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The
Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



**Donor
Spotlight**

Jean Sheridan

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CENTRALIA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Letter from Christine



Commencement and the events leading up to it are such a wonderful time of year. Students are done with finals. All of the

long nights of work and worry are over and students are ready to graduate. This event is the culmination of the efforts of their families, the college instructors and staff, and the students themselves. Then the campus settles into summer mode and everyone gets caught up on projects that were set aside in order to spend optimal time helping students. I don't know who coined the phrase "the lazy days of summer" as that certainly isn't the case here.

The Foundation staff is launching summer and our next fiscal year with plenty of projects on the schedule. In this edition, we have updates on a wonderful donor, the tour of campus by former

trustees, and the amazing projects at Capstone Day. On page 4, we have a profile of a mother and son in the bachelors degree program in Applied Management and, on page 11, information about the newest project for the Foundation, the Southwest Washington Flexible Training Center.

If you are near the campus, make sure you drive by the Hanke House and check out the refurbished exterior and new paint. No lazy days here, just some sunshine and projects that will support our new alumni program and more scholarships for next year's students. They will arrive back on campus before we know it.

Welcome, Dr. Hammer



In April, Centralia College welcomed Dr. Joyce Hammer to serve as the Vice President of Instruction,

replacing John Martens, who retired in March after more than 30 years at CC.

Dr. Hammer has more than 20 years of experience in the community and technical college system and served as the Director of Transfer Education at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges in Olympia since 2014.

"Besides her considerable experience in the classroom as a teacher and as an educational administrator, Dr. Hammer's time at the State Board gives her a deep understanding of the issues facing students at Centralia College," said Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, president of Centralia College. "She also has a genuine enthusiasm for Lewis and south Thurston counties and the communities we serve."

Dr. Hammer began her career as a fourth and fifth grade teacher in Port Orchard. In 1995, she transitioned to higher education with an 11-year career at Green River College in Auburn, where she began as a faculty member and went on to lead the Mathematics Division and the campus Instructional Council, and became dean of Business, English, and Humanities. During

her time at Green River, she worked with faculty to establish a public speaking center, a pilot honors program, and grant initiatives to foster the humanities. Dr. Hammer was also a lead administrator on the campus accreditation team and participated in revising the college's strategic plan.

At the SBCTC, Dr. Hammer worked with K-12 and four-year and two-year colleges to improve transfer rates and access to baccalaureate education, provided policy leadership, and oversaw the applied baccalaureate approval process.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in Adult Higher Education through Oregon State University's Community College Leadership Program.

Centralia College held its seventh annual Capstone Presentation Day on June 7 in the TransAlta Commons building. There were approximately 40 student projects presented at the event, which showcased Centralia College students' culminating work in their respective disciplines. The Centralia College Foundation provided up to \$10,000 in funding for the projects. Here are a few of the highlights.



Gas Law Experiments

OLIVIA BRAUN

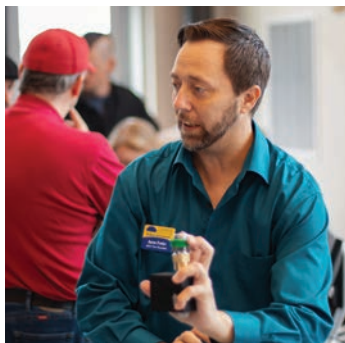
This project tested three different ways of finding absolute zero to extrapolate an experimental value.



Wireless Temperature Range Monitor

RAPHAEL MONTEZ

The Wireless Temperature Range Monitor marks the temperature of anything from freezers to grills, recording it for future use.



Emergency Power Supply

AARON FOWLER, JACOB THOMPSON, TOM BURNEY, MAURICE FREEMAN

The Charge It uses flowing water to charge electronic devices. It can connect to a kitchen sink, toilet, washer, or any other flowing water source.



Musical Bracelet

BENJAMIN KALLUS, JORDIN RAISOR-BOONE

This wearable bracelet-like device uses a sound sensor to take in music and turn it into lights and vibrations. "Without the Foundation's help, this wouldn't be possible," said Jordin Raisor-Boone.



Unimount

JACK GILBERTSEN, NICK RADEMAKER, CEDRIC STONE, PAUL O'HERN

The Unimount is a vinyl cutter, 3D printer, router and laser engraver in one. "It's the ultimate prototyping tool," said Cedric Stone.



Tonie Russamanno and Coulsen Kohler:

The Family That Learns Together Earns Together

For Tonie Russamanno and Coulsen Kohler, Education is a Family Affair

Mother-son duo Tonie Russamanno and Coulsen Kohler are one another's biggest cheerleaders. "Coming from an Italian family, family's first," Tonie said. "I was raised that way; lots

of hugs, kisses and a big bowl of pasta."

