

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

Winter Quarter, 2010

© Doug J Scott / dougscott.com

LAURA ANGST HALL

SVC Accountability Report
to the Community

Foundation:
Celebrating Students

Around the District



Skagit Valley College
Where Learning Comes to Life

Currents

Winter Quarter, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Dr. Nick Paslidis
- 4-5 Laura Angst Hall
- 6 Around the District
- 7 Accountability Report
- 8 Foundation
- 9 Celebrating Students-Crystal & Andrea Nelson
- 10 Champions of Diversity Endowments Save the Dates!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Although we have been enduring difficult economic times, it is important to remember that Washington's community and technical colleges are committed to strengthening our local economies by preparing a well-educated workforce. Within our district, Skagit Valley College remains focused on providing

access to high quality education and state-of-the-art training to the communities we serve in Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties.

Our commitment is solid and timeless, built upon the legacy of people whose contributions have helped shape SVC as a center of learning excellence. These individuals are exceptional faculty who teach in our classrooms, students who walk through our doors, and our supporters and donors who generously give of their time or provide important scholarship funding. Collectively, their vision, dedication, and enthusiasm leave an indelible mark on the lives of our students and on the life of this institution.

So, in this edition of Currents, I hope you will find meaningful inspiration as we share a few remarkable stories: the new Laura Angst Hall and pioneer biological sciences faculty member Dr. Laura Angst; Dr. Nick Paslidis, an outstanding 1978 SVC alum and Lewis Award recipient; Andrea and Crystal Nelson who are mother/daughter, college peers, and who both received the same scholarship from the SVC Foundation.

Truly, people make the difference at SVC. As you look ahead, I trust that you will find an individual who inspires you to reach higher, challenges you to persevere, and encourages you to achieve your goals and dreams.

On behalf of the Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees, I thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Tollefson
President



Don Piercy
Chair



John Stephens
Vice Chair



Debra Lisser



Tom Moser



Margaret Rojas

© 2010 Skagit Valley College

Currents is published by the
Skagit Valley College
Public Information Office,
2405 East College Way,
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
email: pio@skagit.edu

Editors/Writers: Arden Ainley & Jennifer Fix
Design: Don Cairns & James Walters

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. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Executive Director of Human Resources
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360.416.7794

COLLEGE MISSION

Skagit Valley College exists to expand opportunities and horizons for students and to improve the communities in which they live. We achieve this by welcoming and valuing diverse learners, providing quality education and support, and contributing community leadership and service.

Dr. Nick Paslidis

Dream Big! The Sky's the Limit!



Photo courtesy of Dr. Nick Paslidis

As a successful physician in Arkansas and CEO of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, an early morning meeting isn't unusual for Dr. Nick Paslidis, but this one was different — very different. When President Barack Obama was introduced, hearts began to flutter just a bit. Dr. Paslidis had been invited as Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe's guest to represent him and Arkansas at a meeting about health care at the White House in October 2009.

"The Governors' meeting was quite an honor," said Dr. Paslidis. "Governor Beebe invited me and I was the only individual there on behalf of his presence."

As an internal medicine physician with numerous high-level appointments and honors, Dr. Paslidis inspires others naturally. His approach is simple. "Think big! The sky's the limit, as long there is commitment, opportunity...and faith."

These life threads were important in Nick's boyhood home in Greece too. With an opportunity to study abroad through the education program, Youth For Understanding — and with his family's encouragement — Nick came to Mount Vernon High School for his senior year. After graduation, he returned to Greece that summer to make college plans.

In 1976, Nick Paslidis decided to return to Mount Vernon, the town he considered his second home, and began his journey to medicine at Skagit Valley College. While earning his transfer degree, he excelled in math and science, taking many courses in the original Angst Hall. He often enrolled in over 30 credits per quarter and earned straight As.

For Nick, it was a perfect fit. "I started in a small community college and appreciate what Skagit offered me. I needed that environment and support, versus a big university where you sometimes lose that support mechanism. I loved the environment!"

