

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

Currents

Spring 2007
vol. 1 No. 2

THE MARINE MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

AT THE WHIDBEY ISLAND CAMPUS

President's Message

Sustainability Fair

19th Annual James M. Ford
Golf Classic

Doris Dunn &
Don Fotheringham

Whidbey Island Instructors
Put An Entire Program Online

Jack & Micki Deierlein

Two Pillars Of The Community:
Supporting Education For Older
Students

Currents

Vol. 1 No. 2, Spring 2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With 80 years of service, Skagit Valley College has established a rich tradition of making a difference in people's lives. Throughout our history, we have transformed acquaintances into friendships, relationships into partnerships, and opportunities into successes throughout Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties.

As our cover story, we are proud to showcase our Marine Maintenance Technology program, located on beautiful Whidbey Island. It is one of the country's best, attracting students from as far away as the east coast, Hawaii, and even Thailand. In addition, by partnering with leaders in education and industry, the Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology provides a valuable one-stop shop where partners explore emerging technologies and employment trends, and develop the resources needed to keep Washington a leader in the marine industry.

Secondly, I encourage you to read the poignant story of the Women's Study Club of Friday Harbor and the organization's nearly 100-year commitment to higher education in the San Juan islands. By celebrating and honoring the vision of these women pioneers, we have formed important new friendships that honor their legacy and their vision for future generations.

And finally, the remarkable journey of SVC alumna Christine Harris is not to be missed. As a recipient of the prestigious Sidney S. McIntyre Jr. Scholarship, Christine's potential for success was extraordinary. By providing Christine with an opportunity to reach even higher, She is now one step closer to fulfilling her quest of community service and global health.

I trust that you will find the Spring edition of Currents to be engaging. With 80 years of history, we have many friendships, partnerships, and successes to share with you. They illustrate our commitment to engagement with you, our community. On behalf of the Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees, thank you for your ongoing support. As always, I welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Tollefson
President

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Currents is published by the Skagit Valley College Public Information Office, 2405 East College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

email: pio@skagit.edu

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Executive Director of Human Resources
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360.416.7794

COLLEGE MISSION
Skagit Valley College exists to expand opportunities and horizons for students and to improve the communities in which they live. We achieve this by welcoming and valuing diverse learners, providing quality education and support, and contributing community leadership and service.

Marine Maintenance Technology

ONE OF ONLY TWO PROGRAMS LIKE IT IN THE COUNTRY,
AND THE ONLY ONE ON THE WEST COAST.



There's never been a better time to choose a career in the thriving marine industry. The state of Washington is recognized nationally as a leader in the mega yacht building industry, and more than half of this production is in the upper Puget Sound region. Our Marine Maintenance Technology program is one of the best in the country, attracting students from as far away as the east coast, Hawaii, and even Thailand. It's easy to understand why — small class sizes, excellent instructors, and high-paying entry-level jobs make this an ideal career choice for job seekers of all ages — from recent high school graduates to older workers looking for a new profession. The program even attracts boat-loving retirees who want to do their own repair and maintenance.

“Our teachers are so enthusiastic and well versed about everything they are teaching that you really get fired up about things you'd never dream you'd be interested in,” said Tiana Bishaw, a student finishing up her first year in the program. “They are also big on networking and exposure, they actually take you out to



production shops and let you see what you are going to do, so there is no disillusionment.”

In partnership with the Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology, the program also provides training for incumbent workers throughout the Pacific Northwest in techniques like electrical and vacuum infusion processes. These unique partnerships keep boat builders competitive and able to lead the industry in production of new vessels.

Instructors Mike Swietzer and Larry Determan have spent their entire lives working in the marine industry, and have a combined 30 years experience teaching the craft they love. Swietzer teaches students about boat design and aspects of the physical integrity of a ship, while Determan teaches students all about a ship's internal domestic functions, things like electrical, plumbing and kitchen maintenance and repair.

“I keep 'em floating, while Larry keeps 'em working,” Swietzer said, summing up their teaching partnership.

All classes combine theory with hands-on learning in a relaxed atmosphere that lets students bond through teamwork and develop friendships with one another.

■ continued p 4





Students can earn an Associate in Technical Arts Degree (ATA), or choose from six certificate programs. A student can enter the program at the beginning of any quarter, or the beginning of any subject block.

"I enjoy helping people create for themselves a decent income, to have both job security and life fulfillment," Mr. Determan said. "There's this whole discovery period when people realize, 'Hey, I can do this, and people will pay me to do it.'"

Program graduates can expect a starting salary of between \$15-\$20/hour, rising to \$20-\$30/hour with job experience.

"It is a career with unlimited possibilities, and continuous employment for the rest of their lives," Mr. Swietzer said. "It's not a dead end job, it's an open avenue to a career with unlimited opportunities for personal advancement — literally, the ocean's the limit!"

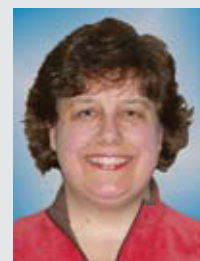
Tiana Bishaw plans to explore those possibilities. After considering SVC's Nursing program, the Navy veteran discovered that marine maintenance is a better fit for her skills. She changed her major, and should receive her Associate in Technical Arts degree in spring 2008. She plans to get her captain's license and, eventually, enter a marine design and engineering program at a four-year university.

Tiana says the program attracts free-spirited people who loathe being tied down to a desk, like to work with their hands, and love the ocean.

"We all thoroughly enjoy what we are doing here," she said. "The marine industry is so wide open, and so diverse, that our skills are easily transferable, and you have the opportunity to go, literally, around the world."



for Marine Manufacturing & Technology



Ann Avary, Director

On Whidbey Island and throughout the region, the Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology provides a "one-stop shop" where leaders in education and the boat building industry come together to explore emerging technologies and employment trends, collaborate, and develop the resources needed so Washington state can continue to be a leader in the marine industry. The Center is a hub for innovative discussions and resources, educational services to industry through contract training, credit education, and customized training in multiple delivery methods.

