



NEXUS

CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

A publication of the Centralia College Foundation

July 2008 Vol. III No. 2

Annual campaign kickoff has a new face

The Centralia College Foundation begins each annual campaign with one of the most exciting evenings of the year. The 2008 kickoff may be the best yet. As the venerable old Health and Wellness Center undergoes a long-needed facelift, the Campaign Kickoff will take place at the spectacular Great Wolf Resort at Grand Mound.

The Chehalis Tribe's new multi-million dollar resort seems the ideal place to launch our most exciting annual campaign ever. We hope you can set aside the evening of Saturday, Sept. 27 to join us for the festivities.

There will be a no-host bar, silent auction, raffle, and a magician to entertain the company at 6 p.m. The buffet dinner will begin at 7 p.m. with a short program highlighting our mutual support of college projects and programs.

We'll introduce the newly formed "Legacy Society" and recognize charter members of our long term, planned giving effort.

"Save the date" postcards went out in May and the formal invitations

are expected to be mailed in late August. If you didn't get a card and wish to receive an invitation please call the foundation office as soon as possible to be sure you're included.

The goal for this year's annual campaign is \$475,000. The initial goal of \$375,000—same as last year—was raised by \$100,000 to fund a concert grand piano for the Corbet Theatre stage, where it will be a benefit to music students and theatre productions for generations to come.

We look forward to seeing you at the Great Wolf Resort for this truly special kickoff party. Oh, and the buffet dinner is on us!



The Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington

When the going gets tough...

The way through college for many of our alumni has been pitted with potholes and blocked by seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but we've found that a great

many simply refused to quit. We'd prefer to believe that our former students and alums are made of the right stuff.

Consider the case of Janie Allen. Before dropping out of high school she got pregnant and simultaneously developed a number of formidable health issues. Put on bed rest, Allen lost the baby and became, in her words, "a wreck."

"I always regretted not finishing school with all my friends," Allen confessed. "It was tough watching them out there enjoying their youth while I was married at the age of 17 and felt embarrassed and ashamed."

Her ethic prodded her on, and eventually Allen came to Centralia College and earned her adult high school diploma. In the process of having babies and building a life with her ex-husband, Allen returned to Centralia College

with a goal of teaching secondary education. Her ex also came to Centralia, earning highest honors in forestry.

Allen's health issues resurfaced before she could complete her second year, but earned a 4.0 GPA while she attended. Instead of a degree, Allen received surgery and a round of hospital stays for a year or longer.

Like many others in our alumni scrapbook, Janie Allen refused to quit. Despite a divorce, she and her ex-husband remain good friends. Despite so many heartbreaking stumbling blocks, Allen finally completed her education and she is now on the staff at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. She and her lone colleague at the Chemeketa Foundation are presently raising a million dollars for scholarships at the mid-Oregon college.

There were a lot of setbacks and disappointments in her life, but we think of Janie Allen as a true "success story." We're proud of her!



Janie Allen



SCIENCE BUILDING



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



COMMONS

Update on Capital Campaign



"I predict in the years to come when visitors come to Lewis County and ask, "What's going on here?" you will enthusiastically say, "Let me take you over to Centralia College and show you true educational and community progress."

—Ralph Olson, Campaign Co-chair—

As pressures mount on traditional four-year colleges and universities, enrollments continue to soar, and many students are turned away, it is increasingly clear that community colleges will become the norm in the years just ahead. Many educational authorities are already advocating that the first two college years for every student be in a community college. That assumes, of course, that the community college is ready to accept that responsibility.

At Centralia College a vigorous capital expansion program is underway that will provide the best possible education in academic, technological, and professional disciplines. Centralia College will be ready and at the forefront of a bold new era.

The point has been made before that much of our success depends on the splendid cooperation, support, and participation of loyal alumni and friends. The 2008 Capital Campaign launched in late May is a sterling example.

The Capital Campaign was initiated by a \$500,000 pledge from Canadian-based TransAlta and \$50,000 from the students of Centralia College. Since then the campaign has raised about \$800,000.

The goal of the five-year campaign is to supplement the state's funding of a new Science Center, a reconstructed Health and Wellness Center, and a New Student Commons that will provide a broad range of academic and administrative services to students, faculty, and alumni.

A new component of the campaign is a \$1 million Planned Gift Challenge. The foundation seeks response from those who find long-term, planned giving through the "Legacy Society" more suitable to their individual needs. The Society provides options to remember the Centralia College Foundation in wills, through gift annuities, and other structured means. Please see "Legacy Society" on page 4 for further information.

