At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 10, COA’s vice president of instruction, Dr. Jannett Jackson, was approved as interim president of the college, to serve from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, or until a permanent president is selected. Dr. Jackson joined College of Alameda as vice president of instruction in August 2004.

Asked to comment on her vision for the coming year, Dr. Jackson said, “I try to look at things from different angles. Although schools and colleges are experiencing first-hand the debilitating effects of a slow economy and the resultant fiscal hardships, it is also times like these that force us to seek solutions through non-traditional approaches. ... I feel that we are poised to redefine ourselves, to expand our involvement in work force training programs, to raise the bar on academic excellence and student success, and enhance our collaboration with community and civic organizations. None of these tasks takes additional funds, only time and commitment, but they can reap enormous rewards. I am excited about the possibilities and I’m glad to be a part of it.”

Approximately 320 students graduated from COA this spring with either certificates or associates’ degrees, or both. The college’s 40th anniversary commencement was celebrated on May 28 with a keynote speaker who is retiring this year after 40 years at Peralta, psychology instructor Bishop Scott. Scott emphasized the importance of graduates’ exploring and finding out who they are in order to choose a path in life, and suggested a list of books to help in that process.

This year’s recipient of the Chancellor’s Trophy was COA student Martinet Phan, who overcame the devastation of her mother’s disabling illness and her father’s death to graduate with high honors in Liberal Arts while acting as a parent to her two younger teenage siblings.

Valedictorian Mali Watkins graduated with highest honors in Social Sciences and Liberal Arts. He was the president of ASCOA in 2009-10, and has been recognized as a recipient of the 2009 Peralta African American Affairs Scholarship, finalist for 2009 Chancellor’s Trophy Award, and Osher Scholar. Mali has been accepted to the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business.

Salutatorian Nguyen Nguyen graduated with highest honors from the Auto Tech program with an AS Degree in Engine Performance. He is currently a technician at Lexus Pleasanton, and plans to continue studying new developments in automotive technology.
Summer school classes began Monday, June 21, with 532 FTE students registered in summer courses as of June 22, an increase of 2% over the previous year’s summer session. Summer school courses continue through July 31, with approximately 120 courses offered in 34 programs, including 22 courses offered online.

May’s annual spring jazz concerts showed off the talents of our student performers and their music instructors, Glen Pearson and Herbert Mims, Jr. As she has done in the past, accounting instructor Rochelle Olive invited her evening students to drop in on one of the concerts and to write about their impressions for extra class credit. Some of their observations:

“I have never been to this sort of concert before, and honestly only went for the extra credit. Now I’m glad I did, it was a good experience, not as I imagined it to be in my head.”

“My favorite song and the last one of the performance, called ‘Sweet Georgia Brown’ (The Harlem Globetrotters Song), it sounded just like the globetrotters theme song as I remember it . . .and it was also the only solo for the only female in the band, the pianist.”

“When the jazz band played an upbeat musical piece, I was impressed by several middle-aged musicians’ energy since they were able to endure playing the saxophone throughout the entire song.”

“Listening to this Jazz Big Band made me relax after the class. I can’t understand what’s the meaning of music. Just what I feel during the concert.”

The College of Alameda and the COA Gay Straight Alliance cohosted a celebration program for the state’s first Harvey Milk Day, signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in October 2009. Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, becoming the first openly gay man elected to California city office. Approximately 100 people attended this inaugural event.

The event was organized by Sean Cahill and committee and COA Student Activities Coordinator Patricia Guevarra. Participants included City of Alameda Councilman Frank Matarrese, Campbell Mayor Evan Low and Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson. The Oakland East Bay Gay Men’s chorus entertained the audience with several musical numbers.

