

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



CENTRALIA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Paint, Pigment, and Chemistry – p. 11

**Distinguished Alumni: Jim Watterson
and Marilyn Weinstein – p. 5 & 7**



Foundation News

Here are some news bites for you - enjoy!

Kylea Johnson, Foundation program specialist, has been accepted to the Master of Science in Business Analytics program at University of Washington Tacoma beginning in June. While working for the Foundation, she has delved into donor and financial software and discovered a love for using data to help make decisions and provide greater transparency to Foundation donors and the community. Kylea is excited to start the year-long program and build on the skills she has learned working with the Foundation's software. Congratulations Kylea!

Twenty-one students earned a General Educational Development (GED) in 2021. Almost all of them used scholarships from the Erik M. Shriver scholarship fund managed by the Foundation.

This fund was established in the memory of Erik by his parents Gene and Deborah Shriver. Both were long-term employees of Centralia College who recently retired. The scholarship pays for students' pre-tests and official tests. Five students tested in January and additional students are currently preparing and testing.

In January, 22 students in CC's Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education program began their student-teaching in 12 area school districts. Thanks to our education partners for providing an in-classroom training experience for our students.

Our thanks go out to several foundation board members who have decided to retire from their service to the board. Jim Sherrill served on the board from 2003-21. Phyllis Schwiesow served from 2002-21. We also had a campus liaison retire, as well. Renee Lawson, representing the classified staff at Centralia College, served from 2008-21. We thank each of them for their years of dedication to our students. If you count just the regular meeting each month, each of these dedicated members sat in over 270 hours of meetings!

We have had several supporters set up new endowments recently. Former Centralia Police Chief Robert Berg has established a scholarship for

criminal justice degree-seeking students. A historically strong program at Centralia, this is a welcome incentive for future officers.

Marles Geist has started an endowment in tribute to her son. Farhad Koloushani grew up in Chehalis and attended Centralia College. Farhad was a black belt and he had a passion for scuba diving. Although his death is not recent, it is a loss to his family and the Centralia College community. The scholarship is aptly named after Farhad with the title "Enjoy the Dive" as it was one of his favorite sayings.

The Kaiser Permanente Seattle to Portland (STP) presented by Alaska Airlines Bicycle Classic is a 200+ mile ride through Western Washington with a midway point at Centralia College. The thrilling event is back in person July 16-17. The college has begun preparation to host the thousands of riders to campus for rest, refreshment, and a shower! For more information on what Centralia College offers for this event, go to www.centralia.edu/stp.aspx. All proceeds from this event benefit athletic scholarships for Centralia College students.

Christine Fossett

**Associate Vice President of Advancement,
Executive Director, Foundation**



TEACHING, LEARNING, AND RURAL STUDENTS

BY DR. SHARON MITCHLER

Not long after I joined the faculty at Centralia College in 1998, it was clear that I had found a professional home. The funds available for professional development, along with supportive faculty colleagues and administrators encouraged me to think long term about what I could contribute to the college.

I had already engaged with professional organizations like the Two-Year College English Association, so I was able to expand those connections and my work to the fields of English, Humanities and

Composition by stepping into leadership positions in those organizations. The more I served nationally, the more I realized community college students were under-represented in national academic publications. Additionally, few teacher-scholars at community colleges were producing written work that reflected the realities and needs of our students.

My goal was now clear.

Using mentorship available from my professional organizations, I published a first article "Writing Back" (2006) in the

journal Teaching English in the Two-Year College. Since then, with Centralia College's support, I have completed additional graduate work, including a doctoral degree, so that I could share the perspectives of our students and the context of a community college.

Since then, I've been making the work of community college students visible on a national stage.

Most recently, I was invited to participate in a national research group exploring a new way to teach composition to help students transfer what they learn in class to other writing situations.

That work resulted in an article in Teaching English in the Two-Year College, co-authored with Howard Tinberg of Bristol Community College, MA and Sonja Andrus of Blue Ash College, OH. We were able to share our perspectives on this new approach in "Teaching for Writing Transfer: A Practical Guide for Teachers" in September 2019.

We were later invited to adapt that article for digital presentation by the journal Composition Studies. Our update, called "Into the Wild: Teaching for Transfer in the Two-Year College in Spring of 2021, is available on

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAK9HzMtu0I>

Last spring, I was asked to write "Pedagogy: Considering Local Conditions" for the Freshman English News Letter, which appears digitally. I was able to include not

only written text, but photos, tweets, and video instructions for a class I was teaching during the pandemic.