Unique to the Center of Excellence is its dynamic relationship with Skagit Valley College. Within the College, there are numerous opportunities for collaboration in the delivery of curriculum and specialized programs to industry through the College's Marine Maintenance Technology program. In addition, some skill sets in the marine industry are fluid, providing an opportunity to impact other industries with valuable cross-over training. So, for industry leaders, employers, workers, and students, the relationship is a real win-win.

For more on the Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing, check out their web site at www.marinecenterofexcellence.com.

Around the district



SOUTH WHIDBEY CENTER

Since 1998, the Whidbey Island Writers Association has hosted the Whidbey Island Writer's Conference during the first weekend in March. About 300 participants — including Skagit Valley College students — mingle and attend workshops by professional writers of all genres, as well as agents and publishers; this provides an inspiring learning environment for writers of all skill levels.

Students have the opportunity to receive college credit for conference attendance by taking English 152. Students now receive a student rate for attending the conference thanks, in part, to the efforts of South Whidbey Center instructors' support, and scholarships are available. For college credit, students are required to attend the full conference and then write a paper about how they organized their schedule (and why) and also what they gained from the experience. Instructor Marian Blue began offering this opportunity through the South Whidbey Center in 2001.

Although the number of students who have attended the conference isn't high (perhaps a dozen), some of those students have gone on to publish their writing and/or major in creative writing programs. A student this year said, "Attached is my paper from the conference. It was more than I expected. I had heard it was world class and now I believe it. I hope to have the opportunity to attend again." For more information on the Whidbey Island Writers Association, and their conference, check out <http://www.writeonwhidbey.org>.

BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

Success in the workplace is closely linked to success in several key interpersonal areas, including productivity, creativity, communication, leadership and teamwork. The Business Resource Center's *Toolkit for Effective Supervisors and Managers* certificate program is designed to help participants in supervisory positions manage others in any organization, large or small. Interactive sessions teach practical information and strategies that can be used immediately. For more information, or to enroll, call 360.416.7909.

WHIDBEY ISLAND CAMPUS

The Whidbey Island Campus is excited to offer a new Health and Fitness Technician Certificate beginning Winter Quarter. The program prepares students to teach individual and group instruction on nutrition, flexibility/exercise, strength training, cardiovascular training, kinesiology and injury prevention. Students who complete this program should be prepared for work in commercial and nonprofit health clubs, country clubs, hospitals, universities, yoga and Pilates studios, resorts, and clients' homes. They will be trained to provide accurate and up-to-date information to clients regarding improving overall health and fitness. Call 360.679.5344 for more information.

MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS

The Mount Vernon Campus once again hosted the Sustainability Fair and Social Issues Symposium May 29-31. The free annual event draws people from the community as well as students, faculty and staff for three days of education, entertainment and environmental enlightenment. WWU professor Dr. Larry Estrada gave the keynote address. Exhibitors included the WWU Vehicle Research Institute, Sustainable Food and Farming, information on solar panels, alternative vehicles, bio diesel and environmental conservation.

The Social Issues Symposium allowed students to give presentations and show short films on sustainability issues. Presentation topics included: "Ethics of Sustainability," "Bio Diesel in Brazil," "Rock Musicians and Sustainability," and "Fungi, the Misunderstood Kingdom of Life." Short film topics included "Sustainability at SVC," "Who Killed the Electric Car," "Power of Community," and "An Inconvenient Truth."

