

# The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



**Students Write and Perform at the Summer Theatre Workshop** *pg. 3*

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## Foundation Notes

Happy fall to everyone!

We are very happy to be back for fall classes. It is heartwarming to have more students back on campus and see their happy faces, even though it is more accurate to say their happy eyes!

We have so much good news and so many exciting projects going on at the college that I will just update you on a few in this space. In this edition, you will find much more!

We have two new Legacy accounts that will benefit the foundation in the future. BIG thanks go to Thomas and Linda Nore, both Centralia College alumni, who have planned a future gift to the foundation in their will. What a benefit to have donors who search for ways to help our current students, as well as those students to come. We also appreciate the recent, anonymous donor who has left the foundation as a beneficiary in his will. Hopefully it will be a long

time before we receive these gifts, and we are appreciative of their pre-planning.

We are getting ready to increase training in the now-completed Southwest Washington Flexible Training Center. We are reaching out to local associations and employers to make them aware of the ability to train their staff at the center. We also have four sponsors of the SWFT Center classrooms. Arbor Health has generously sponsored the healthcare classroom. Virgil and Carol Fox are sponsors of our most flexible classroom. The natural resources classroom is co-sponsored by Sierra Pacific and Weyerhaeuser. A huge thank you to these generous donors!

One of our board members is a recent recipient of a state award for his tree farm. Chuck and Nan Higgins were named 2021 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year for their Michigan Hill Tree Farm. I was happy to take a tour of their farm recently and

celebrate with their family and other dedicated tree farmers. Congratulations, Chuck and Nan!

You may also notice that we are missing a photo of Tyler Kaut on the back page. Tyler has accepted a position with Centralia College's bachelor's degree program and will be working to assist students in enrolling. We hope to have a replacement scholarship coordinator soon and we are happy to still be able to work with Tyler.

In addition, Dr. Mohrbacher has set up an advancement team at the college. We are excited about the impact this new team will have for the future of the college. More to come on that later and the rest of the good news will have to wait until next time! Best wishes to everyone.

*Christine Fossett*

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



# Summer Theatre Workshop Returns to the CC Stage



Centralia College's Summer Theatre Workshop for young people returned this summer to Washington Hall. Fifteen middle and high school students participated in the two-week camp, which was led by Emmy Kreilkamp, CC's theatre instructor, and a team of program mentors, including CC veteran actors Nicole Anderson, Jordan Baker, Chris Bolduc, Thomas Perkins, Brianna Tomtan, and Josh Towle.

The workshop is supported by the CC Foundation, which helps pay for instructors, including voice and lighting coaches, and supplies. Donors included Susan and Patrick Dunn, John H. Pratt, Klaus Wallis, Doris Wood-Brumsickle, Katherine Gordon, and two anonymous donors.

In addition, several students received scholarships to participate thanks to a generous donation from the James Augustus Smith Charitable Performing Arts Trust.

Over the course of two weeks, the students wrote, designed, and acted in an original piece of theatre with music. They started the week by identifying the themes they wanted to explore and determined the main plot points. The group then split up into their areas of interest. The writing/composing group worked on the script and songs, the design group determined how to best use space, and the acting group worked on monologues from other established works to hone their craft. At the end of the first week, they had a rough draft of a play and songs. By the start of week two, they had a finished script, cast the play, and started rehearsing.

This year's group wrote and performed *If the Crown Fits*, a swashbuckling comedy with medieval princesses, a Robin Hood-esque band of thieves, dancing, and a sword-fight.

"It has been a joy to work with such a talented, lively, and dedicated group this year," said Kreilkamp. "After all the challenges in the last year, which kept us out of theatres during COVID, it is wonderful to be back in this space that many of us consider our second home."

The Summer Theatre Workshop is supported through the Centralia Arts Support Team, a fund specifically set up to help CC's arts programs. Donations to CAST can be made any time on the Foundation's "donate" webpage. Simply select the CAST fund from the list. If you'd like to earmark your donation for next year's 2022 Summer Theatre Workshop, simply indicate that in the gift details box. Or, you can write a check to the Centralia College Foundation and write CAST or Summer Theatre in the memo line.





CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

# GALA

## 2021

**Saturday, November 6**

**5 p.m.** Social Hour and Silent Auction

**6 p.m.** Dinner, Raise the Paddle, and Live Auction  
TransAlta Commons, Rose Bowman Banquet Room

Celebrate with us and enjoy a delicious meal complete with desserts from Dawn's Delectables.

