

# Ford Scholar Alumni News

 **Ford Scholar**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Spring 2014

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

## Vote for Your FSAA Board of Directors March 17-24

By Logan Smith  
FSAA Vice President

A fantastic group of applicants are vying to join the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors during this spring's FSAA 2014 election. Their biographies are featured in this issue of *Alumni News*.

Members will vote for the positions of vice president, treasurer and four at-large positions. A link to an electronic ballot will be e-mailed to all Ford Scholar Alumni in mid-March 2014. **Voting will be open online from Monday, March 17 through Monday, March 24, 2014, deadline.** Only one ballot per alum is allowed.

The candidates will fill positions currently occupied by outgoing board members: Vice President Logan Smith '96; Interim Treasurer Toni Kelich '02; and Members at Large David Carne '00, Chris Schulze '95 and Robert Teel '98.

Kirsten (Snyder) Yamada '05 is running for vice president. Member at Large and current Interim Treasurer Toni Kelich '02 is running for treasurer, continuing her service to the FSAA board. Eight candidates are running for the four open members-at-large positions: Quinton Blanton '09, Michelle Bolduc '06, Marshall Curry '09, Temesghen Habte '08, Alexandra Kihn-Stang '08, Danielle Quimby Currey, '99, Logan Smith '96 and Cole Southworth '00.

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

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Leana Dickerson, Class of 2004; Kirsten Yamada, Class of 2005; and Toni Kelich, Class of 2002, volunteered during the MLK Weekend of Service 2014.

## Alumni Join MLK Weekend of Service

By Holly Scholz  
Editor

Ford Scholar Alumni Association members pitched in to help with two community service projects as part of MLK Weekend of Service 2014, honoring the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I love that the FSAA tries to get Scholars out on MLK Jr. Day because it combines the ideals and values of community service promoted by Kenneth Ford with a day we set aside to honor a man who promoted the ideals and value of community and equality," said FSAA Board Treasurer Toni Kelich from the Class of 2002 who, along with her two teenage daughters, participated in a service project.

FSAA Board Secretary Katie Keller, Class of 1997, also served. "For the MLK Weekend of Service, I spent a few hours volunteering my time in honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Keller worked on the Friends of Errol Heights Restoration Planting project for three hours on Saturday

*I look forward to more FSAA  
volunteer events and the  
opportunity to network with more  
alumni. - Kirsten Yamada,  
Class of 2005*

morning, Jan. 18. "With other dedicated volunteers on a 30-degree morning, I dug holes and planted native snowberry plants in a park in Southeast Portland," she explained. "Despite numb fingers and toes, it felt good to be contributing my time and effort for something productive and positive for my community."

Events Committee Chairman Rob Teel, Class of 1998, set up the FSAA volunteer opportunity through Hands On Greater Portland and invited local FSAA alumni to participate. Teel and his wife, Mindy, and their 2-year-old daughter, Willa, pitched in.

"My family had a great time volunteering," Teel said. "The event was well attended and organized because Hands On Greater Portland does an

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*Ford Scholar Alumni News* is published twice a year.

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To submit story ideas, articles,  
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Newsletter Editor: Holly Scholz  
E-mail: newsletter@  
fordscholaralumni.com  
(541) 736-0946

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their assistance with this issue:  
Mary Chuinard, Leana Dickerson,  
Shauna Harper, Toni Kelich, Logan  
Smith, Tyler Smith, Robert Teel  
and Kirsten Yamada.

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*

I hope this newsletter issue finds you all healthy and well. With about six months of being your Ford Scholar Alumni Association President under my belt, I can confidently say these were big shoes to fill. I want to once again sincerely thank Andrea Smith for all the hard work she put into running and growing this organization, and for her willingness to share her historical knowledge and wisdom with me in my six months at the reins.

As FSAA President, it has been such a pleasure to have the opportunity to get to know various classes of Ford Scholars more deeply, and I look forward to that continuing. I strongly encourage each and every one of you to try and do the same wherever you are, so we can all continue to support each other as members of the Ford Family. If you aren't sure how to do this, here are just a few ways:

Use the directory on [MyFordInfo.org](http://MyFordInfo.org) to see if there are any Ford Scholar Alumni that live in your area and contact them.

Join us on the FSAA Facebook ([facebook.com/groups/fordalumni](https://facebook.com/groups/fordalumni))

and utilize it to post invitations for others to join you in things you might already be doing like volunteering, one-time community service projects, or just getting together at a park.

Join the Ford Scholar LinkedIn professional network (<http://bit.ly/fordalumni>) to start engaging our Ford Family in professional and career-oriented activities and see if someone is in an industry that you would like to know more about.

