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*CoA President Dr. Nathaniel Jones III*

## President's Corner: A Moment of Gratitude

As we approach the end of fall semester, I'd like to take a moment and express my gratitude for our outstanding students, faculty, and staff for accomplishing another semester of innovative teaching and learning during a time filled with great uncertainties.

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our community. We have had to continue to adjust our campus operations to strike the appropriate balance between safety and meeting the needs of our students in a manner that supports equity. Most students, faculty, and staff are finishing the semester virtually, while others have been on campus navigating operations with intentional focus on maintaining a safe teaching, service, and work environment for the campus community.

For all of this good work, I am extremely proud of and grateful for our entire CoA community.

I am thankful for our intrepid faculty who have made virtual learning seamless, and who continue to provide our students with high caliber learning.

I am thankful for our staff for their heroic work ensuring that support for our students is always there when needed.

I am thankful for our Athletics Department for developing a plan allowing our student-athletes to compete while prioritizing their safety. (Go Cougars!)

I am thankful for our students who have exhibited an inspiring amount of resilience during this time.

Thank you all for maintaining your confidence in the College; for upholding the goals that you set for yourself when first stepping foot on campus; and for doing your part, working together to maintain a vibrant and safe learning environment.

I appreciate each of you, for your commitment, for your patience, and for your sacrifice. It has not gone unnoticed.

As the holidays are fast approaching, I hope that each of you may safely relax with family and friends, and reflect on ways in which together we can make 2022 even better.

I look forward to safely welcoming you back to campus sometime in the New Year. I wish you peace, joy, and good health.

Warmest regards,



Dr. Nathaniel Jones III  
College of Alameda President



*Mr. Steve Gilbert (in the plaid shirt) hands out scholarship awards in memory of his son and former ATECH student Daniel Gilbert*

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## ATECH Scholarship Awards Ceremony Celebrated at CoA

A beautiful and heartfelt scholarship awards ceremony took place on December 1, 2021, at the College of Alameda Automotive Technology (ATECH) Facility. Mr. **Steve Gilbert** awarded five memorial Scholarships in memory of his son **Daniel Gilbert** who was an ATECH student at College of Alameda in 2007 when he was senselessly slain in East Oakland. Friends, family members, and co-workers of the 21-year-old man established the Daniel Gilbert Memorial Scholarship at CoA in 2008. Mr. Gilbert congratulated this year's award recipients and emphasized the importance of pursuing an education that will provide a livable wage, improve their lives, and benefit the well-being of their community.

*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.*



*From left: ATECH Professor and Chair Rick Greenspan and 1989 CoA ATECH Alumnus Mr. Duc Nguyen*

Five students received awards this year, including four ATECH students: **Robert Reyes, Richard Nguyen, Aaron Kindig, and Sohail Ali**; and one Auto Body and Paint Program student: **Natalia Bun**.

Students, faculty, administrators, and staff attended the event. Professor and Chair **Rick Greenspan**, Professor **Rufino Ramos**, Professor **Peter Ha**, and Facility Supervisor Mr. **Candido Mejia** were extremely proud of their students' accomplishments.

Dean **Eva Jennings** congratulated the scholarship recipients on the behalf of the Division of Career Education and thanked the professors and staff for their good work.

Acting VPI **Diana Bajrami** welcomed and thanked the students on behalf of the CoA President and the College. She also encouraged them to support each other and future generations to reach their dreams.

Professor and Department Chair **Rick Greenspan** introduced 1989 CoA ATECH Alumnus Mr. **Duc Nguyen** who attended the ceremony with his daughter to celebrate the achievement of his son **Richard Nguyen**, who is one of this year's scholarship recipients.

The ceremony took place in the auto shop respecting all Peralta Covid-19 safety guidelines and was followed by an outdoor celebratory barbeque in the big garage door area, which was generously donated by **Everett and Jones Barbeque** restaurant.

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## Please Support Our Students—Donate to the CoA Academic Scholarship!

Help us recognize outstanding CoA students by donating to fundraiser for CoA academic senate scholarship for students! Peralta Colleges Foundation has set up a donations page for CoA academic senate scholarship fund ( [bit.ly/coa-as-scholarship-fund](https://bit.ly/coa-as-scholarship-fund) ), which was authorized by the senate in Spring 2020. Please donate if you can and encourage others to donate as well. All direct donations to the fund are tax-deductible as charitable gifts. Also, please encourage your students to apply. The scholarship applications are due March 1, 2022, on Peralta Colleges Foundation main website, and CoA academic senate scholarship requires at least 1 letter of recommendation from CoA faculty and designation of CoA as home campus.

