## **Jumpers Basketball**



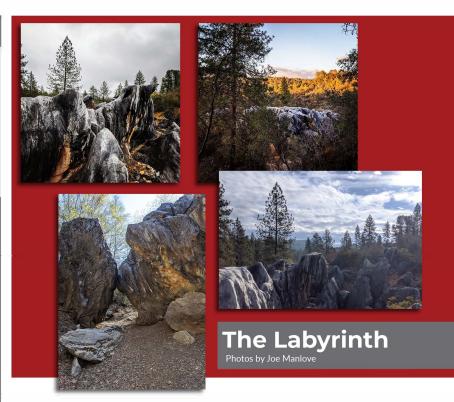
The Jumpers' 2022-2023 season will open on November 3, 2022 at the Las Positas Tournament in Livermore, California Stay tuned for scores and highlights!



## Congratulations, 2022 Graduates!

On behalf of Columbia College, we would like to congratulate the seven students who graduated with their Associates in Arts Degrees from Columbia College on October 20, 2022. Members of college staff, faculty and administration had the pleasure of attending the graduation ceremonies held at Sierra Conservation Center and were overwhelmed with pride and admiration for the academic accomplishments of each student. We recognize the monumental achievements of the following graduates and their exemplary commitments to education.





## **Campus Community** CONNECTION

You asked, we listened! During the October Student Forums, ISP students had the opportunity to provide feedback on what they would like to see in future editions of the Rising Scholars Newsletter. One thing was loud and clear: You want to be informed about what is happening on campus! Whether it be campus photos, coverage of current events or access to scores from the Men's Basketball team, we've got you covered starting with this edition of the RSN Newsletter!

One of the biggest requests was to see photos of the beautiful, natural landscape on campus. The above photographs of "The Labyrinth" were taken by Columbia College Math instructor, Joe Manlove. The Labyrinth is a grouping of spectacular rock formations right here on the Columbia College campus. Climbing enthusiasts and students alike come from near

and far to ascend the giant boulders and hike around this beloved campus hideaway. It is the perfect place to connect with nature and self reflect (especially after a lecture or exam!).



On the opposite side of campus from The Labyrinth, you will find Carkeet Park. Carkeet is home to many campus events, and most recently it held the first ever La Fiesta - Celebrating Comunidad! This free event was held in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrated LatinX culture through music, dance and food. Stay tuned next month to read about future student events and happenings on your campus!

Department of External Initiatives

## RISING SCHOLARS NEWS

Fall 2022

from the Columbia College Incarcerated Students Program



# **Student Spotlight**



During the most recent spring 2022 graduation ceremony held on Columbia College's campus, guest speaker Lance Stark spoke about his experience as a student enrolled in Columbia College classes at Sierra Conservation within the Incarcerated Students Program. Stark first began taking classes in summer 2017 and quickly navigated through the general education requirements needed to obtain an Associates of Arts degree. In December 2020, Stark was awarded an Associates of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Behavioral Social Sciences (with distinction). Stark left the justice system in early 2022 and was asked by former Columbia College faculty to speak at the commencement ceremony in 2022.

In Stark's speech he stated, "... although I was taking just about every self-help program available at the institution, and they were teaching me a lot, none of them combined taught me as much as a single college psychology course." Stark also mentions extreme feelings of doubt and insecurity of taking college classes while incarcerated, but summed up his experience by adding, "Education better enabled me to live the life of amends I so desperately felt the need to live, and it all started with my experience with Columbia and the amazing instructors who had the courage to come and teach inside the prison." Although all of our students experienced the loss of face-to-face instruction in the spring

Stark pushed onward and continued taking classes through correspondence education. Stark hopes his story will inspire future students to believe in themselves even if nobody else does. Stark concluded his speech with these words, "...our adversity does not define us, it empowers us to become the very best version of ourselves that we can." Stark is currently a Project Rebound Scholar at California State University, Fullerton.