The pair's dual support is what launched their joint educational journey.

After a career in business management for Providence Hospital, Tonie found herself at a professional dead end. Without a degree, "I was stuck," she said.

Meanwhile, Coulsen was encountering frustrating roadblocks of his own. Although he had experience, he was passed up for management positions because he lacked a degree.

The BAS-AM program was a great fit for both Tonie and Coulsen. As they've always done, the pair continued to support each other in this exciting new endeavor.

"He helped me enroll, move through campus, do Canvas and navigate the webcam," Tonie said. "I wouldn't have made it through the AA program and continued if he wasn't there to support me. He kept pushing me, saying, 'If you go, I go; if you quit, I'm quitting.' I'm supposed to be motivating him, but it was the other way around."

Tonie graduated in June and Coulsen is on track to follow in 2020. Both are excited about their new career prospects. Tonie planned on advancing in medical field management, but new doors have opened since starting the program. "Going through the Bachelor's program has opened my eyes to way more opportunities than I ever thought were out there," she said.

Coulsen is also contemplating medical management or perhaps a Forest Service career. But new BAS-AM speakers inspire him on a regular basis, which could lead in an entirely new direction.

No matter what the pair chooses, their tenacity, education and familial support will propel them far.

When asked what advice they have for others who've hit barriers in their own professional advancement, Tonie said, "You don't want to wait until you're 52-years-old to make the decision [to get a degree]. That's something I tell Coulsen – don't wait until you're my age. Whether you use it or not, it will benefit you forever. You need an education."

Upcoming Events

Hosted by the Centralia College Foundation

SWW Writers Conference –

September 6-7

Have you ever thought about improving your writing skills or writing professionally? If your answer is yes, this is the event for you. The college's own Andrea Culletto will be speaking, too! The event includes a master class on Friday and a full day of various speakers and workshops on Saturday in the Walton Science Center. Register online at southwestwashingtonwriters.com/2019-conference/. Event proceeds benefit Centralia College scholarships.

Scholarship Award Nights –

September 11 & 12

This is when scholarship recipients and donors come together to celebrate. Bachelor's degree and nursing scholarships will be awarded at 7 p.m. Sept. 11. Associate degree scholarships will be awarded at 7 p.m. Thursday. Both events will be held in the TransAlta Commons. No RSVP is required, but seating is very limited.

Professional Training Day –

September 26

A co-sponsored event with Edward Jones, Bruce Hansen's office, this training is an educational-credit event for attorneys, financial planners, CPAs and other interested parties. Contact Bruce Hansen at

360-748-4009 or the Foundation at 360-623-8942 to register and receive an invitation.

Centralia College Foundation

GALA – November 2

Please join us for our premier event to support student scholarships and department programs. Celebrate our students' accomplishments, mingle with other supporters, and enjoy fine food and beverages. The department on campus who will benefit from our "raise the paddle" will be announced this fall. It's a night of entertainment and inspiration! Reservations should be made in advance and invitations will be mailed out in September.

Centralia College East Lyceum

and Evening Discussion –

November 14

"Civil Conversation in an Angry Age" by David E. Smith. 1 p.m. lyceum in the CC East conference room and 6:30 p.m. presentation at the Roxy Theater, Morton. David is a Humanities Washington speaker (please see his bio on their website). The presentation is available in the afternoon and the evening. No reservations required. Seating is limited. This presentation is co-sponsored by Humanities Washington and the Centralia College Foundation's Ellis Oliver speaker fund.

In Appreciation – 2019 Retirees

The Centralia College Foundation wishes to honor and recognize the service of the following 2019 retirees.

Barbara Hins-Turner

Director of Power Generation Education - 14 years

Mike Driscoll

Welding Professor - 35 years

Linda Foss

English Professor - 17.5 years

Bill Storms

ctcLink Data Integrity Project Consultant - 3 years

Larry Grove

PE Professor - 40 years

Dave Coffman

Sociology Professor - 20 years

John Martens

Vice President of Instruction - 30.5 years

Bill Schoelkopf

Electronics Technician - 37 years

Dick Lamb

Fiscal Analyst - 35 years

Patrick Allison

Computer Science Professor - 17.5 years



Jean Sheridan:

Building a Legacy

Jean Sheridan believes in education. "You have to continue to learn," she said. "It makes your choices easier and taking classes or going to college keeps your mind open."

After graduating from Kailua High School, Sheridan attended the University of Washington, where she studied pharmacy. She later earned her bachelor's degree from Evergreen State College.

Sheridan worked at Evergreen Savings, Title Guaranty and Lewis County Title before going full time with Pacific Mobile Structures, which she and her husband owned. "I should have majored in business instead of pharmacy," she said, "but it turned out great."

