



President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees



May 10, 2016

Dr. Joi Lin Blake, President

Supervisor Wilma Chan to Speak at Commencement, May 27

Please join us for College of Alameda's Commencement on Friday, May 27, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Gym. We are pleased to announce that this year's commencement speaker is Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan. Wilma Chan has been a strong advocate for children and families for over 40 years. She currently represents District 3, which includes the cities of Alameda, San Leandro, parts of Oakland including Chinatown, Jack London, Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods, and the unincorporated community of San Lorenzo.

Prior to her reelection to the Board of Supervisors in 2010, Supervisor Chan served in the California State Assembly serving the 16th District as the first female Majority Leader. As a former Assemblywoman, Ms. Chan authored historic legislation to end the practice of hospitals overcharging uninsured and under-insured patients and to cover California's 800,000 uninsured children. She won approval of \$100 million to expand state preschool and fought successfully to maintain the state's Master Plan for college student access.



Since taking office, Supervisor Chan has led several key initiatives, including declaring a "New War on Poverty," a multi-year effort that calls upon the entire community to help remove the barriers that prevent individuals and families from achieving financial self-sufficiency, and launching the "All In to End Hunger 2020" campaign to eliminate food insecurity in Alameda County.

Graduation information is online and available at: <http://alameda.peralta.edu/grad2016/>

Art Room Gallery Now Open

The Art Department has created a gallery within the College of Alameda art room. The students have a selection of interesting works on display. The gallery is called "The Furnace Gallery" (there is an existing HVAC system in the room). The space is cozy. The art room is on the third level of the D building in room D316. You are invited to come by.

At present the artwork may be viewed Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday afternoons are possible by appointment.



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“Faces of Our Community” Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we are showcasing some of the students, faculty, and staff at College of Alameda. So far, we have people representing Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, Tonga, Japan, India, Yemen, Bhutan, Mongolia, and Mien culture. We hope to have this installation again next year and represent more countries and cultures.

If you have a few minutes, please take a stroll through the walkway, enjoy some sunshine and take a look at the “Faces of Our Community.”



The Hon. Trina Thompson Speaks at CoA

The College of Alameda’s CAFYES Kickoff event, “Metamorphosis – Change Through Higher Education” Lecture Series, took place on April 29 and featured The Hon. Trina Thompson, Alameda County Superior Court Judge, and Practitioner Member - Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Judge Thompson spoke of her “invisible years” as a youth/college student in foster care, and how she taught herself to not back down from the unknown. “Education was my emancipation and it can be yours,” she said. She grabbed her professional career by the horns and embraced her spiritual roadmap, to navigate the challenging terrain of the legal profession, and to seek her truths and life passion. She advised her audience, “If you are the smartest person in the room... leave the room!”

The Hon. Trina Thompson is an Alameda Superior Court Judge currently assigned to the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse near Lake Merritt, where she handles felony jury trials and multiple co-defendant homicide trials. She has also served as the Presiding Judge of the Alameda County Juvenile Court and as Supervising Judge of the Wiley Manual Courthouse. In 2011 she was appointed by President Obama and sworn in to serve as Practitioner Member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Judge Thompson has practiced law for over 25 years, lectures nationally, has served as a legal commentator for the media and is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. She also lectures for the Ethnic Studies department at UC Berkeley. She was recently featured in the documentary film *In the Red*, which is about transformation and about growing up poor, young and black in America. She grew up locally, in Oakland and Vallejo.

The Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Education Support (CAFYES) Program is designed to assist current or former foster youth whose dependency was established or continued by the court on or after a student’s 16th birthday. The CAFYES program assists qualified students balance their needs with financial assistance and additional support services.



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CoA Welcomes New Director of Student Activities

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Fong Tran, the new Director of Student Activities and Campus Life at College of Alameda. Fong comes to College of Alameda with experience serving youth in the nonprofit sector and with experience working in higher education as a program advisor for the University of California, Davis Cross Cultural Center, where he established a reputation for culturally proficient services for diverse student groups.

Fong was awarded the 2016 Social Justice Award, by the African American Faculty and Staff Association at UC Davis and he received Recognition for Outstanding Service to Community by Congressman Mike Honda.

Fong earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Welfare with a double minor in Education and Public Policy in 2009 from the University of California, Berkeley. He received the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Social Welfare Department and the Outstanding Student Recognition Award from Associated Students of UC Berkeley. He will receive his M.S. degree in Community Development from UC Davis on June 9, 2016.



