

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

It's not often that a new law is created which allows retired people to avoid taxes, but the PENSION PROTECTION ACT does just that! For many years people have asked about making charitable gifts from their retirement accounts. Unfortunately the tax law was not favorable to do so. However the new law now allows people an unprecedented opportunity during the balance of 2007.

### Here is the primary highlight for remainder of 2007:

If you or someone you know is at least 70.5 years old and has an IRA you/they can withdraw money from the retirement account in order to make a gift to Centralia College Foundation, up to \$100,000 this year with no income tax penalty.

For more information about how to make a gift from your IRA, talk to your IRA administrator, or call Julie Johnson at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290, or e-mail her at: [foundation@centralia.edu](mailto:foundation@centralia.edu). The foundation simply wants to provide you with good information that will allow you to make informed decisions on your own.

## John Sato maintains contact with Centralia College friend

*Continued from inside*

Over the decades his enterprise has been very successful. On the verge of retirement, Sato has turned over the business reins to his son, an attorney and developer. Sato's oldest son is an MD in California and his only daughter got a degree in communications at the UW, and now is a homemaker.

John Sato still maintains a warm friendship with his pal George Mohoric, and still is quick to recognize the part Centralia College played in his success. Sato was a generous contributor to a recent campaign to improve the college's facilities.

It is always gratifying to see how an alumnus has overcome great obstacles to build a comfortable and successful life. At Centralia College and the foundation, however, we aren't particularly surprised; we've always known that the young men and women of Southwest Washington were made of the right stuff!

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.

Please contact the foundation office with suggestions and comments. Call 736-9391, ext. 290; e-mail: [foundation@centralia.edu](mailto:foundation@centralia.edu)

### Foundation Officers:

**Dennis Calkins**, President  
**Vicki Pogorelc**, President-elect  
**Jim Sherrill**, Past President  
**Dr. James Walton**, Secretary  
**Thomas Bradley**, Treasurer  
**Dwayne Aberle**, Campaign Chair  
**Ralph Olson** and  
**Rebecca McGee**, Directors-at-large  
**Steve Ward**, Executive Director  
**Julie Johnson**, Director of Donor & Alumni Relations

Centralia College Foundation  
600 Centralia College Blvd  
Centralia, WA 98531



# NEXUS

## CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Fall 2007

A publication of the Centralia College Foundation

Vol. 3, No. 1

## Generous donors begin year's Future Leaders Fund campaign

The Sept. 29 Centralia College Foundation campaign kick-off was a beginning to the Centralia College Foundation's annual campaign with a goal of \$375,000. This year's kick-off is likely the final foundation event that will be held in the gym, as it now looks; thus, the sports related theme where attendees were invited to wear regalia representing a sport and/or sports team.

"Our focus with the campaign is to build the *Future Leaders Fund*," said Dwayne Aberle, campaign chair. "Centralia College has a gold standard when it comes to the quality of students and faculty and we need to continue to support that." This campaign will be followed by the foundation's capital campaign, which is expected to begin in early 2008.

"It is gratifying that so many people believe in the students of Centralia College and the potential they have," said Steve Ward, executive director of the foundation. "There is so much need and every year that increases as tuition rates climb."



*Jack and Nita Bonagofski, former college employees, share a smile during the foundation's annual campaign kick-off.*

### COMING FOUNDATION EVENTS

**Foundation Report to the Community with Union Bank**, Tues., Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m. in the college boardrooms

**President's Scholarship Performance**, Curtis Salgado brings "A Night of Blues," Saturday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m. at Corbet Theatre

**Foundation Night at the Theatre** (Chicago), Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m., at Corbet Theatre

**Foundation Night at the Oly Club**, Thurs., March 20, 4 p.m. to closing at McMenamins Olympic Club in Centralia

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 111  
Centralia, Wa 98531



## The old is to be made new: foundation to raise funds for remodel of 70-year old Health and Fitness Center

The Centralia College Foundation is on the threshold of helping Centralia College bring its Health and Fitness Center into the modern era (see architect drawing above of the proposed Walnut Street view of the facility). The pending capital campaign, which is expected to begin in early 2008, will raise funds for the much-needed remodel.

The foundation is expected to launch the \$3 million capital campaign, one million dollars each for the Health and Fitness Center, the Science Center and the College Commons buildings. Construction on the remodel could begin in the spring of 2008; construction is well underway on the Science Center, and the construction on the Commons is expected to begin after the opening of the Science Center.

