

# Ford Scholar Alumni News

**Ford Scholar**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fall 2014

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



Ford Scholar Alumni toured the High Desert Museum in Bend, Ore., before greeting the new Ford Scholars at the Leadership Conference. Back row, left to right: Marshall Curry (2009), Mary Chuinard (2002), Tara Heilbrun (2001), Steven Crader (2009), Thomaida Hudanish (1999), David Carne (2000), Toby Joyce (2000) and Chris Schulze (1995). Front row: Mandy Elder (2009), Nelya Drofnyak (2006), Kirsten Yamada (2005) and Leana Dickerson (2004).

## Alumni Gather in Sunriver with Scholars

By **Holly Scholz**  
Editor

Ford Scholar Alumni learned some Central Oregon history while touring a museum and met with new Scholars during the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference on Saturday, Aug. 2 in Sunriver, Ore.

Ford Scholar Alumni Association board members planned the event in an effort to create opportunities for alumni to get together and to extend their mentorship to Ford Scholars.

FSAA Member at Large David Carne, who lives in Central Oregon, spearheaded the event and said it went well. "I think the Meet and Greet went exceptionally well," said Carne, whose term ended in July.

A small group of FSAA members and some of their families gathered in front of the High Desert Museum in Bend around 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2. They wandered through the many exhibits in small groups and happened upon many Class of 2013 Scholars who were doing a service project at the

museum.

"It was wonderful and nostalgic to watch them learn about our landscape, develop their sense of place, and help out the local community," said FSAA Member at Large Marshall Curry. Former Director of Scholarship Programs Sam Rennick, who flew in from Nebraska, also joined alumni as did Foundation President Anne Kubisch. Together, they watched the Bird of Prey Encounter and explored the historical past of the West.

Alumni then met at the Owl's Nest, a pub in the Sunriver Lodge, for appetizers and drinks, swapping Ford stories.

That evening, alumni visited with current Scholars during a Meet and Greet event at the Sunriver Resort.

"There were about 12 alumni and some Friends of the Foundation who showed up just as 100 Scholars swarmed the room," Curry said. "There appeared to be lots of good conversations, impressive new Scholars,

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## FSAA Board Election Results

By **Rabecka Peixoto**  
Elections Committee Chair

Thank you to all who participated in the spring 2014 Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors elections. Without the participation of alumni, the FSAA could not continue to grow, thrive and strive toward our mission.

It is with great honor that we welcome the newly elected members of the FSAA Board of Directors:

**Vice President:** Kirsten (Snyder) Yamada – Class of 2005

**Treasurer:** Toni (Parker) Kelich – Class of 2002

**Member at Large:** Michelle Bolduc Culaba – Class of 2006

**Member at Large:** Danielle (Quimby) Currey – Class of 1999

**Member at Large:** Marshall Curry – Class of 2009

**Member at Large:** Logan Smith – Class of 1996

Members serve two-year terms.

Ford Scholar Alumni will elect five new members in early spring of 2015 for the positions of president, secretary and three members-at-large seats. Please consider nominating yourself or fellow alumni for these positions when nominations open in January.

The FSAA represents nearly 1,700 members and is much larger than this recent board election may show. You don't have to be elected to help! Please consider becoming a volunteer member for one of the several committees. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your FSAA – no matter where you live! Visit <http://fordscholaralumni.com/about-the-fsaa/committees/> online for more information.

If you had any problems voting or have suggestions for improving the process, please send an e-mail to [elections@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:elections@fordscholaralumni.com).

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milestones, reflections or  
suggestions, contact:

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their assistance with this issue:

Michelle Bolduc Culaba, David  
Carne, Mary Chuinard, Marshall  
Curry, Rabecka Peixoto, Logan  
Smith, Tyler Smith 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*

all the things that consume my time and make this life blur by are worth it. Most often, though, I'm reminded of the heart behind that investment of time.