Get involved with the FSAA (run for a position, vote, come to general meetings), and check your e-mail as the FSAA puts on quarterly events (from community service opportunities to pumpkin patch outings).

I'm excited to announce that there is a summer gathering for Ford Scholar Alumni in the works that will hopefully become an annual event that you can mark on your calendar. Even more exciting than getting to gather as alumni is that we will also be partnering with the Foundation to join the current Scholars at their annual summer Leadership Conference (ah, the memories) to help them develop networking skills.

The gathering will be held one day during the weekend of the conference, which is Aug. 1-3, at Sunriver near Bend, Ore. More details to follow – be watching your e-mail. I hope that many of you will make the effort to join the fun at this FSAA "practice" networking event.



**Vote**



**March 17-24**

Look for your electronic  
ballot in your inbox!

Vote for one vice president,  
one treasurer and  
four members at large.

# FSAA Board Networks During January General Meeting



Jan. 25 Ford Scholar Alumni Association General Meeting in-person attendees, back row: Shauna Harper, Eric Collins, Marshall Curry, Chris Schulze and Mary Chuinard. Front row: Katie Keller, Kirsten Yamada and Leana Dickerson.

**By Holly Scholz**  
**Editor**

Topics ranged from elections and finances to what alumni want to get out of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association during the annual FSAA General Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Stoel Rives law firm office in the Standard Insurance Center in Portland, Ore.

President Mary Chuinard opened the meeting by reading the FSAA mission statement and saying that one of our biggest challenges is to keep all alumni engaged and to foster the family that The Ford Family Foundation set up for us, reminding attendees that all alumni are automatically members of the FSAA once they graduate from college.

Five members attended the meeting remotely by using the new Jambox technology. Board Member at Large Toni Kelich was absent.

Other attendees included Kirsten Yamada, Class of 2005; Marshall Curry, Class of 2009; former board member Eric Collins, Class of 1995; Scholarship Office Staff Assistant Shauna Harper, Class of 2007; and Ford Scholar Alumni News Editor Holly Scholz, Class of 1998.

Vice President Logan Smith noted that board elections are underway,

adding that elections occur every spring, and members serve two years. "It has been challenging to get members to run," Smith said. "You don't need a degree in organizational management!"

Member at Large Leana Dickerson posed these questions in regard to our organization: What do you want to get out of your experience with the alumni association? What would you like to see? What do you expect from the board?

Curry, who admitted to being the youngest alumnus in attendance, said he wants to get to know other alumni and network with others.

A great deal of discussion followed about how to network. The Foundation offers a directory on MyFordInfo.org that contains contact information of all scholarship recipients. It was agreed that it would be more helpful if the password-protected site were more user-friendly and updated to include items such as being interested in mentoring and how to contact members in your area and those with similar careers. The Scholarship Office and the FSAA need to further discuss the feasibility and site capability for the proposed upgrade.

As a board member, Collins conducted a survey and concluded that alumni were not interested in going

to events but wanted to network. "Scholars are untapped resources," he said, adding that he recently graduated from law school and likes the idea of networking with other lawyers.

Dickerson and Member at Large Chris Schulze provided an update on the Mentoring Committee. The goal is for alumni to offer career, graduate school or internship mentoring to other Ford Scholars.

"We might want to change the name of the Mentoring Committee to something like 'Connections,'" he said.

Networking reminds alumni of the summer conferences, so the idea of putting on another alumni conference surfaced. Schulze acknowledged that planning a conference is not only expensive, but is a huge time commitment for the board. An alumni conference will not be held in the near future, but many liked the idea of an informal gathering.

Chuinard summarized the networking discussion by stating the following goals:

1. Connect with other alumni.
2. Build connections by holding events throughout the year.
3. Look at our alma maters and connect in those communities specifically.
4. Have a consistent annual meeting to continue the tradition of the annual conference.

After a pizza lunch, Member at Large Rob Teel reported on the January MLK Day of Service events that only a handful of alumni attended. Everyone seemed to agree that alumni should be encouraged to find volunteer opportunities within their own communities. The FSAA Events Committee will continue to use volunteer organizations such as Hands On Greater Portland and SOLV to join work parties.

Finances were last on the agenda. Due to other obligations, Ryan Hildebrand no longer serves as FSAA treasurer. Member at Large Toni Kelich was voted in as treasurer at the October 2013 board meeting. Chuinard gave the treasurer's report in her place and applauded Kelich for her efforts. The FSAA has about \$7,500 – all from donations – and is used for events and outreach to increase alumni participation.



