

THAT'S CLASSIFIED!

Classified Senate Newsletter | December 2020 | No 001



Thank you for taking the time to read "That's Classified!" We couldn't be more proud of the efforts of the Classified Staff this year, and are honored to share a few of their perspectives with you. One of the goals of the Classified Senate is to create a space for disseminating information on issues that impact the Classified Staff and the College as a whole.

We recognize that it is not always possible to attend our monthly open meetings, and so we wanted to reach out in as many different ways as possible this year. Beyond the Newsletter, you can find more informa-

tion about the Classified Senate on our webpage and new Facebook and Instagram pages. If you have never been involved in Classified Senate before, or just want to learn more, there has never been a better time! Thank you to all of the article contributors, and we wish you all a wonderful new year. - Classified Senate Executive Board

Lessons From The Heart: My COVID Story **Pg. 2**

The Year the Earth Stood Still: Perspectives on Higher Education **Pg. 3**

The Sleeping Giant Awakes **Pg. 5**

Grief & The Holidays **Pg. 6**

On-Campus During the Pandemic **Pg. 8**

A Classified Calling: An Invitation To Support Diversity **Pg. 11**

Holiday Recipes **Pg. 13**

College Announcements **Pg. 17**

Entertainment **Pg. 18**

Lessons From The Heart: My COVID Story

By: Lisette Godinez

I grew up in a small brick house in Canyon Country. It was a three-bedroom home that housed four separate families at one point. The owners of the home are my mother's cousins, but I've always just called them my "tio" and "tia." My tio still calls me the funny nickname I gave myself when I was two and couldn't pronounce my name properly. My tia was always the backbone of our family. She made such delicious food that all our gatherings were always held in their home. She also taught all her cousins to cook, and was able to find jobs for them or house them when they needed it. Despite her kindness and vibrancy, her health had been declining lately. She's diabetic, has lost her vision, and also does dialysis, all of which has greatly weakened her body, but never her spirit.



When the pandemic started, my family was extra diligent. We washed our hands, wore masks when going outside, and we haven't sat down in a restaurant since last February. We went from monthly family gatherings to over eight months without a single family dinner. Like many others, we have missed birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and funerals. However, as COVID-19 spread through the summer, we learned that my great aunt living in Mexico died in September. Her daughters say she died from cancer-related issues complicated by a probable COVID-19 infection. Someone in the home she was living in had the virus but was not isolating, and my great aunt likely suffered as a result.

In October, some family members gathered together to hold a nine-day prayer for our great aunt's passing. It was a memorial service of sorts, though much of the prayer and song were cut down from the traditional versions. There was reluctance and debate about whether to hold this small gathering in the first place, but the family ended up moving forward

with it, as it was considered to be disrespectful otherwise.

Following the memorial gathering for my great aunt, my beloved tia and tio fell violently ill with COVID-19 and were later hospitalized. Others in my family caught the virus as well, including my cousin who just had a baby in July. The infant girl was sent to her mother-in-law's house, leaving my cousin devastated without her newborn baby for her three long weeks of recovery. Fortunately, my tia and tio survived, but tia was severely incapacitated from the experience. She's now become wheelchair-bound and requires constant oxygen to compensate for her decreased lung functionality.

In retrospect, it's easy to see that they should never have gathered for the memorial, especially given their preconditions. However, breaking from tradition is easier said than done in my family. While I continue to worry about my tio and tia often, I also fear for the safety of the rest of my family as this pandemic rages on with more and more cases. They are gardeners, car wash staff, cooks, and maintenance workers. They live paycheck to paycheck, and can't afford the luxuries of staying home or working remotely.

Ultimately, my life has been forever changed by COVID-19, and I just want others to know that for many of us, there can never be a return to the normal we once knew. Nevertheless, we can all do our part and help protect those we love by being vigilant and responsible with our actions. For the elderly and those with underlying health conditions like my great aunt and my tia, their safety depends on your decisions and actions. I hope my family's story and our pain will resonate with you, and perhaps even do some good by informing your choices.

