



Celebrating the Success of Manson Graduates

January 2013

Jennifer Zubeck: Design Engineer, Ford Motor Company & Home School Teacher

Upon graduation from Manson in 1988, Jennifer attended both Stanford University and the University of Michigan. She obtained a B.S. in Product Design Engineering from Stanford, and post college, moved across the country to work for Ford Motor Company near Detroit. After 4 years of engineering for Ford, designing and engineering bumpers and assembly lines, Jennifer tired of working for a huge corporation and longed to live near the mountains and ocean again. Jennifer's time at Ford gave her the experience needed to join Stratos Product Development Group in Seattle where she worked as a design engineer in an engineering consultancy. Four years and two children later, she left Stratos to focus her energy on her family. "When my children both reached school age, my focus shifted once again as I realized that elementary school in the big city is different than my experience at Manson," said Jennifer. Jennifer and her husband decided to home school their children which then became Jennifer's full-time job. "Teaching my children has used every bit of project management, organization and problem solving abilities that I gained in my previous work experience." Jennifer currently teaches her children 6th and 8th grade. Jennifer reflects, "Growing up in Manson was a unique experience. I didn't realize how unique until I went to college in California and lived in other parts of the country. " By the time Jennifer had graduated from Manson, she was ready to see more of the world. "In all the years since I have met very few people who can even comprehend what it means to grow up in a place like Manson." She adds, "I appreciated all that my teachers and coaches did for me in my years at MHS in class, on the court and the field and school clubs." As she considers who helped encourage her to reach her full potential, she says it wasn't one or two people—it was the entire community. "It was the teachers who were also sometimes coaches, club advisors and bus drivers, but it was also the people who showed up to cheer us on every time we had a game, who supported the fundraisers, who supported the school. It was the parents and families of my schoolmates, local business people and local service clubs who took the time and made the effort to know what was going on with local kids and stand behind them. The community support made Manson an amazing place to grow up and the place that I still call 'home.'" Jennifer advises current Manson students to dream big and go for it! "That said, don't be surprised if you end up doing something different than you originally set out to do. Plans and dreams change over time, but there is always something new to learn. The pursuit of knowledge and understanding is a lifelong project that doesn't end when you get a diploma or degree." She also suggests that if you have the opportunity to travel or experience life somewhere else for awhile—do it! "Manson is an amazing place, but it is difficult to fully appreciate it until you have outside experiences that give you a different perspective."



Justin & Scott Simmons B&O Train Restorationist & BNSF Locomotive Engineer

Justin graduated from Manson in 2000. He attended Wenatchee Valley College for three years as an Art major. At the time WVC offered no degree for this major, so Justin transferred to Maryland Institute College of Art where he majored in painting and, after taking many Art Conservation courses, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art and Painting. Justin says his high school shop class greatly supplemented his art skills along with his conservation classes in college. Justin is currently the head of the conservation and restoration of painting trains at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum. Justin's main job is to find the best way to preserve historical paint, or to repaint the trains to take them further back into history. His job includes a great deal of research, preparation, painting and documentation. He also works on the overall restoration of locomotives, including cleaning, plumbing, mechanics, metalwork and carpentry. While at Manson, Justin recalls, "Bill Sargent and Rolf Korsborn greatly influenced the way I live my life, and Brad Soliday and Phil Thomas solidified my passion for history and art. Kevin Amsden taught me how to use the tools in which I now use to make my living." Justin's advice to Manson students is to, "First, get out and see what the world has to offer you. Second, don't let anything get in the way of obtaining your dreams. Third, if you have questions, just ask. What you get out of life is ultimately your responsibility."



Scott graduated from Manson in 2003 and took a year off to think about what he wanted to pursue as a career. In 2004 he still had no idea what he wanted to do so he joined the U.S. Navy as an engineman and spent the next four years in Norfolk, VA. Scott deployed in 2007 and traveled to Italy, Cyprus, Dubai and Portugal on his tour. In September of the following year, he was released from the Navy with an honorable discharge. Moving back to the Chelan Valley, Scott struggled to find work.

