

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

Issue 2, 2014

Connected with Community

STEVE EPPERSON
– COACH & MENTOR



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Skagit Valley College provides a drug-free environment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and employment.

Skagit Valley College provides opportunities for students in pursuit of their educational and employment goals, while contributing to the economic and cultural enrichment of our communities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome!

Skagit Valley College is part of a community that embraces civic-minded leadership, collaboration, service, and engagement. In that spirit, we are proud to connect with individuals who give back to the College — and the community — by supporting the College's mission of providing access to higher education.

By giving back, they are also contributing to economic vitality, celebrating cultural diversity, and enhancing quality of life.

Throughout Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties, many individuals join us in building community. They are representatives of government, business, and economic development who help the region prosper and grow. They are exceptional faculty and staff who mentor tomorrow's leaders. They are generous donors who open the doors of higher education for deserving students. Together, we are exploring new pathways that lead to academic achievement, offering industry-aligned training that supports business, promoting cultural activities that strengthen community ties, and celebrating relationships that last a lifetime.

In this edition of Currents, I hope you will find meaningful inspiration as we highlight several of these remarkable individuals. Their service, dedication, and enthusiasm are leaving an indelible mark on the life of this institution and in the community.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees, we thank the many individuals who enrich the College and the community with their service. Our success reflects our dedication to student achievement and our connections with each of you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas A. Keegan, President



Lindsay Fiker
Chair



John Stephens
Vice Chair



Kathryn Bennett



Margaret Rojas



Christon Skinner

Welcome new SVC Board Member Kathryn Bennett

In January, Kathryn Bennett was appointed to the SVC Board of Trustees by Governor Jay Inslee. Kathryn Bennett is the current Director of Leadership Skagit, a public/private sponsored program designed to inspire and develop local leaders and she has served in that role since 2008. Prior to her appointment, she was on the SVC Foundation Board, serving as its President in 2012-2013. She is on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Skagit County. In addition, she is a member of the Rotary Club of Anacortes, the Association of Leadership Professionals, and has been a member of the Board of the Anacortes Public Library Foundation.



Keri Clement, former point guard with the Cardinals, was a featured speaker at Coach Epperson's 800th win celebration.

Steve Epperson: Building Community through Student Athletes

For the past 37 years, Women's Basketball Head Coach Steve Epperson has been building community through his work on the court with student athletes and in the living rooms and dens with their moms and dads. Without a doubt, it is a tight-knit community.

So, it was no surprise when Cardinal fans of all ages converged on the Dave DuVall Pavilion to celebrate Coach Epperson's recent 800th win. The celebration, sponsored by SVC Foundation Alumni and Friends and the Athletic Department, took place February 1st when the Cardinals hosted the Edmonds Community College Tritons. The festivities to honor Steve included a half-time presentation by Athletic Director Gary Knutzen. Then, after the game, the Multipurpose Room was standing room only when Steve walked through the doors for a community reception. Former players — many with families of their own now — waited for his arrival with parents, boosters, and friends. The room was a sea of smiles showing Cardinal pride.

Steve Epperson's milestone came with a 102-71 victory over South Puget Sound Community College on December 20th in the Yakima Valley College Crossover Tournament. The win came on the same court in Yakima as the 1996 Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championship Tournament.

The Cardinals won that game as well to claim the conference title and finish off a perfect 32-0 season.

"Steve Epperson's 800 wins put him in 6th place in the world for number of wins as a junior/community college women's basketball coach," said Gary Knutzen. "Beyond the 800 wins, which are remarkable, his greatest gift has been his care in helping student athletes to be successful on the court and in life."

Epperson's 800th win is even more amazing in that coaches with more victories on the total wins ladder are not restricted by the number of games they can play each year. Skagit, as a member of the NWAACC Conference, is limited to 23 games per year. Other conferences allow as many as 45 games a year, enabling those coaches to rack up wins in a much shorter time.

