



RECOGNIZING

*Exceptional*

FACULTY



1992-2024





## Recognizing Exceptional Faculty 1992-2024

Recipients of the Exceptional Faculty Award are identified by year on the pages that follow.  
The information contained in this report was current at the time of the award.  
Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award recipients include:

2024	Kelley Erickson Rachel Bryant-Anderson	2006	Doris Wood Greg Garman
2023	Lisa Spitzer Dan Taylor	2005	Randy Kostick Terry Carver
2022	Joe Burr Brian Rauscher	2004	Sharon Mitchler Jody Peterson
2021	Teneal Gustafson Michelle Harris	2003	Stephanie Carter Linda Foss
2020	Georganne Copeland Emmy Kreilkamp	2002	Calvin Taylor Jill Johnson
2019	Dr. Sharon Mitchler Peggy Goldberg	2001	Dr. Ruby Nagelkerke Dr. Gregory van Alstyne
2018	Preston Kiekel David Peterson	2000	T.R. Gratz Brian Tyrrell
2017	Jeff McQuarrie Connie Smejkal	1999	Nola Ormrod Laura Yocom
2016	Carmen VanTuyl Karen Goodwin	1998	Wade Fisher Julie Priday
2015	Brian Tyrrell Dr. Gregory van Alstyne	1997	Dr. Donna Huffman Dr. Warren "Doc" Clare
2014	Dr. Atara MacNamara Michael Threapleton	1996	Dr. Heesoon Jun Todd Lovington
2013	Sharon Mitchler Calvin Taylor	1995	Dexter Rammage Doris Wood
2012	Nola Ormrod Judith Aguilar	1994	Chris Hobson Laura Siebuhr Dave White
2011	Dr. Lisa Carlson Jacob Lund	1993	Marge Wieland Dr. John Pratt Vic Freund Dr. Don Foran
2010	Dr. Steve Norton Ken Rakoz	1992	Dr. Dave Martin Dr. Bert Woodland Greg Garman
2009	Pat Pringle John Fasler		
2008	Dr. Susanne Weil Randy Johnson		
2007	Jack Bishop		



## 2024: Kelly Erickson and Rachel Bryant-Anderson



*Kelly Erickson*

Kelly Erickson started teaching writing classes at Centralia College in 2013 part-time. She was eventually hired full-time and earned tenure in 2021. She got involved in the campus Writing Center almost immediately upon starting at CC and now serves as the Writing Center coordinator. The Writing Center provides free writing help to all students and hosts several online workshops each quarter to help students master the skills needed for academic writing.

“I love working with students and seeing all of the dedication that they bring to the learning experience,” Erickson said. “I also love witnessing that moment when they realize all of their hard work has allowed them to achieve a goal or develop a new skill.”

Her favorite classes to teach are Composition I and II and Writing in the Workplace. In addition to her work in the Writing Center, she serves on CC’s Instructional Council and on a tenure committee. She is chair of the English department.



*Rachel Bryant-Anderson*

Rachel Bryant-Anderson intended to go into social work before she took a position as a teaching assistant in graduate school. It was there she discovered her love of teaching and changed her focus to education. She began teaching sociology classes at CC in 2019. She was hired on full-time in 2022 and is currently going through the tenure process.

“One thing that’s special about this campus is the relationships,” Bryant-Anderson said. “Because of the size and culture, I’m able to get to know faculty and staff from across the campus in a way that I’ve never experienced elsewhere. I feel confident that this community will give me guidance and help when I need it, and I know that when I have a student who needs something, we’ll come together as a team to get that need met.”

Since starting at CC, Bryant-Anderson has launched several new sociology classes and helped develop the bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Healthcare. She serves on the campus’ Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council and Instructional Council, and is co-chair of the Sustainability Committee.



## 2023: Lisa Spitzer and Dan Taylor



*Lisa Spitzer*

Lisa Spitzer started her career as a math teacher, first in Hawaii for four years and then in Yelm, teaching both middle and high school students for 11 years. She loved it, but a conversation with her sister led her to Centralia College.

“I told my sister that I wanted to teach adults one day and right away she saw a position at Centralia College,” Spitzer recalled. “She said, ‘I think this is for you.’”

Spitzer has been teaching pre-college math at Centralia College since 2013.

“At the pre-college level is where I feel most useful,” she said. “Most students are scared of math. Maybe they’ve never been to college before or they’ve been away for 20 -plus years. I love to build their confidence and show them they can do this.”

In addition to teaching at the main Centralia campus, Spitzer also teaches youth offenders at Green Hill School in Chehalis. The partnership with the college started in 2020 and has grown from initially helping students recover some high school credits to now earning bachelor’s degrees while incarcerated.

“Working out at Green Hill has really rejuvenated my love of teaching,” she said. “If they can get a degree before they’re released, they’re the least likely to reoffend. At that point, it’s not just opening doors, it’s saving lives.”



*Dan Taylor*

Math professor Dan Taylor began his career at Centralia College in 1995 as a math tutor through the TRIO Student Support Services program (a federal support program for first-generation, low-income students and those with disabilities). That position led to teaching pre-college math through the college’s Transitional Education program. When he went back to school for his master’s degree, he continued to teach at Centralia College part-time in the summers before being hired as a full-time math professor nearly 20 years ago.

Though Taylor teaches math at all levels, he loves calculus the most.

“Calculus is kind of like the bridge between what most people think of as math and the science behind math,” he said. “I love calculus. I’ve always loved math, though. I was the kid all the other kids went to when they had problems with their math homework.”

In addition to his work in the classroom, Taylor has been working on two larger projects for CC math and science students. He is working with The Evergreen State College to build direct transfer routes from Centralia College to Evergreen’s science programs. He is also working through the details of a new bachelor’s degree at CC, a Bachelor’s of Science in Computer Science, which Taylor hopes to launch in fall 2024.



## 2022: Joe Burr and Brian Rauscher



*Joe Burr*

Joe Burr teaches pre-college English and college-prep classes and serves as the faculty advisor for students in Centralia College's youth education program at Green Hill School in Chehalis. He's been at Centralia College since 2013. At that time, he taught part-time both at CC and St. Martin's University, and was a student in graduate school. In 2019, he was offered a full-time, tenured position at CC.

"I love the students I teach and the faculty I work with, and the programs we offer," he said. "

Of all the classes he teaches, English is his favorite.

"I loved English until high school and it became a struggle for me. I lost my writer's voice. I hear that from a lot of students. They loved writing until they got to the red ink stage in high school, and they struggled," he said. "I know what that felt like and it doesn't have to be that way."

Burr, a native of Lacey, said it was a great honor to be chosen as an Exceptional Faculty Award winner.



*Brian Rauscher*

Brian Rauscher grew up in the Midwest, but fell in love with the Pacific Northwest as a graduate student at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. After working in Colorado for ten years, a faculty counselor position opened at Centralia College in 2018 and Rauscher jumped at the chance to return.

Rauscher advises between 100-130 students every quarter, and also teaches human resources classes. For the last three years, he has also been co-chair of the Guided Pathways Committee, which has been working toward a comprehensive revision of CC's educational offerings to better serve students and to make degree completion easier to navigate.

"I love the wide range of students coming in with amazing backgrounds, interests, and goals," he said.

He added that it's an honor to be recognized as an Exceptional Faculty Award winner.

"It's very humbling," he said. "I'm very fortunate to work at such a dynamic institution and fortunate to work with so many amazing people."



## 2021: Teneal Gustafson and Michelle Harris



*Teneal Gustafson*

Teneal Gustafson has been a nurse for 23 years. While working in a pediatric intensive care unit, she was assigned a student nurse. She said she found the experience so rewarding, she moved into teaching six years ago.

“When I decided to teach, I knew right away I wanted to teach here,” she said. “This is my alma mater. My degree from Centralia College changed my life- I wanted to give something back.”

All classes are taught by a team of instructors in the Nursing program, so Gustafson teaches every class at every level of the program.

“I love those ‘aha’ moments- when something they previously didn’t understand just clicks,” she said. “I also love seeing former students out in the workplace. I think the most gratifying thing is seeing one of my former students precepting one of my current students.”

In response to pandemic restrictions, Gustafson stepped up for the Nursing program, assisting others with teaching technologies and helping develop online tools to help students and faculty. She hosted workshops for other faculty members, created technology cheat sheets, and taught others how to enhance their online teaching with technology.

In addition to teaching, Gustafson is active on the Curriculum Review Committee and serves as chair of the Nursing department.



*Michelle Harris*

Michelle Harris had been teaching part-time in the Portland area for six years when she was hired at Centralia College full-time in 2017. A native Washingtonian, she and her husband wanted to live closer to family and Centralia College was a good opportunity.

She teaches geology at CC and loves every class.

“I really enjoy all of them, and I mean it!” she said. “Geology 108-Natural Hazards is the most popular, but, if I had to choose, I would pick Geology 103- Historical Geology because I am slightly obsessed with paleontology and dinosaurs. I am so fascinated with how much we know about Earth’s past.”

While a passion for geology led her into teaching, it’s a love for students that makes the job rewarding year after year.

“I love seeing students get excited about the Earth,” she added. “I love seeing them succeed in my classes and get over their ‘fear’ of science. I love sharing my passion for rocks, volcanoes, dinosaurs, and climate change with others.”

In addition to teaching, Harris is the coordinator of the Rising Tides Seminar Series (science-themed series of guest speakers). She is also active on the college’s Sustainability Committee, Assessment Committee, and the Exceptional Student Award Committee, and is the faculty advisor for the Environmental Science Club for students.

She is an active member in several professional programs, including SAGE (Supporting and Advancing Geoscience Education), AEG (Association of Environmental Geologists), AWG (Association of Women Geologists), and NAGT (National Association of Geoscience Teachers). She also volunteers with the Mount St Helens Institute to lead guided geology hikes into the crater at the summit every summer.





## 2020: Georganne Copeland and Emmy Kreilkamp



*Georganne Copeland*

Georganne Copeland has experienced Centralia College on both sides of the teaching podium. She was a Centralia College student first and, in 1985, returned to the college as a part-time keyboarding teacher. She was hired by Alice Forth, who became dean of students in 1989; Copeland took Forth's full-time teaching position at that time. She's been teaching business technology classes at CC ever since.

Keyboarding remains one of her favorite classes to teach.

"Keyboarding has been a consistent part of my workload and I enjoy helping students develop strong skills that help with their college work, in their personal life, and in the workplace," she said. "But, I also enjoy teaching Business Communications for those same reasons. Recently, my interaction with the (bachelor's degree) students has been a highlight. I appreciate their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn."

Copeland said she enjoys watching students build confidence as they progress through her classes.

"I always knew I wanted to teach, but it took my Centralia College instructors, Alice Forth and Marge Wieland, to show me this path," she added. "I am grateful to them for opening that door."



*Emmy Kreilkamp*

Emmy Kreilkamp came to Centralia College from Chicago after being offered a full-time tenure-track theatre position in the spring of 2016. She said she was attracted to the position because it allowed her to teach theatre, direct plays, and experience all the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

"The Pacific Northwest won me over with its proximity to the coast, mountains, and plentiful hiking and camping areas," she said. "I am happy to claim this region as my new home."

Kreilkamp currently teaches all of CC's drama classes from acting to playwriting, and some English classes such as Shakespeare and Screenwriting. She also directs 3 plays a year, is the faculty advisor for the Theatre Club, and oversees the summer theatre program for young people.

"I think teaching Beginning Acting is my favorite," she said. "Many students take it for a new experience (as it is different from their other classes), which allows me to engage with many different majors and people of diverse interests. I enjoy seeing people transform into characters and use their imaginations in an interactive way."

She said teaching has been an exceptionally rewarding choice of career and she's grateful for the opportunity to connect with students.

"Seeing students move from being lukewarm on a topic on the first day of classes to engaged and passionate about the subject matter is the most rewarding part about teaching," she said. "Regardless where they end up, I hope my students leave my classes with a stronger appreciation for and understanding of the arts."



## 2019: Dr. Sharon Mitchler and Peggy Goldberg



*Dr. Sharon Mitchler*

In her 21st year as an English and humanities professor at Centralia College, this is Dr. Sharon Mitchler's third Exceptional Faculty Award.

