

# THE SEATTLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE Communiqé

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Greetings everyone,*

**I AM DELIGHTED THAT OUR TYPICAL SEATTLE WEATHER HAS RE-TURNED** and we can resume our normal class schedules. I met with key staff last week to review and fine-tune our closing procedures and practices. I have also asked campus groups to discuss the weight to place on issues like access and safety. We will never be able to satisfy everybody with our decisions, but please know that we are doing our best to keep our employees and students safe. I know many of you made sacrifices to get to campus and to make up lost work or instruction time. Thank you for your extra effort.

### *The City Collegian* Column

I was disheartened by the comments made in the "Voice of Seattle Central" column in *The City Collegian*. Above many things, we value our diversity at Seattle Central. We strive each day to create a learning environment that is a safe space for students to succeed, learn and develop. To all who felt disenfranchised by the article, I am deeply sorry that we violated your trust.

At the same time, I am proud of the maturity and civic responsibility that has been displayed by our student body, particularly our Black Student Union, which held public forums on Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 to discuss the issue. The forums were conducted with respect and civility, and the dialogue that took place enriches us all. Thank you to the faculty who assisted the many students of all races and cultures to understand "how this could happen at Seattle Central." There are many colleges where this type of peaceful dialogue would not have taken place. Our diversity is a privilege and a gift we must guard and nurture.

I also want to recognize Janell Hartman, the editor-in-chief of the *Collegian*, who has issued a public apology and assumed full responsibility for this article. Janell, her colleagues at the *Collegian*, and the entire campus community have learned important lessons about the powers—and perils—of free speech.

Though student journalists must have the freedom to learn through their mistakes, this administration retains a compelling interest in ensuring that all publications of the college adhere to established principles of ethical journalism. To that end, we are reorganizing our campus publications board and we are reviewing the responsibilities and expectations of those who serve as advisors of our student publications.

Finally, I encourage all of you to continue the dialogue. If you are a student of color, consider writing for the *Collegian*; we need your voice. Keep sharing your ideas with each other. We won't always agree, and need not always agree, but we must keep talking if we are to retain the rich environment that we have come to cherish and expect—one that allows this free exchange of ideas.

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### Student & alumni news

In snowboard circles, **Adam Rode**, was nicknamed "Rodeo" because of his ability to land his snowboard maneuvers. Rode is a second-year student in the Apparel Design program and now has landed a hat design deal with REI. The fleece hat is slated to appear in 40 of REI's stores next fall. Rode designed the "Yukon" hat while interning this summer for Outdoor Research, a local firm which designs products for sport enthusiasts.

**Sam VanFleet**, 1998 photography graduate and current member of the Technical Advisory Committee, appeared twice on UPN television's home show program "Northwest Spaces" as a photography and

lighting specialist. In addition, he took viewers on a tour of his home to demonstrate lighting effects.

Another successful alumni from the photography program, 2004 graduate **Dave Kennedy**, exhibited his works "tetherball" and "insurgency" at the Benham Gallery, February 1-10.

### Staff changes

**Clare Conlan** is retiring after 28 years of service. Her last day as mail carrier/driver extraordinaire was February 7. Previously Clare worked in purchasing at the District office. She plans to study art in Italy for a month and then reside south of Westport, WA.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Remembering  
Geoff Mathay

Foundation  
Benefit Dinner

ESL Week



## Understanding Traumatic Stress Responses

The last 10 days have been a time of high emotional stress for many on our campus. Perhaps you have been deeply affected by Geoff's death, or maybe you are coping with traumatic events in your personal life. To help, here are guidelines from the Employee Assistance Program on coping with traumatic stress responses.

*From the Washington State Employee Assistance Program.*

You have just had a terrible experience. Whether you were involved in the traumatic incident yourself or you are a coworker, family member or friend, you are experiencing very powerful emotional stress. This stress level is far beyond what you are expected to cope with in your normal daily living. That is why some difficult physical and/or emotional reactions or responses are to be expected.

These reactions are normal responses to a highly stressful and abnormal event. These reactions may be difficult, but it is important to understand that they are normal. Others are having similar responses.

### What are the common stress responses?

Physical changes may include fatigue, headaches, heartburn, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, and loss or increase in appetite.

Emotional and mental responses include confusion, anxiety, fear, denial or numbness, despair, depression, anger, outrage, grief, withdrawal, and feelings of helplessness. Poor concentration, flashbacks, and intrusive thoughts are also common, normal responses.

