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President's Corner: Stormy Weather Teamwork and Other News



With the rain finally returning to Northern California this winter and spring season, some of our trees around campus are toppling. This is primarily due to the level of ground saturation and the unfortunate reality that many trees have been stressed from prolonged drought conditions.

On April 7, several trees on campus had fallen or had broken limbs. The grounds crew and other personnel did an excellent job in quickly responding and cordoning off vulnerable areas to mitigate potential hazards to students and employees. I want to thank all involved for their extra efforts in keeping us safe and apprised of the situation. Hopefully, the winter storms are diminishing and we can now look forward to fewer hazards and more clement weather as summer approaches.

Speaking of changing winds, I and other East Bay community college presidents and chancellors recently met with California State University East Bay (CSUEB) President **Leroy M. Morishita** to discuss improving linkages between the university and community colleges. At the meeting we learned that there will be a significant change at CSUEB beginning in fall 2018, when they will transition from the quarter system to a semester

system. Semester conversion will align CSUEB's academic calendar with the other CSU campuses, community colleges, and more than 90 percent of colleges and universities nationwide. One of the main reasons stated for the

switch from quarters to semesters, is that it will make it easier for students to transfer and apply course credits towards degree completion.

I hope you will join me in congratulating CoA's most recent tenure recipients at a reception on Monday, April 24, 2017, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in the F Building. Congratulations go to **Drew Burgess, Hoi Ko, Marissa Nakano, Vanson Nguyen, Sabeen Sandhu, Phyllis Tappe, Vivian Virkkila, Wayne Fung,** and **Carla Pegues**. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Timothy Karas, President College of Alameda

CoA English and Math Departments Hold First Joint Meeting



CoA English and Math Departments start a new tradition.

Setting a new interdisciplinary tradition, English and Math departments held their first joint meeting April 8, 2017, to focus on an agenda of food, friendship and fun! Faculty from both disciplines enjoyed lunch from Ono Hawaiian Barbecue as they spent time getting to know each other. Organizers, who envision an exciting future of collaboration and communication, intend this to be the beginning of a new tradition and the first of many joint gatherings.

Submitted by Trish Nelson. Instructor and Co-Chair, English, LRC Faculty Coordinator, pnelson@peralta.edu

Kudos

Dean of CTE and Workforce Education **Eva Jennings** has been elected president of the California Community College Association for Occupational Education. The California Community College Association for Occupational Education (CCCAOE), was founded in 1967 as a technical support group for administrators of "vocational education programs" in the community colleges. **Congratulations Dean Jennings**!

Spring Break Adventure: 10 CoA Students Tour Six HBCU's



CoA students and accompanying staff visit Lincoln University over spring. break

This marks the second year that College of Alameda has utilized the State of California's long-term partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Our EOPS/CARE and Next Up (formerly Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support or CAFYES) programs sponsored 10 students on a tour of six historically black colleges and universities during spring break, including Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, Lincoln University, PA; Bowie State University, Bowie, MD; Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD; Howard University, Washington, DC; Hampton University, Hampton, VA; and Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA.

A visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., also was included in this year's tour. National Museum of

African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the African American experience. Within view of the White House and several significant national monuments, the winged and bronze-covered

museum houses 13 interactive exhibits and 12 galleries spanning a range of topics, including the American South, education, literature, politics, slavery, military service, and segregation.

As part of the tour, students received informative literature about HBCUs. In one article, titled "Why I Chose A Historically Black College," author Skylar Mitchell explains the benefits of attending a HBCU. "There is something powerful about attending an institution that was built for you. Most colleges were built for white students, or at least, with only white students in mind," said Mitchell. "At Spelman, I found a place for myself in the curriculum, and an opening to learn what it means to be me."

Some of the participating students will be offered full scholarships to HBCUs. Others will have return home feeling empowered and ready for transfer to



CoA students and staff on the grounds of Bowie State University.

other universities. It is especially noteworthy that although each of the Peralta colleges has faculty who have graduated from an HBCU, and Laney Community College sponsors the Black College Expo, College of Alameda is the only one of the Peralta Colleges to ensure that its students have first-hand experiences of these important institutions.

Submitted by Toni R. Cook, Dean of Special Programs and Grants, tcook@peralta.edu

Excellence Awards Banquet Dinner

You are cordially invited to this year's Excellence Awards Banquet Dinner! This is an evening of celebration to honor the College of Alameda award and scholarship recipients on Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

The venue is Grandview Pavilion Ballroom at 300 Island Drive Alameda, CA. Please arrive by 5:30 p.m.

If you are attending, you must RSVP by April 25 with the link below: tinyurl.com/coaawards2017

We hope to see you there!

Submitted by Fong Tran, MS, BSW, Director of Student Activities and Campus Life, <u>ftran@peralta.edu</u>



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Endless Journey Dance Performance Dedicated to All Immigrants

The CoA dance community has joined with young performers in the community in "Endless Journey," a dance production honoring the collective story of refugees and commemorating the 42nd anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

The production portrays the personal survival story of Danny

Nguyen, CoA choreographer and dance instructor. It is an emotional tapestry of dance that captures scenes of escape by the Vietnamese boat people. The performance is dedicated to all immigrants who continue to seek refuge and peace.

