



Comings & Goings

Greetings Foothill,

Tonight, I had the honor of joining the Chancellor to thank outgoing Trustee **Bruce Swenson**. Trustee **Swenson**, as many of you know, is a former Foothill math faculty (1967-89) and administrator (Dean of PSME & Vice President of Finance). He was elected to the board in 2005. What an incredible lifetime of service to our college and district. Amazing!

There are other retirements, along with a couple of new faces and some familiar faces in new places at Foothill.

Thanks to the state's equity funding and in accordance with our Student Equity Plan to staff an equity office, I am excited to announce the on-boarding of our new equity dean who will start tomorrow.

NEW FACES

Melissa Cervantes - Dean of Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Receiving Excelencia in Education award in October 2018

Dr. Melissa Padilla Cervantes will begin her role as Dean of Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion on Tuesday, November 6.

Cervantes comes to Foothill College from California State University, East Bay where

she served as the founding Coordinator of the Gaining Access ‘N Academic Success (GANAS) Program. GANAS is an innovative access and retention program that offers integrated academic and Latinx-themed programming to welcome and socialize new community college transfer students while increasing confidence, engagement, academic success, persistence, and ultimately, baccalaureate attainment. Now in its sixth year of implementation, led by Cervantes, the GANAS Program was recently named the 2018 Example of *Excelencia* in the Baccalaureate category. Recognized by *Excelencia* in Education, a national organization dedicated to advancing Latino student success in higher education, GANAS was chosen from among 139 nominations across the country. In addition to her primary role, Cervantes also helped create and sustain the UndocuAlly Training Program at Cal State East Bay, and served as the co-chair of the Chicana/Latinx Staff and Faculty Association.

A Bay Area native raised in Fremont, CA, Dr. Cervantes began her journey through higher education at community college and was the first in her family to graduate with a college degree. Her career and research interests have always revolved around issues of college access and equity for historically underserved populations; postsecondary success for low-income and first-generation college students; as well as predictors of retention and graduation among the aforementioned groups. She has over 18 years of experience as an educator; many of those years served with Upward Bound and TRiO Programs.

Cervantes holds a BA in Social and Behavioral Sciences from CSU Monterey Bay and an MA in Education with a concentration in Counseling and Student Personnel from San Jose State. She recently earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from San Francisco State University. Her research interests are aligned with her doctoral dissertation titled, *Increasing the Academic Success of Latino Transfer Students: Evaluating the GANAS Program*.

Dr. Cervantes comes with strong passion and a student-centered approach to her work. She looks forward to building bridges and fostering relationships within the campus community in order to create safe and meaningful spaces for our students to learn, grow, and engage on their pathway to success.

Jon-Michael Kowertz – Supervisor, Outreach & Career Technical Education (CTE) Transitions



As a Silicon Valley native, Jon-Michael has recently returned home after a decade and a half stay in Portland Oregon where he helped over 3,000 students, entrepreneurs and small businesses. Jon-Michael earned an MBA and Masters of Science in Finance from Pacific University, where he recently completed his assignment as the Entrepreneur in Residence at the Berglund Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

In his new role at Foothill College, Jon-Michael will consolidate all community outreach and admissions activities to help improve enrollment. This includes activities such as dual enrollment, adult education and admissions outreach.. The position, supported by Strong Workforce funds, also oversees and supervises CTE Pathways and implements metrics for all outreach efforts.

Jon-Michael is dedicated to serving underrepresented and underserved individuals and helping jumpstart their careers with education and economic empowerment opportunities. Jon-Michael is active in his community as a Master Recycler and volunteer judge, mentor, and guest speaker with Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA). He joins the college on November 19.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Adrienne Hypolite – Program Supervisor, Equity



For the past three years Adrienne has been the Program Coordinator for the Owl Scholars Program, Foothill's Early Alert support system. She has also served on a number of campus committees, most notably as the Classified Tri-Chair for the Student Equity Workgroup.

She began her career as a community organizer with Californians for Justice working on the statewide Campaign for Quality Education, after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies with an emphasis in Youth and Schooling Inequalities from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She recently earned a master's degree in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago, where she participated in collaborative community research as a Graduate Fellow with the University's Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL).

Prior, she obtained a master's in Educational Counseling from San Jose State University, where she later worked as an academic advisor, coordinator, and lecturer for different first-year experience programs including the Educational Opportunity Program's (EOP) Summer Bridge immersion, and the University's Frosh Orientation program for all first-year students.

Adrienne's career interests in higher education have a particular lens on institutional access, retention, and administration, with a longstanding and personal interest in helping students that are typically underserved and underrepresented in the college landscape. She strives to maintain a philosophical commitment to ensuring the work she engages in cultivates power and agency in disadvantaged communities.

Adrienne will start in the new role on November 13.

Donna Miranda – Interim Dual Enrollment Coordinator



Donna joined Foothill College in September 2016 coordinating the STEM Core learning community. Her work included program logistics, grant management, and STEM Career exploration through internships, employer panels, field trips to tech companies, and campus guest speakers. She is committed to building the talent pipeline and paving the way for a more diverse workforce.

Donna is a graduate of UC Berkeley where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and an Education minor. She is eager to work on the dual enrollment program and share Foothill's wealth of programs and courses with high school students.

