



# Newsletter

November/December 2010

## KEEPING OUR SPIRITS JOLLY

Overwhelmed. Buried in e-mails. Dejected. Is that how some of us feel some mornings on the way to work? Yep, some days. Yet, why do we return the next day? For the Paycheck? The retirement benefits?

Yep, it's tough right now, and looks like it will be for several more years. How do we find the stamina to keep making a difference?

It might be in looking for the small differences we make in a student's or co-worker's day – just once, today. It might be in the satisfaction of one project well done. Or, a compliment from an unexpected source. Oh, how about humor? (The nice kind.)

**Speaking of Compliments:** At the last College Council meeting during the Program Review report, I asked what would the Council like the Classified Staff to know about the *pilot Non-Instructional* Program Reviews going on now. **Overwhelmingly, from around the room came:**

**“Tell Everyone Thank You!”**

**“We know that everyone is working much more than the normal volume of work and going waaay beyond!”**

**“We really appreciate Classified helping us so much!”**

That was nice! It wasn't even about program review! So, yes, you know I'm a 'nerd' and like to look on the positive side of things. Yet, I admit, these are very hard times and it is sad to see the students struggle to get into classes and receive counseling; and to see faculty and counselors challenged with extra students when they know we don't receive apportionment for them.

Send in any ideas you have for keeping our spirits up, and we'll publish them or post online to look at when needed. E-mail to LPC-ClassifiedSenate, or call me or one of the other officers with an idea. Even a little joke here and there helps!

To all District Staff -- wishing you the best ...  
... in the spirit of all peaceful holidays through the Ages,  
~ Sharon Gach

## THANKS TO THE HOLIDAY ELVES!

Each year for many years a group of staff members have planned an off-campus party for any classified member who wished to attend. This year's was held last Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to the Elves below who volunteered their time for others to be able to enjoy themselves, and especially to Judy Martinez, Head Elf.

**Appreciation** for a great party, and *some enjoyable stories*, to Lilia Camino, Sharon Davidson, Gail Ehrhorn, Judy Martinez, and Carmen McCauley.



## NEXT MEETING

**A Cookie Party and Exchange!**  
(With a few business items)  
Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m. - Staff Lounge

Bring some of your favorite cookies to share (or just any cookies, really) – and we'll have some nice social time together.

There are only a few items of business to conduct so the official section will be short, at the beginning, or as soon as we get 5 members in attendance (our quorum for members). The quorum for officers is also 5.

If cookies are left over, those who shared will be invited (*asked, begged!!*) to take a variety home for their holiday treat plate.



## MARK THE DATE: More “Hidden Gems” Classified Flex Day – February 11<sup>th</sup>

The Flex Day Planning Committee has begun putting together a program based on the input from the recent survey sent out. Survey responses included that we would like:

- A half day
- Motivational activity/talk
- Ice breaker activity
- Technical Training & a Speaker
- Info on PERS for retirement planning
- Time Management

For the upcoming flex day we are planning:

- Half day, plus optional new building tours in afternoon
- Banner Training in Student and Financial modules (2 separate sessions)
- Finding more of the “Hidden Gems of LPC” – a moderated surprise presentation
- Lunch (if financially feasible)

In future flex days we will mix it up a bit and offer other trainings, speakers and events. Just a note: the off-campus events cost quite a bit of money and people drop out while driving to and fro, so we have chosen an on-campus event.

If you'd like to contribute to Flex Day planning call or e-mail Jeff Sperry. (Our meetings are concise and speedy.)



## COLLEGE COUNCIL REPORT

The November 18<sup>th</sup> College Council minutes will be posted in the near future. Until then, here are some highlights from the meeting that Classified Staff may wish to know:

- The Participatory Governance Handbook changes have been received from committees; they will be put into the next draft for review in January. This has been in process for about a year, with all Committees reviewing their Charge and Purpose.
- Accreditation Follow-Up Visit – we will hear from the ACCJC in a few months on the acceptance/ comment on all our work since October 2009 visit. We have a new timeline for our ongoing work toward our next Accreditation Visit in Fall 2015. The new wave in the state is continuous planning and documentation.
- Strategic Plan – To find the completed and easiest to complete Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) an Ad Hoc Working Group of members from Planning & Budget Cte., Institutional Effectiveness Cte., and College Council will go through the huge list of KPIs and input the first-level status into the database for the Strategic Plan. Thanks to Dr. Machamer for keeping track of these hundreds of KPIs and dozens of committees and key reporting persons.
- Student Services will hold Mega Day, Sat., May 14<sup>th</sup>, for incoming Seniors to get all their registration and orientation done.
- Kudos to Veterans Program and Todd Steffan for the great Veterans Day events! Also to Dr. McElderry for the historical setting for the Pearl Harbor Survivors.
- Explained more about the Dublin Building, which the Board announced purchase of on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Chancellor has since spoken at the December 1<sup>st</sup> Town Meeting to explain more about the benefits of owning the building, how the leasing income will be used, and

other plans that need to be worked out over time. (My secret wish for that building: A really large Board Room that can be configured for many meeting uses! Oh, with quiet acoustical features also, while we're at it... s.g.)

- Discussed overwhelm in Counseling Department and how the counselors go the extra mile every day, plus do other events, such as Majors Fair, etc. Discussed trends in the state, how we may need to define student success in future, and that it is 'shameful' that students are in this position, and that counselors cannot serve students as they were trained and wish to.



## Wedding Shower for Webmistress (I mean, Web Goddess) Elizabeth Noyes

Almost everyone knows Elizabeth. Every time we need to post an event online, ask a Contribute software question, find out where to find a certain piece of information – that's when we go right to Elizabeth.

Therefore, a group from Classified Senate was happy to plan a wedding reception for her and new husband, James Grimm, on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Cards were signed, funds collected (\$157, quite a nice gift, thanks everyone), décor located, and retirees contacted. The well-used staff lounge was transformed for one late afternoon event by retirees Lettie Camp, Linda Peifer, and staffers Connie Reding and Virginia Edwards.

Best Wishes Elizabeth and James !



## Do You Know Of Other Celebrations, Life Events, Sympathy ?

If you know of other celebrations or life events for our Classified co-workers, please call or e-mail Julie Thornburg, Sunshine Person (ext. 1421). She would be glad to send an appropriate greeting on behalf of the Senate.



### LPC Classified Senate Officers – 2010-11

President	Sharon Gach	925-424-1001
VP Communications	Christie Verarde	925-424-1188
VP of Activities	Jeff Sperry	925-424-1655
VP of Fundraising	Cindy Balero	925-424-1548
Treasurer	Sharon Davidson	925-424-1632
Senator I	Cindy Ahre	<i>email only</i>
Senator II	Frankie Alexander	925-424-1690
Senator III	Todd Steffan	925-424-1571
Senator IV	Bill Eddy	925-424-1282
Past President	Natasha Lang	925-424-1634