

White, Mendonsa and Hamilton named to 2008 Hall of Fame

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The Columbia College Foundation will host its 18th Annual Hall of Fame on April 3 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm to introduce the newest recipients of the college's highest honor. **Geoffrey T. White** and **James R. Mendonsa** will be recognized as new members, along with Alumnus of the Year, **Ronald M. Hamilton**.

The Hall of Fame will be held in the Manzanita Rotunda. Hors d'oeuvres for the welcome reception will be prepared and served by the Columbia College culinary and pastry arts students.

Geoff White retired in January after working with Western Communications of Bend, Oregon for the past 20 years as the publisher of Sonora's Union Democrat from 1998 to 2008, and publisher of The Daily Triplicate in Crescent City, California for the ten years prior.

A graduate of the University of Iowa with degrees in journalism and urban geography/planning, White has always been a strong supporter of Columbia College and was a nine year member of the board of directors of the Columbia College Foundation. In 2003, he led the foundation as its president. In addition, he and his late wife, Vicki were familiar faces at countless college and foundation activities throughout the years.

White's other community memberships in Tuolumne County include the Sonora Sunrise Rotary, City Hotel Board of Directors, United Way of Tuolumne County Board of Directors, Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Tuolumne County Community Indicators Project 2005, as well as serving on its steering committee in 2008.



Geoff White

Jim Mendonsa, who taught search and rescue and speech courses at Columbia College from 1981 until his retirement in 2004, is a legend in his chosen professional field. Fondly referred to as the "godfather of search and rescue" by his peers, Mendonsa has first-hand working experience in the aftermath of the Loma Prieta

earthquake at the Oakland freeway collapse in 1989, the Oklahoma City bombing at the Murrah Federal Building in 1995, Northridge earthquake in 1995, the Sund-Pelosso search in the Long Barn area in 1999, and numerous wilderness search and rescue missions.

Mendonsa played a major role in developing national training courses for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and worldwide for the International Fire Service Training Association, or IFSTA.

His rescue courses were also adopted by the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) Fire and Rescue, as well as the California State Fire Training. The results have been safe and effective rescue operations during major emergencies, such as earthquakes, bombings, building collapses, and other catastrophes.

Mendonsa was named California Fire Instructor of the Year in 1988, the most highly recognized award in California fire service training. In addition, he received the Governor's Award for Valor in 1989 for his rescue actions during the Oakland freeway disaster.



Jim Mendonsa



Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

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Dr. Joan Smith

President's Note

April marks the beginning of the end—the *end of the spring semester!* With that excitement in the air, comes a plethora of spring activities. Calaveras Center Art Show and Reception on April 4... Columbia College Big Band meets Latin on April 5 ...last Cellar Bistro culinary dinners on April 8 and 9...Symphony of the Sierra performance on April 12... Civic Engagement presentations on Wednesday evenings through April 16 ... Scholarships and Awards Ceremony on April 17... and Community Chorus concerts on April 19 and 20... just to name a few of the many upcoming college activities.

That doesn't include the big Columbia College Foundation spring events: 18th Annual Hall of Fame on Thursday, April 3 at 6:00 pm in the Manzanita Rotunda, and the 32nd Annual Columbia Wine Tasting on Sunday, April 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Columbia State Historic Park.

The biggest event of spring, of course, is the Columbia College Commencement Ceremony on Friday, April 25 at 6:30 pm in the Oak Pavilion. The college will be awarding about 101 degrees and 61

certificates with ten percent of the graduates earning honors or distinctions. A reception will follow in Carkeet Park for the graduates of the class of 2008.

With that, we invite you to join in the many planned activities for the public this spring, hosted by Columbia College. Most are free and more details and contact information can be found in this month's *InSite*. Enjoy!

All my best,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

Hall of Fame *from page 1*

Ron Hamilton, who was selected as Alumnus of the Year, is a former radio marketing consultant for Clarke Broadcasting. He received an associate degree in liberal studies from Columbia College in 1990, followed by a bachelor's degree from CSU Stanislaus in organizational communications. While a student at Columbia College, he served two terms as student government president.



