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President's Corner: Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Earning a college degree is never an easy task under the best of circumstances. It takes hard work, precious time, adequate resources, and enormous self-discipline to earn a degree. The Covid-19 pandemic has added even greater obstacles for our graduates to overcome this year.

Our stalwart Class of 2020 students have achieved their goals under extraordinary circumstance and we wish them great success in all of their future endeavors. It may not be easy, but I believe that the tremendous talent and tenacity demonstrated by our graduating class bodes well for our collective future.

We will honor the academic achievements of our graduates with an online virtual commencement, starting at 8 a.m. this **Friday, May 22, 2020**. More details about the event are provided below. **CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!**

Kudos to Our 2020 Excellence Awards Winners

We are tremendously proud of our recipients and all the nominees for their contributions to student success and to our community.

The *Faculty Excellence Award* has been given to Communications Instructor/DE Coordinator **Jennifer Fowler** and Economics Instructor/ DE Committee Chair **Diana Bajrami**. Congratulations and thank you both for your extraordinary commitment of time, talent, and energy, making CoA a place where colleagues want to come to work and a place where our students may succeed in their pursuit of higher education.

This year's *Professional Staff Excellence Award* has been given to Admissions and Records Specialist **Marcean Bryant**. Congratulations and thank you Marcean for your high degree of professionalism and your commitment to our students and the community.

Vice-President of Instruction **Don Miller** has received this year's *Administrative Excellence Award*. Congratulations and thank you Don for your inclusive leadership and for helping CoA attain its strategic goals.

Congratulations to CoA Retirees

Students aren't the only ones celebrating virtually this year. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues Auto Body and Paint Instructor **Bill Andrews** and ABI Specialist, Assistive Technology Instructor **Dr. Phyllis Tappe** on their upcoming retirements. They have provided many years of outstanding service and dedication to our students. In lieu of a celebratory in-person event, please send them your well wishes online at <https://bit.ly/coa-emeritus-2020>.

Stay well!

Sincerely,



Timothy Karas, Ed.D.
President



THE EMERITUS LUNCHEON COMMITTEE
PROUDLY CONGRATULATES OUR 2020

Faculty Retirees

BILL ANDREWS, Auto Body & Paint
DR. PHYLLIS TAPPE, Programs & Services for Students with Disabilities

We look forward to hosting a traditional luncheon at the earliest opportunity for safe group gatherings. Until then, we thank our retirees for their **years of service** and send **best wishes** in their journey ahead!



Join Us Online for CoA's Class of 2020 Virtual Commencement

College of Alameda's pre-recorded virtual commencement will be available on Friday, May 22, 2020, starting at 8 a.m., PST. Degrees and certificates will be conferred virtually for each participating graduate. Please note that CoA's online commencement will not be live streamed or hosted on Zoom. The college is using an online service provided by MarchingOrder.com to offer an asynchronous virtual ceremony.

College of Alameda
Class of 2020 Virtual Commencement
Friday, May 22, 2020
8 a.m. PST

<https://virtualgrad.marchingorder.com/alameda/i/>

CoA's virtual Commencement will include special presentations by:

- PCCD Chancellor, **Regina Stanback Stroud**
- PCCD Board President, Trustee **Julina Bonilla**
- Academic Senate Vice President, **Jennifer Fowler**

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.

- Classified Senate President, **Kawanna Rollins**
- ASCOA President, **Ysrael Quezon**
- CoA President, **Timothy Karas**
- Valedictorian, **Pauline Anne Roxas**
- Salutatorian, **Jaylan Campbell**

President's Medallion Award recipient **Ysrael Quezon** also will be honored during the online proceedings.

Please use this direct link to view the ceremony: <https://virtualgrad.marchingorder.com/alameda/i/>

You may also access the link from the college's commencement website:

<https://alameda.peralta.edu/commencement/>

If you are interested in viewing other PCCD virtual graduations, go to <https://web.peralta.edu/graduation/>

Printed CoA Commencement programs are available in the mail room. The mail room is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS COA CLASS OF 2020!

