



Jim Stafford to create statue

Jim Stafford, the artist commissioned to create this bronze statue, was born in Chehalis. He enjoys painting the flora and fauna of the area.

A graduate of Centralia College, he obtained a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Oregon in 1968. He was voted into the International Society of Animal Artists in 1980.

Stafford was commissioned to create the *Reach for the Stars* statue honoring his son, who died as a youth. The statue graces the north entrance to Washington Hall on the college campus.

As a Centralia College student, Stafford knew Kemp and has strong memories of the woman who encouraged him to pursue his love of art.

Statue will stand as tribute to college matriarchs

Margaret Corbet, serving as head of the Centralia High School English department in 1925, became the first principal of the upstart junior college just coming to life on the third floor of the high school building.

Corbet, who hailed from Canada and specialized in teaching Latin, was a splendid blend of determination, academic integrity, and passion for student success.

Seven years later, in 1932, Katharine Kemp joined the junior college as a language instructor and dean of students. It was her belief in the junior college concept and ability to inspire students to do their best that joined her with Corbet. The two became close friends and were champions for the upstart two-year college.

And just in time.

Centralia Junior College had opened to 15 students in 1925 and grew to 133 students by 1928. Then the economic stresses of the Great Depression weighed down the college, bringing it close to collapse.

Centralia Junior College, considered at that time as a private entity, was expected to be self sufficient. That concept worked until 1933 when the banks took a holiday and the fledgling college was unable to pay expenses.

It could have been the end of the junior college but Corbet and Kemp refused to let that happen.

The two women rallied the community to come up with funds to pay faculty and other expenses necessary to keep the college open. The second time that the junior college found itself on the precipice of closing was during WWII, when so many college-age men and women were involved in the war effort. Again, these two college matriarchs rallied the community, raising the money needed to keep the college operating.

The stories abound of how the two, sometimes forming a tag team, would challenge students to do their best. Often it only took a look or a word from one of them for a student to know he or she was under the watchful eye of someone who believed in him or her. The students responded, buoyed by the



fact that the college's leadership not only knew them but knew about them. And cared.

Margaret Corbet and Katherine Kemp never relinquished their passion for high achievement nor their desire for student success.

They serve as models of what college leadership and faculty instruction can be. They set a high standard that will be recognized through this statue, a tribute to the two pioneering leaders in education.

The foundation is seeking to raise \$100,000 for the statue. For information on the campaign, please contact the foundation at 360.736.9391, ext. 290.



OPERA STAR SELECTED AS 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Angela Meade, a 1998 Centralia College graduate and a rising star in the world of opera, has just won the Beverly Sills Artist Award for young singers and the Richard Tucker Award, awarded to an American singer poised on the edge of a major national and international career. It is hoped that the award acts as a well-timed catalyst to elevate the artist's career to even greater heights.

And now she adds the Centralia College Distinguished Alumnus Award to her growing list of accolades. She will be honored during June 15 commencement day ceremonies, which includes a luncheon in her honor. She will be one of the speakers at commencement. Meade, at 34-years of age, is the youngest person to receive the college's recognition.

"I can't tell you how delighted and honored I am to receive the award. It was totally unexpected," Meade said. She joins 34 other former Centralia College students who have excelled in their careers and are Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients.

Meade is a native of Centralia who didn't discover opera until she was a Centralia College student, and may have stumbled into the role that launched her career. In 2008, she was a last minute substitute in Verdi's "Ermani" at the New York Met. She more than got noticed: Her performance was magical and her performance opened the door to a series of bookings across America and positioned her as a musical force.

From Centralia College, Meade went on to Pacific Lutheran University to develop her burgeoning singing talent. After earning her master's at the University of Southern California, Meade was accepted into the Academy of Arts in Philadelphia, the dream of a lifetime. She then won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2007, which propelled her onto winning more than 50 additional competitions.

This June, opera fans and Meade followers will be able to hear the local star as she performs at the Astoria Music Festival. She will appear in the title role of a concert version of Vincenzo Bellini's opera "Norma." The festival runs from June 15 to July 1.