To seek full advantage of his G.I. Bill, he attended Wenatchee Valley College but decided college was not a direction he wished to pursue, so he took a position with Alcoa in Malaga. "As a little kid, I always wanted to be a train engineer, but I slowly lost interest when my family moved from California to Washington when I was 8 years old. Not a lot of trains travel between Wenatchee and Chelan, so I kind of forgot about them." Prior to his release from the military, a friend told him about a buddy who had been hired on with the railroad and he encouraged me to apply. In August of 2010, Scott was offered a job as a conductor for BNSF railways and a year and a half later, he became a locomotive engineer. All his training was provided by BNSF, but his persistence and military background landed him the job. "I wish to thank Bill Cloke and Kevin Amsden for being the two teachers at Manson who truly influenced my life."



Kyle Bennett: Electrical Engineer for POWER Engineers, Inc.

Always interested in math and science, and motivated by many of his teachers, namely Ken Nelson, Kelly Bell and Dan Reed, upon graduation from Manson in 1999, Kyle attended Washington State University where he pursued an education in engineering. His courses focused on physics, electromagnetism, power systems, computer engineering and microelectronics which lead him towards his Bachelor of Science degree. Graduating in 2004 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, Kyle accepted a job at Micron Technologies in Boise, ID. While at Micron, Kyle analyzed DRAM and SRAM memory chip failures and provided solutions to increase the percentage of working devices built by Micron. Kyle returned to college in 2008 to earn a Master of Science degree from the University of Idaho. With a M.S. in Electrical Engineering, Kyle was quickly hired by POWER Engineers, Inc. At POWER, Kyle applies his leadership and technical skills. His work includes power substation grounding grid design to provide safer work environments. He provides safety studies for industrial, commercial and power generation facilities throughout the country, as well as performing power system protection and coordination studies. Kyle recently completed the design of a multi-million dollar 120MW wind farm near Idaho Falls, ID. He was the lead studies engineer and designed the electrical system from the ground up using his education in every phase of the project. Kyle's current projects include the electrical design of a solar power facility near Las Vegas, NV and upgrading protection of power systems all over the country. This past September, Kyle married his wife Anna (Camery) Bennett in Leavenworth, WA and they look forward to what the future holds for them.



Magali Garcia: Owner, Magali Garcia Design & Photography



The fall after graduation from Manson in 2006, Magali attended Eastern Washington University where she received her B.A. in Visual Communication Design (Graphic Design) and Spanish. This year, she started her own business called Magali Garcia Design & Photography. She photographs weddings, seniors, families and children. Most of her clients are based in Chelan and Manson, where she currently lives. Magali loves creating logos, business cards, posters and invitations. "The great thing about designing is I can work from home. Being a photographer and graphic designer is a great combination because not only can I shoot your weddings, but I can create your invitations as well!" Magali says she learned almost everything about Graphic Design from EWU, but just being creative and motivated has enabled her to start her own business. A self-taught photographer, Magali is excited about her fledgling business. The Manson staff she says helped her reach her full potential were Mrs. Bell who was a great teacher even though sciences was not her best subject, "Mrs. Bell never gave up on me; she taught me to never give up on myself." Mr. Soliday opened her eyes to what was going on in the world around her and Mr. Castilleja and Mr. Brown both got her creative side to come out and taught her to never be afraid to try something new. "I really am thankful for all the teachers and staff at MHS," states Magali. Her advice to students is to always keep their options open and to never give up. "I graduated MHS wanting to be a nurse, but I graduated EWU as a graphic designer and photographer. So don't be afraid to try new things until you find your true calling. It took me a couple of tries, but I finally got it right and what better job than to be your own boss and work from home! I am blessed for sure." Magali will be married this May and will be moving to Othello, but she plans to continue to serve her new and returning clients in the Manson and Chelan communities.

