

College's summer projects start at ground level

Yosemite Community College District

Roe Darnell, Ed.D.
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Public Safety Center groundbreaking on June 16 – front row from left: Connie Mical, Paul Neumann, Desirree Abshire, Anne DeMartini, Abe Rojas, Pat Dean, Dr. Roe Darnell and Dr. Joan Smith. Back row from left: Reid Milburn, Preston Birdwell, Mike Noonan and Doralyn Foletti

As students return to Columbia College for the fall semester, big changes are taking place behind fenced areas at the campus. In fact, the college has been busy with new construction, thanks to funding from Measure E, which was passed by voters in November 2004.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Public Safety Center took place on June 16 at the campus fire station site, signaling the start of the construction. The new building will consolidate all of the existing campus emergency services into one facility. This includes Columbia College Fire Station #79, Columbia College Campus Security, and emergency dispatch services. By combining these services into one central location, emergency response on campus and within the community will be greatly enhanced.



Plans for the \$2.8 million upgrade will start with the current 2,900 sq. ft. fire house, and more than double the available space by constructing an adjoining 3,000 sq. ft. addition. The new structure will contain a residential facility with separate quarters for men and women fire science students.

A new 13' x 32' bay will increase the total amount of bay space to 1,312 sq. ft. for equipment storage. Off-street visitor parking, campus security offices and dispatch center, and an indoor public foyer will be included.

Operations of the Public Safety Center are conducted as a partnership of the YCCD/Columbia College, Cal Fire and the Tuolumne County Fire

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Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

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Dr. Joan Smith

President's Note

Welcome back to our fall semester! I always enjoy hearing about your summer recreational activities and exciting vacation trips. It certainly gives me a wealth of great ideas on how to spend my own leisure time! In any case, I hope that you all had an opportunity to relax and are ready to start the new school year.

As you are already aware, this 2008-09 academic year is a historic milestone for Columbia College. We first began offering classes on September 18, 1968 and this month marks our 40th anniversary. It is a time to reflect on our rich history and recognize the many accomplishments that have firmly established Columbia College as an institution of excellence and distinction. We welcome your participation and invite you to become a part of our 40th anniversary celebrations.

Among the most exciting events this past summer were the groundbreakings for the Public Safety Center in June and the Madrone Building

project last month. Both are funded by Measure E and will move us ahead in helping us prepare our students for the future. Looking forward, we will also be breaking ground on the new Child Development Center shortly, as well as the Science & Natural Resources Building next year.

While we are taking steps to honor the past, our focus is the future and all the possibilities for growth, development and enrichment that we can provide to our communities. You'll learn more and more about these educational opportunities in the months ahead.

All my best,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

Columbia College selected for \$2,000,000 federal grant

Columbia College has been selected to receive funding from a Title 3 federal grant for \$2 million over a five-year period, commencing October 1, 2008. The grant is part of the Strengthening Institutions Program (031A) and will be used to enhance the college's distance education program, as well as the college grants and foundation offices.

According to Dr. Joan Smith, Columbia's

president, "This grant will provide the necessary fiscal support to embrace and bring forward distance education at Columbia College. For me, this simply goes to show what a positive vision and a lot of dedication on the parts of our distance education and technology committees can do. Federal funding of this sort is challenging to procure, especially for a small college with our demographics—and we did it!" ■

Summer Projects *from page 1*

Department. The anticipated project completion date is summer 2009.

The Public Safety Center's architecture was designed by Lionakis of Sacramento and the contractor is Robert E. Boyer Construction of Twain Harte. Project management is handled by Kitchell, CEM of Modesto.

Groundbreaking on the Madrone Building project took place a month later on August 12. The \$2.3 million project involves constructing a 7,562 sq. ft. building, about 90 feet from the existing Madrone Building. Still unnamed, it will contain the auto body collision repair and welding technology labs. This will enable the present Madrone Building to be used solely for automotive technology training.



The new building will allow program expansion and future growth for two strong instructional programs that are presently housed in inadequate space. Plans call for an automotive

continued



Summer Projects *continued from page 2*



Public Safety Center



Madrone Building Project



Madrone groundbreaking on August 12 – front row from left: Dr. Roe Darnell, Randy Selesia, Pat Dean, Abe Rojas, Dr. Joan Smith, Connie Mical and Mac Frost. Back row from left: Lonnie Blansit, Mark Pasby, Erik Andal and Merlin Bart



painting booth, modern welding technology lab, office area, storage and restrooms.

