



SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Currents

Fall 2006
vol. 1 No. 1

Cheng Jin

Professor from Beijing
Foreign Studies University

Inaugural Issue

President's Welcome

2006 Accountability
Report

Jack Kenney:
Helping Grow the
College & Its Foundation


**Skagit Valley
College**
*Where Learning
Comes to Life*

Currents

Vol. 1 No. 1, Fall 2006

WELCOME

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Skagit Valley College is an equal opportunity employer and provides a drug-free environment. We are committed to providing a workplace in which all individuals can achieve success in a climate of equality and to enhancing the diversity of our faculty, staff, and students. AA/EOE.

All Skagit Valley College publications and documents are available in alternate formats upon request by calling Disability Support Services, 360.416.7818.

COLLEGE MISSION

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Since our modest beginnings in 1926, Skagit Valley College has established a rich tradition of making a difference in people's lives. I am sure that many of your colleagues, family members, and neighbors have walked through our doors. Since that first day, we have gathered 80 years of stories to tell – people touching the lives of others, overcoming challenges, and achieving their dreams.

Throughout each year, I have many wonderful opportunities to meet the people of our district at college gatherings as well as at community events. Often times, I enjoy a special anecdote as you express your enthusiasm about SVC. For example, many of you supported our strategic planning process by participating in one of our community focus groups. Through our conversations, I learned more about the ways in which SVC makes a difference in your lives. In addition, I learned that you would like to learn more about us.

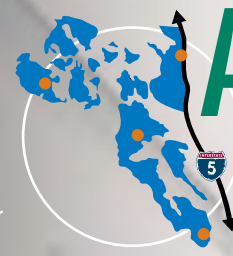
So, in response to your feedback, the College and the SVC Foundation have joined together to develop a publication that focuses on college events and information. I am pleased to welcome you to the inaugural edition of *Skagit Valley College Currents*. It reflects our commitment to communication and engagement with you, our community.

Inside our first issue, we have included interesting features about demographics, facilities, celebrating students, faculty, partnerships, and the arts. In the pages that highlight the valuable work of the Foundation, you will see how your support makes a difference in our students' lives with highlights about the Board of Governors, donors, scholarships, exceptional faculty, program support, and special events.

On behalf of the Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees, thank you for helping *SVC Currents* come to life! With 80 years of history, we have a lot to share! As always, I welcome your feedback on our newest publication.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Tollefson
President



Around the district



SOUTH WHIDBEY CENTER

South Whidbey Center students get a unique approach to their basic education — classes

that blend old styles, opinions, and experiences with a new and unique approach to learning. The Center has embraced intergenerational learning, a teaching style that blends the generations in the classroom and allows for the exchange of resources and knowledge among older and younger people. "The serious attention of the undergraduates is heartening for the future — reassuring," said senior Elizabeth Stennis. Other seniors agree. "I'm very pleased to be in a class of younger people. Somehow it gives me the desire to learn even more," said Gerry Watkins. Call (360) 341-2324.

SAN JUAN CENTER

The San Juan Center's Elderhostel Program is a national leader in continuing education for seniors over 55, and is the largest in the Northwest with almost 50 programs offered this year. Programs taught at the San Juan Center are built around the natural environment of the islands. Participants learn about natural resources, sustainable living, history, and wildlife of our area. "We really want people to walk away with a renewed appreciation for our human existence within our natural environment and our relationship with that environment," said Dr. Denise King, Director of the San Juan Center. Call (360) 378-3220.



Elderhostel group aboard the Spirit of Columbia

BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

The Business Resource Center will offer in January a one-day "Get Lean and Pocket the Savings" workshop at The Skagit Casino & Resort that will give you tools derived from lean manufacturing to help you eliminate waste and become more productive in any business environment. Companies around the world swear by lean principles to keep their output high and processes fast. You can apply these same simple principles to any business, large or small. "Getting Lean" means going through the process of eliminating waste and inefficiency and replacing it with what the Japanese call "kaizen," a term for continuous improvement. Call (360) 416-7909.

MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS

To assist individuals exploring opportunities in Business, the Business Administration, Business Management, and Business Resource Center programs will offer students a new "team approach" to student success. The Business Programs option will help business professionals, employees, and high school graduates to make well-informed choices in degree selection, career training, skill upgrades, entrepreneurial support, and personal enrichment. Students will receive specialized information on advising, course selection, degree requirements, internships, and employment trends.



Kathy Payant



Dick Johnson



Laura Cailloux

Business Administration: four-year transfer degrees, Dick Johnson, (360) 416-7670.

Business Management: two-year degrees and certificates, Kathy Payant, (360) 416-7776.

