

Ford Scholar Alumni News

Ford Scholar
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Spring 2016

Improving communities through volunteerism, civic leadership and philanthropy.

Ford Opportunity and ReStart Scholars Now FSAA Members

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor

What family has 3,000 members, is passionate about education, and promotes community leadership?

The Ford Scholar Alumni Association!

Up until recently, the 13-year-old non-profit organization was comprised exclusively of Ford Scholar Alumni.

But that just changed.

Members of the FSAA voted to amend the bylaws during the Jan. 9 general meeting to include Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart Scholars in the ranks.

"We have a thousand-plus alumni under those two programs, and they're doing some pretty incredible work themselves," said Manager of Scholar and Alumni Engagement Bonnie Williams. "Does it really make sense to create a whole other alumni program when really we consider it the Ford Family of scholarship recipients?"

The bylaws now read: "Ford

Scholar, Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart recipients become *Active Members* of the Corporation upon acknowledgment of program completion as defined by The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF)."

What does that mean?

It means our FSAA membership suddenly increased by 1,000 members! Our alumni come from three need-based programs run by the Foundation.

Kenneth Ford started the **Ford Scholars Program** in 1994 to assist students who otherwise would find it difficult to obtain a college degree without financial assistance. Each year, up to 120 students are selected.

Hallie Ford, a founder of The Ford



Some of the most recent graduates from the Ford ReStart Program.

Family Foundation, established the **Ford Opportunity Program** in 1996 to assist single parents in obtaining a bachelor's degree. She realized that students who are parents have many extra responsibilities. She was determined to help them by providing financial assistance and encourage-

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Resigning Ford Scholar Alumni Association President Mary Chuinard, left, passes the gavel to Kirsten Yamada, who transitioned from vice president to president, during the Jan. 9 general FSAA board meeting in Portland.

Kirsten Yamada Takes the Lead of the FSAA

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor

We have a new president.

Ford Scholar Alumni Association President Mary Chuinard resigned at the Jan. 9 general meeting as the result of a new job opportunity and personal reasons. She served one two-year term as president, beginning in July 2013. Chuinard ran for re-election a year ago and was part-way through her second term when she decided to step down.

FSAA Vice President Kirsten Yamada, Class of 2005, stepped up to finish Chuinard's term, which ends in July 2017.

Following is a Q & A with our new FSAA President:

Q: Why did you decide to fill Mary's role as president?

A: I feel my work as vice president has helped to prepare me to take on the role as FSAA President, and I would like to

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Ford Scholar Alumni News is published twice a year.

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

A Note from the President

By **Kirsten Yamada**
FSAA President



Kirsten Yamada

It is a great honor to have recently accepted the Ford Scholar Alumni Association President role to take the place of previous President, Mary Chuinard, who stepped down in January due to a new job opportunity and personal reasons.

This will be my second year on the Board, where I previously held the vice president role and helped to improve our Board of Director's communication and organization processes, marketing and planning for FSAA events as well as leading the Board in developing a new mission and vision statement. We have an exciting year ahead of us with lots of new developments!

This year, I'm looking forward to bringing back the Board of Director committee groups, such as, the Events, Communications, Development, Fundraising and Finance committees. These committees provide focus groups for our Board members as well as the opportunity for non-board alumni to participate, develop leadership skills and stay connected with other

alumni. Stay tuned for the opportunity to join a committee soon!

It has also been a pleasure working together with Bonnie Williams from The Ford Family Foundation Scholarship Office, who is the new Manager of Scholar and Alumni Engagement. Bonnie has been a wonderful resource for FSAA, and we look forward to collaborating with her on upcoming projects and events. Bonnie also has extensive experience in supporting students with career planning and professional development, and we encourage alumni to reach out to her for resources at bwilliams@tfff.org.

Lastly, in case you missed the email in February, the Foundation Scholarship Office and the FSAA announced the long overdue expansion of the alumni association to include alumni of the Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart Programs. All alumni of these programs are now automatic members of FSAA. We have now grown to more than 3,000 alumni, and FSAA is looking forward to working together as one alumni association.

We can't wait to see many of you at the July 16 Salishan Alumni Summer Get-Together for a fun family-friendly beach cleanup and potluck, followed by a social event with current Ford Scholars. It is one of my most favorite events, and I can't wait to see even more alumni attend this year!



Members of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors hosted a general board meeting on Jan. 9 in downtown Portland. A total of 23 alumni attended in person throughout the day, and at least four called in. Bonnie Williams, the newly hired manager of scholar and alumni engagement, also attended. Alumni shared with Williams what they value about the FSAA, events and programs they'd like to see, and how the alumni directory can be most useful to alumni.

Meet Us at the Beach in Salishan July 16

Feel like hitting the beach?

Join fellow Ford Scholar Alumni for the Third Annual Ford Scholar Alumni Summer Get-Together on Saturday, July 16 at the Salishan Spa & Golf Resort at Gleneden Beach, located just 10 minutes from Lincoln City on the scenic Oregon Coast.

Alumni of the Ford Scholar, Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart programs and their families are all welcome to attend the Summer Get-Together and Meet and Greet. Make it a weekend getaway or come for the day!

The Meet and Greet coordinates with the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference for the classes of 2013, 2014 and 2015 Ford Scholars.

Highlights include a morning beach cleanup and afternoon potluck with alumni and their families, followed by a networking social with alumni and current Scholars.

Alumni may wear casual and comfortable clothing for the beach cleanup and potluck and should dress for rain or shine. Those not planning to pur-

chase a purple Ford Alumni T-shirt must wear purple – the FSAA color! Alumni should wear business casual for the evening Meet and Greet with current Ford Scholars.

More information on the event is posted at <http://fordscholaralumni.com/get-involved/summergettogether/> and on the FSAA Facebook Summer Get-Together event page.

Please **RSVP online by June 27** at <http://fordscholaralumni.com/get-involved/summergettogether/>.

