

AFTER-WORDS

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



VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 4

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

September, 2026

FODARA Tailgate & Bay FC Women's Soccer Match



Bay FC (red) defends against the Houston Dash (black) on August 23. Our own Bay FC won a close match 1-0.

The second FODARA Tailgate & Bay FC women's soccer match was held on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at PayPal Park. This same date happened to be Barbara Illowsky's birthday. The group tailgated in the parking lot before the game and Kulwant Singh, retired De Anza soccer coach and his friend, Tony Delaney, barbecued tasty hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken sausages, which were enjoyed by the 21 attendees. FODARA members and friends brought guacamole and chips, chili, edamame sushi, lettuce, tomatoes, onions and other toppings, buns, potato and green salads, fruit, and a yummy birthday cake.



Barbara Illowsky reacts to the group singing Happy Birthday before the match.

We cheered both Barbara Illowsky, for her birthday and Bay FC, who won the match 1-0. If you missed the winning goal, or would like to see it again, click [here](#).

Lenore DeSilets had this to say about the event: *"This was my first tailgate and watching the game was so much fun because Kulwant was able to answer all our questions and explain what was happening so that we could better appreciate the game. It was exciting when the Bay FC player scored the winning goal. It was also interesting to learn from Kulwant that the player was Italian, 35 years old, and is typically substituted into games to*

do exactly what she did—score a goal and win the game! I'm looking forward to next year's tailgate and game!"



Tony Delaney mans the grill to feed hungry FODARA members before the match.

La Donna Yumori Kaku added: *“I wanted to experience PayPal Park for the first time, especially to watch the women’s professional soccer team, Bay FC. It was an exciting experience. I had so much fun checking out the largest outdoor bar and recognizing that the venue is perfect for the moderate weather that only California can offer. The FODARA folks were friendly and welcoming. The food was delicious and scrumptious. Kudos to Team Kulwant for bringing us together. Thanks for this second memorable experience!”*

La Donna Yumori-Kaku



PayPal Park is a great venue for soccer - you get a great view of the match from almost any seat.

Up Next...

Time is fast approaching for our annual “Thing.” Socializing, pizza, salad and soft drinks at Tony & Alba’s Pizza and Pasta, at 3137 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose. Beer and wine are available at the restaurant for additional cost.

For those not familiar with Tony & Alba’s it’s an informal family restaurant in West San Jose with excellent ratings in a casual atmosphere.

Tony & Alba’s is once again encouraging guests to donate socks for farm workers and their children. Their theme is “Soctoberfest



in October.” In addition to customer donations the restaurant is making its own annual donation of a pair of socks for each XL pizza during the month of October.

Our gathering will start at 3:00pm on October 29 and the pizza, salad and sodas will be available until shortly before 5:00pm. This is a very informal event for retirees and their guests who are encouraged to catch up with former colleagues and meet retirees from other areas of the district.

There is a limit of 30 diners so please see the registration form for details on the next page. Hope to see you there!!



FODARA Annual Summer Picnic

This year, forty-one FODARA members and guests attended our annual picnic at Cuesta Park in Mountain View. For this Western-themed BBQ picnic, it was fun to see retirees dressed in Western attire, including paisley scarves, hats, and cowboy boots.

The sunny weather provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to reconnect and socialize while enjoying a delicious BBQ meal provided by Golden Harvest Catering. The menu included green salad, potato salad, BBQ chicken, beef, chicken and veggie burgers, corn on the cob, assorted beverages, beer, wine, and a delicious chocolate cake for dessert. You can see just how much everyone enjoyed themselves in the photos featured in this newsletter and on the FODARA website.



Toward the end of the event, we were honored by a special visit from Chancellor Lee Lambert, who shared news about current activities and developments taking place throughout the district and at De Anza and Foothill Colleges. FODARA is grateful to Chancellor Lambert for his continued support and for the genuine appreciation he shows for all of our retirees.

Before dessert, Barbara Illowsky introduced four Board members who are retiring from their positions. We extend our heartfelt thanks to President Mike Paccioretti, Webmaster Cindy Castillo, and

Members-at-Large Janice Carr and Maureen Gates for their 14 years of dedicated service and many contributions to FODARA. They will be greatly missed, but we know they will continue to attend our events whenever they can.

At this end-of-the-year event, we were especially pleased to welcome two of our newest retirees, both of whom worked at Foothill and De Anza Colleges. Congratulations and thank you to Julie Ceballos, who served as a Web Content Developer, and David Garrido, who served as an Instructional Designer, for your many years of dedicated service to the district. We are delighted to welcome you to your first of many FODARA events. When asked what he enjoyed most about the picnic, David said, “It was great getting to catch up with retired colleagues that I hadn't seen in years.”



FODARA would like to extend special thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event a success:

- Bev Buranek for making the park reservation.
- Bill Lewis for collecting registrations and payments, picking up ice from De Anza College, and bringing sodas.
- Cindy Castillo for sending picnic reminders.
- Linda Conroy for arranging the catering, bringing tablecloths, decorations, and sodas, and taking photographs.
- Maureen Gates for making signs and labels and assisting with setup and cleanup.
- Mike and Gail Paccioretti for bringing water and wine and helping set up tablecloths and decorations, along with Melodie Cheney, Maria Castillo, Dennis Conroy, and La Donna Yumori-Kaku.
- Barbara Illowsky for providing the delicious chocolate cake.
- Marty Kahn for taking photographs.

