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*Dr. Diana Bajrami, Acting  
President, College of Alameda*

## President's Corner: Embracing the Joy of the Season and Reflecting on Our Achievements

As we find ourselves on the cusp of the holiday season and the dawn of a New Year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the remarkable accomplishments we have achieved together this semester. Your unwavering dedication and support for our students, our community, and one another have made all the difference, and for that, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

The Winter Intersession Classes are now fully enrolled, and the early demand for our spring offerings is robust—a testament to the exceptional work you continue to do. Your commitment has played a pivotal role in creating an environment where our students can thrive and envision a brighter future.

I invite you to join me on December 12, 2023, from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the H Building Lobby Area for our annual End of Year Party and our traditional Adopt a Family and Toy Drive. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together, reflect on our collective achievements, and share in the festive spirit before the holiday break.

Your outstanding efforts in engaging with our students, providing them with support, opportunities, and a sense of hope, have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for embodying the spirit of our college community. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and restful holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Diana Bajrami  
Acting President, College of Alameda



It's time to Celebrate

**COA 2023  
End of Year Party**

**DECEMBER 12, 2023 1:30-3:30 PM**

COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA  
H BLDG LOBBY

**TOY DRIVE:**


★ PLEASE BRING **NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS\*** FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

\*Donations:

★  
Adopt-A-Family (COA EOPS)  
Alameda Housing Authority  
Justice Impacted Community

**Ugly Sweater Contest:**

Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd  
Place Winners





## COA Professor Glen L. Pearson Receives Grammy Nomination

The 66th Annual Grammy Nominations have been announced, and COA’s wonderfully gifted Music Professor and Pianist **Glen L. Pearson** has received a well-deserved nomination as part of [The Count Basie Orchestra](#), directed by Scotty Barnhart, for their latest album “Basie Swings the Blues.”

This marks the band's second Grammy nomination, a testament to their remarkable talent and dedication to the art of music. We extend our heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS to Glen and the entire Count Basie band for this prestigious honor.

Voting for the Grammys will take place from December 14, 2023 to January 2, 2024. The 66th Annual Grammy Awards Ceremony broadcast live on February 4, 2024, starting at 5 PM PST on CBS Television.

## New Mental Health Navigator Services Launched at COA

The COA Wellness Team is launching a new Mental Health Navigator service to enhance support for our student community. This student mental health navigator initiative aims to assist students in transitioning seamlessly from on-campus mental health services to community-based alternatives, as well as connecting students with off-campus mental health services and other essential resources in Alameda County. We are so excited to welcome student Mental Health Navigators Amanda and Chantrea to our wellness team! Students can access Mental Health Navigator services by scanning the QR code.

*Submitted by Ismael De Guzman, LMFT, Mental Health Counselor Mental Health Counseling  
Appointments Are Available for Student*







*Dance Professor Danny Nguyen and students performed at the annual the International Film Festival Award Ceremony at the Herbst Theater*

## CoA Dance Department Dazzles at International Film Festival Award Ceremony: A Celebration of Art, Culture, & Community

On November 19, 2023, In the heart of San Francisco, at the prestigious Herbst Theater, College of Alameda Dance Students, under the direction of COA's tremendously talented Dance Professor **Danny Nguyen**, performed at the annual the International Film Festival Award Ceremony.

The performance wove a vibrant tapestry of contemporary movement that explored the Asian-American experience through the captivating medium of dance and the performing arts. With a commitment to inclusivity, the beautifully choreographed piece by Professor Nguyen aimed to share the joy and richness of dance with individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

As the COA Dance Department continues its journey of artistic exploration and cultural celebration, it looks forward to engaging with an ever-expanding audience, fostering an extended community bound by the love for dance and the performing arts. Professor Nguyen and his students extended a special acknowledgment to the CoA Administration, including President **Diana Bajrami**, Vice President **Maurice Jones**, and Dean **William Ramos Ochoa**, whose unwavering support made this experience possible.



*A College of Alameda team celebrates Veteran's Day as part of the USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum's Silver Oak Anniversary.*

## COA Team Celebrates with the Historic USS Hornet Museum

In honor of Veterans Day on November 10, 2023, a team from the College of Alameda, in collaboration with the Alameda Chamber of Commerce, took part in the commemoration of the Silver Oak Anniversary held at the USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum—an event marking 25 years as a museum and 80 years since the ship's commissioning in 1943.

The well-attended community celebration featured culinary delights, music performed by the Nick Rossi Swing Six Band, and a rich exploration of the USS Hornet's history. The museum's enduring legacy, thriving for two and a half decades as an Alameda landmark, owes its success to steadfast support from the community.