## Candidates



Kirsten (Snyder) Yamada

### Vice President

**Kirsten (Snyder) Yamada**  
Class of 2005

Native to Oregon, I grew up in a small, rural community, where I learned the value of community involvement and the power that everyone has when they come together and share resources to make a difference. I was first exposed to The Ford Family Foundation in 2004 when I was selected for the Class I Ford Institute Leadership Development Program. In 2005, I was honored to receive the Ford Family Scholarship and to this day continue to build upon what I learned from the Foundation.

I graduated from Portland State University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies and studied abroad in China and Japan. After graduating, I served as the alumni coordinator for AFS Intercultural Programs, a non-profit study abroad organization. I was the lead in creating and developing alumni volunteer positions such as the alumni mentor program. I provided high-quality training resources and planned national alumni leadership conferences. Most importantly, I connected alumni and supported their personal and professional development needs.

As your board vice president, I would provide effective alumni program management and leadership training experience, as well as inspire ideas to bring more cohesion and professional development opportunities to Ford Scholars, past and present. In the next two years, I would like to plan alumni leadership training events, further develop the FSAA Mentor Program and create other volunteer leadership positions to help engage alumni throughout the nation. I'm excited for the opportunity to bring us together to continue to share, grow and inspire.



Toni Kelich

### Treasurer

**Toni Kelich**  
Class of 2002

My name is Toni Kelich, Class of 2002, and I am running for Ford Scholar Alumni Association Treasurer. I am currently a board member at large, but I have been filling in as treasurer since October 2013.

Because there were no systems in place when I took over as treasurer, nor any past records or reports to help me understand what was needed of me, I have spent a great deal of time working to clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of the FSAA Treasurer. I have caught up our records and business filings, as well as created a manual to assist in staying on top of those responsibilities for any future treasurer. I would like to continue in this capacity and return the role of FSAA Treasurer to a fully functioning and thriving position.

On a personal note, I earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Portland State University in 2004 before going on to get my Juris Doctorate from Rutgers Newark in 2010. I am the diversity and inclusion coordinator for the Oregon State Bar and also serve as a board member for the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association. I also volunteer at various community events focused on equality and social justice. I enjoy spending time with my teen daughters (when they want to spend time with me!), and taking in the beautiful outdoors in Oregon – or a movie when the rain becomes too much.



Quinton Blanton

### Member at Large

**Quinton Blanton**  
Class of 2009

When I opened the e-mail explaining the opportunity to serve on the board of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association, I was thrilled. I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to not only give back to The Ford Family Foundation for their financial contributions to my education, but I also thought that through this chance to serve, I could touch the lives of many. You see, like the FSAA, I believe that people are a beacon of light for each other. I find that giving advice to incoming freshmen makes me passionate. I want my colleagues to maximize their potential, avoid making the same mistakes I did, and I challenge them to live lives resembling that of Kenneth Ford. I am the type of leader the FSAA Board needs – someone who is committed, caring and loves what they do.

I know that if selected for an at-large position on the board, I will bring a fresh perspective, strong work ethic and – most importantly – love. Over my four years in college, love has probably been my greatest teacher inasmuch that no matter how hard, chaotic or hopeless things are, it's amazing how keeping a loving attitude and mindset can change things for the better. I am by no means saying that being on the FSAA Board will be easy, but through the good and the bad, I will be proud in knowing that I'm helping to keep the dream and legacy of Kenneth Ford alive far beyond my time in college.

## Candidates



Michelle Bolduc

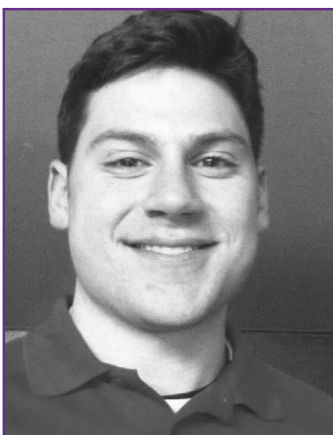
### Member at Large

**Michelle Bolduc**  
Class of 2006

I always feel proud when I have the opportunity to tell someone I am a Ford Scholar, not because of personal achievement, but because The Ford Family Foundation exemplifies such strong values and impacts the communities of Oregon in such a significant way.

Since graduating in 2010 with a degree in planning, public policy and management from the University of Oregon, I have been building my career in health care policy, a field that I became passionate about through my studies. I am happily getting to know Portland after living in Pittsburgh, Pa., for a couple of years after college. When not working, I enjoy visiting one of Portland's countless breweries and donut shops or exploring the beautiful outdoors of Oregon with my husband and my brindle Boxer dog, Baxter.

