

AFTER-WORDS

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



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March 2025



Valentine's Day 2025

Wine, Cheese and Chocolates



Friendship was in the air at our third annual Valentine's Day Event. On February 13th, 26 retirees and friends braved the storm to gather together for our annual party. Attendees enjoyed wine, non-alcoholic beverages, lots of chocolate, Lunar New Year chocolate fortune cookies, cheeses, and crackers. Even though Don Nickels and Vicky Moreno were off vacationing in the sun, they donated several bottles of the delicious red wines they created.

Linda Conroy brought her tubs of

party decorations. Mike and Gail Paccioretti, Linda and Dennis Conroy, LaDonna Yumori-Kaku, and Dan and Barbara Illowsky transformed the Illowsky's back building into a fun festive environment with red, white, and pink hearts everywhere.

We had some new attendees. Recently retired Bill Baldwin and his wife, Amy, attended. Zaki Lisha and Kulwant Singh joined us. Kulwant brought beautiful long-stemmed yellow roses (Barbara's favorite... and they lasted three weeks!) to add to the holiday ambiance. Thanks to beverage, chocolate, and cookie donations from our Board, our expenses were low. We are able to add over \$400 from the fees collected to our FODARA Student Scholarship Fund.

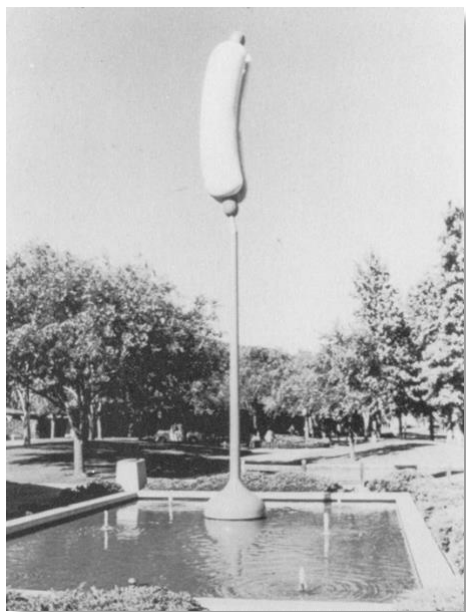
We hope you enjoy the [pictures](#) posted by our Webmaster Cindy Castillo and will consider joining us for this fun event next year. In the meantime, please save the date for our annual FODARA Picnic scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 12th. The registration form will be in the May newsletter.

- Barbara Illowsky

From the Archives...

The \$2,000 Dollar Hot Dog

Art has always been controversial. Some would say it's the "nature of the beast." With that thought in mind, is a \$2,000, 330-pound fiberglass hot dog a work of art? That was the question many were asking when they set foot on the Foothill campus back in 1975.



Tubesteak City was mounted in the small pond just behind Appreciation Hall

Dubbed "Tubesteak City" by its creators, it would be a hot topic of discussion on campus in 1975 and 1976.

The project began as part of Mike Cooper's Special Studies in Art course at Foothill. Funding was needed to create the hot dog, so students from the class sold T-Shirts and baked goods, raising \$550. They then approached a faculty group called the Innovation Committee, which supplied the remainder of the needed funds. Mike Cooper's class soon began to construct what would become one of the most controversial displays in the history of Foothill College.

Why did they choose a hot dog for the project? Mike Cooper, Foothill Art Instructor, was interviewed by the Foothill Sentinel back in 1975 and had this to say:

"It seemed like a reasonable idea to me. We had to do something that everyone in the group could understand. They were mostly beginning students, so it was a real learning experience." He further explained that "a pop art frankfurter was decided upon because of an interest in the works of Claus Oldenburg, who sculpts contemporary objects on a large scale."

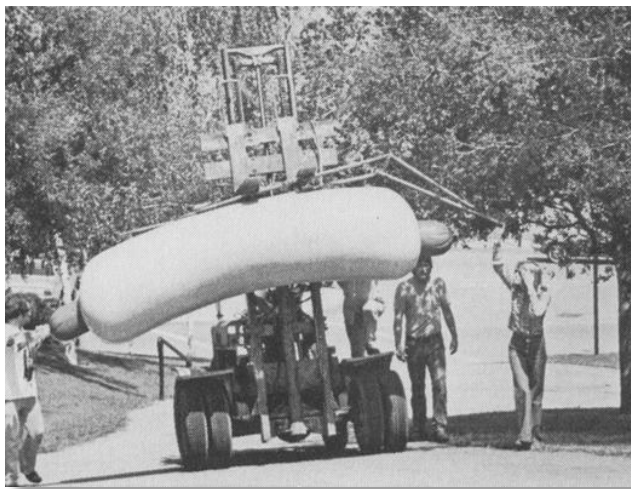
[Click to earn more about Claus Oldenburg](#)

Construction of the hot dog involved twenty-five students and two academic years. Stuart Roe, a Foothill teacher and a talented filmmaker, created a 16mm documentary film about the creation process and about the reactions to the piece. The film won a local Bay Area award and was shown on KGO Television, the local ABC affiliate. To view this film, click [here](#).

