

The Friends and Alumni Newsletter is sent on a regular basis to keep you current on news and events at Whatcom Community College. We hope you'll join us on campus soon!



## Your News & Updates for May 2017



We call this Celebration Season at Whatcom. Business Club Student Night, Honors and Awards Ceremony, Running Start Graduate Reception, Retiree Recognition, Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Student Leadership Banquet - leading up to the biggest celebration of all at Whatcom: Commencement on June 16. And since we're thinking about those people who inspire our students... tell us about your favorite Whatcom faculty or staff member. We will enter you in a drawing for a 50th year mug. Email [foundation@whatcom.edu](mailto:foundation@whatcom.edu)

## The magic of education: One student, one teacher

Student Ernesto Guerra and teacher Justin Ericksen explain the transforming power of education.



## Former astronaut Wendy Lawrence is 2017 Commencement speaker

She logged more than 1,225 hours in space on four space flights. As a naval aviator, she made more than 800 shipboard landings. Our graduates and their families are excited to hear what retired astronaut Wendy Lawrence has to say to our students. Commencement is 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 16 at the Pavilion and Student Recreation Center on campus.



Wendy Lawrence



WCC's PTA program is offering a teaching clinic at the Health Professions Education Center on campus.

## PTA teaching clinic open through spring quarter

To gain practical learning experience, Whatcom's physical therapist assistant (PTA) program is piloting an innovative clinic. It pairs teams of physical therapist assistant students with a practicing licensed physical therapist to provide non-acute treatment to referred clients who are without insurance or who have exhausted their benefits. The clinic helps students practice skills and addresses a growing shortage of clinical sites that provide on-the-job learning experiences for students.

## Two WCC students named to All-Washington Academic Team



van den Heuvel and Powers

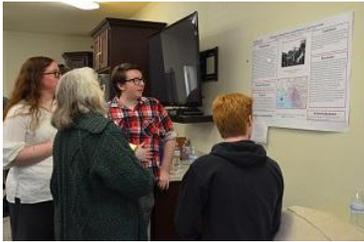
Whatcom students Christiana van den Heuvel of Deming and Emerson Powers of Acme were selected for the All-Washington Academic Team. This honors students committed to both classroom success and community service.

Each team member receives a \$250 scholarship. Christiana also received an additional \$1,500 scholarship from Phi Theta Kappa honor society and Coca Cola. As a nurse, she plans to work in emergency medicine in Chad, where she previously provided medical care. Emerson entered Whatcom at age 15 and is enrolled in

the College's cybersecurity program. He was a mentor at WCC's cybersecurity camp for middle and high school students.

## Geology students study slope stability at local condominiums

Instructor Kaatje Kraft's Geology 211 students had the opportunity for some real-world experience recently. A local condominium association asked for help after noticing a small dip that appeared to be growing in a flat lawn area. The students



examine the area.

developed a research topic investigating slope stability. Student teams studied historical use of the area, problems with water infiltration, and impacts of current use.

Although as introductory geology students they did not have the expertise or tools to fully address the problem of slumping, the class determined that, given enough concerning trends, a geologic survey team with engineering skills should further

## WCC partners with UW to improve health care for rural and underserved communities in western Washington

Selected for its leadership in health professions education, Whatcom is designated the new Area Health Education Center (AHEC) for western Washington, partnering with the University of Washington and the state Department of Health.

Through this partnership, Whatcom will provide critically needed health care resources, including curriculum and training, to rural communities west of the Cascades. Immediate projects include a program to recruit medical, dental and behavioral health students for clinical practices and residencies. Whatcom also will support a rural outreach nursing education program.

Whatcom's allied health programs include registered nurse, physical therapist assistant, massage practitioner, certified nursing assistant, medical assistant and care navigator and coordinator. A new program for licensed professionals offers chemical dependency training.



## A Magic night for Whatcom

Whatcom's golden anniversary - the 50th - was celebrated at The Magic of Whatcom last month, as friends gathered for an evening to raise money for student scholarships and programs. Nearly \$170,000 was raised by generous donors supporting the hopes and dreams of students seeking an education. Our gratitude is boundless!

## New legal professions curriculum offered

WCC is one of five community colleges in Washington state to offer the core curriculum required to become a Limited License Legal Technician (LLLT). Retroactive to fall 2016, graduates of Whatcom's paralegal studies program who continue and successfully complete additional LLLT requirements may become independent law practitioners, authorized by the state Supreme Court, to assist clients with a limited scope of family law legal issues. Their work may include consulting with family law clients, helping clients with family law forms, and navigating the legal system. For more information and to enroll, visit [whatcom.edu/paralegal](http://whatcom.edu/paralegal).