Steve Epperson has been the Head Coach of the SVC Women's Basketball team since 1977. He has led the Cardinals to 25 seasons of 20+ wins. In that span, the Cardinals have won 20 NWAACC North Region Titles and four Conference Championships. Over the years, many of Epperson's student athletes have gone on to play at four-year colleges and many have moved into coaching.

When the 2013-14 basketball season ended, Steve had accumulated about 815 victories. So, more wins to come...



(L to R back row): Allen Vinkes, Dave Quall, Doug Kushan, Mike Marken, Roger Valentine, Frank Floyd.

(L to R front row): Jim Frey, David Wood, John Peterson, Larry Tuell.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

In February, Skagit Valley College Foundation Alumni and Friends teamed up with the Athletic Department to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 1983-84 Men's Basketball championship during a half-time ceremony, as the Cardinals took on the Everett Community College Trojans.

After going 23 and 5 that year under Head Coach Dave Quall and Assistant Coach Roger Valentine, the Cardinals went on to earn the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) championship — the team's first!

Several players from the team joined February's reunion including David Wood, who went on to play in the NBA, tournament Most Valuable Player Jim Frey, and Frank Floyd.

GO CARDINALS!

Focused on Strengthening Workforce Skills — SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE JOINS COMPOSITES WASHINGTON ALLIANCE



SVC is a member of the Composites Washington alliance. Students get high demand Composites training at the Marine Technology Center in Anacortes.

From aircraft to boats and wind turbines to sporting goods, Washington's rapidly growing composites industry is creating jobs that require skilled technicians. Skagit Valley College has teamed up with seven other community and technical colleges to form "Composites Washington," an alliance focused on strengthening workforce skills. Joining SVC are Clover Park Technical College, Edmonds Community College, Everett Community College, Olympic College, Peninsula College, Spokane Community College, and South Seattle Community College.

Composites Washington is being led by two Washington State Centers of Excellence: Marine Manufacturing and Technology at SVC and Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing at Everett Community College. The centers work with the colleges to share curriculum, align education with industry needs, and develop partnerships to economic growth.

"The strength of the alliance is the diversity of industry focus and the commitment to standards-based

training embraced by each college, and the professional development opportunities we are bringing in for faculty, students, and industry partners," said Ann Avary, director of the Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology at SVC.

While composites have been tied to marine and aerospace industries, the evolution of composite technology is creating opportunities for companies that build other products or supply the tools and materials needed to make them. One of those firms is Janicki Industries in Sedro-Woolley, which designs and builds high-precision tooling for aerospace, marine, wind energy, and transportation customers.

"We appreciate the efforts of groups like Composites Washington. A better trained workforce benefits all of us and helps us maintain our competitive advantage here in Washington," said Tom Doughty, vice president of administration at Janicki.

Doughty's views were shared by Wes Fridell, human resources and safety manager for New World Yacht

Builders, an Anacortes-based company that makes custom high-end composite yachts and commercial vessels.

"The need for the alliance is great. We have benefitted – and will continue to benefit into the future – from a trained composites workforce," he said. "Having the resources locally to train work-ready employees strengthens not only our company but the marine industry and local economy as well."

Composites are used in a myriad of industries, including aerospace, marine, automotive, medical devices, energy, construction, sporting equipment, and consumer goods. Boeing 777X wings will be made of carbon fiber composite material.

The American Association of Community Colleges is highlighting Composites Washington on the AACC website. Visit <http://www.ccdaily.com/Pages/Workforce-Development/Wash-colleges-form-alliance-for-composites-industry.aspx>

Learn more by visiting —
<http://compositeswa.org>

Partnerships with Community

At SVC, connections with our community play an important role in our work. We have formed partnerships with key leaders in education, government, business, healthcare, and economic development. Together, we explore employment trends,

emerging technologies, and innovative pathways that lead to academic success. These partnerships help us provide industry-aligned training, prepare our students for success in the workforce, and enrich our community.

