



## Celebrating the Success of Manson Graduates

### Jubenal Garcia: Retired Marine Corps Recruiter; Fortinet Cybersecurity; Global Veteran's Program Manager



Immediately after the 1992 LA Riots, Jubenal's parents decided to move to Manson for a better life, education and future for their children. For the Garcia family, Manson offered all of those opportunities. Jubenal enjoyed going to school and playing football in the snow. "Manson has the best teachers, hands down; they truly care and set the bar high." After graduating from MHS in 1997, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps to be a mechanic; however, later in his enlistment, Jubenal opted to become a recruiter and was promoted on various occasions and received extensive HR training and certifications. While in the Marine Corps, Jubenal obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Social and Criminal Justice and a Master's in Psychology. After 20 years of military service, Jubenal retired at age 38, but knew he still wanted to keep working. Currently, he works for one of the top three cybersecurity companies in the world, Fortinet, as the Global Veteran's Program Manager. Jubenal's team facilitates the transition of exceptional service members, veterans and military spouses into the cybersecurity industry. Jubenal said that the entire staff at Manson motivated him to reach for the stars. He would like to thank Mr. Kevin Amsden, Mr. Brad Soliday, Mrs. Kelly Bell and Mr. Mike Curry. "Thank you all for showing a teenager who barely spoke English and was a son of migrant workers that anything is possible if you work hard and get an education." He went on to advise current Manson students that they will reach their goals if they stay persistent. "Remember, every day you have to test yourself, if you don't, it's a wasted day. Dreams don't work unless you do!"

### Tara "Zuluaga" Dorgan: Nutritional Therapist; Culinary Medicine School Consultant; Food Producer

The Zuluaga family has been vacationing in Manson since 1989 and decided to move to the valley in 1993. In Mrs. Carol Bower's sixth grade class, Tara was instantly welcomed and felt right at home. Her family loves the outdoor activities in Manson and Tara played basketball all of her high school years. "Things were different then; there weren't any wineries, just apple orchards that made great places to hang out with friends. I was so lucky to be surrounded by such beauty in this community." After graduating from MHS in 2000, Tara had quite the continuing educational experience attending Wenatchee Valley CC, UW, Bellevue CC, Universidad del Pais Vasco in San Sebastian, Spain, University of Nevada, Fairhaven College at Western Washington University, North Seattle CC, South Seattle CC and the College of Naturopathic Medicine in Cork, Ireland. While traveling in Australia before starting her doctorate program, Tara fell in love with an Irish man and moved to Ireland with him instead. Tara holds a BA in Holistic Health, Community and Applied Ecology and a degree in Naturopathic Nutrition. After college, Tara held many jobs from a farm to table chef, to working in commercial food production for a small, French company in Cork, Ireland. She is currently a Nutritional Therapist for Root Health Nutrition and consultant for the culinary medicine school, The Food Remedy, and is working to become a food producer in 2020. Her founding business is called Gut Instinct, and is a company based on the healing benefits of bone broth, medicinal roots and collagen combined into powder-based elixirs. In 2018, Tara took second place in the AFMCP-UK Food and Drink Awards for Best Food. Tara wishes to thank Mr. Dan Reid who made math fun, Mr. Ron McClure, who taught her writing and public speaking skills, and Mr. Kevin Amsden. "He is just an awesome guy who taught me to weld!" Tara felt very supported by the Manson community. "I felt empowered to do anything I tried to achieve when I left Manson." She advises current students to, "Appreciate our valley and community; it is a unique place, so soak it up and enjoy every minute. If you leave, take the spirit with you...you just might be able to foster this kind of community wherever you go in the world."