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

Accommodations:

Attendees are encouraged to car-pool and to book accommodations early if planning to make it a weekend trip. If you choose to stay the night in the area, please note accommodations are on your own. There are nearby campsites, including Devils Lake State Recreation Area and Beverly Beach State Park, as well as reasonable hotels in Lincoln City just 10 minutes away.

Saturday, July 16 Schedule:

10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Gleneden Beach State Wayside Park, from Highway 101, turn west onto Wesler Street. The park will be on the right. Join alumni and their families for a beach cleanup! Dress for rain or shine, wear sturdy shoes, and bring your own water bottle. The park will provide bags and gloves.

1-3:30 p.m. – Alumni and their families gather for a potluck and lawn games at Gleneden Beach State Park. Please bring a side dish, snack or dessert to share. Alumni group photo planned.

5:30 p.m. – Meet at Salishan Resort, Council House, 7760 Highway 101 North, Gleneden Beach, for Meet and Greet Event, a social gathering with current Ford Scholars and alumni (alumni only).

5:45-6:45 p.m. – Social gathering with current Ford Scholars and alumni (Wear business casual and bring your business cards if you have them.)

Kirsten Yamada Takes the Lead...

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continue to help improve the development of the FSAA Board of Directors so that we can be functioning at our best for alumni! I see great potential for our alumni association, and it's because we have such an amazing group of alumni! Each one of us has a story to share about our journey of how we got to where we are today, and these stories are meant to be shared with each other. I became president because I don't want to see the missed opportunity for alumni to connect with each other and current Ford Scholars! We have so much to learn from each other and to share with our communities. After all, we are Ford Family for life!

Q: What is happening to the vice president position during the next few months?

A: The vice-president position would have been open this coming board election anyway, so in the meantime, everyone is helping to support each other during this transition. The new vice president will begin a two-year term this June.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish as FSAA President?

A: First, this year I'm looking forward to bringing back the Board of Director committee groups, such as, the events, communications, development, fund-raising and finance committees. These committees provide focus groups for our board members as well as the opportunity for non-board alumni to participate, develop leadership skills, and stay connected with other alumni.

Second, I want to collaborate with Bonnie Williams, Manager of Scholar and Alumni Engagement from The Ford Family Foundation Scholarship Office, to provide more leadership, networking and career development opportunities for Ford Alumni.

Finally, I want to connect with Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart Program Alumni who have now joined FSAA. In fact, we are excited to have Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart Alumni already running for the upcoming FSAA Board elections.

Q: On a personal note, what's your career and family life?

A: I love living in Portland! My husband and I recently bought our first home, and we love spending the weekend working on home projects or looking for great deals at liquidation stores. There

is so much to see and do in Portland that we never run out of things to do or new places to eat, and that's very dangerous for me since I work downtown in the Big Pink building with the Portland City Grill on top! I'm currently working for an accounting firm in their marketing department, where I help to coordinate their online educational webinars. I graduated from Portland State University with an international relations degree, so my true passion is traveling and learning about cultures! I've traveled to more than 15 countries, and I'm going to add four more to that list this year! My husband and I are currently planning a long-overdue trip to Europe to see France, Germany, Austria and Italy. Feel free to send any tips my way!

Q: Is there anything else our members should know?

A: Stay connected with us! If that means sharing an interesting article or liking a photo on the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Facebook page, coming to a volunteer community service event, talking with a current Ford Scholar about your experience, sharing your milestones in the Ford Alumni News, or making a tax-deductible donation....big or small... we want to hear from you!

Vote for Your FSAA Board of Directors March 14-21!

A diverse group of applicants is running for the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors during this spring's FSAA 2016 election. Their biographies are featured in this issue of *Alumni News*.

Members will vote for the positions of vice president, treasurer and four member-at-large positions. A link to an electronic ballot will be e-mailed to all Ford Scholar Alumni in mid-March 2016. **Voting will be open online from Monday, March 14 through Monday, March 21.** Alumni will not be able to vote for candidates after the **March 21** deadline. Only one ballot per alum is allowed.

The candidates will fill positions currently occupied by outgoing board members: Treasurer Toni Kelich, Class of 2002, and Members At Large: Michelle Bolduc Culaba, Class of 2006; Danielle Currey, Class of 1999; Marshall Curry, Class of 2009; and Logan Smith, Class of 1996. The vice president seat is also open.

One candidate is running for vice president: Class of 2009 Ford Scholar Alumnus Marshall Curry.

Three candidates are running for the treasurer position: Class of 2010 Ford Scholar Alumnus Derek Eidem; Class of 2007 Ford Scholar Alumna Kailee Ramp and Class of 1995 Ford Scholar Alumnus Thao Duc Tu.

Ten candidates are running for the four open member-at-large positions: Class of 1996 Ford Opportunity Alumna Trina (Bowers) Allen; Class of 1997 Ford Scholar Alumna Tammara (Amerud) Ammerman; Class of 2010 Ford Scholar Alumna Ahoefa Ananouko; Class of 2012 Ford Opportunity Alumnus Dallas Berry; Class of 2010 Ford ReStart Alumna Shelly Davis; Class of 2010 Ford Scholar Alumna Rebbecca (Knaak) Ferrer; Class of 2010 Ford Scholar Alumnus Eriverto "Eddy" Martinez Montes de Oca; Class of 2009 Ford Scholar Danny O'Neil; Class of 2010 Ford Scholar Alumna Monica Solano-Molina; and Class of 2005 Ford Opportunity Alumna Melissa Swank.

The candidates will be notified of the election results soon after the votes are tallied, and new board members will be announced via email. New board members will be introduced to the most recent class of Ford Scholar Alumni on Saturday, June 25, 2016, at their outgoing conference at the Valley River Inn in Eugene. They will serve through July 2018.

Note: **If the FSAA does not have your updated email 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 or email the Scholarship Office at fordscholarships@tfff.org. Please send all election-related questions to: communications@fordscholaralumni.com.

