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PERRY  
TECHNICAL  
INSTITUTE

# Perry News

Summer 2011

## Recruiters Take Perry's Mission on the Road

Think of them as the Perry mascots – the faces of Perry Technical Institute at schools and community events.

Raul Luna, Derek Smith and Manuel Medrano comprise Perry's recruitment team. They take the school's mission on the road presenting it to potential students, parents, employment counselors and community members. "It's not a job – it's a lifestyle," said Raul, who serves as student recruitment manager. "We represent Perry everywhere we go. We do it with the highest level of responsibility and respect."

The three student recruiters visit high schools throughout Washington and Northern Oregon and occasionally reach out to other states such as Idaho, California and even Alaska. They also attend career fairs and maintain close relationships with representatives from WorkSource, Vocational Rehabilitation, Dislocated Workers and other job training programs.

No matter the age or life circumstance of the potential student, the recruiter's goal is

the same. "Our message is consistent: We want to help them understand what Perry is," said Raul.

By far the biggest misconception they



Raul Luna, Derek Smith and Manuel Medrano

encounter is the perception of what a technical school is. "I tell prospective students that there are many options and that they should pick the option that's best for them," said Derek.

"We're not for everyone; not everyone is for us."

The recruiters also try to give prospective students an idea of what it takes to be successful at Perry. "Students are sometimes confused about what it takes. They don't understand that the programs are rigorous, that we have expectations and that they will be held accountable," Derek explained.

Perry holds high standards for attendance, punctuality and academic progress, but Manuel contends that these standards contribute to successful careers for Perry graduates. "I absolutely believe that if a student takes ownership, he or she will succeed."

The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools sets forth clear guidelines for what recruiters can and cannot do. These guidelines are the foundation for Perry's recruiting operation.

While the goal of educating people about Perry is always the same, the manner in which

*continued on page 3...*

### Perry Responds to Industry by Adding Welding



Matt Medearis

Perry Technical Institute is stepping up to meet the needs of industry by adding a Welding Technology Program.

The new 12-month program, which starts in September, will prepare students for entry-level positions as welders, fitters, and fabricators. "Industry leaders in our community have expressed the need for qualified welders and we are very excited to collaborate with them as this program evolves at PTI," said Nathan Hull, Perry's dean of education.

The American Welding Association predicts a shortage of welders, with Baby Boomers retiring at a faster rate than new welders entering the trade.

A craftsman with more than 10 years of experience in the welding industry, Matt Medearis has been hired as the instructor for the new program. Medearis, a native of Naches, comes to Perry from Yakima Steel

where he was employed as a welding inspector. The new instructor holds welding and inspector certifications from the American Welding Society and a welding certification from the Washington Association of Building Officials.

The curriculum for the new Welding Program includes classroom theory and hands-on instruction in welding, fitting, and related metalworking processes. Students will also learn blueprint reading and fabrication. During the course of the program, students will have an opportunity to explore a variety of certification options offered by the American Welding Society.

The new program has been approved by the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology.

The September class is full, but applications are now being accepted for a night class which begins in January 2012. For more information, call the school office at (509) 453-0374 or toll-free (888) 528-8586. ●

# From the President

## Explosive Growth Leads to New Parking Lot



Christine Coté

“**W**ork has finally begun on Perry’s 167-spot parking lot on the northeast part of campus and students will be able to begin using the lot this month. The grass on the east end of campus that was never intended for parking will finally get a rest from the vehicle traffic it has endured over the last three years.

We have seen explosive growth over the last five years with enrollment soaring by 55%. New programs and the addition of a night class have contributed to the rising enrollment. Other career colleges have seen the trend in rising

enrollment slow down, but at Perry we continue to see our student body growing.

We are committed to keeping our student-to-faculty ratio low in the midst of heightened interest and demand for our programs. It has been a priority and most definitely a challenge to keep up with the staffing and the facility infrastructure to ensure that we are providing our students with the best possible services from enrollment to placement.

The parking shortage is a problem, but I would say it’s a good problem to have. The new parking lot will alleviate our shortage of parking allowing us to continue to grow. At Perry Tech, our goals are to keep the bar of excellence high and to keep employers coming to us to hire outstanding students with the skills and the work ethics that are so needed in industry. ●

## Faculty Changes Announced in Electrical



Forrest Buchmann



Eric Quenzer

**A** longtime instructor has been named department head and a new field instructor has been added to Perry Technical Institute’s Electrical Technology Program.