A couple of my larger personal investments of time, beyond my family, are at work, advising students through their higher education journey at Oregon State University, as well as being your Ford Scholar Alumni Association President. These are choices I've made in my life to give back, and I am honored to be in both of these roles.

Enough about me. My point is, that wherever you are in your post-college and life journey, and wherever you invest your precious time and energies in life, I encourage you to

I don't know about you, but time just seems to be flying by lately. It's hard to believe that college ended almost a decade ago and that I now have a toddler. Some days I question whether

think about the reasons that you chose to make those investments. Are they bettering you, your community and those around you? Or are they necessary for paying the bills and getting by each day? There are a lot of reasons we do what we do.

I challenge you (and myself) to remember the vision for our life investments that The Ford Family Foundation had when they invested in us: To become successful citizens ourselves and to give back to our communities (especially the rural communities where many of us came from).

The FSAA Board of Directors is actively working to provide opportunities to engage, support and reach out to each other, as well as give back to our communities and the current Ford Scholars. Please take a look at the Year at a Glance section in this newsletter and ponder whether you could spare the time to join your fellow Ford Scholar Alumni in various events that strive to do just that. We also welcome and request your ideas and suggestions. E-mail us at [communications@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:communications@fordscholaralumni.com).

I hope all of you have a fabulous fall and that I get to see many of you in the coming year.



*Ford Scholar Alumni met with new Ford Scholars during a Meet and Greet event in Sunriver that coincided with the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference on Aug. 2. Back row, left to right: Kirsten Yamada (2005), Mandy Elder (2009), Mary Chuinard (2002), Thomaida Hudanish (1999), Marshall Curry (2009), Toby Joyce (2000), David Carne (2000) and Steven Crader (2009). Front row: Nelya Droyak (2006), Tara Heilbrun (2001), Rita Loop (2003) and Alexandra Kihn-Stang (2008).*



# Reflecting Upon Chris Schulze's Eight Years of Service to the FSAA

By **Holly Scholz**  
Editor

When the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors gathered for their Oct. 5 quarterly meeting, a familiar face was missing.



Chris Schulze

It was Chris Schulze. His eight years of service as a FSAA member at large ended in July.

Schulze ran for the position in the spring of 2006, after the interim executive board established the foundation for the FSAA.

"Mr. Ford always impressed on us how important it is to give back. Serving on the board seemed like an opportunity to give back," said Schulze, from the Class of 1995. "On a more selfish note, it seemed an opportunity to continue hanging out with amazing Ford Scholars."

"I felt that there were still things to accomplish," Schulze said. "I love getting to meet new Scholars and hearing their stories."

Smith said that during Schulze's tenure, he introduced the idea of regional chapters of the FSAA, where Scholars could connect locally. "While the organization didn't have the 'critical mass' to regionalize at the time, it did cause us to look at ways to involve Scholars who didn't reside in urban areas," she explained.

Schulze, 37, graduated from Lewis and Clark College in 1999 with a degree in German studies. He works as a middle school science teacher in Pendleton.

Being in Eastern Oregon and living 200 miles from Portland always presented the challenge of making the board meetings, Schulze acknowledged. "The other big challenge that I think all board members face is finding time to keep up on FSAA business while keeping up on the rest of life."

The past eight years have seen many changes in Schulze's life. Aside from marrying Noelle in 2012 and hav-

be done well and on time," she said. "Chris is one of the warmest, most positive and caring people I've known. He is a man of integrity and character, which is just about the best thing I can say about someone."

## Raffle Tickets for Eagle Crest Suite on Sale through Nov. 20

Support the Ford Scholar Alumni Association and enter a raffle for a chance to win a king suite at the Eagle Crest Resort, Friday and Saturday nights July 17-18, 2015. This weekend coincides with an FSAA social gathering and Ford Scholar networking event planned for Saturday, July 18 during the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference in Central Oregon.

The raffle kicked off during the Bauman's Farm FSAA gathering on Saturday, Oct. 11 and continues until Nov. 20.

