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

President's Corner: A Vibrant Start to a New Year

As we embrace the opportunities that come with a fresh year, I'm delighted to share some of the activities and events that have set the tone for an exciting and productive spring semester.

In early January, faculty, staff, and students welcomed our new Chancellor **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson** for a special visit and tour of the campus.

On January 19, 2024, our Professional Development Committee brought the COA community together for a series of enriching and innovative Flex Day activities focusing on navigating as team to improve learning outcomes.

The College also launched an inaugural Student Professional Development Institute for student leaders this year, the first in a series of planned professional development opportunities for students.

Also, in January, COA Vice Presidents and I convened with representatives from the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) and separately with members of Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School. These discussions centered around strengthening and developing partnerships that will empower students to achieve their educational goals.

I want to extend my heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS to Music Professor **Glen Pearson** and the entire Count Basie Orchestra for winning a 2024 Grammy Award for their album "Basie Swings the Blues." For more details on these exciting and other noteworthy stories, I invite you to explore the articles featured in this edition of *Splash*.

Here's to a dynamic and successful spring semester ahead!

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



*College of Alameda faculty, staff, and students were delighted to welcome PCCD Chancellor **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson** for a special visit.*

Chancellor Gilkerson Explores Innovation at College of Alameda

On Friday, January 12, 2024, College of Alameda students, faculty, and staff were delighted to welcome Peralta Community College District Chancellor **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson** for a special visit to the campus. The day commenced with meetings with COA's administrative team and leaders of student, faculty, and classified professional constituency groups, offering a platform for introductions and a direct exchange of ideas with the diverse voices that contribute to COA's unique identity. The Chancellor's visit continued with a tour of the H Building. Here, she had the opportunity to witness firsthand the cutting-edge facilities that house some of COA's most innovative learning communities, highlighting the College's commitment to providing students with the tools and learning environments that are essential for academic excellence.

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.

Chancellor Gilkerson completed her visit with a walking tour to various areas of the campus, allowing her to connect with more members of the COA family.

Spring Flex Day: Navigating Success Together

Professor **Drew Burgess** and the [Professional Development Committee](#) curated a robust and beautifully designed series of activities for the Flex day event held on January 19, 2024. The day kicked off with welcomes and updates from Academic Senate President **Jennifer Fowler**, Classified Senate President **Louis Martirez y Mcfarland**, and Peralta Federation of Teachers (PFT) leadership: **Richard Kaeser** and **Andrew Park**. The “College ABCs” took center stage in President **Bajrami**’s presentation, with improved enrollment, budgetary competence, and community engagement emerging as key themes. Two impactful morning sessions, led by **Dr. Didem Ekici**, **Professor Cynthia Haro**, **Professors Trish Nelson**, and **Vinh Phan**, focused on guided pathways, major curriculum state mandates, and initiatives. The afternoon sessions featured division meetings followed by a series of workshops delving into being a teaching college, social-emotional learning, trauma-sensitive practices, and a brainstorming session on program and institutional learning outcomes. If you have an idea for an upcoming professional development workshop please use this [online form](#) to submit your proposal.



Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School Delegation Meets with College of Alameda Team

On January 11, 2024, a delegation from Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School engaged in fruitful discussions with the College of Alameda (COA) team to delve into potential partnerships aimed at supporting students in achieving their academic aspirations. Led by Principal **Father Steve Kim**, the Saint Joseph team comprised Vice Principal **Andrew McKee**, College and Career Counselor **Elizabeth Hunter**, Dean of Academics **Mustafa Siddiqee**, Director of Counseling **John Gunty**, and Director of Admission **Eileen Graybeal**. The team representing COA included: Acting President **Dr. Diana Bajrami**, Acting VPI **Maurice Jones**, Deans **Dr. Shalamon Duke** and **Natalie Rodriguez**, and Counselor **Julie Saechao**.

The primary focus of the meeting was on establishing pathways to collaborate, with a particular emphasis on exploring opportunities for dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and summer programs at College of Alameda.



AUSD and COA Are Strengthening Collaborative Initiatives

On January 17, 2024, members of the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Board of Trustees, **Jennifer Williams** and **Gary Lam**, along with Superintendent **Pasquale Scuderi**, convened with COA Acting President **Diana Bajrami**, VPI **Maurice Jones**, and VPSS **Mildred Lewis** to explore ongoing partnerships between AUSD and COA.

