

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Alumni
Takeover
Edition





Blazer Bulletin Update

Well, fall is upon us, ready or not. We are excited to get started on another great year at Centralia College. We have a lot of work ahead of us this year, but we are focused on continuing to increase student success. I do want to take a moment to draw a couple of items to your attention.

First, the Washington Community and Technical College system was recently ranked number 1 in the nation in a study sponsored by WalletHub, a consumer credit agency. Their researchers looked at a number of factors, including educational outcomes, career outcomes, and college costs and financing options. When they crunched all of the numbers, Washington community and technical colleges had the best overall score. Centralia College is proud to be part of such an exceptional education system. And one of the key factors in this ranking is the affordability of getting a higher education at our college. All of you who support the Centralia College Foundation play a big part in our success

because one of the biggest factors in keeping college affordable is the large number of scholarships that we offer each year. So thanks for helping to make us number 1!

Second, this year we will be busy redesigning educational pathways for students, implementing what is called a Guided Pathways framework. The idea is to make enrolling in college and completing a degree less confusing. This approach is based on developments in decision science, and we will be working to make it easier than ever for students to understand what their options are, how to meet degree requirements, and to make good decisions about their career goals or transfer options. As we work through this new framework, we will continue to offer the same high quality classes we have always offered, but we will do so in a way that makes it easier for students to determine their goals and to accomplish them.

Third, we continue to develop exciting new program offerings for our students. Did you know that we graduated our first group of students from the Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education program last June? Those students are now out around the region, starting their first year as teachers in our schools, and we wish them continued success. Also, did you know that we now have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program to train professional truck drivers? We started our first cohort this summer and enrollments for fall are already filling up. Truck drivers are continually in demand, so if

you know anyone who wants to get licensed, send them our way.

Finally, we have lots of exciting projects underway around campus. We have begun demolition on a number of old buildings on the northeast corner of campus in order to clear the way for our new multi-purpose athletic field. This project is funded by the Associated Students of Centralia College (ASCC) and we hope to have it completed by fall of 2020. In preparation for that project, we have moved all of our early childhood education and ECEAP programs into several buildings along Pear Street. We are also excited about the Southwest Washington Flexible Trades (SWFT) Center. This project is funded by the Centralia College Foundation and a grant from the TransAlta Corporation. It will be a 12,000 square foot light industrial building that will be a great spot for college trades programs, partnerships with local industry in order to help meet their training needs, and may be used by local school districts to enhance or expand their career and technical education programs. That project also has a fall 2020 target date.

So, as you can see, we have a lot of activity going on and a lot of great work ahead of us. Thank you to all of you for the crucial role you play in that work by supporting the Centralia College Foundation. We could not do all of the things that we do for students without the tremendous partnership and support that you provide.

Welcome to the Alumni Association

The Centralia College Foundation is bringing an Alumni Association to our grads! We have a lot in store for you.... Join us to take advantage of these resources at centraliacollegealumni.org. You'll receive monthly emails, exclusive invitations to events, news, and more.

Mentorship

Join the mentorship program and get connected to an alumni like you. See page 10 for more information.

LinkedIn Alumni Group

One of the most powerful resources we can provide is to connect you to each other! Join the Centralia College Alumni Group on LinkedIn. This will be our main point of connection via social media, so be sure to join there to get all the latest news, resources, and updates.

Upcoming Events

Fun, educational, networking,

community service... we've got 'em all. See page 4.

Career Services

Connect with Brian Rauscher in the Advising/Counseling Center for help developing an action plan for your career. Reach him at brian.rauscher@centralia.edu or 360-623-8580.

Alumni Stories

Your story matters. Check out what your classmates are up to and submit your own story. See pages 5 & 9.

FAQ

Is the alumni program free?

Yes.

Do I have to have an AA or BA?

We welcome all CC attendees! Whether you took one class, got a certificate, or went all the way and got your BA.

How do I join?

Join online at centraliacollegealumni.org/join



Brian Rauscher Supports Centralia College Students and Alumni

Centralia College Counselor Brian Rauscher loves guiding students through the often intimidating pathways of higher education, but he doesn't stop there. Unlike many traditional college counselors, Rauscher also helps college alumni navigate post-graduation decisions like higher education,

career paths, and pursuing meaningful employment.

There's no expiration date for Rauscher's assistance. He's available to meet with past Centralia College students no matter how long ago they attended. "I always want to support alumni as they're considering further career and academic plans," he said.

