



CR COLLEGE ^{OF} THE
REDWOODS

COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS
SUCCESS STORIES



GOVERNMENT SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION

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Ryan Farmer

A Two-Time World Champion Looks to College of the Redwoods to Achieve Lifetime Success

EVEN WITH TWO street luge world championships under his belt, Ryan Farmer says he can't wait to get back to College of the Redwoods. "College of the Redwoods, with its flexibility and support, will allow me to balance the quality of my current life with the quality of my future," Farmer observed. "I can figure out what want to do right now while working on my broader goals." Goals, Farmer said, that includes earning his teaching credential, becoming a youth mentor, and bringing the sport he loves to his community.

START...

Farmer grew up in Southern California, where he would often use skateboarding as mode of transportation and "bomb hills" just for fun. The speed and skill needed to ride the downhill offered the same joy of surfing, he explained, without having to be immersed in cold water and paddle back out after every wave.

Over time mentors helped him improve his technique and eventually introduced him to street luge, where downhill riders lie on the board instead of stand and can reach speeds of up to 100 MPH. Farmer had rare skills and started competing, first in the California Outlaw Series and then in the national circuit. Before long he was traveling to compete in sanctioned events around the world and in 2017, he won the International Downhill Federation Championship. That year he also left a secure and flexible job working as a machinist in the aerospace industry to start a new life in Northern California.



HUMBOLDT COUNTY

"Neither of my parents graduated from high school, but their experiences showed me the importance of education. I saw how much harder it is to keep a family stable and healthy without it." Farmer said. "So there came a time when I knew I needed to move out of Southern California and go back to school." Farmer had been visiting Humboldt County since he was a child and loved it. The region's mountainous terrain also offered the steep downhill slopes he needed to keep pursuing street luge.

After moving north, Farmer enrolled at College of the Redwoods. There he found approachable instructors that brought first-hand experience to the classroom and helped students learn real-world applications for their education as they learned more about job and career options.

Farmer was interested in both manufacturing

technology and forestry/natural resources and decided to pursue both subjects. “I was drawn to manufactured technologies because I’ve always loved making things,” he explained. “I spent years after high school working in machine shops, learning how to make everything from skateboard parts to aerospace (rocket) components.” College of the Redwoods also provides top-tier equipment, Farmer added, and talented faculty that provided the information he needs to eventually open his own shop. “I want to make metal products on the side,” he explained. “But my main career goal is to teach.”

And that is where Farmer’s natural resources degree will fit in. “I grew up without a lot of security and there was not a lot of emphasis and discussion about my future,” Farmer recalled. Instead, he said it was teachers and family members who worked as educators who inspired him. “Teaching is such an important role in our community. I think good teachers can improve their student’s lives and they definitely encouraged me. I know I need to further my education to be happy and achieve financial stability so that everyone in my family has an opportunity to succeed.”

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Though Farmer will focus on education to achieve long term success, the skilled athlete has not abandoned his love of street luge. In November of 2022 he went to the World Skate Games in Argentina as a member of the U.S. Downhill Skate Team and brought home his second Street Luge World Championship. Though the demands of competition, the pandemic and financial considerations prompted Farmer to take a brief break from school, he can’t wait to reenroll at College of the Redwoods. Fortunately, he said, when he is ready CR will be there with the low cost and flexibility he needs to keep working towards his long-term goals. “Going back is important to me. I want to get into a classroom to start teaching as soon as I can.”

Guy Fieri

ALTHOUGH TELEVISION and media icon Guy Fieri’s first introduction to the College of the Redwoods occurred during fifth grade open swim night at the campus pool, he says it was his time as a student there that really made an impact. “CR is a big, small school,” he observed. “There is a lot of opportunity.” And Fieri didn’t hesitate to take advantage of it.

Fieri grew up in the small Victorian village of Ferndale. As a teen, he dreamt of going to France as an exchange student, but his parents insisted, he pass French with a B or better before he could go - even though his school didn’t offer the class. Fortunately, College of the Redwoods was nearby and allowed the high school sophomore to enroll. “At the time the campus seemed monstrous, huge,” Fieri recalled. The aspiring but unlicensed chef initially caught rides to the class with his mom, “But over Christmas I got my driver’s license and was able to drive myself for the 2nd semester,” he said, adding that he passed the class with flying colors and headed off to France.

When he returned to the US, Fieri obtained his GED and enrolled again at College of the Redwoods, this time focusing on his undergraduate general education requirements. “Community colleges don’t get enough love,” Fieri said. “Or the recognition they deserve. College of the Redwoods offered a great beginning to my higher education.”

Not surprisingly, the internationally recognized celebrity chef loved his speech class, which was, in fact, the only one where he earned an A. “The teacher was so insightful and made such a big impact on me” he said, adding that CR also offered a great variety of classes plus one-on-one instruction. Fieri transferred from CR to American River College in Sacramento before graduating in 1990 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel Management.

After graduation, Fieri managed several restaurants until 1996, when he and a partner started Johnny Garlics’ in Santa Rosa. This became the first of several restaurants Fieri has founded over the years.

“It is only once you’ve visited other colleges that you truly understand what an amazing campus College of the Redwoods has. It is easy to get to, has plenty of parking and is a manageable not-to-big campus. It has beautiful buildings, green lawns, and trees. I remember visiting other school and thinking CR should have won awards for the most beautiful campus.”

– Guy Fieri



CELEBRITY STARDOM

In 2006, Fieri participated in the second season of *The Next Food Network Star* and won, securing a contract for a career launching six-episode cooking show on Food Network. Fieri has hosted countless successful food and cooking shows since, including *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, *Minute to Win It*, the *Guy Fieri Roadshow* and more.

Over the years, Fieri has used his professional and financial success to support causes important to him. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he partnered with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to raise over \$20 million to support unemployed restaurant workers. The Guy Fieri Foundation supports first responders through disaster relief, celebrates local heroes and supports programs for the military and veterans.

Fieri also uses his celebrity platform to express unwavering support for secondary education. “Higher education is a must,” he insisted, “And community colleges offer such a great place to start—for young students, single parents and even retirees.” Students may not apply everything they learn in class to their job, Fieri said, but believes that college is about more than academics. “As a new college

student, you have to learn to work through challenges—manage your schedule and strategize how get through the curriculum. You also have to learn to work in groups and with teachers you don’t like. When things get tough, you need to dig hard and deep, sometimes literally late into the night, and coach yourself to do better”. The lessons learned through these experiences, Fieri added, will help students find success in work and in life.

In addition, Fieri stressed, they can enjoy the experience along the way. “Even though I worked hard, attending College of the Redwoods was also a lot of fun. The campus is small enough you get to know most of the students and faculty and there’s a lot of good energy.” Campus sporting events and other activities also help students bond, he pointed out, and helped him form life-long friendships. “If you have the energy and desire to do something positive, something you know will benefit your life,” he asked, “Why not start at College of the Redwoods?”

