

# SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

Spring/Summer 2013



## Celebrating Student Success

COVER STORY — Recipients of the coveted Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. Memorial Scholarship with the McIntyre family.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Skagit Valley College provides a drug-free environment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and employment.

Skagit Valley College provides opportunities for students in pursuit of their educational and employment goals, while contributing to the economic and cultural enrichment of our communities.

COLLEGE MISSION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Welcome!

As reflected in our Strategic Plan, Skagit Valley College is focused on providing new opportunities for our students as they pursue their educational and employment goals, while contributing to the economic and cultural enrichment of our communities. The College is guided by a set of shared principles and a strong commitment to quality, innovation, equity, and lifelong learning. With dedication and leadership from exceptional faculty, caring staff who support instruction, and enthusiastic donors who volunteer their time or provide scholarship funding, we are creating a culture that is uniquely Skagit.

In this edition of Currents, I invite you to learn more about the culture that we embrace on our campuses and centers and how it enhances our students' experience and helps them connect their experience with the community. And, in the pages that showcase our SVC Foundation, you will see how your support makes a difference in our students' lives with highlights about donors, scholarships, and special events. This year, SVC Foundation announced its highest-ever allocation of more than \$500,000 for student scholarships, faculty innovation, and educational program support.

For many individuals throughout our district, Spring Quarter marks the culmination of their degree or certificate requirements. We congratulate them on their accomplishment! As we celebrate student success at Skagit Valley College's 86th Commencement, we are mindful of the important role you play in contributing to the culture at Skagit and to the vibrancy of our community.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas A. Keegan, President



Margaret Rojas  
Chair



Lindsay Fiker  
Vice Chair



Debra Lisser



Christon Skinner



John Stephens

# Always Putting Students First



## SVC Board of Trustees Member Debra Lisser Named *Trustee of the Year*

projects and initiatives: McIntyre Hall capital campaign; George Hodson Hall and Phillip Tarro Theatre renovations; Northwest Career and Technical Academy, a partnership with six school districts and SVC; and Laura Angst Hall, the first public higher education building in Washington to receive LEED® Platinum certification. Under construction is a new Charles Lewis Hall, a 70,000 square foot academic and student services building.

In addition to capital improvements under her leadership, Debra Lisser served as Board Chair during the College's 2011 presidential search process and the Board's selection of Dr. Tom Keegan as its sixth president. In addition, SVC began initiatives to increase student success and completion: Achieving the Dream, a grant dedicated to helping community college students — particularly low-income students and students of color — earn a college certificate or degree; GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness), a Department of Education grant designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education; and AVID, a college readiness system for elementary through higher education that is designed to increase learning and performance. She was also an early believer in the Governance Institute on Student Success.

**S**kagit Valley College Board of Trustees member Debra Lisser has received the Trustee of the Year award from the Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges (TACTC). The presentation was made during TACTC's spring convention in Anacortes. The annual awards honor businesses and supporters who have made a significant difference in the overall mission of the community and technical college system, on individual campuses, and for students.

"Always putting students first, Debra Lisser is a passionate advocate for higher education," said Board Chair Margaret Rojas. "She is constant in her belief that every student must have the opportunity to succeed and that opportunity begins with our work as Trustees. As a respected leader with TACTC, serving as President in 2009-2010, Debra's work has been appreciated locally and statewide, building relationships and advancing the common good of all community colleges."

"Debra Lisser exemplifies the very best in committed leadership," said SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan. "Her dedication, passion, and enthusiasm have helped guide our College exceptionally well for a decade and will serve as a model for other trustees for years to come."

During Ms. Lisser's two terms on the Board, the College completed a number of significant

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*"Debra Lisser exemplifies the very best in committed leadership."  
– SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan*

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The TACTC awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in furthering the mission of community and technical colleges. Eligibility was open to all employees of the community and technical college system, elected officials/legislators, State Board members, and individual supporters of community and technical colleges. College trustees submitted nominations that were judged for contributions to an individual college, the state system or two-year colleges at the national level; impact in advancing community, district, state or national issues; their role in building public support for community and technical colleges in the state; and leadership in furthering innovative practices in the two-year college system.

