

# Ford Scholar Alumni News

*Improving communities through volunteerism, civic leadership and philanthropy.*

## New Director Encourages the FSAA

By **Holly Scholz**  
Editor

When Denise Callahan joined The Ford Family Foundation as Director of Scholarship Programs in late November, she knew she could easily handle one aspect of her job description – the Ford Scholar Alumni Association.

That's an area where she's had a lot of experience, Denise said during an open house in her honor at the Scholarship Office in Eugene on Nov. 28.

Before coming to the Foundation, Denise was the Senior Director of Alumni and Parent Relations for Willamette University in Salem, where she was responsible for leading, managing, and directing the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations in encouraging the continued involvement and engagement of alumni with the university. She also had oversight of the University's alumni magazine, *The Scene*, and was responsible for the marketing and branding of the development and alumni relations division at Willamette.



Patricia Cortez, Class of 2001, meets Director of Scholarship Programs Denise Callahan during an open house on Nov. 28.

"The challenges that befall alumni associations are the same," Denise said. "The younger alumni are the hardest group to engage because they are smack in the middle of their busy lives with careers, families and other commitments... You have to be creative in figuring out ways to keep the connection strong without being disruptive."

The FSAA began forming 10 years ago, and Denise said you often see it in alumni associations – every decade or so in the growth cycle, there's a need to look closely at the structure and direction of the organization.

While Denise thinks the FSAA has done a wonderful job of getting the organization going, she offers a few suggestions.

Focus, she said, is key. "Where are we in our growth cycle? What are we hoping to achieve?" The FSAA must look to the next 10 years and ask where it wants to be.

"What are the benefits that you provide to your members?" Denise said, "You have an amazing network of people who have the same values. How do we leverage that?"

She recommends starting small. For example, invite alumni to post internship or job openings on the FSAA Facebook site. If your company has an opening, Denise said, you want to hire someone who is a strong leader, who has integrity – someone like a Ford Scholar.

Busy alumni who still want to contribute to the betterment of the association might also be able to review resumes of new

## Vote for Your FSAA Board of Directors April 20-May 5

By **Logan Smith**  
FSAA Vice President

A wonderful group of applicants are vying to join the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors during this spring's FSAA 2013 election. Their biographies are featured in this issue of *Alumni News*.

Members will vote for the positions of president, secretary and four at-large positions. A link to an electronic ballot will be e-mailed to all Ford Scholar Alumni during the last week of April. **Voting will be open online from Saturday, April 20 through Sunday, May 5.** Alumni will not be able to vote for candidates after the May 5 deadline. Only one ballot per alum is allowed.

The candidates will fill positions currently occupied by outgoing board members: President Andrea Smith '94; Secretary Marija Kovacevic Hobbs '94; and Members at Large Cari (Bauman) Hershberger '02, Suleima (Cortez) Garcia '05, Ellyn Canfield Nealon '03, and Ryan Tharp '03.

Jeremy Myrland '97 and Mary (Nelson) Chuinard '02 are running for president. Katie (Carriker) Keller '97 is running for secretary. Five candidates are running for the four open members-at-large posi-

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for their assistance with this  
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Andrea Smith, Logan Smith,  
Tyler Smith and Rob Teel.

Editor's Note: The authors'  
opinions do not necessarily  
reflect those of the FSAA or its  
members.

## A Final Note from the President

**By Andrea Smith**  
**FSAA President**

By the time the next newsletter hits your mailbox, you will have a new president (don't all cheer at once!). Since this is my last "Notes," I thought I would share some of my memories of Mr. Ford; so many of you never got to meet the man behind your scholarship.

In 1994, I received a letter telling me I was one of 45 people selected to interview for a Ford Family Foundation Scholarship. I had no idea what that was (the car company?), or how they got my name since I didn't apply for it. Turns out, the Scholarship Commission pulled candidates from all the applications received that year for every scholarship administered by the state. You see, Kenneth Ford wanted to start his Ford Scholars Program in 1994, and he wouldn't be dissuaded just because the official applications hadn't been widely distributed yet. He was determined, and I doubt many things ever stood in the way of a determined Kenneth Ford.

At our first conference, we learned that to Kenneth Ford, "casual attire" meant a tie, slacks, loafers and a *short-sleeved* dress shirt.

Mr. Ford's vision was for us to be "Ford Scholars for life." To him, this wasn't about finances. He told us plain and simple: "I didn't give you money. I invested in you, and I expect a return on my investment."

At our home-spun talent show, when Annie Tester played the piano while I sang "Climb Every Mountain," Mr. Ford cried. Like, really cried.

He insisted we have Bananas Foster after dinner, even though it was quite expensive for a group our size. He wanted us to feel special (and really, what's more special than a flaming dessert?).

Mr. Ford really listened to us. He wanted to know what we thought and why. He wasn't shy about giving his opinion when he disagreed, but it was only because he genuinely had our best interests at heart.

When the first 16 of us graduated from college in 1996, we decided to

perform a little makeshift "cap and gown" ceremony at Salishan for Mr. Ford. It was supposed to be fun, but it quickly turned into one of the most deeply touching, emotionally moving evenings I've ever experienced.

