



# Avoid campus construction sites as safety precaution

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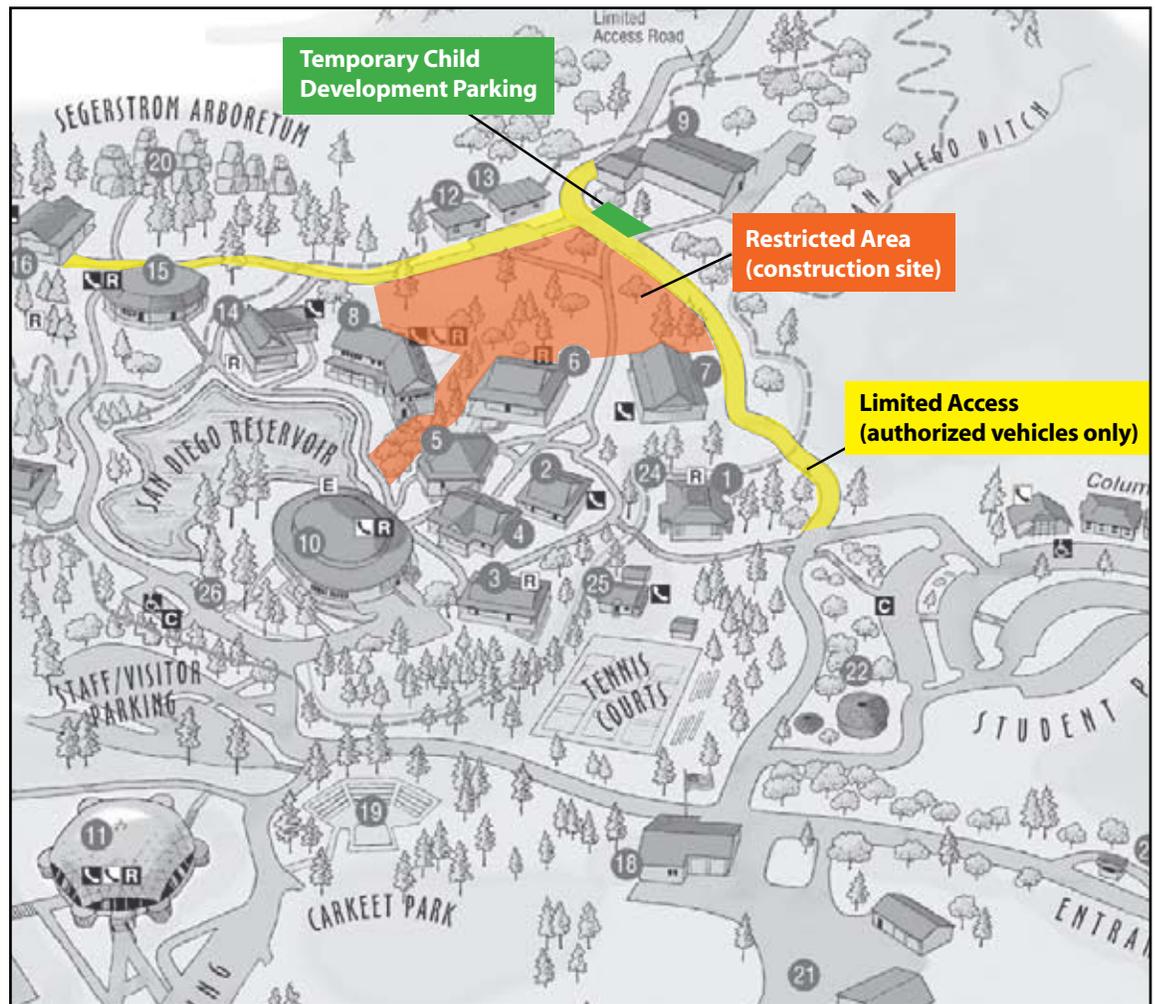
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**C**onstruction is actively underway on the Public Safety Center, Madrone Building Project and Child Development Training & Family Care Services Center. All are funded by Measure E.

While the college community is anxiously waiting for their completion in 2009, the addition of construction vehicles, equipment and work activity create safety hazards and everyone is requested to exercise caution while on the campus. As such, areas have been identified as restricted access/no

public entry at the building sites, and limited access for authorized vehicles only. These areas are color coded on the map above.