Linda Conroy

FODARA Member-at-Large

FODARA PIZZA "THING"



What: Pizza, Pizza, Pizza!
Cost: \$22 for pizza, salad, soft drinks (wine/beer extra)
When: Thursday, October 29, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Where: Tony and Alba's Pizza & Pasta (408.246.4605), 3137 Stevens Creek Blvd, S.J. (northwest corner of Stevens Creek and Winchester, next to BevMo and close to Santana Row)

RESERVATION FORM: **Please mail by October 19 at the latest**

Your Name _____

Your Phone & Email Address _____

Guests _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME ATTENDING A FODARA EVENT? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please reserve total places for the Pizza Thing _____

Indicate dollar amounts below:

_____ \$22 per person for Pizza Thing

_____ \$10 FODARA membership dues (if you have not yet paid for 2026-27)

_____ FODARA Scholarship Fund (voluntary)

_____ Socks fund for the farmworkers (voluntary, distributed by Tony & Alba's)

If by check (payable to "FODARA"): total enclosed: \$ _____

Mail check and reservation form to:

Bill Lewis, FODARA, 1380 Elwood Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

If by Venmo or Zelle (put info in comments; res. form not needed):

Venmo: @Barbara-IlloWSky **Zelle:** barbarailloWSky@gmail.com

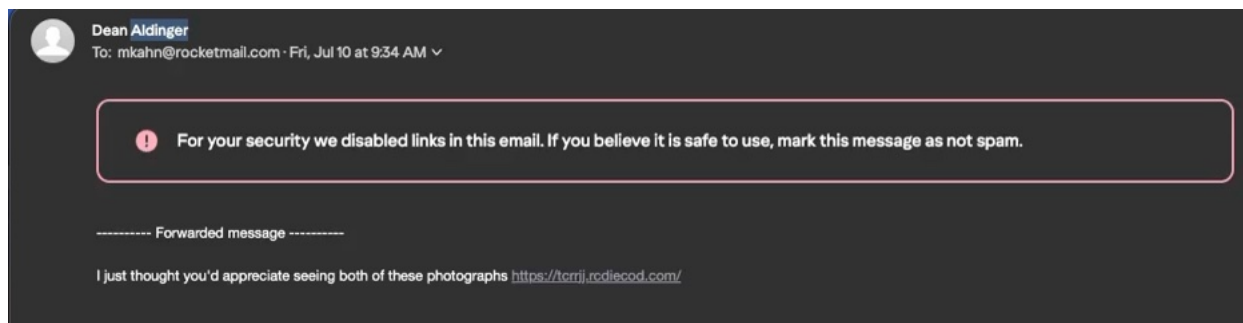
For questions or last-minute reservations, contact Bill Lewis at 408.639.9919 /
billlosgatos@gmail.com

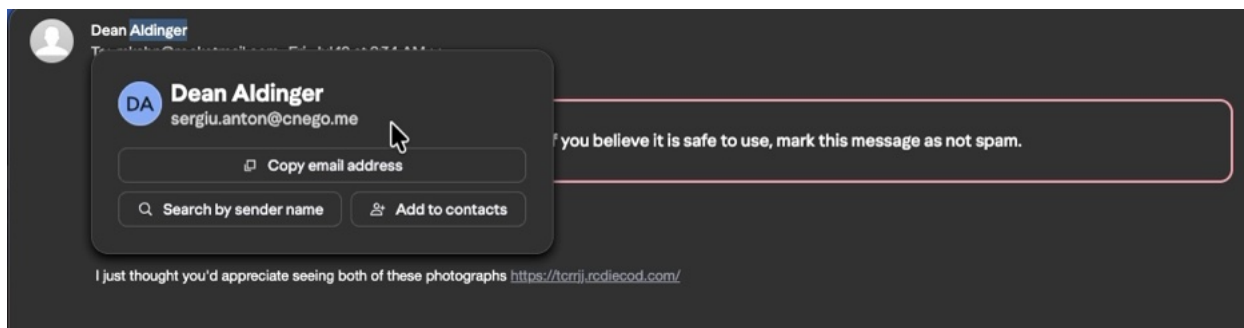
How to Recognize and Avoid Online Scams

The use of the internet has become very complex and yet is necessary to be able to access things that we need or use regularly - doctors, charge cards, utilities, insurance, mortgages and rent. When we combine those needs with criminals all over the world who are anxious to take advantage of good, trusting people, we have a situation that is a potential disaster.

What is “Phishing?” This is when a scammer creates a legitimate-looking email or text that tries to convince the reader to send money, provide a password or purchase something. These messages often try to persuade you to act quickly, claiming that there is reason for urgency. They want you to act before you have the chance to think through the request. Some of these messages are very convincing and include personal information to assure you that the email is legitimate. (The personal information is gathered from your social media sites, such as Facebook and Instagram.) Many phishing scams attempt to impersonate a company with which you do business; Amazon, Apple, Verizon, Spotify or other familiar company names will be used. When in doubt, contact the company directly to determine if the email came from them. Do not use the contact information that might be provided in the email - look up the company’s contact info on your own to verify if the email is legitimate.

What is “Spoofing?” This is when the email appears to have come from someone you know and often asks you to click on a link or call a phone number. The scammer has the ability to create an email that appears to come from someone you know, but the actual email address is different from the real address of your friend. In most email applications, you can either roll over the suspicious email address, or click on it to reveal the real sender. In the clipping below you can see that it appears that I received an email from Dean Aldinger, an old high school friend, who says he wants to show me some photos.





However, if I click on the sender's email address, I can see that the real sender is sergiu.anton@cnego.me - clearly not Dean Aldinger! Trash this email!