Scholar after Scholar took the microphone to tell their stories – first generation Americans who were the only college graduates in their families, people who'd triumphed over extreme adversity, people who'd only dreamt of achieving their academic and professional goals... a single mom with three young children, trying to make a better life for her family (yes, that was me).

Among us sat a humble man whose own dream made these feats possible. And he had tears streaming down his face, as did everyone there (even the servers!). Yes, he paid our way through school, but far more importantly, he believed in us and somehow made each of us feel like we could accomplish just about anything. He was witnessing the first fruits of his labor that evening, and he was tremendously proud of each one of us.

Mr. Ford passed away the following year, and several of us drove to Roseburg to attend his funeral. I don't think I ever felt more honored to be a Ford Scholar than on that day. Bonnie Ford told us later that as much as Kenneth had touched our lives, we had also touched his. He was more patient, laughed more, and even danced with her on a cruise they'd taken together, something he just didn't do.

Mr. Ford told us, "You are special. Now go out there and be special." Sure, it was for those of us in the room at the time, but I know if he could see the 1600+ members of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association, he would say the same thing to each of you. I hope each of you will carry that in your hearts as you make your way through life.

It has truly been my honor to serve this organization, and I hope more of you will get involved. Ford Scholars are among the best human beings I've ever met; you truly are special.

# FSAA Board Energized During January General Meeting

**By Logan Smith**  
**FSAA Vice President**

In January, the Ford Scholar Alumni Association hosted its second annual general meeting in Portland, Ore., with more than 20 people in attendance including alumni and guests. The goal of the meetings is to encourage alumni to participate in the business of the FSAA and to share ideas with and provide feedback to the board of directors.

The excitement that brought many people to this meeting was the scheduled roundtable discussion with the new Ford Family Foundation Director of Scholarship Programs Denise Callahan. The discussion with Denise was greatly anticipated because of what alumni see as her potential to help with the challenges facing the FSAA. Denise has a great deal of experience with improving an alumni organization, as she was the Senior Director of Alumni and Parent Relations for Willamette University prior to being hired by the Foundation.

The meeting opened with the FSAA Board President Andrea Smith welcoming everyone and giving an overview of the FSAA events in 2012. Last year, the FSAA focused on a theme of connecting alumni and raising awareness of the organization through a social media and blogging campaign. The campaign was considered a big success as evidenced by the growth in alumni joining the FSAA Facebook and LinkedIn groups. Engaging alumni will continue to be a focus of board members in 2013 to reach the greater FSAA goal of improved membership involvement and participation in events.

Andrea Smith introduced Denise Callahan, and Denise

offered some insights. She complimented the FSAA on its progress and reminded the group not to be discouraged with perceived low participation. Denise elaborated by stating that most organizations have a “tipping-point” in membership where group numbers begin to drive participation and growth. Denise encouraged the FSAA to keep improving the organization’s visibility and, over time, alumni that have not been involved will come around.

When asked how the FSAA could assist the Scholarship Office, Denise suggested that we could help improve outreach and provide valuable feedback. FSAA members have a unique ability to reach rural communities and offer suggestions on how the Scholarship Office could further enhance the Ford Scholar experience. In turn, the Scholarship Office could expand awareness of the FSAA to new Ford Scholars and offer suggestions on improving the alumni experience.

After the discussion with Denise, the topics turned to the role of the FSAA. Board Secretary Marija Kovacevic Hobbs reviewed the group’s Mission Statement and its history in supporting community projects. In the past, the FSAA helped already-established projects by donating money, organizing alumni volunteer events, and announcing alumni projects in the newsletter.

Several alumni present at the meeting thought that the role of the FSAA should go further and that the organization should create community projects where alumni could participate. Suggestions were proposed to the board for developing an easy-to-reference list of “shovel ready” community projects in which alumni could participate either through direct volunteering or through financial support.

Member at Large Rob Teel suggested that the next board meeting should initiate this effort by organizing a meeting around a family-friendly volunteer event, which is scheduled for April 20 at the Gilbert Park Elementary School in Portland. FSAA Board nominees are encouraged to attend this event to provide an opportunity to meet fellow alumni.

At the close of the meeting, all those in attendance were encouraged to run for election to a position on the board for the vacating president, secretary and four at-large positions. Andrea Smith noted that this would be her last general meeting as president of the FSAA and fondly described her experience as FSAA president before adjourning the general meeting. The detailed minutes of this meeting can be found on the FSAA website or on the Facebook group page.

## **Vote for Your FSAA...**

*Continued from page 1*

tions: Nicole Blalock '02, Leana Dickerson '04, Toni (Parker) Kelich '02, Jami Moore '03 and Rabecka (Herbert) Peixoto '95.

The candidates will be notified of the election results soon after the votes are tallied, and new board members will be announced via e-mail. New board members will be introduced to the most recent class of Ford Scholar Alumni on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at their outgoing conference at the Valley River Inn in Eugene.

Note: If the FSAA does not have your updated e-mail address, you probably will not receive your electronic ballot. Those who need to update their contact information or who have questions about the election can e-mail [elections@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:elections@fordscholaralumni.com).

# Candidates



Jeremy Myrland

## President

**Jeremy Myrland**  
Class of 1997

As someone who would have never been able to attend college had it not been for Mr. Kenneth Ford, I am forever grateful to The Ford Family Foundation. I believe that my strong community involvement, connections around the world, and tireless work ethic would help push the Ford Scholar Alumni Association beyond where we've ever been.