<https://compstudiesjournal.com/2021/06/07/pedagogy-considering-local-conditions/>

My current writing project is a book tentatively titled Teaching American Literature to Rural Students: Critical Rural Pedagogy. There are revisions ahead, but this work, also grounded in the needs and situations of our students at Centralia College, is under contract for publication.

For me, it is important to make the experiences of Centralia College students visible so that others understand the challenges and successes our students experience. Oh, and yes, I do have more articles and research planned.

UPCOMING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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JIM WATTERSON – MAKING CONNECTIONS

The third in a four-part series honoring the four Watterson siblings – Ed, Bill, Marilyn, and Jim – the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

Jim Watterson may be the baby of the family by a decade, but having such big shoes to fill only made him work harder. He knew he wanted to work in construction like his two older brothers, Ed and Bill, but he also wanted to break out on his own like his sister Marilyn Weinstein.

What they all had in common was making their first stop Centralia College.

“The only place I could afford to go was Centralia College,” Jim recalled.

“I lived at home and helped out on the farm. It was the most economical option.”

After high school, Jim took engineering classes at CC. He said a handful of faculty members made an impact on him. One of those was Larry Cagle, who taught at CC from 1967-84. When Jim graduated in 1973, he moved on to the University of Washington, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in 1975. He took a job with Hensel Phelps Construction and ultimately

moved to Colorado. He worked on highway projects, bridges, and overpasses all across the west.

"I moved up quickly, gaining valuable experience by moving numerous times in the initial years of my career and becoming the youngest superintendent in company history in 1978," he said. But, the success came at a price. Jim was gone for months at a time, sometimes only getting home once or twice a month. His wife Wendi and three children missed him, and he missed them.

"In 1989, I decided I had to refocus on my family. We moved to Beaverton, Ore., where I did construction consulting and changed my work habits to put family first," he said. "Wendi and I built a house, doing much of the work ourselves and providing a wonderful place to raise our family. I made a priority of coaching youth sports, hunting with my family, and generally reconnecting."

What started as consulting for his brother's company, Watterson Construction in Alaska, became a 16-year full-time teleworking position. Then, in 2006, Jim and Wendi moved to Anchorage, where Jim now serves as the president and operations manager for Watterson Construction.

"Jim is the best construction person I've ever worked with," said Bill Watterson. "It's been great building so much together over the years."

Jim said he's proud of the projects he's designed and built, and proud of the company's safety record. Watterson Construction was named the Safety Contractor of the Year twice in 10 years by the Army Corps of Engineers, and has been working more than 15 years without a lost-time accident.

For Jim, he's also proud of his time at Centralia College.

"I have often told colleagues that Centralia college provided me a better education my first two years than I would have received had I attended a four-year university," he said. "The smaller class sizes and the personal connection with the professors was invaluable."

LOOKING TO SUPPORT TRADES EDUCATION?

A donation to trades education supports our students, our SWFT Center, and the mobile classroom.



To donate:

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360-623-8451



MARILYN WATTERSON WEINSTEIN – BUILDING A FAMILY

The last in a four-part series honoring the four Watterson siblings – Ed, Bill, Marilyn, and Jim – the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

Marilyn Weinstein is often called a computer genius, but she's quick to put that notion to rest. Rather, she's an educator and a team-builder. She's detail-oriented and creative and loves to surround herself with dynamic innovators and developers. Yes, her work has been predominately with computers and computer technologies, but that's not where her heart is.

She got her start at Centralia College in business education. She moved on to Washington State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in the same field. She took the summer off and took a job at Mutual of New York, which shared a building with IBM.

"My neighbor worked for IBM, and he said that the Office Products Division was looking for someone who could type, teach, and who could be an interface between engineers, salesmen, and customers" she recalled. "I applied and I got the job. It was a godsend."

Working at IBM was a life-changing opportunity. IBM was moving into word processing and typography equipment sales. Marilyn was one of four women chosen to develop the training and transition customer's offices and their workforce to the new systems and processing in IBM's Office Products Division in Seattle.

“It was a revolutionary time (1967-70),” she said. “Everything was changing from an industrial society to an information society. I loved it. I was so lucky to be at the right place at the right time, and to be part of that transition. The teaching materials we were given to work with were hard to understand. So, we created training materials that people enjoyed using and found easy to follow. When they finished their training, they believed they could increase their productivity using the new IBM products. I used all the tools at my disposal, including things I learned from my business training and past employment, but also hard work and creativity.”

During her time at IBM, Marilyn met and fell in love with a Canadian doctor, Dr. Fred Weinstein, who was a fellow at University of Washington in Gastroenterology. They moved to Canada in 1970, when Fred got a clinical teaching job at the University of Alberta. It was there that they decided to start a family and Marilyn opted to not take a similar job in Canada that would include travel. At the time, it was a controversial choice among the career-minded women in her social circle.

