Welcome back!

It’s been a busy summer on campus and now we look forward to settling in to our Fall Quarter routine, getting to know new faculty, staff and students, catching up with friends and coworkers, and trying to find our way around the new buildings and additions that have appeared—seemingly overnight—on campus!

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are relaxed and ready to start another school year. As temperatures moderate after the hot, dry summer months, we switch into high gear to give our students every opportunity for successful fulfillment of their career and life goals. Continued change in every aspect of life makes adaptability and flexibility key qualities for success.

We have much to do as we look at how rapidly our society is evolving. We’ve taken some strategic steps to make our college, programs and services the very best they can be for today’s economy. New initiatives and new staff members, along with our already stellar programs and dedicated long-time staff, make us ready to show our community and beyond that we continue to provide academic and job training excellence.

With your continued dedication, we will prove to students that Walla Walla Community College truly is their best choice regardless of their future goals.

“CINDERELLA” PROVES TO BE POPULAR CHOICE

Cinderella fans flocked to the Amphitheater in July to make it the 5th largest attendance—9,619—in the 26 year history of the Summer Musical. Two fairy godmother picnics were enjoyed by over 300 children and their parents while three dress-up nights on location at the amphitheater enticed children to dress up in their prettiest royal attire for a chance to win one of 18 glass slippers in a drawing.

A local woman held the winning raffle ticket for Cinderella’s ball gown and a Kent, Washington woman traded her ticket in for a four-person trip to Disneyland.

Money raised during the musical funds Merit-based scholarships, according to Linda Hardy, WWCC Foundation Director.

We Want Your Ideas!

It’s all about you—about us. So now we’d like your input and suggestions for the type of information, articles and/or biweekly columns you’d like to see featured in this internal newsletter. Call Cathy at 4571 with your ideas.
“REAL” MATH AND SCIENCE CAMP A HIT

Summer took an exciting twist for 11 middle school students (ages 11-14) when they attended a one-week science and math camp that integrated real world situations and examples into the curriculum. The camp was funded by a Gear Up grant.

Instructors Heather Van Dyke, Ben Van Dyke, Jeff Hawkins and Jaime Clark worked with students the week of August 6. They experimented with pressure, tested the Titus Creek water quality and flow, made electromagnets and checked reactions in the chemistry lab. They also collected bacteria samples campus-wide and tested them. Ask Heather where the highest bacteria count occurred!

Students and instructors hope to make this an annual event. Evaluation forms were positive and identified electromagnets as the most favorite session.

According to Heather, instructors had as much fun with the projects as the students did. “A class of 11 students with four instructors is a great way to teach,” she said.

... From Professional to Personal...

You know your co-workers on a professional level but do you know anything about their personal likes and dislikes, what their marital status is, if they have children? Here’s your chance to learn about WWCC employees’ lives on a personal level.

**KARIN HILGERSOM—EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION**

*Born in Modesto, California when it "had a population similar to Walla Walla...and cornfields across the street,” Karin Hilgersom’s father immigrated from Holland with a good technical education and her mother was born in Indonesia, Java and sent to Holland as an orphan after WWII. “They gave me a great childhood,” she lovingly noted.*

Karin’s husband is the web developer for the Rockwood Clinic in Spokane. Her oldest son, Ben, transferred from SFCC to WSU where he is studying broadcasting and communication. Seventeen-year-old Niko begins his community college education as a Running Start student next week and Anna is "a spunky 11 year old who attends Garrison Middle School. The family also includes a BIG dog and three cats.

The entire family enjoys reading and watching movies. Although she has many favorites, Karin loved the movie “Like Water for Chocolate” and the Matrix series. Her favorite books include John Fowles’ “The Magus” and McGuire’s series that includes “Wicked.”

When asked about the most interesting places she has visited, Karin says she enjoyed The Louvre, Chicago and New Orleans. She includes lots of travel on her list of things in life still to do. “I really hope to see Greece, Italy and Indonesia—and New York City, too.”

When Karin relaxes and leaves the cares of work behind, you’ll find her “sitting on my porch with a cup of coffee thinking.”

We hope you take plenty of time to sit on that porch,

**Riverwalk Guacamole**

1 ripe avocado, chopped juice of ½ squeezed lime juice of ½ squeezed orange ¼ cup chopped red onion

Serve immediately with warm fresh tortillas or chips.