The raffle is open only to Ford Scholar Alumni. Purchase raffle tickets online at [www.fordscholaralumni.com/donate](http://www.fordscholaralumni.com/donate). Tickets are \$10 each. Pay online through PayPal, or e-mail [finance@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:finance@fordscholaralumni.com) for information on how to pay by check. Checks must be received by Nov. 20.

The winner will be announced Nov. 21 on the FSAA Facebook page and on the FSAA website.

Plan to attend the July 18 FSAA event at Eagle Crest to connect with alumni and Scholars.

## *When Chris said he would do something, I knew it would be done well and on time.*

— Former FSAA President Andrea Smith

His first term as a member at large lasted six years. During this time, Schulze helped start the Mentoring Program, an accomplishment he views as his most important contribution to his time on the board.

"Charlie Walker, the first director of the Ford Scholars Program, told me once that he hoped our FSAA would be an organization that 'holds hands.' It was a very 'Charlie' sort of statement," Schulze said, adding that mentoring is a valuable way for us to stay connected and to be an organization that "holds hands." Schulze believes Ford Scholar Alumni are a unique group of people with abilities and talents that should be shared with their communities as well as with one another. "It wasn't always smooth or easy, but we strove to carry out that vision," he said.

Former FSAA President Andrea Smith, who served 10 years on the board, commended Schulze for his work on the Mentoring Program.

When Schulze's first term was to end in 2012, he ran for re-election and served until this past July.

ing a daughter, Adelaide in 2013, they bought a home in Pendleton and are expecting their second baby in January.

Schulze also had some adventures. He walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain and traveled to Lebanon, Syria and Turkey.

He moved from teaching seventh and eighth grade science and math to teaching sixth grade science and reading, which has been awesome, he said. He is now one of the directors of the Outdoor School Program.

Schulze says working on the board with such remarkable people is exciting and fun but also humbling. "When I think about how some of our FSAA members give to their communities, I really have to think about what I do and how that is important and giving. For me, I think that sometimes giving back to my community can include spending time with my daughter so that she will someday go out and become a giver in her community."

Smith recalled her time on the board with Schulze. "When Chris said he would do something, I knew it would

## Annual FSAA General Meeting

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday,  
January 10, 2015  
Oregon State Bar,  
16037 S.W. Upper Boones Ferry Rd  
Second Floor  
Tigard, OR

## Celebrating Autumn at Bauman's Farm

Proudly wearing their Ford Scholar rings and varying shades of purple, a dozen Ford Scholar Alumni met up at Bauman's Farm and Garden in Gervais, Ore., on Saturday, Oct. 11 for the annual autumn alumni social gathering.

The clouds burned off, and it turned into a sunny afternoon. Members of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board staffed the FSAA table inside the food court with a front and center view of the fiddle players. Alumni came and went throughout the day. Some picked out pumpkins while others tasted apple cider as the kids navigated the hay bale maze.

"We had great food – apple cider donuts, roasted squash and pumpkin rolls – and even better conversations," said FSAA Member at Large Michelle Bolduc Culaba.



Mandy Elder (2009), FSAA Vice President Kirsten Yamada (2005), Van Duong (2009) and Kelly Brandenburg (2009) took a hayride out to the pumpkin patch during the FSAA gathering at Bauman's Farm and Garden on Oct. 11.

## The Foundation Partners with SALT for Financial Literacy

The Ford Family Foundation has partnered with American Student Assistance (ASA), a nonprofit organization, to provide financial guidance for students and alumni.

ASA runs a program called SALT that helps students and their families make smart financial choices for life. Salt was often considered a form of currency in the years when it was difficult to obtain, so in this case

SALT stands for 'money.'

You can take advantage of services to help you wisely and effectively manage debt, whether you incurred it paying for your education or through personal expenses. SALT also helps you find internships and employment opportunities.

The Foundation is excited to partner with ASA because they believe in the SALT program's

principles of financial education and empowerment to help address the issues of college affordability and student debt.

