

AFTER-WORDS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RETIREES OF THE
FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



VOLUME XLX, ISSUE 7

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

May 2025



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

On Thursday, March 13th, twenty-eight FODARA members came together to celebrate another fun St. Patrick's Day event in the Fireside Room at De Anza College. Linda Conroy was happy to share her treasure trove of St. Patrick's Day decorations that included festive shamrock and green tablecloths, centerpieces, gold coins and assorted hats and scarves for guests to wear. FODARA members arrived decked out in their best green outfits and Cindy Castillo even donned a tutu. Once again Patrick Gannon and his food service staff provided us with a delicious



The group, dressed in green, gets ready to celebrate in De Anza's Fireside Room



Patrick Gannon strikes a pose on Saint Patrick's Day

traditional Irish buffet lunch of slow cooked corned beef & cabbage, carrots, colcannon, beverages & apple pie for dessert. FODARA wants to thank Patrick Gannon for continuing this tradition with us for one last time. We wish him a healthy, happy retirement and look forward to having him join us at some FODARA events next year. Although there's no way we will be able to replace the ambiance and food provided by Patrick and his staff, the FODARA board hopes we will be able to find a way to continue this fun event next year. "Sláinte agus táinte," everyone, which is Irish for "health and riches" to all!

Linda Conroy



JLMBC (Joint Labor Management Benefits Council) highlights for meeting on Wednesday 9 April 2025

1. Medicare Part B and IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount): Retirees in Medicare pay the basic amount of Medicare Part B of \$185 per month, and if with income over \$106,000 (single) or \$212,000 (joint) will also pay the IRMAA amount, which starts at \$74 per month. Currently, for Pre-97 retirees in Medicare, the district is reimbursing both the basic amount and the IRMAA. However, the language in the classified contracts (Association of Classified Employees, California School Employees Association, Police Officers Association, Teamsters) only requires the district to pay the basic amount, so the district will be applying the change to all retirees effective July 1, 2025, except those from the FA group, including ACE, CSEA, POA, Teamsters, Confidential, and AMA. The district is still actively working with FA to implement the same adjustment. **CORRECTION BASED ON UPDATED INFORMATION FROM BENEFITS DIRECTOR MAY 20, 2025.**

2. Dependent Eligibility Verification: Notification letters were sent out on April 16. Secova will manage the process. Verification packets were sent out in May with a deadline of June 6 to respond. Be sure to upload the correct documentation to keep your dependents on your insurance plan. Non-verified dependents will be removed from the plan effective July 1, 2025.

A special message for retirees who will need to go through the verification process for dependent eligibility

The official Verification Packet was mailed on May 5, 2025. The deadline to submit will be June 6, 2025. Some retirees are worried that their vacations will complicate their ability to submit dependent eligibility verification by the deadline. The District Benefits Office can work with retirees in this situation IF the retiree sends an email to MyBenefits@fhda.edu in advance of the process and provides their exact dates of vacation so the District can provide a reasonable extension.

We've already received several inquiries from retirees who are concerned about potentially missing the submission deadline due to scheduled vacations during this period. We sincerely appreciate how proactive and cooperative many retirees have been in reaching out to inform us of their plans in advance.

To help ease concerns and ensure everyone has the opportunity to comply with the verification process, we want to reassure retirees that reasonable extensions can be granted, provided that a request is made in advance of the deadline. That said, all dependents will be subject to the verification process, and those who do not complete it will unfortunately be removed from the FHDA health plans effective July 1, 2025.

District Benefits Office
MyBenefits@fhda.edu

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

The Marjorie L. Hinson Campus Center

The De Anza College Campus Center has served as exactly that, the “center of campus,” since the college opened in 1967. In 1980, the center was officially renamed “Hinson Campus Center.” Who was this Hinson person for whom the building is named?

Marjorie L. Hinson began her career as an instructor in physical education at San Jose High School, where she taught from 1953-1964. During that period, she also taught part time at San Jose City College and San Jose State University. In 1964 she applied to and was hired by Foothill College as a physical education teacher. She remained at Foothill until 1967, when De Anza opened its doors to students for the first time and she became the Associate Dean of Students, and later added Director of Student Activities to her job responsibilities. In her new role, she oversaw the operation of the college’s Campus Center, food services, campus security, student government associations and, of course, De Anza Day.



Marjorie L. Hinson

As the college grew Ms. Hinson’s workload increased exponentially. George Willey, Dean of Instruction at De Anza in 1967, had this to say about Marj Hinson’s workload: “The apparent ease with which she handled her enormous job made it a bit difficult for the rest of us; when we had occasion to work late we would at least like to feel martyred. But if we left our office at six or later, we had only to walk past the Campus Center and there would be Marj just getting her second wind before launching into some evening program or student activity.”

