

Update from the
Foundation
Office
Margie
Deane Gray



This email blast is a bit different from past issues. In this issue we are dedicating a good portion to celebrate and honor recently retired, beloved history professor, Dr. Duane Smith. Duane has been part of the Fort Lewis College family since 1964 when he walked into his first classroom to teach history. Staying anywhere for that length of time is quite a feat for anyone.

When I visit alumni, one of the first questions I ask them is, “Who was your favorite professor while at Fort Lewis?” Many times they say “Dr. Duane Smith”. They say he taught them how to look at history and learn from it. He always made it interesting and fun.

Part of the reason he was successful as a professor was because his passion for all facets of history is as intense today as it was when he walked into that first classroom. He loves talking history.

Please take a few minutes to listen to portions of my radio chat show, [Notes and Notables](#) with Duane and his wife and editor, Gay, telling you stories on what makes him tick. I bet you’ll hear tidbits you’ve never heard before and maybe even see a side of Dr. Smith that you’ve never seen.

For those of you who haven’t seen Duane since you graduated from here, he hasn’t changed a bit. He is still as much of a character now as he was then. And to make it even tougher to take, he hasn’t aged at all and that drives me crazy! I wish I knew how he stays looking so young.

I know I am one of many who feel honored to know Dr. Duane Smith. He has enriched this college and the Durango community more than I can say, and is a wonderful resource for anyone wanting to hear history come alive.

Thanks for everything, Duane!

Warmly,

Margie Deane Gray

-Margaret Deane Gray
Executive Director