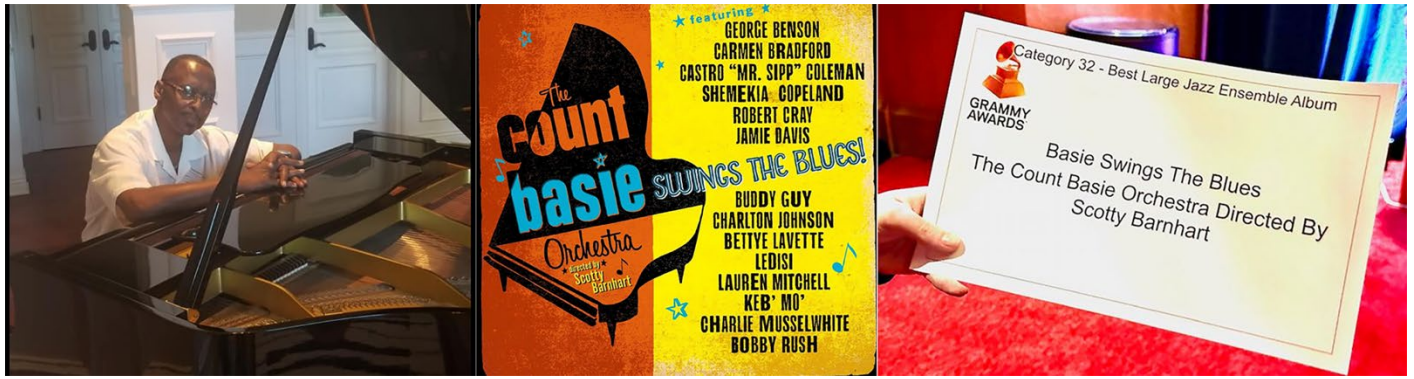
The collaborative team delved into schedules, catalogs, and various options for collaboration, with a specific focus on summer bridge programs, dual enrollment, and concurrent enrollment.

This continuous collaboration has yielded significant improvements for our students and communities, marking a collective effort to enhance equitable student success and access. As we persist in working together, the impact of this partnership continues to resonate positively throughout our educational institutions and the broader community.



Student Leader Professional Development Institute Recap

On Friday, January 12, 2024, Student Services, in partnership with the Learning Resources Center (LRC) and **Dr. William Ramos Ochoa**, Acting Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts, orchestrated a dynamic Professional Development Institute for CoA Student Leaders. This inaugural event, , brought together student workers, tutors, and ASCOA leaders. Throughout the institute, participants actively engaged in team-building activities, gained insights into office logistics and customer service practices, and underwent training in event coordination and Mobile CoA operations. The initiative marked a significant step in enhancing the skills and capabilities of our student leaders, fostering a more knowledgeable and effective campus leadership community.



COA Music Professor Glen Pearson Clinches 2024 Grammy

COA Music Professor and Performing Artist **Glen Pearson**, alongside the esteemed Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Music Director **Scotty Barnhart**, achieved the pinnacle of recognition in the music industry by clinching the Grammy Award for "Basie Swings the Blues" in the Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album category. The honor was bestowed at the prestigious 66th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony held in Los Angeles on Sunday, February 4, 2024. "Basie Swings the Blues" encapsulates the essence of jazz and blues, showcasing raw emotion, infectious rhythm, and profound storytelling. The album seamlessly merges the Basie band's distinctive style of sophisticated swing with the soulful talents of blues legends and contemporary stars, resulting in a captivating musical journey. This was Professor Pearson's second Grammy nomination.



Professor Danny Nguyen, Acting President Diana Bajrami, and Professor Andrew Park at the San Francisco Consulate General of Vietnam Lunar New Year Celebration COA Dance Department Shines at San Francisco Consulate General of Vietnam Lunar New Year Celebration

COA Dance Department Shines at the San Francisco Consulate General of Vietnam Lunar New Year Celebration

On February 4, 2024, Dance Professor **Danny Nguyen** and talented COA dance students showcased their skills at the San Francisco Consulate General of Vietnam Lunar New Year celebration. Held at the beautiful San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center Green Room, the event marked the beginning of the Year of the Dragon with vibrant performances.

This exclusive event, held by invitation only, was attended by honored guests including COA Acting President **Diana Bajrami** and Physics Professor **Andrew Park**. It provided a platform for cultural exchange and celebration, highlighting the rich traditions of the Lunar New Year.

Established in October 1997, the Consulate General of Vietnam in San Francisco plays a pivotal role in strengthening the Comprehensive Partnership between Vietnam and the United States of America, fostering understanding and collaboration between the two nations.



Highlights from the Spring 2024 Free Enrollment Festival at College of Alameda

College of Alameda (COA) hosted its Spring 2024 Free Enrollment Festival on a drizzly Saturday in January 2024 prior to the start of the semester. Despite the inclement weather, the event turned out to be a resounding success, welcoming 84 students. The festival aimed to provide comprehensive support to students navigating the enrollment process, ensuring a smooth transition into the college's many academic programs. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with counselors who crafted personalized student education plans, paving the way for a successful educational experience. The collaborative efforts of Welcome Center staff, Admissions & Records, and our Learning Communities were instrumental in orchestrating this event. To add a touch of warmth to the rainy day, participants were treated to hot chocolate, music, and tasty treats.