Clubs Compete for Student Awareness at CoA Olympics

On May 2 and 3, College of Alameda held its Club Olympics. Teams representing each student club competed in various events to bring awareness to the school's student organizations.

Congratulations went to the Soccer Club for winning the inaugural CoA Olympics. Each club brought their A game and it was down to the wire to the end.

Thanks to all for making the event a great success!



Nadia Bedard Named to 2016 All-State Academic Team

In April, 2016, College of Alameda's student-athlete Nadia Bedard was named to the California Community College 2016 All-State Academic Team for women's volleyball. This is the highest academic-athletic award an athlete can receive. To qualify, athletes must have completed at least one season of competition with a minimum of 24 units accumulated from the beginning of their first season of competition. They must also have a minimum GPA of 3.5 in these units.

Nadia was the starting middle-hitter on the Cougars women's volleyball team in 2014 and 2015 under head coach Linda Thompson. She will be receiving an Associate in Science degree in May 2016.



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CoA Dance Department Presents “Whisper of Hope”

Sometimes the arts can become very dull if people don't use history to tell a story. April 30 became the most horrible and painful day in the Vietnamese American Community. Bringing the history through dance is the best way to tell this story.

CoA Dance Professor Danny Nguyen accepted the challenge to create a very powerful and unforgettable history of what happened in 1968 in Vietnam. The "Tết Offensive" (Vietnamese: Sự kiện Tết Mậu Thân 1968, or Tổng tiến công và nổi dậy Tết Mậu Thân) which was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War, launched on January 30, 1968 by forces of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam against the forces of South Vietnam, the United States, and their allies -- even though had Hanoi announced that it would observe a seven-day truce from January 27 to February 3, 1968 for the Tết holiday, and the South Vietnamese military made plans to allow recreational leave for approximately half of its forces. The estimated death toll was between 2,800 and 6,000 civilians and prisoners of war in the Battle of Huế alone.



On April 30, 2016, Professor Danny Nguyen and his students shared the dance performance, “Whisper of Hope,” for the Bay Area community, and especially for the Vietnamese people. This was their 20th annual production and featured all dance classes which draw from both experienced and inexperienced students. "Whisper of Hope" provided all dance students with the opportunity to perform and build confidence in their skills. The students comprise a diverse group with different ages and physical abilities, offering a unique blend of athleticism, elegance, and sheer joy. The evening closed with "The Escaped," and "I'm Still Alive," a particularly moving tribute dedicated to the thousands of Vietnamese Boat People who died at sea trying to escape, clinging nothing more than a whisper of hope.

AMT Students “Take Flight” at Travis Air Force Base

On Saturday, April 16, students from CoA’s Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) department went on a field trip to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. Esther Cheng (Campus Supervisor) planned this trip to as part of a continuing effort to broaden students’ horizons. The goal was to introduce students to some of the opportunities in the civilian and military aviation maintenance fields. Twenty-two students participated, learning a little about the maintenance operations and touring the different types of airplanes operated from the base.



Travis AFB is home to the 60th Air Mobility Wing which flies C-5 Galaxies, C-17A Globemasters and KC-10s in support of military, federal and state missions everywhere in the world. This wing can trace its history back to the Berlin Airlift. More recently, it has flown President Obama's support equipment on foreign visits (Marine 1 fits easily

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inside a C-17A); has taken PG&E equipment to the US northeast to help out after Hurricane Sandy; and proudly supports US military missions anywhere there is a runway, as well as places where there isn't.



The C-5 is a very large transport aircraft that can haul 270,000 pounds of cargo around the world at 550 mph. Students toured the inside of the cargo bay and the flight deck. Emerson Ventura, a first year A&P (Airframe and Powerplant) student, thought it "an amazing opportunity to be around these planes. They really were gigantic."

Next up was the KC-10 which handles mid-air refueling for a variety of military aircraft while on very long missions sometimes lasting 20 hours or more. Staff Sergeant Ken Jarvis, originally from Modesto, offered us an insight into the KC-10: "She can carry 330,000 lbs. of fuel." He showed first-year student Clifford Lomotey how to "fly" the refueling boom. Cliff started his education in pilot training, but is now going to school at CoA to see what makes an airplane tick.

The C-17 Globemaster III is a real workhorse and Staff Sergeant Hatch, who is the crew chief, thinks it's wonderful! He really likes his job and this aircraft. After a lunch of MREs (Meals, Ready to Eat), S/Sgt Hatch was asked how many countries he'd been to. "More than I can

remember" said this 28 year-old; he's been to Haiti on a humanitarian mission one week and the next was spiraling down from 36,000 feet on to darkened runways in Afghanistan in a darkened aircraft, resupplying soldiers there.

