

Academic Achievement Center gets new coordinator at helm

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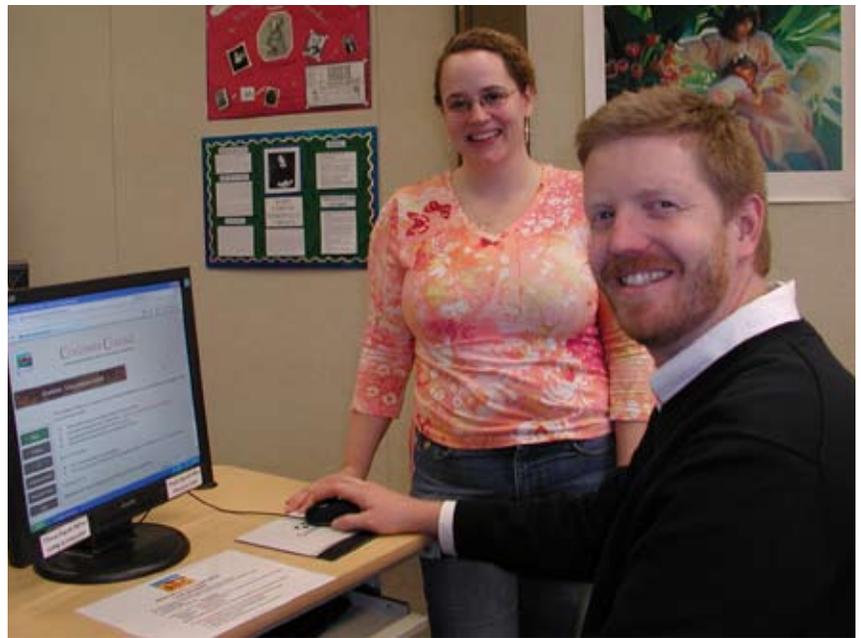
Columbia College has recently named Craig Johnston as the new coordinator of the Academic Achievement Center (AAC), a position vacant since last April when Patricia Harrelson retired.

"I'm living my dream," said Johnston in reference to his new job. He has been an adjunct English professor at Columbia College, Cosumnes River College and Folsom Lake College for the past two years. In fact, Johnston spent a number of years in attaining some rich life experiences before settling into education as a career field.

Craig Johnston graduated in 1990 from Culver Military Academy, a prestigious college prep boarding school in Culver, Indiana. During his high school years there, he was educated in the formal and disciplined structure of the institution.

Due to unfortunate family circumstances, he was on his own with no money after graduation from Culver. He returned to Southern California where he was raised and subsequently lived throughout the state doing "lots of odds-and-ends work"—the most unusual was as an employee at an incense factory in Sebastopol.

In 1997, he started Brother Juniper Seed Company in Newport Beach, a nursery/garden architecture/antique business. "At that point, I was about 26 years old and decided to take some classes at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. It was daunting and intimidating because other students



Craig Johnston and student Katie Kelly

were much younger than me," said Johnston. To make matters worse, a learning disability, which has affected his reading comprehension since elementary school days, made college courses especially challenging for him.

Johnston's inspiration came from an anthropology instructor, whose energy for learning was infectious. "He helped me see that if I put in the time and sought out available resources, I could succeed," said Johnston.

Teaching became his passion and he subsequently transferred to Humboldt State University where he had an opportunity to study for a semester at Oxford University in England. This led to several degrees from Humboldt State, including a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with a minor in religious studies; M.A. in English literature; and M.A. in teaching writing.

"College is a great place to be," said Johnston. "It's a place where right now it's okay not to have

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Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

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Dr. Joan Smith

President's Note

While the beautiful winter scenery around us is perfect material for landscape photos, heavy snowfall has also caused potentially dangerous driving conditions throughout our foothills. As such, our college has been subjected to delayed starts and early campus closures.

The real heroes during this season are our facilities operations staff, supervised by Jon Sterling. While we are still comfortable in bed or having our first cup of morning coffee, Jon and his crew are busy clearing the campus roads and walkways to ensure our safety. They do this willingly and with no complaints. I would like to be the first to thank them for their dedication and acknowledge their efforts in serving Columbia College. Your work is much appreciated by all of us!

On another note, congratulations to the Claim Jumpers basketball team on their win over Merced College on January 23rd! In spite of the harsh weather conditions outside, the team executed well

offensively and played great transition on defense. We gave up only two points on transition defense—GO TEAM GO!

