

# Meet & Greet gets Columbia Middle College underway

**Yosemite Community College District**

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**A**fter three years in the works, Columbia Middle College will begin in the fall 2007 semester. The partnership between Columbia College and the Sonora Union High School District was highlighted on March 27 with a *Meet & Greet* night for about 30 participating students and their parents and guardians.

The middle college project first began as a conversation between Dr. Jim Riggs, former Columbia College president and Rob Gaskill, superintendent of the Sonora Union High School District. Since then, Drs. Dennis Gervin, Lynn Martin and Mario Cordova have represented the college on the program's strategic planning committee, along with Gaskill; Jim Roeber, principal of Theodore Bird High School; Terry Clark, principal of Sonora High School; and Charlene Dambacher, counselor at Sonora High.

While it is not uncommon to find middle colleges in urban settings, it is rare in rural areas, such as Tuolumne County. The program goal is to serve students whose needs are not being met through traditional high school. Participants enroll concurrently in high school and college during their eleventh and twelfth grade years.



Anastasia Conlin

They are expected to fulfill their high school graduation requirements and earn college credits by taking a combination of three high school courses and college electives each year on the Columbia College campus.

In addition, attendance by all participants is also required at "success study skills" courses.

Sonora High instructor Anastasia Conlin will teach the high school portion of classes on the college campus from 8:30 am to noon. Students will then attend college courses in the afternoons.



Dr. Joan Smith and Rob Gaskill welcome the first group of middle college students

Middle college targets talented but underachieving students. They are bright, intelligent and demonstrate strong leadership qualities. Capable of performing at higher educational levels, they seek academic challenges and show strong abilities in specific areas.

On the other hand, they have little or no interest in school; lack study, organizational and time management skills; and want the freedom and independence of the adult world.

Middle college is an innovative alternative to help encourage them to complete high school and gain early success in college. This will hopefully form the foundation for their future academic and career choices. ■



Meet & Greet draws a crowd of students and parents



Joan Smith, Ed.D.  
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President's Note



Dr. Joan Smith

**E**ducation goes far beyond textbooks, computers and classrooms. It means making a positive difference in the lives of our students *every day of every semester*. That's what the administrators, faculty and staff at Columbia College strive to achieve.

We hope that you too feel the positive atmosphere when you walk on our campus. As a dynamic institution of higher education, we foster lifelong learning, responsible citizenship, and progressive leadership. These are not mere words. They are the promises of our firm commitment to education—our college's basic tenets and beliefs.

As always, we are thankful to the community for support of Measure E. This funding will assist Columbia College in renovating structures, upgrading technology and building new facilities that will move us ahead in serving our students better.

On another note, the Columbia College Foundation's 31st Annual Columbia Wine Tasting and 17th Hall of Fame share the spotlight this month as two exciting community events. Don't miss these Foundation-sponsored activities, especially if you've never had the opportunity to attend previously.

We invite you to visit our beautiful campus at any time. Stroll on one of our nature trails, enjoy a meal at the Cellar Restaurant, or better yet, enroll in a class here!

Very respectfully submitted,

Dr. Joan Smith  
President

## YCCD retreat: *Tools for Leadership*

**T**ools for Leadership was the central theme for the YCCD Leadership Team Advisory Council (LTAC) day retreat on March 26, hosted at the Almond Pavilion in Oakdale. About 100 members of the district's leadership team attended the informal learning activity, which encouraged networking, collaboration, communication and socializing between Columbia College, MJC and Central Services.

The morning presentation was based on San Bernardino Valley College's (SBVC) 2005 Leadership Academy and *Six Thinking Hats*, the international bestseller by Edward De Bono.

Dr. L. Troy Sheffield, SBVC's dean of research, planning and development, and Dr. Kay Weiss, coordinator of professional development at SBVC, outlined the successful steps and methods used at their multi-district institution to empower their leadership team. Their academy objectives were to provide the knowledge, skills and tools for more effective college-level leadership. As noted, critical thinking methods, increased dialogue, better communication, improved collegiality and better morale were among the many benefits gained from their program.

