

Ford Scholar Alumni News

Improving communities through volunteerism, civic leadership and philanthropy.

Alumni Celebrate Autumn

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor

Four-year-old Milana Manuylo seemed thrilled to have seen a gigantic pumpkin slowly make its way to the top of a crane only to be let loose and crash into a swimming pool, causing a great eruption and cheers from the crowd.

"The pumpkin blew up," little Milana said, demonstrating the explosion with her hands.

Milana was at Bauman's Farm and Garden Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, with her mother and aunt as part of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association fall social event held in Gervais, Ore. Class of 2008 Ford Scholar Alumna Liliya Abildayeva came the short distance from Wilsonville to enjoy the fall festivities. She and her sister Nina Manuylo went to school with

the Baumans.

Ford Scholar Alumna Cari (Bauman) Hershberger arranged for FSAA members to attend the harvest festival on her family's farm. Nearly 20 alumni and their friends and families came to enjoy a beautiful autumn day.

Jessica (Vance) Stanley from the Class of 1997 shared a hot dog and curly fries with her three-year-old son, Landon. She said they were going to try out the giant jumping pillow and do as many activities as they could before it was his nap time.

Visiting the farm has become an



Class of 2008 Ford Scholar Alumna Liliya Abildayeva at the pumpkin patch with her niece and sister, Milana and Nina Manuylo.

annual tradition for the FSAA. It's a fun and festive way to connect with other Scholars, and members hope even more will attend next year.

Foundation Welcomes Anne Kubisch as President

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor

When Anne Kubisch joined The Ford Family Foundation as president in May, she brought with her decades of experience in philanthropy.

Kubisch replaced Norm Smith, who retired after serving as Foundation president for 16 years.

Kubisch has always worked in child, family and community success in various domains, including Latin America, West Africa and New York.

"I've always had the same mission but have been able to apply it in such different geographic locations and contexts," Kubisch said, adding that



Anne Kubisch

(Photo by Michael J. Lessner.)

she has advocated for community success nationally, in poor urban areas and now rural communities. "My kids are impressed that I've lived on five continents."

Kubisch worked for 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 about 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.

Kubisch holds a master's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a Bachelor

of Arts degree in English from Tufts University. She is the daughter of a career Foreign Service Officer and grew up living in Sri Lanka, Brazil, Mexico, France and Greece. She is fluent in French and Spanish.

"I started looking for the perfect job, and I found it," Kubisch told members of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors during their meeting this summer. "The move to Roseburg is such a welcome one for me. A change of life is really welcome – really, really welcome."

Kubisch, 57, is married to Mark Montgomery, Professor of Economics at Stony Brook University in New York and Senior Research Associate at The Population Council in New York. They have two children. Marina, 20, attends Carleton College in Minnesota. Nicholas, 16, is a high school junior and lives with his father in New York.

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

A Note from the President

By **Mary A. L. Chuinard**
FSAA President



Mary Chuinard

Following in Andrea Smith's shoes is not an easy feat. With her wonderful leadership, the Ford Scholar Alumni Association has taken shape.

Though I would like to download the contents of her brain, I admit that is not possible.

I would like to share with you a vision to keep advancing our FSAA toward Mr. Ford's desired purpose. I see our future efforts aligning with Dr. Charles Walker's charge to Ford Scholars in 1996: "To help Ford Scholars continue to be in communication with each other, assist each other in both professional and personal ways, and continue friendships and the sense of community that has developed."

In an age of technology and social media, there is no reason why

we shouldn't take advantage of such tools and connect and communicate. Start by using our Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, I strongly encourage you to join the FSAA group and ask for and offer personal and professional assistance. Sometimes the greatest asset we have to offer is ourselves.

I encourage you to reach out to each other. Keep your contact information updated at www.myfordinfo.org; interact via Facebook; socialize and mingle at events like our annual fall pumpkin patch gathering at Bauman Farms; and stand shoulder to shoulder serving your own communities doing service events.

Be watching your e-mail and our Facebook page for information on when and where the January board meeting will take place; this is the yearly meeting in which the general meeting will also occur and all are welcome to attend, either in person or remotely.

Thank you again for your votes of confidence to be your FSAA Board of Directors president.