A printable version is also available online at [www.gocolumbia.edu](http://www.gocolumbia.edu), scroll to the *What's New* column, and then click on the "Campus map showing construction sites and restricted access" link. For transportation assistance on the closed or limited access areas on campus, contact the on-duty security officer at 768-7676. ■



Dr. Joan Smith

**President's Note**

**W**elcome to a brand new year! We're off to a great start with last fall's enrollment numbers up about 9% from the previous fall. While our spring numbers are still too early to predict, we anticipate strong enrollment growth trends again for spring. Thus, expect a lot of bright, new faces on our campus—fresh and eager to learn. With the prospects of growing enrollment numbers, we continue as always with our mission of dedication to the high standards of student success.

Join me in welcoming four new board members to the Columbia College Foundation. Rosetta Bannwarth, Dr. Louise Goicoechea, Glenn Roberts and Stephanie Suess were elected at the November meeting. We are pleased to have them as part of our organization and look forward to their leadership roles. The foundation assists us in providing much needed support to our college that is not covered by general funds. If you would like to know more about the foundation, please feel free to contact my office.

While we're all very excited about the prospects of having three Measure E building projects finished in 2009, this is a reminder to use caution when on our campus due to the additional construction vehicles, equipment and work activity.

In coordination with our project management consultants, the college safety committee has carefully identified areas that are restricted (no public entry) and areas with limited access (authorized vehicles only). This is only temporary and we apologize for the inconvenience. Won't it be great when we can occupy and use the new buildings!

Speaking of occupying new areas, our Student Senate will be moving into the Community Education room. This will provide much needed space for Student Senate activities, study and networking, and a convenient contact point for students. Dr. Don Low, interim dean of student services and Linda Watkins, new administrative secretary for student services will move into the former Student Senate quarters.

Big changes are taking place at Columbia College as we are poised for future growth—and all to serve our students better and more efficiently. Watch for them and enjoy the spring 2009 semester!

All my best,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.  
President

## Fire Academy graduates 17

**GRADUATES**

- Kevin M. Angelesco, San Jose
- Dean Boubalos, Belmont
- Kory Fischer, Ahwahnee
- Kyle A. Fountain, Twain Harte
- Christina Kappler, Sonora
- William Lee, Danville
- Ian R. Marshall, Coarsegold
- Craig J. Martin, Pleasanton
- Erasmio Martinez, Jr., Arvin
- Jared Nelson, Tracy
- Jesse Pereira, San Luis Obispo
- Jason F. Podesta, Tuolumne
- David R. Puder, Mendocino
- Jordan P. Reyes, Sonora
- Grant Turpen, Oakhurst
- Michael Vargas, Modesto
- Jordan R. Webb, Linden

**C**olumbia College's Fire Academy presented Certificates of Completion to 17 graduates of the training program on December 8 in the Dogwood Forum. The certificates were awarded based on completion of the required academic and manipulative training for certification as a California Firefighter I.

Still required are six months of full-time or one year of part-time field experience before applying to the state for Firefighter I Certification. "Most of the graduates have obtained paying positions at local fire departments since entering the academy," said Joe Doherty, college fire technology instructor. "In addition, all but one will continue their studies at Columbia College to pursue associate degrees. The one exception, Erasmio Martinez, Jr. already has a two year degree from Columbia and will be attending CSU Sacramento."

Fire technology scholarships were awarded to Erasmio Martinez, Jr., Fire Academy Director's Award; Michael Vargas, Fire Academy Instructors' Award; and Jordan Reyes, Firefighters' Memorial Award.

Welcome address was given by Dr. Joan Smith, who greeted the theatre-filled audience of family members and guests. Keynote speaker was Assistant Chief Brian Dickson of the Ebbetts Pass Fire District, a career firefighter, company officer, training officer and paramedic with Bay Area fire agencies. Mac Frost, currently an adjunct welding instructor at the college and also one of the first fire technology instructors on campus, related the early days of the fire program at Columbia.

Doherty showed highlights of the 16-week program with a Power Point presentation. The rigorous training is designed to help serious candidates meet the requirements for demanding careers as professional firefighters, including over 300 hours of academic and manipulative training, according to Doherty.

Closing speaker was Fire Captain Kurt Rhoades of the Sonora Fire Department. An adjunct instructor in the college fire technology department, Rhoades focused on ongoing professional training to remain current with changing demands. ■

# Columbia College Foundation names new board members

**T**he Columbia College Foundation named four new members to their board of directors during the November 13 meeting. Rosetta Bannwarth, Dr. Louise Goicoechea, Glenn Roberts and Stephanie Suess have joined the college organization, which affirms the institution's educational efforts by soliciting community support through financial and in-kind donations.

