



FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
1957 - 2007

Advancing the Legacy





**FOOTHILL
COLLEGE**

**PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING
LOCKHEED
AIRCRAFT CO.
MISSILE SYSTEMS**

Replacing the signs at the old Highway School

Laying the Foundation

Jan. 15, 1957: Residents vote to create an independent community college district.

May 17, 1957: Voters elect A.P. Christiansen, Mary Levine, Dr. Howard G. Diesner, Robert F. Peckham and Dr. Robert Smithwick to the college district's first Board of Trustees, effective July 1.

July 1, 1957: Trustees elect Robert Smithwick as board president.

“The adventuresome seek out adventure; and if you wanted adventure, this is about as high as one could do in public education, to be able to develop your own program, your own faculty in a brand new college.”

— *Robert Smithwick, trustee, 1957–1991*

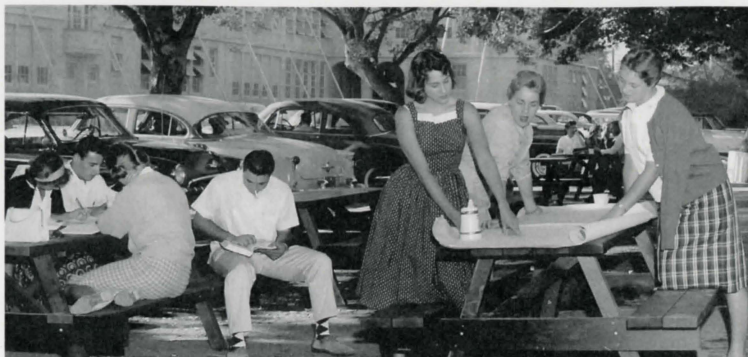
Aug. 7, 1957: Board adopts first budget, totaling \$540,000.

Jan. 1, 1958: Board selects Ernest J. Kump of Palo Alto and Masten & Hurd of San Francisco as district architects.

1958



Mollie Robinson and Dean of Instruction Hubert Semans



There is no record of what 19-year-old Mollie Robinson thought of the makeshift campus when the Palo Alto co-ed became the first student to register for classes at Foothill Junior College on Aug. 12, 1958. Hastily assembled over seven weeks at the old Highway School on El Camino Real in Mountain View, the temporary facilities offered few amenities.

The main building was sheathed in what looked like scaffolding for painting; in fact, the two-story iron buttresses were designed to prop up the dilapidated structure in an earthquake. The fledgling campus had no gymnasium, few labs and a cramped library.

March 1, 1958: Dr. Calvin Flint begins job as superintendent-president of the Foothill Junior College District. He serves for 14 years.

May 20, 1958: Voters pass \$10.4 million bond measure, by more than a 3-to-1 margin, to build Foothill Junior College.

July 9, 1958: Foothill offers its first course, Survey of Electronics, to 69 students in Lockheed Aircraft Corp. cafeteria in Sunnyvale. Most are Lockheed employees.



Foothill Junior College District has come a long way since local residents established it by a 6-to-1 vote in 1957. Over the next 50 years, what is now the Foothill-De Anza Community College District has educated more than one million students and emerged as a statewide educational leader. It has done so by building on the culture of excellence, opportunity and innovation its founders instilled.

From the start, the district put a premium on hiring the most highly qualified people to turn the shuttered elementary school into a community college. The energy and optimism of the founding faculty and staff

Aug. 12, 1958: Mollie Robinson is the first student to register for classes at Foothill's temporary campus.

Sept. 2, 1958: Trustees change the school's name to Foothill College but retain the name Foothill Junior College District.

Sept. 15, 1958: Temporary campus opens at the old Highway School, 150 El Camino Real in Mountain View, with 1,572 students. Tuition is free.



quickly inspired Foothill's first students to bring their own ingenuity and enterprise to bear on student life.

The students elected student government officers, planned dances and selected a mascot —“Footsie” the owl — inspired by a 700-pound concrete sculpture that was hoisted down from the Highway School's bell tower. The college set up a radio studio in a closet-sized room in the basement and KFJC-FM was born.

Foothill's creators were audacious in the standards they set for excellence and service to the community. Their boldness paid off when Foothill became the first community college to seek and receive accreditation in its first year.

Sept. 15, 1958: Trustees vote to buy 122 acres on El Monte Road in Los Altos Hills for \$1 million to build a permanent campus.

Jan. 9, 1959: Students pick the owl as the school's mascot and scarlet and black as the school colors.

