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Perry Offers Learning Resource System



Cindy Fiscus, learning resource/accreditation specialist, works with student Steven Dobbs on the new Learning Resource System.

Students can now complete homework assignments, gather information for research papers and projects, and explore trends in their fields by using Perry's new Learning Resource System (LRS).

Located in the Student Services area, the LRS is a centralized location for students and faculty members to access electronic journals, web resources, and program-specific documents, explained Cindy Fiscus, learning resource/accreditation specialist.

Perry partnered with Jones e-global digital repository and the Washington State Library Statewide Database Licensing Project providing access to a specific suite of ProQuest databases. Users may upload a file, link to a web resource, including GoogleBooks and iTunes University, and create a web page.

Cindy kicked off the new service by visiting classrooms to explain to students how to use the LRS. Students may access the system from any computer with internet access 24/7 using their student log-in information. Cindy is also available throughout the day to assist students using the computers in Student Services.

"The LRS opens up a whole new world of resources to our students at no cost to them," says Cindy. "I hope this encourages them on to use the library's computers and database/resources in addition to using local libraries now and after graduation."

In addition to the resources available in the databases, instructors may add their own program-specific resources for students to use. The LRS also has books which may be

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Ellensburg Native Named Assistant Dean

Alex Fitterer has joined the Perry staff as assistant dean of education.

An Ellensburg native, Alex comes to Perry from Charter College and Riverside Christian High School. She first served as an adjunct online instructor and then as associate dean of education for Charter and taught English courses at Riverside.

The new assistant dean holds a bachelor of arts degree in English from Gonzaga University, a master's degree in instructional leadership from National University, and earned her teaching credentials through Lewis & Clark State College.

In her new position, Alex assists Perry's dean of education in assessing student needs, facilitating faculty reviews, and preserving academic standards in accordance with Perry's accrediting body, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.



Alex Fitterer

Perry Reaches Out to Serve Veterans



Christine Coté

If you've visited our campus lately you've probably seen the outward signs of our outreach efforts to veterans. Red, white and blue shields with the Perry logo posted around campus announce that our school is veteran friendly.

We created these signs to send a message to all veterans who enter our halls: "We are here to serve you and to support your needs as you

continue your education after serving our country." While the signs send an important visual message, they are just one part of a school-wide effort aimed at serving the needs of veterans.

Perry Tech accepts all chapters of veteran's aid, including Chapter 33, the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Our veteran's representative, Carol Helms, is available to answer questions and to guide students through the process of applying for education benefits. A special section was recently added to the Perry Tech website to make important information easily accessible to veterans. The website includes information on how to apply for veteran's benefits as well as useful links to a variety of resources available to veterans.

Perry has established a Veteran's Alliance. The mission of the Veteran's Alliance is to honor our current active duty military and

veterans through community service, camaraderie, and support. Wendy Aguilar, an instructor in the Business Technology & Accounting Program who is a Marine veteran, serves as the group's advisor. The Veteran's Alliance meets the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

We are paying tribute to our loved ones who have served or are currently serving with a Veteran Appreciation Photo Wall. Employees, students and alumni are being encouraged to submit photos for the display. The photo wall is temporarily located in Richard Matson Hall, but it will soon be moved to a permanent location.

Plans are in the works to erect a veteran's monument on campus. If you're interested in making a donation to help fund the monument, contact Erin Fishburn, foundation director, at 888.528.8586.

For the last two years, we have honored our veterans with a Veteran's Day all-school assembly. The assembly includes a presentation of the colors by the Marine Corps Reserve Color Guard, a performance of "Taps," and a presentation by a guest speaker. The assemblies were well received by our student body, faculty and staff.

All of these efforts – from the veteran friendly signs to the all-school assembly – are intended to show our support of veterans as they return home after serving our country. We are committed to serving them as they seek to better their lives by continuing their education. •



Faculty Members Honored



Nathan Hull, dean of education, and Christine Coté, president, present the Faculty Member of the Year Award to Dan Steinmetz. •

Three faculty members were honored and service awards were presented to eight employees at Perry's Holiday Party on December 13.

