



# NEXUS

## CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

A publication of the Centralia College Foundation

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### Brick project provides markers for memories

What a difference a brick can make!

Centralia College is on the threshold of opening its Health and Wellness Center, which includes the venerable gym that served both Centralia College and Centralia High School for many years.

Many athletes (of all skill levels) benefited from playing basketball, volleyball and other sporting events in the facility and thousands more enjoyed watching the action that has taken place there since it was completed in 1936.

It was because of this special connection the schools and the community have had to the Center, the decision was made to renovate, rather than tear down and build from the ground up.

Now, the marvelous structure, which has undergone about \$5 million in renovation, will soon open. The Grand Opening is scheduled for Jan. 10 when the men's and women's teams take to the court.

The Centralia College Foundation is making available the opportunity for individuals to be a part of the

history of the building and the many high school and college events that took place there. A special court has been added near the building with bricks and pavers available for purchase. These markers will contain the names of those who hold memories of time spent in the gym, as a team member, coach or member of the community who wants to have his or her name connected to the facility. The bricks or pavers may also be a lasting reminder of events that took place there.

Friends of the gym from the high school or college, and community supports are encouraged to contact the foundation for information on how to place an order for a brick or paver. Ordering information is also available on the college's and foundation's Web site: <http://www.centralia.edu/capital/> or you may call the foundation if you have specific questions about the Center or the brick purchase program.



### Foundation celebrates campaign kick off!

More than 400 friends and supporters of the Centralia College Foundation took part in the kick-off of its 2008-09 campaign. Included was the auction (photo, right) that brought in about \$5,000. The kick-off took place at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound.

"We were delighted to have so many people take part," said Julie Johnson, foundation director of Donor and Alumni Relations. "This tremendous response from the community demonstrates the vitality that exists and the commitment so many people have to the success for our students." More than \$30,000 was raised during the event.







Audrey Kimball stands near the plaque that honors her late husband, Kenneth. The music studio in Washington Hall was dedicated to the memory of Kenneth during a ceremony that took place on Oct. 24. More than 100 friends, faculty, and former students attended the celebration. Kenneth taught at the college for 30 years.

## Kenneth V. Kimball Music Studio

# WEB SITE

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

There's nothing like the Web to keep life interesting and to bring information on-demand right to your computer screen. The foundation is continuing the evolution of its Web page and we invite you to visit us.

Join us at: [www.centraliacollegefoundation.org](http://www.centraliacollegefoundation.org)

One of the fresh postings, in case you haven't already noticed, is the slide show of the kick-off we held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound. About 400 of your friends and neighbors attended and you may see some of them in the slide show.

We've also added the blog, which gives you the opportunity to connect with us or other members of the ever-growing list of alumni. It could be the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and classmates. 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 these new features we think you'll appreciate.

Check us out and let us know what's going on in your life. You can also use this site to nominate people you know for the Sports Hall of Fame. We always appreciate hearing from you.

You can also check out the college's Web site and the capital campaign site from our home page. We hope to soon see our web site in the "Favorites" file on a computer near you!

## Your gifts do make a difference!

When someone asks where their gift to the foundation went, it's pretty easy to point to a new building or a budding program that they helped create. It's a little harder but perhaps more heartwarming, to talk to a young student or a returning mom who is earning a college education because of your gift.

This year there are 172 students who received scholarships based on your generosity. Those deserving students received some \$276,400 in gifts earmarked specifically to aid students accomplish their college education dreams. Here is what a couple of them said about your gift:

*Baxter Killian Memorial Trust Scholarship* – Andrew Wallace

"I was overwhelmed when I learned I had won a scholarship," Andrew beamed. "It helped me by recognizing the hard work I had done in my first year at Centralia College. But most of all," he continued, "I was happy for my family. I think the scholarship made my folks feel a sense of fulfillment for choosing to give us home-schooling so many years ago."

*Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute Endowment Scholarship*–Janet Sathre

"Last year, 100-percent of my college costs came out of a thinly-stretched budget," she recalled. "The Pacific Cataract Institute scholarship pays my tuition this year and most of my other college costs. For a working family with two kids in grade school, it's really a blessing. It would have been a struggle without this wonderful help."

There are nearly 200 other students in class today because of your generosity and willingness to share your good fortune for another's success. Sometimes we may not thank you as well as we should, but we know the warmest and most meaningful accolades often come from deep down inside. Thank you again!

Especially during times of economic hardship, deserving students need your support. As you read from these statements, you will recognize that your donations do make a significant difference in the lives of outstanding students. Please consider a gift now knowing that you are contributing to the continued success of the men and women who will certainly benefit.



Students do appreciate your support. **Janet Sathre** (above) and **Andrew Wallace** agree: You do make a difference!

# Where Are They Now?

Periodically, issue of NEXUS will include sketches of former students, faculty or staff. 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.

**Vince Kuhnhausen ('52)** former student body president served in the US Army for 20 years with a specialty in Cryptology. After retiring from the military Vince worked for Bank of America in California and began his own business. He is now enjoying retirement with his wife, Gloria, and resides in Mill Valley, California.

**Howard (Gene) Fear ('59)** began his career by hosting funerals by day and weddings by night in California. He entered the military and eventually returned to his native Washington state where he purchased a funeral home in Ballard. He was elected the President of the Washington State Funeral Directors Association in 1995 and has now sold his business and is enjoying retirement with his wife, Julie, in Birch Bay. He enjoys travel, golf, and bike riding.