Candidates



Vice President
Marshall Curry
Ford Scholar, Class of 2009

I believe the Ford Scholar Alumni Association can improve our social environment. The FSAA provides events for our alumni to come together, learn and connect with one another.

In my eyes, after observing the vice president as a member at large of the FSAA, their role is to ensure the completion of those events. To continue improving those events, as the vice president of the FSAA, I hope to be a presence of polish, creativity and support. I plan to work with board members to polish the established annual schedule that has engendered wonderful organizational growth. I will creatively brainstorm with FSAA Board and committee members to find solutions to problems.

I do this every day at Marion-Polk Food Share as their volunteer manager, supporting 20-plus programs and 4,000-plus volunteers. To empower colleagues, I implement creative trainings and relationships to feed the families experiencing food insecurity we serve.

Lastly, I will build the family tie that is so important to the FSAA. I frequently communicate, have coffee, make dinner and tear-up with other Ford alumni to build the relationships that are the backbone of the FSAA.

I will use my past experience and current knowledge of the FSAA and The Ford Family Foundation to accomplish the FSAA mission of providing opportunities for alumni to connect and further their leadership and service in their communities, and to improve our social environment while doing so.



Treasurer
Derek Eidem
Ford Scholar, Class of 2010

My name is Derek Eidem, and I am a 2010 Ford Scholar. I'm applying for the treasurer position on the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board. I graduated from Oregon State University in 2015 with a degree in mechanical engineering. I am currently living in Vancouver, Wash., with my girlfriend and lab retriever puppy and working at HP Inc.

During my senior project, I was part of a collegiate racing team that built a mini baja car. My role on the team was powertrain sub-team captain. I oversaw the overall design of the powertrain along with the financials for my team. I contacted companies to gain sponsorships and managed the team's expenses during the design phase to ensure we stayed on budget.

My current job at HP Inc. is an operations engineer. I work with vendors to supply custom tooling to make high-end printers. In order to make a profit and stay competitive, we have to stay within tight budgets to ensure our tooling costs stay as projected during the two-year design cycle. I work closely with my team to make sure our budget stays on track quarter to quarter. I manage these budgets through various spreadsheets needed through each's organizational needs.

With experience from my previous senior project and current work, I feel like I would bring some unique experiences to the table as treasurer. I will strive to make sure the finances are correct and provide financial stability in my time as treasurer. Thank you.

Candidates



Treasurer
Kailee Ramp
Ford Scholar, Class of 2007

I am running for the position of treasurer because I believe that serving the Ford Scholar Alumni Association is a great opportunity to give back to the Foundation that has given me so much. I have a lot to offer to the board and am confident that I will excel at the treasurer position. After attending the open board meeting in January 2016, I felt reconnected with my Ford Family and would love nothing more than to continue that feeling through serving on the board. The inspiration I get from interacting with other Ford Scholars is something I cannot replicate elsewhere.

I graduated from the University of Oregon in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in human physiology. I currently work as a clinical supervisor for an ophthalmology practice in Eugene and am completing my Master of Business Administration at Northwest Christian University. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening and exploring the outdoors with my partner and our two rambunctious puppies.

It is a great privilege to me to be considered for a position on the FSAA Board of Directors. I have the necessary skills and the desire to learn what this new journey will demand. I am committed to the vision of the FSAA as well as the continuation of the family community that we were all inducted into when we accepted our scholarships. Joining forces with the fellow members of the FSAA Board, whom I respect and admire, would be a great honor for me. Thank you for your consideration.



Treasurer
Thao Duc Tu
Ford Scholar, Class of 1995

My name is Thao Duc Tu, and I am a Ford Family Foundation Scholarship recipient of the Class of 1995. I earned a Bachelor of Science in radiology of technology at Oregon Institute of Technology in June 2000, and I have been working as an X-ray technologist at the Vancouver Clinic since June 12, 2000.

I would like to run for the position of treasurer.

I have been a volunteer instructor at Van Lang Vietnamese School from 2010 to the present. The school has about 650 Vietnamese students from kindergarten to ninth grade. I am currently teaching the sixth grade class and am delighted that all of my students are making such great progress in their studies.

I have also been a vice president of the Vietnamese Community of Oregon since April 2014. VNCO has been a true representative for the Vietnamese community in Oregon, and I am proud to be part of it. It brings people together to organize social events and cultural festivals. VNCO also provides many services to low-income individuals and families.

Recently, I became a member of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute (APICLI), a part of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). The experience has enhanced my appreciation of the benefits of co-operation, friendship, understanding and sharing that occur among different cultures. I have also recently been chosen as the co-chair of Madison High School Modernization Master Planning Committee.

I hope that election to the FSAA Board will provide new and exciting public service challenges in the future.



Member at Large
Trina (Bowers) Allen
Ford Opportunity Scholar,
Class of 1996

Since being awarded the Ford Opportunity Scholarship in 1996 and being part of the first graduating class in 2000, I have carried The Ford Family Foundation in a special part of my heart.

I could have never imagined how the Ford Opportunity flyer hanging on the bulletin board at Treasure Valley Community College would change my and my young son, Dustin's, lives. The Ford Opportunity Scholarship provided me with so many opportunities, helping ease the financial burden of college with books, tuition and assistance with child care.

More than financial support, they provided encouragement and emotional support. I remember them calling me and checking in to see how we were doing, offering genuine concern. It is difficult for me to talk about my experience without becoming teary. Being a recipient of education, support and love is difficult to explain. Nearly 16 years have passed, and I still get choked up.

I would love to have the opportunity to be a part of the board in whatever capacity is deemed. I would like to assist in promoting the Ford Scholar Alumni Association mission and the legacy of the Ford Family. I was privileged to listen to Hallie Ford speak during our recipient and graduating dinners.

I would be honored to take a more active role in connecting, leading and investing in my community.