Dan Steinmetz, head of the Machine Technology Program, was named Faculty Member of the Year. Wendy Aguilar, an instructor in the Business Technology & Accounting Program, and Doug Oswald, an instructor in the Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program, were named Outstanding Faculty Members for 2011.

The awards were based on student comments gathered over the last year. Dan was described as a knowledgeable instructor who provides his students with new ways of relating training to real-life situations. "Dan is not only knowledgeable and passionate about what he does, he has fun watching you fail, but loves pushing you to succeed," commented one student.

"He was very helpful in job placement. He made sure that the right man went to the right company as far as who would fit best with the place of work," said another student.

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Dan Henderson: Teaching by Example

Not many people can make the claim, but after 18 years on the job, Dan Henderson says there's never been a day that he's woke up and not wanted to come to work.

Dan was 40 years old and had 14 years of experience in the forestry industry when he launched a new career as an instructor in Perry's HVAC/R Program. "When I came to Perry, I found my niche in life," he says. "Very few people experience what I have in my job at Perry."

Helping people learn – seeing the lightbulb come on in learners of all backgrounds and abilities – is the most rewarding part of his job. The challenge is figuring out a way to reach everyone.

Over the years some parts of the job have remained unchanged, while others have changed along with the student population. Dan maintains that the ability to change, to adapt to the needs of students, helps a teacher be successful.

Reaching today's students means that you have to try harder to make the material interesting. "You have to make them want to learn," he stresses. "You have to teach by example; show instead of tell."

What hasn't changed is the students' desire to be accepted. "You have to treat everyone equally, but you want to make each student feel like he or she is the most important."

One of the highlights of his career was having a chance to teach his son, Van, and now for the two to work together as instructors in the HVAC/R Program.

Dan, a Perry grad, was happy to see his son enter the HVAC field. "There are very few trades where you could leave your job one day and have a new job the next day," he points out.

HVAC technicians have a useful set of skills. "On a hot day, you're real popular!"

Dan put many of those skills to work over the last year building a house in Selah. He also called upon Van to help. "He says I owe him big time."

Dan and his wife, Linda, have three children, Van and Jamie, who are grown and each have one daughter, and Destiny, 7. "When Destiny came along she gave me back my purpose in life."

During his years at Perry, Dan has seen plenty of changes, from the renovation of every building on campus to new instructors, staff, and administrators. He proudly labels himself as #6 in employee seniority.

His goals for teaching are lofty. "I try to teach more than skills; I try to teach my students how to think," he explains. "Technology changes, but the basics will always remain the same."

Dan keeps in touch with past students and in fact operates an informal "phone an expert" help line. "I tell them they can call anytime, just not after 9," he says, laughing. "The thing is, most of the time they know the answer to their question. They're afraid of making the wrong decision and they just need to gain the confidence to follow their instincts."

There's much more in Dan's curriculum than the fundamental skills needed to be an HVAC technician – he also imparts valuable life lessons. Responsibility, honesty, and trustworthiness are the underlying lessons in all he teaches. "I try to show these qualities every day in the way I teach and in the way I live my life." •



Dan Henderson, right, helps student Alfonso Murillo work on an ice machine.

IN BRIEF

Welding Program Earns Industry Recognition

Perry's new Welding Technology Program was recently honored by the American Welding Society.

The AWS presented the program with its 2011 Image of Welding Award. The award is given to educational facilities that demonstrate exemplary dedication to promoting the image of welding in their communities.

Matt Medearis, department head, traveled to the FABTECH Expo in Chicago in November to receive the award.

Students Get a Head Start on Careers in Automotive Technology

Students enrolled in the Automotive Technology Program at the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center may now earn credit toward the first quarter of Perry's Automotive Technology Program.

"The articulation agreement between PTI and YV Tech gives students the opportunity to continue their specialized training without repeating curriculum," says Nathan Hull, PTI's dean of education. "As a result, students who pursue post-secondary training will improve their chances of gaining employment in the automotive industry."