After visiting the aircraft, the class was given a tour of the maintenance facilities. Everyone agreed they were spotless and well organized. Because aviation maintenance is a highly demanding profession, precision is their standard -- and it's also our goal at the College of Alameda Aircraft Maintenance Department!

MESA Students Tour Local Labs & Tech Companies, Explore STEM Careers

This semester, our MESA students have been exploring a variety of STEM careers, from medicine to computer engineering to biotechnology. They've also been getting a lot of help and behind-the-scenes access and tips directly from professionals working in their fields of interest.

Captricity- Tech Programming Start-up Tour, Downtown Oakland, April 2016

MESA Computer Programming and Engineering students visited Captricity and talked with staff about their career paths and tips for entering the field.

Their #1 tip: PRACTICE. PRACTICE. PRACTICE. The best computer programmers are the ones that write code on their own outside of class and work on their own projects. Keep a record of all your programming projects to show potential employers and internship sites later.



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UCSF Medical School Admissions Workshop, San Francisco, March 2016

MESA pre-med students learned about the medical school admissions process and talked directly with a UCSF Outreach Medical School Representative when they visited its campus in March. The #1 tip: Focus primarily on getting a really strong foundation in all the required math and science courses and earning top grades. In the medical school admission process, this is actually more important than volunteer work and other extracurricular activities.

A Closer Look: ALVEO Technologies - Biotechnology Start-up, March 2016

MESA student and Staff Assistant Mylla Truong coordinated a highly successful local tour and informational interview with a local biotechnology start-up in Alameda, just a few buildings down from our Science Annex, called ALVEO Technologies. Our students were inspired and amazed by ALVEO's mission to create a portable device that can test a single drop of blood for any kind of disease. They also got a chance to see how product engineers, biochemical scientists, computer programmers, and project coordinators all work together to make this happen.



The informational interview about the different scientists' career paths was particularly enlightening. One staff member started at a 4-year university but it wasn't a good fit. So, he transferred to a community college where he found his passion for studying science and excelled, which led to transferring again to complete bachelor's degree in Chemistry and later a PhD in Analytical Chemistry. Between all of this, he joined the Peace Corps for two years in Papua, New Guinea working on projects related to global public health, hitchhiked for a year in Europe, and worked at another biotech startup in Australia. Another staff member described changing his major three times, transferring to two different 4-year universities and completing an internship with NASA as an undergrad.

One MESA student observed, "There isn't one way to get to a successful place in pursuing a STEM career. Everyone experiences their own journey on their own terms, and if you keep striving to get better you will be able to do anything you put your work towards." Thank you to the ALVEO staff for inspiring our students! We hope one day our MESA students will be in your shoes inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders.

MESA empowers and supports first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students to pursue and succeed in transferring to 4-year universities to study STEM degrees.

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CoA Presents Gospel Explosion Concert, May 19

When: Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Student Lounge, Building F, at College of Alameda.

Theme: "Saving Our Children through the Musical Arts"

Admission free.

This event will feature the local celebrity performer Lena Byrd-Miles from Oakland. Lena's musical gifts have brought her before both national- and world-noted political, educational and artistic leaders and communities. Lena has received resounding critical acclaim for her outstanding, soul-stirring, and inspirational performances.

The College of Alameda Gospel Ensemble is committed to the promotion of "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" by using Gospel Music as an artistic community unifier to discuss the education of diverse student populations "from cradle to careers" within higher education.

College of Alameda Department of Music
Choral & Vocal Division

"First Annual Gospel Explosion Concert"
"Saving Our Children Through the Musical Arts"
featuring

"College of Alameda Gospel Ensemble"
Professor Silvester Carl Henderson
"Mr. Gospel"

Professor Evan Wade
African American History Motivational Speaker
San Joaquin Delta College

Special Guest
Lena Byrd-Miles
Performer with Jonathan Wilson, Shirley Nantall and the
Crown Kings

Local Guest
Vincent Laro
Allen Temple Baptist Church Male Chorus
Casey & Erica Pringle
Rusty Watson

College of Alameda, Student Lounge-Building F
555 Ralph Appazato Memorial Parkway, Alameda, California 94501
~ **FREE CONCERT** ~
Thursday, May 19, 2016
7:30 P.M.

For more information contact Professor Glen Pearson, Chair of the College of Alameda Department of Music at (415) 748-2312 or Professor Silvester Henderson at (925) 565-6107.



"CoA in the morning" photo by Dr. William Watson

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