For more information on the Capital Campaign, please check our website at www.centraliacollegefoundation.org.

Exceptional Faculty



From left: Exceptional Faculty Randy Johnson and Susanne Weil with foundation representative Donna Karvia

The Exceptional Faculty program began in 1990 when the Washington Legislature challenged community and technical colleges to match a generous state grant to recognize faculty that had achieved excellence in their fields of teaching. Friends on campus and in the community raised additional funds to endow the program at Centralia College at \$100,000. The program, administered by the Centralia College Foundation, has recognized key faculty members with this award since the initial selection in 1992.

Randy Johnson, one of two winners this year, graduated from Columbia University and helped develop an alternative middle/high school in Olympia for students who couldn't adapt to conventional school models. Recognizing how many potential students were academically or socially ill-equipped for college, Johnson joined the fledgling Adult Basic Education effort at Centralia College.

Twenty-seven years, a master's degree in English, and thousands of students later, Johnson is still helping make our critical adult-betterment programs among the very best in the Northwest.

Susanne Weil is the other selection for this year. Weil attended Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and the University of Keele in Stratfordshire, England. After studying literature from Chaucer to Icelandic sagas and English classics, Weil entered graduate school at Berkeley, California. It was here she was deeply impressed with the writing and persona of Mark Twain. Her studies abruptly shifted to great American writers, which complemented her classic literary background.

Now a nationally-regarded Twain scholar, Weil uses the writings and humor of Mark Twain to engage her English and Humanities students. She also considers it a mandate to help her students overcome the obstacles of insecurity, minimum wage jobs, social prejudice, and work that has little meaning for them.



ALUMNI POWER!

We have always maintained that it is the power of our alumni that has helped Centralia College build a beautiful campus, maintain the best of community relationships, and establish our tradition of excellence. Without the guidance, wisdom, and steadfast support of our former students and grads, we would be much the poorer.

That point was emphatically made on June 13 at the 2008 Commencement Exercises. That afternoon Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient John Sato, formerly of Adna, and his college roommate, Dr. George Mohoric, were again reunited at the college. Coincidentally, Dr. Mohoric was that day stepping down after 10 years' service as a trustee at Centralia College just as John Sato was being elevated to our highest honor.

These two alumni have been long-time and enthusiastic supporters of the college, helping build our spectacular infrastructure, establishing principles of governance, building community relationships, and representing Centralia College with dignity and passion. Their stories could be repeated many times with regard to other alums that have served us so well and so wisely.

Every one of us can find a means by which we may support Centralia College and the thousands of deserving men and women who will join our ranks in the years ahead. Call us today to see what part you might choose to play!

FOUNDATION GOALS

The Board of Directors of the Centralia College Foundation held its annual meeting in May to review the accomplishments for last year and to affirm the goals and objectives for the coming year. Despite the ongoing flurry of activity, the board kept intact its plans to continue and expand planned giving options in the community, service to the business community, and a research project on a landowner database.

The annual campaign for last year fell just short of its \$375,000 goal, a testament to the resilience and generosity of the people of Lewis and south Thurston counties. Despite widespread flooding and unthinkable property damage and losses, the campaign fell just \$25,000 short of the goal. Objectives set for the coming year include:

- Renew our contacts with and stories of our valued alumni
- Start blog on the foundation Web site for more direct, interactive contact
- Identify potential STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) scholarship students from area high schools
- Research scholarship opportunities for non-traditional student populations
- Research partnership opportunities with local industry to generate specific scholarships
- Raise \$375,000 for the annual campaign
- Raise \$100,000 for a concert piano for the Corbet Theatre stage

The board will continue to raise funds in support of the college mission to improve people's lives through lifelong learning.

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.

Ethan D. Allen ('88) lives in Filer, Idaho where he is active in his community through 4H, coaching basketball and soccer and is in charge of a youth program that raises heifers. Ethan and his wife Sandy have six children at home.

Zoanna Aylesworth ('91) has been elected chair of the Longview Chapter of the Washington Society of American Foresters. Aylesworth works for DNR and is active in the Vader Lion's Club.

Bruce Hunting ('93) is an on-air radio personality at KELA-KMNT in the Twin Cities.