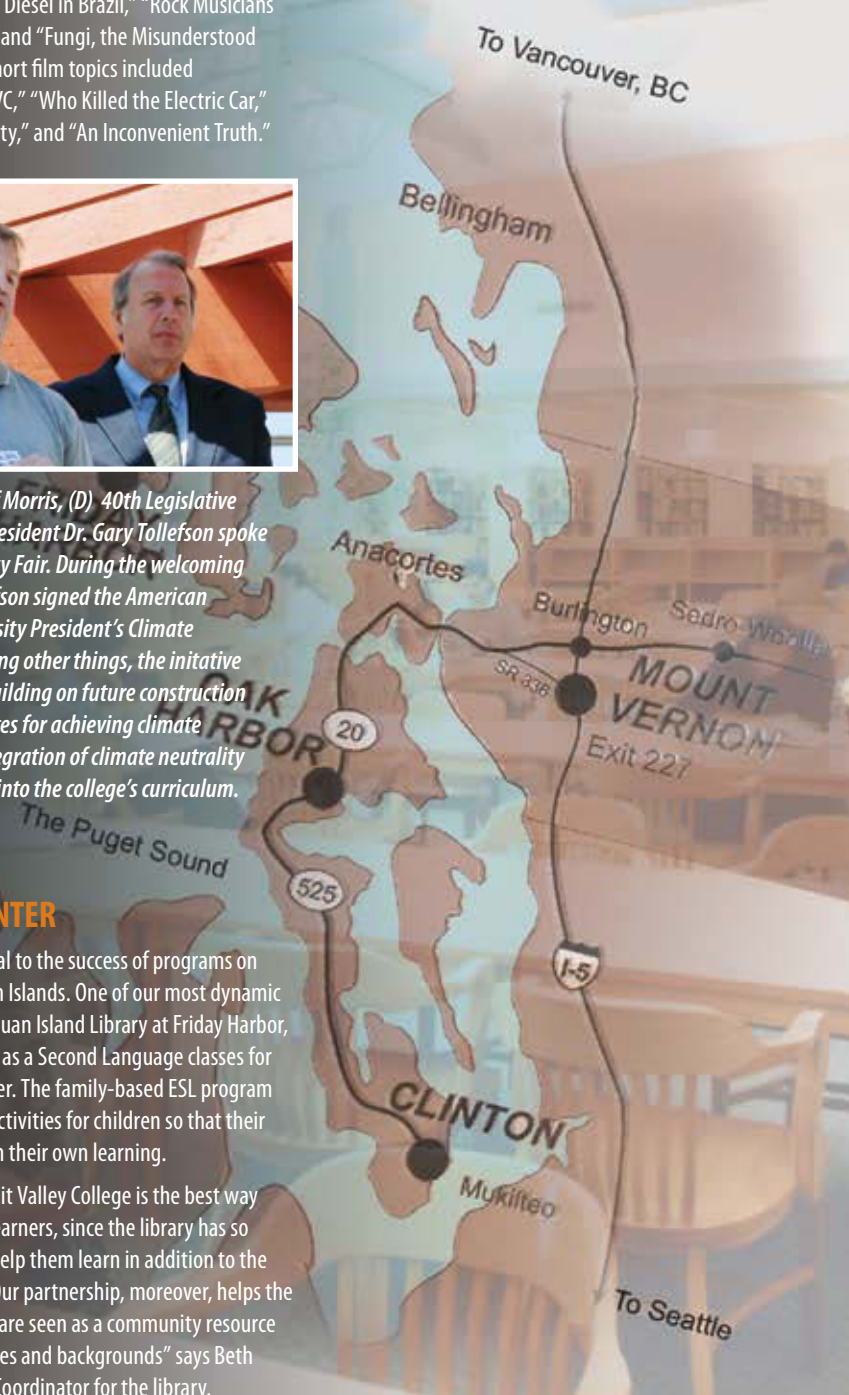


Representative Jeff Morris, (D) 40th Legislative District, and SVC President Dr. Gary Tollefson spoke at the Sustainability Fair. During the welcoming ceremony Dr. Tollefson signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. Among other things, the initiative mandates green building on future construction projects, target dates for achieving climate neutrality, and integration of climate neutrality and sustainability into the college's curriculum.

SAN JUAN CENTER

Partnerships are vital to the success of programs on the remote San Juan Islands. One of our most dynamic partners is the San Juan Island Library at Friday Harbor, which hosts English as a Second Language classes for SVC's San Juan Center. The family-based ESL program provides bilingual activities for children so that their parents can focus on their own learning.

"Working with Skagit Valley College is the best way to serve language learners, since the library has so many resources to help them learn in addition to the college's teachers. Our partnership, moreover, helps the library, because we are seen as a community resource for learners of all ages and backgrounds" says Beth Helstien, Outreach Coordinator for the library.



Celebrating students



Habitat Day

A Day of Service to the Community



Members of the Associated Students of Skagit Valley College gathered alongside staff and family members early one Saturday morning — cold and sleepy-eyed — in front of a mostly finished house in La Conner. They had given up a chance to sleep in so they could give back to their community as Habitat for Humanity volunteers. Of course, they also had a little fun with house paint along the way, with students coating the walls and then using some as face paint.



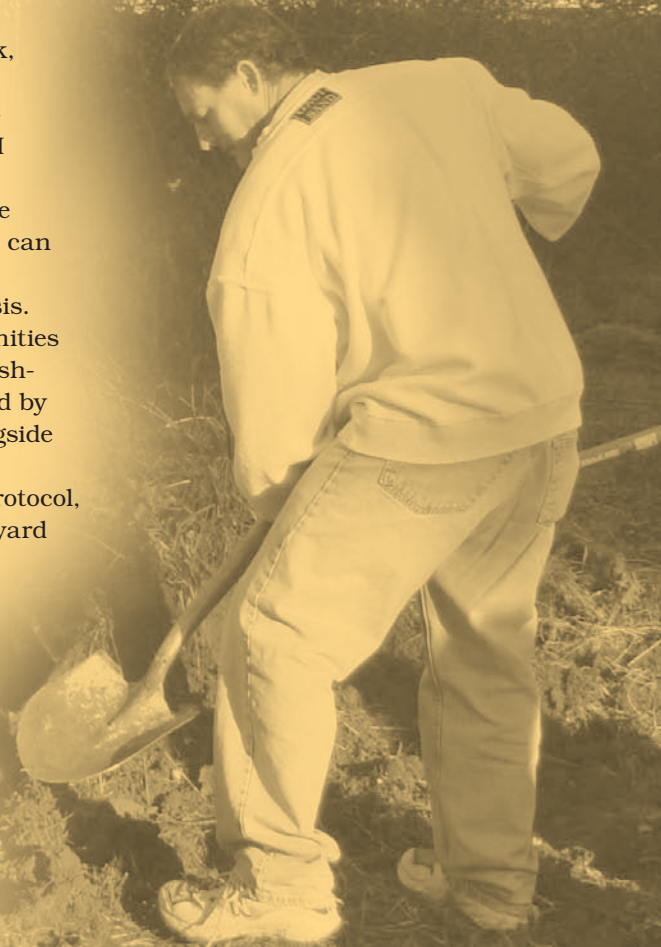
In all, eight SVC employees and family members volunteered with 14 students from four countries. It was a fun-filled day of learning, teamwork, and service. “I think it was a great day; I really enjoyed working with my partners and the family,” said Yedda Lei. “I am studying the field of architecture at SVC, and it was my first time to do home construction; I think I got an awesome experience that helps my major a lot.”

Students need opportunities to connect in very concrete ways with the needs in our communities and also to be shown that they, as individuals, can make a significant impact in the lives of others. Laura Morris, as student government advisor, helps her students see this connection on a daily basis. Student leaders decided on the Habitat project over other service opportunities because, as a group, they could make significant progress in one day, finishing up grunt work like painting and landscaping. They were also intrigued by the possibility of learning how a home was built and excited to work alongside the family receiving the home.

Student leaders, accustomed to meetings that follow parliamentary protocol, got to know their peers a little better. “When we were painting and doing yard work we got to talk on a more personal level,” said Chris Palmer, Student Government treasurer. Several students mentioned the outdoor work as their favorite activity of the day. “We were all side-by-side, everyone took a rake, and, as a team, we leveled the yard,” Mr. Palmer said.

By the end of the day, weeds had been pulled, the yard was leveled, and the interior walls had a fresh coat of paint.