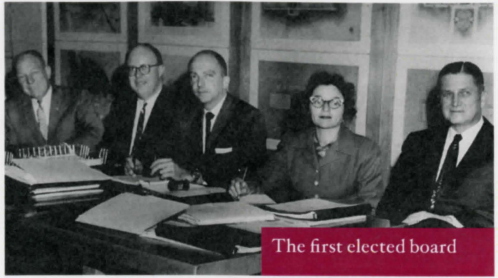
Feb. 25, 1959: Foothill College wins accreditation in its first year.



Fall 1959: Trustees adopt a student dress code stipulating skirts and dresses for women, long pants for men, and no sandals for anyone.

Oct. 20, 1959: The district purchases property in Cupertino for \$1.1 million for a second campus. KFJC-FM goes on the air.





Much transpired between the district's formation on Jan. 15, 1957 and its opening with nearly 1,600 students on Sept. 15, 1958. With community members' help, the district won approval of a \$10.4 million bond measure, purchased a site for a permanent campus in Los Altos Hills and began contemplating the need for a second campus. There was no time to waste. The Baby Boomers, one district trustee said, were "coming on with a rush."

Foothill College was an immediate success. Enrollment shot up more than 61 percent by the next fall. Administrators had their pick from among hundreds of experienced teachers who wanted to join the young enterprise.

By the time Foothill opened, the main players were in place to lead the district during its formative years.

Feb. 1960: New Foothill campus wins the Progressive Architecture Design Award, the first of many.

June 1960: Thirty-eight students walk in Foothill's first commencement ceremony.

Stanford graduate Calvin C. Flint, Foothill's first visionary superintendent-president, had already launched one "junior" college, Monterey Peninsula. He guided the district for 14 years.

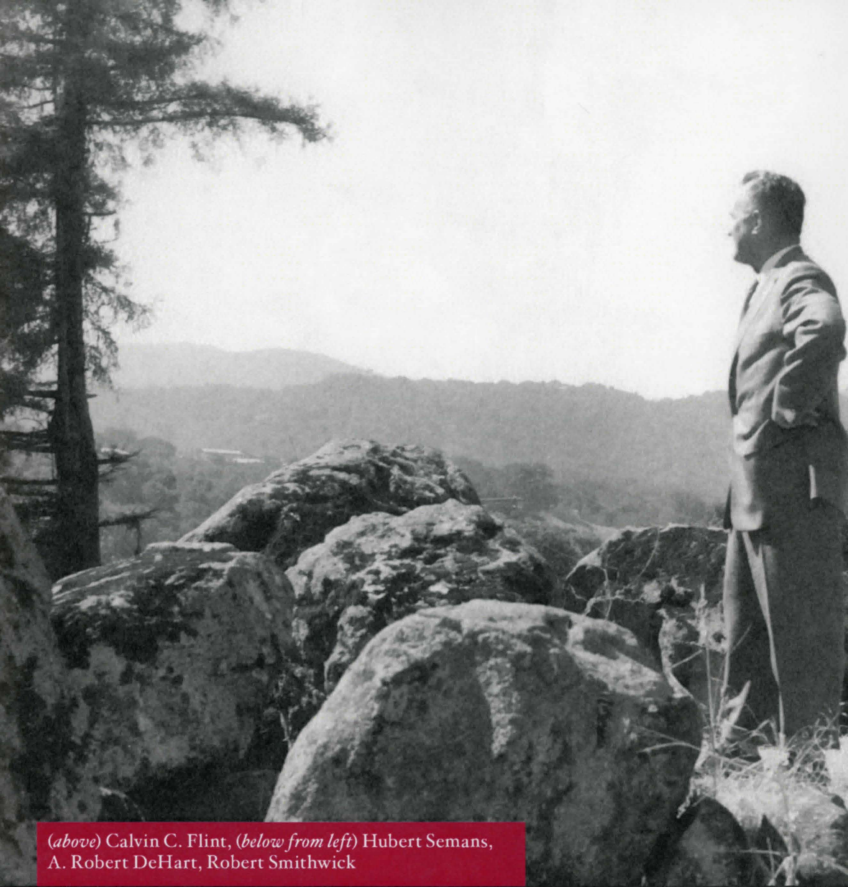
Dean of Instruction Hubert Semans had worked on California's Master Plan for Higher Education for the state Department of Education. He was a reflective, scholarly personality who complemented the aggressive, dynamic Flint. Semans succeeded Flint as Foothill president, leading the college until 1973.