The co-presenters used De Bono's book as a resource reference for improving lines of communication among committees and groups of people. According to the author, parallel thinking



Leadership retreat provides networking opportunities

can be quickly introduced through figurative wearing of different color hats. A field of thought or direction can be set by calling for a particular color of hat. For example, white hat thinking is concerned with only facts and data; wearing red hats focuses the group on emotions and intuition; black hat thinking looks for liability and caution; yellow hats seek positive perspectives; green hats are associated with creative, new ideas for solutions; and blue hats organize the whole process.

Afternoon breakout sessions were opportunities to explore areas of conflict resolution, information technology and fixed assets/budget management. The retreat was organized by LTAC, YCCD chancellor's office, and the external affairs department. Columbia College's representative on LTAC is Kathy Smith. ■

# 20th Occupational Olympics

**C**olumbia College opened its doors to more than 250 high school students on March 8 from Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties for the 20th Annual Occupational Olympics. Participating high schools included Bret Harte, Calaveras, Don Pedro, Sonora and Summerville.

This year's competitions included:

- Automotive Technology
- CAD Drafting
- Child Development
- Computer Business
- Cosmetology
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Photography
- Floral Design
- Food Services
- Health Occupations
- Welding Technology

Through the Occupational Olympics, students have the opportunity to showcase their learned work skills and pit their talents against the best in the region. It is supported by Partners in Education, Tuolumne County Office of Education, Calaveras County Office of Education, and Columbia College. This was the seventh year that the event was held at the college. ■



High school students showcase their skills at numerous Occupational Olympics competitions

# College retirees accrue over 160 years of service

**F**or five faculty members, this will be their last semester at Columbia College. Together, they have totaled over 160 years of service, including Ross Carkeet, who was one of the college's original instructors. The other retirees are Candace Daly, Patricia Harrelson, Larry Steuben and Ellen Stewart.

Sonora native **Ross Carkeet** graduated from Sonora High School in 1961 and went on to Modesto Junior College where he received an associate degree in pre-forestry. After earning a B.S. degree in forestry from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in watershed management from



Ross Carkeet

Humboldt State University, he returned home in the summer of 1968 to become one of six full-time instructors at a brand-new community college in the foothills.

While the campus was being built on Sawmill Flat Road, Columbia College courses were first held in Columbia State Historic Park in Eagle Cotage (spelling is correct). About 200 students attended classes there in three classrooms—two upstairs and one downstairs. The library and bookstore were located in the basement. Later, classes were also held in the state park at the Odd Fellows Hall.

Carkeet, who was then 25 years old, taught forestry, natural resources and biology. He recalls the casual and sometimes chaotic times during their first year but also remembers the cooperative spirit and teamwork that helped build the college. With his youthful looks and attired in a coat and tie, Carkeet was fondly referred to by fellow instructors as the “student with a tie.”

The campus was completed and ready for use in fall 1969. The original buildings were the Manzanita, Redbud, Madrone and Juniper.

Looking back, Carkeet's fondest memory was in researching, preparing and delivering an introduction for Ansel Adams in



**“It is very gratifying to see former students getting careers that they enjoy...”**

—Ross Carkeet

**“My greatest joy is in watching students grow...and ultimately, contribute to the workforce.”**

—Candace Daly



the late 1970s when the photography legend was a guest speaker at Columbia College. “Adams shook my hand at the podium and said that it was the best introduction he ever had,” said Carkeet. “Later, he also invited me to have a beer with him in town, but I had to decline due to another commitment. I always regretted that because he passed away shortly afterwards.”

Today, Carkeet teaches the same subjects as in his earlier years with field biology replacing biology. His students receive training to become park rangers, outdoor recreation technicians, forestry technicians, wilderness patrol rangers, and wildlife and fishery biology technicians, to name a few.

“It is very gratifying to see former students getting careers that they enjoy and running into them at work in national forests,” he said. “I cherish those lifelong friendships.”