Forrest Buchmann, a Perry Electrical instructor for 11 years, has been named head of the Electrical Department. A Port Angeles native, Forrest enrolled in Perry’s Electrical Program after being injured as a logger. He graduated from PTI in 1996 and worked for various companies including Pro Controls, a local company that specializes in pasteurization control and electrical systems, before joining the Perry faculty in 1999.

Selah native Eric Quenzer has joined the faculty as an Electrical field instructor. Eric, who has 18 years of experience as an electrician, comes to Perry from All-Phase Electric. Field instructors teach and supervise advanced electrical students as they gain practical experience working on jobsites.

Perry’s Electrical Technology Program is a 24-month training program recognized by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries as a preparatory course for journeyman certification. Graduates qualify as third-year electrical trainees. ●

## Graphics Program Discontinued

**A**fter much consideration, the Administration and Board of Trustees of Perry Technical Institute have decided to teach out the students currently enrolled in the Visual Communication & Graphic Technology Program and to discontinue offering the program.

Over the past few years the program has struggled to maintain a 70% placement rate for graduates.

“Due to changes in the graphics industry, graduates are finding it increasingly difficult to secure jobs that pay family-supportable wages,” said PTI President Christine Coté. “This, combined with low retention rates and declining enrollment, led to this very difficult decision.”

Students currently enrolled in the program will be provided with the same curriculum offered when they enrolled. ●

### Perry News

*A quarterly newsletter for alumni and friends of Perry Technical Institute*  
Please send address changes to

**Perry Technical Institute**  
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### In Brief...

#### PTI Employees and Students Share Time and Talents

From gardening to roofing, from building a gingerbread house to picking up litter, Perry employees and students are giving up some of their free time to help others

Perry is teaming up with the Yakima Rotary Club and community volunteers to help build four Habitat for Humanity houses. Students from the Electrical Technology Program are wiring the houses and other students are volunteering.

The four houses, located about a mile from campus, are part of seven houses being built by Yakima Valley Partners of Habitat for Humanity this year. The first house was dedicated in June and the family is settling into the new home.

In December, Perry participated in a Gingerbread House Building Contest sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. Ten employees volunteered their time to build the house. Their entry was selected as the Overall Most Creative Build. The team was awarded \$500 which was donated to the Perry Pantry, a

*continued on page 5...*

# Graduates Share Success Stories at Women in Technology Day

**T**hey opted to defy stereotypes and are finding that the path to success can take many different directions.

Two graduates returned to the Perry Technical Institute campus on February 10 to share their stories at the school's annual Women in Technology Day. They were joined by two graduates who work at Perry and three students who are currently enrolled in PTI training programs.

More than 100 women turned out to hear how the graduates found their way to Perry and how the training they received helped them launch successful careers.

Desiree Mansfield shared how as a single mother who had worked in a variety of jobs she needed to find a career that would give her the skills required to support her family. She assumed that Perry was a school for men, but decided to stop by and ask if a woman could attend. "The staff assured me that women did in fact find the same success at Perry as men," she said.

She graduated from the Telecommunications & Limited Energy Technology Program (now known as the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program) in 2007 and landed a job as a technician, first for a Boeing vendor and later for a Microsoft vendor.

Desiree encouraged the women gathered for Women in Technology not to be limited by our society's stereotypes. "In the world of technology,

it doesn't matter how you look or what you wear. What matters is what you know and how you use it to do your job," she stressed.

Melea Medrano came to Perry right out of high school. Her brother had graduated from Perry's Instrumentation & Industrial Automation

Technology Program. "I saw the excellent job he got, the kind of money he was making and I thought, 'I can do that,'" she said.

Melea opted for a different field, graduating from the ITCS Program in 2001. For the past six years, she has worked for the Mount Vernon School District as a network support specialist.

The student speakers focused on what brought them to Perry and what it's like to attend school here. They

included Desiree Bowman, Electrical Technology; Heidi Owens, ITCS; and Shantrell Sams, Medical Office Administration & Coding.

Graduates Terra Burgess and Morgan Birkby shared the podium to offer information about their experiences as students in the Computer Applications & Office Administration Program. "I ended up staying here at Perry and I love my job. However, the skills I learned in the program are skills that can take me anywhere I want to go," said Terra.