As Ford Scholar Alumni, we are so fortunate for the support we received to achieve our educational goals, and now for the powerful network we are part of as alumni. As a board member, I will provide fresh ideas to expand the connectedness of our alumni community. I will help the board increase opportunities for alumni to become actively involved in the FSAA through social and volunteering events, with a focus on growing leadership skills among alumni.



Marshall Curry

### Member at Large

**Marshall Curry**  
Class of 2009

Attending the January Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board general meeting elicited a response that rocketed me back to my first summer conference: There I sat, glazed over with confusion, awe and something I might call disbelief. At first I blamed my stupefied state of mind on my apparel, which was proudly completed with a ridiculously blue Ford Family hat. However, I later realized that although my hat was loud, my astonished response stemmed rather from the even louder sense of hope and belief radiating in my company. Both at the conference and at the board meeting sat a group with no previous connection to me, save being a Ford Scholar, yet they all gifted me the comfort of an unwavering belief in my potential for greatness.

Working at Marion-Polk Food Share and Isaac's Room in Salem, Ore., I have juggled the many challenges faced by nonprofits. I work with diverse groups and repeatedly see that true faith and commitment to the Ford values can inspire greatness. The feeling that overcame me during the board meeting drove home the importance of inspired belief in the future greatness of our generation. I want to be a part of the board's contribution to society. I wish to pass along Ford's legacy, values and conference wisdoms to others by leveraging what we already do while respecting other commitments. Currently creating community with the board, and as a member of the newest group of alumni, I bring the voices and energies of recent classes to share Kenneth Ford's legacy.



Temesghen Habte

### Member at Large

**Temesghen Habte**  
Class of 2008

I believe in America, in having a dog, in loving your mom and in the following life lesson: No matter where you are at in life, so long as you have a good attitude and you're positive in your thinking, it will almost always get better. The opposite is also true – if you have a bad attitude and you're negative in your thinking, it almost always get worse.

Scholars! My name is Temesghen (te-mess-gain). I attended Lewis and Clark College, where I studied philosophy. Having limited job prospects, I moved in with my parents. Mother used her warmth to raise my self-esteem, which gave me the confidence to do stuff... like raise \$20,000 to drill wells in Africa, work for a micro-lending institute as a grant writer, and help at-risk youth get an education in north/northeast Portland.

Why do work that gives back? Because that's what The Ford Family Foundation taught me – in that sense it's more than just a scholarship, it's a lifestyle. After my dog got sick and needed surgery, I decided to get a big-boy job at Honda as a finance administrator so I could pay his bills. But I miss working for a nonprofit, and if you voters grant me this wish, I promise to focus the sum total of my intellect and skills to benefit the organization we all love so much. Lastly, as someone who grew up in a third-world country, I understand intimately the tremendous opportunities afforded to me by my adopted land – America!

## Candidates



Alexandra Kihn-Stang

### **Member at Large** **Alexandra Kihn-Stang** **Class of 2008**

My interest in the Ford Scholar Alumni Association stems from a strong desire to give back to those that have long inspired me, my fellow Ford Scholar Alumni. While my academic background revolves around science (I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in general science from the University of Oregon and intend to pursue a master's in public health), I have always had a strong interest in volunteer work for nonprofits.

I have held long-term volunteer positions with the Eugene Natives Program and Sacred Heart Medical Center. These have given me a grasp of the commitment required to be an invaluable member of the FSAA Board. I am among the core staff of the administrative department at the state's largest winery, where I work managing the wine club and direct sales. This position has given me thorough understanding of what it takes to keep a large database up-to-date, how to engage and communicate with members, and what sort of planning goes into both large and small events.

Beyond anything else, I hope to use my position as member at large to strengthen the relationships forged and to encourage new growth and connection between members in all stages of life. I truly believe in the mission of the FSAA and in the core values of The Ford Family Foundation and want to share them with our communities.

Thank you for this opportunity. I appreciate your consideration and hope to serve you as a member at large.



Danielle Quimby Currey, ND

### **Member at Large** **Danielle Quimby Currey, ND** **Class of 1999**

Hello one and all. I am honored and excited for the opportunity to represent you and other alumni on the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board. I am a naturopathic doctor, wife, mother, business owner and community member practicing in Gresham, Ore. Looking back on my journey as a Ford Scholar and alumnus, I am amazed by what this program has helped and encouraged me to accomplish.

I have lived and grown up in the Willamette Valley both in rural areas like Willamina – go Bulldogs – and in the more urban areas of Salem and Portland. I have also worked many different jobs from manual labor to my current career as a doctor. My variety of working and living conditions have allowed me the ability to relate well with many different people – a skill I find vital when being called upon to represent a large group of individuals.

