



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.



# NEXUS

## CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

A publication of the Centralia College Foundation

April 2008 Vol. III No. 2

### Health & Wellness Center undergoes remodel

The venerable high school gym was completed in 1936. The property at Iron and Walnut Streets had been purchased for that purpose by the Centralia school district. It is now home to Centralia College Trailblazer athletics and wide-ranging community health and wellness programs.

After minor improvements and renovations had been made, the old gymnasium was sold to Centralia College in 1969. Piecemeal improvements continued to be made, but none could bring the old facility up to the standard needed to serve the college and community with adequate health and wellness opportunities.

While college and community athletic teams continue to utilize the facility, the demand for larger and more effective health-related activities is heard from dozens of user groups. Users represent cancer survivors, those in post heart-attack therapy, weight-loss programs, and many other health and wellness activities.

Administrators determined that a major renovation could address serious deficiencies and bring the facil-

ity up to college and community expectations.

The planning team determined the building to be structurally sound and recognized the historical significance of one of the last art deco-style buildings in the region. Renovation, rather than new construction, was clearly the most fiscally responsible avenue of action.

Team Construction of Vancouver, Wash., was awarded the contract for the \$4.9 million cost of renovation of the Health and Wellness Center.

Entrances will be upgraded, spectator facilities improved, athletic functions expanded, new health and wellness facilities added and the renovated facility will increase ongoing service to the community. Designers believe the grand old structure will be a source of pride to the college and the region.

About \$1 million in matching funds for this project will be one of three target goals in the upcoming Centralia College Foundation capital campaign.



### Attending Centralia College is a Kuder Family Tradition

The five Kuder sisters grew up on the literal doorstep of Centralia College.

All five graduated and went on to forge successful careers in a variety of fields. The Kuder girls learned early the value of studying near home; the choice of Centralia College was a practical matter in the Kuder household.

Eldest of the Kuder scholars, Susan Dunn, was the college's "Distinguished Alumnus" in 1992. But the story of the Kuder involvement with Centralia College goes deeper still.

While the five Kuder girls were growing up, both their parents—Al and Mary Margaret—became students at the college that is just a block from the family home on Oak Street. The parents got Real Estate licenses through professional classes on campus.

Al and Mary Margaret had come to the area at the end of World War II from Eastern Washington. There had been thoughts in the earliest days of perhaps returning to the farm country of Colville or the Palouse, but the Kuders found this a comfortable place to raise their family.

In a recent interview, Al—Mary Margaret passed away a few years ago—acknowledged that there had always been a desire by the family to support the college that had been such a part of Kuder family life. Recently the family presented the Centralia College Foundation with a fully endowed scholarship so they could share their success with deserving students in the future.

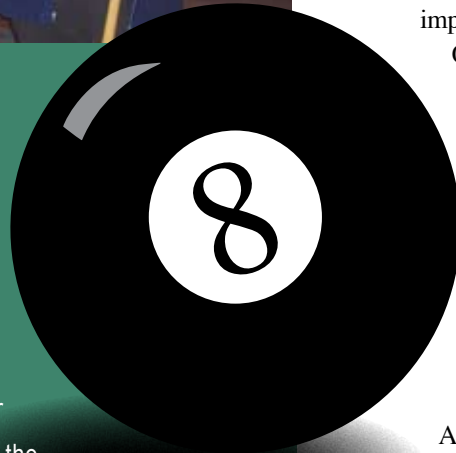


Kuder family  
 Front, L-R: Lori Kuder Bento, Susan Kuder Dunn, Joan Kuder Bell.  
 Top row; Alice Kuder, Al Kuder, Mary Kuder Pong.

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Enjoying a game of billiards at the most recent "Foundation Night at the Oly Club" are (from left) Steve Ward, class of '77, George McCullough, class of '53, and Katie Bright, who will graduate from Centralia College this year. The Olympic Club and the McMenamins have been solid supporters of the Centralia College Foundation scholarship program for several years. This year's night out netted the foundation some \$2,900 for deserving students!



# NEW WEB SITE

[www.centraliacollegefoundation.org](http://www.centraliacollegefoundation.org)

For the past couple of years the foundation has been working to rebuild a long-vanished bridge between the college and our alumni. Somewhere over the years the college lost touch with our most valuable heritage and resource—former students and graduates of Centralia College. We mean to restore those relationships to lively conversation and vibrant memories.

