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PERRY
TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE

Perry News

Spring 2010

HVAC and Electrical Going Green

Bringing green technology to America's homes, institutions and workplaces takes skilled technicians who are trained to install, maintain and repair environmentally-friendly electrical and mechanical equipment.

Perry Tech is responding to this challenge by incorporating green technology into its training programs.

"We have a responsibility to both our environment and to our students to incorporate the very latest in green technology into our curriculum," said PTI President **Christine Coté**.

To meet these goals, the school has adapted curriculum in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology and the Electrical Technology Programs.

In HVAC/R, green technology centers around saving energy. In their study of indoor air quality, students are learning the principles involved in the operation of energy recovery ventilators. The ventilators recover oxygen from outside air and pull energy from the air as it leaves the structure.

The program's third quarter covers high efficiency motors. "With ECMs (electrically commutated motors) the motor's speed changes constantly. The controller monitors the speed of the motor based on the need of the structure," explained **Marc Mitchell**, head of the HVAC/R Program.

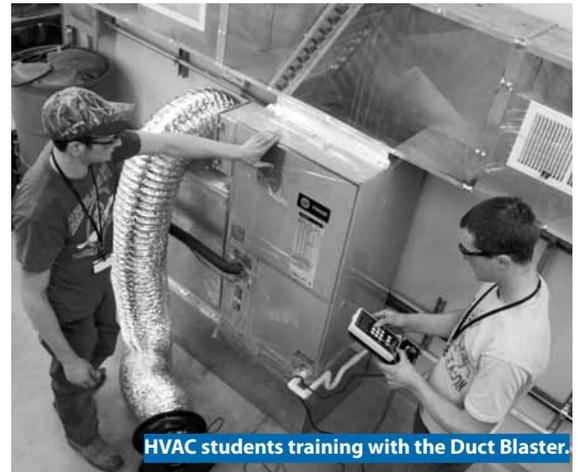
Students are learning to use duct leakage equipment. Funds donated to Perry Technical Foundation were used to purchase a Duct Blaster which technicians use to locate leaks in ducts.

Students have the opportunity to earn several industry certifications including the North American Technician Excellence certification which covers all aspects of HVAC/R. The program covers the use of environmentally-friendly refrigerants. Students can earn certification in the proper handling of R-410A.

Students are also introduced to geothermal heat pump systems and loops. The program is working with the International Ground Heat Pump Association to be able to offer students the chance to earn certification in geothermal loop installation.

A new textbook, "Green Awareness," covers all aspects of the green technology used in the HVAC industry. Students can now earn a certification in the principles and practices covered in the textbook.

The skills involved in implementing green technology in the electrical field are the same fundamental skills that students learn in Perry's Electrical Technology Program. "What



HVAC students training with the Duct Blaster.

we need to be able to show our students is how these fundamentals are applied to green energy," said **Mike Tucker**, head of the Electrical Program.

Wal-Mart recently granted \$25,000 to Perry Technical Foundation to purchase solar and wind energy trainers for the Electrical Program. The wind trainer simulates wind power generation and the solar trainer simulates solar photovoltaic (converting light into electricity) power generation.

"As we transition into more widespread use of green energy, electricians are the ones who will implement the changes," Tucker said. ●

Wal-Mart Supports Green Technology

Wal-Mart has awarded a \$25,000 grant to Perry to help expand green technologies in the Electrical Technology Program.

The funds were awarded through Wal-Mart's Washington State Giving Council. "At Wal-Mart, we have a philosophy of operating globally and giving back locally," said Karianne Fallow, senior manager of public affairs for Wal-Mart. "PTI has demonstrated a real commitment to workforce development and green jobs and we believe that both of those areas are critical to

the future of our communities."

The grant funds will be used to purchase a solar and wind energy trainer for the Electrical Program.

"It is exciting to have Wal-Mart helping us keep up on green technology including solar photovoltaic and wind turbine generation," said **Mike Tucker**, head of Perry's Electrical Technology Program. "These applications will help the students here at Perry stay on top with leading-edge technologies and enable them

to have the experience of working with green energy to help the environment."