The Year the Earth Stood Still: Perspectives on Higher Education

By: Michael Monsour

I used to enjoy going to the video store after school as a teenager. I'd browse the shelves and discuss film choices with friends and family, and bump into just about everyone I knew in the small town I grew up in. Being at the video store was an experience almost as powerful as watching the movies themselves (perhaps even more so). Around the year 2000, while I was awaiting the next new release to hit the shelves, the CEO of Blockbuster Video was meeting with the CEO of a new company called Netflix. This brief meeting was regarding the possibility of Netflix offering an



online video service for Blockbuster — a concept that was quickly rejected as a laughable novelty ([full story here](#)). Fast forward a few years, and Blockbuster is bankrupt while Netflix is now an entertainment empire. Despite loving the local video store, I admit that I contributed to its collapse. I simply couldn't resist having an instant rental, endless catalog of choices, unbeatable prices, and of course, no more late fees.

I can't help but think of this cautionary tale during Covid-19, and the parallels it offers to the higher education industry. Having tasted the online course lifestyle, will students become entranced by the catalog of online choices, no more parking and commuting fees, and the replacement of expensive paper textbooks with OERs and other digital texts? Will they prefer taking tests in their pajamas, and eating lunch during lectures? I recently listened to a forum of student athletes speaking about their hardships with remote education during the pandemic. There is clearly a large number of students, faculty, and staff that seek or truly need a return to on-campus life. I wouldn't be surprised if this group represents a considerable majority. Still, if only an additional quarter of students (or future students) opt for online learning post-pandemic, this will have a major impact on college infrastructures and operations across the country. To visualize this, imagine the equivalent of 1 in 4 physical classrooms going unused, or the impact this would have on cafeteria, bookstore, and parking revenues, all while the demand for email, phone, and chat support grows.

Natural sciences has an important lesson that bears repeating here; major global events accelerate change and spur evolution in unexpected directions, (just ask the dinosaurs). Those that survive are able to adapt to the changing environments. To be clear, I do not foresee College of the Canyons ever evolving into a fully online education service in the future. We offer a far too personal experience to trade up for that cold reality, and host too many disciplines that require hands-on experiences. However, the next chapter will likely require our College to stretch itself into new territory, with more robust hybrid operations than ever before. Key to this effort will be the continuity of student outcomes, regardless of which way students access our services.

Twenty years ago, in December of 2000, around the same time as Blockbuster was turning its back on Netflix, I rented the over-hyped Tom Hank's film "Cast Away." The love story with a volleyball turned imaginary best friend aside, the story of survival still has its relevance today. (Spoiler alert!) In the end, Hank's character survives the experience alone on the island, but he was never able to return to the home-life he remembered as the world had simply moved on. Despite this, the movie ends on an upbeat note as we see Hank's character find an exciting new (unexpected) future unfold before him. As "Covid-Castaways" in higher education, we too must find innovative ways to thrive during harsh conditions, and not allow the mirage of yesterday's normal blur our vision for tomorrow's possibilities.

The Sleeping Giant Awakes

By: Dr. Vida Manzo, Marilyn Jimenez & Lisette Godinez



Across the last 16 years, classified staff have seen their numbers increase by 63%. ¹ Participation/attendance at Classified Senate open meetings has also seen a historic increase of 400% in just the last six months alone. When asked about this phenomenon, Classified Senate President Michael Monsour stated "I believe it's a sign that the Classified staff want to participate in the process of decision-making more than ever before. In addition, through virtual meetings, Classified can now attend when they otherwise might have experienced barriers to participate in the past."

We spoke to some of the recent attendees for a deeper understanding of their newfound interest in the Classified Senate work. Maria Sanchez, an Administrative Assistant at the Canyon Country Campus, describes that "what prompted me to start attending the Classified Senate meetings was to get to know my colleagues in other departments at COC." But beyond meeting new people and keeping up with the social environment, Maria appreciates "getting an honest perspective from the Classified Staff on topics or issues." Lynn Huh, a Student Services Coordinator, recently started her career at COC in April of 2020, just before the transition to remote operations. She notes that it has been a particularly strange introduction to working here, with about 99% of her work having been remote. For Lynn, the opportunity to participate in the Classified Senate served as a form of unofficial orientation. Through the Senate, she has been able to continue to be informed about current events and issues, all while getting to know a little more about her colleagues. To others thinking about joining, she explains that "it's really easy to get sucked into your own work, but the Classified Senate shows what other work is being done around campus." As someone who is new to the college and our culture, she admitted she likes that people have reached out to her to make her feel included. "I feel more connected to COC."

