

Inside Solano

STAYING COMMITTED AND CONNECTED

MAY 18, 2016

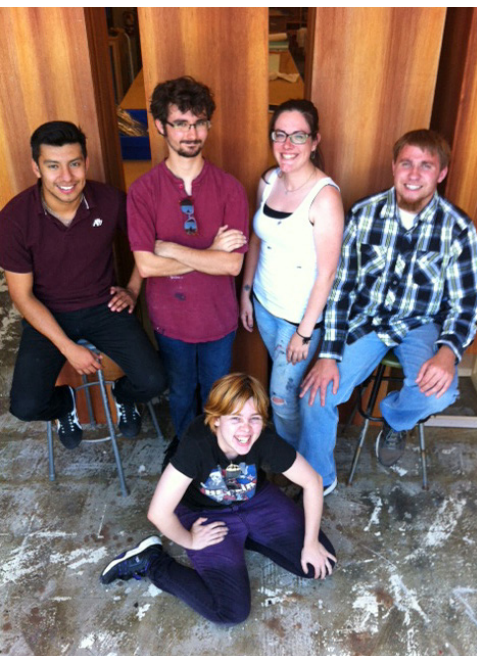
Graduates Will Shine on Thursday Night

Solano Community College will proudly honor its 2015-2016 graduates on Thursday, May 19, at Hollister Stadium, on the Main Campus. The ceremony, which begins at 6 p.m., will pay tribute to those who completed their degree and certificate requirements during Summer and Fall, 2015, and Spring, 2016. Of the nearly 1,000 students reaching these goals, 337 are scheduled to walk in the commencement ceremony on Thursday.

In keeping with the diversity of SCC, the graduates are a varied group of students. 63.49 percent of them are women and 35.56 percent are men. 0.94 percent chose not to report. 49.70 percent of the graduates will receive one degree, while 6.28 percent will receive four. Four members of the graduating class are 18 years old, earning 10 associates degrees among them. One of those students has a 4.0 grade point average. Two of the graduates are over 70, and one is 74.

Of the students earning associate's degrees, the top major is Liberal Studies with an emphasis on education, with 275 students. Of those receiving certificates of achievement, the top major is Industrial Biotechnology, with 24 students.

"We are all so proud of the graduating class of 2015-2016," said Dr. Celia Esposito-Noy, the President/ Superintendent of Solano Community College. "Balancing school, work, and family obligations is no easy task and they are to be commended for their success."



Hands-on Opportunity for Students

Five SCC Theatre Students have received full technical theatre scholarships for an intensive 11-week summer theatre program at SRT (Summer Repertory Theatre), a premier summer training program that is located in Santa Rosa, Ca.

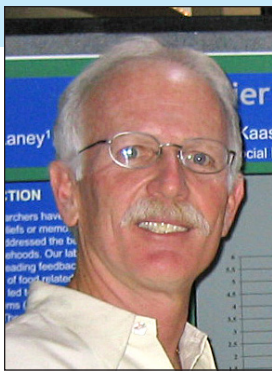
Those awarded the scholarship include: Miguel Solano, Scenic Technician; Thomas Nabarrete, Audio; Sarah Lambert, Assistant State Manager; Sean McNamee, Scenic Technician; and Wendy McAlister, Scenic Artist.

The students had to apply, prepare and interview in Santa Rosa for the various available technical positions. The scholarship includes 12 units of credit, housing and a small weekly stipend.

Theater instructor Darsen Long says this is a great opportunity for these SCC students, who "will become active participating members of a larger theatre company working/ training closely with professionals in the field." This will be the second year that SCC has been represented with Technical Theatre Students at SRT.

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One of the bittersweet parts of the end of every school year is the departure of our retiring faculty. This year, more than a dozen faculty will end their terms at Solano Community College, including Ron Zak, Marion Cowee, Karen McCord, Barbara Pavao, Sandra Rotenberg, Steven Springer, Charles Spillner, Diane White, Salvador Codina, Robert Da Prato, Nancy Konecny, Floyd Burnsed, and Quentin Carter. On these pages we take a look at six of them and their contributions to SCC.



Robert Da Prato

Robert Da Prato

Robert Da Prato has taught Psychology and Sociology at SCC since 1971. During his long tenure here, he has served as interim dean and faculty liaison in the Social Sciences Division, Executive Director of the Solano College Educational Foundation, Chair of the SCC Grievance Committee, and Faculty Senator among many other roles. In his retirement, he plans to read and write books and articles, sail his Islander 36 sloop, play tennis, garden, travel with his wife, and give back to the community.



Marion Cowee

Marion Cowee

Marion Cowee taught child development classes for the past 10 years at Solano Community College, including art and creative development, science and math for preschool teachers, and the student teaching practicum. In retirement she plans to focus on ceramic art, as well as doing some early childhood education writing and consulting. In addition, she says, "I plan to sleep more, walk more, connect more with friends, volunteer in my community, and worry less."