Submitted by Aja Butler, Director of Student Activities and Campus Life



Valedictorian Pauline Anne Roxas, CoA Class of 2020

A Filipina, first-generation low-income student is how I define myself. I was born and raised in the Philippines. I migrated to the United States in 2016 where I transferred to Encinal High School as a junior.

In my years at community college, I served as the Treasurer of Associated Students of College of Alameda and the President of the Sari-Sari Club (Filipino Club). I am a part of the Guided Pathways program where I serve as the students' voice about the academic plans in getting a degree. I was also an active participant in different school committees, Cougars Scholars, and EOPS. Volunteered at the Chittenden County Food Shelf during my stay in Vermont for a conference headed by ACUI. Aside from my extracurricular activities, I also work at the Learning Resource Center as a clerk where I connect students to resources and worked as an English Tutor helping students succeed in their academics.

I have also gained some awards and acknowledgments during my stay at the College of Alameda. I was a consistent Academic Honor Student with a 4.0 GPA during my stay at COA. I was also awarded the Vanson Nguyen Scholarship, Bernard Osher Scholarship, and Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship award.

I am a Psychology major, leaning towards Industrial-Organizational Psychology. I will be earning my AA-T in Psychology and AA in Liberal Arts at COA. I have committed to the University of California Berkeley and will be continuing my education there this summer. I also plan to double major in Business during my stay there. I want to work as a Human Resource Specialist when I graduate and be able to build my own company in the future. If given the chance, I also want to be able to build a non-profit organization that will give resources to the youth that experience emotional and mental struggles.



CoA's Class of 2020 Salutatorian Jaylan Campbell

I grew up in Oakland, California with my loving family and attended Catholic school until the eighth grade. I then went to San Leandro High School where I played varsity basketball, volleyball, and became involved in student leadership. During this time, I coached and officiated basketball for boys and girl's youth teams across the Bay Area, volunteered at recreation centers and programs, and became extremely community service oriented. Since 16, I have worked as a youth counselor/ developer for Oakland Parks and Recreation, and have enjoyed my time interacting and building relationships with at-risk youth, who are faced with a variety of physical, mental, and social disabilities. Knowing that I can be a positive leader and develop a sense of community in young people's lives pushes me to do more for others as I progress as a young woman.

At the College of Alameda, I was able to succeed academically, and also enjoyed my time on the court as co-captain of the college's volleyball team. I was awarded the 2019 Scholar-Athlete of the Year, made 1st and 2nd Team All-Conference, participated in the Sophomore Showcase, became Team MVP and Setter of the Year, placed top nine out of 24,000 student-athletes in community colleges of California, and received multiple college offers. Best of all, I made memories and created meaningful relationships with my coaches and teammates.

The experiences, memories, and lessons learned at COA will forever resonate with me. I was able to develop an unbreakable support system, take action in my community, find my passion, set career goals, and grow as a young woman. Now, with an Associate in Arts for Transfer degree, I will be transferring to the University of California Berkeley, where I will be majoring in Geography and History. I plan to continue being active in my community, work to levels of higher sports officiating and coaching, and venture out into other hobbies of video production and animation. Most importantly, I plan on becoming a college professor, where I will educate, inspire, and mentor individuals into becoming capable and goal-oriented human beings. My time at COA has been an absolute blessing and I am extremely grateful for the peers, professors, and teammates who supported my journey. I would not trade my community college experience for the world.

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.