It is no coincidence that the uptick in attendance (March 11th -April 16th meetings) occurred just as COVID-19 started impacting our college operations. The motivation for greater involvement and communication amongst Classified staff grew tremendously as a result. Prior to COVID-19, the average attendance rate was 13 staff members at Classified Senate Open meetings per month. Since COVID-19 hit though, the average attendance rate is now just shy of 60 staff members, with a peak of over 70 members. The Classified Senate Executive Board recently met about the importance of online access to meetings in October, and decided that virtual meetings should continue, even when a majority of operations return in-person. According to President Michael Monsour, "the Classified Senate Board must remain committed to reaching Classified staff in whatever capacity we can. We must recognize that having time to attend physical meetings away from one's primary worksite is a privilege of access, which can be more equitably mitigated through continued options that include virtual engagement."

Historically, the Classified have faced tremendous hurdles towards connecting with one-another and to collaborate on mutual goals. This challenge is partially attributed to the range of positions the Classified occupy - from HVAC operators, to ECE assistants, Researchers and Analysts, Campus Safety Officers, and from New Student Advisors to Laboratory Technicians, common ground hasn't always been a given. Furthermore, Classified work both day and night time shifts and across both our on-the-ground campuses, making it even more challenging to communicate amongst colleagues. Despite the diversity of job duties that make it difficult to connect Classified with one-another, it is this same variety of first-hand perspectives that have a tremendous potential to enrich our dialogues, planning, and decision-making processes at the college. If the upward trend of Classified involvement continues, plan on seeing more Classified Staff than ever participating and giving feedback in the new year and beyond.

¹ Data Source: 2018-2019 FactBook.

Grief & The Holidays

By: Gina Thompson

The holiday season, with its constant reminders of holiday joy and tradition, can be painful. Adapting to the absence of a loved one is especially difficult. I'm sure you know people who wish they could skip from late October right to mid-January.

There are more than forty life events that can occur in our lifetime that cause a grieving experience. Two of the most common losses are death and divorce.



It's normal to worry that you won't be able to handle the pain of the holiday season, whether the missing loved one is a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, or child. You may even think you'd rather miss the holiday entirely. Those feelings and fears are not illogical or irrational. They represent a normal, healthy range of emotions about painful loss and our society's limited ability to talk openly and honestly about grief.

What is grief? Grief is the normal and natural reaction to loss, but almost everything we learn about dealing with loss is NOT normal, NOT natural and NOT helpful. Grief is also the conflicting feeling brought on by the end or change in a familiar pattern of behavior. With the quarantine and the holidays approaching, now, more than ever, there is an emotional price tag we are paying with all of the changes we are experiencing. Finally, grief is the feeling of reaching out for someone who has always been there, only to discover, when you need them, they are no longer there.

What steps can we take to have a better holiday season?

1.) It can start with an awareness and acceptance that we don't have to feel a certain way during the holidays. We have been conditioned to believe that we have to feel special (often over-commercialized) feelings at this time of year. Take that pressure off. Just this little mental reset alone will open up your heart to experience your life in a more present way.

2.) Don't isolate yourself. Take care of yourself by setting time to talk with safe people or at least a safe person (this can be done virtually or over the phone). Think of contacting someone you can express your heart to without being judged.

3.) Be honest with yourself and others. Think about what you can and cannot do this year.

Perhaps you are not grieving this year, but want to know how you can support a griever this holiday season? In this case, allow the griever to talk about what happened. This holiday season, there will be plenty of hurting people who, given the opportunity, will want to talk about someone they miss. Bring up the topic and allow them to decide if they want to talk about it with you or not (never pressure anyone to share beyond what they are comfortable sharing). You can see where others are at by using simple phrases like: "I heard about the death in your family. I can't imagine what that has been like for you." The use of the word imagine invites an answer without ever asking a probing question. It implies that whatever the griever says will be acceptable and will not be judged or criticized. Avoid phrases like "I know how you feel," since every relationship is unique, therefore every griever is unique. The key is to be empathetic and to listen to others with an open heart. Be a heart with ears. This is a sign others look to for genuine support.

Gina Thompson is a [Grief Recovery Specialist](#), certified and trained by the Grief Recovery Institute. Because of the recovery she experienced from grief, she has a heart and passion to help broken hearted and grieving people. She regularly leads 8-week Grief Recovery groups, where she assists grievers in how to recover from the pain of loss.

