



## Faculty profile: Randy Johnson

The **Board of Trustees** will meet next Thursday, May 10, at 5 p.m. in the admin boardrooms. Faculty, staff, students, and the public are cordially invited to all open board meetings.

Randy Johnson, an associate professor of English, grew up in the rural and rather bucolic landscape of Vashon and Maury Islands. The Puget Sound location wasn't so intensely developed at that time, providing a great atmosphere for a youngster to go beachcombing, play in the water, pick strawberries, and generally enjoy the countryside within sight of the big city (Seattle and Tacoma) evening lights.

Johnson attended school at Burton and started high school at Vashon Island HS. His family moved to Olympia after his first year, and he completed prep school at Olympia High School.

Johnson, on the advice of a school counselor who was also a family friend, opted to enter college at Columbia University. About the only connection between Columbia and his Puget Sound upbringing was that he was back on an island. But, Johnson conceded,

there was a substantial difference, as islands go, between Vashon and New York's Manhattan!

It was a time of national stress, and Johnson's years at Columbia were marked by student protests and activism. Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in Economics, ("Not enough to get a job," he added wryly) and went to work at an uncle's boatbuilding shop in Washington.

"I got involved in developing an alternative middle/high school in Olympia," Johnson recalled. It was an accredited, non-profit alternative school that filled an educational niche for students who had failed to adapt to "regular" schools. "We didn't call it an 'experimental' school model," Johnson explained, "but it was innovative at the very least."

The experience would be Johnson's turning

point. He quickly realized how many students were either too poorly equipped academically or socially to enter college after high school. He also recognized that a solution to that trend would constitute a major breakthrough in social development for hundreds of young people.

Johnson began working with a friend at Centralia College, where a young but promising ABE and high school completion program was

operating on a shoestring. "I was very part-time for a long while," he said. "But I felt the programs for kids who wouldn't otherwise make it in college were enormously important social initiatives."

While teaching part-time at the college, outreach programs, and even the county jail, Johnson helped write a proposal to give the college an idea how much an expanded basic program could accomplish for the community.

"My first fulltime job

was in a developmental English program, and that's still my primary assignment," he explained. By then he had gone back to college at Ellensburg to earn a master's degree in English learning—and moved his family to Chehalis. His role at Centralia College was established and his belief in the value of adult preparatory education proven.

"I've been here for most of a career now," Johnson said. "I'm proud to have played a part in helping build the ABE, ESL, and High School completion programs. I still don't think they get all the respect they deserve."

Johnson reflects on his total of 26 years at Centralia College as a rich experience of teaching such a broad range of students and working with the remarkable faculty the college attracts.



### The Muse

"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most are able to pick themselves up and hurry off as though nothing ever happened."

—Sir Winston Churchill—



## Birthday Party Dates

HARRY LILLIS CROSBY	5/3
JOHN MARTENS	5/4
ALEX ROMERO	5/4
TAMMY REMUND	5/5
KARL MARX	5/5
LADONNA HANSEN	5/6
SIGGY FREUD	5/6
HARRY TRUMAN	5/8
ROBERTA ABARCA	5/10

Huzzah to all our birthday celebrants this early part of May. Remember the annual prep school chant, "Hooray, Hooray, the First of May; Outdoor smoochin'\* starts today!"

Ah well, root beer and dandelion greens for everyone.

(\* Slightly altered to meet sensitivity training guidelines.)

## Sports Schedules

### Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
5/5	@Lower Columbia*	1 p.m.
5/6	LOWER COLUMBIA	1 p.m.
5/9	@ Grays Harbor	1 p.m.

### Softball

5/4	HIGHLINE	2 p.m.
5/5	@S. Puget Sound	2 p.m.
5/8	GREEN RIVER	2 p.m.

### Golf

5/6-7 Tournament at SW Oregon Community College, tee times to be announced.



"I was driving along, talking on my cellular phone, when suddenly my other cellular phone rang."

# Nominations are being accepted for Clocktower Diversity Project

Centralia College is seeking nominations of individuals or groups of people who might be added to its "Clocktower Diversity Project." Those selected for the project are honored with an engraving placed in the base of the college's clock tower, located near the center of the campus.

Those nominated must be Northwest individuals or groups who have, "by virtue of their giftedness, enriched our culture. They will be those whose energy and creativity have allowed us to enjoy life more fully or who have opened us up to new vistas," according to Chris Bailey, the college's vice president for Human Resources.

Bailey said that the clock tower project pays tribute to a broad range of individuals with varying backgrounds, and has drawn widespread acclaim for recognizing and honoring persons of diversity who have had a substantial impact on modern society.

"We encourage anyone who believes they know of someone who meets the

criteria to submit the name of that person for consideration," said Bailey.

The deadline for nominations is June 4; an unveiling of the selected individuals or groups will take place in spring 2008. Nominations may be mailed to the college at: Clocktower Project, Centralia College,



600 Centralia College Blvd, Centralia, WA 98531; or may be submitted electronically to: <clocktowerproject@centralia.edu>.

The honorees already on the clock tower include the Cowlitz People, an ancient people of Southwest Washington, George Tsutakawa, a noted second-generation Japanese-American artist and sculptor, musician Jimi

Hendrix; peace activist and humanitarian Floyd Schmoie; former Governor Dixy Lee Ray; native Americans Hazel Pete and Billy Frank, Jr.; dancer/choreographer Merce Cunningham; founders of the city of Centralia George and Mary Washington; educator Mother Joseph; labor advocate Elmer Smith; and Spanish explorer Juan Perez.

## Lyceum

The spring quarter Lyceum schedule moves on next week to review the actions of the 2006-07 legislature. Many of the measures passed had an impact—some quite positive—on the state's community and technical colleges.

The 20th District representatives are expected to be on hand to discuss those issues as well as others that were raised and may be expected to be heard next year.

The legislative update will be on Wednesday, May 9, at 1 p.m. in WAH 103.

Looking ahead, Lyceum returns to native American Basket Weaving on May 16, Lewis County commissioner Ron Averill discusses the origins of Memorial Day on May 23, and International Student Program director Laju Nankani will talk about intercultural communications on May 30. The quarter program ends on June 30 as Liz Frey reviews the series on fiber art.