The Scholarship Office hopes that Ford Scholar Alumni do not have a lot of student loan debt, but believes that SALT can still be a great resource. SALT uses a variety of channels to meaningfully engage

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Steven Crader (2009), Thomaida's friend Elaine, Thomaida Hudanish (1999) and Mandy Elder (2009) gathered at the High Desert Museum during an alumni outing on Aug. 2.

### Alumni Gather...

*Continued from page 1*

suggestions and reconnections." Curry said he thought there should have been more alumni to be able to engage more of the Scholars, but he felt confident that everyone had a wonderful time.

FSAA board members plan to host a similar gathering next summer at Eagle Crest Resort on July 18 in Central Oregon in coordination with the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference.

The FSAA plans events such as this one to bring alumni together to serve their communities, connect as alumni and provide professional development networking for current Ford Scholars. If you have ideas for potential future connections or want to get more involved, e-mail the FSAA at [communications@fordscholaralumni.com](mailto:communications@fordscholaralumni.com).



# Retirement Leads to Scholarship Office Staff Changes

By **Holly Scholz**  
Editor

Stella Strother-Blood joined The Ford Family Foundation Scholarship Office in Eugene as the administrative associate in July, replacing Ashley Potter in the role. Potter became the scholarship awards coordinator, following Dee Row's retirement from that position in early August.

The staff at the Scholarship Office hosted a going away party for Row at Ninkasi Brewing and performed a song in her honor to the tune of Elvis' "All Shook Up." They gave her solar flowers for her yard.

At the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference in Sunriver in early August, staff members also presented her with a photo book full of good wishes from Scholars, alumni and financial aid staff that she had worked with over the past 14 years. Row plans to spend more time with her grandchildren during her retirement as well as volunteer in schools and work in her yard.

Potter started with The Foundation as a temporary employee in August of 2007 and was hired as the administrative assistant that November. She became the administrative associate in November 2010, a position she held until this July when she filled Row's position. As the scholarship awards coordinator, Potter is the principal liaison with college financial aid officers and scholarship award recipients. She monitors grades and administers the scholarship renewal process.

Strother-Blood started her position two weeks before the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference in early August.

"She jumped right in and quickly adjusted to the high energy, fast-paced and organized chaos that is summer conferences," said Director of



*Stella Strother-Blood*

Scholarship Programs Denise Callahan.

Strother-Blood, 24, graduated from Western Oregon University in 2012 with Bachelor of Science degrees in community health education and humanities and a minor in international studies. In college, she was a freelance writer for the Western Oregon Journal and a peer tutor in WOU's Writing Center. Most recently, she was the project coordinator at InStove, a nonprofit agency in Cottage Grove, Ore., that distributes institutional cookstoves to clinics, orphanages and schools in developing countries.

While studying abroad in Kenya in 2011, Strother-Blood realized her passion was to improve others' quality of life by increasing access to healthcare and education.

"I had been able to focus on healthcare at InStove, but I wanted to delve more into education," the Eugene native explained, adding that she also wanted to help her own community. "When I saw the Foundation Scholarship Office's job posting, I talked to a few of my friends from col-

lege who are Ford Scholar Alumni. They only had praise for the compassionate staff. I knew I had to apply."

Strother-Blood's primary responsibilities include supporting Callahan and serving as the lead in the administrative management of the office. She will also facilitate the selection of the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award recipients.

"I am very excited about this award because it highlights the importance of bettering one's community," she said.

Strother-Blood said Ford Scholars have an amazing amount of resources available to them – understanding peers, inspiring conferences, Student Success Counselor Jeff Strickland, as well as financial support. "Why not cultivate other resources? Through the Ford Scholar Alumni Association, alumni can learn of opportunities to give back to their communities and network with other alumni and current Scholars," she said.

Callahan said Strother-Blood has been working hard to learn all the nuances of the Scholarship Office work which, particularly in her position, are very broad and diverse. "She fits in great with the team and has a positive, can-do attitude."

