

# Columbia College Commencement honors 254 graduates

**Yosemite Community College District**

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The Summers grads



The Logue grads

**A**mong the 254 graduates at Columbia College's 38th Commencement on April 27, Lorraine Summers-Walter, Phillip Summers, Carole Logue and Amber Logue graduated with a distinction far different from the others. They are mother-son and mother-daughter, who graduated together in the class of 2007 at the Oak Pavilion.

Lorraine Summers-Walter, who put her education on hold in 1987 while she raised three sons: Phillip (20), Erik (16), and Jack (8), graduated with an A.A. degree in liberal studies. She intends to further her education and work toward an R.N. degree in the future.

Phillip Summers graduated with honors and also with an A.A. degree in liberal studies. He will transfer to the University of Hawaii, Hilo to pursue a bachelor's degree in chemistry with plans of becoming a pharmacist.

Carole Logue received an associate in science (occupational education) degree in medical office management. Including an 18 year hiatus from taking college courses, she also raised three children: Eric (33), Jason (31), and Amber (21).

Amber Logue graduated with honors and is



Joan Smith, Ed.D.  
*President*

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**President's Note**



Dr. Joan Smith

In education, April and May are two of the busiest months of the year, full of activities centered on final exams, graduation, awards ceremonies, end-of-semester events, and preparations for the upcoming summer sessions. In fact, it takes two issues of *InSite* to cover all of the activities!

This year, we concluded our spring semester with the retirement of five faculty members, who together have totaled over 160 years of service to Columbia College. The list includes Ross Carkeet, one of the first six instructors at our college. The others are Candace Daly, Patricia Harrelson, Larry Steuben and Ellen Stewart. In addition, Pete Daly retired earlier this year and Linda Baker will be retiring this month. We wish them well and every success in their well-deserved retirements.

We would also like to welcome several new faces to our campus, all of whom are highlighted in this issue of *InSite*. How well we serve others is the real basis for any service-oriented organization.

People make the difference in creating a warm, friendly environment. Thus, we look forward to having them join us as part of our college community.

During the summer months ahead, we are proceeding with plans and timelines for implementing programs for future semesters. Work continues on our Science and Natural Resources Building and Child Development Center. And we are taking some time off to refresh and recuperate from the year's *busy-ness*. We hope that you will do the same too!

Sincerely,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.  
President



**Graduation** *continued from page 1*

a member of the international honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. Her A.A. degree is in fine arts and she will transfer in the fall to California State University, Stanislaus to work on a bachelor's degree in the same major with an emphasis in sculpture. Her goal is to ultimately receive a master's degree in fine arts from the San Francisco Academy of Art.

Columbia College awarded 163 associate in arts degrees; 55 associate in science degrees; 55 associate in science (occupational education) degrees; and 146 certificates of achievement. A total of 23 graduated with distinction (cumulative grade point averages of 3.75 or better) and 35 with honors (between 3.5 and 3.74 grade point averages).

Jayne Johnson, president of the Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC), delivered the welcome address. Larry Steuben, president of the Academic Senate and retiring college librarian, conveyed the college faculty's welcome. The student graduation address was delivered by Jacob Buckingham and student farewell by Jana Evans.

Dr. Joan Smith, Columbia College president introduced the members of the graduating class. She was assisted by Ellen Stewart and Ross Carkeet, both retiring college professors, and YCCD Board Trustees Pat Dean and Anne DeMartini in the presentation of diplomas and certificates. The Columbia College Big Band, under the direction of Dr. Rod Harris, provided musical selections for the graduation. ■



On stage (l. to r.) were Trustees Pat Dean and Anne DeMartini, Interim Chancellor Stan Hodges, VP Dennis Gervin and President Joan Smith. Speakers included students Jana Evans, right, and Jacob Buckingham below, with Larry Steuben and Carolyn Buck.



From top: awaiting ceremony; Doralyn Foletti keeps faculty in line; Ross Carkeet with Susannah May Frantz



# \$130,929 in scholarships awarded to students

**S**cholarships totaling \$130,929 were awarded to 86 Columbia College students at the Annual Scholarships and Awards Celebration on April 19 in the Dogwood Forum. The total amount represents community scholarships, private donor scholarships, and Columbia College Foundation hospitality management scholarships, according to Cass Larkin, the college's financial aid manager.

**Susannah M. Frantz** was named as Student of the Year, an honor which carries with it the college's top faculty 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.