The Electrical Technology Program is a two-year training program which includes a diversified electrical curriculum, guiding students through the steps required to become a construction or industrial maintenance electrician. The State of Washington recognizes the two years of training received in the program as counting toward journeyman certification.

From the President

School Faces Shortage of Parking



Christine Coté

With growth comes growing pains.

With enrollment at just over 600 students, Perry Tech is experiencing growing pains. Renovation of the hangar building

is now complete and with the addition of classrooms, labs and shop space, housing students is not the issue – parking their vehicles is.

Over the past five years, Perry's enrollment has grown by nearly 60%. We are proud of this growth and feel fortunate to have been able to add new programs that prepare students for in-demand careers.

Last year, the west parking lot was expanded to accommodate an additional 60 vehicles. But

with the addition of new programs and full enrollment in existing programs, we have an acute shortage of parking.

Parking has been in such demand, that we have been forced to use the grassy area on the east side of campus for overflow. We have also encouraged students to carpool, but many hold jobs after school and need their own vehicles.

We have drafted plans to reconfigure the west parking lot and add an additional lot adjacent to the east parking area. The school is fortunate to have space to expand, but constructing parking lots is an expensive undertaking.

We have applied for federal dollars allocated through the U.S. House of Representatives' and the Senate's transportation budgets. While we have the full support of both our state legislators and our congressional team, these are tough economic times. We have also appealed to several private organizations for funds for the parking lot expansion.

All too often, private technical schools such as Perry fall through the funding cracks. Because we are private, we are not entitled to many forms of public funds that finance projects at state colleges and institutions.

Perry Technical Institute is a non-profit organization. We strive to keep tuition affordable so that the education we offer is within the reach of students of all ages and walks for life who are seeking to improve their quality of life.

As we search for ways to solve our parking shortage, we remain true to our mission. Perry Tech is the solution. The training we offer equips students with the skills most needed in industry and instills in them the work habits that will make them valuable employees.

The parking shortage is a problem that needs to be addressed, but it's a good problem to have because it's a direct result of our growth. We see it as a hurdle, a growing pain, that through perseverance we will overcome. ●

Perry Adds Paralegal Training Program

In response to the increasing demand for qualified legal assistants, Perry Technical Institute has added a new training program.

The 12-month Legal Assistant/Paralegal Program prepares students for entry-level legal office jobs in businesses such as private law firms and government offices. "We are offering the Legal Assistant/Paralegal Program to meet an increasing demand for qualified legal assistants and to provide a practical and relevant educational experience for students," said **Nathan Hull**, dean of education.

"This program will further enhance our current office programs by providing yet another avenue for students to specialize in."

The program is a combination of training in traditional office skills, soft skills and specialized legal skills. Paralegals are qualified to assist attorneys with legal tasks such as preparing case material and data prior to litigation while understanding and properly using legal terminology.

During the first two quarters, students prepare to take the Microsoft Certified Application

Specialist exams in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint. In the third and fourth quarters, students advance into more specialized subjects such as civil law, criminal law, legal terminology, legal research, writing techniques and legal documents.

According to statistics from the United States Department of Labor, employment of paralegals and legal assistants is projected to grow by 28% over the next 10 years. Employers are trying to reduce costs and increase the availability and efficiency of legal services by

hiring paralegals to perform tasks once done by lawyers.

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.

The first class, began in April, with full enrollment.

For information about the program, call the school office at (509) 453-0374 or toll-free (888) 528-8586. ●

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In Brief...

Machine Students Train on New Lathes

Students in Perry's Machine Technology Program are honing their machining skills on three new lathes.

The department replaced three 1950s-era lathes with Kent USA 16" by 40" manual engine lathes. "These new lathes take advantage of modern carbide tooling," explained Department Head **Dan Steinmetz**. "They allow us to produce parts four to eight times faster than the older lathes."

One of the lathes has a digital readout used to position the cutting tool. "By upgrading equipment, we are giving students exposure to the type of equipment found in industry," he said.

Funds to purchase the lathes came from the Machine Department's equipment budget, supplemented with funds from Perry Technical Foundation.