“I remember being told that I was not helping the women’s movement and that I needed to continue working,” Weinstein said. “I took a lot of flak. It was important to me that our two daughters have one parent home full-time during their formative years.”



Marilyn had been raised on a farm surrounded by a large extended family. They had no family in Edmonton, “so our support was friends.”

They lived in Canada for nine years. In addition to raising her daughters, Marilyn kept busy with side work. She gave lectures on Moving into Technology, taught blended teaching workshops, did workflow studies, created slides and images for her academic husband. When he was recruited for a prestigious position at the University of California-Los Angeles, the family moved, and Marilyn continued working for high-profile healthcare clients, including her husband, after buying a personal computer and learning programs for word processing, databases, graphics, bibliographies, and statistics.

For example, she consulted on several technological databases and other major projects at UCLA, including the Center for Ulcer Research and Education, the

Division of Gastroenterology, and the Medical Procedures Unit. She worked as a consultant for the West LA Veterans' Administration Research & Development Division at one of the largest VA Hospitals in the country, creating a computer lab for researchers, investigators, administrators as well as spearheading a research and development network for Los Angeles' West LA VA Research & Development.

She found great satisfaction working at the computer lab she proposed for Research & Development. Her lab was staffed entirely by college students and she was able to give them high-level, real-world projects that would have challenged seasoned programmers. But she trusted their innovation and creativity, and she helped develop highly competent and gifted programmers. Some have become friends for life, and she treasures the connections.

"It was always really important to nurture the people coming up after me," she said. "I learned about teamwork and team training from IBM, and I used that to create fun training for the lab assistants to learn and to try software programs for different applications. We had actual work and actual problems, and that was the best learning to have. They got jobs right after graduation (NASA, Federal Patents and Trademark Office, Microsoft, Yahoo, Bayer Pharmaceutical, and Pentax). Some of her students' medical doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc. and some started

their own startup companies and found great success."

To list all of Weinstein's accomplishment would be impossible. She's simply done too much. She's always engaged and active, and always learning. If you ask her, she's most proud of her family and her daughters and their families. Her oldest daughter, Rebecca Weinstein Bacon, has three children – two boys and a girl. Rebecca is a litigation attorney in Chicago who has been included on the lists of top trial lawyers. Her youngest daughter, Aviva Weinstein, has a son and a daughter. Aviva is an associate producer and editor of documentary films in Los Angeles. She works at Moriah Films, a division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museum of Tolerance. Moriah Films recently had all of their original feature documentaries accepted to the Library of Congress. Marilyn loves family dinners, holiday, and hanging with her grandchildren.

Marilyn stays incredibly busy. She is on the board for Music Mends Minds (MMM), a nonprofit that creates musical support groups for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, and other neurological disorders. Her husband has dementia and Marilyn found that music brings back the glint in his eyes and elevates his mood and cognitive ability immensely. Music is aerobics for the brain. She wants more individuals to have access to music therapy and the resources of Music Mends Minds.

MMM organizes interactive concerts via Zoom, where musicians and patients can collaborate and make music together online three days a week. In addition, she administers two longtime Facebook groups, Marilyn's Tech Legion, where she stays connected to her lab assistants and continues sharing, and learning. A second private Facebook group she administers is Class of 1961, Centralia High School – Centralia, Washington, a place for classmates to keep in touch and support each other, and take a walk down memory lane.

"People ask how I found success, but it was all of the things I had experienced that added up," she explained. "I got it from doing my part on the family farm starting at a young age and being a part of the family team that counted on me and expected me to work hard. I learned it from team sports, and I learned it in high school, Centralia College and Washington State University. I learned it working at an insurance company and Ole's Dairy Queen. Then I built on that at IBM and kept going. I was lucky."



NEW SCIENCE COURSE EXPLORES THE CHEMISTRY OF ART

Selling chemistry classes to non-science majors can be tough. The math, the formulas, the labs, the potential for explosions...for students who may be math- or science-averse, chemistry can cause major anxiety. But, what if chemistry could be tailored to the arts? Centralia College debuted just this class in winter quarter to phenomenal results.



Karen Goodwin

Chemistry professor Karen Goodwin received a \$2,000 Hanke Faculty Achievement Award from the CC Foundation in 2021 to develop this new course – Chemistry of Art. Technically, it's CHEM& 110, a new option for a classic course for non-science majors (the college also offers Forensic Chemistry under this course title).

“We really wanted something that catered to the arts and humanities,” she described. “Forensic Chemistry is popular, but it still appeals to students already interested in the sciences. We wanted an alternative with even broader appeal that would work for more students.”