I am a strong facilitator who isn't afraid to try something new. I have held key roles within a couple of companies in Portland that have helped define our region. I believe that both the local and international connections I have made will help in our association's future.

I'm not afraid of getting knocked down, and I will always jump back up. Sometimes I can be a little too direct and will have to learn to tone it down for the more PC folks in the room, but I will always be open and honest.

I am captain of a couple of kickball teams in Portland (can never be too grown up!) and love trying out different microbrews. I am actively involved in the startup community, a couple non-profits, and am a huge Trailblazers fan. I am married to my beautiful wife, Willow, who teaches at a charter school that focuses on science.

I would be honored to be chosen and look forward to being more actively involved with the FSAA. Anyone who has ever known me would agree that I am 100 percent committed to everything I set my goals toward.



Mary Chuinard

## President

**Mary (Nelson) Chuinard**  
Class of 2002

As your Ford Scholar Alumni Association President, I will pursue avenues to increase communication amidst alumni. I envision this happening through individuals like myself, and anyone else who will join me, personally reaching out to other alumni via Facebook and e-mail. We need to start simple and small, be consistent, and then expand efforts. Planning meet-ups around existing community or alma mater events can also provide a venue for this communication to in turn become true connecting.

In the same fashion, we can help each other through the bond and network that is The Ford Family Foundation, as people and professionals. We can help the FSAA connect resources we each may have that the other may need, whether through mentoring, community service, social events or funding. We should never lose sight of the core values that the Foundation originally saw in us. I have a vision of strengthening the stewardship of those values while strengthening our cohesion as Ford Scholar Alumni.

The joy I find in my career directly relates with what the Foundation made attainable to me – education and a better future. I pursued academic advising as a career to help students in their pursuit of this better future. I welcome the opportunity to also help our FSAA expand its impact, for each of us and our communities at large.



Katie Keller

## Secretary

**Katie (Carriker) Keller**  
Class of 1997

I am an Oregon native and obtained my undergraduate dual degree in physics and music from Pacific University in Forest Grove.

After college I taught outdoor science to fifth and sixth graders in California. I moved to Montana for a man (he's my husband now though, so I think I can mark that down as a good choice), and I spent a year working on an eco-cruise boat.

In 2005, I started working at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry to fulfill my passion for science and for education. Throughout my career, I've seen what good and bad leadership looks like, and what a difference that can make. I've met amazing people in Portland and around the state, making connections in the non-profit and education communities.

I've also seen what a difference community involvement means in terms of volunteer hours contributed, and I've been inspired to get involved in my own volunteer activities such as cooking dinner for residents at Our House of Portland, an HIV/AIDS hospice.

A cancer survivor at 33, I've learned a lot in the time since I entered college as a naïve young freshman, eager to get started with life yet unaware of the many challenges to come. The opportunities afforded to me because of the generosity of The Ford Family Foundation are significant, and I look forward to giving back and paying forward in the years to come.

# Candidates



Nicole Blalock

## Member at Large

**Nicole Blalock**  
Class of 2002

We, as Ford Scholar Alumni, have the potential to serve our communities in great and diverse ways.

Although my undergraduate training saw me working in the scientific industry, I couldn't stay away from the community-building values of my networks for very long. This year, I will receive my Master of Arts Degree in Native American Studies and my Ph.D. in School Organization and Educational Policy from the University of California, Davis. The values modeled by The Ford Family Foundation have served me well in this journey.

I have been involved in a number of collaborative projects aimed at service to local communities during my tenure as a graduate student. Among them are large research grants; volunteer research for the development of a state-level education advisory committee; and volunteer curriculum development work as part of a documentary film project set for international release in 2014.

I wish to serve as a FSAA Board member at large to begin reinvesting my energy in a long-term support of the Foundation that gave us all so much. I hope you will let me serve you as I seek to develop stronger Ford Scholar Alumni networks across the nation.



Leana Dickerson

## Member at Large

**Leana Dickerson**  
Class of 2004

I believe that the most important part of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association is a sense of community and a connectedness which calls us to lead in our lives, wherever we are. The FSAA is in an exciting place right now of expansion and dedication to its goals. I can bring organization, dedication, and a passion to serve and move the group forward as it continues to grow.

I graduated from Western Oregon University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in literature. Now, I am in the Master of Arts English Program at Portland State University. As I prepare to spend a life of scholarly research, learning and writing, I am thrilled to be back in the academic world.

For the past nine years I have worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Salem and Marion and Polk counties. My dedication has supported my understanding of non-profit organizations, grants and funding opportunities, as well as the dedication it takes to serve in a non-profit organization. This skill set will support my understanding and forward movement of the FSAA.

Because of the sense of community, started initially by Kenneth Ford, I feel a life-long dedication to supporting The Ford Family Foundation, and I believe strongly in the importance and development of the FSAA.



Toni Kelich

## Member at Large

**Toni (Parker) Kelich**  
Class of 2002

I earned an Associate's Degree in journalism from Mt. Hood Community College in 2002 and finished up my undergraduate studies at Portland State University with a bachelor's in political science in 2004.