**Robert W. Johnson ('61)** has taught public school from Palmdale, California to Irian Jaya, Indonesia (on the island of New Guinea). He also was a supervisor in a copper mine in Arizona; safety supervisor in Wyoming, and a safety officer at a Washington State Penitentiary. He is now happily retired and enjoys traveling the world with his wife.

**Robert Kurus ('61)** taught in the Edmonds, Washougal, and Vancouver School Districts until 1993 and is happily retired and lives in Vancouver, Washington.

**William Curtis ('62)** taught Latin for 36 years and coached high school baseball for 26 years, basketball for 22 years, Knowledge Bowl for 14 years, and Academic Decathlon for

11 years. He has also lead 10 tours to Rome and vicinity as a tour guide. Bill sang with Peter Yarrow on three occasions and enjoys traveling with his wife, Sandy, square dancing, bridge, hiking, and semi-retirement.

**Janet (Hasselmann) Rusin ('63)** rode on the free bus that ran from Lacey to Centralia. She taught elementary school in California for two years and returned to Seattle where she taught for 30 years. She retired in 1999 and has been pursuing traveling with her husband and various hobbies ever since.

**Joe Frederickson ('69)** worked in the newspaper business and even drove the old Olympia-Centralia bus circuit back in the early '70s. In 2004 Joe became the CEO of the Riverside publishing company and later moved to Palm Desert. He is now the Marketing and Public Information director at Riverside Graduate Center but is looking to move back to the wide open spaces of the northwest.

**Michelle Goelzenleuchter ('99)** became a firefighter/EMT for the city of Redmond and resides near Bellingham with her high school sweetheart/husband.

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.

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.

## OUTSTANDING COMING EVENTS

**Noah Gundersen Concert: Friday, Dec. 12,** Corbet Theatre. Call 736-9391, ext. 777, for tickets.

**Grand Opening of the Health and Wellness Center: Saturday, Jan. 10;** tours from 4 - 6 p.m. with games at 5 (women's) and 7 (men's) against South Puget Sound Community College.

**President's Scholarship Performance: Saturday, Jan. 24,** 7 p.m.; Corbet Theatre with the *Brothers Four*. Call 736-9391, ext. 777, for tickets.

**Annual Economic Report to the Community** (date to be determined) with Kei Matsuda of Union Bank of California. Call the foundation or visit the Web site for date of this event.

**Foundation Night at the Theatre: Saturday, Feb. 28,** 8 p.m., Corbet Theatre presents the stage play: *You Can't Take It With You*.

**Grand Opening of the New Science Center** (date to be determined).

**Foundation Night at the Oly Club: Thursday, Mar. 19,** 4 p.m. to closing. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to Centralia College scholarships.

**Advantage 2009: Friday, Mar. 27,** starts with a continental breakfast and free health screening at 7 a.m. Specialty workshops for business owners and retirees. Sponsored by West Coast Bank.





# Coach Gablehouse put his stamp on the athletic program and the men and women he coached



Lowell Wood ('62), left, and Mike Smith ('64), right, played on teams coached by George Gablehouse, center. The two basketball stars were tutored on and off the court by Gablehouse, who set high standards for personal conduct and instilled the need for a complete education for all his players.

**T**he name of George Gablehouse stands as a monument to all that was and continues to be right with the Centralia College athletic programs. For 20 years, beginning in 1957, he was the athletic department. And as the coach of the Blazer basketball and baseball teams he set high standards for recruiting, and developing the student-athlete that remain at the heart of the Centralia College culture.

"I believed that you couldn't come to Centralia College just as an athlete. You had to have a commitment to academics. It was my goal to make sure the kids knew it wasn't just athletics," he said. "It's very difficult to have success only as an athlete."

Gablehouse's own experience helped bring him to that conclusion. As a player at Eastern Washington he was the leading scorer on a team that won 30 games, losing but four. Gablehouse was named a member of the Little All-American Team. Even with star-status, he surmised his future lay outside playing for money. Helping to mold new generations of student-athletes was his passion and he turned that into his career.

Gablehouse, who is 88, said that he is proud of the fact that as he looks back on the kids who played for him, "I think just about everyone of one of my kids went on to a four-year school. They were and are successful people. My job as a coach was to help each player mature, to help each one recognize that he or she had potential as an athlete and as a student."

When Gablehouse accepted the coaching job at Centralia College he was told the program was flat, and that he would have to rebuild it from the ground up. The job he accepted came with low expectations for winning. The word was that it would be surprising if he won a single game his first year.

The Blazers did win three basketball games that year but over the following 15 years his teams made five tournament appearances. His baseball teams, during that span, were invited to six state tournaments, winning the title in 1965.

"It was a rough start, but things turned around," he said. "The kids believed in themselves and their abilities and good things happened." Plus they had a coach who believed in them.

Gablehouse said the ability to get along with others was critical to players' development. There was discipline, hard work, physical and

mental toughness, and goal setting. "But," he said, "behind it was people getting along with people." That standard still bonds his players today; "they still get along."

Supporting Gablehouse's recruitment efforts was the fact that Centralia College was known throughout the state for its high academic standard. "I'd talk to them about coming to Centralia College and they knew they would get a great education. It was a tremendous recruiting message that the parents really liked, but it meant something to the kids, too. It's a standard not easily lost." He added that the quality of the Centralia College faculty has not diminished. "It's still a great college," he said.

**Nominations needed:** If you or someone you know was active in athletics at Centralia College, and also had academic success, you or that person may be a nominee for the Centralia College Sports Hall of Fame. Success also includes coaching or career achievements. Your nomination would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the foundation for details on the nomination process.



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CENTRALIA COLLEGE COMPLIES WITH EEOC GUIDELINES



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