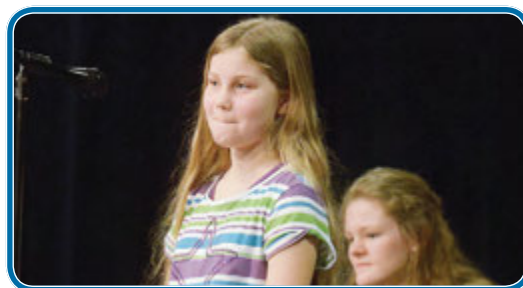
Members of the Mount Vernon Leadership Group prepare for their first episode of *Mount Vernon Life*, a show focused on how key leaders work together to make the county successful.



Partnership encourages future readers and leaders

On March 15, the Skagit Valley Herald, Puget Sound Energy, and Skagit Valley College welcomed the community to the 36th annual Skagit County Regional Spelling Bee held in SVC's Phillip Tarro Theatre.

Skagit Valley Herald Publisher Heather Hernandez served as host and emcee, SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan served as chief judge, and Dean of Workforce Education Laura Cailloux served as pronouncer. Students from 31 elementary schools throughout Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties competed and were cheered on by many family and friends. Elisabeth Ince, the regional champion and an escort, will participate in the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee, to be held May 25-31 in Washington, D.C.



Broadview Elementary School fifth-grader Elisabeth Ince holds in a grin after taking top honors Saturday in the 36th annual Skagit County Regional Spelling Bee, held in Skagit Valley College's Phillip Tarro Theatre in Mount Vernon. Behind her is second-place finisher Anna Kate Fahey, an eighth-grader at Oak Harbor Middle School. Photo: Scott Terrell / Skagit Valley Herald



SAgE

SVC, Edmonds Community College, Seattle Central Community College, and Washington State University are working together to prepare students for green careers in sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE HALL OF FAME 2014



Skagit Valley College has named eight people to its 2014 Hall of Fame. The award was established in 1989 to honor individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Skagit Valley College or honored it by their personal achievements. Eligible nominees include alumni, community members, former SVC faculty and staff, and public officials. The 2014 inductees are as follows:

- **ALUMNI** After earning his two-year degree at SVC and then graduating from Central Washington University, **Roger Valentine** returned to the Cardinals where he embarked on a 30-year career in coaching and mentoring student athletes in the SVC men's basketball program.

- **COMMUNITY MEMBERS** With an extraordinary career devoted to creating early childhood education and family resources for children with developmental delays, the late **Joan Martin** touched the community through her compassion, inspiration, and leadership.

Ken and Velma Perrigoue and **Raymond Perrigoue** have provided significant financial support for deserving students from Concrete when they established SVC Foundation's largest one-time endowed gift of \$560,000. The Ralph R. Crum Memorial Scholarship provides full tuition and funds for books and on-campus housing for two years at SVC.

- **FACULTY** **Robert "Skip" Pass** shared his passion for the botanical

world as a faculty member at Skagit for 30 years, developing the College's horticulture program, constructing a greenhouse learning lab, and designing and planting the Dick Nowadnick Botanical Garden.

- **STAFF** During his nearly 10 years of service as SVC president, **Dr. Gary Tollefson** led the transformation of SVC by modernizing Skagit's infrastructure and facilities, focusing on innovations that support student achievement, and forming partnerships that respond to the need for a highly skilled workforce.

- **PUBLIC OFFICIAL** After rising to the ranks of Fire Chief at the City of Mount Vernon Fire Department, SVC alum **Dennis J. Hofstad** was instrumental in forming a partnership with his alma mater to train future firefighters and helping to launch SVC's Fire Protection Technology program.

The 2014 Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and Ceremony will be held Thursday, April 17 in McIntyre Hall, located on SVC's Mount Vernon Campus. A social hour will take place at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. The SVC Hall of Fame is supported by the President's Office, SVC Foundation, and volunteers from the community. Tickets are \$40/person or \$75/couple and can be purchased through McIntyre Hall, www.mcintyrehall.org or 360.416.7727.

To view the list of previous inductees, visit www.skagit.edu/halloffame.