"We are very pleased to welcome the newest members to our board," said Randy Selesia, foundation president. "They have the honesty, integrity and dedication that make them wonderful choices for our organization."

**Rosetta Bannwarth** and her husband, Rob are the owners of Banny's Café and Wine Bar, which has been a popular downtown Sonora restaurant for the past 20 years. She is a Hayward native—specifically the Hayward/Castro Valley area—and attended Ohlone, Chabot and Columbia Colleges.

"By joining the foundation, I hope that I can help the college in meeting the needs of our community," said Bannwarth. "I especially want to assist the younger generation in getting an education and achieving successful careers."

**Dr. Louise Goicoechea**, who was born and raised in Sonora, attended local schools and went on to Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont where she completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in business administration, and a degree in business education. Her early occupational experiences were as an educator in secondary schools, the California Department of Rehabilitation, and Department of Defense in Japan.

For over three decades, Dr. Goicoechea was affiliated with Shasta Community College in Redding. She was as an instructor and prior to her retirement in 2000, served as an associate dean and director of marketing and public relations for 14 years. While at Shasta, she also received a doctorate in education from Arizona State University.

"It's an honor to be chosen for a position on the board," said Dr. Goicoechea. "Based on my background in higher education, my vision for the Columbia College Foundation is to foster and build more community involvement with the college."

**Glenn Roberts** has resided in Tuolumne County for 29 years. He has been a member of the Sonora Police Department for 27 years, the last 14 as a sergeant. A graduate of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute through CSU Long

Beach, he started the Sonora Police Explorer Post 364 Cadet Program in 1994 and in the same year, founded the T.A.A.C. (Tuolumne Agency Against Crime and Gang Violence) Unit. He has also taught ROP law enforcement classes at Summerville High School.

According to Roberts, "I joined the college foundation board to give back to our community for all the generosity that has been extended to me in the past. My hope is to help establish a set of monetary goals that will increase every year to assist in supporting the college and students in a greater capacity."

**Stephanie Suess**, who will also chair the foundation's fundraising committee, has been an active board member for a number of local organizations and co-chaired the Children's Park Project in 1999, which created the Heaven for Kids Park. In 2000, she was named Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

Suess is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo with a bachelor's degree in soil science. Professionally, she was previously a land use planner for Tuolumne County, an environmental monitor for the Sonora Mining Corporation, and a city planner for the City of Merced.

"I believe in expanding the college's outreach to area residents. This includes elementary and high schools too. Education, in general, is a great connecting point for bringing together so many different individuals, businesses and organizations for collaborations, partnerships, job opportunities, and other resource sharing activities that benefit everyone," said Suess.

Dr. Joan Smith, Columbia College president said, "I am very pleased to have these four individuals who are active members of our community, working on behalf of the foundation. We look forward to their ideas, leadership and participation in the years ahead."

The Columbia College Foundation seeks financial donations and other services to support the educational efforts of the college. In turn, these dollars are used for well-deserved student scholarships and for purchasing essential program materials and equipment that otherwise would not be possible. For more information on the Columbia College Foundation, call 588-5115. ■



Bannwarth



Goicoechea



Roberts



Suess

# Holiday cheer spreads throughout Columbia College campus

**AAC**



From left: (seated) Sigil Blackwolf, Ariella Megory and Hanaa' Davis (middle) Erasmo Martinez, Andrea Pellini, Danielle Pellini, Elissa Creighton, Dana Baker, Emily Valentine, Tracey Schwartz and Judy Bennington (top) Cody Baker, RC Cavagnaro, Nick Cordova and Craig Johnston. Missing: Denise Brixey, Brigette Clement, Sandra Price and Elizabeth Rousseau.

**H**oliday celebrations were plentiful on the Columbia College campus in December but the festivities all came at once—during the week of December 8! Starting on Wednesday, the Academic Achievement Center hosted a holiday gathering for all of their tutors with light refreshments and a cake. RC Cavagnaro was presented with a CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) Level 2 Certification and a Certificate of Appreciation for his more than four years of tutoring assistance. He will attend SF State University in the spring.

