



We Change Lives!



Volume 3, Edition 1- August 15, 2012

## MAKING NEWS

### President's Message

#### In This Edition

President's Message

#### Administrative Highlights

- New Deans
- Business and Administrative Services Manager
- Maximum Achievement Project

#### Faculty/Staff Spotlights

- Coach Compton
- Doris Brinkley-Hankins

Dear Merritt Faculty, Staff, and Students,



Dr. George Herring  
President, Merritt College

#### Shared Governance- Are you in or are you out?

I asked this question in 2006. I ask it again in 2012. I am committed to the shared governance process, while recognizing that faculty members are hired to teach, students are here to go to class and get an education, and classified staff are committed to serving students in their particular areas.



With these primary obligations, it is critical to have full participation from all facets of the college to get well-rounded discussion on various topics. Faculty Senate President Tae-Soon Park, Classified Senate President Molly Sealund, and ASMC President Sinead Anderson are my President's Cabinet Committee. The Cabinet does not replace any of the Shared Governance Committees. It is designed to provide a forum for the faculty, classified, and student leadership to have a more interactive relationship with administration.

#### Budget Update

The 2012-13 Budget is scheduled to be presented and approved at the September Board Meeting. This budget will reflect the uncertainty of the State's November elections. Merritt's 2012-2013 budget shows a 15% or \$251,471 reduction for the year. In June of this year, California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott said the budget poses significant challenges and risks for California Community Colleges. If the State Ballot Initiatives fail, the community colleges face another 15% budget reduction. Peralta's share is \$5,021,313.00. You are all aware of the Peralta Parcel Tax passed in June and thus the District will receive nearly \$8 million for eight years. This allows the District to have some funds to off-set the State's reduction. The College Budget Committee will start right away to plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year using the Integrated Planning and Budget Process.

The college is looking forward to the countless possibilities for improving student access and success.

#### 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

## Merritt Appoints New Deans



Dr. Stacy Thompson

Merritt is happy to welcome two new deans this year, Dr. Stacy Thompson and Dr. Gina La Monica. Dr. Thompson, who was appointed Dean of Academic Pathways and Student Success, has been with Merritt since 1999. Her accomplishments include establishing course offerings in Spanish and Cantonese to better meet the needs of the English Language Learning students served, which resulted in the completion rates for this population to increase significantly. Dr. Thompson obtained funding from Alameda County and state agencies to provide support services for child development students and provided leadership in the development of student learning and program level outcomes in order to meet the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges 2012 compliance deadline. Dr. Thompson also collaborated with other community colleges in Alameda County to develop a reciprocity agreement to facilitate child development students' completion of educational requirements for teaching permits and initiated contact with key community partners to establish a departmental open house event that provided a nexus for students to employment opportunities and community/campus resources.

Dr. Thompson is a Board Member for the Western Region Council on Black American Affairs and Oakland Head Start Advisory Committee, a member of Peralta Association of African American Affairs, American Association of University Women and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education, all from Mills College.



Dr. Gina La Monica

Dr. Gina La Monica has been appointed the Dean of Workforce Development and Applied Sciences and comes to Merritt College with over 15 years in higher education. Dr. La Monica has a Doctorate in Institutional Management from Pepperdine University where she was selected as the distinguished graduate of her graduating class. She holds a Master's in Exercise Physiology from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from California State University, Northridge.

Dr. La Monica started her educational career as a high school teacher, head coach and counselor, before obtaining a tenured professor position in the Los Angeles Community College District where she worked her way up to department chair and then director of an adult learning program called Program for Adult College Education. She was Interim Occupational Dean at Ventura College, then developed the occupational programs division at College of the Canyons. After 8 years creating innovative career technical programs, she became the college's Occupational Dean. During this time, she also taught at California State University, Northridge in their graduate educational program. She later created a cohort of graduate students at College of the Canyons where she taught most of the graduate courses and successfully graduated 15 students from that cohort.