You should always look at the email or text very carefully to see if it is from a legitimate source. Do not click on any links or use your phone to scan a QR code.

Here are some things that you can do to help avoid email scams:

- *Remember that companies generally don't contact you to ask for your username or password.*
- *Don't click on anything in an unsolicited email or text message. Look up the company's phone number on your own (don't use the one a potential scammer is providing), and call the company to ask if the request is legitimate.*
- *Carefully examine the email address, URL, and spelling used in any correspondence. Scammers use slight differences to trick your eye and gain your trust.*
- *Be careful what you download. Never open an email attachment from someone you don't know and be wary of email attachments forwarded to you.*
- *Set up two-factor (or multi-factor) authentication on any account that allows it, and never disable it. (Two factor means you'll need a computer password and your phone or other device to log in.)*
- *Be careful with what information you share online or on social media. By openly sharing things like pet names, schools you attended, family members, and your birthday, you can give a scammer all the information they need to guess your password or answer your security questions.*

By the way, there is a new, free government program to help you reduce the amount of spam/junk email you get. Go to this site and follow the instructions: <https://privacy.ca.gov/drop/>
(Yes, it's a legitimate website. Thanks for checking...)

Marty Kahn

Why do I need to add a phone number to check my FHDA email?

To provide a high level of security when logging into MyPortal, the FHDA district has added “multi-factor authentication” or “multi-factor verification.” For example, if you want to log in to MyPortal on your computer, you will need your password as well as another personal device (phone, tablet, other) to allow you to log in. This is much more secure than just a password. If a hacker gets hold of your password, they will not be able to log in to MyPortal without also having your phone or tablet. This secure method also means that you will be notified on your secondary device if someone is trying to log into your account. This was added to the portal back in 2025. If you choose to use your phone number, always use your cell phone number, not a home phone. When you use a phone number, the system will send you a text with a numeric code to log in.

There is, however, an easier way to access your account using two factor authentication. The district recommends that you use Duo, which can be downloaded from Apple’s App Store or the Google Play Store. Once the app is installed and configured, you can enter your password into your computer and a notification will pop up on your secondary device, asking for an OK to log in. You simply click OK and you are in? Following are some tips as well as the set up procedure to be able to use Duo. These notes come directly from the ETS Tech Help pages in MyPortal:

What do I need to enroll in Duo MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication)?

- A computer to sign in to MyPortal
- A mobile phone (iPhone with iOS17+ or Android 12+ recommended) with the Duo Mobile app installed (you can find the app on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store)
- Your CWID and MyPortal password

What if I don't have a smartphone?

You can enroll a regular mobile phone or landline to receive SMS passcodes or phone calls instead of push notifications. Choose Phone number at the *"First, add a device"* screen during enrollment.

Can I use only Touch ID?

You can, but it's strongly discouraged. Touch ID only works on the one device it was set up on, so you'd be locked out from any other computer. Always pair Touch ID with Duo Mobile or a phone number as a backup.

How long does enrollment take?

About 3–5 minutes if Duo Mobile is already installed on your phone.

I already use Duo Mobile for another organization. Do I need to install it again?

No. The Duo Mobile app holds multiple accounts. Just complete the FHDA enrollment in MyPortal and the app will add a new "FHDA" account alongside any of your existing ones.

Do I have to scan a QR code?

Usually yes, but Duo may skip the QR code step automatically if it can verify your phone another way. If you go straight from *"Verify passcode"* to *"Added Duo Mobile"*, that's normal.

The QR code expired before I could scan it. What should I do?

Click "Back" on the computer browser, then reenter the QR code step to refresh it. Scan with the Duo Mobile app right away, as the codes typically expire within a few minutes.

Should I add a backup method?

Yes. Always enroll at least two methods. (for example, Duo Mobile and Touch ID, or Duo Mobile and a second phone number). If you lose or replace your primary device, the backup keeps you from being locked out.

What happens when I log in to MyPortal now?

You enter your CWID and password as usual, then approve a Duo prompt — usually via a push notification you tap on your phone. After that you're sent to the MyPortal homepage.

What does "Yes, this is my device" / "Trust this browser" do?

It tells Duo to skip the prompt on this specific browser for 15 days. After 15 days, or on a different browser or device, you'll be prompted again.

I tap "Yes, this is my device" but Duo prompts me again the next day. Why?

Most often, the browser is clearing cookies (private/incognito mode, "clear on exit" settings, or strict privacy extensions). Duo's trust cookie can't survive a cookie wipe.

No push notification arrived on my phone. The screen shows a 6-digit passcode instead. What should I do?

That's Duo's fallback. If that happens, open the Duo Mobile app, find your FHDA account, and type the 6-digit passcode shown on the computer into the app. It happens when push delivery fails (for example, a poor network connection, notifications turned off on your device, etc.)

Why are my login options suddenly limited (only Verified Push or Bypass Code)?

Duo flagged the login as higher-risk — for example, a login from overseas or an unfamiliar Internet Protocol (IP) address. The limited options are extra protection. Use Verified Duo Push (which makes you confirm a number on screen in the app).

How do I add another device after I've already enrolled?

1. Sign in to MyPortal in an incognito browser or private window (so the Duo prompt appears).
2. At the Duo prompt, click "Other options" → scroll down → click "Manage devices".
3. Verify your identity, then click "Add a device" in the Device Management Portal.

I just got a new phone. How do I move Duo to it?

1. Open the Device Management Portal (above).
2. Click I have a new phone on your old device's card.
3. Follow the prompts to scan a new QR code with the Duo Mobile app on your new phone.

