

“RATED AMONG THE BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE NATION.”

— Washington Monthly magazine, August, 2007

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

2nd Issue of 2008

The Arts

Gallery Has A New Home

Celebrating Students

*Abraham Strawn:
Overcoming Obstacles*

Commemorating 30 Years of the Foundation

Gary Knutzen
TOP CARDINAL



Currents

2nd Issue, 2008

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As the second oldest community college in Washington, Skagit Valley College continues to make a positive difference in our community, providing access to higher education for all who aspire to professional and personal growth. While each year contains a variety of achievements, I would like to share with you a few significant

milestones occurring this year:

First of all, I believe it is fitting that we showcase our top Cardinal, Gary Knutzen. Without question, he is an unusual phenomenon. While eager to remain out of the spotlight, Gary has served SVC for more than half of the college's history. His ongoing commitment to students, along with the important role he has played in the life of this college, is unparalleled.

Also, please join me in congratulating the SVC Foundation as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary. We applaud the early visionaries who set the course for stewardship in 1978. With such a strong cornerstone in place and the commitment of the Board of Governors, along with generous donors, supporters, and volunteers throughout three decades, the future is a brighter one for our students.

Finally, our "cherry on top" is the 20th Anniversary of the James M. Ford Golf Classic. The success of this much-anticipated event reflects the community's respect for past president Dr. James Ford and his desire to enhance financial support for all students.

I trust that you will be inspired by these milestones and by those who have made deep commitments to Skagit Valley College over the years. On behalf of the SVC Board of Trustees, thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Tollefson
President



Surrounded by hundreds of former students' photos, a hodgepodge of smiling faces signifying the lives touched by one man, Gary Knutzen's office is a shrine to student success. The Athletic Director's dry, deadpan humor fits with the numerous stuffed Eeyore donkeys around his desk. "Thanks for noticing me," one stuffed donkey says. Gary, on the other hand, would rather not be noticed. His door is always open to students and co-workers. He has been a mentor to many, but he shuns recognition and the spotlight it brings.

His tenure at Skagit Valley College began in 1963, when Knutzen coached the wrestling team. He led two teams to win the Washington State Junior College Championships. He became a full-time physical education instructor two years later. Knutzen was promoted to Athletic Director in 1968, and continued to officiate wrestling matches until 2003.

"I think Gary Knutzen is the greatest Athletic Director in Washington state and in our Northwest Conference," said former SVC president Dr. Jim Ford, who promoted Knutzen to Athletic Director. "He can organize a program well, works well with people, is honest, and has great credibility in the athletic community."

One of the 'people projects' Ford and Knutzen worked on together was the creation of the baseball and softball fields and jogging trails in the northeast corner of the Mount Vernon Campus, and the expansion and transformation of the gym into the Dave DuVall Pavilion, which doubled the size of the basketball court area. These major expansion projects were a partnership with Skagit County, one of the first inter-local agreements of

its kind in Washington state. Knutzen worked on the planning and layout of what would go where, and Ford handled the political aspect of working with the Board of Trustees and Skagit County leaders. Ford and Knutzen, along with Bud Norris, then County Commissioner, and John Aarstad, who worked for the county, together made these projects a reality. Both county residents and SVC students benefit from these inter-local agreements on a daily basis.

In addition, Gary Knutzen also served as interim director of the Skagit Valley College Foundation for a year in the early 1980s, where he worked to secure funding for program enhancements and scholarships.

"Gary has great initiative," Ford said. "I felt completely comfortable delegating to Gary. I trusted him, and I knew any project he worked on would get done, and it would get done in an honest way."

Gary Knutzen's focus remains on his students and their experiences. He never dwells on his own successes, although there are many. He has received the Reiman-Driscoll-Campbell Award for his lifetime devotion to the sport of wrestling, the Dutch Triebwasser Athletic Director of the Year Award for his outstanding leadership and the Paul Harris Rotary Fellow Award. He was inducted into the Wrestling Coaches' Hall of Fame in 2007. The Gary Knutzen Spirit of Wrestling Award is presented every year in his honor to a team that shows outstanding sportsmanship.

The following pages feature stories about Gary, told by people who developed personal relationships with him.

*Gary Knutzen:
Enforcer on the
Burlington-Edison
High School gridiron*

Gary & Diane

Diane Knutzen shares her story:

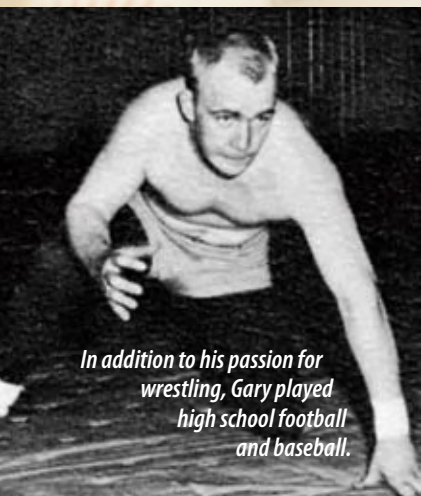
50 Years with Gary



*50th wedding anniversary
Caribbean cruise, 2007*



Gary receiving the Washington State Wrestling Coaches Association 1994 Contributors Award



In addition to his passion for wrestling, Gary played high school football and baseball.

