Three busloads of COA representatives attended the college students’ *March in March* in Sacramento last Monday. Here is a report from COA student Holly Ipock:

Although it was still dark outside, the dozens of students and faculty members that had gathered on the College of Alameda campus early Monday morning appeared cheerful. Many chatted excitedly above the sounds of a nearby radio. Others gathered around markers and sheets of poster board, quickly constructing last-minute signs. Patricia Guevarra, interim Student Activities Advisor, had the students practice chants that had been created for the event shortly before the group departed for Sacramento.

During the march toward the Capitol, history instructor Mustafa Popal and three students led the COA group, carrying a large banner that bore the college’s name and a slogan protesting the cuts. COA was one of the more active and enthusiastic participants in the march. Their voices stood out among the crowd, and surrounding groups of students from other schools often followed College of Alameda’s lead during chants.

This event saw a staggering amount of involvement from the campus and from California colleges as a whole, and the numbers alone sent a strong message about how serious students are about this issue.

Vice Chancellor Sadiq Ikharo met with the C & D Building Committee on March 19 to discuss planning for construction of the new buildings. Due to a loss of $17 million in state funds, construction plans have to be revised. The committee was presented with four plans, and had to give a tentative choice to the state the same day. This decision can be changed if a future Town Hall Meeting decides against the recommendation.

The plan selected, which was the one recommended by the college and district administrations, was to build the shell of the C & D building as previously planned, but do the interior of the building in stages, with science labs and classrooms to be postponed to the second phase. Science will remain in the 860 Atlantic building longer than previously expected. The current plan
Alternative proposals were to build either the C or D building now, the other later; to build a smaller building with the money we have; or to wait and see whether the bond measure passes. Dr. Ikharo pointed out that all of our bond measures in the past 25 years have passed, with on average a 76% vote, and that 85% of community college bonds in 2009 passed, so that despite the current economic situation he doesn’t believe we have to be too concerned about the bond’s failing. He also pointed out that the delay until Phase 2 could begin wouldn’t be long, since we are already facing approximately 6 months of planning with the architects, 6 months of design and design development, and 6 months for approval by the Division of the State Architect (DSA), taking us to the end of 2011. Currently, the plan is not to move to swing space until at least spring of 2011.

A Town Hall Meeting will be scheduled soon, which will allow further discussion of the plans.

REMINDER: The spring Staff Development Retreat is scheduled for this Thursday, March 25, at Joaquin Miller Community Center, 3594 Sanborn Drive in Oakland. The schedule includes work with a facilitator who is an expert in communication, a report from Dr. Herring on developments at the District, and physical exercise. Lunch will be prepared by a new caterer who comes with “excellent credentials” and will provide an international menu including food for vegetarians. Hope to see you there!

Check out the display case outside the C Building between C-104 and C-112. The ecology display in the case was created by former COA student David Kammerer, who studied with Ann Kircher some years ago. He went on to get his BA at UC Berkeley, College of Natural Resources, and since then has held a number of interesting jobs, some involving environmental impact studies and surveys. The display concerns one of these studies in an ecosystem south of Monterey at Point Lobos. This area is one of many Federal Marine Protected Areas, and his display shows details of both Point Lobos Preserve and Marine Protected Areas elsewhere.
REMINDER: The Business Office has requested that all requisitions for purchases from the 2009-2010 budget be delivered to your manager no later than Monday, March 29, 2010.

Congratulations to COA students Janelle Keene and Medhanie Gebrai, who were recently awarded scholarships from the California Community College Scholarship Endowment. The awards, funded by a gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation, are “intended to support those students with the most financial need who have demonstrated success and commitment in their coursework.”

Janelle Keene

COA’s Dental Assisting students have recently participated in three community service events sponsored by the local dental societies of Alameda County, Southern Alameda County and Asian Health Services. These events are targeted to dental health care for children and helping parents to give homecare follow-up and help their children build good dental health habits. The students volunteered to teach children and parents about the benefits of proper oral hygiene during Alameda County Dental Society’s Give Kids a Smile event. A thank-you letter from Eastmont Wellness Center commented on the excellence of the students and said that the center was impressed with the professionalism and kindness they exhibited.

There is still time to profit from dental assisting services on campus at reduced rates:

Students will be accepting patients for x-rays on Fridays, March 26 and April 16 and 23. There is a $10 donation for the service, and x-rays are sent to the person’s dentist.

