

Inside SFCC

Core Values: SFCC's School of Liberal Arts and Core Studies

Todd Eric Lovato

This academic year, Santa Fe Community College will enroll more than 7,600 students in for-credit classes. These students will earn associate degrees, certificates, workforce credentials and valuable transfer credits. And almost none of them will meet their goals without taking a class in the School of Liberal Arts and Core Studies. The school's dean is Dr. Bruno Bornet.

Bornet is a firm believer in the power of a holistic educational experience. After all, he asserts, the credentials students earn are only one piece of a well-rounded education.

"I'm a liberal arts guy and I really still consider myself a teacher," said Bornet, who holds a doctorate in Educational Foundations from the University of New Mexico. "I view college as more than degrees and credit hours. When I judge student success, it isn't just about the degree you earn. It's about the success you find as a human being. It's about being a well-rounded person."

Bornet believes a college should both serve the core educational needs of its students and respond quickly to diverse interests and needs of its community. To illustrate this point, he explains how, by collaborating



Nearly all for-credit SFCC students take classes in The School of Liberal Arts and Core Studies

with UNM, classes in behavioral and social sciences have been expanded to include curriculum on current topics such as brain and behavior and cultural psychology. He also notes his school's development of world languages courses like Arabic, Chinese and Portuguese.

In an increasingly technocratic era there's no such thing as job security and the average worker will change jobs 10 times in a career. So it has become *en vogue* in some academic

circles to question the value of the liberal arts. Why do students need those core education classes, anyway?

Bornet's reply is circumspect: "There is more to general studies classes than memorizing dates, working Pythagorean theorem and conjugating irregular verbs. Students, particularly younger ones, need to learn how to learn. We need to keep reminding ourselves about why education is important."

Faculty Focus: Matt Fontis

Job: Faculty member, School of Liberal Arts and Core Studies

Years with SFCC: 16

Fall Courses: Western Civilization I and II, Introduction to Philosophy, The 20th Century World I and II

Graduate Degrees: Masters of Arts, Humanities, St. John's College; Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Social and Political Thought, Harvard University; Master of Letters, Creative Writing and Literature, Middlebury College.

Inside SFCC: What are you reading right now?

Matt Fontis: Paul Tillich's *The Courage to Be*. It's a philosophical, theological book that talks about how we can manifest the human spirit in a positive way, rather than in a negative, futile way – even in the face of death. It takes courage and commitment to belong to a belief system. This is my third time through this work. I find it personally motivating. But if I had to suggest a book I think everyone should read Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*.

I: Do you have a hobby, outside of academics?

MF: I'm a fly fisherman. I usually take a few trips when I go to the East Coast and drive back in the summer. This year I was up in Wyoming fishing, and a little bit in South Dakota.

I: Where are you from?

MF: Eastern Long Island, in New York. I came to New Mexico from 1980 to 1982 for my master's degree, then I went back East to Harvard and I taught at the University of Massachusetts. In 1992, I decided I wanted to move to New Mexico for good. I didn't have a job. I just didn't want to live on the East Coast any more.

I: Any plans to return to college?

MF: No. I'm overeducated. I can't take another class. With the Internet, there's very little I can't learn on my own, anyway. For example, did you know you can take online courses in both Sumerian cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphics? I have become an autodidact by this point.

I: What do you hope students take away from your classes, aside from the basic content?

MF: A sense of wonder. The best comments I get are particularly in history, when people say, "I hated history in high school and now I'm looking forward to learning a little more about it." Right there, I've succeeded, I've opened a door for someone.

I: Tell me a story.

MF: During the mid-seventies, after completing my undergraduate degree, I earned my chef's diploma and worked in kitchens in Cambridge, Mass., then studied in LaVarenne Cooking School in Paris for three months. I traveled through Provence, worked in kitchens in Italy and ended up in a kitchen in Manhattan. There, I met a dishwasher named Conrad who had a Ph.D. in comparative religions. He was a heavy drinker and he would be passing these books around on theology and philosophy. Before long, between the stress of the vocation and my changing interests, I went into philosophy. It was Conrad who sparked my interest.

