



Celebrating the Success of Manson Graduates

January 2011

This year's Alumni News is very special as we feature six unique graduates who represent our diverse community. The roads these graduates took to reach their goals are unorthodox, making them role-models for our students. Their stories show that one's post-high school goals take commitment, sacrifice and creativity. What these alumni discovered was that with the support and encouragement of our incredible community, anything is possible!

Mitch Alcalá: U.S. Marine

My name is Mitch Alcalá; I was born and raised in the Chelan Valley where I attended Manson Elementary and Secondary School. As a high school student, my favorite class was shop with Mr. Amsden, who not only taught me what I needed to know to pass his classes, but gave me great advice on parenting. You see, my junior year, I was blessed with a son. His arrival was unexpected, but with support from our families and the staff at Manson, my wife, Cynthia, and I both graduated. It was difficult working two jobs while attending high school and I had to sacrifice football, soccer, shop contests and competitions, but I knew I now had a family to think about. I joined the United States Marine Corps because I didn't want to work at a service station for the rest of my life. I left my family for boot camp after graduation followed by a grueling three-weeks of Marine Combat Training. Immediately after MCT, 14 of us were sent to our Occupation Specialty School as Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) Crewmen. Normally a three-month course, we had just over a month to complete our training. We were going to war; Operation Iraqi Freedom had begun. Being just barely 18, I was lost. My wife was still in school and my son was only a year old. They depended on me, so I studied the AAV day and night and in doing so I finished top of my class and received a meritorious promotion to Lance Corporal. Two weeks later I was in Kuwait near the Iraqi border assigned to 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion Echo Company as Crew Chief. I was now responsible for millions of dollars of equipment and weaponry. Having a new Marine in this billet, or military order, was unheard of, but my hard work and studies had paid off. On March 19, 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq and we were in the initial push or "tip of the spear." Our mission was Baghdad. Months later, my unit returned to the States and my family was reunited; at this moment, I realized how lucky I was to be from a small community. While I was deployed, Manson citizens had opened their hearts to my family and their needs. Respect, sense of belonging and pride, along with many other traits I already possessed had been strengthened during my tour of duty and by my family and our community. Since my return, I have received two more promotions, earning the title of Sergeant. I returned to Iraq from 2005 to 2006 where I held several billets, but my favorite was Section Leader in charge of 4 AAVs, 20 Marines, their equipment and well-being. Not everyone has the chance to lead, teach, influence and instill small town values to others during a time of war. I have been blessed with two more sons, and my wife and I have decided it is time for us to move on. The Corps gave us a great perspective on life, but now it is time to focus on my family. It is now 2011 and we have returned home to Manson. I am currently attending Wenatchee Valley College where I will begin my journey towards a career in Law Enforcement.



Brooke Grossberg: Entrepreneur After graduating from Manson Secondary in 1987, Brooke attended Pacific Lutheran University where she received a BA concentrating in finance. Upon graduation from college, she moved to New York City and worked for a money management firm on Wall Street where she was an assistant to two of the managers who were partners in a small "boutique" firm. The firm specialized in the areas of pension funds and endowments. After a few years, Brooke moved back to Seattle and worked for a similar-type firm as a research analyst, researching and recommending stocks for the managers to put their clients' money in. After a couple of years doing this kind of work she became curious about becoming an entrepreneur. She started manufacturing candles after work and on weekends, quickly gaining Nordstrom as her first customer. As demand grew for Brooke's candles and the business began to take off, she resigned from her corporate job and put all of her energy into her candle business. After a few years spent growing her business, she sold it. Brooke loves being an entrepreneur, especially the aspect of taking an idea and watching it become a viable business. She is constantly looking for the next product to create and bring to market and finds meeting new people and talking about their ideas inspiring. Brooke credits Manson for providing a safe environment which built her self-esteem. "MHS allows every student to be a leader, whether it is in sports, academics or extra-curricular activities." Brooke credits all of her teachers at Manson for having a role in her success. "It's an amazing environment to grow under when everyone knows each other so well—and they care. I felt very supported by the faculty and staff at MHS; I felt very supported by the community of Manson." Brooke wants Manson students to "Soak up all the support your environment offers; Manson is a tremendous community filled with generous and compassionate people."

