



# COMMUNITY AND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1 ■ 2011

## Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

### Liz Cooney, MHS '04, now in Washington D.C.



Liz Cooney  
MHS 2004 Graduate

Maybe serving as Marshfield High School's Student Body President helped determine that Liz Cooney would one day find herself hard at work in Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley's Washington, D. C. office. Certainly, Liz's years at Willamette University earning a degree in Political Science helped shape her professional direction. But, back in the spring of 2004, Liz was a senior at Marshfield facing a real question about whether she would be able to go to college at all, much less be able to attend an elite college such as Willamette. The reason was simple—money.

But, in May of 2004, these concerns were put to rest as Liz was awarded scholarships from the Lion's Club, the Oregon School Employees Association and Zonta as well as being selected to receive a Ford Family Scholarship. With this scholarship support, Liz was able to enroll in Willamette and to work toward her academic goals. While at Willamette, Liz worked in the capitol office of State Representative (and former Marshfield Principal) Arnie Roblan.

After earning her degree from Willamette in 2008, Liz ran Rep. Roblan's successful re-election campaign and worked again in Rep. Roblan's capitol office the following year. In 2009 Liz went to

work for U. S. Senator Jeff Merkley and, in 2010, moved to Washington, D. C. to work in his office.

This fall we sent an e-mail to Liz to catch up with her and find out more about what she is up to these days. Excerpts from our e-mail conversation are below:

#### **What classes or experiences at Marshfield were particularly important to you?**

Deb Larsen introduced me to Cross-Examination debate, which forced me to thoroughly research a contemporary topic and critically challenge positions— skills I use on a daily basis. My initial interest in the state and federal legislative process was cultivated by Arnie Roblan and Alex Barton, through the Youth and Government program. While my values and ever-evolving understanding of the world around me have developed my politics, Roblan and Barton taught me the importance of inclusion, consideration and compromise in leadership.

#### **What are your responsibilities in Senator Merkley's office?**

My portfolio includes Senator Merkley's foreign affairs, military, defense and housing policy.

*(continued on Page 5)*

## Luke Soules, MHS Graduate, Co-founder of iFixit.com

Luke graduated from MHS in 2002 after receiving a Weyerhaeuser Foundation \$1000 Scholarship, a \$100 MHS Knowledge Bowl Scholarship and a significant Nat'l Merit Scholarship. During his junior year at MHS he was working on a broken laptop and in the process came up with the idea of selling laptop parts on eBay. That small business has evolved into the creation of the highly successful and award winning iFixit.com.

iFixit.com has been awarded the South by Southwest (SXSW) Interactive Award for the Best Community Website in March of 2011. The Interactive Awards are awarded for "...the best new digital work, from mobile and tablet apps to websites to kiosks and installations and beyond while celebrating those who are building tomorrow's online trends." iFixit.com has also been named to *Inc. Magazine's* 5000 list of the fastest growing private companies in the US in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Luke attended college at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and majored in industrial engineering. He graduated in 2006. While attending Cal Poly, Luke co-founded iFixit.com. The MHS scholarships Luke received contributed, in at least some small part, to the creation of the business. Luke

*(continued on Page 2)*



Luke Soules— MHS 2002 Graduate



# Voc/Tech Recipient: Teagan Trentz, Class of 2010

We happened to run into Teagan Trentz one afternoon recently when she dropped by Marshfield to visit with a few MHS staff members. We were lucky enough to snag a few minutes with this busy young woman to get caught up on what she has been up to since we last saw her in June of 2010 and to hear her exciting plans for the future.

As a high school senior Teagan set her sights on attending cosmetology school and becoming a skilled and licensed hair stylist.



**Teagan Trentz  
MHS 2010 Graduate**

Assisted by the receipt of \$1000 in Voc/Tech scholarships from Marshfield High School, Teagan enrolled in the Springfield College of Beauty. Although some may think that a cosmetology training program is easy and relatively affordable, we heard otherwise from Teagan. This one-year program cost \$11,000, she told us, and the level of instruction and the expectations for student performance were both extremely demanding. Teagan says that

the \$500 Johansen Family Voc/Tech Scholarship and the \$500 Dean and Dixie Sheldon Voc/Tech Scholarship gave her an excellent start in paying for tuition and supplies.

In addition to the expected coursework and hands-on training in cutting and styling hair, Teagan also received instruction in business, finance, bookkeeping, Oregon law, health and sanitation. With this thorough grounding, Teagan said, she would be able to open her own business and do a successful job of running it.

