

An Annuity Pays Dividends!



Joe Sidorski



NEXUS

CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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The foundation has selected an Annuity Program as one of the lifetime giving options that can be a long-term benefit to Centralia College and to the donor. A gift annuity is one of the most popular forms of life income arrangement, offering many advantages to both parties. First and foremost, the payout rates for gift annuities are generally quite attractive to older donors.

The rates, typically 6-11 percent, may be much higher than CDs, money markets, treasury notes, or bonds. The payout rate, the money the donor or couple gets back, depends on their age at the time the annuity is established and is fixed for life.

An example of such an arrangement is an annuity selected by Joe Sidorski, a retired Adna farmer now living in Centralia. Joe feels that an annuity was the best way he could support deserving students and still get a regular income, generous one-time tax benefit, and a significant portion of the income he receives back from the annuity can be tax free.

"A gift of an annuity to the Centralia College Foundation is not for everyone," Sidorski admits. "But the donor may receive income tax deductions and may get regular tax free income on part of his proceeds from the annuity. The money is better kept in Washington state," Sidorski commented wryly, "than sent to Washington, D.C."

Sidorski hopes that someday college may be free for qualified students, but acknowledges that day may be a long time coming. He chooses the Centralia College Foundation for his gifts because he recognizes the role it plays to "help those who may not otherwise be able to continue their education."

A firm supporter of Centralia College, Sidorski recently wrote, "I'm impressed that so many support the foundation and they should be commended for being so generous."

We completely agree with Joe Sidorski. Won't you please call Julie Johnson at the foundation to learn more about an annuity in your long-term giving plan.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Anne Garrett

During the past few months and years, the foundation has developed a number of attractive gift and lifelong giving products. These economic packages help folks demonstrate their support for the college, foundation, and the hundreds of students whose dreams have come true because of the generosity of the community.

We invite you to visit the Web site to see what giving options are available. Just go to www.centraliacollegefoundation.org and then select "Gifts and Ways to Give" from the menu.

We know that large private and corporate gifts have been a solid part of our community support, and one-time modest gifts from motivated individuals are also important. With this issue we'd like to bring you still another great idea for meaningful gifts to the future of our students and the campus.

An increasing number of people are choosing to remember the foundation with a small, monthly check; a few have arranged automatic payroll deductions to be sent to the foundation. Many, however, enjoy a special feeling of accomplishment and reward by personally sending their monthly check.

Anne Garrett of Centralia is a perfect example of the latter. Over the years Anne has steadily supported Centralia College through a regular gift to the foundation. In that time her accumulated support has grown to considerable proportions. Every month her impact continues to grow.

At commencement this June the importance of her monthly gift will again show in the faces of students who may not have otherwise had the chance to reach for their own private star. From that early summer experience, Anne Garrett draws a full measure of satisfaction and accomplishment.

At the Centralia College Foundation we are proud to recognize Anne Garrett as a faithful supporter and longtime friend of Centralia College. Perhaps you may want to begin a monthly routine of a generous donation. You'll be surprised at how much your thoughtful donation will mean to the life and progress of a deserving student.



Anne Garrett has made the Centralia College Foundation a regular part of her giving program. Her once-a-month checks have compounded over the years to help many deserving students who otherwise might not have realized their college dreams.

Campaign updates



The Cunningham Family gathered at the Open House of the Health and Wellness Center/gym to unveil the expanded Sports Hall of Fame their generous donation provided in the newly remodeled facility. The Hall of Fame is along the main north entrance corridor.

Recent downturns in the nation's economy have affected every part of the country, and perhaps the Pacific Northwest more than many. Even some of the largest and most stable regional economic powers have found themselves in a position of unprecedented caution. The fiscal response by many businesses and corporations may now include layoffs, manufacturing cutbacks, and budget proposals that range from lean to threadbare.