Helpful Tip: Do this before wiping or returning your old phone, since you need it to authenticate into the device-management portal.

How do I rename or delete an old device?

In the device-management portal, click the Edit (pencil icon) on the device card. From there you can rename it or remove it. Don't remove your only device — you'll be locked out.

The Duo prompt is skipped and I land straight on MyPortal — how do I get to the Device Management Portal?

If that happens, your browser is currently trusted. Open an incognito browser or private window and sign in there — the prompt will appear and you can reach the "Other options" and then "Manage devices" screens.

The Duo Mobile app is installed but I'm not getting push notifications.

1. Make sure notifications for Duo Mobile are enabled in your phone's settings.
2. Check that the app has network access (via Wi-Fi or cellular data).
3. As a fallback, type the 6-digit passcode shown on the MyPortal screen into the Duo Mobile app.

I'm overseas or on a Virtual Private Network (VPN) and my login options are limited.

That's intentional — Duo restricts methods on higher-risk logins. Make sure to use the Verified Duo Push – the app shows a number you confirm.

I tap the green check on the push but nothing happens on the computer.

Refresh the MyPortal browser tab. If the Duo timer expires before you approve, the prompt is invalidated and you will need to start the login over.

Marty Kahn

Medicare Reimbursement Update

At this time, the district is not pursuing any changes to the current Medicare Part B reimbursement process. Eligible retirees will continue to receive Medicare Part B reimbursements in accordance with the district's existing reimbursement procedures and applicable eligibility provisions. This includes the current process for submitting required Medicare documentation and receiving reimbursement for eligible Medicare Part B premium amounts, including applicable IRMAA amounts, as provided under the district's existing program.

We recognize that affected retirees have been waiting for clarification on this matter, and we appreciate your patience while the district completed its review. Should the district consider any changes in the future, affected retirees will be notified in advance and provided an opportunity for discussion before any decisions are made. No action is required from you at this time.

If you have any questions regarding your Medicare reimbursement, please contact the Benefits Office at MyBenefits@fhda.edu or [650-949-6224](tel:650-949-6224).

Beijing Li

Pre-1997 Retirees Medical Plan - Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for the 2027 plan year is almost here! This year's Open Enrollment period will run from **September 14 through October 9, 2026**. This is your annual opportunity to review your current coverage and make any changes for 2027.

A few important reminders:

- If you are satisfied with your current coverage, you generally do not need to take action — your current elections will carry forward to 2027.
- To change or cancel your medical plan, or to add or remove a dependent from medical coverage, please contact **CalPERS at 1-888-225-7377**.
- For dental and vision changes, please contact the **District Benefits Office**.
- If you are adding a dependent, all required documentation must be received by **Friday, October 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**
- If you are enrolled in a **UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue Alliance HMO, SignatureValue Harmony HMO, or an affected UnitedHealthcare Combination Plan**, please review your options carefully, as these plans will change for 2027. **UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage PPO will remain available.**

You are also invited to join us at the **Benefits Fair on Wednesday, September 16, from 12:00–2:00 p.m. at the Foothill College Student Center**. This is a great opportunity to meet benefit carriers and partners, compare your 2027 options, and get your questions answered.

Additional Open Enrollment materials, including the **2027 Retiree Benefits at a Glance, retiree contribution rates, health plan changes, and medical plan comparison information**, are available on the [District Benefits webpage](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Benefits Office at MyBenefits@fhda.edu or **650-949-6224**.

We look forward to supporting you during Open Enrollment!

Best Regards,

Beijing Li

From the Archives...

Foothill College: The Birth and Abduction of the Owl

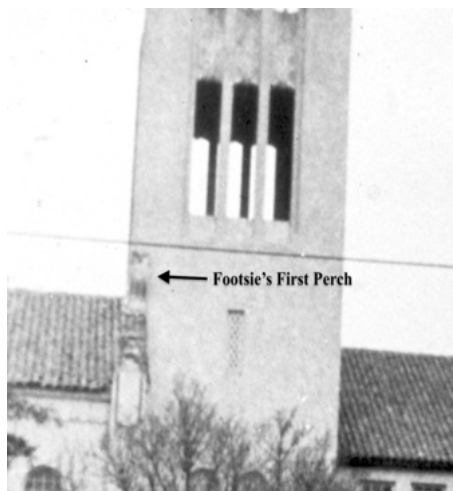
Foothill College has used an owl as their mascot since the college first offered classes at a temporary location in Mountain View in 1958. In 1959, the owl was kidnapped and used for blackmail!



The Highway School in Mountain View as it appeared prior to renovation. It was used by Foothill from 1958-1961.

in the Fall of 1958. One of the issues at the old school was a concrete bell tower that was unsafe. It had to be removed before students could use the building. Mounted on that tower was a large concrete owl. Historical research indicates that the owl was simply an architectural decoration for the former elementary school, likely reflecting the old adage that owls are wise.

Soon after the formation of the college district in 1957, the district was awarded a bond of over \$10 million dollars to buy land and build a campus. But the Board and Calvin Flint, Foothill's first president, wanted to show the public that their money would be put to good use immediately. While planning for the Los Altos Hills campus was underway, the district rented an old elementary school in Mountain View, built in the 1920s, at the corner of El Camino Real and Calderon. The old school was retrofitted with supports for safety, faculty were hired, curriculum was developed and Foothill College began teaching classes there



In this enlargement, you can see the future Foothill mascot mounted on the bell tower of the Highway School. The bell tower had to be demolished for safety reasons before Foothill could occupy the building.