"Donations allow the foundation to help the training programs here at Perry upgrade

continued on page 5...

New Staff Members Join Perry



Jason Lamiquiz



Dusty Morrill



Mike Malaska



Wendy Aguilar



Becki Willard

Two new instructors are leading Perry's Automotive Technology Program in a new direction.

Jason Lamiquiz and **Dusty Morrill** joined the faculty last month. Lamiquiz is the new department head, with Morrill assisting him as an instructor in the 12-month program.

The new team is working to update the program's facilities, equipment and curriculum. A computer lab will be added to the department.

Lamiquiz is a Boise, Idaho, native who has lived in Yakima for 22 years. He graduated from Yakima Valley Community College's Automotive Technology Program and has more than 14 years of experience as a technician, automotive system sales representative and service manager. He comes to Perry from Valley Ford where he served as service manager.

The new department head said he welcomes the opportunity to share what he's learned with students. "I want to be able to make a difference in students' lives and help them form their future by sharing some of what I have learned in my career," he said.

Lamiquiz and his wife, April, live in West Valley with their two daughters, Hailey, 8, and Alexis, 6. He enjoys outdoor activities, including hiking and four-wheeling.

Morrill was also born in Boise. He moved to Yakima 25 years ago and attended the Auto Technology Program at the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center. He has 16 years of experience as an automotive technician. Morrill comes to Perry from Auto Haus.

Morrill and his wife, Tiffany, live in the Glead area with their three children: Avery, 10; Riley, 6; and Mattie, six months. In his free time, the new instructor enjoys camping, four-wheeling, family time and going to the beach.

A Perry Technical Institute graduate has taken over the helm of the school's Visual Communication & Graphic

Technology Program.

Michael Malaska, who graduated from the program in 2006, is the new department head.

Malaska comes to Perry from Structure Studios, a 3D pool and landscape software development company in Las Vegas, where he was a graphic designer and webmaster. He previously worked as a graphic designer at Smith, Phillips & DiPietro Advertising & Public Relations in Yakima.

A native of Corvallis, Ore., Malaska enrolled in Perry's Graphics Program after studying fine arts at Brigham Young University-Idaho.

In his new position, Malaska oversees the 18-month program. Malaska said he welcomed the chance to teach at his alma mater because it allows him to combine his passion for art with an interest in teaching. "Working with students exposes you to young minds it keeps you on the cutting edge," he said.

Malaska and his wife, Danielle, live in Yakima with their two young daughters, Myla and Payton. In his free time, Malaska enjoys movies, music and playing the guitar.

Wendy Aguilar has joined the Perry Tech faculty as an instructor in the Computer Applications & Office Administration Program.

Aguilar comes to Perry from Burrows Paper Company where she served as sales and product development manager. Before working at Burrows, she was an accountant for the City of Yakima and spent 10 years at Wrap Pack Corporation, working her way up from accounting assistant to controller/assistant general manager.

A native of Healdsburg, Calif., Aguilar served in the Marines for two years before moving to Yakima in 1995. She attended Heald Business College in Santa Rosa, Calif. and earned an associate degree from Yakima Valley Community College and a bachelor of science

degree in accounting from Central Washington University.

Aguilar and her husband, Joe, have three sons: Joseph, who attended the Instrumentation Program at Perry, Anthony, 16, and Christopher, 6.

Aguilar is a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Yakima. She is active in New Leaders of Yakima County and was a founding member of the Program Advisory Committee of Perry's Office Administration Program.

Becky Willard is the instructor for Perry's new Legal Assistant/Paralegal Program. A native of San Bernardino, Calif., Willard has 21 years of experience in the legal field and has worked as a paralegal for the last 12 years. She earned her associate of arts degree and paralegal certificate from San Bernardino Valley College.

She moved to Yakima 18 years ago and worked for Halverson & Applegate for nine years before the firm merged with Velikanje Moore & Shore and became Velikanje Halverson in 2007. She worked at Velikanje Halverson as a paralegal specializing in real estate before joining the Perry faculty.

Willard welcomed the idea of sharing knowledge of her profession as an instructor in Perry's new Legal Assistant/Paralegal Program. "I always enjoyed helping people at work," she said. "It's rewarding to think that you made a difference in someone's ability to understand."