*Submitted by Academic Senate Treasurer Andrew Park*





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## CoA Aviation Program Featured in CCC's *Outlook* News Article

The California Community College's *Outlook* Newsletter recently featured College of Alameda's Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program in an article titled "[Taking Flight: California Community Colleges Launching Careers in Aviation.](#)" The article highlights the importance of the airlines industry to California's economy and the urgent need for qualified aviation mechanics. While there is currently a waiting list to enroll, the AMT program is poised to expand its enrollment next year when its new hangar project is completed. Congratulations to AMT faculty and staff, Department Chair **Hoi Ko**, Professors **George Cruz** and **Bruce Pettyjohn**, Aviation Maintenance Technology Senior Supervisor, **Esther Cheng**, Dean of Career and Workforce Education **Eva Denise Jennings**, and Acting Vice President of Instruction Dr. **Diana Bajrami** for this special recognition. Click [here](#) to read the article.



*Mr. Saurav Pudasaini, Network Support Services Specialist*

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## Welcome New Staff!

Mr. **Saurav Pudasaini** has joined College of Alameda's Information Technology (IT) team as a Network Support Services Specialist. Saurav brings years of experience providing IT support at the Peralta Community College District (PCCD) Help Desk and has extensive knowledge and understanding of PCCD systems. As Network Support Services Specialist for CoA, Saurav will provide campus-wide technical support for users of all IT supported systems, applications, and services.



## STARTING POINT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Pauline (she/her)



Psychology and Sociology  
Senior

### Starting Point Mentorship Program Features CoA Alumna and 2020 Valedictorian Pauline Anne Roxas

The University of California (UC), Berkeley, [Starting Point Mentorship Program](#) (SPMP) recently featured CoA alumna **Pauline Anne Roxas** in their social media campaign. Roxas is majoring in psychology and sociology at UC Berkeley, but she honed her interest in the subjects while enrolled in classes at CoA. Pauline shared her personal testimonial (below) about her CoA experience with her UC Berkeley classmates.

*"I decided to enroll at College of Alameda in the second semester of my senior year in high school because I thought I'd do something interesting outside my high school. From there, I enjoyed my first-ever class at a community college—Intro to Psychology. After I graduated from high school, I stayed at my community college [CoA] and my sister helped me get a work-study job on campus. I became active on campus by being part of Student Council, different committees, and volunteering with different departments such as EOPS, Cougar Scholars, etc. I would say that my transfer journey was smooth because I had the right guidance...I was able to transfer in two years with two associate degrees and an award as the Class of 2020 Valedictorian."*

*CoA Alumna and Transfer student  
UC Berkeley Psychology/Sociology Major  
—Pauline Anne Roxas*

SPMP pairs eligible community college students with current UC Berkeley student mentors that offer guidance, motivation and access to admissions, campus, and community resources. The program is specifically designed to encourage California Community College students from all backgrounds to explore their academic potential and prepare for transfer to UC Berkeley and other four-year universities.

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## Art Student Expresses Her Positivity and Enthusiasm

College of Alameda Painting Student **April Davis** is exploring unique expression with enthusiasm. April is a dedicated art student having completed a watercolor course followed by acrylic painting this semester. Her compositions are evocative and original. In addition, April is a communicative participant in the online classes. During this time of the pandemic April has risen to the challenge in a commendable way, with grit, positivity, and focus. Excellent painting April, thank you for your contributions!

*Submitted by Art Professor Drew Burgess*



## Students and Community Members Enjoy Special Thanksgiving Treats

Over 90 families stopped by CoA's Free Produce Market and Chicken Dinner Giveaway on November 23, 2021. According to Director of Student Activities and Campus Life **Natalie Rodriguez**, it was a very busy day for volunteers. In addition to the regular bi-weekly offerings of fresh produce, the College teamed up with the Alameda County Community Food Bank to dish out 60 free delicious chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, and stuffing dinners in celebration of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Students and community members expressed how much they appreciated CoA's efforts to make the holiday an especially happy and healthy one for their families. CoA offers its Free Produce Market monthly on the second and fourth Tuesday. Students and community members are invited to participate.

