Male nurses at Samuel Merritt University help recruiting efforts in a female-dominated profession. Elizabeth Valente, ADVANCE for Nurses. June 17, 2009
Less than 6 percent of the more than 2.1 million RNs working in the U.S. are men, according to the 2004 Leading by Example
In May, BSN graduate Michael Davidson and current BSN student Juner Valencia re-established the Bay Area Chapter of the American Assembly for Men in Nursing (AAMN), the first men in nursing organization west of the Mississippi. AAMN aims to provide a framework for nurses as a group to meet, discuss and influence factors that affect men as nurses.

Valencia noted one of those factors is the ongoing nursing shortage. Despite California’s rise from 50th nationally to 45th in nurses per capita, there is still a need to educate more than 200,000 RNs by 2014. “Having good mentors is really important in this profession,” Valencia said. “This group will serve as a good resource for students and it’s a great way for people to network. I want to see our profession grow and the Bay Area chapter is one more step in being able to break down some of the negative stereotype about nursing and men in nursing.”

Getting the message out is why both Davidson and Valencia are working on a schedule that will allow them and some of the 50 chapter members to go into diverse communities around the Bay Area to talk to local high school students on an informal basis.

“By going out to the communities we can educate and encourage young people from diverse backgrounds to go to college and pursue a career in nursing,” Valencia explained. “Being a man and standing in front of a high school crowd and telling them, ‘Hey, I am a nurse and I love it,’ right there you are serving as a role model and hopefully we are reaching one guy in the class as we do that.”

“Although some people may feel a little uncomfortable at first sight of a male nurse, for the most part society is becoming more open-minded and comfortable with men as nurses,” Davidson continued. “But I do think we still need to educate the public and fight these stereotypes that nurses are the handmaiden of the doctor and that male nurses are more than just extra muscles.” To help keep the flow of dialog open and resolve the issues that involve men in nursing, the chapter allows women into the organization. The group openly discusses discriminations and biases that women, including nurses, physicians and patients, interject.

“We are fortunate at Samuel Merritt University that the female students with their male colleagues see each other as just nurses,” Valencia said. “A lot of that comes from the University’s School of Nursing faculty, who have been a tremendous support. They openly address potential problems, such as when patients might feel uncomfortable about having a male nurse, or raising the issue about nursing salaries.”

Recruiting Efforts
“The best way to recruit more people is first to speak well of nursing as a profession,” Davidson said. “Second, urge male student nurses to develop friendships with their female classmates. I’ve learned so much from the women who are colleagues of mine. The thing to focus on is men and in nursing is that men and women are both nurses.”

Click here for full article: Men in Nursing Article
Message from the Men Allied for Nursing and Education Presidents:

My name is Juner Valencia and I graduated from Samuel Merritt University (SMU) in December 2009. In 2008 I joined Men in Allied Nursing and Education (MANE), and eventually became Co-President with Michael Davidson. MANE’s vision is to promote Men in Nursing and help continue to outreach and advocate for male nursing students. During our tenure, we strengthened the capacity of the organization and created a virtual forum for students to discuss Male Nursing issues. We ensured that male nursing students were a significant presence at school events, orientation, and other SMU events. We established the MANE seal and recruited the governing body. Later, we trained Todd Yee as the next president of MANE. During my last semester I was able to work with Todd as MANE President and as the Student Body Association President. I was one of the first male nursing students to be president. Craig Elliott (VP of student affairs and MANE advisor), Mariel Bautista, and Ed Azar were the current SBA current governing members and they helped me grow into the SBA leadership role. SBA under my involvement not only flourished with nursing students but it also exposed an active group of male nursing students.

The School of Nursing was also intricate in nurturing me as a male nursing student. Dr Margaret Early attended MANE’s first meeting and we all shared a riveting discussion about men in nursing that showed the openness and welcoming of male and female students. Our school does a tremendous job in nurturing the males at SMU. We have numerous faculties in our campus and satellite campuses that provide an environment for male nurses and are approachable with our personal needs.

What sets us apart from other Schools of Nursing is that Samuel Merritt University produces more than 265 Nursing students from Bachelors and Master programs each year. Another aspect that sets us apart from other school of nursing is our Male nurses were intricate in establishing and maintaining a chapter in collaboration on numerous events and activities.