H. Hubert Semans, who later served as Foothill's second president, wanted to ensure that the owl was saved during reconstruction so, before demolishing the tower, workers carefully removed and lowered the 500-800 pound (estimated) concrete owl to the ground. Once the students and faculty saw this owl, it was decided that it would become the college mascot. The college had now selected a mascot but had neglected to provide it with a name.



Workers carefully secure the owl before lowering it to the ground.



The owl is lowered to the ground using ropes and pulleys.



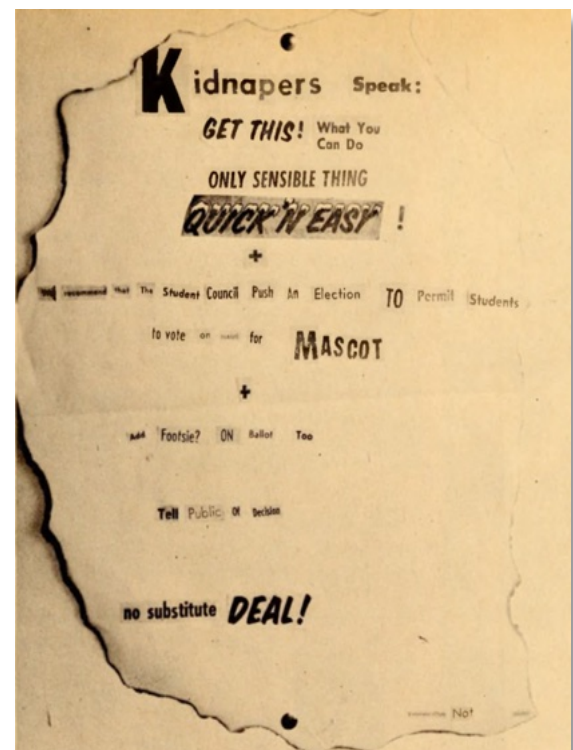
The owl was moved to storage by four men who placed metal pipes beneath the bird and moved only a foot or two at a time.

It was clumsy to always refer to the mascot as “owl,” so a San Jose Mercury News reporter began calling him “Footsie.” Not only did the community begin calling the owl the unofficial name of Footsie, but students at the college were sometimes referred to as “Footsies.” Many students did not like the name, so a group formed - the “Anti-Footsie League.”

In April of 1959, the owl was abducted from the college. It was taken from a storage room that was directly adjacent to a science classroom, where classes were going on during the time of the theft. Two ransom notes were received by the student council. Both notes indicated that the name, Footsie, was never voted upon by the student body and was therefore not valid. The ransom notes said that the owl would not be returned until there was an official student ballot in which students could select a name.



Kidnap note #1



Kidnap Note #2

It was decided, just as the kidnappers demanded, that there would be an election to formally name the mascot and that the election would be held simultaneously with the general student body elections in the spring.



The owl is now ready for his return trip to Foothill.

In early May of 1959, the Student Council received an anonymous note informing the college of the location of the stolen owl. A station wagon was borrowed and four very strong students found the owl and returned him to campus. They did not know at the time that this was the very same station wagon that had been used to kidnap the owl. In the note, the kidnappers stated that their identities would only be revealed after the "owl has had a chance to tell his own version of the kidnapping."



These four strong students brought Footsie back to Foothill. Were they the kidnappers as well?

A reporter for Foothill's original student newspaper, *The Sentinel*, was allowed to interview the kidnappers as long as their identities were not revealed:

"We feel that the attention which the big bird deserved as our college mascot had been lost somewhere in the scuffle. The kidnap of the owl gave it more publicity than it had ever received before. Also, we feel if the bird had not been stolen it might not have received a name that was the student's choice."

On June 5 of 1959, the students voted on the mascot and the name: The owl and Footsie were both approved. The kidnappers were never identified.



The kidnapping of the owl generated publicity for Foothill. This cartoon from the *Peninsula Times Tribune* accompanied an article entitled *The Great Owl Theft*.

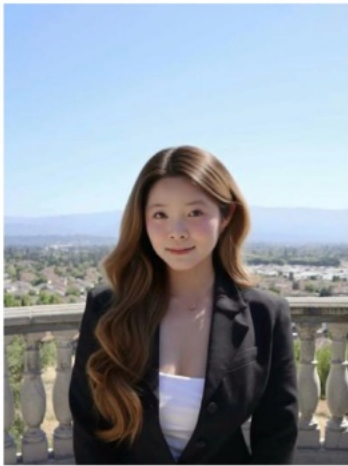


Cal Flint (right) and unidentified man (left) show appreciation for Footsie's return.

Thank you from our scholarship recipients...



**Foothill-De Anza Retirees Association (FODARA) Scholarship
June 2026 Recipients – 4 @ \$1,250 (2 at each campus)**



Nhi (De Anza)

Major: Business

Thank you:

Dear Donors,

I hope this letter finds you well. First, I would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity in providing the De Anza–Foothill De Anza Retirees Association Scholarship opportunity for low-income transfer students like me. Without your support, tuition would be a big financial burden for me over the next two years, and I truly appreciate your support throughout this journey. I would also love to introduce myself. Coming from Vietnam four years ago, I am an immigrant and a first-generation college student in my family. I chose De Anza College because, at that time, my family was struggling financially. At De Anza, I have been involved in multiple leadership roles, such as Marketing Intern for De Anza Student Government, Vice Chair of Marketing and Outreach for the Mentors at De Anza Program, and Vice President of Marketing for Phi Beta Lambda (the biggest business club on campus). Proudly, I have earned many achievements through participating in FBLA competitions, such as third place nationally in the Marketing Case Competition and, most recently, third place in the Digital Design Case at the state level. My plan is to transfer to UC Berkeley Haas School of Business and finish my bachelor's degree, then pursue a career in marketing as a marketing coordinator or social media strategist, and eventually open a business of my own. In my own time, I also want to be a YouTube vlogger, documenting my life and sharing my experiences. This scholarship would play a crucial role in my journey because it would alleviate my financial burden and help me have more time to focus on my academics and explore opportunities without having to worry about working multiple jobs to pay for my tuition. I believe that investing in academics will provide the foundation for me to achieve my academic and career goals, and I truly appreciate my donors for helping me on that journey.

