The President’s Corner

Every year, WWCC joins Whitman College and Walla Walla University at the annual Chamber of Commerce Award Banquet to honor one of our own as a Community Service Award recipient—and this year that person is Jim Peterson!

Our selection committee made an excellent choice in Jim, a 36-year WWCC employee who began as an ag and economics instructor in 1972, then assumed responsibility for coordinating vocational programs. He was appointed as Director of Occupational Education, assumed responsibility for planning and managing capital projects, and then was named VP of Administrative Services in 1988–20 years ago!

Jim has participated and served as president of many statewide educational associations, but his concern for the community and its many worthwhile projects are an especially important aspect of Jim’s personal side. Currently the president of the Walla Walla Exchange Club, he has also been president and treasurer of the Chamber, was a founding member and VP of the Blue Mountain Land Trust (currently an active board member), served on the WWSD Facility Planning Committee, serves on the YWCA Facility Committee, and is a member of the Eastgate Business Coalition. Other active memberships have included the Lillie Rice Center, Camp Fire and Little League where he coached for 10 years and then umpired for many more years.

Jim and his wife Carol raised two daughters, Inge and Erin, and they’re totally in love with granddaughter Elena. The whole family is sports oriented!

Jim’s family also spends hours on volunteer community work. He has bragged to me about Carol helping start WWCC softball in 1994 and 1995. She’s also spent many years as a Little League and Senior League softball coach and has been a volunteer assistant coach for WaHi softball for the last eight years.

But we all know her volunteer work with local cancer organizations has been an important focus. She met individually with 50+ diagnosed breast cancer patients and coached them under the Reach to Recovery program. She continues coaching many cancer patients today. She’s raised funds for both the Breast Cancer Fund and the Cancer Community Care Program and has cycled in the Mt. Hood, Alaska, Oregon coast and Arizona Rides.

So like I said earlier, we have selected a great colleague and friend to represent WWCC next week.

Congratulations, Jim!
Loren Hajduk, Counselor/Instructor, Student Development Center

Loren is a native Californian born in San Bernardino while his father was stationed at Norton AFB during WWII. After a year, they moved to Sarasota, FL and a year after that when his dad was released from active duty, the family moved back to Cleveland.

“I spent the next 13 years there attending both a Catholic grade school and then an all male Catholic high school,” Loren says. “The good brothers and priests helped me decide I had a “calling” and so I spent my junior and senior year of high school in a seminary in New York State. That accounts for my social inaptitude. But I quit after graduation and went to a Catholic college, the University of Dayton. I tried to make up for those “lost” years in the seminary and consequently flunked out after three semesters. They had tried to get rid of me earlier when I got a Mohawk haircut and they told me to shave it or go home (after all it was 1961). I shaved it rather than face my mother’s wrath.”

With no real prospects after that, Loren joined the Marine Corps. “I started as a Private at Parris Island, SC and retired as a Captain. I lived all over the United States, spent several years in Japan and one thirteen month tour in the lovely republic of Vietnam. I arrived there on Christmas Eve 1967 and left in January of 1969. Marines always did 13 month tours of duty. I earned a Bronze Star and a bunch of other medals which with five bucks will get me a cup of coffee at Starbucks. Most of my service was spent as an air traffic controller. I did finally get my bachelor’s degree (I was on the 17 year plan) and a master’s degree. I had done some work on a Marine base in the substance abuse field and then spent my last two years in charge of a small substance abuse office. That was really different after being the Officer-in-Charge of an 8 man air traffic control group. I spent much of my time at bases close to beaches (including two tours equaling seven years in Hawaii).”

In typical Loren fashion, he notes, “I’ve been married for over thirty-five years; just not to the same woman! I have seven children; five lovely daughters and two sons. I have nine grandchildren spread from Oahu, HI to Pottatch, ID. My oldest son joined the Marines after high school and fought in both the Gulf War and later in Somalia. My youngest daughter live here in Walla Walla and divide their time between their mother and me. One is a fulltime running student who has just moved out on her own – except for eating at my house – and the youngest is a sophomore at WASH.”

“When I retired from the Marine Corps I thought I would settle down. As it turned out Reagan had just changed some Federal laws and I was too old to play with airplanes in civilian life. Since I had some alcohol and other drug counseling experience I decided that was where I’d work. I did that exclusively until I came to Walla Walla Community College in 1991 and worked on a substance abuse prevention grant. I went to Peninsula College after that and did the same grant. Then it was off to Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston, ID where I served as the Director of Student Life for four years and worked with Chad Miltzenburger, their assistant baseball coach. Finally I came back to Walla Walla Community College in 2000. I thank the Big Kahuna on a daily basis for all I’ve been given and I’m quite content to be where I am at in life. I don’t have a “bucket list” since I don’t figure I’m old enough for one.

“I couldn’t begin to tell you my favorite movie. I have Netflix and watch quite a few movies but rarely watch any TV. Big Trouble in Little China stands out as one of my favorites. I love Kurt Russell and Jack Nicholson in comedies. But I’ll watch just about any movie other than horror or sci-fi. I usually have two books going and like mysteries. I’ve read all of the Sue Grafton novels up to “S” and all of Tony Hillerman’s novels at least twice.

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And anyone who’s partaken of Loren’s crepes knows what a great cook he is!

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Serve hot with your favorite tortilla chips. My girls like it for a meal when I put fried hamburger into the mixture.
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(from FrontLine Employee, October 2008 issue)

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Thanks for your help.

*Good News!*  
October 31, 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 22

**Who Am I?**

His haircut might be similar today to what he wore at this young age!!

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!!

**New Program Takes Shape**

A new program providing the fundamentals of carpentry started October 27 in partnership with WorkSource Walla Walla and Blue Mountain Action Council. The six to nine month program provides students the basic carpentry knowledge to prepare them as a carpenter’s assistant with an industry specialized endorsement.

Students learn in a hands-on environment at the Craik building under the direction of instructor Dave Dahlin. Skills learned include:

- Construction materials
- Carpentry tools and safe operation of them
- Environmental modification
- Weatherization
- Remodel/repair of houses and buildings

Classes will be broken into five week sessions and will be held Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a total of 30 hours per week. Skills learned will facilitate the student’s job seeking process.

For more information, contact Billie Jean Brown at WorkSource Walla Walla, 526.8246.

**Daylight Savings Time Ends November 2**
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WWCC Ride Share Makes Website Debut

In an effort to make the drive to WWCC more cost effective and/or convenient, a Ride Share program is now available on the website.

The Ride Share blog format allows individuals to let others know they want to carpool. The comments section puts people together, whether offering or needing a ride.

Details—when, where, how, etc.—are up to the persons involved. Phone numbers or e-mail addresses are essential.

Blog comments “should be civil and on-topic.” A site administrator will monitor the comments and may delete any that are inappropriate.

30th Issue Today!!

Just about 13 months ago—on September 24, 2007—the first issue of The Insider was published. Thirty issues later, we’re still trying to cover the newsy items that you might want to read.

It’s your newsletter so keep us in the loop when you have something that you want or need to communicate with others. Send information to cathy.nelson@wwcc.edu.

Walla Walla Community College . . . your best choice
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