Needing a break from the rain-clouds, I opted to go to law school on the East Coast and, with the help of a Ford Family graduate scholarship, earned a Juris Doctorate Degree from Rutgers School of Law in New Jersey in 2010.

While in law school, I was honored as a Graduate Merit Scholar by the Executive Women of New Jersey, and received recognition by the Association of Black Law Students for my work in the community as Program Manager for the Street Law Program.

Today, I am back in Oregon and am the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator for the Oregon State Bar. I serve on the Board of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association.

When I'm not working, my two daughters and I can often be found taking in a movie or play, or when the sun is shining, walking a trail and shooting pictures.

***"The Ford Scholar Alumni Association exists to foster leadership, community involvement, and the continuing development of its members by embracing the core values of The Ford Family Foundation."***

Ford Scholar Alumni Association Mission Statement

## Candidates



Jami Moore

### Member at Large

**Jami Moore**  
**Class of 2003**

Anyone who knows me knows that music is my passion. Anyone who doesn't know me can usually figure it out within five minutes.

As a Ford Scholar, I was able to earn my bachelor's degree in 2007 and my master's in musicology two years later. Yet, after I graduated, I realized how the Ford Scholars Program had written an indelible message on my life.

"Whatever you do, do good."

We must use our passions and our experiences to make a mark on the world. It doesn't begin when you become a Ford Scholar, and it doesn't end when you graduate. It's simply something you are, inside and out.

With this in mind, I became involved in non-profit and music advocacy work. I am now the vocal instructor at Blue Mountain Community College, an administrator for local youth outreach programs, and on the board of directors for the Oregon East Symphony.

Kenneth Ford and his "army of do-gooders" had a tremendous impact on my life. Now, I hope to use my experiences to grow our community, and to help provide us all with the resources we need to do our best for others.

It is truly an honor to be nominated. Thank you for your consideration.



Rabecka Peixoto

### Member at Large

**Rabecka (Herbert) Peixoto**  
**Class of 1995**

As with most of the candidates, my primary motivation for running is to give back to an organization that has had such a major impact on my life!

I graduated from Oregon State University in 2000 with a degree in human development and family sciences. I chose to take a break instead of enrolling directly into a master's program and had planned to spend a year on the East Coast, working as a nanny. There are so many sayings about the best laid plans and almost all of them applied to my "plans!" I ended up finishing a master's program in organization and management; meeting and marrying the love of my life; starting our own business; and working with two very amazing non-profit organizations over the last 12 years here in New Jersey.

I am excited to bring to the table my own experiences in both the non-profit and business worlds, as well as the unique perspective of a Scholar finding ways to give back both directly to my community here and to the community that provided me with so many amazing opportunities in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration for an at-large position on the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board.

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graduating Scholars and offer interviewing advice.

She also noted that the Scholarship Office is beginning to involve alumni in the selection of new Scholars as well, providing a great mode of engagement and a succession strategy for the reviewers and interviewers.

"You have to start small with something that doesn't take a lot of resources," Denise said of getting more alumni involved in the FSAA.

Denise also recommended having a more comprehensive communication plan, and she was glad to see that the FSAA Facebook Group has a lot of traffic.

Denise has been pleased with her first three months as director of the Scholarship Programs. "It's pretty much the best job ever," she said, adding that she has felt welcomed and supported by those she works with at the Eugene Scholarship Office, the Foundation staff, Scholars and alumni.

Her new city is growing on her, too. "I love the energy that Eugene has!" Denise and her husband, John, moved to their home in Eugene, with their two cats, at the end of December. John retains his job as Director of Infrastructure Services at Willamette University, a position he has held for 20 years. Although he commutes to Salem, he is able to work from home a few days a week.

"John is the IT guy. I'm the sports nut," Denise said, adding that she is excited to be in a town with an NCAA team. They have already attended two Duck men's basketball games, checked out Spencer's Butte and taken in a show at the Hult Center.

Denise, who turned 40 just after joining the Foundation, grew up in Baker City in Eastern Oregon and played basketball, volleyball and tennis for Baker High School, where she graduated in 1991. She earned bachelor degrees in English and Spanish in 1995 and a Master of Business Administration focused in organizational efficiency and design

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*I didn't give you money. I invested in you,  
and I expect a return on my investment.*

— Kenneth Ford

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# Dr. Thoman Earns Gerald. E. Bruce Community Service Award

By **Holly Scholz**  
Editor

Class of 1995 Ford Scholar Charity (Dean) Thoman earned the 2013 Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award for her energetic contributions to the medical field and to her community.

Gerald Bruce was one of the founding directors of The Ford Family Foundation. He inspired others with his commitment to his community, to giving back, and to stewardship and leadership. Bruce passed away in 2002 after a battle with cancer. In memory of Bruce, the Foundation recognizes outstanding Ford Scholar Alumni with this award and a \$5,000 grant to the organization of the winners' choice.

Gerald Bruce Award recipients shoulder community leadership responsibilities without concern for getting credit and exhibit steadfast loyalty to the Foundation's core values of integrity, stewardship, respect, independence and community.

Charity Thoman earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in microbiology from Oregon State University in 2000. She earned both a Medical Doctor and a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Degree in 2005 from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans.

