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*Dr. Nathaniel Jones III*

## President's Corner: Congratulations to Our Newly Tenured Faculty

Please join me in congratulating our faculty colleagues who have recently earned tenure: Physics Professor (**Andrew**) **Byung Kyu Park**, Mathematics Professor **Richard Kaeser**, and Automotive Technology Professor **John Taylor**. Thank you for your exemplary commitment to our students and college community!

## Last Week's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Team Visit Went Well

During last week's exit forum, the ACCJC Visiting Team members indicated that College of Alameda meets all of the accreditation standards and they offered no recommendations for improvement. Moreover, they were laudatory when they spoke about the great work that the College had accomplished in the areas of distance education, our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

I want to thank our Accreditation Liaison Officer and Vice President of Student Services **Dr. Tina Vasconcellos** and all of the team members who worked with her on producing our Institutional Self-Evaluation Report and planning for last week's Accreditation Team visit. I am very proud of our College. Let's continue to do the noble work of education with excellence, equity and enthusiasm.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Nathaniel Jones III  
College of Alameda President



*From the left: Mathematics Professor Richard Kaeser, Physics Professor (Andrew) Byung Kyu Park, and Diesel Mechanics Professor John Taylor*

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## Congratulations to Our Newly Tenured Faculty

In the event that you haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting our newly tenured faculty members in person, their photos are featured above.

Congratulations again to Physics Professor (**Andrew**) **Byung Kyu Park**, Mathematics Professor **Richard Kaeser**, and Diesel Mechanics Professor **John Taylor**! **Thank you for your commitment and service to our students.**



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## Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) Is Changing Their Name

Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) is in the process of transitioning webpages, documents, and materials to reflect its new name: Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Last spring 2020, we surveyed students, faculty, and classified professionals who were associated with DSPS district-wide to identify a unified name for our programs at all of the Peralta campuses. After soliciting names from constituents, we sent polls to narrow the choices to the top three names, and then we sent out another poll which resulted in the final choice. This spring we are working to implement the transition, so watch for our new name and expect the same great services.

*Submitted by: Rachel Goodwin, M.S., C.R.C., SAS Coordinator, Student Accessibility Services (formerly DSPS - Programs and Services for Students with Disabilities)*

*The mission of the College of Alameda is to serve the educational needs of its community by providing comprehensive and flexible programs and resources to empower students to achieve their goals.*

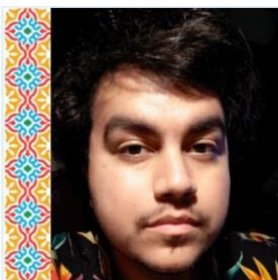
## Here's What Our ACCESO Students Are Saying...

The Adelante con Comunidad, Excelencia, Sabiduría y Oportunidad (ACCESO) Program serves and supports Latinx students in attaining a certificate, degree, or transfer within three years. The ACCESO Program is open to all students. Our ACCESO students recently shared their first-hand accounts on what it's like joining CoA's ACCESO program. Here's what they had to say.



**Name:** Amanda Reyes  
**Major:** Art

*"I joined ACCESO for the community! ACCESO has been an integral part of my decision to transfer to a University. After meeting with counselor Danna, she reassured me that I was ready to move on to the next step. Her encouragement was needed and I'm so happy to be transferring this Fall 2021! I would recommend ACCESO to students so they may also take advantage of the support of truly interested and dedicated staff, educational direction, and personal development learning opportunities. ACCESO has been a wonderful part of my junior college experience and I am grateful to be a part of it!"*



**Name:** Raciél Diaz  
**Major:** Business

*"I joined ACCESO to find a place that felt like home for me. The amount of information and help I've gotten from ACCESO really bolstered my efforts to graduate on time and motivated me to try harder knowing I have the support. The counseling and knowing there's resources available from an academic standpoint really allows me to not feel alone. I would recommend ACCESO to all students, especially if it's your first semester in college. I really want to emphasize how much being in the ACCESO program helped me!"*