"Sharon has clearly exhibited her desire to motivate students to expand their critical thinking and discourse skills in her classroom by her personal example to continue to learn and grow as an instructor," said Centralia College Foundation Executive Director Christine Fossett.

Mitchler earned her PhD in 2015 specifically so Centralia College students would be included in important research. "Until you have a formal title and a different kind of training, they don't consider you," Mitchler said. "I wanted to contribute something to the larger field ... and [Centralia College students] have some powerfully different qualities."

Mitchler is currently involved in a national eight-university study that is redefining the way English 101 and other writing courses are taught. "There's a whole movement," she said. "They learn to take a writing situation, figure out what they need to accomplish, who they're writing to and what structures they need to apply, and then write it." The curriculum is already yielding exciting results.



*Peggy Goldberg*

Peggy Goldberg has been a Running Start counselor at Centralia College for over two decades. She uses her private practice counseling experience and passion for animal-assisted therapy to guide young students.

"Peggy's dedication to assisting the students and advising them – not only on classes but on their personal readiness and goals – helps them move toward success," Fossett said.

When Goldberg earned the Exceptional Faculty Award, it came as a complete surprise. "I don't create amazing big things," she said, "I just love working with my students. I attempt to find what's best for them, help them find their path, and I'm here for them when they need me."

She brings therapy dogs to campus during finals week and gives special class presentations with her dog, Dewey. "Dog night is the most crowded study night for finals in the library," she said. "The energy changes in a room when a dog walks in. Animals can really help decrease stress and students bond around them. They bring people together."

Goldberg uses multiple techniques to guide and support her students. One Running Start mother recently wrote and thanked her for seeing each child as an individual and helping them find their own unique path. Goldberg enjoys the process. "I love how their eyes get opened, especially living in a smaller rural community," she said. "They get exposed to so much at the college, it really expands their world. I love watching that develop."





## 2018: Preston Kiekel and David Peterson



*Preston Kiekel*

Preston Kiekel started as an adjunct math instructor at Centralia College in 2013. A community college graduate himself, Preston went on to earn his bachelor's degree from California State University, and his master's and doctorate degrees from New Mexico State University.

He was a statistician at nonprofit organizations for over 10 years. His work at universities and colleges drew him to teaching.

"I love the connection of helping someone learn new ideas and reach new goals," he said. "The great thing about education is that, at the end of it, you have become something new and have achieved goals you could not have imagined before. Knowledge is transformative."

Dr. Kiekel is now a tenured professor of math, including statistics, industrial math, and other topics. He teaches both at Centralia College's main campus and at Cedar Creek Corrections Center. He has even taught psychology.

"I love teaching them all in different ways. Helping someone to learn the math they need to be an auto mechanic is rewarding in a different way from inspiring a motivated student to take Math 246 (intermediate statistics)," he explained.

In his free time, Dr. Kiekel enjoys playing medieval music.



*David Peterson*

David Peterson started teaching classes in Centralia College's Electronics, Robotics, and Automation program in 2011. He had just finished his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Washington State University – Vancouver. He didn't anticipate a career in teaching initially.

"At the time, if I had looked ahead, I would have predicted I'd be teaching engineering, but now it's the hands-on stuff I really like. That's how I learned and everything I do now is hands-on," he described. "I wouldn't have predicted that in 2011 when I first started teaching."

Peterson has since earned tenure and manages the ERA and Mechatronics programs. He works closely with local and regional employers and is constantly modifying and updating the programs to ensure graduates succeed in the workplace. Centralia College's program is the model for the entire state.

Personally, he's enjoyed the connections of being in a smaller community.

"I always wanted a job here," said Peterson, a Boistfort native and Centralia College graduate. "I really value this community. The ability to connect with our local workforce and our schools has really made this job personal to me – it's my home and I'm glad to be able to stay here and to be invested in my hometown."



## 2017: Jeff McQuarrie and Connie Smejkal



*Jeff McQuarrie*

Jeff McQuarrie spent much of his early career in business. He was the president and marketing director of a fishing resort in Alaska, and had his own video production company. But, he wanted more.

“Although both jobs were fun, I didn’t feel I was really making the world a better place,” he said. “I think we all have a deep craving to change people’s lives for the better, and teaching does that. I still keep in touch with students from the first class I taught here in 2011. I’ve lived all over the country, but Lewis County people are special.”

McQuarrie started teaching communications part-time, first at Centralia College East and then at both campuses. He now teaches nearly all of the communications studies courses available at CC, including public speaking, intro to mass media, and debate. His favorite class is advanced public speaking.

“That class attracts some gifted characters, who really know how to make learning fun,” he said. “Most days, when I leave that class, my jaw hurts from laughing so much. It’s so cool to have a new student who is frightened to death on the first day of an introductory public speaking course, who then goes on to take the advanced course. Guiding them from ‘frightened to fanatic’ about public speaking is one of the biggest joys I’ve ever felt.”



*Connie Smejkal*

Connie Smejkal came to Centralia College in 2006 with no previous experience teaching. In fact, she started as an office assistant and was promoted twice, first to program coordinator and then to dean of Workforce and Continuing Education. Spurred by her success, she finished her master’s degree and began teaching classes part-time. Something clicked immediately.

“I caught the teaching bug. I loved the classroom and watching students learn and grow. I was hooked,” she said.

As soon as a full-time teaching position opened, Smejkal applied and soon found herself on the tenure track. She took a hiatus from teaching to serve as the assistant dean of the bachelor’s degree programs, but she returned to teaching full-time after one year.

She now teaches a variety of business and accounting courses. Her favorite class is human relations in the workplace.

“This class helps students work on their interpersonal skills,” she explained. “Since the course is required of all workforce students, I appreciate the diversity in the classroom. The course is engaging, contains material everyone can relate to, and provides a lot of opportunities for fun learning experiences for students.”



## 2016: Carmen VanTuyl and Karen Goodwin



*Carmen VanTuyl*

Carmen VanTuyl has worked with students as a Running Start coordinator and counselor in the college advising center since 1993.

“Centralia College is one of the few colleges in the state that has designated Running Start advisors on campus,” she said. “We’re able to advise students on exactly what they need to go on to college and be successful. I feel very fortunate this college made a commitment early on to its Running Start students.”

VanTuyl serves on the Calendar Committee and Instructional Council, and is chair of the Advising Steering Committee. She is also a member of the National Academic Advising Association.

She has lived in Lewis County for the past 35 years, and is very involved in the Adna community. VanTuyl is a member of the Adna Scholarship Committee, the Washington State 4-H Dairy Endowment, and Lewis County Dairy Women, and plays in the hand bell choir at the United Methodist Church. She also volunteers with 4-H and the Dairy Ambassador program.

“I really love working with all kinds of students,” explained VanTuyl. “Whether they’re a first generation student or a dislocated worker, helping them find what their passions are and then translating that into an educational plan is so rewarding to me. You really do have a chance to make a difference in their lives.”



*Karen Goodwin*

Karen Goodwin is an associate professor of chemistry and the founder and facilitator of the student research Capstone Projects. Now in its fourth year, the Capstone Projects are on the cutting edge; it is the first program of its kind in the state to offer funding for community college student research projects. With the generous financial support of the Foundation board, these aspiring scientists, engineers, and others now have the opportunity to put their ideas into action.

Goodwin explained she had originally designed the Capstone Projects as an opportunity to showcase her organic chemistry students’ research projects. However, she quickly began to see Capstone as a wonderful opportunity to showcase student excellence in all areas—not just the sciences—and has encouraged participation from other disciplines throughout the college.

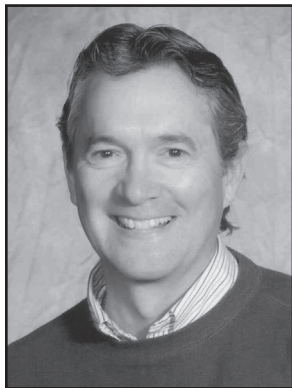
She is the student Science Club advisor, and past secretary and current chair-elect of the Puget Sound Section of the American Chemical Society, which has allowed her to create close collaborations with chemistry teachers from The Evergreen State College, St. Martins University, University of Washington, and Pacific Lutheran University, as well as with faculty from other community colleges.

Goodwin is the creator of Chemistry Bootcamp, which allows students to brush up on their chemistry skills in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. In addition, Goodwin also encourages her students to explore independent research projects, which are often used to enhance the curriculum in their chemistry labs.

“I’m blown away by the quality of faculty and staff at Centralia College,” Goodwin said. “The support and encouragement to try new things to enhance our students’ experience is amazing and rare at a community college. Not only does it create an atmosphere of creativity for me as an instructor, but it also provides an exciting and creative outlet for our students to expand their learning experience and better prepare for the work they’ll be doing at the university level.”



## 2015: Brian Tyrrell and Dr. Gregory van Alstyn



*Brian Tyrrell*

For 24 years, Brian Tyrrell has invested his time, talent, and teaching skills into Centralia College's dramatic arts program. His list of accomplishments include directing and/or producing 94 plays and musicals involving more than 550 Centralia College students as actors and technicians.

Tyrrell has served as advisor to The Players Club, chairman of the Fine and Performing Arts Department, CC 101 instructor, and member of various committees. Outside of his college duties, Tyrrell has taught summer theater classes for young performers and for various academies, and served as a guest equity artist, director and lecturer on multiple occasions. He is also a member of numerous professional organizations.

His past awards include the Exemplary Status Award from the Washington Community and Technical College Humanities Association, Centralia College's Exceptional Faculty Award in 2000, the NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Golden Medallion, the highest award presented by the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival.

"I'm most proud of the thousands of students and community members I've had the privilege to encourage, enlighten and entertain via the classroom and the stage," Tyrrell said.



*Dr. Gregory van Alstyn*

With three masters' degrees and a doctorate in social and cultural anthropology from Oxford University, Centralia College anthropology professor Dr. Greg van Alstyn has impressive academic credentials. However, it is his firsthand experiences—spending more than 10 cumulative years in more than 65 different countries—that bring depth and passion to his teaching.

When Dr. van Alstyn first started teaching at Centralia College 20 years ago, there was only one anthropology course. Over time, he developed five more courses, all products of his numerous years of graduate study and cross-cultural experiences. In addition, Dr. van Alstyn researched, developed and co-led 12 different anthropological field trips to various parts of Latin America and Cambodia, immersing students in indigenous cultures.

"I believe these field trips have elevated the anthropology program at Centralia College above that of all the other community colleges in Washington," he said.

Dr. van Alstyn has served on various campus committees, written and presented several publications and papers, tutored foreign students, and has been awarded Phi Theta Kappa Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year, CC Exceptional Faculty Award, and the NISOD Excellence Award. Off campus, he has served the community as a youth baseball and soccer coach and a high school chaperone for several events.





## 2014: Dr. Atara MacNamara and Michael Threapleton



*Atara MacNamara*

Understanding human behavior can be considered essential for success in so many areas of life and Atara MacNamara, Centralia College associate professor of psychology, has a reputation for opening the doors to an understanding of behavior.

“There is so much to learn about how the brain functions,” MacNamara said. “We are just beginning to understand brain activity.” The desire to understand how the mind works and how it benefits us is why she is a psychologist; the enjoyment she experiences as students explore and understand the complexities of psychology is why she teaches.

She believes that the study of psychology is on the verge of exciting discoveries as science strives to understand personality and behavior and to develop methods to improve on the quality of life. New developments and enhanced understanding can help people fit better in society, help individuals live better in relationships, and go a long way toward reducing our dependence on mood-altering medications.

“An exciting part of teaching is sharing knowledge and being part of the process that increases student awareness. There is always something new in psychology and learning

about it is important,” she said. “I very much enjoy that part of what I do.”

MacNamara began at Centralia College in 2008 and has taught psychology continuously. She is now expanding to teach upper division-level (bachelor degree-level) courses in leadership and organizational behavior in the college’s bachelor degree program. “I love teaching. It’s the only career I have ever experienced where I have felt that I am doing what I want to do. This is what I should be doing and this is where I want to be doing it,” she said. “This is who I am.”

“I work with a very talented faculty and to receive this award is an honor,” MacNamara said. She is, what many might consider, a late bloomer. She was 58 when she earned her doctorate. “When I started back in school I knew I would go into psychology but I didn’t know where it would take me,” she said. Fortunately, her path led her to Centralia College.



