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CoA President Dr. Nathaniel Jones III

President's Corner: A Time to Celebrate Students!

The end of Spring Semester is always an exciting occasion for our students and for all of the faculty, staff, and administrators who have worked hard to support their success. For those of our students who will be graduating or transferring this month, it is a special time to celebrate all that has been accomplished and the exciting possibilities that are on the horizon. CoA's graduating class of 2021 has shown remarkable resilience and commitment. Despite the challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our students persevered, through hard work, determination, the love and support of family and friends, and the encouragement and guidance of our faculty and staff. Of CoA's 356 eligible graduates, 125 students will participate in this year's [virtual commencement](#) on **Friday, May 28, 2021, at 3 p.m.**

While celebrating commencement remotely isn't our preferred way to celebrate our students' momentous achievements, I couldn't be prouder of them and their accomplishments! Please join me in congratulating the CoA Graduating Class of 2021!

Warmest regards,

Dr. Nathaniel Jones III
College of Alameda President



KUDOS: Wanda Sabir

English Professor and Author **Wanda Sabir**'s evocative poem “[Night Rain for Brianna](#)” was selected as the poem of the day by the San Francisco Public Library. Professor Sabir also serves as an arts and culture editor for the [San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper](#), and she also is a facilitator for the [Wombfulness Gathering Series](#).

Photo: CoA English Professor Wanda Sabir



Photo from left: ATECH Student Yumeus (Missy) Taylor Ozzie Day Scholarship award recipient with Instructor Wayne Fung.

CoA Students Jorge Sandoval and Yumeus Taylor Receive Scholarships

Two [College of Alameda Automotive Technology \(ATECH\)](#) students, **Yumeus (Missy) Taylor** and **Jorge Sandoval**, were awarded Ozzie Day Scholarships this spring. As you can see from the photos above and below, they maintained social distancing protocols when they got their checks! All in-person ATECH labs have been running with full Covid-19 protocols this semester.

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.

Yumeus (Missy) Taylor has been interested in fixing cars since she was five years old. She is a single mom from Oakland who loves fixing cars and someday wants to own her own business. She still has more classes to take, and when she graduates, she will be the first female technician in her family! Missy is also very involved in the Oakland community, where she and her sister work with a nonprofit aiding the homeless.

Jorge Sandoval moved to Oakland from Modesto in 2018 and is completing his ATECH degree this semester. He was first introduced to car repairs by his dad and uncle. For the last year, he's been working part-time for Auto Zone. He's planning to seek full-time employment as an automotive technician in the Bay Area after graduation.

The Ozzie Day Scholarship is awarded by the [ATECH Department and](#) provides \$500 to students with the highest grade point average and the most units in the ATECH Program. The scholarship was established in memory of **Ozzie Day**, the founder of Automotive Engineering Program and a long-time member of the CoA Automotive Advisory Committee.




Photo from left: ATECH Student Jorge Sandoval Ozzie Day Scholarship recipient with ATECH Facility Supervisor Candido Mejia.

Submitted by Peralta Gems

Congratulations Class of 2021!

Our virtual graduation is right around the corner! Here is some final information to share with students:

Virtual Commencement takes place on Friday, May 28, 2021, at 3 p.m.  The event may be viewed online at: www.alameda.peralta.edu/commencement.

Graduate Gift & Photo Op--Graduates may stop by the A Building on Friday, May 21, 2021, from noon to 3 p.m. This will be the last opportunity to pick up a small graduation gift, if they haven't already done so. We will have a small area available for photos. All Covid-19 safety protocols will be in place. Students must bring their own camera/phone and wear masks. Transfer students are also welcome to stop by and participate.

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Celebrate on social media with #CoAClassOf2021--A social wall will be embedded on our commencement webpage starting Friday, May 21, 2021, through Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Those who are not on social media may post to the social wall through our webpage.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021
11:00 A.M.
AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN
VIRTUAL
GRADUATION CELEBRATION

OUR THEME FOR 2021:
BLACK POWER IS...OWNING OUR
MENTAL, SPIRITUAL
&
PHYSICAL HEALTH

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

Latinx Scholars
Scan or Click The
QRcode to Register!

