The President’s Corner

After the high of last Friday’s two building dedication ceremonies and the Entwine event at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center, it’s time to settle back into our daily routines, complete the second half of Fall Quarter 2007 and plan for 2008!

One of our priority agenda items for fall quarter was to adjust to new facilities, complete the Clarkston Health Science building and celebrate. We’ve met two out of three of those priorities! And the Clarkston project is slated for a November 1 completion date. So as we look forward to celebrating Clarkston’s Health Science building and the Basic Skills addition/remodel, we will also concentrate on the changes we can make to help our students succeed in their chosen fields.

How can we do this?

You have already created the passion, energy and commitment to WWCC’s students. Our next steps will include continued measurement of student achievement and outcomes, monitoring of student retention by program and class, and ongoing communication with the communities and school districts within our four-county area.

Our reputation as a far-sighted institution already exists, and in order to retain that reputation, we continue to look ahead at the changes we can make. Extended Learning, Visual and Performing Arts and the Multicultural Center are areas that will be explored and expanded as we update and revise ways to remain at the forefront of higher education.

The programs we already offer provide the majority of our students with their educational needs. Online classes and four-year degrees through WSU Tri-Cities only add to the number of “students” we can reach. So we move onward—adapting and adjusting for our students’ successful futures.

UPDATE: DEDICATIONS & ENTWINE

The weather was perfect. The decorations were great. The appropriate dignitaries were in attendance. And everything went smoothly.

What else can be said about our successful Friday, October 12, when WWCC once again put its best foot forward to showcase two new buildings and co-sponsor the annual Entwine event that evening at the Marcus Whitman Hotel?

Nearly 150 nursing students proudly sat on the Performing Arts Center stage as the new Health Science building opened its doors to the public. Guest speakers, including Governor Christine Gregoire, spoke briefly before a ribbon cutting ceremony (with special guests using authentic medical trauma shears). Tours of the building followed, allowing attendees to view classrooms, labs and the “birth” of a baby by Noelle, the department’s birthing mannequin.

The second dedication featured the unveiling of the sign for the William A. Grant Water and Environmental Center. Only a couple hours later, (and a day and a half for setup by the Foundation staff and volunteers) 410 guests, again including Governor Gregoire, packed the Marcus Whitman Hotel to enjoy the fifth annual Entwine, a semi-formal event co-sponsored by Art Walla, the Walla Walla Wine Alliance and the WWCC Foundation. Linda Hardy, Foundation director, noted that an estimated gross total of $265,000 was made. Of the 120 lots auctioned, all but three sold. Hardy notes that the event is popular statewide as approximately 60 percent of the people come from out of town.

SIGN UP NOW FOR COMBINED FUND DRIVE

It’s that time of year to sign up for the Combined Fund Drive, according to co-chairs Linda Hardy and Nancy Reller.

Giving to your favorite charity through the CFD is simple, secure and effective. All contributions reach the charities of your choice—nothing goes to an administration fee.

Go online at www.cfd.wa.gov to fill out a contribution form or pick one up at the Information Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 22—Good luck to 23 culinary students attending a food show and competition in Spokane!
Oct. 25—Women’s Wellness Event—Body, Mind & Spirit. 2:30-5 p.m., back dining room
Oct. 25—Business After Hours, Clarkston Center
Oct. 27—Bull-A-Palooza, 7 p.m., WW County Fairgrounds, $10 (all proceeds to WWCC Athletic Scholarship Fund)
Oct. 30—Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, 12:30 p.m. in the back dining room

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK’S QUESTION:
Nyger Morgan is the former WWCC baseball player called up to the Major Leagues by the Pittsburg Pirates.

Walla Walla Community College . . . your best choice
Weight Watchers
Available at Work

Twenty WWCC employees showed enough interest and will power to sign up for the first Weight Watchers group on campus.

Members will meet in Room 204 on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. beginning October 31. For more information or to sign up for the weekly meeting, contact Kathy Storms at 4603.

