



Dear LCC Alumni,

Thank you for your countless contributions to Lower Columbia College. With your support, LCC transforms the lives of our students, their families, and our community. We've put this newsletter together to share the incredible progress we are making on our Opportunity Can't Wait campaign. Together, we're creating a brighter future for LCC and those we serve.

With gratitude,



Kendra Sprague

LCC Vice President of Foundation,  
HR, & Legal Affairs



# LEADING CHANGE: LCC Athletics Facilities Receive Major Upgrades

Lower Columbia College is making significant strides in improving its athletic facilities, thanks to the Opportunity Can't Wait campaign and strategic partnerships.

## Story Field Renovations

The beloved Story Field is set for a major upgrade, with a \$1.3 million match from the Washington State Department of Commerce. LCC Athletic Director Kirc Roland expressed enthusiasm, "We are excited about upgrading the baseball facility at Lower Columbia College. The current capital campaign has shown great commitment to vocational education and our athletic program."



Improvements include replacing lighting, upgrading grandstands, and creating new practice areas for soccer and softball teams. LCC plans to install an on-campus softball batting cage. Thanks to a \$700,000 allocation in the State's Supplemental Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, this facility will be expanded to also accommodate the women's soccer team for Futsal practice.

These comprehensive upgrades align with LCC's commitment to providing top-tier facilities that match the dedication and talent of its student-athletes. The first phase is expected to be complete by Spring 2025.

## Softball Facilities Enhancement

The softball program is also receiving a major boost. The shared softball field has undergone renovations through collaborations with the College, City of Kelso, Kelso Girls Softball Association, Cowlitz County, Cheney Foundation, and Kelso Rotary.



## Northlake Field Upgrade

A collaboration between LCC and the Longview School District has resulted in significant improvements to Northlake Field, home to the women's soccer team. Enhancements include additional branding, spectator seating, and reconfiguring the pitch for year-round use. These upgrades benefit both the Red Devils and the community, showcasing the power of local partnerships.



## Meet Doug and Alice Dietz

Lower Columbia College alumni will tell you that there is a lot to love about their school. For some, love is also in the air.

Doug and Alice Dietz came to LCC as student-athletes. Doug, a Mark Morris High School grad, brought his basketball skills to the Red Devils and helped win the school's first hoops title in 50 years. Alice, who attended Kelso High, was a standout soccer player for the Devils. The two knew each other from their middle school days, when they met and began dating at church camp. Their first relationship quickly faded but was rekindled when they arrived on the LCC campus in 2003.

"At LCC we hung out as student-athletes and had classes together," Alice said. The two began dating and by the time they were finishing their two years at LCC they had decided to be together forever. Both wanted to move on to a four-year college and earn bachelor's degrees, as well as continue playing their sport. Doug got an offer to play basketball and attend The Evergreen State College in Olympia. Alice postponed her college plans for a year because the couple were awaiting the birth of their first son, Deacon. It was a joyous time, but also presented challenges: should they continue college or drop out and find jobs to support their young family?

Fortunately, their families and the LCC coaching community offered support and encouraged them to stay in school. Doug and Alice decided their college opportunity could not wait.

"We were lucky to have people in our ears, telling us we could still do this," Doug said. "With that extra push, we started to believe we can do this; it's not insurmountable."

Doug and Alice said their experiences as student-athletes also served them well as they decided to continue college.

"Perseverance would be the word that comes to mind," Alice said. "Pushing through. Life can be more challenging, but you can do it."

Read more at [lowercolumbia.edu/foundation/opportunity-cant-wait/athletic-profiles](https://lowercolumbia.edu/foundation/opportunity-cant-wait/athletic-profiles)



## DRIVING INNOVATION: LCC's New Center for Vocational Excellence

We're thrilled to announce significant progress on our new Center for Vocational and College and Career Preparation. The project has been prioritized as one of the top projects to be funded through the state capital budget for Community Colleges in the 2025-2027 biennium.

This new, state-of-the-art facility will replace three outdated vocational and science buildings, bringing together our welding, machining, and manufacturing programs while providing modernized spaces for information technology and computer science. The center will also house preparation for apprenticeship and transitional programs, creating a unique environment where students pursuing GED and adult basic education can learn alongside our trade programs, exposing them to potential career pathways.

While we work with the Washington State legislature to secure capital funding, we're seeking community support to equip the center with cutting-edge tools and technology. This equipment will transform the facility into a world-class skills center serving local high schools, industries, and unions, ensuring our students are prepared for high-demand, living wage jobs.

The Center for Vocational and College and Career Preparation represents a significant step forward in our mission to provide relevant, high-quality education and prepare students for successful careers. With your continued support, we're creating opportunities that can't wait for the next generation of skilled professionals in our community.

### Meet Ray and Elizabeth Cattin

Ray and Elizabeth Cattin didn't have a connection to LCC when career moves brought them to Cowlitz County, but both became ardent supporters and advocates for the college by seeing how well it serves the community.

Ray, who grew up in Omak, attended Eastern Washington University and earned a BA in education. Elizabeth hails from Anchorage, AK and graduated from Oregon State University, earning a BS in nutrition and food management before attaining a master's degree in nutrition from the University of Utah. Each of them found their way to Longview-Kelso after college, where they eventually met.

"This is home and has been home for at least half of our lives," Ray said.

Ray launched his education career at Kelso High School. He taught English and coached wrestling for several years before serving as the school's athletic director from 2006-2016. He is now principal of Wallace Elementary School.

As a dietician, Elizabeth was hired in 2001 by PeaceHealth in Longview and has since obtained a master's degree in business administration. She is director of Community Health for PeaceHealth in Southwest Washington.