### When will I feel these things, and how long will they last?

They usually happen immediately and over time the stress responses will change in intensity, frequency, duration and character.

The time it takes for emotional wounds to heal varies. Much like the flu, traumatic stress reactions must run their course. No one can deny that this is a difficult experience, but it is important to know the reactions are normal and will ease in time.

### What can I do to feel better?

The passing of time will help and talking things out will help too. In fact, it is crucial that you talk out your experiences.

Withdrawal and "sealing over" can make things worse. Talk it out with loved ones, peers, friends, clergy, EAP or counselors – anyone who cares and is a good listener. Avoid alcohol and drug abuse. Alcohol is a depressant and both alcohol and drugs can prolong the pain of the traumatic event.

Take good care of yourself by eating healthy foods, exercising (within your

*President's message continued*

### Geoff Mathay

The death of our friend and colleague Geoff Mathay has left our entire campus in a state of deep grief and loss. I first met Geoff when he worked with me to do research for Student Services. He was a man of integrity and the kind of person who inspired others. He brought people together to achieve great results. Geoff was well known throughout the entire District and he leaves a rich legacy of dedicated service and compassion. Our thoughts are with his wife Vicki and their children.

A scholarship fund in Geoff's honor has been established through the Seattle Central Foundation. Additionally, there is a scholarship fund for his daughter Emily's education that has been set up through Washington Mutual. For details, see [www.seattlecentral.edu/president](http://www.seattlecentral.edu/president) then click on the link "in memory of Geoff Mathay."

### College Council Retreat

The College Council held a retreat at the Talaris Conference Center on Jan. 29. Loris Blue and Carol Kallfelz had an agenda that provided a comprehensive overview of the operational management, functions, and operations of the college. I shared the organizational structure of the college and my thoughts about participatory governance, a concept to which Seattle Central is committed. Essentially, it means the administrative leadership of the college will use the best collaborative processes of "advise, consent, and counsel."

The College Council will provide recommendations that will assist in the effectiveness and efficiency at Seattle Central. We have taken great pains to ensure that there is representation on the College Council from all areas of campus. You are encouraged to share your thoughts and ideas with any member of the council. You can find the College Council list in the Jan. 29 *Communiqué* or on my web page.

Sincerely,

*Mildred W. Ollée*, President  
[www.seattlecentral.edu/president](http://www.seattlecentral.edu/president)

limits), getting plenty of rest and staying in touch with people who care.

### What if I begin to feel worse?

Sometimes intensity of your reactions may increase or a reaction may be very prolonged. This does not mean that you are weak or going "crazy." It simply means that the event was so powerful that it pushed you far past your normal coping experiences. If things worsen, seek help from someone who can assist you.

The Employee Assistance Program is available to work with staff, faculty and family members on an individual basis. If you would like to talk further with them, you may contact them for a confidential appointment at: 206-281-6315. Or contact any Seattle Central campus counselor for support.

### Events

#### M. Rosetta Hunter Art Gallery

#### Studio Works 2007:

#### Seattle Central's Fine Arts Program

January 29 - February 23

The students from the fine arts program once again demonstrate why Seattle Central is consistently on the vanguard of Seattle's art scene. Individually selected by faculty, emerging artists present an insightful collection of works in oil, watercolor and other

paint media, drawing, printmaking and 3-D that enrich, challenge, transform and inspire.

### ESL Week schedule of events

#### February 12 – 16

The ESL Program at Central invites everyone to join ESL Week celebrations February 12 through 16. Every year at this time, the college community is invited to participate in and attend activities hosted by our ESL students. These students bring with them a wealth of stories from their homelands to America, their new country. This is a time to share their journeys and stories with you.

#### 🌍 Stories of our Lives, BE 1110

Tuesday, February 13, 11–11:50 a.m.

Traditional West African dance and drumming performance by Awal Alhassan and the Sohoyini Dance.

#### 🌍 A Storytelling Festival, BE 1110

Students share folktales, myths and legends from their native cultures.

Tuesday, February 13, 6-8 p.m.

Japan, Somalia, Morocco, Senegal, Vietnam, Sudan.

Wednesday, February 14, 8-9 a.m.