With the grandkids at Whistler. L-R: Shawn, Gary, Kelsey, Kramer, Grant, Diane, Stephanie, and Kristine



I've known Gary Knutzen since grade school, when we attended Burlington-Edison schools together. He's been my loving husband for more than 50 years. We got to know each other through our church youth group, and graduated from high school together.

It was evident even back then that he has a strong personality and a strong will. He was also an athlete, so he was very much in shape and I thought he was a very nice looking young man. Gary was on the wrestling team, played football and baseball.

We graduated from high school together, and he attended the Western Washington College of Education—now Western Washington University—for one year before we were married. He continued his studies at Western and commuted from Mount Vernon to Bellingham and back after our wedding. Our first child was born on our first wedding anniversary, and the second one came 18 months later. Gary was still a full-time student at Western, and worked evenings and weekends to put food on the table and support us. Somehow, Gary still managed to get his degree in four years. When he graduated he was 21 years old and had a two-year-old and a six-month-old!

He taught 5th grade at Lucille Umbarger Elementary School in Burlington right out of college. Gary knew he wanted to get a master's degree and specialize in physical education, but money was tight and we had two young babies to think about. We came up with a plan: Bo Campbell, Gary's old wrestling coach from high school, helped him get a tuition scholarship to the University of Illinois, and Gary drove a truck one summer to save up enough money to live on the university campus.

That fall we packed up our Volkswagen Beetle with our two small

children, our stuff, and ourselves. We drove to Illinois in the fall of '61. Gary managed to complete his master's degree that academic year. He didn't have any choice; we didn't have the money or the resources to stay any longer. We drove back at the end of that academic year with Gary's new degree in hand and \$35 to our names.

Driving back, our Volkswagen Bug had so much stuff inside and on top that oftentimes we couldn't get it into fourth gear, it was so heavy we just couldn't go fast enough. The Bug badly needed new tires, but we couldn't afford to buy them. I felt like our guardian angel was flying over us as we traveled because we made it safely back to Burlington.

The years have been good to us. We've been married for almost 51 years, with three wonderful children and six very special grandchildren. Family has always been very important to Gary. Before he had a summer teaching contract, Gary drove a truck for Lynden Transport. This supplemented our income and allowed the family to take trips together. One time he did an extra truck run and used his whole paycheck to take the kids and me on a surprise trip to Spokane. We have continued the trip tradition every year, so instead of Christmas gifts we take our kids, their spouses, and the grandkids on a trip somewhere. It's not always at Christmas time, but we try really hard to get the whole family all in one place to spend quality time together.

In those early years of our marriage, Gary had to be a student, husband and father—and he did well in every one of those respects. He worked several jobs to support his young family and get his degree at the same time. His strength of character and strong will carried us through those times, and has only grown since. I continue to be very proud of him.



Left: Roger in the SVC gym, 2008.
Below: Wrestling at 130 lbs,
Roger as the 1968 Washington
State Junior College Champion



Roger 'Joe' Peterson

SVC Wrestling & Cross Country, 1967-68

Gary Knutzen put me in the best shape of my life.

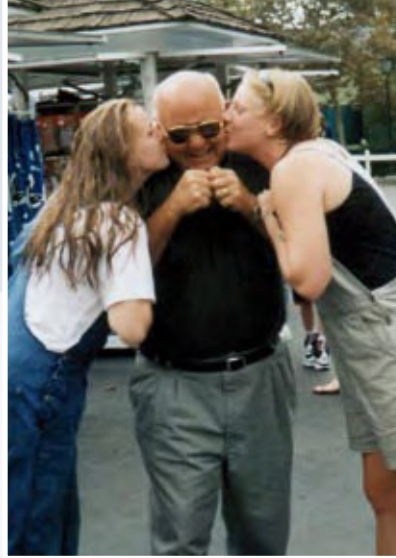
I came to Skagit Valley College after graduating from Burlington-Edison High School, and I wrestled for Gary during the years that I was at Skagit. He was really tough about staying in shape, and his wrestling practices were brutal.