Ron Hamilton

Prior to working in radio, Hamilton was the human resources director of MACT Health, Inc. where he was responsible for 125 employees at behavioral health, medical, and dental clinics in four counties. He was employed before that as the gaming commissioner and educational director at the Chicken Ranch Indian gaming in Jamestown. Hamilton was also a sixth grade teacher and later, high school teacher at Calvary Temple Christian School.

A native of Tuolumne County, Hamilton has taken leadership roles in many local community activities. Among them are Tuolumne County 4-H Council president; Tuolumne 4-H Club, community service, and swine leader; Mother Lode Junior Livestock Auction committee vice president; and Summerville High School Agricultural Advisory Board. In 2007, he was the recipient of the California Community Service Award.

"I was floored when I heard the news about being selected and I am really, really honored," said Hamilton. "I attended Columbia College at a very important time in my life and have only great things to say about the school. It is small and personalized so that if you have any questions about the curriculum material, someone is there to help you. The same thing holds true if you need guidance help in selecting a career direction, or counseling advice to further your education."

Casual evening attire is suggested for the Hall of Fame. The public is invited and there is no charge to attend. However, due to limited seating, reservations are requested by March 31 through the president's office at 588.5115. ■

Columbia student selected as *Outstanding Young Californian* finalist

Local foothill residents know her familiar voice from her radio interviews as “Alisha Cruz on the street” for Clarke Broadcasting’s KKBN FM, KVML AM and KZSQ FM. But Columbia College student Alisha Cruz earned another distinction recently for being named as one of the ten finalists for the *Outstanding Young Californian* award.

Cruz, 20, is a communications major who is scheduled to graduate this spring from the college with an associate in arts degree. Her future plans include pursuing a bachelor’s degree in the same major with an emphasis in public relations at California State University, Stanislaus.

The statewide honor will be bestowed on her on April 5 at a formal evening awards banquet at the Universal Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. Each year, the *Outstanding Young Californian (OYC)* crystal trophy is given to individuals, who are between the ages of 18 to 40 and have made meaningful contributions to society or their community. There are hundreds of entries from across the state competing for the honor, which is sponsored by the California Jaycees Foundation and the California Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Cruz’s selection was based on her

volunteerism at homeless shelters through her church, Friday Night Live activities, Red Ribbon Week, and local CHP drinking and driving programs for students. In addition, her mentoring of other students with emotional and health difficulties played a major role.

“I was stunned to learn that I actually was one of the ten finalists,” said Cruz. “Since the announcement, I have been swamped with congratulations and well-wishes from so many people in the area. That just goes to show you what a close and great community we live in.”

Along with her part-time work in radio and full-time load as a college student, Cruz works for the Yes Partnership and is busy fund-raising for the Tuolumne County “Dancing with the Stars” program coming in August. Her mother, Suzanne Cruz is a security officer at the college and is also a part-time real estate agent with Century 21 Wildwood. ■



Alisha Cruz

YCCD board’s culinary surprise!



Seated from left: Diane Wirth, Dr. Joan Smith, Linda Flores, Anne DeMartini, Dr. Rich Rose, Abe Rojas, Dr. Roe Darnell, Paul Neumann, Pat Dean, Tom Hallinan, Gina Rose, and Teresa Scott. Standing from left: Gene Womble, Jason Romano, Peter Brown and Katrina Castillo.



Columbia College culinary students prepared a special culinary treat for the YCCD board prior to their March meeting at Columbia

EMPortant task nearly completed by Columbia

Over the past several months, the Columbia College community has been involved in one way or another with developing an EMP (Educational Master Plan). Committees have spent untold hours in contributing their efforts toward finalizing this planning document, which is an important consideration in the steps for accreditation.

The College Council, which is a governing body with representation from every shared governance group on campus, had the task of working with the college researcher in assembling and reviewing

the volume of required data. Council membership consists of the following:

- College president – Chairperson
- Four administrators – Leadership Team
- Four faculty – Academic Senate (3) and YFA (1)
- Four classified – Classified Senate (3) and CSEA (1)
- Four students – ASCC officers

As final approvals of the EMP are being considered, College Council members were asked about their views on the overall project.

“I am amazed at the efficiency of the college and council in developing this very comprehensive document within the short timeline. I truly believe that we will be able to implement this integrated plan when making future resource decisions.”

