Honored for his outstanding career as an inspirational collegiate administrator and coach, George Gablehouse left a lasting mark at Centralia College. But it wasn’t his athletic prowess, his impressive titles, or even his Hall of Fame honors that make this man a legend. Gablehouse truly cared about people.

“His records as a basketball and baseball head coach were distinguished, but his impact on his community and the many student athletes he mentored was even more extraordinary,” remembers Michael Smith, one of Gablehouse’s former athletes.

After an impressive college basketball career at Eastern Washington University that included advancing to the NAIA Tournaments three times and later being inducted into the Hall of Fame with his team and again as an individual, Gablehouse devoted his career to investing in other student athletes. He coached at Omak and Marysville high schools before moving to Centralia College, where he spent the next 20 years serving as athletic director, director of physical education, director of intramural sports, and both a basketball and baseball coach. His remarkable accomplishments included three league/division titles in basketball, winning the Washington Athletic Association of Community Colleges title for baseball in 1965 (final record 25-3), his induction into the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Hall of Fame and his membership in the Centralia College Hall of Fame.

Even more remarkable was his personal impact in the lives of those around him.

“Coach Gablehouse was honest in all things and loyal to players and CC,” recalled Bill Watterson, a former player. “He saw benefits in my game and playing time that gave me confidence in future life decisions.”

Smith also affirms, “George Gablehouse was a role model and pillar of strength. As a player on his 1962-1964 basketball teams, I was able to observe firsthand his inspirational leadership style. He taught our team core values of preparation, hard work, extra efforts, going the extra mile, a ‘never give up’ attitude and that teamwork was far more important than individual accomplishments.”

For Gablehouse, “going the extra mile” did not stop with retirement. In his 80s, he was still actively involved in the community, making a positive difference in the lives of others. Even after his death at the age of 91, Gablehouse’s legacy continues to live on.

“He reveled in his final act of setting up the George Gablehouse Endowment Fund, which he designated to provide scholarships to student athletes who want to attend Centralia College,” said Smith. “For this and this alone, his legacy will be eternal. I’m proud to say that George Gablehouse was not only my friend… he was my hero.”

Many Centralia College athletes’ lives were forever changed while under Gablehouse’s care. The Centralia College Foundation is striving to increase the endowment created in his name to impact many more athletes in the future. Past athletes are invited to join in this effort to raise an additional $75,000 to show their appreciation for Coach Gablehouse and all he stood for. The enclosed envelope is available for these gifts in Gablehouse’s honor.
The Centralia College Foundation is pleased to announce Dr. David Carsten, a Centralia native and 1977 graduate of Centralia College, as the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus. As a dentist anesthesiologist, Dr. Carsten provides mobile anesthesia for patients who are disabled, very young, fearful, or who may desire anesthesia during a dental procedure. More importantly, he provides empathy and compassion—the core values of his practice, Pacific Dental Anesthesia, in Vancouver.

Dr. Carsten’s Centralia College roots go deep. He literally grew up at the college and watched it grow up around him. His dad, Don Carsten, was the dean of administration for many years and was involved in the construction and expansion of the college.

“I went to all the faculty picnics with my parents. The names attached to the areas and buildings like Hanson, Kiser, etc… I knew them,” Carsten recalled, adding that it was natural for him to attend Centralia College as a student and work as an employee for a while. “It was a good start.”

From Centralia College, Carsten went on to graduate from Washington State University with a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry. He then completed his doctorate in dental surgery at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. After 24 years of dental practice, 13 years as a faculty member at Oregon Health Sciences University, and three years at the University of Southern California, he entered the anesthesia program at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Carsten is a member of a number of professional organizations and received the Award of Distinction in continuing education from the American Dental Institute. He serves as a lecturer and published author on diverse topics and teaches sedation courses at the University of Southern California.

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NET PROCEEDS GO TO CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS.
If you'd like to invest in the future of student research at Centralia College, please use the enclosed envelope.

The Centralia College Foundation in January approved $10,000 to fund student research projects in 2015. The funds can be used to complete Capstone Projects in any discipline. Students can apply for up to $500 for an individual or $2,500 for a group.

This is the third year of the Capstone Projects at the college, but the first time the foundation has offered financial support to complete the high-profile projects. Previously, students secured their own funding, either out of pocket or through private fundraising. By making foundation funds available, it is expected more students will complete the labor-intensive, hands-on learning projects in their chosen fields of study.

“The first year, in 2013, we had six total projects. The second year, we had 17 projects from more than 30 students,” described Karen Goodwin, chemistry professor and creator of the Capstone Projects program. “Every year, more and more students want to participate and share their work. Having funding available is a great incentive, but it also creates opportunities for students to do bigger, bolder, more creative projects. I’m very excited to see what students come up with this year.”