Welcoming
Active Duty
Military,
Veterans,
and their
Dependents



At Skagit, strong community ties and caring outreach help active duty military, veterans, and their dependents achieve their educational and career goals.

Throughout the academic year, SVC served over 1,100 service members, veterans, spouses, and their dependents at its Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses. Veterans Education Coordinator Jim Jolly is on the front lines of the outreach effort. A veteran himself, Jim meets newly arriving sailors at NAS Whidbey during scheduled orientation sessions and shares how SVC is ready to support them. Both campuses provide career guidance, support services, and networking opportunities through the Veterans Education office and the Veterans Club.

Visit www.skagit.edu/veterans

Enrich • Inspire • Entertain



Welcome to our year-long celebration of our 10th Anniversary Season! McIntyre Hall is delighted to offer a diverse season of music, theater, dance, special events, children's programs, community productions, and McIntyre Hall Presents series of internationally renowned artists.

McIntyre Hall is also home to many local organizations including the Skagit Symphony, Northwest Ballet Theatre, Lyric Light Opera, Skagit Valley Academy of Dance, Skagit Valley Chorale, Skagit Opera, Fidalgo Youth Symphony, and the SVC Music and Theater departments.

McIntyre Hall was made possible by the generosity and vision of the Skagit Regional Public Facilities District, Skagit County, Skagit Valley College, Jack and Shirley McIntyre Foundation, Skagit Performing Arts Council, numerous businesses and individuals.

Visit www.mcintyrehall.org

Lewis Hall

UPDATE



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Throughout Winter Quarter, we did see a few raindrops, but we did get a bit of sunshine too! No matter the weather, construction in and around the new Charles Lewis Hall continued full speed ahead.

A lot of finishing work has taken place inside the building and the contractor has started work on the exterior landscaping elements. Here's a review of some of the progress made during Winter Quarter:

December, 2013

- *The new parking lot is completed and in use by the contractors.*
- *The footings were poured for the clock tower that is being constructed in Utah and will be trucked to the site.*
- *Sheetrock installation continues.*
- *The ceiling grid and tiles are being put into place, along with ceiling lights and smoke detectors.*
- *The elevator is installed.*
- *Cabinets and casework installation has begun.*

January/February, 2014

- *The beautiful ceiling in the central atrium was installed.*
- *Classrooms are starting to take shape.*
- *The milled wall panels from the Giant Sequoia that was taken down for the project have arrived and are ready for installation.*
- *And a myriad of other work including carpeting installation, restrooms completed, and the building is now operating under its own power!*
- *The third floor roof plaza tiles have gone in and planters are being placed. Lots of earth movement to prepare for landscaping, rain gardens, plaza, and the clock tower.*

March, 2014

- *The Giant Sequoia panels are installed – just beautiful!*
- *The clock tower pieces arrive from Utah, transported on large flatbed trucks and are carefully welded in place.*
- *Terrazzo floor tiles are being measured, cut, and installed.*
- *Interior painting and trimming continues.*



Impact of Legacy Society Gift Brings Joy to Donor



Skagit Valley College Foundation Legacy Society Member Sarah Deierlein with her parents' 1946 engagement photo. At the time her parents were known as Lt. Mildred L. Crabtree, U.S. Army (r) and Lt. Col. Walter Deierlein, Jr., U.S. Army (l).

Looking back at my early twenties, I was a happy, self-confident co-ed earning my bachelor's degree at college. My education was a gift from my parents that I didn't then appreciate as a precious jewel. Years later I would truly understand the value of a fine education.



After being out of the workforce for years and following a hard marriage and divorce, I was desperate for help. I had a vision for a new career path and researched scholarships, but had very limited options. Without education funding I was stuck! No new training meant being consigned to dead-end, low paying jobs and continual trouble making my way at a subsistence level. Everything depended on finding scholarship money.

My life worked out in an unforeseen way and today I can pay my own tuition, but I'll never forget the suffocating reality of having a plan and goals but no way to make them happen.