Den Ouden

AS CEO OF Humboldt Independent Practice Association (IPA), recent College of the Redwoods graduate Rosemary Den Ouden is responsible for a complicated organization. The IPA's 40 plus employees provide administrative, claims processing and medical management services for health plans like Anthem Blue Cross and the Blue Lake Rancheria while also providing primary services care through the Priority Care Center. In addition, the IPA initiates and manages community programs that enhance public health and promote access to quality care. Rosemary didn't need a college degree to get or keep this challenging position, but she spent years attending College of the Redwoods and obtained her AA degree anyway.

COMING TO HUMBOLDT

Den Ouden grew up in the Sierra Foothills where she met and married her high school sweetheart, Derek Den Ouden. After starting a family, in 1998 the young couple decided they were ready for a change and moved to Humboldt County. The area offered a friendly small-town atmosphere, proximity to the coast and inland forests. They found a house on Trinity River in Willow Creek, where they would live for the next 15 years.

Derek Den Ouden found employment with a woodworking company and Rosemary put the Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate she had earned through her high school's Regional Occupational Program to use at St. Joseph (now Providence) Hospital in Eureka.

Rosemary had always dreamed of becoming a nurse, but the demands of working in the medical field and raising a busy family proved too much and she suspended her formal education. Over the years she worked in administration as well as direct patient care at various hospital systems and physician practices. Eventually weary of the long commute from Willow Creek to Eureka, she took a job at the medical clinic in Willow Creek, which was then run



by St. Joseph's. After working for a year in medical records, she took on more responsibilities and in 2001 Rosemary became the clinic's site administrator. Over the next nine years she also managed the facility's transition to a satellite for Open Door Community Health.

In 2010, the IPA advertised for a chief operating officer (COO). Rosemary did not hold a college degree but knew her fifteen years in the medical field had built the skill set the IPA was looking for. The IPA agreed. For the next nine years, Rosemary supervised day to day operations and worked under Martin Love, CEO of the IPA (and later NCHIN, the IPA's non-profit North Coast health Improvement and Information Network) to design and implement policies and programs that furthered the IPA's mission and goals.

Den Ouden excelled at her job, but Martin Love encouraged her to go back to school. "He thought it would be helpful to broaden my understanding of business concepts. I had no formal accounting training. No business law, etc." She also saw going back to CR as an opportunity for personal growth and in 2012 Rosemary enrolled at College of the Redwoods. Over the next ten years she "chipped away" at her general education requirements a class or two a se-

mester while working full time and commuting to work from Willow Creek. “I took everything online,” she remembered. “It was the only way could do it because I just couldn’t take time away from work and family to attend classes on campus.”

Rosemary focused on her general education but maintained a business focus that included practical classes relevant to her job. “Martin [Love] encouraged me to take accounting classes and it took every ounce of fortitude to get through them. I hated it,” she admitted, while acknowledging that the instruction helped her better understand the IPA’s financial structure.

“I was also fortunate that I wasn’t working toward a degree so I could get a better job, so while I often selected classes that applied to my role at the IPA, I also took classes I was personally interested in. I wanted to walk away with something and not just check the boxes.” While taking only a class or two a semester was a practical time management decision, she said the slower pace also helped her get more out of each experience.

“So many classes needed for your general education have nothing to do with work but can be transformational,” she observed. A class on death and dying while she was in the midst of losing a family member, for example, offered key insights. “That class really helped me support my family and understand my own process through our loss and grief,” she said. Anthropology, she added, has helped her understand how to “interact better with humans.”

2010 – IPA

In January of 2019, while still working on her AA degree at College of the Redwoods, Rosemary became the CEO of the IPA and NCHIIN. She is responsible for ensuring that IPA members access the care they need and running the IPA’s day to day operations while also managing the long-term sustainability of the organization. As the head of NCHIIN, Rosemary also supports programs that facilitate the exchange of health care information, increase community access to services and support better health outcomes. In addition, the IPA also manages the student health center at College of the Redwoods and has

established wellness centers at multiple Humboldt County Middle and high schools.

In 2022, Rosemary graduated from College of the Redwoods with an AA degree. “I didn’t need to further my education to build my career,” she said. “But it absolutely enhanced my knowledge base. It is just great that CR has so many classes and offers flexibility for young parents or those working full time. For many, realistically, College of the Redwoods offers the best way to achieve your goals.”

Dan Phillips

DAN PHILLIPS believes that College of the Redwoods played a critical role in his journey from small town kid who struggled in school to working as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Hulu.

As a child Phillips was challenged with dyslexia, a learning disorder that can make it difficult to read and process written information. Though he was good at math, other subjects proved challenging, and school did not come easy. Fortunately, even though his tiny elementary school offered few opportunities to play team sports (his graduating class had six students), he watched and played enough to know athletics was his passion.

In high school Phillips excelled at football and after learning that wrestling off season would help him stay in condition, he fell in love with that sport too. These activities also helped him discover natural leadership abilities and Phillips captained both his football and wrestling teams.

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Despite his athletic success, Phillips realized he would never play pro-ball. “But it didn’t diminish my enthusiasm,” he explained. “I just really loved sports—the camaraderie, the teamwork. And being able to continue playing became my primary motivator for higher education.”



“The material you learn in the classroom is just part of an education and often not even the most important part. The process and struggle of earning a degree, setting big goals, and working hard to achieve them. Even facing setbacks and failures along the way. Responding to those challenges at College of the Redwoods is where I learned some of my most critical and powerful lessons.”

– Dan Phillips

Phillips enrolled at College of the Redwoods, which would allow him to keep playing the sports he loved, work at a local lumber mill and coach football at his high school alma mater. “Fortunately, there were low barriers to entry, which was important at that time in my life.” If it wasn’t for College of the Redwoods, Phillips added, he may not have attended college at all.

Functioning as captain of the football team his sophomore year also helped him hone his leadership skills as CR became the number one ranked small junior college in the country and was ranked #3 for all junior colleges in the US .

College of the Redwoods also allowed Phillips to explore academic interests and career options—leading to even more success. “Computer science just seemed natural to me and so much easier than other academics,” he said. “There was logic in programming, and I knew it was the field I wanted to pursue.”

Phillips earned an Associate Degree in general education in 1978. He then attended Sacramento State University for a year before family needs brought him back to Humboldt. Back on the Northcoast, CR’s flexibility allowed him to keep attending school in the evenings while he worked during the day. He earned a second AA and certificate in computer science at CR and transferred to Humboldt State University

(HSU), now Cal Poly Humboldt. Phillips also resumed coaching locally, though he no longer played. “For me it was always about the love of the game and not the glory of being on the field,” he explained.

PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

After earning Business Administration and Computer Information Systems degrees from HSU, Phillips and a professor founded MetaSystems, an enterprise software company that built software applications for large technology companies such as HP and Sun Microsystems. When their successful endeavor split and sold, Phillips moved to the Silicon Valley to work for one of the buyers. That success led to several executive positions with technology companies like Crossworlds, TRADOS, and TiVo before Phillips became Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Hulu, where he was responsible for over 1,000 employees and a budget of almost a billion dollars. Phillips also published several papers with NASA and was granted a patent for his work on expanded object models.

