



American Culinary Federation accreditation team visits campus

Yosemite Community College District

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Culinary student Lauren Mojica (l.) converses with ACF's Lisa Falcone



Dr. Joan and Mike Smith



Pat Dean

The American Culinary Federation (ACF), the largest professional chefs' organization in North America, was founded in 1929 and is a part of the World Association of Chefs Societies. It is comprised of more than 18,000 members in 240 chapters across the country and is considered as the authority on cooking in America. ACF is also the national accrediting commission for culinary and pastry education at post-secondary institutions and secondary programs.

An ACF accreditation team came to the Columbia College campus during the week of February 23 for an on-site visit of the college's culinary and pastry arts department. On Wednesday night, the team members were



From left: ACF visiting team members Rosenberger, Falcone and Kimball



Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

11600 Columbia College Dr.

Sonora CA 95370

209.588.5115

www.gocolumbia.edu

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Dr. Joan Smith

President's Note

As we start to plan for the end of our spring semester, the college community has celebrated with many exciting events that have marked our 40th anniversary.

Our community has enthusiastically turned out in large numbers to visit our "It's a jungle out there!" animal specimen exhibit in the Manzanita Rotunda. The exhibit contains rare specimens from North America, South America and the African savannah and is part of our 40th anniversary celebrations. An essay writing contest for students in grades 1 to 12 is included in the jungle project and an awards dinner for winners will be hosted in the exhibit area on March 5.

Another 40th anniversary activity was the public reading of the *Spring Review* for 2009 on February 26 at Tamarack Hall. The anthology of student works, which receives partial funding from the Columbia College Foundation, is a collection of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, art and photography.

Look forward to our fire program open house at our new Public Safety Center in April along with our ribbon cutting ceremony on April 10 at 10:00

a.m. The open house will include demonstrations, displays of new and old fire trucks and tours by the fire house staff. This project, in addition to our other Measure E funded building projects will add to the educational opportunities for our students at Columbia College.

We gratefully acknowledge the community for supporting our Measure E-funded projects and we invite you to our groundbreaking for the Science and Natural Resources Building this summer.

Columbia College is recognized as our community's resource center for higher education, as well as cultural, environmental, civic and global awareness. We invite you to come and support our efforts.

All my best,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

ACF Visit *continued from page 1*



Gene Womble, Columbia's hospitality management coordinator (l.) and Dr. Roe Darnell, YCCD Chancellor

hosted to a culinary dinner of contemporary cuisine in the Cellar Bistro, which was followed by two days of intensive program reviews.

Conducting the on-site visit were Peter Kimball, ACF Educational Foundation accreditation coordinator; Tom Rosenberger, educational representative for the accreditation team from the Community College of Southern Nevada; and Lisa Falcone, the team's industry representative, who is also a certified executive chef and a registered dietician from ARAMARK. ■



Tamra Nelson prepares dessert for ACF dinner

Manzanita Bookstore now rents textbooks

Based on last academic year's statistics, the average textbook costs for students at the California Community Colleges amounted to 59% of the total of their annual full-time enrollment fees and their textbook expenses. The market for used copies is also increasing as costs for new textbooks are growing.

"We started renting textbooks this fall semester as a service to help our students," said Jeff Whalen, the college auxiliary services manager,



Jeff Whalen

which includes the Manzanita Bookstore. "The books for rent are selected by two criteria. First, they must be used every semester for at least four semesters. Second, they must be published for the first time in that particular semester. In other words, they must be

brand-new titles whether they are hardcover or paperbacks."

In today's economy, renting textbooks can mean a significant savings. Rentals at the bookstore range from \$44 to \$57. As an example, a student can rent an art textbook for \$44, plus \$24 refundable deposit that would normally sell for \$142.25. The only requirement is they must be kept in reasonably good shape and returned on the last day of finals during the semester. ■



"I work part-time to pay for my education at Columbia College so it's important to watch my expenses. The money I save by renting textbooks will go toward paying college costs for the next semester."

— Shannon Regan, Sonora



"Renting textbooks is a good idea and I do it to save money. I'll probably never use those textbooks again and most are overpriced. I just have to be careful about not marking up the pages with my notes."

— Grace Sharpe, Jamestown

Spring Review public reading



Meryl Soto, editor

As part of Columbia College's 40th year celebration, a free public reading of the 2009 *Spring Review* was held at the campus library in Tamarack Hall on February 26.