**Candace Daly**, who holds a bachelor's degree in office management/business education and a master's degree in education—both from Humboldt State University, started her career at Columbia College in 1973 as an adjunct instructor. She attained full-time status as an office technology professor six years later.



Candace Daly

Over time, Daly has worked for the college in a wide range of roles. She has been the work experience program coordinator; Title 3 Grant administrator; coordinated the community education department; coordinated contract instruction with business, government agencies and employers; was dean of instructional services; and was the college coordinator of instruction and economic development. Along with those duties, she has continued as a classroom instructor.

Her community roles were as varied as her college work roles. Daly was a member of the Tuolumne General Hospital Foundation Board, served as the United Way president for the county,

and was very active in the California Business Educators Association (CBEA).

“My greatest joy is in watching students grow, gain excellent office skills, acquire basic self-esteem and ultimately, contribute to the workforce,” said Daly. She and her husband Pete, who also retired last year from the college as an instructor, will soon be moving to Franklin, Tennessee.



Patricia Harrelson

**Patricia Harrelson**, currently a Columbia College English professor and the Academic Achievement Center (AAC) coordinator, has been affiliated with the school for over 25 years. The AAC provides tutoring and assists students with study and critical thinking skills.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies from California State University, Stanislaus, Harrelson continued her education there and subsequently was awarded a K-12 teaching credential and master’s degree in speech pathology.

In fall 1982, she was hired at Columbia College as the learning disability specialist. During that time, Harrelson also served on the state chancellor’s task force, which developed the statewide learning disability eligibility model used today by all California community colleges to assess students.

Starting in 1990 and for the subsequent 11 years, Harrelson was the Learning Skills Center director at the college. In that role, she assisted in developing or coordinating learning support programs in supplemental instruction, adult literacy, GED preparation and adult education courses, service learning, ESL and citizenship courses, the College Reading Learning Association Certified Tutorial Program, and basic skills reading curriculum.

Her other accomplishments include creating the Columbia College Writing Center, being named Teacher of the Year by the college faculty in 2003, co-chairing the curriculum committee 1991-93, serving



**“The faces of incoming faculty are a sign of fresh, new and creative things to come.”**

—Patricia Harrelson

as academic senate president from 1993-95, and receiving an MFA degree in creative non-fiction and poetry from Antioch University in 2001. While on sabbatical leave in 2003, Harrelson completed a non-fiction manuscript titled “Between Two Women” and worked with vocational education faculty to address the basic skills needs of students.

**Larry Steuben**, who joined the faculty at Columbia College in 1976, is the third librarian in the school’s history. He previously worked as a librarian at Ohlone College in Fremont (1972-74); California State University, East Bay (1968-72); and UCLA (1967-68). He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from UC Santa Barbara and a master’s degree in library science from UCLA.



Larry Steuben

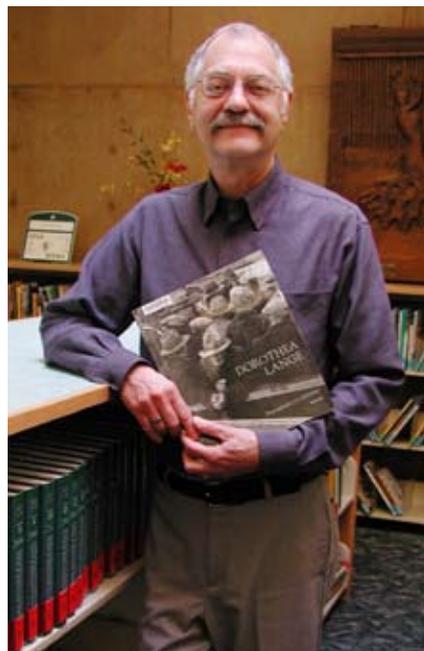
Before applying for employment at Columbia, Steuben and his wife Louise sold all their belongings and traveled for two years across Western Europe and Morocco in a Volkswagen bus. “We were living in the hippie era and had a great time going across Europe,” he said.

Columbia College in the ‘70s was also experiencing the hippie era and Steuben describes the students on campus as “earth children.” “Things were very informal, casual and relaxed in those days,” said Steuben. “And there were many fewer students in the ‘70s than there are now so we all knew each other.”