Note: After a brief retirement, Dan Phillips recently took a position as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) with Chamberlain Group, a global leader in smart access solutions across residential and commercial properties.

Phillips also continues giving back to the institutions and community he credits with supporting his professional success. He speaks to local students about value of higher education, has contributed \$1M to a scholarship fund focused on supporting Humboldt County students, serves as the Chair of Cal Poly Humboldt's Boldly Rising capital campaign and as Co-Chair for the President's Council at CR.

In 2022, Phillips also launched Lost Coast Ventures (LCV) with fellow Cal Poly Humboldt alumni John Ballard. LCV is a charitable organization providing seed capital, technical support and mentoring for promising business concepts that have the potential to provide jobs on North Coast and be scalable beyond the region.

LCV is an independent organization but has a close partnership with both Cal Poly Humboldt and College of the Redwoods. The LCV board is composed of Alumni, faculty and staff from both institutions and works with faculty, staff, and students to enhance the educational experience while supporting efforts with the potential to transition into successful business enterprises. The ultimate beneficiaries of LCV are Cal Poly Humboldt and College of the Redwoods. The proceeds from an acquisition, merger, or public offering will either be retained within LCV to fund future investments or be returned to the institutions.

Mike Pigg

SOMETIMES GETTING A DEGREE at College of the Redwoods is secondary—or may not happen at all, but students use their campus experience to discover a passion that forever shapes their future. “CR was the perfect place to take general education and dabble in other interests,” observed former College of the Redwoods student and world class triathlete Mike Pigg.

Pigg graduated from Arcata High School in 1982

and enrolled at College of the Redwoods. He started taking the prerequisite classes for a degree in engineering but sitting for hours focusing on bookwork had never come easy for the active student. As a child, he had turned to sports to “get his yayas out,” he said. “In class you had to sit for six or seven hours but then you could run and do other activities before you had to go home and do homework.”

At ten years old, the active youngster started swimming competitively and “got the bug.” While Pigg said he enjoyed the physical challenge of competing, he said he was also motivated by the opportunity to travel throughout northern California and socialize with his friends.

In high school Pigg participated in basketball, cross country, and track & field. After enrolling at College of the Redwoods, he joined the cross country and track & field teams to keep active. He also swam in the campus pool and biked to school from Arcata whenever he could, averaging the 17-mile one way trip in about 45 minutes, even with heavy textbooks in his backpack.

Not long into his time at CR Pigg started rethinking engineering as a career choice, as he knew it would keep him at a desk when he preferred to be outdoors and moving. “Engineering also required calculus and physics,” he admitted. “Which were not my thing.” As Pigg reassessed his career options he happened upon an Ironman Triathlon World Championship on television and was instantly intrigued. Competitors swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26 miles in succession—a competition widely considered to be one of the most difficult one-day challenges in the world. The idea fit



his personality, he said, as he liked to work hard and enjoyed the physical and mental process that came with preparing for any competition. He also enjoyed pushing his body to its limits with every challenge. He had already completed in a local triathlon and knew that despite some unique personal challenges, he had found his sport. “I was actually a mediocre athlete in many ways and not super great at running or swimming,” he admitted, though he found both sports conditioned his lungs, and his body was uniquely suited for cycling. Combining the three, he believed, was his path to success.

He had completed most of his general education requirements at CR when he dropped out to pursue professional competition full time. “College of the Redwoods really made it possible,” Pigg said. “At universities, coaches are always on the players to show up, practice and perform, but at CR there was less of that sort of pressure. But it also meant you needed to be self-motivated to succeed, which worked well for me.”

HIS SWEET SPOT

Pigg began training in earnest and placed seventh in the 1985 Ironman in Hawaii. In 1986, Pigg began capturing headlines as he won race after race and by 1988, the then ranking national champion beat out the world’s finest swim-bike-run competitors to become the best triathlete in the world, a title he would hold for several years. From 1985 to 2002, he competed in more than two hundred triathlons and won more than eighty, leading to his 2014 induction into the USA Triathlon Hall of Fame.

END OF SPORTS – NEW CAREER

In 2002, a desire to spend more time with his children and the simple fact that he was becoming an older competitor in one of the most physically demanding sports in the world prompted Pigg to end a career that had spanned the globe and begin another in Humboldt.

“When I came back home, I enrolled again at College of the Redwoods to complete the classes I needed to take my real estate exam,” Pigg explained. After securing his license in 2003, he went to work

for Coldwell Banker Cutten Realty, where he says the skills, he learned as a student and athlete continue to support his success today. “It is really about working hard, building a team and fostering relationships,” he added. His job also allowed him to support local sports events, like the Humboldt Tri-Kids Triathlon, and coach youth sports for years.

“My decision to go to CR launched a 17-year career,” he said. “I am so thankful for College of the Redwoods and that I had an opportunity to engage in sports while I was a student there. My life experience may have been a completely different story otherwise. The environment on campus was also a gift. I was surrounded by redwoods, Humboldt Bay, and the bottoms—and not in Los Angeles on a campus surrounded by concrete. I like to say the county, with the fresh air, trails and more, is my playground. We are so fortunate to be here.”

Michele Stephens

MICHELE STEPHENS, Assistant Director for the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, and former Director of DHHS Public Health, is a proud alum of the College of the Redwoods and a staunch advocate for community colleges.

ADDRESSING COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

“I was pretty visible in the community as the director of Public Health during the COVID-19 response and many people were surprised to learn I went to College of the Redwoods (CR). They assumed I moved here at 19 years old to go to Humboldt State University (HSU),” Stephens recalled, adding that she has often heard the misconception that community colleges primarily cater to the less motivated or economically challenged. “Lower tuition costs and fewer barriers to entry do make it easier for those struggling to make ends meet or who want to get a four-

“College of the Redwoods remains an amazing resource for this community by catering to students from various backgrounds, regardless of their financial situation.”

– Michele Stephens



year degree but aren't sure what degree they want," she acknowledged. "But not every high school student knows what they want to do for a career at 18 years old. Community colleges give students time to explore options and take classes that count toward general education unit requirements without the pressure of high expenses and an expectation to finish quickly and move on with a degree."

TAKING TIME TO GROW.....

Stephens took six years to earn her four-year degree, spending three years at community college and three at HSU, but said that time allowed her to grow personally by exposing her to a diverse range of people during her formative years. "College of the Redwoods actually offered more opportunities to meet people from all over the country and experience more cultural diversity than I had grown up with in Los Angeles. The campus culture encourages meeting new people and making new friends instead of getting lost in a sea of people," she said. "It profoundly expanded my worldview and proved to be a life-changing experience." Stephens said she also cherished random encounters with teachers and friends at the local grocery store and started putting down roots after realizing she preferred a smaller, more intimate community.

