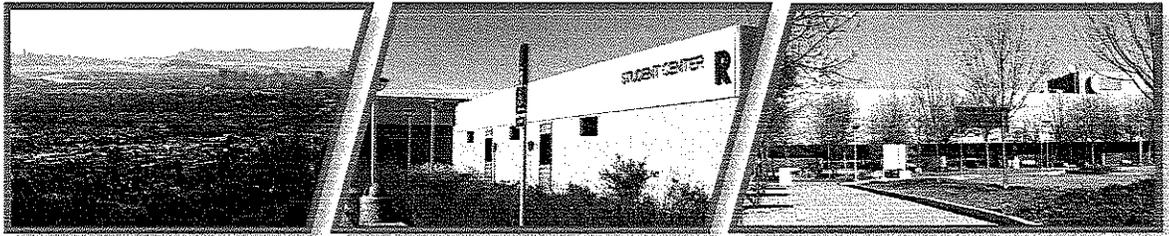


We Change Lives!



Volume 1, Edition - January 18, 2012

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Dear Merritt Family,



The Merritt community would like to send a heartfelt thanks to some, and welcome to others, as we move into a new phase at the campus.



After 11 years serving as the Vice President of Instruction, and functioning as the college's Accreditation Liaison Officer, **Linda Berry** has moved on to become the Vice President of Instruction at Berkeley City College. During her stay at Merritt, she provided the college with excellent leadership for Instructional Services and guided the college through all its accreditation reports and studies. I am sure she will perform admirably at Berkeley City College and we wish her the best. We also want to say goodbye to **Alice Marez**, Merritt's Business and Administrative Services Manager, as she moves on to retirement (for the second time). **Connie Willis** will be filling Alice's position, which is a hefty task, but one that she's more than able to take on.

Anita Black has been selected as the new Vice President of Instruction. Anita is no stranger to Peralta and the Merritt Campus and looks forward to bringing her wealth of talents and experiences to the position.

Horace Graham has been named Dean of Special Programs and Grants Division of Student Services. Horace is also no stranger to Merritt and looks forward to leveraging the grants and special programs at Merritt to better position the college to provide enhanced support services for students, so they can successfully complete their training programs and matriculate to four-year institutions.

Merritt will also soon welcome two new Deans- Academic Pathways and Student Success and Workforce Development and Applied Sciences. Stay tuned for more information on these two positions, which will support the academic achievement and strategic development of the students at Merritt.

Dr. George Herring
President, Merritt College

Mission

The mission of Merritt College is to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve by helping students to attain knowledge, master skills, develop the appreciation, attitudes and values needed to succeed and participate responsibly in a democratic society.

Administrative Highlights

Anita Black



For more than 35 years in the field of education at both private and public educational institutions, Anita Black has been completely filled with joy and satisfaction. She has taught on the secondary and post-secondary levels in two different states, Illinois and California. As a State of Illinois Teacher Education Scholar at Northern Illinois University, she earned two degrees in Business Education. While working in corporate America for IBM, Anita was a Marketing Support Representative before entering the community college system. She left Laney as Dean of Instruction and received her Teaching Certificate through the UCLA Extension. She looks forward to this new chapter in her life as she takes on the responsibilities of Vice President of Instruction and is assured that Merritt continues to be a positive catalyst in the lives of the students that are served.

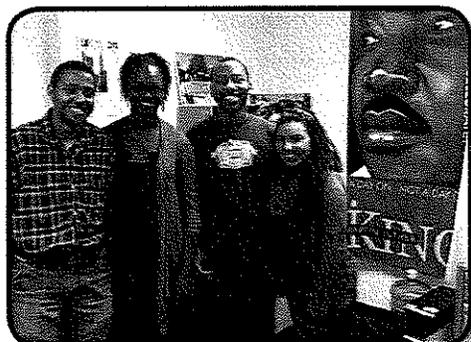
Alice Marez



Alice Marez started working for Merritt College at the original Grove Street Campus in 1965. In 1969 she started working with Dr. Ernie Berg, Yvonne Lawrence and John Greene-- while the College of Alameda was being built. She began working at COA the day it opened in 1970, where she spent 35 years in the Business Office, along with serving as an hourly instructor teaching Office Education. Alice then transferred back to Merritt to become the Business and Administrative Services Manager, under the leadership of President Wise Allen. Both Dr. Allen and Alice "retired" in 2000. Ironically, both came back to work, Dr. Allen as Interim Chancellor of Peralta and Alice as Merritt's Business and Administrative Services Manager, where Dr.

Allen called her to serve in early 2010. What was supposed to be a few months turned into almost 2 years. Alice has loved every minute of her time, but a second retirement is welcomed!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center



Merritt College is honored to be the new home of the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center. Located in the F building, the Center offers Democracy Education classes and organizes workshops for middle, senior high school and college students. The Freedom Center focuses on academic enrichment and the effort to transform public education so that it provides excellent education to all students.

In addition to academic programming, the Freedom Center, along with Merritt College, co-produces the Barbara Lee & Elihu Harris Lecture Series. Stop by the office, Room F 201 and visit the website- www.mlkfreedomcenter.org.

