

Athletic Department to stage garage sale to raise funds for scholarships

The foundation has teamed with the Athletic Department to stage a community-wide garage sale. The Saturday, April 22, event will raise funds to support athletic programs at Centralia College. The sale will be held in the gym from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The sale includes recreational and sporting goods, furniture and household items, tools, kitchen items, miscellaneous stuff befitting a garage sale, clean books, and clothing.

Athletic fund-raising coordinator Bob Peters said the sale can use more items, but has asked that donated items be clean and in good working condition.

“We don’t have the time or facilities to clean and repair things before we put them up for sale,” Peters said. “And we can’t accept computers or accessories. Disposal of those items could substantially reduce the money we could make to benefit our sports programs.”

Peters says more donation days have been added to give donors more flexibility in bringing items for the sale. There will be a drop-off day on Saturday, April 8, from 9-1 at Logan School, 1330 Rose Street in Centralia.

Collections will also be accepted on the weekend of April 14 and 15. Donation times include Friday, April 14, from 3-6 at the college gym, and from 9-1 on Saturday at Logan School.

“We will also accept donations at the gym between 4 and 8 p.m. on April 21,” Peters added. “People who need to have items picked up should call the sports programs office weekdays no later than Friday, April 14.” That number is 736-9391, ext. 247.

“This garage sale should be a lot of fun and give community bargain hunters an extra chance to find some treasures while they help build opportunity in the sports programs,” said Steve Ward, foundation executive director.



Estate planning is important

Have you thought of including the Centralia College Foundation in your will? You can give a voice to your legacy by leaving the Centralia College Foundation in your will to assist students in Lewis County to reach their post-secondary educational goals. For more information, please call the foundation office at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290



600 W. Locust Street
Centralia, WA 98531

This newsletter brings you news of interest and events about the Centralia College Foundation and its mission of supporting Centralia College as it seeks to improve people’s lives through life-long learning.

The Nexus newsletter is produced by the foundation staff and by the college’s Office of College Relations. Please contact the foundation office with suggestions and comments. Call 736-9391, ext. 290; e-mail: foundation@centralia.ctc.edu



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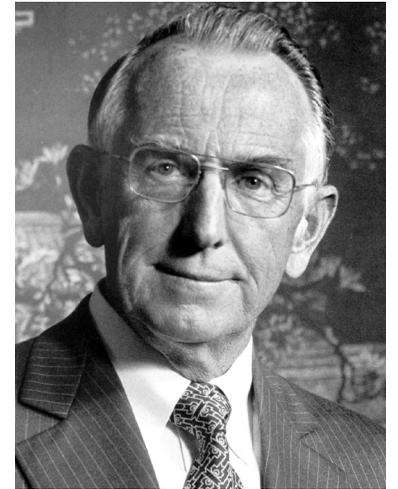


Sweany family recognizes value of scholarships—establishes endowment

The family of Centralia College’s first Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient—Gordon Sweany—has presented the Centralia College Foundation with a gift of \$85,000 to establish an endowment

Sweany was born in Curtis in 1913 and was a 1931 graduate of Centralia Junior College. Sweany was named the college’s first Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient in 1978.

Sweany went on to graduate from the University of Washington cum laude in 1934. He passed the Washington State Bar exam that year with highest marks, and later in 1934 married Alta Showalter of Seattle.



Gordon Sweany

During that eventful year, Sweany signed on with General Insurance Company of America, which would later become the industry giant, SAFECO Insurance. From a start as a member of the legal department, Gordon Sweany brought his leadership through all facets of the company where he was named president in 1966, CEO in 1970, and in 1977 became chairman of the board. Under his leadership, SAFECO became one of the 20 largest diversified financial corporations in the U. S.

Sweany was recognized as a civic and community leader throughout the Northwest, and received awards for his contributions. In 1979 Sweany was awarded the prestigious “First Citizen” award by the Seattle-King County Association of Realtors. Sweany held his Lewis County roots and his time at Centralia College in high regard.

“I can’t think of a better thing to do in his memory,” said Alta Sweany after the gift was announced, “than to establish a permanent scholarship endowment. Centralia College gave him his start when times were hard, and we are delighted to provide that opportunity to young people today.”

The gift to Centralia College by Alta Sweany and the couple’s son, Garrett Sweany, will benefit graduating high school students from within the Centralia College service district who have an expressed interest in natural sciences, business, or law.

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Foundation continues toward success with sights set on ambitious goal



The foundation is still working toward its annual goal to provide scholarships for deserving students and to support faculty and programs that are not funded or underfunded by the state. At present about \$240,000 has been raised.

