

Columbia College class of 2008 graduates 192

Yosemite Community College District

Roe Darnell, Ed.D.
Chancellor

YCCD Board of Trustees

Abe Rojas
Chairperson

Paul Neumann
Vice Chairperson

Desirree Abshire
Pat Dean

Anne DeMartini

Linda Flores

Tom Hallinan

Elbert James
Student Trustee



Dr. Tim Elizondo banters with graduation speakers Katie Smith and Kathleen Kelly (at right) before ceremony

Columbia College's class of 2008 consisted of 192 graduates and the college's 39th Commencement was held on April 25 in the Oak Pavilion. A reception followed immediately after the ceremony in Carkeet Park.

Among the graduating class, 140 associate in arts degrees were earned, 67 associate in science degrees, 12 associate in science (occupational education) degrees, and 110 certificates of achievement. A total of 22 graduated with distinction (cumulative grade point averages of 3.75 or better) and 10 with honors (between 3.5 and 3.74 grade point averages).



Jayme Johnson

Doralyn Foletti, serving as interim president of the classified senate and Kathy Schultz, president of the academic senate, conveyed the college's welcome.



From left: Scott, Mical, Gervin, Flores, Smith and Dean



Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

11600 Columbia College Dr.
Sonora CA 95370
209.588.5115
www.gocolumbia.edu



Dr. Joan Smith

President's Note

Ask any educator about commencement ceremonies and you'll get a similar answer. Graduation marks the successful completion of an institutional course of study. It is a benchmark in a student's life that closes one chapter and begins another.

As we close the chapter on the Columbia College 39th Commencement, our best wishes and hopes go out to our graduates as they pursue advanced degrees at four-year universities or seek occupations in the workplace. May you achieve your lifelong dreams and remember Columbia College as a special place of learning. We've enjoyed having you here as part of our campus life.

We invite our continuing students to make the most of this summer by taking college classes during our three convenient sessions. Summer's a great time to catch up on a difficult course that may need more study time. Ambitious, new college students can also take summer classes to get a jump start on their education. Overall, summer is a good time to just learn something new!

For those of us who work at Columbia College, this has been a very productive year. In

compliance with the accreditation process, we developed an EMP (educational master plan) as our educational driver. We've also been busy with a distance education plan, IT plan, program review and student learning outcomes process.

This summer will mark the ground breaking of several new campus construction projects, thanks to Measure E funding: public safety center, child development center, and the Madrone Building expansion. This will be followed by the new Science and Natural Resources Building, which is still in the review stage.

As you can see, it has been a busy and fruitful year! Enjoy your summer and return in the fall—*refreshed and ready to go.*

All my best,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

Businesses given ideas on surviving a tough economy



Media panelists from left: Ed Haley (Clarke Broadcasting), Laura Bowly (Bowly Web Design), Rick Rider (Calaveras Enterprise), Michael Purcell (Calaveras Chamber), Gary Piech (The Union Democrat), and Darren Richmond (Yellow Book US)



Ida Ponder (l. to r.), Sue Clark and Kathryn Eustis



Alicia Wuebber (left) and Jan Hiebert

A collaboration of the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce, Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce, Mother Lode Job Training, Mother Lode Workforce Investment Board, and Columbia College hosted the Mother Lode Business Services Summit 2008 on April 29 at the college campus. Theme for the daylong event was "Survive and Thrive."

The conference provided valuable tips, practical information and how-to training for local businesses in surviving the current economy. Activities consisted of workshops, keynote speakers, exhibits and networking. ■

Class of 2008 from page 1

The student graduation address was delivered by Kathleen Kelly and the concluding student farewell by Katie Lynne Smith. The national anthem was sung by Da'Nesha Cook.

YCCD Board Trustees Pat Dean and Linda Flores were in attendance, along with Teresa Scott, executive vice chancellor of the Yosemite Community College District.

