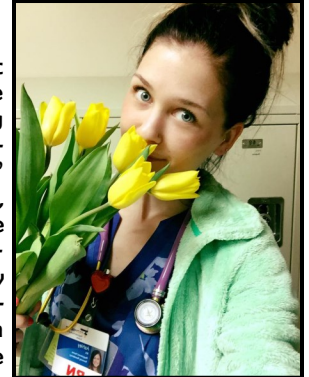


Celebrating the Success of Manson Graduates

January 2017

Ashley McKenna: Cardiac Nurse at Providence Regional Medical Center

After four years as a Manson Trojan, in 2008, Ashley blazed a trail from Wenatchee Valley Community College to Everett Community College and completed her education at the University of Washington where she graduated with an AA Degree in Nursing. Currently a Cardiac Nurse at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, Washington, her journey to nursing has been extensive. Ashley became a Certified Nursing Assistant while obtaining her Nursing Degree. "This helped me tremendously, giving me a jump start on my nursing education, a stable job and a foot in the door to the medical profession," Ashley said. She completed two years of prerequisite courses at WVC, then began the two-year nursing program at ECC, graduating in March of 2016. "I am now on a full-ride grant to UW to get my Bachelor's of Science in Nursing; I have three quarters left until I graduate from the UW." Providence Regional Medical Center is a Trauma II hospital and one of the largest hospitals in Washington State, so Ashley is constantly busy and enjoys seeing new and exciting things in her field on a daily basis. When reflecting back to her days in the Manson School District, Ashley said, "It is difficult to pinpoint just a few memorable people because I definitely wouldn't be who I am today without any of the people I encountered there, but Mr. Kevin Amsden always comes to mind when I think about MHS. His fun personality and genuine interest in his students always made us feel safe and important." She continues by thanking Mrs. Desiree Phelps, her high school volleyball coach. "She had the biggest impact on me because she was much more than just a coach. Through volleyball, Des helped me develop a love for hard work, showed me the importance of honesty, honoring commitments and to always be humble and kind. She always made sure we knew how important we were, even when I couldn't get my arms and legs to agree with each other on the court." Ashley also shared that students today need to never think they can't do something. "Even if it takes you two or three times longer than anyone else, don't give up! The feeling of accomplishment is worth it."



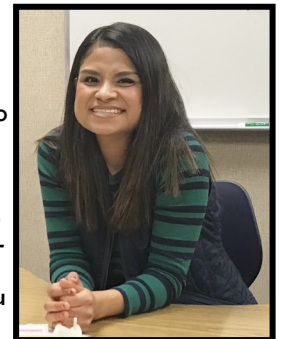
Fausto Guillen: Process Engineer at Boeing

Fausto was born in southern Mexico to Luis and Felipa Valdovinos. He and his family moved to Manson to attend school and further his education to realize his dreams. He was 14 years old when he immigrated to Washington to begin his schooling in the Manson School District. Fausto graduated from Manson High School in 1997. Right after high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy where he served from 1999-2001. "In the Navy I was a Machinist Mate which is similar to an engineer. I operated, maintained and repaired U.S. Naval Ships propulsion machinery." Fausto had the opportunity to travel around the world while in the Navy, including trips to Asia and the Middle East. He separated from the service with an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy in 2001. Immediately following his service, Fausto enrolled at Washington State University and graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Mathematics. Fausto is currently employed with the Boeing Company where he has worked as a Process Engineer for over eleven years. He has been married to his wife, Azucena Triguero, for nearly seven years.