In recognition of his academic excellence, Nick earned SVC's prestigious Charles Lewis Award in 1978, along with a fellow student. He was the first international student to receive the award and it was the first time that two students earned it the same year.

In thinking about the future, Dr. Nick Paslidis added: "I always thought, what a great opportunity to come back...if there was an alumni event and say, 'I appreciate what Skagit Valley College gave me. The opportunity to be the link to get to the next level.' I'd love to have the opportunity to say, *Dream big! The sky's the limit!*"



Laura Angst Hall

Under a canopy of wispy white clouds on September 15, 2009, the Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students welcomed community members to the Dedication Ceremony of Laura Angst Hall, the college's new sciences and health occupations building. Also joining the celebration were special guests Arthur and James Angst, both great nephews of Dr. Laura Angst.

The official program began at 11:00 a.m. at the steps of the building's east entrance with a welcome from SVC President Dr. Gary Tollefson. At that moment, Skagit Valley College entered a new era of providing students and the community with access to outstanding sciences and healthcare training facilities. The day included building tours, department demonstrations, and opportunities to meet the faculty.

Named for SVC's pioneer biology professor, Laura Angst Hall replaced the aging one-story Angst Hall, which opened in 1958 and was one of the seven original buildings constructed on the Mount Vernon Campus. Dr. Laura Angst joined the SVC faculty for the 1927-28 academic year and led the Biological Science department until her retirement in 1950. While the original building served the college well for five decades, it no longer provided adequate space for fast-growing science and health care programs.



Dr. Laura Angst

Photo from Mount Vernon Junior College Annual Bulletin 1927-1928

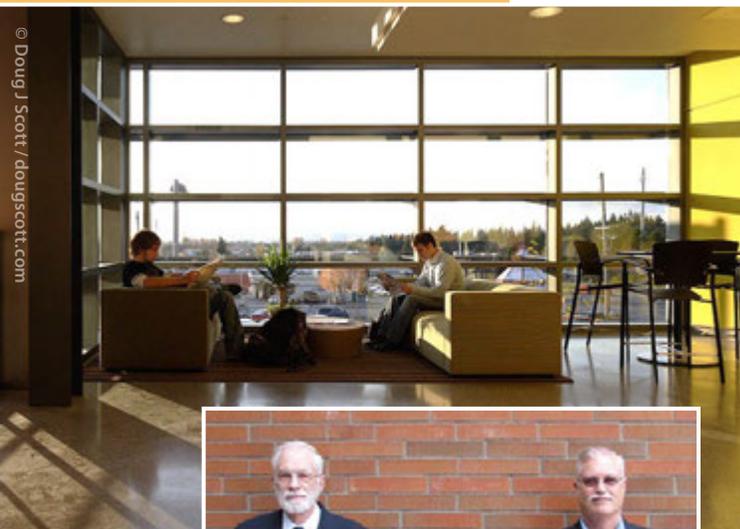




© Doug J. Scott / dougscott.com



Architect Ketih Schreiber, Mary Alice Grobins, Vice President for Administrative Services, and Dennis Rohloff, Director of the Physical Plant



© Doug J. Scott / dougscott.com



Jim and Art Angst, great nephews of Dr. Angst

At 65,232 square feet, Laura Angst Hall is a cornerstone on the Mount Vernon Campus, providing exceptional learning environments for fast-growing healthcare occupations and the sciences. By working closely with regional healthcare providers, community partners, economic leaders, and other colleges and universities, SVC continues to address the demand for highly skilled healthcare professionals as well as science scholars and researchers in our region. With state-of-the-art simulation labs, the Nursing and Allied Health departments have increased capacity to serve students. Currently, approximately 280 students are enrolled in Registered and Practical Nursing, Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Billing and Coding, Phlebotomy, Patient Registration, and Medical Front Office. In addition, the building features classroom and lab learning environments for the sciences including Astronomy, Biological Science, Chemistry, Environmental Conservation, Geology, and Physics.