### **Silent Auction and Live Auction**

Silent auction items will be ready for your bid at 5 p.m. with tables closing just after 6 p.m. The live auction will take place after dinner and will feature a fantastic adventure to Sun Valley, Idaho.

### **Raise the Paddle**

During the evening we will ask you to "raise the paddle" to benefit the new athletic field on campus. This project breaks ground this year and will be a focal point for intermural activities as well as baseball, softball and soccer.

**Register and get your tickets today**

[www.centralia.edu/foundation/events.aspx](http://www.centralia.edu/foundation/events.aspx)

# CC WELCOMES A NEW VP OF FINANCE

Centralia College's new vice president of Finance and Administration, Dr. Leslie Fountain Williams, has joined the college at a challenging time, but she's up for the challenges.

"It is an exciting time to be joining Centralia College and the administrative team, whose good work I look forward to supporting," said Fountain Williams. "Getting to know the finance team, students, faculty, and staff will help me understand where our opportunities and challenges lie. I am very excited about contributing to the success of Centralia College."

Fountain Williams began her career as an accountant with a small firm. She then held roles in the private sector before moving to higher education.

"Leslie brings broad experience from working at several different types of higher education institutions, including community colleges, universities, and nursing colleges," said Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, president of Centralia College. "She has experience with many different departments and activities of the college. This range of experience makes her a great fit for Centralia College."

Most recently, Fountain Williams served as the chief of staff and board of trustee liaison to the president, while also functioning as the vice president for Finance and Administration at Helene Fuld College of Nursing in New York City. She also previously served as the director of budgets, grants, and contracts at Highline Community College in Des Moines for two years and was the manager of finance at the University of Oregon for five years. Fountain Williams has also served as a member of the Western Association of College and University Business Officers (WACUBO) board of directors,

scholarship reviewer for Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, and an English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor, all in volunteer service.

She has her PhD in Adult and Higher Education from Oregon State University, and master's degrees in both Higher Education and Strategic Leadership from the University of Rochester and Roberts Wesleyan College. She has a bachelor's degree in Accounting from SUNY College at Brockport and an associate degree in Business Administration from Monroe Community College.

Fountain Williams started at the college on July 1.



# CC HOSTS THE STATEWIDE INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH CHAMPIONSHIP



This summer, Centralia College welcomed the five best public speakers in the state for the de facto state championship for public speaking at the community college level. All 34 colleges in the Washington State two-year college system were invited to audition their top two public speaking students and, from that field, five advanced to the in-person championship at Centralia College on July 24.

The overall winner was Tony Messineo of Centralia College, who was named the state champion. He delivered a speech about Army Sargent Matthew Watters, who lost his leg in Iraq in 2003. Sargent Watters survived and went on to be a bomb technician for the Tacoma Police Department.

Claire Smith of Whatcom Community College was the runner up with a speech titled "Forgiveness for Those Not Sorry." The other finalists were Lauren Burnett (Centralia College), Analise Norton (Spokane Falls Community College), and Sidney Neil (Bellevue College).

"The students performed exceptionally well," said Jeff McQuarrie, CC speech instructor and state director of the annual speech championship. "At a community college, we get students from all walks of life, and so many of them have battled through adversity – or know someone who has – and they have great stories to tell!"

This year's championship judges were Marcus Glasper, director of the Washington State Lottery, Luke Williams, professor at Central Washington University, and Mike Leonard, director of community engagement for United Way in Thurston County. None of the judges had any affiliation with Centralia College or the contestants.

The students were evaluated for credibility, emotion, logic, charisma, and speaking techniques, and for delivering a strong call to action and an overall inspirational value.

For more information, contact Jeff McQuarrie at 360-561-2676 or [jeff.mcquarrie@centralia.edu](mailto:jeff.mcquarrie@centralia.edu).

# BLAZER SPORTS REPORTS FULL ROSTERS

It's been a busy year for coaches, who have faced additional challenges of recruiting athletes during a pandemic. But, Centralia College is looking ahead to a great year of sports, and full rosters of players.

"Our athlete numbers are way up compared to last year," said Jonathan McMillan, assistant athletic director. "We have upwards of 125 players now, compared to less than 90 last year. There was a lot of hesitancy last year. Parents weren't sure, athletes weren't sure, but it seems like everyone is more confident now and ready to move forward."

In addition, with more schools open and sports playing earlier this year, coaches were able to get out to visit students and attend games, player expos, and clinics, many of which had been cancelled in 2020.

Locally, a lot of students from Lewis County are heading to the field or court as new Trailblazers this year.

Here are the new recruits coming in from the local area this year.