Marj Hinson was protective of De Anza students; so much so that you might think they were all her own children. In 1974, a special screening of the controversial film “I am Curious Yellow” was arranged for viewing in Forum 3. After the screening, an irate community member called Ms. Hinson personally to tell her that the film was “pornographic” and should never be shown to youth. In a desperate attempt to make her point, the woman caller asked Ms. Hinson if she had any children. Ms. Hinson’s reply? “I have 17,000 children and I challenge you to come down here and disprove that!”

In the early days of De Anza, there was a time of day called the “College Hour.” During this time, no classes were scheduled so that students could have club meetings, hear guest lecturers, attend concerts and many other student enrichment activities. Marj was heavily involved in scheduling these events and defending the College Hour. Enrollment continued to increase rapidly during the late 1960s and early 1970s and, due to the need for more scheduled classes, College Hour was finally shut down.

However, the loss of College Hour did not result in any reduction of Marj’s workload. She was a key person in coordinating De Anza Days – a huge, community event with entertainment, food and games across the entire campus.

Marj Hinson’s dedication and toughness became almost legendary. In the late 1960s, Stokely Carmichael was scheduled to speak on campus. Mr. Carmichael was a well-known activist for civil rights of Black people.



The back side of the Campus Center as it looked when Marjorie Hinson was managing the center.

He was a “freedom rider” in 1961 and was briefly a Black Panther. He was watched closely by the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover. Given his notoriety, he often traveled with protection when he made public speeches. He showed up at the De Anza gym with several armed guards. Tom Clements, acting President of De Anza College in 1980, described the scene: “These guards were not allowing White people in the first four or five rows. When Marj came in, late as usual, she proceeded to sit dead center of row one. Just as she was sitting down, she was intercepted by a very large, very angry man with the butt of

his 45 revolver clearly visible through the opening of his jacket. He told her in no uncertain terms that she had to move. Marj said ‘You don’t mean that’ and reached up and pulled him down next to her. She had him by the arm and didn’t let go until after the speech was over. I watched her chew his ear off throughout the speech. That poor guard didn’t stand a chance. The only thing that surprised me what she did not have him on the Student Council the next quarter. “

Marj had a coolness under pressure that was well known. Tom Clements told the following (unverified) story: “Marj’s coolness under pressure was never more evident that during the eleven-day occupation of the Campus Center during the Cambodian crisis. Marj did not go home for the first five days and nights, and I think did little or no sleeping during that time. She helped students organize discussion groups, helped organize staff participation, provided round the clock food and coffee, and generally established such a supportive atmosphere that our students simply would not allow outsiders to damage our campus in any way, although several wanted to.”

Sadly, all of this actively around Marj Hinson would come to a halt in the summer of 1976. Marj was diagnosed with cancer and, after some treatment, stepped away from the college and students during her last few months to stay at home and cope with the illness. Marjorie L. Hinson passed away on October 18, 1976 at the age of 48. De Anza students immediately began to petition the administration to name the Campus Center after her. In 1980, the renaming was approved by the Board of Trustees. During the dedication ceremony, Acting President Tom Clements called the renaming “so appropriate,” because the Campus Center is “a living, vital place. I have never known anyone in my life as vitally alive or as dedicated to students as Marj.” After the ceremony, a new plaque on the building was revealed. It read:

MARJORIE L. HINSON CAMPUS CENTER

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND CAMPUS CENTER DIRECTOR

1967-1976



HERS IS A MEMORY TO TREASURE; HER LAUGHTER AND SENSE OF HUMOR, HER COOLNESS UNDER PRESSURE, HER TOUGHNESS AND HER TENDERNESS, HER VULNERABILITY, HER DIGNITY AND HER CHARM... ALL CONTRIBUTED TO OUR RESPECT FOR AND OUR ENJOYMENT OF MARJORIE L. HINSON AS A REMARKABLE PERSON. CARING SO MUCH FOR OTHERS, SHE WAS ONE OF THE MOST CARED FOR PEOPLE ON CAMPUS.

DEDICATED

JUNE 19, 1980

FODARA Baseball & BBQ

@ Excite Ballpark
588 E. Alma Ave, San Jose

	<p>San Jose Giants vs. Fresno Grizzlies</p> <p>August 22</p> <p>5:00 PM BBQ 7:00 PM Game</p> <p>Fireworks following the game!</p>	
---	--	--

Bring your friends and family if you like. It is a great time outside capped off with fireworks after the game.

Fan parking is available in the SJSU Golf Lot, Happy Hollow K1 Lot (Senter Road), or the SJSU Parking Garage on the corner of 10th and Alma streets.