After we were done with the wrestling part of practice he would make us stretch and do calisthenics. Of course we were already tired from the day's wrestling practice, but Knutzen didn't care. I remember how he would make us do handstands against the wall. We were all upside down, straining from the weight of our bodies and exhausted from wrestling each other. Knutzen would say, hold this for 30 seconds, and he'd start counting down the numbers. We would always end up holding ourselves up for longer than 30 seconds; Gary counted slow and found other ways to stretch the time out. You would come down just to go back up on your hands and do it all over again. He was a really good motivator. It's hard to push somebody, to get the most out of them like that. It's an art, and Knutzen did it very well. He could always get you in better shape than you thought you needed to be in. I think that was a big part of what made us successful as a wrestling team—we were in better shape mentally and physically than most of the other teams.

We were all like a big wrestling family back then, with Coach Knutzen recruiting from the local high school teams. No one recruited from outside the area back then, they just molded the local talent.

What made Gary a great coach—rather than just a good one—was that you knew he cared about you as a person, and not just as an athlete. He was caring and considerate and easy to talk to. Even today, he makes his job look easy when it really isn't.

There are a lot of things you don't necessarily think about when you're 18, 19 or 20 years old, but subconsciously they really stick with you. I think the most important thing I got from wrestling for Gary was a mental toughness. When we were doing those handstands, exhausted and sweating, the will to stay up there was all that kept you going. You had to focus your mind as well as your body. That mental toughness has really helped me in my life.



Left: "Coach Sandwich"
with Amber Moffitt
(Hanson) and Wendy.
Below: Wendy with
Gary's grandson, Kramer.



Wendy Clark-Hupperich

SVC Basketball & Volleyball, 1996-98

Gary Knutzen is like a grandfather to me. His office is always a welcoming space for students. He creates an atmosphere that lets people be themselves, believe in themselves and grow as human beings.

You can always count on Gary to make you laugh, always. He has a very dry sense of humor, and he's full of one-liners. One particular story sticks out in my mind.

Gary for a long time had a "broken computer." I would ask him when he was going to get a computer that functioned as a computer other than just a screen to put sticky notes on. He would tell me he was waiting for the top of the line computer to come in, he "only wanted the best." That was just another way of him saying, "I could care less about the computers and my system with sticky notes on the screen works fine." Well, Gary's top of the line computer arrived. I was in his office giving him a hard time about the new computer, and I asked, "Do you even know how to turn it on?" Gary responded with a big smile and made loud noise by banging his fist on his desk, which shook the computer slightly and woke it up from sleep mode. Then he grinned a proud smile again.

His focus is always on the student athletes. He created trips for us to go on, and he traveled with us wherever we went. I know for some of the athletes these trips were the first time they flew on a plane or traveled out of state. He was always creating itineraries and planning activities for our trips, which he said was so we didn't get into trouble. I know he also wanted to expose us to ideas and experiences that we might never have seen otherwise. Part of what makes Gary so special is his commitment to developing the whole person, rather than just the athletic talents of a player. That's what makes him so wise—he sees the bigger picture of how athletics can be a teaching tool to reinforce values and build character.

He and I still keep in touch although I still use the phone as I am not sure how much his computer skills have advanced from his 'power on' demonstration days. Gary has such a huge heart which is represented in the welcoming space he creates for students to come and just be themselves. It's a place you leave feeling supported, loved, and understood. You might expect that out of a counselor, but it is unique and extraordinary for an athletic director.

Working with the Foundation

IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

The Skagit Valley College Foundation has played a pivotal role in support of the arts both publicly and behind the scenes. Now in its 30th year of support, the group continues to work closely with college faculty and administrators to meet educational needs.

Foundation board member Megan Colwell is a strong advocate for the arts, and recently joined the college's

Arts Committee. Her first project was the acquisition of art for Hodson Hall.

"Ether 11" by Lanny Bergner hangs just inside the entrance to Hodson Hall.

The building houses the art, music and theatre arts programs on the Mount Vernon Campus, but Hodson Hall did not have any significant art displays of its own. The Foundation generously stepped in to help fund art purchases for the building, and the Arts Committee identified nationally known local artists Sheila Klein, Ries Niemi and Lanny Bergner to produce art for Hodson Hall. The three artists generously contributed art pieces for a fraction of their normal cost.

"Dr. Tollefson asked that we get involved in an art project for Hodson Hall, and we were delighted to do so," said Megan Colwell, who is a Skagit Valley College alumna. "Art enhances every bit of life, and it's always a learning experience to be surrounded by art. What's really lovely is that all three pieces are from Skagit Valley artists."

The three pieces are centered near the building's entrance. Two pieces are suspended from the ceiling, one inside



"Cartouche", a fiber art piece by Sheila Klein, hangs outside the entrance to Hodson Hall.



and one outside. They are fiber pieces woven together by wrapping, knotting and gluing things like industrial screening, wire, silicone and monofilament into organic constructions.