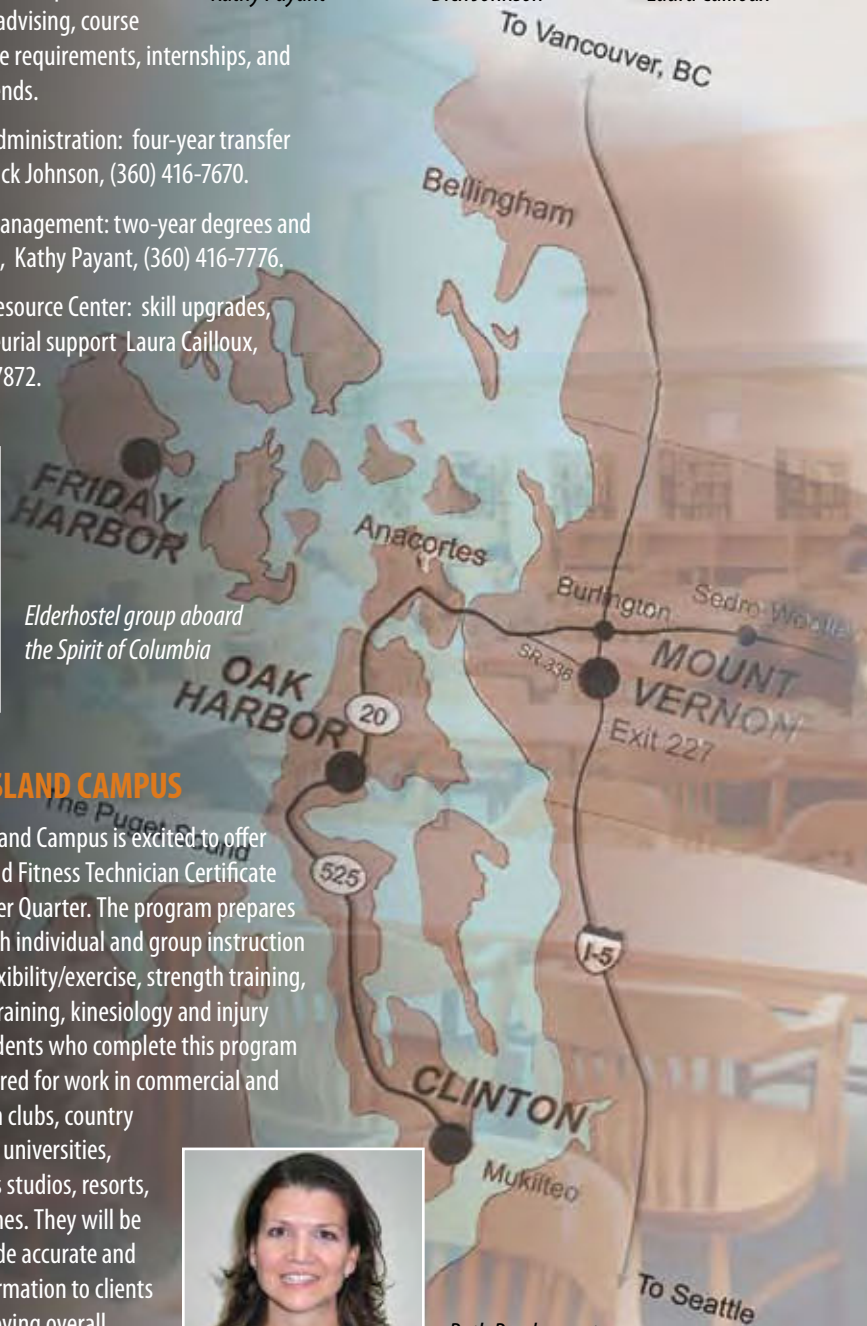
Business Resource Center: skill upgrades, entrepreneurial support Laura Cailloux, (360) 416-7872.

WHIDBEY ISLAND CAMPUS

The Whidbey Island Campus is excited to offer a new Health and Fitness Technician Certificate beginning Winter Quarter. The program prepares students to teach individual and group instruction on nutrition, flexibility/exercise, strength training, cardiovascular training, kinesiology and injury prevention. Students who complete this program should be prepared for work in commercial and nonprofit health clubs, country clubs, hospitals, universities, yoga and Pilates studios, resorts, and clients' homes. They will be trained to provide accurate and up-to-date information to clients regarding improving overall health and fitness. Call (360) 679-5344.

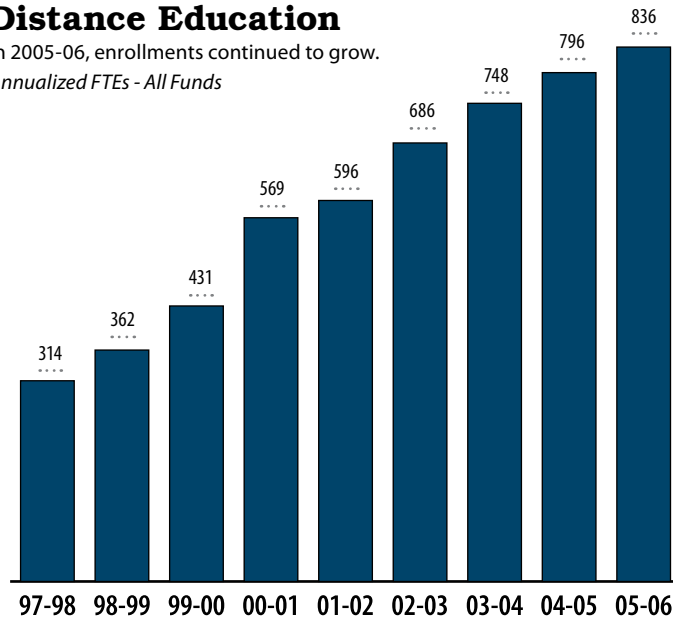


*Beth Pendergrast
Health & Fitness Instructor*



Distance Education

In 2005-06, enrollments continued to grow.
Annualized FTEs - All Funds



OUR STUDENTS

[FALL 2005 CREDIT CLASS ENROLLMENT: 6,214 STUDENTS]

Age & Gender

The average age for students enrolled at SVC for credit is 33. The majority of students are female, and the average age for females is 33. In contrast, the average age for male students is 29.