Gary Mendenhall

Leadership Team Member
(Photo not available)



“The hard work, dedication and commitment of the whole college community to the development and creation of the college’s planning process are evident in all the new planning documents that we now have, including the EMP.”

Nancy Bull

Classified Senate Representative

“I appreciated the opportunity to use my quantitative expertise in working on the graphical displays and formats in the statistical areas.”

Anne Cavagnaro

Academic Senate President-Elect



“College Council came together as a real team to sort out some complex misunderstandings of what an EMP was, and then created a plan that provides for funded growth. It was a lot of work done on a tight deadline, but the results will be more than worth the effort.”

David Chesnut

CSEA Representative



“It was gratifying for me to give direct input to our college researcher regarding the transfer center and college observatory for the EMP. Through College Council, I have gained a better understanding of the long-term planning process here.”

Jeff Fitzwater

Academic Senate
Member-at-Large



“I see the EMP as a driving force behind what we do as a college. It’s a compass that helps us find our way.”

Doralyn Foletti

Classified Senate Interim President

“The work was tedious, but it was a good step in the right direction. It (the EMP) is a strong, tangible example of progress as required by the accreditation standards.”

Sean Day

ASCC Vice President of Publicity





"The EMP is an exciting process to see unfold and develop. It ties all our planning together and gives us direction."

Dr. Dennis Gervin
Leadership Team Member

"I think developing an EMP is a crucial task for any organization and without it, they should not be operating. I feel fortunate to have been a part of the process and it will help me in my future career to see how an organization is set up."

Jayme Johnson
ASCC President



"The EMP is a critical document, an overall planning guide for the entire college. While other planning strategies contribute to the EMP, it is the primary reference resource for future decisions that affect all of us as an institution."

Doug Lau
Leadership Team Member



"Comprehending the EMP has been like seeing the picture of a great progressive puzzle being assembled with everyone having different information and interpretations to contribute toward change at Columbia. Making it all fit together was the challenge!"

Tom McDonnell
ASCC Vice President of Activities

"The Educational Master Plan is a road map that helps us understand the trends and needs of the community and the students that we serve."

Connie Mical
Leadership Team Member



"It has been an honor to assist in the process of drafting the first EMP for Columbia College. The experience has been a great learning opportunity for myself and the other students involved."

Reid Milburn
ASCC Vice President



"Developing and working with the EMP gives everyone the opportunity to envision the path that we will travel to optimize student success."

Kathy Schultz
Academic Senate President

"I am very proud of the efforts of our entire college in completing the EMP, especially College Council. From the very beginning, we worked together and not only understood the huge task at hand, but also embraced it wholeheartedly."

Dr. Joan Smith
College Council Chairperson



"The EMP is a process that assures the continual success of the college's funding, instruction and infrastructure on an equitable basis. I think it's an excellent tool for planning purposes and yes, I enjoyed working on it."

Gene Womble
YFA Representative

Over 200 high school students Occupational Olympics

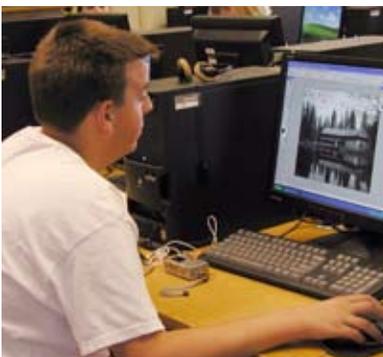


This year's Occupational Olympics drew more than 200 high school participants from Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties on March 6. Hosted on the Columbia College campus, the local schools included Sonora High, Summerville High, Bret Harte High, Don Pedro High, and Calaveras High.

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

Competitions in vocational education skills were held in:

- Automotive Technology
- Child Development
- Computer Business Applications
- Computer-assisted Drafting
- Digital Photography
- Food Services
- Floral Design
- Health Occupations
- Health Services
- Welding Technology



Don't miss Columbia Wine Tasting on April 20

Over three decades of success have contributed to the Columbia Wine Tasting and this year's is expected to be the best ever! More than 40 premium wineries from throughout the state will be present to provide sample tastes of their wares on Sunday, April 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Speaking of wares, numerous local food purveyors, including the college's culinary students, will be also on hand with delectable hors d'oeuvres for sampling. Guests can stroll throughout the restored gold mining town of Columbia State Historic Park and stop at convenient tasting stations located on the grounds.