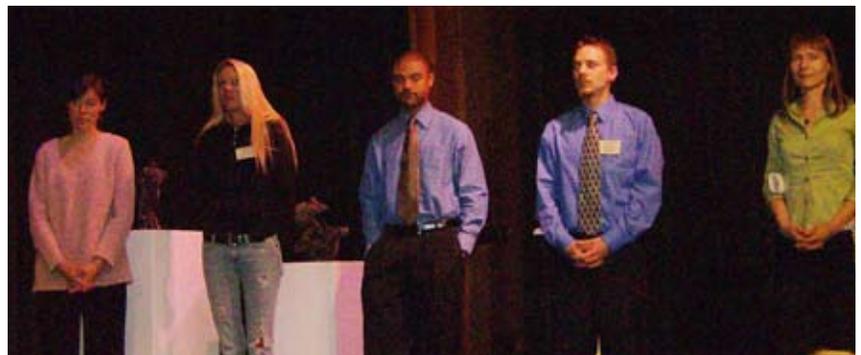
From a field of 161 original applicants, Frantz was selected by a panel of college faculty and administrators. The scholarship committee was co-chaired by faculty members **Maryl Landess** and **Vonna Breeze-Martin**. Criteria for judging was based on grade point averages, units completed, caliber of courses, written biographies, oral presentations and extracurricular activities.

Frantz, a 4.0 GPA student, graduated with an A.S. degree in science with an emphasis in environmental science and a certificate of achievement in geographic information systems. Her plans are to transfer in fall 2008 to UC Merced in their earth systems science undergraduate program. However, she is also considering other programs at UC Berkeley and UC Santa Barbara.

**Edward J. Leers** was named the second place winner and will receive a \$2,500 award. With a cumulative grade point average of 3.88, he is working toward an associate in science degree in biological science. His future plans include transfer to either UC Berkeley or Santa Cruz to major in health science or a related field.

**Lando S. Greene** received the third faculty scholarship, which carries with it an award of \$1,500. Majoring in business/accounting with a 4.0 GPA at Columbia, he intends to transfer to UC Berkeley or California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) for a bachelor's degree in the same major. Greene's future goal is to attain a CMA (certificate of management accounting) and work as a managerial accountant in private industry.

The two faculty scholarship finalists, who received \$750 each, were **Jackie A. Roberts** and **Sunha J. Tallakson**. ■



From left: faculty scholarship winners Tallakson, Roberts, Greene, Leers and Frantz

# Three named to Hall of Fame

**T**hree new members were inducted at the 17th Annual Columbia College Hall of Fame Celebration on April 5 in the Manzanita Rotunda. Sponsored by the Columbia College Foundation, the event honored Dr. S. Todd Stolp, the late Terry Hoff, and Dirk Travis.



**Dr. S. Todd Stolp**, Tuolumne County's public health officer, has contributed his services to the college for many years in a variety of capacities. He currently serves as the campus medical director of health services and under his direction, the school's health services office can offer students flu vaccines and screening tests for tuberculosis, strep throat, anemia and other illnesses. He currently chairs the community medical advisory board that oversees the college's diabetes management program.



In earlier years, Dr. Stolp provided athletic physicals for the college's tennis and basketball teams at no charge. This volunteer service is continued today for members of the men's basketball team. His nomination to the Hall of Fame described him as a "behind the scenes worker who makes the wheels of the college turn more easily."



**Terry Hoff** was one of the first female professors at the college. She was hired 1974 at age 24 as a faculty member in two separate departments: fine arts and health and human performance.



Hoff's passion was dance. She was a talented performer, instructor, choreographer and artistic director of dance. In addition to her classroom duties, she started the college's dance

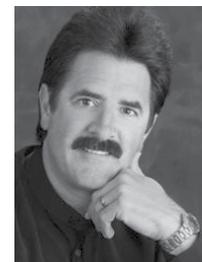


Todd & Martha Stolp

program from scratch and established it as one of the most highly respected performing arts troupes in the area.

Hoff had a continuing commitment to personal and professional growth for herself and others. As well as attending state and national fitness conferences to remain current in her teaching coursework, she acted in a number of local stage productions, performed in conjunction with the MJC dance department, and was a dedicated college instructor, who volunteered her time to teach dance in the 1990s to Tuolumne County elementary school students. In addition to dance, Hoff will be remembered for her skills in teaching gymnastics and tumbling.

**Dirk Travis**, a professional photographer and owner of Sierra Photography in Sonora, was named Alumnus of the Year. He graduated in 1986 with an associate in arts degree and received an associate in science degree a year later—both with honors. Following graduation from Columbia, he completed two years at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco where he continued to major in photography. In 1996, Travis became a partner in Sierra Photography, a portrait studio he has owned since 2000.