To be eligible to participate, students must meet the terms outlined in the articulation agreement including having a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

July 2011

Kali McAllister

Medical Office Administration & Coding



Kali McAllister is a student who takes going to school very seriously and according to her instructors, it shows.

Kali, a student in Perry's Medical Office Administration & Coding Program, was named Student of the Month for July.

"Kali has all the qualities that we like to see in our students and graduate into the industry," says Lashel Church, head of Perry's Office Administration Programs.

Raised in Parker Heights, Kali graduated from Wapato High School in 2009. With several family members in the medical field and a friend who attended Perry, the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program seemed like a good fit. "I am enjoying it. It's challenging at times, but that's good," she says.

August 2011

Rich DeLong

Information Technology & Communication Systems



Rich DeLong describes his classroom as a work-like environment and after nearly 15 years in the workforce, he feels right at home.

In fact, he's so at home in this environment that he earned Student of the Month honors for August. "Rich brings a level of maturity to the class," says Mike Smith, head of Perry's Information Technology & Communication Systems Program. "He models a great work ethic to younger students."

Rich came to Perry after being laid off from his job in the building materials industry. His wife encouraged him to check into the training offered by Perry. The ITCS Program appealed to him because he had a longtime interest in working with computers.

September 2011

Guy Chan

Instrumentation & Industrial Automation



Guy Chan had a mechanical engineering degree and 24 years of experience in equipment sales when he decided to round out his skills by enrolling in Perry's Instrumentation Program.

The combination resulted in a student motivated to succeed in every aspect of his studies and the honor of being named Student of the Month for September.

A native of Hawaii, Guy earned his bachelor of science degree in engineering from Gonzaga University in 1984. He worked as an engineer for about two years before going into HVAC equipment sales. After a number of years in sales, he wanted to get back into engineering.

Guy graduated in October and landed a job as a control engineer for Wunderlich-Malec in Scottsdale, Ariz.

October 2011

Kerry Tuesley

Heating, Ventilation, A/C & Refrigeration



Described as a self-starter with excellent communication skills, Kerry Tuesley was honored as October Student of the Month.

"From day one, Kerry has been here to learn," says Dan Henderson, an instructor in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Program.

Kerry was working as a machinist for a local packaging company when he decided to make a career change. He chose Perry's HVAC/R Program because of the job opportunities the field offered. "I wanted to find a career that I could retire from," says the 50-year-old student. "HVAC is a career that moves with you."

Going back to school was intimidating at first, but Kerry said he has settled in and is enjoying the program. He is scheduled to graduate in June.

November 2011

Kenneth "Zack" Kemp

Automotive



What Kenneth "Zack" Kemp likes about the automotive field is that technicians never stop learning.

Zack's quest to keep learning earned him the honor of being named Student of the Month for November.

A 2005 graduate of Davis High School, Zack was also honored for his leadership skills and for his dedication to the trade.

The automotive field is always changing. "If you stop learning, you fail," Zack emphasizes.

Zack is enjoying his time at Perry so much that he is trying to convince both his brother and his sister to enroll in programs at the school. When he graduates in March, he hopes to go to work for a company that would allow him to travel. "I'd like to spend some time seeing the world," he says.

December 2011

Kevin Mannin

Machine



Kevin Mannin grew up around machining, but had decided to attend truck driving school when his uncle persuaded him to enroll in Perry's Machine Technology Program.

Now, halfway through the program, he has been named Student of the Month for December.

Kevin's instructors describe him as an ambitious, hard-working student with a bright future.

A 2004 graduate of Highland High School, Kevin served as a helicopter mechanic in the Army and worked several odd jobs before coming to Perry. "I was tired of working dead-end jobs," he says. "I was ready to do something with my life."

When he graduates next December, Kevin hopes to stay in the area and work in the aviation industry.