## IN THIS ISSUE Director's Message + Bulletin Board Faculty Spotlight Campus Connection + Basketball





## **Director's Message**

Hello and welcome to the first installment of the Columbia College Rising Scholars Newsletter! My name is Michelle Walker and I am the Director who oversees the Incarcerated Students Program (ISP).

Our goal with this newsletter is to keep you informed about what's going on with ISP and also add some tidbits about Columbia College to give you a more well-rounded experience. We realize that it can be difficult to feel connected to campus at your location, so our hope is to bring all of the important information to you!

This semester we rolled out laptops for students, which has been years in the making. For some of you this might be really exciting news and for others it may bring about a sense of dread. Rest assured that we are

continuing to work hard to develop meaningful trainings for every experience level. I want to encourage you to look at this as an additional tool that will be useful as you navigate life. We are all adjusting together (faculty included) and I have confidence that this will end up being a very welcomed alternative to writing out assignments by hand!

As always, I am looking forward to seeing all of you continue to show up and give your best efforts despite numerous challenges and I promise to do the same on my end. It remains an honor and a privilege to serve in my role. Keep up the good work!

Michelle Walker **Director of External Intiatives** 

## **Bulletin Board**

Important Announcements and Academic Dates!

### **Fall Semester Start**



We are excited to welcome students back to class for the Fall 2022 Semester! The first day of the Fall Semester was Monday, August 29, 2022. The semester ends on Thursday, December 15, 2022. Have a great Fall Semester to all new and returning students!

## **Spring 2023 Semester**



miss out!

Keep an eye out for Spring 2023 Selection Worksheet packets coming the first week in November! If you are planning to enroll in college courses and workshops for the Spring semester, complete your selection sheets no later than November 11, 2022. We have lots of exciting courses and workshops planned for the Spring. Don't



taught in Person! Students also continue to work from laptops, in addition to in-person instruction.

### **Student Expression**



Calling all ARTISTS! Do you draw? Write poetry? Have a hidden artistic talent or craft? We would love to feature your art in the Spring 2023 Rising Scholars Newsletter! Contact your educational coordinator today if you have a work of art that you would like featured. Deadline for submissions is December 1, 2022.

## **Everything you need to know: Graduation Checklist**



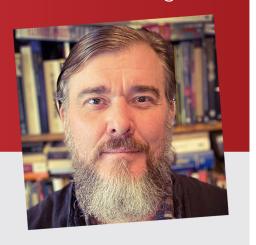
Columbia College offers the Social and Behavioral Sciences AA degree and Beginning Social Work Skills Attainment Certificate to all ISP students. Please use the checklist below to learn what major units are required for both awards.

The Associate in Arts Degree is designed for students who wish to have a broad knowledge of behavioral and social sciences. This area of emphasis can be used either to enhance employability in a broad range of career fields or as preparation for transfer to a university in a related discipline such as Anthropology, Child Development, Economics, Cultural Geography, Psychology or Sociology.

The Beginning Social Work Skills Attainment Certificate will introduce students to the helping professions. Students explore the topics of social work and human service; general psychology; drug use and behavioral and social problems and deviance. By exploring these topics, students can determine if the field of Social Work and Human Services is a career path they would like to pursue.

## **FACULTY FOCUS**

Dr. Chad Redwing



We asked Dr. Redwing to tell us about his experience teaching Human-4 in the ISP program. Here is what he had to say:

"Teaching in the Incarcerated Students Program (ISP) at Columbia College and the Sierra Conservation Center since 2019, I can honestly say it's been a highlight of my teaching career. First, in person and then via correspondence due to Covid-19 restrictions, I've had the opportunity to work with students who diligently pursue their learning, engage meaningfully in their readings and class discussions, and often deeply understand the value of education.

In "Humanities 4: World Religion and Modern Spirituality" we read a wide array of sacred texts from Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam as well as lesser-known spiritual traditions, including the Lumerian legends of Mount Shasta. Then, as a class we ponder how these crucial works help us understand "Who we are?" and "Where we came from?" and "Where we are going?" in both existential and practical ways. This student population, in particular, brings profound insight to these religious and spiritual questions and my own understanding of them has been greatly enriched by working with ISP students."