Rauscher helps alumni identify future career goals and strategize a comprehensive plan to reach them without restricting other options. "We get to have a focused conversation around your interests, skills, personality, and goals, with the added ability to research and use career assessment tools," he said.

He encourages alumni who are considering a job change to come in and start the conversation. "I want alumni to know two things," he said. "One: higher education is changing really rapidly. There are many more affordable and accessible options for working adults than there were even five years ago. For example, starting next July, the Washington College Grant will be 100% fully funded so there will be a lot more people with access to grants. And two: it's never too late to try something new."

Contact

Brian Rauscher
brian.rauscher@centralia.edu
360-623-8580

Alumni Events

For the full list of events see
centraliacollegealumni.org/events

Networking with the Young Professionals of Lewis County (YPLC)

- 5-7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at various locations in Centralia and Chehalis
- Ages roughly under 35, but a great place to go for anyone starting in their career
- One hour of networking and one hour of a topic presentation, usually with a local business theme

Career Events

- Keep an eye out for career events held on campus by Brian Rauscher
- Topics including interview skills, resume writing, and job hunting
- Top Tips will be published via the Centralia College LinkedIn for those who can't attend

Alumni Gala

- The inaugural Alumni Gala will be held Thursday, June 11
- Speech by the year's Distinguished Alumnus
 - See past honorees at www.centralia.edu/foundation/about/publications.aspx and check out the feature on Patti Morton
- Enjoy dinner with your classmates
- Network and hang out on campus
- Members of the Alumni Association will receive special pricing, so be sure to join!

Help us Help You!

Your help is essential in making sure the Alumni Association provides what you need and want! Help us by:

1. Take the Events Survey at centraliacollegealumni.org/resources
2. Join us on LinkedIn and post your thoughts on the Alumni Page
3. Give your alumni coordinator, Kylea Johnson, a call at 360-623-8696 or email at kylea.johnson@centralia.edu

Have Fun and Don't Get Angry - Upcoming Events

Centralia College Foundation GALA – November 2

Last chance to get in on the celebration!

Please join us for our premier event to support student scholarships and department programs. Celebrate our students' accomplishments, mingle with other supporters and enjoy fine food and beverages. This year our "raise the paddle" will benefit a forestry-logging simulator. This equipment will benefit students on campus in the new SWFT Center and also travel to high schools in our CTE Mobile Lab. Call the office and RSVP today for a night of entertainment and inspiration! universe.com/ccfgala19



Centralia College East Lyceum and Evening Discussion – November 14

"Civil Conversation in an Angry Age" by David E. Smith. 1 p.m. lyceum in the CC East conference room and 6:30 p.m. presentation at the Roxy Theater, Morton.

David is a Humanities Washington speaker (please see his bio on their website) with a topic sure to be of interest to everyone who communicates with other humans. The presentation is available in the afternoon and the evening. No reservations required. Seating is limited. This presentation is co-sponsored by Humanities Washington and the Centralia College Foundation's Ellis Oliver speaker fund.

Alumni Spotlights

Ed Durgin



Ed Durgin attended Centralia High School back when it was still located on the current Centralia

College campus. When it came time to select a college, the choice was easy. "Centralia was my home," he said. "My older brother graduated from CC and it was also extremely affordable. Those were the main reasons that drew me."

At the time, Durgin wasn't entirely sure what he would select as a major. Law seemed a good fit, but one Centralia College class would set him on an entirely new path - anthropology. The subject matter spoke to him. "This is a discipline that explores what it means to be human from the broadest perspective possible," he said. "It looks at language, human and primate physical characteristics, cultural systems, and archaeological remains to understand humanity."

In addition to finding his life's calling, Durgin also met his wife of more than 50 years, Jill Penhallegon, in one of Gordon Aadland's English classes.

After graduating from CC in 1966, Durgin earned his Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from

Washington State University in Pullman. In 1974, he completed his PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Oregon. He advanced over the years in positions with the Oregon State Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service. He was an engaged worker who volunteered for every opportunity and training course, and he worked his way up through the ranks.

Durgin was selected for an international assignment allaying Japanese fears over potential inaccuracies in soybean grading and, in 1999, he permanently transferred to the Department of International Affairs in Washington D.C. During his 10-year career, he completed assignments and traveled to 22 different countries in Africa, South America, Europe, and Asia - all over the world.

Amanda Sell-Sande



Amanda Sell-Sande's indomitable spirit and a strong work ethic have taken her extraordinary places - helping countless others along the way.

