

Columbia College welcomes students for fall semester

Yosemite Community College District

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School student, said, "School here is great! Education is important to me personally and I have high hopes for achieving goals and college is the only way I can pursue them." He added, "The college has good qualities and good staff."

Marina Cooper of Sonora, who is enrolled in office technology courses, said, "So far, so good. This is my first year at the college and I am happy about it."

Kyle Carrera of Soulsbyville is also a first year student with a goal of becoming an EMT/firefighter. According to Carrera, "I like college a lot better than high school because I can do my own thing. I have the freedom to study when I want to and during my two hour breaks between classes, for instance, I can go to the library to do homework. If I need help with lessons, I can get help (easily) from the professors." ■



For students, Columbia College's fall semester was the topic of hot discussions as temperatures climbed into the low 100s during the first week, which started on August 27.

This, however, did not manage to lessen the enthusiasm for college learning and acquiring new information and skills. Andi Kinyon of Murphys, a first year student and music major, is excited about attending Columbia College. "It feels like I am just starting my life and finally doing something I like—with music. I want to jump right ahead, take tests, go on trips with the choir, and do everything," she said.

Ryan Hicks Johnson of San Andreas, who is attending Columbia as a Mountain Oaks Charter



Joan Smith, Ed.D.
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President's Note



Dr. Joan Smith

After having some time off for summer, there's always a great deal of excitement in fall for educators. Fresh new student faces and an infusion of collective enthusiasm for learning are contagious and this is transferred throughout our educational environment. I'm sure that those of us, who have been teaching for awhile, will agree that the start of each fall semester is probably one of the best times of the year.

We also look forward to changes on the face of our campus facilities—projects that are happening due to funding from the Measure E bond. Plans and steps are underway for the construction of our new science and natural resources building, child development center, and welding and auto body facility. This will move our college forward and put us in a strong position to serve our students better in the years ahead.

This fall also marks the start of our popular contemporary cuisine dinners in the Cellar Bistro.

Starting on September 11, the four-course menus will be served on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Another event that you won't want to miss is the fourth annual Lakeside Jazz & Wine on Saturday, October 13, hosted by the Columbia College Foundation from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Plan to attend and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of jazz, wine tasting and tasty hors d'oeuvres. This year's new program additions include an art show, silent auction and 39-foot long cake in anticipation of the college's 40th anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2008.

Sincerely,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

Campus fire station in full operation again



Tuolumne County Fire Station #79, located on the college campus, is in full operation again now that the Tuolumne County supervisors approved the new agreement on September 4. Cal Fire-Tuolumne County Fire and the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) drafted the new contract.

The new program includes the services of a fire department battalion chief, who will oversee the operations of the station and provide mentoring for the firefighters. Professional supervision will be present on the premises at all times. In addition, the \$140,000 per year cost to the YCCD will include an engine, breathing support apparatus, and the equipment needed to perform the duties of a TCFD engine company.

Columbia College will assume the responsibility and costs for the college work experience program and expenses for operating the station. A college fire station manager will be employed with responsibility for the work experience program, facility and budget.

Individuals who meet the necessary educational and training qualifications will again respond to fires and other emergencies on the campus and in the community. ■

Middle college officially launched on August 22



Far left: Instructor Anastasia Conlin. Left, Rob Gaskill, SUHSD superintendent

Columbia Middle College officially started on August 22, a few days before Columbia College opened its doors to students for the fall '07 semester. Middle college is conducted as a partnership between Columbia College and the Sonora Union High School District.

The combination class of 30 high school seniors and juniors is being taught British literature, U.S. government and economics, as well as study skills for college preparedness by Anastasia Conlin, a Sonora High teacher. These classes, which are held on the college campus on Mondays through Fridays from 8:05 to 11:05 am, are required for graduation from high school. Middle college students are also enrolled in a number of Columbia College classes, which they attend in the afternoons for college credit.

Columbia Middle College is an innovative alternative to help encourage students to complete high school and gain early success in college. It targets talented but underachieving students, who are bright, intelligent and demonstrate strong leadership qualities. While they seek the freedom and independence of adulthood, most express little or no interest in school and lack the study, organizational and time management skills to succeed.