Dr. Joan Smith, Columbia College president introduced members of the class of 2008. Diplomas and certificates were distributed by trustees Dean and Flores. Other stage guests were Dr. Dennis Gervin, the college's vice president for student learning and Connie Mical, chief operations officer. The processional was led by Gary Mendenhall, dean of instructional services, vocational education and Michael Torok, interim dean of instructional services, arts and sciences. The Columbia College Big Band, under the direction of Dr. Rod Harris, provided musical selections for the graduation.

"Kudos go out to the staff, who volunteered their time to have a smooth, well-run ceremony," said Doralyn Foletti, graduation coordinator. Foletti is also the college's program representative for outreach and student development. ■



Students awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships



Singer Da'Nesha Cook



Trustee Pat Dean



Student poet Kim Pippa



Susannah Mae Frantz

At Columbia College's Annual Scholarships and Awards Celebration on April 17 in the Dogwood Forum, 79 students received well over \$100,000 in scholarships—\$111,769 to be exact.

The total amount represented community scholarships, private donor scholarships, and Columbia College Foundation hospitality management scholarships.

Agnieszka "Sigil" Smelkowska-Blackwolf received the college faculty's top scholarship of \$3,500. Her name will also be engraved on a special plaque, which will be displayed in the rotunda of the Manzanita Building.

A panel of college faculty, co-chaired by Dr. Michael Hill and Vonna Breeze-Martin, conducted the selection process. Criteria for judging was based on grade point averages, units completed, caliber of courses, written biographies, oral presentations and extracurricular activities.

Smelkowska-Blackwolf, a 4.0 GPA student, is pursuing an A.A. degree in history from Columbia College. Her plans are to transfer to UC Berkeley for bachelor's degrees in history and education with a future goal of becoming a college professor.

Susannah Mae Frantz was named the second place winner and received a \$2,500 award. With a cumulative 4.0 grade point average, she is

finishing her transfer requirements with an A.S. degree in environmental science and a certificate of achievement in geographic information systems. In the fall, Frantz will be transferring to CSU Stanislaus to seek a B.A. in geography with a minor in natural resource planning.

Kathleen Kelly received the third faculty scholarship, which carries with it an award of \$1,500. Majoring in communications with a 3.94 GPA at Columbia, she intends to transfer



Agnieszka Smelkowska-Blackwolf



Kathleen Kelly

to Sacramento State University for a bachelor's degree in the same major.

The six faculty scholarship finalists, who were awarded \$500 each, were Cody Baker, Heather Ballard, Dan DeMattei, Lando Greene, Christine Hedge and Jessica Ocock. ■

CBOC tour of Measure E project sites



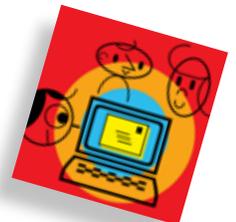
In April, members of the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) visited sites for Columbia College's new buildings, funded through Measure E. Boarding the campus shuttle from left: Dr. Roe Darnell, Duke York, Teresa Scott, Donald Bunce, Connie Mical, Terry Plett, James West, Betty Ann Prescott, and Jayme Johnson.

Emailmania strikes at Columbia

Starting this fall, students at both Columbia College and MJC will get five gigabits of email storage—*free*. All that's required for students is to register for it. A high level of privacy, email security and one-click control over spam and scam email are part of the program.

With a college student email account, students will receive all college communications like:

- Registration dates
- Latest financial aid information
- Student adds or drops
- Winter campus closures
- Class day cancellations
- Plus communicate with instructors, classmates and friends.



Online instructions are at www.gocolumbia.edu/studentemail. A hard-copy brochure with the same information will be available in June or earlier in the admissions and records office. ■

Calaveras Art Show & Reception

The works of Columbia College art students were exhibited at the Calaveras Center Art Show and Reception last month. The students were enrolled in Lori Hanson's classes in beginning and intermediate watercolor, and beginning drawing at the center.

