



Staff profile: Vida Long

New to Centralia College this year is Vida Long, International Student Program specialist and assistant volleyball coach. Both are skills that Long has learned over many years, and were important factors in attracting her to the Centralia campus.

Long was born and raised in Shelton. She graduated from high school there, but not before beginning a long-term experience in international student life. She became a Rotary International exchange student in high school, living for a year in Zug, Switzerland.

"It was one of my biggest challenges up to that point," Long confided. "I had only time for a crash course in German before I went, so I spent a lot of time learning the language from a very practical perspective." Once the language issue began to subside, Long was able to concentrate on getting to know the people, an exercise she would learn to relish in years yet to come.

After high school Long entered college at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. She studied at Regensburg University in Germany for a semester prior to earning her degree. It was at Wesleyan she got deeply interested in volleyball. "We had a strong women's team on which I played," she recalled, "and we also had a men's volleyball team in competition. I was offered a position

helping coach the men's team." The teams were the source of lifelong friendships and a healthy diversion from her studies. Volleyball remains one of her favorite exercise activities.

Soon after her graduation from Wesleyan, Long returned to Germany, this time on a Fulbright teaching scholarship. She mostly taught

English at the middle and high school levels in Dusseldorf, where she continued to be active in team volleyball.

After her return to Western Washington, Long held a variety of jobs while she looked for a fitting career opportunity.

"I was a full-time snowboard instructor at Crystal Mountain for a while," she explained. "I enjoyed that as much as anything I'd done. It became a co-favorite, along with volleyball." Long also worked in a children's museum, helped with a senior studies research project, and kept looking for the perfect job.

Still based in Shelton, Long concentrated her job search within commuting range, and when a job opened at Centralia College, she was intensely interested. "What are the odds?" she laughed. "Centralia had a job in International Student programs, an opening for an assistant volleyball

coach, and it's close to ski areas where I can snowboard."

More important, perhaps, Long recognized the warm relationship the college has with the community, and the support it gets. She was also impressed with the quality of the faculty and staff, both professionally and individually. "The people who work here have a personal commitment to the student," she observed. "It's not just because they work here, but because they have an honest desire to see their students be the best they

can be. I really respect that, and I'm glad to be part of it."

When she isn't at work, you may be apt to find Long on a volleyball court, a hiking trail, swimming, or on her snowboard. She also writes a lot, keeping track of the families she's met on her travels to Europe.



The Muse

"Science is one thing, wisdom quite another. Science is an edged tool with which men play like children and cut their fingers."

—Sir Arthur Eddington—



Birthday Party Dates

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| MARCUS AURELIUS | 4/20 |
| KATHLEEN VODJANSKY-WARD | 4/21 |
| JOHN MUIR | 4/21 |
| COLENE CLARK | 4/22 |
| WILL SHAKESPEARE | 4/23 |
| KRISTA GOFF | 4/24 |
| GEORGIA MCKINLEY | 4/24 |
| PAUL MITCHELL | 4/25 |

Note: Of considerable interest, 4/24, 1867 was the birthdate of Fannie Thomas, who became the oldest-ever known American. At her death in 1981, Fannie was 113 years, 273 days old. Root Beer and vitamin-enriched fiber grits for everyone!

Sports Schedules

Baseball

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|------|----------------|--------|
| 4/21 | @ Tacoma* | 1 p.m. |
| 4/22 | TACOMA | 1p.m. |
| 4/28 | @ Green River* | 1 p.m. |
| 4/29 | @ Pierce* | 1 p.m. |

Softball

| | | |
|------|----------------|-----------|
| 4/24 | S. PUGET SOUND | 2 p.m. |
| 4/27 | @ Green River | 2:30 p.m. |
| 4/28 | PIERCE | Noon |

Golf

Next meet will be the Columbia Basin Invitational 4-29-5/1, times to be announced.

An Actor's Life

Theatre director Brian Tyrrell reports registration forms are now available for the theatre department's popular summer camp for students, "*An Actor's Life for Me.*"

This year's camp will run from July 5 through July 20; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday,

Classes will include acting, dance, singing, and art. The camp culminates in a performance for friends and family.

If you know (or have) a 6-16 year old who would like to join the summer camp, contact Briant Tyrrell to get a registration form. The camp usually fills quickly, so call or e-mail right away.

Emergency plans being formulated in the wake of Virginia Tech disaster

The massacre at Virginia Tech is first and foremost a tragedy beyond comprehension. It is also an outrage to think that one person would and could do something like this.

It is unacceptable that having to deal with events such as this is a fact of life. Yet, we must.

Centralia College leadership is re-evaluating its Emergency

Procedures, and while it is impossible to adequately plan for this type of event, the college is taking steps so that the staff will know how to react to protect lives.

First, it is important to note that Centralia College provided facilities for SWAT teams to practice their responses in an educational setting. This training is invaluable, should these men and women ever have to become involved in a situation where there services are needed.

Further, while Centralia College has an emergency plan in place, college leaders are meeting with police to discuss their recommendations. This step is essential to ensure that the police and college employees each know what police, students and employees need to be doing in case of such an emergency.

Lyceum

The popular spring Lyceum program series at Centralia College continues on Wednesday, April 25, with an unusual examination of the Nazi holocaust of World War II. Holocaust survivor Henry Friedman brings his story to Lyceum, outlining a teenage life in hiding from the Germans, only to end up in a settlement camp in Austria.

Friedman was just 16 when his family was spirited away from Nazi troopers after months of hiding on the Polish-Ukrainian border. Some of his partisan Christian rescuers had worked for his Jewish family on a farm near the village of Suchowola. After escaping the Nazis, Friedman entered the hopelessly overcrowded displaced persons camp to discover sex, money, and the Black Market. It was a strange coming of age in an even stranger world for the young man.

As the college president said, "It is a shame that we need to answer these questions but it is obvious that we do." He said that Centralia College provides a safe learning environment and the community is served by well-trained and competent law enforcement agencies. It is imperative to be as well-prepared as possible to protect the college's students and employees.

In his first meeting with local police officials, Dr. Walton reported progress on several fronts. First, an audio (siren) warning system was recommended to allow everyone on campus to know an incident of some kind is occurring.

Next step may be a telephone system that sends a message to all phones in the affected area with a message in greater detail.

When the siren sounds, the initial response may be up to individual classes, offices, or people. They may evacuate the area if danger seems imminent and near, shelter-in-place if the threat appears to be at some distance, or lock down any or all facilities. The child care centers will lock down and shelter-in-place at the first alarm in every case. More details will become available as further meetings are held

For years after the end of the war, his liberation, and the subsequent expatriation to the U.S., Friedman still found it difficult to talk about the horrors of the occupation and the camps. His experience was different than the concentration and extermination camps, but no less traumatic to a young person caught in a brutal war. Like many other wartime Jews, Friedman felt a sense of guilt for simply having survived when so many others didn't.

Eventually, Friedman's sense of obligation to bear witness overcame his personal thoughts of guilt and shame. In 1999 he published his book, "I'm No Hero," on which his Lyceum presentation is based. He confronts with unblinking honesty the pain, shame, and bizarre comedy that became his passage to adulthood.

All Lyceum programs at Centralia College are on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in Washinton Hall. The Lyceum series is free and open to the public.