Student response to middle college was positive during the opening days of classes. "I didn't like the formal structure of high school, based on an

8 am to 3 pm schedule and wanted more freedom," said Justin Downey of Sonora High. "This is different. I want to take more classes now and with college credit attached, the classes are worth more."

Devynne Sylva of Summerville High School is also enthusiastic about the program. "Middle college is interesting to me and a lot less stressful. I am not judged as closely (here) by my peers. There are no cliques and we are all on the same level," she said. Sylva also likes the freedom of choices in her afternoon college classes and getting a head start in acquiring college credit.



Front: Dr. Dennis Gervin

small size of my class," Sylva said.

Instructor Anastasia Conlin is "thrilled to be a part of this program from the very beginning." She said, "This is an amazing resource for the community and from our start of 30 students, we hope to grow into 60 next year with two full-time teachers. These are wonderful students and a fabulous class." ■



Successful Academic Wellness Fair concludes AWE August activities



Throughout the month of August, the Academic Wellness Educators (AWE) committee sponsored a number of staff development activities. The final presentation was part of the college's fall in-service day on August 23 when AWE members conducted a well attended Academic Wellness Fair from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm at various classroom locations throughout the campus.

The Academic Wellness Fair organizers were Adrienne Webster, Melissa Colon, Meryl Brooks and Anne Cavagnaro. ■



Students benefit during volleyball season



2007-08 Lady Claim Jumpers

COLUMBIA COLLEGE has a strong incentive this season for local students to attend their women's volleyball games. As part of Family Fun Nights, The Lady Claim Jumpers are inviting all students with valid school IDs to attend their home games in the Oak Pavilion, starting Friday, September 7 for free.

"We're admitting students at no charge as part of our Family Fun Nights activities to attract larger crowds of families to watch the team play," said Raelene Juarez, head women's volleyball coach at the college. "It's a great way for everyone to enjoy an inexpensive evening of fast-paced, college-level sports and at the same time, support the home team." While there will be no charge to students for seats, tickets are \$4 each for others and a special discount price of \$2 for those 55 and older.

Game times are mostly at 7 pm, but for a complete list of the 2007 season games with start times, go online to www.gocolumbia.edu. Click on "News, Sports and Events Information" and then, go to "Claim Jumper Volleyball Schedule." For more information, call Coach Juarez at 588-5180. ■



Chef Raymond Mansu

Fine dining at the Cellar Bistro

This fall, the public is again invited to enjoy fine contemporary dining at the Cellar Bistro, located on the first level of the Manzanita Building. From September 11 to November 28, the restaurant will be open in the evenings for patrons from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The college's advanced contemporary cuisine class will plan and prepare the special menus. In addition, tables will be served by students enrolled in the dining room management class.

"We feel that our educational curriculum offers excellent preparation for our students in this very competitive career field," said Gene Womble, the college's hospitality management program coordinator. "By creating an environment of fine dining, we are providing high levels of actual hands-on training for future jobs. The public will also have an opportunity to experience an exquisite meal with a contemporary flair at a very reasonable cost."

Raymond Mansu, a highly regarded local chef, will teach the advanced contemporary cuisine class and will supervise the food preparations. Tom Bender, a veteran college instructor in the program, will oversee the dining room training.

"Featured selections for the four-course menus will change weekly and prices will range from \$14.95 to \$17.95 per person," said Womble. "Last semester's dinners were extremely popular, so reservations are highly recommended." For reservations, call 588-5300. ■

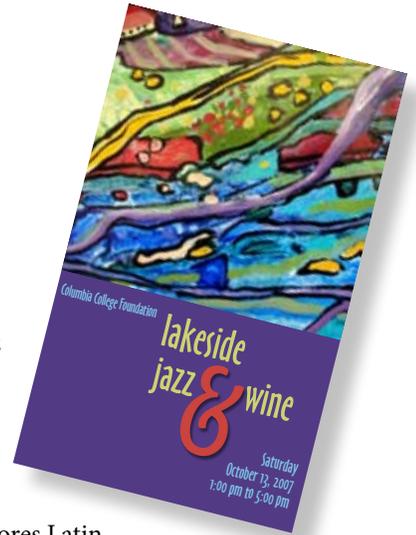
Lakeside Jazz & Wine hosted by Foundation

Enjoy an afternoon of relaxing jazz, wine tasting and scrumptious hors d'oeuvres at the Columbia College Foundation's Lakeside Jazz and Wine on Saturday, October 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. This year's event will also include an art show, silent auction and a 39 foot-long cake in anticipation of the college's 40th anniversary in 2008.