Just Like Home: Deli Serves Up Plenty of Hospitality

What's that smell wafting through the halls? It's homemade soup and freshly-baked goodies beckoning students and staff to Kimberly's Deli.

The deli exudes wonderful smells and a welcoming atmosphere since Kimberly and Larry Loveless took over its operation in May. "This is a good fit. We feel right at home here at Perry," Kimberly says.

The couple revised the menu, adding inexpensive options for breakfast, lunch and snacks. They listened to requests from students and employees and added items to please all. From the standard student favorites like hot dogs and biscuits and gravy, to options like freshly-made salads and steel-cut oatmeal for health-conscious customers, they try to offer something for everyone.

But even more noticeable than the new menu is the friendly atmosphere the couple has created. "I feel like I've gained a whole bunch of kids," Kimberly says.

Kimberly and Larry already have quite a brood...nine kids, ranging in age from 11 to 38, between the two of them. Plus, they have seven grandchildren. "Yes, we are the Brady Bunch," she laughs.

Kimberly shares her motherly nurturing with the students she serves in the deli. "We try to get to know their names. We get really attached. We worry about them when they don't show up... we miss them when they graduate and move on."

During the holiday season, she checks with students to make sure they have dinner invitations. "Our table is always open to

anyone who needs somewhere to go."

Kimberly's Deli is a family operation. Kimberly arrives early to open and four days a week is joined by her mother, Karen Anderson. Larry makes sure the three youngest kids – triplets – get on the bus and then he comes in to help. And, daughter Samantha fills in when she's home from college on break.

Both Kimberly and Karen bring backgrounds in the food industry to the deli. Over the years, Kimberly has worked at a number of local restaurants, most recently at the Olive Garden. Karen worked as a cook at both a school and a camp. Larry is the food-service newcomer – he retired from a career in property development.

Kimberly combines her background in food service with her motherly instincts to serve students. "We just try to be there for them. If they're hungry and don't have any money, we

let them eat. They pay us back when they can," she says. "No one takes advantage of us. I love that feeling."

In fact, the students lend a hand, offering to carry heavy items, and to help out where needed.

The feedback from students, staff and faculty has been positive, but Kimberly said the best compliment came from a visitor on campus to sell advertising who smelled the home-baked goods and stopped in the deli to buy cookies and brownies. "He said he had been to schools all over the country and that we were the best-smelling school he had ever visited!" •



The staff of Kimberly's Deli: Kimberly Loveless, Larry Loveless and Karen Anderson.

Learning Resource System *Continued from page 1...*

checked out, headsets for listening to tutorials, thumb drives for downloading information, and free printing from the computers in Student Services.

Recently, Lashel Church, head of the Office Administration Programs, had students in her Medical Office Administration & Coding classes use the LRS to research ethics in the workplace using the University of Washington School of Medicine's Ethics in Medicine website.

In addition to the LRS on the Perry campus, Perry Tech also has a partnership with Davis High School Media Center which

provides access to Perry students, faculty, and administration. The Davis High School Media Center is open four weekday evenings and half days on alternating Saturdays. The Media Center offers computers, books, a variety of online resources, free tutoring, computer assistance, and proofreading.

The addition of the LRS expands upon the learning that takes place in classrooms, shops and labs. "I believe the LRS puts Perry on a new level and it gives our students new ways to learn and expand their skills," Cindy says. •

CLASS NOTES

For the past six years, **John Dwelis** has owned an HVAC company in Tucson, Arizona. He is a 2005 HVAC/R graduate.

Congratulations to **Todd Eckman** who was named vice president for information management on the Mission Support Alliance (MSA). The MSA team provides a number of services to Hanford contractors, such as safeguards and security; environmental integration; site infrastructure and utilities; site business management; information resources and content management; and portfolio management. Todd, a 1986 Telecommunications graduate and former Perry instructor, is deputy director and chief technology officer for Lockheed Martin, Energy Technology Solutions. He currently serves on the Information Technology & Communications System Program Advisory Committee.