I: Where do you live?

MF: I live in Albuquerque's Los Ranchos neighborhood. I live with four cats and a cockatiel named Bogart. He can whistle the theme from "The Andy Griffith Show." I thought I was being creative teaching him the theme, but I read somewhere that's the top song that people teach their birds. So now, I'm working



on teaching him the beginning of Beethoven's Fifth and "Pop Goes the Weasel."

I: So we know what music your bird is listening to, what are you listening to?

MF: I'm pretty eclectic but I find myself listening to more jazz, particularly '40s and '50s classic jazz like Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans and Miles Davis. I grew up listening to rock 'n' roll, so rock was the source of my music until I turned about 40, then I began to discover the great stuff. If I could recommend anything, it would be any of the recorded duets between Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald.

I: What have you learned as a teacher at SFCC?

MF: It's really solidified for me recently. To be effective in the classroom one has to feel a sense of integrity in oneself. You have to commit to a vision and a passion for what it is you're teaching. Every course I teach, I'm teaching me – Matt Fontis – although the content of the class might be the introduction of philosophy. Students can sense when an instructor is confident in who he or she is, and that they've mastered the material and are passionate about it. If an instructor has mastered these things, they are going to be effective.

More College Graduates? Yes We Can!

By Bruce Besser, Chair of the Santa Fe Community College Governing Board

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama announced an initiative to grow the nation's number of college graduates by five million by 2020. He specifically targeted the nation's community colleges as the institutions to carry out this mission.

As SFCC students already know, the two-year degree is the most flexible, economical, career-starter a person can get. But historically, the community college has not always been the first choice for college-bound students. With attention from the White House now, this may change.

In a speech at Macomb Community College in Warren, Michigan on July 14, President Obama said community colleges are "...a place where people of all ages and all backgrounds can take a chance on a brighter future for themselves and their families. This is training to become a medical technician, health IT worker, lab specialist, or nurse. This is training to install solar panels, build wind turbines, and develop a smarter electricity grid."

Along with his remarks, the president committed \$12 billion toward helping community colleges increase training programs and expand educational opportunities. The new funding is great news, especially because between 2002 and 2005, federal spending for community colleges fell by 6 percent, while spending on four-year colleges increased. (Source: Brookings Institution)

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, average annual tuition and fees at public community colleges are \$2,191, compared to \$5,491 at public four-year colleges. At SFCC, tuition is even lower. Even when a scheduled 5 percent tuition increase for the spring, 2010 semester is taken into account, full-time SFCC students will still only pay about \$1,113 per year.

At Santa Fe Community College, we have worked to increase both training opportunities and graduation rates. We will continue this work, regardless of whether we receive any of the President's \$12 billion stimulus for this purpose. The outlook on campus is optimistic – enrollment has peaked at the highest number in our history, and mostly with full time, degree-seeking students.

Additionally, more of SFCC's students are staying in school: Our retention rate is 62 percent (fall '07 to fall '08, and fall '08 to fall '09). This figure is above the national average. For Hispanic students, the numbers are even better, at 67 percent.

The number of Hispanic students graduating from SFCC with degrees and certificates has nearly tripled over the last five years.

Five million more college graduates by 2020? It's a dream worth pursuing, and Santa Fe Community College, its students, and supporters will help it come true.



New Facility will Train a Green Workforce

On Aug. 14, local dignitaries and members of the SFCC community gathered to break ground on SFCC's Sustainable Technologies Center. The Center will be a model for green jobs training and education in renewable energy and trades. Lloyd and Associates Architects and Flintco Construction Solutions have been selected to build the new facility. Pictured left to right are Rep. Nick Salazar, Andrea Bermudez, Linda Siegle, Sheila Ortego, Carole Brito, Bruce Besser, Rep. Rhonda King and Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela.