Tubesteak City was completed and mounted in September of 1975. It was originally planned to be mounted on top of the Fine Arts sculpture room, along with a neon sign that read "Tubesteak City." That location would have allowed people entering the campus to see it from the road. It was finally determined that the small water pond just behind Appreciation Hall would be a better location, allowing it to be seen only by those that were on the main campus.

Foothill College opened in 1961 with nationwide recognition and acclaim for its design and architecture. A giant fiberglass hot dog certainly would not be considered by some to be a "good fit" for the look of the campus. But the concern went deeper than that. Students and community members were quoted as saying things like "I think the Hot Dog is an aesthetic abomination," and "I'm surrounded by Doggie Diner and McDonald's signs and all kinds of artificial semblances that make me feel hemmed in. I come up to school and I'm confronted by this hot dog. It's disgusting."

Then, of course, was the issue of the hot dog being perceived as a phallic symbol. The perception was enhanced by the fact that the hot dog was “kinetic,” meaning that it was art in motion, performing under the power of motors. The structure rotated via a one-horsepower engine, doing so for two minutes with a one-minute rest. The bun was also motorized, allowing it to open, revealing the hot dog which would rise up in the air and then be lowered again so that the bun could close. (To see the hot dog in motion, watch the documentary [here](#).) James Fitzgerald, then President of Foothill College said “I don’t like it, I don’t enjoy it – as a piece of art, it turns me off.”



Students bring the hot dog up the hill near the Campus Center to mount it behind Appreciation Hall

The differing opinions became so pronounced that a meeting was arranged to discuss it. In October of 1975, an open invitation was issued to students, faculty and the community to come to the Student Government Room for the “Big Hot Dog Debate.” Not everyone hated the hot dog. Foothill student Lisa Layne said “*Hooray for the hot dog! Tubesteak City is beautiful; it makes me appreciate Foothill’s lush greenery even more.*” William Tinsley, a Foothill instructor who taught philosophy, wrote that “*Whatever we think of “Tubesteak” as an appropriate artistic subject, we must be aware that it is a superbly executed work – It shows the hand of a master craftsman and a mind of great creative resourcefulness. Professor Cooper is a master of his craft.*” Some felt that the work was an excellent piece and a “*symbol of individuality.*”

After much discussion about who likes it, who doesn’t like it and why, Foothill student John Lohnes made a comment that prompted a different type of discussion: “*Whether or not someone likes the hot dog is unimportant. The question is whether or not students have the right to display their work on campus.*”

The issue of Tubesteak City was finally placed on a ballot, along with three ASFC senatorial positions. The options offered were to let it remain where it stands, to take it down and relocate it to another place on campus or, finally, to remove it entirely. Of the 271 votes, 127 wanted the hot dog to go and 127 wanted it to stay. The other 17 votes were made up of a variety of suggestions regarding the relocation of the hot dog. A clear, definitive answer was not provided by the ballot.

After performing admirably for over a year the motorized mechanism developed an oil leak and had to be taken down for repair. A decision was made to place the hot dog in the district’s service center to await a potential sale. Then, in September of 1978, the Board of Trustees voted to donate the work to the Oakland Museum. The museum held the work in its warehouse for several years and no one is certain what happened to it after that. A web search showed that it might still be around and possibly for sale– [Click here to see possible location of the hot dog today.](#)

Erin Metcalf, a former student of Mike Cooper, had this to say about the teacher and his projects: “*Tubesteak City certainly provoked a reaction, as art is often meant to do! I find it delightfully whimsical. The funny thing is that this sculpture was created the year I was born, and then about 25 years later I took a few sculpture classes with Michael Cooper at De Anza. Mike was a very inspiring and encouraging teacher and was instrumental in my decision to pursue art as a vocation.*”

Mike Cooper, who taught at both Foothill and De Anza, is now semi-retired and living in Sebastopol, where he still creates art in his home studio and occasionally teaches a workshop at a private art

school. Speaking with Mr. Cooper recently, he said this about Tubestack City: “*It was a great educational experience. It allowed me to treat students as professionals in the creation of art for public display.*”