*Michael Threapleton*

Michael Threapleton teaches physics and engineering, two subjects that might be foreign to many but the two are exciting fields as far as he’s concerned. At the turn of the last century, he said, there were many who thought that just about everything had been figured out and learning about and understanding the laws of was nearing an end.

“Many believed that we knew just about all there was to know about physics,” Threapleton said. Then Albert Einstein introduced new theories and, “Suddenly there was an explosion of new information that told us how little we really knew. New questions were being asked and science had to search for answers.”

With the more recent discovery of dark matter and dark energy, “We are now looking at another explosion that tells us again how much we have to learn. We’ve been studying about five percent of what’s out there. We’ve got a whole new universe to figure out,” he said.

The quest for that understanding drives him and passing on that passion for learning is why he teaches. His peers who nominated him for the Exceptional Faculty Award have recognized that passion.

“I very much enjoy teaching. Physics is hard and not a lot of students choose to study physics because it is hard, but it is rewarding and to hear from our graduates who say that they leave here well prepared to succeed. That is very meaningful,” Threapleton said.

He is also high on Centralia College. “I’m very proud to work here. This college is at the top of the heap of the state’s college system. We have impressive facilities and I work with very amazing colleagues. I believe that we do a lot of great work here,” Threapleton said.

Part of that work is reflected in the fact that all of his transfer engineering students have gone on to complete their bachelor’s degree. He has also worked with teams of students who entered the human powered paper vehicle contest. The teams constructed a tricycle, roller-skates, and a wagon entirely out of paper and competed in speed trials. The Centralia College teams placed third and received an honorable mention for innovation in design.





## 2013: Sharon Mitchler and Calvin Taylor

Sharon Mitchler, professor of English and Humanities, and Calvin Taylor, professor of Electronics, are the Exceptional Faculty Award recipients for 2013.



Sharon Mitchler

Sharon Mitchler said receiving the Exceptional Faculty Award is a high honor.

“The fact that I was even nominated is incredibly important to me. I was surprised and delighted to receive it,” Mitchler said. “It’s an affirmation of all I’ve been engaged in and everything I’ve participated in over the years.” She added that it is very meaningful when colleagues recognize that “what I am doing is valuable.”

Mitchler said that teaching is the center of her professional life and that she appreciates the challenges students bring.

“Each is different and I have to be aware of what’s going on with them,” she said. It’s an awareness that helps her to be more engaged with her students and methods to help students be more successful. “It’s a rush,” she said.

She also embraces new teaching methods.

“There’s always something new to be using and content is shifting.” She cited the growth in online learning and the advent of the college’s bachelor’s degree program as examples. Those challenge help her hone her teaching skills.

One of the biggest changes in her life since first receiving the award in 2004, has been her work toward her doctorate. She will defend her dissertation this year, the final step toward her Ph.D.

With her Ph.D., Mitchler believes she will carry more influence when she speaks to Congressional leaders about the importance of two-year colleges and the increasing numbers of students who attend those colleges.

“Most of those in Congress have a four-year college or university educational background,” Mitchler said. “They need a better understanding of community colleges. I will be able to use research to bring new information about the differing needs of our students to further their understanding.”

Mitchler has served as the chair of the national Two-Year College English Association and has chaired national committees for that organization. Her duties have included advocating for community colleges.

She serves as a reviewer for journals in her field, including: *Teaching English in the Two-Year College* and *College Composition and Communications*.



Calvin Taylor

For Cal Taylor, professor of electronics at Centralia College, receiving the 2013 Exceptional Faculty Award is recognition of his continued commitment to quality instruction. Taylor received the award the first time in 2002.

“I really enjoy teaching,” Taylor said. “Teaching electronics is important but I believe that it’s equally important to more fully develop each student.” For him, that could mean to find the weakness of a student and fix it or find the strength and reinforce it.

“Each class of students is different, with different challenges and I continue to learn from them.” His motivation comes from his desire to pass on the success he experienced as a student here. “I don’t get tired of doing this,” he said.

“Success comes when the student learns but more importantly it comes when lives are changed,” he said. Taylor recognizes that students enroll because they want the skills that will land them a good job.

“The electronics program is very good at that,” Taylor said. He continues to maintain solid connections with industry leaders such as Intel. He invites representatives from these companies to visit the campus and meet the students. This, he said, often results in job offers being made, even before the student graduates. “That is a very good measure of success.”

“I strive to give each student the maximum opportunity for success. I work very hard to do my best for the benefit of our students.” Part of that is making sure he changes with the times.

“The basics of electronics won’t change but new technologies come into focus and what people do with electronics can change,” Taylor said. He mentioned the growth in robotics.

“This is a growth industry now. A lot of job opportunities are available, which is why we have an emphasis on that,” he said.

Taylor first became interested in electronics in the early 1960s and he took his first class in that field at W.F. West High School in 1966. He began teaching at the college in 1979.

“I was fortunate to have very good instructors when I was a student and very fortunate to get a job here and work with such great faculty and a top-notch administration,” Taylor said.



## 2012: Nola Ormrod and Judith Aguilar

Nola Ormrod, associate professor of Nursing and Director of the Nursing Program, and Judith Aguilar, associate professor in the English-as-a-Second Language Program, are the Exceptional Faculty Award recipients for 2012.



*Nola Ormrod*

Nola Ormrod was a driving force in the initiation of the college's nursing program and, as the program administrator for the past 13 years, works diligently to ensure that the high quality standards are met and that the college continues to graduate well-trained nurses.

"I take pleasure and pride in my activities at Centralia College and with the nursing students and nursing faculty," Ormrod said.

While portions of her time are consumed with administrative duties, Ormrod looks forward to working with students, watching their maturity and professional development.

"It is the student contact and teaching that brings me the most satisfaction," she said.

"It is one of a teacher's great joys to see the light of recognition in a student's eyes or hear a question that perfectly sums up the point you have just been trying to make."

In addition to her nursing duties, Ormrod serves on the college's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) Health Advisory Committee and the New Market Skills Center Health Occupations Advisory Committee. She is the college's representative to the Council on Nursing Education in Washington State, a body that is involved in writing and implementing a Master Plan for Nursing Education in Washington.

Ormrod is a board member of the Western Washington Area Health Education Center, a federally and state funded organization that works to "assure equity of and access to health care for underserved rural and urban populations in western Washington."

While she is active in a variety of organizations, students remain her priority.

"Providing a quality educational experience is the first step. Supporting students as they gain professional identity as registered nurses is also vital. This can involve pep talks, facilitating study sessions, accessing college and community resources, exploring career goals, or just listening," Ormrod said.

Given her strong commitment to student success it is no wonder the college has such a strong nursing program.



*Judith Aguilar*

Judith Aguilar came to Centralia College just as the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges mandated standardized testing for students in the English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) program. She quickly got up to speed on the new testing and reporting system and became the trainer for Centralia College faculty.

Aguilar came to the college recognizing a pressing need to provide ESL classes for a growing population whose first language was not English. She developed a comprehensive recruiting campaign that continues to serve as a model for reaching out to various underserved populations to bring them into the program and give them a better understanding of the English language and the American culture.

She does more than teach by going the extra mile to assist students. Aguilar brings in presenters to the ESL program to give talks on issues ranging from hand washing and diabetes, to immigration, combating domestic violence, and dealing with the basics of assimilating into American society. As students come to her with needs, she takes the time to work with her students through their concerns.

Her command of Spanish, familiarity of the Latino culture and her desire to help students achieve have contributed to her strong connection with members of the Latino population. She is called upon to serve as a translator both for written documents and to facilitate interaction between Spanish and English speakers throughout the community. As an active member of St. Mary's Hispanic Community, Aguilar handled baptism and marriage preparation and taught the priest how to read mass in Spanish.

Aguilar is a leader in the community Citizenship Day, a milestone event in the lives of many members of minority communities who choose to become American citizens.

Since she began her work in the ESL program, the college has become more aware of underserved student populations and the importance of helping them achieve their educational and life goals.



## 2011: Dr. Lisa Carlson and Jacob Lund

Dr. Lisa Carlson, associate professor of Biology, and Jacob Lund, associate professor of Civil Engineering Technology, are the Exceptional Faculty Award recipients for 2011.



*Dr. Lisa Carlson*

Dr. Lisa Carlson radiates when she steps out of the college's Science Center. Her love for the outdoors is obvious when she talks to students and faculty about dendrology, the science of trees and shrubs.

"My favorite part of my job is taking students outdoors," Carlson said. She enjoys discussing carbon cycles and plant identification; and emphasizes inquiry-based learning, a style to train students to think like scientists.

She has taught a variety of science classes and has changed her class curriculum three times since she began at Centralia College in 1999. She's a leader, an advisor and uses her expertise to improve more than Centralia College's science department.

Carlson has been involved in helping to create the Kiser Natural Outdoor Learning Lab (KNOLL). An outdoor teaching lab, under development on land located just west of the science building, for the college and community, KNOLL will include ecosystems, which are representative of areas throughout Washington.

"Lisa excels as a teacher, advisor, and colleague. She was one of the first faculty members I met, and she has helped me in my teaching career from day one," associate professor of earth sciences and a 2009 Exceptional Faculty Award recipient, Pat Pringle, said.

Carlson is the chair of the Sustainability Committee and is helping the college become a leader in that field. She supervised a crew of 50 volunteers who planted 250 trees in fields owned by the Port of Chehalis. The planting will enhance wetland habitat, offer residential buffers and will begin to offset college greenhouse gas emissions.

Carlson enjoys hiking, biking and kayaking; and has rediscovered a talent which brings the best of her outdoor adventures into her classroom: photography.



*Jacob Lund*

Tucked in the most western office on campus is the office and classroom of Jacob Lund, who teaches mathematical formulas and soil testing methods to second-year CET students.

His favorite classes are those which mimic outside work – designing and planning highways, roads and stormwater systems. Lund began teaching in 2007 and has been designing and creating courses along the way.

"It's important to include stormwater management because of the amount of rain that falls in Washington," he said. "Stormwater facility design is a component of almost every land development project."

An engineer by heart, Lund has held positions in all facets of the industry including owning and operating an engineering business. Now, however, he prefers working at the college and accepting short-lived projects through RB Engineering in Chehalis, Wash.

"Through various opportunities, I have designed, inspected and served as project engineer on a number of commercial and residential land development projects in western Washington," Lund said.

"I feel very fortunate to be working with Jake," CET assistant professor Ann Alves said. "He knows his field and does whatever it takes to pass on that knowledge to the students."

"My teaching approach is simple: Make classroom activities closely resemble real life engineering situations as much as possible," he said. Instead of using classic textbooks, Lund uses the same design manuals and state resources that are used by engineers.

This year's class of 23 is likely to be the largest class graduating from Centralia College's Civil Engineering Technology.





## 2010: Dr. Steve Norton and Ken Rakoz

Dr. Steve Norton, associate professor of Science, and Ken Rakoz, associate professor of Diesel Equipment Technology, have captured the Exceptional Faculty Award for 2010.



*Dr. Steve Norton*

Dr. Steve Norton teaches eight different classes at the college, involving eight different sets of labs. His responsibilities range from the largest lecture and lab class on campus (Human Anatomy and Physiology) to a week or two in summer environmental courses such as watershed studies.

Pre-professional students, such as those interested in nursing, dental hygiene, and medical careers, dominate several of Norton's courses. "These courses would be challenging enough," Norton explains, "just based on the volume of the material and the intricate details of the processes, but their importance to the career aspirations of the students adds a measure of stress. I need to be demanding and supporting," he continued, "challenging and approachable."

Norton is a leading cheerleader for the college's Science Center where his classes and labs are conducted. "We can now have dedicated labs for specific courses," Norton points out. "This has been a boon for scheduling. For Anatomy and Physiology, for example, I can organize weekly open lab opportunities, allowing students to review histological slides and anatomical models from previous weeks.

As many as 40 students a week may take advantage of this opportunity in the periods before exams." Still, the students are the impetus for Norton's continuing concentration on excellence. "The pinning ceremony for nursing students who have persevered in their LPN or RN programs," he beams, "is one of the true highlights of my year."

Aside from his instructional duties, Norton has led the charge that has resulted in nearly \$1 million in grants for science equipment and scholarships for science students.



