



Cynthia and Mark Pearson

Central Washington University honored its 2008 distinguished philanthropists during its second annual Crimson and Black Gala on November 8. Mark and Cynthia Pearson received the Distinguished Philanthropist Award, and Cave B Estate Winery at SageCliffe, in Quincy, owned by Vince and Carol Bryan, was the recipient of the Distinguished Corporate Philanthropy Award.

For the past thirty-five years, the Pearsons, of Redmond, have supported CWU financially and through their service. They were instrumental in securing the Patrick O'Shaughnessy Endowed Professorship in Accounting. Mark also established an endowed accounting scholarship in connection with the recent *Transforming Lives* campaign in honor of his wife, Cindy, who put him through his last two years of school and "always keeps me grounded," said Mark.

A 1973 CWU accounting graduate, Mark serves on the CWU Foundation Board of Directors and chaired the board for the past two years. Named the 2000 College of Business Distinguished Alumnus, Mark encourages students and alums to develop a continuing commitment to CWU. He also advises graduates to stay connected and involved in supporting Central, for their own benefit and the benefit of future students.

"We've always felt that our involvement with Central was a privilege," said Mark. "As we've given to Central, Central has given back multiples of everything in terms of personal satisfaction and the honor of working with people like Jeri [McIntyre] and David [Smith]. And it has been a tremendous experience working with the quality people involved with the foundation board in their efforts to continue Central's legacy."

Carol and Vince Bryan, original founders of the Gorge Amphitheatre, are strong supporters of CWU's Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series and the Kairos Quartet. They have also hosted or supported numerous events both on campus and at Cave B Winery. In addition, Vince serves as a member of the CWU Research Foundation Board of Directors. In 1995, Vince, a retired neurosurgeon, developed an artificial cervical disc known as the Bryan Cervical Spinal Disc.

"We were thrilled, of course," said Carol Bryan, on Cave B receiving the Distinguished Corporate Philanthropy Award. "It was quite an honor. We are looking forward to continuing [our relationship with Central] as we have in the past."

The Bryans envision a closer collaboration with CWU in developing programs in the arts and sciences—"we want to explore all kinds of ways to work together; there are all sorts of talents in the arts and sciences [at the university]"—and the couple are excited to bring about new opportunities to inspire "real creativity."

"It's been a wonderful experience," Carol continued. "We are thrilled to be close enough to Central to enjoy and be involved in its programs, and bring some of that on site [to Cave B]. Little by little, we are bringing our vision to life and our association with Central is very helpful to us and very much appreciated."

The gala successfully raised more than \$50,000 for the university. Held in the SURC Ballroom, the gala also recognized President McIntyre's achievements and university donors. The funds will be used to support the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series and the McIntyre-Smith Endowed Scholarship, which goes to freshman and transfer students with proven scholarly and leadership achievements. ■

CWU Names 2008 Distinguished Philanthropists

Carol and Vince Bryan



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