Hanson, a local Calaveras County artist, holds a masters degree from the San Francisco Art Institute and apprenticed in Massachusetts under the renowned American portrait artist, Gregory Gillespie. The SFMOMA Artist Gallery at Ft. Mason in San Francisco currently handles her work. Hanson's paintings can be found in collections across the country. ■



Kim Manuel



Susan (left) and Rachel Clements



From left: Robert Gritz, Trudy Lackey, Jeri Perez and Lori Hanson



Pat Dean (l. to r.), Jan Jorn and Trudy Lackey

Three newcomers join Hall of Fame



Jim Mendonsa addresses Hall of Fame audience

The 18th Annual Hall of Fame on April 3 inducted three new members: Geoffrey T. White, retired publisher of *The Union Democrat*; James R. Mendonsa, retired search and rescue, and speech instructor at Columbia College; and Ronald M. Hamilton, former Clarke Broadcasting radio marketing consultant. ■



Geoff White (clockwise from back left) with Rich (brother), Ruby (mother) and Cindi Garrett (daughter)



Hamilton family (clockwise from back right): Ron, Faith, Danny, Emily and Krishna



Columbia Presidents Dr. Joan Smith (current) and Dr. Dusty Rhodes (founding)

Newsbytes

April Walker, an adjunct H-HP instructor at both Columbia College and Modesto Junior College, was recognized on April 8 for her role in making a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities by the MJC college community.



April Walker

Coach Nate Rien and Columbia men's basketball hosted another very successful Madness in the Mother Lode All-Star Extravaganza last month, featuring the top valley and foothill basketball stars. This summer, watch for the **6th Annual Basketball Academy** for boys and girls in grades 3 through 12. The summer camp will be held on July 7-10 in the Oak Pavilion and the cost is \$75 to participate. Coach Rien can be reached at 588-5182.

For volleyball enthusiasts of all ages, **outdoor grass volleyball** will be played on Monday evenings from 6:00 pm until dark at Symons Field from June 16 through August 4. Registration fee is \$30 each (non-refundable). For more information, call the athletic office at 588-5180.

Summer is also the time for **Claim Jumper Volleyball Clinics** in the Oak Pavilion: Bantam (incoming 4th to 6th grade) on July 14-17, cost is \$50 (non-refundable)...

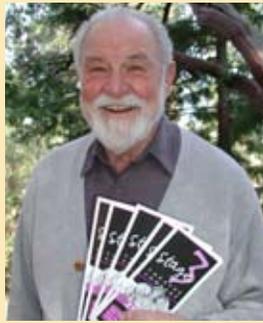


Coach Raelene Juarez

Intermediate (incoming 7th and 8th grade) on July 21-24, cost is \$100 (non-refundable)...and Advanced (incoming 9th to 12th grade) on July 28-31, cost is \$100 (non-refundable). Coach **Raelene Juarez**, her staff and players will conduct the clinics. Registration information is available at 588-5180.

Colin Taylor, a Columbia College student, was recently awarded a \$400 scholarship by the California Mathematics Council for Community Colleges.

Ray Liedlich, professor of English, speech and humanities, was recently elected Stage 3's chairman of the board for a three year term.



Ray Liedlich

The Academic Achievement Center

hosted an AAC potluck on April 10 to congratulate their graduating tutors, plus thank all their tutors and Supplemental Instruction (SI) leaders. Graduating this spring will be Lara Ford, Lando Greene, Katie Kelly, Sandra Price and Robert Zellers.



AAC tutors and SI leaders celebrate at potluck

Fire Academy students are required by a state fire training requirement to receive some classroom-based training that relates to public education activities. One of the four high risk groups is children under the age of 6, and the academy students had an opportunity to deliver a fire-safe message to children in the child development lab and their parents last month.