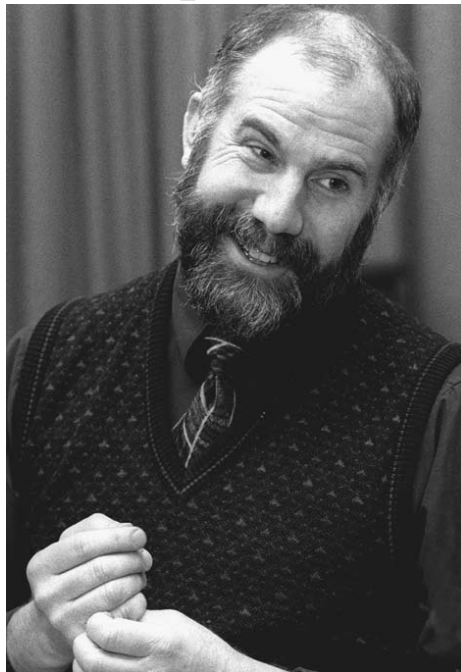
Taiwan, Mexico, Russia (Tartar).

Friday, February 16, 11-11:50 a.m.

Zanzibar, Japan, China, West Africa.

*Continued on back page*

# Campus mourns Geoff Mathay



*“Geoff was a hero in ASL Deaf and Deaf-blind communities... His work over the years made Seattle Central’s Deaf program cohesive, and he was the glue that kept it bound together.”*

**NAT WILSON, JR.**

**G**EOFF MATHAY, A LONGTIME AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR at Seattle Central, died Feb. 1 of a heart attack. Mathay, 51, was filling a one-year, temporary role as faculty development coordinator for the Seattle Community Colleges. Mathay collapsed at the Siegal Center about midday. Colleagues called 911 and took turns administering CPR, to no avail. He was taken to Swedish Medical Center/Providence where he was pronounced dead.

Mathay joined Seattle Central in 1989 as a part-time researcher and began teaching American Sign Language. Mathay’s wife Vicki Mosely is a counselor at Seattle Central. As word of his death filtered through the campus, students, faculty and staff wept and consoled each other. A makeshift memorial was quickly erected outside his office door, with flowers, poetry and candles.

“Geoff was one of the finest professionals I’ve ever known,” said dean Jan West, who worked with Mathay for 17 years. “He was a true friend and a pure, kind, human being.” She laughed as she recalled the butcher paper Mathay used to keep up in his office, divided into sections for each day of the quarter. Each day held a post-it note with learning objectives for that day. “He had a way of analyzing things and putting them back together again—a real gift. He entered into everything he did with enthusiasm and energy. It made everyone want to participate.”

West says Mathay will be remembered for his passion about teaching ASL and his dedication to both deaf and hearing students. A statement from the Washington American Sign Language Teacher Association said, “his love and fascination of the beauty of ASL is evident with his dedication of studying and teaching this language.”

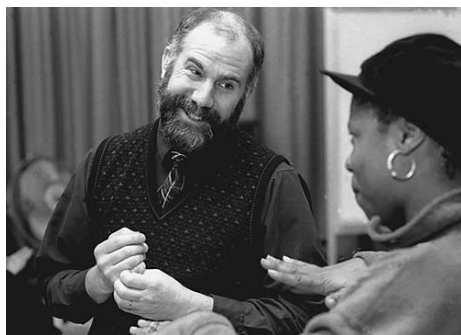
“Geoff was a hero in ASL, Deaf and Deaf-blind communities,” says Nat Wilson Jr., instructor and colleague. “There are two types of heroes, those who deserve 15 minutes of fame, versus heroes who do the day-to-day work over the long haul to help people. Geoff was an example of the latter. Geoff’s work over the years made Seattle Central’s Deaf program cohesive, and he was the glue that kept it bound together.”

A public memorial service was held Feb. 10 at the Student Activity Center. More than 700 people were expected to attend. Remembrances may be sent to:

Geoff Mathay Scholarship Fund  
at Seattle Central Foundation  
1701 Broadway  
Seattle, 98122

Emily Mathay Education Fund  
Washington Mutual  
8555 15th Ave. NW  
Seattle, 98117

A condolences page is on the Seattle Central website: [www.seattlecentral.edu/president](http://www.seattlecentral.edu/president). Click on “in memory of Geoff Mathay” on the top right of the page. Comments will be collected and shared with his family.



**Speakers Bureau, BE 1110**

Wednesday, February 14, 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, February 15, 11-11:50 p.m.

