

Community Report



WSU Vancouver to Welcome Freshmen and Sophomores

By Nancy Youlden, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Washington State University Vancouver is on the cusp of a tremendous change—beginning fall 2006 the University will offer lower-division classes and welcome freshmen and sophomores to the scenic campus.

Thank you to the community of Southwest Washington and the State Legislature for providing an additional opportunity for the citizens of this region. The combined efforts of many individuals including community members, state representatives, WSU administration, and others have opened a new door for this campus and community.

We are excited about this new opportunity and the changes it will bring to our growing campus. We expect the current student profile will change as we add lower-division classes in 2006. What will our freshman look like? We anticipate our freshman and sophomores will be younger, many will come to us with college credit (e.g. Running Start and Advanced Placement), and many will attend part-time. Our current student population could be characterized as non-traditional because most of them are juggling work and family responsibilities along with their education.

In addition, we anticipate an increase in student life opportunities on campus. We are poised to expand our current offerings including student government, a recreation program, over 30 recognized student organizations and clubs, on-campus gym and facilities for hiking, disc golf, and

a sports court. Our goal is to provide the infrastructure to support student involvement and activities and let the students dictate to us their needs and interests.

Although the campus will see a dramatic influx of traditional-aged students next year, it will continue to welcome students from every walk of life into its transfer and graduate programs.

It is important for prospective students to take the time to visit our campus. Our Student Ambassadors provide daily campus tours that originate from the Student Services Building (Visitor Center). In addition, we have

several spring Preview Days that are designed for prospective students (January 21, February 27 and April 7).

We encourage interested freshman and sophomores to apply early. Contact us now for a spot in our first freshman class.

WSU Vancouver Office of Admissions
www.vancouver.wsu.edu/ads/admiss_list.htm
 360-546-9779



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The Chancellor's View

By Hal Dengerink, Ph.D., Chancellor



While state allocations and capital funds are investments on behalf of the citizens of the State of Washington, the private donors, alumni, friends, corporations and foundations are the true investors in the university. Investments like the recent gift from Ed and Mary Firstenburg, through the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, of \$1 million will create the Firstenburg Student Commons. This generous gift will allow WSU Vancouver to purchase

the current campus bookstore building, previously owned by the Students Book Corporation, and convert it into a unified student center for the campus. The Firstenburg Student Commons will provide a much needed space on campus for students, with areas for the Student Leadership Center, career counseling, student activities, student government offices and a student commons area. This space will also create an inviting area for our community members to hold meetings, lectures and events.

Private foundation gifts are another way donors invest

in WSU Vancouver. Recent support from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust for Dr. Steve Sylvester's research of burrowing ghost shrimp enabled him to purchase cutting-edge equipment for use with his students in the classroom. This contribution does not only allow WSU Vancouver students hands-on experience with state-of-the-art instruments often found in forensic laboratories, but also allows the students to be a part of a research project effecting Washington state's \$30 million oyster industry.

Scholarship support is one way that private donors can invest in WSU Vancouver. Scholarships are a vital tool for students who are facing another tuition increase of approximately 9% in 2006-2007. Gifts to the WSU Vancouver scholarship program assist students who otherwise may not be able to afford to remain in school. Over 50% of WSU Vancouver students receive financial aid making scholarship gifts even more important to the recipients.

These gifts, and others like it, are visible ways that private giving is making a difference at WSU Vancouver, but there are other ways, large and small, that donors are advancing the mission of WSU Vancouver by investing in our future.

This is a time of growth and new challenges for WSU Vancouver. With the addition of freshmen to campus in fall 2006, and our ongoing partnerships with Clark College and Lower Columbia College to support transfer students, we look to the future and our mission to serve the higher educational needs of Southwest Washington. The support of the community is vital to our continued success.

Investing in Students, Investing in Our Community

By Jennifer Crooks, Interim Director of Campus Advancement

Educating our community citizen's is the foremost responsibility of Washington State University Vancouver. In this exciting period of transition to a four-year public institution, WSU Vancouver has embarked on a \$2 million endowed scholarship campaign to financially assist a broad range of students in meeting their educational needs.

At WSU Vancouver, we are preparing innovative leaders, individuals who will cause positive change for the benefit of humankind. We want our graduates to expand their cultural horizons and have an enhanced appreciation for diversity in their fellow human beings.

Investing in students through scholarship support is a way to invest in our community by ensuring that bright and talented students become confident and visionary leaders of our future. We are truly thankful to each of you—the businesses, friends, and alumni who have supported us over our 17 years in the community. Without your dedication and support, we would not be able to provide the quality research, scholarship, and teaching for which we stand. We need you to continue to increase your support of and involvement with WSU Vancouver by contributing towards our scholarship campaign. Your investment gives our students—who are your neighbors, your children, your colleagues, or YOU—the

promise of a Washington State University education right here in Southwest Washington.