Green Gala Benefits SFCC

Heidi Tilton, Vice President of GROW Santa Fe Community College Foundation, engages in some "greenspeak" with Michael Furze of New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority during GROW's Green Gala, Aug. 14, 2009. The Gala attracted over 200 party-goers who collectively raised over \$30,000 for the college. Attendees feasted on a delectable spread provided by SFCC's own Culinary Arts Program under the direction of faculty member Michelle Roetzer, and heard an address by New Energy Economy Executive Director John Fogarty.

NOTEWORTHY



Bob McWilliams

Bob McWilliams has joined SFCC as Director of Business Services. McWilliams and his wife, Diana, were living in Delaware, making plans to retire in Santa Fe. But life took an unexpected turn when Diana was offered a position as Executive Director of the Santa Fe Rape Crisis and Trauma Treatment Center. That's

when the McWilliams family decided to make the leap to New Mexico earlier than planned.

McWilliams brings a wealth of experience to SFCC in purchasing, accounting and management. "SFCC is a great place to work," he said. "The people here are nice and very hardworking." He said he looks forward to helping the college's business office become even more efficient.

Student Success Story

Crystal Gonzales, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Financial Analyst in the Chief Financial Office, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos



Crystal Gonzales

A college diploma is as much about earning a good living as it is about leading a good life. This is the belief held by former SFCC student Crystal Gonzales, 26, a financial analyst at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Crystal graduated from SFCC in 2005 and, encouraged by SFCC professors and advisors, went on

to earn a bachelor's degree from the College of Santa Fe, and a pair of master's degrees in social work and business administration from New Mexico Highlands University.

Crystal credits much of her success to the classroom experience at SFCC where she was encouraged to pursue higher academic degrees and strive for excellence. "SFCC is where I first began to learn how to be both a student and a professional," Crystal said. "SFCC teachers have those expectations of students. They expect their students to be successful and they helped me make it happen."

Get to know the **Early Childhood Development Center** and how it can serve you or someone you know. The ECDC invites the public to attend its open house, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 5. The family-friendly event features tours, hands-on activities and presentations, including a parent education workshop led by ECDC family consultant **Anna Marie Garcia**.

The event also features an information session with local family physician, **Dr. Frederick Kullman**. Dr. Kullman will discuss current health issues and answer questions. **Dahlia**



The Early Childhood Development Center will host an open house, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 5

Cummings, southside library's Books and Babies expert, uses her "amazing" props and singing voice in a special presentation. Kids also can participate in a cooking class.

Facebook

Santa Fe Community College wants to be your friend. The college is building community and quickly gaining fans on Facebook, the most popular social networking Web site in the world. As SFCC fans, Facebook users are updated daily in a variety of ways, ranging from influenza news and special events to general updates and fun facts about the college.

For example, did you know that the college has changed its Web address from sfccnm.edu to sfcc.edu? Or that Frito pies, by a landslide, are the most popular item ordered in the cafeteria? The page is also used to update users on snow delays and other weather-related emergencies. Facebook is free and anyone can be a member, but you don't even need a membership to check out SFCC's fan page (facebook.com/sfccnm). See you there!

Student Government Association

Student Government Association President **Cindy Nava** is making the student voice heard both on campus and off. Along with Nava, the SGA team of executive councilors and senators is made up of vice-president **Olga Garmata**, treasurer **Oman Cooper**, secretary **Matthew Scarborough**, and senators **Araceli Rivera**, **Desiree Romero**, **Megan Coleman** and **Jeana Black**.

"We want to help the community and do as much as we can for the college to help it grow and help make a difference," Nava said in a recent interview in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. On Nov. 22, SGA will assist in the events for Habitat for Humanity day, and the group was instrumental in the college's recent Halloween activities.

Kudos

President **Sheila Ortego** recently accepted two invitations to share the SFCC campus sustainability model at a national level. In Chicago, Ortego presented at the American Association of Community Colleges Future Leaders Institute. Traveling to Washington, D.C. at the request of the National Wildlife Federation, she took part in an organized Call to Action to gain Congressional support for green jobs training.

In September, **Monica Lucero**, payroll technician and baking enthusiast, entered the New Mexico State Fair cookie contest and came away with seven ribbons. She won two first place ribbons, four second place ribbons and one third place ribbon for her cookies, which included gingerbread men, peanut butter, peanut butter fudge brownie, Swedish spritz and wedding cookies. Lucero said she enters the competition every year.

