

A new class that will explore the history of fiber art gets a boost from TransAlta

The line between the emergence of a culture and its creation of art is often blurred, but scholars agree that the development of art is an accurate measure of the degree of civilization a people had reached. There was little practical reason for common items to become objects of art, but they did, providing anthropologists a fascinating window on their origins.

One of the oldest and most intriguing examples of necessity becoming an artform was fiber. No sooner had a culture learned to weave that it began manipulating the process to produce more and finer patterns. In many cultures, a special design would identify priests, royalty, military leaders, and even distinguish the social classes among the people.

This spring, assistant art professor Liz Frey will offer a special fiber art class in which students will learn to recognize and recreate some

of the classic early patterns from the aboriginal Americas. A limited number of scholarships will be available because of a grant from TransAlta.

"The process of dyeing and weaving fiber took many forms," Frey explained. "Each was a signpost pointing to the development of the cultures of the Incas, the Aztec, and the hundreds of scattered nations of Native Americans. We are going to explore that fascinating journey and the students will actually learn some of the historical techniques."

Frey wanted to recruit a few talented Latino

and Native American artists into the class, and found support through a modest grant from TransAlta to help in the outreach effort. The Canada-based energy firm has long supported

First Nations education and history in the north, and this seemed a comfortable fit for their attention.

Frey will introduce the students to such diverse techniques as "backstrap" weaving that may have originated in Guatemala to patterned clay guides, batik and wax dyeing, and other practices that appeared during the dawn of human culture around the world.

A nationally recognized fiber artist, Frey hopes the introduction to fiber artforms in local ethnic communities might ignite the process of artistic rediscovery. The class may be a sort of combination art/anthropology adventure, according to Frey, that could give the students greater insight into

the development of art.

There is a possibility that some of the pieces produced in the spring quarter class may be put on display in Washington Hall during the latter part of an ongoing, eclectic exhibit of fiber art scheduled for April and May. That may depend on when individual class works are finished.

"We're just grateful that TransAlta has decided to participate in this fascinating program," she said. "It might provide a means of fostering better understanding of the similarities—and differences—within our community."



Liz Frey installs a fiber art piece representing a waterfall in the Kirk Library earlier this week.



The Muse

"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost, for that is where they should be. Now, put foundations under them."

—Henry David Thoreau—



Birthday Party Dates

DICK ALLEN	1/29
JENNIFER DRESSLER (GHEC)	2/1
DARLENE BARTLETT	2/1
DAN TAYLOR	2/2
DARLENE RAHN	2/3
BRENDA NOVARRA	2/8
GENE SHRIVER	2/8

Note: Darlene Rahn shares her birthdate with some illustrious historical figures, as befits a library person. Among the 2/3 celebrants are *Norman Rockwell, Gertrude Stein, Horace Greeley, Felix Mendelsson,* and *Johannes Gutenberg.* Root Beer and salt pork sandwiches for the whole crew of the HMS Motley!

P.S. We ran the first of February's big dates this week because there just weren't many late January returns. February is, however, HOT! Surely you remember the old undergraduate chant that begins, "Hooray, Hooray, the first of May...." (If not, ask a math major.)

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's basketball

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Time</i>
1/24	PIERCE	8 p.m.
1/27	@ Lower Columbia	7 p.m.
1/31	GRAYS HARBOR	8 p.m.
2/3	@ Tacoma	3 p.m.

Women's basketball

1/24	PIERCE	6 p.m.
1/27	@ Lower Columbia	5 p.m.
1/31	GRAYS HARBOR	6 p.m.
2/3	@ Tacoma	1 p.m.

The Brothers Four

Saturday's big folk concert in Corbet Theatre is a SELLOUT!...and we expect a grand show from the Brothers Four and their guest singers, the Westsingers from Chehalis.

Concert coordinator Candy Layman doesn't expect many returned tickets to appear before the show, but if you missed the boat you might want to call her on Friday afternoon at ext. 605 to see if any cancellations might have occurred that opened a seat for you. "Don't," Layman urges, "hold your breath until Friday!"

Staff profile; Jody Stanley, payroll

A newcomer to the staff at Centralia College is Jody Stanley, whose official position title is "Fiscal Tech, Lead." That translates roughly to "payroll clerk," one of the folks we all prefer to know on a first-name basis.

Stanley may be new to the staff, but she attended Centralia College to get her



Jody Stanley joined the staff this month as the lead payroll technician.

accounting education, and she comes from a pioneer Lewis County family that settled on the broad Cowlitz Prairie generations ago. Stanley was raised on the old family farmstead between Ethel and Salkum and still lives on the 160-acre parcel.

"I grew up there, and I still live there," Stanley said. "I went to Onalaska schools from first grade through high school, came to Centralia College after graduation, and just stayed on the farm." She contends the fertile prairie is the ideal place to raise a family, and she has six youngsters at home to support that notion. They range from a first-year engineering student here at Centralia College to a kindergartner in the Napavine district. In between there is a current high school student and three youngsters in elementary and middle schools.

"There aren't many dull moments around our house," she laughed. In fact, the whole family is involved in 4-H and farming projects, raise livestock, grow a substantial garden, and stay active in the community. The rural setting abounds with

recreational opportunities. "The boys like to go fishing, and we do a lot of outdoor things together," she explained. Her personal favorite recreation is elk hunting.

Stanley operated and expanded her own business for several years, but heard of the position opening at Centralia College through friends already on staff. "As a single mom, the steady income and the benefits were really important to the kids and I," she noted. "I applied and was fortunate enough to land the job." Her Onalaska business is in the process of being sold.

Stanley said the transition from entrepreneur to college staff was remarkably easy. "Everyone here has been supportive and willing to help me along. Yvonne Schlittler is so patient and helpful I've been able to learn the ropes quickly. I still have much to learn," she admitted, "and Yvonne is leaving next week, but everyone has been so welcoming and friendly it shouldn't be too difficult."

Signs of the Times

As you are undoubtedly aware, the City of Centralia approved a request from the college to rename Locust Street to reflect the college's location and importance to the city. The change was effective Jan. 1, 2007. Installation of the new markers is underway.



Steve Ward and John Martens hold up one of the new "CC Boulevard" street signs that are being installed. City crews said the proverbial ten-foot poles should arrive by Friday, at which time both vice presidents could return to their regular duties.