The new instructor and her husband, Rich, live in Selah with their teen-age children, Jessica and Ethan. Willard's pastimes include camping, water sports, gardening and reading. ●

Students of the Month

Each month, we honor an exceptional student.

Dan Cole August 2009

Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology



Dan Cole was in search of a stable career when he enrolled in Perry's Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program.

Well on the way to reaching that goal, Cole was named Student of the Month

for August.

"He's gets all of his work done on time and is always willing to help people out," said instructor **Dave Sylvanus**.

A 2003 graduate of West Valley High School, Cole worked in construction and as a media director for a local church before deciding to return to school. He was attracted to the field of instrumentation because of the stable, good-paying jobs it offers.

"I have found the program to be the perfect mixture of working with my hands and using my brain," he said.

Christian Search September 2009

HVAC & Refrigeration Technology



Christian Search is always one step ahead of his class.

His quick understanding, combined with a strong work ethic, earned Search Student of the Month honors for September. "He knows where I am

going before I get there," said **Dan Henderson**, Search's instructor in Perry's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Program.

Search was born in Pasco and moved to Battleground in 1998. He worked as a warehouse manager at a food bank for five years before deciding to continue his education.

Search's late father graduated from Perry HVAC/R Program in 1983. Search chose the HVAC field because of his dad's experience at the school and because his aunt and uncle own a refrigeration company, Coffey Refrigeration in Kennewick. "They encouraged me to get my training and come to work for them," he said.

Michael Koch October 2009

Automotive Technology



An interest in drag racing led **Michael Koch** to a new career.

Koch was working in maintenance at State Fair Park when he decided to follow his passion for cars and enroll in Perry's Automotive Technology Program.

Half way through the program, he has been named October Student of the Month.

A native of Billings, Mont., Koch moved to Yakima 15 years ago. He started drag racing about five years ago. "I had the ability to work on cars, but not the knowledge behind it," he said. "I decided I wanted to get the knowledge I needed to make money at what I enjoy doing."

When he graduates, Koch wants to work in a local automotive shop and eventually open his own shop specializing in working on race cars.

Johnny Sanchez November 2009

Computer Applications & Office Administration



It took hard times and several lay-offs before **Johnny Sanchez** realized that he needed to return to school

The decision is proving to be a sound one – Sanchez was named Student of the Month for November

just a little over two months into the Computer Applications & Office Administration Program.

Sanchez dropped out of high school and had worked off and on in local warehouses. "After the last job, I told myself that this wasn't what I wanted in life and that if I wanted to stop living paycheck to paycheck, I needed to go back to school," he said.

He accompanied a friend to Perry's Admissions Office and began inquiring about the school's training programs. The Office Administration Program appealed to him because it was only 12 months and it covered both job skills and information on starting a business. "I liked the idea that I could get a job right out of school and have the skills I would need to eventually start my own business," he said.

Robert Detloff December 2009

Machine Technology



A fascination with how things are made led **Robert Detloff** to follow his father into the field of Machine Technology.

In turn, that fascination led him to excel in his studies resulting in Detloff being named

December Student of the Month.

"Robert not only excels in the classroom and lab, but has also taken on many leadership roles in the program," said Machine Technology instructor **Jason Wellner**. "He will be an extremely valuable asset to the machining industry."

A native of Grants Pass, Ore., Detloff served in the Marines for four years and worked in political research and in the commercial fishing industry before enrolling at Perry.

He was exposed to the field of machining through his father, who recently retired from his position as a laser fiber optic engineer. Detloff said people often ask him what a machinist does. "A more appropriate question would be, 'What does a machinist not do?'" he said, adding that machinists make parts for every industry.

Tate Vasey January 2010

Electrical Technology



The magic of flipping the switch and having electricity bring power to the world intrigued **Tate Vasey** enough to influence his choice of a career.

The Electrical Technology student

was named Perry Technical Institute's Student of the Month for January.

Vasey was raised in Aberdeen, and Halfway, Ore. He moved to Yakima for his senior year, graduating from Highland High School in 1997.