My goals and hopes for a two-year term on the board include greater opportunities for alumni members to gather, share their stories and volunteer their unique pool of talents to meet community needs. I hope to bring more awareness to both the scholarship program as well as opportunities for alumni to continue exhibiting the drive for community involvement and leadership that The Ford Family Foundation originally recognized within each of us. I would like to see our sense of community, which was fostered during our education, extended into the alumni association.



Logan Smith

### **Member at Large** **Logan Smith** **Class of 1996**

Hello alumni! I received a Ph.D. from University of California, Davis in 2010, and I largely owe my success to the opportunities provided by the Ford Scholars Program. After spending several years in academic science, I moved back to my hometown community to practice rural economic development with a local nonprofit. Native to northern California, I grew up on a cattle ranch where I learned the value of hard work and community involvement. To successfully complete any big project in a rural area, everyone in the community must contribute.

Inspired by the wonderful leadership example set by our Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board members, I feel it is now my duty to continue volunteering as an at-large member. After attending the first alumni conference in Portland, Ore., I was greatly inspired by the local Ford Scholars, and I decided I would pursue job openings in the area. Living in Oregon, experiencing community vitality, and engaging in FSAA events has been a wonderful learning experience that I've since brought back to my hometown community.

I share the conviction of our current board for the cause of developing civic leaders, connecting alumni and encouraging community involvement in our members. In the next two years, I'd like to help recruit more active Ford Scholars into the alumni association, encourage alumni networking, and sponsor volunteer projects that improve community development.



## Candidate



Cole Southworth

### Member at Large

**Cole Southworth**  
Class of 2000

I am a medical student at the University of New England, finishing my third year. As my fourth year begins, I will be saying goodbye to Maine in order to return to Oregon, my home state. Maine has served as a wonderful backdrop to my medical education, but it cannot compare to the wonderful Pacific Northwest.

Like you, I was fortunate to be a Ford Family Scholarship recipient. I am grateful for the solid educational foundation this provided, which springboarded me to achieve my medical career ambition. As a medical student, I became involved in my surroundings. I served as the Associated Student Body President and sat on the Maine Osteopathic Association Board. These opportunities reinforced the importance of becoming involved and active in one's community. As I prepare to return to the West Coast, I desire to stay involved in my surrounding community, and it is my desire to contribute to the continued strength and visibility of the FSAA by serving as an at-large board member.

I have extensive experience with nonprofit organizations that focus on youth development and empowerment and fostering a sense of stewardship and responsibility. As the Student Government Association President of my medical school, I have experience in organizing elections, listening to the opinions of all individuals, and focusing a group's momentum toward common goals. I am confident that I have much to offer as a board member and will give the FSAA the same energy, commitment and passion that I have to the other elements of my life.

## Earth Day–April 22

As Ford Scholars, we are committed to leading in our communities and supporting the greater communities we live in. Join other Ford Scholar Alumni in celebrating Earth Day by pitching in to help in your local communities.

Many events are planned for Saturday, April 26.

Search for an Earth Day event to attend in your town or visit one of these sites to learn more: [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org) – Join SOLV in cleaning up.

[www.handsonportland.org](http://www.handsonportland.org) – Help Hands On Greater Portland with planting projects.

[www.handsonw.org](http://www.handsonw.org) – Find volunteer events through Hands On Willamette.

[www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) – Find Earth Day events in your area.

If you sign up for an event, post it on our FSAA Facebook page to encourage other alumni in your area to join you for a project.

### Alumni Dig in During...

*Continued from page 1*

excellent job of making the volunteering process readily accessible and simple."

Teel also worked with Hands On Greater Portland to invite FSAA members to attend Lifting Communities as We Climb: A Day of Service Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday afternoon, Jan. 20 in Portland.

FSAA Board Member at Large Leana Dickerson, Class of 2004, and Kelich attended the event and met up with Class of 2005 Alumna Kirsten Yamada.

Yamada had asked the FSAA how she could get more involved with alumni events. She signed up for the MLK Day event, which began with presentations from U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and other prominent community leaders and ended with a hands-on project.

Yamada, Dickerson and Kelich helped create personal care boxes for Alder Elementary School's underserved children and disconnected homeless youth that included dental, hygiene and school

supplies along with a handmade greeting card.

Kelich volunteered because giving back to the community is very important to her. "It is something I don't do as often as I'd like, given my crazy day-to-day schedule," she said. "I also involve my daughters in service to the community because I want to instill in them the value and understanding of how important giving back to our community really is."

Yamada said, "The reason I wanted to get involved was to connect with other Ford Alumni in the Portland area while doing something good to help others in need in the community. It only took a few hours of my day but it felt great to reconnect. I look forward to more FSAA volunteer events and the opportunity to network with more alumni."