Our School of nursing is involved in helping the students increase male nurses in their program. They have supported us and provided with the tools to grow and advocate for a more diverse male nursing environment in their curriculum. We have a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on Men in Nursing done by our students on the MANE website.

Todd Yee has continued our vision of MANE and will soon past it on to the new Presidents of MANE, Michael Guiang and Chidozie Ibe.

Juner Valencia
RN, BSN, PHN
Class of December 2009
President of Men Allied for Nursing and Education 2009
President of Student Body Association 2009
American Assembly for Men in Nursing Member

My name is Todd Yee and I am a Male Nursing student at Samuel Merritt University. I have been a student here for 3 semesters and have one semester before graduation. I have found that being a student at Samuel Merrits has been a great experience so far. I have had support from male and female students and faculty. I feel that being a male nursing student automatically sets me apart from the majority, but here at Samuel Merritt I didn’t feel any form of tension from me being a male nursing student. I have been involved with Men Allied for Nursing and Education, M.A.N.E., as President and also Student Government as my cohort representative and now the current president of SBA. My professors and student affairs and student Body Association have guided me to find my way in this nursing program and they helped me with my responsibilities.

It was not until Health Assessment lab and clinical when I first realized that certain procedures and situations sometimes required a different approach. This is when I realized how M.A.N.E. can help me with nursing school. Luckily Todd was my teacher’s assistant for Health Assessment lab and he was readily available outside of class. At Samuel Merritt University, Todd and other students and faculty have guided and given me support during my first year of nursing school. I could remember attending one of M.A.N.E. meetings and being told to have confidence in my skills and education. After attending a few of the M.A.N.E. meetings I implemented the advice I have received into my everyday life, especially clinical practice, and found that it has helped tremendously.

Now as Co-President of M.A.N.E. I am excited to provide outreach in our communities and promote nursing as a profession to the youth, with an emphasis on males. I am also looking forward to supporting future nursing students as I have been by other nursing students and faculty.

Michael Pierre Guiang
Samuel Merritt University BSN Student
Co-President of Men Allied for Nursing and Education 2010

My name is Michael Pierre Guiang and I am currently a BSN student at Samuel Merritt University (SMU). In the two semesters I have been at SMU, not only have I learned a lot about myself, I have also learned that nursing is the profession I want to pursue. I remember first hearing about Men Allied for Nursing and Education (M.A.N.E.) at junior orientation. I was approached by Todd Yee, the president of M.A.N.E., and also a nursing student. Todd explained to me about his organization and their goals. At the time, being a nursing student without any type of experience, I can honestly say I did not understand the need for such an organization. In a female dominated field, I felt that there should not be a barrier between female and male nursing students.

As a student of M.A.N.E. I have attended many conferences and events that taught me about male nursing. These conferences have also taught me how to network with other nursing campuses, and promote awareness and a coalition with our female nursing counterpart. We’ve all been able to interact and discuss our ideas on how to encourage more males to go into nursing.

I am part of the SBA at SMU and I have been a student here since 2008. As a member of the SBA, I have been involved with many conferences and events. We have a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on Men in Nursing done by our students on the MANE website.

I am also involved in the SBA as a Board member and I am also a member of the nursing club. I have been able to attend many conferences and events with the nursing club and the SBA.

I am now a Co-President of M.A.N.E. and I plan to keep going the word out about the group on campus, promotes males in nursing at local middle and high schools, and assisting the nursing department with reaching its goal of diversity and equality in nursing education.

Chidozie E. Ibe
BSN Nursing Student
Co-President of Men Allied for Nursing and Education 2010

A Message from the President of Samuel Merritt University:

Even though males are the minority in nursing, I have never felt like one at Samuel Merritt University. The SMU Nursing department, faculty, staff, and students treat me the same way as their other students. They have provided me an environment for all students to grow and learn. The nursing department is welcoming and nurturing to all students, Men Allied for Nursing and Education (M.A.N.E.) is there to let students (especially males) know that there is a group dedicated to providing them a helping hand in their times of need, whether it be academic, emotional, or networking support. As the Co-President of M.A.N.E., I plan to keep getting the word out about the group on campus, promoting males in nursing at local middle and high schools, and assisting the nursing department with reaching its goal of diversity and equality in nursing education.