Each person will need a request from their dentist for the full set of x-rays, signed by the dentist; a completed health history form; and a signed consent form. Forms can be picked up in the dental department at COA, second floor of Building A. You can also have forms mailed to the you by calling the dental department at 510-748-2262 and leaving name, address and phone number.

A pit and fissure sealant procedure is also offered, which seals the deep areas on the chewing surfaces of the teeth to prevent tooth decay. The same paperwork is required as above, and appointments can be made on Fridays, May 7 and 20; Tuesday, May, 25; and Wednesday, May 26. Contact Yvonne Carter at x2262 for more information.

COA’s Psychology Club organized two events in March in celebration of Women’s History Month. On March 10, sociology instructor Mark Sweincicki presented the history of the U.S. feminist and women’s liberation movement, followed by a panel of women from various backgrounds discussing their experiences growing up in America. The following week, human sexuality instructor Elham Chishty discussed female sexual and mental health.

The Psychology Club, organized this year, is already one of the most active clubs on campus. Congratulations to faculty advisor Sarah Peterson-Guada and the students on a very successful endeavor!

Mark Sweincicki discusses the history of U.S. feminism
Because of recent budget cuts, Creative Writing and Literature classes have been eliminated from COA course offerings. To help fill the void, the Learning Resource Center is holding a new workshop for staff and students who are interested in writing and literature.

The Fantasy/Sci-fi Reading Club, led by Robert Tindall, is for people who are interested in fantasy and science fiction and would like to explore new authors and discuss this genre with like-minded individuals. The group meets every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in L-235.

Two established workshops that were successful last semester have also returned for this semester: Grammar Gremlins with Teya Schaffer, Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Practice Speaking English with Andrea Safir, Thursdays 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

Before attending these meetings, students need to enroll in LRNRE 501, which lets them use all LRC labs. Registration is free and there are no credits involved. After enrolling, they can simply drop in during the scheduled meetings.

Trish Nelson is once again offering technology training to staff. She is available in the Center for Creative Technology Integration (CCTI) in L-215 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will also meet faculty in their own offices if necessary. Appointments can be made by emailing Trish Nelson at pnelson@peralta.edu, and drop-ins are also welcome.

### Calendar (3/25 - 5/28)

**Thur 3/25**
No Classes: Staff Development Day. Staff & faculty retreat. Joaquin Miller Community Center, all day

**Fri 3/26**
Faculty Diversity Training: Asian Pacific Islanders: From Context to Classroom. L 237, 1—3 pm

**Sat 3/27**
Transition Faire. Gym & F Bldg, 9 am—3 pm

**Tues 3/30**
Cesar Chavez Celebration. F Bldg, 12—1:30 pm

**Tues 3/30 & ev. Tues**
Financial Aid Workshops. Cyber Café, F Bldg 2nd floor, 12-2 pm

**Mon 4/12**
Priority enrollment begins (EOPS/DSPS, veterans)

**Wed 4/14**
Continuing students summer & fall enrollment begins

**Fri 4/16**
Faculty Diversity Training: Latinos: From Family to College-going Culture. L 237, 1—3 pm

**Tues 4/20 - Wed 4/21**
ASCOA Elections, All Day

**Thur 4/22**
Earth Day. F Bldg/Quad

**Thur 4/22**
CTE Advisory Appreciation Dinner. F Bldg cafeteria, 6 pm

**Fri 4/23**
Faculty Diversity Training: Queer Presence in the Classroom. L 237, 1—3 pm

**Wed 4/28**
Job Fair. F Bldg

**Mon 5/3**
New student enrollment begins for summer and fall

**Tues 5/4**
Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Quad, 12—1:30 pm

**Wed 5/19**
Student Awards Dinner

**Thur 5/20**
Spring Jazz Concert. F Bldg Student Lounge, 7—10 pm

**Thur 5/27**
EOPS/CARE Graduation. F Bldg, 3 — 7 pm

**Fri 5/28**
COA Graduation. Gym, 3 pm

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

### Institutional Effectiveness Lead Chosen

Economics instructor Diana Bajrami has been selected for the temporary post of faculty lead for institutional effectiveness. Diana will work with district technical support as a liaison between the college and the district’s director of institutional research in preparing institutional data and planning reports, conducting surveys and evaluations and responding to data requests.

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**COA Today**

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Please submit your news, calendar items and story ideas to:
Shirleen Schermerhorn, Editor
College of Alameda
555 Ralph Appezzato Mem. Pkwy.
Alameda, CA 94501

Email: sschermerhorn@peralta.edu
Or call: (510) 748-2213

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.