COA students join Acting President Bajrami on January 24, 2024, for Pancakes with the President as part of the College's Spring 2024 Welcome Week Activities

Spring 2024 Welcome Week Roundup

From Monday, January 22, 2024, to Thursday, January 25, 2024, the Office of Student Activities and Campus Life, in collaboration with the Associated Students of College of Alameda (ASCOA) and the Office of Basic Needs, organized a warm and inviting Welcome Week for all. Throughout the week, ASCOA student leaders generously sponsored warm beverages and pastries.

The festivities began on Monday with a lively Welcome Back Dance Party in the A Building Quad. Tuesday's activities were divided between the Welcome Center, featuring breakfast, games, prizes, and Resource Tabling, and the F Building, where The Market and Tasty Tuesdays unfolded.

Undeterred by the rain on Wednesday, we adapted and relocated the Pancakes with the President event to the F Building Pit. The week concluded on Thursday with a delightful Karaoke session, accompanied by snacks and refreshments generously provided by the Office of Basic Needs.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who participated, making Spring 2024 Welcome Week a warm and memorable start to the semester.

New Hires—Student Services

Ms. Chevonn Herbert has recently been hired to serve in the role of Admissions & Records Technician. Ms. Chevonn has been a part of the Peralta Community College District for eight years. She began as an hourly classified professional in 2014 at Admissions & Records in Merritt College and the District. She has also previously served in the Financial Aid department at the College of Alameda. In 2018 she was hired as

the Staff Assistant to the Dean of STEM at the college where she remained until her recent transition to student services.

With over 16 years of experience, **Ms. Thao Hoang** is a dedicated Financial Aid Specialist. Her expertise lies in processing financial aid applications, including federal and state grants, scholarships, federal work-study program funds, and loans, ensuring compliance with federal and state guidelines. She certifies student eligibility by interpreting complex regulations. As a refugee and first-generation college graduate who received financial aid, Thao knows the power of a good community college education. She made it her life mission to give back and empower students to achieve their academic goals.

Submitted by Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Dean of Student Enrollment Services

The graphic features a light grey background with colorful abstract shapes in yellow, orange, and teal. At the top, the text "Wellness Center College of Alameda" is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below this, a teal rounded rectangle contains the text "Our services:". Underneath are three circular icons: a yellow circle with a person hugging themselves, a teal circle with a person sitting inside a house outline, and an orange circle with a person's head and hands. Below each icon is a colored box with text: "Individual therapy" (yellow), "Support Groups" (teal), and "Wellness workshops" (orange). At the bottom, there is a QR code, a text box with location and contact information, and a footer with the college's mission statement.

Wellness Center College of Alameda

Our services:

- Individual therapy
- Support Groups
- Wellness workshops

We offer remote and in-person mental health counseling. Please check our website for up-to-date support groups and workshop offerings.

Scan the QR CODE to schedule an appointment.

Location: Cougar Village CV-124
Any questions? Contact #510-748-2320

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.

COA Wellness Center Offers Free Services

The COA Wellness Center is located at Cougar Village CV-124 and offers a variety of free services, including Individual Therapy, Wellness Workshops, and remote and in-person mental health counseling.

Please check our [website](#) for up-to date support groups and workshop offerings.

Scan the QR CODE to schedule an appointment.

For more information visit the website or call 510-748-2320.

College of Alameda

TASTY TUESDAY

FREE Lunch for Students*

EVERY TUESDAY
During the Fall and Spring Semesters

When: 11:30 to 1:30
Where: Student Center / F-Building

Tasty Tuesdays connects COA students to free lunch, resources, and activities on campus.

Food for Tasty Tuesdays is made possible by COA's Basic Needs funds.

*Students must present their physical Student ID with current semester sticker in order to obtain a lunch.

Tasty Tuesday
COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

General Tabling for Tasty Tuesday Needs You!

General tabling for Tasty Tuesday started-up again this week and there are four tables available for the month of February. If you would like to share your programs/services by tabling during a Tasty Tuesday event, please complete/submit this form [HERE](#).

Tabling for Tasty Tuesday will usually take place in F-building/Student Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If there is a special event that Tuesday (ex: Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month, and etc.), it is possible that tabling will be moved and/or cancelled for that day.

As we typically have five tables available, please only request a table for those days you plan to be in attendance.

Please be sure to have your table set-up between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Jeremy Simmons Basic Needs Coordinator



February 13th
February 20th
Virtual Registration



www.sos.ca.gov

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

F Building Pit

College of Alameda does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ancestry, citizenship, national origin, military or veteran status, disability, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition, and immigration status.