On-Campus During the Pandemic:

Classified Staff Share Their Stories

By: Marilyn Jimenez and Michael Monsour

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a critical group of Classified heroes kept our campuses running through their on-the-ground efforts. A testament to their character, these Classified Staff sprang into action to ensure that the overall function of the college would continue to operate smoothly. Despite working at a time of uncertain health risks, these dedicated individuals pushed forward for the betterment of everyone. Entire departments, like those working in Information Technology, Facilities, Communications, Campus Safety, Early Childhood Education, Nursing, BaNC, and so many more, rose up to the challenge. It's impossible to recognize all of the unsung actions of the Classified and other employees that went above and beyond, but there are a few case examples that embody the spirit of the staff dedication during this unprecedented time.

Communications Center



Cathy Dieters



BJ Lundgren

Imagine being the operator for calls from a mass of confused parents, staff, and students as the transition to remote learning occurred. In the days and weeks following the transition to remote operations, the Classified staff of the Communications Center did the impossible. BJ described the scene during the first weeks as chaotic times - "we were simply bombarded." Cathy notes that "some may have the idea that with only a few people on campus, things must have slowed down for us, but things have been as busy as ever – the mail and calls never stopped." BJ and Cathy appreciated having the support of their supervisor Wendy Trujillo, who "went above and beyond to help them get through this tumultuous time." We asked Cathy what she wanted others to know about their jobs, and she discussed how people should check-in with them more often. The Communications Center staff don't mind you calling to ask if your mailbox is filling up, but they do mind when your mail and packages get to the point of overflow without ever hearing from you.



New Communications Center Video-Doorbell & Intercom System has now been installed outside the door.



New Communications Center outdoor "Outbox" and "Inbox" for a contactless exchange!

In closing, we discussed how the new video-doorbell and intercom system will help people feel more comfortable coming to collect their items. Cathy described that if you approach the Communication Center, they can now simply "speak to you through an intercom speaker outside of the building." People can also just pull-up in their cars and call, and then wait for their items to arrive in the "outbox bin" for a fully contactless exchange (there is also an "inbox bin" that you can drop-off items in outside the building).

Whether you've seen their work in action these past months or not, these campus liaisons were on the very front lines. The other student-serving departments simply wouldn't have had time to regroup and formulate their plans for virtual services and communications without their continuing efforts to keep the college running.

Facilities



Justin Bradshaw

While the Communication Center was operating at full steam, our Facilities Operations Classified Staff were ensuring areas were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, our packages were being processed, our phone lines kept working, and our grounds, physical plants, plumbing, and HVAC were all maintained. For custodian Justin Bradshaw, the work on campus never stopped, but he remains upbeat and looks forward to helping out wherever he can. He explained that he takes great pride in being "one of the people that helps to make things safe," and he is "honored to be trusted" with this task. He wants others to know that he feels the weight of the responsibility of his custodial work, and does his best to clean to a standard that should instill confidence in the safety of campus buildings. We asked what concerns he still has, and he admitted that there are "scary situations," especially when cleaning areas known to have been recently visited by Covid-19 positive cases. He noted that, while the custodial (and other facilities) crews are doing fantastic work, and are managing to keep up with the current level of traffic, trying to do so during a major scale-up of on-campus personnel operations in the future is going to be a challenge. Simply put, the more people on campus, the more rigorous the cleaning will need to be, and it is unclear where the additional staffing hours and personnel will come from for this potential demand. We concluded our interview by asking what one thing he'd like others to know about custodians is, and he stated that "if you come across a custodian in passing, just let them know you appreciate them," it makes a big difference.

Early Childhood Education



Teresa Rodney

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center is another place where our Classified staff have braved the on-ground conditions. Theresa Rodney is one of three Classified that helps sustain the Valencia ECE area. Her primary role is the front desk operations, which helps regulate the flow of student, staff, and parent traffic in-and-out of the Center. It is one thing to return to campus in environments where everyone knows how to socially distance and adjust their behavior accordingly, it is another to serve children whose behaviors and social skills are still developing. Even as Covid-19 cases appeared at the Center and resulted in a temporary closure, Teresa stated that everyone is “doing the best they can under the circumstance.” She explained that a key challenge is working through the various stressors, since the ECE has generally “been through a lot in the past year.” She noted that after the fire at Canyon Country Campus damaged that center, the Valencia campus shouldered the responsibilities of housing the additional students. Despite the fires, COVID-19, and the uncertainty of future budgets for everyone, the ECE staff have remained role models of flexibility, perseverance, and service to both the District and our community.