Students who enter Laura Angst Hall are immersed in an environment where the latest technology and eLearning advances are integrated into their everyday studies. Wi-Fi networks and smart classrooms allow SVC to offer more eLearning options in partnership with other community colleges and four-year universities across Washington. Comfortable study areas with views of Mount Baker to the north, Little Mountain to the south, Mount Erie to the west, and Cultus Mountain to the east provide that added bit of inspiration.

SVC's ongoing commitment to sustainability is celebrated in Laura Angst Hall as a "green" building with multiple environmentally friendly features. As a result, the building has met the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating and we anticipate at least a Gold rating. Design and construction targets the highest standards in energy conservation including lighting that self-adjusts to incoming natural light, a rain garden and select plantings to collect excess rainfall, and photovoltaic panels that supply approximately 8.5% of the building's non-lab energy use and up to 4% of the building's energy use.

Facts & Figures

- ◆ Opened Fall Quarter, 2009
- ◆ 65,232 square feet
- ◆ \$31 million
- ◆ Three general use classrooms, 12 classroom/labs, and eight dedicated labs to support instruction in the sciences, environmental conservation, nursing, and health occupations
- ◆ "Smart" classrooms allow more distance education options and additional classes in partnership with other community colleges and four-year universities
- ◆ Photovoltaic panels that supply about 8.5% of the building's non-lab energy use and up to 4% of the building's energy use
- ◆ A Rain Garden and plantings to collect excess rainwater
- ◆ Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating met. Gold rating anticipated
- ◆ Schreiber Starling & Lane Architects – Prime Architect
- ◆ Yost Grube Hall Architecture – Associated Architect
- ◆ Tiger Construction – General Contractor



SVC WELCOMES WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

Skagit Valley College was honored to welcome the Washington Supreme Court's nine justices to the Mount Vernon Campus where they spoke to students regarding the state and federal constitutions, legal careers, and heard arguments on three actual cases in a community visit to SVC on February 22-23. The state's highest court is located in Olympia in the Temple of Justice on the state capitol grounds. For more than a decade now, the Court has heard cases "on the road" three times a year in an outreach effort allowing citizens to see the court in action in their local communities.

COMMITTED TO GREEN!

Skagit Valley College has an ongoing commitment to sustainability practices with a variety of initiatives and projects. With great fanfare, the college celebrated the opening of Laura Angst Hall in September as a "green" building with multiple environmentally friendly features. New this year is SVC's enthusiastic participation in RecycleMania, a 10-week friendly competition for colleges and universities across the country. In May, the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses will host sustainability fairs to bring greater awareness to protecting valuable resources and how we can work together to make a difference on the planet – details to come!

HALL OF FAME

Established in 1989 and one of the highest honors that the college bestows, the Skagit Valley College Hall of Fame honors alumni, community leaders, faculty, public officials, and staff members who have made positive and outstanding contributions to the college. These individuals have accomplished extraordinary achievements in their personal, professional, or scholastic lives that have contributed to the pride and prestige of SVC and its community. So, please join us as we honor the Hall of Fame 2010 inductees on Wednesday, April 7 in the McIntyre Hall Performing Arts & Conference Center. For induction banquet ticket information, visit www.mcintyrehall.org.

EXPLORITAS

Skagit Valley College's educational travel program "Exploritas" (formerly known as Elderhostel) is gearing up for its "Spring Blooms in the Pacific Northwest" program in April. This program features educational presentations, fieldtrips to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival and Meerkerk Rhododendron Garden on Whidbey Island, and explorations of La Conner, Coupeville, and Ebey's Landing. Dates are April 18-21 and April 21-24. We're proud that the Skagit Valley is host to the 2010 World Tulip Summit, which adds extra flare and excitement to this educational experience. For more information, please contact the Exploritas staff at (360) 378-3265 or visit www.skagit.edu/exploritas.