She has worked as the Director of Communicable Disease / Deputy Health Officer for Santa Barbara County Public Health Department in California for two years. Thoman and her husband, David, have three boys: Rocky, Tiger and Bucky, ages 6, 4 and 2.

"Generosity is contagious," Thoman said. "I will never forget how many flannel shirts and overalls there were at Kenneth Ford's funeral. The entire community of Roseburg was there, including



*Charity (Dean) Thoman, Ford Scholar Class of 1995*

many men who had long since retired from Roseburg Forest Products."

Mr. Ford's generosity and sense of responsibility toward the future generation had a profound impact on Thoman. "Even to this day, it is remarkable to me that The Ford Family Foundation essentially plucked me out of my poor, small town and sent me to college and to

medical school! My healthy sense of indebtedness motivates me to continue to give back to my own community."

While in medical school, Thoman and a group of students put together a make-shift clinic at the local homeless shelter and halfway house and provided medical care to homeless men and those recently released from prison. Thoman's "little project," The Bridge House in New Orleans, is now part of the official curriculum of Tulane University School of Medicine.

Three times, Thoman has traveled to Africa as a medical volunteer, at one point working in an AIDS hospital for four months. She helped start up AIDS in Africa Week through Tulane.

Thoman considers herself a non-profit entrepreneur. "I'm really good at starting and developing non-profit organizations, creating a sustainable infrastructure, and then handing them over to the next generation of volunteers," she explained.

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## Gerald E. Bruce Award Nominees

The Ford Family Foundation recognizes the following Ford Scholar Alumni who were nominated for the 2013 Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award. Although these alumni were not selected to receive the award, they are outstanding individuals who continue to contribute to their communities.

- Marya Frolov-Kalugin, Class of 2001, Gervais, Ore.
- Sarah Harkness, Class of 2001, Half Moon Bay, Calif.
- Erin (Wolff) Kitumba, Class of 2002, Springfield, Ore.
- Nicholas Montoya, Class of 1997, Vancouver, Wash.
- Maxie (Peterson) Morgan, Class of 1998, Scottsbluff, Neb.
- Jeremy Myrland, Class of 1997, Portland, Ore.
- Brandy O'Bannon, Class of 1994, Salem, Ore.
- Emily Seymore, Class of 1998, Chicago, Ill.
- Jerry Snodgrass, Class of 1994, Grants Pass, Ore.
- Zachary Stevens, Class of 2001, Carrollton, Texas.
- Jacqui Terrill Cooke, Class of 1996, Amity, Ore.
- Anna Tester, Class of 1994, Pilot Rock, Ore.
- Timothy Wallace, Class of 2003, Eugene, Ore.

# Foundation Hires Anne Kubisch as President and CEO



The Ford Family Foundation has selected Anne Kubisch as the new President and CEO, effective May 15, 2013. Anne will succeed Norm

Smith, who will retire May 31, 2013.

Anne comes to the Foundation after 19 years at The Aspen Institute in New York, an international non-profit leadership development and policy studies organization. She founded and served as director of the Aspen Roundtable on Community Change, a national resource center that gleans lessons on how to improve outcomes for low-income children, families and neighborhoods, and advises policymakers, funders and practitioners on strategies for promoting vibrant and equitable communities.

Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors Ron Parker said, "Our Board is very pleased to find from a national search a person of Anne's character and experience in philanthropy. We are delighted that she looks forward to moving to Roseburg and leading the Foundation."

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from Willamette University in 2000.

Denise looks forward to the selection process when about 250 new scholarship recipients are chosen for the four core scholarship programs.

She also looks forward to volunteering within the community, and although she has joined a local gym, she anticipates more time spent exploring the hiking and biking paths that Eugene offers.

Parker said, "We knew it would be a challenge to find the right successor to Norm Smith, who was our first employee and the Foundation's capable CEO since 1997."

Smith advised the Board last spring of his plan to retire in a year, once a successor was recruited. "I am so impressed with Anne Kubisch and her preparation to lead this foundation into the future," Smith said. "My wife, Kathy, and I welcome Anne, Mark and their family to the beautiful 'Hundred Valleys of the Umpqua.'"

Anne, her husband Mark Montgomery, and their two teenage children, Marina and Nicholas, will move to Roseburg.

Parker said, "Anne brings a deep understanding of the challenges faced by rural communities

and how our foundation can assist them. She has a strong desire to come to Roseburg and embrace the lifestyle a rural community can provide. We also saw in her the passion to carry on the work of the Foundation and build the legacy of Kenneth and Hallie Ford."

"The Ford Family Foundation has made such an impressive contribution to child, family and community development in Oregon," said Kubisch. "I am looking forward to combining my national perspective on what promotes community success with the on-the-ground experience and expertise of the Foundation's staff, grantees and partners. It's my chance to really go deep in one place on the issues that I have been passionate about for my whole life."

## Dr. Charity Thoman...

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Thoman started the Obama for America campaign for Santa Barbara County in January of 2007, taking 18 months from her residency schedule for the full-time volunteer position. After Obama won the primary, she turned the campaign leadership over and returned to her internal medicine residency.

Thoman also volunteers with Pacific Pride Foundation, a non-profit agency that provides services to those living with HIV/AIDS.