Bragging Rights & More

Kudos!!

Well, the Information Center will brag about winning last years office halloween decorating contest and would challenge all other offices to compete this year along with us!!

“Steve Harvey”, CDL guy, gave up his Sunday morning to bring one of the big vans into town and carry a set of junior sized soccer goals out to the Labor Camp in time for the field dedication party. I called him on the spur of the moment after the builders called on Saturday to say the goals were ready. I wish you could have seen how Steve maneuvered that huge vehicle through the little streets; he is a true master-driver. Also a sweetheart! Cheers! Jan Foster”

Tom Simon for a sense of urgency getting from the nursing dedication to the Water dedication and providing excellent entertainment.

“My daughter, Anna, came to campus on Friday to play Celtic fiddle for three of my classes (including World Music Appreciation, as they finished a week of studying Celtic music). The students gave her rave reviews! Later, she (and I, of course) played at the dedication of the Water Center where she received lavish compliments from Bill Grant himself (who danced a step or two of a reel!) Anna was a soloist with the WW Symphony last fall and is a student of Alasdair Fraser.” Jesse Burgess (proud father!)

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... 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.

Amy White is an enthusiastic person whether at work in the Bookstore or at home, always willing to help with any problems or questions or jobs that may arise. She also has a pensive, quiet side—one that has served her well in life.

Born in Walla Walla and raised in Milton-Freewater near Umapine, Amy went to country schools and then on to Mac-Hi. She loves the outdoors as is evidenced by year-round farming of 570 acres of dry land wheat and helping with the family wheat farm. She and husband David (manager of Wilbur-Ellis and a volunteer fireman with Districts 4 and 8), along with 16-year-old nephew Krystian (who lives with them) are busy after their regular work and school day raising a small flock of sheep for locker meat and 4-H lambs, Angus cattle for breeding and locker meat, three horses, a dog and several barn cats. They love the snow and enjoy snowmobiling and skiing while Krystian is into snowboarding.

Her favorite movie was Benny & Joon “because it’s so quirky and shows how a simple life different from the craziness of normal life is misunderstood. After the normal people try to make their lives fit into today’s world, they realize it’s okay to be simple and happy.”

She’s never been an avid reader, explaining that “I worked smarter rather than harder and chose books that were on video. I was able to get book reports done in record time and move on to other things!”

Amy picked LA as the most interesting place she’s ever visited. “I spent a lot of time in LA for cancer treatment and was amazed at the cultural differences of daily life. Life is so fast there but I appreciate the knowledge and expertise a big city offers in the medical field that isn’t offered locally. It also makes me appreciate the life I have here at home where it isn’t all concrete and rush-rush.”

As far as the top things still to do, see or accomplish in life, Amy says “Five years ago I could have said many things, but since being diagnosed with cancer, the meaning of life is a lot different. I just try to live life rather than life living me.” She says she works smarter rather than harder (if you’ve seen her in the Bookstore, you might question that!) and she makes conscious health decisions. Amy couldn’t come up with anything “unique” about herself, but we think she already did. “I am just me,” she said, and we think that is wonderfully unique!

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From Amy White’s Kitchen to Yours . . .

Chinese Hash

In a skillet brown the following:
1 lb hamburger
Salt & pepper to taste

In a baking dish – mix (stir) the following ingredients:
1 can mushroom soup
1 can bean sprouts (drained) or fresh ones
¼ soy sauce

Add in the cooked hamburger and stir; Bake at 350 for 35 minutes covered.

Uncover and sprinkle hard noodles (found in oriental section@ the store) on top and cook for 15 more minutes.
KUDOS TO . . .

. . . to TRIO Student Support Services from Cami Eastep: Since our wonderful, former leader Jill Emigh defected to the Chemistry department in August, TRIO has managed to kick-off the busiest time of the year understaffed – and they are still smiling! Sandy Meliah has taken to the helm like a champion and with an inspiring sense of humor and calm; Debra Fortney serves dozens of students daily with gusto, efficiency, and careful detail unmatched by anyone I’ve ever met; and Heather Markwalter works very hard and wears so many hats in Clarkston, she has even been known to take on janitorial duties. Talk about “Taking One for the Team” and “Picking up the Slack!” This department is living the College priority to retain students and develop meaningful working relationships with them in order to help them maximize their potential and achieve their goals!