Angela Meade has been awarded this year's Centralia College Distinguished Alumnus Award. Angela is a 1998 graduate of Centralia College where she studied music.

STEM scholar has goal of tracking down the world's toxins



Colleen Suter

Colleen Suter has taken a circuitous route to get to Centralia College but it looks like she's on the fast track to a four-year degree. Once she has that in hand she'll be ready to take on the world. Literally.

The 31-year old former Running Start student is an environmental sciences major who is studying toxins in the environment. Suter has a growing concern about pollution and is learning more and more about the impact those toxins have on life. She plans to take an active hand in making the environment safer.

"I want to make a difference, to do something to make this a better place," Suter said. After earning her transfer degree at Centralia College she will move on to a four-year university.

She earned her high school diploma from Academy Northwest in Kirkland and now lives with her family in Adna. She stopped out of higher education until about four years ago when she returned to Centralia College, taking classes on and off during that time, but realized it was a slow route to a four-year degree. If she was going to do something important with her life it was time for action. Education needed to move up on the to-do list. Armed with solid encouragement from her husband she returned to college full-time.

Her motivation comes from observation and witnessing first-hand the growing health issues that are based on environmental toxins. There

are environmental problems that disrupt lives and bring about disasters not only for people but for every living thing, she said.

"I believe that I can make a difference," she said. "Centralia College is helping me by providing an incredible foundation for what I want to do. The faculty has been amazing through support and encouragement."

No small part of that support has come through the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) scholarship.

"Because I have this scholarship I can attend college as a full-time student. Now, I don't have to juggle full-time work and school. I don't have to worry so much about finances and that's a biggie," she said. She still works about 30 hours a week but with some of the stresses associated with paying the bills lifted, she's been able to carry a 3.9 grade point average.

Centralia College is also providing opportunities to do things outside the classroom. She is involved with the Stream Team, a group of concerned people who spend time cleaning up China Creek and other area waterways. The STEM scholarship opens doors to field trips and visits to other schools to get a taste of what's waiting for her after Centralia College.

Armed with her vision and ambition, the world may soon be a cleaner and safer place for all of us.

TransAlta communications expert accepts position on foundation's board

Michael Wagar, 49 of Mossyrock, is an award winning journalist and the newest member of the college foundation board. He's a big college supporter and is eager to get involved.

"I believe in community colleges," Wagar said. "It fills such an important niche. It's not too expensive, and it gives so many people an opportunity to further their education."

Wagar is a product of a community college. He graduated from Edmonds Community College and was the editor of the college's weekly paper. He attended Western Washington University and became the sports editor of the university's daily paper as well as the editor of WWU's monthly magazine.

"I originally wanted to become a novelist," he said. He continues to write with hopes of publishing a non-fiction novel.

Wagar hasn't skipped a beat while reporting during the past 25 years. His demeanor focuses on not getting rattled; and he enjoys discovering people and their stories.

Within his portfolio, Wagar has been a newspaper reporter and editor for the Columbia Basin Herald in Moses Lake, he was a reporter for a newspaper in Silverdale, and a reporter for the Kitsapsun Daily. He may be best known as the executive editor of *The Chronicle* (2001 – 2011) and enjoyed writing "Our Views" five times each week.

He's been a recipient of several awards including the Blethen Memorial Award given by the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association for distinguished newspaper reporting.

"Newspapers matter," he said. "They are the bedrock of democracy."

The stories that have affected him the most focused on real human interest that displayed the hearts of our community.

"Our community is so great," Wagar said. He's impressed by the toughness of its members. "With regard to the floods, our residents went into action to get back on their feet and they did it well."

Now Wagar, as the External Communications Advisor for TransAlta, writes newsletter and Website copy and manages use of social media.

Wagar enjoys walking his dog "Joey," cooking with his wife, golfing, writing, and absorbing the view from his hillside home.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish by serving on the foundation board, Wagar replied: "As a representative of TransAlta, I will bring continuous support to Centralia College."