## A visit from an ambassador

It was standing room only for retired American ambassador John Koenig, who came to Whatcom recently. Invited by the Political Science Club and instructor Barry Maxwell, Ambassador Koenig discussed the new cold war, Russia and



Ambassador John Koenig

NATO, to an audience that included students, faculty and staff, as well as many community members. More topical presentations are planned.

## **Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons groundbreaking planned for August**

Whatcom's long-awaited new building, the Charles and Phyllis Self Learning Commons, is tentatively approved for full state funding (\$33.9 million). The first state-funded building for the college since Kulshan Hall opened in 2004, the Learning Commons brings together the College library, tutoring centers, plus collaborative and individual work spaces to accommodate WCC's significant growth in students.

The 65,000 square foot building will anchor the corner of Cordata Parkway and Kellogg Road at the entrance to the campus. Groundbreaking is planned for late summer with completion in fall 2019. The building was named by the Board of Trustees in 2014 in honor of Phyllis and Charles Self, longtime college advocates and philanthropic leaders extraordinaire.

## **When you visit campus ...**

Two upcoming minor constructions projects will take place this summer. Pedestrian improvements at the main crosswalk between Laidlaw and Kulshan will result in pedestrian-activated lighting and additional signage. Additional signage alerting drivers to pedestrians also will be added to the crossing between the Pavilion and Cascade Hall. With increased demand for biology and chemistry lab space, a collaboration between the faculty of both disciplines is resulting in conversion of a lecture space to a new lab.

## **50th anniversary rolls on: President Kathi is grand marshal of the Blossomtime (Ski to Sea) parade**

Yes, Whatcom's President Kathi Hiyane-Brown is not only a nationally known leader in higher education, but also a good sport, who will be waving to the crowd as she leads this year's Blossomtime (Ski to Sea) Parade on May 27 through downtown Bellingham. Kathi will be riding in style, accompanied by her three grandchildren and followed by an enthusiastic group of students, faculty and staff. Happy-go-lucky Willie the Orca will help lead the pod.

## **Opening night at the Museum: 50th exhibition debuts**

WCC is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a special exhibition at the Whatcom Museum. If you haven't yet seen this stroll through Whatcom's history, come down to old City Hall. The exhibit runs through the end of May, and will transfer over to campus at that time. Special thanks to Whatcom Museum staff for their partnership!



The museum exhibition includes artifacts from the College's 50-year history. In the middle image, President Kathi Hiyane-Brown welcomes local higher education leader Lynn Blackwell, who was one of WCC's first employees.

## Business Club's student night is May 10

The WCC Business Club hosts the third annual accounting/finance/business student night on Wednesday, May 10. Members of the Business and Accounting/Finance Community Advisory Committees talk to students about what they do for a living. This provides an opportunity for WCC students to network with local business leaders.

## A visit from the congresswoman

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, who represents the 1st district, visited Whatcom's computer and nursing labs last month. The tech-savvy representative spoke with Corinne Sande, director of Computer Sciences and Information Systems/CyberWatch West, about the need for more trained specialists in cybersecurity.

At the college's Health Professions Education Center, Nursing Program Director Annette Flanders demonstrated how technology is allowing nursing students to practice on high-tech manikins, or SIMS. Nursing instructors program manikins to simulate a variety of medical conditions and symptoms. We are grateful for Rep. DelBene's interest in two of our most in-demand fields of study and look forward to future visits from our elected representatives.



Rep. Suzan DelBene (left) tours the simulation lab with Annette Flanders.

We are building futures together.

Your gifts to students, faculty and staff, and college programs inspire us to do more. Dream bigger. Provide opportunity. Invest in our community. Join us!  
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### WCC Foundation Board of Directors

Kurt Anderson, chair; WCC President Dr. Kathi Hiyane-Brown, vice chair; Dr. Brenda-Lee Karasik, vice chair; John Stewart, secretary/treasurer; Troy Wills, immediate past chair; Dr. Lynne Masland, past chair; Phyllis Self, past chair; Victoria Dahlgren, at-large

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Caite Holman, WCC Foundation director

Advancement staff: Sue Cole, executive director for institutional advancement;  
Mary Vermillion, communications and marketing director; Caite Holman,  
Foundation director; Stephanie Schmitt, Foundation operations manager;  
James Zyon, senior graphic designer; Marisa Ellis, communications manager;  
Kate Imus, Foundation program specialist; Laura Going, graphic designer;  
Travis Bennett, administrative assistant

## Spring Celebration Season

**May 10:** Business Club Student Night  
**May 20:** Students Leading Change Conference  
**June 6:** Running Start Graduate Reception  
**June 7:** Orca Day  
**June 8:** Honors and Awards Ceremony  
**June 9:** Retiree Recognition  
**June 9:** Student Life and Development Celebration  
**June 15:** Nursing Pinning Ceremony  
**June 16:** Graduation

*All events on campus. Contact us for locations and times.*