Next year's Women in Technology Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012, beginning at 1 p.m. ●



**Women in Technology presenters included, left to right, Shantrell Sams, Desiree Bowman, Melea Medrano, Terra Burgess, Morgan Birkby, Desiree Mansfield and Heidi Owens.**

## Recruiters Take Perry's Mission on the Road *continued from page 1...*

the message is delivered changes to reach different age groups and types of audiences. "You have to be able to meet people where they are," explained Raul. "The amount of information and how you present it changes according to their needs."

Recruiting is a unique job where no two days are alike. Long days on the road away from family can be challenging, but the rewards the recruiters see in the lives of students make the sacrifice worthwhile.

Representing Perry Tech has a different meaning for each of the recruiters. For Raul, a Goldendale native and a 2001 graduate of PTI's Graphics Program, it's a chance to share his experiences as a student and explain how those experiences brought him to where he is today. "There's a lot of satisfaction in helping others," he said.

Working at Perry brought both Derek and Manuel back to their hometown. Derek was raised in Yakima and attended Le Cordon Bleu, a renowned culinary and hospitality school, in Portland. Before joining the Perry staff, he was a chef presenter at Le Cordon Bleu.

"Perry Tech has an incredible reputation," said Derek "I work here because this is the only place I want to work."

Also a Yakima native, Manuel had worked as a recruiter for two technical schools before coming to Perry. "Being in a position where you have an opportunity to have an impact on someone's life is very rewarding," he said. ●

# Students of the Month

Each month, we honor an exceptional student.

## Brandon Waters February 2011

HVAC/R Technology



A few years as low man on the totem pole convinced Brandon Waters that it was time to return to school.

Brandon, a 2003 graduate of Ellensburg High School, did concrete work for more than five years and then

worked for two years as a laborer for a heating company before enrolling in Perry Technical Institute's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Program. He has proven to be an excellent student, earning Student of the Month honors for February.

"Brandon stays on task and gets the job done," said instructor Dan Henderson.

Brandon had seen several friends come through Perry and go on to successful careers. "I decided it was time that I did the same," he said.

When he graduates in December, Brandon hopes to find a job in commercial HVAC somewhere on the west side of the state.

## Matheu Nelson March 2011

Automotive Technology



Matheu Nelson is a student who knows what he wants and understands what it takes to get it. Well on his way to meeting his goals, Matheu was named March Student of the Month at Perry Technical Institute.

A student in Perry's Automotive Technology Program, Matheu was singled out for his leadership skills, strong work ethic and his dedication to learning. "Matheu always strives to do better and learn more," said Jason Lamiquiz, head of the Automotive Program.

Matheu enrolled at Perry after working as a disc jockey for a local radio station. The automotive field interested him because he had watched his father work on cars for years and wanted to learn more. When he graduates in September, he would like to put his skills to work in a Toyota dealership.

"My motivation to improve my life as well as my career choice comes from my family – my sweet daughter, Lux, and my fiancé, Erica," he said.

## Dave Brown April 2011

Machine Technology



Being laid off was the best thing that's ever happened to Dave Brown.

Dave, a student in Perry Technical Institute's Machine Technology Program, said the layoff forced him to do something drastic.

While going back to school might not seem like a drastic step, it was for a man in his early 30s whose wife was expecting a child.

That step is about to pay off for Dave, who graduated in June. He was named Student of the Month for April.

"With Dave, the end result is always more than is expected," said Dan Steinmetz, head of the Machine Technology Program. "Dave is a real asset in the shop."

Dave did an externship at Irwin Research & Development and accepted a job there after graduation.

## Derek Townsend May 2011

Electrical Technology



Described by instructors as a positive role model for fellow students, Derek Townsend was named Student of the Month for May at Perry Technical Institute.

"Derek is the complete package. He has

everything it takes to be successful," said Nathan Klebaum, head of Perry's Electrical Technology Program.

A Selah native, Derek had more than 10 years of work experience when he enrolled in Perry's Electrical Program. A series of recession-related lay-offs from sales positions led him to seek a new career. He decided to follow the lead of several family members who had launched successful careers after completing Perry's Electrical Program.

Returning to school was a big step for Derek who has three young daughters. "I figured that if I could focus on school for two years, I would be in much better place to support my family," he said.

Derek graduated last month and accepted a position with Casne Engineering in Kirkland as a design/control systems electrical technician.

## Nick Bobadilla June 2011

Visual Communication & Graphic Technology



A student described by his instructor as a talented artist with a great view of the world was named Student of the Month for June at Perry Technical Institute.

