



## Foothill-De Anza Foundation EDUCATION MATTERS

March 2015, Issue 12

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### Greetings and Farewell from Chancellor Thor

Dear Friends of Foothill and De Anza Colleges,

This is a time of exciting new beginnings. At the Foothill-De Anza Foundation we've brought aboard a new executive director, the delightful Tess Chandler. Tess comes to us from the University of California where she has been a development director at UC Berkeley and UC Davis. We're excited about introducing her to the great work going on at Foothill and De Anza colleges and having her meet our inspiring students and community. Tess' own story includes many impressive accomplishments. And guess where she got started? A community college.



I'm on the cusp of an exciting new beginning of my own. On June 30, I will retire after 41 years as a community college administrator, 29 of them as a chief executive! My husband Bob and I plan to return to Arizona where our two children work as community college instructors.

It's been my honor and privilege to lead the Foothill-De Anza Community College District over the past five years. The district has faced challenges, but never lost its spirit. Things are looking especially bright now that the rebounding economy in California has helped lift the pall of budget cuts.

I hope you enjoy the stories in this edition of Education Matters. Programs like EOPS at De Anza are a lifeline for students, in good times and bad. And the tale of Foothill's new biomedical engineering class perfectly captures the entrepreneurial spirit of our students and faculty.

Now it's time to say goodbye. The district's search for its next chancellor is on and Education Matters will keep you posted. Thank you for your support of our students!

Sincerely,



Linda M. Thor, Ed.D., Chancellor

## Introducing Tess Chandler, Executive Director of the Foothill-De Anza Foundation



The Foundation is excited to introduce Tess Chandler who stepped into the role of executive director on March 16. Tess has over seventeen years of experience as a successful fundraiser at UC Davis and UC Berkeley. She is a graduate of Solano Community College with an associate's degree in liberal arts where she was a re-entry student before transferring and graduating from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Tess' colleagues describe her as a seasoned and hard-working professional with great skills in communication, organization, and stewardship. Even though she has only been with us for two weeks, we already feel that Tess is an integral part of our team and we are lucky to have her leadership.

## Dynamic Foothill and De Anza Programs



### The Science Learning Institute

This year, Foothill College launched a series of new courses aimed at students interested in learning about the biomedical industry, a



### EOPS Students

Michele LeBleu-Burns is dean of Student Development and Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) at De Anza

booming piece of the Silicon Valley tech sector. The classes are part of the Foothill Science Learning Institute (SLI), an initiative that uses an innovative education model for the successful teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at all levels.

To finish reading about The Science Learning Institute, [click here](#).

College. A community college graduate and former EOPS student herself, she speaks from experience when she lauds the benefits of the program. LeBleu-Burns credits EOPS with giving her the resources, support and resilience she needed to succeed and to earn her master's degree.

To finish reading about EOPS [click here](#).

## Got That Giving Feeling? Then Save the Date, because we're Participating in Silicon Valley Gives Day!



On May 5, 2015 the Foothill-De Anza Foundation will participate in Silicon Valley Gives Day, an annual giving day sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

You may give directly to the Foothill-De Anza Foundation in support of our Educational Excellence fund, or you may donate to any of our featured programs:

- Foothill and De Anza Veterans
- Foothill and De Anza Extended Opportunity Programs & Services
- Foothill's Krause Center for Innovation
- Foothill Family Engagement Institute
- De Anza Institute for Community and Civic Engagement
- De Anza Fujitsu Planetarium

To schedule your gift now you can [click here](#).

## Foothill-De Anza Foundation Gives Out \$70,000 with "Innovation Grants"

Thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of Robert Heath, the Foothill-De Anza Foundation was pleased to award its first round of Innovation Grants this January. These grants are designed to fund projects related to student equity and retention, ultimately increasing student success. Open to all Foothill-De Anza employees, projects were submitted by individual staff and faculty members, or by small groups. Below are the winners chosen by the Chancellor, the leadership at each campus, as well as representatives from the Foundation Board of Directors.



**Art and Social Justice**



**Turkana Basin**



**STEM Re-entry**

De Anza underrepresented students get to experience a weeklong institute to explore art and writing as vehicles for self-expression and social change. Critical pedagogy, social justice, and arts education components will be incorporated; including exercises around working styles, emotional intelligence, student leadership and community building.

Four carefully selected De Anza students will travel to and participate in paleoanthropology field research in the world renowned Turkana Basin in Kenya. Last year, Anthropology professor Isaiah Nengo discovered a complete preserved cranium of an anthropoid juvenile.

Helps current and prospective Foothill students who are parents with children looking to get back into the work force. These parent/students would work with a STEM faculty mentor, receive an internship with a Bay Area technology company, and a small stipend to help pay for tuition and school expenses.

## Thank You to Dana Gill and Jan Young! Rallying for De Anza Men's Tennis.

Two champions for men's tennis have emerged to come together and spearhead a fundraising effort for De Anza's men's tennis program.