Thursday marked the Institutional Operations Division's appreciation luncheon at 11:30 am in the Manzanita Conference Room. The IO division is headed by Connie Mical, vice president of college & administrative services.

Also on Thursday was the AWE (Academic Wellness Educators) steering committee's recognition of the first-ever First Semester Experience Program students in the Community Education Room at 1:00 pm.

On Friday, the entire college was invited to the President's Office Holiday Social in the Cellar Restaurant for a buffet lunch prepared by the culinary arts students. Did everyone enjoy the festivities? Take a look! ■



**First Semester Experience Program**



**I.O. Division  
Lunch**



**President's Office  
Holiday Social**



# “It’s a Jungle out there” in the Rotunda



**L**iving in the Sierra foothills gives residents opportunities to experience lots of different kinds of native wildlife. Common to the area are deer, squirrels, raccoons, snakes, rabbits, turkeys, skunks and foxes—even sightings of an occasional mountain lion or bear.

Starting on February 2 and running through March 13, everyone will have an opportunity to see a rare exhibit of animal specimens from North America, South America and the African savannah in the Manzanita Rotunda.

Sponsored as part of the college’s 40th anniversary celebrations, “It’s a Jungle out there!” is an educational exhibit that will feature a number of whole mount taxidermy specimens, like an African lion, Roan antelope, Grant’s gazelle, oribi, hyena, leopard, coyote, baboon, mountain lion, ocelot, jaguar, timber wolf, bighorn sheep, great horned owl and armadillo. Partial mounts include a grizzly bear, elk, moose, water buffalo, warthog and others. Live animals will also be on display and among them, a gopher snake, California desert tortoise, Columbian red-tailed boa, largemouth bass and a blue-tongued skink.

The animals are on loan from the Osterberg collection, currently housed at the Great Valley Museum of Modesto Junior College and also from the Columbia College Toyon exhibit.

Free school tours of 45 minutes each will be conducted by appointments only on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Community self-guided tours will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:00 am to 7:00 pm with no admission charge.

Additionally, students in grades 1 to 12 are invited to enter an essay writing contest on the question, “Why would I like to attend Columbia College?” Entries will be accepted from February 2 through 25 at 5:00 p.m., and winners will be



announced on February 27. An awards dinner, specially-prepared by the college culinary arts department, will be hosted for the winners by Dr. Joan Smith and the biology department in the exhibit area on March 5. There will be three winners from each grade level.

“For a month or so, the Manzanita Rotunda will be transformed into a real museum! This is a wonderful learning opportunity for students and a great chance

for them to see some animal specimens from other parts of the world,” said Doralyn Foletti, coordinator of the event. “It also is an opportunity for the students and the community to visit our campus and find out more about Columbia College.”

In addition to Foletti, others serving on the “It’s a Jungle out there!” committee are Coni Chavez, Dr. Dennis Gervin, Dr. Tom Hofstra, Craig Johnston, Doug Lau, Dr. Joan Smith, Mike Torok and Guy Van Cleave.

For information on the essay writing contest, individuals should contact Chavez at 588-5115. Inquiries about the tours should be directed to Foletti at 588-5111. ■



*Columbia College does not condone or affirm the practice of big game hunting. The college simply has access to this resource and wanted to share it with the community. Animals in this display belong to Columbia College and Modesto Junior College. Many were given to the colleges by state and federal agencies after the specimens were confiscated or turned in by concerned citizens. In some cases, the animals were already mounted; in others, the colleges paid for the taxidermy. The African and exotic animals were donated by the family of Mark Osterberg.*

# Has the present economy affected the number of classes you are taking this spring?

## Sean Lenzo, Sonora

"Thanks to more financial aid, I am taking a bigger load of classes this spring—16 units. Jobs are scarce right now and I know how important it is to get an education. I am also switching my major to environmental science, which has more opportunities for me."



## Julian Rivera, Manteca

"Parent support and financial aid help me attend college. So, the economy does not affect my classes. The economy, though, affects everything from Wall Street to Main Street. Jobs are harder to get and education is the key to achieving your potential."



## Sarah Moylan, Oakhurst

"I have financial aid and I'm taking the same number of classes in the spring as last fall. But the present economy makes me want to stay in college. I know that an education will improve my future prospects

instead of going directly to work."



## Natasha Johnson, Wilseyville

"I am determined to take as many classes as possible and not dawdle. I want to finish my education quickly, especially with all the talk about the state's reduction in financial aid for colleges. My goal is to get a

bachelor's degree in the sciences."

