



NEWS from CAA

We are Different.
We are Able.

Mission

CAA provides an equitable collegiate experience to adults with special needs who historically have not had access to college education.

Vision

Empowering the student body to creatively transform the way the world views individuals with disabilities. CAA creates successful contributing citizens through the arts.

Motto

Showcase Ability!

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DeAnna Pursai, Exec. Dir.

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Highlights From College

The 2016-2017 academic school year has continued to be momentous for the College of Adaptive Arts Mountain Movers community. Student enrollment has soared to almost 90 students since CAA became vendorized with the San Andreas Regional Center last year. We have added six part-time professors, growing CAA's Superstaff to 28 on the part-time teaching staff.

In May, CAA's Giving Breakfast was generously hosted by Scott's Seafood under the helm of David and Marc Buhagiar. More than 100 community leaders came together to hear CAA's strategic vision to continue our upward momentum by 1) growing our base of recurring donors, 2) getting all 8 Schools plus the Library underwritten for the 2017-2018 academic year, and 3) finding a local college campus willing to host CAA so we can continue to scale.

The event reached 178% of its financial goal with the new underwriting of two Schools, in addition to the two existing underwriters, which means just five more Schools to secure for the upcoming academic year.

College of Adaptive Arts was selected as the first recipient of the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce Fund-a-Need Benefit Charity at the 2017 Pyramid Awards at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Michael Pritchard, long-time friend of CAA and Executive Board member, will

be the keynote speaker for this pivotal event. It is an inspiring evening of community leaders coming together to help move CAA to the next level of becoming a nation-wide model for adults who want to continue to access education but are not going to be able to obtain an accredited Associate's Degree.

The "mountain" continues to move as more and more community leaders endorse this model of equitable education. CAA has received grants from Mission City

Community Fund, and from the CSR Cares Foundation under the guidance of Tony Odom of CSR Realty. CAA was also the recipient of a take pART grant from the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, the recipient of a community service award at the San Jose City College Early Childhood Recognition Ceremony, and an Autism Society Dance-a-Thon

beneficiary. Co-founders Pamela Lindsay and DeAnna Pursai received state recognition in Los Angeles with the Service to the Profession Award from the Delta Kappa Gamma Women's Education Sorority.

The CAA Mountain Movers Leadership Team is committed to continuing to foster relationships of community support for opening opportunities for adults with special needs to become successful contributing citizens through this innovative vehicle of equitable collegiate education.



Antonio Quistian & Teammate from Endless Ability Enterprises, Inc. at CAA's 9th Annual Film Festival



In our first Communications Showcase at the Corinthian Grand Ballroom, CAA students showed off their skills and talents.

@CAACardinals

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Reflecting on Seven Years; Looking Forward

Jen Mulry—Board Chair

Seven years: the amount of time I have served on CAA's Board.

It is with many mixed emotions that I finish my time on CAA's board as well as my role as board chair. I am proud to end my term (plus some) with a strong board of ten mighty members who I know will continue plowing through the mountain; with DeAnna and Pam energetically paving the path as they strive to get our students on a college campus; with a staff who is committed to teaching without limits every.single.day; and with a growing student population who continue to surpass everyone's expectations and continue to be our best advocates for their own future.

There is so much energy, so much potential and in my opinion so many amazing things that are "about to happen" at CAA but as we look ahead to each new goal, it often feels like the mountain just got bigger. We continue to expect more (as we should); Parents continue to demand more (as you should); and the Board continues to govern and steer more and more growth (as they should). But as we look to the future, it is just as important to understand just how far we have come and with that I would like to share my top five highlights from my time thus far:

- 2009 – The moment I first heard about CAA when Jeremy Teter ran into my FITBuddies class and announced with so much pride, "I'm going to college Jen!" There were 9 students attending CAA classes. Today there are 80+.
- 2011 – I taught my first nutrition class (via Skype) and will never forget Angel, DeAnna's sister joining us from Indiana,

"Oh Miss Jen you are the highlight of my week," No Angel, you are the highlight of mine. Today our distance learning infrastructure is growing tremendously with the help of Cisco's grant enabling students to join classes from anywhere.

- 2013 – I was nominated as Board Chair with an operating budget of \$50K...and we thought that was a huge step forward. This year we approved a budget of \$750K.
- 2014 – We were "homeless" and running classes out of three different locations until one of our students marched into the Swenson team's office and told them we needed a home. I have no doubt that one of our students will march onto a college campus and demand that they give CAA space to run classes.
- 2015 – DeAnna started working a second job and Pam continued towards her PhD. How these two women continued to run the college on little to no salary while maintaining additional jobs and commitments was and continues to be humbling. Today they continue to run the college on a very base salary with so much love, commitment and dedication. To say they are awe-inspiring does little justice.

I am forever grateful for the time I was able to serve CAA, and this is not the end but only the beginning of ways in which I will be involved. I cannot thank De, Pam, all the professors and fellow board members enough for your energy and commitment to CAA. I am truly humbled by all of you. And to the students, I thank you for teaching me WAY more than I could ever teach you.

The Dean's List

Pamela Lindsay, M.A.—Executive Director

The students of CAA are increasing in knowledge, and in numbers!

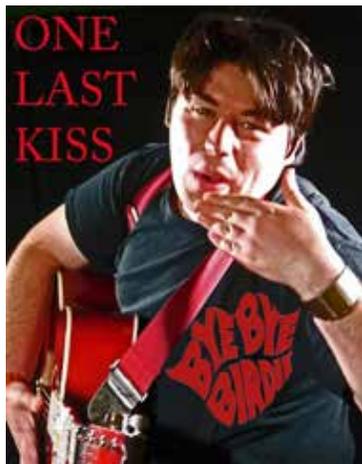
CAA students have collectively completed over 2,300 classes and more than 11,000 private, non-transferable CAA higher education credits for adaptive collegiate class work. Their hard work has resulted in more than 50 undergraduate diplomas granted after completion of 60 credits. 21 students have completed the additional 140-credit graduate diploma.