Around the district

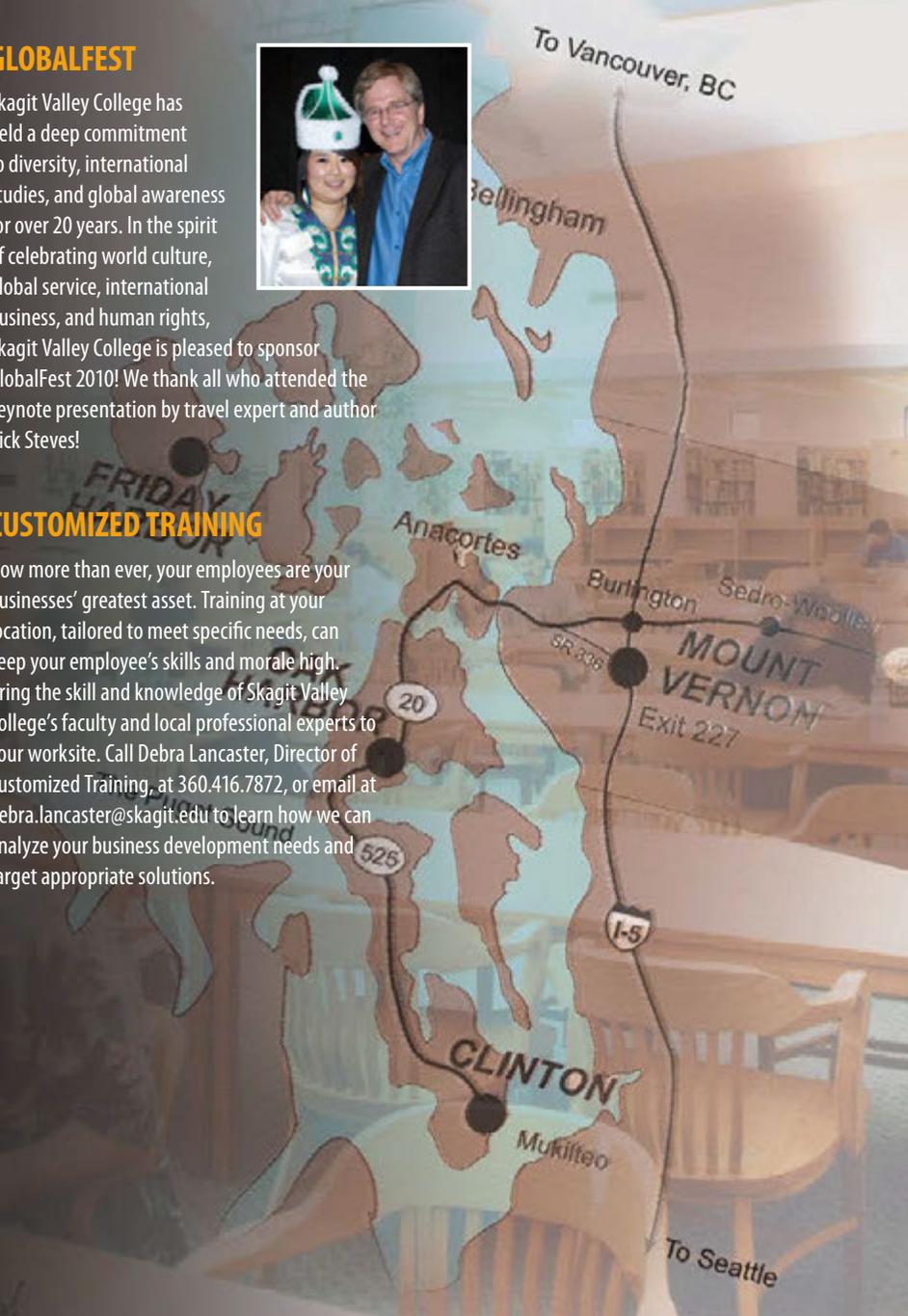
GLOBALFEST

Skagit Valley College has held a deep commitment to diversity, international studies, and global awareness for over 20 years. In the spirit of celebrating world culture, global service, international business, and human rights, Skagit Valley College is pleased to sponsor GlobalFest 2010! We thank all who attended the keynote presentation by travel expert and author Rick Steves!



CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

Now more than ever, your employees are your businesses' greatest asset. Training at your location, tailored to meet specific needs, can keep your employee's skills and morale high. Bring the skill and knowledge of Skagit Valley College's faculty and local professional experts to your worksite. Call Debra Lancaster, Director of Customized Training, at 360.416.7872, or email at debra.lancaster@skagit.edu to learn how we can analyze your business development needs and target appropriate solutions.



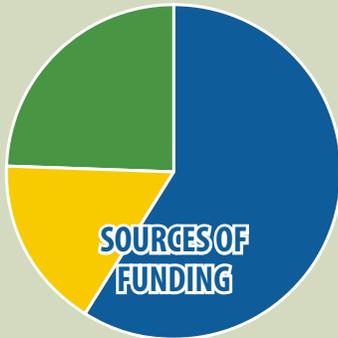
Accountability Report 2008-2009

FINANCIAL DATA

SOURCES OF FUNDING

State Funds	53%
Locally Generated Revenue	25%
Student Tuition	22%

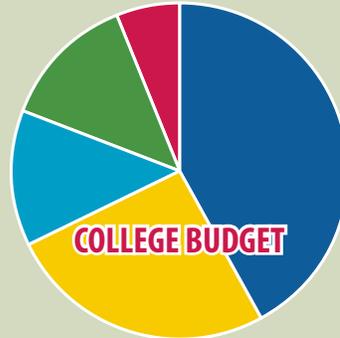
■ LGR ■ ST ■ SF



COLLEGE BUDGET

Operating Expenditures	42%
Grants & Contracts	26%
Student Aid	13%
Capital Projects	13%
Business Enterprises	6%

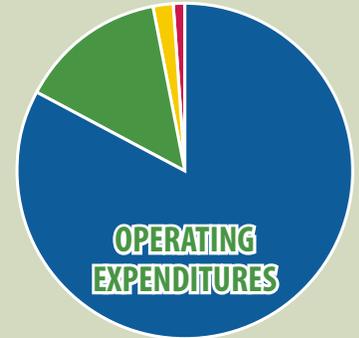
■ BE ■ CP ■ SA ■ G&C ■ OE



OPERATING EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

Salary & Benefits for Teaching and Support	83%
Goods & Services	14%
Equipment	2%
Travel	1%

■ T ■ E ■ G&S ■ S&B



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS Credit Class Enrollment for Fall 2009

AGE & GENDER

The average age for students enrolled at SVC for credit at the college is 30. The majority of SVC students are female (59%), and the average age for females is 31. In contrast, the average age for male students is 28.

Female	59%
Male	41%

ATTENDANCE

Part-Time	55%
Full-Time	45%

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

	Number	Percent
White	4,746	72%
Asian/Pac Islander	320	5%
Hispanic	1,010	15%
African American	123	2%
Amer Indian/ Alaska Native	76	1%
Other/Unknown	131	2%
International	215	3%
Total	6,621	100%

PROGRAM GOALS OF STUDENTS

	Number	Percent
University/College		
Transfer	2,872	43%
Workforce Training	2,206	33%
BasicSkills	770	12%
Apprentice	193	3%
Home & Family	291	4.5%
Non Degree	289	4.5%
Total	6,621	100%

2008-09 SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

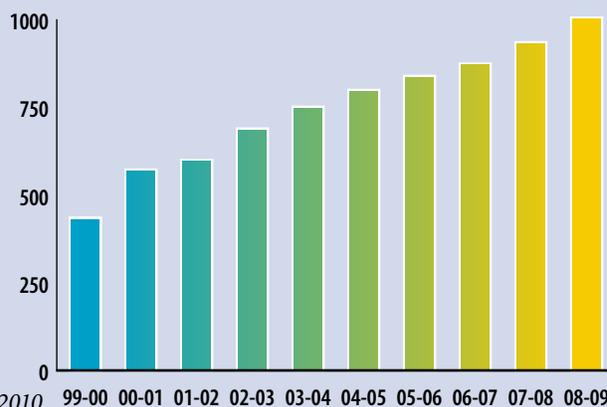
The SVC Foundation awarded over \$240,000 in scholarships to SVC Students and \$7.7 million in Financial Aid was distributed to 2100 students.

