A College Built with Vision and Creativity

Clatsop Community College at 50 Years

Written by
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and
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2008
Dedicated to Geraldine (Gerry) Swenson

For her service as instructor, adviser, Foundation Board member and generous philanthropist, the College expresses its highest regard and deepest gratitude to Gerry Swenson.

Gerry’s dedication to the College and its students began as a math instructor during the tenure of President Boss and has continued uninterrupted through the many successes, challenges and changes described in these pages. By her commitment and service, Gerry truly represents the “spirit of Clatsop.”
A College Built with Vision and Creativity
Clatsop Community College at 50 Years

Fifty years ago, Clatsop Community College began with a vision of building a vibrant educational community. Turning vacated and condemned high school facilities into Oregon’s first community college tested both the founders’ vision and creativity, but their success and the 50 years of service which followed are the foundations on which the College prepares for the 50 years to come.

Vera Whitney Gault authored “Clatsop Community College: A Brief History”, which was published by Clatsop Community College in celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary in May 1983. She summed up not only the facts, but also provided a sense of place and a broad perspective of the College. Vera wrote: “Since 1958, Clatsop Community College has been adding its history to the unique, historical area which surrounds it. Located on a broad ledge on the north side of Coxcomb Hill, its 40-acre campus sits midway between the Astor Column on the crest and midtown Astoria at its base. Its expansive view sweeps from Tongue Point on the east to the Columbia River bar on the west, which Captain Robert Gray discovered in May 1792. From the top of the hill to the south can be seen the wooded site of the rebuilt Fort Clatsop, winter headquarters of Lewis and Clark in 1805-06. The College, thus surrounded by history, has a significant history of its own.

Clatsop Community College, authorized by legislative action, was established in August 1958 under the direction of the Astoria Board of Education, District 1C. Douglas Olds, superintendent of schools for the district and Emmett Towler, County Superintendent of Schools, set the wheels in motion.”

~Vera Whitney Gault

Fifty years ago, Richard Boss, the first President of what was then called Clatsop County Community College, gave the first student body of the new college a message about a wonderful challenge and tremendous opportunity. The first students were asked to initiate the customs, traditions, and student organizations for the new college. As history changed, so did the challenges faced by students, presidents, boards, faculty and staff.

President Greg Hamann recently summed up the present challenges facing the College in this way, “For 50 years, Clatsop Community College has served Clatsop County, focusing on providing the people in our communities with the education they have needed to better their futures. Having reached this milestone of a half-century of service, we take pride in what has been accomplished in our past; but we also look toward the future, making the preparations that will ensure we are here to provide this same service to our communities for the next 50 years.”

~Dr. Greg Hamann

That “wonderful challenge and tremendous responsibility” set forth by President Boss lives on today with the College’s present day students. Their lives are changed by their experience at the College, and so are those who work with them. What is even more important to those who come to learn at Clatsop Community College is the same clear and ever present focus on student-centered learning which has remained the heart of the institution.

~Sharon McConnell and Kathleen Paino

~Sharon McConnell and Kathleen Paino
The following challenge was issued in the 1959 college catalog:

TO THE FIRST STUDENT BODY OF
CLATSOP COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- A MESSAGE AND A CHALLENGE -

Students who enroll in the Clatsop County Community College when it opens for fall term classes in September 1959 will become members of the first student body of the college. Clatsop County Community College will have no customs, no traditions, and no student organization.

The first challenge to the student body of the college will be to set up its own student body governing board; to establish its own student clubs and organizations; to plan a program of student activities; to write a constitution for the Associated Student Body; to decide on the publication of a college newspaper and select its name; to choose the college colors, and to initiate activities of various kinds which will become college tradition. Indeed, the first students of Clatsop County Community College will have a wonderful challenge but a tremendous responsibility not only to themselves but to the student who will, in years to come, be students at the college.
In 1958, Clatsop County still had thriving timber and fishing industries. Tourism, while it contributed significantly to the local economy, hadn’t begun to achieve its current status. The Astoria-Megler Bridge didn’t yet exist, the nation was just beginning to put the Post-WWII boom into perspective, and there was an air of optimism about the future. Of the graduating population of the local high schools, a fair percentage of the male students had plans for college, and a growing number of female students had an interest in a career outside the home. The idea of its own local community college, providing extended education for adults and transfer classes for high school graduates, may have seemed an unattainable dream to many of Clatsop County’s residents; yet that dream would prove not only to be realistic, but would perhaps exceed the expectations of even its most optimistic supporters.

The Clatsop County School District 1C, Astoria, Oregon, the Oregon State Department of Education, and the Oregon State System of Higher Education were the original cooperating entities to bring higher education to Clatsop County. Richard Boss, then Vocational Education Director for the Roseburg schools, was hired in 1958 as the new Vocational and Adult Education Director and asked to establish an expanded program of adult education.

The program was to include classes in vocational/technical fields, general education offerings, and for the first time in Astoria, college transfer courses. The transfer program, as explained by Richard Boss, would be “the first step towards organizing a junior college in Astoria and may be expanded if the response is favorable.” Class enrollment for fall term 1958 was almost 300, with classes held in the evenings from 7:00-10:00 in the new Astoria High School. Instructors for the extension division of the State Department of Education provided the classes, although there were some local, fully accredited teachers.

By the fall of 1959 classes were still being held at Astoria High School, but class schedules were extended to include late afternoon hours after the high school students vacated the classrooms. The first Catalog in 1959 hailed Clatsop County Community College as “The Centennial College” in honor of Oregon’s Bicentennial in 1958.

There were no formal admissions requirements. Although graduation from an accredited high school was desirable, it wasn’t necessary. Open admissions to all residents became a tradition that continues today.
The following are the College Board members who quickly and efficiently ushered in the first accredited community college in the State of Oregon during its first decade.

**Board members from 1958 – 1968**

Dr. E.G. Palmrose  
Mr. Marvin Taylor  
Mr. Richard Schroeder  
Dr. E.W. Harvey  
Mr. Bob E. Graves  
Dr. J. Hitchman  
Mr. Robert Lovell  
Mr. Max Schafer  
Colonel Arthur Fertig  
Mr. Richard Gertula  
Mr. Maitland Goodman  
Mr. Eimer Jeppesen  
Mr. James Borders  
Mr. Harry Desler  
Dr. J. Straunford  
Mr. Edwin Luoma  
Dr. John Rankin  
Mr. Kermit Gimre

First Catalog, 1959  
CCC archives
The original curriculum included two years of classes that could be transferred and two-year sequences of classes in the Vocational/Technical fields of Electronics, Business, Automotive, and Building Construction. The College also had lively Adult Education offerings in homemaking, hobby, commercial fishing, supervisory training, apprenticeship, and language arts. Among the local part-time teachers were Charles Dymond, automotive mechanics; Reuben Jensen, photography; Mayor Peter Cosovich, money management; Helena Perttu, Finnish language; Alta Schalk, Clatsop County history; Evelyn Egan, reading skills; Robert Lovell, economics; Ed Abrahamson and Pat Tolonen, business studies; Leona Tolonen and Viola Sheets, sewing and tailoring; and Fred Edfaw, electronics. The first Board of Directors included Dr. E.W. Harvey, Chairman, Dr. E.G. Palmrose, Bob E. Graves, Dr. J. Hitchman, and Robert Lovell.

Richard Boss, the Program Director and soon-to-be President, was born on an old homestead farm in central Kansas, the only son in a family of four younger sisters. When the family was split up during the Depression, he moved into town and worked his way through high school by working on a dairy farm. Boss served in the European theater in France during combat, and he attained the rank of commander in the 3rd Army Tank Corps. For outstanding service rendered in the Battle of the Bulge, Central Europe, and Occupation Forces, Boss received three Service Stars. Seriously wounded near the end of the war, he was hospitalized in both Paris and Britain before finally returning to active duty until the war ended. Mr. Boss graduated from A & M College with a degree in Vocational Education Administration. He immediately took a position in the Roseburg, Oregon, public school system as Director of Vocational Training and completed a Masters degree from Oregon State University before accepting the Director’s position at Clatsop.

In the fall of 1960, the expanded curriculum and positive public relations resulted in more Astoria High School graduates enrolling as freshmen, and more local citizens finding classes related to their particular interests. Classes in fishing and maritime technology were introduced. A news sheet, The College Paper, was introduced, honor roll students were recognized for the first time, and summer school courses were organized.

There were no students graduating the first year of the new college (1958-59), but at the end of the second year, Judy Gaither and Nelma Osterlund, both of Astoria, received one-year diplomas in Business Education. No commencement was held.

By its third year, the education project that had begun in 1958 had grown too large for District 1C to continue to manage as an educational sideline. Director Boss, Superintendent Towler, and members of the 1C School Board had already made several trips to consult with the State Board of Education. They had also selected a tentative site for construction of the new college—the two abandoned high school buildings at the top of Sixteenth Street in Astoria. The City of Astoria agreed to turn over the adjoining lots to provide the proposed college with its own home on a 40-acre campus for the token cost of one dollar. Thomas Edison, a local attorney serving the College at that time, drew up the necessary paperwork.

In addition to an application for the establishment of the new college and describing the proposed curricula, financial plans, estimated enrollment
Diplomas/Degrees Awarded, 1961

Business Education – Diplomas
Janet K. Culver, Seaside
Judith G. Glasco, Astoria
Bonnie J. Hubbard, Astoria
Shirley E. Jepsen, Astoria
Darlene D. Petersen, Astoria
Marilyn M. Ranta, Astoria

Electronics Engineering – Associate Degree
Morgan L. Heesch, Astoria
Lawrence J. Holderbein, Astoria
Ralph C. Orluck, Seaside
Carl L. Larson, Seaside
Ronald W. Lum, Astoria

Highway Technology – Diplomas
John E. Larson, Astoria
Larry W. Lingren, Astoria
David J. McGhee, Astoria
Dennis S. Carlson, Astoria

Richard Boss by a unanimous vote was declared the first president of the newly organized Clatsop County college.

1962
Richard Boss becomes President
• February 1962 Pionee
and a comprehensive ten-year plan was prepared for the State Board of Education and the State Emergency Board. The application was approved and the State allocated $175,000 to renovate the main building, leaving the old gymnasium unchanged. At the time, Dr. Leon P. Minear, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, told Director Richard Boss, that “Your college’s plan and progress, the first so far submitted, sets a high standard for other new community (college) districts in Oregon drawing up similar ten-year plans.”

A campus life for students began to blossom. Mixers and dances were held, and a basketball team was organized under the tutelage of George Conatore and began practice in early December of 1960. Scheduling was difficult, but a reasonable number of games were arranged against suitable competition, including several colleges and local independent teams. According to Mr. Conatore, “The most outstanding performers were John Hubbel, Jerry Sigurdsen and Brian Brown, ably assisted by Jim (Skip) McCallister, Dennis Carlson, Ed Jessen, Bob Hendrickson, and Bob Monson. One outstanding performer was Jim Dickson.”

The Columbia Press reported in September, 1960: “The Automotive-Diesel Department of the College is Unique In State.” Other colleges required students to be full-time and to take courses during day-time hours, but Clatsop College offered not only a full two-year course after regular working and school hours, but welcomed those individual who for one reason or another could only enroll in a course or two in the evenings. Another tradition that has continued was born during those formative years.

In March, 1961, the State Board of Education approved the College’s request to award the Associate Degree in Applied Science to graduates in electronic technology. Dr. Leon P. Minear, State Superintendent of Public Instruction said “the people in Clatsop County have a great deal to be proud of in their community college.”

The first annual graduation of Clatsop County Community College took place on Sunday, June 4, 1961 at Trinity Lutheran Church (the present day Performing Arts Center) in the College’s third year of operation.

On January 26, 1962, Clatsop County residents voted to form a county-wide education district which would manage the College and separate it completely from District 1C. Following a vote of 2,895 “Yes” and 365 “No” the Daily Astorian wrote, “Yesterday’s election brought an overwhelming vote in favor of the new county-wide education district. Most observers believed the people would approve the district, but few suspected the margin of victory would be so enormous”.

On February 19, 1962, Superintendent Towler presided over the installation of the newly elected College Board. The first organizational meeting was called to order in the Home Economics room at the new Astoria High School facility. The first Chair elected for the College Board by other Board members was Colonel Arthur Fertig. Mr. Gerttula was elected Vice-Chair, and Dr. Palmrose, Recording Secretary. The other Board of Directors included Richard Schroeder, Marvin Taylor, Max Schafer, Sr. and Maitland Goodman.

The Board’s first act was to appoint Richard Boss as President. The name “Clatsop College” was chosen after considering several other options, such as Pacific Coast College, Sunset College, and Lower Columbia College. The name
In January, 1961, The College Paper, edited by Janet Miller (and advised by Miss M. Halderman) reported the following top ten tunes as they related to college life at Clatsop and their world in general:

- **Zombie Jamboree** - The College
- **Thursday Nite Mixers**
- **Many Years Ago** - Fall Term Finals
- **I’m a Lover Not a Fighter** - Fidel Castro
- **You Gotta Have Heart** - Carol Burnett
- **Johnny One Note** - Fabian
- **I’ve Got You Under My Skin** - The Flu Virus
would be changed once again in 1965 to Clatsop Community College. The Directors’ next step was to set about procuring operating funds to supplement state and tuition money. The new Board members appointed the first Budget Committee members, including Dr. Fred Rawls, M. J. Misco, Elmer Blomquist, Hiram Johnson, Ray Haglund and James Borders.

During that time the students changed the name of the College’s news sheet to The Pioneer and began promoting campus activities, including Gamma Sigma Phi, which, according to Ann Altheide, Acting President, “offers an opportunity for all girls to render service to their school.” There was also the Circle K Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, “which took on co-sponsoring basketball and rifle teams”, according to President Lee Fisher.

On March 7, 1962, the Board applied for State approval to establish a community college pursuant to state legislation. That same week, the Astoria City Commission assured the College Board of the immediate transfer of city-owned property to the College District. With this in place, if the voters approved the budget to be put before them in the upcoming election, the College would be in business. It would have a building sufficiently large, with some additions, to take care of its needs for 10 years, with land for expansion. And the Board had hopes of purchasing the rock quarry immediately south of the campus. Within a month, plans were also approved to build an automotive shop on contiguous lots obtained from the County. At this point, the total cost to the College District for the campus that is still its home 50 years later was a mere $2.

On March 28, 1962, Clatsop Community College Foundation was established with the purpose of raising funds to provide scholarships for Clatsop College students. Reflecting the civic pride of the community in its new college, Friends of the College established a student loan and scholarship fund. Led by a $1,000 gift from the Rotary Club, several other organizations also made contributions. Fifty years later, the Foundation manages nearly $3 Million in endowed and annual funds benefiting the College and its students.

April 6, 1962 was set as the date for the first county-wide budget election for the College. With another astoundingly favorable vote, 1366 “Yes” and only 260 “No”, the community approved the budget, and the College now had its own buildings and campus, its own Board of Directors, its own charter signed by Governor Mark Hatfield, and its own financial resources. Among the first instructors and administrators approved by the Board at their April 18 meeting were: Leo Marlantes, Dean of Instruction; George Shaber, Dean of Men; Barbara Nydegger, Dean of Women; Evelyn Egan, Liberal Arts; and Henry Norling, Automotive. George Huhtala became the first custodian/maintenance worker. The first Engineering Advisory Committee was also formed. Soon thereafter, the Board petitioned the City of Astoria to create an assessment district. On May 2, Roberta Anderson was...
“The Astoria community college will never become a “real college” until it gets a full time faculty, daytime classes and separate facilities. Director Richard Boss told chamber of commerce members.”

~ Evening Astoria Budget, 1962
hired as a half-time librarian. Ms. Anderson would prove to be a persistent and vital force in organizing a library for the College.

In June of 1962, renovations of the old high school buildings began, with Ernest Brown as the architect and Albert Mittet as the contractor. On June 28, 1962, Governor Mark Hatfield visited the College and observed the work that had begun.

Besides construction, other work was underway. In August, a staff handbook was developed. On August 22, the first community education proposal was developed, establishing that someone for each school district would be hired to schedule classes for their community. The college’s administrative offices were temporarily quartered in Patriot Hall. Doria Bulletset served as Secretary and Leona Tolonen as Registrar. George Huhtala became the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

Meanwhile, Al Mittet’s crews managed to renovate the plumbing, heating and wiring systems, refinish walls and floors, lower ceilings, and to construct an automotive building. Equipment and class spaces were organized and equipment was scrounged from any source possible, including the old Pillsbury Flour Factory and local schools. Clatsop College became the first community college in Oregon to be established in its own quarters and was ready for its first daytime classes on September 24, 1962, with 224 registered students.

The newly renovated main building housed the administrative offices, classrooms, a library which was directed by Librarian Roberta Anderson, and a counseling center directed by George Shaber. There was a Student Center, a corner of which was set aside for a cafeteria run by Maxine Dymond. There was an art room, where Charles Mulvey taught watercolor. Evelyn Egan taught reading skills and Fern Curry taught English classes. Among the vocational-technical staff were Henry Norling and Don Johnston. George Conatore and Jack Brown taught physical education classes in Old Hull, the old gymnasium.

On October 14, 1962, a public reception and tours of the refurbished buildings were held. Then, on November 2, the College was formally dedicated, with Dr. Minear as the main dedication speaker. State legislators Dan Thiel and William Holmstrom, who had helped guide the community college bill through the legislature, also spoke. Harry Swanson was the Master of Ceremonies. Governor Mark Hatfield sent the state flag, and the national flag was donated by the Clatsop Labor Council. The flagpole, donated by the College faculty, and the flags were dedicated on the front grounds prior to the rest of the ceremony.

“Those who attended the Open House at Clatsop College Sunday were greatly impressed with what they saw - and rightly so . . . The remodeling project has provided one of the finest school buildings in the area . . . Although the structure is more than 50 years old, there is not a single crack in the walls. It has not settled a fraction of an inch . . . It will be standing 100 years from now . . . it is one of the oldest and newest schools in the country. And it is one of the very few which is paid for.”

~The Seaside Signal, October 18, 1962 (unfortunately, later years eventually did have an effect on the building’s stability.)
Some of the nicknames given to the College by the community during its early years:

Tapiola Tech
Harvard on the Hill
The Centennial College
Evening School
Clatsop County Community College
UCLA (University of Clatsop Located in Astoria)
Astoria College *

*Prior to forming a county-wide service district
As the College grew, so did the students’ involvement. Student Body elections were held and Jim Bridgens was elected President. Jim McCallister and Lee Fisher had served in this capacity during the years when classes were in the Astoria High School facilities. The first yearbook was planned and the student newspaper’s name was changed to The Clatsop Courier.

Student officers elected for 1963-64 were Douglas Nelson of Knappa-Svensen, President; Marian Bue of Astoria, Secretary; and Mary Jean Hitchman of Warrenton, Treasurer.

In 1963, President Richard Boss conceived an idea that has become legendary at the College – to pay College employees with $2 bills. Phil Bainer, who later became President of the College in 1970, enjoyed recounting the story: “President Boss had the bills delivered to his office and we each marched in and were counted out our bills. The purpose was to let the community know of the impact of the College payroll in the community since these would be about as visible in the community as you could get. Unfortunately, some merchants found them to be a nuisance since their cash drawers did not have a compartment for $2 bills. The College’s law enforcement instructor was given the task of guarding the payroll and stood with a holstered pistol behind the President as payroll was made.”

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The College continued to gain momentum in the 1960’s. On October 10, 1963, the Board approved the beginning of a self-study as a preliminary stage for acquiring accreditation. The Board also discussed a comprehensive campus development plan to take them into the next 10 to 20 years. By this time, only one
Below:
Demolishing the burned Auditorium, constructing the Patriot Addition • CCC archives

Right: Barbey Hall
The Clatsop Courier, Fall 1965

Mrs. Gladys Jensen, House Mother, welcomes an early “customer” for the Barbey Hall Women’s Residence. Extensive remodeling has been done to provide students with the very best learning and living environment.
year after opening its doors on its new campus, enrollment had reached an impressive 196 students enrolled in Liberal Arts and Sciences, 23 in Industrial Mechanics, 26 in Engineering Technology, 53 in Business and Commerce, 20 in Forestry Technology, and 145 students taking general interest courses.

On December 19, 1963 the Board decreed that they would award fifteen $1,000 scholarships each year. The only criteria was that recipients be in the top 20% of their high school graduating class. The first recipients of the Board Scholarships, awarded on May 21, 1964, were Liona Morris, Richard Workman, Alice Holmes, Jan Simonsen, Bill Williamson, Lyle Myer, Lee Jones, David Pollard, Zoe-Vanna Palmrose, Norman Tolonen, Gary Archambault, William Hankel, Steven Brown, Carole Smith and Diane Herrman.

On January 16, 1964, the Small Business Administration Advisory Committee was formed. The following spring, the “Astoria Plan” was developed in partnership with the Welfare Commission to rehabilitate people on the welfare rolls. By October of 1966, the “Astoria Place” project reported that 60 families on welfare received instruction and there were only 7 remaining families on public assistance. On May 4, 1964 the College lost a budget election for the first time. The vote was 1,808 “Yes” and 2,115 “No”. This required budget cuts resulting in a decrease of the President’s salary and a lay-off of two instructors, two deans, and two secretaries.

