



## College of Alameda President's Report November-December

Dec 6, 2011

### ***New Director of Alameda County Social Services visits COA***



On July 2, 2011, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors announced its unanimous appointment of Lori Jones as Director of the Alameda County

Social Services Agency (SSA), effective July 3, 2011.

On November 16, 2011, President Jackson along with college faculty, staff and administrators hosted a reception for Ms Jones and introduced her to local community leaders, including Mayor Marie Gilmore. Ms Jones oversees critical safety-net programs such as child welfare, adult protection, CalFresh (formerly food stamps), Medi-Cal eligibility, and cash aid. With over sixteen years with Alameda County, Lori has led the design and implementation of a number of highly successful programs, some of which are considered best practices.

Ms. Jones shared her vision of what the future holds for her agency, its challenges, its poor public relations image and what she has done, and is doing, to improve services to the community. There was much discussion on collaborative efforts with the agency and the College as well as an inspirational testimonial from COA student Dawn Hauser, who shared her story about the Social Services Agency and the College's CalWorks program.

Ms Jones is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and Mayor Gilmore graduated from Stanford; as such, the meeting concluded with a friendly rivalry between the two over who would win the upcoming Stanford-CAL BIG GAME football trophy. The score at the end of the game held the following Saturday was Stanford 31 CAL 28. Needless to say, Mayor Gilmore is probably still smiling.

## *Diá de Los Muertos!!!*



The **Latinos Unidos** Student Club at College of Alameda, sponsored the Dia de Los Muertos Cultural event, Tuesday, November 1, 2011. Dia de los Muertos or "Day of the Dead" started as a Mesoamerican celebration to remember deceased ancestors and is observed on November 1st & 2nd. The holiday honors the lives of the

deceased, and celebrates the continuation of life; the belief is not that death is the end, but rather the beginning of a new stage. The holiday is especially popular in Mexico where it is a national holiday, but it is also celebrated in the Philippines, Brazil, and in Mexican-American communities in the US, and to a lesser extent, in other Latin American countries. Fun was had by all, with food, music and cultural displays to include an **"Altar Display"** with the first prize recipient, Daisy Martinez receiving \$50 in prize money.

The event also launched a clothing and toy drive that is being conducted in association with the San Francisco Hispanic Lions Club, and the Alameda Multi Cultural Center which will run through December 12th. Guests were asked to drop off a new toy or a used toy one in good condition to locations throughout the campus. The toy donations will benefit under privileged children in places including the Oakland Children's Hospital, San Francisco General Hospital, Highland Hospital (Oakland), Casa de las Madres (Battered Women's Shelter) & your toy & children's clothes will benefit & the children of the Philippines, Manila (Valenzuela City in the General T Leon neighborhood).



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**OPEN FORUM: state of the STATE, PCCD and College of Alameda  
November 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 – 2:00pm in the "F" building**

An open forum and panel discussion was held Nov 8<sup>th</sup> during the College Hour to address the budget and the ramifications this has on the college's operations. Other topics that were discussed included:

- What is happening at the state level, and
- How this has affected the district, and
- Specifically, what this means for COA
  - o COA's reorganization and staffing plans,
  - o Spring 2012 class schedule and the courses that were cut in response to the anticipated budget shortfall, and
  - o Recommendations by the State Student Success Task Force.

The presentation was recorded by Peralta TV and the video of this event can be found at the following website: <http://pspanperalta.blogspot.com/>

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***Dance Instructor Danny Nguyen Honored***

For the fifth time Professor Danny Nguyen has been invited to perform and teach a master class at City College of San Francisco Fifth Annual Dance Collage. As part of COA's Dance Department's community outreach activities, COA dance students will enjoy the

opportunity to demonstrate the beauty, diversity, and artistry of their newly acquired dance skills in front of a huge audience from different community colleges in Northern California. Professor Nguyen has re-choreographed his 10 minute dance to tribute to the victims of 9/11.

The Concert featured performers from 9 Bay Area Colleges: Canada College in Redwood City, Chabot Community College in Hayward, College of San Mateo, College of Alameda, Foothill College in Los Altos, Napa Community College, Skyline College in San Bruno, San Francisco State University, and City College San Francisco (CCSF).

## ***OUTREACH FOR RETURNING VETERANS***

### **Honor a Hero / Hire a Vet Job/Resource Fair**

College of Alameda's Vice President of Student Services, Dr Kerry Compton represented the College at the annual Employment Development Department (EDD/Oakland) Job Faire whose theme was 'Honor a Hero / hire a Vet'. In collaboration with the college's One Stop Career Center the event was held Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at the Cathedral of Christ the Light convention hall in downtown Oakland.

In keeping with this theme, the College of Alameda sponsored a VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER event at the Peralta District Office atrium area, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00pm. President Jackson and Chancellor Allen shared with the veterans their unique experiences while serving in the military. Veterans expressed their appreciation for the bounty of vendors present and the informational workshop. It is hoped that this will become an annual event as more veterans return from service in Iraq and will be in need of educational resources and assistance.



Ambassador dog Bernie

## **Resource Fair Saturday Nov 5<sup>th</sup> at College of Alameda Focused on Wellness**

<http://alameda.patch.com/articles/resource-fair-saturday-at-alameda-college-focuses-on-wellness>

Wellness is the watchword for this Saturday's free A.C.C.E.S.S. Resource Faire being held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the College of

Alameda, in celebration of *National Disability Awareness Month*.

The biannual event, sponsored by the City of Alameda Commission on Disability Issues, was first held in 2009 and attracted 100 attendees. According to fair organizer, Leslie Krongold, Ed.D., this year the goal is to increase that number and broaden the event's scope.

**Event is for everyone, not just those who identify themselves as "disabled"**

“We want to appeal not only to people who have obvious limitations, but those with hidden disabilities, the aging population and parents of children with an array of special needs, as well,” Krongold said. “This is an opportunity for people to see what resources are available not only for themselves, but for friends and family members.”