Mike Mohebbi – Senior Program Coordinator, Workforce & Institutional Advancement

After studying Economics and minoring in History at UC Davis, Mike Mohebbi followed a diverse employment path for several years until he landed at Foothill College. Mike has been with the District since 2014 when he started a TEA assignment as Grants Accountant in the Business Services office. There he worked on categorical funding and accounting operations until 2015, when he found a permanent position as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services. This eventually led to his new assignment as the Program Coordinator, Senior, for Workforce Development and Institutional Advancement.

RETIREMENTS

Brenda Davis-Visas

Brenda joined Foothill in 2008, and has worked 11 years as Director of Facilities and Special Projects. In this role, she served as the college's liaison for implementing bond construction projects. Brenda coordinated and managed small construction projects for the campus, most recently the Campus Center flooring project. Brenda's official last day is April 18, 2019, but her last working days at the college will be in January. Thank you, Brenda!

Susan Almendarez

After 16 years at Foothill College, Susan retired on October 31 as an Evaluations

Specialist in the Admissions and Records Office. Susan began her career at Foothill College as a temporary employee, assisting students at the A&R front counter. She was then hired as an Admissions Clerk, assisting the Veterans Specialist with processing transcripts, and helping A&R with enrollment verifications. Next, Susan worked-out-of-class as a Student Success Specialist scribing for the Evaluations Office. Lastly, Susan was hired as an Evaluator where she processed graduation petitions and evaluated transcript. Susan was a wonderful addition to the A&R team, a great colleague and always happy to help with a smile on her face. She will be missed by all!

Congrats Brenda and Susan on your retirements, and thank you so much for your outstanding service to our college.

RESIGNATIONS

Thank you also to the following individuals for their service:

Dawn Girardelli – Dean of Sunnyvale Center: Dawn’s official last day is January 1, 2019. Among her contributions to Foothill is the herculean effort to help us move into the new education center.

Roland Amit – Senior Enrollment Services Specialist: As of November 1, Roland is serving as the Senior Enrollment Services Specialist at De Anza. Thank you to Roland for serving our college these past 13 years.

Nazy Galoyan – Dean, Enrollment Services: Beginning December 15, Nazy will take on a new role as Dean of Enrollment Services at De Anza. Nazy has played a critical role at our college, and as you know, is a former Foothill student.

Best wishes to Dawn, Roland, and Nazy in their new endeavors.

SUPPORT OUR COLLEAGUES AND ADMIRE THEIR AWESOMENESS

Prof. **Brian Evans** is on the radio – 2 radio stations! If you go to KLIV and KRTY (two country music stations), you may hear **Brian** give 1-minute lectures on economic concepts such as opportunity loss. I have been listening to a lot of country music lately to catch the spots, but to no avail. Apparently, the “Econ Minute” spots close with a promotion: “Come to Foothill College, learn more!” Let me know if you catch it. Thank you **Brian** for spreading knowledge and promoting our college! If you want to hear his lectures, you could also go to: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4BObtXlPw-ZUE9YMW9GRXNiOGIWZINxdn13MVJFLUFVaHM4/view?usp=sharing>



Want to exercise and raise money for a good cause? We are starting a Foothill College team of employees and students for the annual Turkey Trot run on Thanksgiving Day. We invite District Office employees to join the fun also! Let Dean **Ram Subramaniam** know, if you are interested. I'll be joining the team. Go Team Foothill!
<http://svturkeytrot.com/>



John Cleese

Nov. 15, 16

He is a comedian and actor known for his work with *Monty Python*, his British TV series *Fawlty Towers* and the movie *A Fish Called Wanda*.

Have six free tickets to see John Cleese on Friday, November 16 at Foothill College's Celebrity Forum. The first few to email me your favorite Equity Professional Development activity will get these free tickets. <http://www.celebrityforum.net/>

Hurry! - Starts Nov. 2!
"Breathtaking, hilarious, heart-wrenching."
- Broadway World

Foothill Theatre Arts Presents
SHE KILLS MONSTERS

In this comic romp, a sister ventures into the imaginary world of homicidal felines, wild cheerleaders, nasty ogres, and sinister incidents that see her gently abiding's role-playing refuge. Award-winner Qui Nguyen (Star Gate) is back with a heart-pounding homage to *Dungeons & Dragons*, and things that go bump in the night.

"Witty, ingenious. It will slash and shapeshift its way into your heart."
- The New York Times

"Clever, funny, moving, and delightfully geeky."
- Chicago Tribune

"Packed with action, wit, and a sizable nerd quotient. A delight from start to finish."
- TheatreMania

Thurs 7:30, Fri & Sat 8pm, Sun 2pm
Nov. 2 - 18 only!
Tickets \$30-\$20 | 15 percent off Nov. 17
FREE Guest Admissions for those arriving by car on Nov. 2 or 3 (subject to availability, starting at 7:30pm).

At LaSuen Theatre, Foothill College
1280 S El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills
[Click here for info!](#)
www.foothill.edu/theatre

This Thursday, November 8th...

5:15 pm: **No-host Dinner at Casa Lupe Mexican Restaurant** (185 Main Street in downtown Los Altos)

7 pm: **Theater show – free**

Join us for dinner and a free performance of She Kills Monsters. Costumes encouraged!
Please note, there is some mature language in the show — and fog and flashes.

Of Service,



Thuy

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