



**CONTRA
COSTA
COLLEGE**

Generational Connections

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Interior of the CCC Library, circa 1965.
The Library opened in 1963. It moved to the student cafeteria Jun 2005- Aug 2007, while building was extensively remodeled. The newly named Library and Learning Resources Center opened in September 2007.

75 Years of Excellence!

Established in 1949, we proudly began our journey with the first classes in Spring 1950. Here's to honoring our legacy and embracing the future together!

Look up the definition of a public community college. You'll find: an undergraduate educational institution that provides education and training primarily for students from its local community. CCC has been educating and interacting with its community for 75 years. That time period encompasses multiple generations, so it is perhaps unsurprising that there are strong connections between the college and the families of the individuals who have been educated and/or employed at CCC over these many years. We will be highlighting some of their stories as we celebrate this milestone anniversary.

- Ellen Geringer

In this issue: The Lee Family



Susan Lee spent over 28 years at CCC, starting as an adjunct, then becoming a full-time faculty member in Early Childhood Education, and retired as the Dean of the LAVA Division. She is currently on the CCC Foundation Board. Her daughter, Rebecca, completed her undergraduate degree elsewhere before coming to CCC to prepare for graduate school.



Legacy Talks

Passing the Baton from
One Generation to the Next

Did you grow up in the local community?

Susan

No, I grew up in San Francisco.

Rebecca

Yes.



Did you attend CCC? If so, why did you choose to?

Susan

I worked with Intisar Shareef in Oakland, who also worked at CCC. When Intisar took leave from her CCC job, I came to CCC as an adjunct in Early Childhood Development. After about 5 years, I became FT with half my load over the lab school.

Rebecca

I already had my degree, but needed some science courses to prepare for graduate school. I took speech and drama, too. I worked part-time at the bookstore and tutored.

How satisfied were you with your experience at CCC?

Susan

I loved it! We had great leadership during my time (Candy Rose and McKinley Williams).

Rebecca

It was good. I liked my chemistry and biology courses. The teachers were nice and approachable, willing to help.

Do you remember seeing any of the musicians, artists, and speakers who have performed at the college?

Susan

I met Willie McGee and various athletes who went and/or visited CCC. I went to lots of drama performances.

Rebecca

No.

What is your most positive CCC memory?

Susan

We had a lot of creative activities thanks to a Title III grant the college had received. We had CAG (Classroom Assessment Group, in which faculty worked in cohorts to learn about & practice different student classroom assessment strategies), we had cross-listed classes (I had one with Ellen Smith in the English as a Second Language Dept.), we were able to offer classes for child care workers at an off-campus center, we had supplemental instructors. We also had some ECE grants that allowed us to take students to conferences, have note-takers, increase tutoring and provide child care for Cal-Works moms.

Rebecca

Working at the bookstore with Darris (Crear) and Nick (Dunn).

Was there a college employee who had a significant positive influence on your time at CCC?

Susan

Intisar, of course. She was a wonderful friend and colleague, sharing her goals of bringing diversity, equity and inclusion to the college. Tony Gordon was my Division Chair and I appreciated that he was a straight-shooter. Donna Floyd, McKinley Williams, and Walter Masuda were positive and supportive. Ellen Smith was a dean at same time that I was and we could share resources and support each other through similar problems.

Rebecca

My teachers



What is something at CCC (not class-related) that you enjoyed being part of?

Susan

We had lots of chances for social interaction across the campus: participating in preparing students for their interviews for the Kennedy-King Scholarship, Professional Development's holiday parties, working at the annual scholarship awards dinners with other faculty and staff, which made it easier to talk if there were student problems. Everyone was very student-oriented.

Rebecca

Participating in drama productions.



1960's Famous Campus Speakers

Did you know our campus had some notable speakers back in the 1960's and the list has only grown!

February 1964

Martin Luther King, Jr.

September 1965

Eric Fromm

December 1965

Rollo May

November 1966

Stokey Carmichael

January 1967

Buckminster Fuller

February 1967

Louis Leakey

September 1967

LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka)

March 1968

Eldridge Cleaver

April 1968

Dick Gregory

October 1968

Charles Schultz

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You need in-person office hours to build relationships with your students, let them know they can stop by. It really does help students succeed.

If you had the chance, would you choose the same program or position again?

Susan

Yes! I wouldn't change anything.

Rebecca

Yes.

How did attending CCC prepare you for the “real world” & your career?

Rebecca

I got the courses I needed for graduate school.

What advice would you give someone thinking of attending/working at CCC?

Susan

You need in-person office hours to build relationships with your students, let them know they can stop by. It really does help students succeed.

Rebecca

It has good, supportive teachers.