Berkeley City College
College of Alameda
Laney College
Meritt College

Click Here to Join
The Virtual Event!

For more information contact: Horacio Corona Lira at hcorona@peralta.edu or
Martin De Mucha Flores at mdemuchaflores@peralta.edu

African and
African
American
Virtual
Graduation,
EOPS Virtual
Graduate
Celebration,
and Raíces
Peralta Latinx
Graduation
Celebration

African and African American Virtual Graduation: Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 11 a.m. Click [here](#) for additional information.

EOPS Virtual Graduate Celebration: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Register on zoom [here](#). Fill out this form to customize your slide.

Raíces Peralta Latinx Graduation Celebration (Virtual Event): June 5, 2021, from noon to 3 p.m. Register to participate [here](#).

Click [here](#) to attend the event.

All information for these celebrations can be found under the “Additional Graduation Celebrations” heading at www.alameda.peralta.edu/commencement.

Submitted by Director of Student Activities and Campus Life Natalie Rodriguez



CoA Class of 2021 Valedictorian Donna Hooper

Class of 2021 Valedictorian Donna Hooper Shares a Few Words About Her Personal and Education Journey with Us

While her journey has not been an easy one, **Valedictorian Donna Jean Hopper** has overcome many obstacles to achieve her goal of higher education. She shares with us what has helped her endure hardships and what her hopes are for the future:

“My name is Donna Jean Hooper. I am honored to be Valedictorian for the CoA class of 2021. I graduated from Castlemont High School in 1979. I have over 40 years of experience in the fast-food sector, from cashier to manager.

My life took a turn in 1996, when I became addicted to drugs and alcohol. This time in my life was the darkest place I had ever been. I did not see any way out until January 19, 2012, when I entered the Epiphany House for Women and Children in S.F. This was the beginning of the new me.

I am now celebrating nine years of sobriety. I attend ReGenesis Christian Center in Oakland. I surrendered my life over to God and I give him all the glory and praise for my success. I am now successfully fulfilling my lifelong dream to further my education.

I am a recent graduate of CoA with a double Associate of Arts degree in Sociology and Social and Behavioral Science. I am also completing my pursuit of my third AA degree, in African American Studies, to be awarded in May 2021. My greatest accomplishment was successfully completing the program at Epiphany House for Women and Children. My goal is to give back to the community, and inspire and give hope to those who are suffering from the social pandemic of addiction.”



Hongying (Angel) Huang, CoA 2021 President's Medallion Recipient

Congratulations to Our President's Medallion Recipient: Hongying Angel Huang

This year's President's Medallion Recipient, **Hongying Angel Huang**, is looking forward to continuing her college education this fall at the University of California, Santa Cruz . Here is what she has to say about her recent experience at CoA:

"I am Hongying (Angel) Huang and I have been studying at College of Alameda since August 2018. I am a mother of two. In June 2017, my family and I immigrated to the United States from China. Before migrating, I was a writer in Chinese and an editor for a Chinese magazine. Before coming to the U.S., I rarely used English in my daily work and life. My English was very poor as a new immigrant to the United States. Since entering College of Alameda and after three years of hard study, my English level has greatly improved. In November 2020, I applied for transfer with a 4.0 GPA. In April 2021, I received transfer offers from four universities in California. I have accepted the offer from UC Santa Cruz as the four-year undergraduate university where I will continue my academic career in the fall of 2021."



Benjamin Wilson-Ripsom, CoA 2021 Salutatorian

Congratulations to Our 2021 Salutatorian: Benjamin Wilson-Ripsom

Don't try to tell CoA's 16-year old **Salutatorian Benjamin Wilson-Ripsom** that he's too young to do something, because chances are he'll work very hard to prove you wrong!