In addition to the Trustee of the Year award, three other awards were presented this year. Partner of the Year: Frank Blethen, Publisher, The Seattle Times; Equity and Student Success Award: Dani Chang, Director of Student Affairs, Leadership and Involvement, Green River Community College; and the TACTC Award for Leadership: Dr. James Walton, President, Centralia College.

Three Skagit Valley College students receive the

## Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. Memorial Scholarship



Brittany Wilson, Thomas Lile, and Bilda Ramirez

Skagit Valley College (SVC) students, **Thomas Lile** (of Greenbank), **Bilda Ramirez** (of Burlington), and **Brittany Wilson** (of Snohomish) have each received SVC's largest scholarship, the Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. Tessa McIntyre-Smith, daughter of the late Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr., along with her daughters Jessica Smith and Chrystal Lee, made the announcement at the Mount Vernon Campus Honors Reception last month.

This coveted scholarship provides full tuition, books, room, and board for two years at any Washington state public college or university for students pursuing a bachelor's degree in math, science, or engineering.

"It is with great pleasure that I award these three exceptional students with a scholarship that represents my father's vision and generosity," said Tessa McIntyre-Smith. "It is such a wonderful feeling to extend our family's support to assist our community's brightest individuals in achieving their educational goals and dreams."

Thomas Lile first enrolled at Skagit as a Running Start student, taking classes at SVC's Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses. Even with a long daily commute and a vigorous course sequence in physics, biology, calculus, and chemistry, Thomas maintained

a 4.0 GPA in high school and college. He was named valedictorian at Coupeville High School and earned the President's Medal at SVC. In addition, he received the 2013 Yates Award at SVC, the highest award bestowed at the Whidbey Island Campus.

Thomas Lile will earn two degrees at SVC: an Associate's Degree in Biology and an Associate's Degree in Science. After graduating from SVC, he will attend the University of Washington to study Bioengineering and Science. He hopes to blend science and engineering techniques to find cures for debilitating and deadly diseases. Thomas is proud to be a second-generation Asian American and will be the first in his household to earn a degree.

For the first seven years of her life, Bilda Ramirez lived with her family in Oaxaca, Mexico. Many factors challenged Bilda's parents to leave their homeland and come to the United States, but the biggest was their desire to create a better life for their family. They also wanted to seek treatment for Bilda's sister who had serious illnesses. When the Ramirez family arrived in America, Bilda's parents settled in Washington state and she entered the third grade.

When Bilda enrolled in high school seven years later, she looked to a bright future with a rewarding career, eventually making the

decision to become a pediatrician. She was certain about her choice because of her compassion for others, her desire to help children, and the opportunity it would give her to offer hope to their parents, just like the doctors who diagnosed her sister's illnesses helped her family. Bilda will graduate from SVC with an Associate in Science Degree in Chemistry. She will attend the University of Washington and major in chemistry. After two years at UW, she plans to apply to the UW medical school.

With interests that ranged from math to basketball to student government, Brittany Wilson served as an outstanding student, a positive role model, and a successful student leader. As a member of the Cardinals women's basketball team, Brittany balanced her studies with workouts, practices, and games. She was also elected Mount Vernon Campus President of ASSVC. In order to maintain a high level of academic success, Brittany eventually chose to leave basketball so she could focus on college. With a passion for math, Brittany spent many hours in elementary and high school classrooms, helping students who were struggling with their math coursework.

Brittany will graduate from SVC with an Associate in Arts University and College Transfer Degree. She will attend Central Washington University where she will major in math and pursue a teaching degree.

In addition to receiving the Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Brittany Wilson received the prestigious Charles H. Lewis Memorial Award, named for the College's revered first Dean Charles H. Lewis.

Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. died in 1997 at 73 years of age. His wife, Georgia McIntyre, preceded him in death. Sydney graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in mechanical engineering and was a lifelong resident of

- continued on page 5



Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr.

Skagit County, serving as vice president of the Skagit Corporation for 20 years and directing its engineering department. In addition, he served as a Skagit County Port Commissioner and was a member of the SVC Foundation Board of Governors. Most recently, he was honored by Skagit Valley College as an outstanding community member and was inducted into the SVC Hall of Fame in April 2010.

Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. established the scholarship that bears his name with a bequest of approximately \$2.9 million in 1999 in an effort to inspire future

generations of students to achieve their educational dreams. The provisions of this fund reflect his belief in and support for educational institutions in Washington and his desire to promote applied science careers. His daughter, Tessea McIntyre-Smith, helps to fulfill her father's wishes by joining the scholarship committee each year as the recipients are considered and selected.

The Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is part of SVC Foundation's scholarship program and is administered through the Seattle Foundation.

# Celebrating Student Success



## Commencement 2013 Facts & Figures District-wide

There are 1,226 degrees, certificates, and diplomas being awarded this year, including:

- 424 Academic Transfer Degrees
- 292 Professional/Technical Degrees & Certificates
- 57 High School Diplomas

The ages of our graduates range from 17 to 65!

17 students are graduating as President's Medalists.

There are 58 Running Start students who received their high school diploma and who will earn their Associate's Degree.

And, we have 43 International students graduating from Hong Kong, Japan, Nepal, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam.



### Culinary Arts featured at Governor's Inaugural Ball

The SVC Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management program was pleased to be selected as one of the culinary schools in Washington to prepare hors d'oeuvres at *Governor Jay Inslee's Inaugural Ball* in January. Under the direction of Chef Instructors Dani Cox and Shawna Poynter, and Food Services Manager Lyn Highet, the team prepared 900 each of three hors d'oeuvres selections: Cedar Hot Smoked Salmon Sliders on Skagit Slaw, with local Coho salmon, parsnip, carrots, char, and fresh-baked buns; Prawns with Herb Infused Savory Panicotta; and Raspberry Almond Petit Fours.

**Back Row:** Dani Cox (Chef Instructor), Jon Myers, Troy Jones, Chris Davis

**Middle Row:** Kyla Applegate, Shawna Poynter (Chef Instructor), Alicia Bettger, Jordan McCrorie

**Bottom Row:** Alora Price, Tanya Carter



### Crystal Coglas

This year's *South Whidbey Center Carol Huber Award* was presented to Crystal Coglas. Each year, this honor goes to the graduating student who exemplifies the best traits of South Whidbey students: academic achievement, community involvement, and respect from peers, faculty and staff. Crystal earned the respect and admiration from faculty and staff for her hard work, dedication to the community, and commitment to her education, despite difficult circumstances and personal challenges. Crystal's recognition demonstrates how students excel at the South Whidbey Center, despite life's challenges.

### Sophia Baetz & Riley Newman

Sophia Baetz and Riley Newman were recognized as SVC's *Athletes of the Year*. Sophia was a starter on the Women's Basketball team that went 44-17 and placed 1st & 2nd in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges North Region. Off the court, she worked with Skagit County Parks and the YMCA. Sophia will receive an AAUCT Degree and will play basketball at Montana Tech. Riley was a two-sport athlete, playing basketball and tennis. He was undefeated in singles tennis and was the NWAACC #1 singles champion. Off the court, Riley worked with Skagit County Parks as a basketball referee and was involved in tennis camps. He will receive an AAUCT Degree and will play tennis at Seattle University.



# Celebrating Student Success

Left to right: SVC Board Chair Margaret Rojas, Darah King, Transforming Lives nominee Damiana King, Danara King, and Jordana King



## Norma Domingo

Norma Domingo was an outstanding student at SVC's Whidbey Island Campus and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, maintaining a 3.84 GPA. This spring, Norma was honored as a member of the *2013 All-Washington Academic Team*. She was also the driving force within Phi Theta Kappa to organize many events including planting trees on campus for Earth Day and donating supplies to Citizens Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse. Before attending SVC, Norma served her country, US Navy Vet, NAS Whidbey Island. Norma Domingo will graduate this month with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from SVC. She will attend the University of Washington and pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Business.



## The future is a bright one: Vicki Wilson

Six months ago, Vicki Wilson was homeless, had no money, no job, and no car. While walking by the campus one day, she decided to see what it would take to get her GED. Five weeks later, Vicki walked into her very first college classroom. Prior to that first day, she questioned many times if she was making the right choice. She had every reason to think that the answer was no. She was a high school dropout. She had no transportation. She was too old. She was not smart enough. Despite her uncertainty, Vicki was directed to SVC's WorkFirst grants office. Since then, things have

never been the same. Vicki is grateful to the caring faculty and staff who helped her every step of the way. With a new outlook on life, *Vicki is completing her second quarter in the Manufacturing Technology program.* "My life is so different," said Vicki with a big smile. "I have a home, a job, and now... a bright future. I want to thank you all for making a difference in my life."