After giving birth to twin girls Jenna and Sadie, Dr. La Monica stepped down as a dean and retreated back to the classroom for the next 5 years teaching, consulting, and writing grants for non-profit organizations. She also had her own radio show titled, "Dr. Gina's Healthy Kids Radio Show" and wrote a book titled, "Tidbits." In 2010, Gina returned to education full time as the director of an adult learning program at California Lutheran University and a faculty member in the School of Management.

# Administrative Highlights

## Merritt Welcomes Business and Administrative Services Manager

Dr. Dativa (Dettie) Del Rosario joined the Merritt family as the Interim Business and Administrative Services Manager. She came from the Peralta District Financial Services Office and brings with her a well-rounded experience in fiscal and accounting operations. Dettie has been with the District for over 15 years, starting at the Laney College Business Office, then on to the Bursar position at Berkeley City College, and then to the District Office, first as District Budget and Attendance Analyst, then Supervisor of Accounts Payable and Enrollment Management.



Dr. Del Rosario obtained her Bachelor's Degree (cum laude) in Accounting from St. Bridget's College and her Master's in Business Administration from Ateneo de Manila, both in the Philippines. She then earned her Master's in Finance and Accounting from American Intercontinental University in Atlanta, Georgia and completed her Doctoral degree in Education, with a concentration on Educational Leadership from Argosy University in Alameda, California.

Outside of Peralta, Dr. Del Rosario has maintained an accounting office that provides tax, accounting and other financial services to small businesses, non-profits and churches, for over 20 years. She has two daughters, Jeanne, a product of Berkeley City College, and Catherine, who graduated from University of California Davis. She has two granddaughters, Jillian, 10 years old and Kayleigh, 2 months old.

## Maximum Achievement Project Update



What's up with MAP? The answer to the question that everyone is asking- MAP continues to thrive!! After four years serving several hundred African American males, MAP remains a program that is recognized both on campus and in the community. Once a student makes the decision to utilize the comprehensive support services offered by the program, success is inevitable. MAP was invited to enter into ventures working with new populations, the most recent, the MAP Human Services Mentoring Program, an Innovative Project Grant Agreement from Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services in which Merritt's MAP Program partners with the County to provide enhanced services. The grant was developed to provide internships for MAP students in several County agencies, non-profit organizations and existing programs at Merritt. The group consisted of 17 students who were placed in the different agencies and mentored by professionals in the Behavioral Health Care field. Once acquainted with the operations, the students were allowed to handle some entry level duties, gaining hands-on experience. As the program draws to an end, several of the students have taken tests to qualify for permanent entry-level positions and seven have graduated and been accepted to four-year institutions.

As we start a new school year, students are again knocking on our door, trying to find out more about MAP and how to be exposed to the opportunities and support services that the program offers. The challenges are unending, but as long as our doors are open, students will receive top quality support to achieve their goals. MAP is here to stay!

# Faculty/Staff Spotlights

## Maurice Compton Receives Award

Coach Maurice Compton was inducted into the California Community College Cross Country and Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame, an honor in which the Merritt Community is very proud. Coach Compton is Merritt's former Head Track Coach and currently serves as the Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach. Coach Compton has been at Merritt for 40 years and was an All-American track athlete at San Jose State University.



## Doris Brinkley-Hankins Named Employee of the Year



This year, the Board of Governors, the State Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges recognized Doris Brinkley-Hankins as a 2012 Classified Employee of the Year. Doris is the Staff Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction at Merritt College and has been with Peralta for over 11 years. Doris currently serves as the Vice President of the Merritt Classified Senate and serves on several committees including the Merritt College Graduation Committee and Merritt Awards Committee. She is passionate about doing her best and always shows great interest in the tasks that she is assigned. As an alumna, Doris understands what it's like to be a student and believes that each student deserves the best from every staff member that they encounter. She was selected for the Peralta Chancellor's Leadership program where she learned how the community colleges function from the college level through the state level. Doris gives back to her community by actively participating in Life Skills 411, a program that assists youth with preparing to become strong leaders at home, and preparing and serving meals for approximately 400 people at her local church. In addition, Doris is a member of the Western Region Council on African American Affairs and the Peralta Association of African American Affairs. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Organizational leadership and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Business and Communications.