Campus Safety

Classified Campus Safety staff have continued to work on campus during these challenging times, helping to keep our campuses safe. But safety in a pandemic takes on a whole new meaning. New dangers that were unheard of before, are now more commonplace. One example is the risks of helping to direct lost members of the public, some of whom are looking to get their COVID-19 tests completed. We asked Tom Thompson about his experiences working in Campus safety and patrolling the Canyon Country Campus. He described that with Covid-19, (or any other emergency for that matter), it really makes a big difference that “all his colleagues have law enforcement backgrounds.” He stated that working through emergencies “is just in our blood.” A lot of people may not know that these employees were working long before clear guidelines and the College Covid-19 plans were finalized. They were there before anyone knew the severity of the illness. Tom describes coming to campus in those early days of the pandemic as “eerie, like working in a ghost town.” Tom also noted that since the onset “the students have been great, but the general public and construction crews are more challenging.” Despite the College community being well-versed in our protocols, our campuses are frequented by outside visitors. From vendors, to construction crews, to joggers, it's been hard enough trying to keep our own employees and students safe, but these invited and uninvited guests add to the complexity of it all. We asked what concerns he has going forward for his department overall. He mentioned that “with the SERP/retirements, they are going to be losing officers,” and retraining replacements is challenging given the emergency we are all in.

How ever this pandemic ends, we are all sending our campus safety officers our appreciation for their combined efforts during these uncertain times.



Tom (Tommy) Thompson

“A Classified Calling: An Invitation To Support Diversity”

By: Dr. Vida Manzo



The recent nationwide call to action for social justice and institutional reform has created our very own call to action here at College of the Canyons. This movement towards addressing systemic and institutional racism centers on identifying possible barriers for underrepresented groups and importantly, opening dialogues, developing goals, and improving processes to address these issues.

At a time when our student population turns to faculty and staff as role models a closer look at who is reflected among the staff is key. The most recent [data available](#) by College of the Canyons Human Resources illustrates that Classified staff are 337 employees strong, making them one of the largest employee groups in the district.¹ While all employee groups have become more ethnically diverse over the years, the Classified efforts and contributions towards campus inclusiveness extend far beyond their diverse demographic make-up.

Classified staff are actively taking on efforts to maximize student-engagement, and are helping to establish a culture that embraces diverse perspectives. Whether through the Caring Campus Initiative, chairing the Dreamers Taskforce, leading student Alliance groups, serving on the Institutional Effectiveness and Inclusive Excellence Committee (IE)², or helping to launch the Multicultural Center, the Classified have been stepping-up in this important work.

To better understand the Classified motivation for getting involved, I went straight to the source. Student Services Technician Adam Wyland of the Veterans Resources department, stated that “I attended (IE)² initially as a listener, to simply forecast any changes that may impact my role. However, at one meeting, I was able to provide vital information that could have unknowingly but negatively impacted our Veterans abilities to access their financial benefits.” This was an eye-opening experience for him, and he hopes that more Classified will come to actively participate in the dialogues that inform the campus culture going forward. Administrative Assistant Marilyn Jimenez describes her rationale and passion for working on the Dreamers Taskforce - “our undocumented students simply need to feel safe and supported on campus.” She realized that the Classified Staff can play a critical role in building that environment of trust and acceptance and wanted to be part of it.

Similarly, Academic Advisor Anthony Morris, who is an Alliance lead and helps run the local chapter of “A²Mend,” indicates that the choice was simple. In observing the environment around him “there are few African

American males on campus, it was a needed role to be there for African-American/Black students.” Anthony, along with Senior Research Analyst Dr. Preeta Saxena, both indicated that they viewed their participation in COC’s LEAP (Leadership Education in Action Program) as an invitation to contribute to these discussions and both acknowledged that the support of their supervisors and departments has been key. Preeta became a champion for the Multicultural Center efforts after her research for LEAP revealed “there was truly a gap in the institution where students at the time did not have the opportunities (outside of a select list of courses) to engage in activities, discussion topics, and learning, in a way that fostered growth.” She further stated that this “caused me to reflect on my own journey in higher education.”