COA Head Librarian and Music Instructor David Sparks spoke to the crucial mission of the campus group to create a hub of safety, providing student support for educational and life resources on campus for LGBT students, faculty, staff, and their allies. Sparks also related his personal story as a witness to the events (candlelight march, riots, and trial) in the aftermath of the murder of the openly gay SF Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone, both shot by ex-policeman and SF city supervisor Dan White on Nov. 27, 1978. Mimi Leonard, English instructor and faculty co-adviser for the COA Gay Straight Alliance, added in the following discussion that unless we support all minority civil rights, including LGBTQ civil rights, all are at risk.

The COA Gay-Straight Alliance will be reorganizing in fall 2010. Look for the group at Student Activities events and Associated Student Council.
COA’s ATLAS and Green Diesel were among the Peralta Green Job-training programs highlighted in a visit to Laney by Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Assistant Secretary of Employment and Job Training for the U.S. Department of Labor Jane Oates on May 3. Since Barbara Lee’s congressional district includes Laney but not COA, a Green Diesel truck was driven over to Laney for the event by graduating COA student Luella Caldwell. Caldwell, a driver who owns her own truck, is now trying to find financing to open her own truck repair business.

The U.S. Department of Labor has provided $2.5 million in grant support for the ATLAS program, which targets low-income, unemployed and under-employed individuals and provides them with training in warehouse logistics and the transportation industry. Since its inception in 2008, ATLAS has graduated eight cohorts of students. The program has just announced a fourth training track, Supply Chain Management, which will offer a certificate program and an Associate in Science degree.

College of Alameda is developing a series of violence prevention courses for its curriculum in Community Development and Public Service. These courses are designed based upon an evaluation of assets and needs articulated by local community-based organizations working in the field of violence prevention and community development. The courses are to be the first of many (leading towards certificate and degree options) that will be grounded in civic engagement and public affairs, and will train individuals in the multiple career pathways of public service, including the fields of violence prevention and intervention, urban and community development, local politics, social change campaigns, participatory democracy facilitation, and public administration. The violence prevention courses are projected to be able to accept students in Fall 2010. For more information, see http://alameda.peralta.edu/civicengagement or contact Megan Montague or Robert Brem in the Political Science department.

The District has changed the procedures for reporting employee absences, in order to increase accountability of classified employees and managers. Beginning July 1, 2010, all managers and classified professionals will be required to submit a monthly attendance report, using the existing Leave of Absence Report.

The attendance report is to be signed by the employee and supervisor, and turned in to Human Resources no later than the tenth day of the following month. The manager is responsible for turning in a form by the deadline if the employee fails to do so. As of June 3, consequences to be imposed on employees and/or managers when forms were not turned in had not yet been decided.
On Monday, June 7th, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new on-campus dental clinic, a collaborative project by College of Alameda, Asian Health Services, the Alameda County Dental Health Department, and the City of Alameda. Established to address a need for more comprehensive and accessible dental care in the Alameda community, the clinic offers a sliding scale system for the uninsured who are not eligible for MediCal.

Services will be available to uninsured and underinsured Alameda children starting in late June, including children from the Head Start program and Alameda Point Collaborative. Currently, it is projected that the clinic will begin accepting College of Alameda students in the Fall. The clinic will be open twenty hours a week and staffed by two dentists from Asian Health Services, as well as a pediatric dentistry resident on Fridays.

The Peralta Board of Trustees, at its June 22 meeting, approved the appointment of two Peralta administrators as interim replacements for COA's new interim president, Dr. Jannett Jackson, and our retiring Division I dean, Peter Simon.

COA's new vice president of instruction is Dr. Rebecca Kenney, who comes to the college after 3 ½ years as dean of mathematics, science and vocational programs at Merritt College. She has more than 25 years of experience in community colleges and private industry, has taught in the fields of mental health and human services and aviation, and has been a visiting lecturer in English and humanities, health and education, women’s studies and communications. She has developed and instructed numerous diversity/cultural competency workshops at community colleges and conferences, and has recently worked with Merritt’s federally funded Maximum Achievement Project to successfully connect African American students with science research programs.

