



Staff profile: Dennis Hatch

A Friday Dilemma

This Friday, virtuoso student **Charlie Albright** plays a piano concert at Corbet Theatre beginning at 7 p.m. after which he's off to Harvard and the New England Conservatory. It's a Foundation event with a donation of \$10 suggested. Expect a packed house!

Also on Friday, veteran stage personality **Bill Moeller** reprises his truly incredible role as Mark Twain. Moeller says the 8 p.m. Friday and 8 p.m. Saturday performances in Wickstrom Studio theatre will be his last-ever staging of the Twain persona.

Expect another packed house!



The Muse

"I have a much higher standard of principle than George Washington.

He could not lie; I can, but I won't."

—Mark Twain—

Nearing his third anniversary at Centralia College, Dennis Hatch is a program manager in the Learning Resource Center. His responsibilities include testing of adult basic, GED, and development applicants, overseeing the basic studies help desk, and administering GED and other testing at the college, CCE, WorkSource, the Lewis County Jail, Chehalis Tribal Center, and other locations. His is a busy schedule.

Hatch was born and raised in the town of Rumford, Maine, up near the New Hampshire and Canadian borders. Rumford was a paper mill town that grew into a collection of diverse, ethnic communities from which the pulp workers came. Rumford, Hatch insists, was a practical introduction to diversity that has become an advantage in the years that followed.

After high school in Rumford, Hatch entered the University of Maine in Orono, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Education. "The University of Maine is really quite unique," Hatch explained. "Owing to the remote nature of northern Maine, the university eventually established a number of off-campus sites to serve the scattered population. As the years passed, the off-campus sites grew their own satellites, until the university had a presence in dozens of small towns in almost every region of the state."

Hatch went to work at some of those sites, where he remained for about 16 years. During that period he earned a master's in organizational development before a stint of classroom teaching in Greene, Maine. "It was something I felt was terribly important to try," Hatch explained.

"I was working in alternative education, teaching students that were at high risk of dropping out." Hatch felt that drop out kids at that time still had goals and were approachable. "Now, the drop outs come back to get a GED or high school diploma, but only think as far forward as the certificate, not what they should do with it. That's our challenge here at Centralia College."

Hatch came to the Northwest to try his hand at other pursuits. He settled in Seattle and worked for a non-profit agency, training welfare moms for jobs at SeaTac airport. After five years in the urban setting, Hatch was ready to return to suburbia or even a rural setting and also return to higher education. He moved to Lacey, settled into a home with a distinctly rural feel in the Olympia suburb, and looked for work.

He applied for an opening at Centralia College that was similar to much of his career in Maine. More important, he found a place he liked, appreciated, and could find satisfaction in. "I found a campus that was an icon of higher education in a community that saw it as such," he said. "I am truly impressed that a small college could grow in a community that it would serve as a vital link to higher education. This college is a remarkable example of one that serves students that don't enter college in a traditional manner."

When he isn't busy at work, Hatch enjoys gardening, which replaced mountain biking on his list of favorites. "Too many flips over the handlebars," he laughed. He and his partner are also deeply involved in dressage; they hope to have one of their three horses ready for international competition next year.

Did we mention Hatch has a really busy schedule?



Happy birthdays!

Please note: Update will go on summer hiatus after the June 13th issue. To ensure all summer birthday celebrants may be recognized by their fellow faculty and staff, we will post the June and July dates this week and the August-early September birthday anniversaries next week. Please save this list. Better still, commit it to memory.

PENNY MARTINDALE	6/4
JULIAN WILKES	6/4
RICK BEABER	6/6
DALE WILLIAMSON	6/11
LORRIE WALTON	6/13
JIM RITTER	6/21
CYNTHIA ILES	6/21
MIKE DRISCOLL	6/24
DURELLE SULLIVAN	6/24
THERESA KIMBALL	6/25
KEN RAKOZ	6/28
DANUTE MUSTEIKIS-RANKIS	6/29
RON DAVIS	6/30
JASON MOIR	6/30
JULIE JOHNSON	7/5
CHRIS BAILEY	7/13
MARGRET FRIEDLEY	7/13
KAREN GREFE	7/13
WADE FISHER	7/16
ARDELLA WILLIAMS	7/17
T.R. GRATZ	7/18
CONNIE SMEJKAL	7/20
MARK BROSZ	7/21
NOEL RUBADUE	7/23
STEPHANIE KLAMN	7/24
VICKI TAYLOR	7/28
LAURA YOCOM	7/28
PAULA RHOADS	7/30

As you see each of these folks, be sure to wish them many happy returns—and tip a root beer to their health!



June controlled burns will remove Batie Science Center and Ehret Hall

Two landmark buildings on the Centralia College campus are destined for one last educational function. Befitting their purpose over the past decades, both will be burned as part of a training exercise for personnel from regional fire departments. The Batie Science Center will be torched June 9, and Ehret Hall will follow on June 23.

Both controlled burns will begin during morning hours, pending favorable weather conditions, and will not continue past one day. High winds could postpone the burning.

Demolition of the buildings is necessary to make way for the college's new \$30 million, 70,000-square foot science center, which will replace these two buildings. The decision to remove the buildings by burning them represents a cost savings, helping the college to preserve the size of the new building.

Steve Ward, the college vice president of Administration and Finance, said that construction costs are rising at about one percent per month and are likely to exceed the built-in inflation factor set by the state. Ward said the college is looking to cover a projected \$3 million shortfall. Other two-year colleges, he noted, facing similar situations, have had to scale back on the size of buildings or building fixtures to meet state-approved construction costs.

"One thing we can do is to provide a clear construction site for the contractor," he said. Estimates came in at between \$400 and \$500 thousand for the contractor to raze the buildings and clear the site. "Our cost, because the buildings will be burned, will be about \$25,000," Ward said. "That's the estimated cost of removing charred debris and delivering concrete to a recycling center."

The college has worked with state agencies on mitigation issues, such as

removing hazardous materials from the buildings. The fire department will spray a continuous "water curtain" over the buildings during the burns to help keep embers from spreading.

Scott Snyder, a captain with the Lewis County District 12 Fire Department, said that windows will be boarded with sheetrock, another measure to help contain possible hazardous materials. "We are following all the federal requirements in this," he said. Both Ward and Snyder said that everything possible would be done to preserve the trees adjacent to the buildings.

The two buildings will be burned on June 9 and June 23 to make way for a new Science Center. The Saturday-only burns will save the college as much as \$475,000 in demolition costs.

"It isn't often that the fire department has the opportunity to train using an educational building," said Snyder. Personnel from fire departments throughout the region will take part in the burn. The two buildings have already been used by regional law enforcement agencies as training for responding to possible terrorist scenarios in a school building.

"It is a rare opportunity for law enforcement and fire department staffs to be able to take advantage of training like this," said Ward. "It is unfortunate that disasters might occur in school buildings but it is a fact that they do. This opportunity for training could help save lives."

Spectator safety will be an added concern; city police, firefighters, and campus security will be on hand to keep traffic—and observers—at a safe distance from fire activity.

