Elevator grant helps entrepreneurship career program reach greater heights

Depending on the building height and the amount of stops along the way, it will take an estimated three minutes to reach your selected floor by elevator. That’s what the foundation board members of the National Association for Community College Education (NACCE) claim and that’s the amount of time they allowed candidates to make their “elevator pitches” for grant funding.

Of the 50 applications received, Columbia College was the only California community college selected as a finalist to participate in an “elevator pitch” during the 6th Annual NACCE Conference in Anaheim on January 5. As such, Columbia was one of 13 community colleges in the U.S. to receive a grant award of $7,500 to further promote entrepreneurship education in their areas.

Ida Ponder, a Columbia College business professor and Coleman scholar, delivered the “elevator pitch” for the college, resulting in the grant from The Coleman Foundation and The John E. and Jeanne T. Hughes Charitable Foundation. Ideas for the grant proposal were developed by Ponder, program specialist Sue Clark, and Academic Achievement Center coordinator Craig Johnston.

“The three-minute elevator pitch method was based on a business presentation model. We were asked to describe a new self-employment venture that could be made to a potential investor during an elevator ride,” said Ponder. “These grants were awarded to programs that establish or grow entrepreneurship education in community college settings.”

As such, the $7,500 will be put to good use this spring in developing a lecture series, “Inside the Entrepreneur: Enlightening Lessons.” Local entrepreneurs will be invited to Columbia College to share their experiences with live audiences to encourage the growth of entrepreneurial education and inspire startup business ventures. “We want members of the audience to hear, firsthand, about the rewards and struggles of being an entrepreneur,” she said. In addition, the series will be videotaped and made available to students and community members.

The present entrepreneurship career program at Columbia College is funded by the Governor’s Career Technical Education (CTE) Initiative and is also supported by resources from the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at CSU Fresno. The program is intended to provide Tuolumne and Calaveras County students in grades 7 to 12 with an opportunity to learn how to successfully create and sustain a small business. Consisting of business and educational leaders, the Community Entrepreneurship Collaborative was formed last fall to review project plans and consider steps to develop the innovative program.
President’s Note

The word is out in our community. “It’s a jungle out there” and it’s happening in the Columbia College Manzanita Rotunda from February 2nd to March 13th!

As part of Columbia College’s 40th Anniversary, the college is bringing an educational exhibit of rare animal specimens to the community for the first time ever. This will be an opportunity for everyone to discover some interesting facts about wildlife from other parts of the world, as well as our own Sierra foothills. Specimens of animals are on loan from the Osterberg collection, currently housed at the Great Valley Museum/Modesto Junior College and also from the Columbia College Toyon exhibit. And don’t miss the fascinating live and aquatic displays, too.

This opportunity will be so amazing for our community in that the displays will be presented in a format where individuals can appreciate the size and scale of the animals—all set in a natural landscape, not behind glass.

Columbia College is proud to offer this educational exhibit to local residents as a free public service. Activities and programs such as this help establish the college as an important learning center and recognition as being our community’s educational resource.

In addition to the jungle exhibit, we are presenting some other exciting activities this spring too, like Sylvia Alden Roberts’ presentation on “The African American Gold Rush Experience” on February 18 in the Dogwood Theater. We will sponsor an essay writing contest for students in grades 1 to 12 on “Why would I like to attend Columbia College?” with winners invited to a culinary dinner in the jungle exhibit area.

The college will host the 22nd Annual Occupational Olympics in March for Tuolumne and Calaveras County high school students. The second Mother Lode Business Summit will again be at the college in May. The Civic Engagement Project organizers have put together a weekly calendar of provocative film documentaries for the public. These are just a few of the many educational opportunities that we conduct for the community as your educational resource.

As always, we invite you to attend, participate and become part of your community college!

All my best,

Joan Smith, Ed.D.
President

Everybody’s talking about “It’s a jungle out there!”

Big crowds are expected in the Manzanita Rotunda for the largest exhibit of animal specimens in the area. From February 2 through March 13, everyone will get to visit an exhibit of rare specimens from North America, South America and the African savannah. Also on display will be aquatic and live animals.

Lions, leopards and bears will be joined by badgers, coyotes, porcupines, raccoons—and many more! If you’ve ever wondered what a papio anubis, panthera onca or bubo virginianus look like, now’s your chance to not only see them, but also learn a few facts about them.

As part of the exhibit décor, the rotunda has been transformed into a jungle setting, complete with vines, trees, a pond and wildland grasses. The campus facilities staff created the indoor jungle. Biology professor Guy Van Cleave provided technical/scientific support.

The animals are on loan from the Great Valley Museum’s Osterberg collection, as well as the Columbia College Toyon exhibit. The Great Valley Museum is part of Modesto Junior College.

Free school tours of 45 minutes each will be conducted by appointments only on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Community self-guided tours will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:00 am to 7:00 pm with no admission charge.