Scholarship Office Hires Student Success Counselor

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor

Jeff Strickland, a Class of 2001 alumnus of the Ford ReStart Program, joined The Ford Family Foundation on Oct. 7 as the student success counselor in the Scholarship Office in Eugene, Ore. Strickland replaces Shamra Clark, who left the position in mid-August for a position with the Oregon Student Access Commission.

Coming from Central Oregon, Strickland holds a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Southern Oregon University and a Master of Science in counseling from Oregon State University.

He brings a unique set of skills and experience in academic advising, career services counseling and direct student support in a college setting. He has experience working with a wide range of traditional and non-traditional

college students.

Strickland was in the first class of the Ford ReStart Scholarship Program. During his undergraduate studies, he volunteered to work with students in Medford and Ashland, Ore., offering personal, academic and career guidance counseling and even helped graduating seniors fill out their FAFSA forms.

"After I worked with K-12, I decided I wanted to work with older students," Strickland said.

He received graduate school funding from the Foundation and attended OSU at the Bend, Ore., campus beginning in 2011, graduating this June. While there, he worked as an intern in several clinics, counseling students in mental health, academics and career guidance.



Jeff Strickland

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First FSAA President Andrea Smith Hands Over the Gavel

By Holly Scholz
Editor

Andrea Smith reluctantly passed the gavel to a pleased Mary Chuinard during a Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting in Eugene, Ore. Smith led the Ford Scholar Alumni Association for 10 years, passing the title of president to Chuinard on July 13, 2013.

Smith attended the first FSAA Conference in September of 2003 in Eugene and became part of the interim board of directors. That initial group of alumni created the FSAA bylaws and secured 501c7 nonprofit status.

It quickly became apparent that the FSAA was much more than a "social club" to benefit its members. It qualified as a 501c3, a more difficult status to obtain, but one with many advantages.

"Applying for and receiving our 501c3 award in 2010 – on our first try – was probably the most important accomplishment during my presidency," Smith said. Donations became tax deductible, and as the organization grows, it will be eligible to apply for grants that aren't available to other types of nonprofits.

Smith was the first applicant interviewed for the Ford Scholars Program and was from the first Ford Scholar Class of 1994. She was one of the first 16 graduates of the program and became the first FSAA president when elections were held in the sum-



Mary Chuinard and Andrea Smith

mer of 2006. Smith was re-elected in the spring of 2010 and served until this past July. Smith was honored with the title of FSAA Board of Directors President Emeritus.

"I felt like our first few years were dedicated to laying a strong foundation," Smith recalls. They learned a lot – often by trial and error – and improved as a result. No one had experience starting or operating a nonprofit.

"It was basically, 'Let's try it and see if it works!'" Smith said. "Fortunately, Ford Scholars are a smart, resilient and determined bunch. What we lacked in experience, we made up for with pure ingenuity and stubbornness."

"Andrea's status as the 'first' Ford Scholar and 'first' FSAA president are a fitting tribute to her initiative and leadership skills," said Scholarship Program Manager Tricia Tate. "Her heart-felt commitment and appreciation to Kenneth Ford and the

Foundation has been expressed many times. She truly 'gave back' by helping lay the foundation for a strong FSAA."

When it comes to leadership, Smith's motto is: "The leader is the servant of all." She says she tried to do whatever she could to facilitate the success of the FSAA, her fellow board members and the entire Ford Scholar community.

"Trying to lead an entire organization full of leaders is very much like herding cats. But in a good way," Smith said. "Working on behalf of the FSAA has been one of the most fulfilling, frustrating, challenging and rewarding experiences ever."

Tate said, "We know Andrea will continue to be active with FSAA, and we hope to have many more opportunities to enjoy her engaging personality, warmth and wonderful sense of humor!"

Welcoming the New FSAA Board Members

Thanks to all who voted in the Spring 2013 Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board Elections. Below are the newly elected members of the board:

President: Mary (Nelson) Chuinard, Class of 2002

Secretary: Katie (Carriker) Keller, Class of 1997

Member at Large: Nicole Blalock, Class of 2002

Member at Large: Leana Dickerson, Class of 2004

Member at Large: Toni (Parker) Kelich, Class of 2002

Member at Large: Rabecka (Herbert) Peixoto, Class of 1995

Board members serve two-year terms.

Ford Scholar Alumni will elect five new members in early spring of 2014 for the positions of vice president, treasurer and three members-at-large seats. Please consider nominating yourself or fellow alumni for these positions when nominations open in January.