"I've really enjoyed the whole process, sitting down together, meeting with the artists and hearing their vision for the space," Colwell said. "I've enjoyed being a part of something that will be permanent on campus. It's wonderful to see these really high-end pieces of art be permanently installed on the campus."

The Foundation will continue to support visual enhancements to the college, but their support doesn't stop there. Last year the Foundation helped fund the choir's trip to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall.

"In addition to providing scholarships, the Foundation helps fill funding gaps in ways that support student programs and enhance their learning environment," said Board President Cecilia Johnson. "We are celebrating the Foundation's 30th anniversary this year, and we are proud of the enhancements and additions our 30 years of support have provided."

In its early years, the Foundation played a vital role in creating the Campus Center Art Gallery—which was called the Foundation Art Gallery.

What would become the art gallery started out as a large window in the Campus Center building used to display student work. The area was enlarged, and the Foundation donated money to give the area a more professional look, adding lighting and supporting its maintenance with a small stipend.

"We would not have an Art Gallery today if it wasn't for the Foundation," said art instructor Ann Reid. "Foundation support goes back a long way, and I think today we are seeing a much greater integration of the Foundation into decision making."

Gallery Schedule

Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Info: Greg Tate at 360.416.7682 or greg.tate@skagit.edu

April 1 - 30	What You Don't See: Field Drawings from the Upper Skagit
May 5 - 23	Faculty Art Show
May 26 - June 15	Juried Student Art Show
June 23 - Aug 31	Ceramics Show Featuring Current & Former Students

One of the cornerstones of the remodeled Campus Center is the building's Art Gallery. Located just inside the building's main entrance, the space has an intimate ambience despite being twice the size of SVC's old gallery.

"This will be a destination place for people in the community and the region to come and look at art. For our inaugural show with Jacob Lawrence we had people drive from as far away as Seattle and Vancouver, B.C.," said Gallery Director Greg Tate. "The section of the building that encompasses the gallery is also very welcoming for visitors. Someone could come in to see a gallery show, then grab a cappuccino from the coffee bar and spend the afternoon contemplating the artists' intentions in the sunny new atrium."

The new gallery builds on the foundations of the old —both as a visually welcoming space and as a teaching tool.

Chuck Luckmann, English and social sciences instructor, used the Jacob Lawrence exhibit in his 19th Century American Literature class to help teach Henry David Thoreau to his students. Thoreau wrote "A Plea for Captain John Brown" in defense of the controversial abolitionist figure. The two men knew each other, and Thoreau publicly defended Brown after he was arrested and tried for treason. Luckmann's students were able to view Jacob Lawrence's chronological paintings of John Brown's life and gain a better understanding of how both Brown and Thoreau could hate violence but still come to the conclusion that it might be necessary. Students also participated in a panel discussion, "John Brown: Terrorist or Patriot."

"Art's greatest contribution is that it stimulates questions, making us look more deeply and wonder—'what's happening here?'" said President Dr. Gary Tollefson. "In a college setting, our greatest ambition for quality student learning is tied up more in questions than answers. Art can be an essential tool in developing the ability to observe and ask questions."

Dr. Tollefson has worked with the Arts Committee to coordinate the acquisition and management of new and existing campus art. Skagit Valley College is one of the only community colleges in the Northwest region with an art committee. The group makes recommendations and selects art that enhances campus life and reflects the professional quality of education at the college.

"We hope to develop a collection that focuses on Northwest artists," said committee member Ann Reid, who teaches in the art department with Tate. "The college's collection will show the level of professionalism that is in our arts community."

Tate also hopes to create a certificate program in gallery management and hanging that would teach students how to professionally hang art and prepare for a gallery show. Students would gain practical experience by working alongside Tate in the new gallery. The program would prepare young artists to enter the local, regional or national arts scene with a strong foundation in practical experience.



Art instructor and Gallery Director, Greg Tate, stands in the new gallery located in the Campus Center building. The first show, "The Legend of John Brown," featured nationally renowned painter, Jacob Lawrence.

Jacob Lawrence, Man Behind the Paintings (1917-2000)

Skagit Valley College was pleased to have the work of African American painter Jacob Lawrence as the first show of in the Campus Center's newly remodeled Art Gallery. Lawrence's *The Legend of John Brown* is a 22-painting series that chronicles the life of the abolitionist.

Many of Lawrence's paintings focused on the history and struggles of African Americans in the United States. Some of his other paintings of prominent African Americans include Toussaint L'Ouverture, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman. He was known for using bright colors and flattened, simple shapes in poignant and dramatic ways.

"He was a man who loved to tell stories," said Gallery Director Greg Tate. "He was a person who looked to the past to emphasize what was going on in the present."