Contemplating on my own higher education experience was the catalyst for becoming involved in the work of the Latinx Alliance, a group that helps demystify the college journey by providing mentorship and resources for Hispanic/Latinx students and provides a space for these individuals to feel heard, empowered, and celebrated. Like so many of us, I wish I would have had more support navigating college, and want others to have a more positive experience than I did. Regardless of your background or calling, the important thing is that the Classified staff and the entire College community continue to show support and active involvement in building a culture of inclusiveness through whatever means they can. Anthony Morris concluded our discussion by stating “Classified staff are invited and their voices must be heard, it will add to what the future of COC looks like.” This is your invitation.

¹ Data Source: Fall 2019 COC Human Resources Demographics https://www.canyons.edu/_resources/documents/administration/humanresources/EmployeeDemographics1.pdf (This includes Classified represented and Confidential)



Holiday Recipes

Special thanks to all Classified Staff for sharing their Holiday recipes!

Nutella Star

By: Dr. Vida Manzo

Description

A fun and festive spin on making crescent rolls into a dessert everyone will love.

Ingredients

- 4 cans (4 sheets) crescent roll dough
- 1 – 13-ounce jar Nutella

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius). Line a baking pan with parchment paper.
2. Roll one sheet of crescent roll dough into a 10-inch circle, using a 9-inch cake pan as a template. Lightly press the edges of the cake pan into the dough to leave an indent of a 9-inch circle.
3. Open the jar of Nutella and microwave for 20 to 30 seconds, until it reaches a spreadable consistency.
4. Spread $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Nutella evenly across the dough, staying within the borders of the indented 9-inch circle.
5. Repeat step 2 with another rolling of a crescent roll dough sheet. Carefully lay it on top of the first circle and press the edges down to seal the two layers together. Spread this second circle with Nutella. Repeat again with a third crescent roll sheet so that you have a stack of 3 layers of dough, each spread with Nutella.
6. Roll the fourth and final dough sheet into a 10-inch circle. Carefully lay it across the top of the stack and press the edges together to seal the Nutella in between the layers.
7. Place a small glass in the center of the circle.
8. Cut the dough into quarters around the glass. Cut those quarters in half, and then in half again, so that you end up with 16 equal slices. Remove the glass from the top.
9. Twist two pieces of dough twice in opposite directions from each other, lightly pulling on the dough to stretch it longer. Tuck under the ends so they won't unravel. Repeat with the rest of the dough to create the star pattern.
10. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until the star is golden brown.



Pumpkin Cupcakes

By: Samantha Escalera

Description

A holiday must have dessert, makes 24 delicious pumpkin cupcakes.

Ingredients

- Flour: 300 g
- Baking Soda: 1 tsp
- Baking Powder: 1 tsp
- Salt: 1 tsp
- Pumpkin Pie Spice: 1 tsp
- Eggs: 4
- Sugar: 200 g
- Brown Sugar: 200 g
- Oil: 1 cup
- Pumpkin Puree: 1 lb.

Prepare Dry Ingredients

1. In a large bowl or container, mix (or whisk) together: flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt & pumpkin spice. Set aside.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. In an electronic mixer, mix eggs until broken up and well mixed.
3. Add the sugar and brown sugar to the eggs.
 - a. Mix well until all lumps of brown sugar are broken down.
4. Add in oil & pumpkin puree. Mix until well incorporated.
5. Add dry ingredient mixture to liquid mixture in 3 or 4 batches until just incorporated.
6. Continue to mix just until all ingredients are well incorporated. Do not over mix!
7. Place cupcake tins into your cupcake pan. Fill each tin about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
8. Bake at 325 degrees for 20-25 mins or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.
9. While baking, prepare the Cinnamon Cream Cheese Frosting.

Cinnamon Cream Cheese Frosting

Ingredients

- Powdered sugar: 750 g
- Cinnamon: 1 tsp
- Butter: $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
- Cream Cheese: $\frac{3}{4}$ lb
- Salt: $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp
- Vanilla: $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp



Prepare Dry Ingredients

1. Sift together powdered sugar and cinnamon.

Directions

1. Cream the butter and salt until creamy and smooth.
2. Add in the cream cheese. Mix until well incorporated w/the butter and creamy.
3. Add powdered sugar in batches. Mix until incorporated.
4. Add vanilla and mix until well incorporated and creamy. Do not over whip!
5. Frost cupcakes once cooled.