Submitted by Danny Nguyen, COA Dance Professor and Dance Clubs Adviser, <u>dnguyen@peralta.edu</u>

The Outreach Department Is on a Spring Roll

While most students and faculty were on spring break the week of April 10, 2017, it was an especially busy time for the Outreach and Retention Department. As local high schools returned from their earlier spring breaks, their students were eager to learn about future possibilities and our Outreach Team was ready to provide them with relevant information about the College.

With two Outreach Specialists on the team, College of Alameda was represented at multiple events throughout the busiest week of the year (so far), including Mobile CoA events, community college fairs, and panels at several high schools throughout Oakland and Alameda. The pace has not slowed down, with multiple Mobile CoA, College Nights, and Parent Information Night events planned through May.

Past Events:

- April 10, Community College Week at Oakland High School
- April 10, Presentation and Assistance with applications at McClymonds High School
- April 11, Community College Week at Oakland High School
- April 11, Community College Fair at Skyline High School
- April 12, Community College Fair at Madison Park Business and Art Academy
- April 12, Community College Resource & CTE Fair at Oakland High School
- April 13, Mobile CoA (applications & orientations) at Alameda High School
- April 13, Transfer Student Panel at Oakland High School
- April 14, Mobile CoA (applications) at Oakland High School
- April 17, Mobile CoA (applications) at Encinal High School
- April 17, Community College Overview at Oakland Technical High School
- April 17, Mobile CoA (applications) at Aspire Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy
- April 17, Mobile CoA (applications) at Alameda Adult School
- April 18, Mobile CoA (applications & Alameda Promise applications) at Encinal High School
- April 18, Tour with Alameda Adult School
- April 18, Mobile CoA (applications) at Oakland Street Academy
- April 18, Parent Information Night at Oakland Tech
- April 19, Mobile CoA (orientation) at Lighthouse Community Charter High School
- April 19, Mobile CoA (orientation) at Alternatives in Action High School



Upcoming Events:

April 20, College Night at Fremont High School April 26, Mobile CoA (applications) at Oakland Tech April 26, Tour with Encinal High School April 26, Community College Day at San Lorenzo High School April 30, Berkeley High School 7th Annual Case Studies and College Fair

May 3, Bret Harte Middle School Career & College Day May 7, Undocumented Student Resource Summit at California State University East Bay

Submitted by Natalie Rodriguez, Outreach Specialist, <u>nrodriguez@peralta.edu</u>. Photo by Natalie Rodriguez.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Events

On April 29, 2016, former President Barack Obama proclaimed May as the official <u>Asian American and Pacific</u> <u>Islander Heritage Month.</u> Obama's Presidential Proclamation advises us to "celebrate the many contributions our AAPI brothers and sisters have made to the American mosaic, and let us renew our commitment to creating more opportunities for AAPI youth as they grow up and embrace the hard work of active citizenship...." Four special events have been planned at CoA commemorating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month (APIH).

Student Stories

Tuesday, May 2 Noon Student Center (F Building)

CoA students will share their immigrant experiences.

First Thursday Open Mic theme "Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage" Thursday, May 4 3:00 p.m. Student Center (F Building)



This special First Thursday event will feature headliners **MJ Lee** and **Voracity**. We welcome all poets, singers, dancers, actors, musicians, comedians, educators, fans, friends, and family to join us.

Taste of Asia Festival

Thursday, May 11 Noon CoA Campus Quad

This is the signature event for the Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. We will feature free Asian cuisine, cultural performances, a fashion show, and music.

Film Screening of Breathin' - An Eddy Zheng Story

Wednesday, May 17 3:00 p.m. Student Center F Building

An intimate portrayal of Eddy Zheng, the prisoner, the immigrant, the son, the activist, on his journey to freedom, rehabilitation, and redemption.

Submitted by Fong Tran, MS, BSW, Director of Student Activities and Campus Life, ftran@peralta.edu

Tenure Reception

Several members of the CoA faculty were granted tenure at the PCCD Board of Trustees on the March 14, 2017. In recognition of this special event, there will be a reception Monday, April 24, 2017, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in the F Building.



Make Your Splash!

Do you know an outstanding student whose story you'd like to share? Did you attend an interesting workshop or conference? Do you have unique projects planned for your students this semester? Is there an upcoming event that we should all know about? Have you or a colleague been honored with an award or been published recently?

Send us your news so we can share it with the campus community in the *CoA Splash*! It's easy – just send us a short article and a good photo or two, and we'll take care of the rest. Don't forget to include the name of the writer, the photographer, and anyone who's pictured (if possible).



The next issue deadline is **Monday, May 1, 2017, for publication on Thursday, May 4, 2017**. Be sure to email your news and information to: <u>coasplash@peralta.edu</u>. See past issues at: <u>alameda.peralta.edu/office-of-the-president/coa-splash-newsletters/</u>