Paying it Forward

When Justine Chambers graduated from Carson High School in 1980, she had no thought of attending college. Getting married and raising a family was her life's dream.

Seven years later, the dream faded when divorce left her single with very little money and an 11-month-old son.

Within a few weeks, she attended a meeting conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor and was prepared to take any unskilled job they might offer. One of the speakers at the meeting was Dick Kale, then coordinator of the WNCC Single Parent and Displaced Homemakers Program and currently coordinator of Academic and Student Affairs at the Douglas campus. He spoke about employment opportunities that become available with higher education.

Dick recognized the strength and determination in Justine's character and invited her to talk with him over a doughnut. During that conversation, Dick made a statement that changed Justine's life. He said, “You need an education if you want to raise your son right.”

Less than a month later, Justine was enrolled full time at WNCC, taking 16 credits in 18 weeks. It wasn’t easy and she was “barely scraping by,” but with child care help from the Single Parent Program and a federal grant, she earned a certificate in clerical studies. This was just the beginning.

While working full-time, first with the Nevada Department of Education and then with the city of Carson, she attended WNCC for ten years. Nothing dampened her spirits in her struggle to better both her life and the life of her son — neither the tiny room she rented with her baby in low income housing, her car being stolen, nor the few months of public assistance she was forced to seek.

After four years of full-time work and college classes, Justine saved enough money to buy a house in 1992. She earned an Associate of General Studies degree in 1998 and an Associate of Arts degree in General Business in 2000 from WNCC, transferred to the University of Nevada, Reno and graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. She is now a highly regarded purchasing coordinator at Pulte Homes, a Fortune 200 company.

“I’ll always wave the Dick Kale banner,” Justine said, citing him as the person who most influenced her life. She also credits WNCC for helping her meet her goals with its small classes, personal attention, and caring instructors.

“WNCC opens your mind and teaches you to look beyond the surface, because you’re looking at the world with educated eyes,” she said. “If I can make that difference in one person's life, I’d be paying Dick tribute and make him proud,” she said. Justine is “paying it forward,” and someone in this world will be better for it.

JUSTINE CHAMBERS
The fifth annual Western Nevada Community College Rodeo Team Fund-Raiser on March 27 drew more than 250 supporters and grossed $19,534 from dinner/dance ticket sales, silent and live auction purchases, bar sales, and cash contributions. These monies will help support the rodeo team’s expenses during the coming year, including practice arena rental, the leasing of and feed for practice stock, the part-time salary of the coach, and travel to intercollegiate rodeo competitions in Nevada and California, according to Sue Chambers, rodeo fund-raiser committee chair. “The generosity of the community was overwhelming and is deeply appreciated,” Chambers said.

Established in 2002, the Western Wildcats rodeo team must operate entirely on private and corporate donations.

INFORMATION/GIFT OF SUPPORT
Bus Scharmann/Kathy Mckee
775-423-7565

Rodeo team members with Coach Tye Fitzpatrick, right, and Assistant Coach Machele Howard, left, taken at the annual rodeo fund raiser at WNCC Fallon.

Former Carson High School baseball star and Houston Astros first round pick Charley Kerfeld was the keynote speaker at WNCC’s third annual Wildcats Athletics Benefit at the Peppermill Hotel Casino in Reno on May 3. Some 240 supporters attended, grossing $25,000 to benefit the Wildcat athletics program, including men’s baseball, women’s soccer, and co-ed rodeo. WNCC receives no state general funding for expenses and must support the teams through private and corporate donations.

Kerfeld pitched for the Carson Senators from 1979-1981, and was selected in the first round of the major league baseball draft in 1982. In 1986, he finished fourth in the National League Rookie of the Year voting over fellow rookies Barry Bonds, Will Clark and Andres Galarraga. He compiled an impressive 18-9 career record in four seasons pitching for the Astros and Atlanta Braves.