Recently at Merritt

Dr. Robert Trivers

On November 17, Merritt welcomed Dr. Robert Trivers, evolutionary theorist and Professor at Rutgers University to the Student Lounge for a lecture and book signing. Dr. Trivers currently serves as the Professor of Anthropology and Biology Sciences and in the 2008-09 academic year, was a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin. Dr. Trivers was on the faculty at Harvard University from 1973 to 1978, then at the University of California, Santa Cruz from 1978 to 1994. Dr. Trivers was awarded the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences in 2007 for "his fundamental analysis of social evolution, conflict and cooperation." Dr. Trivers' book is entitled *Folly of Fools, The Logic of Deceit and Self-Deception in Human Life*.

Upcoming Merritt Events

Barbara Lee & Elihu Harris Lecture Series

This lecture series promotes an ample exchange of ideas to help inspire and move forward new leadership and servanthship. All lectures present Civil Rights leaders who worked closely with Dr. King, and who continue to work tirelessly for social justice. The lecture series recognizes the social justice vision, leadership and accomplishments of Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Elihu M. Harris.

Thursday, February 9th, 2012, 7pm- Dr. Bob Zellner and Jack O'Dell



Dr. Bob Zellner accompanied Dr. King in organizing for the movement and served as the first white field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He was one of the leaders of the Freedom Rides and the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964 and has recently published a memoir, *The Wrong Side of Murder Creek, A White Southerner in the Freedom Movement*.



Jack Hunter O'Dell began organizing in the National Maritime Union during WWII. As the Director of Voter Education for SCLC, Mr. O'Dell coordinated directly with Dr. King. After Dr. King's assassination, Mr. O'Dell went to Chicago with Jesse Jackson and helped create Operation PUSH, and later the National Rainbow Coalition. Mr. O'Dell was an editor of the quarterly journal, *Freedomways*, and served as Board Chair of Pacifica Radio.

April- Date and Time TBA



Congressman John Lewis, as Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, coordinated with Dr. King, mobilizing students and connecting them to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. At the historic March on Washington in 1963, Lewis spoke along with Dr. King. He is the only one of the ten speakers that day still living. In 1986, Lewis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Atlanta, GA, where he continues to lead and organize.

- February 1, 10am-12:30pm- Black History Month Kickoff with Bobby Seale in the Student Lounge
- February 1, 12:30-3:00pm- High School workshops in the Student Lounge
- February 6, 2:30-4pm- Film viewing Cornell Black Studies Origins in A206
- February 9, 12pm- MLK Freedom Center presents Jack O'Dell and Bob Zellner in the Student Lounge
- February 14, 12-3pm- Huey Newton Story in the Student Lounge
- February 15, John Carlos in the Student Lounge
- February 20, 11am-12pm- Jailhouse interview with MLK Jr. in A206
- **Women's History Month Events- TBA**

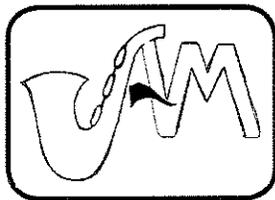
Faculty/Staff Spotlight



Dr. Jennifer Shanoski

Dr. Shanoski was born and raised in Detroit, MI, where she obtained a B.S. in Chemistry from Wayne State University. She made her way to the Bay Area to pursue a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from U.C. Berkeley and during graduate school, used a laser to study fast chemical reactions in solution and started teaching. After graduating from Cal, Jennifer moved on to Stanford University for a postdoctoral position, where she used more lasers to study single protein molecules. Eventually, she realized that teaching was more important to her than research and was hired at Merritt College. Jennifer loves her job, colleagues and students, and truly wants to help Merritt be the best that it can be.

Jazz at Merritt



Merritt College is proud to present the **Jazz at Merritt Lecture and Performance Series (JAM)**. JAM will feature two lecture and music events, along with a major event, the inaugural JAM Festival in September 2012. We expect upwards of 2500 people at this multi-cultural event, with world class performers, rivaling any event in the area.

Student Spotlight

Kalika Brewster was awarded the **Carter Gilmore Scholarship Award** from the Gilmore family, in honor of the late Carter Gilmore, a long-time community activist and businessman who sought to improve the lives of Bay Area residents. Mr. Gilmore was the first African American elected to the Oakland City Council. The \$500 award winner is selected by the Merritt College Scholarship Committee and approved by the Gilmore family. For more information on the Carter Gilmore Award, **contact Debra Jacks in Student Services at (510) 434-3896.**

The **Peralta Colleges Foundation Scholarship Winners** have been announced. The Board of Directors of the Foundation awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to committed, motivated Merritt students working toward the completion of their Associate's degree, certificate program, or academic requirements for transfer to an accredited four-year university or college. Applicants must meet specific requirements including maintaining 12 units or more with a minimum 3.0 GPA and submitting a 500 word essay. For more information visit www.peraltafoundation.org or call (510) 466-7206. The Merritt community congratulates this year's winners: **Jovelyn Posadas, Nadiya Tolstikhina, Anthony Young, Ethea Farahkan, Maria Duculan and Porsche Brownridge.**

2011-2012 Associated Students of Merritt College (ASMC) Leadership

President Sinead Anderson

Senators Ronald Moss Nickolas Garner BJ Phillips
Ikimia King Deirdre Ware

Secretary Keith Delaney

Inter-Club Council Chair Lynette Schwindt

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The next ASMC Meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2:00pm in the ASMC Chambers