## Thomas Lile

Thomas Lile first enrolled at SVC as a Running Start student, attending classes at the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses. With a 4.0 GPA, Tommy earned the *President's Medal*. And this spring, he received the *2013 Yates Award*, the highest award bestowed at the Whidbey Island Campus. Named for the former admiral and commanding officer of NAS Whidbey who was instrumental in working with SVC to secure property for the Whidbey Island Campus, the Yates Award honors a student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, community service, and academic achievement. Tommy will graduate from SVC with two degrees in the sciences and plans to attend the University of Washington to study Bioengineering and Science.

## SVC Transforming Lives award nominee Damiana King: From stay-at-home mom to college student with a mission

As a first generation college student, Damiana King loved learning, but academics and technology were not her strengths. As a child, Damiana was thrown from a moving vehicle and it caused a severe head injury that affected her memory and ability to learn. She now lives with Attention Deficit Disorder, a disability that is a barrier in her personal and professional life.

After spending 20 years raising three daughters, Damiana made the transition from a stay-at-home mom to a woman in the workforce. Being a mother helped her realize that she had a passion for nurturing and teaching. So, she enrolled at SVC where she is earning an Associate in Technical Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education and Education Paraprofessional.

Earlier this year, the SVC Board of Trustees nominated Damiana for the Trustees Association for Community and Technical Colleges *Transforming Lives Award*. The award honored students who overcame barriers to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math, or other high-demand occupations. In celebration of her nomination, the Board recognized Damiana during its February meeting. "Damiana King has worked hard to overcome many challenges to become a Skagit Valley College student," said Board Chair Margaret Rojas. "As our nominee, she represented Skagit, and the spirit of the Transforming Lives award, exceptionally well. She is an inspiration to us all."

Damiana is also extremely proud of her three daughters, who also understand the importance of a college education. Daughters Darah and Danara are SVC students and daughter Jordana graduated from WSU.

After graduation, Damiana hopes to open a cultural learning center where she can teach and mentor young children and their families. "During my first few quarters, I was learning how to be a student, but now I'm proud that I have a 4.0 GPA. Being a college student has transformed my dreams into realities and given my post-motherhood life a purpose fueled with passion. I am a woman on a mission."



Faride Cuevas



Brittany Wilson

## Charles H. Lewis Memorial Award

The prestigious *Charles H. Lewis Memorial Award* was presented to two sophomores this year, *Faride Cuevas* and *Brittany Wilson*. The 1956 sophomore class of Skagit Valley Junior College established the annual award as tribute to Lewis, the first Dean of the College and a revered faculty member at the College for 28 years. The award is presented to the top graduating sophomore who best represents the qualities of Charles H. Lewis.

Faride Cuevas was motivated to succeed by the sacrifices her parents made to give her and her sisters a better life and to open the doors of opportunity. While at SVC, Faride was an active member of SVC's Calling All Colors Club and Champions of Diversity. She was also instrumental in developing Adelante!, a program to improve academic achievement for undocumented students at Mount Vernon High School. Faride will be the first from her family to graduate from high school and college. She will attend UW Bothell and study Business Administration.

With a passion for math, Brittany Wilson tutored math students who were struggling with math at Edison Elementary and Mount Vernon High School. In addition to her studies, Brittany was a two-year member of student government, serving as the 2012-13 Mount Vernon Campus President. She also played for the Cardinal women's basketball team and worked in the Student Life Office.