Students from Pakistan, Somalia, Brazil and Mexico share stories about their personal lives and journeys.

**International Day**

Wednesday, February 14, 10-11 a.m.

& 1-2 pm, first floor next to the atrium

Students of the Basic Studies Student Club will have tables filled with artifacts and objects of interest representing various cultures. Plus, samples of food will be available! *On this day, everyone in the college is encouraged to dress up in national costumes.* Spanish language soap operas (telenovelas) with English subtitles will also be featured.

Display of class work on the first floor next to the Atrium will be presented from February 12 through 16.

*From the Foundation...*

**14th Annual Benefit Dinner**

Date: Saturday, March 10 at 6 p.m.

Place: Seattle Central's Atrium

Tickets: \$150 or \$250 (patron)

For information: contact Alison Gooding at 587-5491 or agooding@sccd.ctc.edu.

**"The Community's Table: Setting a Place for Possibility"** is the Foundation's new spring version of the popular Harvest Dinner. It features a gourmet evening with our Seattle Culinary Academy, a raffle and dessert dash.

This year's reception features a "Transformation Showcase" highlighting the programs and plans for our new Plant Sciences Laboratory and Urban Gardens, design programs, Wood Construction Center, and the Science & Mathematics Building. Proceeds fund student access to scholarships, tutoring, child care and educational excellence.

The Foundation and Board of Directors wish to thank all of the faculty and staff now at work with us to make this event a success. We appreciate your help. The Foundation also wishes to thank these early sponsors:

*Sponsors and in-kind donors (now in formation):*

**Epicureans (\$5,000)**

The Boeing Company  
Evergreen Bank  
Washington Mutual

**Connoisseurs (\$2,500)**

Washington Trust Bank

**ACHIEVING  
THE DREAM™  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES  
COUNT**

*Top 10 List*

Based on the review of more than 300 Achieving The Dream coaching reports, here are the 'Top Ten Reasons for Progress with Achieving The Dream':

10. Institutional research capacity is increasing at the college
9. Student cohorts are being tracked
8. Quantitative and qualitative data inform priority setting and decision making
7. Achieving The Dream is integrated with other significant initiatives
6. There is broad faculty and staff engagement
5. Planning and budgeting are aligned with the vision and values of Achieving The Dream
4. The institution is acting systemically, thereby avoiding a project mentality
3. There is a shared vision around a student success agenda
2. Leaders are engaged and pay continuous attention to progress on the student success agenda
1. The institution monitors the effectiveness of interventions and makes adjustments based on evidence

*Summarized from Byron McClenney, Community College Leadership Program, 2007 Strategy Institute. For more information about Achieving the Dream contact Katie Metcalf at 587-6903.*

**Gourmands (\$1,500)**

Bateman Consulting LLC  
Megan Bowman and Chris Ajemian  
Dick's Drive-In Restaurants, Inc.  
Antoinette Malveau  
Rita Brogan and Rich Murphy

**In-kind Donors**

Ste. Michelle Wine Estates

**Women's Program Lecture Series**

Wednesdays, noon, BE 1110

February 14 – Video Presentation

**"Until the Violence Stops"**

Extraordinarily empowering and heart-breakingly funny, this film chronicles how Eve Ensler's hit Broadway solo show "The Vagina Monologues" grew into V-Day, an international grassroots movement to stop violence against women and girls. It features emotionally charged interviews and readings by everyday and celebrity women — all of whom courageously reveal their intimate experiences and bond together to break the silence that surrounds abuse.

February 21

**Ellie Putnam – "Women and Leadership"**

This workshop is presented by the Women's Project, and is intended to help individuals reclaim their natural abilities as leaders. Topics of discussion include enhancing confidence and self-esteem, realizing goals, achieving emotional and physical well-being, building unity across differences and leading intelligently for change. Ellie Putnam is a counselor and workshop leader with extensive experience leading groups of women.

**Seattle Central Business Cards**

Business cards for Seattle Central employees are available through Rachel Seeley in the Public Information Office. The cost for 250 cards is \$40. Plan ahead as the production process can take up to a month. Cards are printed by the Publishing Arts Program. Send your information and order via e-mail and include your budget number for billing purposes. For more information, call 587-5488 or e-mail rseeley@sccd.ctc.edu.

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- The *Communiqué* is published twice
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