There is no question that the economic downturn—it's now officially categorized as a recession—has affected the foundation's capital, annual, and special fund-raising campaigns. Despite the gloomy national outlook, however, our campaigns are actually a little healthier than we expected, given the economic climate.

Capital Campaign—With two of the three parts of the campus expansion nearly complete, the Capital Campaign is still short of its goal by a wide margin. Part three of the ambitious construction agenda—the College Commons and Student Center—isn't due to begin for at least three more years, but campaign volunteers and directors are continuing the work.

Outfitting the first two phases is the immediate challenge, and campaign workers will begin to enter the next phase of fund-raising. Their hope is that community leaders will rejoin the effort to bring our facilities to completion as new economic stimulus initiatives efforts have a positive effect on the state of the Northwest economy.

The New Science Center will host three open house celebrations in late winter and early spring, the Health and Wellness Center (and the gym remodel) are essentially complete and generally in use by the college. Public use of exercise and health facilities will continue to grow as equipment arrives and is put in place. College and community sports are already at home in the upgraded facility.

The College Commons is still somewhere in the future, but is a strong part of our commitment to make Centralia College the best of the two-year institutions in the state. Already the students have endorsed the project with a continuing self-assessed contribution to the Commons. Last year the students added a \$50,000 gift to the fund, already anchored by a generous \$500,000 grant from TransAlta.

Annual Campaign—Despite the widespread economic challenges across the nation, we are optimistic about this year's important Annual Campaign. That's the fund we raise every year to generate scholarships, provide new teaching program support, and recognize extraordinary faculty—among a dozen other factors that support the college and our deserving students.

The goal for this year's campaign, which runs until June, is \$375,000. That's the same as last year, a goal that we barely missed. This year your directors are encouraged the full total will be met.

Centralia College has been recognized by the governor and the legislature as a key component in economic recovery for our service area. That fact may make some new funding available for vocational and professional students. The bulk of the assistance for academic, science, and engineering students, however, still comes from the generous support of the local community.

As the available labor pool rises through increased unemployment, every job seeker needs more and better skills to compete for the jobs that are out there. Your gift to the Centralia College Foundation helps assure many workers of good positions as they become available. You'll also be helping bring new businesses to the area as a skilled labor force develops in a number of fields. Finally, you'll be helping deserving young students and returning students that need added skills to fill family-wage openings right here in our local communities and neighborhoods.

Just think; besides the enormous self-satisfaction you get from helping young people achieve their career goals, you'll be helping keep our communities vital and active, give unemployed workers a better chance to lift themselves up, and bring economic stability to South-west Washington.

That's a pretty solid investment when you look at the impact you can have right here at home!



NEXUS
CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The foundation's Board of Directors last fall agreed that a full concert grand piano was needed for Corbet Theatre, and that state funding simply wouldn't pay for the piano. The directors voted to add a special element to the Annual Campaign with funds earmarked for such a fine instrument here.

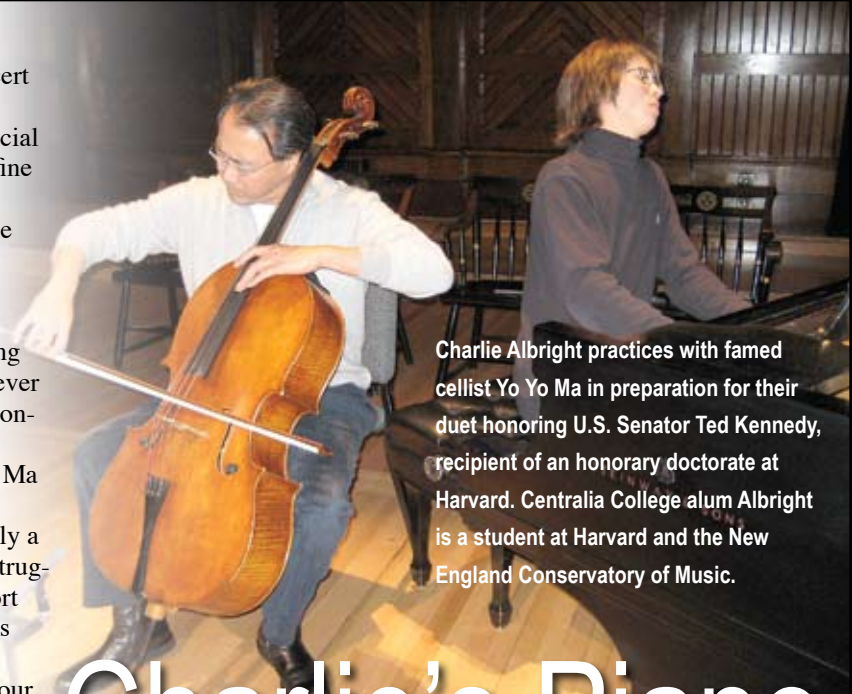
It seemed natural that the piano would be named to honor Charlie Albright, a virtuoso pianist and Centralia College alumnus who is presently studying at the New England Conservatory of Music and Harvard University.