### Victoria Valdovinos: Owner, Pavati Creative Designs; Graphic Designer, Earth and Sky Studios; Production Artist, Cevado Technologies

Born in Mexico and brought to Manson at 14 months old, Vicky was raised by her single mother who sought a better life for Vicky and her six younger siblings. As the only one of her siblings not born in the U.S., Vicky said, "I was always told that it would be difficult for me to get anywhere in life because of my legal status; however, I did not let that stop me." Vicky has worked tirelessly to better her future and always had a clear vision of what she wanted for herself. Vicky felt Manson School District was a positive environment that was determined to help all students succeed. "The only way to fail in Manson is to not even try, and even then it is still hard to fail here." As a seventh grader, Vicky took a desktop publishing class with Mr. Ron McClure and that was where she fell in love with design. "Mr. McClure saw my enthusiasm and potential and took me under his wing. He let me help on the high school yearbook staff as an eighth grader." As a sophomore, Vicky became the advertising editor, then co-editor and editor her senior year. After graduating in 2006, Vicky attended Wenatchee Valley CC and Central Washington University studying business and graphic design. "I was in college for nearly seven years; it took four years to complete my business degree and additional three for graphic design." Vicky didn't qualify for financial aid due to her legal status, she did receive scholarships, but ultimately, it was up to her to pay for college. "I worked 70-80 hour weeks and held two jobs in the summer. I took 20 credits each quarter and in the fall I held three part-time jobs. Eventually, Vicky received her Associate's Degree from WVC in Business Administration and a certificate of completion for Graphic Design. She then received a BA in Business and a Bachelor's in Fine Arts in Graphic Design from CWU. Vicky spent her final quarter at an internship with Gifford's Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco where she worked on design materials for print and social media to spread awareness for the cause. She moved home to Manson in 2016 and got a position with Earth and Sky Studios in Twisp and with Cevado Technologies in Chelan. In 2019, Vicky decided it was time to start her own company, and so Pavati Creative Design was born. "After all this time, I am still working four jobs (Cevado, Earth and Sky, Wapato Point Cellars and Pavati Design)." The teacher who made the biggest difference in Vicky's life was Mr. McClure. "He taught me more than what needed to be learned in the classroom, and never once did he sugar-coat life. He told me that if anyone could make it, it was me, and that with my determination and work ethic I could accomplish any goal I set for myself." Vicky also thanks Mrs. Diane Barnes who taught her the principle of saving money. "Mrs. Barnes had a little student store in her fourth grade classroom where her students used makeshift "checkbooks" and earned "money" for completing homework and other tasks." Vicky applied what she learned in fourth grade and managed to pay off her \$27,000 college loan in two and a half years. Now she is a debt free home owner. "Never think that your current situation determines where your path will take you. YOU are the only person in charge of your life."



## **Pedro Magana: Juvenile Probation Officer**

Growing up in Manson was one of Pedro's best life experiences. His parents moved from Mexico in 1972 and in Manson, they both worked in agriculture and always motivated Pedro to seek a bright future. "Once I made the big move (walking across the street from the elementary to the middle school) that's when things changed. I was constantly asked what I wanted to be when I grew up and my teachers consistently wanted to know my interests." At that time, Pedro didn't have the answers to those questions, but he knew they were important. In his junior year, Pedro challenged himself to take more rigorous classes like Cornerstone English with Mrs. Sue Neff and AP Spanish with Mrs. Heather Teague. "It was at this time that I started to focus on my future. I really enjoyed helping people and decided I wanted to pursue a career where I could do so." So after graduation in 2009, Pedro attended Central Washington University where he met with many counselors and attended numerous career fairs leading to his ultimate focus in the Criminal Justice field. Pedro went on ride-alongs with agencies in Ellensburg and Yakima. "During this time, I enjoyed interacting with the kids we met while on call, so I decided to branch out and help youth in our communities." In 2015, Pedro graduated from CWU with a double Bachelor of Law and Justice and the Spanish language. Shortly after, Pedro gained employment as a Juvenile Probation Officer and went on to attend the Criminal Justice Training Commission for the State of Washington. Since the summer of 2015, Pedro's job duties have included supervising court conditions imposed by the court. "When conditions are not followed, it's my responsibility to make the court aware of the certain conditions not being followed. I also ensure the youth are complying with court orders and are involved in programs and services that will help and support their future." Pedro was fortunate to have a strong support group in Manson. "All of my teachers helped me reach my potential, so don't be afraid to ask questions and never fear a challenge; it's the challenge that helps you achieve your goals."