## **VOLLEYBALL**

**Adna** - Maddie Kleemeyer and Elisha Giese

**Centralia** - Haily Brann and Faith Waterfield

**Toledo** - Kate Demery

## **MEN'S BASKETBALL**

**Winlock** - Bryce Cline

**Toutle Lake** - Broc Keeton

## **SOFTBALL**

**Adna** - Kaylee Ashley and Emma Eko

**Pe Ell** - Annika Mason

**Rochester** - Kiyah Kennedy and Faith Kennedy

**Tenino** - Aurora Loya and Autumn Long

## **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**Rochester** - Paige Winter

## **SOCCER**

**Chehalis** - Kelly Robertson and Chloe Grammon

## **GOLF**

**Centralia** - Lilly Miller

**Chehalis** - Laney Baker, Hadyn Cabe, and Makenna Klodahl

**Tumater** - McKenna Canty



# ATHLETICS



## ED WATTERSON - BUILDING SOMETHING THAT WILL LAST

The first in a four-part series honoring the four Watterson siblings – Ed, Bill, Marilyn, and Jim

Ed Watterson is the first of the Watterson children. He's the one who set the standard for the others, the hard worker, the one who always gets the job done.

Ed Watterson lives on the Salzer Valley farm he grew up on. He was a standout basketball player in high school and held the scoring record for Centralia High School for a few years. When he graduated in 1954, he starting taking classes at Centralia College. He only took classes for a year, but for him that was plenty.

"I went to work," he said. "My uncle owned a construction company and I went right to work. I wanted to get off the farm and construction was good money."

Ed's first job was on the crew building Centralia Junior High. He went on to build more schools in Tacoma and Seattle, and moved to Tacoma for a bit, where he worked as a construction superintendent. He built a fuel dock hanger, flight simulator building, and jet engine testing building at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and an airstrip and air cargo building in Seattle.

He learned a lot and loved the work. But, in 1979, he was offered a job by his uncle, Earl Schwiesow, at Schwiesow Construction, and Ed returned to Lewis County for good.

"Earl gave me a good opportunity," he said. "I was ready to come back."



**Ed is congratulated by Steve Ward, CC's former vice president of Finance and Administration, during an event celebrating the opening of the TransAlta Commons.**

With Schweisow, Ed put his mark all over this region. He's built schools in Adna, Onalaska, Longview, Ocean Shores, and Olympia. He's worked on Providence Centralia Hospital, Centralia City Hall, and the Centralia Steam Plant.

"I've done a lot of work all over, but I'm probably the most proud of my work at the college," he said.

In fact, Ed had his hands on much of the Centralia College campus, heading the construction of the Kirk Library, Aadland Esplanade, clocktower, Washington Hall, Technology Building, and Walton Science Center.

"When I was in high school, the TransAlta Commons was a football field, and Lincoln Elementary was on the end of it," he recalled. "Looking at the campus now and what it is today, it makes me wonder how someone like me did all that. I'm proud of it."

His family is proud, too.

"Ed is the hardest working person I've ever met," said Bill Watterson, the second of the Watterson children. "Jim (Watterson, the youngest brother) is the best construction person I've every worked with, but he's not the best in the family. That's Ed. Hands down."

Ed semi-retired in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, but he says he misses working and would come back for the right project. In the meantime, he's busy with his wife, three daughters, and grandkids.

"I've been pretty lucky in my life," Ed said. "I was lucky enough to meet my wife on a blind date and lucky enough to have had the best family in the whole world. What else is there?"



**Ed poses with Phyllis Schwiesow and Mike Schwiesow, owners of Schwiesow Construction, upon the completion of the TransAlta Commons.**

# GREEN HILL STUDENTS JOIN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Seven high-achieving residents of Green Hill School have been invited to join Phi Theta Kappa, the national honors society for two-year college students.

Centralia College began a partnership with Green Hill School in 2019 and began offering college classes to youth at the Chehalis detention center in spring 2020. Enrollment in the college courses has grown every quarter and the students are excelling.

Now, those students are eligible to join Phi Theta Kappa. For more than 100 years, Phi Theta Kappa has helped millions of dedicated college students reach their full potential.

In addition to showcasing this membership on their transcripts and resumes, Phi Theta Kappa provides access to \$90 million in scholarships for these youth to complete their college degrees and receive career training, leadership development, letters of

recommendation, and much more.

To become eligible for the program, students must be enrolled full-time in college and have a 3.5 GPA or higher.