In addition, students in grades 1 to 12 are
Resource development gets underway

Two new faces...a brand-new department...and some critical support services are now available at Columbia College. Beccie Michael is the interim director of resource development and Kasey Fulkerson is the new secretary III, development office and Title III grant. The office will coordinate grant writing and Columbia College Foundation activities.

Beccie Michael, who earned a bachelor’s degree with highest honors from UC Santa Barbara in 2001 and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in community development from Kansas State University, is an experienced resource development professional. Over the past seven years, she has written more than 75 grant applications, securing over $28 million for a variety of programs and services.

Michael has worked for a range of organizations, securing funding from local, regional, state and federal sources in both the private and public sectors. She has served as director of grants for the YCCD in 2005 and 2006, as well as from July to December 2008.

According to Michael, “I am very excited about this great opportunity. The growth potential for grants and the foundation is very high and the timing is right to have a development office established at the present time on campus. We have received tremendous support from the college president, administrators, faculty and staff. I feel that there are lots of opportunities to help meet the goals of our vibrant college and acquire the necessary dollars to achieve them.”

Kasey Fulkerson was most recently the office supervisor/marketing coordinator of the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of the Sierra (VNA-Hospice), and has 12 years of experience with the medical care organization. Prior to that, she was the community relations coordinator at Tuolumne General Hospital where she was employed for four years.

Fulkerson raised over $500,000 in donated funds over a four year period in support of medical services. In addition, she assisted in the application of a community development block grant, resulting in funding of $425,000. In her most recent position, she led the VNA-Hospice agencies through state and accreditation services.

“This is a brand-new department and developing it from the ground up is an exciting challenge for me,” said Fulkerson. “I am especially looking forward to the community relations aspect of my new job and presenting our college to members of the community.”
Spring In-Service photo highlights

AFTER a relaxing winter break, the Columbia College community prepared for the spring 2009 semester by attending the in-service on January 8. Everyone had an opportunity to meet Mike Riley, the newest YCCD board trustee during the continental breakfast in Aspen 1. Dr. Joan Smith emceed the in-service in the Dogwood Theater with updates on a number of items, including the state budget, enrollment, Measure E projects, distance education, “It’s a jungle out there!” exhibit, Project Green, new employees, and others.
Mother Lode historian is Black History Month guest speaker

Local author, historian and lecturer Sylvia Alden Roberts will be the guest speaker for February’s Black History Month. Her presentation is titled “The African American Gold Rush Experience.” Sponsored by the Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC), the free presentation will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm in the Dogwood Theater.

Her recently published book, *Mining for Freedom: Black History Meets the California Gold Rush* is about an estimated 5,000 African-Americans, who played an important role during this significant period in the history of our state. Through collected photos and stories, Roberts highlights the ambition and determination of these courageous black men and women, embroiled in fierce pre-Civil War racial controversy.

*Mining for Freedom* honors the memory and dignity of this group of black Argonauts. They later united to form one of the wealthiest, most culturally advanced, and politically active communities in the nation, as stated by Roberts. “It celebrates a starkly under-reported but proud legacy that had its roots in the California Gold Rush,” she said.

Roberts moved to Tuolumne County in 1992 when she started researching and collecting historical data on this virtually unknown subject. She has since authored several articles and lectured on this topic throughout Northern California.

Currently, Roberts is the executive director of the Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation and project director of the Sugg-McDonald Museum and Research Center, both dedicated to recognizing African Americans in the Gold Rush era.

Signed copies of *Mining for Freedom* will be available for $14.95 at the presentation.

Cellar Restaurant & Bistro opens for spring

On the lower level of the Manzanita Building, Columbia College’s Cellar Restaurant and Bistro is an important part of the college culinary arts program. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners are planned, prepared and served there by culinary arts students and are coordinated every semester with their vocational training curriculum. The restaurant is open for public patronage.

“It’s a great opportunity for our students to get some real working experience in an actual restaurant setting,” said Gene Womble, the college’s hospitality management program coordinator. “The public also benefits from having well-prepared and served meals in a cordial environment at very reasonable prices. In fact, we invite everyone to come to the restaurant, meet our culinary students, and enjoy a meal here.”

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings this semester, the Cellar Restaurant will be converted to the Cellar Bistro where fine dining is provided by students enrolled in the contemporary cuisine class. Final dinners for the spring semester will be on April 14 and 15.

### The Cellar Restaurant

**Breakfasts**
7:30 am – 10:30 am
Mondays through Thursdays
Selections range from $3.95

**Lunches**
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Mondays through Thursdays
Meal selections vary from cold sandwiches at $4.50 to lunch specials at $8.25

**Weekly Lunch Buffets**
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Days vary - See InSite monthly calendar for dates and specially-themed menus
Cost is $8.95

### The Cellar Bistro

**Contemporary Cuisine Dining**
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Three-course Bistro meals will change weekly with soup, a choice of a salad or appetizer, and an entrée with two selections. Prices range from $12.95 to $14.95, and desserts are additional for $2 to $4. Reservations are required by phoning 588-5300.
Columbia College's Civic Engagement Project organizers are hosting a new series of thought-provoking documentary films this spring on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Dogwood Theater.

