The President’s Corner

Only one more week until the Class of 2008 marches out of the Dietrich Activity Center—our 41st graduating class!! Over the last several years, we have graduated between 700 and 750 students annually with a little more than one-third of them participating in the ceremonies.

There’s no telling how many lives we’ve changed for the better since that first graduating class of 1968 when 40 students were “honored with due ceremony” according to an article in The Union-Bulletin. The story continued with the information that “transfer students from other institutions made second year courses feasible” and allowed for 25 students to graduate that first year with two-year AA degrees. Fifteen other students received certificates for completion of technical and vocational programs.

Another UB article, in the first sentence of the first paragraph, stated that “Walla Walla Community College is solvent, the business manager has resigned, football was sanctioned and the college will be the first in the Northwest to offer a two-year program leading to an associate degree for travel consultants.” The college also hoped “to be approved by the state for a key punch operator course.”

Wow—how we’ve changed!!!

We’re still here for the community and our students, but today we’re offering opportunities for more than just a job. We’re giving them the chance to better themselves in careers that will improve their lives, provide higher salaries and esteem, and be a role model for their children—the next generation.

Your worth increases as we graduate more and more students. Your guidance and ability to point students in the direction that will ultimately benefit their lives the most is a talent that touches everyone who walks through our doors, from the 17 year old Running Start student to the 55 year old displaced worker. Remember that you are appreciated. And I hope that that appreciation gives you the sense of pride that you deserve.

Ed says:

“Anything Goes” Full Speed Ahead

Rehearsals are progressing and set construction has started for the 27th Annual Summer Musical, Anything Goes, at the Fort Walla Walla Amphitheater July 10-12, 17-20 and 24-26.

Deadline for the first pre-function—a dance contest—is June 5, according to Kay Raddatz, musical coordinator. Contact her at 524.5161 or at kathryn.raddatz@wwcc.edu to sign up for the competition. Partners will dance for one minute to one of six songs from the musical, accompanied by the Tom Simon Trio. Age categories are 5-10, 11-17, 18-49 and 50 and older.

Dancers will be judged on emotion, precision, performance, originality, rhythm, difficulty and costume/appearance. The top three couples in each category perform at Fourth of July in the Park where free show tickets will be awarded to each winner.

Judges include Kathleen Conry, veteran choreographer and Broadway dancer from New York; Michael Anderson, an accomplished tap dancer and tap teacher; and Breann Eggers, a local dancer and former dance captain in several summer musicals.

The contest will be performed Sunday, June 22 at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theater.

Community Open House Set In Clarkston for Barbara Hays

Nursing staff in Clarkston will honor Barbara Hays at a community open house on June 18, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. “Not only has she been an inspiring teacher, she has also made many contacts and relationships within the community,” noted Janet Danley, Clarkson Center director.

Congratulations to my fellow graduates!!

Walla Walla Community College . . . your best choice
Bragging Rights

... Mike Hays for his selection as the State of Washington’s Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) local chapter Advisor of the Year. Mike and other state winners will be honored at the opening session of the PBL national convention and competition in Atlanta, GA on June 21. “This is such a fun job,” Mike said, “and it feels silly to accept an award for something I’ve enjoyed so much. The students have been great. Fourteen of them are going to Nationals after winning first places in the state competition. I just look forward to continuing in my role as PBL advisor.”

Clarkston’s TRiO coordinator Heather Markwalter recently returned from a conference focusing on student success. She stated she learned many new techniques and strategies for helping students achieve their academic goals. Heather is already planning workshops and possibly courses that incorporate what she learned.

From Jim's Kitchen to Yours...

**PASTA SALAD PRIMAVERA**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 cup green split peas
- 2 cups water
- ¾ cup white wine vinegar (I like balsamic better)
- 1 garlic clove, minced (more is better)
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes (more if you love spicy stuff)

In a saucepan, combine the split peas with the water. Cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the split peas are just tender but still hold their shape. Combine the vinegar, garlic, mustard, red pepper, salt and pepper. Beat in the oil. Add remaining ingredients and split peas. Toss and chill. (I've also added chopped black olives and parsley. Cilantro is good instead of parsley if you like it.)

**Highlights:**

- **Mike Hays** recently returned from a conference focusing on student success. He stated he learned many new techniques and strategies for helping students achieve their academic goals. He is already planning workshops and possibly courses that incorporate what he learned.

- **Heather Markwalter** recently returned from a conference focusing on student success. She stated she learned many new techniques and strategies for helping students achieve their academic goals. She is already planning workshops and possibly courses that incorporate what she learned.

- **Dan Norton’s Auto Body Repair Technology program** gained further recognition when students completed STAR training, an efficient painting technique that provides less overspray. Paint also sticks better to vehicles.

