



Tuolumne County students are Mad about Science

Yosemite Community College District

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Jace Decker (l.) and Clayton Alexander collect aquatic material in a pond health survey

Tuolumne County students are mad about science. As proof, more than 70 third to eighth graders from public and private schools, as well as home schooled students, attended the weeklong “Mad about Science” camp on July 6-10 at Columbia College.

Sponsored by Front Porch, Inc., the camp was a collaboration between Columbia College and the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office. The college’s Sequoia and Toyon Buildings were used for classroom learning and lab experiments, and field studies were conducted around the San Diego Reservoir.

Instructional staff included Columbia



Cathy Parker shows her fifth and sixth graders a dissolved oxygen test



Classroom lab

continued on page 3



Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

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Dr. Joan Smith

President's Note

With the start of August, we are all anticipating and making plans for a new fall semester at Columbia College. I hope that you took some time off to enjoy the summer with your families and are returning refreshed and ready to begin.

I have attempted to keep you informed throughout the summer about the state budget with updates from the Community College League of California, California Community College Chancellor's Office, American Association of Community Colleges, and others. However, thanks to our college planning—College Council in particular—and the strength of our faculty and staff, we have been able to set goals and priorities to effectively identify areas of most critical need and then support those areas so the college can operate efficiently.

Thanks to funding from Measure E, we are able to complete construction of the Mahogany

Building and will begin work on the Science and Natural Resources Building. Mark your calendars and plan to attend these historic college celebrations on August 13, starting at 10 am. The ribbon-cutting of the Mahogany Building and groundbreaking of the Science and Natural Resources Building demonstrate our commitment to continue providing quality educational programs and services for our students and our community.

Welcome back to the fall semester at Columbia College...let's make it one of our best!

Regards,,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

Columbia College welcomes new vice president

The Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of Michael Perez as Columbia College's vice president of college and administrative services, effective July 1, 2009. He replaces Connie Mical, who has been an employee of the YCCD since 1991 and retired on June 30.

Perez will provide leadership for Columbia College's Institutional Operations Division. His areas of responsibility include budget management, student financial services (financial aid, veteran's affairs and scholarship office), business services (business office and student accounts), auxiliary services (food services and bookstore), technology and media services, health education services, family services (foster care and child care center), campus safety/security, facilities (Measure E and student housing), campus operations and transportation.

Previously vice president of administrative services at San Bernardino Valley College, Perez was responsible for overseeing the college's budget development, fiscal operations, audits, and compliance with federal, state, and district policies and procedures. He served as co-chair of both their



Mike Perez

budget development committee and facilities & safety committee, and has experience in accreditation, program review, supervising support programs, and coordinating construction projects.

Prior to that, Perez was the facilities and planning director

at the San Bernardino

City Unified School District, director of facilities and planning at the Anaheim City School District, senior planner at the Chino Unified School District, and staff analyst at San Bernardino County's special districts. He also has experience working in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Bureau of Administration.

Perez holds a master of business administration degree from the Keller Graduate School of Management, and a B.S. degree in business administration from California State Polytechnic University. ■

Mad about Science *continued from page 1*

College Professors Dr. Jeff Tolhurst and Guy Van Cleave, plus Cathy Parker and Colleen Whitlock—both science teachers at Curtis Creek Elementary School, and Student Teacher Russ Van Cleave volunteered to assist his father, Guy in the classroom. The Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office was represented by Dr. Brenda Chapman and Tricia Dunlap.

Also acknowledged for their support were Dr. Joan Smith, Columbia College president; Joe Silva, Tuolumne County superintendent; and Mike Torok, college dean of instructional services/arts & sciences. ■



Testing enzyme reaction in the chemistry lab are Kayli Ambrose (l.) and Isabella Herrin



Biology Professor Guy Van Cleave assists Ethan Wright in keying plants



Dr. Jeff Tolhurst discusses geoscience with students along the San Diego Reservoir



Students take a moment to thank Front Porch for its generous sponsorship

Child Development Conference in Ireland brings world together



Professor Kathy Sullivan (l.) with Evelyn Thompson of ICES on tour with their international colleagues

Professor Kathy Sullivan returned from an early childhood conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland with a wealth of ideas for our new Child Development Training & Family Care Services Center.