After his playing career ended, Kerfeld went on to manage various minor league baseball teams, including the Beaumont Bullfrogs, Abilene Prairie Dogs, Grays Harbor Gulls, Western Warriors, Reno Blackjacks, and Chico Heat. He won 421 career games as a manager, including a Western Baseball League Championship with the Heat in 2002. Kerfeld then became a scout for the Seattle Mariners and San Diego Padres, and is currently the special assistant to the general manager of the Texas Rangers.

Former Major Leaguer Charley Kerfeld
COMES HOME

CHARLEY KERFELD
WNCC Nets Opportunity to Enhance Student Disability Services

Landmark College of Vermont representatives recently visited WNCC with a special mission — to help Western’s faculty and staff better meet the needs of its students with disabilities. College representatives conducted a needs assessment on campus as part of a U.S. Department of Education grant that WNCC received to help enhance learning for students with disabilities.

The $1,029,096 grant is being shared with four other community colleges.

“It is very exciting to be part of this project and the development of best practices for students with learning disabilities,” said Susan Trist, disabilities support coordinator at WNCC. Trist assists more than 100 students with learning disabilities, including everything from dyslexia to processing disorders, and hopes to use this opportunity to stay up to date on prevailing thought about teaching methods.

Landmark spent two days interviewing faculty, staff and students, conducting a seminar, and observing class sessions to determine the capacity at WNCC for serving students with learning disabilities. Their next objective is to create a customized “best practices” professional development program for WNCC.

WESTERN NEVADA MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY
Presents the Best of Broadway...
Right Here at Home
Brigadoon
A mystical love story unfolds when two weary hunters lose their way in Scotland, and discover a town that appears for a day once every 100 years. Memorable music includes “Almost Like Being in Love,” “The Heather on the Hill,” and “Come to Me, Bend to Me.”

Weekends, November 4-19
Carson City Community Center

ADMISSION
$18 general • $16 students & seniors • $14 youth 17 & younger

TICKETS
Comma Coffee: 312 South Carson St., Carson City
Maytan Music: 777 South Center St., Reno
WNCC Performing Arts Office.....775-445-4249

We’re on the Web!
Keep up to date on WNCC happenings @ www.wncc.edu
Make it a bookmark!

(From L-R) Susan Trist, WNCC coordinator for students with disabilities, is pictured with Steve Fadden, Lorri LaMagdelaine, Ellen Engstrom, and Eric Adams of Landmark College.

Tee It Up at the WNCC/GNCU Golf Classic

The ninth annual Western Nevada Community College/Greater Nevada Credit Union Golf Classic will tee off at beautiful Thunder Canyon, a private golf and country club, in Washoe Valley at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 7. The tournament, a four-person scramble, is sponsored by GNCU and the WNCC Foundation.

The $150 entry fee includes a kick-off party, continental breakfast, on-course refreshments, tee prizes, contests, and a barbecue following the tournament. All proceeds will benefit WNCC Foundation special projects. Business signage and sponsorship opportunities are available.

JOIN/QUESTIONS
775-445-3240
CLASS CORNER

Kim W. Ducheneaux – ('03 AGS)
Kim is now living in Lower Brule, South Dakota.

Robert Gonzales – ('95 AGS & AA)
Congratulations to Robert and Susan G. Doctor, Ph.D. on their marriage December 23, 2005.

Raymond Medeiros – ('03 – Computer Information Systems Programming)
“The education I received at WNCC opened the door for several employment opportunities for me,” Raymond said. Since graduating from WNCC, he has been employed by the Carson City School District as a Computer Network Administrator. He has obtained certifications from Microsoft, Novell and CompTIA. Congratulations to Raymond and his wife on the birth of their second daughter and the building of their second home in 2005. Raymond’s wife is currently seeking a degree in education at WNCC.

Wildcat Baseball Team Surprises with Conference Title

The inaugural season for WNCC’s baseball team was a big hit as the Wildcats finished with a 37-18 overall record, a Scenic West Athletic Conference championship, and a top 20 ranking in the National Junior College Athletic Association’s final poll.