In comparing college today with college of the ‘70s, Steuben notes that changes have been for the better. “We have far better student programs to offer and students are more focused on their education,” he said.

During his 31 year career at Columbia, Steuben has been director of library services, dean of learning resources and college librarian. As such, he has supervised and directed all library, media, the Instructional Materials Center (IMC), and technology services. He was a member of the college president’s council for 16 years and is currently president of the Columbia College Academic Senate.

But Steuben’s greatest source of pride lies in the accomplishments of his children. Marieke, 28, is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound and has a master’s degree in literature and women’s studies from Oregon State. Anneliese, 23, has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington and



**“We have far better student programs to offer (than in the past) and students are more focused on their education.”**

—Larry Steuben

anticipates getting a master's degree in geography from the same institution this summer. Jeffrey, 22, is a junior at Humboldt State University, majoring in environmental studies with an emphasis in alternative energy systems.

**Ellen Stewart** came to Columbia College in spring 1971 to assist David Purdy with the college's first drama production. At the time, she was a recent San Francisco State University graduate with a B.A. in theatre arts. The play at Columbia was one that they adapted from a children's novel



Ellen Stewart

by Norton Juster—*The Phantom Tollbooth*. With only a minimal budget on hand, she recalls that the actors rehearsed at night with “stage lighting” from car headlights in an area where the campus tennis courts are now located. “It was a humble beginning, a very humble beginning,” said Stewart.

Yet from that simple and austere start, Stewart went on to earn a master's degree in speech/theatre arts from California State University, Fresno, which led to a colorful 34 year career as a theatre and speech instructor at the college. She directed and occasionally acted in numerous productions, including *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Our Town*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Hobbit*, *Oliver*, *Wizard of Oz*, *As You Like It*, *Hotel Paradiso*, *The Elephant Man*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*.

In addition, she was the co-founder/producer of Columbia Actors' Repertory, a semi-professional wing of the college drama department. During its 13 years at the Fallon House Theatre, 102 productions were performed. She was also co-founder/producer of Mountain Actors' Conservatory at the Holman Foundry Playhouse in Sonora from 1998 to 2001.

Stewart is credited with originating and conducting a popular short course in radio drama at the college that performed a live radio show on campus earlier

this spring. Over the years, she has directed a number of improvised shows throughout the area with her acting students. She currently creates and acts in murder mysteries on the Sierra Railroad for her company, Murder for Hire. ■



**“The most rewarding moment for me is seeing a student, who was previously incapable, speak confidently in front of an audience.”**

—Ellen Stewart

**New committee's momentum is**

# AWEsome

**T**he Academic Wellness Educators (AWE) steering committee originated in fall 2006 with a mission of promoting academic wellness in an ongoing climate of growth and improvement in the delivery of learning support services throughout the college community and for students at all levels of preparation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Dennis Gervin, the committee's role is to develop and implement plans that ensure student access and success with particular attention to connecting processes and activities to the Educational Master Plan and guiding the development of related Student Learning Outcomes.

The original AWE steering committee consisted of Casey Bonavia, Vonna Breeze-Martin, Meryl Brooks, Carolyn Buck, Anne Cavagnaro, Coni Chavez, Dave Chesnut, Melissa Colón, Mario Cordova, Doralyn Foletti, Marty Gang, Dennis Gervin, Otto Goode, Lanai Hallmeyer, Patricia Harrelson, Brian Jensen, John Leamy, Susan Medeiros, Gary Mendenhall, Shelley Muniz, Tom O'Neil, Kathy Schultz, Marnie Shively, Larry Steuben, Susan Vegter-Slape, Twyla Olsen, and Adrienne Webster.

From within the larger AWE steering committee, a subcommittee was established, consisting of Patricia Harrelson, Meryl Brooks, Anne Cavagnaro, Melissa Colon and Adrienne Webster. The subcommittee was assigned to review curriculum, create staff development plans, and collect information from model programs. As such, the group traveled to Pasadena City College in February to review their teaching and learning community programs. The subcommittee also visited Merced College in February and De Anza College in March. Meryl Brooks attended the Northern California Writing Conference on March 3 on the committee's behalf.