Sheridan was introduced to Centralia College through an escrow class she taught for real estate agents. She even took a few classes herself. Eventually, she was asked to be on the Centralia College Foundation Board, where she served for several years. "I've always been supportive of the college," Sheridan said. "We need skills and we need trades. If you have an interest – go for it. Try it. The sky's the limit."

Sheridan's belief in higher education isn't merely theoretical. She dedicates time and financial resources to ensuring more people can experience its empowering benefits. In 2012, she created the Sheridan Family Endowment benefiting Centralia College's educational efforts. "When one retires, one has the time and hopefully some resources," she said. "You want to give back; you want to help."

The process was as easy as signing a form. "You can donate money – any size – and you can designate where the funds go," Sheridan said. "You're in control of where your money goes, whether it's programs, operating costs, sports or scholarships. That's why Centralia College has an excellent scholarship program and why they're able to help so many students."

Now a grandmother of eight, Sheridan enjoys watching her endowment benefit Centralia College students. "Money does not beget happiness," she said, "but it's certainly fun when you reach my age to be able to give back and see the benefits of the small part you're doing. It's better to enjoy it while you're alive. If you keep all the money and wait until you die for the organizations to get it, you can't see what they do with it. Not that my donation builds the building or gives the scholarship on its own, but you're a part of it."

Sheridan also chose to include Centralia College as a benefactor in her will. "I'm fortunate enough to have resources," she said. "My kids are fortunate enough to be doing very well. So what better use for those funds than to go to organizations that you have high regard for?"

For information on starting your own endowment or supporting higher education at Centralia College in your will, contact Christine at 360-623-8451 or email to foundation@centralia.edu.



From left to right: Centralia College President Bob Mohrbacher; former Centralia College Board of Trustees members Cindy Hough, Arland Lyons, Earlyse Swift and Case Doelman; and Centralia College Vice President Steve Ward.

1980s Centralia College Board of Trustees Takes a Stroll Down Memory Lane

Steve Ward, Centralia College vice president of administration, recently led a very special campus tour. Accompanied by College President Bob Mohrbacher, Ward guided four previous Board of Trustees members through campus to see what's changed since their 1980s tenure.

Former trustee Cindy Hough orchestrated the tour to reconnect with the school and see how it has evolved over the last 30 years. "I wanted to do a tour, but I wanted to share it with my fellow trustees so we could enjoy it together," she said.

Hough, Case Doelman, Arland Lyons, and Earlyse Swift all served on the Centralia College Board of Trustees together in the 1980s. The group toured

the Michael Smith Gymnasium, Walton Science Center, TransAlta Commons, Washington Hall, and Kirk library, and walked along the esplanade. Ward shared interesting information about the school's evolution and exciting future plans for new athletic fields.

Swift was impressed with the campus' development. "It's magnificent," she said. "It's wonderful because you're serving students so effectively. It's the people's college."

Education is important to Swift. After retiring from her position as executive director of Together, a nonprofit committed to the prevention of youth violence, alcohol and drug use, she collaborated with the United Way to create an early childhood

education program called Right from the Start.

"We wanted to help little people get a good start in life through helping their parents learn how to parent," she said.

Hough is currently serving as executive director of the Washington Executive Leadership Academy, which she plans to retire from in July. She enjoyed seeing the school's extensive progress, especially considering the tough decisions she and other board members had to make during their time. "It's beautiful," she said, "even greater than my vision was back when we were deciding to split the district."

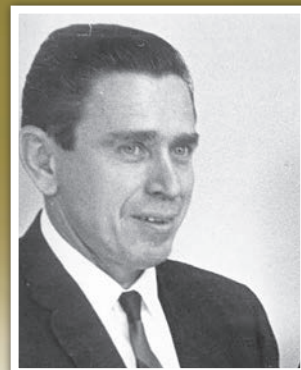
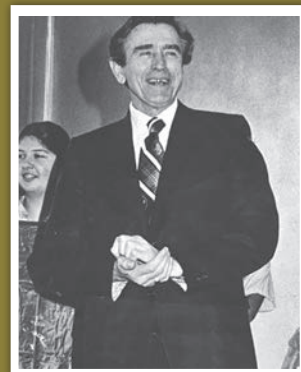
Case Doelman hasn't seen the campus since his last board meeting in 1987. The lifelong dairyman was impressed by the school's growth. "It's wonderful to see," he said. "I think it's a lot of credit to the people of Centralia and the surrounding areas."

Retired educator Arland Lyons recalled playing a high school baseball game on the old Noble Field in 1955. "It's really impressive," he said of the school's growth. "The administration has really done a terrific job developing the campus. I don't know how you could do much better."

Would you or your group like a tour? Call 360-623-8942.

THE HANSON LEGACY LIVES ON

Yours can too



For decades, Nels and Phyllis Hanson have had a positive, lasting impact on Lewis County students.