"Often times Pacific Pride is the only thing standing between an AIDS patient and homelessness," Thoman said. They provide a food pantry; free emergency housing; an HIV clinic; and personal counseling to patients. Thoman serves on the board of directors.

Thoman chose the Foundation's \$5,000 grant to be

given to Pacific Pride Foundation.

"They operate on a shoe-string budget and provide life-saving services to the people in my county who are most in need," Thoman said. Pacific Pride will use the funds to provide food and free counseling services to HIV patients.

She is honored to earn the Gerald Bruce Award.

"I remember hanging out in Gerry's kitchen after one of our Ford Scholar events in Roseburg. And I remember his love and devotion for his friend Kenneth," Thoman recalled. "I continue to be amazed at how being a Ford Scholar is truly a life-long gift, and every time I think they've already done enough for me, they do even more."

*Editor's Note: Read more of Charity Thoman's story online at <http://ford-scholaralumni.com/>.*



## Alumnus Toby Luther and Dr. Joseph Robertson Named to Board

The Ford Family Foundation Board of Directors selected Class of 1994 Ford Scholar Toby A. Luther, the chief executive and president of Lone Rock Resources in Roseburg, and Joseph Robertson, Jr., M.D., M.B.A., the president of Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU), to join the seven sitting Board members.

Dave Frohnmayer's term recently ended. He served on the Board May 2004 through Dec. 31, 2012.

The Board governs the charitable foundation created by Kenneth W. Ford and Hallie E. Ford, the late philanthropists and pioneers of Roseburg Forest Products Co. Luther and Robertson were elected to the board in the fall of 2012 with their four-year terms effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Luther was named the first non-family CEO for closely held Lone Rock Resources in 2009. He is responsible for all company operations and strategy, and he provides leadership to meet the company's mission and goals. Before becoming CEO, Luther served as the company's chief operating officer, vice president of finance and chief financial officer. He has been with the company since 2001.

Luther received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Oregon State University. He



Toby Luther, Class of 1994



Joseph Robertson

In 2004, he was honored with the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award, an award that recognizes good works by Ford Scholar Alumni. Luther and his wife, Christina, live in Roseburg with their three children, Alexandra, Jacob and Joshua, ages 14, 12 and 8, respectively.

Dr. Joseph Robertson has been OHSU president since 2006. He has led OHSU's strategic planning process, which has a vision to "improve the health and well-being of all Oregonians." Previously, he served as dean of the OHSU School of Medicine and was professor and chairman of ophthalmology and director of the Casey Eye Institute.

Robertson received his bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Yale University and earned his medical degree from Indiana University. He completed an executive master of business administration pro-

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serves on the boards of Wildlife Safari, Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Umpqua Valley Cal Ripken and Umpqua Training and Employment. In addition, he coaches youth athletics.

Luther grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, before moving to the Roseburg area in high school and was a Ford Scholar from the inaugural Class of 1994.

## Q&A with Toby Luther

**Holly Scholz**  
Editor

As a fellow alumnus now on The Ford Family Foundation Board of Directors, we thought it would be interesting to hear from Toby Luther, a Ford Scholar from the Class of 1994.

**Q: How did it come about that you would be a board member? Did someone from the Foundation contact you or did you volunteer?**

A: The Board has been going through some transition and asked me this fall if I would be willing to serve. I was contacted by Ron

Parker (Foundation Chair) who explained to me that I had been nominated by the full Board.

**Q: How does your being a Ford Scholar alumnus from the very first class of Scholars benefit the Board?**

A: Everybody on the Board realizes the importance of the flagship program of the Foundation, the Ford Scholars Program. I think I have a pretty intimate knowledge of the program and can speak to its importance in the lives of our youth, particularly those coming from rural communities. Interestingly I am on the Ford Institute and Investment Committees and not the Scholar

Committee as I am trying to get plugged into the other areas of the Foundation.

**Q: How can the Ford Scholar Alumni Association benefit from you being on The Ford Family Foundation Board of Directors?**

A: Ask not what the Foundation can do for you but what you can do for the Foundation! – I think the FSAA is fairly robust and, from what I know, has a great working relationship with the Scholarship Office (Denise Callahan) and the Foundation CEO (Norm Smith). I expect with the new CEO that will continue. I continue to follow what

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# Milestones

## Class of 1994

### **Dayna Terry Willms**

On Dec. 16, 2012, Dayna and Luke welcomed their second son, Henry Douglas Willms. He decided he didn't want to miss Christmas, so he came a bit early. His older brother, James, can't wait until Henry can play chase and build towers with him. Dayna continues to be a stay-at-home teacher of two until they are in school, and then she plans to return to teaching in public schools.

## Class of 1996

### **Jaliene (Miller) Hollabaugh**

Jaliene graduated with her Doctorate in Education in April of 2012. She accepted a position with Oregon Virtual Education (ORVED) in January and will teach health and physical education to high school students beginning this fall.

### **SreyRam Kuy**

SreyRam graduated from general surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in June of 2012. During residency, SreyRam also completed a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellowship and obtained her master's degree in health services research from Yale University. SreyRam's research focuses on health outcomes among women, elderly patients and vulnerable populations.

### **Charity (Conger) Staudenraus**

Charity and her husband, John, welcomed a son, Isaac Gerald Staudenraus, on June 16, 2012.