Tickets for the Columbia Wine Tasting are \$45 each and are now available by calling 588.5089 (reservations message line), or go online



to gocolumbia.edu/foundation/Wine08. The event is a benefit for the Columbia College Culinary Program and is sponsored by the Columbia College Foundation. ■

Newsbytes

VITA provides **free tax preparation services** for the public through April 15 in the Manzanita Rotunda. Call Vickie Garrett at 588.5246 for details.



VITA volunteer Cathrina Jurek (left) assists Marge Perdue with tax preparation

Due to the strong response from February's **Mentoring Fair**, the Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency's (A-TCAA) Mentoring Works Program and Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC) are hosting another fair on April 4 from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm in Fir 2. Through the event, community members are being sought to provide supportive roles as mentors for children ages 4 to 17.

Over 70 people attended the Mountain Lion Foundation's Power Point presentation on **Living with Lions** on March 14 at Columbia College. Emily Cunnison of the foundation provided valuable information from studies on mountain lions. The presentation was augmented with



Emily Cunnison



Guy Van Cleave

displays of a mounted mountain lion and an African lion, part of the Osterberg collection, which was donated to Great Valley Museum. Guy Van Cleave, one of the museum curators and a Columbia biology professor, was instrumental in obtaining the lions.

Congratulations to **Dr. Kathryn Jeffery**, former Columbia College vice president of student services, named as Sacramento City College's new president.

Cass Larkin, Columbia's financial aid manager, retired last month after 15 years of service, packed up her belongings, and is moving to San Miguel de Allende in Central Mexico. The college community gave her a Mexican chip 'n dip celebration send-off, along with loads of best wishes for an exciting new life adventure.

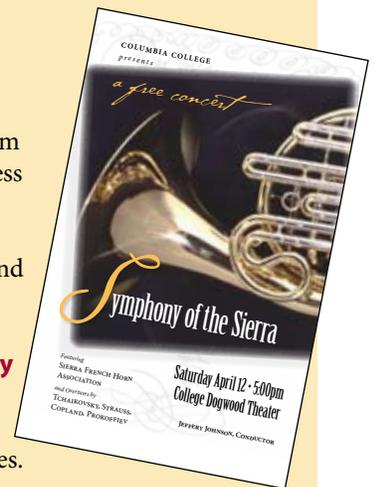


Speaking of Mexico, the financial aid staff—Michelle Vidaurri and Marnie Shively—are inviting everyone to the **Financial Aid Awareness Fiesta** on May 5 from noon until 2:00 pm at the Tamarack Hall lower patio. That's when students can get information on help with paying for college expenses and the event is free to the public. Using a Mexican *Cinco de Mayo* theme, there will be fiesta snacks, games, a piñata, prizes of backpacks and t-shirts, and other related activities. *Ole!*

Dr. Tim Elizondo and the **Columbia College debate team** have done it again! For the second year in a row, they brought back the gold in the team sweepstakes event for accumulating the most success as a squad at the 2008 California Community College Speech and Debate Championships in Concord last month. They are now preparing to send representatives to the national championships.

Under the direction of Jeff Johnson, the **Symphony of the Sierra** will provide a free performance on April 12 at 5:00 pm in the Dogwood Forum. The musicians will play a number of renowned overtures.

Student email is coming this fall. That's right... Columbia College students will receive five GB of mailbox storage by just registering online for it. Watch for future announcements and more details.



Just 3/8" from almost losing a whopping \$15,000!



Everybody gets ‘em at home. You know, the colorful printed mailers that try to lure you into their store or restaurant with free merchandise or discount coupons.

In February, Sierra Motors had a promotion to give away a 2008 Chevy Cobalt, or \$15,000 cash. But you had to go into their dealership and see if the metal key, which was affixed to the mailer, would unlock their box. If the lock opened, the prize was yours.

Merlin Bart, a veteran automotive technology instructor at the college, took one look at the “junk mail” and decided to get rid of it. After all, what were his chances of winning? After inserting the mailer into a shredder, he saw the key and quickly stopped the machine so that it wouldn’t jam. It was close—exactly 3/8” close—by his estimation. Haphazardly, he tucked it into his shirt pocket.