Leaders of the South Bay tennis community, Dana Gill of Lifetime Tennis and Jan Young, former pro/manager of the Sunnyvale Municipal Tennis Center and former director of the Cupertino Recreational Tennis Programs, recently gave \$25,000 to establish an endowment to ensure the continuity of the De Anza College Men's Tennis legacy.



Members of the De Anza Men's Tennis team, generous donors Jan Young and Dana Gill, and Tennis Coach Ron Ward.

Working closely with De Anza Athletics, they are planning a fundraiser on June 6, 2015 at the Cupertino Sports Center to further benefit De Anza men's tennis. To support the program, or for more information on their upcoming event featuring special guest and former professional tennis player Brad Gilbert, [click here](#).

## Foothill Commission Musical a Success



Foothill Commissioners Mady Kahn & Ray Klinke



Foothill Commissioner Asha Guha, Foundation Assistant Director Robin Lyssenko, and Foothill Commissioner Ann Rando

Thanks to members of the Foothill Commission and their tireless efforts, the Foothill Theatre program received nearly \$15,000 in proceeds from the Commission's Exclusive Winter Musical Evening on March 5, featuring "Sunday in the Park with George" at the Lohman Theatre.

With the support of the Commission and generous private donations, Foothill's Theatre program continues to thrive by offering excellent live performances and educational opportunities for aspiring artists. Be sure to check out Foothill Music Theatre's next production this summer, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," July 23 - August 9 at the Smithwick Theatre.

## De Anza Baseball Swings for the Fences

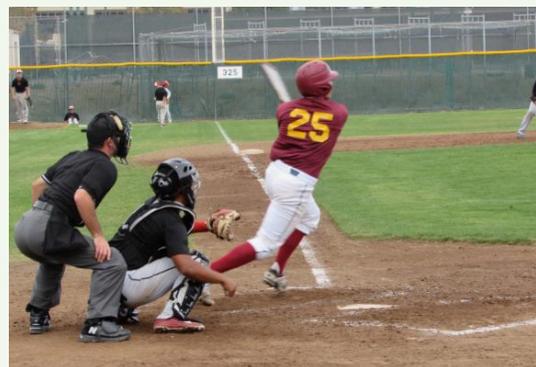


Members of the 2014-2015 De Anza Dons Baseball team volunteering at the season kick-off dinner on January 24, 2015.

The De Anza Dons are swinging for the fences, raising funds for much needed improvements to their field, equipment, and dugouts. Recently, a dedicated and passionate group of De Anza baseball alumni, former coaches and trainers, as well as Coach Erick Raich and his current staff held an Alumni vs. Alumni game followed by a special kick-off dinner celebrating the De Anza baseball program and the start of 2015 season. Guests enjoyed sharing baseball memories while raising nearly \$10,000 for the baseball program.

The De Anza Dons are starting their season off well, most recently shutting out San Francisco City College. Consider going to a game and check out the [schedule here](#).

Interested in supporting De Anza baseball? [Click here](#) to make a donation.



## Foothill College Environmental Horticulture Program Wins Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award

Foothill College takes water conservation seriously. This month, the Environmental

Horticulture program received a Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award in honor of World Water Day.



Laura Woodworth (Associate Director, Foothill-De Anza Foundation); Peter Drekmeier (Policy Director, Tuolumne River Trust); Kathleen Santora (Board President, Foothill-De Anza Foundation); Dan Svenson (Faculty, Foothill College Environmental Horticulture Program); Julie Davis (student intern); Sarah Bell (Program Officer, 11th Hour Project); Adrienne Etherton (Sustainable San Mateo County)

The program works tirelessly to support water conservation efforts. One of their strategies is to use rainwater captured from the roofs of the Environmental Horticulture Department's propagation and construction buildings and use for irrigating nursery plants, saving 30,000 gallons per year.

The Horticulture program also offers courses and seminars on water conservation techniques including "Mastering Drip: Strategies for Correct Watering in a Drier California," and "Saving Water: Creating Beauty with California Native Plants."

To read more about the Environmental Horticulture Program at Foothill College [click here](#).

**Consider Visiting Foothill and De Anza!  
There is Plenty to do, Even if you Aren't a Current Student!**



March 30 - June 19, 2015

Water Ways: A Lens on Culture and Nature from River to Bay to Ocean  
California History Center - De Anza College

April 4, 2015 - Saturday

Plant and Heirloom Tomato Sale  
Benefiting the Foothill Environmental Horticulture Program  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Lot 8 at Foothill College

April 8, 2015 - Wednesday

Encountering the First Dwarf Planet - Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Smithwick Theater at Foothill College

May 19, 2015 - Tuesday

Renaming Ceremony for De Anza's Institute of Community and Civic Engagement to the  
Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action (VIDA)  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Sunken Garden at De Anza College

May 29 & 30, 2015 - Friday & Saturday

Foothill Dance Spring Concert  
Featuring the Foothill Repertory Dance Company & Guest Artists  
7:00 p.m. at the Smithwick Theatre \$25 general admission

*To read in more detail about any of the above upcoming events [click here](#) to go to the Foundation website "upcoming events" page.*

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