Female	3,915	63%
Male	2,299	37%

Ethnic Diversity

Native American/ Native Alaskan	78	1%
Other/Not Specified	97	1%
African American	100	2%
International	169	3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	350	6%
Hispanic	834	13%
White	4,586	74%

Attendance

Part-Time	3,728	60%
Full-Time	2,486	40%

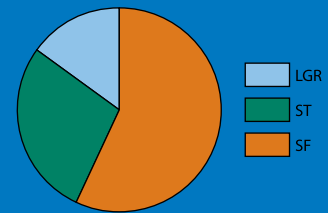
Program Goals of Students

General Studies	105	2%
Basic Skills Development	622	10%
Family Life, Other	968	15%
Workforce Training	1,852	30%
University/College Transfer	2,667	43%

Financial Data

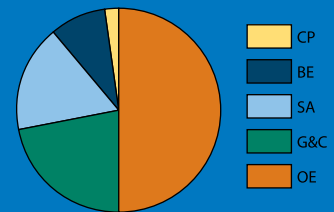
SOURCES OF FUNDING

Locally Generated Revenue	15%
Student Tuition	28%
State Funds	57%



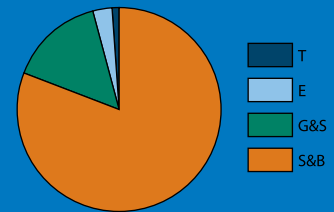
COLLEGE BUDGET

Capital Projects	2%
Business Enterprises	9%
Student Aid	17%
Grants & Contracts	22%
Operating Expenditures	50%



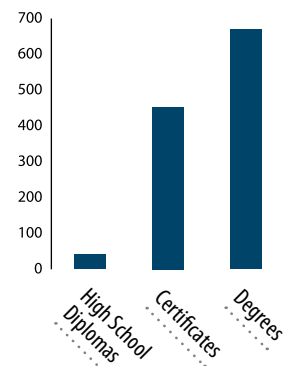
OPERATING EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

Travel	1%
Equipment	3%
Goods & Services	15%
Salary & Benefits for Teaching & Support	81%



Degrees & Certificates Awarded

During 2005-06, the college awarded 669 degrees, 453 certificates, and 41 high school diplomas.



Scholarships & Financial Aid

In 2005-06, the SVC Foundation awarded over \$250,000 in scholarships to SVC Students. Financial aid totaling \$7.9 million was distributed to 2,200 students.

Campus Center Renovations Make Student Spaces More Enjoyable

We've got big plans for the Campus Center! The building, which was built in the 1950s, is in the process of being expanded and remodeled. The improvements are designed to give the building a welcoming atmosphere, be a place for students to gather, and a focal point for activities at the Mount Vernon Campus.

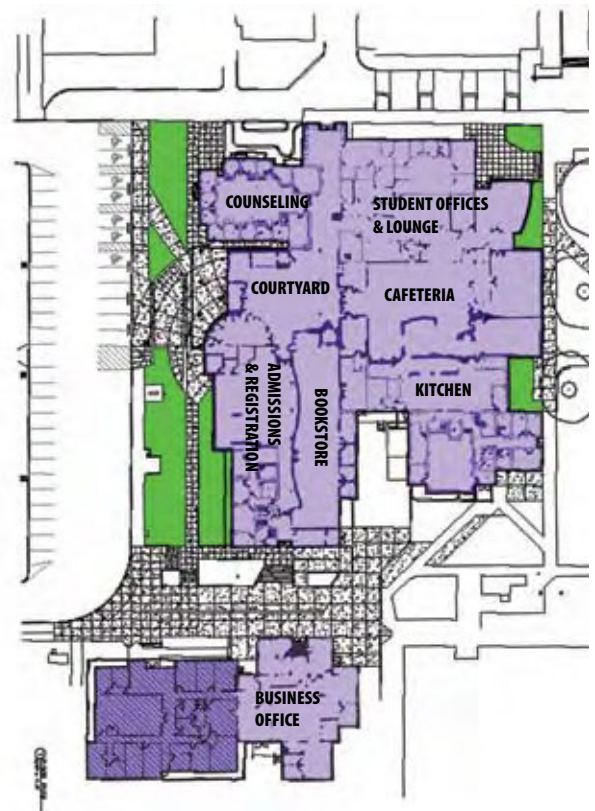
"We've been planning this for many years," said Alan Muia, Director of Student Life. "Students have been very positive about it."

The building will provide important secondary educational programs like guest speakers and student club and government offices — which are currently housed in a portable building. The Associated Students will move into new offices with a workroom and meeting spaces. The renovations will also double the number of lounge/recreation spaces in the Campus Center to four. That includes a programming space for guest speakers, a dedicated fine dining area, as well as a study space and lounge.

In addition, the Art Gallery will move to a more prominent area of the building and increase in size. The Cafeteria will be improved by adding a "scramble" area for food selection rather than the current cafeteria line system.

Some offices and departments will relocate after the center is finished, while others will get a makeover but remain in the building. The Cardinal Bookstore will move into the renovated Campus Center. The President's Office, Business Office, and the SVC Foundation will move into the current bookstore location. The Registration area will be completely remodeled so students will not have to stand in the hallway anymore waiting in line for services.

Site Plan



New Skills Center Will Provide Transition to College

Skagit County is one of the fastest growing areas in the state and is projected to grow faster than the state as a whole. As baby boomers in critical areas like nursing and other skilled trades retire, Skagit Valley College is preparing the next wave of skilled employees for Skagit County and Washington state.

SVC is currently working with area school districts to plan and construct the new Skagit County Technical Skills Center which would be built on the Mount Vernon Campus

beginning in late fall of 2007, if approved by the Legislature.

The Skills Center will provide the bridge between high school vocational classes and SVC Professional/Technical programs. Six school districts will offer high school students technical classes through the Skills Center: Anacortes, Burlington-Edison, Concrete, La Conner, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley. Students would attend their high school part of the day before traveling to the Skills Center for the

rest of their classes. The Center will provide educational resources that are not available at individual schools.

Instructors will be able to create a learning environment that is more like the workplace with tools found on the job site.

It is hoped by supporters that more quality training options will be available for students and that they will have a smoother transition from their high school technical programs to Skagit Valley College.