Nick Bobadilla, a student in Perry's Visual Communication &

Graphic Technology Program, was singled out for demonstrating strong artistic talent and for always having an outstanding attitude. "Nick entered the program with a strong skills set and has continually achieved high marks in every aspect of this program," said Jamaica Jo, VCGT instructor.

Raised in Wapato, Nick moved to the Seattle area after earning his GED and went to work for SOG, a Lynnwood-based specialty knife and tool manufacturer. He worked for the company for seven years, working his way up from the assembly line into quality control.

Nick has always liked to draw and been interested in art. He was using his artistic abilities to design laser designs for the company's knives when he decided to return to school.

Nick, the proud father of a 1-year-old daughter, said he is motivated by the desire to provide a good life for his family.

## Perry Pantry Helps Feed Hungry Students

Help us help our students by donating to the Perry Pantry.

Located in the Foundation Office, the pantry is stocked with food items that can be eaten while at school such as granola bars, fruit cups, instant oatmeal, juice, crackers and soup in a cup. The pantry also has essential toiletry items and larger food items that can be taken home to family members.

The pantry was established last summer to assist students struggling to make ends meet while in school. "If students are hungry, it's hard for them to concentrate on school," said Erin Fishburn, foundation director.

The pantry is stocked with donations from employees, students and area businesses.

If you would like to assist Perry students by making a donation to the pantry, contact Erin at 509.453-0374, Extension 206, or email her at [erinf@perrytech.edu](mailto:erinf@perrytech.edu).



## Dan Steinmetz: Takes Pride in Sharing His Trade

**T**hey speak their own language, have their own brand of humor and are sometimes thought of as the greasy guys in the corner. Machinists, says Perry Tech instructor Dan Steinmetz, have a misunderstood profession.

But, machinists know the value of their trade and to prove it they're likely to challenge you to a bet. "We like to lay a \$20 bill on the table and challenge someone to name something that a machinist didn't touch," he said. Every object – no matter what size or the material it's made from – was created using a machinist's skills. Even items made entirely of plastic were formed with a mold, made in a machine shop by a trained machinist.

Dan received training as a machinist while serving in the Army National Guard. A Yakima native, Dan began a three-year stint in the Guard after graduating from West Valley High School. He served one weekend a month while attending Washington State University. After a couple of years, he decided that college wasn't the right thing for him and he returned to Yakima. Dan already had shop experience having worked in local shops during his summer breaks and in the WSU machine shop while in Pullman.

"I was always mechanically inclined. I liked the idea of inventing and building things, and making something work better."

These interests made a career as a machinist a natural fit. In 1992, Dan went to work for Irwin Research and Development as a CNC

machinist. "I had never operated a CNC machine. I had a lot to learn."

After two and a half years, Dan moved into programming. He had been with Irwin for 14 years when his former Irwin co-worker, Jake Turner, told him about an opening at

thermoforming system built from the ground up in our plant being loaded onto a truck for delivery," he said. "At Cubcrafters, our graduates have the satisfaction of seeing the products they helped build fly away."

In the classroom and in the shop, Dan shares this love of his trade. He also works hard to teach his students how to solve problems independently. "The best point in class is when students stop asking questions. That means that they are using what they have learned to solve their own problems."

And, the best part once they've graduated is going out and seeing them gainfully employed in shops.

Dan is an instructor who loves his trade and takes pride in sharing it with others. "I'm not a natural born teacher. I just like sharing my trade."

In fact, he loves machining so much that he's made it one of his hobbies. He has a large shop at his Selah home and takes on machining jobs in his spare time. He also fishes and hunts and he and his wife, Erinne, also enjoy camping in their fifth-wheel trailer.

The language that only machinists speak comes out when he gets together with another machinist. "We use acronyms and talk about tenths and we don't mean one-tenth of an inch, but one-10,000th of an inch," he said laughing. "We tell jokes that no one understands and basically drive our wives nuts!" ●



Dan Steinmetz, right, helps Corey Guy program a lathe.

Perry for an instructor. "It sounded like an interesting job."

Dan started at Perry in August 2006 and in the fall of 2008 became department head. "For me, it's a chance to pass on my trade to others."

Being a machinist is rewarding job that allows you to make something out of nothing. "You start with nothing but an idea and a raw piece of metal. You end up with a functional product."

