Newest member of the foundation’s board of directors is Chehalis native Maggie Hennessey. Hennessey assumed her position in May.

Hennessey is no stranger to Centralia College, although she graduated from Lower Columbia College in the years before Centralia offered a Registered Nursing program. She continued on to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing at the University of Washington.

Hennessey eventually taught nursing at Lower Columbia College, Centralia College, and Montana State University.

After working at Centralia Providence Hospital and teaching for nearly 25 years, Hennessey earned her master’s in nursing and her credentials as a Family Nurse Practitioner—a career step about which she is very excited. “I chose the FNP route,” she explained, “because a family nurse practitioner can operate independently, while the more common health professional, Physician’s Assistant, Certified (PAC), is required to work on the staff of an established physician. I felt I could offer more to the community if I concentrated on family health in my own practice.” Her near-term plans include her independent practice as well as teaching more advanced nursing subjects and nursing theory.

Hennessey’s strong connection with the community is also her motivation for accepting a position with the foundation’s board. “I believe this position offers me the chance to serve the community and to help bolster the positive direction of the college. I confess I was a little surprised,” she said, at how big a role the foundation’s board of directors plays in support of the college.”

(Continued on page3)
Two members of the Centralia College faculty have been tapped to receive the prestigious “Exceptional Faculty Award” for the 2009-10 college year. The award honors instructors who bring an uncommon level of commitment, excellence, and innovation in the teaching environment and display high levels of service to the college and the community.

Dr. Steve Norton, associate professor in the sciences, academic transfer pathway, and Ken Rakoz, associate professor in the Workforce Education Diesel Technology program, were selected for this year’s honor.

“Through this award we show faculty members just how important they are and that we recognize their contributions to students, college, and community,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “This college’s faculty has a long tradition of excellence and students have benefited greatly from this quality.”

Since its inception the Centralia College Foundation has been on the forefront of recognizing members of the college faculty who qualify for the award. Since 1992, when the Exceptional Faculty award was initiated and funded by the Washington state Legislature and the Centralia College Foundation, 39 Centralia College faculty members have received the award. The recognition includes $2000 for each recipient, proceeds from the Centralia College Foundation Exceptional Faculty endowment.

You’ve heard the news: the campaign to secure a world-class grand piano and name it in honor of keyboard prodigy Charlie Albright has completed a giant step forward. A generous chorus of community support, spearheaded by gifts from Dr. Helgi Heidar and the Robert O’Neill family, has raised over $105,000; the piano is on campus and at its home in Corbet Theatre.

Those able to get a ticket to Charlie’s homecoming concert—on the magnificent new piano in Corbet Theatre—know it was worth the effort.

The job, however, isn’t quite done. The foundation’s board of directors determined that it would be crucial to set a goal to include maintenance for the upkeep of the grand piano. The board set the sum at $30,000.

In terms of a fine, classic instrument, whether it’s a Ferrari or a Steinway, a routine of regular, professional maintenance is what stands between a treasure and a pile of rubble.

To continue your support of the piano fund call the foundation at 360.736.9391, ext. 290, or send your designated gift to the foundation. You may also contribute online at <http://foundation.centralia.edu/>.

According to Julie Johnson, foundation director of Donor and Alumni Relations, the 88 Keys to Success campaign still has piano keys available for sale. Donors who purchase a key will be recognized with an engraved piano key on a replica keyboard to be permanently displayed in the Corbet Theatre lobby. Individual, engraved keys are available for a donation of $298 to the foundation. It’s a good way to make a meaningful donation to the piano fund.

The foundation is continuing plans to bring quality performers to the Corbet stage to demonstrate how great music should be heard. Watch for details on upcoming events.