Celebrating students

Champions of DIVERSITY Awards



photo by: Pedro Perez Photography

Seventeen students received scholarships to Skagit Valley College. They are, in alphabetical order, Rocio Almaraz, Monica Bravo, Estephanie Carrillo, Yesica Casillas, Juan Corrales, Maria Galindo, Ana Garcia, Maria Garcia, Rosario Gonzales, Adilene Granados Rodriguez, Amighanne Mendoza, Gregoria Morales, Miguel Morales, Natalie Navarro, Adriana Suarez Nolasco, Heriberto Torres-Sanchez. Not pictured, Victor Martinez.

McIntyre Hall was filled with some of Skagit Valley's best and brightest high school students during the 2006 Champions of Diversity Awards ceremony. Fifty-one high school students were honored for their contributions to diversity on their campuses and in their communities. Out of that group, 34 graduating seniors

received a total of \$77,500 in scholarships to attend colleges and universities in Washington state, including Skagit Valley College.

Esmeralda Renteria, now a student at Skagit Valley College, spoke to the audience about her own struggles as a high school student from a poor family. Ms. Renteria's migrant parents never attended school in the United States, and could not support her academically. After her parents' divorce, she thought she could never afford college. Ms. Renteria was active in several clubs during high school and always tried her best. Her dream is to be an educated woman of color. Ms. Renteria's efforts were recognized with an SVC scholarship, and she now attends full-time. She said the scholarship gave her confidence in herself. Ms. Renteria will graduate from Skagit Valley College this spring, and transfer to Western Washington University. She plans to become a lawyer someday.



Esmeralda Renteria is a former Champions Scholarship winner and a full-time SVC student.

Ms. Renteria is one shining example of the kinds of students who receive Champions of Diversity Awards. The event is designed to honor students in grades 9 through 12 who come from Skagit, Island, and San Juan county high schools who have contributed to diversity on their campuses and in their communities. To be eligible for a

scholarship, a student must be a high school senior with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Each year, more than 50 high school students are presented with a "Champions" award at the ceremony, and about 35 seniors receive scholarships that range from \$1,000-\$18,000. The program's goal is to award each nominated senior a scholarship to attend college in the state of Washington.

Some students selected for scholarships through Champions of Diversity are not eligible for federal financial aid. These scholarships support them in furthering their education at one of the seven participating colleges

or universities: Skagit Valley College, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, University of Washington, Washington State University, as well as Western Washington University. Local businesses and community organizations also award scholarships to diversity nominees.

All-Washington Academic Team



Two Skagit Valley College students, Amanda Kirkland, of Oak Harbor, and Alix Kathryn Stinnett, of Burlington, were honored at the 11th annual All-Washington Academic Team for Community and Technical Colleges ceremony held at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. The annual event is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today, and the American Association of Community Colleges. The Honorable Governor Christine Gregoire congratulated each student and posed for an official photograph with each team member. In addition, each student was presented with a commemorative medallion from his or her college president.

Amanda Kirkland

GPA: 3.26

Major: Law

Whidbey Island Campus



Alix Kathryn Stinnett

GPA: 3.68

Major: Bachelor of Fine Art

Graphic Design

Mount Vernon Campus



Dr. Ernest Tutt enjoys playing the didgeridoo, an Aboriginal Australian wind instrument made from a termite hollowed eucalyptus tree.

Dr. Ernest Tutt Helping Students Find Their Voice

Language is a powerful tool in any student's arsenal against ignorance. No one knows this better than Dr. Ernest Tutt, adjunct instructor in the Skagit Valley College Communications department. He grew up in Texas during the 1970s, when the stigma of racism still permeated everyday life. Now, Dr. Tutt regularly participates in programs that promote cross-cultural understanding. He performs his "Voices of Freedom" dramatic piece at public schools, universities, and colleges across the country. The one-man show follows the history of the African American civil rights movement through the speeches of its leaders, men like Malcolm X, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., anti-slavery activists Henry H. Garnet and Frederick Douglass.

Dr. Tutt discovered the beauty of the spoken word at an early age. He competed and won speaking competitions in his home state of Texas and throughout the South in the 1970s.

One of his high water marks was winning the Reader's Digest National Public Speaking Contest at age 18. The connection he made with the audience still resonates with him to this day.

"To stand up and feel that connection with people that I had never met and had no contact with before, and to see them hanging on every word I said — that's when I realized the power of the spoken word," Dr. Tutt said. "It requires a tremendous responsibility to be ethical in what you say and to be honest in what you say."

The part-time speech and communications instructor enjoys instilling others with his love and respect for public speaking and rhetoric.

"I love to help students discover their own voice," he said. "Helping them discover their own unique way [of speaking] and helping them feel that they have something of value to say."

He also teaches two skills-specific classes, interpersonal and multicultural communications. The interpersonal class explores the way communication affects — and is affected by — our relationships. His multicultural class explores how race and ethnicity shape our world view, and ways to understand different perspectives.



Faculty [+] focus

The Cutting Edge of Education Reform



Dr. Lynn Dunlap

For the last
20 years, Skagit

Valley College has been recognized nationally for groundbreaking work in general education reform. General Education (Gen Ed) classes are required courses in the arts and sciences that provide students with a broad educational experience. Students must complete a range of Gen Ed classes for a baccalaureate degree. Many students prefer to take these basic classes at a community college rather than at a four-year university.

Dr. Lynn Dunlap in the English department faculty has been working on Gen Ed reform for the last 20 years, and has helped make Skagit Valley College a national model for the movement. General education reformers like Dr. Dunlap have asked themselves — what should graduating students know, what skills should they have, and what values should they share?

Currently, general education reform is focused on making today's college students critical thinkers and well-rounded learners. This means teaching them skills that are transferable to any major or job. SVC has come up with 11 learning values that are designed to do just that. These values are integrated into the college's Gen Ed classes.

