

Arts and Innovation Day - Biographies

Keynote Speakers



Kathleen Taylor Ph.D is a professor of psychology at Sierra College in Rocklin, California. Specializing in Social-Cultural psychology, she has developed courses in Social Psychology, Psychology of Women, Women's Studies, American Studies and Death and Dying. She holds master's degrees from CSUS and UCD as well as a Ph.D. from UCD. Currently she is the chair of the Women and Gender Studies Program. Dr. Taylor has published work and/or performed institutional research in topics ranging from familial abuse and adolescent pregnancy, American Indian education in California, Shakespeare, stigmatized social identity, fatalism and the stress-disease relationship in families with Huntington's Disease. Her thirty-piece installation work, titled "A Genocide Alphabet," has been exhibited in various locations in California and she speaks nationally on sexism, racism and the media.



Angela Tahti has served as Executive Director of the Arts Council of Placer County since 1997. In that capacity she collaborates with artists and community volunteers of all ages, public officials and business leaders to improve Placer County's quality of life through the arts. She develops, administers, and promotes a wide variety of community arts programs including visual, performing and literary arts presentations; a Regrant Program; Arts in Education Programs; and cultural tourism initiatives such as the Auburn Art Walk, Autumn Arts Studios Tour, Library Garden Summer Series, Jazz at 808, AGROart Competition, Feats of Clay and the One Root Festival. Her "Director's Message" in Perspectives, Placer Arts' quarterly arts newsmagazine, informs members and the local community about the state of the arts locally and statewide. Ms. Tahti is Sierra Nevada Arts Alliance liaison to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and County Arts Lead to the California Department of Education for Placer County Office of Education



Maryanna Rogers, Ph.D is Executive Education Workshop Facilitator and Course Designer for the Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (d.school) at Stanford University, Ms Rogers is also the Director of Innovation for The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose. Ms. Rogers holds a BA in Radio and Film Media from Northwestern, a MA in Learning, Design and Technology and her doctoral degree in Psychological Studies in Education from Stanford University. Ms. Rogers is the recipient of the *Stanford Graduate Interdisciplinary Fellowship in Creativity and the Arts from Stanford University* and an *Excellence in Computer Animation Award* from Northwestern University.

Lectures and Workshops



Brian Crall is a comedian and owner of the Sacramento Comedy Spot. He studied Theatre at CSUS and Improv at the Upright Citizens Brigade- Los Angeles. Brian has taught long-form improv classes at the Sacramento Comedy Spot and Improv and Comedy for the CSUS Academic Talent Search Program for twelve years. Brian is the host of the popular Top 10 List Podcast and can be seen weekly performing in Sacramento's longest running Improv show Anti-Cooperation League.



Anthony Maki-Gill provides technical support for the Applied Art and Design and Fine Arts programs at Sierra Community College. He is the co-founder of the ARTS building in Auburn and the Auburn Art Walk. A nationally recognized sculptor, his work has been included in the prestigious Contemporary Clay Biennial at the Western Colorado Center for the Arts, the "Kingsley Exhibition" at the Crocker Art Museum, Lincoln "Feats of Clay" and San Angelo Museum International Biennial Ceramics Exhibition. His public work can be seen at the Granite Bay Library, Auburn Historic Court House museum and Roseville Fat's restaurant.



Michelle Johnson (aka maj) has been organizing Poetry Slam/Readings for multiple Sierra College events over the past seven years - from Love Your Body Week to Pride Days. This often organic experience is one of the highlights of maj's job as a professor in the Sierra College English Department. Each year, she looks forward to turning people on to the power of poetry in all its delectable forms.



Sarah McQueen-Cunningham studied vocal jazz arranging from the legendary Phil Mattson at Southwestern Community College School for Music Vocations and with internationally acclaimed arranger Kerry Marsh at California State University Sacramento. While at CSUS, Sarah also studied with pedagogue Julie Adams and Claudia Kitka, performing at the 2001 Western ACDA conference in Honolulu, the IAJE conference in 2005, and helped create and direct Vox II,. At this time, Sarah also performed at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and was a featured soloist with the CSUS Big Bands. President of IAJE and Mu Phi Epsilon, Sarah helped to create the Jazz Studies major and was the first to receive this degree from CSUS in 2004. Sarah is currently a member of Chamber Choir RSVP, under the artistic director of Julie Adams.



Ianna Frisby holds an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA from Humboldt State University. An instructor in the Sierra College Art Department since 2005, Ianna teaches Ceramics, Art for Children and 3D Design. She has also taught at Oakland Community College, Sacramento City College, East Bay Science and Art Middle School, Berkeley, CA and as an Artist-In-Residence at Ulloa Elementary in San Francisco, CA. Ianna has taught DBAE (disciplined-based art education) curriculum to students pursuing their teaching credential. She is a member of Verge Center for the Arts and is the present Co-Manager of Tangent Gallery in Sacramento, Ca. Ianna has been a Panel Member of The Crocker Art Museum and Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC). She most recently exhibited work at NCECA National Ceramic Conference, Seattle WA, the 6th Annual National Juried Exhibition, The Axis Gallery, Sacramento, The Nelson Gallery, UC Davis and The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA.