Sharon C. Diaz, PhD (hc), RN
President and CEO
Samuel Merritt University

Men in Nursing
A Woman's Perspective

During my undergraduate program there was one male student who was one of my three best friends. I don't recall him commenting or me noticing that he was treated differently. In graduate school I don't think there were any men in my class.

I came to SMU then Samuel Merritt Hospital School of Nursing in 1973 after completing graduate school. It was progressive and determined in particular ways but not in others. Until then it had been all female. All students except those women who were married, lived in the residence hall. That year the first male student was admitted. The faculty and administration didn't know what to do with him. —Grayly he could NOT live in the dormitory with the womenurnished in truth the students accepted him readily into the midst and he became regular at all of their in-dorm and out-of-dorm activities. —Grayly he could not take care of women in obstetrics though nearly all obstetricians were crafted to be inclusive of men in our previously all female environment. I am happy to report that I believe the environment is inclusive and welcoming and that the artificial barriers are gone today. Still, in my opinion, there are not enough men in nursing. Samuel Merritt actively recruits men and welcomes them. Overall roughly 25 percent of the SMU students are men. Unfortunately, there are larger numbers of non-nursing programs and men number approximately 50 percent of the nursing - a far cry from 0.5 percent in 1973. I am proud to have been a part of this transition and look forward to the day that the number is even greater. Nursing is a phenomenal profession, for men and women alike.
Marketing Materials

M.A.N.E has a Facebook account that is available for the general public to view,
To view, click here: Facebook

The Scoop is a campus-wide publication highlighting different organizations on campus and the work they have done in the community. Men All for Nursing and Education has been highlighted in the Scoop several times for their contributions to the community and men in nursing.

M.A.N.E has used marketing material provided by Johnson & Johnson’s campaign to bring awareness to nursing as a profession. The marketing materials used were handed out at career fairs and high schools in the community. Johnson & Johnson resources

Throughout campus there are photos depicting gender and diversity at Samuel Merritt University

Career Fairs/Public Relations

Todd Yee and the M.A.N.E. group have been an incredible asset to the School of Nursing. Their energy for community programs, whether it is collecting clothes for local shelters or raising money for their members to attend the National AAMN conference is a presence on this campus we respect and support. Several of the male nursing students accompanying nursing faculty to Oakland Technical High Schools Career Fair, spring, 2009. It was wonderful to watch them reach out to male high school students who had not considered nursing because it was “for girls”. Our students spent the afternoon talking to up the school’s program as well as the role of men in nursing. As a long term nursing faculty member, I am impressed with the quality of male students we have on our campus. The School of Nursing will continue to support and recognize their important contribution.

Gail DeBoer, RN, MS, Assistant Professor, Samuel Merritt University

Upcoming Conference and Recruitment

Conference: The Diversity Committee, Craig Elliott, and the School Directors have all indicated important contributions. The conference will be one that is available for the general public to view, whether it is collecting clothes for local shelters or raising money for their members to attend the National AAMN conference is a presence on this campus we respect and support. Several of the male nursing students accompanying nursing faculty to Oakland Technical High Schools Career Fair, spring, 2009. It was wonderful to watch them reach out to male high school students who had not considered nursing because it was “for girls”. Our students spent the afternoon talking to up the school’s program as well as the role of men in nursing. As a long term nursing faculty member, I am impressed with the quality of male students we have on our campus. The School of Nursing will continue to support and recognize their important contribution.

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The student body association is a presence on this campus we respect and support. Several of the male nursing students accompanying nursing faculty to Oakland Technical High Schools Career Fair, spring, 2009. It was wonderful to watch them reach out to male high school students who had not considered nursing because it was “for girls”. Our students spent the afternoon talking to up the school’s program as well as the role of men in nursing. As a long term nursing faculty member, I am impressed with the quality of male students we have on our campus. The School of Nursing will continue to support and recognize their important contribution.