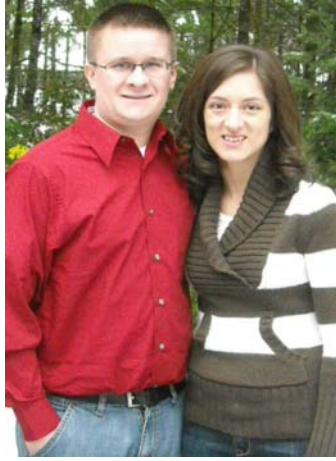


Lonnie K. Sutterfield: Pastor Lonnie Sutterfield graduated from Manson Secondary in 1995 and continued his education in many capacities. After attending Wenatchee Valley College where he attained his AA Degree and Greenville College in Illinois, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music, Lonnie enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. There he completed Basic Training, Marine Combat Training and Field Artillery School. The formative part of Lonnie's education was gained while in the Marine Corps, but the transformation part occurred while at Seminary School at both the University of Arkansas C.C. in Batesville, AR and Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. "My current position required trial and error, but I have learned a great deal working within local churches and communities," he says. Lonnie is currently a Pastor, serving several churches, each of which represents a different mainstream denomination. He is currently applying with the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy & Army) for a commission and it is his hope to be serving as an Active Duty Chaplain by August of 2011. "How many pastors can jump out of a Hummer, climb into a Blackhawk, and baptize soldiers at 7,000 feet in the mountains of Kosovo...in the same day?" quotes Lonnie of Chaplain Brian W. Chepey, US Army. Lonnie credits many Manson staff for their assistance and direction in his education, especially, Tom Alexander, Kevin Amsden, Kelly Farmer-Bell, Bob Johnson, Ron McClure, Sue Odorizzi, Joe Teague and Marsha Hanson. As well, Lonnie thanks our community and some special people who impacted his life. "Beemer and Ruby Sutterfield: My grandparents loved me unconditionally and offered me endless opportunities; North Shore Bible Church: Impact laid a firm foundation to which I could always return; Kyle Plew gave the foundation which I could always call upon; Brett and Sheri LaMar displayed the foundation in everyday life; Sharon LaMar exemplified the power of the foundation; both in life, and in death; Ron and Kim Williams offered me a visual example of what a father and mother should be; The Cochran Family I thank for their timeless devotion to community; Carlos Rodriguez gave me accountability and Nate Williams, consistency." Lonnie advises Manson students that, "As you prepare to dive into the waters of life, I urge you to do so with your eyes open. No matter where you go, life will unfold you. Do not be afraid. Life has always been like this. The human experience has always trembled beneath the realities of life and death, joy and pain, good and evil. This is the nature of life. At times, life will seem difficult to navigate. At times, you may feel your desire to continue has been depleted. But when challenge and conflict arise, when loss takes more than you have to give, when doubt seeks to undo you from within, and when all purpose and hope seem lost, remember this: although the world will push you down, you are not incapable of pushing back."



Mey Broome: Translator & Coach

After graduating from Manson High School in 1999, I attended Whitworth University in Spokane. I graduated from Whitworth with a BA in Sociology and a minor in Religion. After college, I moved back to Manson. I currently work at North Shore Bible Church as a secretary. I also translate documents for Manson Elementary and I am the assistant coach for the Manson Trojan Girls' Basketball Team. I love working with youth and have spent many years helping with the youth group at North Shore. As I think back to high school and those who helped me through school and to prepare for college and life, certain people come to mind. These people are teachers, coaches and community members who helped shape me into the person I am today and I am so thankful for them. Mr. Tom Alexander was a teacher of mine who challenged me to try new things and to always do my best. He encouraged me to apply to colleges and is a big reason why I decided to go to college. One of the things that I remember most about Mr. A is that he was always there to support and encourage me. Mrs. Susi Bennett was one of my teachers and coaches; I learned so much from her. It was a pleasure to be around her in the classroom and the gym. It was evident how much she cared for all her students and players. A community member who I had the privilege to have as a volleyball coach was Desiree Phelps. While playing for Coach Phelps, she taught me much more than the sport of volleyball; she taught me about hard work, not giving up and respecting others. Ben and Elaine Smalley are two other community members who attended every basketball game, and they continue to support Manson teams today. What a great support they have been for the athletes of Manson High School. They have shown how important it is to support our community and our youth. Kyle Plew was the Youth Pastor at North Shore Bible Church when I was in high school. God has blessed me and many other community members immensely because of Kyle. He has been a great influence on my life by showing me Jesus Christ and how much God loves me. I have learned so much from these people because they were part of my life. I have learned that no matter how hard life gets, there is always someone there to help. These people have taught me to never give up on myself, to always find an opportunity to help others, to support and encourage others and to be thankful for what I have in my life. I am so blessed to live in Manson and to have the opportunity to do what I can to give back to the wonderful community that supported me.