A new early alert system was also spearheaded by Susan Medeiros and plans are being made for an Academic Wellness Fair on August 23 during in-service day with a theme of “Connecting the Dots.” Two weeks before the fall semester begins, there will be an infusion of staff development activities, including the Academic Senate retreat, Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) training, technology training, adjunct faculty training, in-service and FLEX activities. An invitation to participate and the new AWE web page are coming soon. ■

# Newsbytes

Adjunct English professor **Craig Johnston** will present and chair a workshop on “Teaching Writing by Reading a Range of Genres within Nonfiction” at the CCCTE (Central California Council of Teachers of English) 57th Annual Asilomar Conference on September 28-30. He will be published this fall in the Arab-American Handbook by Cune Press and most importantly, Craig and his wife Sarah are expecting their first child in late May.



Craig Johnston

**Claim Jumper debaters** extended their string of successes by taking first place in the limited entry division of the California Community College Forensics Association State Championship Tournament in early March. The division is comprised of schools with small squads. Recognitions included Caitlin Ellis (silver medal, individual debate and bronze medal, team debate); Jordan Horn (bronze medal, team debate); Zack Macbeth (silver medal, individual debate); and Cody Cooper (bronze medal, individual debate).

In case you doubted whether you saw a British military officer last month in full dress regalia or not, you actually did! **Professor Peter Lee**, adjunct instructor of theology, philosophy and humanities, was preparing for his role in the American Civil War Association's battlefield reenactment on March 31 and April 1 at Knights Ferry. A native of England, Lee will portray Lt. Col. Arthur J.L. Fremantle of the British Coldstream Guards, who toured and recorded his memories of the campaigns at Vicksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg from April to July, 1863.



Lt. Col. Lee

Columbia College **Spring Review 2007** is now on sale in the Manzanita Bookstore for \$10 a copy. Edited by Meryl Brooks with design/production by Gail Segerstrom, the review is a cross-curriculum publication, welcoming creative efforts in ceramics, sculpture, drawing, photography, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. It's a treasured anthology of student work from all disciplines, a Columbia College keepsake for

years to come. All submissions for the next review are due by September 30; contact Meryl Brooks at ext. 5225 for details.

**The Columbia Wine Tasting** on April 22 from 1 to 4 pm at Columbia State Historic Park promises to be the best ever. With commitments of participation from 60 statewide wineries, it will feature the largest number of wine vendors in the event's 30-year history. Along with fine wines, hors d'oeuvres will be prepared and served by the college's culinary and pastry arts students, Montezuma Ranch Angus Beef, Diestel Turkey Ranch, Peter Rabbit's Chocolate Factory, and Seven Sisters Restaurant at Black Oak Casino, to name a few. Proceeds benefit the college hospitality management department and tickets are \$45 each. Reservations can be made through the Columbia College Foundation, 588-5115 and a telephone message line at 588-5089.



Columbia College's **38th Annual Commencement** will be held on Friday, April 27 at 6:30 pm in the Oak Pavilion and a reception for the graduates and their families will follow immediately after the ceremonies in Carkeet Park. Currently, 225 students are potentially eligible for graduation and among them, 32 with distinction, 30 with honors and 82 with certificates.

Scholarships totaling \$130,929 will be awarded to 86 students at Columbia College's **Annual Scholarships and Awards Celebration** on April 19 at 4 pm in the Dogwood Forum. Among the wide range of awards, faculty scholarships recognize the college's best students. Susannah M. Frantz received the top honor, followed by Edward J. Leers (second) and Lando S. Greene (third). ■

## Art students achieve honors at Ironstone competition

**Helen Scofield's** oil painting, titled “Spring,” was the winner of the Ironstone Vineyards 10th Annual Poster Competition in March. Her painting portrayed a colorful cluster of daffodils, inspired by thousands now in bloom along her driveway at her Calaveras County home. Her work will appear on the winery's Obsession label poster and as such, will be distributed in more than 45 countries worldwide.