“I got a lot out of our service project, like sore muscles, comradery with fellow student representatives, and the sense of a job well done!” said student Rachael Hamiter.



Doris Dunn & Don Fotheringham

Their virtual work put the entire CIS program online

Computer information systems continue to advance at lighting speed. Skagit Valley College is keeping IT Professionals abreast of new technology and preparing today's students to manage tomorrow's systems software by offering hands-on courses online via the Internet.

Students can finish the entire program without ever setting foot on campus. Participants can be across the street or on the other side of the earth while learning how to design, operate, manage, and support computer systems.

The online-only program is the brainchild of Dr. Mick Donahue, VP at the Whidbey Island Campus. CIS instructors Don Fotheringham and Doris Dunn brought the program completely online this academic year. Students access the Internet—usually from the comfort of home—and are able to log onto a computer at the SVC campus. The student's assignments are to change and manipulate the campus computer. Students are also encouraged to come to the campus to use the CIS computer labs, staffed with knowledgeable lab technicians to assist them. Therefore, they can choose to be completely distant in their education, or on-site with the benefit of peers, instructors and support personnel.

The program has seen a sharp increase in student enrollment in the last couple of quarters. Students have the freedom and flexibility to work on their assignments at any time of the day or night. This flexibility allows students to schedule their assignments around their other responsibilities.

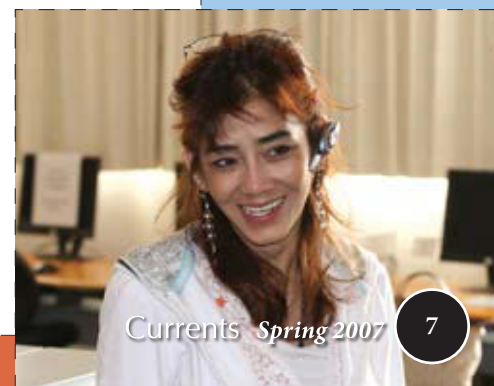
"There has always been a fair percentage of students who are not 'typical,' they have busy lives with spouses, children, and jobs. Compared to a decade ago, this percentage has

increased significantly," Fotheringham said. "This is especially true of our profession [computer information systems] with ever-changing technology and the consequent emphasis on re-training."

Students also participate in online discussions and the instructors use the Blackboard online instructional aid for tests and quizzes. Some students feel more comfortable asking questions in a virtual classroom than when their peers are physically present in the room with them, Ms. Dunn said. If students want to ask questions privately they can e-mail the instructor. Both Mr. Fotheringham and Ms. Dunn try to answer all e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them. Students also have the option of meeting face-to-face with their instructor during instructional support sessions held on both the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses.

Fotheringham and Dunn meet once or twice a week to compare notes on everything from e-mail interaction to assignment completion. The pair uses this feedback to tweak the classes when necessary. Many different learners benefit from distance education. Visual learners, techno-savvy students and hands-on learners tend to do well in these courses. Good time management skills are also essential. Some students assume that because they don't have to physically attend classes, they don't have to work hard to get good grades, but this is not the case.

"Distance Education is a very challenging forum requiring a great deal of self-motivation, discipline and management," Fotheringham said. "Of course, it is a forum in which serious CIS students in particular should flourish, since much of what they will do in the 'real world' will be in that virtual environment."



Looking ahead



Top: The Northeast side of planned facility

Above: Entry view

Below: View from the Southwest

THE NEW SCIENCE & ALLIED HEALTH FACILITY

The look and feel of the Mount Vernon Campus will change dramatically in the next two years. As the Campus Center remodel continues, planning is well underway on a new science and allied health building that will run parallel to College Way, and extend from the intersection at East College Way to the visitor parking lot. Groundwork for the two-story, 65,232 square foot facility will begin in June. Completion should come some time in the spring/summer of 2009.

All science and health classes and instructor offices will move to the new building, which will have state-of-the-art laboratories and feature “smart classrooms” that let us offer more distance education options, and offer more classes in partnership with other community colleges and four-year universities across the state.

Input was gathered from faculty and staff who will use the new facility, as well as students. The design will include “informal learning spaces” throughout the building. These are nooks and gathering places for studying and socializing because “we realize that some of the most important learning takes place outside the classroom,” said Alan Muia, Director of Student Life, and one of the administrators involved in designing the building.

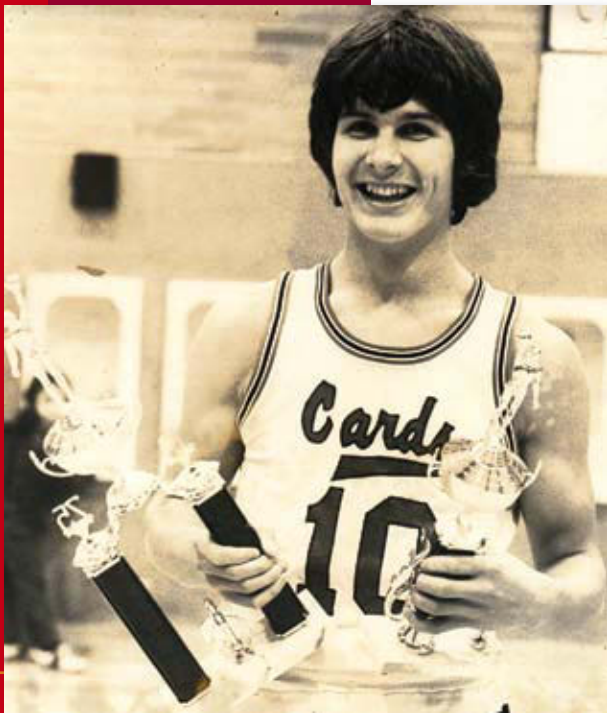
“This will be the most modern building on the Mount Vernon campus,” said Dennis Rohloff, Director of Physical Plant. “It will be beautiful, environmentally efficient, and provide some of the best accommodations for individuals with disabilities in the region.” Mr. Rohloff hopes to use the facility for teaching environmental sustainability.

