

Inside SFCC

Age Is No Barrier To Learning At SFCC

When Christopher Bornet finished sixth grade at Eldorado Elementary School in Santa Fe, he skipped junior high and high school and went straight to college at age 12.

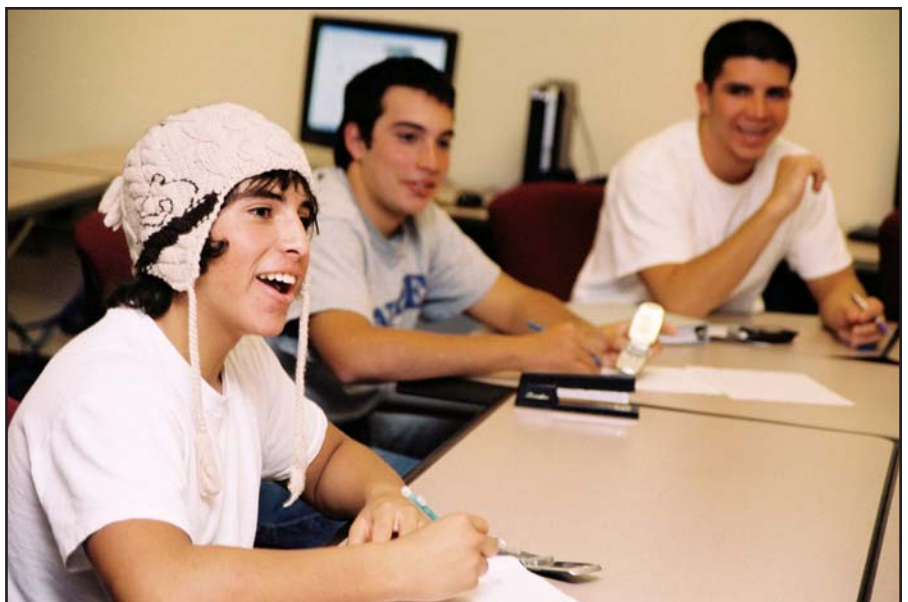
Now 14 years old, the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) student has no misgivings about missing the traditional high school experience.

"I've been inside some of the high schools and I know some high school students," said Bornet, an English major. "For me, I'm not missing anything because I feel like it's a waste of time. There's too much socializing. Too much hanging out."

With a full college course load and a structured practice schedule as a serious ballet dancer, Bornet has no time for teen-aged social activities. He's more interested in completing his college education so he can have a college degree before he pursues a career as a professional ballet dancer.

Santa Fe Community College places no age restrictions on its students. And for many young teens who attend SFCC, including some who were home schooled, the college setting is more appropriate than high school given their educational goals, disposition and outlook.

In fact, many students who enter college when they are 12 to 14 years old do not fit the stereotype of unhappy "nerds" who are humorless,



Many young students find the college experience appropriate for their educational goals and social needs. SFCC welcomes all students and does not place restrictions on admission based on age.

isolated misfits, according to a recent study by the University of Washington.

The study showed that these young students are versatile, interested, interesting and sociable. In fact, the main reason they entered college at the University of Washington was an excitement for learning and an intellectual challenge. This is certainly true for Bornet.

Others come to Santa Fe Community College because they are disappointed with their previous schools either academically or socially. They find that the social pressures of college life are not as intense as they are in high school.

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An Early College Option

Students at SFCC enrolled in at least one credit hour during the fall 2006 semester, by age:

- 13 year olds: 11
- 14 year olds: 8
- 15 year olds: 39
- 16 year olds: 15
- 17 year olds: 221
- 18 year olds: 256

Grant Helps College Put Emphasis on Student Needs

William McGowan is well on his way to a secure job in the field of human services. McGowan, who graduated from Santa Fe Community College, will complete his bachelor's degree at College of Santa Fe and he wants to spend the rest of his life helping others avoid the struggles he experienced growing up.

William was in the 10th grade when he dropped out school. After several years of job hopping and an unfulfilling life, the young man turned to personal reflection and sought professional support. Then, at age 27, he nervously walked through the doors of Santa Fe Community College, determined to find the help he needed to get a college degree and find the pathway to a career.