In June, Vera Gault was hired as an English teacher, and Jack Brown was hired as a full-time PE Instructor and coach. John Holmstedt and Dr. Stewart McCollom, who would later become the College’s second president, were also hired. That summer also saw the Livestock Technology and the Marine Technology programs approved, and the beginning of the Library Fund. To build a new library, the College tapped into the Veteran’s Library Fund, which offered matching dollars to whatever the College could put toward the project.

On December 18, 1964, the lease of Barbey Hall as a student residence located adjacent to the College was initiated. Barbey Hall eventually accommodated up to 30 students attending Clatsop Community College. The following June, Mrs. Gladys Jensen became the first House Mother for Barbey Hall. Barbey Hall was eventually closed in the early 1970’s.

The 1964-65 student body achieved state-wide publicity and a commendation from Governor Hatfield when student body officers Paul Scoggins, Pat Broderick and Del Corbett organized a roadside cleanup drive. Faculty members and students gathered 18,000 pounds of litter along the 50 miles of Highway 26 between the Cannon Beach junction and Manning.

Perhaps the most noteworthy event in 1964 was the accreditation status given to Clatsop Community College by the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools. The original accreditation was for three years, subject to a progress report in 1967. Clatsop Community College became the first college in Oregon to achieve regional accreditation, opening the door for the college’s graduates to move into valuable vocation, or be accepted at the 4-year colleges and universities of the Northwest.

The planned renovations of Towler Hall were completed in 1965. Patriot Hall was renovated and the administrative wing connecting Towler and Patriot Halls was added. The vocational
"I sincerely feel a great source of pride and satisfaction to have been given the opportunity to play such a fundamental and active role in the building of a college. I value this experience greatly."

~ President Richard Boss
technical building was constructed and later officially named Fertig Hall in honor of Colonel Arthur Fertig, first chairman of the College Board.

The first College Policy Handbook was adopted, and on November 23, 1965, an Adult Basic Education Program was approved. In December of 1965, Allen Anderson, Chairman of the Evening Division recommended free tuition for residents of Clatsop County over 65 years of age, an approach echoed today in the ENCORE program. The faculty organized into a Faculty Association and on December 7, 1965 with the "complete approval" of President Boss, the Board of Directors officially accepted the association on December 9, 1965.

Graduates The First 6 Years

In May of 1966, President Richard Boss resigned and moved out of the area to pursue his Doctoral Degree.

Mrs. Ragnar Nyback said of President Boss, "He has given more than should be expected of his concern, energy and time to establishing the college and making it grow."

Mrs. Virginia Hendricksen also praised President Boss, saying "When my son graduated from Astoria High School, the letter which he received from the President of Clatsop College was by far more inspiring than those he received from other colleges." Phil Bainer described President Boss as "a hard driver and builder who was probably essential in order to get the College off the ground."

In June 1966, Dr. Stewart McCollom, who was hired as a new faculty member for the 1964-65 year, succeeded Richard Boss as President. That year proved to be very busy for him and the College. The Evening Division began to offer a full range of higher education courses (300-400 levels) in everything from Art Education to Speech Pathology to Geology. Vera Gault organized a successful "Campus Day for Women" with lectures and demonstrations attended by approximately 200 women. In December, the national community college student honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, invited Clatsop Community College to establish a chapter. And on December 13, ten Livestock (Dairy Herdsmen) received diplomas. And to cap its achievements for the year, the College learned that it ranked third among Oregon community colleges in sending new transfer students to the State College and University System institutions for 1966-67.

The College Board also drew praise. In March, 1967 the Faculty Association sent a letter to President McCollom, stating: "The Board of Directors has been a receptive guide to the Faculty and a willing partner in all discussions. They plan today for our tomorrow, and our tomorrow will be a better one by far because of the actions of the Board. To a man they are dedicated to the good of the College."
June 1967 Open House • CCC archives

Debbie Rule & Hundley Bergstad with 2 of the items that were placed in the time capsule • May 25, 1967 Clatsop Courier

June 1967 Open House • CCC archives

1967 • CCC archives

Debbie Rule & Hundley Bergstad with 2 of the items that were placed in the time capsule • May 25, 1967 Clatsop Courier
As it neared the close of its first decade, the College held an Open House on June 9, 1967. The welcome was given by President McCollom, and the Master of Ceremonies was Robert D. Holmes, former Governor of Oregon. Honored guests included Senator Daniel A. Thiel, State Representative William H. Holmstrom, County Commissioners Hiram Johnson, Vern Stratton, and Lyle Ordway, and Astoria’s Mayor Harry Steinbock. Emmett Towler sealed a time capsule to be re-opened at some later date. U.S. Senator Wayne Morse and U.S. Representative Wendell Wyatt addressed the gathering.

Senator Morse spoke to the difficulties in the fight to provide funding for post-secondary education. His speech proved to be visionary, even by today’s standards when he said, “But I urge you, when you take stock, to look clearly to the long run benefits which will accrue to our people if we have the wisdom to plant these seed corn dollars in the productive loam of a campus such as this.”

By the end of 1967, the challenges facing its students during that unique time were brought home to the College in a letter from Fred Cook, a former student who was just finishing boot camp, in training for the Vietnam War: “I have decided that I am going back to school when I get out of here,” he wrote. “I thought it was important before now, but I (now) know it to be more important.”

As the College geared up to enter its second decade, it would see more students returning from military duty seeking education and new training, as well as changing attitudes in higher education for women.
College Board Members 1968-1978

Dr. John Rankin
Mr. Max Schafer Sr.
Mr. Richard Gerttula
Mr. James Borders
Colonel Arthur Fertig
Mr. Henry Dessler
Mr. Harold B. Allen
Mr. Jack O. Daly
Mr. Harry Swanson
Mrs. Margaret Swindler
Mrs. Dee Beghtol
Mr. Mike Manion
Captain James Clune
Dr. John Banholzer
Mrs. Christine Strickland
Mr. Robert A. Bradley
Mr. David Pratt
The College Changes With Its Community
1968-1978

1968-1978

Highlights
• National Issues and Social Changes Affect the College
• A New Library is Built
• The College Acquires a Farm
• Astoria-Megler Bridge Completion Opens College to Washington
• College Expands into Tillamook and Columbia Counties
• College Hosts Students From Japan
• Television Becomes Part of Instructional Program
• Academic Accountability Begins

1968 was a pivotal year for the country. It would be seen by many as the beginning of a new era for civil rights, human rights, women’s rights, and labor rights; and by others as the beginning of turmoil within our nation, which was not only at war abroad but among itself. The year was marred by two assassinations, of Dr. Martin Luther King and presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy; and by the escalation of the Vietnam War. In the summer of 1969, the Woodstock gathering took place in New York, providing an unprecedented youth cultural event in the U.S. that has never been repeated, and by 1975 Microsoft was formed. According to popular music of the day, we were either at “The Eve of Destruction” or the “Dawning of the Age of Aquarius”. Regardless of one’s political views, from an historical standpoint it is inarguable that “The Times They (Were) A-Changin’”.

In 1964, The Tongue Point Job Corps Center, located at the former Naval Station located near Astoria, was opened. The Job Corps was established to provide general and vocational education, technical training, and useful work experience at residential centers for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to prepare them for responsible citizenship.
From the *Daily Astorian* October 8, 1968:

The dress code, as incorporated in the by-laws of the Associated Student Body and published in the Student Handbook, includes the following “inappropriate” items:

A. Clothing which is obviously not neat and clean.

B. Clothing which does not fit well; specifically jeans or slacks which are too tight. Ladies should realize that instructors may not wish them to attend class in slacks or jeans.

C. Shorts and unusually short dresses. Students should consider the place in which new styles of clothing are appropriate. Some items of clothing which are attractive and logical in sports activity for leisure time use, may well distract from the study atmosphere and be inappropriate in the classroom or halls.

D. It is understood that our students are expected to wear all customary items of clothing, including shoes. Students whose hair styles call for extra care and cleanliness and are tempted to appear without shoes may need to understand that a given faculty member or member of the administration may invoke the dress code.
and productive employment. The partnership between Clatsop Community College and Tongue Point Job Corps Center took root and over the decades scores of Job Corps students have also earned degrees at the College while enriching the learning experience for others by sharing their diverse backgrounds.

Television was another big factor in bringing the larger world closer to the area, as it did throughout the country. Still a rarity in the 1950s, by the 1960s a television was a common feature in most homes. In 1969 Clatsop County joined the world watching television broadcasts of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on the moon. For the first time, the nightly news also brought war scenes into living rooms and areas such as Clatsop County were influenced more quickly by trends and attitudes of larger, more urban areas.

This was also the first time the College administration and staff would need to deal with the effects of a struggling national economy on a local level. Board minutes and the student newspaper also began to reveal conflicts that were similar to those happening all over the country. Students were experiencing transitions that were new to themselves, the College, and the community.

In early 1968, a student opinion poll was taken in all freshman English courses, revealing the students’ beliefs that education itself was more vital than high grades, and that high grades were more important than popularity. The poll was designed to draw both positive and negative responses in four broad categories: 1) Education, its importance and nature; 2) Community colleges, in their particular relationship to higher education; 3) Instructors, their functions and responsibilities; and 4) The students themselves. Results also showed that students were harder on themselves than on their instructors regarding their own responsibility to study, but also indicated that the average high school graduate was ill-prepared for college. This kind of opinion analysis was a first for students at the College.

The College’s dress code became a hot issue in 1968, reflecting similar controversies over dress codes at college’s throughout the nation. “I have been allowed to register, I have been allowed to pay my tuition,” wrote student William Fulton in a letter to the Board. “My fee cards, however, have not been released, for my hair (is) too long.” (William Fulton eventually became student editor of the Clatsop Courier.) Fulton’s classmate, Bob Schnier, also wrote to the Board, stating: “Early last summer I applied to Clatsop Community College, and was accepted. When I came to register, I was told to get a haircut and dress cleanly (and not allowed to register).”

Not only did the student newspaper, the Clatsop Courier, cover the dress code issue, but it also became a feature news story for Portland KATU-TV “Viewers Voice” program. But the students were divided on the matter. According to a survey conducted by Student Body officers and reported by then Student Body President Charles Olson, 30% favored the present dress code, 35% did not favor it, 15% felt a new dress code should be formulated and 20% of the students felt the decision should be left to the student and instructor. (50% of the enrolled students responded to the survey.)

In the October Clatsop Courier, the newspaper interviewed Dean of Students, Earl Craven, regarding the dress code issue. Dean Craven, on the Board’s behalf, defended the dress code. “I cannot see how it could be more tolerant,“
he said. “The College is morally obligated to be sensitive to the wishes of the local taxpayers and voters who supply a large part of the money for CCC.” When asked about the need for a dress code, Mr. Craven cited the “successful ordinance in Cannon Beach that summer to ward off a hippie invasion.” But at a Board meeting in December 1968, student Mark Ludlow summed up another perspective on the dress code controversy, as well as other controversies of that decade. “The generation gap was responsible for the situation of today,” he stated, “and the lack of communication is the cause of much of the dissent being displayed.”

Ultimately, the Board also addressed admissions controversies by adopting the following position: “The Board reserves the right to be the final authority in cases referred to them by the administration.” This move allowed the Board to deal with issues such as dress code and other reasons for denying admission to the College which had growing legal implications for the College.

In contrast to the ongoing dress code controversy, five princesses were selected for the 1968 Homecoming Queen. Jeannie Callahan represented Liberal Arts, Maria Rautio represented for Forestry Tech, Carol Johansen represented Livestock Tech, Lynn Hankel represented Business and Joyce Rautio represented Law Enforcement. The Homecoming Dance theme was “Misty Moonlight” and the band “Shadows” performed. The dance took place after a basketball game with Judson Baptists. Maria Rautio was crowned by Student Body President, Bruce Combs.

Meanwhile, the national civil rights movement also touched the College. In the next issue of the Clatsop Courier, an advisor at Tongue Point Job Corp Center as well as a Clatsop student and Courier reporter, attempted to put race issues into perspective to assist students from the Center who were attending Clatsop. Ms. Martin wrote, “The Tongue Point Job Corp Center in Astoria is a melting pot in microcosm. The amalgam of various elements in the form of nationalities and cultures furnishes those of us who work there with an intimate view of the American dream – democracy.” Ms. Martin gave examples of white students at the Center refusing to speak to black students until they found mutual interests. The article offered a forum for students and in early April twelve students staged what is most likely the first civil rights march in Astoria. The students marched peacefully from the Student Union to the Astoria Courthouse. According to the Clatsop Courier, the march was made to show the people of Astoria that some of the students at Clatsop College cared about the need to end racial segregation. In the words of the marchers, “We want to arouse the community to the realization that some Clatsop students are aware of the impact of a great man and national issues (specifically Martin Luther King’s peace efforts on the racial issue) on their individual lives and the community. We march in the memory of a great man.”

The Vietnam War was also on the minds of Clatsop students during this second decade of the College’s history. In January, 1971, Clatsop Community College students were featured in a New York Post article entitled “Out of Blood.” It recounted an incident in downtown Astoria on a day the Bloodmobile was in town. The students were prevented from parading in the downtown area in protest of the Vietnam War because they had no parade permit. A student concluded by putting a red band on the arm of a City officer who cheerfully accepted it.
The political issues of the day were clearly important to Clatsop students. Some chose even more direct involvement. The February 1968 Clatsop Courier noted that Mike Bakkela, Student Body President during 1967 had been appointed a member of Vice-President Hubert Humphrey’s staff. Bakkela went to Washington as an aide to U.S. Rep. Wendell Wyatt after graduation from Clatsop.

The decade also represented a lot of growth for the College, both in its programs and expansion of the College outside the walls of the campus. Programs expanded to include Anthropology, Geology, Geography, Professional Physical Education, transfer courses in Business, and the use of television.

In 1969 the Board approved a contract with Cox Cablevision to broadcast on Channel 7. This contract was the beginning of a program in television technology and eventually to College programs and telecourses for credit. Jeff Daly and Joe Flickinger were the first employees in the field and that first “TV Generation” created some memorable experiences for the College and trained some excellent technicians and filmmakers.

The College began to explore ways to make commuting to the College more desirable to potential students who lived outside of Astoria. The Board approved a 2 cents per mile round trip mileage allowance to students who lived in the College district and up to 80% of the total tuition for students living beyond a 22 mile radius.

During this same time, a new phenomena began to happen at the young college. Youth were drawn to the campus whether they were students or not. There was a large student commons with a pool table, couches, and a television, all sponsored by student government, which attracted youth gatherings. It became necessary for the Board to discuss the administration’s concern regarding unauthorized personnel (non-students) loitering in and around the student union. The Board authorized the administration to deal with the issue in whatever way necessary.

The small spaces and the increased requirements for learning resources made a new library a primary focus of faculty and library personnel. Responding to a request from faculty for better library services, the new Library building was approved for construction at the February 15, 1968 Board meeting. The cost, without furnishings, was estimated at $220,000, but the amount eventually grew to over $400,000 primarily due to the terrain where it was built. Construction was scheduled to begin on December 19, 1968, with Brown and Brown awarded the contract. In 1969, the library moved from Towler Hall to its own new building under the direction of Librarian Roberta Anderson. The new 80,000 volume library was named in honor of Dora Badollet, longtime teacher and counselor for Astoria High School. Her name was submitted by a former pupil, Lee Hansen, who was employed by the College. As a prize, Mr. Hansen requested that a book be donated to the library in honor of the Class of 1928. The new library had three floors with a book lift, 36 study carrels and individual study tables. During the first years the library was in use, the semi-finished basement became Instructor Roy Garrison’s ceramics lab.

The continued community support of the College was evidenced by the November 21, 1968, Foundation Dinner which was attended by 400 people.
Blanche Pickering, left, graduated from CCC in 1969 at the age of 76. Wanda Beck, right, received her transfer degree in 2005, and another CCC degree just before her 78th birthday in 2007 • CCC archives/photo

Expressions literary publication (would later become Rain Magazine)

The Sea Duce in 1973 • CCC archives

Forerunner, 1979 • CCC archives

logo, 1973

The Forerunner in 2007 • Photo by John Wubben
In February of 1969, more employees were installed, including Margaret McCarter in Biology, John Honstedt in Business, Bruce Lower in Student Services and Mary Gabriel in PE.

On March 18, 1969 the Board was given a copy of Expressions, the first student literary review produced under the guidance of Ellen Shannon. Dick Basch was the student editor and the writers of this 50th year College publication (Sharon Matteson McConnell and Kitty Paino) were co-assistant editors of the first review.

In April, the Board received a letter from the Japanese Agricultural Training Council expressing their appreciation for the experience afforded the 32 trainees who had been attending agricultural classes at Clatsop College for three months under the Institution Training Program. These students were given a special graduation with an appropriate ceremony. According to the Clatsop Courier, the students were in Astoria during one of the worse snow and sleet storms in the City’s memory. When asked about their stay, one remarked, “We like Astoria, but we are not yet accustomed to your weather.” Responded an Astorian, “Neither are we.”

Sports at CCC was still an important part of the student experience, and Del Bjork, PE Instructor reported in the Clatsop Courier that a number of students returned to play for the College, including Leonard Hayes, Scott McNeeley, Steve Wilson, Pat Sizemore, and Terry Blazer.

In May, Jewell Manspeaker was hired as Registrar. (Mr. Manspeaker would eventually receive his doctorate and become the President of Gray’s Harbor Community College in Washington and also President of the Board of Presidents for the Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges).

Also that month, Phi Theta Kappa was formally organized with 21 initial members. Phi Theta Kappa is a national honors program for students carrying a 3.0 grade point average or higher and is still active at the College today.

In June, Blanche Pickering graduated and was introduced to the Board as “A senior citizen who has taken advantage of the College facilities . . . . Mrs. Pickering was a welcome addition to the classrooms she attended and her mature viewpoint was appreciated by many of her much younger classmates.”

The Maritime Science Department took a step forward with the purchase of a vessel called the Sea Duce for the price of $26,675. In August 1972, the “Sea Duce” struck a submerged object resulting in a broken propeller and rudder and was towed to the Bumble Bee Shipyard for repairs. In 1973, the Maritime Sciences program moved to the Astoria Yacht Club. Then, in September of 1974, the College purchased the MV/Forerunner for the Maritime Science Department. By 1977, the Maritime Science program had gained an international reputation, being favorably reviewed in an Australian fisheries journal in an article about fisheries in the United States.

That summer, the College’s operating funds levy passed the first time. Economics for the region were going well, and the College grew with the economy of the times.

At the Board meeting in July, Dean Craven introduced several former students who had gone on to 4-year institutions. The students reported they “felt it (attending a community College) was to their advantage from the standpoint of more personal attention from teaching staff; and for most, the economic factor was a deciding issue.” They also said that “instruction received
at Clatsop College was of such caliber it enabled them to transfer their credits and courses with a minimum of trouble.”

Board Chair Dessler questioned the group as to their feelings about Clatsop College now that they were away from it, and what the College could have done or not done to make their entry into other schools meaningful. They said, “the atmosphere at Clatsop College was friendly and personal, which they missed when they went to a larger campus, and that the two years spent at Clatsop prepared them, to a great extent, for the larger schools.” One student admitted that if he had gone directly to a larger institution immediately out of high school he did not believe he would have made it.

In September, the College conducted an all-campus forum of faculty, student and Board members. Dean Bainer shared a “Curricula Survey Proposal” in which the Curriculum Committee would supervise a procedure where faculty members could periodically assess strengths and weaknesses of their courses.

In October, Mr. Peters from the Livestock Technology program gave a report on the Junior College Livestock judging competition at the Pacific Exposition in Portland, where his students won by 200 points. Mr. Gertula testified he had been told that the Clatsop’s Livestock students were well received and were “the best boys we’ve seen anywhere.” The team then went on to San Francisco to the Grand National livestock competition, with expenses supported by the Student Body. Following this success, Mr. Bennet in the Livestock Technology program submitted a proposal to use the Sigfridson Farm, located at the site of the current Clatsop County fairgrounds, for its program. The proposal was approved, and the College now had a farm. The Livestock program remained strong throughout the ’70’s. In 1974, President Bainer informed the Board that they were getting animals for students for the Livestock Technology Department. Six registered, bred ewes, which would shortly be lambing, were donated to the College anonymously. They were on loan for one year, and at the end of the year, the donor would get back 50% of the lamb crop. Another individual loaned eight brown Swiss dairy heifers. After a period of 3 ½ years, the donor would retain the right to select eight of the original heifers or their offspring. All bull offspring would belong to the College.

Meanwhile, another segment of the student community were bringing in nationally known musical groups like “Them”, “Deep Purple,” and “Marilee Rush” for concerts at the College.

Then, in October, Dr. McCollom resigned as President effective at the end of the 1969-1970 academic year, to take a position at Southern Oregon College in Ashland.

When asked about President Stewart McCollom, President Bainer reflected that “Stewart McCollom was the perfect fit for the College. Dr. McCollom was a very genial personality and was probably ideal for the next step in the College’s growth in that he was able to build good relationships in the community and rebuild some of the College’s bridges in the community. I worked for Dr. McCollom as Dean of Instruction and found him to be very open, fair, and above board in all he did and feel honored to have been able to serve under him.”

Clatsop Courier reporter, Gloria Martin, summed up an interview with Dr. Stewart with these words: “Dr. Stewart McCollom, president of Clatsop College, is a friendly man with whom
students can feel immediately at ease. He is soft spoken and pleasant, with a warm smile, and remarkably available to students such as this reporter who wandered into his office without an appointment. During our conversation I was impressed by his thoughtful and comprehensive answers to my questions, as well as his understanding of the many problems connected with community colleges."