Light will radiate from the building’s many windows after dark, and take in natural daylight during the day. Special sensors will actually increase or decrease lighting brightness based on the amount of daylight coming in to maximize energy efficiency. The building will also likely include low-flow water toilets, erosion control, and storm water run off reclamation options.

SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 27, 3:30 pm

A public ground-breaking ceremony with Governor Christine Gregoire will be held in front of Lewis Hall, Mount Vernon Campus!





A 1975 photo of Roger after winning the annual Turkey Tournament, with the team and Most Valuable Player trophies.

Join the Cardinal Booster Club! With a minimum \$25 donation, members and their families receive free admission to all home athletic events — it's all part of the Cardinal Family Pass program. Cardinal Booster members also receive a window sticker, invitations to all Booster Club sponsored activities, sport updates, and game schedules. Best of all, you know your donation helps support student athletes through scholarships and tuition assistance.

The Cardinal Booster Club also offers athletic sponsorship opportunities for businesses. Companies can show their Cardinal Pride by advertising at the Dave DuVall Pavilion, softball field, and baseball field — or in the annual All Sports Program.

Parents and community members created the Cardinal Booster Club to support athletes in all of our 13 varsity sports. All scholarship funds come from community fundraising and donations. Offering scholarships to student-athletes enables Skagit Valley College to recruit talented athletes to participate in our athletic program, and offers these students the opportunity for a college education. The Cardinal Booster Club enables us to offer these scholarships, through generous donations from community members like you! We invite you to show your Cardinals pride and join us! Contact the Cardinal Booster Club at 360.416.7765.



Cardinal athletics

Profile of a Player

SVC's Basketball Coach, Roger Valentine

Always honest and straightforward, Roger Valentine isn't the kind of man who brags about himself. Behind his steely eyes is a bilingual, international traveler who is just as comfortable surrounded by seven-year-olds as he is coaching the Cardinal basketball team. As a matter of fact, his dual roles as school counselor at Centennial Elementary and head coach of the SVC men's basketball team sometimes overlap.

"There is a lot of counseling that goes on with eighteen- and nineteen-year-old men," he said, and the corners of his mouth curved upward in a knowing smile. Coach Valentine enjoys taking 12 individual players and molding them into one successful, competitive team. The 1974 Mount Vernon High School graduate was a player before he was a basketball coach. He played for Skagit Valley College right out of high school, and in 1976 the future Cardinals coach was named athlete of the year. Roger Valentine returned to SVC in 1981 after picking up a bachelor's degree from Central Washington University and a master's in school counseling from Western Washington University.

"When I came back I was the assistant coach to the same guy I played for in high school," Mr. Valentine said. "It was weird because at first I wasn't much older than the kids who were playing!" Mr. Valentine took the reigns and became head coach in 1992, after Coach Dave Quall was elected to the House of Representatives. "He turned to me and said, 'You got 'um!'" said Roger, but it was a rough start. The student athletes that year came to play for the old coach, not Valentine, but by the end of the season he had earned his players' respect. The freshmen that would return as sophomores the next year said they wanted him to stay on as head coach. Mr. Valentine went through the formal hiring process before the change became official. That was 15 years ago.

He tries to be fair and truthful to his players and recruits. "Everyone who makes our team gets an opportunity to play," he said. How much each player gets to play depends on them, and their effort.

In his downtime, Roger enjoys working around his house and traveling. Last summer he went to Croatia, where he visited former player Senad Cimic. Senad, who played for the Cardinals from 2002-03, is now attending graduate school in Croatia and teaching computer science classes to undergraduates. Coach Valentine was able to visit Zagrab, the country's largest city, and Kirk Island, a popular summer vacation spot.

"The food was excellent, the weather was warm, and his family treated us like royalty," Coach Valentine said. He added that there is usually an international student on the basketball team every year, although the countries represented vary from year to year. "We love to have international players as it gives our local students some cultural experiences that they might not normally get."

Roger has also been to Mexico several times. You might see him at a local Mexican food restaurant, enjoying his favorite cuisine — he even speaks a little Español. Or, if he's lucky, you might see the avid trout fisherman out on his dock early in the morning, silhouetted by the rising sun.



Roger in his office at the Mount Vernon campus

Skagit Valley College: The First Years, 1926-1928

- 9.7.1926 ... Mount Vernon Junior College opened its doors for the first time.
- 24 ... Students enrolled on the first day of school.
- 10 ... Classes were taught at the college in its first year. They were: English, algebra, trigonometry, analytical geometry, botany, economics, industrial history of the United States, general inorganic chemistry, French, and German.
- \$100 ... Yearly tuition at SVC in 1926 (paid in advance).



Current statistics show that obesity has more than doubled for preschool children and teens in the United States, while more than tripling for children aged 6-11. Health advocates like SVC Nutrition instructor Linda Kosa-Postl are working on solutions to this weighty problem. Dr. Kosa-Postl's research paper "Lose Weight: Stay Smart

— Childhood Obesity and Education" was selected for

publication in Oxford University's Journal of Public Policy for Nutrition/Health. The adjunct instructor's paper advocates mandatory health interventions and nutrition education within public schools. "The best way to combat overweight and obesity is to prevent it," her paper states. She recommends changes at the national, state, and local school levels. These changes include: A health assessment for every child in the public school system, with interventions for kids who are overweight or obese; comprehensive nutrition education for all school children and parent nutrition committees that give parents the nutritional tools they need to make healthy eating a family affair.

Transform, LLC, is partnering with the Skagit Valley College Business Resource Center to build a strong foundation for their new system-built home construction company.

The BRC set up customized training modules for the new company's employees. So far, about 60 Transform employees have gone through these 10 clusters of classes, with topics that include: conflict management, occupational Spanish, lean manufacturing, and CPR/first aid. The training program was collaboration between the BRC, Transform, and WorkSource Mount Vernon, which provided classroom space for training sessions.