In 1992, he initiated the ongoing Travis art scholarship at Columbia College to aid serious art students. "As a student, the college gave so much to me and the scholarship is my way of giving something back in gratitude," said Travis.

Regarding his newest award, he said, "The Hall of Fame recognition is a tremendous honor for me, something I always aspired and hoped to achieve someday. I love the college and this is just another way of sealing that special bond." ■



Dirk & Carol Travis



Terri Hoff's sister, Nikki, & mother, Betty, with husband, Ty Smith



Todd Stolp receives award from Joan Smith & Pat Dean

# College wins statewide marketing awards



Columbia College received two statewide marketing awards at the Community College Public Relations Organization's (CCPRO) 30th Annual Conference, which was held on April 24-27 at Harrah's in South Lake Tahoe. The CCPRO membership consists of public relations, marketing, and graphic design professionals in higher education, primarily from the 109 California Community Colleges and California State Chancellor's Office.

As part of the conference, CCPRO hosts an annual Pro Awards competition, comprised of 28 categories with recognition given to the top three finishers in each category. This year's competition had 282 entries submitted.



Meryl Brooks

Columbia College placed first in the wild card category with **library trading cards**, a colorful assortment of pocket-sized cards with information on books, magazines, music and movies available in the college library. Interim librarian Brian Greene worked with designer Gail Segerstrom in creating the winning entry as a handout to invite library use.

Columbia also won a third place award in the wild card category for the **2006 Spring Review**. Also designed by Segerstrom, the publication is a 96-page anthology of student writing and art. Editor was Meryl Brooks and cover photo was by Laurie Sylwester, both professors at the college. ■



Brian Greene

# Columbia Wine Tasting nets over \$18,000 for culinary program

The 31st Annual Columbia Wine Tasting on April 22 at Columbia State Historic Park proved to be the best-ever, based on the most *most-overs*. Here's why...most-ever statewide wineries (over 60)...most-ever tickets sold (541)...most ever silent auction proceeds (over \$6,000)...and most ever volunteers (60). But most important, most-ever net profits of over \$18,000, which will help support the college's hospitality management program and the culinary and pastry arts students.

Along with the large number of wineries represented, the list of food vendors was significant, according to Gene Womble, event coordinator and hospitality management program coordinator. "Vendors included Black Oak-Seven Sisters Restaurant, Diestel Turkey Ranch, Camacho's Mexican Restaurant, Columbia College Culinary Arts, Montezuma Angus Beef, Peter Rabbit Chocolate, Sierra Olive Oil Company, and Word of Mouth Bakery."

Along with thanking those who attended the event, Womble said, "It was a great collective effort on the parts of so many generous individuals and volunteers. The end result, of course, is the tremendous benefit to enhance the education and training of our culinary and pastry arts students." ■





## Faculty and staff highlighted at End-of-Year Celebration



**P**atricia Harrelson, the Academic Achievement Center coordinator and English professor at Columbia College since 1982, was recognized as Teacher of the Year during the end-of-year celebration on April 27. Harrelson received a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from California State University, Stanislaus and an MFA degree in creative non-fiction and poetry from Antioch University. She is credited with creating the Columbia College Writing Center and was the college's Learning Skills Center director for 11 years.



also community service award), and **Gary Mendenhall** (Leadership Person of the Year).

**Judy Lanchester**, assistant director of the facilities, planning and operations department at the Yosemite Community College District, received the Columbia College Central Services Person of the Year award.



**Larry Steuben**, who has been affiliated with Columbia College for 31 years, was named Faculty of the Year. Steuben holds a bachelor's degree in political science from UC Santa Barbara and a master's degree in library science from UCLA. During his term at the college, he has been director of library services, dean of learning resources and college librarian.

The president's award for dedicated service was presented to the **security department** staff. Seven college employees, who are retiring this month, were recognized for their years of service: **Linda Baker** (7), **Ross Carkeet** (39), **Candace Daly** (28), **Pete Daly** (8), **Patricia Harrelson** (25), **Larry Steuben** (31), and **Ellen Stewart** (31).

Also honored for assuming interim positions at the college over the past year were **Brian Greene**, interim librarian and **Maureen Woods**, interim health nurse.