Another Monterey Peninsula recruit, A. Robert DeHart, was Foothill's dean of students and later director of research. DeHart would plan the district's second campus, De Anza College, and serve as its president for 25 years, retiring in 1992.

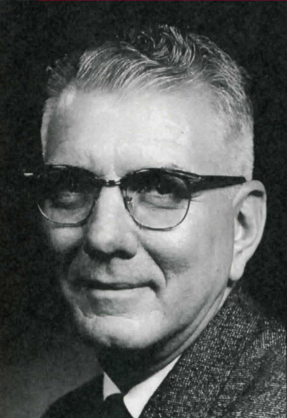
Robert Smithwick, a Sunnyvale dentist, was voted chairman of the district's first elected board in 1957. Present a year earlier when the idea of creating the college district first was broached by local school superintendents and trustees, he did much to make Foothill-De Anza a reality and served on the board for more than 35 years.

*Sept. 5, 1961: Classes begin at the
new Los Altos Hills campus.*

1961



(above) Calvin C. Flint, *(below from left)* Hubert Semans,
A. Robert DeHart, Robert Smithwick





Mary S. Levine, A.P. "Pete" Christiansen, and Cal Flint break ground for the permanent Foothill campus.

Putting Down Roots

1962: Foothill wins the American Institute of Architects' First Honor Award. De Anza wins one in 1969.

Sept. 18, 1962: Voters approve a \$14 million bond measure to build a second college.

1962

“We wanted to build a campus that would be collegial in nature, and would lend itself to contemplation, to study, to good interaction among students of all disciplines, and between students and professors.”

— *Robert Smithwick*

April 1, 1963: Trustees name the new campus De Anza College after a naming competition draws 200 entries.

1963

April 1966: A student committee selects “Dons” as the De Anza College nickname.

1966



Cal Flint at the future site of Foothill College

Even before classes started on Sept. 5, 1961, the new Foothill campus in Los Altos Hills was reaping accolades. Described as the first community college in the nation to be master-planned and built in one piece, it clearly lived up to Cal Flint's desire for "a truly distinct and special institution" with an atmosphere that was "natural and restful."

Sept. 11, 1967: De Anza College opens with Dr. A. Robert DeHart as its first president.

Sept. 11, 1967: Hubert Semans replaces Cal Flint as Foothill College president; Flint remains district superintendent.

Fall 1967: Trustees relax the dress code at students' request.



Ernest J. Kump, left, with Cal Flint, shows plan for the college.



The campus was planned and designed by the architectural team of Ernest J. Kump of Palo Alto and the San Francisco firm Masten & Hurd, and together they helped pick the site.

Architectural Forum magazine hailed the campus two years before its opening as “a prototype of community colleges.” In 1962, Time magazine called Foothill “a mountaintop among U.S. junior colleges” and the college won the American Institute of Architects’ most prestigious recognition, the First Honor Award.


Jan. 1968: Dr. Louis Leakey speaks at the first Celebrity Forum program, held in the Foothill College gym. Presidents, prime ministers and other world notables have spoken since then.

Oct. 1969: De Anza offers its first televised courses, in psychology, health and ethnic studies.

1968

1969





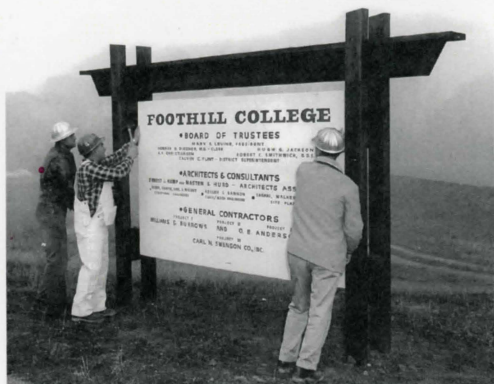
“... The campus of the college should appeal to all adults as well as older youth and it should be so developed that it lends itself to the community needs.”

— *Planning for Campus,*
Calvin Flint's memo to the architects

Oct. 14, 1970: District Superintendent Cal Flint announces his retirement, effective no later than June 30, 1971.

Dec. 7, 1970: Trustees name the new auditorium at De Anza the Calvin C. Flint Center for the Performing Arts.

1970



Constructed of redwood, cement and brick, the college was situated on 122 acres of largely undeveloped foothills, surrounded by apricot orchards, old oaks and eucalyptus. The district purchased the land for \$1,007,922. No freeway ran close by but plans for one were in the works.