Vasey worked for the Forest Service and did several seasonal jobs before enrolling in Perry's Electrical Program.

Vasey's instructors praise his work ethic and the example he sets for fellow students. "Tate has demonstrated drive, commitment and enthusiasm to achieve his goals here at PTI," said **Mike Tucker**, head of the Electrical Department.

Dave Sylvanus: Came to Perry and Never Left



Instructor Dave Sylvanus helps students with a class project.

Two years at Perry changes lives. **Dave Sylvanus** feels lucky to have been a small part of that change for the more than 600 students he's taught in Perry Tech's Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program.

Sylvanus also feels lucky – he was in the right place at the right time. That place – Perry Tech – cast such a spell on him that he never left. Well, not really anyway.

In 1985, Sylvanus followed a couple of his friends from Okanogan High School to Perry and enrolled in the Machine Technology Program. He enjoyed learning how to make parts, but by time he graduated, he discovered he wanted to know how to fix them. So, he signed up for Perry's Instrumentation Program.

With two certificates in hand, he still

wasn't ready to bid the school goodbye, so he accepted a position as a training consultant for Perry, completing assignments in Torrance and Los Angeles, California. By 1995, his oldest daughter was starting school and the desire to enroll her in a smaller school system led him back to the Yakima Valley.

He's been here ever since, teaching students like himself who are pursuing careers as instrument techs. He finds the rewards of teaching far outweigh the fat paychecks he could make in industry.

"It's very rewarding to have a small part in helping to steer students down the right course," he said.

In the course of two years, Sylvanus sees amazing growth in his students. "You see them struggle academically or with personal issues. You see them overcome these struggles and graduate. When it's all said and done, they go on to great careers."

All the while, Sylvanus enjoys getting to know his students. Learning how they think, discovering what's important to them and hearing what brought them to Perry intrigues him. "It's interesting to listen to what they say

and then try to connect the dots. What you discover is that their journey to Perry is a big web of people who know people who have some experience with the school. Perry has an amazing reputation."

That reputation is based on a philosophy of putting the needs of employers first. "Our customers are the employers and our students are our products," he stressed. "It's that mentality that has made Perry what it is today."

While technology has changed over the years, the fundamentals upon which the program is based have not changed. The instructor has seen changes in the skills of his students. Today's students have less experience using hand tools, but are much more computer savvy. "Computers are an appliance to them," he said.

When he's not in the classroom, Sylvanus enjoys spending time with his two daughters, 19-year-old Chelsea and 17-year-old Elizabeth, and his 10-month-old granddaughter, Alexandria. His hobbies include hiking, target shooting, riding motorcycles and making parts in his home machine shop.

Preparing students for working in the field is his number one goal, but his class is not all work – he's sure to mix in a little fun. "You have to have fun," he said, grinning.

And, for Sylvanus, that's not difficult – his easy-going personality and quick wit make it a simple assignment. ●

In Brief... *continued from page 2*

equipment," said **Erin Fishburn**, foundation director.

"Keeping up with changing technology is an ongoing process and we appreciate donors who help us do this."

Show Your Perry Pride

If you'd like to show your Perry pride, come visit The Hangar, PTI's new gear shop.

The Hangar stocks apparel including T-shirts, sweatshirts and hats as well as items such as coffee mugs, water bottles and tote bags. The Hangar also serves as a bookstore, stocking textbooks and basic supplies

The shop, located across the hall from the Main Office, is open Monday through Friday, from noon to 4 p.m. For information, call **Chelsea Snodgrass** at (509) 453-0374, Extension 204.

There's Still Time to Purchase a Brick

It's not too late to show your support for

Perry Technical Institute by purchasing a commemorative brick.

Perry Technical Foundation is selling engraved bricks which are being prominently displayed outside the entrance to the Eugene Shields Technical Training Center.

"The bricks are a great way to show your support for Perry or to honor someone who is special to you," said **Erin Fishburn**, foundation director.

Each brick is \$100 and all proceeds will benefit the foundation in its efforts to raise money for student scholarships, equipment and capital improvements on the Perry Tech campus.