We've taken another big step in that direction!

The Centralia College Foundation recently launched a new and improved web site at [www.centraliacollegefoundation.org](http://www.centraliacollegefoundation.org).

Oh, you can still get information on the history of the foundation, see who has received scholarships this year, and give to the foundation. But you'll find some new features we think you'll appreciate.

New to the web site are the publications of the foundation, a link to college photos and a look at old yearbooks. We now have yearbooks from 1925 to 1956 with only a few exceptions. You can also check out the college's web site and the capital campaign site from our new home page. Also new is the Alumni page, which has information about the Distinguished Alumni program and soon will have a spot for past students and grads to reconnect directly via an Alumni Blog. We hope to soon see our web site in the "Favorites" file on a computer near you!

## A Family Tradition

At first glance, a story about a family in which the parents and all the kids attended Centralia College looks rather remarkable. The Kuder family's generous endowed scholarship from an alumnus parent and five alum daughters is an example. But when we look back through the decades, there are plenty of other families that made Centralia College a part of their lives.

Consider the life of **Eva Allen**, class of '29 and until late last year our oldest living alum. We find a happily familiar story unfolding. Eva taught in the local area for more than 36 years and influenced literally thousands of kids. Her own son and daughter not only came to Centralia College, but found their future marriage partners while students here. Two of her grandchildren were also students here.

**Tove Burhen**, 1945, also retired after a career as a teacher. Tove had all five of her children graduate from Centralia College, and a grandson is attending now.

The tradition has continued for decades; this year **Liz Roe** is finishing her transfer degree on her way to a career in medicine. Her mom, **Jan**, is also an alumnus.

One of the 2008 Centralia College All-Washington Academic Team members is **Lindsey Hoogkamer**. Not only are the parents alumni of Centralia College, but her older brother and sister also earned transfer degrees before moving on to four-year universities.



It makes sense. With the lowest tuition available, a tradition of academic excellence, world-class faculty, small classes in a nurturing atmosphere, and financial assistance for more than one-half of our students, it's too good to pass up. When you think of it, perhaps it is astonishing that we don't have more long-time family traditions!

# Where Are They Now?

Each issue of NEXUS will include sketches of former students. If you read of a friend or classmate you would like to connect with, please contact Julie Johnson at the foundation office. We will continue to use due care to ensure the confidentiality of alumni contact data.

**Elaine Fletcher West**, 1941, retired after teaching in elementary schools for 29 years. She married Centralia College alum Stewart West, 1939, former director of the Army Air Force Band and band teacher in Rochester, Centralia, and Bakersfield College, California. Stewart passed away in 2007; Elaine resides in Ventura, California.

**Tove Burhen**, 1945, retired teacher in the Rochester area. An octogenarian residing in Duvall, Washington. All five children have graduated from Centralia College and her grandson is currently attending Centralia College.

**Norm Pollom**, 1945, put together four super bowl teams for the Rams as director of player personnel. Resides in Palm Desert, California, and enjoys golf.

**Jean DeSpain**, 1948, retired engineer with Bechtel Group, currently residing in Hayden, Idaho.

**Bud (Alfred) Pierce**, 1948, retired basketball coach and athletic director with 416 wins. Currently resides in Sterling, Kansas.

**Larry Noel**, 1955, 37-year career in education and retired as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Issaquah.

**Norm Andersen**, 1963, retired after 39 years with the state Department of Natural Resources in Olympia. Enjoys skeet shooting.

**Jim Gullickson**, 1964, retired from Weyerhaeuser Company after 34 years with roles in forestry, engineering, harvesting, and marketing. Now resides in Tacoma.

**Dan Kimball**, 1977, Thurston County Sheriff.

**Christopher Kimball**, 1979, is a financial planner in Lakewood and holds designations of Certified Financial Planner, Accredited Estate Planner, Chartered Mutual Fund Counselor, Certified in Long-Term Care and Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow.

**Mike Voelkel**, 1982, P.E. teacher and head varsity baseball coach, Palisades High in Pacific Palisades, California.

**Eric Colley**, 1990, manages a credit union and is a self-taught film maker and founder of Fireshoe Productions, an independent film company located in Fircrest, Washington.