Blanca (Quiroz) Garza: School Counselor at Hiawatha Elementary

In 2004 Blanca Quiroz graduated from Manson High School and began preparing for a career in counseling. She attended Vanguard University in Southern California and Heritage University in Toppenish, Washington. In Blanca's undergraduate training she completed various practicums. She also worked as after school support staff at a private elementary school in El Monte, California. Blanca returned to Washington to pursue her counseling certification while working at a clinic in Othello as a Behavioral Health Specialist under a Licensed Mental Health individual for three years. "This opportunity gave me the experience and insight to work in the mental health field," Blanca states. She then pursued her graduate studies to become a school counselor, completing a one-year internship at Peninsula Elementary in Moses Lake to finish her education. She is currently an elementary school counselor at Hiawatha Elementary School in Othello and works to support students who are struggling academically or socially. "I am most proud of where I came from. I believe there are many individuals in our community who guided me to where I am today," she says. "I won't ever forget Mr. Tom Alexander's smile, encouraging words and how much he believed in me from the very beginning. I was timid in school and Mr. Alexander helped me become more confident academically." She also wishes to thank Mr. Ron Pinkerton who inspired her to become a counselor. "Mr. Pinkerton helped bring out my leadership skills; he encouraged me to dream beyond my limits." Blanca adds that cool isn't doing what your friends are doing; cool is being confident in where you stand. Work hard, stand tall and always be kind."



David Sedano: Steinhauer Mechanical Design Operator at North Coast Electric

After graduation in 2009, David attended Central Washington University and studied abroad in Valdivia, Chile, where he attended the Universidad Austral de Chile, where he pursued a Spanish degree. Six years later, he graduated from CWU with majors in Mechanical Engineering Technology and Spanish. David had to prioritize his time and with determination, ambition and hard work he secured an internship with Pabco Roofing Products as a Mechanical Engineer right after college. After his third month as an intern, David was offered a position with North Coast Electric as a Steinhauer Mechanical Design Operator. "In this company, I helped start a new fabrication division. After working with North Coast Electric for three months, Pabco Roofing Products offered me a full-time position," he states. Now David works in both the engineering and electrical divisions. As an engineer/electrical technician, he helps design and assemble equipment that improves productivity. He also helps create programs that control the parts that dynamically move the plant. "Basically, I help keep the plant running and implement renovation for production excellence." David says he was raised in an amazing community. "Mansonians have taught me life-long lessons. Whether these lessons were bitter or sweet, they have expanded my vision," David comments. His mentors, the Sedanos, Straceners, Pittmans and Hodges, have added a different "flavor" to the recipe. "My greatest teacher yet has come by the name of failure. Always terrified of failure, I realized if I'm not scared of failing, I can't succeed." He adds this advice: "Challenge yourself. Do not settle for failure. Learn to listen and educate yourself. Life is an uphill struggle, and trust me, you will fall, but the bigger the struggle, the better the view."





Austin Cochran: Band Instrument Repair Technician at Hoffman Music

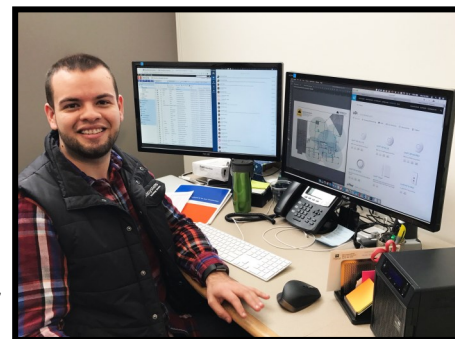
A 2012 Manson grad, Austin took an authentic path towards his career of choice. Following graduation, he attended Wenatchee Valley College, then transferred to Renton Technical College to attend their brass, woodwind and guitar repair program. Once finished, Austin returned to Wenatchee and took on an internship with Chinook Music where he worked repairing brass and woodwind instruments while additionally working alongside Manson local, Mr. Charles Lindert, repairing guitars. Austin reflects that during his time at Manson many teachers helped him in school. "Mr. Mathew Brown taught me how to play the trombone and inspired my love for music." He adds, "Mr. Kevin Amsden always looked out for my best interests, at times he was a second father to me. When I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, Mrs. Patti Stracener helped me find a way to pursue my dream job. She helped my transition from a career pathway in graphic design to musical instrument repair and later assisted me with my resume, enabling me to land my current job." He adds, "Mr. Tom Alexander has been there for me through hard times. When I was bullied and when I went through heart surgery, Mr. A was always there." Austin wants MHS students to never take life for granted. "High school is fun; you get to hang out with your friends, and while your family may annoy you at times, when you move away you will probably be homesick," he comments. Austin currently works for Hoffman Music as a Band Instrument Repair Technician in Spokane.