*Ken Rakoz*

Two personal attributes probably played a huge part in the nomination and selection of Rakoz to "Exceptional Faculty" honors.

First is his unyielding work ethic, which he is able to effectively communicate to his students. He spends a great percentage of his "spare" time on matters related to his classes and his students, helping them with problems at any time, even after they've joined the workforce throughout the region.

"I'm still a dairy kid inside," Rakoz grins, "who just works 'til it's finished for the day and then comes back to do it again tomorrow."

The other element of his extraordinary student-teacher relationship is his willingness to volunteer large blocks of time to student success. He does program fundraising, built a diesel dragster that promotes the program and the college, and travelled to Malawi to teach a class in diesel technology and help build the infrastructure at the University of Malawi, one of our sister colleges, in Malawi, Africa. He even raised much of the money to bring a Malawi student to Centralia College so that student could earn his college degree and return to teach diesel technology in that emerging nation.

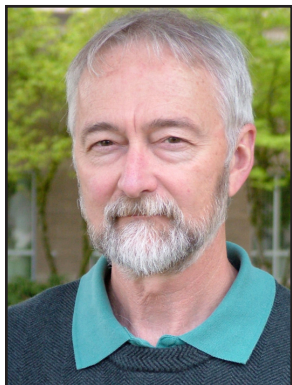
The high placement rate of diesel graduates into top jobs and the reputation of Centralia College in the diesel industry are factors of which Rakoz is understandably proud. His greatest source of personal satisfaction, however, remains with the students and the success they have in their chosen field.

"I am especially proud," he explains, "that two of my former students have chosen to go on and teach diesel technology and share what they learned with others. There are many, many former students who continue to impress me with their accomplishments, and I know that their solid foundations at Centralia College played a role."



## 2009: Pat Pringle and John Fasler

John Fasler, associate professor of Business, and Patrick Pringle, associate professor of Earth Sciences, have captured the Exceptional Faculty Award for 2009.



*Pat Pringle*

Pat Pringle brought over 26 years of geology-related professional experience to his classrooms, providing him a great deal of on-site practical knowledge. He is able to use humor and even drama in the classroom with a narration style that includes stories and lots of rhetorical questions. The strategy works very well for Pringle.

“I believe students get pulled in by a story or are more closely connected if they feel a sense of relevance about the subject matter,” Pringle explained, and then smiled. “I’ve also found there is a wonderfully edgy sense of expectation and alertness in the classroom if the audience never knows quite what to expect next!”

Pringle combines labs and fieldwork to achieve lab science outcomes such as developing quantitative and spatial reasoning skills. “That technique has been especially successful in the Weather and Climate class.” Pringle explained. “Field trips have been key learning situations in my Natural Hazards and Catastrophes and Geology of the Pacific Northwest classes.”

Pringle believes field trips are critical if students are to adequately learn spatial reasoning skills in the earth sciences. In the natural laboratory they can see geologic features and deposits in context.

His students love it—and they learn the material beyond all expectations. “Some of my students have proven to be real achievers,” Pringle beamed. “One just graduated Cumma Cum Laude from Central Washington University and is entering a master’s program in Geological Sciences.

Pringle tells his students that every study is like a trip down the river. “I may have rowed down this stretch a few times,” he laughs, “but the rapids and hydraulics have changed since the last time. So I explain I’m not taking them on a scenic tour on this academic float trip; each has a paddle and is expected to use it!”

The metaphor applies directly to each student contributing to the forward momentum of the classroom—and the results are almost magical for this Exceptional Faculty award-winner.

Pringle also has a reputation of expertise outside of the classroom, having been called upon to share his knowledge of the geology of the region on a History Channel program dealing with volcanic eruptions.



*John Fasler*

During his teaching career at Centralia College, John Fasler has expanded the business program from just four advisees to a current level of over 70. To serve his large student base, Fasler has worked extensively on curriculum development and met with representatives of several four-year institutions to develop programs consistent with baccalaureate transfer requirements. To insure continuance of useful program objectives, Fasler independently recruited an advisory team consisting of CPAs and financial professionals from the local community to discuss program and industry needs.

Most of all, Fasler has developed a strong connection and rapport with students from diverse academic, cultural, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, and all levels of ability and expertise. He has taken the time and effort to tailor individual programs of study, schedules, and work plans that will meet their individual needs—and will work for them.

“I’ve always tried to instill the benefits of developing good study habits and constructive work skills,” Fasler said. “Those are the habits that will assist them as they enter the working world.”

Individual students have individual needs, Fasler concludes, and he provides that. “I schedule extra time into my advising sessions,” Fasler added, “to ensure my students have full opportunity to discuss their needs and learn to move ahead with proper course scheduling.”

Fasler also continues to keep an eye open for new courses and new programs that would serve to help students compete for job openings in the business and accounting fields. It is important for him, he said, to always be aware of job market requirements, trends in the field, and training needs that would provide a broader range of skills. His ability to bring this information also serves to keep Fasler focused on the responsibility he has of providing the highest levels of service to his students.





## 2008: Dr. Susanne Weil and Randy Johnson

Dr. Susanne Weil, associate professor of English and Randy Johnson, associate professor of Developmental English, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2008.



*Dr. Susanne Weil*

Dr. Susanne Weil, a native of New York's Bronx who attended high school in the NYC suburb of Pelham, joined the Centralia College faculty from Whittier College in California.

Weil attended Pennsylvania's Swarthmore College with every intention of becoming a clinical psychologist. Taking her junior year at the University of Keele in Stratfordshire, England, changed her future dramatically. Already keenly interested in literature, Weil delved into English studies, Chaucer, and Icelandic sagas.

By the time she completed a senior thesis on a psychological analysis of Thomas Hardy's novels, her fascination with literature had taken center stage.

After graduation, Weil enrolled at the University of California in Berkeley for what she called her "huge experiment in post-graduate education."

Weil's teaching philosophy is centered on each student. She considers it her mandate to help them overcome obstacles of insecurity, minimum wage jobs, and work that has little meaning to them. "I serve as a 'personal trainer for the mind' for each of my students." Weil takes the college motto, "improving people's lives through lifelong learning" to heart. She tries to instill in every student the curiosity and the enthusiasm to make personal

improvement an ongoing, permanent quest.

Weil serves as chair of the Honors Advisory Council, overseeing a program that gives the strongest students a chance to challenge themselves; served on the Diversity Committee, and is active on the college Assessment Committee. Weil is a board member of the Washington Community College Humanities Association.

An ardent student of Mark Twain, Weil has presented and published extensively on events that influenced Twain's writing and career. At home, Weil devotes much time to the community food bank, a member of the Lewis County Master Gardener's Foundation, and works on community fundraisers.

"I dearly love sharing the power and beauty of great British and American writers with my students," Weil concluded, "especially my beloved Mark Twain, whose work I manage to weasel in one form or another into virtually everything I teach."



*Randy Johnson*

After graduation from Columbia University, Randy Johnson got involved in developing an alternative middle/high school in Olympia. It was an accredited, non-profit experimental school for students who had failed to adapt to regular schools.

During this period Johnson realized how many students were either too poorly equipped academically or socially to enter college after high school. "Breaking that trend," he explained, "could constitute a major breakthrough in development for hundreds of young people."

Johnson began working in a small but promising Adult Basic Education and high school completion program at Centralia College. Twenty-seven years, a master's degree in English learning, and thousands of students later, Johnson is still helping make these critical adult betterment programs among the best in the Northwest.

Johnson was the college's first Diversity Coordinator, serving a decade in that post while he recruited students and promoted the diversity concept throughout the region.

Johnson interacts on a personal level with most of his students. "I ask students to write about themselves and their experiences, and they do," Johnson explained. "But it's more

than that. I talk with them. I try to find out what they like, how they think, and what moves them." His teaching style is effective and immensely popular with his students.

"I try to make the classroom alive," Johnson declared. "I try to teach each person first as a person of value, then as a student, then as a member of his or her own community."

Johnson brought his passion for preparing underserved people and populations for personal growth and independence through college education. "I consider it my job to help empower every student I meet," Johnson said, "especially those who for some reason have not benefited from the resources of the community. I'm proud that I have played a part in helping build critical programs that didn't always get the respect I believe they deserve."



## 2007: Jack Bishop

Professor Jack Bishop, a counselor at the Garrett Heyns Education Center at the Washington State Corrections Center at Shelton, was selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2007.



*Jack Bishop*

The 2007 Exceptional Faculty award recipient is Jack Bishop, a 32-year veteran of Centralia College assigned to the Garrett Heyns Education Center at the Washington Corrections Center at Shelton. His tenure has been marked by innovation, enormous success with student-inmates, and a firm belief in the principles set forth by Garrett Heyns, a pioneer in prison education.

Beginning his career at Garrett Heyns Educational Center as a counselor, Bishop soon became part of the faculty team that conducted many of the education programs at the center. “For about 20 years I had the privilege of helping thousands of students earn high school diplomas, vocational certificates, and two-year associate degrees,” Bishop said. “Knowing that these folks did well in the community and had the lowest recidivism rates is a treasured part of my career.” Recidivism is relapse into criminal behavior and the low recidivism rate of those who have taken advantage of educational offerings has been a measure of the Centralia College program.

In 1995 Bishop began teaching the Victim Awareness Education Program. “This is an intense class,” he explained, “that has helped offenders begin to understand the impacts their crimes had on victims.” Bishop said his most rewarding work at the center was breaking through the resistance and seeing some of the insights that students would develop. Bishop helped develop and write a statewide curriculum for the program so that other institutions may benefit from the singular success the Victim Awareness initiative has enjoyed at the Washington Corrections Center. Early in the program, Bishop observed, “Student self-evaluations consistently indicate this is a pivotal learning experience in the inmate’s efforts toward personal change.”

Bishop has devoted much of his energy for the past few years to developing and teaching courses in career planning and goal-setting. “The goal is to encourage offenders to make the most of the opportunities for training available to them during their time here, and thus be prepared for their return to the community.”

Bishop will retire from the faculty at the end of June and is looking forward to continued activity. “Susan (his wife) and I plan to do some traveling,” he noted. “Hawaii is in our summer plans, and we expect to spend more time with our three children and four grandchildren.”

His schedule, however, appears to remain busy. “I have begun, and plan to continue, part-time work as the administrator for the Olympia Christian Reformed Church,” he said, then smiled, “It’s an opportunity to transition from one passion to another, you might say.”

Bishop also enjoys hiking and camping, working on cars, volunteering with the Thurston County Furniture Bank, and reading.

For more than 32 years Jack Bishop has helped keep the original Garrett Heyns concept—that education is the key function of an effective corrections system—operating smoothly. In those years Bishop has substantially aided literally thousands of his students to return to a positive place in society. His energy and innovation have helped keep the Garrett Heyns Education Center a national model of achievement.



## 2006: Doris Wood and Greg Garman

Doris Wood, associate professor of English and Greg Garman, professor of Biology, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2006.



*Doris Wood*

Doris Wood brought a wealth of teaching experience to Centralia College when she arrived in 1989 as an adjunct instructor. She had taught for nearly 20 years in a rural school district not far from her childhood home in Colorado. Her late husband was a high school teacher and administrator, so the couple began their “second career” looking for special teaching challenges where their combined skills and experience would make a difference.

Wood teaches students communication skills in writing, expanding vocabularies, writing strategies, discovering new authors and finding substantive research to support their theses. “Helping them find new material, or discover a writer’s work that opens doors for them is a thrill,” she said. “And seeing their pride in their own work is just frosting on the cake.” Because of her classroom skills, including her ability to motivate her students, she enjoys a lot of frosting. She recognizes student success when her students transfer and do well, become successful employees in their chosen career paths, and say they are enjoying learning. “That exemplifies excellence,” she said.

She serves the college and her colleagues as the chair of the English/Communications Department, a faculty representative to the Student Policy Council and a sponsor of Future Teachers of America.

Earlier in her career, Wood taught at Port Orford, Oregon, and the family later spent time teaching at North Slope Borough schools in Barrow, Alaska.

After she settled in at Centralia College, she accepted increasing roles of leadership on the campus while she was gaining a reputation as a skilled, professional, and popular instructor. “The high point of my teaching,” she explained, “is watching students succeed. It’s a great reward to have students tell me that something they took from my classes made a difference in their lives.”