During the Great Depression, Lawrence worked on the Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project. He was drafted into the Navy during World War II and served in the precursor to the Coast Guard. Most of the U.S. military was segregated during the war, but because of his prominence as an artist, Lawrence was promoted to Public Relations Specialist and became one of the service's first combat artists. He served on several ships during his service, including the *Sea Cloud*, the first integrated ship in the naval services.

Lawrence was a prolific painter throughout his life. In 1970 he settled in Seattle and taught art at the University of Washington. His work is in the permanent collections of numerous museums and his *The Builders* hangs in the White House Green Room.

He died in 2000, one of the most prominent American artists of the 20th Century.

Global Initiatives:

The Jalisco Partnership



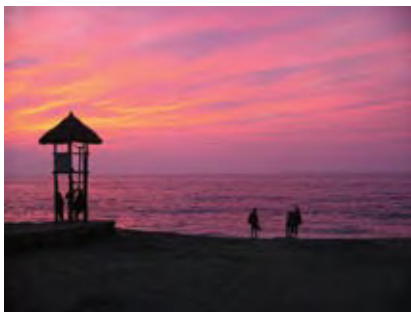
SVC Academic English as a Second Language instructor Vicki Talbott, second from right, at the opening ceremony for English instructors in Puerto Vallarta.



Neta Simpkins Cahill and Vicki Talbott at the opening ceremony in Puerto Vallarta.

Below, top to bottom:

The marina at Puerto Vallarta; Sunset in Puerto Vallarta; The façade of a church in Guadalajara



Many Americans take their vacations on the picturesque beaches of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, but four Skagit Valley College employees made recent trips south of the border for more humanitarian reasons—to help educate the Mexican workforce.

SVC administrators and instructors from Marine Technology and Academic English as a Second Language programs traveled to the Mexican towns of Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara recently as part of a new international partnership between Skagit Valley College and the Department of Education for the Mexican State of Jalisco.

Marine Technology instructor Mike Swietzer and Whidbey Island Campus Vice President Dr. Mick Donahue traveled to the Jalisco coastal town of Puerto Vallarta to consult and assist a college there in creating a Marine Technology program.

“Their marine industry is in the same position we are in—they need trained people. If you go to Anacortes, every marine program would say, ‘I need trained people,’ and when we went to Puerto Vallarta, they said the same thing,” Swietzer said. “Skagit has the best, most inclusive marine training program on the west coast, and we are happy to help design and start their program.”

Separately, SVC AESL instructors Neta Simpkins Cahill and Vicki Talbott participated in a pilot program through the Ministry of Tourism to teach English to tourism and hospitality workers in both Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara. The program reflects the commitment by the government of Jalisco to become the most English-speaking state in Mexico.

“They were wonderful students,” Talbott said.

Both instructors agreed that the trip was a valuable opportunity to experience Mexican culture and promote cross cultural understanding.

Skagit Valley College is working with the State of Jalisco to promote more cross-border learning opportunities for faculty and students. The college’s goal is to make it easier and more affordable for SVC students to gain cultural understanding and language skills by traveling abroad as part of their college experience.



A group of Vicki Talbott’s students in Puerto Vallarta.

Celebrating students



Abraham Strawn's youthful appearance and easy smile do not reflect the difficulties he had to face to obtain an education.

During Abe's sophomore year at La Conner High School, his father suffered a debilitating stroke that left him unable to work. The family struggled financially and was forced to move from their La Conner apartment to Burlington in Abe's senior year. This young man—who had always preferred athletics to academics—became a serious student for the first time.

"I'm the kind of person who likes a challenge," the wiry young man said. "I was more motivated academically because of the challenges I faced, that I knew made graduating from high school more difficult for me."

Abe didn't have a car, so he rode a bicycle to school and back for several weeks before moving back to La Conner to live with the families of his high school friends so he could finish his senior year. He has been on his own ever since, without parents around to make sure he studied or did his homework, but the extra responsibility only motivated him more.

A strong support system helped him get through those tough times, including his high school counselors and teachers, and the Boys and Girls Club.

"Abe is an excellent example of someone who has the will to make something happen. He never would ask for a handout, but neither will he refuse a helping hand," said Beverly Mowrer, his old high school counselor. "He has already beaten the odds. He has had endless opportunities to take the low road but he does what it takes to stick to the high road. He is kind, gentle and always appreciative."

The La Conner Boys and Girls Club honored him with the Youth of the Year

Award for going above and beyond what he had to do to succeed.

"The club did a lot for me because I didn't have a lot of stability in my life," he said. "It's really as much about what the club did for me as what I did for the club."

After receiving the Mowrer Scholarship through the Skagit Valley College Foundation, Abe was able to attend SVC right out of high school. The fund supports such students unable to afford the cost of tuition and have no parental support to do so.

"It was a real turning point in my life," he said. "It gave me options when I didn't have any."