I encourage you to support our team by making all the home games at 7:00 pm in the Oak Pavilion. For a complete Claim Jumper season schedule, go online to www.gocolumbia.edu/basketball/SCHEDULE.htm.

At the January in-service, I mentioned that we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary this fall. Be thinking about it and feel free to drop by my office to share your ideas on ways to celebrate this benchmark anniversary.

All my best,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

AAC continued from page 1



Chris Harbour uses AAC study area

conclusions for yourself, and just be present with your questions and doubts. But the important thing to remember is that through education, you can make your dreams happen. A two-year degree can lead to a four-year degree—maybe even entry into a graduate program later.”

Johnston's new role at Columbia College is to help students achieve success by removing barriers and fears of the unknown. The Academic Achievement Center provides free tutoring and academic assistance to all students at the college. This includes one-on-one tutoring in multiple subjects, assistance with writing skills, supplemental instruction (SI) group tutoring for various courses, and help with developing study skills and preparing for classes.

Instructional Assistant Elissa Creighton,

who has been employed at the AAC for the past year, describes the center as “a place which any and every student will find useful. You don't have to be a struggling student to come here. For instance, even ‘A’ students use our services when they need help in working on one concept or one area. Our seven tutors provide assistance in practically all subjects... and it's free!”

As an active member of the AWE (Academic Wellness Educators) group, Math Professor Anne Cavagnaro keeps in close touch with the AAC, especially in the area of basic skills. “I am excited about Craig's appointment, his enthusiasm for the center, and background in adult learning theories,” she said. “We are also looking forward to his plans for the new AAC website as an online portal to student learning.”

Columbia College Mathematics Professor Maryl Landess is the faculty mentor to Johnston as the AAC coordinator. ■



Elissa Creighton



Students take advantage of the AAC computers

Taking care of business — the facilities operations way



Snow plow gets early start

Every year just before Thanksgiving through the month of April, the facilities staff maintains a morning routine. The purpose is to determine whether the campus roads are safe for vehicular and pedestrian traffic due to weather conditions. Many times, the weather is cooperating but the roads and walkways still need clearing from the previous night's snowfall. Following is based on a typical day in late January.

3:00 am – Jon Sterling, campus facilities operations manager phones Phillip Fish, night security officer for an update on campus conditions. There is about 4" of snow on the ground but snowfall was light at that time.

4:00 am – Jon arrives on campus and phones Steve D'Orsay, Chuck Cooper and Ken Ciabatti. He asks them to come in early to help clear the snow and then proceeds to plow the roads at the main entrance and campus perimeter.

5:00 am – The three arrive and while Steve and Chuck clear the staff parking lot, Jon works on the roadway going toward the Manzanita Building. Ken is assigned to clear the sidewalks and paths. Jon phones Connie Mical, chief operations officer, for a briefing on campus conditions. In turn, Connie contacts Dr. Joan Smith, college president for a determination of further action. On this particular day, the opening time was delayed until 9:00 am, and later extended until 10:30 am.

5:20 am – The blade for the plow breaks and Jon phones Marvin Ghan for repair support.

5:50 am – Marvin arrives and begins to weld the broken blade back in position.

8:30 am – All lots are now clear and snow has been removed from interior walkways and stairs by hand with shovels.

8:40 am – Blade for plow has been welded back in place and is ready to go.

As a precautionary measure, facilities always has on-hand 20 yards of sand and 500 pounds of ice remover in reserve. A backup pallet of sand is also stored in the warehouse.

According to Jon Sterling, "It is a pleasure to work with the members of my crew. Our equipment is located outdoors and we must be in the elements where temperatures are not pleasant, especially in the early morning hours of winter. But their attitudes are cheerful and we all support each other as a real team." ■



Campus winter scenery captured by Jessie Pearson

Student Success Report

Forest Biologist Crispin Holland is doing what he loves best. He lives in a rural community, works part-time indoors, and gets to spend a lot of time in the great outdoors. And as a fifth generation Tuolumne County resident, his roots run deep here.

After graduating from Sonora High School in 1988, Holland enrolled full-time at Columbia College and with no specific field of interest, took courses to fulfill his general education requirements. While at Columbia, Holland took a class from Ross Carkeet, now a retired forestry and natural resources professor. This led to another class, and then another. In fact with the exception of dendrology, he took every class taught by Carkeet.

As such, environmental studies became his focus and after 2 ½ years at the college, Holland transferred to Humboldt State University in 1991. He graduated with a B.S. degree in rangeland resource science/natural resources and a minor in soil science and botany from there in May 1994.