"We have a very ambitious General Education program," Dr. Dunlap said. "One part of that is the way we have reframed the structure of how we teach to emphasize skills and understanding."

Dr. Dunlap is a Fellow of the National Learning Communities Project, and serves as a resource faculty member each summer for the National Summer Institute on Learning Communities, helping to train teams of faculty and administrators in how to develop effective programs. The teams, both 2-year and 4-year, public and private, come from colleges and universities all over the U.S. and Canada.

The CHINA Connection

A Cross-Cultural Partnership That Broadens Our Worldly Vision

For nearly 20 years, Skagit Valley College and Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) have enjoyed a highly successful faculty exchange program which has brought 18 Chinese professors to SVC and has allowed SVC to send 13 professors to China. The program has brought cross-cultural understanding, unique educational opportunities, and a host of fresh faces and ideas to both campuses. And, of the 13 SVC faculty who trekked to China, four of them spent two years teaching there, including SVC's currently exchanged Paralegal instructor Ted Maloney.

"SVC students can get immediate access to Chinese language and culture courses. In learning Chinese, American students will broaden their vision of the world by obtaining a fuller and more current picture of the other side of the planet," said Cheng Jin, current Chinese exchange instructor. "As for Chinese students at BFSU, they, as foreign language learners, will benefit a lot from qualified American teachers by bettering their pronunciation, getting first-hand information about foreign culture and ways of thinking, and sharpening their awareness of cultural and linguistic similarities and differences."

The professor exchange program began in 1988 when SVC sent Dean of Counseling Gerald Jordheim to China and received Lu Zhaosong in return. Mr. Jordheim was one of the architects of the exchange program, along with Dr. James Ford, who was President of SVC at the time. The late '70s and '80s marked a political and economic shift in China, and the country generally became more open to foreigners at that time. Both Dr. Ford and Mr. Jordheim saw the emerging Chinese Tiger for what it was, and knew future students would benefit from a greater exposure to Chinese culture. Beijing Foreign Studies University professor Ding Wang Dao came to Western Washington University in the late 1980s. Dr. Ford used that opportunity to work with Mr. Ding and create the SVC exchange program.

"It was unusual to have a Chinese program at that time. We were really on the cutting edge as far as getting into China," said Fay Shane, who was involved in the early development of the program through the President's office. "There were enough visionaries at this college who saw the importance of the Chinese program."



SVC Paralegal instructor Ted Maloney practices Tai Chi. Mr. Maloney has represented SVC at Beijing Foreign Studies University since Fall 2005.

Having an exchange program with BFSU puts Skagit Valley College in prestigious company. The Beijing university is one of the best language schools in the country and offers the largest number of language learning programs in China. The University regularly accepts foreign students with prestigious credentials, like Fulbright Scholars. BFSU offers 30 undergraduate programs in foreign language studies. Graduates of BFSU go on to work in high-profile positions as translators in the United Nations, diplomatic posts, and international business.

Chinese Exchange Instructor Enjoys Her Stay at SVC



It's 8 a.m. Students in the gym are moving slowly – not with sleepy early morning eyes but with concentration and purpose. They're engaged in Tai Chi, a traditional Chinese mind-body exercise consisting of 24 intricate sequences performed in a slow, relaxed manner. Their instructor, Cheng Jin, leads the class in her powder blue jogging pants.

"Raise your hands together, left palm out first," she tells the class. Jin leads them through a movement before standing back to observe her students' progress. She moves through the exercise with the grace of experience. As the annual exchange instructor from China, Jin is certainly more familiar with Tai Chi than with the United States, although she has acclimated well since her arrival in September.



In China, Jin is a full-time English instructor at Beijing Foreign Studies University and holds a Master of English Literature degree from the same school.

"It has long been my dream to live and work in a purely English environment for even a short period of time, which for sure will benefit my own English studies and broaden my vision both academically and philosophically," she said. "Teaching

renders me a sense of peace and satisfaction. Every minute has the possibility of yielding something new, something that will better and enrich teaching and learning and make class enjoyable."

Her dedication is easy to see. During her time at Skagit Valley College, Jin is teaching basic and advanced Chinese language classes, as well as Tai Chi. She also led a discussion in November on young people's lives in China, their attitudes towards family, marriage, work pressure, and entertainment.

Jin enjoys the works of female English writers like Emily Brontë, Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, reading books, and watching DVDs.

What strikes her most about our culture is Washingtonians love of nature and the outdoors.

"Hiking in mountains, cycling along quiet trails or sailing at sea has become an inseparable part of many people's lives here. For a person who was born and grew up in a city like me, these activities are quite challenging but extremely fascinating," she said. "I also noticed people's awareness of environmental protection. Wherever they go hiking or cycling, they take their own trash back home and leave everything as it is found. They are trying their best to protect the environment, to protect their homes, and thus to maintain an enduring relationship between nature and people."

The Spotlight

Choir Fundraising for Carnegie Hall Performance

The Skagit Valley College Choir, accompanied by their instructor Dr. Diane Johnson, have been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in the spring by MidAmerica Productions of New York City. The group is thrilled to have been selected from the many community college choirs throughout the United States to perform Haydn's "Mass in Time of War."

The SVC Choir was chosen based on their high quality of musicianship and exceptional recommendations by Dr. Johnson's colleagues. For some of the singers, this trip will mark their first journey outside Washington state.

"This trip has already increased interest in the choral program at SVC," Dr. Johnson said. "It is an honor to perform in such a historic place. The group will push themselves to perform their very best in Carnegie Hall. They will also push themselves in fundraising their way to New York."

The cost of the trip is \$1,517 for each singer. The performers are paying one third of that cost, and the choir is fundraising for the rest.