Ray and Elizabeth were high school and college athletes: Ray wrestled and Elizabeth was a swimmer who transitioned to rowing at Oregon State. Their experiences and belief in the benefits that athletics and academics can provide give them a link to LCC and its commitment to providing opportunities to student-athletes.

Ray said he began to understand LCC's positive community impact during his time as athletic director at Kelso High, as he saw Kelso student-athletes find success in the Red Devils athletic program.

*Read more at [lowercolumbia.edu/foundation/opportunity-cant-wait/athletic-profiles](https://lowercolumbia.edu/foundation/opportunity-cant-wait/athletic-profiles)*

**Join us in celebrating our  
90<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

**Friday, October 4, 2024**

**11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Lower Columbia College  
The Rose Center for the Arts**

- Live Music
- Campus Tours
- Chili & Cupcakes
- Trivia Contest
- LCC Historical Presentation



To learn more about LCC's 90<sup>th</sup> celebration and activities, please scan the QR code!



# Rallying Red Devils: The Alumni Challenge

As Lower Columbia College nears its 90th anniversary, we're thrilled to launch our Alumni Challenge! This dynamic 9-week initiative, from August to October, aims to energize our alumni community and bolster support for the Opportunity Can't Wait campaign.

Thanks to generous alumni donors, we're offering an exciting match opportunity. Every alumni gift will be doubled, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$90,000 – amplifying each contribution's impact!

We're also introducing the "Mine Plus Nine" challenge, inviting alumni to encourage nine fellow Red Devils to join the Alumni Association. This initiative will significantly expand our network of support and engagement.

**If you are an alum of LCC, we invite you to make a gift before October 4th to have it doubled!** Follow the QR code, or to learn about additional ways to give, contact the Foundation team at 360.442.2130.

Together, we're opening doors of opportunity for the next generation of Red Devils.

*Learn more about the Mine + 9 challenge and other ways you can support the future Red Devils at [lowercolumbia.edu/alumni](http://lowercolumbia.edu/alumni)*



## Meet Don Johnson

Swing shift starts mid-afternoon and ends around midnight, which leaves a few precious hours to sleep before morning college classes begin. That was Don Johnson's schedule as a Lower Columbia College student and newlywed in the early 1960s.

Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the strain of his daily Weyerhaeuser Co. plywood mill job and a full load of classes became a burden.

"It was a bit much," Johnson said. "I dropped out for a quarter."

Johnson found a solution and tried college again after having a rather one-sided chat with his former R.A. Long High School chemistry teacher, Lionel Livermore, who later taught chemistry at LCC. Livermore urged Johnson to take a lighter class load and get back to school. It worked.

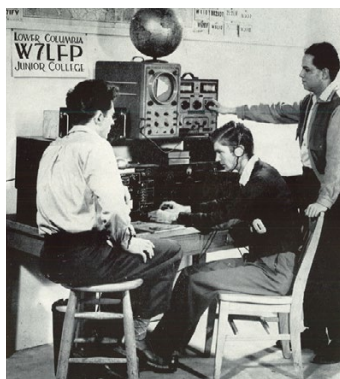
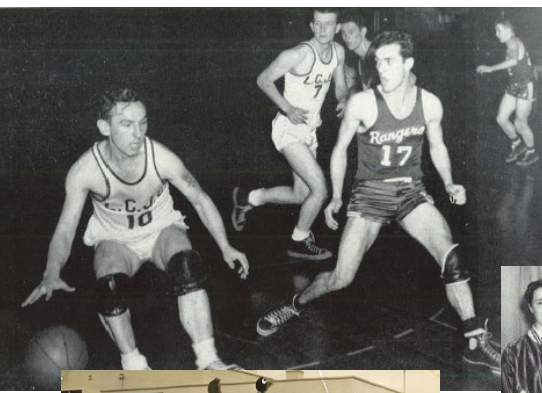
"I went from 0 GPA to 4," Johnson recalled with a chuckle, describing his rise from academic probation to top grade point average.

Johnson's bumpy academic start served as a template for overcoming adversity. He credits Livermore and others at LCC for helping him discover an alternate path toward his school and career goals.

"The drive, persistence, endurance and willingness to accept new challenges and adversity that I started to learn at LCC were key to my success," he said.

After completing his AA degree, Johnson went to work for The Boeing Co. as a drafter, assisting with technical drawings in a design group for the aircraft manufacturer's wind tunnel program. He got the job thanks to a referral from his LCC drafting instructor. He then began working toward his mechanical engineering degree at the University of Washington. The Vietnam War was raging, and Johnson received his draft notice for military service, opting to join the Washington National Guard. He earned sergeant's stripes and leadership experience during six years of service.

*Read more at [lowercolumbia.edu/foundation/opportunity-cant-wait/athletic-profiles](http://lowercolumbia.edu/foundation/opportunity-cant-wait/athletic-profiles)*





ASLCC PRESENTS...

# SUSAN RICE

FUNNY OLD BAG TOUR

SEPTEMBER 27 @ 7PM

LCC WOLLENBERG AUDITORIUM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM

CURRENT STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY  
WILL RECEIVE 2 FREE TICKETS

TICKET SALES SUPPORT THE  
LCC STUDENT SUCCESS FUND

Alumni, community members, and others can purchase additional tickets online for \$15 each (plus processing fees).

Please note, this show is intended for an adult audience (16+). Parents/guardians should use their discretion when bringing younger individuals, as some content may not be suitable for all ages.



Scan for Ticket  
Info & Sales