## **Deziree (Sackett) Phelps: Founder/Director of Kahiau/KBeach Volleyball Club**

When Dez was a year old, her family moved to the Chelan Valley to become farmers/orchardists. As the youngest of four siblings who all graduated from Manson, she loved growing up here. "The freedom we were allowed to play outside, roam from orchard to orchard with all the neighborhood kids is now a thing of the past. It was a wonderful childhood." Dez' parents were not only orchardists, but they were farmers who raised horses, cows, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens. As a result, she participated in numerous rodeos until sports became her main priority in high school. "I participated in 4-H and FFA where I had a dairy cow that I raised and took to fair every year." Dez also played softball, basketball and volleyball. Her freshman year, in 1984, was the first year Manson offered girl's softball and Mr. Joe Teague was her coach. Mr. Tom Alexander coached her in girl's basketball and Mr. Kevin Amsden was her FFA advisor (this was Mr. Amsden's second year of teaching). After graduating from Manson in 1988, she attended college at Central Washington University where she played four years of basketball on an athletic scholarship. She received her BA in High School Math Education. Dez married her high school sweetheart, Frank Phelps, between her sophomore and junior year of college. Both she and Frank got their first teaching jobs in Ephrata where Dez taught high school math for two years and coached C-squad volleyball, basketball and softball. In 1990, their first child, Allison, was born. Shortly after, Frank got a job in Manson teaching business education and they moved back home. For the next thirteen years, Dez was Manson High School's head volleyball coach and focused on raising her four children. Currently, Dez is the founder/director of Kahiau/KBeach Volleyball Club. "I am living my dream. I get to work with 100+ young people, teach them goal-setting and other life skills while playing the game of indoor and beach volleyball. It is my joy, my passion, and it fills me up daily." As Dez reflected on her time at MHS, she realized that her coaches sowed the seeds within her that led her to her current job. Mr. Alexander, Mr. Teague and Mr. Mark Marney were incredibly positive people in her life. "They never made me feel like anything was out of reach. They encouraged me to Go and DO! I am so thankful for my high school sports experience; it has served as my foundation that I draw from often in my current life." Dez' advice to current high school students is not to waste their time away. "Enjoy your days walking the halls of MHS; it is full of people who want to support you and help you succeed, so allow them to help you." She also encourages students to get involved in anything and everything at school; that is where true memories are made.



## **Ulises Adame: Licensed Barber, Cutting Edge Barber Shop**

For Ulises, growing up in Manson was memorable. He attended Manson schools since pre-school and was very close to many people during his school years, with several of whom he is still friends. After graduation in 2013, Ulises attended Whatcom Community College for two years. At that point, he realized his true calling, so Ulises enrolled in the Federal Way Barber College where he earned his barber's license. He then completed an internship at Thee Elite Barber Shop in East Wenatchee. Ulises is currently a barber at Cutting Edge Barber Shop where he provides haircuts, beard trims and face masks. "I really like having the chance to meet new people and give them that good feeling once they walk out of the barber shop." Ultimately, Ulises plans to open his own barber shop in Chelan. Ulises thanks all the staff and especially his class advisors, Mrs. Jennifer Koth and Mr. Brad Soliday. "They always told us to strive for greatness and took the time to make sure we always did our best." He also thanks his parents for their continuous help and support throughout his education and for trusting his decisions. Ulises advises current Manson students to always give it your all and if you have a passion or a hobby, make it your career. "Never give up and don't be afraid to fail and take chances even though there may be doubters. Get good grades in school; it truly helps your future plans!"



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