The College Board began a search for the College’s third president. Philip Bainer, Dean of Instruction and Paul See, who had joined the faculty in 1967 as a Geology and Electronics instructor, headed the search. After a nationwide search and candidate interviews and with faculty feedback, the Board members decided to call off the search and asked Mr. Bainer to become President. Mr. See was named Dean of Instruction.

In December, the Clatsop Community College Automotive Program moved to the Tongue Point facility. President McCollom announced that an English course would be taught by a College instructor at the Seaside High School. This would be the beginning of a long-standing arrangement which eventually led to Clatsop County high school students earning college credits while still in high school.

While welcoming these younger students, the Board at the same time waived the restriction at the other end of the age spectrum to allow Vera Gault to continue teaching. At that time College employees were required to retire at age 75. When she finally retired in 1973, the Board accepted her resignation “with deep regret.” Vera Whitney Gault’s Clatsop Community College: A Brief History, was published by the College in celebration of its 25th Anniversary in 1983, and until her death, Vera Gault was heralded as the College’s unofficial historian.

In March of 1970, Dean Bainer received Board approval to pursue Title III federal funds for adult basic education and literacy, providing the basis for an important service for the College to offer to the community.

Meanwhile, by April 1970, the number of students had increased to 2,029, up from 1,533 the prior year and staff were organizing to recruit young people that summer for the College Fall term. “We’re mobilizing for an assault on the uncommitted and drop-out students”, said Dean of Students, Earl Craven.

In May, Adult Student Housing (ASH) was proposed by Phillip A. McLennan. He stated at the time, “If the project fails and his corporation encounters financial trouble, the project will never be a College liability.” The Board gave a tentative approval to move forward with research, but did not want it on College property. Members from the community, including budget committee members, were not in favor of the project, but the study continued and in January, 1971 the College approved moving forward with the ASH housing project.

Then, in June 1970, reflecting the downturned economy and high unemployment both locally and nationally, the College’s budget levy failed. Eventually, the economy’s woes led to a national freeze on salaries, declared by President Richard Nixon. In August, the Board addressed whether or not the College was subject to President Nixon’s Raise and Price Freeze. It was determined that there would be little or no impact on the College.

A government ruling permitted the College to
go forward with the planned raise in tuition for out of state students. Faculty salaries had been negotiated prior to the freeze.

Despite the setback of the levy election, the summer of 1970 was a busy one for the College. An athletic study committee proposed that the College rent the Armory, Gyro Baseball Field and the Junior High Track facilities. They recommended the elimination of cross country as a varsity sport. Ernie Davis and Otto Olson supervised the Summer School Work Experience Program with Davis reporting that they covered 2700 miles out on the road. Mr. McLennan was instructed to search for a site for ASH. The College Student Body provided funds for developing McCallister Baseball Field. Another piano was purchased. It was announced that Mrs. David Palmberg, College alumna, was to be included in the 1970 edition of “Outstanding Young Women of America.” Paul See proposed reconstruction of the welding facility, and Ron Collman, Evening School Director, announced that his department would be supervising the evening classes taught in Tillamook. Due to growth in Evening School offerings, Larry Haskell was hired as Assistant to the Evening School Director. And that fall, a three-year Commercial Fisheries program was inaugurated.

Reinforcing the College’s mission of providing life-long learning opportunities, President Bainer presented the “Golden Age Club” (which would later be referred to as “The Gold Card”), a waiver of tuition and student activity fees in all courses for residents 65 years of age or older. Eligible applicants were required to apply for membership.

And for those students needing more focused learning assistance, Dean Paul See reported a large increase in enrollment in the developmental reading program of between 300-400% according to Instructor B. Snider. The College also announced the receipt of Federal grants for remedial math and reading to students with handicaps.

Federal grants were also obtained for a Vocational Counselor, a Consumer Education Instructor in Home Economics. On June 22, 1971, Paul See announced a federal grant received for “a sensitization program for teachers to the needs of low-income students.”

Art Instruction was also moving forward. In January, President Bainer gave a special commendation to Instructors Al Schulz, Henry Norling and Roy Garrison for their combined efforts in building 16 potters’ wheels and a kiln for the College. He said, “They did this at a great savings to the College and gave their time with no monetary remuneration.” Ron Collman reported that evening school enrollment had tripled in three years and the headcount had reached 1,325.

On March 25, 1971, a positive accreditation report was shared with the Board. Former Board member and editor of the Seaside Signal, Max Schafer Sr., wrote the following in an editorial:

“The College has a very fine faculty and its facilities are being improved every year. Deficiencies have been overcome and at present there are no obstacles to first class instruction and training. In addition to regular students, the College serves hundreds of adults, offering them a wide range of instruction. Except for administration, the adult courses are self-supporting. Having reached maturity, the College cannot, and will not, stand still. It will grow with the community and with the educational level of
In May, the Board reviewed its scholarship policy. It changed the policy to allow 50% of scholarships to be given to students in the top 20% of their classes. Originally, scholarships were awarded only to students in the top 20%. The Board and administration felt that reducing the grade standing would encourage more students to participate in sports and vocational programs.

Also in May, Clatsop Community College, Clatsop County IED (Instructional Education District) and Tillamook County IED entered an agreement to provide Tillamook County college courses.

September 23, 1971, the College’s district name was formally changed from Clatsop Community College Area Education District to Clatsop Community College District. The Board appointed Margaret Swindler of Warrenton to the Board. Mrs. Swindler was the first woman to join the College Board of Directors.

On December 9, 1971, Student Body President Steve Widmer requested permission for the Student Body President to be an ex-officio member of the Board and to sit at the table during Board meetings and executive sessions. The request was approved and students now had the potential to bring the focus of educational decisions to a student level. The tradition of student representation to the Board continues today.

January 27, 1972, the Board approved the addition of a Campus Police Program and a Cadet Police Officers Training Program. They also approved awarding CLEP (College Level Examination Program) credits. Students would be allowed to take challenge exams for courses normally found in the first two years of a university education. Full-time enrollment for 1972 increased from 760 to 860 with many other students attending part-time. With this continuing growth at the College, parking was becoming a serious problem and the College resolved to take care of the situation in any way possible, including the impoundment of vehicles. Board minutes and student surveys for the next 30 years show that growth and limited space continued to make parking an issue at the College.

June, 1972, brought more changes to the College. Marvin Calvert became the new Student Body President. The estate of David E. Row, bequeathed the College Mr. Row’s collection of mineral specimens, fossils and biological specimens which can still be seen on display at the College in the lower level of Towler Hall. Ron Collman, Evening School Director, applied for and received a Title III Grant for an Adult Basic Education Program. The Evening School became the Division of Continuing Education.

In August, the College had its first off-campus faculty and staff in-service at Sports Acres. The Board minutes reflected that institutional planning was completed for the next year. A policy to hold classes out in the community in businesses was brought to the Board by the Continuing Education Department. Most of Continuing Education then moved out into several communities. Classes were already being held in schools, churches, and other locations. But the new policy was the beginning of a movement towards more business/College partnerships, which was a growing trend in the State. A distinct
New Parking Signs Not Meant To Harass Student

Park the signs were put up during Spring rains on the lot on 10th Street right outside the Clatsop College Vernon Gates. As one can really see from these above articles, some people just can't believe everything they read.
example was the professional sewing course held at Elthia's sewing business located in her home just outside of Seaside on Highway 101. Mrs. Peterson taught courses for the College at her place of business for many years.

While the College continued to grow, hopes of establishing a four-year college in Clatsop County dwindled. Governor Tom McCall addressed the issue in a letter to William Fulton, student editor of the Clatsop Courier:

"Dear Mr. Fulton:

At one time I did remark that Clatsop County might someday become the home of a four-year College. I said it after observing that industrial growth projected for the area might bring population increases sufficient to warrant (sic) a four-year College. Now, though, since there is still doubt about whether AMAX will locate in the county, the prospects for industrial growth no longer are as bright as they once were.

But in any case, I don't expect to see a four-year College located in Clatsop County very soon, if at all. I was thinking of the long term, not the immediate future. Besides, my comment didn't exactly raise hosannas around the state, and even Clatsop County didn't seem enthusiastic...

Sincerely,
Tom McCall, Governor."

Meanwhile, personnel changes occurred. In November of 1972, Henry Desler of Seaside praised the College in his letter of resignation dated Oct. 27, 1972. "I hold in high esteem all our valued administration and staff and everyone connected with the College," he wrote. "It is a great team effort and may it continue for the benefit to our young people and all who desire to take advantage of the educational benefits that will occur." In February, 1973, Jewell Manspeaker was given leave to complete his doctorate. And in June, 1973, Dave Phillips was appointed Assistant Dean of Instruction and Director of Vocational/Technical Education.

The College also began to reflect changes in the attitudes towards women, occurring on a national level as well during this decade. In December, 1972, Dee Beghtol was appointed as the second female Board member after a strong recommendation from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Joyce Barendse became the first female Student Body President.

The intercollegiate sports program for both men and women at Clatsop was discussed by the Board. Keith Rautio, ASBI Vice-President, representing students during Student Body President Joyce Berendse's absence, presented a recommendation that the existing sports program be revised and that it include one winter sport and one spring sport. Mr. Rautio said he personally felt basketball should be retained as a winter sport. At that time, a petition was presented with 149 signatures supporting the retention of basketball and one spring sport at Clatsop. The petition, however, did not point out which particular spring sport should be offered. The Board approved keeping varsity basketball and golf for men and offering varsity volleyball and golf for women for the coming year if given money by the student body, otherwise it would not be included in the budget.
Performing Arts Center (PAC) 1979 • CCC archives

Mechanical Arts Building, converted into the Student Services Center in 2007
The Daily Astorian

Here is the new automotive shop building which contractor Albert Mintet is building for Clatsop college. The concrete structure lies south of the college building, on the floor of the old high school quarry. The high school building, which Mintet is remodelling for the college quarters, is out of sight at right of the picture. The work is to be finished in late September.

CCC logo 1974

1974-1975

1975-1976
Further expansion of the College occurred when the new Mechanical Arts Building was completed in 1974. Then in May, 1975, the College leased a building to begin a post-secondary program in Bay City, Tillamook County. This was outside the current Clatsop Community College boundaries and was the result of agreements with the educational service districts in both counties.

On March 27, 1975, Jewell Manspeaker, Director of Admissions and Records, resigned to work for the Oregon Department of Education. His written request for release from his contract summed up his positive experience at the College: “My decision to ask for this release has been the most difficult decision I have ever made. It has been difficult for me because I have come to cherish my relationship with Clatsop Community College, its students, faculty, staff and administrators. It is not easy for me to give up such a cherished relationship.”

In May, Jim Hogan became the new Registrar.

In April 1975, smoking was no longer allowed at Board meetings, reflecting a growing trend to abolish smoking indoors, particularly in public buildings.

Outdoors, the first Clatsop County Timber Carnival, was held in May, sponsored by CCC’s Timber Techs Forestry Club at Clatsop. The Timber Techs were chartered by the Students of the Manpower Development and Training Act in September 1963. They were organized primarily to promote, publicize and create an awareness of the Forestry Technology program and to call attention to the group as technicians. It was organized to represent and promote the needs of the forestry student, to allow each and every member to increase their working knowledge of his or her particular interests, and to build enduring friendships and associations. The Timber Carnival was open to the public, giving everyone a chance to compete as individuals in events such as axe throwing, speed chopping, and log rolling. With the help of the community, prizes were donated and equipment borrowed. The first carnival was held a Cullaby Lake (and later moved to Camp Rilea). The Forestry program continued to do well throughout the decade, but by the end of the 1970’s, there were signs that the timber industry was just beginning to decline. Significantly, Crown Zellerback had stopped awarding scholarships to Forestry students.

The ups and downs in the economy continued to have an impact on the College’s finances as well. In June, after a failed levy, the College gained their levy for 1975-76 by fewer than 40 votes.

On July 24, 1975, the College bought the Trinity Lutheran Church for the sum of $100,000. It would be called the Music Hall until 1977, when it became the Performing Arts Center (PAC). In April of 1976, the College entered an agreement with the North Coast Friends of Music to provide cultural events.

In 1976, Joanne Peper, a student, brought to the Board a proposal for a Day Care Center...
project. The proposal would place the Center in the parsonage of the Trinity Church. Her research included a letter from the staff at the Department of Human Resources-Children’s Service Division and a great deal of support from College staff. It was approved in May 1976, and would be named the Josie Peper Childcare Center in October 1976. A child care and development course of study would be held there for several years and it provided day care for many children of staff and students.

In September of 1976, Librarian Roberta Anderson resigned after 14 years of service, and Linda Oldenkamp was hired as the first Adult Basic Education Specialist through the grants in Continuing Education. James Stolz was hired as the new Director of Library Services. Bob Erickson took the lead in the Business Department, along with the assistance of long-time employee Beverly Hawks.

Ken Stiler, ASBI President, agreed to contribute $30,000 to the Building Fund toward, at least, a temporary facility for a Theater Arts Program.

As an aside on the dress code issue that caused controversy in the beginning of the decade, a picture of 1976 student representatives showed Ed Clark representing vocational-technical education wearing long hair and a headband. By April of 1976, the Clatsop Courier became the Clatsop Common Sense, with front page articles that promoted the Clatsop Environmental Council’s Environmental Film Festival, which included movies on estuaries, recycling, pollution, advertising signs, etc. The letters to the editor were about subjects related to anti-nuclear power and recipes were for such exotic foods as Eggplant Imam Bayildi.

In February 1977, the Board reviewed the admissions policy. The previous policy was completely open to all, and the new policy would require that a student be a high school graduate or at least eighteen years of age. The new policy allowed for younger students to be admitted only with the agreement of their high school.

August 1977 found the College with a full-time enrollment of 951 and five or six times that many part-time and continuing education students. With this growth, the College began to experience challenges in providing accessibility for the disabled. Information from a lay committee studying handicapped access prompted action towards better accessibility. The committee acknowledged to the Board that they needed professional help to complete their mission and that fall a transition plan was developed to remove architectural barriers for the disabled.

Paul Barnum was hired as the first professionally trained public relations officer and in November the Board received a report summarizing a community questionnaire that was sent to 12,025 households in September. The results showed that 82% of the community members who responded to the survey reported that they felt they were well informed about the College. 72% of the respondents reported that they had taken at least one class at the College. Only 4% stated that they were not satisfied with their coursework.

Reasons in 1977 for not attending college included:
- 29% financial reasons
- 23% not interested
- 20% no time
- 14% no transportation
- 11% no child care
- 3% other
By the end of 1978, President Bainer was able to report that the student body had grown to 7,100 students. That growth from the few students attending in 1958 was a tremendous gain for a county the size of Clatsop. Approximately one in four residents took either a credit or non-credit offering from the College at that time. Changes in future State funding would eventually change the ability for the College to continue reaching so many residents, but the impact of that first twenty years showed the viability of having a successful community college in a small Oregon educational service district.

During the 1970s the country had seen an increased awareness of its place in the world, and with the expansion of television and exploding news medium, the populace became aware of changes and news taking place worldwide far more quickly than ever before. Less densely populated areas like Clatsop County were now far more “connected”, not only to larger, more urban areas in the United States, but to the world at large. In the years leading up to 1970, there was a sense of optimism and idealism, which, to some degree, gave way to apathy and cynicism in the 80s.

In 1974, President Nixon became the first president in United States history to resign. Although granted a full pardon by President Ford, the events leading up to his resignation left a permanent cloud on his administration. In 1975, Saigon was surrendered and the remaining Americans were evacuated, thus ending the Vietnam War. The repercussions of the still controversial war would continue to be felt for decades.

When the nation celebrated its Bicentennial on July 4, 1976, there seemed to be a surge in patriotism and pride of country. Hope for peace and cooperation among the world community seemed on the rise with events such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, the intent of which was to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and was signed by 15 countries, including the United States and the United Soviet Socialist Republic.

The changing times, economy and events would continue to have an effect on the local community and students as the College began to mature.
Board Members
1978-1988

Dr. John Banholzer
Eugene Roehm
Harry R. Swanson Jr.
Christine Stricklin
David Pratt
Dr. Russell Hunter
Annabel Meyers
Tom Utti
Robert F. Morley
E. Lewis Crites
Barbara Freeman
Robert Bradley
Orabelle Rhodes
Blain Johnson
Jean Wayne
Charles Dymond
George Cooper
Rick Adams
James Casterline
Jane Hill
J. E. DeMarsh
Joyce Williams
Michael Brownlie
Karen Beauchamp
In 1978, some of the major international news stories included the Jonestown Mass Suicide of the cult following of Jim Jones, the historic signing of the Framework for Peace in the Middle East, with Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat jointly winning the Nobel Peace Prize. It was the year the Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of programs giving advantage to minorities, but barring the quota system in college admissions. The first computer bulletin board system (CBBS) was created in Chicago providing computer communication between universities, a major precursor to the modern day Internet.

Increased national awareness of special needs of the less advantaged would necessitate architectural changes to the College to accommodate wheelchairs and other disabilities. Astoria’s use of historical buildings for public agencies and schools had been an effective way to economize and to preserve its unique atmosphere. However, it created a challenge for meeting the needs of all its citizens while providing services such as education at a cost affordable to many. To help meet this challenge, the College retained the firm of Gabriel and Potter and Associates to complete a preliminary study involving modification of architectural barriers to access.

Parking, which had already become a serious issue, became a worse problem in the 1980’s. It would prove to be increasingly difficult for the College to resolve this issue in the coming decades. In fact, by 1980, the parking issue was so severe that it seemed to call for drastic measures. Alan Batchelder, Dean of Students, and Bob Erickson, Vice-President of College Services, were designated Peace Officers under ORS 341.300 and would be recognized as Peace Officers to local police. This allowed them to have access to information regarding ownership of vehicles to help the College enforce parking rules.

As the 1980s approached, the college and the nation became increasingly aware of technological advances in the areas of science, communications and data. Within a very few years, these advances would occur at an astonishing rate, requiring changes not only in the operation of the College itself, but in the courses the College offered.

The year 1978 was a very busy and productive year for the College. A scholarship fund was
established in memory of Don VanVelzer, a long-time Adult Education instructor in oil painting to aid senior citizens who wished to pursue taking art classes. The College also planned a 20th Anniversary celebration scheduled for May 30th. Films, slides and speakers were planned, culminating in a 19th Century melodrama, “East Lynne,” presented by the College’s Performing Arts Department.

Charles W. Morgan, Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard YOCANA commended the College on work with law enforcement agencies, such as the Coast Guard, in their efforts to enforce drug laws. “I’d like to take this opportunity to comment on the outstanding job your Law Enforcement Department did in developing a 50-hr course in Basic Drug Enforcement for local Coast Guardsmen,” he wrote in a letter to the Board. “They should be pleased to know that the course was a factor in the smoothness of the seizure and arrest of those onboard the M/V Helena Star for conspiracy to smuggle a controlled substance the week after the course ended.”

A more personal commendation came from former student, Joseph Gnagay, who also wrote to the Board, saying “There is no substitute for the kind of environment offered at Clatsop College. I hope that future students can benefit from the excellent opportunity that I had. I would like to urge you and the staff at Clatsop to maintain these standards, at any cost, for the benefit of the students at the College and voters of Clatsop County.”

In June 1978, Larry Haskell, Associate Dean of Community Education, presented a needs assessment completed by John Floretta. The assessment was used to address course needs in the County and became a basis for programming courses for the next several years, fostering an increase in enrollment.

In January of 1979, the Astoria Rotary donated a reader board to the Performing Arts Center. It is still being used to announce activities being held at the PAC.

Reflecting the growing strength of the College’s arts programs, the Board approved a plan to construct a new Fine Arts Building, which would house a photography lab and spaces for drawing, painting and ceramics. The building was completed in 1980 and stands at the farthest east portion of campus. The fully accessible building houses a gallery, darkroom, classrooms, ceramics lab, painting lab, and multi-purpose labs. The building has allowed the College to provide a comprehensive art program which has become integral to the arts community of Clatsop County.

The Math/Science Department, also reaching out to the community, initiated “Heptathlon”, a program of competitive scientific and mathematical games for Grades 7-12. The prize for 1978 was an airplane ride to view the solar eclipse on February 26th. Although the name for the event has changed over the years, this competition for young students has become an annual College tradition of the math and science departments.

Growing national concerns about energy consumption affected the College as well as other public agencies. In August of 1979, a memo was sent to all College staff informing them that the College was being required to conform to President Carter’s mandatory guidelines for energy conservation. Thermostats were not to exceed 65° F and use of auxiliary heating devices for the coming winter months was prohibited.
Jim Hogan, Assistant to the President, provided the Board with a new Family Tuition Plan. This plan allowed that one member of a family taking a class would pay full tuition and all other family members enrolled in the same class would receive a 50% tuition reduction. The plan was designed to extend a welcome to families and increase enrollment. The following May, the Board extended the Board scholarship to include second year students.

Continuing the program of providing community college classes in Tillamook, in September, the College hired Roy Mason as the Tillamook County Directory under the Adult and Community Education program. One year later, in August 1980, Mr. Mason and the residents of Tillamook County would form their own Educational Service District and Mason would become the first President of Tillamook Bay Community College. The new College was still required to be associated with an accredited institution to gain their own accreditation and they would select Portland Community College for this affiliation.