Strother-Blood loves to travel and was in Brazil for the World Cup before taking this position. "I also enjoy all that the Pacific Northwest has to offer – especially the awe-inspiring landscapes and delicious food," she said. "Weekends are for road trips! Don't be surprised if you see me at your small-town coffee shop, local swimming hole or a nearby hiking trail."

## Year at a Glance

Keep your eyes on your e-mail for more details on these upcoming FSAA events:

- **Jan. 10, 2015** – FSAA General Meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Oregon State Bar, 16037 S.W. Upper Boones Ferry Road, Second Floor, Tigard, OR
- **Jan. 17-19, 2015** – Martin Luther King Weekend of Service – more information coming soon by e-mail!
- **April 2015** – Earth Day Service Projects
- **July 18, 2015** – FSAA Meet and Greet and networking event for FSAA and current Ford Scholars at Eagle Crest Resort in Central Oregon

## Nominate Exemplary Alumnus for Community Service Award and \$5,000 Grant

"I feel if my community is to continue to thrive, then it is my duty to be an active member of it," said Annie Tester, Ford Scholar Alumna from the Class of 1994 and last year's Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award recipient.

Mr. Ford couldn't have said it better himself.

Gerald E. Bruce, the award's namesake, was a close friend of Mr. Ford and one of The Ford Family Foundation's founding directors. He envisioned a future where Ford Scholars were not only successful in their careers of choice but also acted as volunteers and civic leaders.

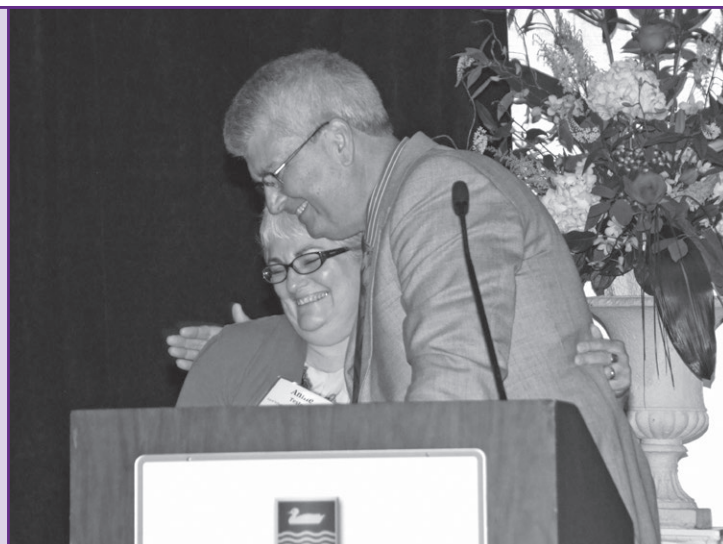
The Foundation is seeking applications and nominations for the annual Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award for Ford Scholar Alumni who are pillars in their community as entrepreneurs, philanthropists and role models for future generations.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of one's self or that of a fellow Ford Scholar from the Classes of 1994 through 2005 by Nov. 11, 2014.

The selected recipient will receive a plaque and a \$5,000 grant to a non-profit organization of their choice at the Ford Scholars Recognition Conference in Eugene on June 20, 2015.

Nominators and applicants will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Visit the Ford Scholar Alumni



*Class of 1994 Alumna Annie Tester gets a hug from former Ford Family Foundation President Norm Smith as she accepts the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award during the Recognition Conference at the Eugene Valley River Inn on July 12. Tester earned the award for her dedication to her small, rural hometown of Pilot Rock, Ore., and her perseverance in building a charter school.*

Association website for the nomination form, [www.FordScholarAlumni.com](http://www.FordScholarAlumni.com), under the "Get Involved" tab. Call the Foundation Scholarship Office at 877-864-2872 or e-mail [fordscholarships@tfff.org](mailto:fordscholarships@tfff.org) if you have questions.

## Mr. Ford Continues to Inspire Alumnus

**Reflection Contributed by  
Zach Wineman  
Class of 2000**

Since being chosen as a Ford Scholar, I have continued forward on a path for greatness and excellence.

