



President's Newsletter

Spring - Summer 2012

New COA Website to Debut July 30th

The new COA Website (based on Wordpress) will *GO LIVE* on July 30. We have taken precautions to make sure the process goes smoothly; however, the site may be unstable for the first day or two--so, please be patient, and plan accordingly.

After the switch is made, the main COA website will still be located at <http://alameda.peralta.edu> and also at <http://www.alameda.peralta.edu> but all other pages on the site will have new "urls". We will be manually creating/redirect links for the top used sites, but if you have bookmarks to pages on the COA website bookmarked, you may need to update it with the new url after we *GO LIVE*.



Many of the key players that currently have pages on the new website have been trained on updating their pages but Jane McKenna will be available throughout the fall for one-on-one training regarding how to update pages on the new site and also how to set-up new users with their own pages.

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Many thanks go out to the COA Website Committee Members for all of their hard work over the last year planning the new site. This was a huge volunteer effort.

Jane McKenna, COA Website Chair

Faculty & Staff: (student)

- Bala Sampathraj*
- Shane Williams*
- Mary Shaughnessy*
- Kelly Pernell*
- Robert Brem*

Matrice Candler

- Ed Loretto*
- Muriel Montague*
- Rochelle Olive*
- Mark Swiencicki*

and the administrative support of the VPI and VPSS

HAIL & FAREWELL

Several individuals of the College of Alameda family have indicated that they are retiring this year in order to take those trips they always were too busy to schedule, to write another volume of prose, to smell the roses or just to bask in the sun!

Currently, Dr Kerry Compton, Vice President, Student Services; Yvonne Carter, Director, Dental Assisting Program; Len Feldman and Rahim



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Noorbakhsh, Math Instructors; Wendy Williams, English Instructor, Hector Corrales, Counselor and classified professional, Arvid Williams, Library Technician have all announced their intentions. We would like to thank them for their commitment to College of Alameda and their consistency of effort and support to our students. We wish them long life and good times.



At the same time, COA would also like to welcome the following NEW staff. **Dr Mercy Popolla** has been working in our Nursing Office, as Patricia Dudley has been assigned to the district-wide health initiative housed at Laney College. Mercy's career as a nurse and educator has spanned over 28 years beginning with a diploma in nursing in 1984 ending with a PhD in nursing in 2000, from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO. Although, she has worked in many areas of clinical practice including the intensive care unit, Mercy's first job in the United State was as a College Nurse for approximately five years!

Mercy has been in academe for over twenty-eight years and has taught both in traditional and online courses to students in Graduate and Undergraduate Nursing programs, Health Care Students and in an MBA program. Mercy is a holistic thinker and tends to look at the whole picture in every situation and from a health promotion praxis perspective.

Valeria Carey is one-of-our own, a product of the Peralta District, having graduated with an AA degree in Liberal Studies from Vista College (now Berkeley City College). Later, she received her BA degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley and has her Masters in Counselor Education from California State University, San Jose. She has been an adjunct Counselor at College of Alameda since 2010 working in CalWorks, EOPS and CARE. In April she was hired full-time as the Counselor for the ATLAS Program.



Valerie says she welcomes the opportunity to meet with students who are just beginning to launch his/her college career, as well as those who may be returning student--who may be in a different stage in life. "I am here to encourage students to keep an open mind with the endless possibilities that higher education can provide. There is no time like the present to realize your dreams, use your talents,



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and fulfill your potential!"

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Shuntel Nathaniel began as a student at the College of Alameda in 1998, and was hired in 1999 as an hourly classified employee, working evenings in the mailroom. In 2000, Shuntel was hired permanently as the College of Alameda's receptionist. Shuntel has worked as a full-time employee and has been raising her daughter as a single parent. Shuntel recently decided to start taking classes in the evening, in order to complete her A.A. degree in Psychology. Shuntel has reached her goal as of this spring and graduated with the Class of 2012.



The 2012 year has been a red-letter one for Shuntel, as she was recently hired as the position of Business and Administrative Services, replacing Janet Barnett, who retired last year. Now that Shuntel has completed her A.A. in Psychology, she plans to enroll at California State University East Bay, where she will pursue her B.A. in Human Development with a focus on the Adolescent Development Option. Shuntel wants to use educational advancement to help further her *Clean Teen* program, which focuses on support for teenage girls that are interested in learning how to deal with peer pressure and other obstacles which impact their ability to grow and thrive. *Congratulations!!*

Cougar Scholars - College of Alameda Program Helps Foster Youth

By Nathan Donato-Weinstein

Reprinted from the Alameda Journal, 7/9/2012



Jamar Mears with students

Jimmie Jones was a new student at College of Alameda when a thief took off with his bag; a bag filled with pricey textbooks for his automotive-repair classes. The bag's loss could have been devastating for the 18-year-old, a former foster youth with a passion for cars.

Instead, Jamar Mears, a counselor at the college, marched with Jones to the campus bookstore to purchase replacements. Problem solved.