Teel encourages other Portland-area FSAA members to visit [handsonportland.org](http://handsonportland.org) or to e-mail him at [events@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:events@fordscholaralumni.com) with questions concerning participating in upcoming volunteering opportunities.

# Annie Tester Earns Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award

By Holly Scholz  
Editor

Annie Tester, a Ford Scholar Alumna from the very first class of Ford Scholars, 1994, has earned the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award for her dedication to her small, rural hometown and her perseverance in building a charter school.

Tester was born and raised in Pilot Rock, a town of 1,500 not far from Pendleton in northeastern Oregon. Her parents graduated from Pilot Rock High School (PRHS) in the 1940s. She graduated from PRHS in 1975, and two of her three children graduated from there.

Tester started college at age 36 when her three children were 16, 12 and 10. "My husband and kids learned how to fend for themselves while learning how important a college education is to succeeding in today's economy," Tester said.

She earned her Master's in Teacher Education from Eastern Oregon University in 1999 and taught English, music and theater at PRHS until July 2004. With the help of the Foundation, Tester received her initial administrator's license in December 2002. Her first administrator's position was at Nixyáawii Community School on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She helped the charter school open its doors in the fall of 2004.

Tester says she started the school



Annie Tester receives her Ford Scholarship from Kenneth Ford in 1994.

from scratch, including building a budget, hiring staff, buying classroom necessities, building athletic schedules, developing student activities,

She then returned to PRHS as a teacher and continued until the summer of 2012 when she became principal. She hopes to retire from the Pilot Rock School District.

"I am extremely lucky to have a career in education," Tester said. "There is no way to thoroughly explain the gratification

that comes from seeing students succeed."

As the high school principal, Tester has many opportunities to give positive encouragement to parents along with their students. "It always makes me feel good to help a family work through a tough situation," she said. "The community knows I care about the school and every student in it."

Tester remembers Mr. Ford being adamant about the need to give back to the state of Oregon and especially to our own communities. "I feel if my community is to continue thriving, then it is my duty to be an active member of it," she said.

For the last 25 years, Tester has provided music, taught classes and been a member of the finance committee at her local church. She was a founding member of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association and sat on the interim board for four years. Tester serves as board chair for the Pilot

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*I feel if my community is to continue thriving, then it is my duty to be an active member of it. - Annie Tester*

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and learning the names and families of the reservation community. "It was a daunting undertaking of which I am very proud." She stayed as the administrator until the end of the 2007 school year.

## Gerald E. Bruce Award Nominees

The Ford Family Foundation recognizes the following Ford Scholar Alumni who were nominated for the 2014 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.

**Joy Brooke**, Class of 1995, Kirkland, Wash.

**Debra Grenz**, Class of 2003, Albany, Ore.

**Nathan Hodges**, Class of 2001, Lopez Island, Wash.

**Danielle Quimby Currey**, Class of 1999, Milwaukie, Ore.

**Olesya Salathe**, Class of 2001, Colton, Ore.

**Jacqui Terrill Cooke**, Class of 1996, Amity, Ore.

To encourage nominations for the Bruce Award, those who applied or nominated a fellow alumnus were entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. Jacqui Terrill Cooke won the 2014 drawing!

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FSAA Secretary Katie Keller worked on the Friends of Errol Heights Restoration Planting project, digging holes and planting native snowberry plants, during the MLK Weekend of Service on Jan. 18.

## Think Your Involvement Won't Make a Difference? Think Again.

By Marija Kovacevic Hobbs  
Class of 1994

It's easier today than ever to make a huge impact by making a small effort to connect with your fellow Ford Scholar Alumni. We have a strong presence on social media, and can use this platform as a tool to do something really positive for the FSAA. Share your vision. Reach out. Effect change without making excuses.

*Top ten reasons you should participate in the Ford Scholar Alumni Association:*

- 10) Make valuable connections by networking with alumni in other classes. We've gained a stout variety of professional skills and interests that continues to grow.
- 9) Civic leadership inspires your friends, neighbors and children to do the same.
- 8) The Ford Family Foundation supported you. Now it's your turn.
- 7) Volunteerism keeps our communities safe, vital and sustainable.
- 6) Mentoring Scholars in college prepares them for a fulfilling career.

- 5) Philanthropy enhances the quality of life for rural communities in our area.
- 4) Share your voice! Write a blog post or newsletter article.
- 3) Serving on the Board of Directors is a strong and unique addition to your resume.
- 2) You are a Ford Scholar forever.
- 1) Because you are one of over 1600 people fortunate enough to have completed a powerful education through one of Kenneth's Ford's dearest projects.