Meanwhile, Charlie is currently in New York serving as an intern on the New York Stock Exchange, having completed his junior year at Harvard where he has a concentration in pre-medicine. He is also continuing his studies at the New England Conservatory where he studies music. In the coming months he will perform in New York, San Francisco (July), Germany (August), and Seattle (September).
Foundation to kick off annual campaign in fall

Seeking to reap great community support, the foundation has announced its annual campaign kick off for Sat., Oct. 23, 2010. Mark your calendars and make plans to be there. The theme for the campaign is *Harvesting What We Sow*.

The foundation’s marquee event will take place in the college’s Health & Wellness Center (gym) on the college campus and begin with a silent auction at 6 p.m. There is a no-host bar and a country dinner with the formal program beginning at 7:30 p.m. You are encouraged to attend but reservations are required.

Call the foundation at 360.736.9391, ext. 290, to reserve your spot.

Hennessey joins foundation board

(Continued from front)

Hennessey has also been impressed by the energy and the opportunity presented to the community by the college’s International Student Program. “I see this as a grassroots model for promoting better understanding of the lifestyles, cultures, and attitudes” of people from other cultures, she added.

“In today’s world, having an education is critical,” Hennessey maintains. “Very soon, a college degree will be required for virtually any decent job, and for the vast majority of young people the degree process will begin at our local, two-year colleges. That’s why I’m excited about the scholarship and facility programs at Centralia College. It’s fantastic to be a part of this growing, practical initiative.”

When she isn’t busy with two teenagers, Hennessey enjoys spending time with the family, traveling, camping, and attending sports events that involve her youngsters as well as those in her nearby extended family.

Foundation offers Legacy Society options

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.

Legacy Society donors support the dreams of coming generations through bequests, life insurance policies, annuities, and other long-term giving plans.

If you have questions about a lasting legacy to serve future generations, contact Julie Johnson, Centralia College Foundation director of Alumni and Donor Relations. Call the foundation at 736-9391, ext. 290; by e-mail at: <foundation@centralia.edu>, or visit us on the Web at: <http://foundation.centralia.edu/>.

Buy a brick, leave a legacy

Nearly a century has come and gone since the birth of Centralia Junior College. Take a moment to reflect on the special time that marked the beginning of the college, its growing tradition and how it has served you. What better way to pay tribute to a college that has so long and so ably served generation after generation of people than to be a part of something special.

The Centralia College Foundation continues its brick campaign by combining Heritage Court with the Health and Wellness Court brick buying opportunity. You can make your connection with Centralia College a lasting legacy with an engraved brick or paver that will be placed in your choice of Heritage Court or the Health and Wellness Center court!

**Time to take action**

You can have a brick engraved with the name you choose. Add your name to either court or purchase a gift brick or paver that honors someone you chose.

You can have your 4-inch by 8-inch brick engraved for $150, or an 8-inch by 8-inch paver stone for $400.

Bricks or pavers for either location can be engraved with up to 18 letters per row. There is room for three rows on bricks and four rows on pavers.

Please contact the Centralia College Foundation at 360.736.9391, ext. 290, for more information about this opportunity.
At the end of June Dr. Helgi Heidar will step down after nearly a decade on the Centralia College Foundation’s Board of Directors. During his eventful term, Heidar has seen the establishment of governance policy, faculty tenure initiatives, double-digit enrollment increases, and the emergence of remarkable new campus facilities.

Through it all, Heidar has maintained a focus on the people he serves, ensuring that the college would continue to provide the intellectual and cultural support for which the community yearns.

Heidar came to the Lewis County area in 1974, setting up a private practice at the Centralia Medical Center. He soon invited Dr. Robert Ford to join him to handle a growing case load. It was a fortuitous partnership; just 10 years later the pair would open a cutting-edge laser surgery center that would expand to become one of the most significant cataract specialty surgeries across the country.

Heidar was asked to join the Centralia College Foundation board soon after he retired from the Institute he had helped build. While most of his community activism had centered on music—a lifelong passion begun in his native Iceland—Heidar was an enthusiastic supporter of the college and eager to help it grow. He readily accepted.