Music will be provided by the Mario Flores Latin Jazz Band, Combo #5 and the Columbia College Big Band Jazz Ensemble. Hors d'oeuvres will be prepared by the college's culinary arts department and other local food purveyors.

Among the many wineries represented will be Butterfly Creek Winery, Chatom Vineyards, Michael-David Winery, Mt. Brow Winery, Muir Hanna Vineyards, Solomon Wine Company and Stevenot Winery, to name a few.

Cost is \$30 per person and RSVP deadline is October 8. For tickets or information, call the college Foundation office at 588-5115. ■



Semester preparation—behind the scenes

Campus facilities crew prepare the Tamarack and Madrone Buildings over the summer. Clockwise from left: Steve D'Orsay, Steve Shively, Ken Ciabatti and Darin Blume



G.E.D. graduates honored in June ceremony



Mona Baroody & son



Karin Rodts & Dr. Carolyn Buck



Graduate Michael Hillebrand



Dr. Dennis Gervin

Obtaining a high school diploma had been a challenge in the past for a number of individuals, often complicated by personal difficulties or surrounding circumstances. That's when dropping out of school seemed like a reasonable decision at the time. However, the goal of achieving a diploma always remained near the top of their to-do list and pursuit of a high school equivalency, or G.E.D.

(General Educational Development) Certificate was something for the future.

During the first six months of this year, 31 individuals successfully fulfilled their dream by passing the 7½ hour state-sanctioned examination, which was conducted over two evenings at Columbia College.

"Columbia College was designated as the testing site in the Mother Lode for G.E.D. exams, but the college wanted to do more than simply administer the exam," said Karin Rodts, chief G.E.D. examiner at Columbia. "We wanted to offer test-takers an opportunity to brush up on their basic skills through a G.E.D. preparation class, which we offer for a nominal charge. They can also enroll in a similar course through Tuolumne County Adult Education, or prepare on their own with self-study books, or online courses."

"In addition, we decided to honor G.E.D. recipients for their accomplishment with a special one-hour graduation ceremony at the college. This year's event was held on June 6 in our community education classroom," said Rodts.

Several G.E.D. graduates, their families and friends were welcomed by Dr. Dennis Gervin, the college's vice president for student learning and



Graduate Lillianne Lannes, second from left

Mona Baroody, a previous G.E.D. graduate, was the guest speaker. Open-mike testimonials were invited during the ceremony, which were followed by closing remarks from Dr. Joan Smith, Columbia College president.

The G.E.D. test is open to anyone who didn't finish high school and this testing service is offered by Columbia College to residents of Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, and Mariposa Counties. While motivations differ, it provides practical and personal benefits to all. "For a number of people, it's something they need for a specific job or to join



Graduate Kimberlee Arnold, second from left

the military," said Rodts. "Or sometimes, having a G.E.D. can move them up the ladder at their current job, help them advance to a higher position or further their post-secondary education. For others, it's something that they wanted to do for a long, long time because it's one of those goals that just needed to be

completed in their lives."

Rodts worked in collaboration with Dave Chesnut, G.E.D. instructor and CalWorks program representative; Linda Watkins, G.E.D. test proctor; Wendy Hesse, fiscal services; and Gail Segerstrom, IMC designer for the graduation event. ■

Newsbytes

The **Columbia College Foundation Board** retreat was held on August 16 with a presentation on fundraising development by Judith Lanning, ED, acting director of the MJC Foundation and their interim dean of science, mathematics and English. Those appointed or re-appointed to the board were Mike Heuton, Dr. Dennis Gervin and Gene Womble (all first year); Ida Ponder (second year); and Bill Dunlavy (third year). The retreat will be featured in more detail in the October *InSite*.

The campus **health services office** is open for the fall semester on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am–4:00 pm, and on Thursdays from 11:00 am–6:00 pm. TB testing will be available every Monday and Tuesday.