Tasty Tuesday Voter Registration Drives

Civic Engagement is a part of the work that resides under the office of Student Activities and Campus Life per the California Students Vote Project. CoA is currently compliant with all web content related material through our Civic Engagement and Voter Empowerment webpage.

During the next few Tasty Tuesdays, in an effort to further engage potential voters, the Office of Student Activities and Campus Life in partnership with ASCOA and the office of Basic Needs will be hosting Voter Registration Drives during the following Tasty Tuesday dates in the F building Pit:

- **February 13th**
- **February 20th** (We will have laptops available for virtual registration)

We have physical voter registration cards available in twenty-two (22) different languages.

Submitted by Jeremy Simmons, Basic Needs Coordinator



Fast-Track Your Success With Short-Term Classes at College of Alameda

Earn full-term credit in less time and finish your degree, certificate, or transfer program faster!

14-Week Classes Start February 12, 2024
<https://alameda.edu/14-week/>

10-Week Classes Start March 11, 2024
<https://alameda.edu/10-week/>

8-Week Classes Start March 18, 2024
<https://alameda.edu/8-week/>



Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

Fast-Track Your Success: Enroll Now in Short-Term Classes at College of Alameda

Accelerate your academic journey this Spring 2024 with our short-term classes at College of Alameda. While the semester is in full swing, there's still time to add your choice of 14-week, 10-week, or 8-week in-person/hybrid, and online classes and earn full-term course credit in less time. Finish your degree, certificate, or transfer program faster! Enroll in at least 6 units and enjoy free enrollment. Shorter late starting classes provide flexibility and are a cost-effective way to propel your education forward in less time!

14-Week Classes Start February 12

<https://alameda.edu/14-week/>

10-Week Classes start March 11

<https://alameda.edu/10-week/>

8-Week Classes Start March 18

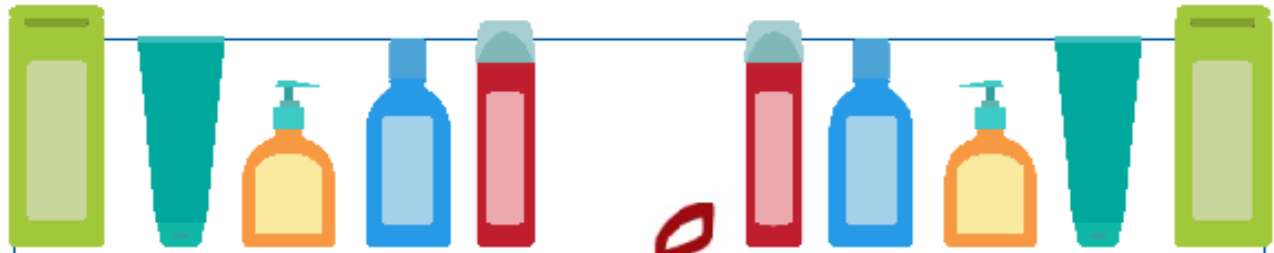
<https://alameda.edu/8-week/>

HOW TO ENROLL:

Current and Returning students log onto sa.peralta.edu to register today

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

Please select “Spring 2024” as the term to enroll



The Market

COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

Need help with personal care items? Stop-by our pop-up!

- Open on *most* Tuesdays when we do not have produce/groceries
 - Personal Care/Hygiene (soap, body wash, toothpaste, sanitizer, etc)
 - Laundry Supplies (detergent, bleach)
- Available to *all* CoA students (enrolled in at least one course)
- Students should have a **valid student ID** with current term sticker

F Building / Student Center – First Floor

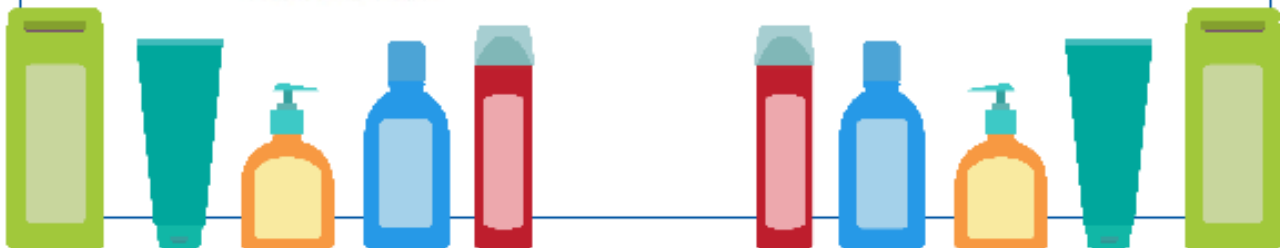
11:30 – 1:30

In partnership with the ECMC Foundation



ECMC
Foundation

Questions? Contact: **Jeremy Simmons**
Basic Needs Coordinator College of Alameda
jsimmons@peralta.edu





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	Ohlone 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	

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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.



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 and be sure to include the word “Splash” in the subject line.

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