In 1979, the school newspaper was called Common Sense and was edited by Mickey Bambrick, who went on to become one of the College’s most generous graduates, funding a scholarship that has helped female students at Clatsop for over 25 years. Under Ms. Bambrick’s leadership, the lively newspaper was professionally done, and highlighted college class activities and staff and included donations and ads from local merchants.

The year 1980 proved to be historic in several ways. In January, Tongue Point Job Corps students were officially included in the College’s residency policy and were no longer required to pay out-of-state tuition. This change strengthened the relationship between the Tongue Point Job Corps and the College which continues to share a sense of educational partnership and cooperation.

In April, the College found it necessary to go out for a levy for operating expenses. The results (after a recount) were 2,729 votes ‘yes’ and 2,724 votes ‘no’. The close finish became an interesting lesson for classes in democracy and a topic of debate as to the importance of the individual vote.

In June, Jim Clune became the first Small Business Management Instructor. The program worked directly with small businesses for two years of classroom and in-business assistance ranging from setting up books to wage and hour laws. The program is still in existence and popular for businesses that have been established for at least a year.

Also in 1980, a two-year Nursing Program was approved by the State. This popular program passes extremely stringent requirements of both the Department of Education and the Oregon State Nursing Board. Rosemary Plank was the first Director for the program and eventually made a move to Seaside General Hospital as their Director of Nursing. Karen Burke then became a long-term Director and was well known statewide for the quality program at Clatsop. The successful program eventually grew into the allied health fields that became a vital part of the College’s programs and an important benefit to the community. Over 60% of Clatsop’s Nursing graduates continue to live and work locally.

In December, 1980, the College published its first Student Handbook. In later years, the ASBI, or Associated Student Body Incorporated, would intermittently print them for students.
In June 1981, the College was granted 10-year accreditation status. Although the accreditation was reaffirmed in 1986, areas for improvement noted by the accrediting agency included the need to recruit and retain students and reduce physical barriers to handicapped persons on campus, challenges which the College has worked to address ever since.

Also in 1981, the College and Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, began a partnership to bring bachelor’s degree programs to Clatsop County. The Clatsop-Linfield program was the first in what would become seven such programs that Linfield jointly constructed with community colleges within six years. The program allowed students, generally adults who had jobs and couldn’t relocate for college, to get lower-division courses from the community college and upper-division courses through Linfield. The original degree was in Elementary Education but the program eventually included degrees in liberal arts, management, systems analysis and other interests. Vick Lind was the original coordinator, and eventually became Linfield’s Director of Continuing Education. The first class of elementary education teachers taught throughout the County for many years.

That same summer, the Student Commons was rearranged to include a meeting room (Banquet Room), a cafeteria, bookstore, and the ASBI offices. The mural which covered the west wall of the commons, and depicted several well-known students who attended CCC in the early 1970s, was painted over.

It was at this time that the young College began experiencing its first issues between administration and faculty. In July, contract bargaining went into mediation. These issues were accompanied by budget shortfalls and continuous re-examination by administration regarding reductions in force. In December, eighty people attended a special meeting outlining the need for a reduction in the next year’s budget and the reductions in staffing that were being recommended. Yet no matter how tough negotiations that year, or in the years since, became, placing students and quality learning experiences first would remain a mutual goal of all concerned.

In December 1981, Bob Ellsberg and Kitty Paino co-hosted a College-produced TV series called “Program for Pioneers.” The series was aired on cable channel 7 and featured programs geared to senior citizens, including such varied topics as information provided by the local Area Agency on Aging and Social Security Benefits, to instruction on how to clean razor clams.

In the spring of 1982, an independent statistical study showed that Clatsop Community College returned approximately $5.95 for every tax dollar invested; and that the College educated approximately 7,433 people annually and created the equivalent of 823 jobs.

In June of 1982, Jim Smith organized a College summer band series with concerts in the park scheduled throughout the summer. The Band was co-sponsored by the Astoria Parks and Recreation Dept. In August, College Board member Mr. Bradley commended the North Coast Symphonic Band and noted that the concerts had been enthusiastically received by the community. Although the College disbanded its music program in a subsequent reduction in force, the Symphonic Band has remained a partner with the College, providing musical performance opportunities for adults and concert experiences community members. Many of those original band members can still be heard...
today in the continued concerts by the North Coast Symphonic Band.

In July 1982, Phil Bainer received a 15 year Service Award for his years at the College. When asked about what he thought had the most impact on the direction of the College, Phil Bainer responded with the following:

“Initially, I believe that the College’s first board and president had a tremendous impact. The first Board was made up of a remarkable group of individuals willing to work hard to establish the College and fund its programs. The first President, Richard Boss, was one of four or five pioneering Presidents in the state that managed to persuade the legislature to establish the Community College System. Richard Boss was one of a kind who had drive and expertise that few would have had, and I doubt that the College here would have ever gotten off the ground with most lesser personalities. The direction the College took over the years was perhaps best determined by the growth of the Community College System. When Community Colleges were first started, I believe that there were five that got off the ground about the same time with Clatsop and Central Oregon at the forefront followed closely by Blue Mountain, Pendleton, and Southwestern. As the system grew beyond those five, this led to greater involvement by the legislature, competition for programs and students, and other forces that helped mold the direction each College would take.”

~ President Phil Bainer

The College found itself featured in an article in the Oregon Business Journal in 1982. Barbara Edge wrote about Clatsop Community College’s Dave Phillips, Associate Dean of Instruction, and his efforts to bring British fisherman, Dennis Lodge, to the Maritime Science Department to teach state-of-the-art fish finding systems. The program was a joint effort of Oregon State University, Oregon Otter Trawl Commission, and the Fisherman’s Marketing Association. Lodge subsequently helped get a rare simulator donated and Clatsop Community College became one of the most well-equipped fish labs in the world.

By September of 1982 the College was the largest in physical size that it had ever been or has been since. There were seven buildings on the main campus housing a Student Center, Library, Auto Lab, Liberal Arts classrooms and labs, Vocational- Technical facilities, Administrative Offices, the Art Center, the Performing Arts Center, a Child Care Center, a waterfront Marine Training Facility and a 110 acre farm which included a 30 acre forestland laboratory.

In December 1982 the College began looking at a computer system which would provide a central system with word processing at work stations throughout the campus. The College was about to take its first step into the computer information age.

Clatsop Community College became a point of controversy towards the end of 1982. According to the Daily Astorian, the state’s Chancellor of Higher education, Roy Lieuallen, “raised some local hackles” by declaring that Clatsop was one of four community colleges in the state that should never have been established because they were too small and inadequately funded. Soon
afterward, Terry Olson, then Executive Director for the Oregon Educational Coordinating Commission, sharply criticized Lieuallen’s comment. “It’s stupid to talk about how (Clatsop) shouldn’t have been created – nobody has come up with an alternative,” Olson said. “It meets a need that couldn’t be provided any other way.” By the late 1980s a study sponsored by the Oregon Community College Association, with the help of an independent consultant, would show that Clatsop’s direct economic benefits totaled $5.58 million, compared with an investment of the taxpayers amounting to $2.16 million. Without the College, the study indicated, 1,300 students who attended in the fall of 1986 would not have had that opportunity. Also, follow-up studies on students from Clatsop who transferred to four-year institutions consistently showed that they did as well or better than students who went all four years to a university.

Nevertheless, funding for the College continued to be a challenge. In January of 1983, faculty time in the Drafting and Criminal Justice programs was reduced. This would prove to be the beginning of some difficult years for administration and staff as the College worked towards finding a balance between the educational needs of the community and the available resources.

In April, the College’s first Affirmative Action Plan was adopted. A plan was required for any institution with over 25 employees which received federal funding. Essentially, the working part of the document required that the College monitor its staffing distributions to match the demographics of the service district. The College administration made a firm commitment to address the plan’s goals by rigorous recruiting.

On May 12, 1983 the College celebrated its Silver Anniversary at the Seaside Convention Center with a self-supporting dinner and ceremony attended by 220 students, staff members, Board and former Board members, and alumni.

The Clatsop Community College Foundation presented a “By-Invitation-Only” gala on June 3rd. The event featured wine-tasting, hors d’oeuvres, and art demonstrations. The event prompted later activities to build the student scholarship fund.

In September, the College bought its own caps and gowns for graduation, which helped reduce the cost of graduation for students.

In October, a Blue Ribbon Committee was formed to study current college degree programs and related instructional staffing and status, and to provide guidelines for evaluation. The committee was designed to provide a uniform and objective review of academic programs which would be used prior to any potential reductions in force and to keep programs at the college current. The College joined post-secondary institutions nationwide which needed to provide accountability in programs as well as find resources to fund those programs.

In February, 1984, the College began observing a new holiday, President’s Day. Tom Bates, ASBI President 1983-84, reported to the Board that the ASBI was sponsoring a Social Awareness Week on campus which would feature speakers on the subjects of rape prevention, voter registration, world peace and world hunger.
In April, 1984, the decrease in enrollment in the Forestry Department meant that John Christie’s position as forestry instructor would not be filled as a full-time position when he retired the following year.

Also in April, Mr. Bainer commended John Holmstedt, as Chairman of the Friends of the College election campaign committee, for leading the College in two successful efforts to pass tax levies for operational funds.

An adult high school completion program was approved, and Linda Oldenkamp reported on a cooperative agreement with County school districts for the College to house an alternative high school program.

When the 1984 fall term began, the administration once again discussed the continued parking issues. The College also began to show typical signs of institutional growth with the development of a staff evaluation and disciplinary procedure proposal for review by the Board. There was also a new policy implemented related to children on campus.

In December of 1984, Jim Hogan, as Registrar and Assistant to the President, unveiled a Warranty Plan for students graduating from the College’s Associate in Science programs. The plan would permit the graduates to enroll at the College, tuition free, upon graduation in specified vocational courses. The plan allowed graduates to return to the College to update training or review work in their fields for up to two years following graduation. The Board approved the plan the following month.

In January of 1985, Dean of Instruction Paul See, presented a brief report on the Alternative Education program being conducted at the College in cooperation with County school districts. Becki Haglund-Smith coordinated the program for the next several years. In 1988 a new law required that the alternative education classes be available to certain high school students, but three school districts dropped the four-year-old program in favor of a new approach. In the four years of the program, 25 students graduated with one of three kinds of diplomas – a standard high school diploma, based on both classroom time and material learned; an adult high school diploma, based on material learned, with less emphasis on classroom time; and a general Education Development, or GED diploma, based on tests alone. Several students went directly into college courses. The cost per student for alternative education was higher than that of other students and the school districts dissolved the program with 26 students already enrolled and a waiting list of six. According to the Daily Astorian, the turnover in administration at the high schools and dwindling dollars for traditional programs were blamed for the dissolution of the cooperative agreement. According to Becki Haglund-Smith, “These students are of worth. If they are going to be swept under the carpet, then society loses.” Twenty-three years later, County demographics indicate that over 19% of Clatsop County residents do not have a high school diploma. But Clatsop Community College still provides GED courses and is the region’s GED testing center, providing a valuable service to the community.

The spring and summer of 1985 were productive for the College. President Bainer discussed with the Board a proposal to establish a satellite center in Seaside to better serve the South County District patrons. More than 50% of Clatsop County’s population at that time resided in the southern portion of the county. The new Center would house the South County Coordinator,
Integrated Mechanics Instructors, from left: John Newton, Larry Determan, Ed Reed, Don Fisher

Jim Entler and South County Center staff
Small Business Development Center, and the Small Business Management Program and would hold classes for the South County portion of the Adult Basic Education and Developmental Program.

Board Chairman Cooper presented letters of commendation on behalf of the Board to Larry Haskell from Community Education, Joyce Aho from the Employment Department, and Camille Preus, Nursing Instructor, for their work in establishing a course for the College entitled “Home Health Nurses Aid”. Viola Kononen was also commended for her work initiating the program.

Dale Perkins, who was a division chair and half-time instructor in Industrial Mechanics, was retained for the newly created position of Regional Coordinator, Career and Vocational Education. The position was and continues to be partially funded by the State. Mr. Perkins organized the school districts into a consortium to assist and promote vocational education in the high schools and at the College.

Notable retirements in 1986 were the well-known artist Stan Wanlass, and the driving force for adult and community education outreach and expansion, Associate Dean Ron Collman. Ron Collman was the award recipient of the prestigious Oregon Community Education Association Community College Educator of The Year award.

In February, 1986, the College began taking tentative steps into the information age. It began small, with promotional video cassettes to new students. The cassettes were made in the College’s TV Department by Craig Marks, and initiated by Bob Ellsberg. They were designed with information about each of the College’s programs and services. The tapes were also aired on cable Channel 7.

Also in 1986, a national publication named Clatsop Community College graduate June McClure to its roster of “distinguished Americans.” A picture and article on Ms. McClure, a former Ilwaco, Washington resident appeared in the October-November issue of the bimonthly Journal of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges. According to a Daily Astorian article, Ms. McClure graduated in 1984 with an Associate of Science degree in Marine Technology. She then went to Seattle with the hope of becoming a diesel mechanic with the Washington or Alaska ferry system. She instead worked part-time maritime jobs until she landed a position aboard the 303-foot National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel Oceanographer. She became a wiper, a member of the engine room crew. A mother of five, she put aside 18 years of bartending to pursue her maritime studies and career. The magazine article is accompanied by a picture of Ms. McClure in front of the Columbia River Maritime Museum’s historic lightship Columbia, which she helped refit for a voyage upriver to the 1984 Rose Festival.

Later in 1986, Dale Perkins, Regional Coordinator of Career and Vocational Education, organized and led the College in two big steps: inaugurating a satellite video system (at the local Educational Service District offices). This step joined Clatsop with hundreds of other colleges nationally in forging closer ties with high schools. This was accomplished through a 3 ½ hour national video teleconference titled, “Community College Partnerships: The High School-Community College Connection” and
sponsored by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges. About thirty local representatives from the College and schools attended the conference, which began with a brief statement by President Reagan, followed by panel discussions featuring educational experts throughout the nation and special commentators including Labor Secretary William Brooks, and Dale Parnell, Associate President and former Oregon State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Administrators during this decade included: Phil Bainer, President; Paul See, Dean of Instruction; Bob Erickson, Dean of College Services; Dave Phillips, Associate Dean for Degree Programs; Bruce Lower, Associate Dean of Student Services; and Larry Haskell, Associate Dean of Adult and Community Education. For several years, staff members would refer to the group as The Magnificent Seven, with varying outlooks about what the name meant.

In August 1986, the “Chinook Observer” reported that the College cut tuition for Washingtonians. Washington students who attended the College in the fall of 1986 began paying the same tuition as their Oregon colleagues under the terms of a new tuition exchange agreement. The reciprocal agreement, proposed by the Oregon State Board of Education and ratified by Oregon’s Legislative Emergency Board in July, required participating institutions to charge Washington students the same tuition as Oregon residents. Likewise, Oregon students would pay in-state tuition at participating Washington institutions.

In August of 1986 Sally Condit, a beloved long-time public nurse and part-time nurse at Clatsop Community College between the years 1967-1977, passed away. Many community members remember Sally for volunteering to continue making home nursing visits and take blood pressure readings at the area’s senior citizen centers after she retired.

In March of 1986, the New Horizon’s Arts Council became the “Astor Street Opry Company”. The College entered into a three-year agreement with the company to provide theatrical productions during the summers and, in exchange, the College contributed professional salaries and in-kind contributions. The focus of New Horizon Arts Council had been the promotion of the Arts for the benefit of the community. The shift to the Astor Street Opry Company was to promote only the performing arts, specifically to promote enrollment in the College’s Performing Arts Program. Under the new agreement, the College offered a Summer Theater Program. Astor Street Opry Company funded scholarships for ten students in three classes to enrollees through contributions and gate receipts. They also financed enhancements to the summer productions, such as choreography or set design during the school year. That summer the Astor Street Opry Company performed “Shanghaied in Astoria” for the first time.

In May, 1986, the Fencing Club hosted the first North Coast Fencing Competition. The Fencing Club was initiated by fencing instructor Dr. Anne...
Klinger. Dr. Klinger had been rated 5th in the nation in Women’s Fencing. Her team, the Salle Auriol women’s épée team (a Portland-based fencing club) captured its second consecutive national championship in the women’s team épée competition during the U.S. Fencing Association National Championships. The high level of education on the team led the Salt Lake City Standard Examiner to refer to them as the “brain trust team.” Brian Harrison, Anthropology and Social Science instructor, carried on the tradition of the fencing club for almost two more decades after Dr. Klinger resigned from the College.

In August of 1986, Dr. Peter Morgan arrived from England on a Fulbright Exchange with Dr. Ann Klinger. Each instructor switched jobs, cars and houses for one year. Ann Klinger went to South Devon College of Arts and Technology located in Torquay, a resort town on the southwest coast of Great Britain, and Dr. Morgan moved to Klinger’s home in Warrenton and her job at Clatsop Community College. Dr. Klinger was ranked fifth in the U.S. in the épée style of fencing and stated that she wanted to try the European competitive experience.

In November of 1986, the classified (hourly) employees at the College voted to form a bargaining unit through the Oregon School Employees Association. The election was conducted by the state Employment Relations Board and won with a 22 to 13 vote. With that vote, the classified employees became the second labor union at the College, with the faculty bargaining together as a unit through the Oregon Education Association.

A unique community experience took place for the community when KMUN radio and the College’s Channel 7 teamed up for a joint program. The radio station and local cable TV combined forces on January 27, 1987 to present a live, half-hour public affairs broadcast featuring the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners Roger Berg, Bob Westerberg and Debbie Boone. KMUN manager, Doug Sweet, hosted the question and answer session with the commissioners. The discussion originated from the television studio in Fertig Hall on the College’s main campus. It was part of a weekly...
public affairs series broadcast over KMUN for several years that normally originated from KMUN’s studios.

February of 1987 brought a new program to the College. Eight Costa Rican fishermen came to the College as students under a cooperative agreement between the College and OSU Sea Grant, the local Oregon State University Extension Program. The program was sponsored by Partners of the Americas, a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen friendships between the people of the United States and those of South and Central America through the promotion of economic development. The fishermen were at the College for two months beginning in February. Jim Bergeron, OSU Sea Grant Extension field agent for Clatsop and Columbia counties reported to the Daily Astorian that “most Costa Rican fishermen do the bulk of their fishing with gillnets and longlines in the inlets and bays of the country’s coastline.” The visitors took commercial fishing courses at the College and participated in work experience situations on private fishing vessels. The Daily Astorian reported on their experiences in an article by David Harlan on March 23, 1987: "Chewing a piece of gum, William Cascante looks out across the Columbia River from the bow of Ron Collman’s Alaska gillnet boat, the Spartan. ‘It’s a nice country,’ he says, gazing across the water toward the Oregon shore east of Tongue Point, ‘it’s cold, but very nice’ he adds, grinning. Mr. Cascante also reported that he saw hail for the first time while living in Astoria. Chet Lounsbury of Gearhart also volunteered to teach the visitors how to work the trolling rig aboard his dory troller, the Soulmate. ‘We are very happy to be here in Astoria’, Cascante said from his perch on the bow of the Spartan. Astorians ‘are beautiful people’, and ‘the fishermen are good boys,’ he said. Cascante longlined and gillnetted red snapper, mackerel, shark and other species from a 28-foot dugout canoe in his native land. He said he thought, as did the others, that they would be able to put the lessons they learned to use to better their lot when they returned home.”

On a different note, in February, 1987, Dairy and Livestock Instructor Don Stangel displayed a memorial for Herb Howell, former Director of the J.J. Astoria Agricultural Experimental Station, who was instrumental in establishing the farm program at the College.

Also in February the College, Columbia Memorial Hospital, and the Astoria YMCA held the Counties first annual Wellness Fair. According to David Kamp and Vicki Durst, the co-chairs for the event, the purpose of the Wellness Fair was to bring together under one roof most of the providers of health and wellness services and products in Clatsop County. Other participants included the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, Danceworks Fitness, The Community Store, Ronald McDonald House, Family Health Center, Toyas Chiropractic Center, Sunrise Chiropractic Center, Astoria Clinic and the Seaside Health Center.

On March 14, 1987, former Astoria educator Emmett Towler passed away at the age of 95. Emmett Towler influenced education throughout Oregon for almost a half century and it is for him that Clatsop Community College’s Towler Hall is named. According to the Daily Astorian, Towler came to Astoria from La Grande in 1932 to become Principal of Astoria High School, a post he held for 16 years. He then became Clatsop County’s elected Superintendent of Schools in 1949. He was twice re-elected, then appointed Superintendent of the Clatsop County Intermediate Education Service District, the
Girls Bowling Team
all photos CCC archives
agency which replaced the County Schools Chief’s Office and preceded the present-day Clatsop County Education Service District. He served until 1967, when mandatory retirement laws required that he step down at the age of 75. In the 1950s Towler played a key role in the establishment of what eventually become Clatsop Community College. In 1962, the College recognized his contribution by renaming the old Astoria High School, where Towler had served as Principal, Towler Hall. Dick Knotts, Towler’s replacement as ESD Superintendent, recalled the effect Towler had not only on the county’s school operations, but on education statewide. “He was one of the strongest educators I’ve ever been associated with,” Knotts said. “Probably, in his time, he was the best superintendent in the states as far as school law was concerned. He helped write a good many of them.”