If you’d like to know more about Mike Cooper and his work, click on the following links:

<https://museums.org/michael-cooper/>

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/entertainment/sculptor-michael-cooper-driven-to-try-new-avenues/?artslide=0>

<https://blog.lostartpress.com/2022/07/05/michael-coopers-strange-planet/>

-Marty Kahn
(Quotes and images are from the Foothill
Sentinel college newspaper)

Congratulations to the Following Recent FHDA Retirees:



Chien Shih, *Educational Technology Services, Central Services*

Joseph Ng, *Educational Technology Services, Central Services*

William Ayers, *Student Services, De Anza College*



FODARA
Foothill-De Anza
Retirees Association

FODARA Member Highlight

Dave "Obie" Obenour

Ex-Lancer athlete

Now he keeps athletes fit

By RIAL CUMMINGS

DAVE OBENOUR says De Anza College has taken care of himself and his family quite nicely — which is only fair, considering the abundant care "Obie" has given De Anza athletes for the past six years.

In that time, Obenour has taped more ankles and assuaged more aches than Marcus Welby; and his ratings have been just as high.

The 33-year-old trainer likes to speak of various turning points in his life, the most of important of which was being chosen for the De Anza position — which he flatly states, "is the best in the state."

"I DON'T THINK I would ever leave the college," he says. "It's a great job and I know a lot of people who'd like to have it."

There are also a lot of people who'd like to have Dave Obenour. Among others, he has turned down offers from the San Francisco 49ers and Seattle SuperSonics.

"I could be in the pros," he says, "but ego and prestige won't put food on my table. To have the security I have now, it would take a personal services contract with a club owner. There aren't many of those around."

YET, HE HAS made his mark in the professional arena. Two years ago he was recommended to the San Jose Earthquakes and has been their trainer since the soccer club's inception.

He splits time between his duties at De Anza and the Quakes with equal dex-

terity, finding different satisfactions in both jobs.

According to Obenour, his profession has come along way from past years when trainers were often hired more for reasons of camaraderie rather than therapeutics.

A guy must have more than a boy scout first aid merit badge as credentials these days.

"NO QUESTION," he affirms. "Teams are looking for the best registered physical therapists around."

As simple a thing as proper pre-game meals and warm-ups can have a positive effect in Obenour's opinion.

"Gabo (Gavric, Earthquake coach) has listened to me and made some changes," Obenour says. "For instance, the team used to think just going out and kicking balls beforehand was enough, but now I put 'em through stretching exercises in the locker room. I think it's prevented a lot of leg injuries . . . at least I hope so."

OBENOUR IS much more than the guy in white pants on the bench. He's a dietician, a travel agent. He tips clubhouse boys, takes care of hotel arrangements, claims baggage. He sometimes even helps out with publicity.

"I guess you could call me a traveling secretary," he says in summing up his duties.

"I guess I'm even kind of a father-confessor figure at times. If there's a marital problem or salary dispute, I'm there to listen. But I can't ever really allow myself to get too close. That's the toughest thing in the pros — seeing a friend like Archie

Roboostoff or Art Welch traded."

THAT'S NOT a problem at De Anza.

"You know you're going to see the guy for two years," he says, "and you know they're going on to bigger and better things. The greatest thing of all being a trainer is having some kid come back and say, 'Hey you did one hellava job.' That's really gratifying."

Besides overseeing the medical side of De Anza athletics, Obenour is the proud supervisor of California's first co-educational athletic training room.

"Basically, we give women the same treatment as men," Obie says. "They're treated right next to the men. There are two training tables. When athletes come in to get taped I'll just say who's next and if it's a girl she jumps right up there."

OBENOUR ADMITS there were some ticklish situations in the early stages of the project, but assorted shrieks and some strategically placed signs requiring the wearing of bathing suits patched things up.

"The atmosphere is definitely low key now," he notes. "There's not the regular locker room cussing anymore; the guys are a little more apprehensive about saying certain things about their dates and likewise with the girls. I think the relationship is a happy one for everyone."

"Being able to help somebody and see him perform again — that's what it's all about," Obie says.

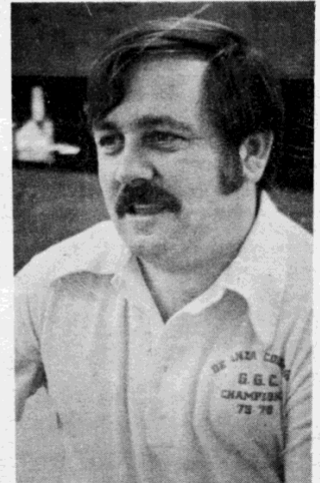
OBENOUR HAS been closely tied with athletics ever since his high school days at St. Francis, where he played football and baseball.