## Class of 1999

### **Bethany Helmboldt**

Bethany married the love of her life, Doug Huseby, in June of 2012. They also took a huge step together when they moved to Sweden in January of 2013. They are excited to start their new life together on a Scandinavian adventure.

### **Nicole (Reed) Lawry**

After a 7-year battle with lupus nephritis, Nicole happily reports that she is on her way to remission! In 2009, Nicole and her husband welcomed their daughter, Madison, born premature at 30 weeks. In 2010, Nicole retired from 11 years as a graphic designer so that she could stay home with Maddie and focus on her health. She and Jon are active board members and volunteers for Molly's Fund Fighting Lupus, helping spread awareness about this debilitating disease. They love spending time at the gym as a family, doing day trips to the coast and playing with their boxer pup in the backyard.

### **Tyler Mackie**

Tyler is organizing the community-based, public artwork "Bridge for Blankets," scheduled for installation on the Broadway Bridge in Portland, Ore., on Aug. 10, 2013, as part of the PDX Bridge Festival. The installation includes

four knit banners which will be broken down into forty-two afghans and distributed to various homeless shelters in the Portland area.

## Class of 2000

### **Toby Joyce**

Toby was recently appointed to the board of directors for the Rimrock Health Alliance, a nonprofit organization in Crook County, Ore. Rimrock was created to help bridge gaps between medical providers, the complementary medicine community and the dental community; to open lines of communication and collaboration; and to help the community understand the range of health resources available to them. Its purpose is also to help with physician recruiting and retention and provide community health education. Toby, his wife, Katy, and three children moved to Prineville, Ore., in 2011. He is an associate chiropractor at Slater Chiropractic.

### **Krista (Schuchard) Mancuso**

Krista married Nicholas Mancuso on Oct. 20, 2012, in Santa Rosa, Calif. The couple met during their first year of law school at the University of Oregon School of Law and relocated to California after graduation. They currently live in the Bay Area and work as attorneys, focusing on intellectual property litigation for The Lanier Law Firm in Palo Alto, Calif.

### **Jen (Barringer) Poinar**

On July 14, 2012, Jen married her best friend and college sweetheart, Greg Poinar. They honeymooned in Thailand and are already planning their next trip to South America. She also attended her first Ford Scholar Alumni Association meeting this year and encourages other alumni to come together and get involved.

## Class of 2001

### **Todd Gifford**

Todd and his wife, Jenny-Anne, announce the arrival of their daughter, Emma Bliss Gifford, born Jan. 26, 2013. She was 7 pounds, 13 ounces. Mama and baby are healthy and resting well. He says they could not be happier or more thankful that everything went so well.

## Class of 2002

### **Will Cushman**

Will has been married to Elizabeth for 10 years, and they have a 5-year-old son, Chase. Will works as a high school assistant principal.

### **Jacque (Lowenstein) Goss**

Jacque got married in 2011. She and her husband are very excited to be expecting their first child in August of 2013.

## Class of 2003

### **David Bednar**

David and his wife of four years had their first child, Randilynn Elise Bednar, on Jan.

22, 2013. His wife is a postdoctoral student at University of North Carolina, studying HIV. David passed his preliminary exams for his Ph.D. and plans to graduate in December.

### **Lacey (Gomez) Stephens**

Lacey and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their first child, Gavin Eli Stephens, on June 29, 2012. He was 7 pounds, 6 ounces and 19 inches long.

## Class of 2004

### **Sabrina Abbott**

On June 23, 2012, Alexander Gole and Sabrina were married in Paris, France.

### **Yury Issaev**

In November of 2012, Yury accepted a senior consultant position with Palantir Solutions, an upstream oil and gas and IT consulting firm. He moved to Houston from Anchorage, Alaska, after spending three years working for Alaska Division of Oil and Gas as a commercial analyst.

## Class of 2005

### **Brian Eberhardt**

After working for three summers, Brian was promoted to a full-time park ranger for Oregon State Parks at Beverly Beach State Park near Newport, Ore. As a park ranger, he was selected and trained to become a Commissioned Officer of the State, which is a higher-level park ranger. Brian earned a Professional Award through his Officer's Academy. His 40 peers chose Brian to receive this top honor in recognition of leadership and teamwork. He says it is an honor and privilege to serve in his community and help protect one of Oregon's natural gems.

### **Kirsten Snyder**

Kirsten works for AFS Intercultural Programs (American Field Service) in Portland, Ore., a non-profit organization that sends American high school students on foreign exchange programs and hosts international students in the U.S. She began an alumni volunteer initiative and now has more than 100 AFS alumni volunteers across the nation serving as mentors, ambassadors and coordinators within their communities. Kirsten has led several alumni leadership workshops in Washington, D.C., and recently returned from Ghana. Kirsten will marry Eigo Yamada on Aug. 10, 2013. She met Eigo, who is from Japan, while he was studying abroad at Linfield College in 2006.

## Class of 2006

### **Elizabeth (Weiszbrod) Beckett**

This has been a year of adventure for Elizabeth. She began a half-time special education teaching job, got engaged and is buying a house. She hopes to find a full-time teaching job next year and is excited to move into her new house.

## Join Alumni at June 15 Portland Timbers Soccer Game

Join other Ford Scholar Alumni at the Portland Timbers versus FC Dallas Major League Soccer game at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 15 at JELD-WEN Field in Portland.