There's a great deal of satisfaction in this process. "It's rewarding to be part of manufacturing. When I was at Irwin, I liked shipping day. It was rewarding to see an entire

### In Brief... *continued from page 2*

campus food bank for students.

This spring, for third consecutive year, Perry employees and family members volunteered on a Saturday to help beautify campus. This year, the volunteers completed projects ranging from refurbishing picnic tables and planting flowers to building a lattice screen and spreading gravel.

"When giving back we are able to open doors and show the community what a valuable resource Perry is," said Erin Fishburn, foundation director, who coordinates the school's volunteer projects. "At the same time, our service shows

that we are thankful for the support they have given us and that we are committed to improving the neighborhoods we live in."

### Students Participate in Robotics Camp

Perry Tech hosted its first-ever Summer Robotics Camp this month.

The free camp was for students who will be in seventh grade in the fall. The students attended the camp three hours each weekday for two weeks. Students learned: to use simple hand tools and basic spreadsheets; to understand the fundamentals of DC electricity and motors; to

control and manipulate a robotic arm utilizing computer interfaces; and to identify robotic parts and understand how they relate to real-world experiences.

The goal of the camp is to integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in a fun learning environment. A committee of Perry faculty and staff members has been meeting since last fall to organize the camp. The committee worked with local middle school counselors to identify students who would benefit from the camp. ●

## Class Notes...

**Barrie Bisson**, a 2000 Instrumentation graduate, is an instrument and controls technician for Progress Energy, a Fortune 500 energy company located just outside of Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Rodney Burkepile** has been employed as a janitorial supervisor in La Grande, Oregon, for the past four years. He is a 1977 graduate of the Irrigation Systems Program.

A 1976 HVAC/R graduate, **Robert Burton** is the owner of Burton Repair in Anchorage, Alaska. The business, established in 1992, specializes in plumbing, heating, carpentry and electrical repairs.

**D. Jason Englund** is a clinical manufacturing instrument technician at Amgen in Seattle. Jason is a 2002 Instrumentation graduate.

**Harry Emtman**, a 1960 Instrumentation graduate, worked for General Electric and Battelle for 45 years before retiring in 2005. He lives in Richland.

**Brad Frayo** is an electrical and controls engineering consultant with Tetra Tech in the Seattle area. Brad is a 2007 graduate of the Instrumentation Program.

A 2006 Telecommunications graduate, **Andrew Garrity** is a network administrator at Mid-Columbia Engineering in Richland.

**Kevin Hayward** is an electronics and instrumentation specialist with Chevron in Barge, Wyoming. He graduated from Instrumentation in 2006.

**Jared Marshall** is a refrigeration technician for CPC International in Royal City. He is a 2010 graduate of HVAC/R.

**Russell Martin**, a 1985 Electrical graduate, works for the Calpine Corporation, which operates low-carbon, natural gas-fired and renewable geothermal power plants. He works on combustion turbines and lives in Athens, Texas.

A 2007 Instrumentation graduate, **Tim Martin** is an instrumentation first class technician with Asarco in Sahuarita, Arizona.

**Jose Mora** earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Central Washington University on June 11. Jose graduated from Perry's Machine Technology Program in 2001. He is currently a junior estimator at Mid-Columbia Engineering in Richland.

*Your Perry family wants to know what you have been up to. Please email any recent news about yourself which you would like to share with fellow alumni to [perrynews@perrytech.edu](mailto:perrynews@perrytech.edu).*

## W.W. Grainger Pledges Support to PTI

W.W. Grainger, a supplier of facilities maintenance products, recently donated \$10,000 to Perry Technical Foundation.

"Grainger is proud to be able to give back to the local communities in which we do business," said Eddie Joy, Grainger's branch manager. "We recognize that Perry Tech does an outstanding job of training and educating people, and Grainger is excited about contributing resources to ensure the continued success of both Perry Tech and the students the school supports."

As a leading distributor of industrial supplies, Grainger is committed to helping stem the growing shortage of skilled workers while supporting the increasingly technical demands of today's manufacturing workplace. Since 2006, Grainger has contributed more than \$600,000 in support of technical

education in the form of scholarships, classroom equipment, supplies and funds for technical schools which are starting new programs.



W.W. Grainger's Wesley Elkington, left, and Eddie Joy, right, visited Perry recently. Leading them on a campus tour was Christine Coté, second from left, and Erin Fishburn, second from right.