*If you don't support the FSAA, who will?*

### 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!

### Vote for Your FSAA Board...

*Continued from page 1*

class of Ford Scholar Alumni on Saturday, July 12, 2014, at their outgoing conference at the Valley River Inn in Eugene.

Note: If the FSAA does not have your updated e-mail address, you will likely not receive your electronic ballot. Those who need to update their contact information should log into myfordinfo.org as soon as possible. Please send all election related questions to: elections@fordscholaralumni.com.

### Annie Tester Earns Bruce Award...

*Continued from previous page*



Annie Tester

Rock Education and Community Foundation and helps plan the PRHS alumni dinner during Pilot Rock Community Days, which is another annual event she helps coordinate. Tester

served two years on the Pilot Rock City Council. She also serves as chair of the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition, which strives to increase awareness of cultural organizations and activities.

Tester says she is humbled by the honor of receiving the Bruce Award. "Truthfully, I'm overwhelmed just as I felt the day I opened my award letter back in 1994." She recalls Mr. Ford scolding Scholars for not thinking they were special individuals. "I don't see myself as special or outstanding and am still wondering how this is actually happening to me."

The award comes with a \$5,000 grant to a nonprofit organization, which Tester has chosen to go to the Pilot Rock Education and Community Foundation. The funds will be used in local schools and the community.

Tester remembers Gerry and Ronnie Bruce. "At our summer retreats, the Bruces were so down to earth to us Scholars, and I realize now that they were simply hard-working Oregonians just like Mr. Ford."

# Milestones

## *Class of 1996*

### **SreyRam Kuy**

SreyRam Kuy, MD, MHS, published her first novel, "Soul of a Tiger." Based on a true story, one young woman defies all odds in this profound journey of love, courage and survival during the Cambodian Killing Fields. Read about "Soul of a Tiger" at [www.soulofatiger.com](http://www.soulofatiger.com) or find it at Amazon.com.

### **Tuliyani (Tannaci) Potts**

Tuliyani became the city planner for the City of Mt. Shasta, Calif., at the beginning of 2014.

### **Timelle (Barrans) Rosen**

Timelle had another addition to her family. Drew Rosen was born Oct. 28, 2013, at Salem Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. He joins his sister, Mikenzy, and brother, Micah Rosen.

### **Jacqui Terrill Cooke**

Jacqui Terrill Cooke, FNP-C, CNM, started her own practice as a nurse practitioner, Sunrise Family Clinic, in September 2013. Jacqui felt ready to start her own clinic after more than 10 years as a nurse practitioner, and having been the main organizer in starting the McMinnville Free Clinic over the last two-and-a-half years, where she continues to serve as board president and volunteer. She also feels blessed to have a wonderful husband, Shawn, to whom she has been married for nearly 15 years, and a 5-year-old son, Caleb.

## *Class of 1997*

### **Andrew Over**

In December 2013, Andrew accepted a new position as market vice president with Regence BlueShield in Seattle. He will move his family from Portland to Seattle in the spring. He has been with Regence for more than three years and is excited about this opportunity in a new community.

## *Class of 2000*

### **Kevin Wienecke**

Kevin and his wife, Angela, had their first child, Desmond, last summer. Kevin began a new job in Austin, Texas, and they are looking for a new house.

## *Class of 2001*

### **Todd Gifford**

Todd's baby girl, Emma Bliss, turned 1 year old on Jan. 26. His oldest son, Joshua, graduates from high school in June at age 17, having also completed his two-year college degree simultaneously and playing varsity basketball his last three years. He plans to continue on with the goal of training to become a registered nurse. Todd's general dental practice in Southwest Portland, Gifford Family Dentistry, continues to enjoy fantastic growth. He just completed a renovation, doubling the number of chairs available to treat patients and hired additional support staff.

## *Class of 2002*

### **Meghan Bailey**

Meghan has been at Northwest Farm Credit Services in Pendleton, Ore., for four years. As a relationship manager, she writes loans for agricultural and residential properties.

### **James Lefor**

James has worked for Idaho Power Company for more than five years, managing more than 20,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Hells Canyon. In May 2013, he accepted a new position as assistant habitat biologist at his work station in Richland, Ore., on the Daly Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Baker City, Ore., with their two children and will celebrate their third wedding anniversary in April.

## *Class of 2003*

### **Eben Allen**

Eben and wife, Roxanne, recently welcomed their first child to the world. Their daughter, Kiley Grace Allen, was born Feb. 4, 2014, at 4:42 a.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. Eben and Roxanne are delighted and still in awe that they are actually parents now!

## *Class of 2004*

### **Sabrina Abbott**

Sabrina earned a Special Major Master's Degree in museum studies with an art historical emphasis from California State University at Sacramento in December 2013.