Scofield's works have been exhibited in several professional art shows, including the Central California Art League, Haggin Museum, Mother Lode Art Association, Calaveras and Tuolumne County Fair art competitions,



Scofield and Rios at Ironstone Vineyards exhibit

and previous Ironstone spring displays. Scofield was a Columbia College art student of veteran professor Gereon Rios in Murphys. His other art students, who also were recognized at the Ironstone Vineyards competition, include Sally Nadler and Michael Severin.

**April Meetings**

**6 Friday**

**College Council**

Manzanita Conference Room  
Noon–5 pm

**Safety/Facilities Committee**

Manzanita Conference Room

**Safety** 9–10 am

**Facilities** 11 am–Noon

**11 Wednesday**

**YCCD Board of Trustees**

YCCD Board Room/ Modesto  
5:30 pm

**13 Friday**

**Academic Senate**

Cedar 1  
3 pm

**TBA**

**Classified Senate**

**4**

**Civic Engagement Film:** *My Country, My Country*  
Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm

**5**

**Jazz Singers Recital**

Dogwood Forum at 1 pm

**Columbia College Foundation Hall of Fame**

Manzanita Rotunda from 6-7:30 pm

**6**

**Civic Engagement Speaker:** *Orientation on Islam and the Contemporary Muslim World;*

Maha ElGenaldi

Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm

**11**

**Spring Sing Thing:** Delta College Choir and Columbia College Choir from 12pm–2pm in the Dogwood Forum

**Civic Engagement Film:** *Obsession and 30 Days*

Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm

**13**

**State of the College**—Hosted by College Council  
Cedar 1 from 11:30 am–12:30 pm

**Second Friday Musical Interlude**

Nate Frazier—Classical/Jazz Keyboard  
Library from Noon-1 pm

**Book Club Discussion**

*The Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo*  
Library from 4:30-5:30 pm

**YCCD Staff Recognition Dinner**

Almond Pavilion, Oakdale  
No host cocktails 6:30 pm; Dinner 7 pm, \$35/person  
Reservations, Tawny LaBarbera Ext. 6519

**Civic Engagement Speaker:** *Nuclear Proliferation in a High Technology World;* John Field, Ph.D.

Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm

**17-18**

**Faculty Retreat** at Baker Station  
K. Schultz, Ext. 5364

**18**

**Jazz Singers Concert**

The Old Stan/downtown Sonora at 7 pm

**Civic Engagement Film:** *With God on Our Side*

Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm

**19**

**Scholarships & Awards Celebration/Reception**

Dogwood Forum at 4 pm

**20**

**Faculty/Staff In-Service :** *Ritual in the Workplace... Classroom;* Malidoma Patrice Some, Ph.D.  
Com Ed Room from 2-4 pm

**Civic Engagement Speaker**

*The Fire Culture: Understanding and Healing America...and Ourselves*

Malidoma Patrice Some, Ph.D.

Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm

**21**

**All-Day Civic Engagement Workshop**

*Creating a New Sense of Home*

Malidoma Patrice Some, Ph.D.

Tamarack Hall/Library

10 am-5 pm; \$80/person; Jim Toner, Ext. 5226

**22**

**Columbia Wine Tasting** in Columbia State Historic Park, 1–4 pm; \$45/person; Reservations 588-5089

**25**

**Civic Engagement Film:** *Jesus Camp*

Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm

**26**

**Finale: A Concert of Student Performers**

Dogwood Forum at 6:30 pm

**27**

**College Employee Recognition Picnic**

Lakeside Patio at Noon

**38th Columbia College Commencement**

Oak Pavilion at 6:30 pm

**28**

**Columbia Jazz Series Finale**

Dogwood Forum at 8 pm; \$10/person 588-5211

**Retirement Party for Ross, Candace, Patricia, Ellen and Larry**

13004 Covey Circle/Sonora from 3–6 pm

**Columbia College InSite**

This President's Report 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.

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