General Admission – Bench Seats located right behind our reserved seats

	Number	Amount		Number	Amount
ADULTS			CHILD (5-12 YRS)		
Seating Only \$18	_____	_____	Seating Only \$18	_____	_____
Seating + Meal	_____	_____	Seating + Meal	_____	_____
With soda/water \$38	_____	_____	w/ soda/water \$30	_____	_____
With alcohol \$44	_____	_____			
Extra soda \$5	_____	_____	Extra soda \$5	_____	_____
Extra alcohol \$12	_____	_____			

Reserved Seating – Seats with backs located lower nearer field

	Number	Amount		Number	Amount
ADULTS			CHILD (5-12 YRS)		
Seating Only \$25	_____	_____	Seating Only \$20	_____	_____
Seating + Meal	_____	_____	Seating + Meal	_____	_____
With soda/water \$48	_____	_____	w/soda/water \$30	_____	_____
With alcohol \$54	_____	_____			
Extra soda \$5	_____	_____	Extra soda \$5	_____	_____
Extra alcohol \$12	_____	_____			

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

RESERVATION FORM: Mail by July 15 or earlier

Make check payable to "FODARA" and mail with reservation form to Bill Lewis, FODARA, 1380 Elwood Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032; for questions, contact Bill at 408.639.9919, billlosgatos@gmail.com

Join us for our annual summer picnic at Cuesta Park in Mountain View on June 12, Thursday, at 3:00 PM. It is a casual fun way to reconnect with friends and former colleagues and maybe meet some new people too! This year our menu is Asian Delight, catered by a local caterer with Teriyaki baked chicken, Chinese egg rolls, Potstickers, Beef w/broccoli, Sweet & sour meat balls, rice, chicken salad and fruit. An assortment of beverages from water to wine will also be available. Cuesta Park is a beautiful setting among the old redwoods in our reserved picnic area. And, just so you don't run out of conversation starters we encourage you to dig around in your closet and wear any old T-shirt you have and love, FHDA or something else, wear it proudly, and share its story and why you love it! ❤️ Send us your RSVP by **June 5**.



FODARA JUNE PICNIC

What: Picnic: Asian Delight – Teriyaki baked chicken, Chinese egg rolls, Potstickers, Beef w/broccoli, Sweet & sour meat balls, rice, chicken salad, and fruit

When: **Thursday, June 12** 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Where: Cuesta Park, Mountain View, CA
(between Grant Rd and Miramonte Ave on Cuesta)
Group picnic area is upper end of parking lot near restrooms

Theme: Wear any old T-Shirt with a story, FHDA or something else!

RESERVATION FORM: Please mail by **June 5 or earlier**

Your Name _____
Guest Name(s) _____

If new, please give us your phone # and email: _____

Please reserve _____ total places for the picnic

Number of vegetarian meals _____

Indicate dollar amounts below:

_____ \$30 per person for picnic

_____ \$10 FODARA membership dues (voluntary)

_____ FODARA Scholarship Fund (voluntary)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Make check payable to "FODARA"

Mail check and reservation form to Bill Lewis, FODARA, 1380 Elwood Dr, Los Gatos, CA 95032

For questions or last-minute reservations, contact Bill Lewis at 408.639.9919 or billlosgatos@gmail.com

Cool Camera Collection for Sale!

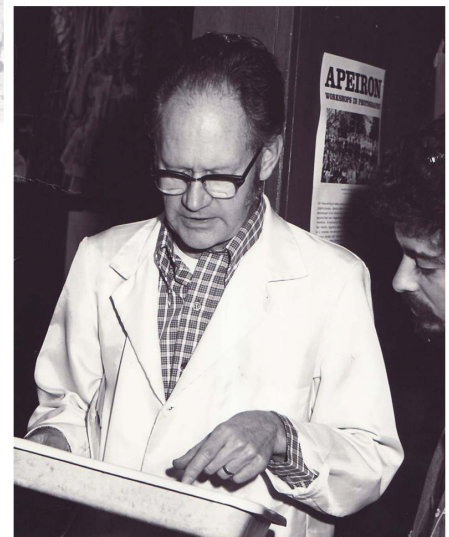
Who My father, Lescher Dowling, taught Photography classes at Foothill College from 1967 to 1990. He collected vintage cameras for years, and passed away in 2024 at the age of 101.

What Mr. D's camera collection is up for sale! (at very reasonable prices.) Kodak box cameras & folding pocket cameras, Ansco, Bownie, Voitlander, Hawkeye, Nikon, Duraflex, Pentax, and many more! There are film cameras, movie cameras, instamatics, polaroids, light meters, lenses, flash units, boxed sets, developer tanks, oddities, etc. From 'punch board' cardboard to bakelite to pressed metal to modern lightweight metal -- he collected a little bit of everything.