## *Class of 2005*

### **Dustin Byers**

It's been three years since Dustin returned to the States after teaching English in Austria. Since returning, Dustin has had three, fun years full of teaching skiing, fly fishing, motorcycle riding and climbing trips. He is happy, however, to have finally made the decision to enter grad school and earn a master's degree in education. He looks forward to starting at Oregon State University - Cascades this summer in Bend, Ore.

### **Kirsten (Snyder) Yamada**

Kirsten married Eigo Yamada on Aug. 10, 2013, at the Village Green Resort in Cottage Grove, Ore. She met Eigo, who is from Japan, while he was studying abroad at Linfield College in 2006. In February 2014, the couple traveled to Japan where they had a traditional Japanese wedding ceremony in Eigo's hometown of Chigasaki. The couple resides in the Portland area and are already beginning to plan their next trip.

## *Class of 2006*

### **Lizett Maclaurin**

In 2012, Lizett graduated with a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from George Fox University. She works as a mental health therapist at Lower Columbia Mental Health Center in Woodland, Wash. She is certified as a Hispanic Mental Health Specialist, an Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Specialist, and in play therapy (helping children process trauma). Lizett operates a weekly free clinic for uninsured people needing mental health services.

### **Jennifer Pust**

In December 2013, Jennifer graduated from Crown College in St. Bonifacius, Minn., with a Master of Arts degree in international leadership with an emphasis in community development.

## *Class of 2007*

### **Finley Terhune**

Finley began a master's in counseling psychology program at University of San Francisco and recently started gender transition.



# Celebrating 20 Years – Fun Ford Family Foundation Facts

The Ford Family Foundation began distributing college scholarships to students in 1994 under the direction of Kenneth Ford. This year the Foundation is celebrating 20 years of scholarships! We thought it would be fun to share some Fun Foundation Facts.

## How many scholarships have been given for each scholarship program?

- Ford Scholars = 2,304
- Ford Opportunity = 762
- Ford ReStart = 527
- Ford Sons & Daughters = 720
- Total = 4,313**

## How much scholarship money has been invested in college students?

- \$135 million since 1994

## How many Ford Scholar Alumni do we have?

- 1,692 Ford Scholar Alumni
- 936 Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart Alumni

## How many people does the Foundation employ?

- 7 employees in the Foundation Scholarship Office in Eugene
- 22 in Roseburg

## How does the Foundation get its funds?

The Foundation's funding comes from earnings off an endowment created by Kenneth and Hallie Ford, which were largely funded by proceeds from Roseburg Forest Products. The amount from earnings we can distribute each year is determined by a complex formula that aligns with IRS regulations for a private foundation. The amount of funding available each year is influenced by a number of factors, including investments and market performance.

## More fun facts about the Foundation:

- The Ford Family Foundation is one of the top 100 largest private foundations in the U.S.
- The Foundation is one of the few that specifically states a focus on rural.
- The development of three of our four scholarship programs had direct involvement by either Kenneth or Hallie Ford.

Celebrating  
*twenty!*  
20 Years of Scholarships  
The Ford Family Foundation  
1994 – 2014

## Milestones

### Class of 2009

#### Keith Fakhoury

Keith was recently selected as one of six Americans to attend the Institute for Leadership in the Americas as a delegate representing the USA and Jordan. The two-week conference took place in Santiago, Chile, and included 60 students from all over the world. Morning courses were taught by prominent professors and politicians such as Julio Dittborn, undersecretary of the treasury, and Jose Piñera, Harvard economist and architect of the Personal Retirement Account reform.

#### Sterling Robertson

Sterling attained his bachelor's in Spanish at the end of fall term. He is currently interning for the Rural Education Institute of Mexico in La Palma and Jalpa in Guanajuato, Mexico, teaching English and other life skills to children between the ages of 8 and 15. He will be there throughout the semester and then will return to Eugene and decide what he wants to study in graduate school.



The Ford Family Foundation hosted an open house on June 27, 2013, celebrating the grand opening of the expansion to the Roseburg office as well as saying farewell to Norm Smith and welcoming Anne Kubisch as the Foundation president.



The Ford Family Foundation



**Ford Scholar**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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*Rob and Mindy Teel, along with their daughter, Willa, worked alongside Katie Keller during the MLK Weekend of Service 2014.*

## 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/). Also join the Facebook Group for the Ford Family Scholarships by searching "Ford Family-Scholarships" or type in [www.Facebook.com/FordFamilyScholarshipPrograms](http://www.Facebook.com/FordFamilyScholarshipPrograms).



### LinkedIn

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



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