The President’s Corner

We’re almost there—Fall Quarter 2008!! And the enrollment numbers are looking strong.

The number of potential students tested was well above last year’s figures, resulting in higher than normal New Student Orientations. It’s been a very busy summer but your hard work, optimism and willingness to go the extra mile paid off. Thank you!

When I spoke with you last week at in-service, I asked two questions:

Are we ready to change? What are our real challenges?

I believe that WWCC is ready to change in order to meet the real challenges of today’s world—ensuring safety and security (at home, on campus and in business), prosperity (supporting a family with the rising standard of living), and sustainability. Anything we do here at WWCC has to do with these challenges. Although we are but a small part of this nation, we will prevail through ideas, insight, breakthrough and invention. This nation, its states and its communities will track, retain and grow talent to ensure a positive outcome to these challenges.

It’s been proven that other developed nations are educating their youth and adult workers to higher levels than the U.S. As our demographics change—more people (37% increase), an older population (72% increase), and a more diverse population (39% increase)—the country will realize that education is the answer to most current and potential problems.

And that’s why we’re here—to give everyone the opportunity to improve their future. To make a difference in their family’s life. To provide a role model for their children and children’s children. To reach their potential and beyond.

Yes, that’s definitely why we’re here.

Rodeo Clown Promotes WWCC

J J Harrison, rodeo clown throughout Oregon and Washington, revamped his rodeo barrel recently to highlight WWCC’s national champion rodeo team and promote the college.

A part-time employee in Marketing, Jason is busy with WWCC radio and television ads when not involved on the rodeo circuit every weekend from May through October. He participates in other rodeos the rest of the year.

Anything can happen when he sets foot in the rodeo arena as he entertains the crowds and helps get the attention of feisty bulls away from their riders who’ve been thrown from the animals. Yet his most serious injury to date has been a broken rib—with lots of scrapes and bruises and muscle pain in between.

Harrison has been named NPRA barrelman of the year for the past three years, working more than 50 shows a year throughout the western states. He is best known for his wild antics, energy, dancing and fat suits.

Sustainable Living Fair Scheduled on Campus

Walla Walla’s 2008 Sustainable Living Fair at the William A. Grant Water & Environmental Center is scheduled Friday and Saturday, September 19-20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.
Communicate Your News and Events

We need your information about upcoming events and news items on campus. Calendar events for both the WWCC website and the digital signboard on Tausick Way are now coordinated through the Marketing and Communications department.

A form is located on the p-drive under Forms, Signboard and Website Message Request. It can be e-mailed to cathy.nelson@wwcc.edu.

Please keep us on your list of things to do so we can ensure that WWCC news and events are well publicized and promoted.

Thanks for your help.

Bullapalooza Set Oct. 18

The second annual Bullapalooza hits the indoor arena at the Fairgrounds Saturday, October 18, with about 30 riders from northwest colleges entered. A benefit for athletic scholarships, last year’s event was a sellout. Gates open at 6 p.m. and riding begins at 7 p.m.

An after-party featuring local band Little McCay Creek follows the competition.

Tickets are available at the Bookstore, Walla Walla Farmer’s Co-Op and Bordertown. Tickets cost $10 in advance and $12 at the door.

I am not sure if it was the aroma of hot-buttered popcorn that kept me coming back, or the fact that I could hang-out with friends in a safe and supportive environment. Probably a little of both—but what I discovered is that all of us can connect to a place that creates life-changing moments. For me this place was the Kiddie Korner, a small soda and candy shop that was within walking distance from my home and school. I was born and raised in Hermiston, Oregon and the candy shop was the neighborhood hang-out for swapping my Sandy Koufax and Willie Mays baseball cards, or spending my last dime on a Big Hunk candy bar. It was a simple life filled with trips to a nearby park to wade in the creek and take pleasure in nature’s treasures. Or fun-filled days that embraced outdoor barbecues in the spring, fishing trips on the Columbia River in the summer, clothes shopping at Portland’s Washington Center in the fall, and sledding trips to the Blue Mountains during the winter.

My childhood and teen years were spent in the company of a supportive family of five; with a dad that enjoyed teaching my sister, brother, and I how to spin a good tale, or coo the song of the mourning doves comfortably nestled in the branches of our elm trees. My mother was always watchful of our training making sure that homework and chores were done on time and we had a quarter in our pocket for Sunday school offering.

Along with spending hours playing my trumpet or engaging in a competitive game of basketball, community service was very much a part of my life. Service was considered a well worn family tradition and it often materialized as weekend visits to the local convalescent center, or hauling firewood for friends and family.