Member at Large
Tammara (Amerud) Ammerman
Ford Scholar, Class of 1997

It's very important to me to be an ongoing support for both The Ford Family Foundation and the Ford Scholar Alumni Association. I feel so fortunate to be part of this amazing group.

Over the last several years, I feel that I have been more of an ancillary support to the FSAA. I would like to do more to support both the Foundation and the FSAA.

I feel strongly that we have a duty to always find ways to give back to both our community and the Ford Family. Mr. Ford believed strongly in us, and giving back will always be an important part of who we are as Ford Scholars.

As a member at large, I feel that I would be able to learn more about the board and continue to give back to an organization that means so much to me and to my family. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to helping in any way that I can.

Candidates



Member at Large
Ahoea Ananouko
Ford Scholar, Class of 2012

I was born in Togo, West Africa, and moved to Portland with my family in 2000. I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in sociology/criminal justice from the University of Portland and currently work as a project assistant at Stoel Rives.

These small accomplishments would not have been possible without the funding provided by my Ford Scholarship. Joining the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board would be my very small way of paying back that generosity.

What I hope to offer are observations from my vantage point in our society as they pertain to the goals and mission of the FSAA, as well as to Mr. Ford's vision. Some of my passions include my family, writing and social issues that pertain to underserved people of color, women and children, and immigrants (not only because my position in this society is at the intersection of all of these, but also because these are among the most vulnerable populations).

I currently serve as a board member of the Multnomah County Citizen Review Board and am also a member of the Urban League of Portland's Young Professionals.

My greatest inspiration is my mother, who throughout our many hardships has remained resilient, while pushing my siblings and me to work hard to achieve our goals.

Throughout my life time, one thing I hope to help change is the views people have of Africa. I want people to know that Africa isn't just the impoverished, disease-ridden wild that people see on TV, but a very diverse continent of proud and worthy people.



Member at Large
Dallas Berry
Ford Opportunity Scholar,
Class of 2012

Through my educational and professional background, I have demonstrated the ability to interact and thrive in fast-paced and changing environments. I look forward to both personal and professional growth and value community. Building strong and sustainable relationships is important to me. I have had ample opportunities to engage with internal and external customers in a wide variety of cultures, communities and organizations. I possess the drive and commitment needed to show up, ready to hit the ground running, and possess a spirit of service.

I am the ideal candidate for this position because I share the same values and commitment that it takes to serve our community as Hallie and Kenneth Ford did. I am grateful for their gift, it has been so uplifting, and I vow to be a vessel for change wherever I can. I believe that through hard work, integrity and determination we can do anything. I believe that through strong supportive relationships and a sense of community any person, community, and/or organization will prosper. The sum of its parts are greater than the whole.

My father's last words to me were, "Son, don't look up to anybody who doesn't respect you." A lesson came with these words. Initially, I had it all wrong and it was spawned sense of entitlement. I expected respect without giving it. Humility served me well once I understood its nature. Now, in life I have learned how to be humble and proud at the same time. Proud to serve!



Member at Large
Shelly Davis
Ford ReStart Scholar, Class of 2010

I am a Ford ReStart Alumna of 2010 and have pursued my education in the field of healthcare. I obtained my Registered Nurse license in 2013 and went on to obtain my Bachelor of Science in nursing in 2014. I am currently working on my graduate degree from Oregon Health and Science University with an estimated graduation date of August 2017. My graduate degree is listed as Health Systems and Organizational Leadership. I currently work in correctional healthcare and still reside in my hometown of Yreka, Calif.

I have served on many boards throughout my adult years; however, I am currently not attached to any boards and have been searching for the opportunity to give back to the organization that invested in me and my future, The Ford Family Foundation.

I recently gained employment where my hours can be flexible so as to maintain a position on the board.

I believe that I would make a good selection as a board member because I not only have the leadership skills, I have board experience. Another driving force in this decision is that I also would be proud to be a spokesperson for the Northern California area. Please consider me as a candidate for this position.



Member at Large
Rebecca (Knaak) Ferrer
Ford Scholar, Class of 2010

I recently graduated from the Oregon Health and Science University with a degree in nursing. I'm currently working at Providence St. Vincent as a registered nurse.

I recently attended a Ford Scholar Alumni Association general board meeting and was excited to learn of the presence they have here in Portland. I just recently moved into the area and want to become involved. I can't think of a better way to do so than through the FSAA.

In my experience, Ford Scholars are an exceptionally motivated group of people who can make a positive impact. Moreover, I hope to give back to The Ford Family Foundation in any way I can. The FSAA is an excellent outlet for giving back to the community in Kenneth Ford's name.

As a member at large, my main goal is to help fulfill the mission. I would like to form connections with other members, help advance the organization, and assist with community projects and activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to be considered for a position on the FSAA board. I look forward to working with the other members and community to fulfill the mission to "Connect where you are and lead where you live."

Candidates



Member at Large
Eriverto "Eddy" Martinez Montes
de Oca
Ford Scholar, Class of 2010

After attending the last board meeting in Portland, many thoughts ran through my head. The energy and welcoming feeling I received that day sparked my flame once again, hoping that I could somehow continue to give back to this amazing organization!

I recently graduated from Portland State University, this past December, with a degree in business administration with a focus in supply and logistics management.

Looking through the member-at-large responsibilities, I am certain that I can apply my skills acquired throughout these past five years in order to meet, and hopefully exceed, the board's expectations of this position.

I am extremely motivated and have a passion for success. I love leading groups of individuals, though I also enjoy seeing others improve and transform over time.

The Ford Family has provided me with an abundant amount of support, and I am ever so grateful. I want to continue to serve my community, whether as a member at large or not. I am after all, a Ford Scholar! Not for a day, or an hour, or a college term only, but for life!



Member at Large
Danny O'Neil
Ford Scholar, Class of 2009

Just like all of you, I was lucky enough to be chosen as a Ford Scholar. I was born and raised in Roseburg; throughout my upbringing I became more and more aware of the concerns and challenges facing rural communities, as well as all of the benefits. I'm sure many of you have a similar story.