A few days later, Bart was driving by Jamestown and wrestled with the decision on whether to stop at the dealership or not. Yes? No? Yes? No? Yes won and he walked into the showroom to try his luck. To his amazement, the key opened the box and after a great deal of hoopla, the manager offered him the car.

Being a pickup truck aficionado, Bart chose the money instead and several days later, had his photo taken with an oversized check for \$15,000. He still wouldn’t believe that he actually won until the check from General Motors arrived for a whopping \$15,000!

What does he plan to do with his winnings? He’s visiting a friend in New Zealand this summer, for starters. ■

Appreciation buffet for facilities and security staff



In appreciation for their dedication and service to the college during the potentially-hazardous winter months, the college facilities and security staff were given an appreciation buffet lunch on March 5

Student Success Report

The road to becoming a teacher has been a long and winding route for Michelle Carlson. But she is on schedule to receive a multiple subject teaching credential this December, and a brief look at her life will reveal that the qualities required for teaching were there all along.

Born in Sonora, Carlson moved to Idaho where she graduated from high school. She returned to Sonora in 1986, got married, and had two young daughters before her early divorce. In fall 2002, she enrolled in classes at Columbia College as a re-entry student and a single parent of Michelle (13) and Angel (11).

"I didn't know how to even turn on a computer at that point and I realized quickly that I had a lot of basics to cover before I could pursue a college education," said Carlson. "My girls watched me do a lot of crying out of frustration. I think it was good for them to realize that their mother did not always have all the answers to problems."

Carlson spent many hours in the college's Academic Achievement Center (AAC) learning how to use a computer and developing critical thinking skills. "Tutors, counselors and EOPS staff helped so much in building up my self-confidence," she said. "I was so unsure of myself!"

Today, Carlson attributes Columbia College's small-size classes and attentive professors for her success. "In particular, Patricia Harrelson encouraged me every step of the way, and Ted Hamilton gave me a different perspective on life. By introducing the 'J-shaped curve theory,' Hamilton helped me see that I was at the beginning stages of learning and being at the bottom of the 'J,' I was understandably frustrated. But like the incline in the letter 'J,' my learning would climb up if I stuck with it," Carlson said.

Michelle Carlson was on the Dean's List in 2004 at Columbia and earned an A.A. degree in liberal studies with distinction in 2005. While

here, she was an AAC peer tutor, a member of the Student California Teachers Association, earned a College Reading and Learning Association Certificate, and was awarded a scholarship from the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter TP.

She received a bachelor's degree in social sciences last June from CSU Stanislaus with majors in history, political science and geography. She also is the recipient of the prestigious Mary Stuart Rogers Scholarship, and was an America Reads tutor in Turlock.

Carlson is currently employed in Sonora as a case manager at Kings View Behavioral Health and volunteers as a mentor advisor with Friday Night Live youth activities at Summerville and Cassina High Schools. Educationally, she has been working since last fall on a credential through the

CalState TEACH Program and is in the process of doing her student teaching locally.

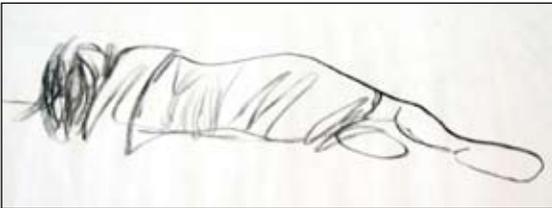
Carlson's goal is to eventually teach and motivate troubled teens. Throughout her life, the direction toward a career in teaching was always there. She acquired important skills through single parenting, tutoring, mentoring, student teaching, and working with severely emotionally disabled children, teens and young adults. Juggling that with her personal development and rigors of a college education was a challenge, indeed. ■



Michelle Carlson

"I didn't know how to even turn on a computer at that point and I realized quickly that I had a lot of basics to cover before I could pursue a college education..."

Calaveras Center Art Show and Reception on April 4



The works of Columbia College art students will be featured at the college's Calaveras Center Art Show and Reception on Friday, April 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The public is invited to attend the free event, which will be held at the center at 2892 Highway 49, Suite 4 in Angels Camp. Entertainment will be provided by guest guitarist Keith Evans, and refreshments will be prepared by the college's culinary and pastry arts students.