*Submitted by Director of Student Activities and Campus Life Natalie Rodriguez*



CoA students were invited by E14 Art Gallery to participate in the Día de los Muertos Ceremonia on October 30, 2021, in Old Oakland

## Virtual and In-person Dia de los Muertos Events Spark Meaningful Conversations and Cultural Awareness

Starting with a virtual “Día de los Muertos Ofrenda Workshop” on October 28, 2021, CoA students were invited to learn more and experience first-hand this important annual cultural event. The E14 Art Gallery in Old Oakland invited CoA students, faculty, and staff to attend the popular community ceremony on October 30, 2021. On November 2, 2021, the College hosted the “Día de los Muertos: Cafecito con la Facultad” event, featuring meaningful conversations with students, faculty, and staff members about the difficulty of losing loved ones and the relationship of such loss to the traditions of Dia de los Muertos. Cafecito presenters included: ACCESO/Puente Specialist **Mayra Arevalo-Agyapong**, Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts **Lilia Celhay**, Professor and Mathematics Department Co-Chair Dr. **Khalilah Beal-Urbe**, CoA Librarian **Joshua Rose**, Director of Hispanic Serving Institutions **Horacio Corona Lira**, Director of College Research and Planning **Dominique Benavides**, and Support Services Specialist **Belinda Van Buhler**.

*Submitted by Director of Student Activities and Campus Life Natalie Rodriguez. Photos by Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Grant ACCESO/Puente Programs Horacio Corona Lira*



## Corrections

We try to get the facts straight but sometimes corrections are needed. In the KUDOS article, November 4, 2021, issue of *Splash* correction: CoA Dean of Career and Workforce Education Customized Training, and Community Education **Eva Denise Jennings** has served as president-elect, president, and past-president of the California Community College Association for Occupational Education (CCCAOE).

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## Finals Week: December 13-17, 2021

### Final Exam Schedule

| <b>DAY CLASSES (Up to 4:00 p.m.)</b>  |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Final examinations will be conducted for a two-hour period as per the following schedule: |                                      |
| <b>Classes that meet regularly on the following:</b>                                      | <b>Will conduct final exam on:</b>   |
| 8:00 a.m. Mon & Wed   | 8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. Fri. Dec. 17    |
| 9:30 a.m. Mon & Wed   | 8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. Wed. Dec. 15    |
| 11:00 a.m. Mon & Wed  | 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Mon. Dec. 13   |
| 1:30p.m. Mon & Wed  | 12:00p.m.–2:00p.m. Mon. Dec. 13      |
| 3:00p.m. Mon & Wed  | 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Wed. Dec. 15       |
| 8:00 a.m. Tues & Thurs  | 8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. Thurs. Dec. 16  |
| 9:30 a.m. Tues & Thurs  | 8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. Tues. Dec. 14   |
| 11:00 a.m. Tues & Thurs   | 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Thurs. Dec. 16 |
| 1:30p.m. Tues & Thurs   | 12:00p.m.–2:00p.m. Tues. Dec. 14     |
| 3:00p.m. Tues & Thurs   | 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Tues. Dec. 14      |
| 8:00 a.m. Mon, Wed & Fri or 8:00a.m. daily  | 8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. Fri. Dec. 17    |
| 9:00 a.m. Mon, Wed & Fri or 9:00a.m. daily  | 8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. Wed. Dec. 15    |
| 10:00 a.m. Mon, Wed & Fri or 10:00a.m. daily  | 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Mon. Dec. 13   |
| 11:00 a.m. Mon, Wed & Fri or 11:00a.m. daily  | 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Wed. Dec. 15   |
| 12:00 noon Mon, Wed & Fri or 12:00 noon daily   | 12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m. Mon. Dec. 13    |
| 1:00 p.m. Mon, Wed & Fri or 1:00p.m. daily  | 12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m. Wed. Dec. 15    |
| 2:00 p.m. Mon, Wed & Fri or 2:00p.m. daily  | 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. Mon. Dec. 13     |
| 3:00 p.m. Mon, Wed & Fri or 9:00a.m. daily  | 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. Wed. Dec. 15     |
| <b>EVENING CLASSES (After 4:00 p.m.) and SATURDAY CLASSES</b>                             |                                      |
| Final examinations will be conducted as per the following schedule:                       |                                      |
| <b>Class which meet on:</b>   | <b>Will conduct final exam on:</b>   |
| Saturday only   | Saturday: DECEMBER 11                |
| Monday only   | Monday: DECEMBER 13                  |
| Tuesday only, or after 4:00p.m. Tues./Thurs.  | Tuesday: DECEMBER 14                 |
| Wednesday only, or after 4:00p.m. Mon./Wed.   | Wednesday: DECEMBER 15               |
| Thursday only   | Thursday: DECEMBER 16                |
| Friday only   | Friday: DECEMBER 17                  |

- The above Final Exam Schedule pertains to only the regular 17.5 week classes.
- If you are enrolled in a late start 10-week, 14-week or 2nd 8-week class, you should be aware that you will continue to meet during your regular day(s) and time(s) during the Final Exam week.





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## 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](mailto: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/>

*Splash* will be back in 2022.

Until then we wish you a HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!