Preschooler Alissa De Anda and Nick Anderson of the college fire department

English Professor **Rick Rivera** gave presentations in April at Merced College. One was on student success in college, based on his experiences as a failing student and subsequent recovery. Another focused on creative writing. On May 8, he will be the keynote speaker at an English Language Learners Conference, hosted at Santa Rosa Junior College's Petaluma campus.



Rick Rivera

Mike Duffet, an adjunct instructor of English and humanities, is penning and reciting an original poem as a symphonic accompaniment to Prokofiev's "Lieutenant Kije" at a Stockton Symphony performance next season. Duffet's work will involve him wearing five different hats: a baby's bonnet, schoolboy cap, military shako, fur hat for a sleigh ride, and top hat with a long mourning band.

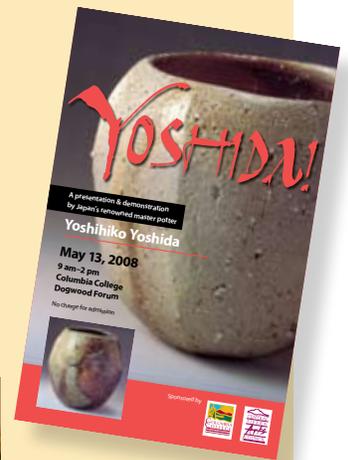
As part of his West Coast tour, **Yoshihiko Yoshida** will present a slide show and potter's wheel demonstration at Columbia College on May 13 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Dogwood Forum. Yoshida is a master potter from Tokyo, whose works have been touted in the Japanese press. The public is invited and there is no charge to attend.



ASCC Senator Sarah Olson was among many at the college, who donated blood to the Delta Blood Drive on March 31

Eighteen fire technology students graduated from the **Columbia College Fire Academy** on April 21. Certificates were awarded, based on completion of the required academic and manipulative training for certification as a California Firefighter I.

Columbia debate teams replaced some of the gold in the Mother Lode last month by winning their championship rounds at the 2008 Phi Rho Pi National Championships at St. Charles, Illinois. Two-person teams of Trevor Wittke-Zach Macbeth and Cody Cooper-Taureanna Shimp captured enough points to successfully defend their gold medal sweepstakes title that they earned at last year's tournament. ■



End-of-school year marked by campus festivity



Congratulations to this year's award winners!

Teacher and Faculty of the Year: Melissa Colon

Outgoing Academic Senate President: Kathy Schultz

Outgoing Classified Senate President: Doralyn Foletti

Classified Employee of the Year: Linda Cross

Community Service Award: Ida Ponder

Leadership Person of the Year: Jon Sterling

Central Services Person of the Year: Deborah Campbell



President's Award: Members of College Council—Nancy Bull, Anne Cavagnaro, David Chesnut, Sean Day, Jeff Fitzwater, Doralyn Foletti, Dr. Dennis Gervin, Jayme Johnson, Doug Lau, Tom McDonnell, Gary Mendenhall, Connie Mical, Reid Milburn, Kathy Schultz, Dr. Joan Smith, and Gene Womble

Recognition for Interim Service: Brian DeMoss, Tom Hofstra and Mike Torok



Education Achievement Awards: Angela Brunton and Michelle Vidaurri

New Tenured Faculty: Anne Cavagnaro and Jeff Fitzwater

YCCD Board Trustees attending: Pat Dean and Linda Flores

Special District Guests: Dr. Roe Darnell, Teresa Scott, Deborah Campbell, Tim Nesmith and Judy Lanchester



Student Success Report

This month's Student Success Report features three Columbia College graduates, who will be receiving master's degrees in mathematics this spring.

Benjamin V. Holt

Hometown: Sonora/
Twain Harte

Associate Degrees:
Columbia College,
1999—Language arts
and mathematics

Bachelor's Degree:
Humboldt State
University, 2002
Mathematics



Master's Degree: Humboldt State University,
2008—Mathematical modeling; environmental
systems

Commentary: Columbia College gave me an extraordinary solid foundation in mathematics and physics. I credit much of my success in these areas in both my undergraduate and graduate studies to this. Additionally, Columbia College gave me exposure to a broad range of human experience, which helped me nurture an appreciation for all disciplines and how they are related to one another.