# New Opportunities to Support Student Success

## Aligning Programs with Industry

**A**s one of its Strategic Priorities, Skagit Valley College is aligning its educational programs with regional and state economic development strategies. With a focus on developing, offering, and evaluating programs to provide an educated workforce in support of economic development priorities, students will gain skills that help them succeed. Among these exciting initiatives:

- Skagit Valley College is responding to workforce needs in the aerospace and marine industries by providing training in the high demand areas of Advanced Manufacturing, Composites at the College's comprehensive Marine Technology Center in Anacortes.
- Thanks to a National Science Foundation grant for Sustainable Agriculture Education, SVC is teaming up with Washington State University and Viva Farms to increase the number of sustainable urban and small farm agriculture technicians to help meet workforce demands for food production in the Puget Sound bioregion. Sustainable small farming courses start in September!
- Strong partnerships with regional healthcare organizations help SVC respond to the high demand for skilled Allied Health workers. With exceptional programs in Nursing, Medical Assistant, Nursing Assistant, and Pharmacy Technician, SVC is a pipeline to the workforce of employment-ready professionals in patient care and supporting occupations.



*Job Ready: Students get high demand Marine Technology training at the Marine Technology Center in Anacortes. (left to right): Lucas MacDonald and Jennifer Haaland.*



*Nurses learn advanced infant patient care with the SimBaby simulator. (left to right): Jessica Turner, Glenda Mendoza, Semere Zerai, Joseph White, and Pamela New.*



*Sarita Schaffer, Director of Viva Farms*



*Dr. Mark Litton, SVC Class of '05, and SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan. Dr. Litton practices family medicine in Mount Vernon.*

# Meeting Student Needs for the Future

## CHARLES LEWIS HALL UPDATE: BEAM SIGNING & TOPPING OFF

**O**n February 27, 2013, Eileen Lewis, the 96-year-old daughter-in-law of Charles H. Lewis, joined Lewis family members, SVC Trustees, faculty, staff, and students for a “Beam Signing” at the site of the new Charles Lewis Hall. Burke Construction Group wanted to celebrate the “Topping Off” of the structure by painting the last steel beam white and offering the college community, including their construction crew, an opportunity to sign it. The 30 foot beam provided ample space for the hundreds who signed it with large colorful pens. The weather that day was cloudy, but dry. The temperature was in the mid 40s.

After the signing, the beam was nearly ready to be hoisted in place. Following a tradition that dates back to Scandinavian lore, Burke Construction Group conducted a “Topping Off” ceremony. In preparation, a U.S. Flag was temporarily affixed to one end (representing country of origin) and an Evergreen Tree on the opposite end (symbolizing new growth).

On March 6, unlike the dry day for the signing, the beam hoisting took place during a torrential downpour. Despite the weather, the workers assembled two cables around the beam and posed in front of it for a ceremonial picture. When it was time, the crane operator lifted the beam high above the building and rotated it in a complete circle, honking the horn. Construction workers stood on a neighboring beam, waiting for the last beam to be lowered to them. It was placed facing north towards Joe Reeves Hall.

Named for Charles H. Lewis, revered pioneer faculty member and first Dean of the College who served SVC for 28 years, the original Charles Lewis Hall was among the first buildings constructed on the campus in 1959.

Architect for the building is Schreiber Starling & Lane of Seattle. General contractor is Burke Construction Group of Cheney, WA. The College expects the \$32.4 million project will be finished in time for classes in fall 2014. Completion of the Gary Tollefson Plaza is scheduled for late fall 2014.



Eileen Lewis joins the Beam Signing with her sons David Lewis (left) and Dr. Greg Lewis (right).



The white beam is secured on the building.



An aerial photo of the new Charles Lewis Hall construction site.



Construction workers pose for a Topping Off ceremonial photo.

## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

**October** – Site preparation including relocating utilities; first concrete poured!

**November** – Mechanical basement constructed; cistern placed

**December** – HVAC lowered into equipment room; backfilling around foundation walls

**February** – Pouring slab for the floor; Beam Signing

**March** – Steel lifted in place

**April** – Framing office walls; installing plumbing, HVAC ductwork, and electrical

**May** – Interior/exterior walls framed

**June** – First exterior sheathing goes on; brick goes up!



**Kathryn Bennett, President**  
Foundation Board of Governors

## Focused on Student Success: Record Scholarship Allocation

“Skagit Valley College Foundation announced its highest-ever allocation of more than \$500,000 for student scholarships, faculty innovation, and educational program support. The generosity and commitment to student success from our community is inspiring,” said SVC Foundation Board of Governors President Kathryn Bennett. “The increased support by our community, combined with investment earnings from endowments, enables us to offer life-changing opportunities to local students.”