"My name is Benjamin Wilson-Ripsom. I'm 16 years old and I've been a concurrently enrolled student at both Encinal High School and CoA for the past two years. A few interesting things about me are that before the beginning of the pandemic, I was very engaged in both track and cross country running, as well as our school's business-related club, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA). In the Fall, I will be returning to in-person high school for my final year as a senior. I had the option to graduate high school early, but I really enjoy spending time with my friends and community. I will be working to transfer the year after this one. I was motivated to join our concurrent enrollment program by a counselor who said I couldn't do it. I really wanted to prove them wrong, and I think I was able to do so. As I am still 16, I am unsure of where I want to go career-wise, however, I'm leaning towards something in the field of psychology or political science. I'm very excited and honored to be this year's salutatorian, and I'm incredibly proud of how far we have come as a

community! Congratulations graduating class of 2021!"



Summer/Fall 2021

Have questions? Need Assistance?

Join us for our
**Virtual
Enrollment
Hub**



Take a Look at Our New Virtual Enrollment Hub Services and Events

CoA's Enrollment Services Department is ramping up for Spring Intersession, Summer Sessions, and Fall Semester by introducing a new online form to follow up with students who are interested in enrolling. Enrollment Services staff members and **Dean Amy H. Lee** have been working closely with **Aaron Harbour** from the Peralta Community College District Public Information Office to create [automated workflows](#) designed to facilitate the admissions process while offering hands-on admissions assistance to prospective students. In addition, they are hosting [Virtual Enrollment Hub](#) events comprised of a one-stop Zoom drop-in session for students who need help with [application, registration, financial aid, counseling, or connecting to special programs](#). These enrollment sessions are scheduled throughout the next few months and will continue through September 2021.

Submitted by Enrollment Services Department Dean Amy H. Lee, Ed.D.



Alameda Science and Technology Institute

Alameda Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) Has Reopened for Instruction

On April 19, 2021, ASTI reopened its doors on the College of Alameda campus to students for the first time in over a year. ASTI Principal **Tracy Corbally** held a Town Hall meeting earlier

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in April, briefing faculty, staff, and families on new procedures, safety considerations, guidelines, and protocols for a safe return to campus instruction.

Principal Corbally is enthusiastic about the return to in-person instruction. “We are very excited to have this smaller number of students return, and we hope that for the upcoming fall, the public health setting is such that we can have plans and a program in place for even more!”

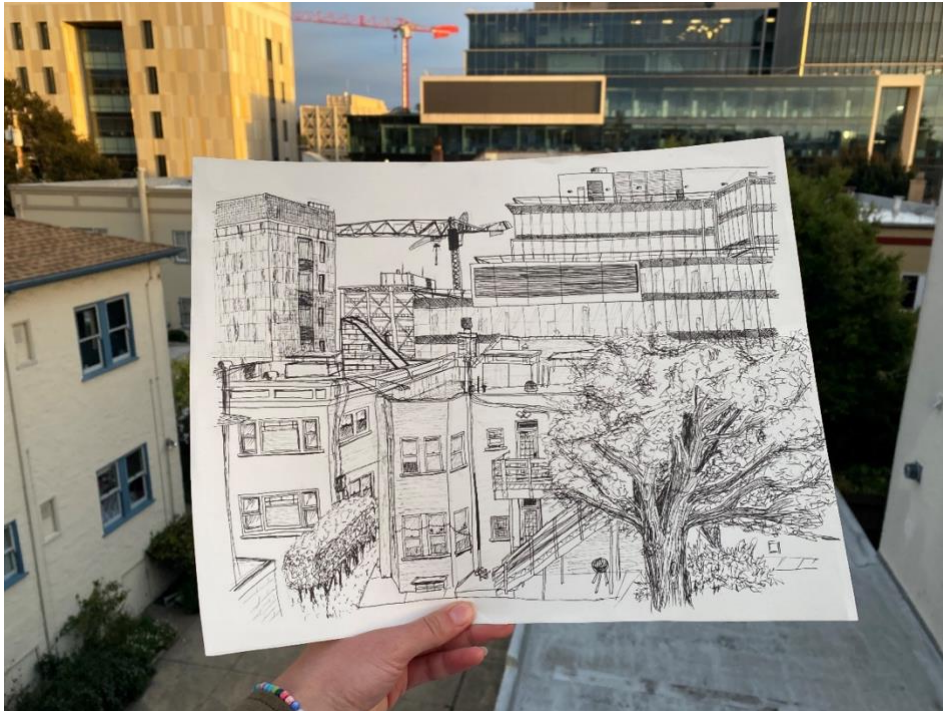
All ASTI staff are returning to campus, along with approximately 30% of the 9th and 10th grade classes. According to Principal Corbally, the 9th and 10th graders will participate in a hybrid program that includes a mix of Zoom synchronous learning with their classmates, who will remain online, combined with additional in-person instruction on campus three days per week. Since ASTI’s 11th and 12th graders are exclusively enrolled in CoA online college classes, they will remain 100% online with other college students.