She attended the World Forum on Early Care and Education from June 16 to 19, which was organized by the World Forum Foundation and Early Years, an organization for young children. It was the tenth annual conference, and 600 delegates from around the world attended this year's event.

The first day of the conference included a tour of Sugar & Spice, a preschool in Drumquin located outside of



Preschoolers in Drumquin, Northern Ireland

Belfast. Delegates in her tour group were from India, Australia, Singapore and America.

Through the workshops she attended, Sullivan brought back ideas on improving the college program and teacher development training. What also got her attention were bringing nature into indoor classrooms and creating outdoor spaces for education—especially useful for the Outdoor Learning Center.

“Attending the conference was an amazing experience,” said Sullivan. “I felt that we were all part of a global community of early childhood professionals with common goals and challenges. It was a great opportunity to share our ideas.” ■



Pipers welcome visitors at Irish preschool tour

Classified Senate is state model

Columbia College's Classified Senate was selected as a Model Classified Senate by the California Community Colleges Classified Senate. Under the leadership of Lonnie Blansit, current classified

senate president; Doralyn Foletti, past president; and Nancy Bull, the organization was recognized for being an exemplary organization at the Classified Leadership Institute in June.

The Model Classified Senate is identified as one that, among other things:

- Is a participatory governance body elected by its constituents
- Operates professionally under bylaws and/or a constitution approved by its constituency
- Is recognized by the college administration as a governance participant
- Has an up-to-date website
- Is organized to actively engage in the shared governance process. ■



Lonnie Blansit



Doralyn Foletti



Nancy Bull

Shively named financial services director

Marnie Shively has steadily climbed the college's financial aid department ladder over the past nine years and has been named as the new director of student financial services. Starting in 2000 as a financial aid technician I, she has progressed to levels II and III and has now assumed managerial responsibility for that department.

Shively, a Sonora native whose husband Steve also works in the college's facilities, planning and operations department, holds a B.A. degree in business administration from CSU Stanislaus. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in educational

counseling from the same university, which she anticipates receiving in 2012.

"Financial aid is always a challenge due to the changing federal and state regulations," said Shively. "But the rewarding part is serving students with economic need and helping them succeed with their higher education. Many are first time college students, and many are the first in their families to ever attend college. We are also seeing a lot more veterans, some with physical and emotional disabilities from their prior military service." ■



Marnie Shively

More Entrepreneurship presentations this fall



Moderator Ron Hamilton with Charlene Wrighton



Julia Rhodes

This fall, watch for more guest speakers in the free entrepreneur lecture series on how to start your own business. Presented by the Columbia College Entrepreneur Program, last spring's speakers included Eric Davis, owner of Diamondback Grill; River Klass, owner of Grounds and Firewood; Julia Rhodes, president of KleenSlate Concepts; and Charlene Wrighton, president and CEO of Zoophonics. ■

Geoscience Institute held at Columbia College

About 40 kindergarten through second grade teachers from San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced and Tuolumne Counties attended the Geoscience Institute on June 21-26. The training focused early elementary grade teachers on earth science and was lead by Columbia College GIS/GPS professor Dr. Jeff Tolhurst as well as several other content and pedagogy experts.

As part of a three year program called K-2 STARTS (Science and Technology Assistance for Rural Teachers and Small districts), the institute was presented through a California Postsecondary Education Commission Grant, administered by a partnership between the University of the Pacific, New Hope School District and the San Joaquin County Office of Education.

For the first four days, coursework was conducted on the college campus in the Buckeye Building. Field studies were then held at the High Sierra Institute at Baker Station for the remaining two days. ■

Thursday buffets draw public to campus



Jann Norbeck (l.) and Lauren Mojica

For nine consecutive Thursdays through August 6, the Cellar Restaurant has drawn customers this past summer to their luncheon buffets. The meals are planned, prepared and served by students as part of the college's Summer Culinary Arts Institute a comprehensive training program in commercial food preparation.

"Many customers return week-after-week to our buffets," said Gene Womble, the college hospitality management program coordinator. "The food is fresh, menus are varied, service is great, seating is comfortable, and the price is unbeatable. That's what keeps them coming back."