Teagan completed her formal coursework in October of 2011 and took state board exams the same month. She passed

with flying colors and is now proudly board certified and licensed in hair as well as having both an Oregon business and Freelance License. What was a goal only a short time ago for Teagan has now become a reality.

When we talked to Teagan about the value of the scholarship awards from Marshfield, we learned that this financial support had been pivotal for her. Teagan told us that because of the financial help she received from Marshfield scholarships combined with the Pell Grant and other grants, she was able to complete her entire course of study and only owe a total debt of \$500.

This high-achieving and goal-directed young woman is obviously going places. Those of us who are part of the Marshfield High School Community and Memorial Scholarship program can feel a glow of pride and satisfaction in knowing that, to some small degree, we have helped Teagan Trentz on her way to launching what promises to be a very satisfying career.

## ... Luke Soules

*(continued from Page 1)*

states, "The scholarship enabled me to attend Cal Poly without incurring student loans, thereby reducing the pressure to graduate and immediately get a 'real' job. This freedom to focus on school and starting a business, rather than having to worry about making ends meet was instrumental in iFixit's success." In addition to the successes previously mentioned, [iFixit.com](http://iFixit.com)'s "device teardowns" (disassembly photos, hardware analysis, and witty commentary) are often quoted and referenced by the press, including CNBC, NPR, the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times.

Despite Luke's busy schedule with [iFixit.com](http://iFixit.com), he still finds time to pursue his love of playing the clarinet. Luke was a

member of the marching and symphonic bands at MHS. He continued playing clarinet at Cal Poly and does so to this day. Performances Luke thinks are particularly noteworthy are performing with the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Hall, traveling with the San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra to South Korea for the Jeju International Wind Ensemble Festival and performing at the 2011 International Clarinet Association. Luke currently plays with the San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra, SLOWO Wind Quintet, the Atascadero Community Band, and the Central Coast Clarinet Choir.

From fixing a broken laptop at MHS, to co-founding an award winning business, to playing in Carnegie Hall; by any standards Luke has packed many achievements into a brief span of years. His future looks to be even brighter.

### MHS Scholarship Committee Members

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Anna Brands '69      | Robert Mahaffy '65 |
| Jennifer Bunnell '85 | Don Messerle '56   |
| Chuck Carlbom '52    | Randy Miles '81    |
| Les Engle '62        | Arnie Roblan       |
| Jay Farr '69         | Cap Sharples       |
| Gary Gehlert '60     | David Smith '56    |
| Kirk Johansen '67    | Gina Sutherland    |
| Caddy McKeown '70    | John Sweet         |
| Greg Mulkey          | John Whitty '50    |
| Lou Leberti '65      |                    |



**Newsletter Staff (From left)**

- Les Engle, '62, *Chair*
- Kate Sharples, *Contributor*
- Cap Sharples, *Contributor*
- Gina Sutherland, *Contributor*

### Thanks for endowing three more scholarships in 2010!

Please consider helping to endow these established, but not yet endowed scholarships:

- |                                               |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ John Brands Memorial Scholarship            | ■ Fred Girt Memorial Scholarship |
| ■ Adam and Elma Donaldson Family Scholarship  | ■ MHS Class of 1956              |
| ■ Paul Swank Memorial Scholarship             | ■ MHS Class of 1968              |
| ■ Mike Helfrich Memorial Scholarship          | ■ MHS Class of 1969              |
| ■ Bruce & Thelma Hoffine Memorial Scholarship | ■ MHS Class of 1970              |

If you would like to participate with a contribution of any amount, complete and return the form on the last page of this newsletter, indicating your preference.



**D I S T I N G U I S H E D A L U M N I**

**Brent Hedgpeth, MHS Class of 1966**

*Test Pilot Holds 8 World Records in the B-1 Bomber*

Brent Hedgpeth grew up in Coos Bay and graduated from Marshfield High School in 1966. He joined the service and served as an Army helicopter pilot from 1967 to 1969. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1973, receiving a BS in Math and Physics and an MA in Math from the University of Washington in 1984. He received his Air Force wings in 1974, having obtained his commission in 1973.

After a tour flying C-9's, Brent attended US Navy Test Pilot School in 1977, completing both the helicopter and fixed wing curriculums. During his initial test pilot tour at Edwards Air Force base, Brent was the E-4B Airborne Command Post Project pilot. From 1981 to 1984 Brent was the Government Flight Representative at Boeing where he flew E-3A (AWACS) Production and Systems development tests.