The new manufacturing plant will begin work this summer in a new, 132,000-square-foot building near the Skagit Regional Airport. The facility will produce a wide assortment of homes priced to appeal to all income levels.

For more information on how your company can receive customized training through the Business Resource Center, call 360.416.7873.



SVC'S OWN SKAGIT/ISLANDS HEAD START IS RECOGNIZED AS A LEADER IN DUAL LANGUAGE CURRICULUM.

The program was selected to participate in the Culturally Responsive and Aware Dual Language Education Project (CRADLE II). Five staff members attended a conference in Washington, D.C. to learn how infant and toddler primary and secondary language learning needs are different from those of preschoolers. About 60% of children in the Skagit/Islands Head Start program are Hispanic, and at least 40% hear primarily Spanish in their homes. Research shows that children learn a second language easier if they have a strong foundation in their primary language, so the national project is designed to give children a strong foundation in their first language, in this case Spanish, and support their acquisition of a second language, which would be English. The conference attendees are excited to implement the strategies they've learned in the classroom.

Back row (standing) L to R: Alicia Mendoza, Bonnie Philbrick, Becky Richter
Front row (seated) L to R: Sylvia Guzman, Linda Hilden

Foundation

Skagit Valley College

In January, as I began my role as President of the Skagit Valley College Foundation, I understood the Foundation's 28-year legacy of supporting the College's initiatives in Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties. This legacy included raising funds for scholarships, building on-campus housing for students, supporting faculty excellence awards, and many other enrichments throughout the district. To build upon such outstanding work is a daunting challenge which I fully endorse and take very seriously.



*Cecilia Johnson, President
SVC Foundation*

With so many wonderful successes in place, I am pleased that 2006 was a banner year for growth in the Foundation. With assets of over \$8,000,000, we have come a long way since 1978.

And, the future is certainly a bright one for our students. Recently, the SVC Concert Choir was invited to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. The Foundation was pleased to give a \$5,000 "boost" to the students' worthy fundraising efforts. Their invitation to perform represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and we were pleased to support this special learning opportunity.

It is gratifying that the Foundation's success translates into additional scholarships and other support for students. While our fundraising success has increased, we also see an ever-increasing number of college programs that need assistance to support students. A gift to local higher education is one of the best investments we can make because it benefits both individuals and our community.

If you are new to our community, I encourage you to consider the mission and goals of the Skagit Valley College Foundation. Your support could impact the life of a friend, a neighbor, an employee, or a family member who has a dream of higher education. In addition, your gift to the SVC Foundation keeps your dollars working at home. It's a win-win for everyone.

Thanks to your continued generosity, we are able to increase our level of support for the students and programs of our College. One of our greatest assets is our dedicated core of faithful donors. Thank you for sharing our vision. When you give, you impact the lives of others in a positive way.

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KATHY WILLINS



The Skagit Valley College Choir, led by Dr. Diane Johnson of the Music Department, performed at Carnegie Hall April 22, 2007. This unique opportunity was realized, in part, with a \$5,000 contribution from the SVC Foundation.



19th ANNUAL JAMES M. FORD GOLF CLASSIC

AT AVALON GOLF LINKS IN BURLINGTON



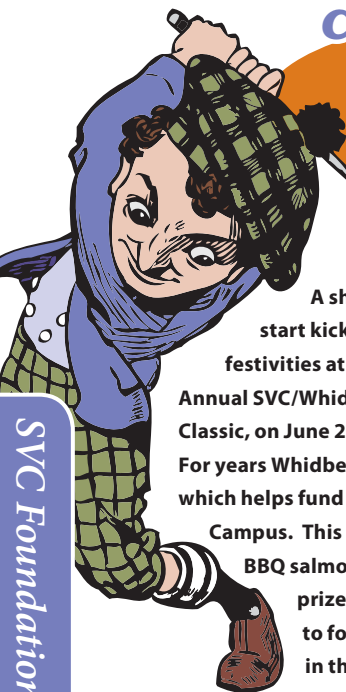
Over \$58,000 was raised at the 19th Annual James M. Ford Golf Classic held Friday, May 11, 2007 at Avalon Golf Links. This is the highest amount earned to date. The tournament proceeds are designed for older returning student scholarships, and for other educational resources at Skagit Valley College.

Shell Puget Sound Refinery launched the project as underwriter for the 12th consecutive year. Highlights included a \$1000 putting competition, raffles, BBQ oysters on the half shell, margaritas, and dinner provided by Double Barrel Barbecue. "With the help of our sponsors, wonderful volunteers, terrific prizes and weather, a great time was had by all", said Rachael Willett, Foundation Event Coordinator.



COME GOLF WITH US!

15th Annual Whidbey Island Golf Classic



A shotgun start kicks off festivities at the 15th

Annual SVC/Whidbey Island Golf Classic, on June 22nd at the Whidbey Island Golf and Country Club. For years Whidbey Island Bank has underwritten this tournament, which helps fund scholarships for students at the SVC Whidbey Island Campus. This event is guaranteed to be great fun. Don't miss the BBQ salmon burgers and polish dogs for lunch, games and prizes on the course, or the fabulous dinner and auction to follow. Register your golfers today by calling Rachael in the Foundation Office at 360.416.7706, or print a registration form at www.skagit.edu/foundation.



请标注该日



SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007
Foothills Auto Center

Pam Nelson of Foothills Auto Center will underwrite the Foundation's fall event, *Asian Infusion*. Join us for this exciting new event at a wonderful new venue.

Asian Infusion

For information, call: 360.416.7706



Front row, l to r: Kathryn Chadwick, Mary Frances McElfresh, and Joan May
Back row: Virginia Van Camp and Therese Pratt

Women's Study Club of Friday Harbor

It is a story that spans almost 100 years, \$36,000, and an old San Juan Island Methodist Church most people know as The Grange. Around the turn of the last century, 11 ladies from San Juan Island decided to form the Women's Study Club of Friday Harbor, with the stated goals of civic improvement and self-culture. The club's rich history of community service includes contributions to the town library and establishing Memorial Park to honor islanders killed in military service.