In the coming weeks, WSU Vancouver staff, alumni, and friends may be contacting you in regards to your support. Please consider taking the time to meet with us and learn more about our scholarship campaign.

Don't delay! Make a contribution towards the scholarship campaign to continue to enhance our growing community with educated graduates who have learned how to learn.



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Community Report is published by the WSU Vancouver Office of Campus Advancement to provide interested readers in SW Washington with news about teaching, research, partnerships and events at WSU Vancouver.

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Please forward address corrections or comments to 360-546-9600 or news@vancouver.wsu.edu.

Expanded Campus Plans New Curriculum

By Candice Goucher, Director of Undergraduate Studies



Beginning Fall 2006, incoming undergraduate students at WSU Vancouver will benefit from a brand new General Education curriculum, custom-designed by current WSU Vancouver faculty members. Faculty will engage students in the academic quality of a research university and are committed to using their research strengths to make the WSU Vancouver experience student-centered, innovative, and tied

to real-world concerns. Developers have created outcomes-based learning strategies in which course design is based on six learning goals that community members and nationwide employers have identified as critical to the success of college graduates in the twenty-first century. These learning goals include critical thinking, quantitative and symbolic reasoning, information literacy, communication, and an understanding of self in society. Regardless of chosen major, achieving these goals will help create a new generation of life-long learners.

Unique features of the WSU Vancouver General Education program include an Interdisciplinary Core class in which science, arts, and humanities are integrated and linked to a unifying campus theme. Students receive a “big picture” view of the world, learning how different disciplines relate to each other and to real life. The campus theme for 2006-2008 is: Global Change in a

Local Context. Life, culture, politics, economics, demographics, environment and all aspects of our planet and its inhabitants are characterized by change.

The new curriculum is also planned to take place in a “technology-rich” campus environment. Students will create their own electronic portfolio in their first year, adding to it throughout their educational experience. This university e-Portfolio will provide students with a platform to assess their experience, deepening their learning.

Not often are universities offered the chance to start an academic program from the ground up. WSU Vancouver faculty and staff are excited to welcome freshmen and sophomores to campus, and energized to kick-off this innovative new, student-centered curriculum for the twenty-first century.

<p>WSU Vancouver General Education program www.vancouver.wsu.edu/gen_ed/</p>

A Commitment to Community-Based Research

By Michael Morgan, Director of Research and Graduate Education

“You have cancer” are three words that can drastically change the course of your life. Although cancer patients are monitored closely during the months of treatment, little is known about how people cope following treatment. Is life more meaningful and pleasant following this near-death experience? Does the uncertainty that cancer may return create stress and anxiety? Dr. J.P. Garofalo, Assistant Professor of Psychology at WSU Vancouver, is working with cancer patients at Southwest Washington Medical Center to answer these and other questions about quality of life following cancer treatment. Community research such as this is an important part of the WSU Vancouver mission.

WSU Vancouver faculty and students also are engaged in research in local businesses, schools, nightclubs, and national parks. A small sample of the community-based research projects engaged in by the 101 faculty members at WSU Vancouver include:

- Education: Dr. Susan Finley created an educational support program for K-8 children in shelters, housing complexes,

and local schools to examine the impact of poverty on education.

- English: Dr. Carol Siegel spent months in nightclubs gathering information for a book on the widely misunderstood Goth culture.
- Science: Dr. John Bishop’s work showing complex interactions between plants and insects during re-growth on Mt. St. Helens has been highlighted in the prestigious journal Science.

Although students are well aware of faculty teaching, the faculty at a research university such as WSU Vancouver are committed to both research and teaching. Research creates knowledge and teaching disseminates that knowledge to others. The benefits of a research-based institution to the community are many. These include creating knowledge to improve quality of life; Identifying and solving local problems; generating publicity for the community; providing funding for community projects; stimulating

economic development through product innovation and the creation of jobs and businesses; and enhancing the education of students and members of the community.

As WSU Vancouver grows, the number and scope of research projects also will grow. WSU students and the community can look forward to the benefits of this research for years to come.

<p>Research at WSU Vancouver www.vancouver.wsu.edu/research/</p>



Thank You to Our Donors

Listed below are those who have generously supported WSU Vancouver from November 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005. The individuals, corporations and foundations listed below have made an investment providing crucial support to programs, research, and scholarships that make a positive difference in the quality of education and research at WSU Vancouver. Our sincere thanks to all of you for helping to make a difference for WSU Vancouver and our community.

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