

Ellis Dunn is remembered

Bill Myers
staff reporter

Ellis Dunn, a Ridgefield resident and former college professor and administrator at Clark College who died July 4, left lasting impressions on those who knew him.

Faculty members who worked with Dunn at Clark College hold him in very high regard. Gail Liberman, coordinator of the Clark College Teaching and Learning Center, worked with Dunn for about 14 years and said she knew him while he served as dean of faculty and interim president. She praised his leadership skills. "Ellis was a very competent, kind person who never lost his cool," said Liberman.

Phil Sheehan, director of computing services at the college who taught electronics

and communications while Dunn was dean of faculty, said Ellis was respected as a scholar who instilled confidence in staff members. "He was a good listener, and a very nice man who treated people with respect," said Sheehan.

During the past several years while he owned the Pioneer Street Cafe in Ridgefield, Dunn would often speak at Ridgefield city council meetings on issues affecting downtown businesses. His opinions were highly valued by city leaders.

Clark County Fire & Rescue battalion chief Tim Dawdy said he and Dunn often had breakfast together and became close friends. "He was born in meager circumstances, but used the GI Bill to educate himself and rose from real poverty to be-

come a highly successful educator," said Dawdy. Dawdy described Dunn as a "multi-dimensional" man who was a skilled baker, gardener and politician. "He was rare person with "patience, brilliance and forgiveness," said Dawdy.

Kathy Hughes, who with her husband, Scott, own the Ridgefield Hardware Store across the street from the Pioneer Street Cafe, said Dunn was a "wonderful person and liked by everyone."

Dunn's career at Clark College spanned 30 years. He was a sociology professor for more than 10 years before entering administration. He was dean of faculty for about 11 years, and was vice president of instruction and student services for about nine years. Last year, college officials named a Community Room at the college for Dunn.

Following retirement in 1989, he owned and operated the Pioneer Street Cafe in downtown Ridgefield. Dunn was saluted in 2008 as a leading citizen in Ridgefield.



ELLIS DUNN (left), who served in several posts at Clark College over a 30-year period, is shown here with current Clark College president Bob Knight. Dunn was a resident of Ridgefield.

Photo by Jenny Shadley, Clark College