I believe that no qualified, deserving student should suffer for lack of scholarships. I've decided to join the Skagit Valley College Foundation Legacy Society and have committed a percent of my estate to the Jack and Micki Deierlein Scholarship Fund at the SVC Foundation, established long ago by my mother.

My decision to join the Legacy Society is a joy and an honor that makes my heart light as I imagine helping Skagit Valley College students into the future. //

Sarah Deierlein
SVC Foundation Legacy Society Member



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| Jack Henriot | *(Deceased) |

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- | | |
|--|--|
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| Karen Kotash
<i>Accountant</i> | |
| Pam Davis
<i>Administrative Specialist</i> | |

Remembering Dan

Skagit Valley College Foundation suddenly lost a treasured friend, colleague and educational advocate to cancer on February 24, 2014.

Oak Harbor resident Dan Carter joined the SVC Foundation Board of Governors in 2011, bringing with him a strong vision for increasing educational opportunities for students who cannot afford an education and sharing his love of life through quick wit and humor.

His commitment to community college education ran very deep, inspired by the legacy of his parents Herb and Dorothy Carter who helped form a community college in Wyoming—Gillette College. He and his wife Linda started the Herb and Dorothy Carter Education Scholarship in 2010 to help support SVC Whidbey Island students pursuing a degree in education.



Donor pin

Dan served on the SVC Foundation Board's Donor Development Committee providing valuable insights on donor development and donor recognition initiatives, including his passion for continuing former board member Nancy Fey's work to establish a donor lapel pin.



Dan joined the SVC Foundation Board of Governors in 2011.

As a tireless community advocate, Dan also volunteered during the past 25 years in Oak Harbor as a member of the First Reformed Church of Oak Harbor, the Armed Services YMCA, and the North Whidbey Sunrise Rotary. Along the way he coached more than 200 kids in youth soccer and volunteered in local classrooms.

Dan's passion for student success was again evident during his recent 60th birthday.

He asked friends to direct gifts to a new SVC Foundation scholarship fund he and Linda started in January 2014 for SVC Whidbey Island students pursuing degrees in accounting, education, or nursing—the Carter Friends and Family Scholarship. Memorial donations for Dan are directed to this scholarship.

Dan's commitment to making his community a better place will always be remembered. His legacy, and that of his family and friends, will continue to shine in the smiles of our Skagit Valley College Whidbey Island students for many years to come. Thank you Dan for sharing your passion to help students succeed, inspiring those you knew to also support students, and your wonderful humor—we miss you!



Dan Carter's family celebrating son Richard Carter's Skagit Valley College graduation. (l to r) Dan Carter, son Richard, daughter Christina, and wife Linda.

Alumni in Action

Mark DeForrest grew up on a small farm outside of Anacortes, Washington and attended Skagit Valley College as a first-generation college student after graduating from Anacortes High School. He was a member of the SVC student body government and earned his Associate of Arts degree in 1990. Mark then attended Western Washington University graduating with a degree in history, followed by Gonzaga University School of Law as a Thomas More Scholar. While in law school he was a member of the Moot Court Council, an associate editor of the Gonzaga Law Review, and a George Washington Fellow with the Discovery Institute, a public policy foundation located in Seattle, Washington.

After graduation from law school, Mark sat for the Washington Bar Exam and passed on his first try! He then clerked for Chelan County Superior Court judges working on a variety of cases with both civil and criminal dockets. In 1999 he was appointed as a full-time lecturer in the Department



Skagit Valley College Alum and Gonzaga Law School Associate Professor Mark DeForrest

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE **ALUMNI** *and Friends*

of Law and Justice at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington.

In Fall 2001 Mark returned to Gonzaga Law School as a legal research and writing instructor. He was promoted to assistant professor of law in the legal research and writing program in 2003 and became an associate professor in 2010 where he currently teaches First Amendment Law, jurisprudence, sentencing and corrections, and professional responsibility.