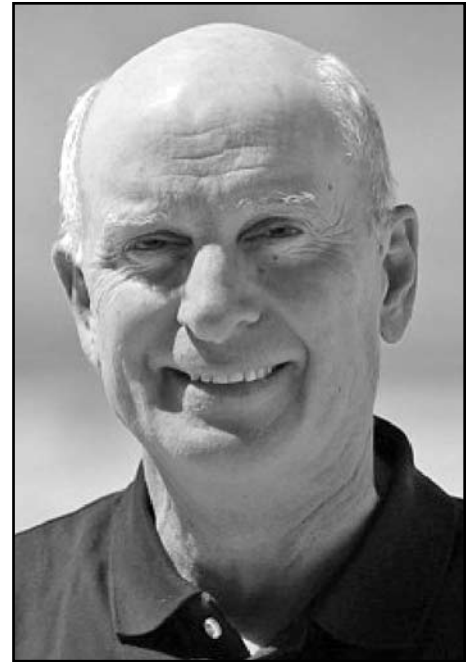
From 1985 to 1987 Brent was a production test pilot for the B-1B bomber at Palmdale, California. While there he set eight world aviation records for speed/payload in the B-1B. These records still stand. From 1987-1991 he was the Special Operation Test Force Director and Squadron Commander at Edwards Air Force Base.

Brent retired as a Lt. Colonel from the Air Force in 1991 and became a Boeing test pilot. In 1993 he became the Chief Pilot for Production Testing. For 12 years he supervised the production testing of all 737, 747, 757, 767 and 777 aircraft. In addition to production testing, Brent flew numerous Engineering and Development

flights including an assignment as project pilot for the 737-700 aircraft. Tests for this aircraft included wing loads survey and community noise evaluation, flutter and flying qualities, and engine development.

Brent feels fortunate to have been able to pursue his goal of becoming a Space Shuttle Astronaut; a goal he almost reached in 1984. He was an Air Force finalist for the Astronaut program and spent a week in Houston interviewing. Though he wasn't selected, he feels it was an experience of a lifetime.

Brent and his wife, Jackie (Jackie Jordan, MHS Class of 1969) have been married for 41 years and have 5 children and 7 grandchildren. They feel they have a very rewarding life and never use the word "retirement". Jackie is a tenured professor at Everett Community College, teaching Anatomy and Physiology to the nursing students. She also continues to give lectures on cruise ships around the globe. She has done this for 15 years. Her latest adventure is spending the summers as a tour guide on an Alaska Expedition Ship. Brent is still active testing airplanes and helicopters and is currently on contract with Boeing to test their 747-8 airplane, and will shortly be flying the Pratt and Whitney 747 test bed aircraft in Montreal, Quebec. Brent currently runs his own business, Aeronautical Test Services, and is a test pilot for both airplanes and helicopters. They have purchased and renovated Brent's childhood home in Eastside and are also putting in a vineyard in Rose-



**Brent Hedgpeth—MHS 1966 Graduate**

burg, hoping to market several varieties of wine.

Distinguished, *Adj.*

1. Characterized by excellence or distinction; eminent.
2. Dignified in conduct or appearance.

Both Brent and Jackie (Jordan) Hedgpeth have done much to distinguish themselves as Marshfield alumni. We are very proud.

**NOTES of THANKS**

**Thank you so much** for this scholarship which will help to pay tuition and housing. Next year will be my fourth year at Portland State University, where I am studying Child and Family Studies. I really appreciate all you do. Thank you again. — *L. S.*

**Thank you for awarding** me this scholarship. This will enable me to purchase books and avoid student debt in my first year. I will be attending Willamette University and plan to study business. Thank you. — *A. D.*

**Because of this support,** I have the first year of college completely paid for! It's wonderful to not have to stress about money. I am going to attend Southwestern Oregon Community College next year and then transfer to Western Oregon University to become an English teacher. Thank you so much for your support. — *L. H.*

**The cost of tuition** and housing is considerable but your support will help me meet my educational goals. — *J. C.*

**With the scholarship** you have awarded me the tuition for my first year is paid (and) an incredible burden is lifted from my shoulders in the fall. I am really excited but also very nervous; with your very generous scholarship, I feel the transition will be made a little easier. Thank you. — *R. P.*

**With the scholarship** I will be able to buy books for an entire year. This will significantly reduce my financial burden for college. Thank you again for the help you have given. — *A. L.*

**It is inspirational** to feel that there are people from our local community supporting my future.... Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. — *M. B.*

**My dream is** to teach kindergarten or first grade. Thank you so much for helping me get one step closer to my dream. — *T. B.*



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## Peggy Christensen, Marshfield High School Librarian

Marshfield High School's Librarian, Peggy Christensen, has been so successful at inspiring students to read and research that she was selected as the Oregon Association of School Library's Secondary School Librarian of the Year. When asked about this award Peggy said, "At first I didn't believe it. My first thought was, 'I wonder how many other librarians there are with the same name?' I thought it was a mistake." But it was no mistake.