Based in Lake Forest, Illinois, W.W. Grainger serves 2 million businesses and institutions in 157 countries. The company employs more than 18,500 employees and operates more than 400 branches in all 50 states

as well as branches in Canada, Mexico, India, China and Panama. The Yakima store is located at 905 S. First St.

The donation will be split between the Scholarship Fund and the Perry Pantry. The foundation has two scholarship cycles per year, awarding scholarships in the spring and the fall. The Perry Pantry is a food bank on campus which serves students and their families. ●

## Perry Was Ticket to the Good Life for '50 Grad

**Y**ou'll find his name listed on the second page of the Instrumentation Program's placement book – Don Mahre, class of 1950. The alum stopped by Perry recently, his first visit to campus since he graduated more than 60 years ago.

Don was in the program's second graduating class. He enrolled at Perry after serving in the Navy. After graduating from Perry, he started working as an instrument tech at Crown Zellerbach in Camas, making \$3 an hour. He worked at the paper mill for four or five years, before starting his own business, a radio and television repair shop in Washougal. He operated the shop until 1972 when he decided to move to Grandview and try his hand at farming.



Don and his late wife, Rose Marie, raised 12 children. He grew grapes and then cherries on his Grandview farm until the late 1980s when Rose Marie became ill. Don retired and cared for Rose Marie until her death in 1999.

Don said he's always been thankful he chose to come to Perry. "I'm the type of person who has to be busy working and earning money for my family," he said. "Going to school here helped me to do that."

Life's slower nowadays for Don, but not too slow. He fills his days by helping his daughter tend the garden and by visiting and playing pinochle with friends at the Grandview Senior Center.

"I've had a great life, there's no doubt about that," he says with a grin. ●

## Gene Shields: 'The Ultimate Humanitarian'

**G**ene Shields never forgot the favor that Perry Tech did for his family's business nearly 60 years ago. In 1954, the company was venturing into unfamiliar waters manufacturing and printing on plastic bags. The company needed cylinders for a used printing press and turned to Perry for help.

Perry's Machine students made the cylinders, forging a friendship that lasted a lifetime. To thank Perry for making the cylinders, the company made a donation to Perry, the school's first donation.

Perry Tech bid farewell to a faithful friend on June 15 when Gene died at the age of 91.

Over the years, Gene served as an ambassador for the school. He was a founding member of the Perry Technical Foundation Board of Directors, serving for nearly 20 years. He established the Shields Bag & Printing Scholarship and was a frequent benefactor of the school. His donation served as the seed money for the renovation of the hangar building. In July 2009, Perry honored him by dedicating the building as the Eugene Shields Technical Training Center.

"Gene was the ultimate humanitarian," said

PTI President Christine Coté. "His death is a great loss to his friends here at Perry and to the entire community."

Gene moved to Yakima on his 13th birthday. He joined the family business, Rainier Printing, after serving as an Army Air Cadet pilot in World War II. Under Gene's leadership, the company grew from a small town print shop to an experienced leader in the flexible packaging industry. In 1967, the company adopted the family name, becoming Shields Bag & Printing Company.

Gene was a kind and modest man who generously gave of his time and resources to support a variety of community organizations. In addition to his service to Perry, Gene was a founding member of the Memorial Foundation and over the years actively supported many organizations including Boy Scouts, the Yakima Arboretum, the Yakima Greenway, Yakima Valley Museum, YMCA and YWCA. He was a 63-year member of the Yakima Kiwanis Club, served on the board of directors of PacifiCorp for 11 years and the Yakima Planning Commission for 10 years.

*continued on back cover...*



Christine Coté and Gene Shields

## Perry Loses a Longtime Friend

**P**erry said goodbye to a longtime friend when Dorothy Picatti died on February 10 after an extended illness. She was 76.

Dorothy had served on the Perry Technical Foundation Board of Directors since 1995.

"Dorothy Picatti was an amazing board member and person," said Erin Fishburn, foundation director. "Over the years, she was a dedicated member of the scholarship review committee who was always interested in ensuring that our students could be successful."

A Wisconsin native, Dorothy and her husband, Donald, moved to Yakima shortly after they were married in 1957. Before moving to Yakima, Dorothy taught fourth and fifth grade in Franklin, Wisconsin.

Only minutes after stepping off the plane on her first trip to Yakima, she heard about Perry

Technical Institute from her future father-in-law, George Picatti, who called Perry the greatest school in the United States. She later showed her support for Perry by agreeing to serve on the foundation board.