## Joe Walton, Sonora

"I'm retired so the economy doesn't affect the classes I am taking at the college ...adaptive P.E., guitar and a computer class. The tough times do concern me and especially the return of what happened to our country back in the 1930s."



## Kristina Miro, Murphys

"Not at all...lucky for me, the economy does not affect my decisions on classes. Financial aid pays for my tuition and I pay for my books. Even in rough times, I believe that government needs to help students get an education as tomorrow's leaders."



## Eric Stewart, Oakhurst

"The number of classes I'm taking hasn't been affected, thanks to good support from my parents. What has been affected is my spending money for extracurriculars, like going to movies or dinner with my

girlfriend. I've been getting fewer hours at my job."



## E. Liane Davidson, Sonora

"It hasn't affected the number of classes, but I have signed up for more difficult classes in the spring. The bad economy is making it more challenging to get nursing jobs and having an associate degree is not enough.

A BSN degree is a must."

## Dewayne Ward, Pittsburg

"I am attending Columbia College on scholarships and grants. Because they help pay for my education in fire science, the economy does not affect the number of classes that I take. My main concern is passing the courses."



## Elizabeth Ortiz, Copperopolis

"This is my first semester in college so I have nothing to compare, and I also qualified for financial aid. But the economy does affect my family and it makes me want to do my best in school, especially since you need higher education to get a better job someday." ■



# Campus Calendar / January 2009

## January Meetings

### 8 Thursday

In-Service  
Continental Breakfast  
Aspen 1  
8:15 am

Academic Senate  
Cedar 1  
3:00 pm

### 14 Wednesday

YCCD Board of Trustees  
YCCD Board Rm/Modesto  
5:30 pm

### 16 Friday

College Council  
Manzanita Conference Rm  
1:00 pm

### 23 Friday

Safety/Facilities Committee  
Safety 9:00 am  
Fir 2  
Facilities 11:00 am  
Manzanita Conference Rm

Classified Senate  
Manzanita Conference Rm  
8:30 am

**No January Meeting**  
Leadership Team

**1**  
**Holiday**  
New Year's Day

**8**  
**In-Service Day**

**7**  
**Columbia College Basketball**  
vs. Fresno  
Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

**9**  
**Flex Day**

**12**  
**Spring Classes Begin**

**16**  
**Jazz Series**  
*Barbara Morrison w/ Big Band*  
Black Bart Playhouse  
Murphys, \$20  
7:30 pm

**17**  
**Jazz Series**  
*Barbara Morrison w/ Big Band*  
Dogwood Forum, \$18  
7:30 pm

**19**  
**Holiday**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**24**  
**Columbia College Basketball**  
vs. Reedley  
Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

**28**  
**Columbia College Basketball**  
vs. Porterville  
Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm



## Columbia College President's Report

*InSite* is published on the first week of every month excluding summer months. Editorial contributions are encouraged and due on the last day of each month prior to publication. Submit editorial materials to the public relations office and calendar items to the Instructional Materials Center/mailroom secretary.

**Dr. Joan Smith**  
*Columbia College President*

**Coni Chavez**  
*Administrative Assistant to the President*

**Doug Lau**  
*Marketing & Public Relations Officer*

**Gail Segerstrom**  
*IMC Coordinator/Designer*

**Cari Craven**  
*IMC/Mailroom Secretary*

**Jess Pearson**  
*IMC Reprographics Operator*

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## Newsbytes

**Columbia College's website** is getting a new look and will be installed this spring according to Brian DeMoss and the web focus group.

**The Culinary Arts students** prepared and served a banquet for 1,350 people at Sonora Regional Medical Center's volunteer appreciation dinner on December 9. It's the second year that the department undertook this enormous community dinner.



Polar Express elves deck the Student Learning halls

## New Faces on Campus



**Sheri Glynn**  
Administrative Secretary,  
Arts & Sciences



**Lora Hunter**  
DSPS Lab Assistant I

Tried the made-to-order **deli** sandwiches yet at the college **Snack Bar**? Choose the kind of sandwich that you want and they'll make it for you with all fresh ingredients. Prices range from \$3.75 to \$6.50.

Support the **Claim Jumpers basketball team!** Visit [www.gocolumbia.edu/Basketball](http://www.gocolumbia.edu/Basketball) for this season's schedule and stats about this year's players.