Bill Hall, a 1990 Instrumentation graduate, is the business development manager at Swagelok NW in Portland, Oregon. Bill serves as chairman of the Instrumentation Program Advisory Committee.

A 2008 ITCS graduate, **Elizabeth (Kulin) Gossell** recently accepted a security analyst position with Tenable Network Security in Columbia, Maryland.

Daniel Hildebrand, a 2004 HVAC/R graduate, is a technical sales associate for Johnstone Supply in Bothell.

Tim Martin, a 2007 Instrumentation graduate, is an instrumentation technician at Asarco Mission Mine in Sahaurita, Arizona.

Jacob McCain entered the electrical apprentice program at Precision CastParts in Portland, Oregon, after graduating from the Instrumentation Program in 2008. He earned his AMP ACT certifications in fiber optics and copper communications installation.

A 1998 Instrumentation graduate was recently honored by Georgia-Pacific in the 2011 Brawny Industrial Great American Worker Contest. **Ken Mounts**, owner of Calibrated Controls, Inc. in Escondido, California, was singled out for the honor in the area of worker productivity.

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.

Perry Alum Joins Foundation Board

Welcome aboard to Larry Kraft, a 1977 graduate of Perry's Machine Technology Program, who recently joined the Perry Technical Foundation Board of Directors.

"We are pleased to have Larry join the foundation board," says Erin Fishburn, foundation director. "His passion for Perry, along with his experience in industry, will bring a valuable perspective to the group."

A native of Ephrata, Larry worked in industry for six years before establishing his own business, Cascade Quality Molding, in Yakima in 1983. The company specializes in custom injection molding, mold-making and vapor deposition.

Cascade assists companies in developing new products and taking them into production. Cascade's customers are primarily in the aircraft and medical industries and other forms of manufacturing.

Larry contracted with a Boeing supplier to manage a two-year 787 project, allowing him to live and work in China for three years. When the contract ended, he resumed his duties with Cascade.

Sixteen volunteers serve on the foundation board, which acts as an advisory board to the foundation. •

PTI Sends Care Packages to Troops



Perry Tech honored active duty military by sending 150 care packages off to troops serving abroad.

Students, employees and vendors donated items such as toothbrushes, snacks, games, hand sanitizer and drink mixes for the boxes which were sent to the troops through the non-profit organization Give2TheTroops.org.

As a special gift from Perry, the Machine Technology Department designed and built a cribbage

board and pieces which were labeled with the PTI logo. Student also wrote notes expressing their gratitude which were included in the boxes.

Employees and students gathered in the auditorium to assemble the boxes. Members of Central Washington's Legislative team, on campus for their annual visit, assisted with the assembly. •

Donations Help All 11 of Perry's Training Programs

Special thanks to our donors whose generosity helps students in all 11 of Perry's training programs. Recent donations include:

- Fluke Electronics and Fluke Networks support Perry Tech with annual donations of equipment to the Automotive, HVAC/R, Electrical and ITCS programs.

- The North American Foundation, an educational trust, donated \$20,000 for student scholarships.

- The student chapter of the Instrument Society of American donated \$3,000 to the Fred Iraola Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in memory of Fred Iraola who died in 2009. Fred was associated with Perry for a total of 46 years – first as a student, then as an instructor and finally as director. He graduated from Perry's Machine and Instrumentation Programs, taught in the Instrumentation Program and served as director of the school for 17 years. For information on contributing to the scholarship fund, contact Erin Fishburn, foundation director, at 509.453.0374, Ext. 206.

- The Pacific Power Foundation awarded \$2,000 to Perry's Electrical Program. The grant funds will be used to build a PLC lab. •

Longtime Trustee Visits Campus

Cuyler Lighthall calls the 26 years he served on the Perry Technical Institute board of trustees the longest job he ever had.

The former trustee stopped by the Perry campus on recent trip to Yakima.

Cuyler retired from Perry's board of trustees a year and a half ago. He was pleased to see that many of the plans that had been put in place under his tenure had come to fruition.

"All the improvements I see on campus

come as no surprise, but it's great to see that they are now reality," he says.