Later at San Jose City College he met trainer Sam Nakaso in still another of his "turning points."

"Sam was a guy who really enjoyed helping people," Obenour recalls. "He had great rapport with athletes and people in general. When (basketball coach Pete) Padgett asked me to be manager of the team, I thought it was a lowly job at first.

I learned to tape ankles and before you know it I was thinking trainer."

"But after seeing what it was all about, and meeting Sam, I really enjoyed the job."



Dave Obenour

HE SPENT a hitch in the Marines, spending much of his time serving in training capacities, then finished his schooling at San Jose State and Carroll College in Helena, Mont.

He even spent some time as a salesman for a moving company in San Jose which "convinced me that athletics were my bag."

And he's been carrying one ever since.

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2. Sorry, we can't accept free ads by phone.
3. Only one ad per family per issue.



What has Dave Obenour been up to lately?

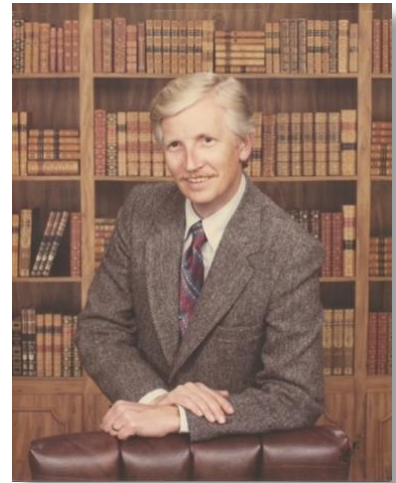
I've been involved with the Hot Stove Baseball Committee for 33 years and during that time I served as member, Vice President and President. I retired from that post in January. The Hot Stove of Santa Clara Valley is a fundraising organization that honors baseball players, and supports needy baseball programs with funding generated during our annual banquet. This year it drew 575 attendees!

Since leaving De Anza, I've been involved with the San Jose Earthquakes Soccer team alumni board. I'm also on a few committees at St. Francis and I've been employed by the CCS (Central Coast Section) athletic finals. I have watched my grandchildren play all their sports activities from T-ball through grammar school, junior high and high school and now college.

Now and then I speak about sports injuries when asked. I'm still in contact with a lot of my Athletic Trainer friends. I've organized a group of former Valley coaches that meets monthly. I enjoy reading, traveling, and attending my cardio exercise program as well.

One of the best features about retirement is meeting up with former athletes who have gone on to be successful in life. It makes me feel good to know that I've had some small part in their success.

Dave "Obie" Obenour



Donald Barnett

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Donald Barnett, who left us peacefully on January 26th, 2025. Born on April 24th, 1938, in Elmhurst IL, Don lived a life filled with love, joy, and dedication.

Don was a devoted husband to Deanna, his cherished partner for 64 years. Together, they built a beautiful life and family, sharing countless moments of happiness and love. His love and dedication for Deanna were the foundation of their life together.

Don was a loving father to Marla, Dawn (Wayne Waszkiewicz) and Dana (Tom Quinn), who will always remember him as a caring and supportive role model. He also leaves behind 9 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren who brought joy to his life. As a family man, he prioritized his loved ones, creating a legacy of love and kindness that will endure.

Professionally, Don was a teacher and later Division Dean, at De Anza College. He was known for his dedication, hard work, and integrity. Throughout his career, he touched the lives of many colleagues and students, leaving a lasting impact on those who had the privilege of working with him.

Beyond his professional life, Don was known for his intelligence and humor. He had a passion for traveling, reading, singing in Fun Time Singers, driving his red mustang convertible and watching anything where everyone spoke with a British accent. He was an active member of Fun time Singers and Unity Spiritual Center of San Jose that he pursued with enthusiasm.

Don's kindness, generosity, and warm spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He had a unique ability to come up with a witty comment that would make his friends laugh and his family groan. His memory will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to have him in their lives.

A celebration of his life was held on Saturday March 1st, 2025, at The Unitarian Church 15980 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA. at 1pm. Family and friends are invited to come together to celebrate his remarkable life and cherish the memories shared.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Fun time Singers or Unity Spiritual Center of San Jose.

As we bid farewell to our beloved Don, we find comfort in knowing that his spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved him. Rest in peace, dear Don. You will be forever missed and always remembered.