Once inside, McGowan figured out that if he filled out enough financial aid applications, he could put together enough sources of funding to cover expenses at SFCC.

But it wasn't just financial help William needed in order to be successful. "I sought out every source of support possible. And when you do that, you find out there's a lot here. The people here are really trying to make it work for the students."



SFCC student William McGowan received honors at the State Capitol as part of Community College Day. McGowan won the 2007 Phi Theta Kappa All New Mexico Academic Team Award.

Fortunately, McGowan was entering SFCC at a time when the web of support for students was growing. He qualified for a new, innovative program named "Contract for a Better Tomorrow" in which students receive a regular stipend for living expenses, plus bonuses for top grades and continued attendance.

Also, like 58 other community colleges in nine states, Santa Fe Community College participates in the Lumina Foundation's "Achieving the Dream" schools. Put

simply, the \$100,000 grant helps institutions make lasting changes in the way they serve students.

Those components include new innovative scholarships as well as free counseling, extra resources in tutoring, better advisement, special workshops, a library textbook loan program, a lap-top loan program and more. Students aren't the only ones receiving special help. Coaches with the Achieving the Dream program visit SFCC regularly to encourage educators to remove bureaucratic stumbling blocks and try new ways of delivering services.

As with all Achieving the Dream schools, the goal for SFCC is to ensure that every student who enters the college has the best chance possible to attain their degree or certificate.

"We ask students to reflect on their personal goals, work with an advisor to create the path to achieving the goal, and if they don't make progress we want to know why," said SFCC President Sheila Ortego.

For more on Achieving the Dream at Santa Fe Community College, call Jill Douglass, assistant vice president for academic support and student retention at 428-1331, or go to www.achievingthedream.org.

Age No Barrier (continued)

"When young students go to the enrollment center, we treat them like we do every other student regardless of their age," said Jill Douglass, assistant vice president for academic support and student retention.

She said that for many young teens, a community college may be the perfect choice.

"Moving into an adult learning environment is a lot more comfortable for many students because there is no

longer the peer pressure to wear the right clothes or hang out with the right people," she added.

"For our students who are young and finish associate degrees when they are 18 or younger, I think they are really prepared to go into a four-year school and succeed academically. They know what it's like to be a successful college student. They know the ropes and they are getting a jump start on their education."

"But the student and their families need to sort through some considerations before they make the

decision whether or not it's right for their child to enter college at that age," she cautioned.

For Bornet, SFCC is offering the perfect mix – a chance to thrive academically, socialize with more mature students and the free time to pursue his dance career.

"People tell me it's amazing how young I am and how I'm here taking all these college classes, a full load," Bornet said. "I have to be careful in class to not seem too smart or standoffish, so I try not to be overly excited so no one can say I'm showing off."

SFCC Board Seeks \$25 Million Bond Issue

No Tax, Tuition Increases

Santa Fe Community College's governing board has approved a special election to be held on Sept. 18 requesting voter support for a \$25 million general obligation bond for upgrades to the college and its campus.

The initiative provides for a proposed Health Sciences Center that will house laboratories and classrooms as well as a small dental clinic in partnership with La Familia Medical/Dental Center, which will provide clinical experiences to students in SFCC's dental programs.

With bond approval, SFCC will be able to accomplish its goals without raising tuition or taxes. The college's excess bonding capacity stands at \$150 million and SFCC's debt service is low.

Since Santa Fe's tax base has grown over recent years, spreading the district's tax burden among more households, the college can make improvements without raising taxes.

Bond Issue Projects

Health Sciences Center – \$12.3 million

Space for laboratories and classrooms to train medical professionals.

Occupational Trades and Advanced Technology Center – \$7.5 million

To provide traditional occupational programs and pave the way for emerging technologies training.

Kitchen, Culinary Arts Lab and Cafeteria – \$1.79 million

To allow more students to be trained for the hospitality industry.

Information Technology Upgrades and Enterprise Resource Program Implementation – \$2.11 million

To update technology infrastructure.