Endowments are established by donors to honor family members or serve specific programs for many years into the future. Endowment scholarships are paid from earnings, while principal continues to grow in diversified investments.

Since 1978, SVC Foundation has been making student dreams a reality and supporting exceptional educational programs, thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors. All gifts to SVC Foundation are managed in accordance with donor wishes.

[www.skagit.edu/founddonate](http://www.skagit.edu/founddonate)

## Students Engage with Global Issues

Skagit Valley College hosted the annual International Dinner on January 28th. Keynote speaker was Raj Patel, economist, activist, and author. The evening launched GlobalFest, SVC’s annual focus on global perspectives about world cultures, global service, international business, human rights, and the environment.

Presented by Skagit Valley College’s International Programs Office and supported by the Foundation and community sponsors, the International Dinner has become one of the most popular annual events in our community. Guests are served dishes from around the world and personally interact with SVC international student ambassadors at their tables.



Raj Patel



SVC Board Chair Margaret Rojas and international student Enni Zhao of Inner Mongolia



### Board Of Governors

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<b>Ruth Gidlund*</b>	<b>David Strong</b>
<b>Neil Hall</b>	<b>Susan Scripps Wood</b>
<b>Jack Henriot</b>	<b>*(Deceased)</b>

### Foundation Staff

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<b>Anne Clark and Jennifer Fix</b> <i>Assistant Directors</i>	<b>Shannon O’Neil</b> <i>Campus View Village – Administrative Services Manager</i>
<b>Karen Kotash</b> <i>Accountant</i>	

# Seven “First Time” Endowed Scholarship Awards

The first award of an endowed scholarship holds very special significance for both donors and family members. This year, we allocated first-time awards from seven recently established endowments.

## DON FINSEN CULINARY ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

In 2012, retired local restaurateur Don Finsen created an endowment for the culinary arts program at Skagit Valley College. The Don Finsen Culinary Arts Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding SVC Culinary Arts student. This year’s recipient is Jessica Vanwetter.



Jessica Vanwetter

## DON NULLE ACCOUNTING MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Don Nulle’s family established the Don Nulle Memorial Accounting Scholarship in order to honor Don’s commitment to his profession and to education in our community. Don loved the Skagit Valley and established the very successful Williams and Nulle accounting firm with his business partner Ernie Williams in the 1950s and retired in 1987. This year’s scholarship recipient is Carlos Palacios.



Carlos Palacios

## VONDA LYNNE POLINKUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Vonda Lynne Polinkus Memorial Scholarship was created by Vonda’s parents, Jan and Bill Polinkus, to “give others the opportunity to follow in Vonda Lynne’s footsteps. She loved her life as a registered nurse and the organized chaos of the Emergency Department.” Vonda, a SVC Nursing Alumnus, passed away in 2010. Nursing students at Skagit Valley College will follow her passion to help people thanks to this endowed scholarship, which selects students entering their second year of pre-requisites for the Nursing Program who show high academic promise. The first recipient of this scholarship is Alicia Henry.



Vonda Lynne Polinkus



Alicia Henry



Theresa Walrath & SVC Foundation Director Carl Young

## RUCILLA’S SCHOLARSHIP

Rucilla’s Scholarship was established by the generous foresight of Rucilla Dolan-Bidwell, an SVC instructor, to recognize and award outstanding SVC students in the Office Administration & Accounting Technology program at the Mount Vernon Campus. The funds were recently invested through the SVC Foundation. This year’s recipient is Theresa Walrath.

For more information creating a tribute to a loved one, please contact SVC Foundation: **360.416.7717** | [foundation@skagit.edu](mailto:foundation@skagit.edu)

## WADE AND FRAN SCHROEDER SCHOLARSHIP

Skagit Valley College Foundation received a \$500,000 bequest from the estate of Wade Schroeder who passed away in April 2010, and his wife Frances, who passed away in October 1999. Proceeds from the bequest—the second largest bequest in the history of the SVC Foundation—will fund a scholarship endowment arranged years ago by the donors. The Wade and Fran Schroeder Scholarship goes to SVC graduates who are pursuing a baccalaureate, masters, or doctorate degree, or a teaching certificate, with the goal of becoming trained professional educators. This year's recipients are: **Ian Cassinos, Hannah Ermi, Elizabeth Gibbs, Kaelie Larsen, Yadira Rosales, & Brittany Wilson.**



Wade & Fran Schroeder



Jeremy Gear

## JOSEPH T. ZYGMANSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Skagit Valley College Foundation received a bequest from the estate of Betty Jane Zygmanski in honor of her husband, the late Joseph T. Zygmanski. Proceeds from her bequest have been used to create an endowed scholarship to provide financial support to SVC students in behavioral sciences.