On Sept. 7, **Deni Javas**, senior graphic designer with MPR, travelled to Istanbul, Turkey to present "Initiating a Dialog of Cultural Diversity through the Arts: Why Artists are Leaders,"



during the 11th Global Leadership Forum. Her presentation covered her experiences and observations as an artist, a career graphic designer, and faculty member at SFCC's School of Arts and Design.

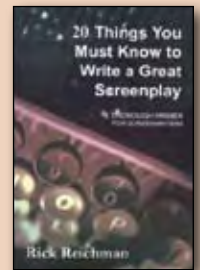
André Ruesch, head of SFCC's photography program, is one of 10 local artists featured in the Asian International Photography Fair (AIPF), held in Singapore. *Asian Art News* highlighted Ruesch's photo, "Crow and Dolphin," as one of the show's most interesting, and described the SFCC professor as an outstanding and leading photographer.

On Aug. 1, **Rosemarie Garcia** was hired as Executive Assistant to President Sheila Ortego. Now in her twelfth year at SFCC, Rosemarie now works closely with Ortego, assisting her in a wide range of administrative duties. Previous to her new position,

Rosemarie worked as secretary to SFCC's Governing Board.

On Aug. 17, **Katharine Perren** was hired as Secretary to the Governing Board. Kathy joined SFCC five years ago, working part-time with Teamwork in Action. She then served as Lead Administrative Assistant in Continuing Education and Workforce Development, where she worked full-time during the past three years.

Screenwriting professor **Rick Reichman** was recently nominated by the New Mexico Book Association for best non-fiction book of the year for his recently published *20 Things You Must Know To Write a Great Screenplay*. Earlier this year, Rick's book was also nominated by *ForeWord* magazine as one of the top books of the year in its Writing/Reference category. Reichman's students have sold scripts to Fox, Warner Brothers, HBO and Showtime, and written scripts for shows like *Roseanne*, *Home Improvement*, *The Nanny*, *XenMF: Warrior Princess*, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Reichman also wrote *Formatting Your Screenplay*.



SFCC Governing Board Chair Bruce Besser (left) is joined by actor Wes Studi, local author and journalist Anne Hillerman, actor Kate Burton, artistic director of Symphony Space Isaiah Sheffer and SFCC President Sheila Ortego during a reception at the Chuck Jones Gallery for this year's Kate Besser Memorial Lecture. The event, which featured readings of excerpts from Tony Hillerman novels, took place on Sept. 22.

Kate Besser Memorial Lecture a Tribute to Mystery Author

The Lentic Performing Arts Center was filled to capacity for a special evening of readings produced by the multidisciplinary New York performing arts company Symphony Space. The event featured actors Kate Burton and Wes Studi reading from some of the award-winning works of beloved local mystery writer Tony Hillerman, who passed away in 2008.

The lecture was the second in the series conceived by SFCC Governing Board Chair Bruce Besser as a tribute to his late wife, Kate. Last year's event featured the political commentator Arianna Huffington.



SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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SFCC CALENDAR

Registration for spring 2010	Nov. 16-Jan. 20
Late registration	Jan. 21-Jan. 27
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (college closed)	Jan. 18
Spring semester begins	Jan. 23
Schedule changes only (drop/add)	Jan. 23-29
Faculty Development Day	Feb. 26
Midterm examinations	March 13-19
Spring Break	March 20-26
Spring Holiday (college closed)	April 2-4
Registration for summer and fall 2010 begins	April 19
Final examinations	May 15-21
Semester ends	May 21
Commencement	May 21

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SFCC: Helping Students Succeed. Serving our Community.

Contribute to the success of SFCC with a gift to GROW Santa Fe Community College Foundation. Donations of any amount are welcome and are put toward the most pressing needs of the college and students. To learn more about making a gift to SFCC, contact Jean Marquardt, executive director of GROW, at 428-1139. Thank You!