Perhaps the most powerful and lasting legacy the ladies have left the island is a scholarship for a Friday Harbor High School graduate to further their education. It is a gift that touches a different islander every year, and allows that student to fulfill his or her potential through a college education.

"The scholarship is an integral part of the mission of the Study Club," said Kathryn Chadwick, past president of the club. "We felt that the need existed for young people with limited means to continue their education, and that the Women's Study Club could be helpful in that respect."

In 1975, the ladies decided to sell their clubhouse building — formerly the San Juan Island Methodist Church building — to the Grange, and use the money for scholarships. The women received a \$10,000 down payment and the remainder of the \$36,500 in monthly installments.

That next year, the women awarded their first scholarship to a Friday Harbor High School graduate with at least one year of advanced schooling. The women managed the money themselves for more than 30 years before deciding to hand their scholarship monies over to the SVC

Foundation last May. The fund receives a better interest rate through the Foundation, and interest earned on the fund has almost doubled under the Foundation's care.

"The amount of money we could give dwindled, so, in order to be responsible with the core amount of money, we gave it to the college to benefit the students of Friday Harbor," Ms. Chadwick said.

The forward-thinking ladies of the Friday Harbor club are carrying on a legacy of service begun by their predecessors, the 11 women who organized the club in 1914. They, in turn, were part of a national trend towards self-education for women. These study clubs flourished in the United States from just after the Civil War through the 1930s. As the local founding story goes, the 11 ladies from San Juan Island chartered a boat back in 1914 to attend a women's club meeting on Orcas Island, then decided to form their own organization.

Club meetings fostered rich friendships among members, with the twin goals of self-culture and civic improvement always on their minds.

Virginia Van Camp remembers the first time she went to a study club meeting, as a guest. Her husband was a graduate student working at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor research facility, and the young couple stayed with a woman who happened to be the Study Club's president.

"My husband had his head in the microscope all the time," Virginia



Delicate, handmade yearbooks chronicle the club's history...

remembered, laughing, and she would go to club meetings as her proprietor's guest. "She made me promise that if I came back here I would join the club," and that's exactly what she did. In 1994, her husband passed away, and she moved to the island. Virginia

kept her promise, and became a member of the club whose meetings she attended all those years before.

Ms. Chadwick has been a member since 1995. She relocated to the island after retiring from the Seattle Public School System. For her, too, the club was a way to meet people and get to know her new surroundings.

"Meeting this group of intelligent, sensitive, wonderful women has been a joy for me, and helped me become more comfortable as a new member of the Friday Harbor community," she said, during a recent club meeting in the Grange building. "We share our interests and our lives in a way that becomes hard to describe."

Delicate, handmade yearbooks chronicle the club's history, dating almost to its inception. Some are in the club's official purple and white colors. The little books are tied at the spine with colored ribbons. All this work done by hand, in an effort to preserve a legacy that is not at all unlike the Women's Study Club Scholarship — a means of empowerment through education.

Perhaps the club's motto, a quote from James Russell Lowell, describes the group best — "It's not what we give but what we share."

INTO AFRICA

A FORMER MCINTYRE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHARES HER STORY

Africa is a land of stark contrasts. Poverty and disease bear witness to breathtaking natural wonders and fascinating cultural traditions. As she grew from a little girl to a young woman, Christine Harris always knew she belonged in the middle of that curious juxtaposition that is Africa, doing her part for the poor and the sick.

The Skagit Valley College Alumna excelled in her studies and received the prestigious Sidney S. McIntyre Jr. Scholarship upon graduation. The award pays for two years of tuition, room, board and books at a four-year university.

"It's hard to explain," she said. "I've always wanted to go to Africa. Even when I was 8 or 10 I would hear about Africa and what people were doing there and I knew that this was what I wanted to do."

Christine is now halfway through a six month African journey. She will travel through three East African countries learning Swahili, training peer educators for AIDS outreach and taking a class through the Tulane School of Public Health. At 22, she's well on her way to reaching her dreams, and she knew she would get there with a degree from Skagit Valley College.

"I tell everyone I wouldn't be where I am now if I hadn't gone to Skagit," Ms. Harris said. "With small classes, the teachers really get to know you. I've been to four colleges and universities now, and my favorite teachers are still at Skagit!"

Her former teachers think very highly of her as well. They describe the home-schooled Camano Island native as down to earth and dedicated. She spent a total of three years at SVC, her first two as a Running Start student, and her last as a traditional college student.

She started taking nursing prerequisites, like biology, where her knowledge and enthusiasm impressed the instructors. After getting to know her, they advised her to change her major and take pre-med classes to become a doctor.

"They told me 'you're wasting your potential.' At first, I didn't take [my instructor] seriously, but he mentioned it several times, and I decided to take pre-med classes," Christine said. That switch changed the course of her college career. Instructors at larger schools might not have given Christine that kind of unsolicited

academic counseling, which ultimately gave her more opportunities in medicine than a nursing degree would have done.

"She could have gone to any college and done well, but you put someone like Christine in a situation like ours — where you have small classes, lots of contact with the instructor, and a demanding program — and she flourished," said Jennifer Handley, one of Christine's former English instructors. "She isn't like other science majors who have blinders on, completely focused on their own field. She understands the interconnectedness of subjects."



Christine, left, practices Swahili with a Maasi man at the weekly cattle market.

Christine graduated from SVC in 2003 with an Associate of Science degree in Biology. With the Sidney S. McIntyre Jr. Scholarship she was able to continue her medical studies at the University of Washington, where she majored in neurobiology, with a minor in African studies. She's currently getting her Master's in Public Health from Tulane. Her next step is to return to UW, where she's been accepted to medical school. All this only brings her closer to her end goal — to return to Africa permanently.

In this her second trip to the continent, Ms. Harris has partnered with the Non-Governmental Organization Working to Empower (www.workingtoempower.org), which focuses on HIV/AIDS education to promote sustainable, community-based change. She will train African peer educators to go into refugee camps and teach people about HIV/AIDS.