For more information or to purchase a brick, call Fishburn at (509) 453-0374, Extension 206.

Women in Technology a Success

Career opportunities in technical fields were in the spotlight on Thursday, January 28, when Perry hosted Women in Technology Day.

Approximately 75 potential students turned out

to hear presentations from three female graduates and one current student. The program featured **Nicole Trammell Woolpert**, a 2005 Graphics graduate; **Gayle Barry**, a student in the Medical Office Administration Program; **Jeanine Benoit**, a 2002 Telecommunications graduate; and **Gabrielle Springer**, a 2001 Telecommunications graduate.

Also on the agenda was an overview of the opportunities available in technical careers by PTI President **Christine Coté**; an introduction of the new Legal Assistant/Paralegal Program by Office Administration Department Head **Lashel Church**; an explanation of the financial aid process by Financial Aid Director **Carol Helms**; and an overview of the services provided by the Career Services Office by Career Services Manager **Jennifer Arnett**.

Next year's Women in Technology Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2011.

Class Notes...

Electrical graduates **Robert McChesney** and **Randall King**, '09, went to work for Tesoro in Martinez, Calif. The pair shared Student of the Month honors at Perry in July 2008.

Melea Medrano, an '01 Telecommunications graduate, is a network support specialist with the Mount Vernon School District. She was hired in 2005 to help update the wiring infrastructure and data closets on campuses throughout the district. Since that time, Medrano has expanded into other technical areas including desktop and server support. The district passed its technology levy in 2008, and she was assigned to wire a new data center to house the core servers. The district is also transitioning to a virtual infrastructure and has deployed 350 virtual student machines as well as converted 15 servers over to the virtual environment. Thanks to a recent E-Rate grant, Medrano will be working with her team to update the networks switches, wireless infrastructure, and replace an aging Mitel SX 2000 with a new VoIP phone system. In her free time, Medrano coaches an eighth-grade volleyball team.

Telecommunications graduate **Adam Deskin**, '02, is vice president of ASET Advanced Security & Electrical Technology in The Dalles, Oregon. He worked as a field installer and system designed and directed a limited energy department for an electrical company before starting ASET with a colleague in 2007. ASET provides comprehensive solutions for safety, security and technology/communications requirements for commercial and residential customers.

Instrumentation graduate **Kosol Kraithong**, '01, is head mechanic in charge of the Instruments and Electrical Analyzers Shop at the Tesoro Refinery in Martinez, Calif.

Computer Applications & Office Administration graduate **David "Tye" Walker**, '08, has closed his downtown Yakima restaurant, Wingin' It, and plans to return to catering and cooking for special events such as the Yakima Farmers Market. He is also relocating his clothing shop, The Urban Closet, from its downtown location to the Valley Mall in Union Gap.

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 your fellow alumni to perrynews@perrytech.edu. ●

New Trustee Named to Fill Retiree's Spot



Jake Jundt has been named to the board of trustees of Perry Technical

Institute. He replaces longtime trustee **Cuyler Lighthall**.

Jundt owns Jundt PMC, a full-service construction management company. A Yakima native, Jundt has nearly 40 years of construction and project management experience. He co-founded Tri-Ply Construction in 1977 and served as company president until selling the business in 2002.

Jundt earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering from the University of Washington. He worked for General Electric for three years before returning to his hometown to accept a position as construction project manager

and cost estimator for Gilbert H. Moen Construction Company where he worked until founding Tri-Ply.

In 1997, former Governor Gary Locke appointed Jundt to the Washington State Public Stadium Authority (PSA). The PSA was created to oversee design, construction, operation and maintenance of Seattle's new football and soccer stadium, now known as Qwest Field & Events Center. He has continued to serve on the PSA as Eastern Washington's sole representative. The authority negotiated and oversees the lease with First & Goal, Inc, the organization owned by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen which contracts with the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Sounders to play in the arena.

"Jake brings a wealth of experience and knowledge that are valuable to the school," said **Christine Coté**, PTI president.