About 50 people attended the reading, consisting of faculty, students and the public.

The *Spring Review* is published as a 120 page cross-curriculum collection of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, art and photography—all student produced. The review's moderator and editor is Columbia College English Professor Meryl Soto. ■



Susanne DeCaccia, student editor (l.) and author Tami Chesnut



Kim Pippa



Johnny Proctor

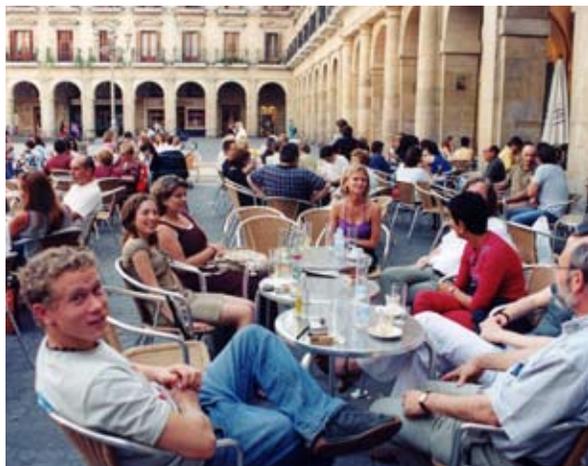


Anthony Davis



Miguel Contreras

Discover the cultural riches of Spain's Basque Country



Students enjoying an afternoon in Alava, Spain; below, a nearby lake in 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 Country of north central Spain. Located to the west of the Pyrenees along the Bay of Biscay, the region is rich in its Basque, Gothic and

Roman heritage.

Based at Vitoria-Gasteiz, the seat of the Basque Parliament, 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 neighborhood settings. Their website is located at www.zadorspain.com. Your home stay will be with Spanish families for a total language immersion experience. Of course, participants will also earn a total of six units of credit from Columbia College: three in conversational Spanish 10A, 10B, 20A or

20B—depending on your initial assessed level of proficiency—and three in humanities (old world culture), taught by local expert, Dr. Susan Still.

Afternoon activities and field trips with Spanish-speaking guides will include city tours, art and history museum visits, bike tours, dining at typical Basque tapas bars and restaurants, and cider house samplings, as well as day trips to an ancient Roman saltworks, nearby lakes and a nature park.

The two week program begins on June 6, with an optional third week. The approximate cost for the two week program is \$2,900, and \$850 for the additional week. This covers tuition, classes, airport transfers, home stay, meals, excursions and insurance—airfare is not included.

Reservations and partial advance payment must be received by May 1. Informational meetings will be held on Friday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. in the Manzanita conference room on the Columbia College campus in Sonora. It will also be held on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Cedar 10 on the college campus.

Columbia College Spanish Instructor Vonna Breeze-Martin is coordinating the program and again leading the Basque Country visit. She can be reached for more details at 588-5274, or by email at breezev@yosemite.edu. ■

Columbia student on national panel

A proposal by Agnieszka "Sigil" Blackwolf was selected for presentation at the 2009 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Meeting from April 8 to 11 in New Orleans. Her written proposal is titled "The Economic Dimension of the Phenomenon of Whiteness in *The Economist* Print Advertisement"

Blackwolf is majoring in history and speech communication at Columbia College and will graduate next spring. During the conference, she will be one of five presenters on a 90-minute panel.

According to Blackwolf, "This is a great opportunity for me to participate in a conference on the national level. It just strengthens my belief in the community college system—and in particular, Columbia College—that our students can achieve



Sigil Blackwolf

successful results if they study, work hard and apply what they've learned.

"I owe a special thanks to Dr. Tim Elizondo for encouraging me to apply as a panelist at the conference, the college library staff for helping with locating research documents, and the student senate for help in funding my trip," she said. ■

Forensics Awards

Columbia College's speech and debate team was in fine form on the weekend of February 21 at the Northern California Forensics Association Championship Tournament by earning third place in the overall team sweepstakes.

Columbia had two students place in the top three spots of the impromptu speaking event. Meghan Miller and Jessica Capito achieved second and third place finishes respectively out of a field of over 75 competitors. In the debate division, Danielle Carmack was named top speaker in parliamentary debate. Teammate and AAC tutor Judith Bennington was named third best speaker in parliamentary debate while Meghan Miller was recognized in sixth place.