With a bachelor's degree in hand, he was offered a seasonal job in Salmon, Idaho working for the Bureau of Land Management. After eight months, Holland returned to California for two more seasonal jobs: Stanislaus National Forest (SNF) botany surveyor (1995) and SNF range management staff at Pinecrest and Sonora (1995-2002).

His first permanent job with the U.S. Forest Service was as a rangeland program manager planner on the Plumas National Forest in 2003. Three years later, he advanced to the Pacific Southwest Regional Office of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in Vallejo. From November 2005 until June of this year, he was the statewide regional range manager.

At that point, Holland decided that he



Crispin Holland

“Columbia College helped steer me in a career path. It served me well by allowing me to get my basic educational requirements out of the way...and save some money.”

needed a job that included working in the outdoors more than the regional office allowed. In June, his present position was vacant and he snapped at the opportunity.

Today, Crispin Holland spends one to two days in the office on budget and program management, and is a member of an interdisciplinary team of SNF professional specialists that does field work in environmental analyses. Holland collects data on wildlife, vegetation condition and fish habitat for documenting in reports.

“Columbia College helped steer me in a career path,” said Holland. “It served me well by allowing me to get my basic educational requirements out of the way. Classes were very affordable and it enabled me to stay at home to save some money. When the area of natural resources drew my attention, counselors at the college showed me how my earned credits could transfer to a university for a four-year degree. In fact, I would encourage anyone with no serious direction to attend a community college and take the time to discover where they want to go.” ■

Discover the cultural riches of Spain's Basque country

This summer, Columbia College is again offering a unique opportunity to get an insider's view of the colorful culture, art and history of the Basque region of north central Spain. Located in the western Pyrenees mountains that span the border between the countries of France and Spain, the region is rich in its Basque, Gothic and Roman heritage

Based at Vitoria, Alava in Spain, you'll attend the Zador Institute, an accredited school of Spanish language where classes will be taught by certified native teachers for four hours per day, five days a week in classrooms and in neighborhood settings. The English website for the institute is www.zadorspain.com. Your home stay will be with Spanish families for a total language immersion experience. Of course, participants will also earn three units of credit from Columbia College in Spanish 10A, 10B, 20A or 20B, depending on your initial assessed level of proficiency.

Afternoon activities and field trips with Spanish-speaking guides will include city tours, art and history museum visits, bike tours, dining at typical Basque restaurants, and cider house samplings.

Vitoria is centrally located with a population of about 200,000 and thanks to its excellent train and bus transportation, excursion destinations are never more than an hour or so away. On weekends, activities and excursions are planned for visits to Pamplona in Navarra, the ancient walled city of LaGuardia, the Rioja wine region, and monasteries of Logroño. You'll also see Spain's most famous Gothic cathedral in beautiful Burgos. Then, there's the Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art in Bilbao and the inviting beach city of San Sebastian.

The three-week travel/study/home stay summer program runs from May 17 through June 8. Cost is approximately \$3,930, which includes home stay, meals, tuition, excursions, airport transfer and insurance.

Columbia College Spanish Instructor Vonna Breeze-Martin is coordinating the program and again leading the Basque country visit.

Reservations and a partial advance payment must be received by February 28. An informational meeting will be held on February 8 at 7:00 pm in the community education classroom. Vonna Breeze-Martin can be reached for more details at 588-5274, or by email at breezev@yosemite.edu. ■



Street festivities in Pamplona



Zador Institute in Vitoria



Last year's Basque country travelers climb to an ancient hermitage

ASCC adds new dimension to Civic Engagement Project



ASCC's Sean Day, Jayme Johnson and Reid Milburn (l. to r.) prepare for civic engagement presentations

When approached by college administration to coordinate the Civic Engagement Project this semester due to Jim Toner's sabbatical leave, the Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC) gladly accepted the invitation. They will be supported by Drs. Jim Riggs and Tim Elizondo in their professional fields of study.

"We wanted to be involved with this very worthwhile activity," said Jayme Johnson, ASCC

president. "Lots of our students attend civic engagement presentations faithfully every week, and we felt a strong sense of wanting to continue this form of public awareness.

"However, our goal this semester is to broaden the scope of topics—topics that are a little different than what have been offered in the past. We wanted to have discussions on subjects that touch our own small community directly, like suicide prevention, aids education, and political issues. Doctors Riggs and Elizondo will also add the dimensions of music and debate to our program," said Johnson.