TransAlta is a keystone contributor to the new four-year degree. "Centralia College could become a regional four-year college, which is what is needed here," he added.

TransAlta is very supportive of Centralia College. The company helped to start the Center of Excellence for Energy Technology (now Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy). Wagar also serves on the center's Advisory Board. TransAlta donates to the college foundation annually to support scholarships and the proposed student center building will carry the TransAlta name.



Michael Wagar

College to offer its first-ever four-year degree



Larry McGee

Perhaps the biggest story to come out of the college since it's opening in 1925 is the announcement of the offering of a four-year Bachelor of Applied Science in Management (BASM) degree. It is expected that the much anticipated degree program will begin with fall quarter 2012. Larry McGee, a long-time business leader, is heading the program. McGee and his wife Becky have been active supporters of the foundation. The husband-wife team will now be officially "fully engaged" with both the foundation and the college.

"This is an exciting challenge. It will reshape Centralia College as it provides a higher level of educational service to the community," McGee said. "The bachelor's

degree program is a tremendous benefit for the community. Now people won't have to drive distances or do something totally online to get their four-year degree." McGee added that a quality four-year degree offered locally will help attract business and industry to the area and will help persuade local kids to stay closer to home.

Students entering the program this fall are expected to already have completed the first two years of college and will have met certain other entrance requirements. The college plans to enroll about 35 students as the program's first cohort.

"We want the graduates of this program to have more than the four-year degree. We want graduates to be valued by employers and to be more promotable because they have a much better idea of what business is about and are viewed differently by the organization," he said.

The four-year degree is offered in a hybrid format on a two- or three-year track. Classes meet one or two evenings per week, depending on the track, with the remainder of the coursework conducted online.

The Centralia College Foundation is working with the college to make scholarships available.

For information on the program please visit the BASM Website: <http://www.centralia.edu/academics/BAS/index.html> or contact McGee at the college: bachelors@centralia.edu.

Centralia College Foundation
600 Centralia College Blvd
Centralia, WA 98531

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 111
Centralia WA 98531

Your investment with the foundation is on solid footing

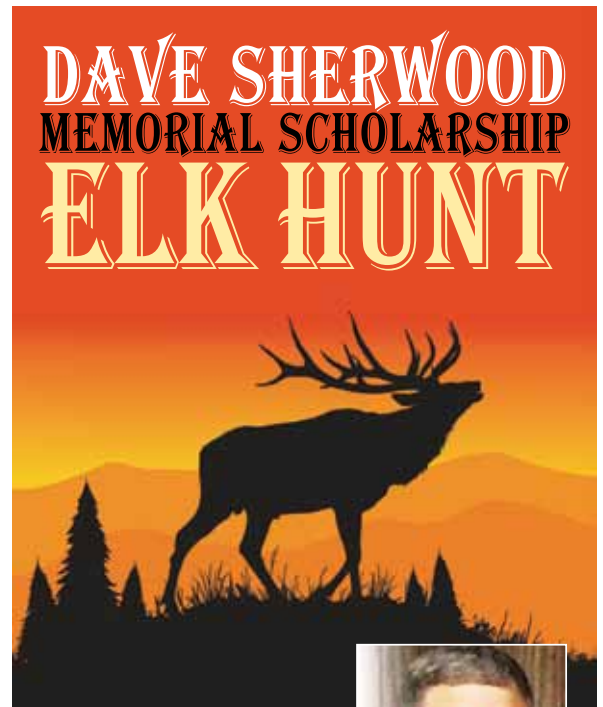
It is the responsibility of the Centralia College Foundation, it's staff and Board of Directors to be fully accountable to our many supporters. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously to ensure your full trust in what we stand for. Due to recent questions regarding how some non-profit organizations handle fiscal responsibility, the Centralia College Foundation board wants to ensure our constituency and friends that we are solvent and acting fiscally responsible. The foundation board meets on a monthly basis (except July and August) at which times it reviews the foundation's investments, income and expense, balance sheet, and operating budget. All checks are signed only by authorized board members – staff do not at any time sign checks; and the foundation maintains checks and balances to maintain healthy fiscal integrity. If at any time you have questions about the foundation's policies, please contact the foundation office at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290, or foundation@centralia.edu



Using a Smartphone with a camera (and Internet connectivity), scan the barcode to visit the Centralia College Foundation Website and see all the features we've got listed.