*Greg Garman*

Greg Garman’s arrival on the Centralia College campus was an instant classic. He visited the college, recognized that he would be in a position to fulfill his heartfelt ambition of teaching and, as they say, the rest is history. He has spent his entire professional life providing inspired education to hundreds upon hundreds of science students.

After earning his undergraduate degree in California, a master’s at Oregon State, and a tour at the Army Medical Field School, Garman joined the faculty at Centralia College in 1973. “It was my first and only ‘real’ job,” Garman laughed. To the continuing benefit of his students and Centralia College, Garman spent more than 30 years in classrooms and laboratories here. He will retire from full-time service this spring but expects to continue teaching on a more relaxed schedule.

Besides being one of the most respected and popular members of the faculty, Garman has been active in virtually every phase of college administrative activities, from accreditation, marketing, and research, to being science division chairman for more than a decade. Among his innovations is the cadaver dissection component of a zoology class conducted in coordination with the University of Washington Department of Biological

Structures. He was also on the forefront of the development and use of the Web for use in his curriculum. He has made presentations including a talk on “Pandemic Flu - the Blue Death” as part of the Lyceum; and talks on biological agents and terrorism, water in the human body, and antibiotic resistance and epidemic disease, all part of the Phi Theta Kappa Speaker Series.

In addition to having received the Exceptional Faculty Award in 1992, Garman received the Award of Excellence from the Washington Federation of Teachers in 1993, and was the Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar of the Year Award recipient in 1992 and 2002.

Garman has brought a level of innovation and achievement to his classes that has resulted in unqualified success for many Centralia College students.



## 2005: Randy Kostick and Terry Carver

Randy Kostick, associate professor of Math, and Terry Carver, associate professor of Business and Marketing/Management, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2005.



*Randy Kostick*

The fact that students are required to take math courses at Centralia College can be the source of fear and trepidation for those who believe they have few or no math skills. Randy Kostick has built a reputation as a beacon of hope for those students.

“Randy has the ability to not only connect with his students but to convey in a very understandable manner the concepts of math. I believe that there are hundreds of students who have gone into a Randy Kostick class fearing math who come out knowing they have conquered the concepts. It’s because of the quality of his teaching skills and his ability to reach through to students,” said John Martens, vice president of Instruction.

Kostick has taught just about every math course the college offers, which has allowed a great deal of flexibility in scheduling. He generally carries an overload every quarter — he accepts extra students into his classes—“because math courses for the most part are sequential and students need consistency in this area,” he said.

One reason students succeed in Kostick’s classes could be based on the fact that he cares about his students.

“Randy goes the extra mile to assist students. He played a key role in the creation of the Math Center, and has volunteered his time since the center was opened,” said Laura Brener, dean of Instruction, Academic Transfer. Last year he received the Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar award.

In addition to his work with the Math Center, Kostick serves as chair of the math/physics/engineering department, a role that requires working on scheduling and serving as a liaison between the department and the college administration.

Besides his college related activities, Kostick assists high school students who are preparing for science symposium projects and is a WASL facilitator in several local schools.



*Terry Carver*

“I am very pleased to have been selected to receive this award,” said Terry Carver, who last year received the Lewis County Economic Development Staff award, “but I must say that it has been through the support of my students, the administration, and community that I am placed in a position to be so honored.”

Carver teaches business marketing and management classes at Centralia College and is the Washington State Advisor for Delta Epsilon Chi (DEC), an international organization of college-level business students. Most recently, during international competition, two of his marketing students placed in the top five (over 2,000 college students took part in the competition) and a third student received special recognition for her efforts.

“It is gratifying to work with these men and women and watch their educational development,” said Carver. “International competition is really great for the growth of their skills. I’m glad to be a part of their success.”

As if teaching and DEC activities were not enough, Carver advises the college’s Business Management Association/Rotaract Club. Under his tutelage, the club has raised over \$12,000 through auctions, Christmas greetings, swap meets, spaghetti feeds, car washes, and other fund-raising events.

Carver has been a leader in bringing business seminars to the community. He has planned, developed, and supervised activities under the college’s Ellis Oliver business series, which brings acclaimed speakers, who otherwise might not find their way to the area, to the regional business community.

As president of the Twin Cities Rotary International Organization he coordinated and set up the Centennial Celebration and is currently preparing for the annual Rotary Tri-club auction. Carver is on the board of directors for the Visiting Nurses Association and the Centralia Church of the Nazarene. He is active in the Centralia Performing Fine Arts Council and serves as vice president.





## 2004: Sharon Mitchler and Dr. Jody Peterson

Sharon Mitchler, associate professor of English, and Dr. Jody Peterson, assistant professor of History and Political Science, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2004.



*Sharon Mitchler*

Sharon Mitchler, who began at Centralia College in 1998, has helped bring national recognition to the college through her involvement in the National Two-Year College English Association (TYCA). Following her current term as associate chair, she will be elevated to the position of national chair for a two-year term. Her duties include running a national organization and serving on the national executive committee of the College Conference on Composition and Communication. She will be called upon to speak to various groups of two- and four-year instructors throughout the country.

Mitchler has had articles published in the *Two-Year College Journal* and has been a presenter at a variety of regional and national conferences. One of the presentations she, along with other Centralia College English teachers, made was on the development of a national model for assessment.

As part of her teaching, Mitchler developed a non-western literature course, revived an ethics and cultural values course, and expanded a film course. She makes time to teach night and summer classes. As a barometer of her popularity, most of Mitchler's classes fill to capacity.

She teams with Dave White, professor of sociology, to work with the Washington State University extension program for education majors.

Off campus, Mitchler is a volunteer for the Thurston County Animal Shelter. Under this program she walks "long term" dogs that are housed at the shelter during court proceedings. These animals may spend several years before legal issues are resolved. Mitchler is one of only two people who work regularly with these dogs. She also serves as a judge for History Day, hosted annually by Centralia College and maintains the English Department's and Writing Center's Web pages.



*Jody Peterson*

Dr. Jody Peterson's love of history—and teaching history—came about as something of an accident. As an undergraduate she majored in English and journalism, but took the usual required courses in history and political science. "I found a fascination with history, with the chronicle of our human past. It was far more interesting and challenging than anything I had studied before."

Peterson came to Centralia College after teaching at the University of North Texas, Pierce College, and the Shelton branch campus of Olympic College. After Pierce, she had determined that an advanced degree would offer more teaching opportunity, so she enrolled at Washington State University, where she earned her Ph.D. in American History.

Peterson brought her unique teaching style to Centralia College, and the students haven't been the same since. "I evolved a storyteller's approach to history," she explained. "A lot of students are intimidated by the study of history, but my method uses a story to connect the dots: the times, places, and things, the causes and effects that make our world what it is. If I can relate the story to them," she added, "and use humor to break down

the barriers, the students will learn, and they will enjoy it."

She didn't set about to introduce a new style to history at Centralia College, but it happened. "I didn't consciously think about how I teach," she said. "I channel the story to the students, I begin to tell the story, and teaching just happens."

Peterson has served as co-advisor for Phi Theta Kappa and for the Future Teacher's Association. She was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and will be the lead advisor for that group in 2004-05.





## 2003: Stephanie Carter and Linda Foss

Stephanie Carter, librarian, associate professor, and Linda Foss, assistant professor of English, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2003.



Stephanie Carter

Stephanie Carter, who has been with Centralia College for nine years, is a faculty librarian and became the college's associate dean of Library Services in 2003. She still considers herself an instructor though she doesn't teach on a regular schedule in a classroom. Librarians are considered support faculty.

"Each interaction with a student represents a teachable moment. As reference librarians, we teach students how to develop an effective research strategy, how to use the tools of research – reference resources, library catalog, periodical databases, search engines, and how to evaluate information," said Carter.

Her work allows her to participate in formal instructional sessions taught with classroom faculty. She has developed instructional sessions and makes presentations to college classes that allow active learning. She has also developed online library and Internet courses.

"There is no greater satisfaction in my job than to work with a student over the course of the quarter, following his or her progress," said Carter.

Carter, in 1999, worked with Dr. Dave Martin (former biology instructor) to create one of the college's first online courses, Cultural Botany. As a result of this work, Carter was invited to serve as a consultant for a Washington OnLine course.

To acquaint faculty and staff with the library and with available research technology, Carter has provided training sessions and presentations. She began a project to develop electronic reserves, which allows access any time from any Internet-capable computer. She is also working to digitize archives. Both will improve services to library users.

Carter serves as backup systems coordinator for the ORCA Consortium (14 community and technical college libraries that share a common Voyager server). Because of Carter's role in this organization, the college has saved more than \$8,000 in library-related expenses over three years.

Outside of her library duties, Carter serves as general and executive board secretary for the Chehalis Valley Educational Foundation that runs the local KACS radio station. She has worked with the Providence Hospital Festival of Trees program.



Linda Foss

Linda Foss is a 10-year veteran of the Centralia College teaching ranks. Her primary assignment is English composition classes. "I try to dispel the myth that great writing just pours effortlessly from some people, while the rest of us struggle. By initially downplaying issues of correctness, while encouraging students to write what they know and care about, I have assisted hundreds of students over the hurdles of their high anxiety and low confidence to become successful college writers," said Foss.

She has a history of promoting student success. Early in her career at Centralia College she worked with English faculty and the Assessment Committee to establish the literary arts journal, *Beyond Parallax*, now in its 9th edition and recognized as an official student publication. Five years ago, she helped students organize as a club, whose primary purpose is to publish the journal annually. With Foss and student leadership, the club has reached beyond its original purpose to support literary events, sponsor a student writing contest, coordinate "open mic" readings, and bring published authors to campus as speakers.

A related passion of hers has been the development of a campus-wide, full service Writing Center. Previously, while an adjunct faculty member, she worked as a Student Support Services staff member to coordinate writing tutoring.

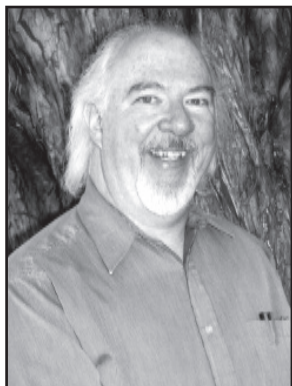
"It was always a bit of a struggle to carve out adequate space, budget, and personnel, and in recent years with diminished funding and space availability issues, the dream of a "real" writing center seemed to founder. I brought my concerns for its future to the English Department, which whole-heartedly supported the development of a relocated multipurpose center," said Foss. The Writing Center opened in its own space, and Foss serves as its coordinator.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Foss works with the Literacy Council, the Olympia Poetry Network, and The Evergreen State College library.



## 2002: Calvin Taylor and Jill Johnson

Calvin Taylor, associate professor of Electronics, and Jill Johnson, associate professor of Civil Engineering Technology, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2002.



*Cal Taylor*

Cal Taylor, a 15-year veteran of the Centralia College teaching ranks, sets high standards for electronics students. "I believe our classes need to be rigorous, challenging and coherent. We are preparing students for real jobs and they need to be ready. I also believe we should have some fun once in awhile," said Taylor. "I sometimes put a question on a test that is an inside joke to lighten things up a little."

In 1999, during a one quarter sabbatical, Taylor wrote a lab book for the power supply class he teaches. "I felt there was a need for better and more thorough experiments," he said. The book is currently in use as a training manual by an electronics manufacturer in Beaverton, Ore.

Taylor also excels in helping his students find employment.

"I dedicate a good deal of time to making industry contacts and trying to connect students with jobs. That is our final grade," he said, "when our graduates get good jobs." Taylor has a reputation within the high-tech industry: Companies know him as an instructor who runs a quality program and cares very much about the success of his students, plus he is a top recruiter.

"I try to get to know each student on a personal level. I strive to give each student the maximum opportunity for success. When they don't achieve that success I take it as a personal failure," said Taylor. "As do the other instructors at Centralia College, I work very hard to do my best for the benefit of our students."

When he's not helping students trouble-shoot circuit boards, Taylor might be found tuning his musical instruments: he plays bass and guitar with the Sound of Swing big band, which has generated thousands of dollars in financial gifts to the college. Taylor founded the Electronics Club and currently is the advisor.



*Jill Johnson*

Jill Johnson, who has been with the college for seven years, is a tireless advocate for her students. She continually evolves her program to offer industry-specific course work, an approach that focuses on teaching industry standards to prepare her students to compete for employment.