In addition to her involvement with Perry, Dorothy was active in other community organizations. She served as president of Junior League of Yakima and as a board member of the Woman's Century Club. She was also a member of the Antiquarians and was a regular volunteer at Gilbert Elementary School.

"Dorothy will be remembered for her spunk and her quick wit," said PTI President Christine Coté. "She was passionate about the mission of Perry and was a true friend of the school." ●

## In Memory...

**Donald S. Anderson**, 88, died on January 30 in Bothell. He graduated from Perry's Instrumentation Program in 1951 after serving in World War II.

**Fred Blanton**, a 1984 Instrumentation graduate, died on February 2, following a battle with glioblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer. He lived in Houma, Louisiana. He was 59.

**William M. Burgard**, died on August 21, 2010, in Mabton. William, age 62, was a 1994 graduate of the Automotive Program.

**Barry Dean Culbertson** died on May 16 at the age of 53. A 1977 Machine graduate, Barry worked as a machinist in the family business, P.M.E. Inc. in Walla Walla, for 35 years.

**Ralph Joseph Desgroseillier** died April 22 at the age of 85. He served in the Navy during World War II and graduated from the HVAC/R Program in 1948.

**Brian Diehm**, 62, died on January 20 in Yakima. Brian worked as a journeyman electrician in Perry's Electrical Department for nearly 15 years. He retired in August 2005.

**Jim Kinzel**, a 1980 Electrical graduate, died on March 16 in Yakima. He was 56.

**Frederick Koekkoek**, who graduated from Perry in 1949, died on January 3 at the age of 90. After serving in the Army Air Corps, he came to Perry to study electronics and refrigeration.

A 1951 Electrical graduate, **Henry Linscott** died May 9 in Quincy at the age of 95. He attended Perry after serving with the Army in World War II.

**Micheal Mettie**, 58, died on June 1. A 1977 graduate of the Electrical Program, lived in Tieton where he operated a fruit orchard.

**John Rhea**, 60, died on March 3 in Maple Valley. He graduated from the Instrumentation Program in 1971.

**Lonnie Shirley**, a 2003 HVAC/R graduate, died on March 26 at the age of 39.

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For information regarding graduation and placement rates, program costs and other information, please visit [http://www.perrytech.edu/doc/gainfu\\_employment.pdf](http://www.perrytech.edu/doc/gainfu_employment.pdf).

## Event Honors Scholarship Fund Donors



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Perry Technical Foundation awarded nearly \$400,000 in scholarships to Perry students last year.

Donors to the foundation's Scholarship Fund, as well as members of the Scholarship Committee and Foundation Board of Directors, were honored at a Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon on June 9. "The Scholarship Program is really the heart of the school," said PTI president Christine Coté.

Erin Fishburn, foundation director, explained that the foundation awards 32 named scholarships, five which were new in the 2010-2011 school year. "The growth in the Scholarship Fund has been amazing," she said. "Thank you to all of you for believing in Perry."

Two students and one graduate who have received foundation scholarships spoke at the luncheon. Angela Fiscus, who graduated from the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program in March, said the scholarships she received helped her avoid taking out student loans. "I also really appreciated that the foundation provided reimbursement

when I passed certification exams," she said. "It was like receiving another scholarship."

Kim Hall, a Visual Communication & Graphic Technology student, returned to school after losing her job due to the recession. "Receiving the scholarship was the little push I needed to encourage me," she said.

Pat Wise, a student in the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program, told the foundation supporters that the scholarships he received allowed him to quit one of his jobs in order to spend more time with his kids. "When I came to Perry, I felt like I was indoctrinated into a family," he said. "That's a good feeling."

Christine said many students have overcome huge obstacles in order to continue their education. "The school's philosophy has always been to give student a hand-up, not a hand-out," she told the donors on hand for the luncheon. "You enable us to do that."

For information on donating to the Perry Technical Foundation Scholarship Fund, call Erin at (509) 453-0374, Ext. 206, or visit <http://www.perrytech.edu/donate.html>.

## Gene Shields: 'The Ultimate Humanitarian'

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He was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Ted Robertson Community Service Award from the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America and the Lifetime Achievement Award from KYVE-Television.

At the dedication ceremony for the Eugene Shields Technical Training Center, Christine described Gene as a humble man whose character represented the qualities Perry Tech stands for. "We present this plaque as a testament to generations to come of how one man's service and generosity can strengthen and inspire an entire community." ●