Nurse Laureen Campana

Jeff Whalen announced that the **Tamarack Hall food cart** hours are Monday through Thursday, noon–2:00 pm (lunch) and 5:00–8:00 pm (dinner).



Adjunct Instructor **Tom Bender's** course on *Introduction to Wines* (HPMGT 148) has yielded a silver medal at the California State Fair. Produced by his fall '06 semester students, the 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon competed against 60 other category

entries. For the 15th consecutive year, grapes were donated by Chatom Vineyards of Murphys. Through his course, students get hands-on experience in crushing, de-stemming, fermenting, pressing, aging and bottling. Bender and seven of his friends also received a double gold and best of class in the home winemaking category for their 2005 Sangiovese.

Fresh bread and pastries can be purchased at the **culinary department's bakery** on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Ida Ponder, Casey Bonavia, Shannon Hassett and Anne Cavagnaro attended a MACCC (Math Across the Community College Curriculum) Institute in Washington state earlier this month. From that, plans to pilot an infused instruction model in problem solving throughout the vocational education curriculum were developed. ■

New employees at fall in-service

During Columbia College's fall in-service on August 23 in the Dogwood Forum, 14 employees were introduced. Along with new appointments, several others received full-time or interim position status.



Pat Dean, Shelley Akiona and Dr. Roe Darnell (l. to r.)

Among them were:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Jeremy Allen | Security Officer I |
| Anne Anderson | Support Staff I/Child Development |
| Alexandra Campbell | Director of Institutional Research and Planning |
| Cari Craven | Secretary I/IMC, Mailroom and Marketing |
| Elissa Creighton | Instructional Assistant/Academic Achievement Center |
| Brian Greene | Faculty/Librarian |
| Tom Hofstra | Faculty/Natural Resources |
| Lynn Martin | Matriculation Coordinator/50% |
| Jon Sterling | Facilities Operations |
| Susan Tinsley | Support Staff II |
| Michael Torok | Interim Dean of Arts & Science |
| Cynthia Vlahov | Support Staff II |
| Sylvia Watterson | Faculty/EMS |
| Samantha Westgate | Support Staff II/HHP |



Dr. Joan Smith and Dr. Alex Campbell



Dr. Dennis Gervin introduces Mike Torok



Jon Sterling and new facilities crew members



Sylvia Watterson

Campus Calendar / September 2007

September Meetings

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

14 Friday
Safety/Facilities Committee
 Safety 9:00 am/Com Ed Room
 Facilities 11:00 am/Fir 2

21 Friday
Academic Senate
 Cedar 1
 1:30 pm

College Council
 Manzanita Conference Room
 1:30 pm

28 Friday
Classified Senate
 Location TBA
 10:00 am

3
Labor Day Holiday

14
Musical Interlude
 Nate Frazier on classical keyboard
 Library from 12:30 to 1:30 pm

24
Jazz Artist Series
 Rachel Z Trio with Columbia Big Band
 Reserved seating \$10
 Dogwood Theater
 7:30 pm

New face on campus

Lorraine Rasmussen
 Custodian, Facilities Operations



Student Success Report



Ordway studying in the Black Hills, South Dakota

Laura Ordway of Twain Harte, a 4.0 GPA student and recipient of our top faculty scholarship in 2004, received an A.A. degree in biology that year from Columbia College. She continued her education at Wheaton College and graduated this past spring summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology.

Ordway was one of 70 students from among 3,000 applicants selected to attend Dartmouth University Medical School this fall.

Her future goal is to specialize in pediatrics and work as a medical missionary for children in third world countries. Laura is presently 20 years old. ■



Caring for 3-year-old Jenna, victim of neurofibromatosis

X-Reg draws large crowds

More than 300 students registered for classes during Xtreme Registration on August 11. The same amount was estimated during the August 24 follow-up event. According to Dr. Carolyn Buck, the college dean for learning support services, "X-Reg was a very successful interdepartmental collaboration of college programs and services. It was an excellent team effort with a lot of creative energy." ■



Columbia College President's Report

InSite is published on the first week of every month excluding summer months. Editorial contributions are encouraged and due on the last day of each month prior to publication. Submit editorial materials to the Public Relations Office and calendar items to the Instructional Materials Center/Mailroom Secretary.

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