Creamy Rotel Sausage Dip

By: Lisa Raigosa

Description

This dip is a tradition in our home and we make it for just about every gathering we host or attend. It travels well too! It's quick, simple, uses few ingredients and tastes delicious. Serve it with tortilla chips and fresh cut veggies for dipping.

Ingredients

- 1 - 8oz package of cream cheese (bring to room temperature)
- 1 - 10oz can of Rotel Original (or hot, if you like it spicy) - drained of juices
- 1 - Jimmy Dean Premium Pork Regular Sausage Roll

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a mixing bowl, combine softened cream cheese and Rotel.
3. Brown sausage in skillet until it is cooked through. Use a wooden spoon to crumble it into smaller bits as it cooks. Drain the fat.
4. Pour the hot sausage over the cream cheese and Rotel and mix thoroughly.
5. Transfer to a baking dish (I usually use a 9x9 Pyrex dish) and put into the preheated oven.
6. Bake for approximately 25 minutes or until the top begins to brown and bubble. Carefully remove from the oven and enjoy with tortilla chips (Tostitos Scoops work well!) and/or cut veggies.

Notes

For a lighter version, you can substitute reduced fat cream cheese and reduced fat sausage. The difference in flavor is undetectable.



The Best Ever Chocolate Chip Cookies!

By: Jamie Page

Description

The base for this recipe originated from a cookbook that my mom received when she married my dad 58 years ago "Cooking for American Homemakers." We have been making these cookies for as long as I can remember and have modified it over the years to become our very own version. It is a crowd pleaser, slightly crunchy on the outside with just the right amount of soft on the inside. We like to add walnuts or pecans to ours, but you can leave them out if you choose.



One of my good friends always jokes that I must leave out an ingredient whenever I share a recipe because they never turn out the same as when I make them. I jokingly tell her that I am the missing ingredient! I assure you that if you follow the directions, you won't be disappointed.

Ingredients

- 2-1/4 Cup - All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 tsp - Baking Soda
- 1 tsp - Salt
- 1 Cup - Crisco Shortening
- 3/4 Cup - Light Brown Sugar
- 3/4 - Cup - White Sugar
- 2 - Eggs, beaten
- 2 tsp - Vanilla
- 2 Cups - Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1 Cup - Chopped Nuts (Pecans or Walnuts) can omit if you prefer

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
2. Sift flour, baking soda, and salt together and set aside.
3. Cream shortening, brown sugar and white sugar together.
4. Add egg and vanilla and beat thoroughly.
5. Add sifted dry ingredients next and mix until combined.
6. Fold in chocolate chips and chopped nuts.
7. Scoop dough onto baking sheets and bake for approximately 10 - 11 minutes. (Time will depend on your oven and how big you make your cookies.)

Notes

This recipe will make approximately 50 cookies using a tablespoon sized scoop.

The Perfect Holiday Spicy Drink (AKA Wassail)

By: Gina Thompson

Description

A wonderful cold weather beverage for the holidays, and as a bonus your home will smell wonderful from the aroma of spices in the air! Serve warm or hot.

Ingredients

- 8 Cups apple cider
- 2 Cups orange juice
- 2 Cups cranberry juice
- 6 sticks cinnamon
- 12-16 whole cloves

Directions

Simply, combine and simmer ingredients together for 15-20 minutes and then pour through a strainer. You can also put spices in the basket of a large coffee maker/percolator and put the juices in the bottom. Percolate until done.



College Announcements

A space provided for general information about current events or actions

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed life and work for all of us. You may feel anxious, stressed, worried, sad, bored, depressed, lonely or frustrated. You're not alone. The College has compiled a variety of coping resources available to you that can be found here: <https://www.canyons.edu/administration/pio/notices/wellness-resources.php>
2. The Classified Senate will resume its monthly open meetings in January, 2021. Typically, these meeting take place on the second Tuesday of the month at 11 am. The Classified Senate will send out Zoom and meeting information in the preceding week. All are welcome!

