

Foothill College African American Network Newsletter



A Griot is a West African story-teller who preserves the oral history of the village or clan.

March, 2010

AAN President's Message



"He who travels the road best is the one who leaves it better for those who follow. If you don't make the path better for your followers, then you've failed your mission." Rose Jackson Flenorl

It is a pleasure to serve as President of the Foothill College African American Network. I came to Foothill College nearly 3 years ago to continue the work that is important and critical to me: support, retain and matriculate students who are underrepresented in col-

lege; advocate on behalf of marginalized students, and ensure a robust and diverse campus culture. The added bonus was to discover that Foothill College has already been doing this work for many years! I honor the work and legacy of the persons who have made my work possible, and perhaps easier, at Foothill College. I honor the students, faculty and administrators who work tirelessly to make a great place, extraordinary. I honor, you.

The challenges we have before us require us to be bold, intentional and resilient. The budget crisis in the state of California is impacting poor and working class students, students of color and first-generation-to-college students disproportionately. Now is the time for leadership that is committed to the ideals and mandates of the [California Master Plan](#) for Education. Revisit the plan, if you have not read it recently, or read it for the first time. It can guide and direct us in our advocacy for students and community colleges.

There are many opportunities before us. The opportunity to support and inspire each other; the opportunity to be brilliant in our work ethic; the opportunity to be careful and deliberate in our interactions with students; the opportunity to preserve the legacy of Foothill College and the mission of the Foothill College African American Network. Let's continue to inspire, nurture and embrace each other and remember why we are here – for the students. Let's remember the sense of wonder and curiosity and excitement that students bring to college and be careful to protect it. Let's keep going.

I'll see you at the TOP!

Matais Pouncil, Ed.D.
President
Foothill College African American Network

Pell Grants: The Cornerstone of African-American Higher Education

The federal Pell Grant program provides more than \$4 billion to African-American college students each year. Without the Pell Grant program, hundreds of thousands of young blacks would not be able to afford college.

While the Pell Grant program has been enormously successful in leveling the playing field in access to higher education, the number of Pell Grant recipients at the nation's highest-ranked colleges and universities remains low. But the most recent data suggests that progress in increasing the number of low-income students on these campuses is beginning to take place.

[Read more about Pell Grants](#)

Pepperdine University Stands Firm in Support of Race-Based Scholarships

Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, has a conservative political reputation together with strong religious affiliations. So it comes as a surprise that Pepperdine, unlike many other private universities, has refused to knuckle under to right-wing litigating groups that have demanded that the university end its race-based scholarship program.

In 1991 Daniel J. Podberesky, who was of Hispanic origin, sued the University of Maryland claiming that he was denied a scholarship because he was not black. Each year, the University of Maryland offered 30 to 40 black students a Benjamin Banneker scholarship which was available only to African Americans. After a series of court cases the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the scholarships were an illegal form of race discrimination. In 1995 the Supreme Court refused to revisit the decision. This ruling had the effect of validating the appeals court decision as law within the Fourth Circuit. Most state-operated colleges and universities across the United States determined that they now were obliged to abandon their race-based scholarship programs.

[Read more about Pepperdine University](#)

"If I were to lose all of my possessions, save one, I would choose to keep the power of communication. For by it, I would soon regain all the rest." Daniel Webster

Still Earning Less

By Mary Ann Mason



Consider a few facts: Women are now half of all workers on U.S. payrolls; there is no longer a clear timeline for marriage and childbirth; and a record 40 percent of children born in 2007 had unmarried mothers. Those figures are from a recently published study, led by Maria Shriver, called “The Shriver Report: A Woman’s Nation Changes Everything.”

The study also found that nearly two-thirds of women are either the main breadwinners or co-breadwinners in their families. Nonetheless, they still earn less than men, while handling more than their fair share of caregiving responsibilities at home.

[Read more “Still Earning Less” by Mary Ann Mason](#)

California State University Launches Bold Graduation Initiative to Increase Number of Students Earning Degrees.

Effort also aimed at helping more underserved students complete college

(January 26, 2010) –California State University will announce a long-term graduation initiative at tomorrow’s Board of Trustees meeting with the goal of increasing the system’s graduation rates and helping underrepresented students to complete college. The graduation initiative involves all 23 CSU campuses, and is expected to raise six-year graduation rates by eight percent by 2016, as well as cut in half the existing gap in degree attainment by CSU’s underrepresented students.

“As the largest public university system in the country, it is our responsibility to ensure that we do everything possible to help our students be successful in earning their degree,” said CSU Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Jeri Echeverria. “The goal of this initiative is to not only increase the number of students who complete their degree, but to also help those from traditionally underrepresented communities who may need additional support to finish. After all, that is the end goal – a college degree.”