"We still need to raise \$18,078 to pay for the entire trip. We are looking to local service organizations, corporate and private sponsorships, and performance revenue to raise this money. Our students are very hardworking both at school and at home. Many of them have more than one job to support themselves. If you would like to sponsor a student for this trip, we would welcome that sponsorship," Dr. Johnson said. "Gifts can be made through the SVC Foundation and designated to the New York Tour."

The choir will spend 5 days and 4 nights in New York City, and about 10 hours rehearsing during that time. The choir will join several other choral groups from across the country and the New England Symphonic Ensemble to form a festival chorus of about 175 singers.

"We will be learning a challenging piece of music that will help us grow musically and emotionally. We will be able to perform with many other talented musicians, in an amazing hall, in a city many of us have never visited. The trip will provide everyone with amazing experiences."

Cardinal athletics



Epperson's Road to 600 Wins

100 • Dec. 1, 1983

SVC 73, Fort Steilacoom 50

200 • Feb. 18, 1988

SVC 77, Olympic 44

300 • Feb. 22, 1992

SVC 73, Olympic 65

400 • Feb. 10, 1996

SVC 77, Everett 58

500 • Dec. 18, 1999

SVC 99, Trinity Western 67

600 • Feb. 11, 2004

SVC 70, Whatcom 65



2006 Athletes of the Year:

Women's Basketball: Hannah Wells was Most Valuable Player North Region 2006, Sophomore All Star game participant, and was a Team Captain 2006.

Baseball: Ricky Reavis was the Northern Region Most Valuable Player 2006, led the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, and set many school records.

Women's Basketball: Marielle Hickman was a sophomore All Star Game participant and a Team Captain in 2006.

Enriching Lives, One Team At A Time

Coach Steve Epperson Reflects on 30 Years at SVC

Coach Steve Epperson has worn many hats in his 30 years at Skagit Valley College. The laid back smile he gives to visitors and students doesn't begin to show his dedication to the athletic department or the College.

When he first started working at SVC, back in 1977, he coached basketball, volleyball, and baseball, in addition to serving as assistant to Athletic Director Gary Knutzen. For the last 27 years, he has also been the Director of Financial Aid.

Team photos cover the wall in his office and continue out onto a coffee table. His impressive 640-win record and 22 wins-per-season average are not what he dwells on. He looks fondly at the faces staring back at him from the framed group photos. Epperson remembers students by name, but — more importantly — he remembers their stories. Epperson's smile dances in his eyes as he describes "his girls."

He's recruited those from affluent families and those who were not, valedictorians, as well as at-risk youth.

Epperson has a knack for seeing the potential a student has both on and off the court, and he has the skills necessary to help each player find their way in life.

"The wins and losses and games are always exciting, but it's the kids that matter," he said. "We use basketball as a means to get them in school. We use these things as an avenue to get them where they want to be. Some of them don't know what their dreams are yet, but everybody needs to find their niche."

He's been a "life coach" to his players. Epperson has helped them through difficult family situations, called students to remind them to go to class, and stressed the importance of academics and graduation. He sees the whole person.

He subscribes to the "pyramid of success" developed by John Wooden, head basketball coach emeritus at the University of California Los Angeles. The pyramid outlines values and ideals expected out of the basketball program and the players. At the base of that pyramid are friendship, industriousness, loyalty, cooperation, and enthusiasm. Competitive greatness is at the top.

When he's out recruiting high school students, Epperson

looks for good players with core values who will work hard on the court and in the classroom.

"It's easy to sell the program because there are so many positives that go with it," Epperson said. "Part of it is that success breeds success. When you are out looking for good players, they want to be in a stable, successful program."

Another huge selling point is continued support from the college and community. He said the administration has always been very supportive, and team spirit is boosted by the college students, faculty and staff who turn out to support the Lady Cardinals.

"What SVC is here for, and is all about, is to help people achieve their dreams. The bottom line is we get to help students and that's what we are all here for," he said. "For me it has been a great 30 years working with great people!"





WORKING TOGETHER

Foundation

Skagit Valley College

The Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees and Skagit Valley College Foundation Board of Governors met in their annual joint session on October 25. The members heard a presentation on the "Direction of Community Colleges in the State of Washington for the Next 10 Years" by Jim Garrison, 2005-2007 Chair for the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Front row (L-R): Fay Shane, Dot Gailey, Debra Lisser, Margaret Rojas

Middle row (L-R): Tom Moser, Nancy Fey, Kathy Larson, Cecilia Johnson, Marvin Omdal

Back row (L-R): Kathleen Willins, Dr. Gary Tollefson, Sandee Gordon, Jess del Bosque, Ron Wigal, Megan Colwell, John White

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Kathleen Willins, President	Mark Iverson
Colonel F. Betz	Cecilia Johnson
Marilynn Choates	James Kotschwar
Megan Colwell	Kathy A. Larson
Nancy Fey	Marvin Omdal
Dorothy Gailey	John White
Sandee Gordon	Ron Wigal

A Message from Foundation President Kathleen Willins



As I visit Skagit Valley College, I marvel at the Mount Vernon location in beautiful Skagit Valley but also the new curbside look with the presence of the McIntyre Hall Performing Arts & Conference Center on the east side of the entry to the campus. While I am struck by the physical changes

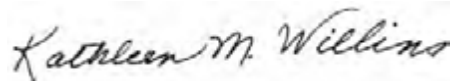
that I see on the Mount Vernon Campus, I am also aware of much more to come. The Campus Center remodel will be underway soon and a new science building is on the horizon.

However, it is not just McIntyre Hall and the new construction that catches my attention, it is also the new and expanded professional/technical and academic programs that include nursing, pharmacy technician, health and fitness technician, and business programs. Likewise, the Whidbey Island Campus, the South Whidbey Center, and the San Juan Center continue to expand program opportunities and distance education options. As Skagit Valley and the islands continue to grow and evolve, they need programs

to support agriculture and marine activities as well as provide more technologically advanced opportunities.