The documentaries cover a wide range of contemporary issues, including our country’s health care system, stories of war, nuclear proliferation and the effects of trash on the environment, to name a few.

The public is invited and admission is free. Open discussions follow all films and lectures. For more information, go to www.gocolumbia.edu/civic or call 588-5226.

Columbia College Civic Engagement Films

February 5
Sick Around the World
With the U.S. health care system needing urgent care, “Frontline” examines systems in the U.K., Japan, Switzerland, Germany and Taiwan to see if those systems might be a model for us.

February 12
Taxi to the Dark Side
This best documentary winner for the 2008 Oscars takes a gripping look at America’s policy on torture as it relates to the death of an Afghan taxi driver.

February 19
War Photographer
James Nachtwey tells the harrowing stories of war through his award-winning photographs, hoping to bring attention to the plight of civilians, one picture at a time.

February 26
Lecture: The Nuclear Threat
John Field, Ph.D. from Stanford in atomic physics, will help us understand the myths and truths of nuclear proliferation.

March 5
Zeitgeist
This controversial film suggest a link between organized religion, the global financial markets and the international power structure.

March 12
Bamako
In this film from Mali, the economic hardships of Africa are examined through a mock trial against key international financial institutions.

March 19
Sand and Sorrow
George Clooney narrates this study of the causes and effects of the bloody civil war raging in Sudan and the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

March 26
Singing Revolution
After 50 years of rule by the oppressive Soviet regime, the people of Estonia gave life to a grassroots movement for change by staging passionate rallies and singing forbidden patriotic songs.

April 2
Trashed
Why do we produce so much garbage? What are its effects on the environment? Who wants us to make more? This movie, shown along with The Story of Stuff, will make us rethink our wasteful ways.

April 9
King Corn
Two college friends decide to plant an acre of corn and then follow their crop into the U.S. food supply. What they discover about genetically modified seeds, powerful herbicides and the realities of modern farming calls into question government subsidies, our fast-food lifestyle and the quality of our food.
Newsbytes

Strike it Green! The Green Team, or our campus sustainability committee, reports that the mini-bins are in. Some have already been distributed and the rest will be during February. Find them attached to your regular trash bin. Remember, the mini-bins will be implemented in offices only—not classrooms.

In appreciation for Connie Mical’s help in the renovation of the duplicating department, IMCers gave her a special department logo T-shirt as a gift.

An American ex-president and a British military expert will be on campus as featured guests of Peter Lee’s world religions class on February 6 between 9:40 am and 12:45 pm in Redbud 3.

The American Culinary Federation (ACF) accreditation team visit to Columbia College will take place during the week of February 23.

New Faces on Campus

Beccie Michael Interim Director of Resource Development
Eric Nath Psychology Professor
Jason Romano Culinary Arts Laboratory Assistant II
Kasey Fulkerson Secretary III, Development Office
Cory Stoneham Transportation Mechanic

Dr. Micha Miller will share his 2007-08 slides on February 10 at 4:15 pm in the Dogwood Theater as a “Beyond the Classroom Experience”—traveling, mountain climbing and exploring the natural history of Chile, Alaska and the Mojave Desert. Sponsor: Wellness Committee.

Save the date for the Columbia Wine Tasting

The 33rd Annual Columbia Wine Tasting will be held on Sunday, April 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Columbia State Historic Park. Over 50 statewide wineries and local food purveyors will be represented.

Sponsored by the Columbia College Foundation, the wine tasting is a benefit for the college’s culinary arts program. Tickets are $45 per person and available at 588-5089, or online at gocolumbia.edu/Foundation and click on “Foundation Upcoming Events.”
2 – March 13
It’s a Jungle out there!
Manzanita Rotunda

3
Luncheon Buffet - Italian
The Cellar Restaurant
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

4
Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 – 7:00 pm

4
Columbia College Basketball
vs. West Hills
Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

5
Civic Engagement
Sick Around the World
Dogwood 7:00 pm

7
Columbia College Basketball
vs. College of the Sequoias
Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

10
Beyond the Classroom
Travels with Micha
Dogwood at 4:15 pm

10 - 11
Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 – 7:00 pm

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

12
Civic Engagement
Taxi to the Dark Side
Dogwood at 7:00 pm

13
Lincoln Day Holiday

14
Columbia College Basketball
vs. Merced
Oak Pavilion at 7:00 pm

16
Washington Day Holiday

17 - 18
Cellar Bistro
Contemporary Cuisine
5:00 – 7:00 pm

18
Sylvia Alden Roberts
The African American Gold Rush Experience
Dogwood 7:00 pm

19
Civic Engagement
War Photographer
Dogwood 7:00 pm

20
Book Club Discussion
The Good Good Pig
Library at 9:30 am

24 - 25
Cellar Bistro Closed
Special dinner arrangement

26
Public Reading
Spring Review
Library at 4:00 pm

Civic Engagement
Lecture: The Nuclear Threat
Dogwood 7:00 pm