We're now pioneering a 240-credit post-graduate curriculum within our ninth school of study, Library Arts. Two students have already exhausted that post-graduate diploma track!

Students who complete undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate requirements will have experienced a whopping 420 credits of experience in classes that match their individual learning needs and pace.

It doesn't end there. Students never "age out" of CAA's higher education opportunities. Once a Cardinal, always a Cardinal. Recent additions to our unique curriculum include: Digital Arts, Electronic Music Production, Applied Math and Science, Language and Cultural Studies, additional sections of Reading and Writing Labs, Beam robots, piloted online distance learning, instructors from other countries and cultures, and international submissions to our annual CAA Film Festival.

Interested in supporting the revolutionary educational programs at CAA? Contact us or sign up for a tour on our website: collegeofadaptivearts.org. Already a part of the international CAA family? Congratulations, you are changing the face of higher education for adults with all differing abilities. We salute you!



Our students are hard at work rehearsing Bye Bye Birdie. Join us at Pioneer High School in San Jose, June 15 & 16 at 7pm, for our summer musical theatre show.

The Tip of the Iceberg: A Parent's Perspective

Linda Gonzales

My daughter Renee has attended the College of Adaptive Arts since 2010. She is engaged, learning, growing and thriving at CAA. She has truly blossomed. When Renee started attending CAA, they thought she was non-verbal. She was very quiet and a bit shy. She has grown leaps and bounds. You must see it in person to get the full impact this program is making on Renee and the other students.

Imagine a 25 year old with emerging skills. EMERGING SKILLS! "They" say if you don't get "it" between 7-10 yrs old, it isn't going to happen. THEY ARE WRONG! Renee is more confident. Her speech is improving. Her reading has improved. She raises her hand in class. The first time I saw her put her hand up I had to fight back the tears. She wants to participate, to speak and to be heard. Her voice matters and it should be heard. Others put our kids on the shelf; CAA puts them in the limelight. They are showcased all over the community.

Renee is a Dance major. Imagine mildly deformed feet with aching joints and a bad knee. Renee moves in ways she shouldn't be able to move. There is something miraculous about dance, dance movement and brain function. Seeing our Dancing Diva Renee in action is a true delight. Her hands are a

dancer's dream. I tell her they are a special gift; they move people. Dancing has birthed dreams, aspirations and desires in her. She is a leader, a role model. She wants to be a dance teacher and is learning to mentor others. My heart gets overwhelmed when I think about the journey, and how far she has come. I am such a Proud Mama.

I didn't expect much at first. I wanted Renee to be safe and happy, and to learn something new. But now I know this is just the tip of the iceberg, and I want more—and CAA keeps giving us more. Who doesn't want more and

greater opportunities for their child to grow and stretch to their greatest potential? Renee is choreographing, writing poems, and Ms. Danie has her reading the classics. Tom Sawyer? Really? My kid? OK! What's next? Renee was honored as Valedictorian. Miss Non-Verbal read a speech in front of over 100 people. The tip of the iceberg! Can you see it?

We have barely scratched the surface of Renee's potential. I see the possibility of that enormous iceberg under the water. What I have seen in my daughter, Renee, and so many other students, is just the beginning.



Superstaff Spotlight: Suzanne Williams

When the CAA family met Suzanne Williams, we knew it was a match made in heaven!

In addition to being our Library Media and Research Specialist, Suzanne is the Director of our newest and ninth school of study, Library Arts. Her dream of bringing skills of research and publication to CAA students is coming to fruition. The School of Library Arts will include departments for these areas of learning as well as the study of general library skills. Suzanne is also developing classes that teach post-graduates how to organize research teams, conduct research into areas important to their own personal experiences, and share self-published outcomes with the broader community.

Suzanne received her Master's in Library Science (MLS) from Drexel University in 2004. Although the university is in Philadelphia, PA she participated in classes from Mountain View, CA. So, she knows a thing or two about online learning and is helping instructors utilize the library within CAA's new distance learning efforts.

Prior to joining CAA, Suzanne worked at

the Stanford University Library. She has presented her collective library experience at conferences, including "Room for All: Libraries and Disabilities" at the California Library Association's 2016 convention.

Like the pied piper, Suzanne continually attracts the awe of like-minded individuals interested in helping our students receive the tools and learning support they require to reach their course and diploma goals.

Suzanne is devoted to creating readers one book at a time, working with CAA's students and professors to bring books into the classroom for study and enjoyment. Other initiatives include a thriving student Book Club, and the ongoing Library Lecture Series.

Suzanne is determined to create an academic library for our student that rivals those of other colleges and universities. For example, her work toward development of CAA's own comprehensive online library system includes a portal called "Biblioboard." Instructors and students will use this portal to share archived work with others connected through the library system on a more global level. The



students' own work will therefore be part of the library's ever-growing database, and they will also be inspired by the archived work of others.

Suzanne not only shares but wholeheartedly embraces CAA's mission of lifelong, equitable learning for adults of all differing abilities. She is a Cardinal to the core, loved by students and families alike. We are proud to have her at CAA!



College of Adaptive Arts

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Together We Are Moving Mountains

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Cisco Systems: Health/Wellness
Principe O'Farrell Family: Theatre
Private Family Foundation: TV/Film
Pursai Family Fund: Education Library
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Foothill Presbyterian Church
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