Private support of these programs helps advance the college and the community into the future. Private giving can come in many forms that reflect the abilities and interests of donors. Examples of past private giving are gifts of land, the establishment of endowed scholarships that reflect the donors' interests, the grand piano that now graces McIntyre Hall, and generous support of our annual fund drive.

When the College contacts you, I encourage you to offer your support. With your help, the College can continue to represent the best in education and opportunity for the citizens of our community. Skagit Valley College is not only a place for youth to start their college experience but also is a place for those who need to retool careers in this ever-changing world of employment. With your help, they can prepare for new opportunities, employment, and learning.



Kathleen M. Willins
Foundation President



18TH ANNUAL JAMES M. FORD GOLF CLASSIC TOPS PRIOR YEARS

Underwritten by:



Puget Sound Refinery

The 18th Annual Skagit Valley College James M. Ford Golf Classic, held in May, was a huge success thanks to generous golfers and sponsors. The tournament raised over \$47,000, the net proceeds going to scholarships and other educational resources. Over 200 golfers participated in the daylong tournament at Avalon Golf Course.

First place honors went to "Read 'Em And Weep" led by team captain Kyle Reep.

"We are very grateful to have Shell Puget Sound Refinery underwrite the tournament again this year," said Kathleen Willins, Board President. "Their support has helped the SVC Foundation raise well over \$400,000 in past tournament proceeds."

Planning is underway for the 19th Annual tournament to be held May 11, 2007. If you are interested in joining next year's tournament committee or reserving sponsorship, contact the SVC Foundation Office at (360) 416-7717.

Thanks To All Our Generous Sponsors And Volunteers!

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2007 SAVE THE DATES

← **JAMES M. FORD
GOLF CLASSIC**
Friday, May 11, 2007
Avalon Golf Club,
Burlington, WA

← **WHIDBEY ISLAND
GOLF CLASSIC**
Friday, June 22, 2007
Whidbey Country Club
Oak Harbor, WA



14TH ANNUAL WHIDBEY ISLAND GOLF CLASSIC SCORES RECORD SUCCESS

Underwritten by:



The 14th Annual SVC Whidbey Island Golf Classic was held at the Whidbey Island Golf and Country Club on June 23, 2006. Whidbey Island Bank as Underwriter, along with Saar's Markets and Northrop Grumman and a host of other generous sponsors, raised over \$37,400, making this year's tournament the highest yielding to date.

Each year, scholarships are awarded to Whidbey Island Campus students from the golf proceeds. An additional fund, the Whidbey Island Bank Endowed Scholarship which provides emergency assistance for students, is also generated from tournament proceeds and currently has \$105,000 in endowed funds.

A special thank you goes to John McMahon of Northrup Grumman for co-chairing the event for the third consecutive year.

The 15th Annual SVC Whidbey Island Golf Classic will be held on Friday, June 22, 2007 at Whidbey Island Golf and Country Club. For more information, contact the SVC Foundation Office at (360) 416-7717.

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Champions of DIVERSITY

Honoree Profile



ROCIO ALMARAZ

La Conner High School senior Rocio Almaraz was recently awarded the KSVR scholarship to attend Skagit Valley College in Fall 2007. She is a dedicated student, and plans to study health care and medicine while attending SVC.

Rocio is no stranger to tragedy. She lost her mother to cancer last summer. That same year, her diabetic father had surgery to remove both feet. After these misfortunes, Rocio, her father, and twin brother Luis moved in with an older sister and her family. Her father, a Spanish-speaking migrant, can no longer work, so Rocio is his driver and caretaker. In addition, she works long hours at Subway Sandwich Shop to help support her family.

She attends school faithfully, despite the hardships in her life. Rocio is determined to attend college, receive an education and become self-supporting.

The Skagit Valley College Foundation prioritizes scholarships for students over all other needs and is pleased to help Rocio, and students like her, bring their dreams to life.



Jack Kenney

Helping Grow The College And Its Foundation

The students knew him as Mister Kenney. His fierce blue eyes and strong handshake are a testament to the instructor that co-workers knew as Jack. The firm, no-nonsense man taught 19 different courses during his 27-year tenure at SVC, including typing, economics, business math, economic geography and a one-week stint as wrestling coach.

Jack Kenney saw the college through a period of enormous growth and change, and played a significant role in the advancement of the college and the founding of the SVC Foundation.

"I was strict," Mr. Kenney said, recalling the first time a student walked out of his class. He kept right on teaching without missing a beat. Mr. Kenney wanted to teach those who wanted to be taught, and wasn't going to waste valuable instructional time.

As a typing instructor, Mr. Kenney was a stickler for good posture and hand control, which most likely saved countless typewriter typists from carpal tunnel syndrome — the plague of modern computer typists.

"It was a golden time. I was fortunate to be here when the President went all over the country to hire faculty. There was quite a variety, and it made for very interesting teaching. World views from people who had been all over the world."

Mr. Kenney was one of those who had traveled. He was stationed in Europe during World War II, and was profoundly influenced by the orphans who would approach him and beg for food and aid. They had no schools or guidance.

"It was after seeing those things that I started thinking about



This 1964 yearbook photo shows Jack Kenney and an unnamed student in typing class.

going into teaching," he said. After getting his degree, he taught at a high school before winding up at SVC with the other diverse and world-traveled faculty. He would throw parties in his home and invite other SVC instructors. They called themselves the "chowder and marching society,"

and had great fun, he said, grinning like a kid in a candy store.

"There was quite a variety," Kenney added. "They would fight like cats and dogs, but they were always willing to listen to other points of view."