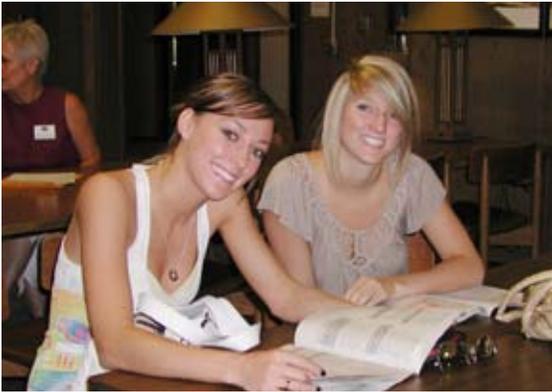
“Complete renovation of the existing Madrone Building would have required extensive and costly structural upgrades,” said Connie Mical, the college’s vice president of administration. “Producing a new, compliant building was less expensive and will give the program more usable square footage for student use.”

Tri-Technic of Sonora is the second local contractor to be awarded a contract to work on a Measure E project. The facility was designed by Noll & Tam of Oakland, and project management is also handled by Kitchell, CEM of Modesto. Estimated completion date is summer 2009.

Among those attending the groundbreaking ceremonies were Dr. Roe Darnell, YCCD chancellor and representatives of the YCCD Board of Trustees. The board consists of Abe Rojas, chairperson; Paul Neumann, vice chairperson; Desirree Abshire; Pat Dean; Anne DeMartini; Linda Flores; Tom Hallinan; and Bernard Vasquez, student trustee. ■



On your mark...get set...go... for the fall semester!



For the past several weeks, students have been registering for Columbia College's fall semester online, by touch-tone phone, and in person. In addition, Xtreme Registration was held on August 9 for new, incoming students and attendance at this year's X-Reg exceeded all anticipated expectations. Captured in photos are many faces of our new and continuing students. ■



40th Anniversary Celebrations begin this fall



Columbia College faculty, staff and student leaders photographed by Jess Pearson at Symons Field on April 25, 2008.

Inset photo from left: Anne DeMartini, Pat Dean, Dr. Joan Smith, Desirree Abshire and Dr. Roe Darnell cut the 40th anniversary cake

Columbia College's founding president was Dr. Harvey B. "Dusty" Rhodes. Our college classes were first conducted at Eagle Cotage (spelling is correct) in Columbia State Historic Park while the present campus was being built. The first college building to be completed to serve students was the Manzanita Building. The first day of class was September 18, 1968 and degrees were first awarded in June 1969. There was no per unit fee for California community colleges in 1968; this changed in 1984 to \$50 per semester for six or more units and \$5 per unit for those taking under six units.

Trivial trivia? No, it's significant trivia as we honor Columbia College's 40th anniversary, starting this fall. As part of the celebration, Gail Segerstrom, our IMC coordinator/designer, created a new logo for the year and a schedule of monthly activities has been planned. Watch for upcoming activities and be sure to participate! ■

2008-2009

40TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

September

Time capsule submissions due by 9/4;
"40th Anniversary Memory Book" tabloid published by *Union Democrat*

October

Culinary Arts Program Demonstration

November

Computer Science Program Demonstration

December

Athletics Department Program Demonstration

January

Debate Team Program Demonstration

February

Spring Review (40th Anniversary Edition) Program Demonstration

March

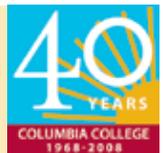
Biology/Natural Resources Program Demonstration in conjunction with "It's a Jungle Out There" outreach event

April

Fire Technology Program Demonstration

May

End-of-Year Celebration



Phi Theta Kappa's *Backpacks for Kids* a huge success



From left: Leah Martin, first PTK president with son Daniel Grimaldo, Jr.; Erasmo Martinez, Jr., vice president – service; George Melendrez, founding and current advisor; and Patricia Horsthuis, current president

Members of the Columbia College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa have distributed over 100 backpacks thus far as part of their *Backpacks for Kids* service project to gather school supplies for needy students in Tuolumne County.