For more information, e-mail elections@fordscholaralumni.com.

Scholarship Office Hires Student Success Counselor

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He began looking for counseling work in higher education and saw this job opening. "This is the job Barb (Griesel) used to have," Strickland said, adding that it was exactly what he wanted to do. He is glad to work with students and Ford Scholars because he knows firsthand how the Foundation can change lives.

Strickland is a first-generation college student. "The Foundation's encouragement and unwavering support helped instill a belief in myself I hadn't known before," he said. "They inspired me to discover my unique strengths and all I have to offer to others."

"His unique experience and firsthand knowledge of our programs

make Jeff the perfect person to provide educational advice, support and encouragement to the students in our four scholarship programs as they travel the path to becoming contributing and successful citizens," said Director of Scholarship Programs Denise Callahan.

To quote one of his references, Strickland is "positive, fun and understands the importance of a balanced life... It was clear from the beginning that Jeff is a 'natural' for the counseling profession."

Strickland moved from Bend to Eugene in early October. He has two grown daughters – one is a kindergarten teacher in Charleston, S.C., and the other is a nurse in Seattle.

Alumna Credits Her Achievements to the Foundation

*Reflection by Cassie DeFillipo
Class of 2003*

Ten years ago, I was a 17-year-old girl with many dreams. I dreamed of getting a college education, of traveling the world, and of making a worthwhile contribution to society. Now, 10 years and two college degrees later, I have accomplished many of those dreams—and that fact is undoubtedly thanks to The Ford Family Foundation.

Thanks to the Ford Family Scholarship, I was able to focus on my studies while getting my bachelor's degree at the University of Oregon rather than having to work long hours or spend a lot of time looking for more financial support. I did work for three of the four years that I studied, but because I didn't rely completely on the funds to pay for my education, I was able to choose jobs that developed my skills and were related to my interests.

In 2007, I graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Oregon and was chosen as outstanding senior female graduate by my professors.

While at university, I studied abroad three times—in South Korea, Italy and Ghana. These trips changed my entire perspective on the world.

During my last trip to Ghana, which the Foundation financially supported, I learned about inequalities that I didn't know existed and decided to do something about it. I decided that because I had been so blessed



Ford Scholar Alumna Cassie DeFillipo taught English to children in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

with an education, I wanted to spend two years volunteering to pass my blessings forward.

Because I didn't have student debt, I was easily able to save up money by serving as a substitute teacher in my hometown and return to Ghana to volunteer for a year. In addition to the various lessons I learned about the world, that year taught me about humility, kindness and community.

For my second year of volunteering, I moved to Lewiston, Maine, to coordinate programs for Somali refugee families as an AmeriCorps volunteer. That year, while difficult, remains the time where I felt of most service to the world.

After two years of volunteering, I began a master's program at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. The Foundation once again financially supported me on my educational endeavor.

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Nominate Alumni for Bruce Award

It's inspiring to hear about fellow Ford Scholar Alumni like Charity Thoman who are living out Gerry Bruce's vision of Scholars not only succeeding in their careers, but incorporating community service into their lives as well. Do you know other alumni who have these same values? Maybe even yourself?

You are invited to nominate yourself or a fellow Ford Scholar from the Classes of 1994 through 2004 for the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award.

The Ford Family Foundation seeks nominations of Ford Scholar Alumni who represent Gerry Bruce's vision of leadership and who: have demonstrated a strong propensity for "giving back" through volunteer service; have demonstrated leadership, civic responsibility, and the values of the Foundation in their work and service; and recognize and care about the potential of future generations.

The selected recipient will be recognized with a plaque and a \$5,000 grant made to a non-profit organization of the recipient's choice during an awards banquet on Saturday, July 12, 2014, at the Valley River Inn in Eugene, Ore.

Visit the Ford Scholar Alumni Association website for the nomination form, www.FordScholarAlumni.com.

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Dr. Thoman Accepts Bruce Award

Ford Family Foundation Board Member Joseph Kearns presented Ford Scholar Alumna Charity Thoman with the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award during the Ford Scholars Recognition Conference in Eugene on July 13, 2013.

The Class of 1995 Ford Scholar received graduate funding from the Foundation to attend Tulane University School of Medicine, where she received a master's degree in public health and tropical medicine and became a doctor of medicine. She works as the deputy health director for the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department in California.