Notable participants included Peralta Community College District Trustee **Bill Withrow**, a Navy Veteran, Acting College President **Dr. Diana Bajrami**, Veteran, Past President of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, and former Associated Students of College of Alameda (ASCOA) leader Clemaus Tervalon and his wife, Vice President of Student Services **Dr. Mildred Lewis**, and Dean of Career and Workforce Education, Contract & Community Education **Dr. Eva Denise Jennings**.





## Acting President Bajrami, Participates in Panel Presentation at the CCLC Annual Conference

Dr. Bajrami was selected as a presenter for a panel discussion during the [Community College League of California \(CCLC\)](#) Annual Conference held on November 17, 2023. The special panel presentation, organized by [California Colleges for International Education \(CCIE\)](#), included **Dr. Rosalind Raby**, Director, California Colleges for International Education (CCIE), **Dr. Andreea Serban**, Vice Chancellor Educational Services and Technology at Coast Community College District and President of the CCIE Board of Directors, **Dr. Angelica Suarez**, President, Orange Coast College and CCIE Vice President South, and **Dr. Edward Bush**, President, Cosumnes River College and CCIE Vice President North.

The expert presenters shared their valuable insights into international education across community colleges, emphasizing significant initiatives, international programs, contract education, and study abroad opportunities. This informative session explored educational collaborations in diverse regions, including China, Africa, and beyond.

The panel presentation was well-attended facilitated a robust discussion among attendees on the pivotal role of international education as an agent of change. Moreover, participants delved into the significance of international education opportunities in fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility on a global scale.

Hosted at the Renaissance Esmeralda in Indian Wells, the CCLC 2023 Annual Convention spanned from Thursday, November 16, 2023, to Saturday, November 18, 2023. This premier professional development event gathered California's community college leaders, comprising CEOs, trustees, faculty, staff, administrators, and partners. The convention served as a platform to exchange tools, models, and solutions addressing systemic issues while celebrating the accomplishments of the community college sector.



*California Community College to Historically Black College & University Fall Caravan attendees: Dean of Counseling & Special Programs Dr. Shalomon Duke, UMOJA students, Chabot President Dr. Jamal Cooks, COA Counselor Valarie Carey, COA counselor, and Veterans Counselor Jamar Mears.*

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## COA UMOJA Shines at CCC to HBCU Fall Caravan

On November 1, 2023, the College of Alameda UMOJA program made a significant impact at the California Community College to Historically Black College & University Fall Caravan, held at Chabot College.

With a turnout of over 130 students from nearby colleges, the event proved to be a valuable opportunity for COA students and other attendees to delve into the California Community College (CCC) to Historically Black College & University (HBCU) transfer agreement. More than 25 HBCU campus representatives were present to engage with eager students.

The participating students gained insights into various aspects of the transfer process, including:

- The CCC to HBCU guaranteed transfer pathway
- HBCU scholarships and financial aid options
- HBCU student life and athletics



Students met with various HBCU admissions representatives for on-the-spot admissions by having their unofficial transcripts reviewed. Admissions to HBCUs hold the promise of professional advancement for qualified students. Black professionals who have attended an HBCU have had excellent career outcomes, including 40% of Members of Congress; 12.5% of CEOs; 40% of Engineers; 50% of Professors at Non-HBCUs Institutions; 50% of Lawyers; and 80% of Judges.

COA's participation in the CCC to HBCU Fall Caravan was led by COA counselor **Valarie Carey** and Dean of Counseling & Special Programs **Dr. Shalamon Duke**.

The event drew participation from COA staff and students, including:

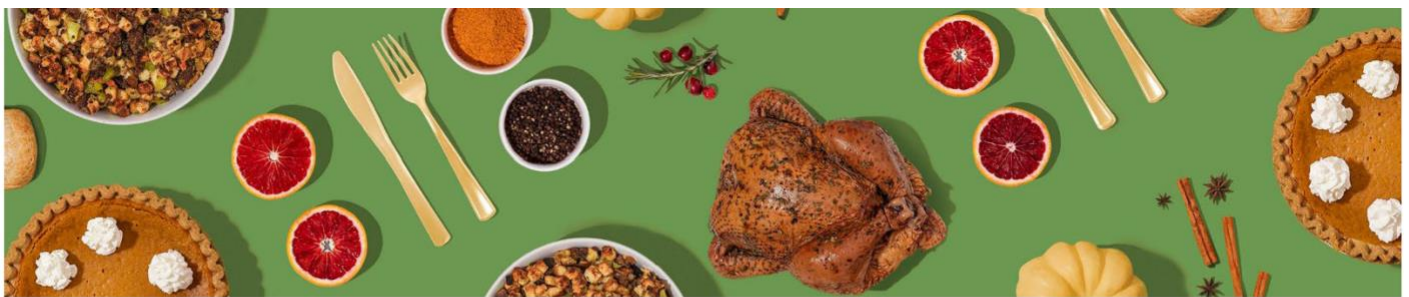
COA Staff/Faculty:

- **Shawn Foster**, COA IT Network Technician
- **Jamar Mears**, COA Veterans' Resource Center Counselor

COA UMOJA Students:

- **Haley Harrison**
- **Colinda Stephens**
- **Nkemmakolam Asoronye**
- **Mohammad Alshuaga**
- **Joseph Wilson**

*Submitted by COA Counselor Valarie Carey*



# FREE Chicken Dinner

## Free Thanksgiving Dinners Lift Spirits and Support Students

In the spirit of giving and in anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday, College of Alameda once again extended a warm hand to its students by distributing free chicken dinners on Tuesday, November 14. This thoughtful initiative, organized by **Jeremy Simmons**, Basic Needs Coordinator, through the Basic Needs Office at CoA in collaboration with the Alameda County Community Food Bank, aimed to support students during the holiday season.

At The Market, an ongoing effort to address students' basic needs, attendees were provided with a frozen chicken and an assortment of holiday side dishes. Each student received stuffing mix, instant mashed

*The mission of the College of Alameda is to serve the educational needs of its diverse community by providing comprehensive and flexible programs and resources to empower students to achieve their goals.*



potatoes, cranberry sauce, and canned corn. The offerings were further enhanced with three varieties of fresh produce: sweet potatoes, onions, and pears.

The event, titled "Free Chicken Dinners at The Market," served a total of 100 student households, distributing 84 frozen chickens, and contributing over 600 pounds of holiday side dishes to ensure a flavorful and hearty Thanksgiving for CoA students.

The Market at CoA is a recurring bi-weekly event, taking place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month during the Fall and Spring semesters. Open from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, The Market is conveniently located behind the F-building/Student Center, offering essential resources to students.

This initiative not only underscores the College of Alameda's commitment to the well-being of its students but also highlights the collaboration with community partners to address basic needs. As the holiday season approaches, CoA continues to prioritize the support and welfare of its students.

*Submitted by: Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Dean of Student Enrollment Services*



## Castlemont High School Students Invited to CoA for A Day of Exploration and Connection

On Thursday, November 16, 2023, the College of Alameda Outreach Team was thrilled to host a group of 40 students from Castlemont High School for an enriching campus tour. The tour was expertly led by our exceptional student leaders from the Welcome Center and ACESSO/Puente programs.

The day began with a general exploration of our picturesque campus, allowing the visiting students to soak in the vibrant atmosphere and get a feel for college life at CoA. The highlight of their visit was an in-depth walk-through of our esteemed Automotive Technology (ATECH) department, providing valuable insights into the innovative programs and opportunities available at CoA.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to our dedicated student leaders, **Yvonne Hernandez**, **Irvin Padro**, and **Diego Casillas** from ACESSO/Puente, as well as **Antwa Rodriguez** from the Welcome Center, for their enthusiastic and knowledgeable guidance during the tour. Their passion for sharing the CoA experience undoubtedly made a lasting impression on our guests.

Special thanks extend to ATECH department team members for generously hosting the tour and dedicating their time to connect with Castlemont High School students.

College of Alameda is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for prospective students, and events like these play a crucial role in inspiring the next generation of learners. As we continue to open our doors to the community, we look forward to hosting more engaging events that contribute to the educational journey of students in the broader Alameda area.

*Submitted by: Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Dean of Student Enrollment Services*



## Meet the Student Navigators 2023-2024



### **Amanda Bechtold, Student Navigator**

Amanda Bechtold is happy to serve students as a Mental Health Navigator (M.H.N.) here at the amazing College of Alameda (CoA). She is currently majoring in Psychology, and she dreams of becoming a practicing psychologist one day. She is excited that she gets to work here at the CoA Wellness Center in this wonderful environment, and gain valuable experience in the psychological profession. Her favorite hobbies include listening to music, reading, and walking on the beach.



### **Chantrea Sngoun, Student Navigator**

Chantrea Sngoun is a student at the College of Alameda, majoring in Fine Art. She loves traveling and reading. Her favorite type of book is Self-development. She is honored to be a student navigator at the College of Alameda and She is happy to be able to assist students to access community services that are available for the students.