Ford Scholar Alumni Association President Andrea Smith has reserved 50 tickets for the game, 38 of which are already spoken for. If you would like to go to the soccer game, e-mail Smith at [president@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:president@fordscholaralumni.com) as soon as possible.

Tickets are \$32 each. The FSAA will provide snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

### Q&A with Toby Luther

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the FSAA is doing and will do so as a board member. Keep up the good work.

#### **Q: What are the duties of Board Members?**

A: Much of the work of the Foundation occurs by staff and then by the Board through committee work. We all have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure the funds are managed properly and that we are fulfilling the Foundation's purpose. I am specifically on the Ford Institute Committee and the

Investment Committee where I am part of sub groups of the Board that focus on the Institute's mission of building strong rural communities and rural leadership. On the Investment Committee we oversee the investment managers and the allocation of the investment portfolio balancing return objectives with the cash needs for grants, scholarships and foundation management.

#### **Q: How much time is involved in being a Board Member?**

A: The Board meets one day per quarter and has an annual planning retreat of a couple days. In

## Post Job Openings

Wouldn't it be great to have high-quality Ford Scholars as co-workers?

Does your organization have a career or intern opportunity?

Post it on the FSAA and Ford Family Scholarships Facebook pages!

addition, there are quarterly committee meetings and some other items that may come up. We are all encouraged to attend several events put on by the Foundation throughout the year that include the Scholar events, Ford Institute events, etc.

#### **Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say?**

A: Just happy to be able to contribute to the Foundation given the important role it has played in my life and that I see it playing in communities like ours.

### Alumnus Toby Luther...

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gram at the University of Oregon, graduating as co-valedictorian in 1997.

Robertson was born near a small town in southern Indiana. Basketball and science were his passions. Robertson and his wife, Patricia, live in a floating home on the Willamette River.

"Toby Luther and Joe Robertson bring strong skills to the Foundation," said Norm Smith, President of The Ford Family

Foundation. "Each has demonstrated a life-long commitment to education, to their civic roles and

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*Toby Luther and Joe Robertson bring strong skills to the Foundation.*  
— Norm Smith

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to helping others. Each is deeply involved with their family, experienced in their profession and the

creation of jobs in Oregon. And, like the Fords, each gives back through philanthropy to their communities."

Other Board members of The Ford Family Foundation are: Allyn Ford of Roseburg; Dr. Knute Buehler of Bend; Karla Chambers of Corvallis; Joseph Kearns of Malibu, Calif., and Bridge; Ronald Parker (Board chair) of Portland; Wesley Sand of West Linn; and Carrie Thompson of Corvallis.

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 **Ford Scholar**  
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Eugene, OR 97401

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## Help Build a Learning Garden and Meet FSAA Candidates on April 20

Spring will soon be upon us (really, it will), so please save the date for our combination volunteer service and meet-the-candidates event on Saturday, April 20 in Portland, Ore.

Earth Day is April 22, and as you might expect, there are many family-friendly opportunities suitable for large groups around that time.

Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board Member Rob Teel has arranged for FSAA members to help build a learning garden at Gilbert Park Elementary, 13132 S.E. Ramona St. in Portland.

Gilbert Park Elementary is thrilled to be installing a new outdoor classroom with a native habitat and learning garden in the school's central courtyard. They have organized work parties twice a month through the end of the school year.

Ford Scholar Alumni and their families are encouraged to join the Saturday, April 20 Earth Day and Arbor

Day Celebration work party at Gilbert Park Elementary from noon to 3 p.m.

The work party will happen, rain or shine. No experience is necessary, and they will provide snacks and a few tools, although workers should plan to bring their own tools. Volunteers must be at least five years old to participate. Volunteers under age 13 must attend with a parent or adult chaperone.

FSAA Board candidates will have opportunity to introduce themselves during a reception after the work party at the same location. Look for more details in your inbox and on our Facebook page.

Teel said this event is part of the FSAA's goal to increase member engagement by hosting quarterly events, including a service day, networking event, social event and a general meeting.

For more information, e-mail [events@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:events@fordscholaralumni.com).

## Keeping Connected

Learn more about the Ford Scholar Alumni Association online by visiting [www.FordScholarAlumni.com](http://www.FordScholarAlumni.com).

**Update your contact information (especially your e-mail address!)** by logging in to [www.MyFordInfo.org](http://www.MyFordInfo.org), or by contacting the Scholarship Office directly:

The Ford Family Foundation Scholarship Office:  
440 East Broadway, Suite 200  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Call toll free: 877-864-2872  
In Eugene: 541-485-6211  
E-mail: [fordscholarships@tfff.org](mailto:fordscholarships@tfff.org)

### Find us on Facebook!

Join the FSAA Facebook Group. Search "FSAA" or type in [www.Facebook.com/groups/FordAlumni/](http://www.Facebook.com/groups/FordAlumni/). Search "Ford Family-Scholarships" or type in [www.Facebook.com/FordFamilyScholarshipPrograms](http://www.Facebook.com/FordFamilyScholarshipPrograms) to join the Ford Family Scholarship Facebook Group.



### LinkedIn

Search Groups for "Ford Scholars Professional Network" and click "join."