March of 1987 also brought a record enrollment for the College. The surge in enrollment was primarily among part-time students, which increased by 25%. In addition, the Tillamook program enrolled between 200-300 students prior to its being turned over to Portland Community College. Adult and Community Education also had gains in apprenticeship programs for power linemen, state-mandated alcohol servers workshops, and increased enrollment in the revised commercial fishing and marine technology programs.

At that time the College’s efforts to improve its Holstein herd led to the application of new methodologies. The Daily Astorian reported in March, “In what sponsors think will be a first for Clatsop County, the Clatsop Community College dairy management program this spring will perform embryo transplants from a recently purchased Holstein cow to other cows in the College’s 76-animal herd.” According to Bob Northrup, Dairy Instructor at the College’s 80-acre farm at Walluski Loop, “the process would allow the farm to get several calves from the best cow each year rather than the one she normally would have.” The donor cow was named Ronelee Honey Marts-ET, or Honey. Farm manager, Mike Scholerman, said Dairy Program Coordinator, Don Stangel, and former Dairy Instructor, Mike Bell, had decided two years earlier to introduce embryo transplants into the college program.

The Daily Astoria also reported on a statewide economic impact study that showed the College provided an economic benefit 2.66 times greater than the amount invested in the institution. Sponsored by the Oregon Community College Association, the study found that $500,000,000 was in circulation within the Oregon economy because of the existence of the (then) 13 community colleges and two community college area education districts. According to the study, $8,817,931 of that total was in circulation because of Clatsop Community College. “The study confirms what we have believed all along – that CCC contributes to the state and local economy in significant ways,” said Phil Bainer in a February 25th Daily Astorian article. “At the same time,” he added, “I want to affirm that the education students receive here contributes in immeasurable ways to the state’s economy, by training a labor force and by preparing leaders for the future. The success of our graduates is proof of that.”

According to the study, the College’s direct impact on the local community totaled $5,584,504. Locally, Clatsop students spent $2,211,365; staff spent $2,090,985; and the institution spent $1,286,054. The indirect impact of CCC on the economy was $3,233,427. In the College’s district, local taxpayers invested $2,165,326 in Clatsop Community College and the College...
“I think that we certainly need to remember that this College exists in an area that originally was deemed too small to support a College. Hard work by many individuals over the years from Board to Staff, has developed the College into something that I believe the College District would now deem essential to the well being of this area of the state. One of the College’s original history professors, Mel Berens, used to like to refer to the US Constitution as a living document that changes as the Nation changes. To some extent, I believe that the College is like Mel’s view of the Constitution; the College is a living entity that modifies itself, and changes as the Community it serves changes, making it truly a “living institution”.

~ Phil Bainer when asked about what needs to be remembered
$6,086,721 to circulate within the local economy.

The Daily Astorian went on to state: “Without CCC’s presence, an unmeasured, negative financial impact would have occurred for the students who would have attempted to attend another college. The study found that approximately 1,350 students would not have attended college during the fall term of 1986. Also, 1,300 would have attempted to attend an out-of-district college.”

In November, 1987, the College developed its first AIDS policy, reflecting a growing concern about the AIDS epidemic nationally. Gene Itzen was chairman of the ad hoc committee to study establishment of the College policy which eventually led to a policy on blood-borne pathogens for protection of students and staff. In July of 1987 health professionals and associated service providers were invited to attend a free conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) hosted by Clatsop Community College. Subjects from treatment to a panel on public policy, laws, and ethics took place.

In the late 80s and 90s, faculty at the College began taking students abroad to study in the summers. The Seaside Signal reported on English Instructor John Rupp’s 10-day educational trip to Italy. The tour explored modern and ancient Italy, with stops scheduled at Milan, Venice, Assisi, Pompeii, Rome, Florence, Capri, Sorrento and Naples. Other trips included Ann Klinger’s organized bicycle trip up the Loire Valley to Paris with stops at famous chateaus along the way. Roy Garrison also offered art trips to Scandinavia.

The end of the school year in 1987 saw the retirement of Paul See, long-time Dean of Instruction. Mr. See came to Clatsop in 1967 to teach geology and electronics. In 1970, he replaced Phil Bainer as Instructional Dean when Bainer became College President. See was a Seaside native who left Clatsop County in 1943 to serve in the armed forces and then to work in the oil industry. He returned to the county in 1963, teaching briefly at Warrenton High School before joining the college staff. In his post, See supervised the college’s entire curriculum and such programs as television production and the library. “I think the college has gone to great lengths to accommodate every perceived need in postsecondary education, and, in some areas, touching on secondary education,” See said. “I’m proud that the college has been flexible enough to do that. The most satisfying part of the job has been keeping programs functioning and serving students despite financial, staff and equipment constraints.” He believed that it required considerable creativity but was possible because of a “darn dedicated staff.”

As the 1980s began to draw to a close, the community the College served was more and more directly and immediately impacted by worldwide and national events. There was far more international travel and more rapid exchange of ideas and achievements through constantly evolving technology and attempts by the scientific communities of the world to meet new challenges presented by an ever-growing and more mobile population. It was no longer possible to be unaware or unaffected by what was happening in the rest of the country and the rest of the world.

“[The most satisfying part of the job has been keeping programs functioning and serving students despite constraints. It required considerable creativity but was possible because of a ‘darn dedicated staff.’]”

~ Paul See
Board Members 1988 - 1998

Charles Dymond
Michael Brownlie
J.E. DeMarsh
Joyce Williams
Karen Beauchamp
Patricia Garrett
Earl Fisher
Roland White
Russ Hunter
Curt Schneider
Ed Shanus
Susan Riener
Ernie Davis
Bunny Doar
Art Draper
Ralph Wirfs
Sara Meyer
Sylvia Davis
Jean Danforth
Frank Satterwhite
The decade of the 1980s was one of great change for the nation and the world. Due to increasingly rapid advances in technology and awareness of global politics and economy, the United States found itself in a position of not only more directly influencing the cultures of countries on the other side of the world, but also of being more and more influenced by events in others as well. It was the decade when terrorists exploded Pan-Am 747 over Scotland, killing all 259 aboard, ten thousand students demonstrated in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square, the Berlin Wall opened after 28 years, and the Cold War ended. In American news, U.S. troops invaded Panama seeking the capture of Manuel Noriega, Timothy McVeigh was sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombings, and four police officers were acquitted in the Los Angeles beating of Rodney King. The AIDS epidemic touched the world and also Clatsop County.

By 1988, the U.S. and Canada had reached a free-trade agreement, but more and more frequently, Americans were made aware of anti-American sentiment growing in other parts of the world as terrorist attacks were aimed not only at other countries, but at Americans abroad.

In Clatsop County, worldwide changes were felt as the economy shifted from primarily timber and fishing-driven industries to tourism. The electronics industry, which had generated an economic boom in California continued to spread northward to the Willamette Valley in Oregon and to Seattle, Washington, as companies such as Intel and Microsoft expanded to meet the world’s demands for newer and newer technologies.

By the mid-to-late 1980s more and more newly-affluent people who had landed in Portland and Seattle found Clatsop County, with its unparalleled scenic beauty and still relatively affordable property, to be a highly desirable place not only to visit, but to buy or build vacation homes as well. The increase in development, not to mention tourist-related businesses meant great change for the entire area. Not only were more people than ever coming to the area to enjoy its unique beauty, history and tourist attractions, more and more people were migrating to the area for tourist and service-related jobs, and for jobs relating to new construction.

This time was a period of great change for the College as well. Faculty and staff began to take early retirement in large numbers, and for the first time, there was a rapid turnover in staff.

The fourth decade of the College’s history saw two new Presidents presiding over the College. Doreen Dailey stepped in as President after
Phil Bainer retired in 1990 and set the College on a path which was the beginning of a new direction, full of change. Daily was followed by John Wubben who built on President Bainer’s base and Dr. Dailey’s transition leadership to increase the size of the College and its programs with a cluster of buildings and programs at the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station (MERTS) and new campus development. During Wubben’s time as President, the College’s enrollment grew to its highest level in the College’s history.

This was also a time in which the College’s accrediting agency increased its scrutiny of the College, particularly in the areas of learning accountability and campus accessibility. Some issues regarding accessibility would not be resolved in this decade nor in the next. The result would be the accreditation agency ordering the college to either fix the problem or face grave warning regarding accreditation.

Although in 1988, lack of handicapped accessibility hadn’t yet resulted in accreditation consequences, students and staff all agreed that the College needed to move forward for equitable access. The State awarded $8,125 to the College for handicapped access projects. By providing matching funds, the College used 65% of the money for an accessible parking lot adjacent to Patriot and Towler Halls. The remainder was used to install doors with power openers.

The year 1988 was also the advent of the College using computer system technology for students to register for classes. According to Dave Phillips, Dean of Instructional Services, in a September article in the Daily Astorian, “Up to now, it was a time consuming, two-part process, with data entry being the second stage. Registering on-line is going to benefit those who register as much as those who use the information.” The article continued to report that although Clatsop was not the first college to implement such a system, it was probably one of the smallest to do so. Alan Richards, Director of Computer Services, developed the software and said, “The new process would not only allow instant retrieval of information but would also give the staff more time to do other tasks.”

Also in 1988, the cafeteria was remodeled. The student union was turned into a café with a small restaurant and meeting room. The area was also divided into a bookstore, with the old bookstore becoming an ASBI (Associated Student Body Incorporated) office. The new cafeteria was named after Maxine Dymond. Although it had been more than 20 years since Maxine dished out her ‘home cooking’ to the staff and students at the College, she was not forgotten. The new café had “Maxine’s” in emblazoned neon-script lettering above the entry, with a white ‘diamond’ dotting the “i”. Maxine worked at the College from 1962 until 1968. According to John Fortmeyer from the Daily Astorian, “Dymond (Maxine) still chuckles at seeing her name in light. ‘Who’s Maxine?’ she says with a laugh, then answers her own question. ’She’s some character that was here a long time ago.’ Having had some experience in retailing, she was hired by the College’s first president, Dick Boss, to open Clatsop’s first bookstore. Although she had no formal background in food service, she was also assigned to open and run the school’s first cafeteria in the basement of Towler Hall.”
Luckily, Maxine was a good cook. Eventually she was also given the responsibility for managing the Student Body Association budget and a cafeteria cook was hired to free up some of her time. Dymond also chaperoned College-sponsored dances and trips out of the area. In 1986 she supervised relocation of the cafeteria and bookstore into larger quarters in the basement of Patriot Hall. Her husband, Chuck, was one of the College’s original instructors and later directed its Evening School program. His interest in the College continued strong over the years as a College Board member.

In November, 1988, the Associated Student Body sponsored a birthday party celebrating the 60th birthday of Mickey Mouse by trying to beat the world’s record for the most people jumping one rope at the same time. Although they did not make the record, they had a good time.

Also that month, the College Board first heard about Oregon Ed-Net, designed to establish a statewide educational communications network via satellite which was being submitted to the legislature, and was eventually implemented. The College already had satellite downlink capabilities through its Community Education Program. The Board approved a five year commitment of $1,000 per year and the cost of programming to the project.

The fourth decade of the College’s history continued with its dedication to culture. Although a music program was discontinued at the College, partnerships began with organizations and individuals to keep arts events alive. One well-known music director and teacher was Jim Smith. Mr. Smith came to Astoria from his position as the principal trumpet player in the Oregon Symphony. Prior to that, he played with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Mr. Smith was invited to become director of what the community began calling The Band, which was founded in 1979 by Stanley Glarum. It was a bit of a change for Smith since his background was primarily with orchestras, including his work as founder and conductor of the North Coast Chamber Orchestra. A 1989 Daily Astorian article featured Jim Smith and pianist Betty Philips who was well known in the community and one of the premier local pianists at that time.

In April, 1989, the College concluded its relationship with Adult Student Housing Incorporated (ASH), accepted a settlement offer from and agreed to release all claim to the facility.

Also that spring, the College instituted the Talent Grant. A staff committee developed a proposal to award a number of full tuition, in-state waivers for full-time students with academic or other issues of sexuality. He reported that the class had high attendance by teenagers. He also told them that he was bringing the topic to the Board “since it deals with controversial subject matters. Any comments from constituents should be sent to the College, which was prepared to respond since the class was carefully considered before authorizing its presentation.”

The College sometimes took steps based on educational requests from the community that made some community and Board members uncomfortable. One such event was reported in the Board minutes in January, 1989, by Phil Bainer. He reported to the Board that a Community Education class entitled “Sex on the Safe Side” was designed to assist teenagers in developing skills to deal with contemporary
special abilities as a means of attracting students who might otherwise not attend Clatsop.

The staff in community and continuing education became well known state-wide for innovations in lifelong learning and reaching more students per capita than most other counterparts. In March, 1989, Larry Haskell, Associate Dean of Community Education was awarded the Oregon Community College Educator of the Year by the Oregon Community Education Association (OCEA). The Association is made up of community schools, recreation departments and associations, and community colleges that provide life-long learning opportunities. The Seaside Signal reported on Haskell’s education philosophy, “It’s more of a mission to try and bring people to the learning experience, no matter what stage they are at in their lives.” The award had also been given to Ron Collman a few years earlier in 1986. Collman was the prior Dean of Community Education. In an article in the Daily Astorian, President Phil Bainer said of Collman’s award, “His leadership in providing adult and community education has put Clatsop at the cutting edge of the lifelong learning movement. Clatsop serves more adults per capita population than most other community colleges.” The tradition of Clatsop employees earning this award continued into the new century. In 2003, Suzanne Iverson received it for excellence in partnerships with other community colleges in her position as Workforce Development Coordinator. Kitty Paino as Dean of Continuing Education received a different but similar award, the Community Educator of the Year for Oregon, from the Mott Foundation and OCEA for innovation in state-wide economic development and partnerships in 2004.

In May, 1989, the College received an energy savings loan package of over $100,000 and used the money to optimize energy savings in the Library and Towler Hall.

May also heralded in an unusual cooperative project. Larry Haskell, Associate Dean of Community Education, Mike Soderberg and Rich Fencsak embarked on a gillnetter boat building project at the former Burlington Northern Railroad depot adjacent to the Maritime Museum. Between May and September, shipwright Dave Green of Astoria worked on a 26-foot boat. Museum visitors were able to watch the gradual construction and learn about the history of the gillnetter. The project was funded by contributions from the Ben G. Cheney Foundation, US West Communications, the Oregon Community Foundation, and Englund Marine Supply. Jerry Ostermiller, the museum’s director, told those gathered at the opening ceremony that the project was more than appropriate for the region.

At the May Board meeting, President Bainer presented a concept for an Associate in Arts Degree that was designed to meet the block transfer agreements adopted by the State System of Higher Education and Office of Community College Services. The theory was that, once the program was adopted, a Clatsop transfer student would be accepted at any State system school. Although the process needed to evolve before the goal was met, it began to make it easier for students to transfer without losing credits or needing to take additional and unnecessary courses.

About this time, Mick Alderman, a former Television student and Audio-Visual Technician at the College began making news for his motion pictures. In the mid-80s he made a tongue-in-cheek thriller called “With This Ring.” It was good enough to win him a job with Millennium
Pictures Inc., in Portland to work on a children’s video, “King Cole’s Party,” based on nursery rhymes. He also worked as production assistant for a Los Angeles company that filmed car commercials in Oregon and Washington. Over the years, Alderman has had several screenplays registered with the writer’s guild. In 1989 he filmed his own screenplay, “The Mind Of The Circle.” Despite this busy schedule, he still ensures that College staff and faculty needs for audio-visual equipment service and equipment are met on time.

In November 1989, Dean of Instructional Services, Dave Phillips, advised the Board that the Academic Council had developed proposed guidelines for use in administering a 2+2 articulation agreement in vocational programs between the College and area high schools. A 2+2 agreement allowed high school students to earn college credit for specific vocational courses completed in the high school, when they also enrolled in the mirror program at the College at the same time.

The mission of the College was revised by the Board to the following: “The mission of Clatsop Community College is to provide high quality learning opportunities for all individuals in Clatsop County, and to be a leader in addressing the changing needs of our community.”

According to a Seaside Signal article in response to the new mission statement and corollary objectives, “The new statement suggests that the College ‘provide student-centered learning environment(s) with faculty and staff who remain accessible and supportive’. The article pointed out that the emphasis is to ‘provide counseling and career planning that ‘inspires student success’.” The article quoted President Bainer statement that the school’s continuing emphasis is to “serve all the community as best as possible.”

In January 1990, Scharlee Treharn, ASBI President 1989-90, distributed student surveys to the Board and initiated a discussion with the Board about smoking in campus buildings. Results of the survey showed 67% of those surveyed agreed that smoking should be eliminated from campus buildings; 33% felt it should not be eliminated; 2% that it should be eliminated in some areas; and 9% didn’t care. The Board took the issue under advisement.

Larry Haskell, Associate Dean of Continuing Education, reported to the Board on the Contract Out-Of-District Agreement initiated with the Columbia 5-J School District. The agreement allowed the College to offer courses in Clatskanie and Rainier. Appointed to work with the State, CCC and Columbia School District 5J, residents forming an advisory committee included Elaine Zea, local resident and first CCC coordinator; Gail Steel, publisher of the Clatskanie Chief; Margaret Magruder, area rancher and 5J school board member; Dottie Wyatt, manager of the U.S. National Bank–Clatskanie branch; JoAnn Blodgett, a Clatskanie homemaker and school board member; and Mike Wendling, a public relations officer at James River Corporation when it operated the Wuana mill. Since the Columbia 5-J School District had additional timber revenue (the amount given to schools and municipalities that fall within certain areas of the State and based on timber cut on State land), the 5J School Board voted to subsidize classes for residents. The College Board approved the agreement. Over 150 area residents registered for the first classes offered. Classes included everything from stress management, to CPR and investment classes.
Karin Temple, foreign language and literature instructor for the College, along with the College’s Cultural Events committee, initiated the Rainy Day Film Festival, a unique community program. Heralded in the Daily Astorian’s Panache magazine with this description: “A small cadre of area residents heeds that credo – rain or sunshine – and gathers regularly to take in a flick. Not just any movie, but an eclectic mix of commercial successes and the little known domestic and foreign, everything from the classics, to the moody, so-called art films to, yes, Walt Disney and cartoons. Welcome to the Rainy Day Films.” Although the name was appropriate to Astoria’s weather, Temple borrowed the name from a book’s title by German author Hundertwasser. Over the years the films were shown at the Astoria Flag Room, the College’s Performing Arts Center, Canne’s Cinema in Seaside, and the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach, and the Columbian in Astoria.

1990 continued with the College receiving an award from the Council for Economic Development of Oregon that highlighted the College’s efforts to boost the North Coast’s economy. The College was nominated by the Clatsop Economic Development Committee in a statewide competition. According to the Daily Astorian, the College was nominated for various projects of the previous 10-15 years. Included were training workers of the Astoria Oil Services module construction program during the mid-1980s and changes in the school’s Maritime Sciences program to better meet the needs of the commercial fishing industry. Subsequently, Bainer announced that the College had been awarded first place in Education by the Council for Economic Development in Oregon for its contributions to economic development in the region. A trophy was presented to the College at the World Trade Center in Portland.

Regarding the award, President Bainer stated, “I really think it’s quite an honor. It’s recognition that the College has been active in economic development.”

The recognition was a fitting conclusion to a career as well, for shortly thereafter, President Bainer retired, effective July 1, 1990.

President Bainer’s retirement letter to the Board pointed out the strong enrollment in the College’s community education program, the College’s “extraordinarily diverse” transfer program despite the limited resources of the College District, and the College’s various cultural and other contributions to the community. He wrote, “Basically I shall leave the College with no apologies and with a lot of pride in what the College has become, and the part that I have been able to play in that growth and development during my long tenure here.” When asked in 2008 what he found most satisfying about his Presidency, he listed the following, many of which have been momentous events for the College. “The things I found most satisfying were: (1) adding facilities to the campus including the library, art building and performing arts center; (2) maintaining fiscal solvency over some tough times and keeping the support of the community by passing tax measures when many of the other local public agency measures were failing; (3) seeing the College’s first tax base established before retiring; and (4) seeing some new innovative programs developed such as the maritime and dairy/livestock programs.”

Unlike earlier years, the process of selecting a new President for the College was much more intense by this time. President Bainer had submitted his resignation letter in early 1989 and by April, 1989, a selection committee had been appointed which included several
“...rural community colleges offer an opportunity to make a difference. You don’t have the chaos that you can have in larger institutions.”
~ Dr. Doreen Dailey

John Hauser • CCC photo

1991
Dr. Doreen Dailey becomes President

Original location of the JOBS Program • CCC archives
business owners, the Deputy Commissioner for Community Colleges, a retired Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, a retired newspaper editor, and one administrator from the College.

In March 1990, the Board appointed Doreen Dailey to fill the position of President upon President Bainer’s retirement in July of 1990.

In April, Pat Killion asked for the Board’s commitment and support to seek funding to establish a Radar and Fire Safety Training program. Around the same time, the Oregon Community College Telecommunications Consortium, a statewide organization working to develop television courses and share related information, awarded faculty member John Hauser and Dean Dave Phillips for their support of instructional use of television. According to the Daily Astorian, “Hauser, a CCC history and philosophy instructor, was cited for excellence in telecourse innovation. He developed a “Great Religions of the World” class for Clatsop, which involved gathering and editing materials from many sources.” The Seaside Signal reported, “Phillips was cited for his administrative work and was credited for bringing the college from having no telecourses to offering several by 1990.” According to the consortium, Phillips’ work was especially notable because new programs often involve a greater share of the financial risk at small schools.