Foothill was built to accommodate up to 3,500 students. The community response was so strong that it was expected to reach capacity within five years.

Fortunately, the district had anticipated the need and planned for a second college.

July 1, 1971: Dr. John Dunn takes over as the district's second chancellor. He serves until Aug. 1, 1978.

Jan. 30, 1973: Dr. James S. Fitzgerald starts work as Foothill's third president. He serves until Feb. 1, 1983.

March 1973: Trustees adopt an affirmative action program for hiring and promotion.

1971

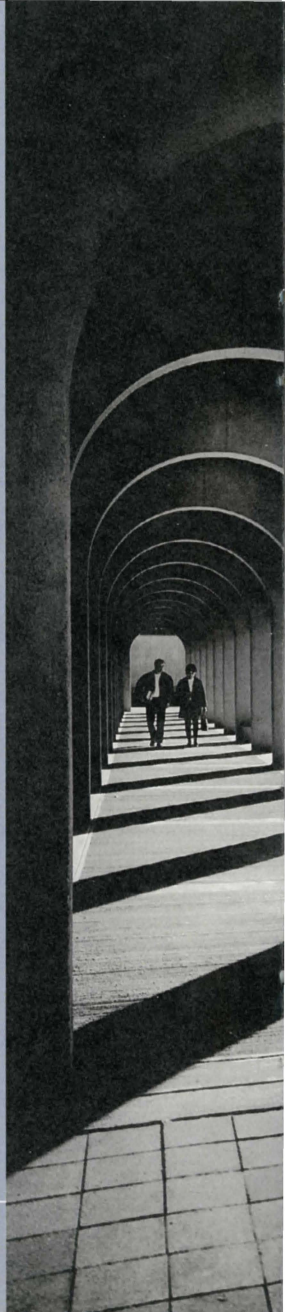
1973

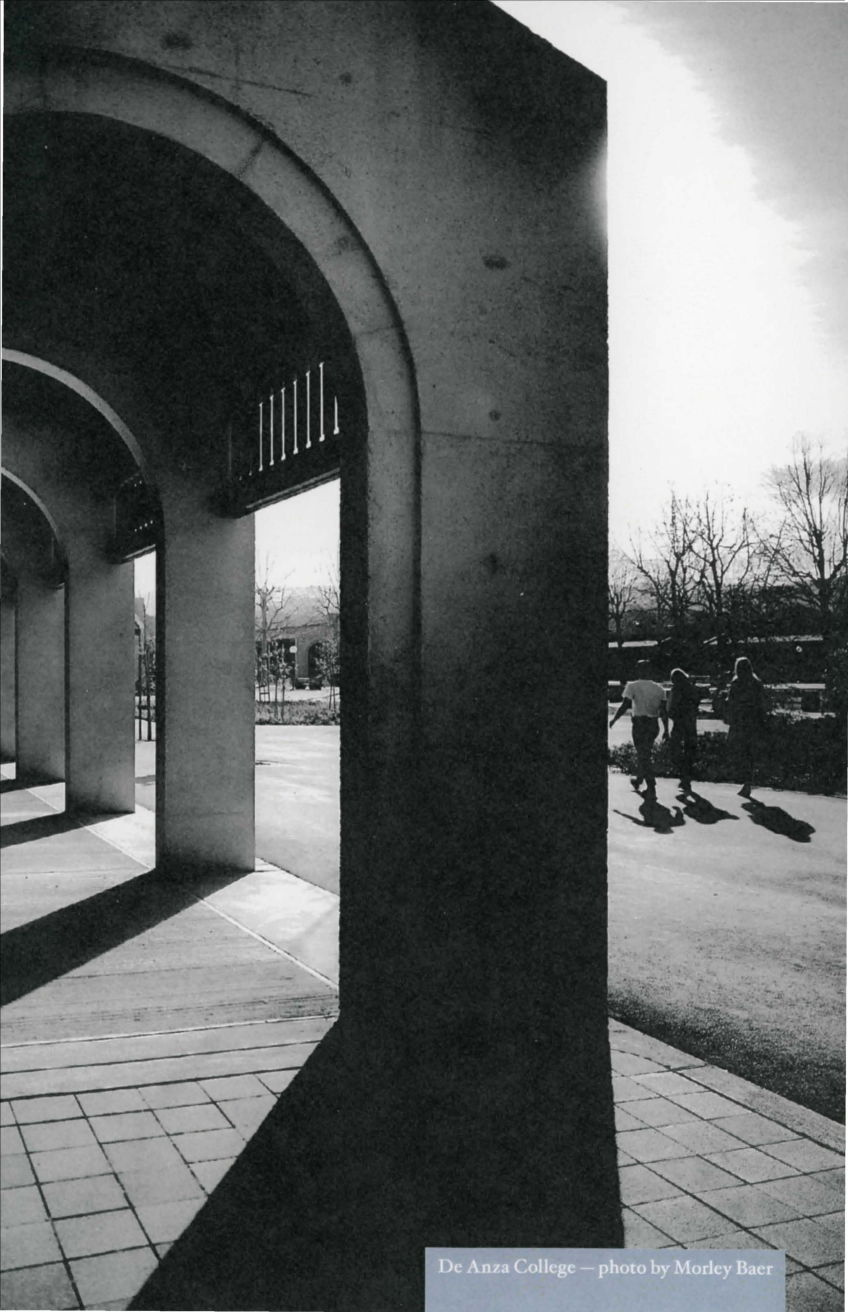


“We have never been
afraid of new tools
for learning, and we
keep figuring out how
to use them well.”

— *John Lovas, De Anza English
instructor, 1965 ~ 2005*

*March 12, 1973: Calvin C. Flint dies at
age 66 after a long struggle with cancer.*





De Anza College — photo by Morley Baer



De Anza College — photo by Morley Baer



De Anza College opened in Cupertino on Sept. 11, 1967 in a cloud of construction dust. Sited on 118 acres purchased from the Euphrat family for \$1.1 million, the land boasted some unusual landmarks from a turn-of-the-century estate: the old Beaulieu winery and a by-then decaying replica of Marie Antoinette's Le Petite Trianon, since gloriously restored.

De Anza's overall design and its contemporary Mission architectural style won new acclaim for Kump and Masten & Hurd, including another AIA First Honor Award.

Robert DeHart was De Anza's first president and his staff included more than 100 faculty members who left Foothill for the new campus.

June 2, 1975: Foothill Community College District changes its name to the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

June 30, 1975: Foothill opens its first satellite campus, at the old Mountain View High School. A year later a second satellite opens in downtown Palo Alto.