"Betty and Joe Zygmanski devoted their lives to imparting the value of higher education and sharing their love of community," said Carl Young, SVC Foundation Director. "Through their generosity, they will continue to touch the lives of others for generations." This year's recipient is Jeremy Gear.



Dale Downs

## SVC MARINE TECHNOLOGY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Skagit Valley Foundation received more than \$80,000 for Marine Technology Scholarships from generous community donors. This fundraising campaign, led by SVC Foundation volunteer Wallie Funk, started in 2010. The fund continues to grow thanks to many generous contributions. The Marine Technology Scholarship awards students attending the top-rated Anacortes Marine Technology Center. This year's recipients are Linda Degnan and Dale Downs.



Linda Degnan



Wallie Funk

# Alumni Spotlight

## SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE **ALUMNI** *and Friends*



Jill Rouw, Lindsay Fiker, and Debra Lisser



Kathryn Sargeant

**S**kagit Valley College Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of an official SVC Alumni and Friends Association! If you have ever taken a class at SVC, you are one of us!

On February 6, past, present, and future Cardinals were invited to join the association's first official "tip-off" event at the Mount Vernon Campus. Guests enjoyed looking through past yearbooks, SVC memorabilia, and reminiscing with one another before attending the Women's and Men's Cardinals Basketball games.

We invite all SVC supporters to connect with us to be notified of special events. Please join us on our official Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

<http://www.facebook.com/skagitalumni>

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Skagit-Valley-College-Alumni-Friends-4850387>

Call 360.416.7821 for more information.



## Alumni Making a Difference

In December of 2012, SVC alum Kathryn Sargeant from the Parks Law Enforcement Academy established a fund with SVC Foundation to support the Parks Law Enforcement Academy. "PLEA" alumni continue to make contributions to this fund that supports the success of this vital program. There are currently 314 active alumni members of PLEA. Thank you to these alums for "paying it forward" to their future colleagues!

**I**magine a future where financial barriers are not an issue for students and college departments have enough resources to purchase critical equipment to match employers' job-ready needs.

You can be a part of this happy ending by creating your own legacy! Skagit Valley College Foundation Legacy Society invites you to join other Legacy Society members who are making a lasting commitment to students and college departments at Skagit Valley College. SVC Foundation works confidentially with you and your advisors to determine a gift plan that best fits your charitable interests, family needs and financial situation.

Estate gifts make a tremendous impact on the lives of students. Join the growing ranks of generous individuals who recognize the critical role education plays in healthy communities. Help write stories for future SVC students by creating your legacy with SVC Foundation.

**Contact: 360.416.7717 | [foundation@skagit.edu](mailto:foundation@skagit.edu)**

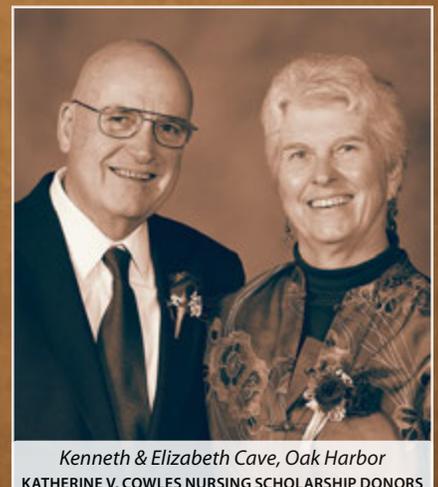
## SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION *Legacy* SOCIETY

*Her story...*

*...becomes yours!*



Jennifer Scollan, SVC Student



Kenneth & Elizabeth Cave, Oak Harbor  
KATHERINE V. COWLES NURSING SCHOLARSHIP DONORS