Improvements to the buildings as well as the grounds have the campus looking sharp. However, the physical changes to campus are only part of what has taken place over the last several years. "The school has really upped the level of

service it provides to students," he says noting the addition of Counseling and Career Services.

"The bottom line is that the school exists to serve the students," he adds.

Cuyler and his wife, Vannah, now live in Mesa, Arizona.

Cuyler says he misses his friends at Perry, but is enjoying his new-found freedom. The Lighthalls enjoy riding their BMW motorcycles on their own and with several cycling clubs. "It's fun to ride with a group,

but also great to go at your own pace, to not have an itinerary."

The former trustee says Perry is a unique organization with an important mission. "Perry is not education for education sake, but education that puts people to work," he stresses. "That's what sets Perry apart." •



Cuyler Lighthall on tour with his BMW motorcycle.

Faculty Members Honored

Continued from page 3...

A Yakima native, Dan received his training as a machinist while serving in the Army National Guard. He joined the Perry faculty in 2006 after working at Irwin Research and Development for 14 years. Dan was named head of the department in the fall of 2008.

Also honored at the holiday gathering were eight longtime Perry employees. Service awards were presented to:

- Mike Smith, head of the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program, for 25 years.
- Dave Sylvanus, Instrumentation instructor, for 20 years.

- Marc Mitchell, head of the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Program, for 15 years.
- Ron Zike, Electrical Technology instructor, 15 years.
- Mike Tucker, Electrical Technology instructor, 15 years.
- Andy Fischer, ITCS instructor, 15 years.
- Doug Oswald, Instrumentation instructor, 10 years.
- Josh Phillips, ITCS instructor, 15 years.



The boiler building was torn down in August. The building was outdated and no longer in use. The building was built in 1939 as part of the original school construction. Part of the building's bricks, facade and boilers, including the stone column, were saved to make a barbecue pit.

IN MEMORY

A 1952 Machine graduate, **Lynn Gaudette** died on February 25 in Kent. He was 85.

Lloyd Harger, a graduate of the Small Engine Repair Program, died on September 3 in Parker. He was 85. Lloyd served in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. After graduating from Perry, he operated a small engine repair shop for many years.

Former Perry instructor **Skip Hart** died of cancer on June 13 in Selah at the age of 60. Skip taught in Perry's Telecommunications Program from 1985 to 1986. He was instrumental in helping to develop the curriculum for the program.

A 1997 Electrical graduate, **John Kugler** died March 23 in Benton City. He was 68.

Quoi Lu, a 1991 Telecommunications graduate, died of cancer on August 5 at the age of 48. Born in Saigon, Quoi escaped communism by himself at the age of 17 by dodging bullets in the jungle of Thailand to reach a refugee camp. He immigrated to the United States in 1981, settling in Yakima in 1985. He went to work for Irwin Research and Development in 1987. In 2003, Quoi became a quadriplegic after a rollover accident. With physical therapy and much determination, Quoi was able to return to his job at Irwin, working from his wheelchair.

A member of Perry's first graduating class, **Hugh McFadden** died on September 22 in Richland at the age of 91. He graduated from the Welding Program and worked in the Portland Shipyards during World War II. After serving in the Army, he continued his education in welding. Hugh was a 60-year member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, Local 598, working at Hanford, a Nike missile base, oil platforms, pipelines in Alaska, an underground aqua duct, and an atomic bomb test site.

Donald Obert, who graduated from the Automotive Program in 1946, died on July 3 in Yakima. He was 97. After serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps, he operated Obert's Texaco in Kent for 25 years. After retirement, he lived in Desert Aire with his wife, Jean.

A 1970 Instrumentation graduate, **Michael Penwarden** died on September 2 in Melba, Idaho. He was 66.

James Putnam died July 13 in La Grande, Oregon at the age of 49. A graduate of the Sheet Metal Fabrication Program, he worked in the logging industry until 1994 and then worked in heating and air conditioning service and repair for 15 years.



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