2008-09 DEGREES & CERTIFICATES AWARDED

The college awarded 479 degrees, 396 certificates, and 48 high school diplomas.

eLEARNING

Annualized FTEs - All Funds





The Skagit Valley College Foundation has a rich tradition of making a difference in people's lives through scholarship and educational program support. We raised \$579,026 (July 2008-June 2009) for student scholarships and instructional programs through donor contributions and fundraising events, despite the unprecedented economic challenges. I invite you to click on the following Annual Report link to see how donor support helped make students' dreams a reality. ► **Annual Report Link**



On behalf of the Skagit Valley College Foundation, I sincerely thank all of our generous donors for their ongoing support and commitment to higher education. The SVC Foundation plans to work very hard in 2010 to expand our efforts in scholarship support by further growing the endowment through fundraising and planned giving.

Thank you for being part of our commitment to the students and programs of Skagit Valley College!

Megan Bray Wise
SVC Foundation President

Board Of Governors 2009-2010

Megan Bray Wise, President
Nancy Fey, Vice President
Susan Ragan, Secretary/Treasurer
Janie Beasley
Tom Harker
Don Keltz
Doug Noblet
Jeff Pleet
Erica Pickett
Megan Scott O'Bryan
Stephanie Wood

Emeritus & Honorary Members

Elin Anderson*	Elna Iversen
Jim Anderson	Mark Iverson
Cheryl Bishop	Jack Kenney
Betty Black	John Meyer
Susan Cooper	Bud Moore
Mike Crawford	Arlene Nelson
Norm Dahlstedt	Pam Nelson
Denny Davis	Marje Peters*
Micki Deierlein*	Scott Richards
Jim Ford	Bud Strom
Ruth Gidlund*	David Strong
Neil Hall	Susan Scripps
Jack Henriot	Wood
Roger Hulbush	*Deceased



SVC Foundation Holiday Reception

Friends of the Skagit Valley College Foundation joined members of the SVC Foundation Board of Governors for the annual holiday reception at McIntyre Hall in December. Guests were entertained by the SVC Jazz Ensemble while dining on delicious hors d'oeuvres by the SVC Culinary Department.

Megan Bray Wise, SVC Foundation Board President; Dr. Gary Tollefson, SVC President; and Carl Young, SVC Foundation Interim Director; presented a short program about SVC Foundation goals. Vanessa Scee, recipient of the First Generation Scholarship sponsored by Dr. Roger and Dr. Leslie Estep, spoke eloquently of her experience at Skagit Valley College and described the positive impact the scholarship has made on her life. She will attend Western Washington University after completing her transfer degree in June 2010.

Skagit Valley College Foundation Emeritus and 2004 Skagit Valley College Hall of Fame Recipient Dr. Bud Strom enjoys the holiday reception at McIntyre Hall.

Celebrating students

Article reprint courtesy of Whidbey News Times

Like Mother, Like Daughter: Two Share Skagit Valley College Foundation Scholarship

By **LIZ BURLINGAME**

Whidbey News Times Reporter

While it's not unusual for two people to share the same foundation scholarship at Skagit Valley College, it's unlikely that the pair would be mother and daughter.

"They told us that had never happened before," Crystal Nelson said.

College staff have predicted a blue-chip future for Oak Harbor residents Andrea Nelson and daughter Crystal, who each received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Skagit Valley College Foundation last May. College spokesperson Arden Ainley said the Nelsons' story is particularly inspiring.

Andrea is originally from Taiwan and said that only two generations ago, her grandmother didn't have access to an education.

"I feel like I'm doing this for my grandmother. She's kind of in me," Andrea said.

Born of Chinese descent, her grandmother was adopted into a Taiwanese family to become the son's future wife. While the son attended school, she was encouraged to tend to the cattle. Although schooling was required in Taiwan, her adopted parents hid her from authorities, Andrea said.