Larry Ortiz currently serves as Executive Director of the Arts Council of Nevada County. He holds a Masters of Arts degree in Sculpture and Ceramics from California State University, Sacramento. In 1987, he was appointed the Executive Director of the Arts Council of Placer County. In this capacity, he developed and implemented the Auburn Art Walk, the Placer County Autumn Art Tour and the Arts in Schools program, hosting over 100 exhibitions and providing performance space for musicians, poets and stage plays. Larry developed the ARTS building (Arts, Retail, Technology Services), now home to PlacerArts. Larry maintains a ceramics studio at this site and teaches at Sierra College's Rocklin Campus. As a bassman, he has opened for acts such as Santana, Tower of Power, Lidia Penze and currently plays in several local bands. Larry and his wife, Stephanie, who is the Executive Dean of Sierra College's Nevada County Campus, live in Grass Valley.



The California Arts Project (TCAP) is a collaborative, statewide network of classroom teachers and university scholars with the mission of improving teaching and learning in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and in arts, media, and entertainment. As the state subject matter project for the visual and performing arts and career arts, media, and entertainment, TCAP's network of teacher leaders advocate for and strive to ensure access for all California students to a sequential, comprehensive, and excellent standards-based arts and career education. An education that includes content and process rich learning in the arts will prepare California students to lead creative and collaborative communities and workplaces across California.



Carr Wilkerson is a System Administrator at CCRMA specializing in Linux and Mac OS systems. He is a controller and software system builder and sometime performer/impresario, instructor and researcher. He has a BS in Physics from Tulane University, Master of Arts in Music Science and Technology from Stanford (CCRMA), a Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from Tulane, and refers to himself in the third person. In a previous life, he was a US Navy Nuclear Propulsion Engineer (think Scotty).



Shawna Martinez is a Professor of Biological Sciences and Natural Resources at Sierra College. She has a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Davis, and a Master's degree from California State University, Sacramento. Shawna was a primary author of the *Sierra Foothills Nature Guide* (Sierra College Press, 2004.) She is also the campus faculty advisor for the Sierra College Science Club and ECOS, the Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students. Shawna is a Board Member of the Sierra College Natural History Museum.



Mike Crain is a composer, percussionist and educator based in Northern California. As an educator at Sacramento State University, and Los Rios Colleges, Mike teaches a variety of courses related to world music and drumming, music theory, and music technology. He is an active performer in the community and has performed on the east and west coasts at venues and festivals such as the Otherminds Festival, the Viola Festival, and the John Cage MusiCircus at Fort Mason San Francisco, the Mondavi Center, the San Francisco Asian Art Museum, Carnegie Hall and others. His compositions have received performances and praise by ensembles & festivals here in the US and internationally including the Electronic MidWest Music Festal, VoxNovus & Digital Art Week in Switzerland.



Jessica Green, Guest Faculty Alumni. After five years of teaching in the Sacramento area, – including at Sierra College in Rocklin – Jessica Green started this semester as a full-time English instructor at the Petaluma Campus of Santa Rosa Junior College. Her mentor at Sac State, Cathy Gabor, was one of the founders of Write to Succeed and Writing Partners, the student project she is presenting at Arts and Innovation Day (<http://www.writetosucceed.org/>). That relationship has led to Jessica expanding this national program to include new campuses and disciplines.

Exhibits



Ridley Art Gallery: Kinetic Conveyance

The Sierra College Ridley Gallery presents "Kinetic Conveyance", and exhibition of kinetic sculpture and engineering. In the spirit of the campus "Art and Innovation" day, held September 26, this exhibition makes visible the thinking, innovation, and collaboration between disciplines of Engineering, Art, Welding, Music, Drama and more, looking at creations for the Kinetic Grand Championship, a 3-day race in human powered kinetic vehicles traveling over land and water. A reception for this exhibition will be held on Tuesday, September 10 from 4-7pm. Ridley Galley is located on the first floor of the Library/LR 102, on the Rocklin campus, located at 5000 Rocklin Rd, Rocklin. The exhibit runs from September 9 through October 3, 2013. Regular hours for Ridley Gallery are 11am -6:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Admission to Ridley Gallery is free and open to the public.

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Tours



Arts in Unexpected Places: Art Installation Tour & Scavenger Hunt

Sierra College has a variety of beautiful and thought provoking art installations and murals on campus. These are both commissioned works by the Patron's club and works by departments, faculty, staff and students. Each year, new art pieces are added to the collection. This year the Mathematics department commissioned a mural by muralist Cathy Rowe. During Arts and Innovation Day, students and visitors are encouraged to tour our outdoor art installations or play a fun Art Installation Scavenger Hunt.



Colors, Textures and Patterns in Nature: Sierra College Nature Preserve Tour

Are you a nature copy-cat? In your home? Where you work? Where you play? Come for a nature walk with Placer Nature Center focusing on colors, textures and patterns seen everyday in the places you inhabit – right from nature. These features are not only seen in art but in the designs of the places you live and work. Come enjoy discovering how nature influences our everyday living-scapes. All ages welcome. Each tour group meets at the college Amphitheater. Start times are 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. Nature walks will start at Sewell Hall and follow Secret Ravine Creek and last for 45 minutes. See you there! ***Placer Nature Center connects people to nature through environmental education and awareness.***