Sandy Rotenberg

Sandy Rotenberg

Sandy Rotenberg, who served for 15 years as a Learning Resources faculty member, implemented SCC's 24/7 online Reference Desk which has been important for creating cross campus/DE Library access. She continues to work most of the hours on this desk. She has also conducted careful research on our collection and has devised data-driven methods for managing SCC's collections with a limited budget. She was the first Librarian to move the Library classes online. During her time here, she worked as Interim Director in a longer stretch of no management and has been SCC's liaison to our library consortium. Sandy has been an accreditation chair and report writer, SCFA rep for Library and Counseling, and Chief Negotiator for SCFA. She is a long-term member of the DE Committee, including four years as DE Coordinator. Sandy says she is "looking forward to a happy retirement doing whatever she wants, each and every day."

Floyd Burnsed

Floyd Burnsed came to Solano Community College in 2001 as the head football coach, hired to restore the football program. He says he is “very proud of the accomplishments we had during my tenure. We were able to win conference championships, played in bowl games and help student athletes continue their careers at the four-year college level as well as the NFL.” Burnsed has recently been hired as the head football coach at Acalanes High School in the East Bay.



Floyd Burnsed

Karen McCord

Dr. Karen McCord is retiring from her position a professor of Psychology, Social Science, and Ethnic Studies at Solano Community College. She has served as Coordinator of the Ethnic Studies Program at Solano College and has developed and implemented the SCC Umoja Learning Community, which assists underprepared students. She also had a 12-year career as a social worker and counselor and has served as a consultant to a variety of corporations, received many educational and community awards, co-authored books, received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to study Civil Rights and developed several courses on the topic of Civil Rights and Non Violence, including a Civil Rights Travel Course that has been offered by Solano College since 2008.



Karen McCord

Quentin Carter

“Undoubtedly, Solano College will always be a special place,” says Quentin Carter, SCC Librarian. “My greatest joy as an SCC educator has been in helping to empower students experiencing social, economic, and/or physical challenges. Over the years, these students have never failed to amaze and humble me, and ultimately teach me to be grateful. Retirement for me means spending many hours with family, extended family, and friends. I also plan on volunteering with various Sonoma County community groups, one in particular being an organization that focuses on teaching English to immigrants. My husband I and plan on travelling to Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam and Berlin, Prague, and Budapest within the next year or so. And finally, I plan on spending many hours in my gardens and orchard.”



Quentin Carter

Debbie Luttrell-Williams

Several classified staff at SCC also retired in 2015-2016, including Custodian Kenneth Bryant, Lead Technology Specialist David Doty, and Alternate Media Specialist Lisa Hiner. And, on June 30, after 33 years at SCC, Debbie Luttrell-Williams, will retire from her position as Admin 4 from the Applied Technology and Business Division.

Debbie began at SCC in 1982, as the Aeronautics Clerk. She later served as Administrative Assistant in the Health Occupations Division for 26 years, before moving to the School of Applied Technology and Business Education. Debbie is proud of SCC and her work here, but is looking forward to retirement. “Students are our success,” she says. “Without them, we would have no purpose. I have enjoyed every day of my career. In retirement, I hope to take time to take care of myself, and complete projects at home. My goal is to work on physical fitness, and come back occasionally to assist where needed.”



Debbie Luttrell-Williams

Inmate Education Fundraiser

A fundraiser will be held at SCC on June 27 to help provide textbooks for the Solano Community College Inmate Education program. The college is working with Sean Pica, executive director, Hudson Link for Higher Education, Inc., to emphasize the importance of supporting inmate education. Pica will show "Zero Percent," a film about the role of education in rehabilitating inmates, to demonstrate the need for assistance.

A trailer for the film can be seen at this link: <http://vimeo.com/34897550>.

The fundraiser will begin at 5 p.m.




In our last *Inside Solano* for the year, I want to thank you all for everything you do on a daily basis to make this college run smoothly.

You each work hard every day to serve our students and to create and maintain a community of support. We have met a variety of challenges this semester and we have done it with grace and good will. As we end our year and say goodbye to our graduates and our retiring staff and faculty, please know how grateful I am for your support and your commitment to this college and community.

I have felt incredibly welcomed by all of you, and I look forward to next semester, as we continue with our accreditation process, evaluate and refine our programs and services, and continue in the important task of educating our students.

To those who will be away from the college for the summer, I wish you a relaxing summer vacation, and a chance to re-energize with your families and friends. For those of us working this summer, I look forward to continuing our efforts to improve communication, increase student enrollment, and address the pressing issues that remain.

Thank you again for a great semester.


Celia Esposito-Noy

Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors SCC Students

Three Solano Community College students were awarded Alpha Gamma Sigma scholarships last month in San Jose. Kevin Butt, Israel Jurado, and Elizabeth Pinto were honored by the academic honor society and service organization of the California Community Colleges at its 90th annual convention. The Ed Walsh Award, for outstanding service, was given to Butt, while Jurado and Pinto received the Kathleen D. Loly award for academic excellence. In total, 49 California community college students received scholarships totaling \$37,900.