When & Where June 7th from 8am to 2pm, the De Anza College Flea Market space #D-26
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA

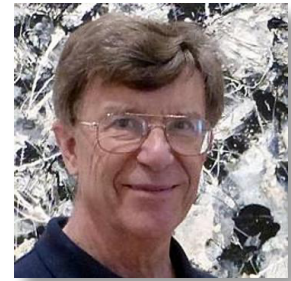
Why As the executor of my parent's estate, it's my job to get the 50 boxes of photography equipment that I found in my dad's garage rafters, OUT of my gorage, and into the hands of collectors of cool stuff! Are you a collector of cool photography stuff? Come and shop!

For more info You can contact me at
HEYLELA@aol.com





Mike McCusker



It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Mike McCusker. Mike was a cherished member of the Foothill College community for 24 years. Mike truly embodied the spirit of generosity, curiosity, and student-centered dedication that defines our campus. As a tutor and faculty member in the STEM Center, Mike gave generously of his time and talents. He was a key partner in shaping the evolution of the STEM Center and was always ready to support our students. His contributions extended beyond tutoring; he created the Chat Café to help international students build confidence in English, including the technical vocabulary they needed to thrive (and even officiated at the wedding of one of his Chat Café students). He also played a leading role in organizing RSLs events for several years, further enriching the intellectual and cultural life of our campus. Mike held a PhD in Atomic/Molecular Physics from Rice University and had a long and distinguished career in local technology companies and as a consultant, working on everything from high-performance laser technology and fiber optics networks to internet security. Mike's commitment to students never wavered. Even after stepping away from the Center this past fall to focus on his health, he continued to meet with students over Zoom, offering them the guidance and encouragement. Mike will be deeply missed. We are grateful for the many ways he helped shape our community and touched the lives of students, faculty, and staff alike. Our thoughts are with all who knew and loved him. In lieu of flowers, Mike's family ask that you donate to your preferred charity or to [Foothill College \(Experience Foothill\)](#) or [Hartnell College](#), two institutions very close to his heart. A remembrance gathering will be announced in the coming days.

Kristina Whalen

President, Foothill College



Congratulations to the Following Recent FHDA Retirees:

Dan Salah, Instructor, De Anza

Sara Seyedin, Instructor, Foothill

September 21st - Tailgate & Bay FC Women's Professional Soccer Game! Support Women's Sports!

Thanks to Kulwant Singh, we have a new FODARA activity scheduled, this one in September. Join us as we tailgate and then watch our local professional women's soccer team destroy the NJ/NY Gotham FC at PayPal Park Stadium. We'll send out details this summer. For now, whet your appetite and save Sunday, September 21st, starting at 3 pm, for this fun event. That game is Latina Heritage Night, honoring our rich Latino culture.





FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

President	<i>Mike Paccioretti</i>	408-274-4929	paccioretmike@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	<i>Bill Lewis</i>	408-639-9919	billlosgatos@gmail.com
Secretary	<i>Thomas Roza</i>	408-375-9515	thomas_roza@yahoo.com
Treasurer	<i>Barbara Illowsky</i>	---	illowskybarbara@fhda.edu
Webmaster/Listserv	<i>Cindy Castillo</i>	408-702-7721	cindycastillo@comcast.net
Member at Large	<i>Janice Carr</i>	650-941-2567	janicecarr@pacbell.net
Member at Large	<i>Linda Conroy</i>	408-966-5703	lsiqcon@aol.com
Member at Large	<i>Maureen Gates</i>	408-736-7504	gates-m@sbcglobal.net
Member at Large	<i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i>	408-482-8879	yumorikakuladonna@fhda.edu
Newsletter Editor	<i>Marty Kahn</i>	---	kahnmarty@fhda.edu

FODARA COMMITTEES 2025

District Benefits	<i>Susanne Chan</i> (chansusanne@fhda.edu), <i>George Robles</i> (roblesgeorge@fhda.edu), <i>Lisa Markus</i> (markuslisa@fhda.edu)
After-Words email delivery	<i>Cindy Castillo</i> (cindycastillo@comcast.net)
After-Words postal delivery	<i>Janice Carr</i> (janicecarr@pacbell.net), <i>Linda Conroy</i> (lsiqcon@aol.com)
Scholarships	<i>Mike Brandy</i> (brandymike@gmail.com)
Social Events	<i>Linda Conroy</i> (lsiqcon@aol.com), <i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i> (yumorikakyladonna@fhda.edu)

FODARA CALENDAR 2025

Board Meeting	Tuesday, April 29, 1pm	Treasurer's
Picnic	Thursday, June 12, 3pm	Cuesta Park, Mountain View
S.J. Giants Game	August 22, 5pm	San Jose Excite Ballpark (Municipal Stadium)