In an interesting twist of fate, Beverly Mowrer, Abe's former high school counselor, is related to the man who endowed the Mowrer Scholarship back in 1926.

"I am delighted the Mowrer scholarship has been able to help Abe along his way, Beverly said. "It is money well spent, and I am sure that Abe will continue to give back to others as he continues along his journey. I am very proud of him!"

Abe has done well here at Skagit Valley College. He moved to Mount Vernon after high school, and got a part-time job working with the local Boys and Girls Club supervising smaller children and planning activities for teens. Abe chose to major in education at SVC, and hopes to become a teacher someday. His experiences, first as a Boys and Girls Club member, and later as an employee, helped him choose his career path.

"That was great experience to see if I could go into education and enjoy it," he said. "I've loved working with the kids, and it's only strengthened my desire to teach."

After graduating this spring with an Associate of Arts University College Transfer Degree, he plans to transfer to Washington State University at Pullman and major in education.

The Asian/Pacific Islander Club



On Saturday nights most students have anything but studying in mind, but for students in the Asian/Pacific Islander Club the languages and cultures of the near and far east are a fun and fascinating way to spend both Saturday and Monday evenings.

The Whidbey Island Campus club is truly a cultural exchange. American students have embraced Asian cultures and use the time to actively practice Japanese language skills, while Japanese exchange students practice English speaking skills. Members come from all walks of life, all majors and backgrounds. The group's informal style is a big draw.

"The students sacrifice so much of their free time just to share their knowledge and experiences about their culture, and they do it selflessly," said club advisor Kathie Reyes. "Some of them have goals of going into early childhood education and teaching, and they have a passion for what they are doing to educate others."



Commemorating

of the

Skagit Valley College Foundation



ment in 1978, the Skagit Valley as been committed to sup-
 lty, and staff with educational
 benefit learning opportunities in
 in Juan counties.
 at where it all began in this
 would like to thank all who paved
 the roadmap for success, as well
 faceted organization that we enjoy

serving as proud partners with Skagit Valley College and our community.

As the President of the Board of Governors this year, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead during this special time, our 30th Anniversary! As always, your continued commitment to higher education, and to our community, is sincerely appreciated.

Cecilia Johnson, President

Beginning with the purchase of a single-family home on the Mount Vernon Campus as our first office space, to building Campus View Village, to helping the successful capital campaign to build McIntyre Hall Performing Arts & Conference Center, the list of accomplishments for the Foundation has been vast and impressive. And, thanks to the dedication of many individuals in our community, our work now includes scholarships, art acquisitions, and faculty excellence awards, along with the Spring Celebration and the Hall of Fame events.

So, as we look ahead, the SVC Foundation must continue to grow in order to help our students meet their educational dreams and goals. We certainly look forward to meeting this challenge during the next 30 years,

1978

Foundation established



1979

First Foundation Ball featuring the Green River Music Company



1979

Foundation purchases Rutledge House for \$70,000

Valentine's Ball

Friday, February 9, 1979

From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Elks Club

\$25 PER COUPLE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Featuring The Green River Music Company

30 MUSICIANS, DANCERS AND SINGERS. LAS VEGAS STYLE REVUE.

SUPPORT THE SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE



30 Years!

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history and growth of Skagit Valley Foundation during the past 30 years, sense of satisfaction and pride. As a member and president of the Skagit Valley Foundation in the early 1980s, I am struck with the accomplishments as a college, a community, and a foundation in assets, all of us who have been members, community supporters, scholarship donors, event participants, friends, and staff of this significant organization should feel tremendous satisfaction in the strides we have made for our students and for our community.

Although my days of official service to the Foundation have been completed, I remain dedicated to the great work that has taken place during the past three decades. To those who now continue to steward this cause, thank you.

Roger Hulbush, Former President, SVC Foundation

1988

First Ford Golf Tournament



2001

Summer's fundraising campaign for McIntyre Hall



2008

Oversees \$9 million dollars in assets, endowments, and scholarships



1993

Campus View Village opens, construction funded by the Foundation





Corey Mendoza

—from *Prankster to Vice President*

In college, Corey Mendoza always found himself in the center of the action, whether that was student activities and parties, intramural sports against faculty, or the occasional harmless prank. His mischievous streak never interfered with his grades, he was a good student, and his innate ability to communicate with and between people—along with his desire to be ‘in the know’—helped him get where he is today.

The 1975 alumnus is a stockbroker and senior vice president with Ragen MacKenzie Investment Services, a company he has been with for the last 20 years. Every day he follows the stock market from his corner office on College Way. A small television flashes financial news. He monitors the market all day, closely observing changes, bubbles and blips in trading and the economy. It’s a far cry from his college days, when the teenage Corey planned off-campus parties at secret Skagit Valley locations, but the core concepts of success are the same: planning, timing, and managing risk.