In September 1990, the Board approved the JOBS (Job Opportunity and Basic Skills) Program agreement between Oregon Economic Development Dept and Clatsop Community College. The College became the prime contractor working with Tillamook Bay and Oregon Coast Community College subcontractors to provide post-secondary educational services, with MTC (Management and Training Corporation) providing development services, including, life skills, job search, short term vocational training, on-the-job training, and job placement for at least 229 adults and 54 teens.

Then Ballot Measure Five, a property tax initiative, captured the public’s attention. The Board resolved to inform the public about how Measure Five would affect the College. Measure Five would reduce property tax receipts the College would receive for several years into the future. It was thought that the first year would amount to approximately $140,000. The measure subsequently passed and the financial impact of the measure on the College proved to be severe enough that wage and cost-of-living increases for staff and funds for operational supplies became rare and sometimes non-existent for the next several years.

Despite these fiscal concerns, the College continued to try to address the issue of accessibility for handicapped students. In November, a Handicapped Access Committee Report was accepted by the Board. The report called for several improvements to doors, drinking fountains, and changes in parking. Mr. Erickson, Dean of College Services, was directed to provide implementation of low cost or no-cost improvements.

In January of 1991, the Marine Radar Observer Training program was approved by the Coast Guard. The training was for the operation and use of Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA) radar systems for those who will be in charge of a navigational watch in vessels equipped with ARPA radar.

In May, the Budget Committee for the College decided that the Dairy Lab at the College’s Farm should be closed by September, 1991.
When asked about the memorable parts of his Presidency, President Bainer wrote the following:

“I found the twenty years I was President at Clatsop to be extremely rewarding. Even though we were one of the smallest colleges in the state, we maintained a quality faculty and staff that would compare quite favorably with any of the big dogs. Our location and small, tight knit community had an appeal that let us recruit some faculty in favorable competition with the larger, metropolitan schools. The small size of the College contributed to the “family” atmosphere that was not possible on the larger campuses. My biggest regret, while President, was that I was not better able to overcome the adversarial relationships that developed later in my term catalyzed by staff reductions, labor relations, etc.”

When asked about the College’s 50th Anniversary in 2008, he wrote:

“As for the 50th Anniversary, the time has seemed to fly by so quickly. It does not seem possible that 50 years could have passed. I really enjoyed working with Geraldine Swenson recently trying to identify all of those who worked at the College over the years, and what has happened to them. I am just extremely proud that I was able to serve the College for 20 years as President, and before that as Division Chairman and Dean of Instruction. To work with so many fine staff during those years was an honor indeed.”
The closure of the farm reflected the decline in dairy farming in the County and represented the changes that community colleges must make as needs in their communities change.

In June, Robert L. Erickson, long-term Dean of College Services and Clerk to the Board, took early retirement. The Board gave him a formal commendation for his years of service. Also in June President Bainer attended his last Board meeting before his retirement came into effect.

In June, the College Board, provided four scholarships for Tongue Point Job Corp students enrolled in Computer Assisted Design. This marked the first time that Board Scholarships were given to students who were not in regular public schools.

In September of 1991, one of Dr. Dailey’s first actions as the new President was to initiate changes recommended by the College’s accrediting agency, the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, to provide the College with a Governance Structure. A number of new initiatives and directives were given to the College to work on during the coming year. The accreditation team recommended that the College begin with organizational change to clarify roles and responsibilities and bring organizational structure into alignment with contemporary needs.

Just prior to Dr. Dailey’s arrival at the College, the Oregon Women’s Political Caucus gave her its Nan Wood Honeymoon First Woman Award for 1990. When Dailey took up her duties in July, she became the first woman president of an Oregon Community College.

Dr. Dailey came to Clatsop from her three-year role as Dean of Instruction at Southwestern Oregon Community College. Her duties there included long-range planning, curriculum supervision, public information and marketing, faculty and program evaluation, and budget development. She also served two years as Dean of Instruction and one year as Director of Human, Community and Economic Development at Tanana Valley Community College in Fairbanks, Alaska. From 1981 to 1984, Dailey served on the faculty at Northwest Community College in Nome, Alaska. She held both a doctorate and master’s in clinical psychology from the University of Wyoming in Laramie. She also had past experiences at jobs like commercial fishing deckhand.

An article in the Daily Astorian reported that Dailey stated, “I’m very excited. I received such a warm welcome and reception at the board meeting. That made me feel very good about moving to this community.” She added that she was drawn to the job because of her commitment to small, rural community colleges and by the quality of life. “It is beautiful. I grew up in southeast Alaska and it’s like coming home for me,” she said. According to the Daily Astorian, “The 43-year old Alaska native was one of two finalists the board considered out of more than 70 initial applicants.” The other finalist was John Wubben, Dean of Instruction at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming, (who was eventually succeeded Dailey as President). “We were looking at two very highly qualified candidates,” said Board Chair, Trish Garrett. “The college was fortunate to have such a difficult decision to make, and we’re extremely pleased with the outcome.”

In November, 1991, Jim Hogan, in his role as Director of the College’s Foundation, announced that Dr. Bernie Siegel had been secured by the Foundation for a fund raising event. Dr. Siegel
Math Instructors from left: Doug Nelson, Milford Stevens, Sue Richardson

Gerry Swenson
Nursing Instructors, from left: Karen Burke, Susan Adcock, Jo Black

CCC Faculty, Spring 2007
was a nationally known author of the best seller *Love, Medicine & Miracles*, which was about humanizing medical education and medical care, as well as empowering patients and teaching survival behavior to enhance immune system competency. In March, 1993, Gerry Swenson reported on the event. After expenses, the Foundation received $40,000, of which $30,000 went toward the cultural events programs and $10,000 toward Foundation goals.

In March, 1992, Mark Terranova of the Oregon Disabilities Commission briefed the Board on the Americans With Disabilities Act. This marked yet another attempt by the College to address the continuing issues of accessibility. Mr. Terranova believed that a $500,000 investment in campus improvements over a two to three year period would satisfy the accessibility issue. (Later that year, in November, there was yet another attempt to address handicapped accessibility issues. Darrell Ackerman, a consultant on handicapped access, gave his evaluation to the Board along with possible options. He believed that a two to three year investment in his recommendations would be suitable for meeting the letter of the law regarding accessibility.)

Returning to events in March, the Board was given an update on “Math For The Curious” and Don Stangel, the Dean of Arts and Sciences and math instructors Gerry Swenson, Milford Stevens and Sue Richardson were commended by Dr. Dailey.

Rose Alsbury, assistant to Jim Hogan in the Human Resources Department, designed a self-appraisal system which focused on communication and goal setting. The evaluation system was reviewed and endorsed by the College Assembly. This was one of the first actions which came out of the new Governance Structure.

The Board was also informed that it had received a federal Educational Talent Search Grant. Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a cooperative program between four local school districts and Clatsop Community College. Its mission is to help students succeed in school and develop a clearer vision of educational choices beyond high school. This grant would be the first of three highly competitive federal grants, known as the Trio Grants, which the College received and implemented under the leadership of Director Ed Bohart. The second grant was for Upward Bound, a program to help qualified students increase their success, build a vision for the future, graduate from high school, and enter college and complete a Bachelor’s Degree. The third grant was the TRIO/Student Support Services project, which the College refers to as the PLUS Program, designed to assist qualified students to attend four-year institutions. The programs are 100% funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

In May, 1992, Karen Burke, Director of Nursing, in her role on the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, provided the Board with the background and system used by a committee made up of each job classification to recommend Ernst and Young as a reclassification consultant. The Board approved the reclassification project.

Dr. Dailey also proposed that the OSBA (Oregon School Board Association) be contacted to assist in a comprehensive in-house rewrite of the College’s policies.

In June, following a request from Dr. Dailey, the Department of Continuing Education provided
1993
Dr. John Wubben becomes President

1993 Rain Magazine

CCC faculty and staff • CCC photo
a three day live, satellite-downlink workshop given by Dr. Edwards Deming. Dr. Deming was an American statistician, college professor, author, lecturer, and consultant. Dr. Deming is widely credited with improving production in the United States during World War II, although he is perhaps best known for his work in Japan. There, from 1950 onward, he had taught top management how to improve design (and thus service), product quality, testing and sales (the last through global markets) through various methods. Deming made a significant contribution to Japan’s later renown for innovative high-quality products and its economic power. He is regarded as having had more impact upon Japanese manufacturing and business than any other individual not of Japanese heritage. Despite being considered something of a hero in Japan, he was only beginning to win widespread recognition in the U.S. at the time of his death in 1993. Twenty-seven staff members and over thirty over community members attended the workshop at CCC. The impact of the workshop would be felt by all the staff at the Fall In-Service, where a variety of process changes began at the College.

In October, 1992, the College finally received news that they would receive a $829,000 settlement from Adult Student Housing (ASH) from a lawsuit brought by the Department of Justice on the College’s behalf. The money would be invested, and the interest used to subsidize student housing until a facility or other plans for student housing could be made for the money.

In December, the College received $300,000 from HUD to use for planning a proposed South Tongue Point Project. The project would provide a home for the College’s Professional Technical Programs. In time, the College would learn that the money would need to go towards actual capital construction, but the funding initiated a multi-year, multi-million dollar, federally funded project known as the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station, or MERTS.

In January of 1993, RAIN magazine was resurrected after a lengthy hiatus. That February, an architectural firm was hired to design and prepare bids for elevators which would make Towler Hall, Patriot Hall and the Library accessible. The bids proved to be too high for the College to provide elevators with current funds.

In March, the Integrated Technologies program was approved by the Board. The program provided students with a virtual “supermarket” of integrated technical training opportunities. Students could get targeted training, one-year certificates, or associate degrees that incorporated the technologies of welding, machine tools, automotive, etc.

Also in March, Dr. Dailey announced her resignation to be effective June 30, 1993.

The Presidential search was again an intense, potentially controversial effort. However, the new screening committee reflected a change in approach brought to the College by Dr. Dailey. The committee would include College employees Jeff Whitaker, Linda Gallino, Marilee Wood; student Ken Church; and community members Jim Bergeron, Richard Laughlin, Linda Dugan, and Barbara Hansel.

In July of 1993 John Wubben accepted the Presidency of the College. By August, the Daily Astorian requested the entire list of candidates who had been considered for the position of President. Although the College was trying to
The History of MERTS

The vision for MERTS grew in the early 1990s, after the U.S. Navy scrapped its plans to base a pair of minesweepers at South Tongue Point. Instead, Oregon members of Congress helped convince the Navy to allocate $2 million for a research center on the site.

For years, the citizens and leaders of Astoria and Clatsop County, along with their elected officials, sought to turn South Tongue Point, a 120-acre riverside tract just east of Astoria, into economic development opportunities for the region—a region that had been severely affected by shifts in the fishing and timber industries. As a result of intense lobbying, the tract became the home of the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station (MERTS), which opened its doors in January of 1996.

Approximately $1.5 million of a $2 million U.S. Department of Defense grant paid for constructing Phase I of the MERTS project, a 13,000 square-foot Maritime Science Center (MSC). The funds came as a result of the Department’s canceling plans to base two U.S. Navy mine hunters at the site. Congress subsequently approved a $5 million appropriation for Phase II, the Industrial Manufacturing Technology Center (IMTC) that has expanded the Station to 43,000 square feet.

The successful completion of the MSC was, in part, the result of early support from the Oregon Division of State Lands (DSL). The DSL participated in an environmental impact statement for the area and provided preliminary master planning. In anticipation of ‘home porting” the Navy’s mine hunters, it even dredged an access channel to the site for docks and piers. With the end of the Cold War, the ships never made it to Astoria. Nevertheless the groundwork was laid. The Oregon congressional delegation—Sen. Mark Hatfield and Rep. Elizabeth Furse—saw to it that the Navy stood behind its commitment to Astoria, and the MERTS project began.

The State’s master plan assumed that Clatsop Community College would play an important role. It called for training new employees to staff incoming industry, with particular attention to environmental technology. The College could capitalize on nearly 30 years’ experience in maritime sciences training and certification, linking its talents to the Navy’s needs.

The State proposal, which requested the initial $2 million grant, expanded on this theme. Developed in collaboration with Clatsop Community College and the Oregon Graduate Institute (OGI), it allocated a major portion of the Phase I building to CCC’s Maritime Sciences Department for offices and classrooms. This was welcome news for the program.

Inadequate, outdated quarters on Youngs Bay were compromising the Maritime Sciences program. Furthermore the College’s 50-foot training vessel, M/V Forerunner, was losing its berth to siltation in Young’s Bay. Ultimately, the Army Corps of Engineers granted a license to the College to use the Corps’ dock and pier adjacent to the MERTS site.

The College and OGI sought educational partnerships to enhance the project. Soon Portland State University and the Coastal Studies and Technology Center at Seaside High School joined the collaboration. Each provided components of environmental education, research, and natural resource programs.
1988-1998

protect applicants who had requested that their names not be shared with the public unless they were finalists, the newspaper pressed the issue in Court, and received, full disclosure of the list. Historically, this was the beginning of a time of increased public scrutiny of publicly funded programs and institutions. Oregon’s public disclosure laws required that information about public employees, such as wages and other information, was to be made available upon request, with some limited exceptions.

In December of 1993, yet another architectural barrier study related to the Adults with Disabilities Act was conducted by Rob Barrentine. He noted that there were 16 floor levels and steep streets, but believed that some accessibility could be achieved for $1 million. But again, the College did not have the resources available at that time.

In early 1994, Larry Haskell, Dean of Community and Continuing Education briefed the Board on a $10,000 grant received by Clatsop Community Action to continue with concepts for a countywide workshop on economic development and a sustainable future. Mr. Haskell provided several opportunities for countywide community visioning throughout his career at Clatsop.

In March, 1994, the College opened a new South County Center on the property of Seaside High School. The 772 square foot facility featured high-performance computers and a classroom with partitions for smaller rooms which could be opened to a large room capable of seating sixty. The cooperative venture with the high school was a unique approach to combining public resources for students of all ages. Eventually there was joint coursework in transfer level courses and high school students had access to the College’s computer lab when the high school lab was booked.

In January 1994, the engineering/surveying/planning firm of David Evans and Associates was selected to build the first phase of MERTS. That April, President Wubben reported that the federal government had given the College $2 million in funding for the South Tongue Point Project. The MERTS Master Plan was presented to the Board.

The project was sponsored by Elizabeth Furse, U.S. House of Representatives and Mark O. Hatfield of the U.S. Senate. The MERTS project was initially planned in two stages. One was a space for the Integrated Technologies program and included welding, automotive, machine tools, and a computer lab for CADD and other industry related programs. The Maritime Science Center would eventually house the Marine Science Department and scientific marine research from the Oregon Graduate Institute and Portland State University. Succeeding years brought the Living Machine® and the Fire Response and Research Center (described in more detail in the next chapter).
1995 Faculty Excellence Award Winners
Sue Richardson (Math) and Dennis Degner (Maritime Science)

The card catalog was removed from the Library in 2000 • CCC photo
The Board voted that Martin Luther King Day be observed by the College. The College addressed it by making it a paid holiday, but made President’s Day a non-paid holiday.

In May of 1995, Linda Gallino presented the Board with the first Noel-Levitz Survey on, “How Well Are We Meeting Student Expectations?” The survey would continue to be given periodically in the future to assess and address areas which could fall below expectations. The first survey indicated that parking issues were a major concern. Not a surprise to most.

Alan Richards, Director of Computer Services, gave the Board an overview of the College’s computer connectivity. The use of computers began in 1989 with individually located work stations, but by 1995 had expanded to include a personal computer on every desk.

In June, Bonnie Allen, Director of the Learning Resources Center (Library), introduced the new Database Search Service offered by the College. At the time of the presentation, it was an astounding method of finding abstracts, articles and books throughout the world and the precursor to later search engines that became open to the general public.

Accessibility options for Fertig Hall were also discussed in the ever present effort towards solving architectural barriers to access. Recognizing that significant facilities changes were needed to address both access and outdated learning spaces, President Wubben presented the Board facilities planning needs developed by staff in preparation for a future bond levy for a new campus.

In November, the College Board had its first reading of the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity policy that had been changed to include sexual orientation. The policy change caused controversy with the Board, but was eventually passed.

In February, the first Faculty Excellence Award was initiated. Sue Richardson and Dennis Degner were the first recipients of the award. They were also honored at the National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) annual meeting in Texas.

In March when a member of the faculty found that he had a degenerative disease which would not allow him to continue teaching, the faculty members donated sick leave days to him to help financially until his disability payments would be available. The action initiated the beginnings of a sick leave bank policy which was eventually recommended by the Governance Council and the Board of Directors.

In May, the College entered into a contract with SRN/Bi-Tech for an integrated software system which would tie together administrative functions and also academic functions for the College.

In August, a MERTS Board was formed and incorporated as a non-profit to apply for and accept funds. This would enable the College to channel additional funding to the MERTS campus. On September 6, 1995, a groundbreaking ceremony organized by Tony Laska, initiated construction of the project.

Also in September, the College received $68,000 from the Meyer Memorial Trust for audience development. The money was used to hire an events coordinator to develop additional audience attendance at the College’s Performing Arts Program.
“Oregonians have long been known for their forward thinking, and MERTS is truly a success story.”

~Elizabeth Furse

Maritime Science Center construction, 1993

Maritime Science Center, MERTS

Industrial Manufacturing Technology Center (IMTC), MERTS campus • CCC photo
In February, 1996, Mahlum, Nordfors & Smith Gordon were chosen to complete a Facilities Master Plan in preparation for a future bond levy for a new campus.

The following April, Mahlum also joined in plan discussions for Phase II, of MERTS, the Industrial Manufacturing Technology Center (IMTC). Together with the Integrated Marine Technology faculty of the College, Antonio Baptista of Oregon Graduate Institute, Rich Leonard of David Evans Associates, Jon Graves from the Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force (CREST), Mitch Mitchum, Director of Public Works for the City of Astoria, Terry Young, ONR contractor, Bob Silverman, the local ONR representative from the State, and three Naval officers representing the US Navy.

Joint efforts with Mitch Mitchum and Paul Benoit of the City of Astoria, led to a ‘greenhouse’ sewage solution for waste treatment at the site since the cost for a conventional sewer line would be prohibitive. This was the birth of The Living Machine®, a unique solution for waste water management which uses natural filtering devices instead of harmful chemicals (described in more detail in the next chapter).

MERTS soon received $8.7 million to complete the IMTC. Senator Mark O. Hatfield stated “While the release of these funds for MERTS is important to the citizens of Astoria and Oregon, the research that is conducted at this facility will have lasting positive effects on our nation and the world.”

MERTS houses the Department of Environmental & Bio-molecular Systems, OGI School of Science & Engineering, and Oregon Health & Science University make up the Center for Coastal and Land-Margin Research. The Coastal Margin Observatory for the Columbia River (CORIE) operates out of MERTS and integrates a real-time sensor network, a data management system and advanced numerical models. The Coastal Studies and Technology Center at Seaside High School (where students study estuarine resources), and Portland State University initially joined the collaboration for work in environmental education. There have also been several other collaborations with area high schools involving the MERTS campus, such as providing area-wide welding to high school students with dual enrollment opportunities as needed. The Maritime Sciences Department is a major training site for Coast Guard approved certificates.

Meanwhile, Ed Bohart, who was selected to implement the new administrative Instruction system with SRN/BI-Tech provided the Board with the chronological events and charts for the new system. The system would involve hundreds of hours by staff and changes in procedures for many operations at the College.

In May of 1996 the College began the process of developing an internet website.

In June, Dave Phillips, Vice-President of Instruction and Student Services, presented the following programs for Board approval before sending them on to the State for approval: a one-year Welding certificate, a one-year certificate in Microcomputer Applications, an AAS Degree in Microcomputer Applications, and an AAS Degree in Microcomputer Programming and Networking.

In July, the NW Oregon Economic Alliance gave the College $182,000 in Rural Investment funds for the waterline to South Tongue Point.

The following September, the College opened a Community Information Center at what was
then the new PreMarq Center in Warrenton. Link Shadley, Director of the Oregon Advanced Technology Consortium grant, implemented the Center. The Center housed 12 computers with classes originally offered twice weekly, but grew to daily. According to Shadley at that time, “only 15% of the local community currently logs on to the Internet and this grassroots push for local telecommunications access in Clatsop County is the first in Oregon, and as far as I know the first in the County.” The College provided the Center in partnership with InterraIn Pacific and Ecotrust for the Columbia-Pacific. This site was also Ecotrust’s fifth field office.

In October, the College received a grant for $120,000 for planning and design of the Marine Fire School to be built on the MERTS campus. The grant proposal was written by Pat Killion.

In November, the College began utilizing the TV studio for televised courses. At their November meeting, the Board was invited by Bonnie Allen, Director of the Learning Resource Center, to the TV studio to participate in a simulated televised classroom experience. In the demonstration, Doug Nelson gave a short math lesson while Mick Alderman and Kirsten Huling (Horning) offered technical support. Dave Phillips said he was proud of the College’s effort to teach Spanish for Healthcare Workers by TV throughout Oregon. Patricia Morrissey was the instructor via Oregon Ed-Net.

In May, 1997, the Board approved a one-year Juvenile Corrections Certificate Program to assist with staffing at the Oregon Youth Authority facility.