During dark, rainy winter days, Mr. Kenney would lighten the mood



Circa 1978: Alumnus John Wells makes a contribution to the SVC Alumni Association, while then President Dr. James M. Ford and Jack Kenney look on.

"If it wasn't for Jack, the Foundation wouldn't be here."

Fay Shane,
SVC's Foundation
Director

Continued on next page

Litton: Making His Mark

with “Cheers,” a self-made publication Mr. Kenney put out occasionally — on used paper only, of course — that had antecedents of “little things all around us,” as the first one read “that make us glad, put a spring in your step, and a smile on your face.” He was — and still is — quite a character.

After retiring from SVC, Jack Kenney received emeritus status in 1989, a position reserved for the best and brightest faculty. In 1992, he was inducted into the Skagit Valley College Hall of Fame, one of the highest honors that the college bestows. Established in 1989, the Hall of Fame recognizes and honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Skagit Valley College or honored it by their personal achievements.

Also significant to SVC, Jack Kenney was instrumental in helping to establish the Foundation. In the 1970s, he decided to restart the SVC Alumni Association and began contacting all college alumni dating back to 1926. He made thousands of index cards with contact information, using a typewriter. The project became enormous, and Mr. Kenney realized the college needed a foundation to manage this information. College President Dr. James Ford agreed, and the two enlisted the help of a local attorney to write the first articles of incorporation, establishing the Foundation in 1978.

“If it wasn’t for Jack, the Foundation wouldn’t be here,” said Fay Shane, SVC’s Foundation Director. Mr. Kenney was on the Foundation’s Board of Governors until about 1983.

Mr. Kenney sips coffee on a recent rainy afternoon and falls easily into conversation with Ms. Shane, discussing college and foundation business as if he had never left. His blue eyes are sharp as ever and his brown-rimmed glasses are reminiscent of the ones he wore when the strict instructor was known as Mister Kenney.

“I think we had the best community college in the state,” he added with the hint of a smile. “We had excellent students. We might have had to yell at them a little, but they were good students.”

Mark Litton’s dream of becoming a doctor has been a long time coming. He never thought he had what it took to be a physician. He got queasy at the sight of blood. The high school drop out was also intimidated by the thought of going to college, much less medical school.

All that has changed for him. The tapestry of Mark’s life is marked by the painful deaths of his father and sister, but also vividly colored by the small town Wyoming boy’s world travels to aid the poor and alleviate the suffering of the third world. His journey through life has helped him believe he could become a doctor and has given him the courage to excel in his studies. Mark is now attending Western Washington University (WWU), and plans to continue on to medical school in about a year.

A large factor in Mark’s success was attending Skagit Valley College and receiving the prestigious Sidney S. McIntyre, Jr. Scholarship awarded through the SVC Foundation. The award pays for two years of tuition, room, board and books. The aid was a godsend for the father of two, whose wife is also in college perusing a degree in public health.

“There’s no way to convey to someone what this means — what kind of impact this financial aid has had on my family,” he said. “To be able to sleep at night without worrying about money is just huge.”

The scholarship has given him peace of mind, but it was the academic foundation he received at Skagit Valley College that has allowed both Mark and his wife Teresa to excel at WWU. Their classes and corresponding labs at SVC prepared them for the rigors of upper level health and science classes. Both Teresa and Mark said the administrators and staff at SVC went out of their way to help. “They want you to make it, and they do whatever it takes,” he said. “I had a Ph.D. whose door was always open to me.”

Now, four years into the educational process, Mark is four quarters away from a double bachelor’s degree in biology and anthropology with a minor in chemistry. He’s applying to medical schools all across the country and shadowing local doctors who work in emergency medicine and family practice. The more exposure Mark has to the medical world, the more excited he is about his chosen profession.

After medical school, Mark dreams of returning to Skagit County to practice medicine alongside the doctors who have been his mentors and friends. And — just maybe — teach a biology class at SVC.



Mark and his wife Teresa examine a model of the human eyeball. Mark and Teresa take classes together and often share the same text books.

“There’s no way to convey to someone what this means . . . what kind of impact this financial aid has had on my family.”

Mark Litton,
Sidney S.
McIntyre, Jr.
Scholarship
Recipient

Conversations with Athena

Issac Hernandez Medical Assistant Student

Issac Hernandez enjoys living each day to the fullest. He'll earn his phlebotomy certificate this quarter, and graduate from Skagit Valley College in the fall with an Associate in Technical Arts Degree in Medical Assisting.

"I've always had an interest in the human body," the Sedro-Woolley native said. He became interested in the health care field during high school, after taking a sports medicine class.

Issac is still an active athlete, enjoying wrestling, basketball with friends, and SVC's kickboxing class. He also likes to help others. Issac served as a SVC Peer Advisor last year, giving tours and advice to his fellow students.

He plans to continue his health care education after graduation by enrolling in the Radiology Technician Program at Bellingham Technical College. Issac hopes to eventually work in a local hospital. He enjoys the action and excitement of a medical setting, where "something different goes on every day."

Issac is enrolled in the Medical Assistant program at Skagit Valley College, which offers six certificates and an Associate in Technical Arts Degree. Students learn entry-level skills to work in a variety of health care settings, including hospitals, clinics, physician's offices, insurance companies, and community agencies. Certificates are offered in Medical Assistant, Medical Front Office Skills, Medical Billing and Coding Specialist, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Assistant, and Dialysis Technician. Students may attend classes on a full-time or part-time basis.

For more information on the Medical Assistant Program, contact Department Chair Jeanette Hemming at (360) 416-7720 or jeanette.hemming@skagit.edu.

Athena, goddess of wisdom, the arts, and crafts, stands proudly in front of the Norwood Cole Library/Media Center at the Mount Vernon Campus. A conversation with Athena is sure to enlighten any student.



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