The allocation for the scholarship award cycle will be about \$172,500, according to Julie Johnson, foundation assistant director. That sum includes a 10 percent increase on the base award amount over last year and would recognize the state mandated five percent increase in tuition. The foundation board also designated about \$10,000 for “case-by-case” scholarships to support endowed funds that haven’t reached maturity this year, and for other scholarship contingencies.

About \$129,000 of the annual campaign collection so far this year is earmarked for endowments. Some of that figure is included in the amount designated for this year’s scholarship awards.

Meanwhile, planning continues for the silver anniversary (25th year) kickoff event in October. The theme and details will be announced as plans come together for this milestone celebration. The foundation’s leadership is excited about this year’s giving opportunities and remains confident the community will continue to demonstrate a “high level of commitment” to student success.

If you would like further information regarding the annual campaign or would like to give toward this year’s campaign, please contact the foundation at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290.

COMING FOUNDATION EVENTS

Athletic Department Garage Sale Saturday, April 22, 8 a.m.—4 p.m., Centralia College gym

Day at the Ball Fields Saturday, May 6, 1 p.m., Ft. Borst Park

Wine Tasting with Wrinkles of Washington Friday, June 23, 5 p.m., Corbet Theatre

Foundation to host mid-summer’s Seattle-To-Portland bike run

Last summer the Seattle-to-Portland (STP) bicycle ride upgraded its Saturday rest stop from a campover at Rotary Riverside Park to much-improved accommodations on the Centralia College campus. Some 8,000 cyclists and their families embraced the change.

An invitation to move the stopover to the college meant showers, half a thousand piping-hot breakfasts, indoor sleeping areas, bike shuttles, cafeteria service, a beer garden, and TV coverage of the Tour de France. The new mid-point rest also provided the Centralia College Foundation an opportunity to provide volunteer services to the cyclists, logistic teams, families—and raise funds for athletic programs.

By Sunday, some 15,000 people had enjoyed the hospitality of Centralia College, and the campus had become an “instant tradition” among the riders. The foundation, with over 90 volunteers taking part, netted nearly \$10,000 for athletic scholarships and team expenses.

STP returns to the Centralia College campus on July 15 and 16 this summer. Steve Ward, the foundation’s executive director, says early planning and management initiatives will mean an even more welcoming event this year.

Last summer’s initial campus layover was supported generously by *Dick’s Brewery* and



The Centralia College campus was, at least for one night, transformed into a bikers’ tent city. The STP will again this summer run through the college.

Starbucks. The new mid-point support program received high marks from riders and STP coordinators, and got excellent coverage from media outlets from Seattle to Portland, according to Bob Peters, athletics department fundraising coordinator.

“An unexpected bonus for the community,” observed Ward, “was that the new mid-point stopover and our coordination with law enforcement greatly reduced traffic conflicts.”

Volunteers are needed for this summer’s STP. Anyone wishing information or who would like to volunteer is encouraged to call the foundation at 736-9391, ext. 307, for details.

Students benefit from and appreciate scholarships provided by the foundation

Students also recognize that “Centralia College offers the highest quality education.”

Second year student Joby Voetberg is one of many who changed his academic direction as new career choices presented themselves. Initially working toward a business management transfer degree, Voetberg opted for a science-based schedule that would allow him to eventually earn a master’s degree in medical physics. He intends to follow in the footsteps of a family member and mentor as a medical physicist.

Voetberg was home schooled, but played sports at Centralia High School. “You are allowed to participate as much or as little as you wish in the school district,” he explained, “and it was my only way to play organized sports.”

Going to Centralia College was something of a foregone conclusion for Voetberg. “I’d always planned to spend my first two years here,” he said. “Centralia College is convenient, offers the highest quality education, and has a definite cost advantage over four-year colleges.”

Voetberg stretched that advantage even further by earning several scholarships since he has been at the college. He is presently the recipient of the Don Waddell Memorial endowment scholarship and the Uhlmann endowed scholarship. “Those really help relieve the financial pressure that goes with college,” he said. The fact that he had the scholarships has allowed him to put his full attention to his classroom studies and to playing basketball for the college.

Centralia College also meets his academic expectations. “It is everything I hoped for,” he smiled. “The faculty is just terrific. If I struggle with a question or an assignment, they are always available to help me over the hard spots. That’s something you won’t find at most four-year colleges.”

A varsity basketball standout, Voetberg also considers college sports a learning experience. “It’s been a part of my education,” he stated. “Beyond the value as a physical outlet, I’ve learned a lot about working through obstacles and making good decisions.”

Voetberg plans to attend The Evergreen State College in Olympia to earn his bachelor’s degree in science, then work on a master’s in health physics through a distance learning program at Georgia Tech.



Joby Voetberg