Fortunately, low tuition costs, financial aid and part time jobs also allowed Stephens to earn her bachelor's degree in child development without loans.

A job at North Coast Children's Services then sparked her passion for social work and she decided to pursue a post-graduate education. "Being debt-free was essential to pursuing my master's degree," she added. "If I had accumulated debt from my undergraduate years, I might not have been able to achieve my goals."

THE VALUE OF CR

"College of the Redwoods remains an amazing resource for this community by catering to students from various backgrounds, regardless of their financial situation," Stephens said. "CR also provides an easier path for re-entry into higher education for those who have been side-tracked by life." The campus's welcoming and less intimidating environment allows individuals to "dip their toes into the college experience" she added, without committing to the time and expense associated with four-year institutions.

College of the Redwoods, she pointed out, also provides a critical pipeline to the local workforce. "The institution encourages students to take enriching classes that expand their knowledge and exposure to various topics. This makes everyone more competitive in the job market and benefits us all."

Floyd Bettiga

DAN PHILLIPS believes that College of the Redwoods played a critical role in his journey from small town kid who struggled in school to working as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Hulu.

College of the Redwoods is naming its Art Gallery in the new Creative Arts complex in honor of emeritus professor Floyd Bettiga. Over his many years in Humboldt County, Mr. Bettiga mentored promising students, artists, and community members and was a dedicated advocate for the arts. Bettiga was also instrumental in establishing the College of the Redwoods permanent art collection, which allows CR to share carefully curated artworks with students, faculty, staff, and visitors and preserve these pieces for future generations to enjoy.

“The naming of college property or buildings is a considerable honor, and it is important that we choose individuals who have made important contributions to the teaching and public service mission of College of the Redwoods,” said CR President Keith Flamer. “Floyd Bettiga was integral, not only to the development of CR’s Art Department, but also to the culture of art appreciation and creativity that flourishes in our district.”

HISTORY

Floyd Bettiga was the youngest of five children born to immigrant parents and grew up in Humboldt County. After graduating from Ferndale high school, he attended Santa Rosa Junior College and Humboldt State University before serving as an active member and reservist in the US. Army. At the conclusion of his enlistment, he returned to Humboldt County to create and share his passion for the arts.

By 1960 he was teaching art at Eureka High School. He also advised the school’s new art club, considered at the time to be the “newest and perhaps most unusual club to be chartered at Eureka

High School.” The innovative club offered students opportunities to expand their understanding and appreciation of the arts while also experimenting with their own work. Bettiga also created opportunities for student club members to share their art in the community and fostered their success however he could.

Bettiga also supported older aspiring artists. He taught drawing and painting classes through the local adult education program and in 1965 he was hired by the newly established College of the Redwoods. That year he was also featured in a one man show at the International Market Place in San Francisco, the city’s newest gallery “devoted to bringing the public’s attention to the works of fine, local, national and foreign arts.” Over the years, his work was also represented nationally and internationally and was often purchased by private collectors.

Despite attaining professional success, Bettiga continued his own studies by attending classes in San Francisco, Mexico, and Europe. He also continued to support local artists and organizations in his community. He regularly donated artwork and volunteered at countless non-profits, including the Redwood Art Association, Humboldt Arts Council, Humboldt Cultural Center, Humboldt Botanical Garden Foundation, Westhaven Center for the Arts, Humboldt County Historical Society, Friends of the Clarke Museum and more. He played key roles in establishing the Romano Gabriel “Sculpture Garden” in Eureka’s historic Old Town area, the Humboldt Culture Center, and the Morris Graves Museum of Art.

Mr. Bettiga organized the first art show at College of the Redwoods, established the Floyd Bettiga Art Scholarship and during his tenure started the permanent art collection at College of the Redwoods, donating several of his own pieces. He also built strong relationships with local artists and worked tirelessly to obtain a majority of the artwork now housed in the collection.

LOCAL RECOGNITION

Over the years Bettiga was recognized by the Humboldt Arts Council for his “Outstanding contributions to the cultural life of the community.” He was also honored for his contributions to KEET Television and received Faculty of the Year and Outstanding Alumni awards from College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University, respectively.

Mr. Bettiga retired from College of the Redwoods in 1992 and passed away in 2018 at the age of eighty-six. College of the Redwoods is proud to recognize him permanently in the naming of the new arts gallery.

“It was my privilege to serve with CR emeritus professor Floyd Bettiga for over 10 years on the Humboldt County Arts Council,” Sally Bettiga wrote in a letter regarding the new arts building. “He inspired and mentored North Coast artists for decades. I am thrilled to see his legacy honored with the naming of College of the Redwoods’ newest art gallery in his memory.”

CR’s new 29,888-square-foot facility replaces the former Creative Arts building, which was constructed in 1974, and will allow the college to make several environmental and instructional upgrades to the learning environment. It is scheduled to be completed in summer of 2023. The gallery will feature faculty and student exhibits in addition to temporary shows highlighting regional and national artists whose work is often tied to specific classes and/or areas of instruction.

COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

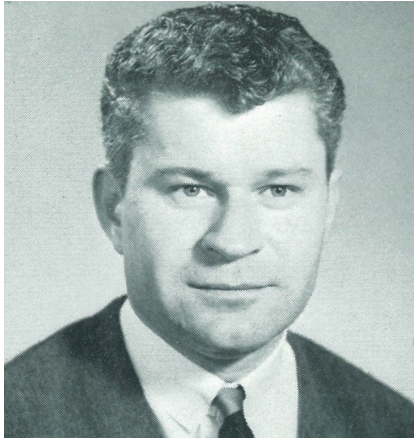
Students and visitors to College of the Redwoods campus can happen upon works by award winning Plein Air Oil painter Jim McVicker in an administrator’s office, stroll down a hallway to find a three-

dimensional copper landscape by Kinetic Sculpture race founder and artist Hobart Brown or find one of a kind wheel thrown pottery by nationally recognized ceramicist Peggy Loudon in the library. “The permanent collection supports joy on campus,” observed College of the Redwoods art instructor Shannon Sullivan, whose has contributed her own ceramic and acrylic pieces to the collection.

Artist and College of the Redwoods instructor Floyd Bettiga spent several years working with local artists to build College of the Redwoods permanent art collection. The college now hosts over one hundred art pieces, consisting of paintings, mixed media artwork, ceramics, photography and more. These works are placed throughout the College of the Redwoods campus.

Many of the artists have been featured locally, nationally, and internationally. Melvin Schuler, better known for his large, impactful abstract sculptures, had one of his watercolors purchased by the Smithsonian in Washington DC and nationally renowned Native American painter and sculptor Brian Tripp, a recipient of the California Living Heritage Award from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts in 2018, contributed multiple pieces to the collection. Bettiga, who is featured in collections across the US and in Europe, also donated several of his own pieces.