**Name:** Lily Carrillo  
**Major:** Transfer

*"As a first-generation college student and a child of immigrants, I felt like I truly was alone throughout my whole college process and didn't even know where to begin to ask for help. Through ACCESO, I received personalized help with my transfer process, support from others in the community who have similar struggles to mine, and overall genuinely felt loved, seen, and supported. I would recommend joining to anyone who feels alone or not seen in community college, come join this amazing community! I'm now going to be attending a 4-year university and be the change in my family, all with the help of ACCESO!"*



**Name:** Fernando Cardenas  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineer

*"I joined ACCESSO because I was having an extremely difficult time with my physics classes. I needed help understanding the complex concepts that were being taught in my class and ACCESSO connected me to an outstanding tutor who walked me through practice problems. I would recommend ACCESSO to other students in a heartbeat because the support that I've received at ACCESSO is unparalleled, and it has played a major role in my academic success!"*

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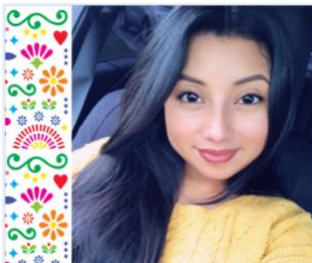
## Our Puente Students Have Great Things to Say About Their Program

Puente students, or Puentistas, work closely with their counselor, English instructor, and mentor to prepare for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Some of our Puente students recently shared their experiences with CoA's Puente Program staff. Here's what they had to say.



**Name:** Ailani Bravo  
**Major:** Political Science

*“Puente has been amazing and very helpful with my college experience. Coming out of high school and being clueless about how to apply to classes, financial aid and to be ready to transfer, Puente was there for me to lead me to the right path to sign up for the right classes and apply for financial aid. Not only are the teachers and mentors amazing, but also my classmates are very supportive and encouraging to each other so we create a familia with each other. I recommend all students to join the Puente Program to be able to have a supportive community in your college experience.”*



**Name:** Adriana Montano  
**Major:** Business Administration

*“The Puente Program has been a big part of my college experience because they create a sense of FAMILIA, you are not left behind and they go out of their way to help you in any way possible. The best thing is that you have a counselor with who you meet with twice per semester to make sure you are on track. Puente has been and is a great experience. Come and join the Puente Program at College of Alameda to have a wonderful experience of your own!”*



**Name :** Gilberto Gastelum  
**Major :** Automotive Tech

*“I am currently enrolled in College of Alameda seeking to become an Automotive Engine Performance Tech. Puente is a great program, Puente has helped me through college since day one. Puente became part of me and little by little I began to build a relationship with all my peers. Not only did I build a relationship with my peers but I also began to feel a good communication with my teachers. I would honestly recommend this program to students who will be enrolling as freshman, it will help you a lot!”*



**Name:** Michele Almodobar  
**Major:** Undeclared

*“I am a first-time student in my 40s. When I first started College of Alameda, I did not have a clue what I was doing. If it wasn't for the Puente Program, I believe I would have fallen behind. Puente is always there to help in any way. They have great administration, counselors, classes, and lots more. I am so thankful to have Puente be a part of my college journey.”*

Submitted by Horacio Corona Lira, Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Grant, ACCESO/Puente Programs

# SCREENSIDE CHATS

A weekly space for students to find connection, support, and meaning

Thursdays from 12pm -1pm (Beginning 2/18)

## Topics Include:

Mental Health during  
COVID  
Race and other "isms"  
Navigating Relationships  
Cancel Culture  
And more!

Sponsored by College of  
Alameda Wellness Center

Questions?  
Please contact Lisa  
Sawadogo 510-748-2320



College of Alameda does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ancestry, citizenship, national origin, military or veteran status, disability, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition, and immigration status.

<https://zoom.us/j/97456202753?pwd=dEVrZkV2U2VjZ2poeU1SSlFRb0U5dz09>

## The Wellness Center Is Offering Weekly Screenside Chats for Students

The Wellness Center is offering weekly Screenside Chats for students. This is a time when students may feel more isolated and disconnected, so we're hoping these informal sessions provide meaningful and safe opportunities for students to feel more connected to their campus community.