My future plans are to finish my bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. During that time, I will apply to consulting and marketing clubs at Berkeley to further develop my skills and grow professionally. Besides that, I also want to look for marketing internships in the Bay Area during the

summer so I can gain real-life experience working in a company. After I earn my degree, I would love to work in the marketing industry, and I hope to get a job as a marketing coordinator, brand manager, or social media strategist.

Once again, I truly appreciate you for giving me this scholarship and assisting me through this big transition. I got rejected from most of the scholarships I applied to, so this is such good news for me, and I cannot wait for my next journey at my dream school, UC Berkeley, and to make my career goals come true.

Benjamin (De Anza)

Major: Business

My Story:

College has always been an important goal for me. Both of my parents earned degrees and encouraged me to follow in a similar path, however during high school, I struggled academically and realized I wasn't on track to go to a four year university where all my friends were going. For awhile, I thought that was the end of the road till I learned about De Anza, and the community college system. I wouldn't have to pay for college for the first to years of my education being a CA student. I had always worried since my parents divorced back before high school and my dad moved away to another state that I would, or my mom would have to carry a debt on her shoulders which I never wanted to happen. Once I graduated from high school, I learned about the DSS program, which allowed me to get the same accommodations that I did in high school, since I was diagnosed with Dyslexia. The whole team over in the DSS department were absolutely amazing guiding me through planning out my courses I needed to take, to helping me talk with my instructors about my accommodations, and to even helping me with aid. However in my first year of classes, I was in a car crash which totaled my car, and caused me to break my right wrist. In one second, I had lost the only way I could get to college, and the only way I could write. I couldn't have been more grateful to my professors who were extremely accommodating allowing me to type instead of write, and sometimes complete assignments at home when I couldn't make it on campus. Their support taught me resilience and reminded me that asking for help is a strength, not a weakness. Growing up, I was always drawn to computers. Many people in my life assumed I would pursue a career in tech, and for a long time, I thought so too. But as I learned more about the pressures and instability of the tech field, I realized it wasn't the right path for me. Over the past year, thanks to my instructors, classmates, and the DASG community, I discovered my true passion: Human Resources. I am a social person who values communication, teamwork, and helping others succeed. HR allows me to combine these strengths with my interest in leadership and supporting people in meaningful ways. After being in for a year, and now my second, it really brought me a sense of community, working with other like minded students, and being in a structured environment that allowed us to make and show change on campus. A scholarship would help relieve the ongoing financial strain on my family and allow me to stay focused on my academic and career

goals. I am proud of my journey, and I am motivated to continue working toward a future defined by resilience, purpose, and growth.

Angelica (Foothill)

Major: Public Health

Thank you:



Dear members of the Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association (FODARA),

I want to start this letter with the biggest thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the 2025 Foothill FHDA Retirees Association Scholarship! I hope you understand how deeply your generosity is appreciated in providing me with a chance to pursue my goals with the help of this scholarship. Growing up I never thought that it would be possible for me to actually pursue a degree at a four-year university and now I'm feeling more inspired and supported than ever. Since it's always just been my mom to support my brother and I, I knew that the least I could do was be the best student I could possibly be in order to relieve her of that stress. I've always held great pride in being able to think creatively in school and supporting not just myself through

difficult work but also my classmates.

Having the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic during the summer between my junior and senior year of high school really helped broaden my global perspective and see the difference in our ways of living. I realized that I truly have the capability to make a difference all around the world not just limited to my community. I was able to actually directly support my community when I was a summer school Link Leader during the summer transitioning into my senior year where I had the chance to help the incoming freshman as a teacher assistant. Doing this work really helped solidify my aspirations to continue supporting my community since I do come from a very culturally inclusive low-income neighborhood.

Now that I know more about career opportunities I specifically aim to conduct research in epidemiology with my degrees of Public Health and Psychology. My focus will be on low-income communities who don't always have the best access to health care, mental health support, organic foods, and an overall increased rate of chronic stress and therefore illness. My goal with this is to hopefully figure out more effective solutions to support families who don't have access to the correct information to stay safe and healthy. There are so many silent killers amongst my neighborhood that many aren't even aware of due to everyday adversities they have to deal with. I don't want to just stop there though. I hope to one day be able to travel to places like the Dominican Republic again or

especially my parents home countries, Nicaragua and El Salvador, in order to figure out the silent causes of increased illness rates and eventually help other researchers figure out promising solutions.

That's just a little bit about what I believe will be possible with the help of this scholarship aiding me in my journey at San Jose State University. Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart for selecting me to receive the 2025 Foothill FHDA Retirees Association Scholarship and helping me see more clearly what is possible if I keep dedicating myself to my goals of one day making a difference in the world. I will definitely be doing my best to make you all proud.