"I revise courses, create new courses, and develop "real-world" assignments and exercises for my students," said Johnson. She has also taken it upon herself to provide individual tutoring to students who might have trouble understanding civil engineering concepts.

Johnson is very active in securing resources to provide students with state-of-the-art equipment for training.

"During the past seven years, I have brought in over \$45,000 in grants and over \$20,000 in equipment donations for improving the quality of my courses," said Johnson. "This has greatly enhanced my ability to train students with technology at a level consistent with the current industry expectations."

To help students move more efficiently from high school through college, Johnson has put together articulation agreements with area high schools. The agreements allow high school students to earn college credits for specific classes.

Johnson is active in campus political life and serves on a variety of committees, including the Facilities Committee, which, among other duties, puts together the college's master plan.

In addition to teaching, Johnson is an active volunteer for the Thurston County Animal Services and the Hoofed Animal Rescue of Thurston County. She doubles as a handler and trainer of rescued horses. One current project she is working on calls for her to create a training video and supporting instructional materials for local law enforcement and other rescue organizations. She created and maintains the organization's Web page. Most recently, Johnson became a programmer-in-training for KAOS community radio, working to become a host for a weekly two-hour bluegrass music show. She expects to join the show as a regular host.



## 2001: Dr. Ruby Nagelkerke and Dr. Gregory van Alstyne

Dr. Ruby Nagelkerke, associate professor of Science and Health, and Dr. Gregory van Alstyne, associate professor of Anthropology and General Social Science, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2001.

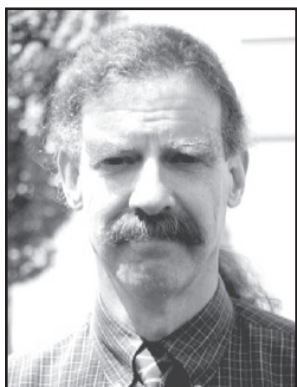


*Dr. Ruby Nagelkerke*

Ruby Nagelkerke uses humor and light-hearted lab projects to help students overcome their fear of chemistry. “Some students just dread the thought of taking a required chemistry class,” she said. “We make slime, soap, and silly putty to help make the classes fun.” Her students groan appropriately at the bad chemistry jokes and creative mnemonics that she uses to help them memorize material. “For example,” she said, “I have some frivolous ways to relate chemical bonding to personal relationships that usually have them howling with laughter. The important thing,” she continued, “is that they usually remember the concepts, sometimes with a smile.”

Nagelkerke regularly goes to local elementary schools and does fun chemistry projects and crafts with the students. She says the early exposure helps elementary students accept chemistry classes later in their education. Nagelkerke has included the local Red Cross and Human Response Network through her own Phi Theta Kappa service.

Nagelkerke has taken her community service to a very personal level. She is a “big sister” mentor to a foster child who lives near the college and is presently becoming licensed to become a foster parent so she can spend more time with the 12-year-old she is mentoring.



*Dr. Gregory van Alstyne*

Before receiving his D. Phil. from Oxford University, England, Gregory van Alstyne received a three-year British Government Overseas Research Studentship Award, which involved a year’s fieldwork assignment with the Chinyanja peoples of Malawi, central Africa.

When van Alstyne joined the Centralia College faculty in 1995, there was only one anthropology course offered. He says it has been a source of great satisfaction to develop the anthropology program to the present level of five transfer-course offerings. He is now lecturing to full classes throughout the academic year.

Participation of faculty members in both campus and community activities, van Alstyne contends, is vital if the college is to emphasize its vocational and academic role in the area. He has been a baseball and soccer coach, represented Centralia College at an Eagle Scout Award ceremony, and served as proctor for the “Odyssey of the Mind” competition for K-12 students in Olympia.

van Alstyne talks to primary school students about the lands and people of Africa and acts as a mentor and research contact for local high school students investigating current issues of anthropological interest. He helps students apply for anthropology programs or scholarships and recently sponsored a successful applicant for the Bill Gates Foundation Award for minority students. Off-campus activities for van Alstyne and his family range from attending a Potlatch on the Chehalis Tribal Reservation to serving as chaperones for the Washington Music Educators All-state 2001 event held in Seattle. He and his wife are members of the Chehalis School District Music Boosters Club and contributors to the Chehalis food bank.

van Alstyne says his experience with the Chinyanja people in the Malonje village of Malawi played an important role in his eventual academic success. van Alstyne provides Chief KuMalonje and his counselor with yearly monetary stipends for fertilizer and seed for their maize fields and for the annual school fees they must pay for the education of their children.



## 2000: Brian Tyrrell and T.R. Gratz

Brian Tyrrell, Centralia College associate professor of Dramatic Arts, and T.R. Gratz, associate professor of English and Journalism, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2000.



*Brian Tyrrell*

“This award means a lot,” said Brian Tyrrell, who started at Centralia College in 1991. “It means that somebody felt strongly enough about my work to nominate me. It validates what I’m doing in the classroom.” Tyrrell said that as he looks over the faculty who have preceded him in attaining this honor, “I realize how special this is. I’m thrilled.”

Tyrrell, who directs most of the college’s stage plays, said that in the decade that he has taught at Centralia College, he has seen a growth in the dramatic arts that includes advances in curriculum and a very ambitious extracurricular play production schedule.

“Over the past ten years, I’ve developed and taught a wide spectrum of theatre courses, and I’ve directed and/or produced 36 plays and musicals, working with more than 275 Centralia College student actors and technicians.”

Tyrrell worked with his counterparts at Pierce College to establish the America-Northwest Repertory Theatre (ANRT) in 1993 and subsequently toured with six different plays to South Korea (1993), Gdansk and Krakow, Poland (1994), and Mazatlan, Mexico (1995).

“Aside from touring internationally, I’ve endeavored to expose students to the best that theatre has to offer. Five different student groups have joined me in visits to New York City to see Broadway productions,” said Tyrrell. Closer to home, he has taken his students to plays in Seattle, Portland, and Ashland, OR.

The Grassroots Theatre Festival, another of Tyrrell’s developments, enters its seventh year in the fall of 2000. The GTF is a series of workshops led by visiting professional actors, directors, and technicians. Since its inception in 1993, more than 700 actors have taken part in this activity.



*T.R. Gratz*

When T.R. Gratz came to Centralia College in 1994, the journalism program was in need of repair, and the student newspaper had all but ceased publication. Gratz brought order to the journalism program by designing a comprehensive course of study for students majoring in journalism, and he transformed the student newspaper, *The blue&gold*, into an effective publication. He also introduced digital technology to the production of the newspaper.

“I’m humbled to be nominated and to become an Exceptional Faculty Award recipient,” said Gratz. “There are many excellent faculty who have achieved this award and many others who certainly deserve it.” Gratz said the award is a recognition of the job “we, as all faculty, do on a daily basis.”

Students in Gratz’s program have received awards from the Washington Press Association in the Excellence in Student Journalism Contest. He has assisted in landing employment and engaging in newspaper writing internships for several students. Gratz also took on the production of the college’s literary and graphic arts journal, *Beyond Parallax*, in 1998 and 1999.

His service beyond the classroom includes working with regional public school teachers to help them complete course work to obtain journalism and teaching endorsements. He was a member of the team that brought NewsCapade to the community in 1999. Gratz serves on a variety of college committees, including the Student Publications Advisory Board, Health and Wellness Committee, and is an accreditation team leader.





## 1999: Laura Yocom and Nola Ormrod

Laura Yocom, associate professor of Spanish, and Nola Ormrod, Centralia College associate professor of Nursing, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 1999.



*Laura Yocom*

Laura Yocom, who started at Centralia College in 1979, is teaching in a high demand field. A continual influx of people who speak Spanish as their first language has created a growing need for her skills.

“I consider myself as a resource for the local Spanish-speaking community, having translated literally hundreds of birth certificates and other documents into English,” said Yocom. She also translated for medical and social services agencies and is available to the college campus and community for other translation or interpretation needs. “I developed and taught a one-day workshop in the basics of Spanish for faculty and staff in the Rochester School District,” she said.

Over the years, Yocom has served as an advisor to a Spanish Club, which traveled to Mexico for periods up to 19 days. “A highlight of one of the trips was visiting an orphanage. We took supplies and found our way to the rural village and delivered some needed supplies,” said Yocom. Her Spanish clubs also sponsored Cinco de Mayo celebrations and hosted a series of brown bag “Spanish only” hours to help foster relations with Spanish-speaking people and to help individuals learn the language.

Her on-campus commitments have also kept her busy. For three years, beginning in 1994, Yocom served as division chair for Humanities and Social Sciences. She was a member of the Instructional Council and Instructional Cabinet. She has served on the Curriculum Development Committee, the college’s Publications Board, and on various other college committees. She is completing her second master’s degree, a Master of Arts in Teaching Language, with an emphasis in Spanish. Classes have been held in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico.



*Nola Ormrod*

One of the more demanding positions at Centralia College is that of teaching nursing. Each year up to 25 men and women who go through the program learn life-saving techniques, among other critical aspects of nursing, from Nola Ormrod, one of two nursing faculty on campus. The program usually has a waiting list for students.

“I love learning and I love nursing. That is what I hope to convey each year to the class. I try to convey the spirit/heart/soul of nursing and the beauty and reward that comes from being a nurse,” said Ormrod.

She also maintains current knowledge in a changing field. “I read journals, attend seminars, go to meetings, and constantly learn from my colleagues, both academic and nursing peers,” said Ormrod.

With each class bringing a distinctive character, Ormrod redesigns her approach to mesh with a class’s personality. What worked one year may be a flop the next.

“I always pay attention to student feedback to discover what will work best for each student, each lab, each clinical group, and each class as a whole,” said Ormrod.

One of her non-teaching responsibilities is serving on the college Budget Review and Planning Committee. This committee reviews budget issues on campus and requires a great deal of understanding of the budget process and the political connections budgetary decisions have on specific departments and the college.

Ormrod is also one of the driving forces behind the college’s Health and Wellness Committee, a group that endeavors to help college staff maintain personal health.

She has served as president of the Lewis County Board of the American Cancer Society and was on the Breast Health Committee chair of the Lewis County Board of the American Cancer Society. She participates in the ACS Action Alert Network to inform legislators of health care implications of legislation.



## 1998: Julie Priday and Wade Fisher

Julie Priday, associate professor of Health and Nutrition, and Wade Fisher, associate professor of Radio/TV, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 1998.



*Julie Priday*

Julie Priday, who started at Centralia College in 1984, embodies the health, nutrition and physical fitness aspects of the students as well as the faculty and staff. In addition to teaching in those areas, Priday co-chairs the college's Health and Wellness Committee, heads the CAPRI (cardiac care program for victims of cardiovascular disease), is a driving force with the Lewis County Tennis Association, and works with the college sports programs to help evaluate athletes and advise them on issues of nutrition.

Priday was instrumental in forming the college's Health and Wellness Committee and has brought to life a continual array of programs to involve college faculty and staff in fitness activities. She leads a first aid class annually and donates her salary from teaching that class to college wellness programs. In her role with the Lewis County Tennis Association, she promotes tennis and teaches community education tennis classes.

Priday, a native of Australia, came to the U.S. in 1978. She brought her Diploma of Teaching degree and entered Western Washington University where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, both in exercise science. In 1985, with a recommendation from biology instructor Greg Garman, Priday joined Centralia

College as a part-time instructor in exercise technology. That grew into a full-time position in 1989, and three years later Priday was granted tenure.

"I certainly enjoy teaching and for me Centralia College is a great place to work and to learn. I enjoy seeing people wake up to knowledge. They're diamonds in the rough, smart people, and it's great to see them come to life through learning," said Priday.



*Wade Fisher*

Wade Fisher, who began his professional career behind the microphone at a variety of radio stations, believes in the importance of preparing students for careers in radio and TV. During his first three years at Centralia College, Fisher, who instructs in a transfer degree program, was able to help land work for more of his students than had been placed during the 12 years before he arrived.

"One of the reasons I came to Centralia College was because I wanted the challenge of building a program that could truly serve the students who wanted to learn," said Fisher. His career, first with radio stations in Aberdeen, then the Tacoma/Seattle mega market, has given him the background to prepare students for positions in a very competitive industry.