They started a scholarship fund in 1981 to help students pay for their education at Centralia College.

You have the opportunity to have that impact, too. Creating a family endowment to support scholarships or programs is a simple process. A gift today can get you started or you can help students in the future with our planned giving program.

To find out how, contact Christine at the Foundation office at 360-623-8451 or foundation@centralia.edu.





Board Member Spotlight: Vicki Pogorelc

I truly enjoy being a member of the Centralia College Foundation. From raising money for scholarships to working on capital campaigns, creating a vibrant college in the heart of Centralia has been a very rewarding experience. My favorite night is Scholarship Night in September, where there are so many happy recipients and proud family members!

I am a lifelong learner and take classes at the college. This summer, I'll hike in the Cascades with a class led by Carrie Johnson. I enjoy traveling with good friends and have been to six continents. (Just one to go.) I also enjoy playing bridge, golfing, skiing, reading, and tending my roses.

Vicki Pogorelc traveled to Antarctica in 2018 and is shown here with a few of her feathery friends.

My son, grandson, daughter and son-in-law bring me great joy. Life is good!



CCF Celebrates Bob O'Neill and RONNA

In May, the Foundation board, college faculty and staff, neighbors, and family, celebrated with Bob O'Neill at the Robert O'Neill Natural Area (RONNA) in Centralia. This expansive natural area is a beautiful asset for the campus community to study plant life and geology. The last few years, Bob has been the inspiration and driving force behind the donation and collection of properties that is now the RONNA. It is a lovely sliver showing the beauty of Washington state and a lovely CC Foundation property.

SWFT Center Project is Underway

The Southwest Washington Flexible Training Center (SWFTC) is a new building project for the Foundation. Primary funding for this project was provided by the TransAlta Coal Transition Board with a grant of \$1.3 million. This

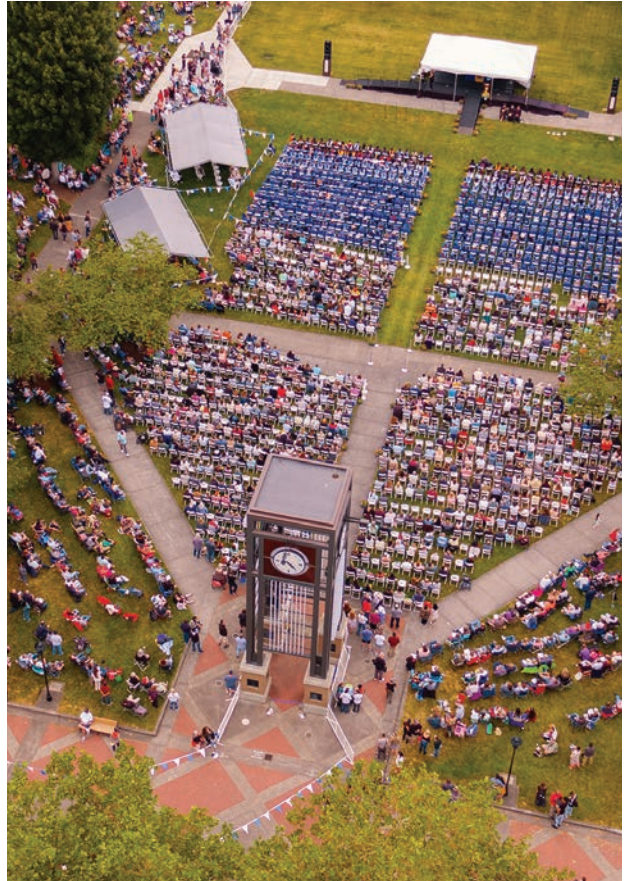
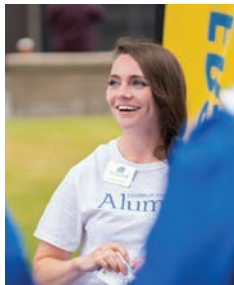
will cover most building expenses. The Foundation board has agreed to raise the remaining funds needed for the building, interior equipment and machinery.

Anticipated to be completed in 2020, the focus of this building is

to provide flexible training space for local trades and industry, K-12 and college courses for the trades and others. For more information, or to make a donation call Christine at 360-623-8451.

Commencement 2019

More than 400 students walked across the stage June 14 to receive Centralia College degrees, certificates, high school diplomas, and GEDs. Roughly 2,000 people came to the event to celebrate their friends and family. Our Keynote speaker was the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Dan Haskins, class of '73. Congratulations to the Centralia College Class of 2019! Once a Trailblazer, always a Trailblazer.





CENTRALIA COLLEGE
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Centralia, WA 98531

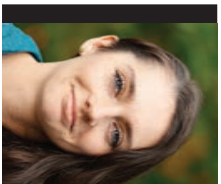
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