“Honoring Professor Bettiga by naming the new arts gallery for him acknowledges the tremendous and long-term impact he had with the establishment of the permanent art collection at College of the Redwoods, and through his influence on the arts and art education throughout the community,” CR Trustee Carol Mathews said.



Jim McAuley

JIM MCAULEY put College of the Redwoods in the record books, but football championships are not what most people remember about CR's first and most successful football coach.

"He introduced a tradition of excellence that has never been eclipsed," explained former player Brad Curtis. "He raised us to a level we could never have achieved on our own and imparted skills that carried the players forward. Jim McAuley made a lifetime impact."

BACKGROUND

James Arnold McAuley grew up in the Bay area. After attending San Francisco Community College and serving in the Air Force, he moved to Humboldt County, where he attended Humboldt State University (now Cal Poly Humboldt) and played football for coach Phil Sarboe. In Humboldt County, Jim also met his wife of 68 years, Janis McClaskey with whom he had two children, Lynn McAuley Rambach, who passed away in 2017, and Bill McAuley.

After earning a master's degree, Jim McAuley taught physical education and coached baseball and football at Arcata High School and Santa Rosa Junior College. In 1967, when Sarboe was hired as athletic director of the new College of the Redwoods, he hired McAuley to lead the school's football team, confident he was the man to do the job.

McAuley built CR's football program from the bottom up. Because the new school had no dedicated field or facilities, practices were initially held at Redwood Acres Fair Grounds and games were played at Eureka High School, in a field already beat up by high school games. CR's new coach had to learn to manage logistics and ensure players had the gear and time they needed to learn the game, and then excel at it. The challenges were immense, but McAuley supported his team, and when community members and business leaders came together to fund the construction of a new stadium at College of the Redwoods, it was clear they supported them too.

"Like so many other Athletes, Coach McAuley had a profound impact on me, offering lessons that I have relied on throughout my career. Most importantly, he taught us to focus on the fundamentals, maintain a disciplined work ethic, stay cool and calm under adversity and never compromise our values."
– Former CR Player Dan Phillips

JIM (MAC) MCAULEY

Jim McAuley was not a large or particularly imposing man, Dan Phillips, another of McAuley's former players remembered. "But he somehow made you want to sit up straighter in your chair. You wanted to do your best and never ever disappoint him."

He said little, McAuley's former assistant Coach Tom Giacomini added, "But those few words meant a lot. And if Jim said something, you knew he meant it." Jim McAuley's ability to command a room was well known, "But my father could be intimidating," his son Bill McAuley admitted. "He had high standards and expectations for his players and coaches, but he had them for himself as well." While this brought McAuley universal respect, Bill admitted his father wasn't always well liked.

Bill recalled a summer when one of the players recognized him as the coach's son and told him that during football season team members sometimes hated his dad, but at the end of the season, they loved him. While somewhat facetious, the student's comment reflected the level of commitment and dedication McAuley demanded from his players all season long. And how it paid off.

Despite his reputation as a demanding coach,



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS UNDER JIM MCAULEY

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 1968 | State Champions (Small Junior College) |
| 1969 | Golden Valley Conference Co-Champions |
| 1970 | State Champions (Small Junior College) |
| 1971 | Golden Valley Conference Champions |
| 1972 | State Champions (Small Junior College) |
| 1973 | Golden Valley Conference Co-Champions |
| 1974 | Golden Valley Conference Champions |
| 1975 | Northern California State Champions (Small Colleges) |
| 1976 | Northern California State Champions (Small Colleges) |

McAuley also kept his players interests at heart. At a time when many coaches were encouraging aggressive contact, causing injuries even in practice, former assistant coaches Tom Giacomini and Fred Whitmire said McAuley did the opposite. “He didn’t want his players beat up and only did things that mattered,” Giacomini said. “There was nothing phony or fancy about his approach...and he took care of the team.” McAuley just wasn’t like other coaches, Whitmire added, “He had a better system than that.”

While McAuley cultivated the respect and discipline he needed to win championship after championship, he often credited the players and his assistant coaches for College of the Redwoods outstanding success during his ten-year tenure as head of the team.

RECOGNITION

As College of the Redwoods head football coach, Jim McAuley was honored as the California Community College Football Coach of the Year four times. He is recognized in the California Community College Commission on Athletics Hall of Fame, the California Community College Coaches Association

Hall of Fame, the Arcata High School Hall of Fame, Cal Poly Humboldt’s Athletics Hall of Fame, and the College of the Redwoods Hall of Fame.

LASTING IMPACT

In 1977, Jim McAuley turned College of the Redwoods football team over to Coach Fred Whitmire and served as CR’s Athletic Director until his retirement in 1991. He had also coached CR’s golf team for many years. Jim McAuley passed away on March 8, 2023, at the age of ninety-one.





Tolowa Dee-ni' History and the Del Norte Education Center

PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL of European settlers, two cultural groups occupied what is now Del Norte County: the Tolowa Dee-ni' and the Yurok. Tolowa territory covered the northern part of the county, and includes Crescent City, where the College of the Redwoods Del Norte Campus is located. Crescent City is in the heart of Tolowa ancestral territory and is also known as Taa'-at-dvn.

TOLOWA DEE-NI'

The Aboriginal lands of the Tolowa Dee-ni', the Taa-laa-waa-dvn, lay along the Pacific Coast between Wilson Creek to the south, Sixes River to the north and inland to the Applegate River. Today this area is what is known as Del Norte, Curry, and

Josephine Counties. The pre-contact Dee-ni' population exceeded ten thousand individuals. The Dee-ni' emerged at Yan'-daa-k'vt, the Center of the World, their place of Genesis. Their language is a member of the Dené language family, the Dené language was formerly known as the Athabaskan language family.

The Taa-laa-waa-dvn provided a vast and varied source of foods and resources for the Dee-ni'. The rivers were densely populated with several species of salmon, steelhead, and trout. The sea provided multiple sources of protein from clams to whale and sea lion meat. The lake and lagoon provided a multitude of duck and geese. The land was filled with nuts, berries, and game. The herds of deer and elk ran in the hundreds. A high variety of plants and herbs both fed and healed the Dee-ni'. The immense redwoods provided both river, lagoon and sea going canoes.

The Taa-laa-waa-dvn was divided into eleven yvtlh-'i~ or governance policies. The yvtlh-'i~ was a specific section of land owned and governed by the headmen and citizens living there. Each yvtlh-'i~ included land for food, prayer, and general resources for making a living, as well as a section of

the coast, an expanse of river and an inter-mountain access. The interior upper Rogue and Illinois Valley yvtlh-'i~ traded with the coastal yvtlh-'i~ for coastal resources. The daily life of the Dee-ni' was to rise before sunrise to bathe and pray. The morning chores were completed and then they had the first meal of the day. At noon, the Dee-ni' prayed once again. The dinner meal was eaten and then evening prayer was offered before bed. At dusk, the Dee-ni' settled in for the night.