Renewable Energy Upgrades – \$1.3 million

To upgrade the college's existing biomass system to more sustainable energy sources, save on heating costs and to serve as a training site for renewable/sustainable energy systems.

SFCC PROFILES

Virginia Padilla always knew she wanted to improve children's lives through education, but she didn't realize she

would do it by teaching adults. As director of teacher education at Santa Fe Community College, Padilla prepares teachers for New Mexico's classrooms and is involved in educational reform throughout the state.



A native New Mexican, Padilla is currently completing her doctoral dissertation on teacher ideology and reflection. Quality education requires culturally responsive educators, she says. "Teachers need to be aware of their own biases and assumptions to get beyond the barriers of difference that might keep them from being successful."

Colleges Band Together to Go Climate Neutral

Santa Fe Community College President Sheila Ortego signed an agreement in June to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions on campus and accelerate research and educational efforts to re-stabilize the Earth's climate. Ortego is among 276 college presidents across the country to sign the agreement, which was drafted by the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. The agreement calls for SFCC to take a leadership role in working to solve the challenges posed by global warming.

The Presidents' Climate Commitment will provide a framework and support for SFCC to go climate neutral. SFCC already has taken steps in this direction including the installation of a

How Green is SFCC?

Environmental Initiatives at Santa Fe Community College:

- Recycling systems
- Low-consumption lighting
- Biomass heating unit
- Recycled wastewater for campus irrigation
- Computerized heating and air conditioning systems
- Solar hot water collectors heat swimming pool

biomass heating unit in the Early Childhood Development Center, low-consumption lighting, solar hot water collectors to heat the swimming pool and a computerized system to maximize heating and air conditioning efficiency.

As director of Santa Fe Community College's planetarium, Mexico City native **Juan Alvarez**

often gives bilingual presentations on the night sky to school groups and community members. Yet, according to Alvarez, the way he conveys information matters more than the language itself. "I say things in two different cultures."



Cultural views have always impacted astronomy, says the physicist—from the Incas naming the dark spaces in the Milky Way after animals to the Greeks basing figures on the stars themselves. "The idea of the planetarium is to expose people to different flavors of culture, and they choose what they want."

INSIDE BRIEFS

SFCC Acceptance Letters Could Help Close Gap

When students from several Santa Fe high schools graduated this spring, SFCC President Sheila Ortego handed them acceptance letters to the college. It is part of a new community partnership to help close the gap between high school and higher education. Ortego came up with the idea of admitting every local high school senior after reading an article about a similar program in Austin, Texas. In a single year, the percentage of students who went on to Texas institutions from one Austin high school jumped 11 points to 45 percent.

Scholarships Available to SFCC's GED Recipients

Santa Fe Community College has received a grant to provide college scholarships to students who complete their GED through the Adult Basic Education program at SFCC. The Daniels Opportunity Scholarships are awarded to full- or part-time SFCC students who enroll within nine months of completing their GED at SFCC. Students must be at least 16 years old and seeking degrees. SFCC received the \$36,600 grant from the Daniels Fund, created by Colorado-based philanthropist Bill Daniels, a pioneer in cable television.

TAX HELP, SFCC Process 5,225 Tax Returns

Taxpayers received more than \$3.6 million in refunds this spring through a collaboration between SFCC and TAX HELP New Mexico. Volunteer tax preparers complete a special class at the college in order to assist thousands of low-income or elderly individuals receive refunds by filing for the credits they deserve.

SFCC Director Invited to Worldwide Printmaking Event

Gordon Fluke, SFCC's director of continuing education, has been invited to join an international group of printmakers who are participating in a 15-day special event at the Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts in China from Aug. 15 to Sept. 1. Fluke, an adjunct faculty member at University of New Mexico for 10 years, was invited by UNM, the only U.S. institution invited to participate in the workshop.

New Medical Assistant Certificate Program at SFCC

The New Mexico Higher Education Department has approved a new medical assistant certificate program to be offered this fall at SFCC. Graduates of the one-year program will be ready to take the certified medical assistant exam through the American Association of Medical



SFCC President Sheila Ortego and former CSF President Mark Lombardi sign the agreement that provides tuition reduction to SFCC graduates in the CSF's traditional and evening and weekend programs.