Several years ago when I was working at Centralia College, I attended a workshop in San Antonio, TX. We went to dinner at a small café on the Riverwalk and as is my habit when I travel, I asked the server for her best recommendation from the menu. She said that honestly, her best recommendation was not an entrée, but this appetizer. It was prepared fresh at the table, and I wrote it down as she prepared it. It has become a tradition at family gatherings and is one of my most requested recipes. Enjoy!
CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Fall Quarter 2007 is here. Who would have thought the summer would go by so quickly?

For those of you who have been off campus since June, a lot has happened since you left. Nursing and Allied Health have moved into the new Health Science building on the north side of the campus along Isaacs Avenue, the “helping hands” artwork has been placed, landscaping is in the works and the lighted parking lots are nearly finished. The Performing Arts Center shares this building and new seating should be in by now.

Clarkson’s new Health Science building nears completion. Anticipated occupation of the building is expected October 1.

On the northeast corner across the creek at Walla Walla, occupants of the Water and Environmental Center are moving in. The Center will open in late September 2007 with space leased by local and state governmental agencies, local non-profit organizations, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Classrooms and lab space also bring Turf Management students into the center where they will see firsthand how city, state and federal departments interact with the careers they have chosen.

The new Basic Skills addition and academic remodel project is in the final stages of completion with occupancy anticipated before Fall Quarter begins. For the first time, all basic skills, ESL and GED classes are located in the same area. New computer labs and improved office spaces complete the remodel project.

When you have time, take a quick tour of the new spaces to familiarize yourself with our expanding campus. And mark your calendar for October 12 when dedication ceremonies are planned for the Health Science/Performing Arts building and the Water and Environmental Center.

Interesting Facts

Health Sciences Building/Performing Arts Center—Approx. 36,000 sq. ft.
Water and Environmental Center—Approx. 10,781 sq. ft.
Basic Skills Addition/Academic Remodel—Approx. 17,322 sq. ft. (new)

New Names and Faces on Campus

No sooner were the graduation robes put away for next summer’s ceremonies than HR personnel continued the hiring process for multiple jobs. You may have met some of them by now, but if not, make it a point to welcome these new WWCC employees:

John Van Slyke  History/International Studies Instructor
Brian Thorne  Custodian 4
Karin Hilgersom  Executive Vice President of Instruction
Brent Caulk  Asst. Director of Corrections Education
Regina Eilertson  Coordinator - Testing/New Student Programs
Diana Rojas-Ortiz  Custodian 1
Patty McBride  Nursing Instructor
Susan Rammelsberg  Nursing Instructor, Clarkson
Kathleen Thornton  Director of Marketing and Communications
Keenan Failing  Scientific Instructional Tech II
Cindi Garland  Basic Skills Instructor, CRCC
Abigail Muro  ETS Advisor
Gregory Preciado  ETS Advisor
Carmen Mobley  PT ABE/GED Instructor, Penitentiary
Jeff Warner  PT ABE/GED Instructor, Penitentiary
Miguel Robles  Information Technology Technician
Todd Carpenter  Nursing Instructor, Clarkson
Stephanie Carpenter  Instructor, Technician IV, Clarkson
Chris Scudder  Grounds/Nursery Specialist II
Janet Snell  Fiscal Analyst II
Dave Waltner  Maintenance Mechanic
Erica Watchek  PT ABE/GED Instructor, Wash. State Penitentiary

Have a Wonderful Fall Quarter!!

WWCC’s Financial Aid Department was able to utilize over $90,000 in 2006-2007 State Work Study funding for students enrolled in our college. The State Work Study program provides students the opportunity to gain work experience in their chosen area of study, work part time and earn a wage to help with costs of going to school.

When a student is placed in the community, the State funds 65% of the cost of the employee, and the employer makes up the remaining 35%. For employment on campus, the State funds 80% of the wages, and WWCC fills in the 20%.

WWCC typically has State Work Study students in various positions across campus. The State Work Study program is in addition to the more traditional federally funded student work program.

Terri Johnson, WWCC’s Financial Aid Director says “for 2007-08, our award is $150,000 and we’ve already awarded $180,000 in State Work Study monies. The over award is to compensate for the attrition sometimes experienced in these types of programs. If students decide not to participate in the work study program after the award, WWCC is in the position of returning funds to the state unless we can re-award.”

The Financial Aid staff work to match students with perspective employers to create education and career-related employment situations which result in a win-win for all. Departments on campus who need student help and are able to fund their 20% portion can call Terri Johnson at extension 4303.