“We reached all of our goals we set out at the beginning of the season while playing in one of the top junior college conferences in the country,” Head Coach D.J. Whittemore said. According to Whittemore, the program started with five goals for the season; “build and develop character in our players; graduate and transfer our sophomores; have fun; build relationships; and win a championship.”

WNCC closed out the season taking 11 straight games in true storybook fashion to clinch the SWAC title with a 30-10 conference record. This record was particularly impressive considering 32 of WNCC’s 52 games were away from home, and only eight were played at the new John L. Harvey Field, which opened April 28.

Winning the SWAC championship rewarded the Wildcats with a No. 1 seed and the opportunity to host the 2006 Region 18 Tournament. The Wildcats finished third in the tournament to cap off their surprisingly successful initial year.

The baseball team joins rodeo and women’s soccer as part of an expanding WNCC sports program. The Wildcats soccer team had a very successful season and received recognition as an NJCAA All-American Academic Team, with a 3.08 fall semester GPA. WNCC continues to explore ways to fund the construction of an on-campus soccer facility to house the team.

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Recognizing the ongoing shortage of nurses in Nevada, Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center has donated $30,000 to WNCC for high tech nursing education equipment. With the donation, the college will purchase equipment that simulates illnesses in a computerized mannequin, and requires student nurses to work under pressure. New IV machines, bladder scanners and wound care kits will help students prepare for the illnesses and injuries they will face on the job. The equipment will be used at the college’s Carson City and Fallon nursing labs. There, students get to experience bedside care simulations that are very close to reality in a safe, controlled environment. Students can listen to real-life sounds in the mannequins, who can even talk, cough, and sweat.

“The students need to be able to replicate real-life situations,” said Dr. Judith Cordia, WNCC director of Nursing and Allied Health. “We are so thankful we have Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center,” she said.

At least 130 WNCC allied health students gain hands-on experience at Carson Tahoe each semester and when they graduate, Carson Tahoe hires many of them as health care professionals.

INFORMATION . . . 775-445-3260

Want to learn how to paint with watercolor and oils, use a potter’s wheel, produce a video, belly dance, or learn to ride a motorcycle? Non-credit, community education classes about these and many more subjects are on tap this summer at the Carson, Douglas and Fallon campuses of Western Nevada Community College. A full class schedule is available on campus or online at www.wncc.edu.

SABLE SHAW

Buy and sell new crafts and old treasures at the Third Annual Shabby & Chic flea market and craft fair on Saturday, June 24, 7 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the WNCC Carson City north parking lot and Dini Building. Admission is free.

INFORMATION . . . 775-445-3260

BONNIE YORK

Sign Up Now for WNCC Community Education Classes!

FAREWELL, Professors Shaw & York

Two long-time and highly regarded WNCC professors retired this spring. Nursing founding member and professor Sable Shaw retired after 24 years of service. In celebration of her wonderful contribution to the college and community, a nursing alumni reunion and retirement party was held on May 21 in WNCC’s main art gallery.

Business & Technology Professor Bonnie York retired after 32 years of teaching at Western Nevada Community College Fallon. York dedicated her life to shaping the college’s computer program. She taught a broad range of courses in accounting, bookkeeping, computer applications, office management, and was responsible for establishing the first computer networks and labs in Fallon.

A community open house and celebration was May 19.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - Nursing students and college staff thank Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center. Pictured from left to right are WNCC Nursing Director Judy Cordia, students Priscilla Rosen and Kevin Moya-McKay, Carson Tahoe Chief Nursing Officer Cathy Dinauer and Chief Executive Officer Ed Epstein, and WNCC Vice President Helaine Jesse.

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Western Nevada Community College Foundation
2201 West College Parkway
Carson City, NV 89703

Hit the longest drive!

Ninth Annual WNCC/Greater Nevada Credit Union Golf Classic
Monday, Aug. 7 • 9 a.m.
Thunder Canyon, a private golf & country club

775-445-3240