In parliamentary debate, Jon Cummins and Tom McDonnell reached the semifinals of the elimination tournament. This was their first tournament as a duo.

"Our students defeated squads from UCLA, UC Davis and Pepperdine, among others," said Dr. Tim Elizondo, Columbia College forensics advisor. "This is promising news as the team looks to defend their championship title at next month's state championship tournament in Los Angeles." ■

Columbia Wine Tasting

Welcome spring to the foothills by attending the Columbia Wine Tasting on Sunday, April 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Columbia State Historic Park. It's the 33rd year that this popular event has been conducted as a benefit for the college's culinary arts program. Your program host is the Columbia College Foundation.

This year's wine tasting will feature over 50 premier California wineries. And along with tasting the "best of the best" from across the state, you'll also enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres specially prepared for you by local food purveyors. Among them will be scrumptious delights by the college's culinary and pastry arts staff and students.

Every year, the Columbia Wine Tasting attracts hundreds of people for a relaxing afternoon of fine wines and savory food samples, available at several stations located throughout the restored Mother Lode gold mining town. Plus, your ticket purchases go toward a good cause. Proceeds will be used for culinary student scholarships and purchases of culinary department equipment and supplies that otherwise would not be possible.

Tickets are \$45 per person and available at 588-5089. Or you can go online to gocolumbia.edu/Foundation and click on "Foundation Upcoming Events." ■



Outdoor wine tasting station

Jungle is huge success

Students throughout Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties know that "It's a jungle out there!"—especially after visiting the animal specimen exhibit in the Manzanita Rotunda, which runs through March 13. Local area schools took advantage of free tours of the rare animal specimens from North America, South America and the African savannah. The exhibit is also open to the public for self-guided tours.

In addition, the college's child development teachers, students and children had an opportunity to visit the exhibit on February 12 for a special tour adapted for their young age group.

Conducted as one of the college's 40th anniversary activities, the jungle presentation will also include an essay writing contest for students in grades 1 to 12. A special dinner for the winners will be held in the exhibit area on March 5, hosted by Dr. Joan Smith and the biology department. ■

Tour guide Doralyn Foletti and college child development class admire the lioness



Antarctica revisited by college librarian



Photo of emperor penguins courtesy of Brian Greene

Antarctica is the southernmost continent with a surface that is 98% covered by ice, averaging at least one mile in thickness. It is the coldest, driest and

windiest place on earth. Only cold-adapted plants and animals survive there in the wild, including penguins, seals, mosses, lichen and many types of algae.

Columbia College Librarian Brian Greene revisited his journeys to Antarctica on March 10 in the Dogwood Theater. Sponsored by the college wellness committee, the public was invited to his “Life in Antarctica” presentation.

Greene made two six-month trips to work at McMurdo Station, located on the southernmost point of ocean in the world. Both times were during the Antarctic summer from August to February in 2001-02 and 2003-04. During the coldest periods, he recalls that ambient temperatures dropped to -56 degrees F, and -110 F with wind chill.

“I felt very fortunate to live in a place where so few people ever get to visit,” said Greene. “The landscape was starkly beautiful and I met some wonderful people there, including my future wife, Mckenzie.” ■

22nd Occupational Olympics hosted at Columbia College



Welding competition

More than 200 high school students from Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties will arrive on the Columbia College campus on Thursday, March 12 prepared to compete in the 22nd Annual Occupational Olympics. Through the various competitions, students will have the opportunity to showcase their work skills and pit their talents against the best in the region.

This is the ninth year that the event has been hosted at the college and activities will run from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Participating schools are Calaveras High, Bret Harte High, Don Pedro High, Sonora High and Summerville High.

Participants are high school students, ranging in ages 16 and up. There is no cost to enter and the competitions at various locations at the college will be in:

- Automotive Technology
- Child Development
- Computer Business Applications
- Computer-assisted Drafting
- Cosmetology
- Digital Photography

- Entrepreneurship
- Food Occupations
- Health Occupations
- Welding Technology

The event is sponsored by Partners in Education, Tuolumne County Office of Education, Calaveras County Office of Education and Columbia College. ■



Health occupations

Newsbytes

Relay for Life will be held at Summerville High's football field on May 2 and 3. Coni Chavez, Jeri Perez, Ida Ponder, Karin Rodts and Arlene Sprague will be on a team, organized by Suzette Ponder for her senior project. The relay is a 24 hour event that raises money for the American Cancer Society. As a Tuolumne County activity, the majority of the dollars will remain here. For details, contact the participants, or place your tax deductible donation with the name of the person you are supporting in the envelope in the staff lounge.