The transplants brought with them a passion for teaching and the tradition of excellence and innovation that the founders had so carefully cultivated.

De Anza came into being amid the sweeping social changes of the late 1960s. Anti-war, civil rights and gender-equity movements energized students and faculty on both campuses. Students, led by Foothill student body president Jon Buckley, persuaded trustees to modify the district's rigid dress code and the faculty demanded a larger role in institutional decision-making. De Anza showed the way for community colleges in serving students with disabilities.

A different kind of revolution took place in 1978 when California voters passed Proposition 13, which limited property-tax increases. Although Foothill-De Anza receives about half the national average in state funding per student, it continues to provide quality education with the help of grants, private fundraising, hard work and creativity.

Aug. 1, 1978: Dr. Thomas W. Fryer Jr. begins his appointment as the district's third chancellor. He serves for nearly 14 years.

Feb. 1, 1983: Dr. Tom Clements begins duties as Foothill's fourth president. He serves for 11 years.

1983: Foothill launches its first major computer technology program after a gift of mainframe computer and terminals from Tandem Computers.

1978

1983





Advancing the Legacy

Jan. 24, 1984: Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs unveil the first Apple Macintosh computer at Flint Center.

1984

1987: Foothill launches its first Campus Abroad program with 200 students who study in London.

1987

“The important history of Foothill-De Anza is the countless unwritten histories of human beings whose lives are changed because of their experience here. It is from this history that we derive the ultimate meaning and value of what we do.”

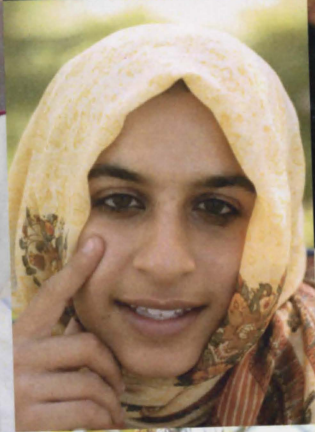
— *Thomas W. Fryer, chancellor, 1978 ~ 1992*

April 1991: Discovery of \$10 million deficit leads to worst financial crisis in district's history.