Colleges Reach Tuition Pact

Attending a community college for two years before transferring to a higher priced four-year college or university can save students thousands of dollars in tuition. Now a groundbreaking agreement between Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) and the College of Santa Fe (CSF) will make this route to a bachelor's degree possible for more local students. Under the agreement, SFCC graduates who receive associate degrees can transfer to CSF, the city's largest private institution of higher learning and receive an 80-percent tuition reduction in any of the private college's traditional programs or a 50-percent reduction in the college's evening and weekend programs.

While the tuition agreement is not retroactive or available to SFCC students currently or previously enrolled at CSF, it is applicable to all SFCC students graduating with an associate's degree during the spring 2007 commencement and applies to all subsequent commencement dates. Eligible applicants must meet normal CSF admissions requirements, and fees such as room and board will still apply.

Assistants and to work in the medical field.

The program consists of 44.5 credit hours of medical, business and general education requirements. Courses include medical law; ethics and professionalism; medical insurance; finance and pharmacology for allied health.



The Las Soleras foursome featuring Skip Skarsgard, Bob Skarsgard, Dave Webber and Joe O'Connell placed runner up in SFCC's Invitational Golf Tournament on June 27 at Las Campanas.

Golf Invitational Raises Funds

One hundred golfers from New Mexico and neighboring states turned out for the 2007 SFCC Invitational Golf Tournament on Tuesday, June 27. The fundraising event at Las Campanas raised \$21,000 for the programs and students of Santa Fe Community College.

GROW Santa Fe Community College Foundation thanks the benevolent sponsors of its 2007 Invitational Golf Tournament.

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of Santa Fe



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SFCC Selects Three New Administrators

Santa Fe Community College President Sheila Ortego named **Meridee Walters** to the position of vice president for finance and administration.

Walters has been serving SFCC since November 2006, first as a special assistant in the area of finance and administration through March, then in the interim vice president role. Walters came to SFCC from San Juan College in Farmington, N.M., where she was vice president for business services. She holds extensive experience in quality-based management systems and helped lead San Juan College's successful pursuit of the Zia Award, New Mexico's premier recognition of quality.



Ron Liss, a long-time academic leader who has been working at colleges and high schools in Maryland for 30 years, has been named vice president of academic and student affairs at Santa Fe Community College. Liss began working at SFCC after leaving his current job as director of academic and student services at Montgomery College in Montgomery County, Md., where he has worked for 10 years. Liss holds extensive experience in academic leadership, distance learning, professional development and the application of educational technologies.



Michael J. Zavelle has been hired as the executive director of GROW Santa Fe Community College Foundation. He will begin his duties with SFCC Monday, July 30. Zavelle is a distinguished university administrator with expertise in finance and development and currently serves as vice chancellor for academic administration and planning for City University of New York, (CUNY). Prior to joining the institution, Zavelle was senior vice president and chief administrative officer at the New York Public Library for nine years. While at the New York Public Library, Zavelle was part of the campaign strategy team that oversaw a \$500 million capital campaign.



In addition to his experience in higher education, Zavelle has extensive service in the banking industry, mostly in Asia. Following graduation with a B.A. in economics from Dartmouth College, Zavelle earned a master of business administration degree from the Harvard Business School.



SFCC

SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Inside SFCC

S F C C C A L E N D A R

Fall 2007 registration	Ongoing through Aug. 18
Payment deadline for Early Bird Rate	Aug. 3
Deadline to petition to graduate Fall 2007	Sept. 14
Full-time faculty return	Aug. 9
Convocation (minimal services available)	Aug. 9
Faculty Development Day	Aug. 10
Classes begin	Aug. 18
Late registration	Aug. 19-21
Deadline for schedule changes (drop/add)	Aug. 20-24
Holiday (Labor Day – college closed)	Sept. 3
Deadline to drop without a grade and obtain a refund	Sept. 7

SFCC GRADUATION '07



SFCC held its 2007 commencement ceremony on May 18, graduating its largest class in the college's 24-year history.