The town of Taa-'at-dvn was comprised of dozens of plank homes, a Dance House, and a sweat-house. Though the original village is no longer, the Dee-ni', their language and religion has endured the fire storm of European contact, obliteration, and subjugation.

The contemporary Tolowa Dee-ni' are governed under the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation while other Tolowas are registered under various federally recognized nations and tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest. This thriving tribal government is run by an elected 7-person tribal council passionate about reviving tribal language and ceremonies, passing down information, traditions and customs to younger generations and building a thriving tribal community for years to come.

Today the Tolowa continue their tradition of a strong government with comprehensive Tribal programs and traditional cultural activities.

COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS DEL NORTE CAMPUS

College of the Redwoods currently serves a diverse population of communities in Del Norte, Humboldt, and the western edge of Trinity counties. In 1978, Del Norte County joined the Redwoods district and in 1984, the Del Norte Education Center, located at 884 W. Washington Blvd. in Crescent City opened. This site, thirty miles south of the Oregon border near Point St. George, serves the residents with four-teen degree and certificate programs.

The Pelican Bay Scholars Program

THE PELICAN BAY SCHOLARS PROGRAM began in 2015 and provides face-to-face college courses to incarcerated students in the far northern region of California, in Pelican Bay State Prison. Students can earn an AA Liberal Arts Degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences and complete the required GE courses to be eligible to transfer to a California State University.

CR strives to provide a top-quality college program to Pelican Bay students, with services that are reflective of those a student would receive on campus: access to textbooks and course materials, transcript evaluation, academic counseling, career planning, transfer assistance, and statewide college networking.

David Nguyen, who had been classified as a "lifer" by the California prison system, could never have anticipated during his incarceration at Pelican Bay that he would be presented with the prospect of transforming his life and eventually returning home. "I just wanted to be different," he recalled. "Freedom is physical, but you can also be a prisoner of addiction—or depression. Liberation was different for me, and I realized education could be my path for transformation. I was still in prison, but I found hope."

Unfortunately, when Nguyen initially applied to enroll in school, he was denied. "There were limited resources – and I was deemed a non-priority due to the length of my sentence," he explained. Fortunately, College of the Redwoods launched a pilot program in Pelican Bay in 2015. Nguyen jumped in. And kept going...

THE BEGINNINGS

College of the Redwoods Pelican Bay Scholars program began as a pilot program in 2015 with non-credit math and English preparatory classes. "There was no model," explains Tory Eagles, a CR alum, and the Pelican Bay Scholars Program Coordinator. "But everyone was invested and wanted it to succeed."

"They started with small skills," Nguyen added. "They also needed to see if those who were incarcer-



ated were even capable of going to college.”

The inmates proved they could succeed in the college classes and despite reduced staffing levels, the prison allowed classes to run in the evenings. “I could see the skepticism.” Nguyen remembered. “And the COs (correctional officers) would remind us not to horse around or fight or they would shut down the program.” The prisoners behaved and over time, built trust with the prison administration. Given the green light to continue, College of the Redwoods enrolled twenty-one students for credit classes in the spring of 2016.

NORTH STAR

“The classroom is part of the north star in prison,” mused Eric Clark, another former Pelican Bay Scholar who was accepted as a social work major at Cal Poly Humboldt before he was released from Pelican Bay after serving 28 years inside. “It gave us hope. Many of us had made horrific decisions, but education gave us an opportunity to better ourselves.”

Clark graduated from College of the Redwoods while he was still incarcerated and was able to enter Cal Poly Humboldt immediately after his release. He enrolled in the social work program, which allowed for distance learning from his home in the bay area. He is set to graduate this year.

“I know with a degree I can make a good living without fear. I won’t be facing the risk of becoming homeless and dependent on the government or worse, back in prison,” Clark said, acknowledging that as previously incarcerated person of color, that risk is real. “I can’t be complacent. I just don’t have another failure—a catastrophic failure, in me.”

FIRST CHANCES

Jesse Sandoval was illiterate when he entered Pelican Bay State Prison. “Education was not a priority in my family,” he explained. “Everyone was focused on just paying the rent. And when there are fifty kids in a classroom with one teacher, it can be tough.” Sandoval’s on-going academic struggles eventually landed him in special education, which alienated him even further from school. Despite these challenges, after graduation, Sandoval enrolled at a local adult school in East LA. “But I didn’t feel like I was smart enough and just knew I was going to fail. After fifteen minutes, I got up and left.”

Initially, Sandoval said, Pelican Bay felt no different. He was frustrated at being required to attend anger management, substance abuse and other classes. “But I realized attending CR was my choice. And the other guys here came from similar backgrounds, which meant I could make mistakes without fear. I would never have gone back to school out of here (outside prison). Never.”

Having a young family to feed meant that Sandoval suspended his education after his release and went to work in construction. “But there is so much I learned that helps me every day. I hear people never use statistics but that gives you problem solving skills. We run into conflicts, but I am able to use de-escalation and communication skills I learned at College of the Redwoods to address them. It is a mindset change.”

A change, Sandoval said, extends beyond his job. His young child was recently diagnosed with autism—and while it presents challenges, Sandoval said he

works hard to stay involved and prioritizes his child's education. He also volunteers in his community, emphasizing the importance of making good choices as he does outreach to at-risk youth. When life allows, he also plans to go back to school to earn his 4-year degree, which he knows will provide a door to even more opportunity.

"I am no longer wearing blinders. Those things are gone, and I have more focus. People say the DA (district attorney) is soft on crime but look at the data. Look at what happens with those who have had an opportunity for education vs. those who haven't. Education opens doors..."

THE NEED

According to the Institute for Criminal Policy research, the United States is home to just 5 percent of the world's population yet holds 20 percent of the world's incarcerated people. Most will be released at some point, even if they lack the means to support themselves. Over thirty percent will recidivate –and be back in prison within three years, but education can make the difference. Studies have shown that Incarcerated people who attend postsecondary education while serving time are forty-eight percent less likely to recidivate than those without that opportunity and the odds of recidivism decreases as those students attain higher levels of education.

"Being able to attend classes also changed our conversations," Sandoval pointed out. Inmates in the yard who used to focus on sports, cars, and their former(criminal) lives on the street, "Now talked about our classes and what we were reading. We could bounce ideas off each other."

After CR's program's success, David Nguyen pointed out, administrators were also more willing to consider other programs. "CR opened doors to a different level of programming altogether," he said. "Programs such as NA (Narcotics Anonymous), AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) had been around but other new programs, like peace groups, victims' awareness, and other recovery programs were established as a result of all the work that the incarcerated community did to create a space where programs can exist to help folks transcend." Nguyen was also able to start

a newsletter while incarcerated and prisoners were eventually able to participate in other means of creative expression, like art and poetry. "We made many mistakes. Incredible, horrible mistakes," he said. "But we shouldn't be defined solely by those acts."

After his release, Eric Clark used his education and other experiences at Pelican Bay to help secure a job with the Boundless Freedom Project, which shares mindfulness, ethics & compassion practices with people impacted by incarceration. All three men do community outreach when they can.