“The young people at Green Hill School worked very hard to receive this honor, and the benefits go into effect immediately,” said Lori Nesmith, assistant superintendent at Green Hill School. “Special thanks go to the (Department of Children, Youth, and Families) staff who helped them get there and continuously work to transition our youth into adulthood successfully.”

Nesmith said this effort was spearheaded by Education Coordinator Paige Baldwin, Transition and Reentry Counselor Brian White, TEPA Security/Staff Supervisor A. Jay Harper, AmeriCorps Education Navigator Joey Navarro, Math Instructor Lisa Spitzer, and English Instructor Joe Burr.

# TWO HONORED FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

CENTRALIA COLLEGE AND THE CC FOUNDATION HONORED TWO DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE OVER THE SUMMER.

## SPIRE AWARD

Casey Rice, CC's director of buildings and grounds, was honored with the SPIRE (Special Presentation in Recognition of Excellence) Award, which is given annually to an exempt (non-union) employee for their commitment to their primary assignment and excellence in their area of responsibility.

Casey has been at Centralia College for four years. He previously worked as the assistant director of facilities at Yakima Valley College.

"I was surprised to get the SPIRE Award," he said. "There are a lot of deserving, hard-working people out there. I'm very appreciative. We have a good team here."

Casey was nominated for the award by several individuals, who all praised his strength, communication, and willingness to help during the pandemic. He assisted with much of the cleaning, helped with writing COVID safety plans, ensured staff were trained and equipped to handle increased demands, and did it all with professionalism and care.

"Casey Rice has far exceeded the expectations of his position at Centralia College," said one nominator. "He has dedicated himself to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty of our campuses. Without his leadership, I truly believe Centralia College would not have been able to safely remain open for classes. He is well deserving of the award."



CONTINUED ON PAGE 12...



different people across campus. Her nominators praised Renae for her work during the pandemic, particularly in cleaning facilities to ensure safety for students and employees.

“Renae has been instrumental this past year during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said one nominator. “Over and above her job duties, she has provided expert advice and support in the cleaning and disinfecting of the college classrooms and buildings...Her dedication to keeping the labs and classrooms clean and operational in Walton Science Center in between classes has been invaluable for the institution and for the students to come to campus and continue their education in person.”

Renae, who is a CC graduate, said she’s very grateful to receive the Classified Staff Member of the Year Award.

“In such a difficult year with COVID, everyone has been working so hard, so I’m floored to be chosen,” she said. “I’m just so grateful to the college and the foundation.”

## **CLASSIFIED STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Renae Z’berg, CC’s chemical hygiene officer, was honored with the Classified Staff Member of the Year Award for her dedication and commitment to service and the college.

Renae manages all the chemicals on campus – from cleaning products to the chemicals used in instructional lab spaces – to ensure safety and proper handling. She’s been at CC for seven years and said her favorite part of her job is getting to work with so many

# CENTRALIA COLLEGE HONORS SIX WITH 2021 OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

Centralia College faculty and staff have selected six students to receive the 2021 Outstanding Student Award.

The Outstanding Students are chosen for overcoming obstacles in the pursuit of their degree, for achieving their educational goals, and for being an active and engaged member of the college community. Students are nominated by faculty and staff, and the winners are chosen by a selection committee.

“This year we had a record number of nominations and the selection process was exceptionally hard,” said Robert Cox, vice president of Student Services. “We had so many deserving students! The six we selected each embody the Centralia College mission and it’s an honor to recognize them as Outstanding Students.”



**Noah Bryerton** served as the Vice President of the Student Advocacy Activities Leadership Team (SAALT) in 2020-21. He is captain of the baseball team and served on the Budget Review and Planning, Sports Hall of Fame, and Multipurpose Field committees. He is also volunteer with Bethel Church and helps serve meals at their downtown Centralia location.



**Fred Ross** founded and serves as president of the Data Science Club and Spilled Ink Literary and Arts Journal. He also serves as the recording officer for Phi Theta Kappa and is a member of the Environmental Science Club. He previously mentored students through the M2IND Initiative Program and provided tutoring in the STEM Tutoring Center. He currently works as a TRiO tutor.



**Jay Caird** is a Student Ambassador and student mentor in Blazer Central. He is the president of the CC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honors society for two-year college students, and was recently honored as a member of the 2021 All-Washington Academic Team.



**Shane Sweetman** has been attending classes at CC through Cedar Creek Corrections Center for the past two years. He has taken many vocational classes, earned his GED, and is now working toward an associate degree. He has been advocating for other incarcerated individuals and, earlier this year, testified in front of the legislature three times about the impact of college education in prison.