Aljona (Foothill)

Major: Psychology

Thank you:

Dear Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,

Thank you so much FODARA for your kindness in helping me fund my education. It is an honor to receive this scholarship and be one of the 2 Foothill students who received it. This scholarship is extremely essential to my next steps, as I've recently enrolled at UCLA, where tuition cost is definitely a worry for me. Receiving this scholarship alleviates a portion of that stress and will allow me to focus on the areas I'm most excited to pursue at UCLA.

To name a few, I am interested in research and will hopefully obtain a research assistant position at UCLA. Not having to worry about a second job in order to pay tuition with the help of this scholarship allows me to pour all my energy into research. Which again is extremely important to me because I wish to achieve my PhD in Clinical Psychology. I will be the first in my family to attend higher education, so there are barriers to being a first-generation, low-income student, but this scholarship gives me a boost to overcome those barriers! Thank you for making education accessible during your career and even in your retirement. I definitely feel the impact of your compassion and am grateful to receive it.

Many thanks to those of you who either paid dues and/or donated to the FODARA student scholarship fund since July 2026.

FODARA is grateful to the people listed below. These are the retirees (and some friends) who have either paid their \$10 dues and/or donated to our student scholarship fund. Thanks to their generous support, we are able to operate and to award four \$1250 scholarships for 2026-27. Each newsletter I'll list the current year's donors, hoping to grow the list of names and funds.

Want to donate and see your name below? There are several options.

1. Go to <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/DonationPage.aspx?eventid=387751&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=https%3a%2f%2fadmin.e2rm.com%2f>

Under "Designate your Gift" and then "Other", type in FODARA Scholarships.

2. Mail a check, made out to "FODARA" to: Barbara Illowsky, 21363 Dexter Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014

3. Send money via Venmo. In the comments area, put "FODARA." @barbara-illowsky

4. Send money via Zelle. In the comments area, put "FODARA." barbarailowsky@gmail.com

See! It's easy to support our students.

Donors, July 1 – September 7, 2026:

Adrienne Pierre, Anna Miller, Barbara Illowsky, Bev Buranek, Bill Baldwin, Bill Lewis, Dave Garrido, David Eberhardt, David Obenour, Dennis Conroy, Diana Martinez Diane Hawley, Dolores Chasek, Don Nickel, Gerald Kohs, Gigi Gallagher, Jane Miller, John Swensson, Julie Ceballos, Karen Tashiro, Karen Woodbeck, Kate Jordahl, Kulwant Singh, La Donna Yumori-Kaku, Laura Bell, Lenore Desilets, Linda Conroy, Louise Lyon Quenon, Marcia Mareio, Margaret Obenour, Margo Dobbins, Marilyn Booye, Marilyn Cheung, Marty Kahn, Mary Bennett Mike Kaku, Mike Paccioretti, Nancy Canter, Nancy Charnoski, Reg Hamer, Susan Almendarez, Susan Swensson, Susanne Chan, Tina Woo, Tom Roza, Vicky Moreno

Barbara Illowsky, FODARA Treasurer

De Anza College and Tesla Launch Hands-On Engineering Technician Training Partnership

<https://deanza.edu/news/2026/tesla-partnership>

CUPERTINO, Calif., July 20, 2026 — De Anza College, in partnership with Tesla, announced the launch of a structured, hands-on training program for the company's incoming engineering technicians, marking the college's growing role as a workforce training partner for Silicon Valley employers.

Co-developed with Tesla, the 480-hour curriculum draws on De Anza College's expertise in Automotive Technology and Design and Manufacturing Technologies. Participants receive applied instruction in safety, mechanics, instrumentation, electrical systems, and diagnostics, preparing them to support Tesla's test engineering, R&D, and manufacturing environments.

The first cohort of 15 technicians began July 20, 2026. The current agreement covers two cohorts, with additional cohorts anticipated as the program continues.

"This partnership demonstrates how De Anza College can bring together exceptional faculty, advanced facilities, and industry expertise to respond directly to the workforce needs of Silicon Valley employers," said Ram Subramaniam, vice president of instruction at De Anza College. "We are excited to work with Tesla and to create training that can continue to evolve as technologies and workforce needs change."

The collaboration reflects De Anza College's broader commitment to providing industry-connected workforce training that responds to the evolving needs of Silicon Valley employers. Through its Contract Education program, the college works with employers across the region to design customized training aligned with their specific technical needs. As automation, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies reshape technical careers, De Anza's industry-experienced faculty, state-of-the-art laboratories, and innovative academic programs position the college to support ongoing workforce development.

The initial phase of the program will serve technicians selected directly by Tesla. De Anza College is also exploring how the knowledge and experience gained through the collaboration could help inform future educational pathways for students interested in advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, and related technical careers.

Parking Update



Parking is still free for staff and students, but you must register your car and license to get a parking pass. This policy does not apply to retirees or visitors. The De Anza Office of College Life, located downstairs in the Campus Center, is offering a Gold Card to retirees that provides discounts and a one-year parking pass. (See next page for details.) This applies to De Anza, Foothill and Central services retirees.

FHDA Retiree Gold Card - it's up to you to get one!

Available in the Office of College Life, lower level of the Campus Center, De Anza College. You will need our Employee ID and show your Driver's License. A photo will be taken and the Gold Card will be given to you.

The Office of College Life is located on the lower level of the Campus Center.