"We can do a lot more to pay our debt to society," Nguyen observed, "than just sit in jail cells as a burden to taxpayers. Education can help us become the best versions of ourselves and help heal what we once tore apart in our communities."

The Corsair Speed Car

WHEN THE CORSAIR NO. 671 arrived at the Bonneville Speedway (also known as the Bonneville Salt Flats Racetrack) in Utah in August of 1971, it was dubbed "one of the more interesting entries" by the Salt Lake Tribune. The diesel streamliner had been constructed by members of College of the Redwoods Diesel Heavy Equipment Club and was one of the heaviest and largest at the track, weighing in at nearly three tons and over 26 feet long. The unusual vehicle with an unusual team caught attention as they prepared to participate, but CR's students weren't there just to run the course. The young men planned to break the diesel vehicle land speed record. And they did.

THE BEGINNING

The 1971 event was the culmination of three years of effort spearheaded by College of the Redwoods diesel mechanics instructor Bob Havemann. Havemann came to College of the Redwoods in 1970 after working in the automotive industry for 20 years. He was

a veteran motorcycle, hardtop and stockcar racer with a local championship under his belt and apparently still had speed on his mind. He was searching for a way to motivate his students and keep himself engaged when a student discovered that the diesel speed record was 169 mph. The club started wondering if they could build a vehicle to beat the record and the idea gained traction. Unfortunately, when Havemann pitched the idea to college officials, they balked, concerned about liability. The determined Havemann found a work-around –and after promising to rely strictly on donations and sponsorships instead of college funds, the college green lighted the project.

Students researched racing rules and regulations and dug through magazines for design ideas, then started developing design ideas of their own, brainstorming potential challenges and solutions as they went along. When they thought they had a winner, literally, they chalked a design on the shop floor, scaled it down for blueprints and built a model.

Havemann shared the model at a motor vehicle maintenance conference – and Detroit Diesel contributed a used racing boat motor to the cause. Once club members had secured the engine, according to an interview Havemann did in 1972, everything else fell in line. Havemann implemented what he called the “cut and try” method and students went to work. Given the 5,000 plus decisions that had to be made, Havemann acknowledged some had to be wrong. “Luckily,” he added, “It turned out pretty well.”

Students designed and built all but the most specialized parts on campus. Vocational art students did sheet metal work, welding and used their new machining skills to build the metal frame, roll bars and attach a riveted aluminum skin. They learned to work with fiberglass as they framed and built the nose and honed painting and other autobody skills as they went along. Even some of the intricate, customized parts were built by students like 1970 Eureka High School graduate and then CR student Rex Hunt. “I learned more working on our race cars than ever did in class,” he said in a 2023 interview. “I made custom parts in the machine shop and welded the frame. I was not always working in the class,

but I got As because the teachers checked my welds on the vehicle. They had to be good—better than good, actually.”

The resulting bullet-shaped vehicle came in at 5,500 pounds, stretched 26 feet long and 40 inches wide and was just under three feet high. The students also boosted the donated 426 cubic inch 200 horsepower marine engine to 746 horsepower and put it under the hood. In August of 1971, the final product, which had taken \$15,000 and about 2,000-man hours to build, was loaded on a truck and trailer borrowed from Alto Bros trucking and Havemann and six students headed to Utah.

SPEED TRIALS

Many of the world’s land speed records between 1935 and 1970 were set on the Bonneville Salt Flats. The students arrived safely that summer for the Bonneville National Speed Trials but, according to an article published in the Humboldt Historian, they had to successfully navigate other challenges before they were ready to race.

“There was no way to unload the borrowed trailer which took Corsair to Bonneville. So, the students dug a pit in the nail-hard salt, dropped the trailer wheels into it and rolled the racer off. Nights they huddled in sleeping bags on the ground. Days they ate hot dogs out of the Havemann family trailer. One of the best engine men in the class had to leave “camp” because he got a job. The fire-suit had holes in it. The stop-parachute was too small—they had to find a bigger one. And so it went.”

– Humboldt Historian, Feb 1983

Once the vehicle was successfully on the ground and ready to go, the students faced mixed expectations. Havemann warned spectators that the vehicle had “never been on the ground before” and cautioned fans not to be too optimistic but student crew member Rex Hunt said he wasn’t concerned. Though the vehicle was made to go straight and there had been no place in Humboldt County to test it, “I was still pretty confident,” he recalled, “and there was no reason to think it wouldn’t do well.”

Hunt was right. Havemann got behind the wheel knowing he needed to get the huge vehicle up to 175 mph to qualify for a crack at the record but during the qualifying run the car left the starting line in a cloud of smoke, eliciting laughs from the audience. Fortunately, the laughter was squelched when the car reached 176 miles an hour by the fifth and final mile, qualifying the Corsair to challenge the record. Havemann, though pleased, later admitted that driving that fast was a “little hairy. You just step on the pedal and hang on,” he said.

And he did. During the official speed trials, the student-built vehicle hit 166 mph by the end of 2 ¼ miles and 209.799 mph at five miles for an average of 190.394 mph, smashing the old record of 169.1. “I expected the thing to work,” Hunt remembered. “But I didn’t expect to break speed record, and certainly not by as much as we did.” Later Havemann admitted that he was actually “amazed the thing worked” at all.

Unfortunately, because the students didn’t have the funds to register their car through the US Auto Club, their speed at the trials in 1971 didn’t make the official record books but the happy crew headed back to Humboldt already strategizing on how to reach 200 mph in 1972. “We came home and took the car apart. Made some improvements,” Hunt remembered. The crew also secured 2 engines so they could switch them in and out of the vehicle, allowing them to compete in different classes. They also found an old Ford Falcon to add to their racing fleet. After their success in Utah, the project also picked up sponsors, including Thermo King, who put up the 1972 \$1200 entry fee and donated an engine to the club.



2ND YEAR

The summer of 1972, college officials allowed the club to use the school’s truck and trailer to haul their creations back to Utah, where a local reporter told fans to watch for the “flying toothbrush.” Fortunately, the Corsair’s resemblance to a stationary object didn’t slow it down. That year it took twelve attempts, but the Corsair finally reached an average speed of 204.912 mph over a measured kilometer, setting a new international record. The vehicle’s top speed had been 233.918 mph.

LATER YEARS

Havemann continued as faculty adviser for the Heavy Equipment Club, which held onto sponsorship support after their impressive performances and club members continued to build racing vehicles. In 1973, Havemann and eleven students came home from Bonneville with records in four running classes. In one run they had reached a top speed of 267 mph, “which even amazed the driver”.

Their success was noticed. Thermo King was “tickled to death” that one of their motors got a record and kept working with CR. Havemann also insisted on more respect for the student’s cre-

ation. In a 1973 interview with the Times Standard Havemann noted that their car was “not a freak or conversation piece. It is a car of professional caliber and quality... the car was conceived and built with much more determination and obstacles than any other car. It is a tribute to its designer and building and to the students at the college who worked on it and also to those who believed in it enough to back it in some way.” After participating in the project, graduating students had an easier time finding employment and at least a few, like Hunt, went to Thermo-king.