Sell-Sande learned to make her way in the world early, living on her own by the age of 16.

Fortunately, her older sister was already a Centralia College student and, while she'd never thought of herself as academic, she loved the college's environment.

She enrolled in Running Start and earned her associate degree from CC in 2001. Sell-Sande continued her studies at Western Washington University, where she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with an emphasis in Psychology and Communications in 2005. She earned her Master's in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University in 2007.

After graduation, Sell-Sande worked for a Bellingham staffing agency and later a recruiting agency, but her focus expanded when she met her husband, Matt Sande, and became a mother to a growing family. She needed more flexibility and less stress. She and another recruiter opened Julison Sell Search, an employment staffing agency in downtown Bellingham, where the community culture and values more closely matched their own. Sell-Sande and her team - which also includes Centralia College graduate Taryn (Knudsvig) Wright - celebrated their first full year of business in 2018 and obtained a new office building in April.

More on page 9



America's First Female Special Agent Patti Morton: A Trailblazer at Home and Abroad

Patti Morton has been held at gunpoint in almost every country she's been assigned – and then some. Every country "except Singapore," she noted with a laugh. "Although, I was held at gunpoint at another location while I was assigned there."

This didn't keep the Centralia College alumnus

down, however. America's first female special agent/security officer went on to become the emergency and evacuation coordinator for Vietnam; the security officer for Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean; and the State Department's regional operations officer for Africa, responsible for security in the area's U.S. embassies and consulates.

Morton was appointed as Federal Women's Program manager and served as acting director of the Emergency Plans & Exercises office, and of the Equal Employment Opportunity & Civil Rights office. She wrote the State Department's first manual on counter-terrorism planning and the definitive manual on State Department overseas operations. She was also instrumental in developing the first body armor for women. She finished her career as a member of the State Department's Board of Examiners, selecting new Foreign Service employees to take up the mantle.

Morton's job was often dangerous. Once, during political upheaval in the Congo, she was attacked by several men outside the American embassy. She fought them off and, despite

being bruised and battered, refused to be evacuated from her post. "It showed me I could get along with gentle, kind people and with violent ones too," she said in a May 18, 1979 Chronicle article. "I wasn't afraid anymore. People who used to seem so tall to me, like giants, now seemed no taller than I."

Morton's mettle was tested time and time again – from violent attacks to daunting personal and career obstacles. After scaling Malaysia's Mt. Kinabalu with only one mandatory guide in 1971, she was hospitalized for several weeks with a severe case of Malaria. Not one to admit defeat, she scaled the mountain again nine months later – this time alone.

She climbed mountains in every country she was stationed, becoming known as "the blonde haired girl who runs up mountains."

In addition to overcoming adversity, embarking on daring adventures and achieving noteworthy accomplishments, Morton's life is marked by her desire to help and uplift others. Throughout her career, she actively worked to protect women and support victims of psychological or physical abuse around the world.

She helped support the Human Response Network here in Lewis County and created the Patti Haase Morton Endowment to fund scholarships for young women planning a career in social services or legal fields with the intent of serving disadvantaged women and children.

The scholarship includes Morton's maiden name as a tribute to her mother and aunts, the strong women who paved the way for her success.

Morton received many accolades over the years, including being named Centralia College's first female (and second ever) Distinguished Alumnus in 1979. She has many fond memories of her time at

Centralia College and has made a concerted effort to support the school in any way possible. Over the years, she donated over 500 books and countless artifacts and works of art from her assignments around the world. She also donated funds to move two historic lampposts from the original Centralia College site to the current Centralia College library. "I met Margaret Corbet when I was here at school and she was so gracious," Morton recalled. "I was staying in a room that was originally hers. I offered it back to her but she insisted I stay. That was my reason for paying to put those two lampposts in front of the library. Moving the original lampposts brings things full circle."

Morton encourages others to believe in themselves, pursue their dreams and refuse to let anyone stand in the way. "My philosophy is: whoever you are, don't let somebody tell you that you can't do it," she said. "Follow your dreams. If you need more education, get more education. Don't let anybody tell you no. Just figure it out. Anticipate that the road is going to be rocky and have curves in it but don't let that dissuade you. Hold onto that dream, even though there are setbacks along the way."

Bottom right: Patti places a brick at the heritage dedication in 1991.

Bottom left: Patti Morton presents diploma at 1979 graduation.



Foundation Friends Tribute

Ralph Olson

May 1936 - August 2019



Ralph was the eldest of three brothers and graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1954.