Sherwood elk hunt to benefit scholarships

Dave Sherwood lived his life with an avid love for the outdoors. Among his avocations was his love of hunting. Sherwood died this past fall in an accident while hunting. TransAlta, his employer, is honoring Sherwood's memory by instituting the Dave Sherwood Memorial Scholarship Elk Hunt. There will be a drawing to select an individual who will have access to TransAlta property for one weekend during regular rifle elk season (winner will be responsible for possessing a valid Washington state hunting license and tag). Tickets for this hunt cost \$25 with proceeds to benefit Centralia College scholarships. The drawing will be held May 1, in the Centralia College Foundation office. For more information about Shaw, the elk hunt and where tickets may be purchased, visit <http://foundation.centralia.edu/events.html>.



TransAlta





Thank you very much for playing a part in advancing educational opportunities at Centralia College through your support of the Future Leaders Fund.

Do something you've never imagined! (Manage your money by giving it away)

Invest in the Centralia College Foundation through a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, and you'll help to sustain Centralia College and ensure that the foundation can continue to have a favorable impact on deserving students.

By donating, you can receive income payments for life, some of which may be tax-free. Also, your charitable donation could earn an immediate federal income tax deduction.

Giving something away has never felt so good.

One important option that allows individuals or families to make a difference in the lives of Centralia College students is the Legacy Society. The Centralia College Foundation conceived The Legacy Society to welcome donors who have committed to a future gift through a will or bequest. Such generosity will help the college change lives and brighten the future through innovative facilities, program initiatives, and especially scholarships for deserving students.

Visit <http://foundation.centralia.edu/trusts>, or call the foundation at 360.736.9391, ext. 290.

Distinguished Alumnus nominations sought

A Centralia College selection committee is seeking nominations for the college's Distinguished Alumnus Award. This prestigious award is presented during commencement exercises in June.

The award is given to an individual who attended Centralia College for at least one year and/or who has made significant contributions to his or her profession or society in general.

In all, 35 individuals have received the honor.

An overview of each of the Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients is available on the college's Website: foundation.centralia.edu/pubs.html.

The selection committee depends on members of the community to make nominations, asking the public to share information about those who have attended Centralia College.

For additional information or for a nomination form, call the Centralia College Foundation, 360.736.9391, ext. 290. Nominations may be mailed to: Julie Johnson, 600 Centralia College Blvd, Centralia, Wa., 98531, or sent via email to jjohnson@centralia.edu. The nomination should include a statement outlining why the nominee should be considered for the honor.

I am pleased to support your continuing efforts to provide opportunities for deserving students in Lewis and south Thurston counties helping them to reach their full potential by attending Centralia College.

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

\$500 \$200 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

I am happy to pledge \$ _____ to be billed monthly/quarterly/annually.

I would like my contribution to support:

Future Leaders Fund Scholarships Corbet/Kemp Statue

Other Yes, I would like to help you save resources. Please e-mail my receipt.

Please make your check payable to Centralia College Foundation.

Name _____

Company/Title _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Centralia College Alumni class of _____

Gift made in the memory of or tribute to _____

Please contact me for a tour of the campus

Please send me details on the Legacy Society

Centralia College Foundation
360.736.9391, ext. 290
foundation@centralia.edu
<http://foundation.centralia.edu/>

N00312

To make your tax-deductible donation to support deserving students attending Centralia College, please fill out the card above, clip it, and mail it to the Centralia College Foundation, 600 Centralia College Blvd., Centralia WA 98531.