"I want to see the civic engagement activities continued as a means of connecting the campus with the community," said Dr. Riggs. "In particular, the documentaries that I researched on endangered world music should spark a lot of interest and discussion."

In anticipation of the February 27 presentation on debate, Dr. Elizondo, the college forensics advisor said, "The debate team is very excited about showcasing what we do in front of our community. The public has been very supportive of our program and this is a fantastic opportunity for them to meet our national champions." ■

awareness
documentary films & forums
Spring 2008
new time
Wednesdays at 7:00pm/Free!
Columbia College/Dogwood Forum
Open discussions to follow all films & forums

- Jan 23 / Jim Riggs**
Feel Like Going Home
Documentary about the roots of blues music with historical footage and contemporary interviews and performance by legendary blues performers. The film shows cultural and musical connections with African music and American blues.
- Jan 30 / Student Senate**
Political Awareness Night
The ASCC will be hosting an evening of political engagement with guest speakers giving information on the proposition and taking questions from the public. Your registration will be available as well as information from different political parties. All political affiliations welcome.
- Feb 6 / Jim Riggs**
Genghis Blues
A critically acclaimed film about exploration and friendship. It is the story of a man whose struggle in life is not defined by conformity and rules but by an unquenchable curiosity, love of music, and love of life. This is an inspirational story of the music of Tuva and Mongolia (throat singing) and American blues singers - English and Tuvan.
- Feb 13 / Jim Riggs**
Classical Music of India
DVD on the life and music of Ravi Shankar, renowned Indian sitar player, composer, and founder of the Maihar gharana of Hindustani classical music. 25-minute 80+ minutes performance will also be shown. - English
- Feb 20 / Jim Riggs**
Crossing the Bridge
A film about the lives of German and Turkish musicians of Istanbul. The film introduces audiences to both well-known stars and street musicians with a variety of different styles and a shared passion for music and belief in its power.
- Feb 27 / Tim Elizondo**
Speech & Debate Team
Columbia College's award-winning speech and debate team makes the community come alive on an evening with the exciting, unexpected and thought-provoking world of intercollegiate debate. Please join us for an evening with the top student orator. Columbia College has to offer.
- March 5 / Jim Riggs**
Buena Vista Social Club
A film about the Cuban Social Club performers and the music and culture of Cuba, as well as some West African influence.
- March 12 / Student Senate**
Suicide Prevention
The American Community has one of the highest suicide rates per capita in the world. Suicide speaks from many of the local agencies will offer information and advice about what signs to look for and where to get help.
- March 19 / Student Senate**
The Secret
This startling inspirational film has changed the lives of millions. Based on the best-selling novel, "The Secret," the film explains simply the law of attraction that is governing our lives and offers the knowledge of how to create... intentionally and effectively... a joyful life.
- March 26 / Tim Elizondo**
Would Jesus Have Charged Lazarus A Co-pay?
This film will focus on the relationship religion and capitalism has with local health concerns. More specifically, the film will address the ways religious values interact with the community's responsibility with caring for the sick and offers the knowledge of how to create... intentionally and effectively... a joyful life.
- April 2 / Student Senate**
Advertising & the End of the World
A film by the staff of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, the producer and editor of the award-winning documentary "Making the Connection Between Society, High Consumption and the Changing Environmental Crisis." Join us to evaluate the physical and material costs of the consumer society and how long we can maintain our present level of production.
- April 9 / TBA**
- April 16 / Student Senate**
AIDS & Sexual Awareness
Know where you stand? Come to this enlightening event hosted by the ASCC. We will show an informative video about AIDS, share testimonials, and have health professionals on hand to answer questions on aids and sexual awareness.

films + forums + book groups civic engagement project of columbia college
www.gocolumbia.org/civic 209.588.5055

Civic Engagement February 2008 Activities

Dogwood Forum – 7:00 pm Free Admission

February 6 – Genghis Blues: A critically acclaimed film about exploration and friendship. It is the story of a man whose struggle in life is not defined by conformity and rules, but by an unquenchable curiosity and love of music. Features the music of Tuva and Mongolia (throat singing) and American blues. (English and Tuvan)

February 13 – Classical Music of India: Film on the life and music of Ravi Shankar, renowned Indian sitar player, composer, and founder of the Maihar gharana of Hindustani classical music.