As a member of the Ford Scholar Class of 2009, I graduated from the University of Oregon in 2013 and accepted a job on the East Coast. I returned to Oregon just a few months ago, and I have to say I appreciate everything about the Pacific Northwest even more than I did, which is something I didn't think was really all that possible.

This scholarship has had an enormous impact on the course of my life, one that cannot be understated. I like to believe my selection was at least partly because of my potential, which is something I am still working on unlocking.

The chance to contribute to the Ford alumni community, and the wider communities we all live in, is an opportunity I don't want to pass up. I don't believe taking advantage of the avenues that were opened to us as Ford Scholars is enough; I want to and, if you choose to elect me, I will do all I can to actively contribute to the growth of the alumni network and its effectiveness in giving back to our communities.



Member at Large
Monica Solano-Molina
Ford Scholar, Class of 2010

The 21-year-old version of me engraved my Ford Scholar class ring with the simple, cryptic and poignant words: DO MORE. Foresight told me that it would always be applicable; and it is.

I think a lot of us can relate to this. I have never met a Ford Scholar that I didn't admire, appreciate and feel lucky to know.

There are many reasons I want to join the FSAA Board, but chief among them is my love for Ford alumni. Being a part of this community is a true privilege. The amount of grit and character in every single one of you overflows; a room full of Ford Scholars is powerful. I love that feeling.

We have developed a kinship built upon an incredible shared experience and an adamant sense of gratitude. This fierce appreciation compels a disposition of servitude among us.

In joining the FSAA, I would prioritize bringing meaningful and relevant opportunities to connect with and serve our communities.



Member at Large
Melissa Swank
Ford Opportunity, Scholar
Class of 2005

As a 2005 Ford Opportunity Scholar, my life was radically transformed by the love and opportunities provided by The Ford Family Foundation.

After attending Portland State University for both my bachelor's and master's programs, I entered the "real world" with experience and a resume/CV of a top competitor. This was only because of the Foundation. Within months of finishing at PSU, I landed a career as a project assistant at a consulting firm with exponential opportunities for personal and professional development.

Due to family changes, my time with that company was short, but the influence in my life was not. After a year of freelancing and gaining clientele, I launched my own virtual assistance company to provide businesses with the greatest return on investment—without any additional overhead costs—while simultaneously providing a place of employment with work/life flexibility. Particularly, this flexibility gives parents the ability to build close-knit relationships with their children and maintain professional pursuits.

I would be honored to give back to the family that has provided so much to me and my family. I would like to increase our virtual and local community presence through social media connections. To see a more active presence of service in individual communities is an ultimate goal. I would like alumni to remember their roots and restore a passion for leadership and service. Please consider me for the role of member at large of the Ford Scholar Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Remembering Bonnie Ford, a Supporter of Ford Scholars

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor



Bonnie Ford, the second wife of The Ford Family Foundation founder, Kenneth Ford, died Oct. 22, 2015, in Roseburg, of age-

related natural causes. She was 90 years old.

She was an enthusiastic supporter of all of the Foundation's work – especially the scholarship students.

During a memorial service on Dec. 12 in Roseburg, Ford Scholar Alumni Steven Burns, Class of 2002, Branden Hansen, Class of 2004, and Jennifer (Bunch) Mitchell, Class of 2001, spoke and shared comments from other Scholars.

Ford's son, Mike Stanley, shared his gratefulness with the Foundation, thanking them for including Scholars in the memorial service and for the "touching and heartfelt memory book, which my family and I will treasure," he said in a thank-you note.

"The Scholars Program occupied a very special place in her heart, and I think she saw herself in the many deserving students who have benefited from Kenneth's legacy," Stanley wrote. "I know you all have a strong sense of the importance and enduring value of the Foundation's mission, a sense that she shared."

Stanley and his wife, Natalie, have two children, Rose and Max, and live in Juneau, Alaska.

Ford was born Aug. 18, 1925, in Colton, Wash., and grew up in Genesee, Idaho.

She earned a bachelor's degree in food and nutrition from the University of Idaho in Moscow. She married Allen Stanley of Idaho in 1950. Their only child, Michael, was born in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 1951.

The family settled in Pasco, Wash., a year later. She worked as the head dietitian at a hospital there and was active in civic affairs.

She later worked as a dietitian for several hospitals before coming to Roseburg in the 1970s, by which time she was single. She met Kenneth Ford, owner of Roseburg Forest Products, and they were married in 1982.

She was active in civic and charitable organizations in Roseburg and enjoyed traveling.

After her husband passed away in 1997, Ford continued to participate in Foundation events as long as she was able.

Denise Callahan, the director of postsecondary success, recalls Ford's fondness for Scholars.

"She was a faithful emcee of the Ford Scholars Leadership Conference talent show and never missed a chance to remind a Scholar to take off their hat inside a building," she said.

Serving Our Communities During MLK Weekend of Service

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asked, "What are you doing for others?"

Ford Scholar Alumni across the state and even the nation volunteered in their communities during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend of Service – a day on, not a day off.

Ford Scholar Alumni Association Member at Large Marshall Curry believes more alumni can participate in community service projects when there are several events happening across the state. He has taken it upon himself to plan FSAA service projects around MLK Weekend of Service and Earth Day in order to make it easier for alumni to serve their communities.

"The Ford Family believed in me to make my community great wherever I landed after graduation," Curry said.



Ford Scholar Alumni Association Members at Large Adam Martin and Marshall Curry volunteered during the MLK Stride Toward Freedom 5K on Saturday, Jan. 23.

"Helping Ford Family members plan service projects wherever they are at is how I pay the Ford Family back. I see the Ford Family, one of the highest educated groups in the country, impacting whenever they serve."

He recruited FSAA members to join events in their communities and invite nearby alumni and Scholars to join them.

