



Principal for a Day Participants

As I pulled up the last edition of the LS newsletter, so much has happened- the only difficulty I may have is in keeping my remarks brief enough (imagine that!) to a few paragraphs. This program continues to amaze me, and I am proud to be an alumni! For those of you who haven't heard, or may have been living in some quiet corner of the county- we graduated our FIFTH class in June! The presentations were wondrous, and the ceremony that followed that evening in Maple Hall worthy of all who attended. We are 133 strong, with 30 students ready to start the 6th class in September. I am humbled by all who continue to volunteer and help us reach into the future of Skagit County!

In May, a LS Recruitment social was held at my home on McLean Road, and Stephanie Hooper, '06, Recruitment Chairperson, and Kate Bennett, Director, did us all proud with their efforts to bring alum and potential students into the gathering that spring night. Many a conversation that evening led to student involvement, either in the 2009 class- or further into the future. It is also such wonderful feeling to see fellow alums visiting. Every class had at least some representation, and the wine and cheese also brought out the best in all of us!

I am looking for bright, happy people who would like to see the Alumni Committee be all that it can be! Would you like to see Alumni Lunches, Alumni Dinners- bring speakers to town—let me know? I think now is the time in the evolution of LS for the Alumni Committee to be

about more than a newsletter, and an occasional social. If you would seriously like to talk about just that, please contact me at Anderson Electric!

I have also been keeping a watchful and wondrous eye these past months on our alums- on how much involvement I see in our community. Several of our projects started in past years—keep reoccurring. How stupendous is that!!

I have a special place in my heart for the Mount Vernon School District's Principal for a Day. I was honored to be asked to participate this year. And, in 2006, this magnificent program was the brainchild of one of our small groups. It was so well received by the participants and the school district that district leaders have continued the program. And this is not the only such "model" that has been continued.

In 2006 one of our project teams started a Science and Technology night for the public to come in and view what was going on in the Mount Vernon High School.

Again, the public so overwhelming enjoyed the evening, the program was offered again successfully in 2008.



We must be doing something right!
~ Bonnie Anderson



Helping You Lead

**Kathryn Bennett,
Director**

Master choreographer Twyla Thorpe has said that you “practice while you perform”. As you work and volunteer, you grow your skills as a leader.

Our newest graduates, the Class of 2008, now move into their new role as Leadership Skagit alumni. After nine months of thinking and talking about leadership skills, it is time to perform. And the performance of leadership is a dance that requires continued practice time. Most importantly, just like in dance, it requires making your partners look good. As Don Wick, LS '04 so eloquently states, the most competent leaders represent their partners' interests “more passionately and completely” than their own.

Leadership becomes more than taking a course and earning a certificate. In order to have a great community, strong leadership is not an option, it's essential. So take a spin around the ballroom floor. Find a non-profit board that needs your expertise. Invest your time in studying the issues of the day. Become a coach, join a Leadership Skagit Challenge Day Committee or volunteer to be a presenter on a leadership topic.

A myriad of opportunities abound in Skagit County where you can continue to practice this vital skill. Practice makes perfect they say. We all possess the capacity for leadership, but those who cultivate it will maximize their potential to be truly effective leaders.

Please know how important your leadership is to our program's continued success and its positive impact on our community. I look forward to working with you...and to helping you lead.

We invite you to consider helping Leadership Skagit grow and prosper!!

Life After Leadership Skagit: Alumni Updates

Service in Our Community

Kim Grams, '07, has been promoted to the CPO of Boy's and Girl's Clubs of Skagit County!

Tamara Thomas, '06, has been appointed to the 2nd Commissioner District position on the Skagit County Solid Waste Advisory Board.

Millie Fosberg, '05, is the Coordinator of Congregational Ministries.

Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, '08- has just been appointed to the Skagit County Planning Commission.

Janie Beasley, '07, is the Executive Secretary of the Gaming Commission.

Doug Noblet, '07, and **John White, '05**, both serve on the Skagit Valley College Foundation.

John White, '05, serves as president of the Burlington Mid-day Rotary.

Bob Shrumm, '06, and Coach Extraordinaire- Rotarian of the year!! (Do we know good folks or what?)

Bonnie '04, and Howard Anderson received the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from the Celtic Arts Foundation for their work with the group.

Allen Grenz, '07, manages Oasys Inc which was named the 2007 Small Business of the Year by the Northwest Business Monthly. Oasys is the largest independently owned copier dealership north of Seattle and saw its revenues grow from \$1 million in 2000 to nearly \$5 million last year. Congratulations, Allen!

Debra Lancaster, '04, has been elected President of Soroptimist Int'l of Mount Vernon for the 2008-09 year.

Ron Feld, '05, is the Chair of the Development Committee and a Board Member of Skagit Land Trust.

LuAnne Burkhart, '05, has been elected to YMCA board.

Josh Scott, '07, is a board member for the Washington Board of Realtors AND for Habitat for Humanity!

Join us for the **Leadership Skagit**  **'09**

KICK OFF **Social**

September 12, 2008

5:00 - 6:30 pm

**WSU NW Research & Extension Center
16650 SR 536 Memorial Hwy**

**R.S.V.P. Kate @
bennettrk@comcast.net**

... more Alumni Updates

Contributing to the Growth of Our Community!

Jeremy McCullough, '08, became the proud papa of a baby girl in April!

Alison Studley, '05, and husband Drew Fleischman will be welcoming baby number two this summer. Proud big brother Erv can hardly wait!