Goodwin had seen a similar class at a college in California and she reached out to the professor for insight into how to make the class work here. She organized the labs

around artistic themes. For example, the students made their own paints and chalk, they worked with metals, and studied public art, all through the lens of chemistry.

“Artists need to understand chemistry. They need to understand paints and binders and pigments. They need to understand materials, fabrics, metals, the impacts of the environment on those materials, and how to manipulate them to get different effects,” Goodwin described. “The chemistry is brought in through all the materials and how they interact.”

The results have been great. Goodwin said the students are engaged, interested, and learning the connections between art and chemistry. And, they're enjoying the process.

“It's been a ball,” she said. “The students are having a blast. They're coming out with a sense of how chemistry fits into their world, not how they fit into chemistry.”

Chemistry of Art will be offered again in January 2023.





BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JAMES HILL

James grew up in Chehalis and attended school in the Chehalis School District. After graduating from W.F. West High School, he attended Washington State University and took additional classes in the summer at Centralia College. After graduating from WSU with his Master's of Architecture, he worked in Seattle as an architect for eight years. James took a job as a partner in KMB Architects, an Olympia-based architecture firm, in 2013 and was able to move his family back to his hometown of Chehalis.

James has multiple family members who have benefited from educations received at Centralia College, including his wife Alicia Hill, his mother Cindy Hill, and his sister Tiffany Hill. James and his mother Cindy joined past College President Henry Kirk and his wife Jenny Kirk on a missionary trip to Malawi, Africa, in 2002 to assist with the launch of a new university in Livingstonia. James is excited for the opportunity to give back to the college that has provided him and his family such great local access to education.

At KMB Architects, James leads the education sector. His primary focus is early learning, K-12, and higher education facilities. He has had the opportunity to work on several local projects, including the STEM addition at W.F. West High School, the new Early Learning Center for United Way of Lewis County, and the Discover Children's Museum in Centralia.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MARRIANNE SCHUMACHER

Marriane relocated to Lewis County in 2017, two years after beginning as office manager for the Economic Alliance of Lewis County.

“My background in management, finance, and human resources has helped as I have supported the Economic Alliance in its mission of building up our community and economy for a better future,” she said.

Marriane volunteers on several boards and organizations throughout Lewis County, where she advocates for children and families- her primary passion. In addition, to further her career goals, Marriane is currently pursuing her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.

“Part of helping business grow and thrive means helping the people who manage the business,” she added.

Marriane will be offering business mediation as a new service for members of the Economic Alliance. Marriane also teaches marriage and family classes to the community.

Contact Marriane if you have questions about the Economic Alliance mission and vision, or if you are interested in seeking business mediation services at 360-748-0114.

Centralia College Foundation Night at the Theatre Featuring

INTO THE WOODS

7 p.m. Saturday, May 14

Corbet Theatre, Centralia College

Intermission refreshments will be served.

To get your free tickets please visit

https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?perf_special=568746

to reserve your seats.

We will also make your reservation
for you by calling us at 360-623-8942.

Seating is limited so be sure to
reserve your seats early!





JARED CUNNINGHAM

CC alumnus Jared Cunningham has returned to Centralia College as the new campus safety and security manager. Jared graduated from CC in 2012 with a degree in Criminal Justice and started working in security. Most recently, Jared worked at St. Martin's University in Olympia, where he started in 2015 as a Public Safety Officer and worked his way up to Senior Officer and Assistant Director of Public Safety, managing a team of 15-30 officers.

While his Centralia College department is small, he said he was excited about the opportunity to move forward in his career.

"The safety and security manager position really spoke to what I wanted for career advancement. It's an opportunity for me to grow this one-person department into something really impactful," he said. "Plus, I get to give back to where I started my educational journey."

Jared's history at Centralia College extends beyond his time as a student. Both of his parents took classes at CC and he recalls visiting campus as a child.

"I remember coming to the TSB (Transitional Studies Building) with my mom and her buying her books and things," he said.

As the campus safety and security manager, Jared does "a little bit of everything." He manages much of the COVID response and reporting, responds to reports of suspicious people or vehicles on campus, assists with emergency preparedness, works with local law enforcement partners, creates training opportunities for students and staff, and keeps track of all the crime and fire reporting requirements for both CC and CCEast in Morton.

It's a big job, but so far he said he's enjoying it.

"Everyone has been really nice and welcoming," he said. "I'm really happy to be here."



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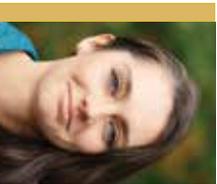
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