MANSON'S POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE	2009	2010
BYU	4	1
CWU	5	3
EWU	1	1
LINFIELD	1	
NWU	1	
PLU	1	
SPU		1
UW		2
WSU	1	3

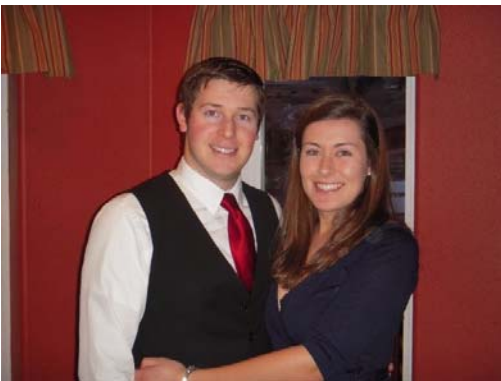
COMMUNITY COLLEGE	2009	2010
Big Bend CC	2	
Spokane CC	1	
SW Oregon CC	1	
Wenatchee Valley CC	6	15
Whatcom CC	1	2

VOC/TRADE/OTHER	2009	2010
UTI		1
COSMETOLOGY SCHOOL		1
ACADEMY OF HAIR DESIGN	1	

TOTAL MANSON GRADUATES IN CONTINUING ED	2009	2010
	26/37	30/44
	(70%)	(68%)

Kevin Medved: Financial Aid Officer, Seattle Art Institute

My name is Kevin Medved and I am a MHS Trojan. I graduated in 2004 and was not the valedictorian. I slacked off in high school, made lots of friends, focused on sports and cared little about my grades. After graduation I left Manson and headed to Eastern Washington University, hoping to change my academic priorities. After my freshman year, I returned home battered from a year filled with all-nighters, cramming for tests, copying friends' note cards, celebrating campus social achievements and building a network of friends I will have forever. However, after that year, I realized that my parents were right: there were probably some 'areas of improvement' that I could hone in on to better myself. So, I took a quarter off from school to pinpoint these shortcomings and vowed to return to EWU as a new and improved student. I chose to attend a less expensive junior college and enrolled at Wenatchee Valley Community College, where the mission statement is "a student-centered institution focused on learning." There couldn't be a better fit, and after spending a couple quarters there I had raised my grades enough to return to Eastern. Upon my return to a 4-year university, I knew this time all of my improvements would come to fruition. I remember a professor returned a paper to me and said, "Well done!" There was no turning back at this point, so I focused on my grades this time. After my sophomore year, it was time to declare a major, so I chose one that would allow me flexibility in a career and would diversify my understanding of business. I declared a Business Management major and studied the areas of accounting, economics, finance and statistics. Soon, I had finally reached 180+ credits. I was 23 years old and America was suffering the worst economic slide since the Great Depression. I began to doubt if my education had been worth it. I returned home to Manson to enjoy one final summer at the lake. That fall I left home with my life savings and followed an amazing girl back to Seattle; I knew the city life was for me. Now I just had to find a job! I handed my resume to anyone who would read it and jumped on every interview opportunity I received. I went on numerous interviews and was called back for several second interviews when I got a call from U.S. Bank. They wanted ME! As soon as they offered me a job, the Art Institute of Seattle also sought me out and I took their job offer as a Financial Aid Officer. At the Art Institute, I work to ensure that the school remains in compliance with federal standards. I also help students improve their finances and I work with them to goal-set and maintain an academic focus, just like I had to learn for myself. I am currently approaching my one-year anniversary in my professional position and will begin taking classes toward a second major in accounting this spring. I can look back now on all of my education and experience and know that I would not be in the position I am in now if it were not for the educational foundation that was instilled in me during my time at MHS. Go Big Blue!



JR Cooper: Service Technician

Upon graduation in 2007, JR attended Universal Technical Institute in Sacramento, California. He graduated with a 3.98 GPA and a degree in Automotive and Diesel Technology. While at UTI, JR completed an 18-month program where he gained a great deal of knowledge about automobiles. He learned all about motor vehicles, bumper to bumper, and was educated on small passenger cars up to heavy equipment and over the road trucks. JR is currently a service technician for LINK Transit in Wenatchee where he performs services and repairs on every vehicle in the fleet. He works on 40-foot commuter buses down to smaller 29-35 foot town buses, trolleys, cut-a-ways, support vehicles and mini-vans. JR thanks Manson teacher, Kevin Amsden, for his great influence and help to direct him towards his chosen career path. He says, "Mr. Amsden gave me help in shop classes and FFA. He was the one who really started pushing me towards a trade school instead of a 4-year university, which was a better match for my interests." JR's advice to Manson students is to study hard, work hard and, if you're not really sure about a 4-year degree, look into trade schools like UTI or WyoTech; there are many opportunities out there for every type of student.



Manson School District
PO BOX A
Manson, WA 98831

MANSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
POSTAL PATRON
MANSON, WA 98831

Non-Profit Organization
US Postal Paid
Manson, WA 98831
Permit No. 2