Entertainment: Fun & Games

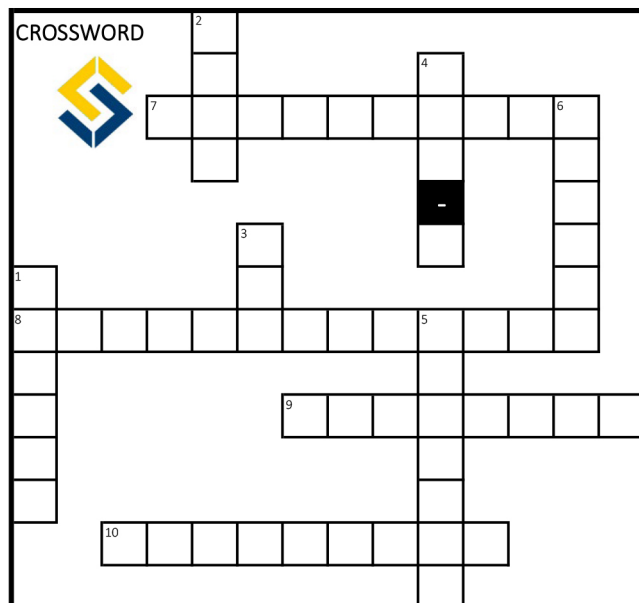
By: Ashley Murphy

Classified Senate _____ (1) Award; an award granted to a Classified Professional whose contributions include participation on campus-wide committees, enhancement of communication throughout the entire campus community, encouragement of unity throughout the campus community, and participation in leadership in leadership and staff development opportunities.

Current format to attend Classified Senate Open Meetings is _____ (2).

Acronym ____ (3); Committee that reviews policy changes and new district policies proposed by the Academic Senate, Student Senate, Classified Senate, and Administration. Comprised of representatives from Faculty, Classified, Administration, and Student Leadership.

Acronym _____ (4); Committee designed to provide oversight of the development of the budget, encourage understanding of the budget on an ongoing basis and work to ensure that the budget allocation process is driven by campus-wide planning and strategic priorities.



[Click here for a fillable PDF](#)

Classified Senate Open Meetings typically occur the second _____ (5) of the month at _____ (6) am.

The COC Classified Senate is dedicated to supporting participatory _____ (7) for the Classified Staff within the Santa Clarita Community College district.

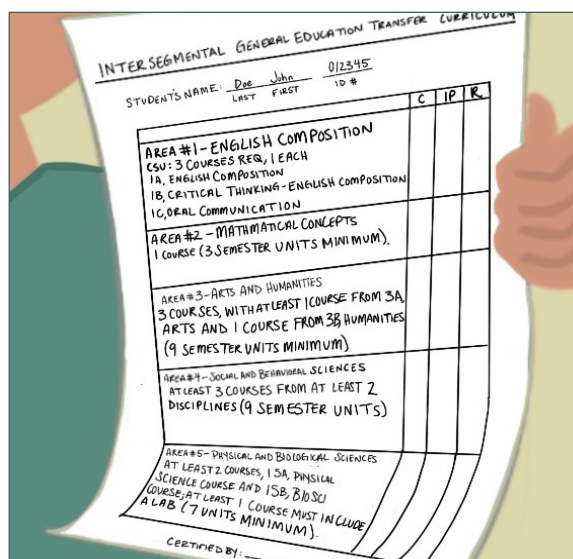
Complete our Classified Senate _____ (8) Form if you want to help: Review District plans or policies, participate on committees (and share what you have learned with others), attend board meetings, plan social events, work on social media, work of future newsletters, or join another Classified Senate action group!

You can find us on Social Media at _____ (9) and _____ (10)! (Hint: Classified Senate Website Home Page)

Answer Key:

1-Spirit; 2-Zoom; 3-CPC; 4-PAC-B; 5-Tuesday; 6-Eleven; 7-Governance; 8-Participation; 9-Facebook; 10-Instagram

The Word Puzzler: What the transfer student said to the counselor...



Answer Key: ICETC

COC Classified Senate



President: Michael Monsour
Vice President: Justin Hunt
Secretary: Marilyn Jimenez
Treasurer: Dr. Vida Manzo
Communications Officer: Juan Renteria
Senator 1: Fred Bobola
Senator 2: Ashley Murphy