"We need to make the Health and Fitness Center, which includes the gymnasium, worthy of the people who have benefited from what the Center has offered and what it can offer future generations of users," said Steve Ward, executive director of the foundation. "With a growing emphasis on health issues, this center will become increasingly important."

The building, completed in 1936, was part of Centralia High School but was deeded to the college when the high school relocated to the west side of the city. The facility has undergone only occasional maintenance and repair since first opening.

"It's a remodel that is long overdue, and one that will make our fitness center much more attractive and efficient," said Dr. Jim Walton, college president.

Perhaps the most visible outside change will be the revamped front entrance.

"The two entrances on the north side (above) were actually back doors to the gym when it was built," said Ward. He added that the a new front entrance, midway between the east and west doors on the north side, will serve as the main entrance to the building. The remodel will push the south side of the building into the what is now the parking lot, adding kinesiology, plyometrics labs, and faculty offices. The gym portion of the building will receive new bleachers and an upgrading of the locker rooms. Users will have the benefit of an upgraded heating and ventilation system.

One of the strengths of the funds raised for the Health and Fitness Center remodel is that every dollar raised will translate to \$4 toward the project. Already, the state has made available \$3 million in repair appropriations and minor project funding. The state has also made available a \$1million matching grant that, when equaled by the foundation, would result in the needed \$5 million for the remodel price tag.

"This is an excellent opportunity for donors to leverage their gifts on a 4-to-1-ratio," said Ward. "We will be able to bring this facility up to college standards, add performance labs for college and community use, and retain our heritage by keeping the classic look of the original structure."

For information on the Health and Fitness Center remodel project, as well as the needs in each of the campaign's three major project areas, please contact the foundation by calling (360) 736-9391, ext. 290.

## Ahh, the memories ... Centralia (Junior) College holds fond memories for Sato

### Former Adna athlete praises role college played in his life

The journey for John Sato has been a long one, and it's taken some curious twists and turns. But the former standout athlete, Centralia College alumnus, and highly successful Seattle architect and real estate developer has taken it all in stride.

The Sato family built a thriving farming enterprise near the old townsite of Littell, where their neat-as-a-pin strawberry farm was a source of community pride and a testament to the legendary work ethic of Japanese-Americans in the Northwest.

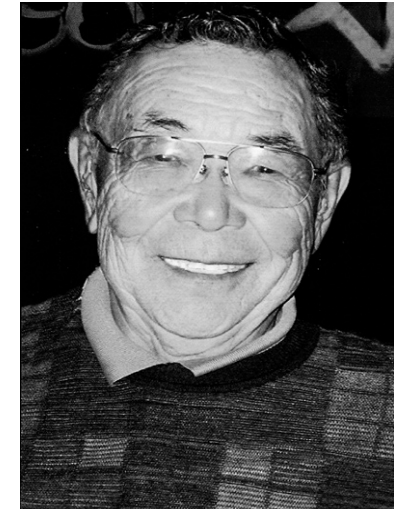
Johnny Sato was still a boy and World War II was building when his life was torn by the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Sato, along with his parents, brothers, and one sister, were detained and sent to an internment camp at Tule Lake, Calif. "We came back when the camp closed," Sato said, "but life would be changed." Sato's mother had died in the tents at Tule Lake, but his father was determined to keep the family together in the Adna area.

Upon his graduation from Adna High School, where Sato gained a reputation as a regional star athlete and popular student, he enrolled at then Centralia Junior College. His classmate, roommate, and best friend from the class of '53 was current Centralia College trustee Dr. George Mohoric. The pair has remained good friends for over half a century.

Soon after Sato graduated from the old CJC campus he was drafted into the army. "It was right at the end of the Korean War," he said. Sato recognized the irony that had been his internment followed by being drafted to serve in the Armed Forces, but was not embittered by it.

"Some of the young men were drafted right out of the tents," he remembered, "but most volunteered for military service, even while the war in the Pacific continued."

After his discharge Sato entered the University of Washington, where he earned a degree in architecture. He worked for several firms as he learned the trade and soon opened his own office in Seattle. "I quickly recognized the potential for real estate development," he confided, "and as an architect I had an advantage."



John Sato

*Continued on outside panel*