Corey McKenna: Events Director, Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce

Corey graduated from Manson in 1997 and attended Edmonds, Wenatchee Valley and Bellevue Community Colleges before transferring to Central Washington University to pursue his B.S. in Administrative Management with a specialization in Retail Management. Corey was hired by Hyperlite Water Sports where he was in charge of event planning, boat shows, trade shows and the Hyperlite Experience at SeaFair. While with Hyperlite, Corey began his social media training which consisted of mainly self-taught information. He is currently the Events Director for the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce where he plans Christmas Lighting, Icefest, Taste of Leavenworth, Maifest and summer entertainment for community festivals. Corey also sits on the committees for the Leisure Games, Film Fest, Bavarian Battle and other community festivities. Corey wishes to thank many Manson educators for their influence. "Janice Thompson was not your typical teacher. We had fun in her class and she tricked us into being interested in technology. She also got us into Future Business Leaders fo America (FBLA) where I had to speak in front of people. Although I didn't like it all the time, FBLA got me started in a career geared for the business world." From Kevin Amsden, Corey learned a great deal of valuable hands-on training and met many great people through Future Farmers of America (FFA) and welding competitions. "Mr. Amsden always had a great attitude!" Corey adds, "Frank Phelps was an all-around good guy who developed more of my technology interests. I consider Frank a good friend and a great person. He was genuine when teaching us and was probably one of the best examples of a teacher who really told us the truth about getting through high school." As well, Corey thanks Tom Alexander, Joe Teague, Brad Soliday and Bill Sargent who influenced him a great deal through football. "I think team sports is something a kid needs to experience—or at least to be a part of some team-building group. Football, Knowledge Bowl, FBLA and FFA all helped me and they were so important." Corey's advice to Manson students is to, "Be active! Be a part of everything you can, from football to the chess club; it doesn't matter your interests. You will create important friendships there and build the ability to interact with society. Don't hold back or worry about looking stupid or goofy. Don't propagate rumors and hate about the people around you."



Stephen Ewing: Senior Database Administrator for Unisys Corp. Hill Air Force Base, Ogden, UT

Upon graduation from Manson, in 1999 Stephen attended Brigham Young University in Provo, UT where he received a B.S. in Information Systems from the Marriott School of Management. This degree represents the completion of both information technology and business curriculum and is designed to help students prepare for employment managing information systems in the corporate world. Stephen is employed by Unisys Corporation, but works at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)—a branch of the US Department of Defense. Stephen carries two titles, one for Unisys and one for DISA, the most applicable which is his DISA title of Senior Database Administrator (DBA). His core responsibilities are securing database servers against hacking and other unauthorized access, maintaining the high availability and integrity of the data stored within the database servers, investigating and resolving computer errors and improving business processes involving the database servers, principally supporting the Microsoft SQL Server. While Stephen has a great deal of education, he says, "The majority of all my training that has had the greatest impact on my ability to obtain employment and excel therein has been the time I've spent training myself. In the information technology (IT) industry, there is no substitute for spending a good portion of your own time tinkering with technology." While attending college, Stephen participated in the Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance (MSDNAA) which provided him with copies of most of Microsoft's enterprise software at no cost. He used this software to create a number of his own servers to gain hands-on experience before beginning his professional career. He spent numerous hours reading everything he could find to learn how to set-up, use and troubleshoot those enterprise software products. He continues to do this even now, maintaining and adding features to servers that he has built at home to distribute family photos, video and other media that he and his family have captured. Stephen's advice to Manson students is, "You absolutely must understand the time value of money! Your financial success and independence hinges on understanding and leveraging this concept." He encourages students to take a personal finance course as a good way to learn the time value of money. As well, Stephen states, "Your professional career starts long before you graduate college. Try to obtain one or more professional certifications while in school, these are a good way to demonstrate your proficiency, and if you are interested in the business world, know the corporate world speaks business language. Take intro classes in business to get a head start. "As for those who have helped me along the way, I don't think there's been anyone who hasn't contributed. Teachers, including those I never took a class from, have shared pearls of wisdom. And church and community members have taught me many important lessons, but I think the greatest credit always goes to one's parents and family."



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