Lahna Von Epps

Hometown: Sonora

Associate Degrees: Columbia College, 2001
Mathematics and liberal studies

Bachelor's Degree:
Cal Poly, San Luis
Obispo, 2005
Mathematics



Master's Degree:
University of Montana,
Missoula, 2008
Mathematics

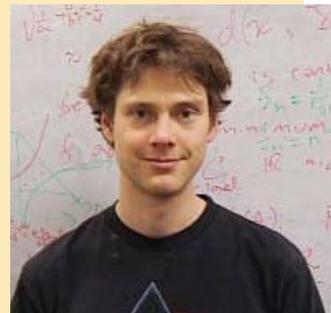
Commentary: The best part about going to Columbia College was working in the math tutoring center. That experience helped me figure out what I wanted to do with the rest of my life... teach math! I also enjoyed taking a variety of courses, even though they weren't in my major and feel that I got a well rounded education there. I loved taking classes from Ted Hamilton, who prepared me for really hard college courses. Maryl Landess was one of the best math teachers that I've ever had, and I model my teaching style after hers in many ways. Jim Toner was an amazing English teacher. Going to Columbia College was the best decision for me.

Michael Sweeley

Hometown: Sonora

Associate Degree:
Transferred from
Columbia
College, 2000
Mathematics

Bachelor's Degree:
UC Santa Cruz, 2002
Mathematics



Master's Degree:
Montana State University, Bozeman, 2008
Mathematics

Commentary: I've always looked back on Columbia College as one of my best educational experiences. Columbia's learning environment has always been a model of what education should be. The classes were small and taught by instructors, who loved their academic disciplines and taught well. Coming out of high school, Columbia allowed me to focus on my studies rather than adjust to a new area, suffer from dorm life, and get lost on a huge campus. ■

Physics students speak at space science conference



Wim Laws (foreground) and Matt Castleberry in the college observatory

Two Columbia College students submitted abstracts for a space science conference at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View and were selected as guest speakers. Matt Castleberry and Wim Laws spoke in April at the “Education for the Future” session of the CONTACT Conference.

Castleberry’s topic was “Why starships won’t use rocket propulsion” and Laws presented his ideas on “Artificial gravity during starship voyages.” Both developed colorful and striking sequences of graphics to illustrate their points to an audience of NASA specialists, planetologists, astrosociologists, anthropologists, artists and musicians.

“The conference was amazing,” said Castleberry. “It was great to interact with people,

who are involved with the space program. The majority of the group was older and I think that they were pleased to have younger students express a deep interest in their field.”

Laws agreed by saying, “The conference was real spectacular. Everyone was welcoming, encouraging, and interested in hearing what we had to say. It was stimulating to speak to scientists of their caliber.”

The students were enrolled this past semester in Dennis Albers’ new physics class on *Conceptual Physical Science: An Interstellar Voyage*. Castleberry is an anthropology major at Columbia College and Laws will be transferring to the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo. ■

Columbia Wine Tasting draws 517 guests

Photos by Nick Teshin



The 32nd Annual Columbia Wine Tasting attracted over 500 guests to Columbia State Historic Park for a delightful afternoon of wine, food and fun. Sponsored by the Columbia College Foundation, the proceeds will be used to support students in the culinary program through scholarships, equipment purchases and other department necessities. ■



Laptop is generous gift from community member

Judy Reiman gave an assignment to her business communications students to write a “real life” letter to a manufacturer to request some form of assistance with a worn product of theirs. Michelle Baird, who is working on a certificate as a computer support technician in Reiman’s class, is a re-entry student with three children—and owner of an old Hewlett-Packard laptop. The computer keys pop off, the spacebar is missing, and the cracked monitor has black spots in areas. Currently unemployed, Baird does not have the funds to replace the laptop, which is critical for her learning.