Individual safety protocols will be in place including mask wearing, social distancing, hand sanitizing, and screening for signs of illness before entering classrooms.

In order to provide a safe learning environment for students, faculty, and staff, ASTI has made significant improvements to their mechanical ventilation systems. These changes include:

- Increased outside air ventilation, where possible;
- Modified HVAC equipment to increase air changes per hour;
- Installation of Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV)-13 air filters in the HVAC system, where applicable; and
- Installation of Portable Air Purifiers with HEPA filters.

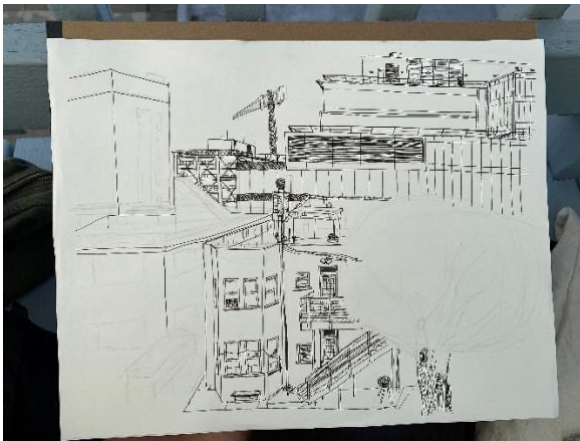
Principal Corbally wants the greater community to be aware that ASTI students are returning to campus and she also encourages drivers to watch out for students walking and riding to, from, and across the CoA campus.



CoA Art Students Have Been Creating Meaningful Art Inspired by the Pandemic

CoA Art Instructor **Drew Burgess** has been inspired by his students' dedication and creativity as they continue to make art in a remote learning environment. During the pandemic, the Art Department has moved forward with a full range of classes, including Art History, Drawing, Painting (Oils/Acrylics), and Watercolor.

Even while sheltering in place, one student in particular has found inspiration looking out of her apartment window. CoA are student **Shanna Gerlach's** urban landscape drawings are great examples of our students' determination to embrace the challenges of online learning.



CoA student Shanna Gerlach's urban landscape drawing.

Ms. Gerlach submitted the following discussion statement in Canvas for the assignment:

"Here's my ink drawing of the view from the top of my apartment building's fire escape, with a few process photos. I had a lot of fun with this one, and did it over three different days, sitting in the same spot. I started with some really general sketching of the basic shapes with pencil, but didn't use a ruler because I wanted it to stay loose and look fresh and in the moment. Then I went in with my 0.5 Micron pen and did the basic building outlines, then did the details one

building at a time, just based on what I felt like drawing and moved around when I got bored. The last thing I did was the tree because I was kind of nervous about how it would turn out, since it takes up so much of the page. It was tough and I think the shading didn't turn out super great so I'll have to work on trees more. The crane moved before the day that I finished it up, so I decided to just draw over it, with the crane at the new angle."

Submitted by Art Professor Drew Burgess



Screenshot of AAPI event: "Comfort Food for Crazy Times: 1UP Your Ramen Game"

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebrated at CoA

To celebrate the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, CoA students and staff came together to host two virtual events.