"I was a poor kid from a poor

town," Thoman said during her acceptance speech, adding that the Foundation changed her life.

"The Ford Scholarship is more like a contract," she said. "Study hard, exceed and excel and go back to your communities."

This award is accompanied by a donation of \$5,000 from the Foundation to a non-profit of the recipient's choice. Thoman chose the Pacific Pride Foundation, an organization that provides medical care and services to HIV/AIDS patients. Thoman volunteers for this organization and was recently elected to its board of directors.



Ford Family Foundation Board Member Joseph Kearns presents Class of 1995 Ford Scholar Alumna Charity Thoman with the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award.

President Anne Kubisch Offers Advice to FSAA Members

By Holly Scholz
Editor

When The Ford Family Foundation President Anne Kubisch recently took her first tour of Eastern Oregon, she met a few Ford Scholar Alumni and was inspired by their commitment to their rural communities and realized the great resource that alumni are to the Foundation.

Kubisch said that Director of Scholarship Programs Denise Callahan was hired last fall in part because of her extensive background in alumni work. Callahan's goal is to create more alumni engagement and not only build relationships with each other but with other aspects of the Foundation.

With Callahan's help, Kubisch intends to do more internally to support the Ford Scholar Alumni Association.

Kubisch suggested three ways that alumni can take action: help recruit a new generation of Scholars; mentor Scholars and alumni; and be an active part of an employment network.

Kubisch encourages alumni to provide career advice to one another. When alumni are in their 30s with families, they don't have a lot of time to give back.

"Make it easy for you to contribute," Kubisch said.

Eventually, Kubisch would like to see graduates of the Ford Opportunity Program and the Ford ReStart Program join the FSAA. With more than 4,000 people with Ford Family Scholarships, Kubisch said that is a huge resource. "It would enrich and diversify the network."

Although she would like to see all scholarship recipients work together in one alumni association, she said it's up to the FSAA to consider inviting the other groups of graduates to the organization.

One thing Kubisch has quickly learned as president of the Foundation is that the Ford Scholar Program is impressive and was "near and dear to Kenneth Ford's heart." It's still a flagship program and is something to be proud of.

Alumni Lend Helping Hands in Garden

By Holly Scholz
Editor

A handful of Ford Scholar Alumni turned out for an Earth Day work party in the new learning garden at Gilbert Park Elementary School on Saturday, April 20, 2013, in Portland.

The garden space, which is in a courtyard-type setting in the middle of the school, used to

be an area of grass, weeds and shrubbery that was not being utilized by students and staff.

"The garden educator at the school has done a fabulous job transforming the space with the help of after-school student volunteers who do so as part of a program," said Marija (Kovacevic) Hobbs, who pulled weeds alongside six other alumni.

Each part of the garden has a story. There are two memorial gardens for students who have lost their lives. Students can quietly practice literacy skills in a natural setting in the reading garden near the library. There is an outdoor classroom, edible plants for each grade level in raised beds and native plants in many areas.

"The weather was perfect," said former Ford Scholar Alumni Association



Ford Scholar Alumni Shauna Harper, Marija (Kovacevic) Hobbs, Mary Chuinard and Andrea Smith work in the Gilbert Park Elementary School learning garden as part of the Earth Day FSAA service project.

President Andrea Smith. "A little overcast, no rain, not hot or cold." The garden project is important to the kids at this school, many of whom are from refugee families, she added.

Hobbs and Smith worked alongside alumni Mary Chuinard, Shauna Harper, Tami Ammerman, Leana Dickerson and Robert Teel as well as a few other volunteers. Teel, an FSAA member at large, organized the Earth Day work party through Hands On Greater Portland with the purpose of increasing FSAA member engagement and serving the community.

Foundation Welcomes...

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Although she admits the challenge of being a "bi-coastal family," Kubisch takes pride in her children.

"I've been able to raise two fabulous children and have a fulfilling career," Kubisch said. "My kids are great."

As president of the Foundation, Kubisch says, "I'm in a luxurious position." Smith built it into a great foundation, and a lot of resources are already in place. She realizes that the Foundation has made incredible investments in Scholars and rural communities.

"We need to bring those together, weave, connect those investments – leverage everything we have," she explained. "If we got mobilized, we could really impact this state."