Although Baird’s hopes for replacement parts from HP were slim, she mailed the letter anyway. HP responded by telling her that the computer is seriously outdated, but offered her \$50 off toward the purchase of a new model.

During a later business meeting, Baird’s plight was communicated by Reiman to Ron Roberts of



Michelle Baird receives new laptop from Ron Roberts

Roberts Retirement. He took it to heart to help someone in need and bought a new laptop for Baird. Thus, there was a happy ending after all, thanks to the caring and kindness of someone in our close foothill community. ■

Financial Aid Awareness Fiesta on *Cinco de Mayo*



Taco bar customers

The public was invited to a Financial Aid Awareness Fiesta with a *Cinco de Mayo* theme at the Tamarack Hall lower patio on May 5 of course! That’s when students got information on help with paying for college expenses. Financial aid staff members distributed application forms, assisted with completing the forms, answered any questions, and offered tips on how to avoid processing delays.

In addition, the event included a taco bar, games, a piñata, prizes of backpacks and T-shirts, and other festivities. There were opportunities to win vouchers for textbooks, convenience cards and other supplies from the Manzanita Bookstore, as well as gift cards for the Cellar Restaurant. ■



Angel Melendrez (left) and Marie Bareilles



Fiesta crowd



L to r: Marnie Shively, Bridgette Clements, Michelle Vidaurri

May Meetings

7 Wednesday

Leadership Team
Com Ed Room
9:30 am

14 Wednesday

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

College Council
None in May

Safety/Facilities Committee
None in May

Academic Senate
None in May

Classified Senate
None in May

Campus Calendar / May 2008

5

Summer Classes Begin

Session 1: May 5 - June 5
Session 2: June 9 - July 10
Session 3: July 14 - August 15

Financial Aid Awareness Fiesta

Tamarack Hall, Lower patio
Noon - 2:00 pm

13

Yoshihiko Yoshida

Slide show and demonstration
by Japanese master potter
Dogwood 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

26

Memorial Day Holiday

And don't miss...

- 6/16-8/4** Outdoor Grass Volleyball Program
- 7/7-10** 6th Annual Basketball Academy
- 7/14-17** Claim Jumper Volleyball Clinics/
Bantam level
- 7/21-24** Claim Jumper Volleyball Clinics/
Intermediate level
- 7/28-31** Claim Jumper Volleyball Clinics/
Advanced level
- 8/9** X-Reg
- 9/26** YFA/YCCD Annual Fall Retreat

Columbia College's **40th Anniversary** activities are being planned and will begin this fall. Watch for them!

**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
209.588.5361
Email laud@yosemite.edu

X-Reg returns in August

An anyone who participated in last year's Xtreme registration will tell you that it's the way to go! This year's X-Reg will be held on Saturday, August 9 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

X-Reg is an opportunity for new incoming students to do everything they need to do on one day for registering. That's assessment, orientation, advisement, registration for classes, financial aid, and special program services. Plus, students can pay for fees, get a student ID card, buy books, get a parking permit, and learn how to activate their student email accounts. ■

New Faces on Campus



Cathy Brown
DSPS/EOPS Support Staff



Kathy Lea
Groundskeeper

Dr. Elizondo named NCFA Director of the Year

Dr. Tim Elizondo, Columbia College's forensics advisor and speech faculty member since 2005, was named the Northern California Forensics Association's Director of the Year. He was state champion in forensics in 1994 while attending MJC where he received an A.A. degree in liberal studies. His other degrees include a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's in rhetoric, both from Arizona State University. He completed a doctorate in American cultural studies from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. ■



Dr. Tim Elizondo

InSite will not publish in June and July. The next issue will be in August. Have a great summer!