

President's Report May 2007

On May 15th we as a college will learn whether we will be building a new campus to serve the educational needs of our community well into the future or getting on with the completion of whatever repairs and improvements to the current campus that are possible with the \$15 million we already have. While I consider these to be two very different projects – with very different goals and outcomes – both can be ways in which we act on our continuing commitment to make post-secondary education available to any and all. I believe this understanding will be critical to us as we together move forward with whatever resources that the Clatsop County voters choose to provide us for our work to meet the current and future educational needs of our community.

It's been a busy month. Getting the word out locally on the Campus Replacement Project and representing our need for State support to the 2007 Legislature has put me in Salem for 5 days over this past month and in front of various local community and civic groups at least 5 times. It has been gratifying to hear and see the support for the college in our community and to learn that, in spite of community rivalries that sometimes divide us, there are many who see this project as something on which we as a county can agree.

And there have been other great things going on as well!

Student Scholars

On April 23rd I had the privilege of accompanying and introducing our two Student Scholars to the greater Oregon community. Pat Haggard and Jody Stephens are outstanding representatives of the students we serve and I was proud to be able to honor and congratulate them at this year's Student Scholars Event. (By the way, our own Marilyn Lane served as MC for this event too, so Clatsop was very well represented!)

Faculty Appreciation

May 7th – 11th is Faculty Appreciation Week and we at Clatsop have much in our faculty to appreciate! Over and over again I hear stories of how our faculty have provided not just the instruction but also the encouragement and support necessary for one of our students to succeed, and I am grateful that we have so many faculty here at Clatsop that embody the Access and Quality principles on which we as a true community college are founded. Special events to show our appreciation include:

- Pictorial Display outside the Instruction Office
- Cake and Coffee Reception from 2-3 PM on Thursday, May 10th (Patriot 2nd Floor)
- Also, on June 6th from 4 to 6 PM, my wife Rita and I and Sheila Ruhland will be hosting an Open House Reception for all Full and Part-time Faculty at our home. This reception is being generously supported by our Foundation.

As Board members you are invited and encouraged to participate in all of these events.

Values Conversation on Diversity

On Thursday, April 19th we at the college gathered for our 4th Values Conversation. Margaret Frimoth and Jennifer Whitman joined forces to lead us in an inspired and inspiring conversation on how our Diversity needs to be understood and developed as a valuable resource to us as a learning community. My sense is that this was only the beginning of an important dialogue that will lead us to being more intentional in nurturing Diversity as a Value, and as an asset.

Foundation Art Auction

On Saturday, April 7th the Foundation held its Annual Art Auction, this time at a new location – Camp Rilea. It was a great event, both fun and successful in raising around \$40,000 in gross receipts, supporting student scholarships, some special academic program needs, and the general work of the Foundation. I am grateful to Nadine Faith and the Foundation Board for this essential support they give to us and our students.

Progress on SSC and PAC

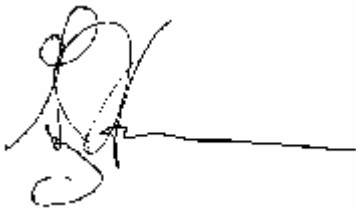
If you happen to be on our campus, take a look at the progress being made on the “One Stop” Student Services Center (the old Physical Plant which, before that, was the Welding / Metals Fabrication building). Also – but not exactly on our campus – we are doing some much needed exterior work on the Performing Arts Center as part of our efforts to maintain this important community resource as well as the many Arts & Ideas programs that we offer to the public there.

Two days of rafting with AHS students!

Finally, as part of my efforts to develop real connections with students, I will again be volunteering to participate in and help with the Astoria High School rafting trips – the first of which is on the weekend of May 5th and 6th. I love being able to spend time with students – some of whom become our students – in such a wonderful outdoor setting, and I thank Principal Larry Lockett and the Astoria School District for making it possible for me to do so.

For us as a college, and for us as a community, the future will be as bright and promising as we choose to make it. I thank you – the Board, the campus community, and the greater county community – for all you are doing to make sure that Clatsop Community College is there, ready to provide the access to educational opportunity and success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. J. ...', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.