Nominate Alumni...

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Please submit nominations and/or your application no later than Monday, Nov. 4, 2013. The selected recipient will be notified by Jan. 1, 2014.

To encourage participation, nominators and applicants will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Call the Foundation Scholarship Office at 877-864-2872 or e-mail fordscholarships@tfff.org if you have questions.

Milestones

Class of 1995

Chris Schulze

On April 18, 2013, Chris and his wife, Noelle, welcomed their firstborn, Adelaide Marylynn Schulze, into the world. She is a delightful and precious addition to their family.

Ann Strahm

Ann received tenure and was promoted to assistant professor of sociology at California State University, Stanislaus. Having lived in the Central Valley of California for the past six years, Ann misses the camaraderie and time spent with fellow Ford Scholar Alumni, but she is grateful for the opportunities to teach people whose backgrounds are quite like her own. Ann is also thankful for the opportunity to enjoy being in the presence of Kenneth Ford on many occasions all those years ago and remains grateful for the kindness, philanthropy and sage advice he extended to her.

Class of 1996

Serena Markstrom Nugent

On Aug. 31, Serena married Shaun Nugent at the John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts in Eugene, Ore, with a reception at The Oregon Cliff House on the McKenzie River. They had a short honeymoon in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, returning in time to compete in the Eugene Community Softball League championship. She met Shaun in this league, and the two-week, double-elimination tournament at the end of the season is an annual highlight. They won their eighth title Sept. 15, scoring two runs in the bottom of the ninth to come from behind and win the game.

Annika (Wallace) Mosier

Annika and her husband, Jeremy, welcomed their baby girl into the world on Feb. 11, 2013. Iris Elisabeth is happy and healthy and enjoys lots of hugs and kisses from her big sister, Ella.

Carley (Egelston) Shaut

This year Carley was promoted to technical director at the Oregon Health and Sciences University Laboratory of Immunogenetics and Transplantation. She received board certification and national accreditation as a lab director in histocompatibility. Along with career success, Carley and her husband enjoy being parents to their sweet toddler, Brooke.

Class of 1997

Jennifer (Fanyak) Pappalardo

Jennifer received her Master of Business Administration degree in sustainable business with a concentration in government policy and administration from Marylhurst University in December 2012. She and her husband, Mike, have a three-year-old daughter, Grace "Gracie" Anne Pappalardo, and happily live in Eugene, Ore.

Class of 1998

Tyler Smith

Tyler holds the position of chief technology officer and was recently elected chairman of the board of directors for Matson & Isom

Technology Consulting in Chico, Calif.

Class of 1999

Danielle (Quimby) Currey

On June 29, 2013, Danielle graduated with a doctorate of naturopathic medicine and plans to begin practicing primary care medicine as a naturopathic doctor in Gresham, Ore., in November.

Class of 2000

Holli Howard-Carpenter

Holli and her husband recently relocated to Oregon for a job opportunity. Holli became the head women's basketball coach at Western Oregon University. She spent the last three seasons serving as the women's basketball associate head coach at California State, East Bay.

Class of 2001

Todd Gifford

Todd's first daughter, Emma Bliss Gifford, was born Jan. 26, 2013. Mom and baby are healthy and happy. His two boys are now 14 and 17 years old. He says that starting over as a new parent at age 40 is pretty great! Todd's southwest Portland dental practice, Gifford Family Dentistry, is growing so fast that he is now looking at a major renovation to double the number of dental chairs in the office. His term as president of the Oregon Academy of General Dentistry ends in October, and he looks forward to a new phase in life where he can devote more time to playing with his kids.

Nathan Hodges

Nathan earned a master's in landscape architecture from University of California at Berkeley in 2008 and moved north to Lopez Island, Wash., to work on storm water and shoreline projects with a small non-profit. Nathan and his wife have also started Barn Owl Bakery, an artisan wood-fired bakery on Lopez Island. They are busy growing vegetables, raising chickens and pigs and watching in amazement as Eden Luna, their 15-month-old daughter, learns to walk and talk.