**Joey Navarro** started at CC to earn his high school diploma and is now graduating with his associate degree. He previously served as a student mentor in Blazer Central and, earlier this spring, began working as a navigator in CC’s new program for incarcerated youth at Green Hill School.



**Haylee Ward** is the president of SAALT and captain of the soccer team. She serves on the college’s Institutional Effectiveness and Guided Pathways committees. In addition, she is an active member of the Speech Club and the winner of the 2020 Statewide Inspirational Speech Championship.

# Spice up your Wednesday Evenings with Engaging Virtual Lectures

Centralia College East in partnership with the Centralia College Foundation is hosting a three-part lecture series that features presenters from the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau. The speakers are professors, artists, activists, historians, performers, journalists, and others – all chosen for their expertise and their ability to inspire discussion with people of all ages and backgrounds.

The following virtual presentations are free and open to students and the community. Visit [www.centralia.edu](http://www.centralia.edu) for registration information.



## **Why Deny Science?**

**Michael Goldsby**

**6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27 • Free**

Have you ever had a conversation with someone who denies a scientific finding? Perhaps that conversation was about something as big as climate change or something as small as the health effects of eating chocolate. But in most cases, there is a pattern to how people argue against scientific findings, no matter the scope of the issue at hand.

In this talk, philosopher Michael Goldsby sorts through the tactics and reasons many people use to argue against scientific claims. Michael Goldsby is an associate professor of philosophy in the School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs at Washington State University.



## **Redefining Protest through Music**

**Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons**

**6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3 • Free**

Acts of protest tap into layers of our heritage and identity that strengthen the foundations of what we are fighting for. So how can we root ourselves more deeply in our heritage and identity, thereby strengthening our fight against injustice?

Using roots music as a lens, Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons draw on stories, songs, and the people behind protest movements from around the world, connecting them with layered conceptions of heritage. Hunter and Seamons are nationally touring and award-winning acoustic blues songsters.



## **One Second of Hate: A story of Forgiveness**

**Rais Bhuiyan**

**6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10 • Free**

Rais Bhuiyan was shot by a white supremacist on a killing spree in Texas shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. Despite being shot in the face, Bhuiyan survived, but two other victims did not. Remarkably, Bhuiyan spent months trying to save his attacker from death row. In the process, his attacker renounced his white supremacist beliefs and expressed deep regret for his fatal actions. In his final words before his execution in 2011, Stroman said, "One second of hate will cause a lifetime of pain."

As divisiveness continues to permeate our communities, Bhuiyan shares his story of resilience and reconciliation. Bhuiyan is the founder of World Without Hate, a nonprofit focused on preventing and disrupting hate and violence and restoring peace and understanding through storytelling and empathy.



## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: JOE DOLEZAL

I wanted to do something unusual with my life, so I planned early to make things happen. First, I decided at the age of 12 to become an eye doctor because it looked like it could be both fun and challenging. I worked at our family-owned grocery store from age 13 until I graduated from high school learning how to do almost anything from sorting pop bottles to grinding hamburger and ordering stock. I then headed off to college at the University of Nebraska, where I was living on a dorm floor with a lot of athletes and shared pre-optometry classes with a kid from California, who later was a quarterback for

the Rams in the Super Bowl. After my undergraduate studies, I came out to Pacific University in Oregon for optometry school, where I met my future wife Patty on my second day and knew she was the one for me instantly. After graduation, I came up to Centralia and purchased the practice of Dr. Earl Guinn, where I am to this day. My profession has been more fun and challenging than I ever could have imagined with medical advances occurring at the speed of light!

I was asked to join the Foundation back in 1997 and got to know a lot about Centralia College and what it had to offer area students. I spent a lot of time at the old Corbet Theater with my daughter's

ballet performances and even became a Nutcracker performer for 10 years. My "dancing" thrill was performing with all of my family at the Columbia Center, where being on stage before a sold out crowd of over 1,000 was a real adrenaline rush!

This led to my being appointed to a 10-year run as college trustee and I saw how the Foundation was an integral link between the community and Centralia College. This "ownership" of our college by the region is something that I am very proud to have helped develop and why I will continue to be a member of the Foundation for years to come.

***Joe Dolezal has served in many roles for the foundation and currently serves as its president.***



CENTRALIA COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**

Centralia College Foundation  
600 Centralia College Blvd  
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Creating opportunities  
to improve students'  
lives, enable success,  
and strengthen our  
community.

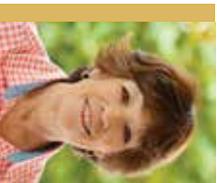
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Alumni, contact us to update your records and make sure we have  
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