Fisher entered Fort Steilacoom Community College, which later became Pierce College. He was the student body president there when Dr. Marion Oppelt, a Centralia College Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, was Pierce College president. He transferred to the University of Washington where he earned his undergraduate degree.

"It was an opportunity to expand my experience and to build a program in radio and TV," said Fisher, who also teaches speech classes.

During his career at Centralia College, Fisher has run TV programs for Crime Stoppers and initiated programming for the Lewis County Art Center. He has also broadcast political forums and candidate interviews and has maintained close contact with the public access channel staff to keep these programming opportunities available to the public. He also created videos for various campus projects, including recruiting and informational videos.



## 1997: Dr. Donna Huffman and Dr. Warren “Doc” Clare

Dr. Donna Huffman, associate professor of Music, and Dr. Warren (Doc) Clare, who taught at the Garrett Heyns Education Center at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton, Wash., were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 1997.



*Dr. Donna Huffman*

You might say that musical talent is a genetic trait with Dr. Donna Huffman. Her mother was a violinist and her father, a math teacher, was part of a family that formed its own orchestra. Of her 40 cousins, all play a musical instrument. It seems she had little choice other than to choose which instrument she would play.

While in the first grade she heard a U.S. Navy band play and heard what she thought was the trumpet, a sound she fell in love with. It didn't matter that it was a French horn making the music, the idea of the trumpet was implanted and her musical career was launched.

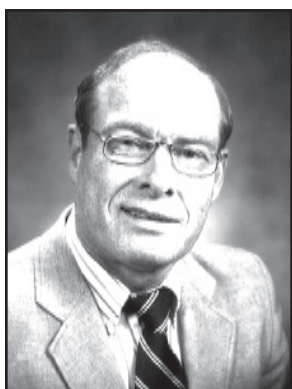
Her educational pursuits included studies at the University of Paris, University of Cincinnati, Bowling Green, Brigham Young University (bachelor's), and University of Illinois (master's and doctorate).

While working toward her academic degrees, she served at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and was later hired to set up the music library at Brigham Young University, using the Interlochen system as the example.

After earning her Ph.D. in 1990, Huffman accepted the position she now holds.

Under her guidance, the college's music program has grown tremendously. She can lay claim to a heightened quality of ensembles, a 60-voice strong choir that is in demand publicly, a jazz band that enjoys performing and competing, the birth of performing and teaching culturally diverse music, spring musicals that sell out, a dramatic rise in campus and public performances, and the infusion of computers and electronics in her program.

"It's exciting. Electronics are playing a bigger and bigger role in music. It used to be that the teacher stood in front of the classroom with chalk. Now we do so much with computers and, because of that, I am working toward developing an electronic music degree here. There are many opportunities in this area. That's where jobs are for students," said Huffman.



*Dr. Warren "Doc" Clare*

Dr. Warren "Doc" Clare, a product of Wenatchee Valley College in 1956-57, taught inmates at the Garrett Heyns Education Center for 24 years and earned a great deal of respect and admiration from his pupils.

"People in the prison system all have potential," said Clare. "We have to recognize that and believe in them. Somebody has to advocate for them."

Clare came to the Garrett Heyns Education Center from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges where he was the director for innovation in education. One of the projects he worked on while at the state board was helping to bring the community college system into the state's prison system. A study, for which he collected data, indicated that inmates, in terms of education, wanted precisely what community colleges offered.

"Our system included a wide range of vocational offerings. It included high school completion and GED programs as well as education that led to two-year degrees," said Clare. "It was a perfect marriage. We were able to offer a program for inmates and for potential employers."

Clare earned his bachelor of arts, a master of arts, and a Ph.D., all from Washington State University.

"The cost of incarceration is \$24 to \$30 thousand a year. Yet nine out of 10 men who graduated from GHEC (go through the education program) never return. The financial savings alone is a powerful statement. Then there is the dimension of changed human life. Prison education is a positive investment for a stable society," said Clare. "Education gives new hope for the inmates."

In addition to teaching, Clare was awarded an Exemplary Status Faculty Award in 1989 from the Washington State Community College Humanities Association. Also, the International Correctional Education Association (CEA) named him the Washington State Correctional Education Association "Apple" Award recipient for outstanding contributions to correctional education in 1995. He has served as a member of the board of the International Correctional Education Association, served as the director of Region VI CEA, and was the founding president of Washington state CEA.

His involvement also extended to service as a mentor, counselor, and advisor to groups at GHEC and was named an "honorary black gang member" of Careers and Pride through Education (CAPE).

Clare holds other interests including his involvement in the Northwest Outdoor Writers' Association, Western Washington Writers' Association, and his church. He also was a Boy Scout leader for many years.



## 1996: Dr. Heesoon Jun and Todd Lovington

Dr. Heesoon Jun, Psychology, and Todd Lovington Math, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 1996.



*Dr. Heesoon Jun*

Dr. Heesoon Jun, who taught psychology at Centralia College, recognized the importance of helping students reach their full potential. In addition to teaching, Jun operated a private counseling center and provided counseling services for many of her students free of charge. During the 1996-97 college year, Jun was on sabbatical. She resigned her teaching position in 1997.

“It was rewarding for me to work with students, to help them become reconnected with their soul,” said Jun. “Too often social pressures and peer pressures force us to mask who we really are. This creates stress and other problems.” She said she enjoyed helping students find their inner selves. Jun considered it a high point of her teaching when her students recognize that, as a result of her counseling or classroom instruction, they have alternatives to destructive behavior. “It’s important that they can apply what they have learned to their personal lives.”

Jun, born in Seoul, South Korea, was teaching Korean language to missionaries when an incident occurred that created a great deal of internal conflict.

“As a result, I decided I wanted to know why people behaved that way. I wanted to study behavior but I couldn’t do it in Korea, so I came to the United States,” said Jun. She started with a bachelor’s degree, and earned her master’s in clinical psychology and a Ph.D. from the University of Washington. She was ready for the next chapter in her life.

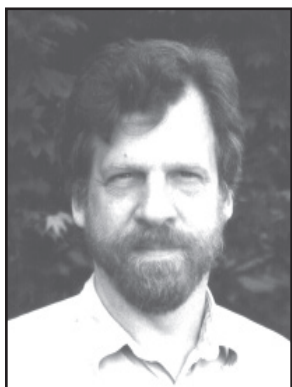
“I wanted to teach to help people. Many students are poor or do not have the insights to help them become connected. I enjoy students who are learning to discover themselves. If I can help one student, it’s worth millions,” she said.

Jun was a very popular instructor and carried a heavy teaching load. She empowered her students with practical tools to deal with real problems. Word of her ability to teach a sometimes difficult subject in a positive and rewarding manner gave rise to the popularity of her classes. This is one reason she took a year’s leave to teach smaller classes at The Evergreen State College in Olympia.

“I don’t believe in burnout, I believe in prevention,” said Jun. “I will teach at The Evergreen so I can rekindle my passion for teaching.” She said that classes there allow her to teach differently.

Jun served as a resource provider for the mental health program in Lewis County, was a volunteer Korean language interpreter for people in crisis in Lewis and Thurston counties, and was a member of the Korean-American University Professors Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Deschutes Psychological Association.

(Note: Todd Lovington died unexpectedly while playing tennis, a sport he enjoyed, in 1997. He was 45. Todd’s leadership, love of teaching and his friendship are missed.)



*Todd Lovington*

Todd Lovington, a math instructor, first put chalk to the Centralia College blackboards in 1991 following a 10-year teaching term at Seattle Central Community College.

“Teaching math is challenging. I enjoy my subject and enjoy seeing students get excited about math. It does happen,” said Lovington. He added that much of math is abstract but that it has its basis in concrete concepts. “I strip away the trivial, the stuff that doesn’t make sense, and put it in terms that are more easily understood.” Among his other accolades is an Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award given by Phi Theta Kappa in 1993.

Lovington was involved in campus committee work. From its inception until his death, he chaired the Strategic Planning Committee and served on committees dealing with budget and curriculum development. The Strategic Planning Committee, in particular, called for a major commitment of time and energy.

“It’s important for the college to know where it’s going, as an organization, and how it intends to get where it wants to go. Strategic planning involves the entire college community in putting together a road map. It provides direction and uniformity. Also, you don’t have to

wait five years to measure your successes. Growth is a process that we can measure at any time,” said Lovington.

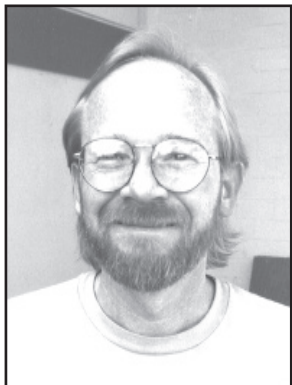
“Receiving the Exceptional Faculty Award is an honor,” said Lovington, the son of a Naval officer. He said that he would use part of the Exceptional Faculty Award to begin a scholarship fund.





## 1995: Dexter Rammage and Doris Wood

Dexter Rammage, Diesel Equipment Technology instructor, and Doris Wood, associate professor of English, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 1995.



*Dexter Rammage*

Dexter Rammage came to the Centralia College Diesel Equipment Technology program in 1983. He taught at Northern Montana College in Havre, Montana, early in his career and worked for nearly 15 years in private industry in Montana and Oregon. He was also an engine room mechanic with the U.S. Coast Guard, stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii.

During his time at Centralia College, Rammage initiated programs to help students and further the college's Diesel Equipment Technology program. He initiated, for example, a "Technology Tours Program," a summer workshop on heavy industry, construction, transportation, and agriculture service. This was a free workshop for high school students who showed interest in heavy construction, transportation and agriculture service technician careers.

He also improved the college's outreach to minority and women students who were interested in diesel technology training.

Rammage was an active member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the largest regulatory agency for professional automotive mechanics. He was instrumental in bringing ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certification to the college's Diesel

Equipment Technology program. His involvement in this organization meant he kept current with the latest technology, and was able to relay state-of-the-art procedures to his students.

"Over the years my focus has been on students and making sure they were fully prepared for the workforce when they end their career at Centralia College," said Rammage. Through efforts such as this, the college's Diesel Equipment Technology program prospered. Rammage left the college in 1999.



*Doris Wood*

Doris Wood, associate professor of English and Speech, joined the college staff as a part-time instructor in 1989 and became full-time in 1992. Since coming to the college from a teaching position with the North Slope School District in Barrow, Alaska, Wood has assumed increasing roles of leadership on the campus.

She served on the College Council for three years, the campus governing body, and was council chair for one quarter. Wood was also the faculty liaison to the college foundation, and coordinated the foundation-supported campus writing contest. She continues to be involved with the college Strategic Planning Steering Committee. She was a member of the planning committee for the Teaching and Learning Center, a reader for the writing contest for the public schools, and was on the college team that gave presentations at a Student Success conference. She has made presentations at other local and regional seminars. She served on the Faculty Senate cabinet.

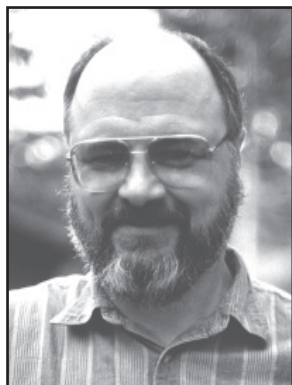
"One of the high points of my teaching is watching students succeed. It's rewarding when men and women I have taught come back and say that something they learned or a project they completed in one of my classes was something that made a difference in their life," said Wood.

Beyond the classroom Wood serves as a judge for the annual Lewis County American Legion Voice of Democracy speech contest in Lewis County, and conducts teddy bear picnics for elementary schools.



## 1994: Chris Hobson, Laura Siebuhr, and Dave White

Three Centralia College faculty, including an instructor from the Garrett Heyns Education Center (GHEC) in Shelton, received the college's Exceptional Faculty Award for 1994. Earning the recognition are Chris Hobson, Laura Siebuhr, associate professor in History, and Dave White, associate professor in Sociology and Education.



*Chris Hobson*

Chris Hobson, who in 1994 earned the Corrections Educator of the Year Award in competition with instructors in five western states and two Canadian provinces, became an Exceptional Faculty honoree at Centralia College. Hobson was in his eighth year of teaching welding at GHEC at the Washington Corrections Center at Shelton when he received the honor. In 1996 he left his teaching post for other pursuits.