Organized as a community-wide campaign in July, collection sites requested donated backpacks—filled or unfilled—with various school supplies for students from grades 1 through 12. Information bins were placed at locations throughout the county, including banks, restaurants, markets, the library, and retail stores. A list of eligible students was provided by the Tuolumne County Welfare Department and the local Kiwanis organization.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society of two-year colleges. Eligibility for membership is based on completion of a minimum of 12 hours of associate degree course work and a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Students must maintain high academic standing throughout their two-year college enrollment with a GPA of at least 3.25. ■

BOB provides medical services for college students



- ✓ Clinical treatment of minor illnesses and injuries
- ✓ Sports physicals
- ✓ Immunizations
- ✓ Behavioral health outreach
- ✓ Family planning services
- ✓ And more...

What about payment? For those who qualify for Medi-Cal or Family PACT, care will be charged to them like any other clinic. For students on other insurance plans or without insurance, services are provided at no cost. Regardless of insurance plan or not, if in need of immediate care, students should not hesitate in visiting BOB.

For more information, contact Laureen Campana, college nurse at 588-5204. ■

BOB, Tuolumne County's school-based mobile health van is now available for students at Columbia College. But why BOB? Be On Board...for good health! BOB is operated by the Tuolumne County Public Health Department and Office of Education, with assistance from many local partners.

During the fall semester, BOB will be parked every other Monday, starting September 15 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm in front of the Oak Pavilion to provide a number of health services for students, including:



Elaine Squaglia, health van liaison; Martha Stolp, R.N. and Marsha Malgesini, N.P. (l. to r.)

Newsbytes

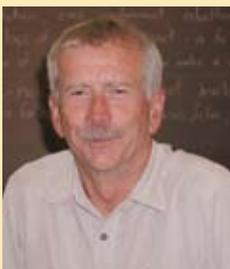
PHOTO COURTESY THE UNION DEMOCRAT



Raelene and Richard Juarez were featured on the front cover of the *Union Democrat's Weekender* (August 14-20) in full costume as Elena and Alejandro (Zorro) de la Vega. They competed in the "Dancing with the

Tuolumne County Stars" program at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds on August 16 as part of the "YES" partnership fund-raiser and took first place in the tango category.

Carpenter Chuck Cooper constructed the wall that separates the community education room from the Academic Achievement Center. This summer when he and **Darin Blume** took the wall apart to extend it to the ceiling, Chuck discovered his lost hammer that he had sealed up inside the original wall several years ago. It's a good thing that Chuck didn't become a surgeon!



Middle College continues this fall on the Columbia College campus in Fir 7. With Anastasia Conlin's move to Oregon, **Paul Nixon** has been named as the new program instructor. If he looks familiar to

you, Paul is the husband of Laurel Grindy, a professor in our math department.

Columbia College Foundation's brand new video was produced by the marketing department and premiered at the college fall in-service. Written and directed by **Doug Lau**, the ten-minute video was shot and edited by MIP Productions and Raw Vision of Turlock. DVDs of the video will be used to solicit community support for the college by the foundation board members.

Li Ching Accurso's solo exhibit in the Rotunda through September 24 is a colorful collection of large mixed media paintings, titled "Given Wings." As contemporary art, they combine drawings and paintings with background text that searches for spiritual meaning. Don't miss seeing her paintings and whimsical ceramics, which were completed during her sabbatical last semester.



Summer volleyball and basketball activities kept area youth busy in July. **Raelene Juarez**, women's head volleyball coach conducted bantam level (4th to 6th grade), intermediate level (7th and 8th grade), and advanced (9th to 12th grade) clinics. **Nate Rien**, men's head basketball coach hosted the 6th Annual Basketball Academy for boys and girls in grades 3 through 12.



New Snack Bar hours are Monday–Thursday, 7:30 am–7:30 pm and Fridays 7:30 am–1:00 pm.

The First Semester Experience Program was developed by the AWE (Academic Wellness Educators) Committee and starts this fall with an enrollment of 22. The program will help new incoming students with classes in guidance, basic math and English skills. In turn, students will earn 13 units of credit.

New Faces on Campus



Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Gray
Professor,
Math Department



Cindy Inwood
Support Staff II,
Facilities & Receiving



Judy Reiman
Professor,
Office Technology



Arlene Sprague
Support Staff II,
Special Programs

Cal Fire training held at Columbia College



Cal Fire held its Firefighter I Academy for seasonal employees at Columbia College from June 9 through 18. The program, a partnership between Cal Fire and Columbia College, provided 67 hours of comprehensive training in wild land and structural fire control.

Classroom courses took place at the college during the first week, followed by manipulative skills training on the second week. Program

graduates received Cal Fire certification, a requirement to become firefighters by the department.