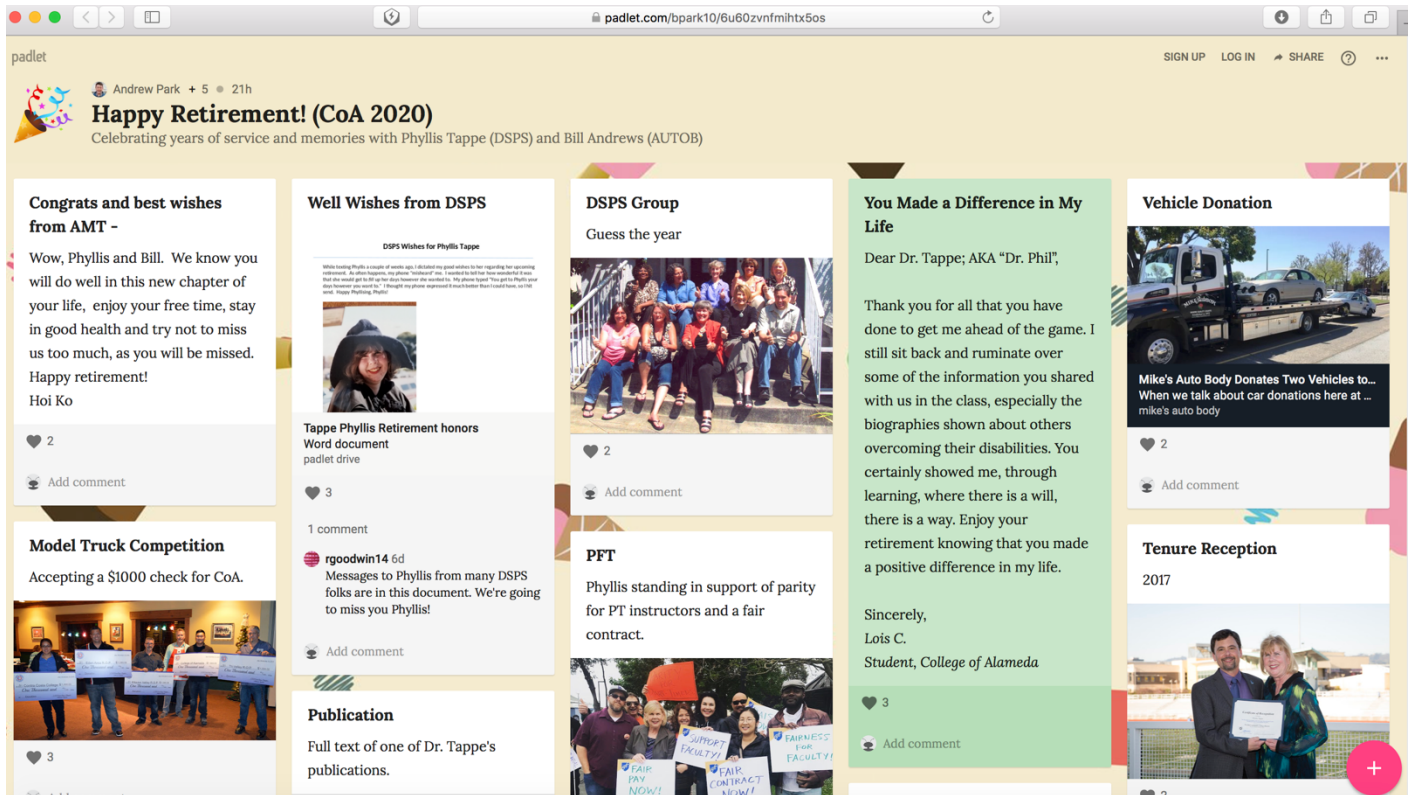


President's 2020 Medallion Award Recipient Ysrael Quezon

I was born and raised in the Philippines. I moved to the U.S. in November of 2016, and resumed my high school education at Encinal High as a second-semester junior. My brother and I immigrated to reunite with my mother. Back in the Philippines, I went to a high school with an accelerated math and science curriculum; it was one of the "ASTI's" of the Philippines - a college-prep institution. At Muntinlupa Science High School, "MunSci," I had the privilege of singing with its high school choir, renowned for competing nationally and internationally in open categories, whilst learning about Advanced Math, Sciences, and Literature. It was a great experience since both sides of my brain were given the chance to work. In March of 2014, I had the opportunity to compete with my choir in Japan where we won the silver prize. It is at "MunSci," where I also dove deeper to further my passion for leadership, as I was elected as Class President thrice. I, then, served as Class President twice and Class treasurer once.