Dr. Kenney holds an associate of arts degree from Seattle Central Community college, a bachelor of arts in English with a specialization in American Indian Studies from the University of Washington, and a master’s degree in adult education and Ph.D. in education with a concentration in community college leadership from Oregon State University. She is a past recipient of the Carolyn DesJardins Outstanding Oregon Leadership Award from the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) for the State of Oregon.

COA computer information systems instructor Gary Perkins will take over the position of Dean of Division I, overseeing vocational, science and some social science programs. Gary is currently department chair of business, CIS and economics, and is serving as district-wide Passport trainer. He has also served as president of the Faculty Senate and, from 2006 to 2008, as chief information officer for the Peralta Colleges. Gary has been a faculty member since 1992, holding adjunct and tenured positions at Laney, Skyline and College of San Mateo as well as at COA. Prior to coming to the Bay Area from the Midwest he worked in computer technology in private industry, where his employers included Lotus Development Corporation, Lee Data, Honeywell and Procter & Gamble.

Gary holds a bachelor of science degree in industrial and systems engineering from Ohio University and an MBA in information systems from Keller Graduate School of Management.
STUDENT AWARDS

Dental Assisting Students Win Scholarships

Dr. Huong Le, President of the Alameda County Dental Society, presented $500 scholarships to two COA students at the Society’s recent general membership dinner. Congratulations to the winners of the TDIC (The Dentists Insurance Company) scholarships, Terra Muzick and Thienkim Tran.

Dr. Le, students Thienkim Tran & Terra Muzick

Osher Scholarship Winners

Five COA students were among the 23 Peralta Osher Grant scholars honored at a reception in the District Office on April 28. COA’s honorees were Ashley Ann Dorsett, Medhanie Gebrai, Janelle Deana Keene, Joan Rueter and Mali Watkins. This is the inaugural year of these awards, funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation to support California community college students who are in need of financial assistance to complete their college programs.

Right: Award-winning Adelante students at the first annual Learning Communities celebration in May

Below: Awards dinner recognition of Save Our Schools student leaders

Above: A special graduation ceremony celebrated EOPS students’ success
The Alameda One-Stop Career Center, located on the College of Alameda campus, is busier than ever assisting students and community members who are engaged in a job search. This school year the One Stop served a total of 4952 East Bay job seekers, including 385 COA students and 2600 Alameda residents. More than 100 people were placed in a variety of part- and full-time jobs. The One Stop hosts an annual Community Job Fair, and this year’s 12th annual Fair attracted 22 employers and over 300 attendees.

The One Stop provides FREE employment services to students, community members and local businesses. Services include workshops on job search, interviewing, resume development, stress management and older workers; job leads; job fairs and on-site recruitments; career assessment tools and subsidized training. The office provides use of computers, fax machine, copier and telephone to aid in the job search.

The One-Stop is located in “Portable P” on West Campus Drive. For more information including leads for “Hot Jobs” and a calendar of events, go to www.alameda.peralta.edu/one-stop

At its June 22 meeting the Board of Trustees approved a tentative budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The final budget is due by September 15, and could include additional budget cuts as a result of the State’s legislated budget. The Board plans to hold a budget workshop in July to consider options. Some possible cuts to be considered are included on page 6 of the tentative budget, which is available on:


COA says goodbye to several permanent employees who are retiring this semester, including president George Herring, dean Peter Simon, counselor Brenda Bias, biology instructor Ann Kircher, English instructor Mimi Leonard, counselor Shirley Robinson, psychology instructor Bishop Scott, library technician Patricia Barnett, student services staff assistant Cindy Counsell and student personnel services specialist Camille Hopkins. Some will be returning to teach part time; others are moving on to other projects. We wish them all well.

Patricia Barnett (3rd from left) with library staff & guests at her retirement party

Trustee Bill Withrow congratulates Peter Simon