It's all thanks to the school's Cougar Scholars program, which provides support for emancipated foster youth.



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The bookstore gift cards that replaced Jones' supplies are, in fact, a tiny part of the effort. The bigger help comes from monthly workshops on life skills, informal weekly gatherings to talk about recent challenges and allies like Mears who help the students navigate the often confusing educational system and stay on track.

"We've had workshops on stress management and coping skills, and sometimes we just talk about everyday life and what's going on," said Mears, the program's coordinator. "Some of these kids have trust issues, so we help them work through that."

A \$20,000 grant from the Foundation for California Community Colleges, funded by the California Department of Social Services, pays for the College of Alameda program, including Mears' part-time position. Eighteen of the state's 112 community colleges receive the grant, officially dubbed Youth Employment Strategies for Success, and implement their own version of the program, said Colleen Ammerman, program director at the foundation.

"The goal of the project is to teach independent living skills -- financial literacy, career preparation and daily living skills," she said. "And the overarching goal is to help these youth get workforce development training." It's easy to see why that's so important. According to a 2010 University of Washington study, only 48 percent of former foster youth were employed, while 72 percent of their non-foster-youth peers held down jobs.

A big reason is education. By the time foster youth age out of the system, they're likely to be behind academically. Less than 50 percent graduate from high school, and fewer than 10 percent of those enroll in college, according to the San Francisco-based Transitional Age Youth Initiative. A fraction receive degrees. Being in foster care "often means moving from one school to the next," Ammerman said. "It's hard for them to keep up academically, and many who do enter college need remedial skill training."

At College of Alameda, about 35 students at the school are involved, though Mears believes many more could benefit. He'll also help connect students with community resources such as housing services that many students may not be aware of. There is anecdotal evidence the program is making a difference. Jones said Cougar Scholars has helped broaden his horizons. When he first started at the college after completing his high school diploma, Jones knew he wanted a certificate in automotive repair. After talking with Mears, he realized he could achieve a better job by transferring to a four-year school and majoring in industrial design. He now hopes to design high-style concept cars.

Transferring isn't for everyone, though, and success can also be measured by completing a vocational program or finishing an associate degree. Mears is working to find more former foster youth to get them into the program. In addition to seeking out current students, he's scouring high schools to let these students know that College of Alameda will provide the unique support they need to make it in college.



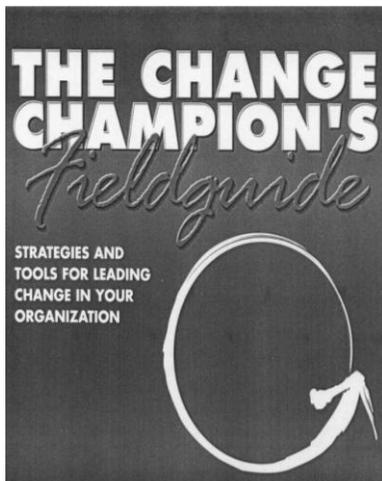
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As for Jones, he said perhaps the biggest benefit is the sense that former foster youth have someone on their side -- and that there are others in the same boat. "All of us have different stories, and this lets us get together and share them," Jones said.

Futures Workgroup: A Gathering of Positive Deviants



On Saturday, April 14th over 60 faculty, staff, administrators and students gathered at the Elk's Lodge to chart a course for College of Alameda's future. Students provided their vision of what College of Alameda should look like in the future and using this data as well as that gathered during the 2004 visioning session and the January 2012 Flex Day Futures meeting small breakout groups tackled such issues as what will future Curriculum, Technology, Student Support look like; as well as how do we address equity issues as identified in the Equity Plan.

Students from Robert Brem's independent study class presented the work they are doing to develop a student centered course on *Leadership Resiliency in Social Movements: Changing the Educational Paradigm--Infusing Human Rights, Community Organizing and Democracy into Education*. And students, from the ADALANTE and APASS Learning Communities, presented a student- developed video that was later presented to Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Educational Workgroup. Many credit this presentation with persuading the workgroup to recommend to Congresswoman Lee that she support the Peralta Measure B initiative. Adjunct Instructor, Carolyn Johnson also shared her students work that is part of her Entrepreneurial Program; the class includes students developing products and showcasing them using the format of the hit program "Shark's Tank". The students' videos can be viewed on YouTube here are a couple of samples: [Where is Campus Life?](#) and [Study Hall Solutions](#) . To learn more search for COA and Shark Tank. All-in-all the response was that it was a fun and engaging event. Stay tuned...there's more to follow in the fall and spring semesters.



Community Meeting - Webster Street SMART Corridors Project

On Tuesday, May 22nd the Alameda Public Works Department held an community meeting at College of Alameda to discuss and provide comments on the proposed Webster Street SMART Corridors Project designed to improve transit reliability and service, emergency response, air quality, and traffic management.