Coming to the US, I was welcomed by my church community which provided the stage for my continued growth as a leader, as a musician, and as an individual. With my passion for music, I joined Encinal High's production of "A Chorus Line," where I starred as "Don" and became the student director for singing. A year after the musical, I joined Island City Opera's production of "La Rondine" being the youngest cast member; I also was given the title Dancemeister, as I polished the dance sequences by the opera chorus. My passion for leadership has led me to become a part of Filipino Advocates for Justice, where I continually grew from being a member, to a youth leader, and now a community organizer on the Census. I focus on advocacy work to get communities of color counted on the Census, affirming that we all matter!

At College of Alameda, I serve as the student body president for the school year 2019-2020. I am receiving my AA-T in Political Science and AA in Liberal Arts - Humanities. After graduation, I am pursuing Political Science. With my vast experiences, I hope to be someone who gets to leverage my skills and experiences for the betterment of my surrounding communities, perhaps, as a public policy analyst, an immigration lawyer, a pastor, a professor or a music teacher. It is with gratitude and great excitement that I shall step onto the next part of my academic journey. Thank you, College of Alameda! Congratulations, graduates and families!



Here's How to Send Your Personal Congratulations and Best Wishes to Our 2020 Faculty Retirees

Congratulations to CoA's 2020 Faculty Retirees, **Bill Andrews** and **Dr. Phyllis Tappe**!

Until we can safely gather for a traditional luncheon and celebration, we invite you to share a message on the 2020 Emeritus Padlet. To post to the Padlet:

1. Go to <https://bit.ly/coa-emeritus-2020>
2. Click the pink plus sign on the bottom right of the page to add a photo, video, or comment for our retirees.

Submitted by Jennifer Fowler, M.A., Distance Education Coordinator, Communication Instructor, Department Co-Chair of English, Communication, Humanities, & Philosophy



New Full-length FabLab Video Shows How PPE Is Being Made

The PCCD PIO department has produced an informative feature video about how our volunteer FabLab and Apparel Design and Manufacturing faculty, staff, and students are making and distributing free personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, homeless, and others in need amid a supply shortage. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video or navigate your browser to: <http://ow.ly/Dw4p30qGcCF>. We applaud our faculty, staff, and students for their outstanding and inspirational efforts under extraordinary circumstances!

More information about these extraordinary efforts also have been published in our local press:

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2020/04/14/around-the-island-alamedans-kindness-during-pandemic-appreciated/>

<https://news.yahoo.com/inside-bay-area-makers-rush-220235392.html>

<https://alamedasun.com/news/alamedans-cranking-out-ppe>



Exciting News!

COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA
STUDENT AND COMMUNITY

GRAB-N-GO FREE LUNCH

Volunteers Are Needed to Distribute Free Lunches to CoA Students

Volunteers are needed to hand out Grab.n.Go lunches to CoA students on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays. CoA will be offering drive by and walk up lunch distribution from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We will offer this service as long as we are able and likely through June 30, 2020. You may sign up for more than one date. We are anticipating a need for approximately six to eight volunteers per day.

On your volunteer date, please arrive at 11 a.m. and plan to stay until 1:30 p.m. or until lunches are gone (We do not anticipate this will take more than two hours). Please bring your own mask (gloves will be provided). We will contact you ahead of time with other details.

Special thanks to **The World Central Kitchen** and **Eat. Learn. Play.** for generously providing meals for our students.

If you have any questions, please email: VP Vasconcellos at tvasconcellos@peralta.edu.

Also, please use the following link to sign up using the Microsoft form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Fmqh7q9Ie0eREwWxwBEj_z6ao_3n9zVEtja-oSuPCABUOElaRjBEVIQwQ0E3MIVWWFpIVUdUS1ZENy4u



Make Your *Splash!*

- Student success stories.
- Program, committee, department news, and updates.
- Faculty and staff awards, appointments, achievements, or kudos.
- Grant application, special project, or new programs of interest.
- 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 or coa-announcement@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/>