But just as I discovered that growing up in a small, rural community could paint beautiful memories, I was later to learn how unexpected events can also create life-changing moments. This hit especially hard with the death of my oldest son eight years ago. It was at this time that I learned the depth to the kindness and compassion of others and the healing power of service. Over the next two years I would work closely with the public health department and other individuals to start a nonprofit corporation that would provide support group services, as well as materials, and resources to many Eastern Oregon communities.

Later I relocated to Ellensburg to complete my studies in public health and continued to work and serve while prayerfully and proudly enduring my youngest son’s deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq as a sergeant in the Marine Corps. Serving in the Marine Corps had been a lifetime ambition of Joe’s when at the ripe old age of ten he thoughtfully shared that he wanted to serve his country. It was indeed a challenge to support Joe’s choice after his brother’s death, but I am forever grateful for Joe’s sacrifice and commitment to service.

In June, Joe completed his military service and returned home. My original plans to enter the Peace Corps were temporarily set aside so that I might spend time with my son, in fact, when I accepted the position of service-learning coordinator for WWCC it seemed like the perfect expression for an individual that has benefited from the learning process of service. As most of you know, this is a volunteer position and I consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the college and community. My year of service will end in January, but in the meantime I fill my leisure hours by digging in the dirt to nurture my struggling vegetable garden, relaxing with my cat as I read an English murder mystery, taking walks in the early morning hours, plugging out notes on my Baroque recorder, or letting go of my cares as I listen to my Beatles collection.

I am a horrible cook so I won’t bother to pass on my incredibly tasteless recipes and as a ‘country bumpkin’ I have traveled little, but look forward to many adventures. But best of all…I appreciate listening to the wonderful, mesmerizing rhythm of Joe’s voice on the phone when he calls to share his daily routine and cherishing each and every moment of life.
**Who Am I?**

It’s tough to imagine anyone cuter or friendlier than this person.

A Walla Walla native, this person has been here a total of about three years.

E-mail cathy.nelson@wwcc.edu with your answer.

Person with first correct guess wins a Kudo bar!!

Remember to send in your own photo soon!!

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**Cold/Flu Season Coming**

Fall is almost upon us (Monday, the 22nd) and we’ll soon be fighting the cold and flu viruses inherent in today’s world. Some of the chain stores who provide flu shots are already advertising their flu shot clinics even though doctors usually suggest waiting into October.

So what can you do aside from staying at home away from the sick people in the stores, schools and at the medical clinics?

The main solution is the same as is being taught in preschools across the nation—WASH YOUR HANDS.

Washing hands, keeping your desk and your computer keyboard free of germs by cleaning them with an antibacterial cleaner and getting enough sleep are just a few of the common sense steps you can take for a virus-free fall and winter.

And if you do get a cold or the flu, stay home if you are running a fever or can’t stop sneezing and coughing. For best prevention, try to cover your mouth and nose with the upper part of the arm. That way the germs aren’t on your hands where you will transfer them to grocery cart handles, door knobs, etc.

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**Condolences**

Our sincerest sympathies go out to Marcella Drivdahl on the passing of her mother, Betsy Smith of Walla Walla, on Tuesday, September 9.

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**Wellness at Work**

**WEIGHT WATCHERS OPEN HOUSE**

Find out about Weight Watchers at Work during their Open House October 1 in the back dining room from noon to 1 p.m. Weigh-ins for regular members will occur before the meeting begins.

Two WW programs are available—a 15 week program for $180 with a minimum of 15 people signed up by October 1 or a 17 week program for $186 with sign up of 20 people. The second option includes free e-tools (a $12.95 value).

Three members have reached their goal and two of those people have become lifetime members.

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**More New FT Hires to Welcome!**

- Teresa Harris, Basic Skills Instructor, Coyote Ridge
- Susan Pearson, Basic Skills Instructor, WSP
- Jerry Nelson, Custodian
- Dwight Penner, Diesel Technology Instructor, WSP
- John Biagi (JC), Grounds/Nursery Specialist 2
- Tara Magi Patten, Life Science Lab Technician
- Jessica Barkl, Speech Instructor
- Travis Watts, Carpentry Instructor, WSP

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**5th Children’s Forum Scheduled in October**

In partnership with Walla Walla’s Diversity Coalition, WWCC’s Early Childhood Education program encourages your participation in the 5th Annual Children’s Forum beginning Sunday, October 19, with a Family Night at St. Patrick Church from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The event includes two keynote speakers—Laura Porter, Staff Director of the Washington State Family Policy Council, and Donna Beegle, president for Communications across Barriers, a consulting firm for improving communication and relationships. Dinner and child care are also provided.

The Forum runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 20, at Whitman College, Olin Hall. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The day-long focus is “How are the Children?”

For information, call 529.2130.

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**Keep your co-workers in the know.**

Send event dates & information to cathy.nelson@wwcc.edu for readerboard, website calendar, or news releases.