. . . to Facility Services from Marilyn Galusha: “Matt, Once again you and your crew have supported us when we needed it most. Please thank your crew for all the time and effort they gave to getting our building ready for the dedication and our Alumni event on Sunday. We were proud to showcase our new building. I can only imagine the stress all these projects have put on your staff and yourself. Please accept and pass on our grateful thanks for a job well done. We really appreciate you and your crew.”

. . . to Luke Fidge who yesterday was awarded the WSU Crimson Spirit Award, a special monthly award from the WSU President’s office for superior efforts and quality service.

. . . to Alba in Multicultural who has graciously helped the bookstore out by coming over and translating for Spanish speaking students so that we can make sure they get what they need and their experience here is positive.

. . . to Marilyn Galusha who toiled countless hours in preparing for the Building Dedication. She is leading us steadfastly, expertly and tirelessly towards our next NLNAC accreditation. Marilyn provides gentle, supportive leadership with just the right mix of supreme professionalism and genuine care for her faculty. She is the BEST! Here’s to Marilyn!!!

. . . to Carol Bennett, the new president-elect of the Clarkston chapter of Rotary International. Carol, a long-time Rotarian, accepted the role with her usual calm, cool, collected demeanor although she is already finding the role to be challenging. She will preside as President during the 2008-09 year.

Danley, Bower to Assist CSD thru American History Grant

Janet Danley, Clarkston Campus director, and James Bower, Humanities instructor, will participate in a collaborative grant with the Clarkston School District to prepare middle and high school history teachers in new and innovative methods of teaching American History.

The project, funded on a 3-year U.S. Department of Education grant, will bring professional and academic historians to the Clarkston school district to help the public school history teachers revise and revitalize their curriculum. Additionally, some of the teacher-participants will be granted several out-of-town field trips to visit famous museums, attend conferences and special lectures and other events all in an effort to make American history an imaginative and energetic learning experience for students.

CLARKSTON CENTER DEVELOPING ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS WITH LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE DEPARTMENTS

Lisa Greenville, Linda Lane and Jane Carroll are working closely with their counterparts at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, to develop articulation agreements for the Legal Administrative Assistant and Paralegal bachelor's programs.

The articulation agreements that have been put in place with Lewis-Clark State have benefited WWCC-Clarkston graduates complete their bachelor's degrees in a timely manner. This fall, two June graduates transferred to LCSC, majoring in business, were awarded scholarships for their outstanding academic preparation and record. It is thanks to Lisa, Linda, and Jane's efforts that these strong articulation agreements are available for our graduates.

Spreading the News

For Recruitment Coordinator Melissa Harrison, a large part of the beginning of the quarter has been spent in area high schools talking with prospective WWCC students.

One thing that has become obvious to her is that students really enjoy and benefit from speaking with faculty members. Her upcoming visitations are listed below. If you are interested in attending one of the Outreach visits, contact Melissa at 527.4675 for specific times.

October 17—Kennewick—College/Career Fair, Kamiakin High School
October 25—Wa-Hi Career/College Fair, 8:30 a.m.–Noon (If it’s not possible to attend the entire event, this would be an easy one to stop by for an hour or so.)
October 25—Connell, Evening College Night
October 25—Students from Pendleton visiting WWCC, 11:30 a.m.
October 26—Prescott, Football Game/College Fair, 6-8:30 p.m.
November 7—Kennewick, College/Career Fair, Kennewick High School
November 7—Clarkston, College Fair, Clarkston High School
November 15—Wa State Penitentiary, College/Career Fair for WSP employees (10am-3pm)
November 15—Toppenish, Evening College Fair (leave immediately from...