He married Bonnie A. Smith in 1958 and they remained happily together until her passing in 2018. Ralph graduated from the University of Washington in 1959 and, in 1962, he obtained a Juris Doctoris degree, passed the bar, and was admitted to practice in 1962. Ralph first worked as an attorney in the Washington State Attorney General's office in Olympia before joining Dale M. Nordquist in law practice in Centralia in 1964.

Ralph and Bonnie had two girls, Karan (Olson) Meilhan and Krista Olson-Verdin. Ralph practiced law in Centralia for more than 50 years and was very active in the community. He was President of the Centralia Rotary Club, Centralia College Foundation, Lewis County Bar Association, and Providence Centralia Hospital Foundation, and served on various other boards. Ralph was a driving force in the capital campaign for the Centralia College Foundation and helped raise funds for several new

buildings on campus. Ralph was very involved in raising funds and donating toward the purchase of a grand Steinway piano for Charlie Albright performances.

Ralph loved the cowboy life, music performances, sailing, and traveling with friends. Ralph sang in church choirs for 50 years and served as Choir Director for 16 years. Ralph had strong Christian beliefs and lived a life of service to others. He was a firm believer in the importance of making a difference in one's community.

Donations in Ralph's honor can be made to the Centralia College Foundation for scholarships.

Pat Galvin

October 1916 - July 2019



Patricia Gail Galvin passed away in July blessing all of us with her friendship for almost 103

years. She was married to Dr. Ross M. Galvin for 75 years before he passed away in 2017.

Pat is survived by her three sons, John Galvin (Nancy), Dale Galvin (Mary), and Bruce Galvin; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Pat was born and grew up in Edmonds and received her higher education from the

University of Washington. She taught home economics in the Custer School District for a few years before getting married and following the career of her doctor husband. They moved to Centralia in 1946, where Dr. Galvin set up his medical practice.

Pat was the backbone of the family home and community. She was a consummate cook and during Ross's working years, they were world travelers. For much of their retirement, they spent four to five months in Arizona. They enjoyed their motor home trips with the local Good Sam RV Club. Even at her advanced age, she was active, vital, and full of life. Pat was a lovely person and long-time friend of the Centralia College Foundation.

Donations in Pat's honor can be made to the Dr. Ross Memorial Endowment for nursing.

Dr. Richard Phillips, D.M.D.

November 1928 - July 2019

Dr. Richard Phillips, D.M.D., was an alumnus from Centralia College graduating in 1950. He was very proud of his time at Centralia College and actually played baseball for the college while in high school.

After graduating from Centralia College, he received his doctorate in dentistry from University of Oregon and practiced dentistry in Centralia

for more than 46 years. He was the youngest applicant accepted into the University of Oregon dental program and was also accepted into the University of Washington. He declined the UW offer and chose to follow his father and older brother, who were practicing dentists in western Washington and alumni of the University of Oregon. He raised money to put himself through school by logging in the region.

His father, Dr. Elmer Phillips, D.M.D., practiced dentistry in Centralia for 62 years and started at Sweets Clinic before opening a practice of his own. A brother, Dr. Robert Phillips, D.M.D., was also a dentist in the Olympia area; he practiced dentistry for 42 years.

Donations to the Centralia College Foundation in Dr. Phillips honor can be made to the Doctors Elmer, Robert and Richard Phillips, D.M.D.s Memorial Scholarship.

You make a difference to students futures by donating today.

Skyheart Yantis



Skyheart Yantis graduated with her associate degree in Business in June 2018 and is currently earning her bachelor's degree in Applied Management from CC. Until June, she served as the Senator for Student Advocacy with the Associated Students of Centralia College.

"It was a great experience," she said. "I learned a lot about leadership skills and had become a better person because of that experience."

During the summer break, she went skydiving for the first time and says, "it felt amazing."

One of her goals in life is to publish some books in poetry. She said she loves writing poems and "expressing unspoken words from the heart."

See more and submit your update at centraliacollegealumni.com/news

Campus Updates

The Kemp Hall demolition project is complete. The pictures below show the open and welcoming campus.



Introducing the Mentorship Program

Each year, hundreds of students graduate from Centralia College and go on to become doctors, administrative professionals, poets, CEOs, millwrights, small business owners, carpenters... and many more. Our mentorship program will connect you with a mentor or mentee who matches you based on location, degree, career type, and/or other needs.