[Read more California State University Launches Bold Graduation Initiative to Increase Number of Students Earning Degrees.](#)

Peninsula’s green efforts lauded

By Julia Scott

Leaders at Copenhagen’s climate change conference are struggling this week to agree on actions to reduce global warming-related emissions, but a new report from the Sierra Club suggests that Peninsula cities are already fighting climate change at home.

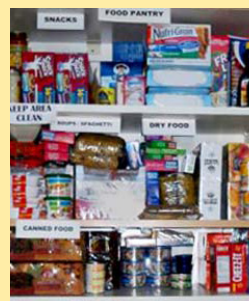
The report, released today by the Sierra Club’s Loma Prieta chapter, surveyed cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and found significant progress across the board toward achieving important environmental goals in carbon dioxide reductions, energy efficiency and green building codes. The survey was conducted this past summer and updates a similar report prepared last year.

[Read more “Peninsula’s green efforts lauded” by Julia Scott](#)

The AAN Food Pantry

The AAN Food Pantry & School Supply Bank is going stronger than ever! We’ve gathered and distributed more than 200 packets containing enough food for one week for an individual. We thank you for all of your support and we ask for your continued dedicated effort!

The students need your help. The AAN Food Pantry & School Supply Bank is looking for volunteers to help with distribution and bag preparation. Please contact Lyliana Hernandez at 650.949.7511 or hernandezlyliana@fhda.edu for information and scheduling. Below are a few pictures of of volunteers during our bag preparation. Go AAN!



Foothill College Student Receives Full Academic Scholarship to Utah State University



LaDonya Jackson received a four-year academic scholarship to Utah State University to study Veterinary Medicine. She is the first woman to receive the scholarship, which seeks to identify and recruit students of color and diversity to the largely racially homogeneous Utah State University. The scholarship covers all tuition and fees, residential cost, educational expenses and provides a monthly stipend. LaDonya learned about the scholarship from a recruiting representative that visited Foothill College and spoke to Sister to Sister, a student organization. For more information on the program visit www.utah.edu.

At Foothill LaDonya was a student-leader and was involved in many student activities: ASFC, Black Student Union, student Co-Chair of the Black History Month planning committee; Sister to Sister, an organization that seeks to motivate, inspire and matriculate and provide resources for the women students on campus. LaDonya was one of the founders of this important organization.

LaDonya was born in Stockton, but moved to San Jose during elementary school. She is the second born of five siblings. Her older sister is a student at San Jose State University and her family's goal is for all of her siblings to attend college and earn a degree.

Foothill College is proud of LaDonya Jackson and we wish her much success and achievement. Congratulations and go Owls!

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AAN Welcome's FHDA New Chancellor Dr. Linda Thor

Foothill College welcomes Dr. Linda Thor as the new Chancellor of the Foothill-DeAnza District. Dr. Thor becomes the sixth Chancellor to serve Foothill-DeAnza since the district was founded in 1957. Dr. Thor's predecessor at Foothill-De Anza, Dr. Martha Kanter, is now the United States Undersecretary of Education and our nation's first community college expert to be appointed to that position.



Dr. Thor brings with her over 30 years of community college experience to the post of Chancellor. She comes to FHDA from Rio Salado College in the Maricopa District of Arizona and prior to that as President of West Los Angeles College in Culver City, CA. Dr. Thor is a respected educational leader and is known for her innovation, particularly with Distance Learning Programs. She established Rio Salado College's national reputation as the "College Without Walls, which serves nearly 36,000.



AAN Holiday Reception

The Foothill College African American Network took a moment to relax and socialize after a long and arduous quarter of budget conversations and student commitments. This year, the AAN's Holiday Reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman McLeod of East Palo Alto. The annual holiday event is a time for members to share holiday cheer, connect with friends and colleagues and recompose themselves as they prepare for the upcoming winter quarter. The AAN thanks the McLeod's for their generous hospitality and gracious manner. Below are a couple of "glamour shots" from the evening... Cheers!



MariaElena Apodaca (left) and April Henderson (right)



Mr. and Mrs. Willie Frieson

In Remembrance of Dr. Harry Saterfield

October 14, 1942 – December 12, 2009



A scholar, gentleman and trailblazer, Harry Saterfield positively affected everyone he encountered. He lived life with a unique combination of passion, humility, dignity and courage. Harry was loved, respected and admired by family, friends and colleagues.

He graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley, a Master of Arts at California State University San Francisco, and a Doctorate of

Psychology from Stanford University.

Harry began his Foothill career as a part-time instructor/counselor at the Mountain View Center in 1974. He served as a full-time counselor from 1975-87. In 1983 he was a member of the original Matriculation Committee at Foothill. After one year as the Division Assistant for the Counseling division he served as the Counseling and Matriculation Dean from 1988-95. In 1995 he returned to the classroom as a Psychology professor. In June 2009, Harry retired after 35 years of service to Foothill students, faculty, staff and the community.