With 80 participants, this year's academy had one of the largest enrollments, according to Dean Wimberly, Cal Fire training captain. Of that total, 72 were current Cal Fire employees who sought certification. The other eight were Columbia College students, who hoped to gain employment in the organization.

"The academy is conducted at the start of the state's fire season and serves as a boot camp for Cal Fire," said Wimberly. "It promotes team-building. We train together, have meals together, and bunk out in the dorms together. During an actual fire situation, that kind of bonding is absolutely necessary."

Located on hilly terrain, Columbia College's campus grounds have been ideal for Cal Fire training over the past several years. "The college campus is really an urban wild land setting within the county," he said. "This allows us to simulate practical skills easily, like cutting a fire line or laying fire hoses within a forested environment." ■



Fire Academy graduates 18 students last spring

The Columbia College Basic Fire Academy for spring 2008 graduated 18 students on April 21. One third received scholarships from the college. Three pursued college degrees by continuing their education over the summer. The other 15 received job offers from the U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire, and local fire departments for employment.



Fire Academy members train at the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department

According to Fire Academy Director Joe Doherty, "We approached the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department about cross training with their personnel, something that had not been attempted in the past. The drills included master stream appliances, search and rescue, laddering buildings, simulated propane tank fires, and placement of initial hose lines for fire attack." ■

Summer Culinary Institute



Customers Val and Jack Myrick are being served by students Andrew Cunningham (l.) and Zack Hineman. As part of their training, Columbia College Summer Culinary Institute students planned, prepared and served specially-themed buffet luncheons for the public at the Cellar Restaurant on Thursdays during the summer months.

New HVAC equipment installed this summer



Dogwood

Columbia College classrooms will be cooler during the summer months and warmer in the winter, thanks to new HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) units in the Buckeye, Cedar and Dogwood Buildings. Crews worked to replace worn units during the summer, as well as re-roofing Buckeye and Madrone. ■



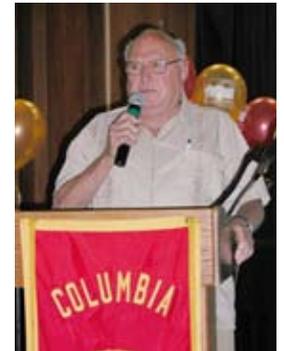
Buckeye



Madrone

Fall In-Service Highlights

Columbia College's fall in-service featured a special 40th anniversary celebration theme. Along with college progress reports, introductions of new employees, and sabbatical presentations, Dr. Harvey "Dusty" Rhodes, Columbia's founding president, spoke about the early days of the college and Connie Mical, vice president of administration, presented a Power Point on the Measure E construction this past summer. A special 40th birthday cake, prepared by a culinary arts graduate, was cut during the buffet luncheon. ■



Student Success Report

Here's a bit of Columbia College sports trivia that not many people know. Who scored the first basket for the Claim Jumpers? Try Mitch Heldstab, who was on the college's first men's basketball team in their 1976-77 opening season, and again in 1977-78.

A lifelong resident of Tuolumne County, Heldstab lettered in football, basketball and baseball while at Summerville High School where he graduated in 1976. Education and athletics run in Heldstab's family. His grandmother served on the Summerville High Board of Trustees, his father coached two or more sports for 32 years, and his mother was school secretary at Summerville High for over 30 years.

Heldstab decided on attending Columbia College while still in the seventh grade. One of his coaches encouraged him to tour the college campus in Sonora and impressed on him that education is the pathway to success.

"Columbia College was a fairly new school at the time and close to home, the mountains and trees. Even then, I knew that I wanted to live, work and raise my own family in Tuolumne County," he said. "The college gave me a strong base to pursue my educational goals. If I could turn back the hands of time, I would not change a thing. I loved my time at Columbia."

Among his best memories of the college were "Dave Purdy's oral expression and interpretation class that changed my focus from majoring in physical education to English, friendliness of the staff, faculty's openness and availability to students, layout of the campus, and the flexibility in teaching methods."

Mitch Heldstab earned an A.A. degree in general education from Columbia College in 1978 and went on to CSU Stanislaus where he received a bachelor's degree in speech and English with a minor in physical education. He also holds administrative and teaching credentials, both from that institution.