The new trustee is also active

in a number of community organizations. He is past chairman and a current member of the LaSalle High School board of trustees; chairman of the board of directors of Yakima Regional Hospital and Medical Center; chairman of the Central Washington State Fair board of directors; a member of the board of directors of Catholic Charities; chairman of the board of directors of the Diocese of Yakima's Housing Services; and a founding member and past president of the Sunrise Rotary Club.

Jundt and his wife, Karren, have four grown children and seven grandchildren.

Lighthall, who served as a Perry trustee for 26 years, now acts as an emeritus trustee. Serving with Jundt on Perry's board of trustees are **Terry Schmalz** and **Senator Curtis King**. ●

Universal Seeks Grads with a Can-Do Attitude

Hiring a Perry graduate saves time and money.

That's the opinion of Kurt Wilson, service manager for Universal Mechanical Service Company. "When we hire Perry grads, they are ready to go right to work in the field," he said.

Over the past six to seven years, Universal Mechanical has hired four graduates of Perry's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Program. Currently, two 2006 graduates, **Marco Guizar** and **Ignacio Lopez**, are employed as Universal technicians. "They have been great assets to our team," Wilson said.

Founded in 1986, the Redmond-based company does light commercial and residential design, installation and service. Approximately 80% of the company's jobs are commercial, with many being in medical office complexes and other

types of health care facilities. The company is owned by Duff Branin and employs 50 workers.

Universal makes regular recruiting trips to Perry. Wilson is currently working with **Marc Mitchell**, head of Perry's HVAC/R Program, to schedule a campus visit for this spring. The goal of the visits is two-fold, according to Wilson. "We do more than just recruit for technicians – we also try to educate students about our industry, what employers are looking for in their employees and what they can expect on the job."

Wilson said the company is interested in students who are progressing well through the program and who display a strong work ethic and a positive attitude. "We want people who have a can-do attitude," he said. "Can't is not in our vocabulary."

According to Wilson, Perry graduates have a strong set of

skills and can easily transition into vendor training. "We utilize training to further our technicians' education," he said. "Perry students seem to be better suited to step into the technician's role and to strengthen their skills in vendor training."

Wilson attributes the strength of Perry's HVAC/R Program to the way the program is structured, its curriculum and the variety of equipment on which students train.

He also gives credits to the school's overall training philosophy. "Perry follows the same ideals that we have in our company. We want to hire technicians who are professional, responsible and accountable," he stressed. "Our technicians are the front line of our service. They represent who we are as a company to our customers." ●

Perry Loses a Longtime Friend



Perry bid farewell to a longtime friend on December 3 when former PTI director **Fred Iraola** died at the age of 88.

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.

He was born in Port Blakeley, and raised in Hoquiam. After graduating from Hoquiam High School, he entered the Navy and was honorably discharged in 1945.

After graduating from Perry, he taught in the Instrumentation Program for 27 years before becoming director of the school in 1975. Under Fred's leadership, the school experienced phenomenal growth and furthered

its reputation as one of the nation's top technical schools.

After retiring in 1992, Fred continued to serve as an ambassador for Perry and was an impetus for the creation of the Alumni Association.

Fred was known for his devotion to Perry, his dedication to students and his quick wit. "Fred had this great ability to listen, drive the point home, provide encouragement, smile that great smile and then kick us in the butt and tell us to get out there and face life head on," remembered **Thomas Albert**, a 1973 Instrumentation grad. "We were a bunch of young kids, Vietnam vets, college drop-outs and for us he was part father, part instructor, part mentor, your best buddy and so much more."

Albert said there are thousands of graduates and instructors who owe Fred a great deal of gratitude for his leadership, his vision, his drive for all to succeed and for the school to flourish

as an institution.

He is also fondly remembered by employees who served under his tenure. **Betty Peterson**, a Perry employee for more than 40 years, remembered Fred for his outgoing personality and his dedication to Perry. "Fred had a great personality and was very well liked by the students and staff," she said. "He always took a personal interest in the students and was thrilled when they graduated and acquired excellent jobs."

Irene Iraola, Fred's widow, expressed gratitude to the alumni who reached out to the family. "We are so appreciative to the graduates who stayed in touch with Fred over the years and who showed their support to us during his illness and at the time of his death," she said.

