



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

The Arts add flavor, color, and soul to our life, to our college.

Last night, the Fine Arts and Communications Division under the august leadership of (permanent) Dean **Simon Pennington** honored 17 students in music technology, art history, media studies, graphic design, music, communications, theatre, and photography. The students are impressive. One of them could not attend because she's an online student from Redding! I thanked the students and faculty/staff: the division "adds flavor, color, and soul to the college" as I said.



Distinguished Student Awards Ceremony, Fine Arts & Communications Division



Annual Awards Ceremony, PSME Division

PSME had its celebration last week, and the students were asked to speak for one minute each and their stories were inspiring. Although the event was to honor them, the students spoke and honored their professors and the college instead. One said there is something about Foothill College. Another talked about not wanting to leave Foothill; four professors visited him when he was in the hospital. One student of color honored math professor **Patrick Morriss**. She failed math 3 times until she took Prof. **Morriss**' stats class. As she described it, math is like swimming: you test the waters and if you think it is too cold, you sometime give up and convince yourself that you never wanted to go swimming in the first place.

Right now, the California State University is finalizing new statewide math policies requiring Intermediate Algebra – undermining community colleges' equity efforts in the past years. A former dean of Berkeley Law School wrote an article in EdSource: "At Cal State, algebra is a civil rights issue." <https://edsource.org/2017/at-cal-state-algebra-is-a-civil-rights-issue/582950>

One well known scholarship in the area of math and student performance is called "stereotype threat". I am excited to announce that our opening

day speaker for next year will be UC Berkeley and Stanford Emeritus Professor **Claude Steele** who is most notable for his scholarship on stereotype threat and how it affects minority student academic performance.

Much of the discussion of Intermediate Algebra involves the debate of whether it is needed for non-STEM majors. Although many of our students major in STEM, there is a larger number who do not.

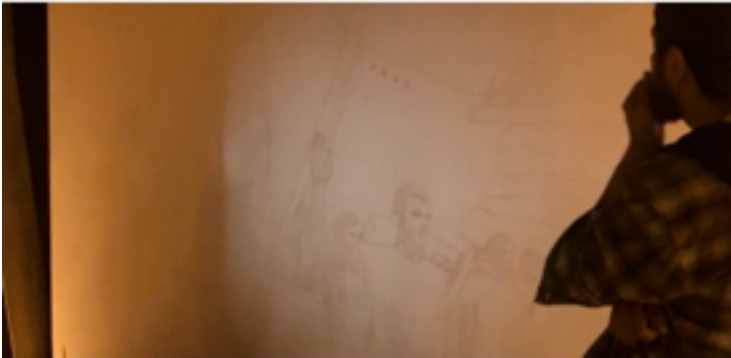
In fact, Foothill wants to encourage students to consider majoring in the humanities, for instance. Foothill-De Anza Community College District and the University of San Francisco recently received a \$2.145 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to do just that. Prof. **Falk Cammin** is one of the main architects of our ***Humanities Mellon Scholar*** program, and she and the team are recruiting both current and new students right now to the program. Know anyone interested? <https://humanitiesmellonscholars.fhda.edu/index.htm>
|

- Transfer ready in two years in the major of your choice
- Faculty mentors
- Cohort experience
- Paid Internships
- Guaranteed admissions to USF
- Earn transcriptable Certificate of Achievement in Humanities

The Mellon Foundation specifically approached Chancellor **Judy Miner** during one of her national trips, and we are grateful to her for bringing \$\$ to Foothill College.

By now, you probably have received an invitation from Chancellor **Miner** to attend Congresswoman **Anna Eschoo's** town hall tomorrow. The congresswoman's office was particularly impressed to hear about Foothill's DREAMers Mural and asked to meet the design team and DREAMers who worked on it.

Another mural that is progressing well is the Veterans' Mural. Last Friday, the design team started putting the sketch on the wall after receiving feedback from students at the Veterans Center. The design is led by Prof. **Jordan Fong** and a former Foothill student, **Oscar Lopez Guerrero** who led the design of the DREAMers mural with Prof. **Hilary Gomes**.



A Foothill student veteran working on the Veterans' Mural late night last Friday.

Surely, the Arts add flavor, color, and soul to our college, and these murals reflect that.

Have a great weekend!

Of Service,

Thuy

Thuy Thi Nguyen
President
Foothill Colleg

650.949.7200

Twitter: @FoothillPrez
12345 El Monte Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022