The SMART Corridors Project is designed to:

- Coordinate traffic signals, enabling buses and cars to move smoothly and at a safe speed along the street
- Provide buses with capability to extend the green time at signals (signal priority), reducing delays and improving transit reliability
- Provide Fire Department vehicles with capability to change signals to green (signal preemption), improving emergency response time
- Install five (5) non-recording cameras to provide Police Department with real-time monitoring of traffic conditions and to provide appropriate emergency response, as incidents occur
- Provide enhanced bicycle detection at all intersections
- Install traffic signal at the Webster Street and Pacific Avenue intersection
- Install three (3) traffic advisory signs to alert public to emergencies and accidents in the Posey Tube when they occur and recommend alternate routes
- Install equipment to measure traffic speed and collect traffic data

Project Limits: The proposed project is along:

- Webster Street between Central Avenue and the Posey/Webster Tubes



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- Constitution/Buena Vista Avenue intersection
- Ralph Appezato Memorial Parkway/Third Street intersection

A project report and presentation is posted on the following web page under "Current Project Documents:" <http://www.cityofalamedaca.gov/City-Hall/Traffic-and-Transportation>. For additional questions please contact Mr. Obaid Khan, Supervising Engineer, by email at okhan@ci.alameda.ca.us or by telephone at 510-747-7930.

ACCJC Board Continues Peralta Colleges "Warning Status"

On July 9th, Chancellor Ortiz sent out a personal message regarding the recent decision by the Accrediting Commission on the status of our site visit in March 2012. Unfortunately, ACCJC's Board decided to keep the colleges on warning, the "lowest" of the actions they could have taken, but obviously, not what was hoped for given the huge progress that has been made in addressing their concerns. Printed below are excerpts from the Chancellor's email.

"In its letter, the Commission acknowledged that the Peralta Colleges have made "significant progress" in addressing its previous recommendations. However, the Commission outlined four areas where further work is needed. (The letter is posted on our Accreditation Webpage at <http://web.peralta.edu/accreditation/>.)

As with previous ACCJC reports and letters, none of the areas cited by the Commission involve our academic programs or the quality of instruction at the Peralta Colleges. The warning status is the least of the three levels that the Commission issues, and 17 colleges across the State are on warning or higher status.

We have a strong accreditation team in place and are working accordingly to develop a plan with all of our constituent groups to address the four areas cited by the Commission. We will meet the Commission's timeline in issuing our follow-up report and will demonstrate that the recommendations outlined by the Commission are being completed and that full accreditation for our colleges should be reaffirmed.

Thank you for your continued work in providing our community's students with quality educational opportunities. I look forward to working with you in making the Peralta Colleges a State-recognized community college leader."

The Commission will be making another visit in March 2013, to review the progress we have made on their recommendations, as well as, to review whether we have attained sustainability in Program Review, SLOs and Assessment.

As evidenced by the recent reports coming from City College of San Francisco, things could be much worse, CCSF is currently on "show cause" and has been directed to prepare a "close out report" by next year. Given that only



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four college received full accreditation in 2012, College of Alameda cannot let up on our efforts, we have come so far, and the issues addressed in the report, are ones that the district is working on correcting by the March 2013 deadline, and the passage of Measure B helps to address the recommendations on fiscal capacity and stability. Kudos to all who helped in preparation of our March 2012 report, there is still one more hurdle to jump; but we are up to the task!

Alameda Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) 2011-12 100% Senior Placement in 2 & 4-Year Colleges

Post-Graduation outcomes for Class of 2012 (38 students)

College Type	System/Campus	Campus	Student
4-Year College (n = 27) 71%	University of California System (n = 12) 32%	UC Berkeley	Carrie Huang
			Julie Law
			Cypress Lynx
			Yik Sai Wong
		UC Davis	Elizabeth Dietz
			Andrea King
			Phillip Liang
		UC Irvine	Ziyiah Rogers
		UC LA	Jenny Huang
		UC Riverside	Branson Phu
	UC San Diego	Sandro Yu	
	UC Santa Cruz	Vivian Nguyen	
	California State University System (n = 10) 26%	CSU East Bay	Asia Brooks
			Fatima Natouf
			Janet Truong
		SF State	Jacky Huang
			Jannell Jauregui
			Karen Koo
			Jasmyne Patterson
			Zayba Shaikh
	Melissa Sitchon		
Private Universities (n = 5) 13%	Cal Poly SLO	Michael Tong	
	Wesleyan	Vanessa Chen	
	University of Redlands	Lorraine Cawili	
	USF	Bowen Chan	
	Emerson	Saskia Sumida	
	Xavier	Brianna Youngblood	



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2-Year College (n = 11) 29%	Continuing Community College with Intent to Transfer (n = 11) 29%	COA	Enrique Abendanio Gaspar
			Jason Adiong
			Brian Avila
			Yong Fou Chao
			Nghi Ha
			Vanessa Herrera
			Sam Kaiser
			Sohrab Marzi
			Maribel Melendez
			Lisa Sun
			William Zeng

Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2012!! And, to the Faculty, Staff, Board of Trustees, Family and Friends who attended the event!