Among those honored were **Larry Steuben** (outgoing Academic Senate president), **Greg Elam** (Classified Employee of the Year), **Doralyn Foletti** (outgoing Classified Senate president and

Special guests in attendance were **Dr. Stan Hodges**, interim YCCD chancellor, along with YCCD Board Trustees **Pat Dean** (chairperson), **Anne DeMartini** and **Desirree Abshire**. **Dr. Joan Smith**, Columbia College president, was master of ceremonies for the afternoon event. ■

# College Council drafts new Mission and Vision Statements



## Proposed Mission Statement

Columbia College is a dynamic institution of learners and creative thinkers dedicated to high standards of student success. We prepare students to be fully engaged in an evolving world by offering comprehensive and high quality programs and services. Columbia College is committed to a culture of improvement through measuring student learning across the institution. We strive for excellence, foster a spirit of professionalism and celebrate diversity.



## Proposed Vision Statement

We envision ourselves as an exceptional institution of higher education.

Columbia College will continue to provide comprehensive, exemplary educational programs and services, which respond to the individual learning needs of its students and the collective economic and cultural needs of its diverse communities.

Columbia College will be a center for transformational learning promoted through critical and creative thinking that is open to change and personal growth; civic, environmental, and global awareness and engagement; and individual and collective responsibility. We will promote a culture of support for student learning across the institution that adopts a holistic approach.

Columbia College will use leading edge technologies and showcase facilities to enhance teaching and learning. Our vision will be realized through outstanding employees who adhere to high standards of excellence while working in partnership with those we serve.

We envision developing a passion for lifelong learning.



**U**nder the leadership of **Dr. Joan Smith**, the Columbia College Council used two planning retreats on March 2 and April 6 to develop drafts for new mission and vision statements. In turn, these will be presented to the YCCD Board of Trustees for their approval at the May meeting.

Also drafted were new college core values with copies available upon request in the president's office due to their text length.

College council is the organization through which the collegial governance system of the college is coordinated with representation from the leadership team, faculty, classified members and students. Currently serving on college council are **Nancy Bull, Coni Chavez, Dave Chesnut, Doralyn Foletti, Dennis Gervin, Rose Hefley, Elbert James** (ASCC representative), **Jayme Johnson** (ASCC president), **Doug Lau, Gary Mendenhall, Connie Mical, Kathy Schultz, Larry Steuben, Gene Womble** and **Rick Rivera**. ■



# Newsbytes

**The High Sierra Institute at Baker Station** has a broad range of classes this summer that will refresh and inspire you. Located at the 6,200 ft. elevation on Highway 108 near Kennedy Meadows, the institute's courses include field biology, field geology, field photography, creative writing, yoga, nature poetry writing, wildflowers of the Mother Lode, and others. For more info, go online to <http://columbia.yosemite.cc.ca.us/BakerStation/index.htm> , or contact Dimitri Keriotis at ext. 6718.

**Dr. Jeff Tolhurst** is using bio diesel fuel to power his truck. **Robert Gritz** is working on reducing his trips to the garbage collection center. **Cheryl Divine** has installed an on-demand water heater in her home. Are there any measures that you are doing to lessen the impact on the earth? If you have any ideas to share, let us know.

**Columbia College debaters** brought home the gold from the recent National Community College Championship Speech and Debate Tournament in Houston. Students Zack Macbeth and Trevor Wittke took first place in the competition for two-year colleges from across the country. At a novice tournament on the weekend of April 28, Sijil Blackwolf and Amanda Souza were undefeated and captured a gold medal in their division. Danielle Carmack and Candice Harrison earned a silver medal.

**Bruce Tepper**, a Columbia College adjunct tourism professor, practices what he teaches. He's off on a trip to Mexico and has spoken to audiences this spring in Athens, Greece; Jeju, Korea; and New York. The author of six travel books, Tepper has taught in the extension program of California State University, Stanislaus and Golden Gate University. In addition, he has conducted travel and tourism industry training in over 30 countries.

Correction...**Karin Rodts**, one of the originators/writers of the basic skills taskforce report, is also a member of the Academic Wellness Educators (AWE) steering committee. Her name was inadvertently missed in the last *InSite*.

*InSite* will not be published in June and July. The next issue will be in August.

## New faces on campus



Jeremy Allen – Campus Security Officer I



Dr. Alexandra Campbell – Director of Institutional Research and Planning



Cari Craven – Secretary I: Mailroom/IMC



Susan Tinsley – Support Staff II: Special Programs



Michael Torok – Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences



Sylvia Watterson – Instructor, Emergency Medical Services

## Campus Calendar / May 2007

### May Meetings

**9 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

**7**  
**Summer Session 1**  
 Starts

**23**  
**Book Club Discussion**  
*The Old Man and the Sea* and *Milagro Beanfield War*  
 Library at 4:30 pm

**28**  
**Memorial Day Holiday**

### Columbia College *InSite*

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

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