designed to be transparent and collaborative. The EMP Task Force is comprised of representatives from all campus constituencies, with the charge of advocating for broad campus engagement and feedback. There

will also be the opportunity to provide feedback through surveys, interviews, listening sessions, and forums. Through a synthesis of this material key themes will emerge providing for the direction of the EMP. To stay current regarding the EMP, as well as to provide feedback via email, a public facing website has been created with the following information:

- 1) Membership
- 2) Meeting Dates
- 3) Timeline
- 4) Listening Sessions
- 5) Data Portfolio
- 6) Goals
- 7) Comments

The website can be accessed via the below link:

- 1) Public-facing:
<http://www.mccd.edu/about/committees/emp>

If you have any questions regarding the Educational Master Planning process, please do not hesitate to contact me. ■

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Veteran's Center, Disabled Students Program and Services, Interdisciplinary Literacy Center, etc. If the student has actually disclosed a medical condition, learning disability, depression, etc. you can state, *"You mentioned [medical condition, learning disability, depression]. Have you registered with the Disabled Students Program and Services office?"*

People with disabilities constitute the nation's largest minority group. This is the only group that any of us can become a member of at any time. Strategies that are useful for individu-

als with a disability or disabilities are useful for all individuals.

For more information: The Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) is the leading national organization in providing information and the most effective methods for working with college students with disabilities.

Visit the AHEAD website at www.ahead.org. ■

Classified Senate wishes you all a



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And did I mention ambitious? Wilson here attempted nothing less than a history of socialism from the Middle Ages on up. And as a non-historian, I think he succeeded.

Vladimir Lenin, the protagonist of the book, was already dead after several strokes. A month earlier, Trotsky had had his head split open with an ice axe. A year before that, the Soviet Union had signed a non-aggression pact, allowing Hitler to invade Poland. Before that, Stalin had systematically crushed opposition within the Soviet Union. The purges included killing five million Russians.

By 1940, disgust with Communism was in full swing. But history, not Communism, was the true subject of Wilson's book. "To the Finland Station" arose from his thesis that the Depression was the long-predicted collapse of world capitalism. To

understand this, people needed background – and he supplied it.

Wilson made no pretense of impartiality. In our "non-judgy" era, this might raise eyebrows. But he was less specialized than cultural critics today and had a sound foundation in the classics, obtained at Princeton and privately afterward. He learned Hebrew at 60 so he could read the Dead Sea Scrolls. "He loved his learning as much as he loved mankind," says Colm Toibin in the *New York Times*.

A final quote from Wilson: "Without the impulse from reality, neither criticism nor poetry nor any other human work can be valid". Very highly recommended. ■