Your students may access Screenside Chats from this Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97456202753?pwd=dEVrZkV2U2VjZ2poeU1SSlFRb0U5dz09>

*Submitted by Lisa Sawadogo, LPCC, NCC, Health Services Coordinator*

## Student Government Elections Are Coming Soon!

Please encourage your students to take part in the upcoming student government elections. Remind them that at College of Alameda their voice matters!

Voting Starts April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. through April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.

**Visit <https://alameda.peralta.edu/ascoa-elections/> for more information and application.**

*Submitted by Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Director of Student Activities and Campus Life*



Associated Students of College of  
Alameda

# STUDENT ELECTIONS FOR

Voting starts April 13th, 2021 8 am to  
April 14th, 2021 11:59 pm

For more information please visit:  
[https://alameda.peralta.edu/ascoa-  
elections/](https://alameda.peralta.edu/ascoa-elections/)



*The mission of the College of Alameda is to serve the educational needs of its community by providing comprehensive and flexible programs and resources to empower students to achieve their goals.*

# H O M E I S W H E R E T H E H E A R T I S

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## New Event Series Offers Students Uplifting Opportunities to Connect

The Office of Student Activities and Campus Life and the Associated Students of College of Alameda (ASCOA) have planned a series of monthly events for Spring 2021 semester to help students battle quarantine fatigue and have fun.

The first of the ASCOA series of events, Home is Where the Heart Is, took place on Thursday, February 18, 2021. Senators were grateful to have the participation and support of Classified Senate President, **Ms. Kawanna Rollins** and Staff Assistant **Ms. Brenda Lewis** for the event.

There were several moving moments during the virtual scavenger hunt when students shared precious family heirlooms inherited from beloved family members who had passed away.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### A Walk in Your Shoes

March 18, 2021, 12 p.m.

A virtual field trip of students' hometown or country using Google Maps.

<https://zoom.us/j/91090938553?pwd=Lzg2V2tBMk5CUWtTSEZnUHpLMmI0UT09>

#### COVID Couldn't Keep Us Down: CoA Talent Show

April 15, 2021, 12 p.m.

Featuring poetry, music, or dance presentations.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/ddL2pc4G1MubV9ZF8>

*Submitted by Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Director of Student Activities and Campus Life*

**ARE YOU FEELING STRESSED  
OR DEPRESSED?  
DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO  
TALK TO?**

**WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU**

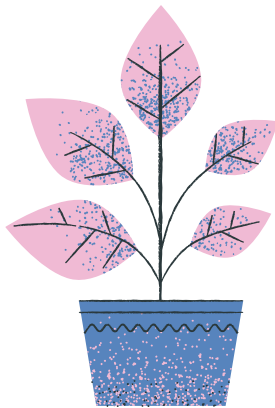
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**FREE MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELING SUPPORT  
AVAILABLE**

Schedule an appointment today to meet with a mental health counselor. We have virtual and phone sessions available.



**Request an  
appointment here!**



**QUESTIONS?  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Lisa Sawadogo**  
lisasawadogo@peralt.edu  
510-748-2320

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College of Alameda does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ancestry, citizenship national origin, military or veteran status, disability, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition, and immigration status.







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## Make Your *Splash!*

- Student success stories.
- Grant updates, applications, special projects, or programs of interest.
- Program, committee, department news, and updates.
- Faculty and staff awards, appointments, achievements, or kudos.
- Special hours and information for online or other services and classes.
- Upcoming deadlines that students or colleagues should know about.
- Event information.
- Other news.

Send us your news, so that we may share it with the campus and the community in the next edition of *Splash!* It's easy –just send us a short article and a good photo or two, and we will take care of the rest. Do not forget to include the name of the writer, the photographer, and anyone who is pictured (if possible).

Please email your news and information to: [coasplash@peralta.edu](mailto:coasplash@peralta.edu) and be sure to include the word “*Splash!*” in the subject line.

Past issues of the *CoA Splash* are available at <https://alameda.peralta.edu/newsletter/coa-splash/>