Geoff Winkler

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), the world's largest anti-fraud organization and leading provider of anti-fraud training and education, awarded Geoff, of Portland, Ore., the Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) credential. In order to become a CFE, he met a stringent set of criteria and passed a rigorous exam administered by the ACFE. Geoff successfully met the ACFE's character, experience and education requirements for the CFE credential, and has demonstrated knowledge in four areas critical to the fight against fraud: fraudulent financial transactions, fraud prevention and deterrence, legal elements of fraud and fraud investigation.

Class of 2002

Lucy (Edwards) Berger

Lucy married Michael Berger on April 13, 2013, at St. Mary Magdalen Church in

Orlando, Fla. She works in event planning for a non-profit and teaches Zumba at LA Fitness. Michael is a personal banker at PNC Bank and enjoys bodybuilding at the gym. The couple honeymooned at Fort Myers Beach, Fla., for one week before returning to the Orlando area where they reside.

Nicole Blalock

Nicole received a Master of Arts degree from Native American Studies and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Group in Education at University of California, Davis in 2013. She holds a post-doctoral fellowship in educational equity at the Arizona State University Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College.

Class of 2003

Trisha Bergemann

With the financial help of the Foundation and the support of her family, friends and employer, Trisha finished a Master of Social Work in June. She is also getting married this October.

Teresa Gomez

Since graduating in 2005, Teresa has worked in different places but has always worked and supported families that have children with special needs, especially Latino families. In 2010, she went back to school and earned a master's in early intervention/early childhood special education. She graduated in 2012 and was recently hired as an early intervention specialist. This is her first year teaching.

Julie (Stumph) Hedford

Along with working as a staff registered nurse and lactation consultant, Julie was promoted to charge nurse of her department in January and now has many administrative duties. She began graduate school at Oregon Health and Sciences University Nursing Master's Program this fall. Julie and her husband are also preparing for the arrival of her disabled mother from Texas.

Christine Newkirk

In April, Christine was promoted to senior marketing project manager at Mercy Corps, a global aid organization with headquarters in Portland, Ore. She's proud to manage projects that help raise private funds to support Mercy Corps' humanitarian work in tough places like Somalia, Central African Republic, Lebanon and Jordan, where Mercy Corps is currently helping nearly 2 million Syrian refugees.

Class of 2004

Karla Neuschwander

Since graduating with her teaching license in 2008 from Western Oregon University, Karla has gone back to school and earned a master's degree and started her fourth year of teaching at Double-O Elementary School in Hines, Ore. She always had a goal to return to Harney County where she grew up and teach in a one-room school house. It has been exciting for Karla to live out this dream at the Double-O school. She is the only teacher and has gotten experience teaching

Milestones

kindergarten through eighth grade. There have been many challenges but it has been a fun journey for her so far.

Robyn Perry

After four years of working for the Progressive Technology Project in Minneapolis and building a community in the Midwest, Robyn recently began a two-year master's program at University of California at Berkeley's School of Information. She studies natural language processing, data visualization, techniques for using public data, data mining and more. She's both coming home and starting anew all at once.

Class of 2005

Rachael (Swafford) Gies

Rachael married Vincent Gies in March. She has worked as an elementary music teacher for the Newberg School District for past three years. She recently became a middle school beginning choir director as well.

Class of 2007

Karla Rascon-Garcia

After more than four years of perseverance, Karla finished her undergrad at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in July 2013. During her time at Cal Poly, she was able to go to Mexico, the United Kingdom, Mozambique, Uganda, Brazil and South Africa. School brought Karla deep personal growth and has expanded her whole world. She has applied to one grad school in Brazil and will return to Brazil for interviews in October and hopes to move to São Paulo in 2014 if accepted.

Class of 2008

Corby Makin

This summer, Corby went on a trip to

Bungoma, Kenya, with three fellow medical students. They volunteered at a community health clinic and a public grade school. At the clinic, he got to vaccinate newborns, counsel expecting mothers and treat diseases ranging from malaria to HIV. This experience has been invaluable as he pursues his career as a physician and has been very motivating for him. At the school, he helped teach almost 1,200 students, an overwhelmingly rewarding experience for him. Corby hopes to return to Bungoma.

Caleb Trowbridge

Caleb graduated from Oregon State University in March and took an internship at Sunriver Resort for the summer. He recently accepted a full-time position with Western Fire Chiefs Association in Wilsonville/Salem, Ore.

Alicia (Howard) Trull

Alicia married Brogan Trull on June 16, 2013, in Coos Bay, Ore. She is a community health nurse for the Multnomah County Health Department. Brogan is studying at Portland State University to be a special education teacher.