Marshfield Principal Greg Mulkey nominated Christensen for the award after being impressed by her consistent efforts to engage students and encourage them to come to the library. "The kids enjoy going in there and they feel welcome there." He also noted that Peggy makes a real point of keeping up with new trends like graphic novels and is always receptive to new ideas. "She is one of the best," says Mulkey.

After 20 years as a classroom teacher, Peggy became a school librarian 11 years ago. "Our school librarian was about to retire and I thought that becoming a



**Peggy Christensen**  
MHS Librarian

librarian would be a great chance for me to work with students and help introduce them to great books." The role of a school librarian today is extremely important, Peggy says, given the enormous wealth and accessibility of information by computer. She believes that it is critical for students to know how to find reliable computer sites and trustworthy information and also important for them to know how to avoid plagiarizing.

Christensen continually strives to have Marshfield's library respond to new student needs and interests. Although the library has an adjacent lab where classes of students can come, Peggy is working to get a computer lab in the reference area where she can teach skills, provide a venue for "drop in" students, and provide a place for staff development. She believes a key mission of modern school libraries is teaching students more about information and technology literacy. Students without a computer and internet access at home—a large percentage of Marshfield's students—are at a huge disadvantage, Peggy says, and she is keenly

aware of their needs.

Christensen has expanded the library's collection of graphic novels and has invited a variety of authors and poets in to talk to students. She also sets up book talks that allow students to discuss books they have read, organizes book discoveries, holds a variety of contests throughout the school year and provides a Christmas treasure chest where students can choose a gently used book to give as a gift.

Peggy sees a primary goal of a school library as being an inviting place to students. In Marshfield's library there are comfortable chairs and a friendly atmosphere with wireless internet access to draw students in and make them feel welcome. "Our goal is to build relationships between students and the library," Peggy says. "We try to make every aspect of the library work for the students—furniture, staffing, and accessibility. We try to have a welcoming atmosphere where kids want to come."

No, Peggy's selection as the Oregon Association of School Library's Secondary School Librarian of the Year was definitely not a mistake. Marshfield is fortunate indeed to have Peggy Christensen as its librarian.

## Uno and Vera Richter Scholarship

Vera Richter passed away in June of 2008 at the age of 102. She left behind a remarkable legacy of generosity that benefited many Bay Area residents.

Vera graduated from MHS in 1923. While at MHS she enjoyed courses in literature, fine arts and music. These subjects played a significant role in the rest of her life.

After high school, Vera attended college and became a certified teacher. She taught in Coos County Schools for many years specializing in art and music.

Vera married Uno Richter in 1930. Uno owned the highly successful Marshfield Electric company. Uno and Vera were married for forty-seven years until his passing in 1977.

Vera was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of Coos Bay until her death. She was ordained to the offices of Elder and Deacon.

Vera's interests were many and she supported these interests with her participation and financially. Among the organizations in which Vera was involved were: Coos County Historical Society, Bay Area Hospital Auxiliary, Friends of the Library, Coos Art Museum, Oregon Coast Music Association, The Order of the Eastern Star, and the Women's Civic Club.

While Vera lent support to many civic organizations, she seemed most devoted to helping young people. Vera supported the Boys and Girls Club and the Coos Bay Skate Park. Vera donat-

ed to the Mingus Park swimming pool for years. When the pool's field house degenerated badly, she influenced Coos Bay to pass a bond levy to rebuild it. When the pool and deck became almost unusable, Vera single handedly financed its rebuilding.

Vera financed many students' college educations. Bob Mahaffy, who was Vera's close friend and advisor in her later years, remarked that, "She would stick with someone as long as they were making forward progress. She thought everyone ought to have a chance." It is not surprising that Vera wanted to establish a scholarship after her passing. What is surprising is the amount of the scholarship.

Bob Mahaffy states that the principal Vera bequeathed, created an endowment that will provide four, 4-year scholarships annually, in the amount of \$15,000 each, per year. This is in keeping with the value Vera placed in young people and their education.

Bob Mahaffy perhaps put it best in summing up Vera's life, "She'll be missed, but she had a perfect life. She was frugal with herself but generous with everybody else."



**Vera Richter**  
MHS 1923 Graduate



## Planned Giving: Involve MHS in Your Legacy

People give for a variety of reasons ranging from deeply personal to highly practical. The result also may range from a tax deduction to a sense of deep satisfaction.