Four coordinators planned five events in Oregon.

Six Scholars and seven Ford Family Scholarship Office staff

members had a blast spending the afternoon of Jan. 21 cutting and preparing food at FOOD for Lane County in Eugene.

Events were also available for alumni to attend individually in Portland and Central Oregon, and some alumni reported volunteering on their own.

One alumnus picked up litter in his neighborhood. Another cleaned a

cemetery.

Curry invited Salem-area Ford Scholars and alumni to pitch in at the Marion-Polk Food Share, where they formatted recipes, packed food and prepared gardens on Jan. 18. College students from nearby universities attended, however no Ford Scholars participated.

Curry also invited alumni to join him for the Willamette University MLK Stride Toward Freedom 5K on Jan. 23. He and FSAA Member at Large Adam Martin helped execute the event.

"I didn't expect this low of a turnout this year," Curry said. "I also didn't expect people to post pictures of their personal volunteering. THAT was awesome!"

The event organizer said he hopes to see the Ford Scholars and alumni visibly making an impact all over the country wherever they are and asks them to post photos on Facebook, Twitter and send him emails.

"That way, I'll know Kenneth Ford's legacy is being carried out," Curry said.

If you are interested in participating in or organizing an Earth Day of service in April, email communications@fordscholaralumni.com.

New Scholarship Office Manager Works to Engage Alumni

By **Holly Scholz**
Editor



Bonnie Williams is impressed with the Ford Scholar Alumni Association and is excited to work with the FSAA Board to take the

13-year-old organization into the future.

"They've done incredible work with very little logistical support from the Foundation," said Williams, who joined The Ford Family Foundation Scholarship Office in Eugene as the manager of scholar and alumni engagement in October. "Now that the Foundation has a dedicated position working on alumni issues and with the FSAA, this increased capacity will allow us to do more for alumni and do more to connect alumni back to the Foundation."

The addition of Williams to the Scholarship Office team is a goal Denise Callahan had when she started at the Foundation as the director of postsecondary success three years ago.

"The purpose of my position is to engage alumni across all of the scholarship programs for the purpose of creating enhanced opportunities for our alumni and for current Scholars," Williams said. "What I've been charged with is the whole umbrella of alumni relations. I see the FSAA playing an important part."

Callahan believes the investments made in connecting recipients while they're students can be enhanced as they transition to alumni and begin offering their support back to current students.

"We regularly hear from alumni of all programs asking how they can give back and support the next generation of scholarship recipients," Callahan said. "Until now, we've not had the capacity to be really responsive."

Up until January, the FSAA included only graduates of the Ford Scholar Program. At the Jan. 9 FSAA general meeting, the board voted to

amend the bylaws to include Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart alumni in the FSAA.

Williams attended the general meeting, where she heard from alumni interested in professional development and building connections with other Ford Family Alumni.

"I think there are some great opportunities there to support each other professionally," she said.

Williams brings seven years of professional development experience to the position. She worked at the University of Oregon School of Law as the associate director of the Center for Career Planning and Professional Development, where she counseled law students and graduates on career goals and transitions. She also worked with alumni to develop programs that connected them with each other and students.

"Bonnie's experience, skill and personality make her the perfect person for this job," Callahan said, adding that Williams is building relationships, listening and learning, and taking leadership in supporting the connection of students and alumni.

Williams was raised in Eagle River, a small community 30 minutes outside of Anchorage, Alaska. She and her husband, Erik Bishoff, live in Springfield with their two children, Hollander, 11, and Noemi, 6.

Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and communication from the University of Alaska in 1998 and a law degree from the UO in 2004.

In her first few months on the job, Williams said she is learning the nuances of all of the scholarship programs and the interests and backgrounds of alumni from each program.

She held a Call and Connect series of conference calls in January in which experienced alumni panelists visited with current Scholars and recent graduates within their career fields.

"Alumni really want to be engaged and connect with other alumni – that has been so clear to me," Williams said.

She pointed out that not everybody is going to participate in a formal alumni program. However, she wants to develop other paths that allow those alumni to connect with other alumni and the Foundation.

"Part of what I'm trying to do in my first year is about infrastructure – what do our systems look like and

can we make them more effective in getting all of the alumni together, whether that's in person or through technology," she explained.

She likes to look at the big picture – building infrastructure and looking at where the FSAA is going – but also being responsive to immediate demands and needs of Scholars and alumni to engage with one another.

Look for more ways to get involved with the Foundation and with your fellow alumni in the coming year.

"We're planning mentor programs, regional events, and professional development programming," Williams said. "The Ford Family Scholarship recipients already have such a strong sense of community and a desire to be engaged, I'm just here to create avenues and facilitate that engagement."

Callahan says, "The opportunity to further strengthen the experience for all who have benefited from Kenneth and Hallie Ford's generosity well beyond graduation is exciting, and I can't wait to see where it will go."

Williams can be reached at bwiliams@tfff.org or (541)762-2524.

Ford Opportunity...

Continued from page 1

ment. The Foundation chooses up to 50 Opportunity Scholars annually.

The **Ford ReStart Program**, which began in 2001, is designed for adults 25 years and older who want to begin or return to full-time post-secondary education to earn a degree – either an associate's or bachelor's. Each year, up to 46 Scholars are selected for the ReStart Program.

Why did the FSAA add the two other programs to the organization now?

"I almost say the question is why were they ever excluded," Williams said.

Perhaps one reason is because when the FSAA was forming in 2003, there were not very many Opportunity and ReStart alumni. Or maybe it was because Ford Scholars are more connected within their classes as a result of the Leadership Conferences they attended as students.

Williams pointed out that

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Milestones

Class of 1995

Dan Euhus

Dan accepted a position with Shintech as senior project engineer for a new Ethylene Cracker they are building in Plaquemine, La.