Jeffery Wayne Forman

Jeffrey Wayne Forman (January 4, 1953 – February 10, 2025) passed away in Aptos, CA after a valiant two-year battle with a rare autoimmune disorder. Born in Massachusetts to Kalman



and Bernice (Sher) Forman, Jeff grew up in the Boston area alongside his sister, Marsha, and brother, Spencer. A natural athlete, he played basketball and rugby throughout high school in Canton, MA, and at Springfield College in Springfield, MA. After moving to California, Jeff married Kathleen (Kathi) Leary in 1979. Together, they built a loving family with their two sons, Jared (1980) and Myles (1982). Jeff embraced fatherhood wholeheartedly, coaching his sons' baseball and soccer teams and sharing his passion for nature through family hikes and adventures around the world. Among their most cherished experiences were hiking the 33-mile Milford Track in New Zealand when Jared and Myles were thirteen and eleven and, upon Jeffrey's retirement in 2015, trekking the 26-mile Inca Trail into Machu Picchu. At home in Aptos, he found joy in fishing, barbecuing, gardening, and hosting gatherings filled with laughter—often punctuated by a well-timed Rodney Dangerfield joke. His granddaughter, Saoirse (2017), became his favorite gardening companion. In 2024, Jeff and Kathi delighted in officially welcoming Brooke (Safran) into the family when she married Myles. Professionally, Jeffrey was a pioneer in adapted physical education and stress management. After earning his B.S. and M.Ed. from Springfield College, he moved to California to work as a certified corrective therapist at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto. In 1978, he became the executive head of De Anza College's Adapted Physical Education Program, where he worked in varying capacities until his retirement in 2015. During his tenure at De Anza, Jeff received his Ph.D. from the US International University in San Diego and, in 1991, founded the first accredited massage therapy program for a public community college in California. He also founded Stress Reduction Systems, authored two books on stress management and massage therapy, and played a key role in advancing the massage therapy profession through education and advocacy. Jeffrey will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.



Salvatore Pecoraro

Salvatore Pecoraro, a cherished art instructor and an esteemed world-renowned artist, passed away peacefully of natural causes on January 16, 2025. Salvatore's bold and modern creativity inspired a teaching legacy that will be remembered and revered by those who knew him, those who admired his art, and the thousands of students whose imaginations and talents he stirred for a lifetime.

Salvatore's artistic journey was marked by significant accomplishments starting at a very early age: he began teaching art at the age of 21. In 1965 he earned a Master's Degree in Printmaking from San Francisco State University which laid the foundation for his distinguished career. His artistry found expression in various mediums including sculpture, painting, and printmaking, making him a dynamic force in the vibrant art scenes of Los Angeles, Aspen, and San Francisco.

Among his notable works was the celebrated "365-Sky" painting from 1970, a masterpiece that drew the awe and acclaim from art collectors and galleries alike. His renowned sculpture fountain, "La Vita è Luna Fontana," frames the entrance to the A. Robert DeHart Library at De Anza College. Over the years, his talent led to numerous public and private commissions, showcasing his ability to capture the essence of his subjects, evoking profound depth and beauty.

Salvatore began sharing his expertise and passion for art as an instructor, first at a local high school and then on the faculty of De Anza College in Cupertino, California, from its inception in 1967. He was dedicated to education and served as a mentor to many, inspiring countless students with his philosophy that art is both a practice and a lifelong journey. Salvatore mentored many young artists throughout their lives, fostering their growth with the same warmth and enthusiasm that characterized his own approach to teaching and learning.

People were naturally drawn to Salvatore not only for his talents and spectacular "Studio Campobello" showcase of creativity, but also for his ongoing sense of humor, grit, and ability to connect with people from all walks of life. He had many students, life-long followers and friends, forming deep relationships that enriched him and influenced the countless lives of those around him.

Salvatore leaves behind his devoted wife of 62 years, Diane Pecoraro, and his children, Mark Pecoraro of Walnut Creek, CA, and Lisa Deegan of Los Altos, CA. Sal was predeceased by his son, John Pecoraro, in 2018. His family, friends, and students will forever cherish his memory and the brilliant lights of creativity he inspired.

Salvatore's legacy continues to shine through his works displayed in numerous public and private exhibitions. The spaces he filled with his art, humor, warmth and inspiration will forever remind us of his remarkable spirit and his profound belief in the power of creativity and mentorship. He will be deeply missed and his legacy will surely endure for generations to come.

As Salvatore recently said: "You die twice: The first is when your body dies, and second, and more important, is when people stop talking about you." With an endearing smile, he urged all of us to "Keep the conversation alive!"



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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)
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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 TBD	San Jose Excite Ballpark (Municipal Stadium)