“I look at Centralia College as perhaps the best thing to ever happen to this area,” he explained. “It is valuable, of course, for teaching academic and career courses, but I believe it is the intellectual and cultural center of our communities.” Heidar insists the college is instrumental in bringing the widest range of positive values to the people who live in the region.

He has been active in annual and capital campaigning for the foundation, but his true love still surrounds his music. Most recently, Heidar helped lead the campaign to secure a world-class concert grand piano for the college and name it for renowned young virtuoso, Charlie Albright.

“I have listened to Charlie play since he was no more than a toddler,” Heidar recalled, “and as he matured I saw three separate events coming together. We had a new and splendid concert hall, a young prodigy about to step onto the world stage, and a community that appreciated fine music. The idea to provide a great piano—and name it in honor of Charlie—just happened. I think it was the logical outcome of those events all happening at once!”

As his term ends, Heidar will likely continue to travel, visiting Iceland at least once a year, and he’ll enjoy his music as an integral part of retirement. But don’t be surprised to see him at the heart of events and great ideas in the future of Centralia College and the foundation.
Kiser Natural Outdoor Learning Lab (KNOLL) targeted for foundation 2010-11 campaign

Over 10,000 bikers are expected to descend on the Centralia College campus on July 17 and 18, the dates for the Seattle-to-Portland (STP) bike ride. Counting bikers, family and friends, the campus could host about 20,000 people for the event. About 5,000 riders are expected to spend the night in tents pitched on campus, in RVs, or in housing provided by community volunteers. The college is, for the sixth year, the mid-point for riders in the 200-mile, two-day marathon ride.

The foundation is working with the college to set up indoor and outdoor accommodations, and will make available showers, buffet and food vendors, and host a pancake feed and breakfast to go. There will also be the ever-popular beer garden, massages and an entertainment package in addition to a bike-repair shop.

If you are willing to volunteer your services, either to host riders for the night or work with the foundation in other ways during the event, please contact Jason Moir at the college, 360.736.9391, ext 359, or by e-mail: <jmoir@centralia.edu>. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Riders will enter Lewis County from Bucoda on SR 503 and North Pearl Street, turning onto the campus at Walnut Street. Sunday riders will leave via Washington Avenue, onto Mellen Street and the Airport Road to SR 603 through Winlock. And then onto Portland.
Capital campaign defies conventional wisdom

“It just can’t be done.” How many times has that phrase been applied by doubters? And certainly some doubters would have applied that phrase to the Centralia College Foundation capital campaign. Imagine: embarking on the most ambitious campaign in foundation history, trying to raise $3 million during the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression. No way.

But guess what. A scant two-plus years into the campaign the foundation has raised $2.5 million toward its $3 million goal. It began with the very generous donation of $500,000 from TransAlta.

“I have no doubt that we will reach our goal of $3 million,” said Ralph Olson, campaign co-chair. “The people of this area have proven over and over again that they are willing to support worthy campaigns. They are willing to contribute because supporting student success is certainly important.”

Olson, echoing co-chair Mark Scheibmeir’s comments, told the Campaign Celebration gathering of about 100 foundation supporters on the third floor observation deck in the Science Center in early June: “I, and Mark as your co-chairs, want to thank you and the many other campaign donors for what you have done so far. In spite of the economy and in spite of what some people might have thought, we’ve been very successful. There is still work to be done but I firmly believe we will reach our goal.”

The campaign is raising money to support the college’s Science Center, Health and Wellness Center, and the proposed TransAlta College Commons. One million dollars is designated to support each of the three structures and the programs contained in each building.

“The faculty members of Centralia College are outstanding,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “The money raised through this campaign will help them to do a better job of providing the quality education that has made this college what it is today. You, as donors, share in the efforts to make sure we give our best to our students.”

For further information, to make a pledge, or to take an active part in the capital campaign, please call the foundation office at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290, or visit us on the foundation Web site at: <http://foundation.centralia.edu/>.