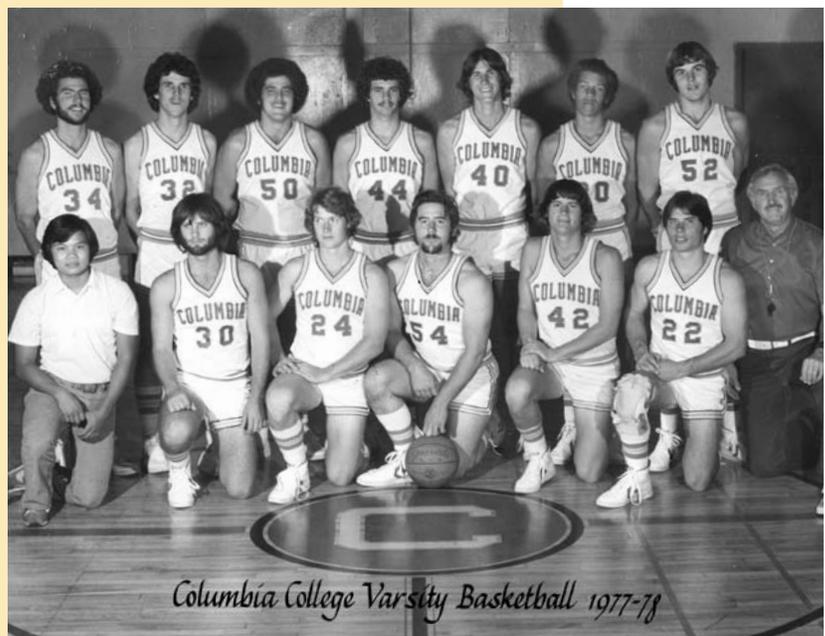


Mitch Heldstab

After teaching at the seventh and eighth grade levels and coaching seven sports at Summerville Elementary for a decade, he was hired as an English teacher at Summerville High. Today, he is the grade level coordinator there. As such, he works with students in specific class levels and coordinates their needs. This includes attendance, college preparation, discipline, scheduling of classes, academics, college testing, advising, and more.

Heldstab's wife, Tina is also a Columbia College graduate and currently teaches at Summerville Elementary School. Their children Beau (27), AnnaMarie (24), and Jake (22) are all graduates of Summerville High. ■

"The college gave me a strong base to pursue my educational goals. If I could turn back the hands of time, I would not change a thing. I loved my time at Columbia."



1977-78 Claim Jumper team – Heldstab is #22, next to Coach Pete Sullivan

Campus Calendar / September 2008

September Meetings

2 Tuesday

Leadership Team
Manzanita Conference Rm
9:30 am

5 Friday

Safety/Facilities Committee
Safety 9:00 am
Com Ed Room
Facilities 11:00 am
Buckeye 3

10 Wednesday

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

12 Friday

College Council
Manzanita Conference Rm
1:00 pm

19 Friday

Academic Senate
Cedar 1
1:30 pm

26 Friday

Classified Senate
Manzanita Conference Rm
8:30 am

1

Labor Day Holiday

3

Columbia College Volleyball
vs. American River College
Oak Pavilion at 6:00 pm

9

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

17

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

25

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

19

Civic Engagement Free Film Series
Wild & Scenic Film Festival
Dogwood at 6:00 pm

26

YFA/YCCD Annual Fall Retreat
Place and Time, TBA
Info: Molly Navaro, 575-6699

Lakeside Jazz & Wine coming October 11

Just around the corner are nature's colorful displays of fall foliage, cooler temperatures and of course, Lakeside Jazz & Wine! If you've never been to this Columbia College Foundation-sponsored event before, plan on attending on Saturday, October 11 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Where? Along the shore of the campus lake, of course, at the Manzanita patio area.

Tickets are \$30 each for a relaxing afternoon, filled with the enjoyable sounds of jazz by Rod Harris and the Columbia College Big Band, the Mario Flores Latin Jazz Band, and special guest appearances by student performers. Taste wines from several prominent California wineries, including Abundance Vineyards, Mt. Brow Winery, Silkwood Wines, Solomon Wine Co., Twisted Oak Winery, and others. Sample hors d'oeuvres prepared by the college's culinary and pastry arts department and local food purveyors. View an art exhibit by local favorites, Leslie Hurst and Laurie Sylwester, as well as numerous student works. There will also be a silent auction with valuable prizes for bidding.

Proceeds for Lakeside Jazz & Wine will provide student scholarships and also support many of the programs at the college. For tickets or more details, contact the president's office at 588-5115. RSVP deadline is October 6. ■



This year's poster features a plein air painting Leslie Hurst did at the 2007 event



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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