Samantha (McSharry) Vincent

On Nov. 8, 2012, Samantha and her husband, Mitch, welcomed their first child, Porter William Vincent, who was 7 pounds, 3 ounces and 19 inches long. The family is happy and healthy as can be.

Class of 2009

Mandy Elder

Mandy has a Fulbright research fellowship and lives in Oaxaca, Mexico. Reflecting on her own experiences, her research focuses on young women from rural communities who are first-generation college students and how they navigate issues of identity and commu-

nity belonging as they transition to university. Having this experience in Oaxaca has helped her develop language skills, leadership capacity, grow academically and personally, and solidify her dedication to promoting educational opportunities in marginalized communities.

Keith Fakhoury

Keith was the first student from Willamette University to attend the Global Pre-MBA Leadership Program at Yale School of Management while interning at J.P. Morgan Private Bank this summer. He studied abroad in Dubai for the entire academic year before going to the East Coast for the Yale program.

Haley Fluke

Haley graduated summa cum laude from the Honors College at Portland State University.

Elise Heidy

After graduating in May of 2013, Elise began working within her field as a social worker at a treatment facility for high-risk youth. Although she received a degree in social work, her heart and passion has always been deeply rooted within the mission work God has called her to be a part of in Northern Uganda. On Aug. 28 she moved to Uganda, where she will serve in the northern region called Karamoja, sharing and spreading the gospel. Her degree will play a big part in her ministry. Visit her blog: www.eliseheidy.blogspot.com.

Y- Thien Hoang

Y graduated from the University of Portland this spring with a degree in biochemistry. She passed the citizenship test and became a U.S. citizen in June. Y attends Oregon Health and Sciences University's School of Dentistry with hopes to attain a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree and become a dentist in four years.

Alumna Credits Her Achievements...

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During my two-year stint as a master's student, I taught English and math to African refugee youth; aided university students of all levels in improving their writing at the Clark University Writing Center; served as an in-home caretaker for a university student with Asperger's syndrome; earned a Certificate in College Teaching; and graduated from my master's program with a 4.0 grade point average. Along the way, I was also the first recipient of the Granville-Abbas Fellowship, which involved serving as an intern in South Sudan during the summer it became a country.

I graduated in May of 2012 and was able to make my dream of traveling around the world come true. Three days after graduating

with my master's degree, I left for a nine-month trip. During the trip, I completed internships in Haiti, Switzerland and India and taught English in Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia. I visited 15 countries and had the most incredible year of learning and growing that I have ever experienced.

Upon moving back to my hometown of Klamath Falls, Ore., I attained a job at Klamath Community College's TRiO Program. In my new position, I serve people from backgrounds similar to mine—low-income and first-generation college students—in order to help them succeed in school. Some of the students I advise even have the Ford Family Scholarship. It is an incredible gift for me to be able to play a role in other students' educational journeys because I know first-hand what a dif-

ference support can make.

I wanted to share my achievements since becoming a Ford Scholar because they don't only belong to me—they belong to the Foundation, too. Every achievement since I was chosen as a Scholar and every achievement I will make in my lifetime can be attributed in some way to the Foundation. It not only supported me financially but believed I could change the world, which made me believe I could too.

Thank you to the Foundation, from the bottom of my heart, for choosing me as a Ford Scholar, Class of 2003. Not only has it helped me to already achieve the dreams I set out to meet as a 17-year-old, but through my education and association with the Foundation, I have learned to dream greater things for both myself and for the world.

The Ford Family Foundation



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The Ford Scholar Alumni Association board members met during the Ford Scholars Recognition Conference on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at the Valley River Inn in Eugene. Pictured in front from left to right: Secretary Katie Keller, President Mary Chuinard and Member at Large Leana Dickerson. Back row from left to right: Member at Large Robert Teel, Vice President Logan Smith and Member at Large Toni Kelich.

Not pictured are Treasurer Ryan Hildebrand and Members at Large Nicole Blalock, David Carne, Rabecka Peixoto and Chris Schulze.

Keeping Connected!

Learn more about the Ford Scholar Alumni Association online by visiting www.FordScholarAlumni.com.

Update your contact information (especially your e-mail address!) by logging in to 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

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