Gail DeBoer, RN, MS, Assistant Professor, Samuel Merritt University

Testimonial

When we approached the school about forming a men’s group they were extremely supportive, and the student body association readily recognized us as a formal group and provided funding. The student body association appreciates the importance of sending a representative, Douglas Frey, to the AAMN conference in New Orleans, and although they had not budgeted for it, found a way to make it happen. Douglas had an excellent experience in New Orleans and came back inspired after meeting many gentlemen with similar concerns and experiences.

The school’s support continued as membership in the organization grew. Douglas did a research project on creating a welcoming environment for men in nursing school and developed twelve recommendations which he presented to the nursing department, further helping to raise awareness. Douglas also researched and found scholarships the school could apply for that included men as minorities in nursing, which the school has since applied for and offered $10,000 scholarships for men last year and will offer more this year.

Douglas Frey ELMSN

Testimonial

In my long career as a nurse educator, I have treasured my association with men interested in entering the profession of nursing. From the beginning of my career as an academic, I have been interested in the topic of men in nursing, presenting my dissertation research at the 24th annual conference of the American Assembly for Men in Nursing, Celebrating Men in Nursing in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1998. Since that time, I have enjoyed working with men at SMU as they pursued careers in professional nursing. I appreciate the unique experiences and perspectives that men bring to the enterprise of giving nursing care to people, sick and well. Often, men come to nursing having life experiences in business, the military, and in other realms. The experiences and perspectives of men in the classroom make for interesting and valuable interaction, and I feel proud that I have contributed in any way to launching the careers of my male students.

-Dr. Margaret Rivero Early, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, Chair, BSN Program – Samuel Merritt University School of Nursing
Efforts made to link male students with role models, such as male faculty and/or male nurses in the clinical setting

For those of you who I have not met, I am Scot Foster, CRNA, FAAN, PhD, Professor and Academic Vice President and Provost at Samuel Merritt University. I was recruited to SMU in 1994 to become Director of the new nurse anesthesia program. At that time, I was Director of Research, Department of Anesthesiology, UCLA and before that, Assistant Professor of Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Kansas, from where I graduated. I’ve been a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist since 1974 and was named Provost at SMU in 2003.

My graduating class in nursing at the University of Kansas (1974) had 104 graduates, six of which were men. Two of us became CRNAs, one a nurse practitioner in family practice and the others are lost to history. Being a male nurse in the 70’s in Kansas was not an easy job. I remember a nursing faculty telling me before my interview for school that I should keep quiet about wanting to be a CRNA, as that was “too much like medicine.” I dealt with a lot of stuff including refusing to go to pinning because of religious overtones, refusing to wear a “sinister” type shirt on the floors so I would “blend in” and dealing with the fact that I never had an OB rotation because it was “not an appropriate venue for men.” I know that much has changed in that regard.

Although the number of men in nursing has increased marginally in nursing since that time, it is still difficult, largely because nursing in its early years had very strong undertones of a subservient nature which I couldn’t buy into. I think a lot of my peers wondered if I was capable of “caring” as that was not a traditional male role, years back. As a result, I felt I could contribute best to nursing over my lifetime by becoming and nurturing leaders in the profession, where I (we) would have a “footprint” of sorts to make nursing a more welcoming place for men and demonstrate that men bring something very unique to the profession and general sparse no opportunity to say so! Since that time I have been truly honored by having many of my past graduates assume a variety of state and national positions that advocate for nursing, especially nurse anesthesia.

As a result, I returned to graduate school, and became heavily involved in state and national politics of nurse anesthesia organizations. After 5 years on the national board of the Directors of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (40,000 of us), I was elected President in 1997. During that period I was also elected to the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN), largely for my work and advocacy for nurses in national politics and for authorship of several books.

SMU has been at the forefront of supporting men in nursing, primarily through its work with the national organization of men in nursing. SMU was the place where their first major PR video was made several years ago. SMU proudly boasts a very comprehensive Community Outreach Coordinator: Breathe California of the Bay Area

Their passion for healthy lungs driven by the March of Dimes March for Babies, Breathe California ING Bay 2 Breakers Race, clothes drives, and making care packages filled with hygiene products.

I am a male with 29 years of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN) and 13 years as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). I joined Samuel Merritt University five years ago and became a full-time professor as a means to mentor those entering the profession. I felt compelled to share my knowledge and experiences with those coming into the field. Although I do not discriminate, I have been drawn to the special needs of men entering nursing and this sensitivity comes from my own experiences as a male nurse.