Christine is a long way from Camano Island, and Skagit Valley College. As she barbers through Maasai markets, practicing her newly acquired Swahili skills, she is closer to her dream than ever before.

"I receive a lot of personal satisfaction from helping people, I know that sounds like a catch-all phrase, but it's true. I've always wanted to go to Africa and help people," she said, with the spirit of conviction in her voice. "I want my life to be a positive contribution to Africa, and I believe that being medically trained to assist with the AIDS epidemic will be the best use of my life to help Africa."



Christine Harris, center in white, shares a meal of goat liver and rice with a fellow American and about 15 Maasi men.

Jack & Micki Deierlein

Their life together and the creation of an endowment that helps older students complete a four-year degree.



Second Lieutenant Micki and Captain Jack met in the early days of WWII.

It was the wrong era, and a difficult time for women to go to college. The Depression was on, and when Mildred graduated from high school she watched her wealthy girl friends go on to advanced study while she stayed behind. Her small-town Virginia family could not afford to send her to college. It was a loss she would never forget.

Mildred's zest for knowledge was undaunted. Before she could enroll in her first college course, Mildred's life took a detour that included World War II, marriage, and a cross-country move to Washington state. The woman, whom friends, family and the Skagit Valley community knew as Micki Deierlein, would ultimately attend three colleges and universities, including SVC, and earn a Master's Degree in English Literature. The world became her classroom. Later in life, she established the Micki Deierlein Scholarship to help an older student persevere—like she did—in acquiring an education. The fund is a timeless testament to her own struggle for a degree and those who helped her attain it, including her husband, Jack.

The two of them met in Omaha, Nebraska shortly after the United States entered World War II, when the air was full of the anticipation of a long conflict ahead. In this war the United States called on her daughters as well as her sons—"Join the Army!" Uncle Sam's poster said, and Micki jumped at the opportunity. She enlisted in the Women's Army Corp (WAC) and advanced, after basic training, to Officer's School.



**MILDRED "MICKI" LEE
CRABTREE DEIERLEIN
JULY 2, 1920 -
FEBRUARY 22, 2006**

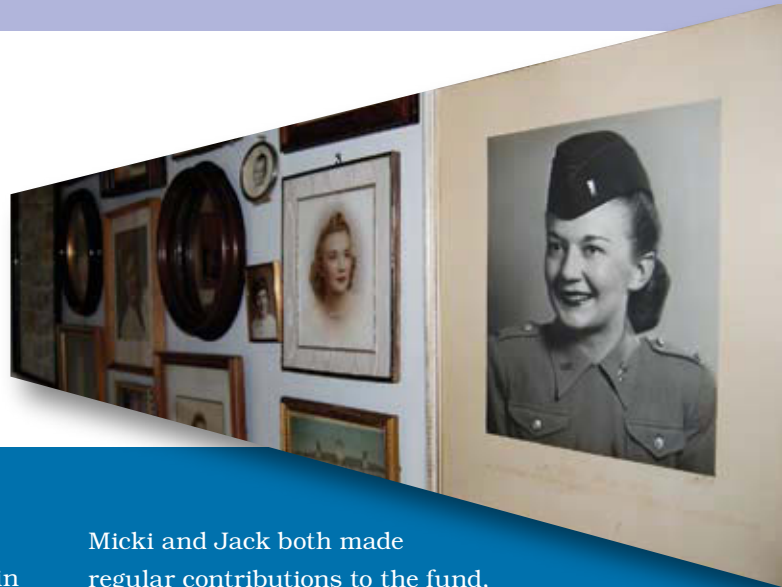
She was a freshly made second lieutenant, he was a captain, and both were lounging in an officer's club far from home when they laid eyes on each other. "It was love at first sight," Jack would later say. The war sent them in opposite directions, she to America's Deep South, and he to Europe. During the long months and years ahead, the two corresponded through letters. A "beautiful friendship" developed through mutual love of life and learning. After the war ended the two were married in Micki's family church in Galax, Virginia, before settling down on the other side of the country in Mount Vernon.

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Jack Deierlein at his home in Mount Vernon.

Former Skagit County Superior Court Judge Jack Deierlein talks about his life with long-time partner, Micki.



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They both became active members of the Skagit Valley community. Young Jack Deierlein passed the bar exam, became a lawyer, and began a two-year stint teaching business law at Skagit Valley College. Micki pursued the college education that eluded her as a younger woman. Her love of English literature brought her to Seattle University and Skagit Valley College, where she earned an Associate's Degree, before then transferring on to Western Washington University for her Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Over the years, they both continued down the path of public and community service. Jack became, first a prosecuting attorney, then a Skagit County Superior Court judge. Micki took on an active role in the Skagit Valley College Foundation. She joined the Board of Governors and worked tirelessly in support of higher education. Helping people in financial need — especially women — go to college touched Micki's heart in a spot that was always tender, and reminded her of her own experience.

Her tenure on the board ended in the early 1990s. In 1992, she was named an emeritus member of the SVC Foundation Board of Governors, "in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the college, the foundation, and her community." The Micki Deierlein Scholarship was established in the same year to support a sophomore-level student who is 35 or older, and intends to transfer to a four-year university.

Micki and Jack both made regular contributions to the fund, and supported other charitable organizations in the community.

The couple also loved to travel, and Micki liked planning out their trips. They both enjoyed learning about the world, its people, and cultures. The Deierleins explored every continent on earth except Antarctica, and traveled together on 16 different cruise ships.

"It was exciting to be on the Great Wall of China, or riding a camel past the Great Pyramids or walking through the Taj Mahal," Jack said, and his smile rounded out his face. The stern judge's voice disappears, replaced by memories of their time together. "Everything we did, we did together. Every thought was done with consideration for the other and what they thought."

Micki Deierlein passed away last February, at the age of 86. Although the road to college is still difficult for some women, Micki made the path a little easier, a little smoother, and a little straighter.


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