Corey credits his instructors at SVC, especially business and economics instructor Jack Kenney, for helping him find an academic focus. With Kenney’s guidance, Mendoza discovered his aptitude for business. He also enjoyed playing intramural football and basketball, especially games against the faculty team, which included some of his instructors and President Dr. Jim Ford. The games gave students like Corey unique access to their instructors and administrators.

Although Corey never played baseball at SVC, he had a lot of friends on the team. Corey would sneak on to the team’s bus and ride to games with his friends.

“One time, one of my friends couldn’t make a game, and he gave me his uniform,” Corey recalled with a characteristic mischievousness. “I suited up, and we tried to convince the coach to let me play, but he wouldn’t go for it.”

That incident landed Corey in Athletic Director Gary Knutzen’s office, where he was advised to “take it easy on the coach.”

Corey did manage to stay out of trouble, and the atmosphere at SVC allowed him to learn a lot, too. He was at SVC through the early ‘70s, when violence was a regular occurrence at other colleges and schools.

“At Skagit Valley College, the faculty and administration were all very warm, friendly and accepting of people. It wasn’t confrontational at all, we didn’t feel a rift between generations at Skagit,” he said. Regular outside-the-classroom interactions—like football games with the college president—certainly helped. “I really believe that Skagit Valley College was unique because it was truly a community college. People who attended, worked at, and taught at the institution believed in the community, and I think it was the coordinated effort that really made it such a unique success in this community.”

“One time, one of my friends couldn’t make a game, and he gave me his uniform...I suited up, and we tried to convince the coach to let me play, but he wouldn’t go for it.”



Corey, second from right, in a “5-some” at one of the first James M. Ford Golf Classic tournaments.

“MC” Corey at a Ford Golf Tournament, helping raise funds for the Foundation.



After two years at SVC, Corey went on to the University of Washington. The die-hard Huskies fan received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1977. Right after his graduation, he got a call from his old teachers at SVC. The college was about to launch the SVC Foundation, and invited Corey help with the financial set up.



Corey at a Foundation Fundraiser

"I was one of the volunteer organizers of the Foundation, and I was on the Foundation Board of Governors," he said. "I worked with Jack Kenney, who had been my accounting teacher when I was a student at Skagit. He gave input on how to get a foundation set up," Corey said.

His passion was evident, alongside his characteristic smile and good-natured humor. Corey worked behind the scenes to secure bonds for the construction of the Campus View Village student housing complex because, "We felt it was really important to provide safe housing to students."

He also helped start the James M. Ford Golf Classic, now in its 20th year. The avid golfer has never missed a tournament, and enjoys the fact that precedes go towards scholarships for students.

Corey has also supported the Cardinal Athletics program. The coach Corey gave so much grief to when he was a student has moved away, but the young man who smuggled himself on to team trips has come full circle, supporting and giving back to the institution that helped refine and polish him into the businessman he is today.

"I think Skagit Valley College is a really important and amazing institution for our community, and I believe it is the primary institution to funnel educated talent back into the community," he said. "I place a high degree of importance on that as a business member, I believe in the community college system. It's a great training ground and we [in the business community] look to what the college turns out and provides as far as the human resources back into our community."

Taking a break in his office on College Way in Mount Vernon



Photo: San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

Elderhostel: Nationally Acclaimed Program Provider

Enjoy some of the most picturesque locations in the Pacific Northwest with the SVC Elderhostel Program. Skagit Valley College has been a proud Program Provider for the Elderhostel Inc. organization for more than 20 years, providing almost 50 local programs annually that feature exceptional learning and exploration at a great value.

Designed for adults 55 and older, these excursions provide outstanding learning adventures for people of all interests and abilities.

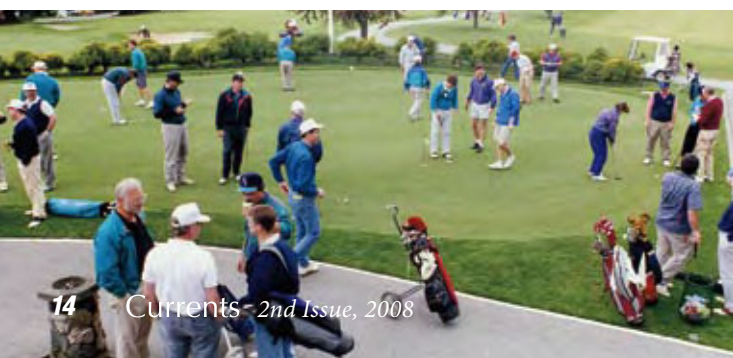
New programs for the 2008 season include "Beacons in the Rainshadow: Lighthouses of the San Juan Islands" where you will enjoy close-up views of remote lighthouses with a naturalist and preservation specialist as your guide. During this scenic 62-mile boat trip, you will circle through the forested tapestry of the San Juan Archipelago, absorbing panoramic views of the Olympic and Cascade Mountain ranges. Learn more about regional explorations in evening discussions.