The Centralia College Foundation gets a lot of support from local business and service groups and we believe there are many good reasons. Consider these examples:

Terri Lopez ('93) was named Operations Officer at Security State Bank; **Angie Brown** ('95) was recently promoted to Merchant Bankcard Manager at Security State Bank; **Jenie Knopfler** ('95) was recently named Training Officer at Security State Bank, and; **Sandie Williams** ('96) was recently elected Assistant Trust Officer at Security State Bank, all in Centralia.

All-Class Reception

During next summer's Hub City Grand Prix in August '09, the foundation is inviting graduates and alumni from all Centralia College classes to a reception in the New Science Center. The building will have a public unveiling before that, but this will be an opportunity for former students and graduates to tour the building in the last weeks before full class occupancy—complete, detailed, and ready for business!

Plan now to set aside that Saturday in August for this private all-class reception, special snacks and refreshments, a tour, and infield seats for the most exciting wheel-to-wheel street racing in the Northwest. We'll talk more about that big day later; it will be a great time to meet, mix, and rebuild old friendships.



The Winners

Among the continuing benefits of Walter Hanke's generous estate gift to the Centralia College Foundation has been a provision to support college academic and other programs with essential upgrades not funded through normal state channels. Over the years these "mini-grants" have made a substantive contribution to the tradition of excellence and quality at Centralia College.



The mini-grant recipients and their programs are (from left) Brigitte Kidd, Learning Resource Center; Chris Bailey, Human Resources; Candy Layman, Events; Connie Smejkal, Workforce Education; Linda Wilcox, Child and Family Studies; Randy Johnson, Susanne Weil, Exceptional Faculty; and Julie Johnson, Foundation Director of Donor and Alumni Relations. Mini-grant recipients not shown are Bob Audet, Facilities and Maintenance; and Don Frey, College Relations.

Summer Events

These are on-campus community activities in which your foundation plays a planning and production role. It's all part of our mission to support Centralia College and our community.



STP - Group Health Bicycle Classic: July 12-13 —For the fourth consecutive year the Centralia College campus hosted the midpoint stopover for one of the biggest bicycle events in America. This year the Cascade Bicycle Club sold out all 9,500 places by June 11, assuring enough riders and sufficient support crews to bring about 20,000 people to the campus and surrounding area during the Seattle-To-Portland classic. Net proceeds go to Centralia College athletic scholarships and other athletic programs.

Washington Hispanic Festival: July 26-27 —In just its second year, the Hispanic Festival promises record crowds and spectacular food, friendship, and entertainment. Main sponsors are Centralia College, the Hispanic Connection, and the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber. The mission is to bring families, friends, neighbors, community partners, business leaders, and other community groups together. The food and entertainment is refreshing, professional, and great fun for the entire family.

Hub City Grand Prix: August 22-24 —One of the few "Grand Prix" style street racing events in the country. Super Karts and powerful "motard" motorcycles zip around the track on campus perimeter streets at speeds up to 70 mph and more, snarling like wildcats as they screech around the turns. It's an adrenalin rush for the spectators who enjoy the free weekend of time trials, elimination heats, and wheel-to-wheel racing excitement. The entire campus "infield" is open to spectators every day of racing! Net proceeds go to Centralia College athletic scholarships.

Legacy Society

From time to time we are likely to review where life has taken us. It is human nature to want to be certain we've had a positive impact on our family and friends. Those same principles encourage us to leave a legacy that will benefit others for many years to come.

The Centralia College Foundation can help you bring this personal legacy to the college, students, and programs and we've developed a way to recognize those who choose this sensible way to extend their influence far into the future.

Through the "Legacy Society" you'll join a gathering of those who have chosen to include the foundation in their planned giving, bequests, and estate plans. You'll be recognized on an engraved tablet, receive a formal framed certificate from the Society, and be honored at foundation events throughout the year. Best of all, you can make a world of difference when you create a legacy for the young people who most deserve our assistance.

We have the information and the people who can help you make the most of your giving assets as you protect your family and your retirement. Please call Julie Johnson at the foundation to get the information you need and to set your course for a structured gift that will serve far into the future.

Hanke Faculty Achievement Award

One of Walter Hanke's beliefs was that faculty achievement should be recognized and supported. Through his estate bequest, special faculty projects are funded based on the merit of the project.

This year's Hanke Faculty Achievement Awards go to Wade Fisher for a new specialized computer and software to enhance efforts in recruiting and retaining students; and to Liz Frey for professional development and research in advanced fiber art technology to expand student art opportunities.



Wade Fisher



Liz Frey



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