Charlie Albright is a world-class pianist already—he's just turning 19!—who has won the Rochester Music Award, was the youngest-ever winner of a Van Cliburn award in Texas, and has been honored nationally and internationally for his brilliant playing.

Charlie was recently chosen to play a duet with famed cellist Yo Yo Ma in an honorary degree presentation for Ted Kennedy at Harvard.

The campaign to acquire a top-grade concert grand piano is nearly a third of the way to its \$100,000 goal, despite little publicity and a struggling economy. Campaign volunteers will be asking for your support for this valuable musical addition to the college inventory—and this simple acknowledgement of the skill of a recent graduate.

The success of the campaign will mean a greater experience for our music students and perhaps some of the country's finest pianists appearing at Corbet Theatre in the months and years ahead!



Charlie Albright practices with famed cellist Yo Yo Ma in preparation for their duet honoring U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy, recipient of an honorary doctorate at Harvard. Centralia College alum Albright is a student at Harvard and the New England Conservatory of Music.

Charlie's Piano

ADVANTAGE 2009

WORKSHOP COMING

If you are a business owner, professional, or retiree, be sure to mark Friday, March 27, on your calendar. That's the day the Centralia College Foundation teams up with West Coast Bank and Providence Hospital to present "Advantage 2009."

The day-long workshop at the college's Washington Hall will feature experts guiding you on such topics as business succession planning, cash management solutions, identity theft, estate planning in these unsettling times, fitness for seniors, and much more.

The workshops are free but you must preregister by Monday, March 16, by calling 736-0722, going online to www.centraliacollegefoundation.org and clicking (Advantage 2009) or dropping by West Coast Bank at 1100 Harrison Avenue, Centralia. Preregistered attendees will receive a complimentary lunch.

You may get further information on this stimulating workshop by calling the foundation office at 736-9391, ext. 290.

Centralia College Foundation exists to support and enhance the ability of Centralia College to accomplish its mission of improving people's lives through lifelong learning.

OUTSTANDING COMING EVENTS

Economic Report to the Community with Kei Matsuda—Tuesday, February 24, 5 p.m., Centralia College boardrooms, free and open to the public.

Foundation Night at the Theatre—Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m. at Corbet Theatre. The Theatre Department stages "You Can't Take It With You," one of the most absurdly funny stage comedies of the last generation. Reservations are required. Call the Centralia College Foundation for more information.

Foundation Night at the Oly Club—Thursday, March 19, 4 p.m. to closing. Join your friends for a rousing social evening at one of the west's most cherished theaters, hotels, and watering holes. Half the net proceeds fund foundation activities and scholarships.

Advantage 2009 Workshops—Friday, March 27, Washington Hall. Details elsewhere in this issue of NEXUS. Preregistration strongly encouraged.

New Science Center Grand Opening—Thursday, April 16, tours from 4-7 p.m. See Centralia College's brilliant new science facility for yourself. This cutting-edge center houses physical sciences, health sciences, earth studies, and is the focal point for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning initiatives.



