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News from Merced College

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MERCED COLLEGE FOUNDATION HOSTS WINE AND TAPAS TOUR OF CAMPUS

Some of Merced College's newest educational facilities will be featured during the annual scholarship fundraising event sponsored by the Merced College Foundation on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and proceeds will benefit the Foundation's scholarship program.

"This is our 7th annual Autumn Affaire scholarship benefit," said event chairperson Dawn Kinney. "And, this is the first year that we're hosting the event on campus. We want to showcase this wonderful college and invite our alumni back to see the many changes that have taken place in the last several years."

The event features a progressive style wine and tapas tour of the campus and will include tours of the new Allied Health Center, the Learning Resources Center, the newly remodeled Science Building, and the new Leshar Student Services Center. The tour begins with registration at the Bill and Dorothy Bizzini Interdisciplinary Academic Center where guests will receive a program and tour map.

The tours will take place from 4-6 p.m., followed by a jazz performance by John Albano and Michelle Allison in the College's IAC Amphitheater from 6-7 p.m.

Several area wineries will be on hand for the wine tasting, and Taher Dining Services will provide the tapas menu. For the uninitiated, tapas are Spanish appetizers that have become increasingly popular among food aficionados.

"To my knowledge, Spanish tapas have not yet been served at any fundraising function in Merced," said Louise Farley, past president of the Merced College Foundation. "We think this will be a unique treat for our guests."

On the menu will be Andalusian Gazpacho, Tortilla Espanola, Langostino Guacamole, Patatad Aioli, Brochetas De ahumado Con Fruta, Pinchos Morunos, coliflor Rebozada and Huevos Rellenos with gherkins and tuna. The wineries include Long Board, Vogle, Ancient Peaks, ZD and Robert Oatley.

"We are immensely proud of our local community college," Kinney said. "Merced College is so important to all of us. We hope everyone who has taken a class here or who have gone to an athletic or theater event will come back to the campus for this important event. I think people who have not been on campus in years will be pleasantly surprised."

The evening's entertainment will be provided by nationally renowned guitarist John Albano and Michelle Allison and several of the area's top jazz musicians. Albano is a full-time professor of music at Merced College where he directs the guitar and jazz studies programs. He has performed professionally with Steve Tyrell, Frank Morgan, Morganne, David Friesen, the Stockton and Merced Symphonies, Jenni Samuelson, Bob Magnussen, Kirk Covington, John Stowell, The Sons of the San Joaquin, Tino, Joe Gilman, Warren Luening, and Mike Clark.

Michelle Allison, a native New Yorker, has an impressive background in theater and radio. Her versatile style as a vocalist has been showcased in various theatrical productions, including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Ragtime*, *The Good Times Are Killing Me*, and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Other career highlights include singing the National Anthem at Candlestick Park and opening for jazz great Betty Carter, and pop legend Neil Sedaka.

Tickets for the 2009 Autumn Affaire 2009 wine and tapas tour are \$40 per person. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Merced College Foundation at (209) 381-6470.

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