

Finding One's Voice

Happy Mother's Day weekend, Foothill College!

As some of you know, I lost my voice for more than two weeks and have only been able to regain it back this week. Imagine surprising **Dick Henning** on stage Thursday evening with a Star of Fame, and then not being able to talk at all the next day when #5 **Bernadine Fong**, #6 **Judy Miner**, and I (7th president) repeated the recognition at the very last Celebrity Forum talk due to the closure of the Flint Center next year. (By the way, if you ever need advice on how to nurture your voice, contact Communications Professor **Preston Ni** who gave me tips during this ordeal.)

Surely, at Foothill College, we are helping people find their voices.

Can't wait to hear the voices of 265 students this Thursday! Attached is the program with a list of their presentation topics. We will have an opening ceremony in the morning at Hearthside Lounge (since Appreciation Hall renovation is delayed for a few weeks). Come by for a light breakfast, congratulate the students during the pinning ceremony, and recognize the winners who will each receive a Service Leadership scholarship. Invite families and community members, and bring your class.

I plan to live-tweet that day. If you are posting on social media, use #foothillsymposium.

We will also have bins out to collect those hotel toiletries and clothing. Public speaking is one of the scariest activities (even with functional vocal chords), so come support our students and hear some of the amazing things they are working on.

A set of student voices that made my teary-eyed was the student panel at *Day on the Hill* last Saturday.

Owl love to all those who helped make *Day on the Hill* a huge success! I estimated 800-900 people on campus, and was especially moved by so many departments (instruction, career technical programs, student services, learning communities, etc,) working together to welcome prospective students and their families. Thank you **Simon Pennington, Jon-Michael Kowertz, Jorge Rodriguez** and the Plant Services crew, Pacific Dining team, the whole Financial Aid crew, the library, and all the faculty, staff, and students. Special thanks to the Campus Ambassador Program (CAP); it is the incredible work of CAP and **Antoinette Chavez** that we reorganized CAP to anchor our new Outreach unit.

On the same day, our student voices outside of Foothill were also impressive. Foothill College had the largest number of invitations to speak among all the Bay Area colleges at the 2019 Bay Honors Research Symposium, and according to Executive VP **Kristy Lisle** who attended, our students rocked it.

Some of the Foothill student presenters at the Bay Area Symposium at Stanford.

Honors co-Coordinators **Debbie Lee** and **Voltaire Villanueva** reported that our students were well-versed and presented with confidence and poise. Extra congrats to the two students who received honorable mention; they will also present at our Symposium this Thursday:

- **Liza Mamedov-Turchinsky** (A Rose By Any Other Name: Neo-Colonial Flower Plantations in the Shadow of the Spanish Hacienda) &
- **Gabrael Levine** (Blackbird: A Low-Cost, High-Performance Bipedal Robot)

ASFC after an impressive presentation to the Board of Trustees last Monday.

Congrats to President **Chelsey Nguyen** and her ASFC team for a fantastic year: record 80 active student clubs, financial donation and 100 lbs of food for Butte College post-fire, and Service Leadership around homelessness, food pantry, mental health, equity, voter awareness, and gender-equity – to name a few.

This past week was ASFC elections, and I enjoyed following their tweets about the presidential candidates' platforms:

Remember the voices of the Enactus Club students at Opening Day this year? They were the ones who went to the Philippines. At the 2019 Enactus U.S. National Expo Competition for Social Entrepreneurship, Foothill College's Enactus won the **Rookie-of-the-Year** award & **3rd Place** in their League which is quite impressive since most of the clubs are from 4-year universities. Congrats Professors **Laurence Lew** and **Jose Nava**, and the entire Enactus team!

Another business global student club is *Fund the Future*, and they are hosting a regional summit for high school and college students at Foothill College. If you have family members and students who are interested in global issues and possible travel, join Economics Professor **Brian Evans**, the club, and myself next Saturday.

Locally, someone who has been promulgating love and diversity at Foothill College is none other than Dance Professor **Bubba Gong**. Come see him and his students at this high energy dance concert. I have some free tickets for the first few folks who email me.