Fred is survived by his wife, Irene Iraola; two sons, Mark Iraola and his wife Karen, and Dave Iraola and his wife Linda; one daughter, Lisa Poteat and her husband Al; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. ●

Memorial Fund Established

The family of Fred Iraola has requested that memorial contributions be made to Perry Technical Institute to provide student scholarships.

To make a donation, please call **Erin Fishburn** in the Foundation Office at (509) 453-0374, Extension 206, or email her at erinf@perrytech.edu.

In Memory...

Instrumentation student **Joseph James Aguilar** died on January 19 at the age of 21. Joseph is survived by his parents, Jose and Wendy Aguilar of Yakima; brothers, Anthony Aguilar and Christopher Aguilar of Yakima; and grandparents, Maria Aguilar, Bob and Mary Matthews and Bob and Melanie Taylor.

Paulo M. Castellon, a 1976 Automotive graduate, died on October 28, 2009, at the age of 65. After graduating from Perry, he owned and operated Paul's Wiley City Garage and later worked out of his home until a disability forced him to retire. Paulo is survived by his wife, Cecilia Castellon; son, Paulo Castellon, Jr.; daughters, Lisa Castellon and Alicia Castellon of Yakima and Julie Crispin of Stockton, Calif.; siblings, Thomasa, Dominga, Pancho, David, Antonio, Felix, Luterice, Christina, Esmeralda and Sandy; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Instrumentation student **Jason William Doyle** died on September 14, 2009, at the age of 34. Before enrolling at Perry, Jason served in the Navy. Jason is survived by his wife, Mikeal Doyle; daughters, Lahney, Kohlby and Mihley; parents, Ray and Peggy Doyle; sister, Christy Doyle; and grandparents, Ruth Doyle and William Robert Doyle.

Thomas C. Forde died on October 22, 2009, at the age of 74. Thomas served in the

Army for 21 years and graduated from Perry's HVAC/R Program in 1977. He was the co-owner of T&M Heating and Air Conditioning for nearly 20 years and was also the co-owner of Integrity Builders. Thomas is survived by his wife, Erna Forde; daughters, Maureen Ritter and Carol Mosshart of Yakima; sisters, Philomena Forde and Peggy Stucenski of New York; and three grandsons.

John Peter Fromherz, a 1975 Instrumentation graduate, died on September 20, 2009, at the age of 58. After graduating from Perry, he worked as an instrument tech at pulp mills in Alaska and throughout the Pacific Northwest. He moved to Yakima in the early 1980s to help on the family farm and care for his aging parents. John is survived by his mother, Margaret Fromherz of Yakima; a brother, Bill Fromherz of Yakima; and sisters, Marylen Robinson of South Bend, Ind., and Suzanne Fromherz of Yakima.

Mark Allen Johnson, 43, died on August 29, 2009. He graduated from the Telecommunications Program in 1989 and was a member of the Washington Air National Guard for 10 years. Mark is survived by his parents, Norman and Marilyn Johnson of Spokane and brother, Michael Johnson of Honolulu, Hawaii.

James Lloyd Simpson, a student in the

Electrical Program, died on January 19 at the age of 33. He served in the Army National Guard for six years and completed a tour of duty in Iraq. He was scheduled to graduate from Perry in June. James is survived by his wife, Maribel Simpson of Yakima; daughter, Carrie Destiny Simpson of Yakima; mother and stepfather, Linda and Art Chandler of Yakima; father, Robert Simpson of Walla Walla; brothers, Joshua Simpson and Gabriel Simpson of Yakima; and grandmother, Pollie Kile of Hermiston, Ore.

Former Automotive instructor **Richard "Dick" Toner** died on November 2, 2009, at the age of 82. Dick taught in Perry's Automotive Program for 27 years. After leaving Perry, he owned and operated NAPA Genuine Auto Parts in Yakima for nine years. Dick is survived by his daughter, Sherry Overton of Thermopolis, Wyo.; sons, Brad Toner of Richland, Scott Toner of Yakima and Mike Toner of Fond Du Lac, Wis.; sisters, Sylvia Conroy and June Kimball; and eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

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