In the following years, Havemann continued to work with CR students building cars and breaking records and in 1977, Havemann gathered a group of former CR students and worked on Sally, a 1951 International pickup truck he bought for \$500. That year, Sally set the American street stock truck record of 156.7 mph.

The program eventually ended, but its impacts were felt for years. By 1973, Havemann could boast a 50 percent job placement rate for his students – and Rex Hunt was one of them. After graduating from CR, Hunt went to work for Thermo King in their experimental lab where he was tasked with making a street legal '69 El Camino powered by a Thermo King refrigeration engine, which would be used in company promotions. He then moved to Oregon where he ran his own garage for twenty-four years.

In 1978, Havemann went to work as an Engineer for Thermo King Corporation where he received ten patents and two engineering awards for his work in transport refrigeration and diesel power. He retired in 1990 and passed away in 2005.

“The [speed car] project was a great personality expander and developer,” Havemann said in 1973. “The fellows found out they could do something they didn’t know they could do.”

Community Stadium

THE FIRST YEAR College of the Redwoods hosted a football team, players faced challenges both on and off the field. “In 1967 we didn’t have a stadium—or any sort of place of our own. No locker room, showers, or training tables—none of the things normally associated with modern sports,” first year player and Humboldt County artist Stock Schlueter remembered. “We practiced at Redwood Acres in the mud and shared four shower heads among forty plus players. We would walk into the showers with all our gear on just to get the mud off, then change into our clothes and dry our gear out at home over our heaters.”

Without a campus stadium the Corsairs also hosted all at-home games at Eureka High School’s Albee stadium where, Schlueter added, players went against each other in the mud and driving rain in a field already chewed up from Eureka High School games. Pre-game discussions and half-time pep talks happened in the school’s boiler room, David Titus, another player, remembered.

Despite these challenges, CR secured some wins their first year and the Corsairs won the state junior college football championship in the fall of 1968. The team won a second championship in 1970, setting off a string of championships that wouldn’t end until 1977.

In 1969, College of the Redwoods finished construction on a field house and players were able to practice inside, though games were still be played at the high school. In the next few years, the school installed a football field, all weather rubberized track, curbing and more, but the facility, still lacking lights and seating, and was far from complete.

In the summer of 1972, Dr. Don Weichert replaced Eugene Portugal as CR’s president, and it wasn’t long before the college’s new top administrator noted that the Corsairs had been forced to play at a neutral field for the state championship because



CR lacked adequate facilities. Unfortunately, he also noted, there were no public funds to complete the project. Parents, students, and community members vowed to address the problem.

In the winter of 1972, the Athletic Lighting-Seating Drive was officially sanctioned by the college and original steering committee members Dwight O'Dell, Editor and publisher Humboldt Beacon, Frank Powers Arcata High School assistant Principal, Geddes Harper, Sales Manager Harper Ford, former Eureka City Councilman and well know golfer Cliff Steward and architect Jack Nielsen took the lead.

The group's vision included powerful lights to illuminate the college's new field and a new stadium to accommodate 4,000 spectators. The stadium roof deck would cover approximately 70% of the seats and include a 3-section press box-one, electric scoreboard, public restrooms, and a concession stand.

Additional volunteers were recruited to help make the vision a reality and in January 1973, the effort was officially launched when Tony Cline, star defensive end for the Oakland Raiders traveled to Eureka to speak at a College of the Redwoods Seating and Lighting Committee's kickoff dinner at O-H's Townhouse. Tickets went for ten dollars each, with all proceeds going to seating and lighting fund.

That month, the CR Foundation also received \$200 for stadium seating and lighting from the Harper Ford salespeople, the Mercer-Fraser company pledged all needed black-topping of stadium walkways, the Coca-Cola company agreed to install an electronic scoreboard and Harold Nelson of Eureka Ready-Mix pledged 165 yards of concrete, half of the total needed for light standard footings and foundations.

An "atmosphere of unbridled enthusiasm prevailed" at a February project meeting where Weichert announced that the effort had already garnered almost \$20,000 of \$150,000 needed for the project, including cash, materials, and labor. Local real estate broker Ernest Gray was appointed chair. "We've got many people behind this project and although it will entail a lot of work, it is something that will benefit the entire community when it is completed," noted the new chairperson. The group planned future fundraising efforts, which included square dancing lessons, art auction, bake sale, the sale of CR stocking caps and more. "We also had breakfast at O-H's Towne House," football player Richard Spinis remembered. "O.H. would donate the space, friends and family came. We had siblings and girlfriends serving. Everyone in the community got involved and helped."

This early success gave the committee confidence to move forward and in April, College of the Redwoods borrowed a grader and bulldozer from Eureka schools to start clearing ground for the project. In May, \$1,888 from a benefit dinner was added to the coffers and the CR Associated student body donated \$1,000, the largest contribution ever made by the student body. That month the Kerr Land and Timber Company donated 7,700 board feet of lumber worth about \$2,500 to stadium. The Emmerson Logging Company committed to cutting and planing the lumber and Joe Costa Trucking promised to transport it to the campus.

Building on this success, in June the college sent out 35,000 letters inviting community members to support the CR stadium seating and lighting project. The goal, the letter explained, was to gather the slightly less than \$50,000 needed to complete the project. "Friends of Redwoods everywhere are invited," President Weichert wrote, "to participate in a youth project that encourages a spirit of clean living and fair play—the completion of the College of the Redwoods Community stadium." The turf was in, the letter explained, and the earthmovers had banked the hillside. "NOW," Weichert stressed, "the need is for MORE IN CASH."

And cash came in. Thanks to overwhelming community support, by October the project was done, and College of the Redwoods invited the community to attend the "history making" dedication game on

Oct 13. At half-time, President Weichert stood before the packed stadium and paid tribute to the volunteers, business owners and other donors who made the project possible. "Look on the scoreboard," he said, is dedicated to the North Coast community." Leonard Casanova, former Santa Clara football great and coach and official dedication guest also expressed his astonishment at the community's accomplishment, adding "The Impossible Dream is a great theme for this stadium."

The dedication ceremonies included music from four local high school bands, a rendition of the Impossible Dream by the College choir and a performance of "Celebration," an original piece composed by one of CR's newly hired music instructors. At the conclusion of the formal ceremonies, the College of the Redwoods team inaugurated their new stadium by "methodically" dismantling the College of the Siskiyou with a 13-0 victory in front of an estimated 3,500 fans.

AND SINCE

Over the years, College of the Redwoods has invited local high school football, track, and other teams to use their stadium for bigger events and games. The space has also been used for summer youth soccer clinics, high school graduations and even Relay For Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. It has become, and will continue to be, an integral part of the campus and Humboldt County community.





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