Jim Sherrill

Jim Sherrill is the immediate past president of the Foundation Board of Directors. No stranger to public service, Sherrill served for 14 years on the Centralia College

Board of Trustees prior to accepting his appointment to the foundation board.

Sherrill has carried his concern for public participation and oversight into his career as well. For many years he has helped build health care infrastructure for the Chehalis Tribe and the Cowlitz Tribe, among the most underserved Northwest populations in terms of public health.

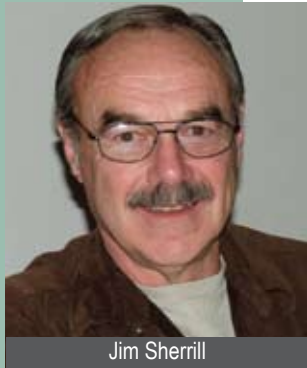
"I've always felt I leaned toward public service," Sherrill explained. "When I was nominated for a position of the college board of trustees," he continued, "I felt it was an opportunity to make the college a larger part of the community."

Sherrill said he underestimated the impact a community college has on its surrounding community. Once the lesson was learned, he became an officer in several national trustee organizations to help establish Centralia College on the larger stage.

Sherrill says he receives great personal satisfaction in serving in foundation leadership. "The community has a huge effect on supporting deserving students to get a college education," he explained. "We at Centralia College are perhaps more visible than our big-city counterparts, but we both work hard to help our students achieve their goals."

Sherrill considers the emergence of new campus structures a highlight of his volunteer efforts, but also says the number of students now able to attend the college has been his greatest reward.

"We're proud of the number of students we can help," Sherrill said of his foundation service, then added, "Now we want to help direct more community contributions to unrestricted uses."



Jim Sherrill

Alum Notes—Rolf Johnson

Alum gives credit for success to instructor and counselor

Rolf Johnson supported himself with wood-working and playing a few evenings as a semi-pro musician. It was at the latter he met Cal Taylor, electronics instructor at Centralia College and a skilled musician himself.

Taylor talked his friend into enrolling in the electronics program, and despite Johnson's reluctance and lack of prior math training, he succeeded—becoming an honor student. Johnson gives all the credit for his turnaround to Taylor and to Phil Meany, now retired from the Phoenix Center and the Library.

Today, Johnson is an engineering tech at the prestigious audio giant, Mackie Designs, where he has worked for the past dozen years. He maintains his close ties to Centralia College and his friend Cal Taylor—and is active on the music scene and in the popular jazz clubs around Redmond in the Puget Sound "silicon belt" north and east of Bellevue.



Cal Taylor



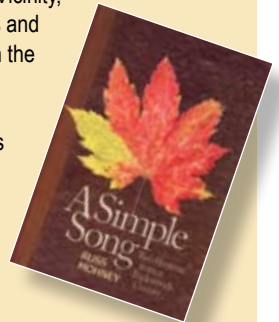
Campus Authors

A generation ago, college faculty lived by the axiom, "publish or perish." To everyone's relief and good fortune, college staff and faculty today publish when they have the inspiration—and a product the public wants to buy.

Centralia College has three entries in this year's publishing sweepstakes. Geology professor Pat Pringle has published "Roadside Geology of Mt. Rainier and Vicinity," a big brother to his very popular "Roadside Geology of Mt. St. Helens and Vicinity." Pringle's full-color book is available at bookstores or through the author at Centralia College.

Dr. Don Foran's poetry fans are waiting for his latest effort, a new book of verse that hasn't yet had a publication date announced, but is expected later this year. It joins a number of earlier volumes by the gifted poet.

College communications consultant Russ Mohney's ninth book, "A Simple Song," is a folksy examination of the people and the land that constitute a backwoods county. It's been critically acclaimed and has been recently described as a regional best seller. It is also available at local bookstores or through the author.



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