The foundation will host the Capstone Project Presentation Day on June 5 when students will present their work to the foundation and community.

“The foundation is excited provide a source of funding to encourage student projects. No other community college in the state provides this kind of support for students to do research-related projects, and it feels great to be at the forefront of such a groundbreaking idea,” said Lee Stevens, president of the Centralia College Foundation Board. “The projects presented at past Capstone events have focused on student success and we are delighted to expand that tradition this year.”

Students may apply for funds starting in February. To be considered, students will need faculty approval for their project. They must also create a budget, describe their project and its benefit to the college or community. Applications will be due to the Foundation office by March 13. Awards will be announced by April 14.

For more information, contact the Centralia College Foundation at 360-736-9391, ext. 290.
World renowned pianist and Centralia College alumnus Charlie Albright returned home to Centralia on Feb. 7 to wow the audience at Corbet Theatre with a stunning musical performance. His homecoming benefit concert raised over $12,000 for Centralia College scholarships and the Charlie Albright Piano Fund.

Albright showed off his versatility and skill by performing a variety of musical pieces, including Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata, Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition, and his own improvisations, to the delight of the audience in the nearly packed auditorium. He closed the evening with his own rendition of “Great Balls of Fire,” bringing the crowd to their feet.

“I was completely blown away,” said Dr. Robert Frost, Centralia College president. “I expected a master and I really saw a genius.”

Recipient of numerous awards, Albright has been praised for his “jaw-dropping technique and virtuosity meshed with a distinctive musicality” by the New York Times. His 2013-14 season included 77 concerts in North America, including an appearance as a soloist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and recitals in Vancouver and Boston. In March, he heads to London to record with the renowned BBC Concert Orchestra.

A graduate of Centralia College, Albright thoroughly enjoyed playing for his alma mater and giving back to the school.

“It’s a great thing to give back and support not only the instrument in the hall but also the students that are coming through that need financial aid and scholarships,” he said. “I needed the same, and it’s good to be able to give back what I’ve received.”

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Good things come to those who give

Centralia College Foundation’s Legacy Society may be the perfect option for you. The Legacy Society allows the foundation to thank a very special group of people: those who have included the foundation in their future giving and estate plans.

As a Legacy Society member, you are honored on a special plaque that hangs in a prominent place on the Centralia College campus. Additionally, you receive a beautifully framed certificate, and are invited as a special guest to special foundation events.

The Legacy Society – A Legacy of Giving

Becoming a member of the Legacy Society is simple. Visit online at foundation.centralia.edu/trusts or call the foundation office at 360-736-9391, ext., 290, for details.
Robert Cox returns as college’s newest VP

Robert Cox, the new vice president of student services, is one of Centralia College’s own. A student from 1998-2000, Cox remembers the college having “a good family feel” because his professors knew him by name. That small community feel is one of the reasons Cox came back to Centralia College.

“I told my wife that if a job opened up here, I’d love to come back,” he said.

After graduating with his associate degree at Centralia College, Cox earned his bachelor’s degree at Washington State University. He originally planned to teach elementary school, but he soon discovered his passion was working with college students. He went on to earn his master’s degree in college student services administration from Oregon State University in 2004. After serving as director of student life at WSU Vancouver and later as the director of student life, dean of students, and executive dean of student services at Mt. Hood Community College, Cox returned to Centralia in July to take up the role of vice president of student services.

In his role, he oversees leadership for all student services programs—a position that provides a good balance between developing policies and working directly with students, two of his passions.

Having worked at larger colleges, Cox is excited to be back at a small community college, where he feels his values and skills fit perfectly. And, after being away for 15 years, Cox says it has the same family feel. It’s just like coming home.

For more information: 360-736-9391, ext. 290
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BENEFITS CENTRALIA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS!
Students in Centralia College’s diesel technology program can now dissect a bulldozer or forklift thanks to equally generous donations from NC Machinery and Caterpillar totaling $20,000.

The donations have allowed the diesel tech program to offer $5,000 in student scholarships and to purchase practical equipment for the department. Machinery, like the forklift and the large bulldozer purchased from federal surplus, provides hands-on opportunities for students to apply their repair skills on machines they will see in the industry.

“The (forklift and bulldozer) are training aids students wouldn’t normally have access to in a school environment because of the expense, but we’re able to use them thanks to the external funding from NC/CAT,” said Jake Fay, associate professor of diesel technology.

In addition to the large machinery, other practical equipment, such as laptops for the shop, electronic scan tools, and portable wheel lifts, have also been purchased with the funds from the donations. Both NC Machinery and Caterpillar have generously supported the Diesel program over the past seven years with matching donations totaling $145,000.