In July, the State announced that students from Washington attending the College would begin to count as in-state students through HB2469, which was approved in July 1997. This meant that the College would receive full reimbursement from the State for the 15% of the student population attending the College but living in Washington.

In August, the Board began to consider sites for a new campus. This was the beginning of a long and difficult road for the Board. The original site selection possibilities were South Tongue Point, Airport Hill, and a site in mid-Clatsop County. In September all staff members were invited on a field trip to the possible sites the Board was considering for the new campus and their input was requested.

In October 1997, the College put up an official website on the internet which was designed by John and Jeremy Bolesky of Einstein Design.

That fall, the ‘Dragon Kiln’ was first introduced to the Board. The kiln, operated by Richard Rowland, produced Anagama pottery. Richard Rowland eventually became the College’s full-time pottery instructor and his Anagama Dragon Kiln became a local representation of community and art integration. In operation since 1984, the kiln has become a gathering place for community members who are engaged in fostering the connection between the community, the environment, and art.

In December, the Board was presented a study on the cost of introducing another child care center for College students. The cost was prohibitive, echoing the reason a previous child care center closed.
In January 1998, a severe ice storm cost the College several of its flowering trees which had been planted as a memorial and took 158 man-hours for storm cleanup and building repair.

That February, the first Fishers Poet Festival took place. It was inspired by Jon Broderick with major support from the College’s writing faculty, including Julie Brown, Nancy Hoffman, and Florence Sage. The Continuing Education Department also provided registered workshops with continuing education credits. There were readings at places such as the Wet Dog Tavern, Labor Temple, Maritime Museum, Café Uniontown, Eagle’s Lodge, and the Ricciardi Gallery. There were also open mike sessions, workshops, music, and art. Since that initial event, the Festival has gained national recognition and draws poets and audience members from many regions.

In May, new programs introduced and approved by the Board included the following: Entry Level CADD Technician; Entry Level Machinist; and Entry Level Automotive Technician.

In July, the College committed $10,000 in funds towards an investment in the renovation of the Liberty Theatre with hopes of its use in the future. Today, the College holds its annual commencement ceremony in the Liberty, much to the pleasure of graduates and their families.

In October, the Student Educational Assistance Center (SEA), opened in what had been the old machine shop in Fertig Hall. The Center combined the developmental learning labs and the assessment center into a one-stop learning skills center. That same month a Medical Assisting Certificate was approved by the Board.

J. W. Forrester, after his retirement as Editor of the Daily Astorian, summed up his opinion of community colleges and Clatsop in particular.

“The legislature in 1961 chartered five community colleges. They were Clatsop at Astoria, Central Oregon at Bend, Treasure Valley at Ontario, Blue Mountain at Pendleton and Southwestern Oregon at Coos Bay… There are now 16 community colleges in Oregon. Community colleges serve people who need to develop skills to become employable, people who are not certain whether they want to or are able to pursue four-year college or university programs, and people who have special education needs that they can acquire only by attending classes at times that do not conflict with their employment. Because of the breadth of the community college services it is fair to say that they are as vitally necessary as the public schools and the state-supported colleges and universities. Clatsop Community College is enormously important to the area it serves and the people who reside in the area. It has the capacity to be a key player in economic development through its programs and persons involved in those programs. It can make the difference between success and failure for countless persons who seek education after high school but do not know precisely what they want to do with it. It serves in ways that no other institution in the area does.

Although the years from 1988-1998 obviously saw great changes in Clatsop County’s local economy and great changes in local and global technology particularly in the area of communications, the United States was poised on the brink of what would be a decade of even greater change and turmoil for the entire country. Threats to the country’s security, economy, travel and very quality of life would be challenged in ways we were only beginning to recognize. How those changes would affect the College is a story still being told.
Board Members
1998-2008

Jean Danforth
Sylvia Davis
Sara Meyer
Frank Satterwhite
Ralf Wirfs
Susan Riemer
Russ Hunter
Patricia Garrett
Marilyn Lane
Paul Gillum
Rosemary Baker-Monaghan
Karen Mellin
Laura Harris
David Shannon
Doug Grant
Larry Sparks
Dirk Rhone
Stephen Berk
The decade from 1998-2008 was marked by great turmoil in the United States and abroad. At home, many Americans found reason to be cynical of government and taxpayer-financed activities. In 1998, the country was embroiled in a sex scandal involving President Bill Clinton and the presidential race of 2000 between Al Gore and George W. Bush culminated in the most controversial result in our history when George Bush became the first person in more than a century to attain the presidency without achieving a plurality in the popular vote.

Worldwide, as US citizens, we were becoming increasingly aware of rising anti-American sentiment as it became more dangerous to live and travel abroad. For Americans on our own soil, the issue of gun control, always a source of controversy, reached fever-pitch as isolated killing sprees occurred in such places as churches and schools.

This was the decade of the Millennium and Y2K, of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent Patriot Act. At the College, these years reflected a decade of difficult decision-making regarding the need for new or remodeled facilities to meet accreditation and educational standards. Limiting property taxes became paramount to many citizens, and educational institutions like community colleges in the State of Oregon became more reliant on the State for funding rather than local communities. This reliance meant more accountability to the State. In turn, this demanded ever increasing amounts of data and the technology to gather the data and forced changes in policies, procedures, and affected the concept of local control.

The student body at Clatsop Community College became overwhelmingly part-time rather than full-time, mostly as a result of the need to work and raise families while pursuing changes in careers as the local economy itself changed. Issues with the environment such as endangered salmon and global warming became reflected in the College activities; for example, the development of the Living Machine, environmental partnerships with the Oregon Graduate Institute and other institutions, and environmentally-related course work.
Dr. Greg Hamann presents Representative Betsy Johnson with a plaque in recognition of her outstanding support of higher education in Clatsop County, September 2003.

From left: Royal Nebeker, Hirotsune Tashima and Marisa Sayago

Student Officers, from left: President Jack Smalley, Asst. Treasurer Pat Ostrom, Secretary Dianne Cole, Treasurer Mary Wirkkula, Vice President Dave Jenkins, 1965-66

CCC archives

2006-07 Student Officers, from left:

The Pioneer

CCC archives

November elected Alphonso Hunt, president of Clatsop College in June 1966, seated at left. Other members of the 1966 student council are Ann Allen, treasurer, seated right, and from left to right: Dean Burns, secretary and student representative; Jerry Sigurdson, representative; Kathy Nelson, representative and Karen Brinkman, secretary.
The constant competition at the state level for limited financial resources sometimes tended to promote adversarial relationships between competing entities in the first part of the decade, but this had changed distinctly by later in the decade when all of the other Oregon community colleges rallied to promote the College’s facilities issues to get funds from the State legislature. The decade brought new cooperation with state agencies often helping each other for the mutual benefit of students and the colleges and their communities. The Oregon Community College Association and State Board were outstanding in their advocacy and assistance to the CCC, as were Congresswoman Furse, Congressman Wu, Senators Hatfield and Smith, and state legislators: Senator Duke, Representatives Tim Josi, Elaine Hopson, Betsy Johnson, Jackie Taylor, Brad Witt, and Debbie Boone.

Accreditation standards changed significantly in this decade, and demanded planning and stringent rationale for ongoing budgeting and major revisions in accountability through outcomes assessments. This decade was filled with anti-public employee sentiment and severe financial issues in the Public Employee Retirement System that eventually meant early retirement by almost all of the eligible employees at the College. While staff turnover meant losing valuable experience, it also brought with it new ideas and concepts about the role of the College in the community. This decade brought vivid changes in management, vision, and accountability as the institution transitioned into the new Millennium.

In July of 1998, President John Wubben reported on the College’s association with the Liberty Theatre group. The non-profit Liberty, Inc. (LI) was formed and a grant was obtained for the purpose of providing a feasibility study to determine how to turn the historic Liberty Theater into a Performing Arts Center. The College contributed $10,000 to the project, providing a show of local support that would help the Liberty in future grant applications. The CCC Foundation also contributed $5,000, recognizing the connection to its mission of supporting College programs and the potential that the College’s performing arts program, Arts & Ideas, could benefit from association with the Liberty. President Greg Hamann, during his tenure at the College, also joined the Board of Liberty Restoration, Inc., which soon became a jewel in the crown of downtown Astoria development.

Financial pressures at times made it difficult to hire new faculty. As a low-risk approach to testing whether or not a new faculty position should be created in the Art Department, a one-year faculty-in-residence program was recommended. Marisa Sayago, from Argentina, joined the Art Department for a year in this capacity.

The pressure for an accessible campus increased considerably during this decade, by both the College’s accrediting agency and by students. In 1998, Patrick Rogers from the Paralyzed Veterans of America, representing a disabled student at the college, met with Dr. Wubben and also with the Deputy Commissioner of Community Colleges about campus accessibility. The urgency for improved facilities increased.

The Board began contemplating a proposal to build a new campus at South Tongue Point near the MERTS campus. But after feedback obtained at a public meeting on the proposal, the Board decided to begin anew the process of selecting a campus site.
“Old 300” Trolley in the IMTC • The Daily Astorian

Restored “Old 300” in 2007 • photo by David Homer

1999 Faculty Excellence Award
Royal Nebeker, Art

CADD Classroom, IMTC • CCC photo
The College joined the rest of the world in a multi-month attempt to rectify problems for Y2K. Y2K was an abbreviation for the “Year 2000,” and the issue was the inability of older hardware and software to recognize the century change in a date. In most computer systems, the data indicating year was stored with only two digits, for example: 12-11-42 instead of 12-11-1942. Thus, when the year changed from 1999 to 2000, the date became 01-01-00, and many computer systems thought it was January 1, 1900. Even when changes could be made, the time it took to test them was taxing on the information technology staff as they attempted to run the routine, daily work and implement new applications at the same time.

One-Year Certificate Programs implemented in 1998 were: Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) Technician, Manufacturing Technician, and Automotive Technician. Additionally, Al Jaques, Integrated Manufacturing Department Director, entered into an agreement with Umpqua Community College for workforce training in Toyota-Ten, a program in automotive technology.

In December 1998, the Fabrication Shop at the IMTC (Industrial Manufacturing Technology Center) housed the “Old 300” trolley during its restoration phase.

January of 1999 began with Rose Alsbury from Continuing Education presenting the Board with the results of a county-wide community needs survey that was designed by the department and provided data for programming classes and workshops in outlying communities. The result of the survey provided programming opportunities that helped increased headcount and enrollment.

A unique two week “Summer Institute” was initiated by Tony Laska who was under special contract to enhance the research capabilities of the MERTS campus. The seminars focused on enhancing technical skills in marine and coastal environmental assessment and monitoring. It was well attended and provided networking and knowledge to both Oregon and Washington professionals.

Jim Halstead and Cynthia Risan reported on the success of the Business Leaders of Tomorrow Conference. Participants included 162 students drawn from every school in the North Coast Educational Consortium. Students participated in skills competitions and workshops. Faculty members played a lead role. The conference was paid for by the Carl Perkins 2+2 grant. The event became a popular annual event for students.

The second annual Fisher Poets Gathering was originally co-sponsored by the College, with faculty members Julie Brown and Florence Sage providing leadership along with Jon Broderick and other organizers. Rooted in a millennia-long tradition of oral storytelling, the Fisher Poets Gathering gives voice to the stories and poetry recorded in journals or shared via radio during long hours at sea, or from those who were home on the shore. Audiences are entertained by these personal accounts during evening performances, the highlight of three days of literary and artistic workshops, readings, and art exhibits. The event is ongoing and now known nationally.

In the spring of 1999, Dave Kruger and Michael Bunch reported to the Board that students in the upper levels of Chemistry and Biology were working on a three year Clatsop Plains Water Quality Project. The students monitored a dozen sites for 3 years. The project was at the
instigation of the County Planning Department and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The project focused on tracking changes in groundwater quality.

In response to the increasing need to move forward with campus planning and the need for public input, the Board hired Conkling, Fiscum and McCormick (CFM) to develop and implement a comprehensive public involvement and public information process for new or redeveloped campus facilities.

In July 1999, a task force of citizens was brought together to determine the future of the College facilities in relationship to the broad vision of the College. Members included Dave Ambrose, Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, Maureen Casterline, Eileen Chevrant, Mike Davies, Steve Fick, Mark Gustafson, Blaine Hammond, Jeff Hazen, Bud Kramer, Loren Mathews, Neal Maine, Phil Nelson, and Rick Pass.

Meanwhile, new educational programs and initiatives were underway. A new Medical Assistant AAS (Associate Applied Science) program was initiated to prepare students with academic and technical knowledge, skills, and abilities to enter Medical Assisting careers. Another new program, Applied Science Degree in Vessel Operations was also added to the curriculum.

Karen Burke, Director of Health Occupations notified the Board that the department received a $20,000 grant to develop a Nursing Distance Learning program. The program would bring the didactic portions of the Nursing Program to students at Tillamook Bay Community College. In August, the Continuing Education Department began a joint venture with the Oregon State Police Recruit School. Joy Brewer and Kitty Paino, with help from Criminal Justice Instructor Bob Ellsberg, developed an agreement and curriculum to provide appropriate college credit for the majority of coursework completed by the recruits. The program was then taken to Monmouth to the Oregon Police Academy where almost every police and sheriff department in Oregon sent recruits. Clatsop Community College registered and provided a method for police officers to get credit from their nearest participating community college for almost every law enforcement officer in the State.

Work at the MERTS campus continued. In the Fall of 1999, Representative David Wu and Senator Gordon Smith worked towards getting $300,000 towards a Maritime Fire Training School to be built at MERTS. The money came from the Department of Defense budget.

The EPA provided grant funding to build the Living Machine®. The College held a groundbreaking for this project on April 19, 2000. This cost-effective treatment facility, a modified greenhouse which uses aquatic plants and creatures to clean wastewater, is now the operational sewage treatment plant for the MERTS Campus at South Tongue Point. Such systems can be found in a number of locations around the country and the globe. Living Machines Inc., the company which developed the system, provided the final engineering for its installation and estimates that the Living Machine® costs half that of a wastewater system which would pump MERTS' waste stream to the city's treatment lagoon.

The Living Machine® is a valuable component of the MERTS campus and provides a regional demonstration site for this wastewater
Faculty Excellence Awards 2000
Steve Simon, Computer Science, and Marge McNary, Business

Dr. Julie Brown, Rain Reading 2000 • CCC photo

Kristen Lee, Career Fair 2000 • CCC photo
treatment technology. Representatives of other communities, business and industry are welcome to visit this unique installation to learn how to adapt the technology to their own needs. The MERTS campus Living Machine® system is split into two treatment trains to facilitate operational flexibility and the support of research initiatives. A series of ecological habitats housed in small fiberglass tanks will serve as the main treatment components in the system. The final polishing of the wastewater takes place in constructed wetlands followed by an ultraviolet disinfection unit. All of these processes take place within the greenhouse enclosure.

In December 1999, the City of Astoria and Oregon Governor Kitzhaber recommended that the College consider building an urban campus in downtown Astoria at the old Safeway building site on 14th and Duane rather than moving to one of the other sites under consideration. The City of Astoria also applied for and received a $750,000 grant from the Oregon Housing and Community Service Department to assist in acquisition of property for a downtown campus. The direction of a campus selection site veered towards this new opportunity and major analysis by the Board of Directors commenced. The Board appointed an Urban Campus Citizens advisory committee to study the City of Astoria’s proposal for a downtown campus. The members included Rainmar Bartl, Jon Graves, Bob Hellman, Bill Lind, Sara Meyer, Mike Morrissey, Lindi Overton, Roger Rocka, and Lucien Swerdloff.

However, the College Board continued to analyze several potential campus sites, combining recommendations from various committees and incorporating information from the new campus advisory committee. Those sites included the current campus, North Coast Business Park, Airport Hill (alternate highway 101), as well as downtown Astoria. By the Fall, Rebecca Wilcox, representing ASBG, reported than an informal poll of students indicated their preference for the North Coast Business Park as a centralized location for a new campus. Still, the work of addressing the need for an up-to-date, accessible campus continued.

In the spring of 2000, Kelley Horsman reported to the Board on the grant funded JOBS (Job Opportunities and Basic Skills) program and how it tied the College into the State One-Stop System. The JOBS program moved to the State building in Astoria where it assisted the College in partnering with MTC (Management and Training Corp.) to offer credit courses, become a partner in the Mobile Skill Training Van, and also enroll students in the JOBS Basic Skills course. The JOBS program serves adult and teen-age participants referred by the Oregon Adult and Family Services Division. The program provides education, training and help with employment skills to prepare participants to leave the welfare system. JOBS aims to help people become self-sufficient and provide for their family needs without public assistance. JOBS offerings include adult basic education and general educational development (GED) classes; regular credit courses in a skill area; short-term training; life skills and personal management classes; job-search classes; and counseling.

Laura Lattig reported to the Board on the Even Start Family Literacy Program. Even Start was a program of the US Department of Education. The Even Start Family Literacy Program is intended to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy and improve the educational opportunity of low-income families by integrating intensive early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education including support for English
Faculty Excellence Awards 2001
Brian Harrison, Social Science, and Debbie Kaspar, History & Math

Liz Hylton sings Pi songs, 2003 • CCC photo
language learners and parenting education. Cindy Howe from Sunset Transportation offered transportation assistance to participating students and discounts to all Clatsop Community College students.

The Maritime Department received ARPA (Automatic Radar Plotting Aids) and GMDSS (Global Monitor Distress and Safety System) equipment to continue to be on the cutting edge of equipment needed for licensure and maritime training.

In the Fall, faculty and staff began a visioning process to provide a clear philosophical basis for College decision-making for future financial needs.

In January, 2001, Karen Burke reported on the success of three full quarter of the Distance Learning Project. The results showed only a 2% point difference in average test scores between the students in the Distance Learning Project and students attending regular courses. The students in Tillamook had an 87.5% retention rate.

Karen Burke, Director of Health Occupations co-published a book, “Medical – Surgical Nursing Care”. As a nurse educator, Ms. Burke became known as a leader and an innovator not only at the College, but nationwide. She led the faculty of the Nursing Program in developing an online program to deliver nursing education to a distant rural community which was the first delivery of its kind in Oregon. She also worked with nursing leaders and educators to identify and develop strategic plans to more effectively educate and use licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in Oregon. As education consultant to the Board, she worked directly with new and existing practical and registered nursing programs to promote and maintain current and high-quality nursing education for the citizens of Oregon. Karen’s dedication to quality propelled the College’s Nursing Program into excellence which continued after her retirement.

Faculty and staff embarked on finding their first common vision which would have institutional buy-in, and help with future planning and staff and administrative relationships. The visioning process, completed at in-service in 2001, resulted in the following vision:

**Vision**
- We champion innovative quality instruction and service for students
- We contribute value to the community
- We celebrate diverse ideas & opinions
- We cherish integrity & ethical conduct
- We cultivate faculty & staff excellence
- We seek sustained institutional economic health

In April, 2001, Dr. Wubben met with Portland State University’s VP of Finance and with several Board members to explore the development of a plan to leverage resources to help build or redevelop campus facilities. But by 2002, after receiving extensive feedback that indicated the County as a whole did not support the proposed downtown Astoria site, the Board determined that the best move forward would be a redevelopment plan on the present site, known as the Jerome Avenue Campus in Astoria.

Meanwhile, in January 2002, Liz Hylton reported to the Board the advent of Pi Day. Pi Day’s date is chosen to mimic the first digits of pi, 3.14159…; thus, Pi Day was on 3/14, which also happens to be Albert Einstein’s birthday. The event was the brainchild of Math instructor Jill Lombaer and it combined the annual “Math for the Curious” for grades 3-6 with the “Mental Math Contest”...
2002 Faculty Excellence Award recipients present certificates to 2003 Award recipients
From left: Patricia Morrissey, Spanish (2002); Laurie Choate, Anatomy & Physiology (2003); Dr. Julie Brown, Writing (2002); and Bob Ellsberg, Criminal Justice (2003)
for high school students. The annual event has grown to include other activities, such as throwing pies at faculty and administrators in exchange for a donation to the Math Club.

The Bandit, the re-named student newspaper, revealed a strong student focus on scholarships and jobs. There were far fewer dances and student events than earlier decades, apparently due to high part-time enrollment and an older average age. Katy Mott, the editor of The Bandit, reminisced of earlier times in a 2002 editorial, but also challenged the College to address the changes that had occurred in students lives. Ms. Mott wrote, “Our college must place high value on services that encourage student success which includes strong leadership that is willing to face and accept changes. Our college must have a vision to know that in order for the college to stay healthy it needs to move in new directions... Clatsop needs to step up to the 21st century.”

The Continuing Education Dept. developed a Learning In Retirement Program (a local Elderhostel program). The participants called themselves ENCORE (Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education). Within a short amount of time the group had grown to over 200 and became the largest program of its kind in Oregon. The participants each pay $50 a year and have unlimited access to classes which their members teach. The College helps administers the program for a fee. Clatsop also eventually became an Elderhostel super site, offering rich experience around the natural beauty and history of the area.

Continuing its efforts to identify a feasible campus project to address aging and access issues, the Board sought to learn whether local voters would support a tax levy of up to $29 Million to redevelop the Jerome Avenue campus. The redevelopment plan involved razing the oldest building and building a larger new building. CFM Research conducted interviews of a representative sample of County residents regarding the plan. More than two out of three respondents were aware of the present campus deficiencies and the survey showed that 35-50% would vote yes and to approve up to a $29 million bond. But as respondents were given more information about the project, approval ratings increased to 55%, with only 34% opposed. The strongest proponents were the young and women. Still, less than half of the Astoria voters responding to the poll favored the proposed bond. Higher taxes dominated as the reason for opposing the project.