How it works

Both the mentor and mentee fill out a survey designed to match them to the ideal partner. Once a good match is found, we'll send the mentee's information to the potential mentor. Mentors will reach out to their mentee and schedule a meetup or phone call. After that, it's up to you if you'd like to keep connecting.

For Mentors

You don't need to be at the top of your field or holding your dream job. Just be willing to answer questions about your field with a new graduate! A 30-60 minute meeting is preferred, but simply answering a new grad's questions via email or phone might be a huge benefit to them.

For Mentees

Looking for some guidance? There is an alumnus out there

who would love to answer your questions and help you get on the path to your dream job. Fill out the quick online survey and we'll match you to a mentor to guide you along the way.

Find out more and sign up at centraliacollegealumni.org/mentoring

Blazer Difference

Alumni of Centralia College make up a huge portion of our local community, as well as a big impact abroad. Here are a few ways to make a difference.

Community Service

Join us for community service and I'll send you a FREE CC t-shirt!

- Business Week, Dec. 9-12 at Centralia College
 - Each year, all the high school juniors in Centralia and Chehalis come to campus for an entire week to build a company from the ground up. This is a very fun event, but requires a huge team of volunteers. You can help by serving as a company advisor or judge. Contact Campus Events Coordinator Staci Sume at staci.sume@centralia.edu for additional information.
- Earth Day, April 22 at Centralia College
 - Join us for a community cleanup in celebration of Earth Day! Look for more details through the Alumni network at centraliacollegealumni.org.
- Your Local Difference
 - Not local to campus? Post a photo of yourself volunteering in YOUR community with the hashtag #CCBlazerDifference, or send it to kylea.johnson@centralia.edu to get your t-shirt!

Board Member Spotlight

Centralia College Alumnus Renee Corwin-Rey Pays it Forward



Renee Corwin-Rey believes in education. The daughter of longtime Centralia College Foundation Board Member Pete Corwin worked hard to pay her way through Centralia College after graduating from Centralia High School in 1981. She spent two years studying music with Ken Kimball and completing her general education requirements before setting out to see the world. "I left immediately to be a nanny in Switzerland," she recalled. "I ended up staying there for 10 years and completing the rest of my education."

Corwin-Rey studied International Marketing, earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Lausanne and her master's degree from European University. Afterward, she returned to Centralia and fell in love with her hometown all over again. "I lived in small villages in Europe and that made me realize how great smaller communities are," she said. "I'm grateful I grew up in a smaller community and that I later grew a business and became part of the community here. I love it."

There are now Corwin-Rey Insurance agencies in Centralia, Longview, and Vancouver.

When Pete Corwin decided to step down from the Centralia College Foundation Board, he asked his daughter if she'd be interested in taking up the mantle. "I said, 'Of course,'" Corwin-Rey recalled. "Both of my boys went to school at Centralia College, as did many of my siblings, nieces, and nephews."

As a Board member, Corwin-Rey enjoys watching the Foundation's positive work yield fruit. "I love it when we help out with projects at the college," she said. "We get to see those kids present their projects and see the impact we've had."

When Pete Corwin passed away in January 2019, his family decided to honor him with a Centralia College scholarship. "He was avidly involved in music and education," Corwin-Rey said. "This scholarship is designed for someone who's going into music and the arts. It's a good fit because he was so involved in the college and the community. He left a huge legacy. We just wanted to continue that legacy."

Corwin-Rey, her mother Janet Corwin, and siblings Lisa Voetberg, Mary Moffit, Christopher Corwin, Jeremy Corwin, and Mark Corwin, are excited to honor Pete by sharing the gift of education. "Centralia College is a great opportunity with its high caliber teachers, accessibility, convenience, and the great experience it affords," Corwin-Rey said. "The college and the Foundation are just a huge part of our community and it's only getting better and better. Scholarships like this allow students who don't have the funds to attend college. It's satisfying to help them accomplish this and it enhances our community like no other."



CENTRALIA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Centralia College Foundation
600 Centralia College Blvd
Centralia, WA 98531

CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION STAFF



Christine Fossett
Executive Director



Tyler Kaut
Foundation Specialist



Kylea Johnson
Program Coordinator



Margie Linn
Office Assistant

Join the Alumni Association

NEW! Join the new Centralia College Alumni Association at centraliacollegealumni.org.

PARENTS OF ALUMNI

Still getting your kids' mail? Think they should know about the Alumni Association? Call us at 360-623-8491 OR have them update their own record at centraliacollegealumni.org/update.

Centralia College Foundation • 360-623-8942 • foundation.centralia.edu