February 20 – Crossing the Bridge: A fascinating look at the music and musicians of Istanbul. The film introduces audiences to both well-known stars and street musicians with a variety of different styles and a shared passion for music and belief in its power. (German and Turkish)

February 27 – Speech & Debate Team Presentation: Columbia College's nationally-ranked, award-winning speech and debate team presents an evening of the exciting, unexpected and thought-provoking world of intercollegiate debate. Featured will be the college's best student orators, ranked in the top five community colleges in the nation.

Newsbytes

The 32nd annual **Columbia Wine Tasting** is coming Sunday, April 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Columbia State Historic Park. Mark your calendars for this Foundation-sponsored event to benefit our Hospitality Management Department and students!

Two **Cash for College Nights** will be hosted by the college Financial Aid Department: February 12 at 6:00 pm in the Com Ed Room, and February 19 at 5:30 pm in the Calaveras Center. All high school and college students or potential students who need help in meeting college expenses should attend. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a qualifying high school senior, who registers at one of the nights.

Tuolumne County's Public Health Department BOB (Be On Board) van will be at the Columbia College campus on a regular basis soon for health services. Watch for more details in next month's *InSite*.

State Capitol. Director John Carter is soliciting donations to help with the travel expenses.

The **ASCC** will be rolling out their **new, newsy web page** in a week or two at <http://columbia.yosemite.cc.ca.us/StudentGov/default.htm>.

Columbia College's 40th Anniversary Celebration will take place this fall. Contact the president's office if you have any festive ideas, or would like to volunteer to help.

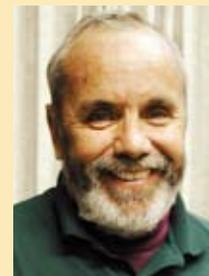
New faces on campus



Brian De Moss
Interim Director of
Technology & Media
Services



Craig Johnston
AAC Coordinator



Chris Pomeroy
Custodian



The Columbia College Jazz Series will present the 29th annual **Big Band Jazz Festival** on February 8 and 9. Eleven middle school, high school and college groups from the foothills, Bay Area and valley will attend a weekend of clinics and workshops with special evening concerts. The February 9 concert

at 7:30 pm in the Dogwood Forum is open to the public and tickets are \$17 per person. Call 588-5126 for information.

The Columbia College Choir is making plans for their three-day Spring Tour on March 27 to 29. The students will travel through Northern California and sing at high schools and colleges, including Pioneer High School (Placerville), Cosumnes River College, Sacramento State University, and at the



John Carter



Campus Greenhouse – Tom Hofstra's fall semester forestry and natural resources students spent considerable time and effort in restoring an old 600 sq. ft. campus greenhouse. Located next to the Toyon Building, the greenhouse is being used for growing teaching specimens and starting native plants from seeds. A new propane heating system is on order, lights have been installed, and ponds with aquatic plants are now operating to add humidity to the environment. Hofstra can be contacted at 588-5155 for more details.

Campus Calendar / February 2008

February Meetings

1 Friday

College Council
Com Ed Room
1:00 pm

Safety/Facilities Committee

Safety 9:00 am
Com Ed Room
Facilities 11:00 am
Com Ed Room

6 Wednesday

Leadership Team
Com Ed Room
9:30 am

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

22 Friday

Academic Senate
Cedar 1
1:30 pm

29 Friday

Classified Senate
Com Ed Room
8:30 am

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.

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1

Book Club Discussion

Tender at the Bone
Library at 4:30 pm

2

Columbia College Basketball vs. Fresno

Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

6

Columbia College Basketball vs. West Hills

Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

Civic Engagement Free Film Series

Genghis Blues
Dogwood Forum at 7:00 pm

8

Musical Interlude

Featuring Jeff Bryant
Library from 12:00–1:00 pm

Basque Country Travel/Study Info Night

Com Ed Room at 7:00 pm

12

Cash for College Night

Com Ed Room at 6:00 pm

13

Civic Engagement Free Film Series

Classical Music of India
Dogwood Forum at 7:00 pm

15

Lincoln Day Holiday

18

Washington Day Holiday

19

Cash for College Night

Calaveras Center at 5:30 pm

20

Columbia College Basketball vs. Reedley

Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

Civic Engagement Free Film Series

Crossing the Bridge
Dogwood Forum at 7 pm

23

Columbia College Basketball vs. Porterville

Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

27

Civic Engagement Presentation

Columbia College Speech & Debate Team
Dogwood Forum at 7:00 pm



Basketball home game highlights by Tim Mann – from left, Claim Jumpers Devine Bankhead, Marcus Cendro, and Jess Donnerberg in action