"One of my highlights as a teacher is that I had students win national awards with their projects. It's quite an honor for them to receive national recognition," said Hobson. His teaching philosophy was that if students can create something worthwhile, they can exercise control of their lives, and they can succeed.

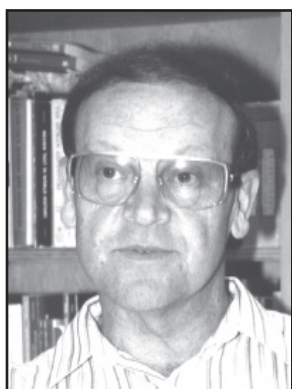
"These are concepts that my students may not get otherwise," he said. Hobson also worked on an ex-offender mentorship project, a plan that helped former inmates stay on a successful track and keep up on vocational skills. One former inmate and a Hobson student involved in the program, was named, in 1994, as the Volunteer of the Year at the Washington Corrections Center.



*Laura Siebuhr*

Laura Siebuhr, on the college staff since 1989, teaches history and political science courses. In addition to developing new courses in her field and initiating major revisions in existing courses, Siebuhr has helped put together Learning Communities, a single class that combines the curriculum from two disciplines. The Learning Community concept was part of a program that won the 1994 Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Faculty Development to Enhance Undergraduate Teaching.

Siebuhr is the regional director of National History Day. The program, which recognizes the importance of history, has grown into a major event for history students in grades six through 12. Approximately 150 students take part in the annual event. Siebuhr also serves on the Centralia Historic Preservation Commission.



*Dave White*

Dave White, who joined the college staff in 1967, has a tradition of involvement to improve not only his teaching skills but also the college environment. He has a career-long membership in Phi Delta Kappa and is a former member of Phi Theta Kappa, the Centralia College honor society. He received the PTK Faculty Scholar Award and, in 1993, was selected by the Washington State Sociological Association for a term on the executive board.

For 11 years he served on the committee which selects the college's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He annually volunteers with the Southwest Washington Fair and has been active with 4-H leadership projects. He is a board member with the Centralia unit of the American Cancer Society.

"David puts forth so many hours of service to students, colleagues, and the institution that are so much beyond anyone's concept of required or expected, that I am in awe of his commitment," said Doris Wood, colleague and English instructor who nominated White. White has been instrumental in developing the college's evening school program.



## 1993: Marge Wieland, Dr. John Pratt, Vic Freund, and Dr. Don Foran

Marge Wieland, professor of Business Education, Dr. John Pratt, associate professor of English, Vic Freund, professor of Foreign Languages, and Dr. Don Foran, associate professor of English and Ethics, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 1993.



*Marge Wieland*

Marge Wieland, at one time the Business Division chair, was hired in 1977. She was a member of the Washington state and national Business Education Associations, and a strong proponent of Centralia College and the community college system.

In addition to her teaching duties, Wieland has been active in civic organizations in Lewis and Thurston counties. She said she believes that her involvement in organizations, such as the St. Peter's Hospital Sunshine House board, helped her establish employer contacts so her students could use these contacts to find employment when they graduated. She has been active in Soroptimist and the American Association of University Women. As an instructor, Wieland said her goals centered on providing a total educational experience for her students, a process that included the building of self-esteem in connection with academic expertise.



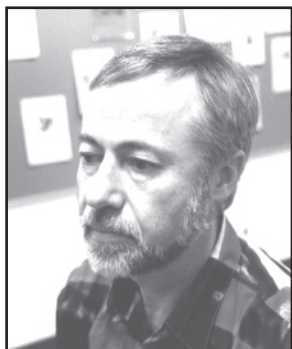
*Dr. John Pratt*

Dr. John Pratt, an English instructor who came to Centralia College in 1984, has received two National Endowment for the Humanities Awards. He was responsible for bringing the Cambridge Summer Studies to the college, a program combining summer studies with travel to, and living in, England.

Pratt is an expert in medieval studies and readily transmits his expertise of, and enthusiasm for, this arena to his students. He has lived and studied in England, which has added a firsthand perspective to his teaching skills.

Pratt sings with the college choir, and plays a variety of roles in Centralia College theatrical productions.

Pratt was also instrumental in bringing Young Authors Conferences to Lewis County and was part of the planning group that launched the first conference in the mid-1980s. He has served as a facilitator in a Young Authors Conference at Chehalis Middle School.

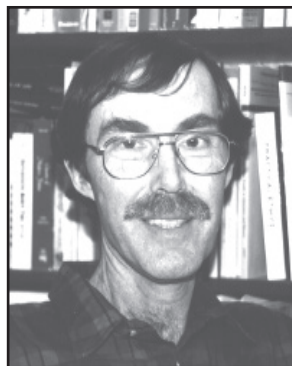


*Vic Freund*

Vic Freund has been a foreign language instructor at Centralia College since arriving in 1968. He was a leader of the steering committee that helped direct the self-study process leading to accreditation for Centralia College in the 1970s.

Hailing from Olomouc, Czechoslovakia, Freund helps students experience Germanic languages through alternative learning methods and the use of technology in education, particularly by using interactive audio and video applications. He also has taught French language to Centralia College students since 1985.

Freund's leadership as director of the Teaching and Learning Center at the college has supplied the Teaching and Learning Center with interactive video stations that include a laser disc player, computers, CD-ROMs, an extensive software collection, training videos, a television monitor and a library of laser discs. As the director of Title III, he played a major role in making leading-edge technology available to faculty and staff of the college.



*Dr. Don Foran*

Dr. Don Foran came to Centralia College in 1985 as an English instructor. He received an Exemplary Status Award from the Washington Community College Humanities Association in 1988 for coordinated studies/honors work. He was selected as Scholar in the Washington Commission for the Humanities "Inquiring Mind" forum in humanities, and was named a "Most Distinguished Advisor in the Western United States" at the annual Phi Theta Kappa honors convention held in Dallas, Texas, in 1987. He continues to advise the PTK Honors Society on the Centralia College campus. In 1995 he received Washington's "Professor of the Year" recognition.

Foran was instrumental in bringing and continuing the community speakers' series to Lewis County. He has worked with the Washington Commission for the Humanities, lecturing on literature, ethics and education around Washington state. He has also served as an instructor at The Evergreen State College in Olympia.



## 1992: Dr. Dave Martin, Dr. Bert Woodland, and Greg Garman

Dr. Dave Martin, Dr. Bert Woodland, and Greg Garman, professors of Biology, were selected to receive the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 1992.



*Dr. Dave Martin*

Dr. Dave Martin, who retired in 1999, started at Centralia College in 1973. He taught biology, botany and forestry. He used his award to launch a scholarship fund for Centralia College students who wanted to study and travel in one of the college's international study programs. The interest from the endowment funded up to 50 percent of the costs of travel and/or study for a deserving student. Martin periodically teamed with other faculty members to lead international summer study/tours and participated in study/travel sessions to Australia, Costa Rica and England.

Martin received regional Educator of the Year honors from Phi Delta Kappa in 1990, and was named Centralia College Teacher of the Year by Phi Theta Kappa in 1991. PFK and PTK are honor societies for four-year and two-year colleges, respectively. In 1995 he was awarded the AmeriCorps Faculty Humanitarian Award and has been listed in *Who's Who in American Education*, editions 1992-1995. He was active in Habitat for Humanity for Lewis County and Reliable Enterprises for the developmentally disabled.



*Dr. Bert Woodland*

Dr. Bert Woodland, who launched his teaching career at Centralia College in 1965 and is now retired, taught geology and earth sciences courses. He used the award to work toward adding a rock garden to the college campus and to provide personal scholarships to individual students who otherwise could not afford overnight travel courses.

Woodland pioneered video-home (distance learning) study courses for Centralia College by use of earth science video sets from commercial sources. He also inaugurated the college's Elderhostel program by serving as coordinator and developer of the program designed for education of the elderly. Woodland led summer travel classes on study tours, which offered first-hand evaluation of geological formations and structures.

During his retirement he taught several classes and took students on study/travel programs.



*Greg Garman*

Greg Garman, a faculty member with more than 27 years experience at Centralia College, teaches biology and zoology. He used award funds to support an independent investigation of techniques for separating molecules in an electrical field. The research enhanced his skills in biotechnology, an increasingly important field of science. Garman incorporated his familiarity with the subject to introduce new techniques in his classes. Garman also visited the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

He has helped in the establishment and development of the Batie Science Center and Kiser Northwest Gardens, located on the college campus.

Garman was one of the first community college anatomy instructors in the state to utilize human cadavers for student dissection. When he and his students reach the limit of what can be experienced on campus, he takes students on field trips to hospitals, research centers, crime labs, biotechnology companies, and other locations. His students have a high acceptance rate to professional schools as they pursue their post-Centralia College education.





## Background

The concept of an Exceptional Faculty Endowment was created by the 1990 Washington State Legislature to recognize and encourage excellence among Washington community college faculty members. The Legislature extended a challenge to community colleges to participate in building an endowment by providing matching funds.

In response to this challenge, the Centralia College Foundation's 1990-91 Annual Fund Campaign, "Excellence in Education," was directed toward establishing the Exceptional Faculty endowment. Through the generosity of friends from the campus and community, the campaign goals were met and the endowment of \$100,000 was established.

## Eligibility

Awards may be made only to persons holding faculty assignments as defined by RCW 28B.52.020, which states that "academic employee" means any teacher, counselor, librarian, or department head, who is employed by any community college district, whether full- or part-time, with the exception of the chief administrative officer of, and any administrator in, each community college district.

To be eligible for the award, the individual considered must have completed the equivalent of three years of full-time work as an academic employee of Centralia College. A recipient of an award is not eligible to receive another award for a period of five years.

## Criteria

The criteria for the selection of nominees for the Exceptional Faculty Award includes:

1. Evidence of the nominee's commitment to his/her primary assignment and excellence achieved in the applicable area of responsibility.
2. Participation by the nominee in campus activities, civic organizations, community service, and professional organizations.

## Process

1. During each winter quarter the Centralia College Foundation distributes an announcement about the program, including application/nomination forms.
2. An eligible member of the faculty may apply for the award. Also, any member of the faculty or college community may nominate a faculty member for this award. Academic employees include all faculty at Centralia College, including those assigned to Garrett Heyns Educational Center, Centralia College East, or other college sites. Nominated faculty will be asked to complete a supplementary information form, and all material must be submitted to the Foundation.
3. An Exceptional Faculty Award Committee will review applications and make recommendations to the college president concerning awards and alternate(s). The Exceptional Faculty Committee shall include: Three community members of the Centralia College Foundation Board of Directors; faculty who received the prior year Exceptional Faculty Award; and one management representative.
4. The College President will present recommendations to the Centralia College Board of Trustees for action at the board's May meeting.
5. The Centralia College Board of Trustees will select the recipients of the awards.

## Use of Funds

The proceeds from the endowment fund are to be used to pay expenses for faculty awards, which may include in-service training, temporary substitute or replacement costs directly associated with faculty development programs, conferences, travel, publication, and dissemination of exemplary projects. Proceeds may also be used to make a one-time supplement to the salary (gross, tax and retirement withholdings must be made) of the holder or holders of a faculty award for the duration of the award or to pay expenses associated with the holder's program area. Funds from this program shall not be used to supplant existing faculty development funds.

Awards through 1994 were \$1,000 each; beginning in 1995 each award has been in the amount of \$1,500, and in 2000 the award was raised to \$2,000.

## Note

The Exceptional Faculty program provides a means to annually recognize members of the Centralia College faculty who exemplify excellence in teaching and service. Public attention is therefore drawn to the fact that Centralia College takes serious its commitment to quality, innovation, and service by members of its faculty.



## Mission Statements

### Centralia College

Centralia College is committed to student success, academic excellence, and supporting our community in an inclusive and equitable learning environment.

### Centralia College Foundation

Creating opportunities to improve students' lives, enable success, and strengthen our community.



600 Centralia College Blvd • Centralia, WA 98531

Centralia College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, genetic information, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment. All inquiries regarding compliance with access, equal opportunity and/or grievance procedures should be directed to the Vice President of Human Resources and Equity, Centralia College, 600 Centralia College Blvd, Centralia, WA 98531, call 360-623-8943, or email [hro@centralia.edu](mailto:hro@centralia.edu).