



COA Today



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COA Celebrates Black History Month

A team comprised of COA faculty, classified professionals, students and administrators has collaborated to put together an exciting and educational set of programs in celebration of this year's Black History Month. The series kicked off on Feb.2 with a historical overview that included music, readings, and a keynote speech by Chancellor Elihu Harris.



On Wednesday, Feb. 10, students in the Amandla Learning Community introduced themselves to the college. The program began with students proudly shouting affirmations such as, "I am capable" and "I am beautiful," an important part of the Amandla Learning Community process, and continued with poetry by students Tyra Rhodes, Lavina Pharr and Angelina Corbitt. The keynote speaker, Nathan Jones, discussed the historical and contemporary importance of Black History Month, along with the many contributions of African Americans today and throughout history. Students were so inspired by the event that they decided to start a poetry club that will curate open mikes and slams on campus. The club held its first organizational meeting on February 17.

The Feb. 16 event spotlighted student athletes. Keynote speeches by COA basketball and volleyball coaches and student athletes included encouraging and inspiring tips for success in and out of the classroom.

The final event, to be held on Feb. 23 at 12 noon in the F Building Student Lounge, will include a panel of guest speakers from the community discussing the difference in the mindset of a person holding a job from that of a person with a career.

Before the month ends, be sure to check out the library's display of books and artifacts reflecting black history, put together by Rochelle Olive and Carlotta Campbell with the assistance of Jane McKenna.



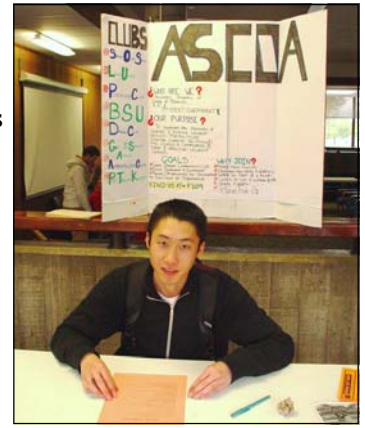
Celebration of the Life of Elfiede (Lee) Spenza

A celebration of the life of long-time COA instructor Elfiede (Lee) Spenza, who passed away on January 9, will be held **February 21, 2010, at 1 p.m. at the home of Shirley Connors, 1624 San Jose Avenue in Alameda.**

Lee Spenza, affectionately known as "The Hat Lady," began teaching at Laney in 1965, in what is now COA's Apparel Design and Merchandising Department. She retired from College of Alameda in 1991, but continued teaching millinery part time in the ADAM program until a few years ago. Donations to a scholarship fund in her name may be made to the Peralta Foundation Lee Spenza Scholarship Fund, c/o the Peralta Retirees Organization, P.O. Box 1951, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

**ASCOA
Election Filing
Deadline
Approaches**

Encourage your students to develop their leadership skills by running for ASCOA office. Positions open include president, VP of administration, VP of programs, secretary, treasurer, chief justice and 10 senator slots. The application filing deadline for candidates is Friday, Feb. 26, and elections will be held April 20 and 21. Application packets can be picked up in the Office of Student Activities, Room F-117.



**Student Health
Fee Instituted
Fall 2010**

Peralta will begin charging a Student Health Fee in fall 2010. Full-time students will pay \$17 a semester, part-time students will pay \$10 and summer/4-week intersession students will pay \$14.

The Health Fee is intended to support our students by facilitating their physical, emotional and social well-being so as to contribute to student retention and academic success. New services will include medical and dental care, mental health services, and expanded health education. As of now, a single centralized health clinic is planned, with satellite services at the campuses.

Peralta has partnered with County of Alameda Health Services to provide guidance and assistance with determining additional funding streams for the needed health care. A collaboration of Asian Health Services, Clinica de la Raza and Lifelong Medical Care will provide initial consultation and will eventually run a district-wide health clinic.

**Construction
Update**

Installation of the Kalwall translucent panels in the gym is scheduled to begin at the end of March, and will take several months. Accommodations will be made to allow for use of the gym for commencement on May 28.

The project to install bleachers, a storage area and electronic scoreboards in the tennis court area is going slowly, possibly because furloughs in government offices have caused delays in getting approval. Dr. Herring is in discussion with the U.S. Tennis Association to bring professional and amateur tournaments to the campus once construction is completed.

A COA Landscaping Committee has been formed make suggestions regarding landscaping of the area around the new road at the back of the college. Members of the committee include Kerry Compton, Ann Kircher, Barbara Beltran and one student from the college, as well as Johnny Fudge, Sergio Angel and Jack Lin from the district. The committee is considering the possibility of making this back area the future main entrance to the college. Once a decision is made, their recommendations will be presented to the college at a Town Hall meeting, probably in April.