The first event "Comfort Food for Crazy Times: 1-UP Your Ramen Game" invited folks to participate virtually in a cooking demonstration and get creative with a bowl of instant noodles. Before the event, participants picked up a free CoA AAPI Ramen Kit containing instant noodle packages, toppings like dried seaweed and Spam, resources provided by AAPI community supportive services, as well as pins and keychains showing CoA's commitment to Stop AAPI Hate. During the event, folks exchanged tips to make their bowl of ramen special, learned fun facts about the history of instant noodles, and shared stories from their cultural perspective and background as AAPI communities and allies.



Photo of the COA AAPI Ramen Kit (photo credit: Julie Saechao)

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The second AAPI Heritage month event, “Hello, my name is,” featured a nine-minute video compilation of CoA AAPI identified staff sharing the story behind their names. After, folks shared the history/story of their name, talked about the challenges they face as people of color with non-English names, and expressed feelings surrounding the uptick in AAPI violence and discrimination in the community. It was a safe-space for AAPI students, staff, and allies. Click here to watch the video on YouTube (created by **Vinh Phan**): <https://youtu.be/X7x-0vXxy48>

Submitted by EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs Counselor Marissa Nakano, M.S.



Puente Program Doubles Its Enrollment

Puente Program enrollment has doubled since last year. CoA is enrolling students for Cohort Two for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. Seventy new students have signed up for this Puente cohort compared to 35 students last term.



ACCESO Teams Up with Oakland Unified School District to Help Newcomers

CoA’s ACCESO Program has partnered with the Oakland Unified School District’s (OUSD) newcomer transition program to host a one-day bridge event this fall for “newcomer” students attending College of Alameda. (Newcomer students are defined as recent immigrants. For more information click here: <https://www.kqed.org/news/11797218/what-itll-take-to-help-newcomer-immigrant-students-in-oakland>)

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

Calling All Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Faculty!

Please join MESA Program Co-Directors **Nila Adina** and **Cady Carmichael** for a two-hour workshop on Friday, June 4, 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Participants will receive a \$200 stipend.

This online workshop will provide an opportunity for STEM faculty to:

- Learn about the CoA MESA Program and how we can support you and your students
- Request/reserve services from MESA for the Fall 2021 Semester
- Engage in discussion about future events and further support



Attention STEM Faculty



Please join us for a MESA
summer workshop!

Hosted by MESA Co-Directors
Nila Adina & Cady Carmichael

\$200 Stipend Will Be Provided

Friday June 4, 2021
from 10AM-12PM



To register, please visit
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjEud-GopjMrEtaZj427j4g07cWA8zG1CVWN>

Please visit this link to register - <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjEud-GopjMrEtaZj427j4g07cWA8zG1CVWN>

Submitted by Geography Instructor, Physical Science Department Co-Chair, MESA Co-Director Cady E. Carmichael (formerly Bow), MA



In Memoriam: Carlotta Campbell

Carlotta Campbell, CoA emeritus Communications Faculty and Department Chair, passed away on Monday, May 10, 2021. Prior to joining the faculty ranks of CoA, Carlotta was a popular radio broadcaster and reporter. She joined the College as a Communication faculty member in 2004 and retired in 2015. Carlotta was a committed campus leader who served on countless college, district, and state committees.

Her service as the College of Alameda's Academic Senate President, Department Chair for Communication/Humanities/Philosophy, and as Faculty Coordinator for several Black History Month programs were exemplary. Carlotta was instrumental in creating the first Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) degree. Most notable, the Communication AA-T degree created at CoA was accepted, without rejection, at all California State University campuses. Carlotta represented the College statewide on the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Student Outcomes and Learning Committee, and she frequently participated as a speaker at ASCCC institutes and events.

Those who knew her are mourning her loss and treasuring their memories.

We will relay information for sending expressions of sympathy, condolences, or services once received.

Submitted by Accounting/Tax Instructor, Business/Economics/HLTOC Department Chair Rochelle Olive



EOPS and ACCESO Programs Host Free ZUMBA Sessions for Students

CoA's EOPS and ACCESO are hosting Free Zumba Dance Workout Sessions for students on Tuesdays (women only) and Fridays (everyone welcome), from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., featuring Zumba Coach [Beatriz Vela](#). Registration is in advance by clicking: [Zoom Registration link](#).



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 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/>