**Jim Valley**, 1990, news reporter for Newsradio 710 KIRO in Seattle.

**Caro Johnson**, 1991, executive director at the Lake County Chamber of Commerce in Lakeview, Oregon.

**Aaron Newell**, 1997, employed with DCI Engineers in Spokane, and resides in Liberty Lake, Washington.

**Jennifer Davis (Days)**, 1998, dental hygienist in Tenino.

**Vernadel Peterson**, 2004, President and CEO of the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce. Currently residing in Chehalis.

We welcome your letter or e-mail with news of what you've been up to and "where are you now?" for future stories. Please enclose a photo—a snapshot will do—to help former comrades recognize you. Thanks.

## Meet Dennis Calkins

In each NEXUS issue we hope to profile a member of the foundation board. We believe this brief introduction will help the alumni community better know the people who devote so much time, professional knowledge and financial support to Centralia College.

President of the Centralia College Foundation Board of Directors is Dennis Calkins, a respected CPA with unlimited energy and enthusiasm for the community. Calkins grew up in Centralia, graduated from the Centralia school system, and is a graduate of Centralia College and the University of Washington.

Always competitive as a young person, Calkins chose to study accounting and work toward a CPA after watching his brother struggle in the field. His sibling persistence—and a natural ability with numbers and math—paid off. He achieved his career goals and has continued to build his reputation and following in the business community.

Calkins chose to join the foundation board because he believes strongly in the philosophy of "giving back." "You get out of life what you put into it," he explained. "The college launched my career, and I feel the foundation is the best way for me to give back to the college and my community."

Dennis and his wife Tammy live in Centralia, where they've raised a daughter, Allison, and son Evan, who also attended Centralia College. The Calkins enjoy time with their two granddaughters, who also live in the local area.

Calkins crews in competitive sailing, and the family likes to travel when time permits.



At the sports HOF induction ceremony; (from left) Chris Allie, representing her husband; Sara Wilcox; Jerry Wood; Dr. Jim Walton, college president; Bill Luond; Dan Hahn; and Bob Peters, Centralia College athletic director.



### Sports alumni honored

The foundation has accepted an expanded role in two of the college's premier annual events; the sports Hall of Fame and the Distinguished Alumnus award. Our participation reflects our commitment to better serve former students of Centralia College.

In February, five former student/athletes were elected to the sports HOF. They included Alan Allie, Dan Hahn, Bill Luond, Sara Wilcox, and Jerry Wood. All were standout athletes who went on to forge careers in sports, mostly as coaches, teachers and athletics administrators.

Part of the remodeling project on the Health & Wellness Center is a new, highly visible repository for the sports Hall of Fame. Better access and upgraded displays will help keep the memories of Trailblazer athletics bright and shiny for visitors.

Meanwhile, your foundation has teamed with the athletic department to form the "Blue and Gold Club." It's a way any sports fan can support his or her favorite athlete, team, or sport. A contribution from anyone in the community may be earmarked for direct support of that activity. Funds, where so designated by the giver, can be used for an individual sports scholarship for the player he or she wishes to help through college.

Please contact Julie Johnson at the foundation (736-9391, ext. 516) or Bob Peters in the athletic department (ext. 247) for full details on this innovative program to celebrate your favorite sport!



Centralia College Foundation  
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### Attending Centralia College is a Kuder Family Tradition

*continued from front*

Today, Susan is vice president of a governmental relations firm; Joan Kuder Bell is in Boulder, Colorado; Lori Kuder Bento and Mary Kuder Pong are teachers in Seattle and Tumwater, respectively; and Alice Kuder is a realtor in the Seattle market.

Thanks to the success and generosity of the Kuders, they will always enjoy a "family affair" with Centralia College.

### PLANNED GIVING

For many, a gift to Centralia College Foundation in support of deserving students from our area is not a spur-of-the-moment decision. It is, and in most cases should be, a deliberate act that has been planned in advance so the donor and the students may get the most from such generosity.

Among the direct gifts you can plan are those of real estate, life insurance policies, or making the foundation a beneficiary of IRA or KEOGH plans. Direct gifts of cash or the proceeds of estates, of course, may also be part of a planned giving program.

For more information on creatively supporting the students at Centralia College, please contact the foundation office at **(360) 736-9391, ext. 290.**



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