1991

March 15, 1992: The district honors founding trustee Robert Smithwick with the dedication of Foothill's Robert C. Smithwick Theatre.

1992







The culture of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District evolved as its student body expanded to include more new immigrants, Asian Americans, African Americans and Latinos, representing the diversity of Silicon Valley.

What hasn't changed are the aspirations for success of students and their families and the dedication of their teachers. The district is as committed as ever to helping students achieve their educational goals.

Foothill and De Anza's faculty and staff have developed new tools and approaches to support today's students, drawing on best practices in teaching and learning and the spirit of innovation that has characterized the district from the start.

Aug. 2, 1993: Dr. Martha Kanter begins work as De Anza's second president. She serves for 10 years.

July 1, 1994: Dr. Bernadine Chuck Fong becomes Foothill's fifth president. She serves for 12 years.

1993

1994

Foothill-De Anza's defining spirit — what DeHart called “constant, purposeful innovation” — is alive and well at both colleges and the district offices.

It can be seen at Foothill College in “Math My Way,” a new curriculum designed by the college's instructors to help students master basic mathematics so they can pass the math courses needed for a college degree.

It is evident in the environmental stewardship programs run out of the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies at De Anza and the district's statewide leadership in creating public domain learning materials to reduce textbook costs.

It is thriving in individual classrooms and programs on and off the campuses, including the Krause Center for Innovation, where more than 11,000 local teachers have learned new ways to use technology in their classrooms.

March 1995: Foothill launches its first online class using ETUDES, course delivery software designed by instructor Michael Loceff. Its next generation version is now used in more than 50 colleges.

July 1, 1995: Dr. Leo Chavez takes over as the district's fourth chancellor. He serves for more than seven years.

Nov. 1999: Measure E, a \$248 million bond measure, passes with 72 percent of the vote.

1995

1999

KIRSCHE
ENVIRONMENTAL





BOOKSTORE



Today the campuses are in the midst of the most significant renovation and modernization efforts since their founding, thanks to local voters' approval of two bond measures in 1999 and 2006. These new facilities, and the work by faculty and staff that goes on inside them, ensure the district is well-positioned to continue offering students opportunity, excellence and innovation for the next 50 years.

July 1, 2003: Dr. Martha Kanter begins tenure as the district's fifth chancellor, the first woman in the post.

July 1, 2004: Dr. Brian Murphy begins service as De Anza's third president.

June 2006: Measure C, a \$490.8 million bond measure, passes with 65 percent of the vote.

2003

2004

2006

“Knowing our history is a source of great strength for each of us. It enables us to understand and build on what has worked well, it frees us to take risks and pursue new directions, and it protects us from repeating past mistakes. Let us take a moment to honor our rich heritage, celebrate our successes and do those things for our students that matter most.”

—*Martha Kanter, chancellor, 2003–present*

July 1, 2007: Dr. Judy C. Miner begins tenure as sixth president of Foothill College.

Sept. 10, 2007: Trustees mark the 50th anniversary of the district, the 50th anniversary of Foothill College and the 40th anniversary of De Anza College.





Acknowledgements/ Credits

DVD producer: MARTY KAHN

Narration: DICK HENNING

Booklet editor: BECKY BARTINDALE

Research assistance: MARILYN MCDONALD

Photos: FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ARCHIVES, FOOTHILL COLLEGE, DE ANZA COLLEGE

Booklet design: DEREK YEE

Photos of Foothill College and De Anza College by Morley Baer, commissioned by Ernest J. Kump Associates, architect for Foothill College, 1961. Reproduced from the Morely Baer collection of photos donated by Ernest J. Kump Associates to the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Archives.

Produced in association with the district's 50th anniversary committee: Bernadine Chuck Fong, chair; Becky Bartindale; Marie Fox Ellison; Sandy Hay; Dick Henning; Kurt Hueg; Marty Kahn; Marilyn McDonald; Judy C. Miner; and Marisa Spatafore.

Board of Trustees: BETSY BECHTEL, PAUL FONG,
LAURA CASAS FRIER, HAL PLOTKIN, BRUCE SWENSON
Student Trustee, Foothill College: SARAH SNOW
Student Trustee, De Anza: JORDAN ELDRIDGE



Foothill-De Anza
Community College
District

12345 El Monte Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
650.949.6100
www.fhda.edu

Foothill College
12345 El Monte Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
650.949.7777
www.foothill.edu

De Anza College
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014
408.864.5678
www.deanza.edu