As she was growing up, Andrea's grandmother always stressed the importance of education. Today, Andrea is a single mom who works at night and attends classes in the daytime while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

She began courses at Skagit Valley College 10 years ago, starting with improving her English skills. In June she will earn her Licensed Practical Nursing degree. She wants to become a nurse at Careage of Whidbey, where she currently works.

Andrea is proud to show her own daughters what an education can do.

"I used to have low self-esteem having English as a second language," she said. "But I have a passion inside me that's been burning all these years. People say that they can tell I enjoy my job. They say, 'You're always smiling.'"

Crystal is studying to become a linguist and speaks Japanese, Chinese and Russian. She hopes to become a novelist one day and translate her own books.



Join Us...

Skagit Valley College Foundation invites you to join forces in helping students and educational programming at Skagit Valley College! Fill out your contact information and we will let you know all the different ways you can help.

Links

Whidbey News Times Reporter Liz Burlingame can be reached at eburlingame@whidbeynewstimes.com or (360) 675-6611.

SVC Foundation Endowments Weather Economic Storm Better than Other Colleges

Good News! College endowments seem to be on the rebound according to early national indicators from a National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and Commonfund (largest U.S. nonprofit investment manager serving over 70 percent of the nation's top 100 educational endowments) joint national survey. This preliminary survey showed that most college funds across the country lost approximately 19 percent of their value in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Skagit Valley College Foundation weathered this economic storm with a slightly lower loss of 16 percent in 2008-2009.

"The fact that the overall average for the 500-plus colleges in the NACUBO-Commonfund early peek is significantly lower than those high-profile universities suggests that the investments of smaller institutions—which typically invest more cautiously—fared better in the downturn than did the behemoths [i.e. Harvard, Princeton, Stanford]. Still, negative returns even in the teens are much bigger than many colleges are used to, and the 19 percent decline would represent the biggest drop for college investments since the 1970s," reports Inside Higher Education Editor Doug Lederman.

Skagit Valley College Foundation's total endowment portfolio as of December 2009 totaled \$6,166,516, compared to December 2008 at \$4,945,690—a positive increase that reflects improved market conditions. SVC Foundation investments in the Commonfund consist of bond, equity, REIT and international equity funds. These funds had a total performance increase of 29 percent in 2009.

"Improving markets will definitely help our foundation increase student scholarship support for Fall 2010," Carl Young, SVC Foundation Interim Director, stated. "Our prudent investment policy has served us well during these tough economic times."

For more information on the Skagit Valley College Foundation, contact Carl Young, SVC Foundation Interim Director, at (360) 416-7646 or carl.young@skagit.edu.

Source: "Slight Rebound for Endowments," *InsideHigherEd.com*, Doug Lederman, Dec. 10, 2009.

Save The Dates!

Friday, May 7, 2010

22nd ANNUAL JAMES M. FORD GOLF CLASSIC at Avalon Golf Links. Sponsored by Shell Puget Sound Refinery.



Golfers (l to r) Brian Murphy, Jim Anderson, Dr. James Ford, and Daniel Graber help support SVC Foundation scholarships while enjoying a day of golf at last year's Jim Ford Golf Classic.

Friday, June 18, 2010

18TH ANNUAL WHIDBEY ISLAND GOLF CLASSIC at the Whidbey Golf & Country Club



Golfers (l to r) Tim Rawlins, Jeff Lind, Jim Stewart and Dale Smith support SVC Foundation Whidbey Island student scholarships at the annual Whidbey Island Golf Classic.

SVC Foundation Champions of Diversity and Opportunity Grant Recipients

Thanks to generous community donors, Skagit Valley College Foundation proudly awarded approximately \$10,000 to Champions of Diversity and Opportunity Grant scholarship recipients at a December 2009 awards ceremony.



Back Row: Jennifer Tolentino, Maria Hurtado, SVC Foundation Board Member Megan O'Bryan, SVC Foundation Interim Director Carl Young, Julia Gonzalez, SVC Student Success Project Manager Jennifer Sadouk, and Felicia Smith.

Front Row: Noemy Guevara, Maria Avalos, Kimberly Esparza, Esmeralda Sanchez
Not pictured: Celerino Hernandez and Nayana Pye