As a male nurse, it was difficult to enter the field. Twenty nine years ago men were labeled in a negative light. Although times have changed, some stigma still lingers in the field of Nursing for men. I feel it is time to relieve this stigma and I am the example. I am proud to be called a Registered Nurse and hope to inspire other men by my professional experience as a nurse. In my new role, I teach, practice and am always available for men who need advice. I maintain an “open door policy” for all our male nursing students.

I love my profession and love the work that I do. It is my mission to mentor, inspire and advise all men struggling with the issues of being a male and entering the field of Nursing.

I am always available for all male (and female) nursing students who need to talk. I am a listening ear.

I love my role as an Assistant Professor and Associate Director for the Program of Nurse Anesthesia. With my voice I am making a difference for men in the profession by example.

Nursing, at its core, welcomes all persons who are willing to provide compassionate and competent care to those in need regardless of the sea of the nurse. I work to see that men entering nursing —don’t walk in my shoes as we have proved that the old stereotypical view of the male nurse no longer applies.

It is a pleasure to write this note as evidence that Samuel Merritt University welcomes and supports all men entering the field of Nursing.

Sincerely,

Marc Everett Code, CRNA, MSN
Assistant Professor, Associate Director
Program of Nurse Anesthesia
Samuel Merritt University

Activities of the local chapter of the Student Nurses Association highlighting men in nursing

The members of Samuel Merritt University’s Men Allied for Nursing and Education are a great addition to our volunteer core at Breathe California of the Bay Area. As a health and environmental organization, Breathe California participates in various health and wellness events, educating our local community about lung disease, smoke-free environments and air quality. On May 15th & 16th, MANE answered our urgent call for volunteers to staff our agency’s booths for the ING 2010 Bay 2 Breakers. This group of young men and women exhibited great enthusiasm for promoting our mission to fight lung disease in all its forms and for educating the 32,000 race participants about clean air and smoke-free communities.

Their passion for healthy lifestyles helped to draw many advocates to support our agency’s campaign for the California Cancer Research Fund Act and resulted in over 200 signatures collected. Breathe California is lucky to have the opportunity to work with such an energetic and knowledgeable group.

- Alethea Corpuz
Community Outreach Coordinator: Breathe California of the Bay Area

Testimonial

I have been a Financial Aid Counselor for a decade now and have worked at different colleges offering other majors. One of the many special things I have discovered here at SMU is the passion of the nursing students and their commitment to make a difference after they graduate. Certainly our male students are just as passionate as their female colleagues and I feel that they are really happy to be attending SMU.

Adel Mareghni
Financial Aid Counselor

Testimonial

I’ve come across a lot of organizations in the school. One of the organizations that stand out is M.A.N.E. Through different situations this organization stood up for me as a student and has held different events benefiting the community. M.A.N.E represents a diverse group of individuals, representing leadership throughout SMU and communities.

- Jeanette Jackson, BSN Student
As a kid, I've always had the drive and motivation of becoming part of something bigger than I. As I worked through school trying to maintain the grades needed in order to transfer to Samuel Merritt University for Nursing, I noticed that I was one of very few male nursing majors. Although the female to male ratio was very uneven, it did not push me away from my major, but made me question whether or not I should be trying to continue to pursue a career in the medical field other than nursing. Also, there are many stereotypes labeled towards men wanting to become nurses, which made me feel uneasy. However, I was lucky to meet three men who were nursing majors at Samuel Merritt University: Juner Valencia, Todd Yee, and Joel Capuyan who helped me feel more comfortable about males in nursing. As I continued transferring to SMU in the Fall of 2010 and I'm glad to hear there is a group available to help not only men, but everyone who is excited or has questions about nursing.

Jabari Smith
Future Male Nursing student at SMU.

Youth in Medicine Graduate

The School of Nursing (SON) established a director of diversity. The SON is dedicated to increasing Male Nurses and diversity. In-services and emails are sent out to open up discussions of diversity at SMU.

MANE and SMU have given numerous lectures to young students in high school and middle school. Youth in medicine has done a great job with male nurses in awareness and increasing Male students in becoming a nursing student.