The second, "Two Island Trek: Great Coastal Hikes in the San Juan Islands," allows active visitors to experience narrated hikes on coastal trails known as local favorites to "Islanders." With the Olympic Mountains looming in the distance, hike the coastal shorelines and prairie bluffs of San Juan Island. Study the complex ecosystem of the Salish Sea, then journey by ferry to Orcas Island and examine the conservation story of the Turtleback Mountain Preserve. Hiking route options meet varying levels of challenge and ability.

Many more programs are available locally, nationally, and abroad. To find out more, enroll, or receive the Elderhostel catalog, log on to www.elderhostel.org and enter "Skagit Valley College" into the search field or call 877.426.8056.



20 Years...



James M. Ford Golf Classic

This year the James M. Ford Golf Classic turns 20. The fundraiser has come a long way since the first tournament in 1988, traditions have formed, including BBQ oysters on the half shell cooked on site by the “Oyster Whisperer,” fantastic raffle prizes and a delicious BBQ dinner. Great golf is played every year, and proceeds from the tournament support scholarships and educational enhancements at Skagit Valley College.

The event has raised a combined total of more than \$540,000, and we are grateful to our sponsors and underwriters for making this event such a success.

Skagit Northwest Distributing and Michelob underwrote the first tournaments, and provided a great foundation for growth. The first tournament had just under 100 golfers, and the event has grown every year since. The 2008 tournament welcomed more than 200 golfers. The Shell Puget Sound Refinery has generously underwritten the event for the last 13 years, and is doing so again for the tournament’s 20th Anniversary.

“We at Shell believe in the importance of social investments that enhance the communities we live and work in, and we are proud to underwrite this tournament and help support Skagit Valley College students,” said Joe Schlundt, refinery finance director. “This year—in addition to playing some great golf—we honor Dr. Jim Ford for a lifetime of service to higher education students.”



of Golf



Whidbey Island Golf Classic

Friday, June 20, 2008 at 12 noon, a shotgun start initiates the 16th Annual SVC Whidbey Island Golf Classic at the Whidbey Island Golf and Country Club. The tournament helps fund scholarships for students at the SVC Whidbey Island Campus.

"We appreciate the fantastic support we receive from the community for this event," said Megan Colwell, Foundation Board Secretary and Committee Co-Chair. "The event supports a great cause, and is guaranteed to be a lot of fun."

For more information about registration please contact the foundation office at 360.416.7706 or register online at: www.skagit.edu/foundation.



REGISTER NOW!

for the 16th Annual Whidbey Island Golf Classic

Shotgun Start, Friday,
June 20 at 12 noon



TRIO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Emma Alvarado, Human Services alumna of 2003, won the TRIO Achiever Award from the Northwest Association of Special Programs. The Federal TRIO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Achiever Awards go to former students who have successfully completed their education and made a significant positive impact on the community. Emma overcame many obstacles to obtain her education, including low English literacy, two abusive relationships and cultural barriers against women working outside the home.

"During those years, thinking about reaching a higher education was like wanting to reach for a star. I thought that I didn't have the right to even to think about going back to school, like that was asking too much out of life," she said.

It took her nine years of study and hard work, but she obtained an associate's degree in 2003 from Skagit Valley College, and in 2006 a bachelor's degree from Fairhaven College, both in human services.

Emma now works two jobs, and serves as president of Mujeres en Acción/Women in Action, is a member of Skagit County's Substance Abuse Board, and also supports community education as a member of the Domestic Violence Women's Group and is a contributor to SVC's KSVR radio station.

Foundation
Skagit Valley College

Save the date:
Friday, Sept. 12, 2008

del SOL

Join us as we savor the sights, scents, and sounds
of the Mediterranean.

Information: 360.416.7717

Chef Martin Hahn, an 11-year instructor at Skagit Valley College, is the Washington state Culinary Educator of the Year. Hahn comes from a five-generation restaurant family, and owned his own small bistro for 16 years, the Black Swan Café. As a restaurant owner, Hahn pioneered the use of northwest cuisine, and of purchasing products directly from local farmers. His was also one of the first restaurants to use Penn Cove mussels, local chanterelles, and locally raised, grass-fed beef.

Hahn was voted a top chef of Washington state in 1990 by the *Seattle Weekly*, and received a Best of 1988 Award from *Food and Wine Magazine*. He has been an instructor and co-department chair in the SVC Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Program since 1996.



Where Learning
Comes to Life

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