Mark looks back on his time at SVC as a formative time in his personal and academic development. He is proud to be a Skagit Valley College Cardinal and grateful to the faculty, staff and fellow students who he worked with and learned from during his time at SVC. **Go Cardinals!**

To become a member of our free SVC Alumni & Friends Association, contact Anne Clark at 360.416.7821.
"If you have ever taken a class at SVC, you are one of us."



THANK YOU VISIONARY CIRCLE DONORS!



SVC FOUNDATION VISIONARY CIRCLE DONORS were honored during the 2013 Holiday Reception in December. Eight families were recognized for their significant support to Skagit Valley College students and instructional programs.

Pictured (l to r) SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan, SVC Foundation Visionary Circle Donors Sue and Ken Christianson, SVC Foundation Visionary Circle Donors Marilyn and Svend Knudsen; and 2012-2013 SVC Foundation President Kathryn Bennett. Visionary Circle donors not pictured are: Beverly Erickson; Pat and Richard Smith; Ferguson Foundation; M.G. Fuellgrabe Estate; Thomas and Martina Horn Foundation; and Earl H. Settlemyer Estate.

Remembering Joan Martin's Spirit — A Legacy of Education

The late Joan Martin was a remarkable woman! She moved to the Skagit Valley with her husband Rob in 1973 and soon went to work as the first executive director for the Skagit Preschool and Resource Center (SPARC), an early childhood education intervention program. Although she had a physical disability that required the full-time use of an electric wheelchair, there was very little that stopped her. Her abounding spirit and tenacity was infectious to those around her. "Her attitude was that if a child was in need, it was her first responsibility to see that the need was met and then it was her job to figure out the finances," Nancy Beals, former SVC instructor and a grateful parent of special needs son, Drew, who Joan taught at SPARC.

As an SVC Early Childhood Education Instructor, Joan was a role model for students and had high expectations for them in her classes. Joan worked to bring people of diversity together to make strong, professionally-driven and family-centered services for children. Although she often had reason to complain, rarely can anyone remember that happening. She set very high standards for herself and those around her.

The newly endowed Joan Nourse Martin Early Childhood Education Scholarship will provide financial assistance to early childhood education students who share Joan's strong commitment to providing services to children and families with the highest integrity while keenly focusing on their educational needs and desires. In honor of Joan's tremendous character and legacy, Nancy Beals is tirelessly soliciting ongoing community donations to create this endowed scholarship with the Skagit Valley College Foundation.

Skagit Valley College will be inducting Joan into the SVC Hall of Fame in April 2014, see related story on page 6 of this publication.



Joan Martin, former Skagit Preschool and Resource Center Executive Director, and SVC Early Childhood Education instructor.

Memorial donations to the Joan Nourse Martin Scholarship may be sent to:

**Skagit Valley College Foundation
2405 East College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 988273**

RICHARD HUGHES PRAISES SVC NURSING PROGRAM

Visit www.skagit.edu/richardhughes to meet SVC Foundation donor and retired executive Richard Hughes and hear his praise of SVC's Nursing Program.



Golf Fundraisers

We are actively seeking sponsorships and currently registering golfers for these events.
For more info please contact Anne Clark: **360.416.7821** | anne.clark@skagit.edu

We make it easy for you to register online!

Ford Classic: www.skagit.edu/fordgolf | Whidbey Classic: www.skagit.edu/whidbeygolf



The 26th Annual
**James M. Ford
GOLF CLASSIC**

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014

AVALON GOLF LINKS - Burlington
REGISTRATION - 10 a.m.
SHOTGUN START - Noon
DINNER - 5 p.m.
with
RAFFLE & AWARDS

Underwritten by Puget Sound Refinery



*Proceeds from the James M. Ford Golf Classic support
SVC scholarships and program enhancements*



The 22nd Annual

Whidbey Island GOLF CLASSIC

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014

Whidbey Golf Club

REGISTRATION - 11 a.m.
SHOTGUN START - 1 p.m.
DINNER - 5 p.m.
with
RAFFLE & AWARDS

Underwritten by



*Proceeds from the Whidbey Island Golf Classic support
SVC scholarships and program enhancements*