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The nursing school or college must provide evidence that their efforts have resulted in an increase in the number of men applying to the program, admitted to the program, retained in the program, or in improved program evaluations from male graduates.

Please view the Samuel Merritt University Fact Book for detailed information and statistics. Click here for data: Fact Book

Pgs: 52, 65-66, 78-79, 82

The nursing school or college must be accredited by either the National League of Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for the program to be eligible for funding. This is also the first step in a major career change.

Once I was accepted into SMU, I began to think about the different challenges I would face. In the short time that I have been enrolled, there have been numerous opportunities to share ideas, work on group projects with other students of various educational backgrounds and write papers that give my viewpoint on issues in the nursing spectrum. In my class, often the male student’s opinion is sought because it brings to light some of the challenges that men may be faced with in this profession.

Whenever I have questions, I always feel that I can approach any of the staff with them and receive excellent guidance as to what my next steps should be. I’m also supported in small personal campus projects that support school values and objectives as well as larger projects such as the Global Brigades medical mission in Panama that I’m leading for August 2010.

The nursing school or college must have met the NCLEX pass rate of 80% or higher for the past three years.

Samuel Merritt University NCLEX Passing Rate

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th># Taken</th>
<th>% Pass</th>
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Universal Healthcare Reform &
The Single-Payer Option
Problems, Solutions, and Common Concerns
(April 15, 1-2pm) HEC 312

By:
JB Fenix, MPH, CaPA Fellow 2009-2010
MD Degree Candidate 2011, MS4, PRIME II

CaPA.Fellow@PNHP.org
CaPA.PNHP.org/CaHPSA.org/
Facebook.com/CaPA.Fellow
Twitter.com/CaPAFellow

Contact: Juner Valencia

Testimonial

My background and future interests of healthcare have been community-based. I believe healthcare is something that all people have the right to receive. Unfortunately, one cannot deny the inequalities that hold positions in social injustices among underrepresented and underserved communities. The steps that must be taken to ensure healthcare for all is in the education of both client and provider toward holistic healthcare. In my experiences, Samuel Merritt University (SMU) faculty in Sacramento has strived to instill the idea of holistic healthcare into its students. To take a holistic approach is to listen to a client as a person, taking all aspects of the client’s life into account, and not just the sickness. The faculty educates not only in the teaching of skills and theory, but with personal stories about being nurses.

Some of the most important and influential times I have had with my SMU education thus far have been listening to professors’ stories of the evolution of nursing; the importance of patient advocacy, the relevance of nurses in politics, the great influence that we as nursing students make, the important part that men play in nursing, and more.

My experiences of applying to SMU included both faculty and students who offered to answer any of my questions. As a former higher education outreach and retention coordinator, who appreciates the kindness of SMU, I have enjoyed returning the kindness by attending informational meetings to help prospective SMU students. I see nursing as a profession that helps people with their lives and that includes helping fellow students. This is the type of action that forms an atmosphere for true healing.

I am happy to be a nursing student; and, I am happy SMU is educating me to help me reach my goal of becoming a nurse. Nursing is a field that brings immense challenges. Healthcare itself can be very unforgiving. I look forward to the challenges that await me.

Dale Mendoza ELMSN-FNP program in Sacramento

Self-Defense Classes at SMU

Improve your awareness!
Build confidence!
Increase assertiveness and get a great workout in!

Come learn some basic self-defense techniques for men & women. Classes are for students, taught by students. Open to all SMU students and faculty. All levels of experience welcome.

All proceeds benefit M.A.N.E. (Men Allied for Nursing and Education)

**Space is limited to 30 students, so sign up quick!!!**

Fee: $10 (financial hardships can be worked around)

Contact info: Munir Mogannam

Activities of the local chapter of the Student Nurses Association highlighting Men in Nursing

M.A.N.E.
Men Allied for Nursing and Education

OF SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY

Has teamed up with Dr. Joan Bard to ask you for your unused clothes for our

Clothing Drive
That we will be donating to
Project Homeless Connect

Please donate your unused and unwanted clothing to a good cause. We are accepting Jackets, Shirts, Pants, Socks, Shoes, and anything else you think would help someone during the winter time.

For more info contact Todd Yee @ todd.yee@samuelmerritt.edu

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