Sonora cheer team with the giveaway car

Sonora High's tribute games to their retiring basketball coach Rick Francis were held at the Oak Pavilion on February 20. About 3,000 people attended and a Subaru sedan was awarded during the evening as a raffle giveaway for tickets that were sold over the past month in the community.



Sylvia Alden Roberts

Sylvia Alden Roberts was the campus guest speaker for February's Black History Month. The local author and historian presented excerpts from her recently published book on African-Americans in the Gold Rush.

Two automatic external defibrillators (AED) for public access have been installed in the Manzanita Building (outside of the staff lounge) and the Oak Pavilion. Located in wall cabinets, they are ideally used by persons trained in their

use, but are also for the general public. Simple voice instructions are activated by pressing the "on" button. CPR/AED first aid instruction will be provided for college employees through Institutional Operations at a future date. By the way, defibrillators for trained personnel only have been available on campus for the past five years at the fire house and security department.

Columbia College music instructor **Rod Harris** played saxophone at four performances of "Howlin' Blues and Dirty Dogs" on the February 13 weekend at the Stella Adler Theater in Hollywood, located on the Walk of Fame near the Kodak Theater. The "blusical" is about the life and times of singer "Big Mama" Thornton and stars Barbara Morrison in the lead role.



Rod Harris hits Hollywood



Abe and the Lt. Colonel

Abe Lincoln (Wayne Scott) and **Lt. Col. Arthur J.L. Fremantle** (Peter Lee) were at the college on February 13 in honor of President's Day. Honest Abe made a presentation about the life and times of our 16th president to Professor Lee's humanities class.



The YCCD Board of Trustees selected **Columbia College's Career Tools for Excellence Program** as their entry for the 2009 Innovation of the Year Award in the League for Innovation in the Community Colleges' national competition. Committee members (l. to r.) Randy Barton, Kathy Schultz, Gene Womble, Meryl Soto, Jeff Fitzwater, Kathy Sullivan and Melissa Colon are joined by Dr. Joan Smith. *Missing:* Patricia Harrelson, Ida Ponder and Adrienne Webster.

Campus Calendar / March 2009

March Meetings

3 Tuesday

Leadership Team
Manzanita Conf Room
3:00 pm

6 Friday

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

College Council
Manzanita Conf Room
1:00 pm

11 Wednesday

YCCD Board of Trustees
Dogwood Forum
5:30 pm

13 Friday

Academic Senate
Cedar 1
1:30 pm

27 Friday

Classified Senate
Manzanita Conf 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.

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

Marketing & Public Relations
209.588.5361
Email laud@yosemite.edu

Thru 13

It's a Jungle out there!
Manzanita Rotunda

2

Luncheon Buffet - Hawaiian
The Cellar Restaurant
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

3-4

Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 - 7:00 pm

5

Civic Engagement
Zeitgeist
Dogwood 7:00 pm

10

Luncheon Buffet - Chinese
The Cellar Restaurant
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Life in Antarctica

A presentation by Brian Greene
Dogwood 4:30 pm

10-11

Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 - 7:00 pm

12

Occupational Olympics
Campus-wide competition
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Awards at Carkeet Park 1:00 pm

Civic Engagement

Bamako
Dogwood 7:00 pm

13

Book Club Discussion
Our Lady of the Forest
Library at 4:30 pm

17-18

Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 - 7:00 pm

18

Luncheon Buffet - Seafood
The Cellar Restaurant
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

19

Faculty Tenure Dinner
Cellar Bistro
5:30 pm

Civic Engagement

Sand and Sorrow
Dogwood 7:00 pm

24-25

Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 - 7:00 pm

26

Luncheon Buffet - BBQ
The Cellar Restaurant
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

31 - April 1

Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Public Safety Center ribbon cutting on April 10

The first of the Measure E construction projects is near completion and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Public Safety Center will take place on Friday, April 10 at 10:00 am. The Public Safety Center consolidates the Columbia College Fire Station #79 and the college's campus security into one structure. It is the practical working facility for training future firefighters at our college. ■