Thao Duc Tu

Thao's profession is an X-Ray technologist at The Vancouver Clinic in Vancouver, Wash. He is a volunteer teacher at Van Lang Vietnamese School in Portland on Sundays. As vice president of the Vietnamese Community of Oregon, he has managed various projects: Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion, Vietnamese New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival and Rose Festival. They provide free tax services, senior citizen outings and student scholarships. His other activities include Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute (APICLI), Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), and co-chair for the Madison High School Modernization Master Planning Committee. These are his new and exciting challenges for public service.

Class of 2000

Jennifer Kalez

In December 2015, Jennifer accepted a job with the State of Oregon. She serves the State as a public affairs and outreach coordinator at the Oregon Department of Energy.

Class of 2001

Sara (Brownell) Dotson

This last year, Sara was promoted to program supervisor, overseeing Adult Services for a County Community Behavioral Health Program. She's had the privilege of implementing an ACT program. She's worked with community partners to develop and implement a Mental Health Court program. Sara recently wrote two grants in which she hopes to be able to develop a Mobile Response Crisis Team, where law enforcement is paired with a behavioral health clinician to respond to dispatch calls. It has been exciting for her to analyze community gaps and look at program development to meet the needs of her community.

Class of 2003

Teresa Gomez

Teresa is in her third year of serving as an early intervention specialist (special education teacher for infants and toddlers) for the Willamette Education Service District in Salem. She has also become an entrepreneur and has a Metro PCS store in Salem, which she personally attends.

Class of 2005

Brian Eberhardt

Brian and Chloe were married in July 2014 in Philomath at Lumos Winery in the presence of friends and family. He graduated with a Master's in Public Administration, Natural Resource Management and Policy from Portland State University and was hired as a business analyst for the Multnomah County Drainage District in September 2015.

Class of 2007

Shaleah (Towle) Wagner

Shaleah co-wrote and produced her first short film, and it was accepted and screened at FAB Fest for up-and-coming female filmmakers.

Class of 2009

Marshall Curry

On Nov. 1, 2015, Nelya Drofyak, Ford Scholar Class of 2006, agreed to spend the rest of her life with her best friend. It is hard to believe, but she made him happier than the day he received his Ford Family Scholarship. They plan to get married after her graduation from the physician assistant pro-

gram at Oregon Health and Science University in late summer 2017. He wants her and everyone else to know he is still very happy.

Elise Heidt

Since graduating from George Fox University with a social work degree in May of 2013, Elise has lived overseas in Kotido, Uganda. She works with a team that serves the nomadic pastoralist Jie Karimojong people, striving to see a Karimojong expression of the church that is Biblical and self-sustaining. She oversees a project that helps culturally vulnerable women make handmade journals and use the income to help their families. She has helped women during childbirth and is applying for an overseas midwifery training program. She wants to become a midwife and then come back to Uganda to better the healthcare system and continue with discipleship and church-planting among unreached people.

Vanessa (Michaels) Navarro-Gomez

Vanessa graduated with her Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in nonprofit management from the University of Colorado Denver in December of 2015. She recently started a new position at the University of Colorado Boulder as a first-year academic advisor and is passionate about helping students successfully transition to college life.

Brittanie (May-Fitch) Roberts

This last year has been full and exciting for Brittanie. In the spring of 2015, she ran for the local school board and won a seat. She also received a faculty internship to Portland Community College, where she is being mentored by a veteran employee. She hopes that this internship will help her transition into a teaching position with PCC, which is where she has always wanted to work. Brittanie also learned over Christmas break that she and her husband are expecting their second child. She hopes everyone else is experiencing great opportunities and fulfilling their goals.

Class of 2010

Ashley (DeSautel) Barth

Ashley obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and passed the National Council Licensure Examination last summer. She accepted a registered-nurse position in the Emergency Department at Salem Hospital, the busiest ED from Seattle to San Diego and an innovative Magnet Hospital. She then was certified as a trauma nurse. She absolutely loves her job and coworkers. Ashley and her husband bought their first house in November and are enjoying being first-time homeowners.

Class of 2011

Christian Ochoa

Christian started graduate school at Western Oregon University in management and information systems. He also recently started working at Nike and hopes to move up to the headquarters after graduating. He plans to travel to Ecuador this summer to visit the country and learn about startup businesses. He will have a month-long internship with the owner and CEO of Community Hostel to gain insight on startup businesses in a foreign country.

Olivia Ponce

Olivia works at a women's outpatient drug and alcohol treatment facility. She witnesses women change not only their lives from addiction to recovery daily, but the future for them and their children. It is a humbling experience for her, and she appreciates these women allowing her in their lives to help make positive change.

Ford Opportunity...

Continued from page 9

Opportunity and ReStart Scholars haven't connected as much while they were in college because they attended different conferences and were most likely busy with families and work. However, as alumni of all three programs finish college and emerge as professionals, a lot of those differences tend to fall away.

"It just makes so much more sense. Rather than dividing resources, let's pool our resources and our energy," she said of adding the two programs to the existing alumni association.

Alumni in all programs share gratitude and commitment for the Foundation.

"Let's bring that all together to help you all achieve personal goals and community goals," Williams said.

How will the new alumni be integrated into the FSAA?

"Board representation is one thing I would love to see," Williams emphasized. "There are smart people already on the board, but they're not necessarily going to have the same perspective as the people who came from the Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart Programs."

Williams and board members want to hear the newest FSAA members' voices and know how they would like to be integrated into the organization.

The FSAA Board encourages all members to participate in committees and events so they become part of the leadership and help shape the future of the association.

"There are going to be a few challenges because the programs are operated a little bit differently," Williams admitted. "Our strength is in our numbers and in our feeling of connection and family."

Share Your Milestone

Alumni of the Ford Scholar, Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart programs may submit Milestones for the Fall 2016 Ford Scholar Alumni News. Visit <http://fordscholaralumni.com/share-your-milestones/> to share your education and career achievements or personal news. Milestones are limited to 100 words.