The Board and administration combined this feedback with other information it had gained from public meetings and other sources in its decision to move forward with a bond measure in the November, 2002, election. The measure did not pass and the College was back at the drawing board in developing a campus proposal the community would support.

The American Association of University Women of Astoria, Lives In Transition, and Continuing Education put on the first Transitions Conference for women. The annual event eventually was called WINGS (Women Interested in Going to School). The event provides small business and academic stories and advising, lunch, door prizes, and other assistance to help women either enter or enhance their experience in school or the workforce.

At this time, significant reorganization of the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) began to have severe repercussions on public institutions and public employees. Changes in the system drove many public employees into early retirement, causing rapid
Fire Response & Research Center (FRRC)
MERTS Campus • CCC photo

FRRC Dedication “Ribbon Burning” Ceremony • CCC photo

FRRC Groundbreaking
CCC photo

Al Jaques, left, Project Manager for IMTC, Living Machine, Fire School and JCRP. CCC photo

Matchbooks distributed at Groundbreaking

CCC photo
turnover at public institutions, including Clatsop Community College. Among those to retire was President Wubben, who submitted his letter of resignation to the Board in December, effective June 30, 2003.

With so many long-term employees retiring, there was inevitable change in the institution. Although institutional knowledge was lost, new employees, many from out-of-state, brought new ideas and energy to the community and the College.

And new ideas and energy were necessary, because in 2002, the College began to struggle with State revenue reductions. By January, 2003, a task force made up of staff members was developed to address reductions to meet the financial challenges facing the College.

But meanwhile, day-to-day efforts to improve the College continued. Link Shadley of NoaNet (NW Open Access Network) gave credit to College staff and Dr. Wubben for bringing high quality internet service to the Astoria area. Mr. Shadley operated the College Community Information Center through the Continuing Education Department.

The NW Commission of Colleges and Universities affirmed the College’s accreditation, but continued the warning issued for facilities. The College was directed to submit a progress report in April and was told that the College needed to develop an alternative facilities plan with specific goals that could be realistically achieved with existing and dependable funding sources. Further, the plan needed to clearly demonstrate how progress would be made towards ensuring institutional facilities were designed, maintained, and managed to achieve the institution’s mission and goals.

The College’s new Fire Response/Research Center was built on time and within budget under the guidance of Project Manager Al Jaques. Bill Antilla, Maritime Science Instructor, was able to secure donation of much of the necessary gear.

The new Presidential Search Committee was selected by the Board and included faculty members Michael Bunch and Ross Seligman, staff members Linda Gallino and Laura Lenhardt (Lattig), student Sara Parsons, and community members Steve Pick of Astoria, Myrna Patrick of Knappa, Dave Shannon of Warrenton and Michael Hinton of Seaside.

While the College faced revenue, personnel and campus challenges, it also faced challenges posed by broader national issues. Board minutes included an article from the Daily Astorian which reflected the personal struggle of Sara Campbell, a librarian from the College, and her fears regarding students and access to information when the Federal government, under the Patriot Act, asked for the database of the books that students read.

In March of 2003, the Continuing Education Department created a partnership agreement forming an alliance with the Astor Street Opy Company (ASOC), the Liberty Theatre Guild, River Theater, Coaster Theatre, and the Arts and Ideas program at the College. ASOC agreed to assume responsibility for the College’s costume department and lend them out to the other alliance members.

Dave Phillips, Vice-President of Student and Instructional Services reported that an Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer for Business was added to the curriculum. The degree was similar to the Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer, but the coursework was directly related to a Bachelor’s degree in Business.
"The most memorable development in my time as President of Clatsop Community College was the development of MERTS. But what I will most remember was the privilege and joy of working with talented people who dedicate their lives to helping others." ~ Dr. John Wubben

"...greatly streamlined our operations (thus leading to significant cost savings)...only sorry we didn’t know about [the Small Business Management Program] sooner.” ~ The Shoalwater Restaurant
And then, it was time for a Presidential hand-off. When asked what memorable things were accomplished when he was president, John Wubben reflected:

“We (Board, faculty, staff, Foundation) worked together to accomplish missions and objectives of the College. Some favorite memories include frequent positive interactions with faculty and staff; halfway celebrations of birthdays and other events; annual faculty/staff awards ceremonies; great PAC performances (Man of La Mancha, Romeo and Juliet, Nunsense, North Coast Symphonic Band, etc.); MERTS groundbreaking ceremonies (pyrotechnics, shoveling the dirt, demonstrating the Living Machine); the ice storm cleanup; RAIN; Fisher Poets Gathering; CCC lecture series (Jean Clottes, French archaeologist, etc.); Foundation Art Auctions; Art Gallery Events (Dragon Kib and Barry Lopez lecture, etc.); great graphics and marketing of CCC programs and events; Inez’ Holiday chocolate truffles; the weeklong furnace shutdown and greeting visitors in my Alaskan parka; the ASBG dunk tank fundraisers; and the occasional 60-second hearing on the annual budget (thanks to Lindi Overton).”

When asked about his first day on the job, President Hamann had the following to say, “My first day of work was July 3rd and I excitedly showed up early for my first day as a community college president. Unfortunately not one person was there and the buildings were locked. Luckily, I found out it wasn’t a practical joke, I just didn’t know the College was closed on Fridays during the summer.”

In December of 2003, the new President, Dr. Greg Hamann, conducted his first Campus Climate Survey. The survey was intended to be performed annually to assess how staff and faculty felt the performance of the institution was going. In August of 2004, Kitty Paino, Dean of Continuing Education reported to the Board that the College had received a grant through the Workforce Investment Act to provide online supervisor’s training for Columbia Memorial Hospital. The hospital had reported difficulty in recruiting supervisory personnel and wanted to try training from within for those positions. The program results were tested with a regular class, with success found to be comparable to the online instruction. The College also provided the prototype for the Wauna Mill in-house intranet training for all of the paper machines and a cooperative online training for refrigeration that was used nationally.

Also in 2004, Dr. Hamann’s led a project to provide South County residents with a new state-of-the-arts facility for classes and trainings. Steve Olstedt Construction built a portion of a new building to educational design for a lease proposal. The facility provided space in a business complex to better meet the missions for the Small Business Management, Small Business Development, and Workforce Development and other continuing education activities of the College.

The College’s long term Small Business Management (SBM) program began to grow tremendously during this decade. Director/Instructor Jim Entler provided a two year classroom and mentoring program for businesses that had been in business for at least a year. Teresa Taylor, presently owner of Teresa Taylor Designs, but with over 20 years running
Faculty Excellence Award 2004
Luann Gunderson, Business, and Marian Tyson, Developmental Programs

New South County Center opened in Seaside in 2005
CCC photo

Richard Rowland Receiving the Governors Award from Governor Ted Kulongowski
Photo by Mike Hinton

CCC students earned third place at the 2006 International ROV competition

Royal Nebeker with (then) Governor Barbara Roberts
small businesses, said about the SBM program, “Taking the course from Jim (Entler) was the most fantastic thing I could have done after being in business for so long.”

In 2005, due to State funding difficulties and lower timber revenues, the College was faced with the need to reduce staff. Always a difficult decision, the Board accepted a reduction plan that included recommendations from administration and faculty.

Faculty in the Business Department received approval for a new certification program, “Retail Management.” one-year and less-than-one-year certificates. The program was initiated in response to local business input for the need for employees with retail management skills.

Occasionally, the contributions of a Clatsop Community College employee to our local community become known far outside the local area. Such was the case with Richard Rowland, Art Instructor. In addition to the innovation and resourcefulness he brings to his teaching, Richard has worked with students and local artists who formed a community around the activities of an Anagama Dragon kiln to raise funds for projects for organizations like the Clatsop County Women’s Resource Center. In recognition of these significant contributions, Richard was honored with a Governor’s Arts Award for 2005.

In May of 2005, The Smithsonian Magazine highlighted the February Fisher’s Poet Festival in an article called, “Rhyme or Cut Bait.” The article featured Harrison ‘Smitty’ Smith, a Harley rider, and at 79, the events oldest poet who observed the following about commercial fishing:

According to a Fisherman
Whose Name Was Divine
The World’s a Cafeteria
You Get One Trip Through the Line

In February, 2006, President Hamann designated an Effectiveness & Efficiency Task Force comprised of College employees and charged developing recommendations to help the College become more effective and efficient in the face of current and future budget challenges and to become more accountable as an institution.

Meanwhile, after voters turned down a bond to redevelop the Jerome Avenue campus, the Board turned its eyes toward John Warren Field in Astoria as a possible new campus site. Columbia Memorial Hospital paved the way by determining that it would not need the site for expansion and the Astoria School District began to investigate alternative sites for a new, up-to-date football field which would be made possible in part by the sale of John Warren Field to the College if the campus was built there. The architectural firm of SRG Partnership, Inc. was hired to begin initial design studies and to assist a newly organized Campus Design comprised of Board members, community members, faculty and staff.

A 2006 study highlighted the economic contribution of Clatsop Community College to Clatsop County. CCBenefits, Inc. completed the study for Clatsop and other community colleges in Oregon. Highlights of the study included the
Clatsop Community College Vision Statement
Continuously building an educational community that encourages learning and achievement.

Clatsop Community College Mission Statement
It is our purpose to build an educational community that provides open access to high quality learning opportunities for the people of our region, and prepares them for full and productive participation in a dynamic world. In fulfillment of this purpose we commit ourselves to being:

Learner Centered
• Providing a student-centered learning environment
• Maintaining our open admission policy with equal educational access and opportunity
• Being learners ourselves, maintaining currency and creativity in both the content and delivery of our educational programs

Community Focused
• Fostering positive and productive relationships in order to develop and improve College programs
• Participating in the activities of community-based organizations
• Encouraging public input
• Promoting and maintaining the College as both cultural and educational center for the community

A Comprehensive Community College
• Providing lower division transfer courses and programs
• Providing a variety of professional technical courses and programs
• Providing developmental courses and programs, and remedial assistance
• Providing continuous learning opportunities

A Quality Employer
• Attracting and retaining the best qualified faculty and staff
• Providing a congenial, cooperative atmosphere that supports employee participation
• Promoting employee job satisfaction, performance, and advancement opportunities
• Maintaining a firm commitment to equal opportunity in pursuit of being a more diverse community

Accountable for Student Learning
• Ensuring that students graduating from Clatsop Community College will have demonstrated the ability to:
  o Communicate effectively through writing, speaking, and imagery
  o Solve problems with current and emerging discipline-appropriate technology
  o Act with integrity
  o Understand and appreciate diversity
  o Work competently through knowledge of content, mastery of skills, and effective work habits
  o Work effectively individually, collaboratively, and as a leader
  o Solve problems through critical and creative thinking
  o Demonstrate the skills and tools needed for life-long learning

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Here for Our Future
• Continuously reviewing the educational and facilities needs of the College
• Continuously engaging in effective long-range planning
• Effectively and efficiently managing the resources of the College in support of our learner-centered educational purposes
• Adapting our programs to educational and technological advancements
Clatsop Community College Core Values
As a community and as individuals, we are committed to upholding these Core Values as we work together in service to the Vision and Mission of Clatsop Community College.

Caring
Respect individuals and their contributions; be constructive with words and actions; provide constant encouragement in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding; exhibit interpersonal trust; find virtue in work.

Collaboration
Seek truth and feedback; listen; have open, transparent communication; pursue common goals; encourage universal participation; strive for a “just society.”

Creativity
Maintain a sense of humor while remaining serious about our mission; emphasize self-expression; show initiative; have faith in new beginnings; be open to change.

Diversity
Encourage global citizenship; affirm and respect individual human potential; appreciate differences; be inclusive.

Integrity
Provide a safe and reliable learning environment in which we strive to be ethical, honest, and disciplined; have and demonstrate pride.

following:
• Students enjoy an attractive 20% annual return on their investment of time and money.
• For every $1 the students invest in CCC, they will receive a cumulative $4.70 in higher future earnings over the course of their working careers (after discounting).
• Taxpayers see a real money “book” return of 16% on their annual investments in CCC.
• The State of Oregon benefits from improved health and reduced welfare, unemployment, and crime, saving the public some $619,000 per year each year that the students are in the workforce.
• The Clatsop County economy receives roughly $92.6 million in regional income due to CCC operations and past student productivity effects. This figure amounts to 10% of a typical year’s economic growth.

From a student perspective, for every credit completed, a Clatsop student will, on average, earn $75 more per year each year they are in the workforce. For every full-time year they attend, they will earn an additional $3,354 per year, on average.

From a taxpayer perspective, State and local government spent $7.4 million in support of Clatsop during the analysis year. The returns far outweighed the costs, and the attractiveness of the investment is even stronger when a collection of incidental social savings is included in the assessment. The results indicate a rate of return of 16%, and a benefit/cost ratio of 3.4 (every dollar of state or local tax money invested in CCC today returns $3.40.

In May, 2006 the College Board led a comprehensive review of the College’s mission statement which had not been significantly examined or changed for decades. As a result,
the College develop a Vision, Mission and Values statement that more specifically reflected evolving community needs, an emphasis on accountability for student learning and incorporation of community and institutional values.

When asked about what he believed were his most important accomplishments thus far as President, Dr. Hamann reflected, “A president who thinks he or she has accomplished anything alone is misguided. The position is unique, but it is the college as a whole pulling together who are making those accomplishments.” He continued that he was proud of the work by the College to reaffirm and make a commitment to the new mission, values, and vision.

Another College project that Dr. Hamann feels was exemplary was a project that more than met accreditation standards in the area of educational assessment. The educational assessment standard demanded by the regional accrediting agency is a major difficulty for most community colleges in the region. The standard was the only other major issue, beside facilities, during Clatsop Community College’s previous accreditation visit. Ruth Stiehl (Professor Emeritus at Oregon State University) worked with educational administrators and faculty to bring Clatsop to the forefront of appropriate educational assessment and make the school a star example for the rest of the region. Clatsop Community College is highlighted in Stiehl’s most recent book, which includes pictures of CCC faculty.

A third activity which President Hamann felt was significant was a shift on the State level, including tremendous support and commitment by other Oregon community college presidents, State representatives, and the Community College Association to work on the College’s behalf to provide facilities which meet accreditation standards.

In June, 2006, the College’s accreditation was reaffirmed, but again the facilities continued to be a problem. As agreed in its reports to the accrediting agency, the College was investing approximately $500,000 annually in urgent improvements to the Jerome Avenue campus while continuing to search for a long-term campus solution. Based on feedback from community meetings, polls and surveys, and their own constituencies, the Board determined that a bond of $15 Million for a campus at Warren Field would meet the majority of educational and community needs and would feasibly be supported by local taxpayers. But again, in November 2006, the taxpayers turned down the proposal.

In October, 2006, Nadine Faith, Foundation Director, reported that the College was the beneficiary of the John Towler Trust which would ultimately add approximately $700,000 to the Foundation’s scholarship endowment, specifically to support students demonstrating talent in journalism, art, creative writing or music. The funds would increase Foundation scholarships to CCC students by approximately 25%. Established in honor John Towler’s father and prominent early figure in the College’s history, Emmett Towler, the gift carried with it the requirement that the name Emmett Towler always appear on a campus building.

In December, Clatsop Community College became the first Oregon Community College to host an international juried Art Show. The title was “Au Naturel: The Nude in the 21st Century.” The following year, “Au Naturel”
"After 911 our culture changed for awhile. It became harder for us to take risks and move forward. I believe it impacted our local community, and I also believe that we’re starting to heal and that our community can look forward to the same energy that was transforming the County prior to that time."

~ Greg Hamann
drew even more interest from the international arts community and promises to become an ongoing annual exhibit at the College.

In 2008, Jessica Kingsley Publishers notified Julie Brown, CCC Writing Instructor, that her book, Autism In Literature, was accepted for publication and would most likely be available the following year. Founded in 1987, Jessica Kingsley Publishers publishes books in a wide array of subjects for professional and general readers. The company is well known for its many materials on the autism spectrum, on social work, and on the arts therapies.

“So many of the available materials on autism focus on the clinical or psychological side of the subject. My manuscript brings to focus the artistic and creative attributes that autistic individuals bring to our communities,” says Brown who has done extensive research on autistic writers. “Most people are aware of the contributions that autistic have made in technical fields or in math and science—few people realize there is an entire aspect of creative culture—including literature—that has been influenced by the autistic way of seeing and thinking. Someone like Lewis Carroll, for example, could never have been as brilliant writing Alice in Wonderland if he hadn’t been autistic. It’s time to give these authors the recognition they deserve.”


Julie Paulson Hitchman began her college career at Clatsop Community College. Julie, who was Miss Seaside for 1968 and who received top scholarship awards at Seaside High School, commented on her time spent at Clatsop Community College before transferring to a four-year institution, “The teachers at Clatsop had high expectations and were tougher than university faculty. But the result was that it was easy to transfer and complete my degree. I will be forever grateful to math teachers like Gerry Swenson and Ron Collman. Roy Garrison gave me an appreciation for art and Margaret McCarter for biology. The only problem I had was that I was pregnant my last year at Clatsop and had a terrible problem negotiating the stairs in Patriot and Towler...needing to stop at each landing and always being late to class.” Julie retired from her job as a math instructor at Broadway Middle School in 2005.

As the College faced continued warnings from its accreditation association and increasing expenses for lack of a viable college campus, Dr. Hamann and the Board again analyzed all the data and community feedback from the previous several years and determined that a new way of approaching the issues needed to be sought. The Board concluded that the community had sent two distinct messages regarding the campus: Find additional sources of funding so that the burden on local taxpayers is reduced, and find a way to utilize the College’s historic campus site. SRG Partnership Inc. was again retained to develop design concepts for a redeveloped campus on the College’s Jerome Avenue site. Working with the campus design committee and utilizing information about space needs and facilities goals gathered in previous efforts, SRG developed a new facilities Master Plan and design based on renovating the historically significant original buildings, and constructing a new building to house updated science, nursing and health occupations classrooms and lab, and to make the entire campus accessible.
“It’s about students. When we think it’s about anything else – that’s when we mess up. Every action needs to be on behalf of the student.”

– President Hamann
“Part of ensuring this future has been our ongoing efforts to find creative solutions to our facilities needs and, while not everything we have tried has worked, we have learned a thing or two in the process.” – Greg Hamann

To meet the need of reducing the burden on local taxpayers for the new campus, the College, led by President Hamann, engaged in a broad and creative effort to secure financing from multiple sources. By the time of this writing, these sources include significant funds committed by the Oregon State Legislature as a result of a well-coordinated effort by the Board, President Hamann, 6 years of advocacy by Senators Betsy Johnson, Debbie Boone, and Brad Witt; students, community members, all the community colleges and others committed to the College’s future. The College also issued Full Faith and Credit Bonds (debt instruments) and led the way in being the first public institution in Oregon to make use of private investment dollars through New Markets Tax Credits, facilitated by Shorebank Enterprise Cascadia. The College also received generous grants from private foundations, including the Meyer Memorial Trust, Miller Foundation, Ann and Bill Swindells Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, and the Juan Young Trust.

The College is committed to moving forward to provide the best educational facilities possible for its students and community and will break ground for the Jerome Campus Redevelopment Project in October 2008 – almost exactly 50 years since the College began.

That “wonderful challenge and tremendous responsibility” that Richard Boss gave to the first group of students when the College was began proved true again and again throughout the history of Clatsop Community College, and continues to be true today. The traditions and student life continues to change each decade. As the times changed, the College has as well, but at all times the faculty and staff focused on providing the best possible educational experience for students. That tradition has always been, and will continue to be, the College’s strength well into the future.

President Hamann summed it up in a 2008 report to students and the community, “Giving you the best possible start on your educational and career objectives is our goal; it’s what keeps us energized as we work together to provide you with quality and affordable educational opportunities. Whether you are a new student fresh out of high school, a “reentry” student who’s had some work and life experience and are now coming back to college, someone who’s upgrading specific knowledge or skill sets, or simply pursuing a new hobby or interest, for almost 50 years now we at Clatsop Community College have had one goal: Your Success!”
Authors

Sharon McConnell and Kitty Paino attended junior high and high school together in Seaside, Oregon, then attended Clatsop Community College together in 1968. Together they were assistant editors for the first literary magazine called Expressions, the precursor to the Rain publication.

Sharon Matteson McConnell
Sharon McConnell attended Clatsop Community College from 1968-70. She left Clatsop County in 1970 and lived briefly in Tennessee, California and Washington State. After returning to Oregon, she worked as a Land Use Planner for nearly twelve years, first for Washington County and then for four years at Clatsop County. In 1993-94, she worked at Clatsop Community College for the Maritime Science Department prior to the completion of the MERTS center. She is currently living in Idaho and is working for the Idaho Migrant Council.

Kathleen (Kitty) Paino
Kitty Paino attended Clatsop Community College from 1968-71, then went on to eventually receive Master’s degrees in Art and also Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Oregon. She returned to Clatsop County in 1975 to teach art part-time at the College and eventually went on to coordinate programs in Community Education, Development Programs, and Human Resources. She retired from the College in 2005 as Dean of Continuing Education.