Following the reception, the art will be on display at the center through April 26. The art students are currently enrolled in Lori Hanson's classes in beginning and intermediate watercolor, and beginning drawing.

For more information on the art show and reception, contact the Calaveras Center office at 736.5940. ■



Applying the *Jaws of Life*



Columbia College Fire Academy held a two-day training in March on rescuing victims trapped in vehicles. Students used hydraulic tools, as well as muscle and manual tools. Five practice vehicles were donated by Ahearn's Towing of Sonora. Academy Director Joe Doherty was assisted by training officers from Cal Fire and the Tuolumne County Fire Department.

Carving out a cool career in culinary arts



Culinary students observed Charles Chinn (above) and Ed Wickman (top right) demonstrating ice sculpting during their *garde mance* class on March 3. Both are top chefs at the Seven Sisters Restaurant at Black Oak Casino. Student Devin Strehl (bottom right) adds details to ice sculpture of vase.

Conference shows businesses how to “Survive and Thrive”

The Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce, Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce, Mother Lode Job Training, Mother Lode Workforce Investment Board, and Columbia College are teaming up to help local businesses survive in the current economy.

About 120 participants, 20 presenters and 20 vendors will take part in the Mother Lode Business Services Summit 2008 on Tuesday, April 29 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on the Columbia College campus. Registration and continental breakfast are at 7:30 am. Theme for the daylong event is “Survive and Thrive.” Activities will consist of workshops,

keynote speakers, exhibits and networking. The program is intended to provide practical information and how-to training by experienced business leaders.

Workshops will cover topics, such as human resources, finance and cash flow, marketing, and regulatory compliance.

Fees until April 15 for chamber members are \$35 per person and \$25 for each additional person in the member’s workplace. Non-chamber members will be charged \$40 per person and \$30 for each additional person. After April 15, all fees increase by \$10. For inquiries, contact the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce at 532.4212. ■

Campus Calendar / April 2008

April Meetings

2 Wednesday
Leadership Team
Manzanita Conference Room
9:30 am

4 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

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

11 Friday
Academic Senate
Cedar 1
1:30 pm

25 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.

Dr. Joan Smith
Columbia College President

Coni Chavez
Administrative Assistant to the President

Doug Lau
Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Gail Segerstrom
IMC Coordinator/Designer

Cari Craven
IMC/Mailroom Secretary

Jess Pearson
IMC Reprographics Operator

Marketing & Public Relations
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2
Civic Engagement Free Film Series
Advertising & the End of the World
Dogwood Forum at 7:00 pm

3
CSU Stanislaus Educational Doctorate Program Info
Aspen 1
4:30 – 5:30 pm

Hall of Fame
Manzanita Rotunda
6:00 -7:30 pm

4
A-TCAA/ASCC Mentoring Fair
Fir 2
10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Book Club
The Moviegoer
Library at 4:30 pm

Calaveras Center Art Show & Reception
Angels Camp 5:00 – 7:00 pm

5
Columbia College Jazz Series Big Band Meets Latin
Dogwood Forum at 7:30 pm
Tickets \$12 / Info 588.5211

8-9
Last Culinary Dinners for Semester
Cellar Bistro 5:00 – 7:00 pm

9
Civic Engagement Presentation
TBA - See website or 588.5107
Dogwood Forum at 7:00 pm

12
Symphony of the Sierra
Dogwood Forum at 5:00 pm
Free Performance

16
Civic Engagement Presentation
AIDS & Sexual Awareness
Dogwood Forum at 7:00 pm

17
Scholarships & Awards Celebration & Reception
Dogwood Forum 4:00 pm

19
Columbia College Community Chorus
Spring Concert
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
7:30 pm

20
Columbia Wine Tasting
Columbia State Historic Park
1:00 to 4:00 pm
Tickets: 588.5089

Columbia College Community Chorus
Spring Concert
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
3:00 pm

25
Columbia College Commencement
Oak Pavilion/Carkeet Park
6:30 pm

29
Mother Lode Business Services Summit
Various locations throughout campus
9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Columbia College's 39th Commencement Ceremony

Friday, April 25, 2008

Oak Pavilion

6:30 pm

Reception follows immediately at Carkeet Park for graduates, their family and guests.