Allen Grenz, '07, becomes a first time dad in August! Congrats Allen and Holly!

Arden Ainley, '04, and husband Bill will be traveling to Guatemala this month to pick up their new daughter, 1-yr-old Catalina...Congratulations!

Congratulations on the Promotion!!

Being a Leadership Skagit Alumni just might help you, too!

Laura Cailloux has been promoted to Dean of Workforce Training by Skagit Valley College. Laura joined SVC in 1997 as an instructor in the Business Management program; in 2003 she was appointed as the Director of the Business Resource Center. We, of course, know Laura as the Chair of Curriculum and a key partner for LS since 2003.

Laurel Browning, '04, has been named Superintendent of the Burlington-Edison School District. She started out as principal of Lucille Umbarger School, then served as curriculum director and in 2002 was appointed to the assistant superintendent role. Laurel's vision is to revise and update the district's strategic plan and to collaborate with staff, administration and the community to make sure students remain successful. Sounds like a sure fit for an LS grad!



Travis Huisman with young villagers in Guatemala.

Did We Miss Your Story?

As I scan the list of all the accomplishments of our alums, I sometimes wonder where we all get the "spare time" to serve on boards, or join yet another committee. Don't we all have at least one or two friends who we have heard say, "I am just too busy" to do something or other. And, I have to chuckle to myself. And quietly say, "if they only knew." We at LS are looking for your achievements to add to those you find here in this third edition of the Alumni Newsletter. It isn't so much that we want to pat ourselves or you on the back, rather it is that one of the goals of LS is that we hope during the months you spent in class with your team mates, you have found our community to be a place you want to better, and give back to- just as we all have. So, if you have joined a board, or accomplished something I don't know about, please send it to me at cmantor@fidalgo.net so I can include it in the next edition.

Dr. Joan Youngquist, '08, Director of Skagit/Islands Head Start, will serve as Interim Academic Dean at Skagit Valley College for the next year. Did you all know that Joan has a BS in Biology with an MSc and PhD in Agronomy, as well as an MA in Curriculum and Instruction? And she taught and conducted research in agronomy at the University of Nebraska and in Rwanda, has taught organic farming in Kenya, and served in the Peace Corps in Burkina Fasco (West Africa). WOW!

Helping Make the World a Better Place!

Neta Cahill, '07, travelled to the Mexican town of Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara as part of a new international partnership between Skagit Valley College and the Department of Education for the Mexican State of Jalisco. Neta teaches English as a Second Language (and recently received her Masters Degree), and spent two weeks teaching English to tourism employees for the Department of Education for the Mexican State of Jalisco. She's a busy lady!

Travis Huisman, '06, recently returned from a trip to Guatemala. The Sedro Woolley Rotary, of which he is a member, went there to assemble and install stoves for all 64 families who live in a remote village. The village had a high incidence of lung disease, as they had been used to cooking over an open fire inside their homes. Each of the new stoves has a stove pipe that extends through the homes' roof. They are expected to improve the air quality in the villager's homes. We are proud to call Travis one of our own!

The Castaways



Did you know that some accountants can sing? Well, during the 2008 team project presentations, **Tony Cook, '08**, of Williams and Nulle (who moonlights as the *Mount Vernon Downtown Association's* Treasurer) sang a pretty passable rendition of the theme to Gilligan's Island. The lyrics, explaining the Guemes Island Peace Circle project, were written by an equally talented co-conspirator, county planner **Kirk Johnson, '08**. We did hope Tony would sing a second time at graduation that evening, but were sadly mistaken! David Scott, Delilah George, Danielle Hester and Kim Grams complete the Leadership Team that experienced this island adventure project. This is yet another reason to attend class presentations!

Mitt Harlan Update

Mitt Harlan, husband of facilitator Maureen, was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia in late December 2007. He has undergone a stem cell transplant at Fred Hutchinson, and they are in their "100 days" of post surgery. They will be home in September. Mitt has good days and some not so good. Maureen and Mitt would welcome your prayers and good wishes- and you can reach Maureen by email at maureenharlan@gmail.com. Please all send good wishes in any way you can and we look forward to seeing Maureen in the fall!

... more Alumni Updates

Terry Belcoe, '07, North Coast Credit Union, held its First Annual Food Share Festival Fundraiser and Food Drive at Maiben Park in Burlington last month. The alliance between the credit union, Community Action, and Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland came about through a relationship Terry "cultivated" shortly after LS! Terry is a board member of LS.

Carole Straatof, '07, is the Fundraising Co-Chairwoman for Women Build, (partners with Habitat for Humanity). Lisa Janicki, '05 also serves in an advisory capacity. Both women will see this worthy project through as a house is built in Sedro Woolley in 2008-2009. Our own Jim Duffield, coach and former facilitator, serves as president of Habitat for Humanity in Skagit County.

As I said when I began these updates, so many wonderful people and good things going on!

Research & Education Board Members

Gregg Davidson

R&E President,
Skagit Valley Hospital

Doug Rowell

R&E Vice-President,
Washington Federal

Kelly Moldstad

R&E Treasurer,
Skagit Council of
Governments

Laura Cailloux

R&E Secretary
Skagit Valley College

Bonnie Anderson

'04, Anderson Electric

Terry Belcoe

'07, North Coast
Credit Union

Jerry Heller,

'04, Port of Everett

Stephanie Hooper

'05, Bayside
Specialties

Debra Lancaster

'04, Washington State
University

Gary Rowe

'04, Skagit County

Gary Tollefson

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