It was at my first summer Ford Scholars conference that Bart Howard, the director of Scholarship Programs, got up and shared a story about Kenneth Ford. In the story, someone saw Mr. Ford stop on several occasions to pick up trash or help others when no one else was watching and when there was no reasonable expectation that he would be acknowledged for it. It was his example that elevated me to a new level of personal integrity and a desire to make a powerful difference for the people I come in contact with.

That journey has continued over the past 14 years and continues to this day. Thanks to the support that The Ford Family Foundation gave me, I created the career of my dreams as a sign language interpreter. I have a high

request rate from the people I serve; mentor fellow interpreters; give workshops to raise the bar for interpreters; and volunteer on local and national councils for interpreters.

The Ford Family Foundation was also a foundation for me to look to when building strong relationships. After all, it's all about relationships, right? As a result of my goal to create powerful, deep relationships with people, I created a relationship with the woman of my dreams, and we were married nearly a year ago. In the spirit of making the biggest difference possible for people, we just launched our own life-coaching business called JAZOU. We are excited to see where it will take us, and mostly where it can help take others.

Thank you to the Ford Family and The Ford Family Foundation!

## ...SALT for Financial Literacy

*Continued from page 4*

students and alumni and positively influence behavior, including:

- Self-serve financial tools and calculators
- Highly interactive financial education curriculum, including a series of My Money 101 tutorials
- A secure, personalized dashboard where you can track all of your loans and compare payment options
- Help looking for jobs and internships
- One-on-one loan counseling, advocacy and assistance from student loan experts

This service is FREE to alumni and their families. All you have to do to sign up is visit [www.saltmoney.org/tfff](http://www.saltmoney.org/tfff).

# Milestones

## *Class of 1994*

### **Bill Miner**

Bill was recently promoted to the role of partner-in-charge of the Portland office of Davis Wright Tremaine, Portland's fifth largest law firm. Bill plans to devote four to five years on expanding the firm's footprint before returning to his practice.

## *Class of 1995*

### **Lori Balbi**

Lori retired from the Foreign Service and is back in the Pacific Northwest; however, she feels she is far too young to be retired. Once she is settled in, she will pursue part-time work and will volunteer with a variety of organizations, including the Ford Scholar Alumni Association. After spending half of her adult life abroad in seven countries and traveling in an additional 47, she's happy to be home!

### **Sarah Beth (Smith) Byrum**

Sarah Beth just began her 15th year of running All That! Dance Company – a dance studio that serves the Eugene/Springfield area with two studio locations. She recently received a Community Partnership Award given by the University of Oregon's Dance Department for her work furthering dance education. Her dancers were featured in a Register-Guard newspaper story and video for earning a national title from Spotlight Dance Cup in July. Finally, her dancers were chosen to dance during the half-time show at the nationally televised Holiday Bowl in San Diego.

### **Jeri (Greenberg) Finn**

On Sept. 20, 2014, Jeri married Brendan Finn, chief of staff to Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. The couple exchanged vows at the Portland Art Museum before a honeymoon in Spain. The couple looks forward to settling into their Northeast Portland home and raising Jeri's 10-year-old son together.

### **Chris Schulze**

Chris and his wife are expecting their second child, due to arrive in early January. Like with their first, Adelaide, this baby – boy or girl – will be a surprise!

## *Class of 1996*

### **Annika (Wallace) Mosier**

Annika recently started a new position as an assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Denver.

## *Class of 1999*

### **Danielle (Quimby) Currey**

This year Danielle was elected to the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors; began her teaching career at Clackamas Community College; and has had a successful first year of medical practice after opening a new clinic in Clackamas, Ore.

### **Matt Gerber**

Matt was recently appointed assistant director of research for gynecologic oncology at

the University of Minnesota. Before coming to the division three years ago, Matt spent much of his professional career living and working abroad as he ran a humanitarian aid organization. Since coming to the University, Matt has used his patient-centered approach and project management skills to help execute clinical research studies and administer the Gyn Onc Translational Working Group. In his new role, Matt will spearhead a comprehensive fundraising and public relations strategy aimed at deepening the connection between the university's research and the philanthropic community.