- **Mike Houdak’s program in Energy Systems Technology** received its HVAC Excellence award this spring for a six year certification.

- **The second science lab in Clarkston** is officially available for summer quarter. Science faculty members plan to offer a wider variety of lab science courses to students.

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**Spotlight... From Professional to Personal**

**Jim Rice, Reference Librarian**

Some days when you finish talking with Jim Rice (Jim Bob), you’re not at all sure whether he was joking or being serious! And you may even wonder if he knows! But one thing is for sure—he’s funny, serious, intelligent, crazy, reserved and outgoing at the same time and friendly.

“I was born Sept. 17, 1953 in St. Mary Hospital. I was an “accident,” having been born to older parents, so my only sibling is a brother 20 years older than I. I was raised (although I’ve never completely grown up) and educated in Walla Walla, majoring in music at Whitman College,” Jim notes.

He continues, “My earliest career goal in junior high was funeral service because of an uncle who was a funeral director. It’s something I’ve still found to be very fulfilling work on a part-time basis ever since high school.

“Pearl Rambo, WWCC’s first library director, hired me in the fall of 1975 because I could type well, since we typed each catalog card individually then. She later encouraged me to get my master’s degree in librarianship, which I completed at the University of Washington in 1979. I became WWCC’s reference librarian that fall after Lynn Waldron returned to Wa-Hi as their librarian.”

Although Jim has never been married and has no children, his long-time close friends are his “dysfunctional family,” he says. Some are people he first met here at WWCC years ago, including Allen and Diane Baird and Bill Piper.

When asked about his favorite movie, he said he loves old movies because of their historical context, and because they’re generally classier. The Marx Brothers’ *Duck Soup* and anything with Clifton Webb, especially *Laura* and *Sitting Pretty*, are favorites, “but the last current movie I watched was *Shrek 2* and that’s only because I’d been told that Shrek belches a lot.”

In the non-fiction category, Jim enjoyed *Thaddeus Stevens: Scourge of the South* by Fawn Brodie due to the influence of Whitman history professor Tom Edwards. And his favorite fiction books are most of Steinbeck’s works and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* because of a great Wa-Hi English teacher named Dale Nesbitt, who “turned him on” to reading.

We asked Jim about the most interesting place he’s ever visited and he answered, “Since I find so much of my fulfillment in people and music rather than places, I don’t travel a lot, but a trip to Jamaica where I stayed with a Jamaican family was most memorable because of the “culture shock,” relaxed atmosphere, and wonderful people.” When he gets away from work and relaxes, he said “Besides supporting The Rochester Tavern, I spend much time listening to classical music and jazz, as well as playing classical accordion. I also enjoy vegetarian cooking.”

What’s at the top of his list of things in life still to do? “Even if it’s in retirement, I’d still one day like to become a licensed funeral director/embalmer.” And we bet he will!
The Charles Schulz Philosophy

This is a slight change from what you usually find in this column, but the following should give a healthy, positive boost to your mental attitude.

Here is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the “Peanuts” comic strip. You don’t have to answer the questions. Just read the article and you’ll get the point!

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remember the headlines of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here’s another quiz. See how you do on this one.

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most. Tell them today how much you love and appreciate them!

Don’t worry about the world coming to an end today. It’s already tomorrow in Australia!!

Be Yourself—Everyone Else Is Already Taken!
Librarian Awards

As the school year comes to a close, we have been reflecting on all those relationships with WWCC staff that make each day one of both diversity and satisfaction.

Categories and winners include:

“BYOP (Bring Your Own Popcorn)” - To all you users of the popular news service, Netflix for Instructors.  http://www.wwcc.edu/CMS/index.php?id=2004


“Frequent Flyers” - Jim Peitersen for assignments that bring his students regularly to the library.

“Every Book Has Its Reader” - Lynn Knapp and her ESL students

“I Get Paid for This?” - Culinary Arts and Viticulture staff who give us an excuse to build a relevant collection.

“Good for Stats” - Jane Carroll for the 889 items she has checked out from the Clarkston campus library (not all at once—over time!).

“Together We Make a Difference” - library staff at WWCC, Whitman, Walla Walla University, Walla Walla City and the Rural Public Libraries for Walla Walla Reads. (Note: this next year we will be reading and studying Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi)

“Novel Use” - to Steve Schwartz for his daily walking of the WWCC library circumference.

“What Will They Think of Next” - Steve Shoemake who actually looks things up on the library homepage his ownself at his desktop computer!!  http://www.wwcc.edu/library

Don’t be sad if you didn’t quite make the cut this year.  The categories will change (in protest, the library staff will come up with better ones).  And there’s always next year! —Darcy Dauble