Dale England: Owner, Lake Chelan Helicopters

After a successful high school career as ASB President, and an athlete participating in football, track, wrestling and baseball, Dale graduated in 1974. After graduation he attended Washington State University for one year where he studied Horticulture. Dale then worked for Chelan Police Department and the Chelan County Sheriff's Office as a reserve officer. He then attended Ricks' College in Idaho earning an AA Degree in Law Enforcement. While there, Dale completed EMT Training and was hired by the Rick's College Campus Police Department and was later hired by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. Next, Dale attended the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy while remaining involved in the farming community. "My brother, Len, and I operated a soil fumigation business to help farmers replant their crops. I also learned how to fly airplanes and helicopters," Dale states. Today, Dale's position is not singular. After retiring from the sheriff's office and selling his fumigation business, he started Lake Chelan Helicopters. He continues to manage some apple orchards and is a substitute bus driver for the Manson School District. Dale attests, "My favorite thing to do is to hang out with my grandkids." He has also been a central figure in Manson High School's Internship Program and has had several students shadow his helicopter business. "Sharing the joy I have for aviation and being blessed to involve bright, young minds has truly been a wonderful experience." While Dale was in high school, there were many influential people who helped him along the way. "My coach, Rick Whaley and his wife Jain were always open and accommodating. Mr. Whaley taught me life skills involving teamwork and perseverance." He states that while the Manson football team at that time wasn't the greatest, he and his teammates learned many life lessons. "Mrs. Whaley taught our Home Economics class; she taught me how to make scratch drop biscuits and helped me survive on a college student's budget. Mrs. Whaley was one of the finest teachers." Dale also gives thanks to Mrs. Freer, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Jungk and Mr. Young all whom were excellent educators. Dale adds, "I'll never forget sitting in geometry, staring out the window, when Mrs. Freer made the announcement, 'You had better pay attention because twenty years from now you will find a need for it.' It was nearly twenty years later when I was in an Accident Investigation class and we were working on calculating the speed of different cars from skid marks when I used the same geometry she was teaching then." Dale advises current and future Manson students to never stop learning. "I have more education outside of formal schooling than I ever got in school, but my formal education was a starting point to help me get a solid footing. Just because you're out of school doesn't mean you can't learn new skills or form new ideas."

Gabe Castro: Solutions & Projects Engineer at Seattle Technology SWAT Systems

After graduating MHS in 2008, Gabe attended the University of Washington for two years then transferred with a full scholarship to finish his AA degree in Computer Network and Security at Lake Washington Institute of Technology. He then finished his Bachelor's Degree in Informational Technology at Central Washington University. Gabe initially started as a part-time front-desk receptionist which commenced his corporate/professional skill-building period. "I quickly outgrew my position and proved to my superiors that I was capable of handling greater responsibilities." Gabe is currently employed by Seattle Technology "Managed Services Provider" called SWAT Systems. "We are the IT Department to many small and medium-sized businesses throughout the Puget Sound. We manage over 2500 workstations and 1000 servers." At SWAT Systems, Gabe is the Solutions and Projects Engineer and designs and installs information systems (Wi-Fi, digital phones, servers, workstations, networking, etc.) based on his clients' needs. Gabe wishes to thank those who put their faith and trust in him from a young age, mainly his Pastor, Reverend Hilario Garza, who allowed Gabe to play freely with his church's computer system. Mr. Frank Phelps, once Manson High School District's IT Liaison, did the same throughout middle and high school, allowing Gabe elevated access to assist staff with computer issues. Gabe adds, "I had parents who let me break open any electronic device to support my interest for computers and electronics. While they never quite understood this passion, they motivated and encouraged my dreams. All of these experiences sealed my 'Information Technology' future." Gabe concludes that, "in the end, no matter how long the journey, reaching your destination is the only thing that truly matters."



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