### **Megan (Johnson) Ludena**

In December 2013, Megan earned a Master of Nursing Degree with a Nursing Educator Certificate from Washington State University. In July 2014, she accepted a position as visiting professor of nursing at Linfield Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Portland, Ore.

## *Class of 2000*

### **Zach Evenson**

After receiving his Ph.D. in materials science in 2012, Zach started postdoctoral research in the Institute for Materials Physics in Space at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Cologne, Germany. As part of his research, he uses high energy X-rays or beams of neutrons to look inside of metallic liquids, which are levitated using a special apparatus. By examining the structure and atomic motions inside of certain liquid metal alloys that form special materials called bulk metallic glasses, he works to better understand the origin of their remarkable physical properties and help shed light onto some outstanding issues in condensed matter physics.

## *Class of 2003*

### **Ellyn Canfield Nealon**

Ellyn was recently appointed director of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's Office of Special Projects and Community Events.

## *Class of 2004*

### **Paul Ainsworth**

Paul and his wife, Erin, recently celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary.

### **Tommy (Hien) Pham**

Tommy founded a biotech company, Nzumbe, in June 2012 and has received more than \$300,000 in funding thus far for research in the field of epigenetics. In March 2013, Tommy survived a house fire that started while he was sleeping. He escaped just in time, but lost everything – including his Ford Family Scholarship certificate! He married his high school sweetheart in September 2013 after 11 years of dating, and they purchased their first home in April. In June, he joined Nike as a patent liaison, where he helps identify and capture new innovation for Nike.

## *Class of 2006*

### **Robert Russell**

Robert lives in Seoul, South Korea, and teaches at an international preschool. He absolutely

loves his work – so much so that he recently enrolled in an online graduate program at Concordia University of Portland to earn his Master of Education in early childhood education. He continues to enjoy traveling and has planned some exciting trips. He looks forward to finishing his program and continuing to work in education.

### **Jennifer (Pust) Torres**

Jennifer married Matthew Torres on Sept. 14.

## *Class of 2007*

### **Tsegazeab Gessese**

Tsegazeab has entered his first year of dental school at the University of California, San Francisco. He says he is excited! Tsegazeab would like to give a shout out to the class of 2007.

## *Class of 2008*

### **Whitney (Wolfe) Stewart**

Whitney started medical school at the Western University of Health Sciences campus in Lebanon, Ore., and was recently elected class president. She feels like she's living her life-long dream.

## *Class of 2010*

### **Michael Leeland**

In 1992, Dameon had heard that his teacher, Jeff Leeland, had an infant son who was sick but couldn't afford the \$200,000 transplant that would save his life. Dameon emptied his bank account and gave Jeff everything he had – \$60. This act of kindness inspired the school and the community. In less than four weeks, \$227,000 came in to save Michael's life. The experience inspired Jeff's founding of Sparrow Clubs USA in 1995. Michael Leeland, whose need for a lifesaving bone marrow transplant led to the act of compassion that inspired the nonprofit's model, recently became the Central Oregon regional director with Sparrow Clubs USA. The nonprofit organization of school-based clubs assists children in medical crisis and their families, both financially and emotionally.

### **Brianna (Ellis) Smith**

Brianna was admitted to a master's program at Bastyr University in Kenmore, Wash. The three-year midwifery program involves coursework as well as multiple preceptorships with local midwives. At the end of the program, she will be a certified professional midwife.

## *Class of 2011*

### **Emily White**

This October, Emily started a job as a research associate in Chennai, India, for a behavioral economics research nonprofit organization named Ideas42, a J-PAL/IPA affiliate. She works on a project for Sendhil Mullainathan of Harvard and Anandi Mani of Warwick on a project intended to better quantify the impact of poverty on cognition.



The Ford Family Foundation



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## 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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