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*Leadership Unites: Stakeholders from Alameda City, Asian Health Services, and College of Alameda come together to discuss and strengthen their partnership for a healthier and brighter future.*

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## Collaborative Vision: Strengthening Ties Between Asian Health Services and College of Alameda

On November 9, 2023, a significant meeting took place to foster collaboration and strengthen the partnership between the Asian Health Services and College of Alameda. In attendance were key figures committed to the cause, representing the bridge between health services and education.

The photo above captures the moment, with **Jennifer Ott**, Alameda City Manager, standing beside **Carla Pegues**, Dental Assisting Faculty and Chair, and **Dr. Thu Quach**, President of Asian Health Services. Also present were **Diana Bajrami**, Acting President of COA, the Honorable **Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft**, Alameda Mayor, **Julia Liou**, CEO of Asian Health Clinic, and **Dr. Eva Denise Jennings**, Career Education Dean. Completing the lineup, **Julia Liou** serves as the Chief Dental Officer for Asian Health Services.

The discussion focused on how to fortify the existing partnership, formalize relationships, and create avenues for employment opportunities for College of Alameda Dental Assisting students. Currently, the Asian Health Clinic extends its services to both Alameda residents and COA students, emphasizing inclusivity by providing health, social, and advocacy services to all, regardless of income, insurance status, immigration status, language, or culture. The overarching goal of this initiative will be to establish an enduring partnership that serves the community's needs and aligns healthcare and education services for a brighter and healthier future for our community.

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*College of Alameda Dance  
Department proudly presents an informal  
dance performance, directed by dance  
professor Danny Nguyen.*

*“Who Put the D in Dance?”*

*This performance will be held at the College  
of Alameda Dance Studio Room G-111 on  
Friday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, free admission.*

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*“College of Alameda Dance Clubs’ mission is to  
create, develop and promote contemporary  
expressions of U.S. American culture, highlighting the  
Asian-American experience through dance and the  
performing arts. We also aim to share dance and the  
performing arts with people of all ages, backgrounds,  
and abilities.”*

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# ALAMEDA

## BASKETBALL

### 2023-2024 COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA MEN'S BASKETBALL CONFERENCE

Dec 19	Napa Valley College	Napa, CA	Jan 17	Mendocino College	Alameda, CA	Feb 07	Yuba College	Marysville, CA
Dec 21	Solano College	Alameda, CA	Jan 19	Los Medanos College	Pittsburg, CA	Feb 14	Merritt College	Alameda, CA
Dec 30	Dhione College	Alameda, CA	Jan 24	Contra Costa College	Alameda, CA	Feb 16	Mendocino College	Ukiah, CA
Jan 03	College of Marin	Kentfield, CA	Jan 26	Napa Valley College	Alameda, CA	Feb 20	Los Medanos College	Alameda, CA
Jan 05	Yuba College	Alameda, CA	Jan 31	Solano College	Fairfield, CA	Feb 22	Contra Costa College	San Pablo, CA
Jan 12	Merritt College	Oakland, CA	Feb 02	College of Marin	Alameda, CA	HOME	AWAY/NEUTRAL	

© Peralta Community College District

Photo Credit: Faiza Ali  
Design Credit: Marcus Creel.

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**Art Show:** Professor Cynthia Horn's students have completed some beautiful works of art which are on display all day Tuesday while classes are in session, or you can look through the gallery window any day----second floor H building.



College of Alameda

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# SPRING 2024

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Class Schedule



**SPRING IS FREE AT COA\***

555 RALPH APPEZZATO MEMORIAL PKWY • ALAMEDA, CA 94501 • 510.522.7221 • ALAMEDA.EDU

## SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 22ND

\* Spring is Free for California residents who:

1. Complete financial aid application (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act application
2. Enrolled in a **MINIMUM of 6 UNITS**

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## Enroll Now for Spring 2024 Free Classes!

Spring Semester begins January 22, 2024

Classes are FREE for students enrolled in 6 or more units for Spring 2024 Semester.

Click [here](#) to download your Spring Schedule of Classes.

Returning students log onto [sa.peralta.edu](https://sa.peralta.edu) to register today.

Select “Spring 2024” as the term to enroll.

New students can apply for admission at <https://alameda.edu/enroll/> – or visit the College of Alameda Welcome Center for assistance.



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## Wishing you a Peaceful, Happy and Healthy Holidays from the Splash Team!

See you again in the New Year!

Past issues of the CoA *Splash* are available at <https://alameda.edu/office-of-the-president/>