Another active dance professor with 31 years of service is **Donna Frankel** who organized for the third year in a row the “Adjunct Faculty Appreciation Dinner” which occurred yesterday.

We have made a more concerted effort this year with the new governance structure to have a part-time faculty seat (compensated) for each of the four governance committees. I have greatly appreciated part-time faculty’s voice with Prof. **Katherine Schaefer** during my monthly meetings with the Academic Senate. The adjunct faculty representative **Sean Negus** on the Advisory Council, for instance, has offered many good insights at our meetings. One of the pleasantly surprising value added of part-time faculty’s voice for me has been interestingly their experiences at different community colleges and 4-year universities on issues such as textbook costs, for instance. I look forward to getting recommendations from the joint study group on the new hub-and-spoke design, with possible consideration of a meeting space for part-time faculty.

One past Foothill adjunct faculty who became a tenure-track, full-time faculty at De Anza will transfer to Foothill for his 4th-year tenure. Please welcome Biology Professor **Guido Bordignon**.

Guido Bordignon began his teaching career at the University of Venice, Italy, before moving to the U.S. in 2013. Since then, he has taught at a number of Bay Area institutions such as UC Santa Cruz, Cal State East Bay, and Stanford University. He has also been instructing part-time at Foothill College since 2014, where he designed a Spanish language tutoring program for the sciences. Guido holds a M. S., Pharm.D. and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Guido has consulted for the United Nations (UNIDO), participated in three research expeditions to Antarctica (with NOAA) and awarded with the Antarctic Service Medal by the Congress of the United States. During his third expedition, he met his now wife and they have three children. In his free time, Guido enjoys being outdoors with his family, cooking and coaching the college rugby team at UC Santa Cruz.

Strength In Numbers

We have such an incredible team of faculty, classified professionals, and administrators. Anyone who followed the Warriors' stunning win last night (without star players Durant and Cousins) know that it is important to have a deep, strong bench – true to the Warriors' motto "Strength in Numbers."

We will be sending out an invitation to the college community for the June 13th End-of-the-Year Celebration. The Classified Senate is seeking to award an "Employee of the Year" at the celebration. The purpose of the Classified Employee-of-the-Year is to recognize, honor, and reward an exceptional member of the classified staff for their contributions to the excellence of the college. Per the Classified Senate's request, please fill out the attached form and send your nominations to **Anthony Cervantes** at cervantesanthony@fhda.edu or drop the nomination form in his mailbox.

Foothill College is a WINNING team. Here are just some recent news.

Maiha Mizuta, an international student, recently won a few CCCAA State Swimming Championships including 1st place (State Champion) for 100 Backstroke (a new Foothill College school record). Congrats to Swimming Coach team **Jeff Bissell, Jose Bonpua, and Trisha Quan!**

And then there's the Pharmacy Tech program which earned a #1 national ranking from the [Pharmacy Technician Guide](#) for the second year in a row. Congrats to Director **Angela Su** and the entire pharm tech team for such achievement!

Respiratory Therapy Program Director **Brenda Hanning** and I got news earlier this month that the program has received for the 8th year in a row the "Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award." Now Prof. **Hanning** has to decide whether to go to hot Florida in July to receive the award. What a problem to have! Congrats to the entire Respiratory program.

And then I saw a tweet by Physics Professor **David Marasco** last week. Foothill College ranked No. 2 in the country for graduation rates, according the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#). Check out the breakdown for Latinx and African American students – higher than most California community colleges' college-wide rates.

I've been wanting to yell from the top of my lungs the completion data for students of color, though I do need to heal completely to share this at community

presentations. Right now, I don't even have a voice for radio (let alone a face for tv).

Speaking of radio, did you know that Foothill College's radio station KFJC celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year? Check out [this article](#) about them. Happy 60th Anniversary to 89.7 FM.

See everyone on Thursday at the Symposium!

Of Service,

Thuy

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