Office hours: Mon. - Th. 9 am - 4:30 pm

Fri. - 9 am - 4:00 pm - only the first two weeks of the quarter
subject to change

Sample Benefits:

- Free parking permit each year
- Foothill and De Anza Library Access
- Free or reduced admission to home sporting and cultural events
- Discounted AMC Movie tickets

AMC Gold & Silver Tickets

If you still have AMC Gold or Silver tickets that you will not be able to use at the AMC theaters. You will need to copy the front and back side of the ticket and then send the copy to GoldSilver@amctheaters.com with a request to have an updated Black AMC ticket. You will receive an email with digital tickets to use.

La Donna Yumori-Kaku

Notes from JLMBC

Discussions on Benefits started monthly in March, and progressed to biweekly meetings for members of the *Joint Management, Labor Benefits Committee*. Consultants from the Lockton Group continue to advise both the District and Labor teams supplied with needed data regarding rates and their increases from CalPers.

First the good news: conversations between the District and Labor negotiating teams were collaborative and open. Pre '97 retirees received great news from HR's Benefits Unit: "At this time, the district is not pursuing any changes to the current Medicare Part B reimbursement process...." Many Pre '97 retirees and FODARA members had deliberative and fruitful conversations with the FHDA community and the district. It is important to keep all communications channels open and productive.

Second piece of news - as this article is being prepared, employees should receive information from both CalPers and the District Benefits units regarding open enrollment for health benefits, and their rates. Of utmost importance for all retirees is to maintain updated information with HR for your email

and mailing (USPS) addresses. The HR benefits website is important to bookmark:
https://hr.fhda.edu/benefits/_retirees.html

All retirees are invited to the Open Enrollment Fair which will be held on Wednesday, September 16, from 12:00-2:00pm at the Foothill College Student Center. For further information, please see the Open Enrollment Newsletter or contact the Benefits Office at MyBenefits@fhda.edu or 650 949-6224.

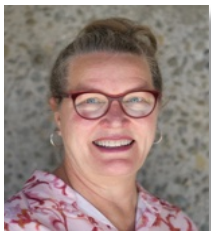
Lastly from the JMLBC meetings, the Labor Teams will be presenting health benefits options and their 2027 rates to its active membership for a vote. While the inevitable rate increases are to be expected, there will be enhancements to both the Vision and Dental Plans. Pre '97 retirees will see these additions.

FODARA wishes to express its gratitude specially to the Benefits Unit, led by the super capable Beijing Li, for their above and beyond acts of patience, kindness and efforts to reach retirees; bouquets of thanks to each and every one of you!

Susanne Wong Chan



Retirees Sept 2026



Lene Whitley-Putz, Online Learning, Foothill



Julie Ceballos, Web Team, Foothill

Dave Garrido, Online Education, De Anza



Dayna Swanson, Student Governance & Flea Market, De Anza



Elias Chamorro Jr.

June 29, 1941 – July 4, 2026

Foothill College Spanish Instructor



Elias Chamorro, a long-time part-time Spanish instructor at Foothill College with over 50 years of teaching and leadership experience in education passed away peacefully on July 4, 2026, at the age of 85.

Born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, to Elias Chamorro Sr. and Rosalie Chamorro, Elias came to California with his family at age 12. He learned English while working in California's agricultural fields — picking prunes, nectarines, walnuts, and mushroom to help his family pursue the American dream

Elias served as a U.S. Army Military Police officer during the Vietnam era, stationed in Nancy, France. After his service, he attended Chabot College, earned a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and later received a master's in Spanish from Santa Clara University

From 1970–2004 Elias built a distinguished career with the East Side Union High School District where in addition to teaching Spanish, he was also a counselor, principal, administrator, mentor, and educational innovator, serving at Silver Creek, Overfelt, Independence, Andrew Hill, and Foothill High Schools. In 1974 Elias was hired as a part-time Spanish instructor at Foothill College teaching all levels from beginning to advanced Spanish. In addition to teaching, he demonstrated an extensive background in leadership, teacher evaluation, and student discipline systems.

Known for his energy, charisma, humor, and leadership, Elias was an active Kiwanis member for over 30 years. He loved language, music, culture, technology, spirited debate, and desserts, and was especially devoted to his family,

Elias' legacy lives on in the students he inspired, the community he served, and the family he loved. Elias lived his life believing that nothing was impossible. He believed that hardship and humble beginnings shouldn't be forgotten, that the past did not have to define a person's future and that education and courage could transform lives. His favorite saying, "*actions speak louder than words*", reflected his belief in service and perseverance.

New Picture Coming of your Board of Directors

FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

President	<i>Bill Lewis</i>	408-639-9919	billlosgatos@gmail.com
Vice President	<i>TBD</i>		
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>TBD</i>		
Member at Large	<i>Linda Conroy</i>	408-966-5703	lsiqcon@aol.com
Member at Large	<i>TBD</i>		
Member at Large	<i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i>	408-482-8879	laringo1@me.com
Newsletter Editor	<i>Marty Kahn</i>	---	kahnmarty@fhda.edu

FODARA COMMITTEES 2025-2026

District Benefits	<i>Susanne Chan</i> (chansusanne@fhda.edu), <i>George Robles</i> (roblesgeorge@fhda.edu)
After-Words email delivery	<i>Tom Roza</i> (thomas_roza@yahoo.com)
After-Words postal delivery	<i>Linda Conroy</i> (lsiqcon@aol.com)
Social Events	<i>Linda Conroy</i> (lsiqcon@aol.com), <i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i> (yumorikakyladonna@fhda.edu)

FODARA CALENDAR 2026

Board Meeting	Tues, Nov. 10, 1pm	Treasurer's Home
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