Harry committed himself to serving all students who needed his advice or teaching. He was a champion of underrepresented students and women on campus. He encouraged thousands of students and colleagues to push themselves to higher achievements. His colleagues instinctively trusted Harry and they looked to him as a leader. We will miss him, his quick wit, and friendly smile.

In honor of Professor Saterfield's dedicated service to students, the "Dr. Harry Saterfield Scholarship Fund" has been established in his name.

Please make all checks and money orders payable to:

Balance Body & Mind Inc. DBA Dr. Harry D. Saterfield Scholarship
P.O. Box 24668, Oakland CA 94623

To find out how to donate by credit card and for more information contact: balancebodyandmind@yahoo.com

Support Our Veterans

Submitted by Joyce McLeod, AEF Chairman

As the Auxiliary Fund Program Chairperson, I have been a "voice" for our Military Veterans and their families for many years. A I've also worked with Carmela Xuereb, Foothill College Veterans Program Coordinator on and off campus providing support as well. If we can reach just one veteran and introduce them to our program then we have fulfilled our commitment to our community. For more information, please visit: <http://www.alaunit472.org/newsletter.htm>

AAN members are encouraged to support the East Palo Alto Unit 472 Veterans Organization by making a donation or giving an application to a veteran. For more information, please visit: www.calegionaux.org/aef.htm

Real Role Models: Successful African Americans Beyond Pop Culture

As part of the Foothill College President's Author Series, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at San Francisco State University University, Steve Jones spoke to the Foothill College community. Steve Jones discussed the book *Real Role Models: Successful African Americans Beyond Pop Culture*. Mr. Jones received his BFA in Graphic Design from The California College of the Arts (CCA, formerly CCAC) and his MFA in Graphic Design, with honors, from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). Steve is an award winning graphic designer and exhibiting artist. His approach to graphic design combines the personal with the formal and functional. His interests focus on Black icons and their representation in mass media and popular culture, identity politics and public art. He is the Principal and Creative Director of plantain: a design studio, in Oakland, CA. He is the founder of the NEA (Negro Emancipation Association), a Bay Area design collaborative. In addition to SFSU, he has taught at Rhode Island School of Design and California College of the Arts.



About the Book:

[Real Role Models: Successful African Americans Beyond Pop Culture](#) introduces high school and college-age African Americans to twenty-three black professionals who have achieved a high level of success in their chosen fields and who tell their stories to inspire young people to pursue a professional career and do the work necessary to achieve their dreams.

AAN Host Student Panel - MFUMO Credited With Student Achievement!

As part of the Foothill College Black History Month series of events, the AAN hosted a student panel. The goal of the panel was to hear students report their experiences as students at Foothill College. The students recounted their experiences with other students, with faculty, staff and administrators, as well as many reasons why they stay engaged and committed to their education. Herlisa Hamp, Dean of Student Services, facilitated the discussion and encouraged the students to be candid about their experiences. Of the nearly 30 students in attendance, while there are limitations that should be addressed, nearly all of them reported that they feel very supported at Foothill College; they feel like resources are abundant and that Foothill is a gorgeous campus to learn, explore and grow intellectually. Students Service professionals and faculty were specifically credited with being accessible, understanding and willing to "go the extra mile" for students needing special attention. The [MFUMO](#) Program is another resource that students named, specifically, as contributing to their academic achievement and engagement. MFUMO was the invention of Vice President of Student Development and Instruction, Rose Myers and is coordinated by faculty, staff and administrators: Maisha Haywood-Smith, MariaElena Apodaca, Lyliana Hernandez, Kimberly Lane, Herlisa Hamp, Natalia Menendez and, most recently, Dr. Jerry Cellilo.

Foothill College Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With 16th Annual Luncheon

The Foothill College AAN and the Associated Students of Foothill College (ASFC) presented the 16th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. The event was attended by faculty, staff and administrators alike. Staff and administrators volunteered to serve students and attendees the delicious soul food menu, provided by Ms. D. Fabulous Soul Food.



The campus-wide event dates back to when a few African American Foothill College employees came together, brought food dishes and shared stories about the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his impact on their lives. The event grew to include institutional support and the commitment of ASFC. Students wanted to get involved, replicate the March on Washington and show their generation's commitment to the principles of justice, fairness and equality for every American.



Dr. Jamal Cooks addresses audience

This year, Dr. Jamal Cooks, Associate Professor of Secondary Education at San Francisco State University, joined us to share his reflections on Dr. King's legacy and contribution. Below are pictures from the event to give you a glimpse of how supportive and engaged the Foothill College community was around the annual event. If you didn't come this year, we hope to see you next year. Go Owls!



Dr. Judy Miner, Dr. Jamal Cooks, Rose Myers and Tess Hansen



Foothill College AAN Executive Board

President - Dr. Matais Pouncil
 President Elect - Erica Onugha
 Community Liason - Patience McHenry

Secretary - Ach'-sah Harris
 Treasurer - Rose Myers
 Student Club Liason - April Henderson