State funding for new construction projects is in flux. Only 5 districts have received some approval, and 83 projects were not included in the budget. Sadiq Ikharo is considering using Measure A money to start COA's Building C and D project, and will schedule a Town Hall meeting with the college to discuss this possibility.

**New COA
Website
Planning
Under Way**

Measure A funds will be available to allow COA and Merritt College to develop pilot websites using the Drupal open source content management system (www.drupal.org). This is equivalent to the money allotted to date to Laney and BCC for develop new sites using WordPress software. A request for a Drupal designer to work with both COA and Merritt placed on the Groups.Drupal site has resulted in a large number of expressions of interest by Drupal developers. Alexis Alexander, chair of Merritt's technology committee, and Bala Sampathraj and Shirleen Schermerhorn, co-chairs of COA's web subcommittee, will review these over the coming week. Next steps are to work with our web subcommittees to develop a fuller description of the job and to invite promising candidates in for interviews.

If you know an experienced Drupal designer, you might refer her/him to the committee. The job notice is posted at <http://groups.drupal.org/node/51163>.

Dental Clinic to Open on Campus

Dental Assisting Department Chair Yvonne Carter was recently awarded a certificate of commendation by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for her leadership in establishing the Alameda Dental Clinic collaborative partnership, which will make quality, affordable dental care available on campus for Medi-Cal recipients in Alameda. The dental clinic, soon to start construction on the second floor of Building A, is expected to open in the Dental Assisting area around May, 2010.

The clinic is a collaboration of COA with the City of Alameda and Asian Health Services. The City of Alameda will provide funding to purchase new dental equipment. Asian Health Services will provide two dentists and their assistants. The clinic will provide dental services at a reduced cost to the community and Peralta students, and will offer the opportunity for COA dental assisting students to intern at a fully-functioning dental clinic on campus.

ATLAS and AFL-CIO Hold Press Conference

COA's Alameda Transportation and Logistics Academic Support Initiative (ATLAS) was launched in collaboration with a number of community partners in 2008 to provide career path training in transportation, distribution and logistics for underserved, unemployed and underemployed populations in the East Bay. ATLAS is part of a larger statewide consortium of community colleges and four-year institutions (CATLI) supporting transportation, distribution and logistics training, and COA is the Northern California regional hub for this effort. The program, which received a \$500,000 California Clean Energy grant in October, 2009, last month was also awarded a one million dollar federal grant.

ATLAS caught the attention of AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, who planned a visit to the program in the Diesel Mechanics building last Friday, Feb. 12, as part of his national tour supporting the creation of good jobs. In the end, Trumka was stranded in Washington, DC, by winter storms, but a press conference cosponsored by College of Alameda's ATLAS program and the AFL-CIO went on, attracting a large and enthusiastic attendance of students, former students, community partners, union activists and members of the Peralta community, including Peralta trustees Abel Guillén, Cy Gulassa and Bill Withrow.



Visitors tour the Diesel building

president. A number of ATLAS students and former students gave moving and articulate accounts of the change the program was making in their lives.

Congratulations to Peter Simon, whose conviction and hard work got the program started, and to Lorraine Giordano and her staff, who keep it running.



Panel member Sandré Swanson addresses students & others

Basketball Season Ends



Sophomore honorees and their families

COA came close to winning its last home basketball game of the season on Feb. 17, but in the end the team lost a hard-fought game to rival Merritt College. The evening honored sophomore players, who were brought onto the court with members of their families to be congratulated for a year of hard work.

The Cougars' final league game is Friday, Feb. 19, at Napa Valley College.



Head coach Myron Jordan



Assistant coach Robert Bishop



Faculty and administrators cheer on the team

Calendar (2/19– 3/19)

- Fri 2/19** Basketball vs. Napa Valley College. Napa, 7:30 pm
- Tues 2/23** Black History Month: Our Future: It's not a job, it's a career. F Bldg, 12 pm
- Tues 2/23** Board of Trustees Meeting, District Boardroom, 7 pm
- Tues 2/23 & ev. Tues** Financial Aid Workshops. Cyber Café, F Bldg 2nd floor, 12-2 pm
- Thur 2/25** ASTI Scholarship Dinner. F Bldg 2nd floor, 5-9 pm
- Fri 2/26** Application filing deadline for ASCOA student govt candidates
- Sat 2/27** Super Saturday Student Conference. F Bldg, 9 am—2 pm
- Thur 3/4** Statewide Day of Action for Public Education & Services. Rally at SF Civic Center, 5 pm
- Tues, 3/9** Board of Trustees Meeting, District Boardroom, 7 pm
- Mon 3/15** ASCOA candidates' meetings. location TBA, 12-1 pm
- Thur 3/25** Staff Development Day. No classes

See COA web Events Calendar for details of visits by recruiters from four-year schools.

COA Today

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Dr. George Herring, President

College of Alameda is part of the Peralta Community College District, which also includes Berkeley City College, Laney College and Merritt College.