For \$8.95 per person, dining guests have been enjoying a mix of international themes for the buffets, like Vietnamese, Italian, Mexican and French. A special highlight was having student servers dressed to match the theme of the July 9th pirate's buffet. ■



Abe and Sharon Rojas at the head of the table are joined by their family members and Pat Dean, seated next to Chef Gene Womble



From left: David Le, Jordan Matter, Tina Cooper and Al Lowe



Jordan Silva and Tiffany Coburn greet guests at pirate buffet



Beverly and Frank Hayes enjoy culinary treasure

Newsbytes

New Faces on Campus



Francis (Jake) Beck
Online Services Developer



Kath Christensen
Computer Information
Systems Professor (interim)



Lahna Von Epps
Mathematics Professor



Peggy Morris
Administrative Assistant



Penny Williamson
Administrative Assistant
and Adjunct Business
Professor

Nancy Bull received the YCCD Chapter 420's Unsung Hero Award at the CSEA gala awards dinner for her active role in the negotiations committee.

Mother Lode Views (KVML AM1450) host Bill Johnson interviewed Drs. Joan Smith and Roe Darnell for a show that aired on the weekend of July 24. "Education on the Community College Level" focused on the impact of educational funding from the state on Columbia College, the YCCD, and our students.



Terri Isaman

Terri Isaman was KZSQ FM's (Star 92.7) Working Woman of the Week for the week of July 13.

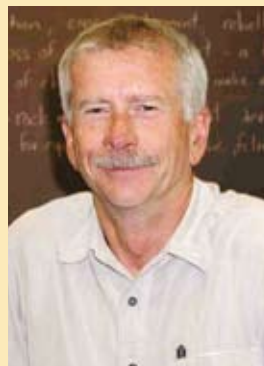
Columbia College's **AWE** (Academic Wellness Educators) Committee is introducing another basic skills learning

opportunity for students. **On Ramp** is a preparatory program for new and returning students with fundamental skills, strategies and resources to improve educational success. Students enroll in three classes, conducted Aug. 17-26, and earn 2.0 units: orientation to college (GUIDE 107), study skills ((SKLDV 290), and introduction to library (LIBR 1).

Middle College will be conducted again this year with Sonora High. Returning teacher is Paul Nixon.



Steve Shively and members of the maintenance crew kept busy this summer. **Darin Blume** is on scaffold in the background during painting of the Sequoia Building.



Paul Nixon

Congratulations to **Jon Sterling**, campus facilities manager, for receiving the YCCD 2009 Spirit Award!

Coach **Nate Rien** and his team conducted the 7th Annual **Basketball Academy** on July 6 to 9. "The clinic was a huge success and we are looking forward to running more clinics in the future," said Rien. "The kids were so enthusiastic about learning the fundamentals of basketball, and were great to work with!"

Volleyball Clinics also ran for three weeks: Bantam Level (July 13-16), Intermediate Level (July 20-23), and Advanced Level (July 27-30).



Coach Raelene Juarez instructs **Grace Fulkerson** (center) and **Emily Chavez** in serving the ball

Campus Calendar / August 2009

August Meetings

4 Tuesday

Leadership Team
Manzanita Conference Rm
9:30 am

12 Wednesday

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

27 Thursday

Academic Senate
Cedar 1
In-Service Day
3:00 pm

Classified Senate
Location TBA
In-Service Day
3:00 pm

College Council
No August Meeting

Safety/Facilities Committee
No August Meeting

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
*Executive Assistant
to the President*

Doug Lau
*Marketing & Public Relations
Officer*

Gail Segerstrom
IMC Graphic Arts Specialist

Cari Craven
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Technician*

Cathy Brown
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1
Jazz Series Concert
Columbia College Big Band with Skip Mesquite
Dogwood Forum Theater
7:30 pm
\$10 Open seating/no advance sales

6
Luncheon Buffet
The Cellar Restaurant
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

13
Groundbreaking Ceremony
Science & Natural Resources Building
10:00 am

Ribbon Cutting Celebration
Mahogany Building
10:30 am

15
X-Reg
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

27
In-Service/Flex Day

28
Flex Day

31
Fall Semester Begins



Don't miss two Measure E building celebrations



Everyone is invited to attend two historic events at Columbia College on Thursday, August 13. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Science & Natural Resources Building will be held at 10:00 am and the ribbon-cutting for the Mahogany Building will be at 10:30 am. Both buildings are funded by Measure E, which was passed in November 2004 by voters in the area served by the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD), of which Columbia College is a part. ■



Mahogany Building