Surgeon SreyRam Kuy Earns Gerald E. Bruce Award

By Holly Scholz
Editor



SreyRam Kuy receives her Ford Scholar Award from Kenneth Ford at The Benson in Portland in 1996. Rumor has it that he was wearing a Grateful Dead tie.

SreyRam Kuy has known for as long as she can remember that she wanted to be a doctor and work with underserved populations.

Today, the Ford Scholar Alumna works at a Veteran Affairs medical center in Louisiana as a general surgeon.

Kuy, from the Class of 1996, has earned the Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award for the initiative she has taken professionally and civically in her community. The annual alumni award recognizes the good works unselfishly exemplified by Ford Scholar Alumni in the betterment of their communities in memory of Bruce, who was a founding board member of The Ford Family Foundation.

Kuy's family fled Cambodia's killing fields, where 2 million people perished under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. After escaping from Cambodia, her family fled to Khao-I-Dang refugee camp in 1980, when she was just 2 years old. They were severely injured by errant rocket-propelled grenades, but volunteer doctors operated on her and her mother, saving their lives. After migrating between refugee camps for 18 months, the Seventh-day Adventist Church sponsored the family and brought them to Corvallis in the verdant Willamette Valley.

"My passion for medicine began in a refugee camp, birthed as a casualty from war," Kuy said. "The doctor who saved my life in Khao-I-Dang was the first step of my journey into medicine."

She earned undergraduate degrees in microbiology and philosophy from

Oregon State University in 2000 and a medical degree from Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine in 2005. She then went on to earn a master's in health services research from Yale University School of Medicine in 2009.

Kuy works at Overton Brooks Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Shreveport, La., as the first full-time female general surgeon.

"I love my work," she says. "I care for veterans – a number of whom struggle with PTSD, poverty and substance abuse."

She also founded the Center for Innovations in Quality, Outcomes and Patient Safety. As director, she spearheaded efforts to improve quality of care for veterans and create a culture of change in surgical care.

Another project that she initiated was a book, "The Heart of a Tiger," that she wrote with her sister about their family's experiences surviving the Cambodian Genocide. As a result, she became a writer for the Huffington Post, Washington Post, USA Today and Salon.

Kuy is also an assistant professor of surgery at Louisiana State University.

Aside from her career, she mentors the next generation of doctors and medical students and has educated the general public about medical topics. She served as a board member on the National Board of Medical Examiners and is a member on the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. She's also volunteered for other medical organizations.

"The passion and commitment she shows in providing medical care, teaching the next generation of doctors and medical students, and serving her community is inspiring and represents the core values of The Ford Family Foundation," said Bonnie Williams, the manager of scholar and alumni engagement.

Kuy will receive the award on June 25 in Eugene during the Recognition Conference for the Class of 2016 Ford Scholars. The award comes with a \$5,000 grant that Kuy has chosen to be given to an organization that serves veterans.

"As a refugee who escaped a genocide, my family and I witnessed firsthand what it's like to live in fear and to

live without freedom," Kuy said. "That's why I'm so grateful for the freedom that I have as an American, and for the veterans who sacrificed for this freedom."

As a surgeon who takes care of U.S. veterans, she sees a tremendous need among these veterans and is honored to receive the Bruce Award.

"It was such a privilege to be a Ford Scholar, and I still remember meeting Mr. Ford at the Benson in 1996," Kuy said, adding that she has a photo of herself and Mr. Ford in



Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award winner Dr. Kuy from the Class of 1996.

her office.

Receiving the scholarship was crucial in paying for her schooling, however, "It was just as important to have someone believe in me," she said. "I'll never forget how much that meant to me during college and medical school. That gives you the strength to keep going."

Gerald E. Bruce Award Nominees

The Ford Family Foundation recognizes the following Ford Scholar Alumni who were nominated for the 2016 Gerald E. Bruce Community Service Award. Although these individuals were not selected to receive the award, they are outstanding alumni who continue to contribute to their communities.

Leif Coorlim, Class of 1997, Los Angeles, Calif.

David Green, Class of 1998, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Edward Gutierrez, Class of 2004, Sherwood, Ore.

Marija Hobbs, Class of 1997, Vancouver, Wash.

Angela Long, Class of 1997, Gainesville, Fla.

Thao Tu, Class of 1995, Portland, Ore.

Earth Day 2016

Interested in volunteering with us on Earth Day?

Earth Day is April 22. Many communities organize events close to that date that alumni could help with.

Keep an eye on our FSAA Facebook page. Event details will be posted soon!

Or, sign up for one of the events already planned in one of these areas: Salem, Central Oregon or Denver, Colo.

For more information, e-mail communications@fordscholaralumni.com, attention Marshall Curry.



Year at a Glance

March 14-21 – Spring FSAA Elections

April 16-24 – Earth Day Volunteer Week

Saturday, June 11 – Meet and Greet with the newest Ford Opportunity and Ford ReStart Alumni (Class of 2012), as part of the Opportunity and ReStart Recognition Conference at the Valley River Inn in Eugene. Additional details coming soon!

Saturday, July 16 – FSAA Get-Together and Meet and Greet Scholars at Salishan Resort

Fall 2016 – FSAA Fall Gathering

Plan to get your purple FSAA T-shirt for a \$25 donation at these events! Proceeds help support the FSAA to continue to provide events for Ford Alumni.

Keeping Connected!

Learn more about the Ford Scholar Alumni Association online by visiting www.FordScholarAlumni.com or by e-mailing communications@fordscholaralumni.com.

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

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

Find us on Facebook!

Join the FSAA Facebook Group. Search “Ford Scholar Alumni Association (FSAA)” or type in www.Facebook.com/groups/FordAlumni/. Also join the Facebook Group for the Ford Family Scholarships by searching “Ford Family Scholarship Community” or type in www.Facebook.com/groups/FordFamilyScholarships.



LinkedIn

Search Groups for “Ford Scholars Professional Network” and click “Join.”

