

## Bamboo Garden Naming

Gordon Holler retired from Foothill College in 2001 after a distinguished 33-year career teaching art and design. During his tenure at Foothill College, Professor Holler shared his passion for Japanese culture in his art classes (especially print-making) and in his work to plant and grow a Japanese bamboo garden. This effort started in 1989 with the donation of six *Phyllostachys Nigra* plants from the American Bamboo Society and eventually expanded across a whole hillside to include over 100 species of bamboo. The garden was originally intended to complement the Japanese Cultural Center, a project initiated by Dr. Michiko Hiramatsu and completed in 1982. Professor Holler curated, planted, and fostered the growth of the garden and it soon became a popular spot for campus visitors. This tireless work was supported by the efforts of countless volunteers who shared Professor Holler's passion.

In 1996, Professor Holler initiated a relationship with the International College of Arts and Crafts in Toyama, Japan. After visits to and from Japan by administrators and students, the Toyama school gifted an Azumaya (meditation pavilion) to be erected in the Foothill College Bamboo garden. Students from Toyama, accompanied by professor Sachio Ueno, travelled to Foothill College in February 1998, and built the Azumaya at the eastern end of the Bamboo Garden. Professor Holler coordinated the preparation for the visit and made sure that dozens of local volunteers were on hand to assist in the work.

In addition to the bamboo groves and Azumaya, there is a 'dry garden' simulating a stream, and benches where visitors can sit and enjoy the natural beauty of the garden.

The Foothill College Bamboo Garden is currently being revived after several years of neglect during the COVID epidemic and the pathways, irrigation systems, and the Azumaya pavilion are all being restored.

### Proposal:

In recognition of Professor Gordon Holler's untiring work to plant and maintain the Bamboo Garden and build the Azumaya, his teaching to promote a greater understanding of Japanese culture, and his 33 years of service to Foothill College, Foothill College proposes to name the bamboo garden the "Gordon Holler Bamboo Garden."