When establishing a Marshfield High School scholarship fund, donors may select the criteria for awarding the scholarship. Typical criteria are academic performance, financial need, career choice, family background, a particular talent and/or community service. Contributions of any amount may be made to an established, but not yet endowed scholarship fund. Or, donors may wish to establish a new scholarship endowment in honor of a person, family or organization of their choice. The minimum investment to create an endowed scholarship is \$12,500, which typically yields a \$500 scholarship each year. The scholarship payout for each endowed scholarship increases proportionally with the principal. Scholarship endowments last in perpetuity, so the act of establishing an endowment, whether we're alive or deceased, helps us continue a particular cause or interest after we're gone.

MHS Scholarship endowments are held in a trust at The Oregon Community Foundation, – 6th largest community foundation in the U.S. in assets.

There are many ways to include charitable gifts within your overall estate and financial plans. With thoughtful planning, you can make a gift and leave a legacy of support to the Marshfield High School Scholarship Program:

- ◆ GIFTS OF CASH
- ◆ APPRECIATED SECURITIES
- ◆ LIFE INSURANCE POLICY
- ◆ REAL ESTATE, PRIVATE FOUNDATION TRANSFERS
- ◆ RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS
- ◆ LIVING TRUST
- ◆ CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST
- ◆ DEFERRED GIFTS THROUGH A WILL

These options may offer valuable income tax advantages. For legal advice, please consult an attorney or a planned giving professional. For further information go the OCF website; [www.ocfl.org](http://www.ocfl.org). People living on the south coast can contact David Westcott, OCF's South Coast Development Representative at 541-431-7099 or email [dwestcott@oregoncf.org](mailto:dwestcott@oregoncf.org).

## ... Liz Cooney

*(continued from Page 1)*

A typical day would include: writing briefs for the Senator on upcoming meetings, committee hearings, or votes, meeting with constituents and lobbyists, responding to constituents who contact our office on matters pertaining to the issues I work on, reading through current legislation and researching prospective legislation.

### What do you find the most rewarding or interesting about your job?

Having the opportunity to meet with some of the most knowledgeable and influential people in their respected fields can be pretty awe-inspiring at times. I get to work on solving the issues facing my home state, and the most rewarding part of my job is seeing worked-out solutions go into effect.

### What would you tell scholarship donors

### about the impact or importance of college scholarships for you and for today's college students?

Receiving scholarships alleviated the huge financial stress of tuition and housing, and allowed me to attend the school of my choice. By being afforded the opportunity to pursue my educational and extracurricular interests in college, I have been able to pursue my ambitions and grow into a career that I am passionate about. The generosity of others has reinforced a personal ethos for stewardship and giving back to my community.

Clearly, Liz Cooney is well on her way to having a successful career in a field that is both meaningful for her and important to us all. We can feel very proud that the Marshfield High School Community and Memorial Scholarship Fund provided part of the support that allowed Liz the opportunity to achieve her goals.

## MHS Endowed Scholarships

5 T's Scholarship  
 Albaugh Family  
 Bay Area Sportsman's Assoc.  
 Mark Beckham Memorial  
 John & Dottie Bergen Memorial  
 Del Brunell Memorial  
 John Burles Memorial  
 Cameron Clay House  
 Cameron Clay Memorial  
 Lew Davies Memorial  
 Ray Davis Memorial  
 Fitzwalter Family  
 Jason Forrester Memorial  
 Isabell Galloway Memorial  
 The Gehlert Family  
 Chet Haliski Memorial  
 Dick Hanen Golf  
 Joycolynn & Walter Joslin Trust  
 Bette Knox-Hanen Nursing  
 Eleanor & Harold Knutson Memorial  
 Warren & Adaline Kolen Memorial  
 Dee Littrell-Lawrence Dance/Theater Arts  
 Maxine & Lyle McGuire Memorial  
 Marshfield Pirate Shop  
 MHS Class of 1954  
 MHS Class of 1962  
 William McLean Memorial  
 Messerle Family  
 Stan and Rose Olberg Memorial  
 Walter Paczesniak Memorial  
 Robert Perrin  
 Albert Powers Family  
 Albert L. Pranatis Memorial  
 Steve Prefontaine Memorial  
 Dorothy Irene Probst Memorial  
 Guy Shellenbarger Memorial  
 Jennielind Smith Memorial  
 Stan Solomon Memorial  
 Paul Starkey Memorial  
 Pete Susick Memorial  
 Jeff Tofflemire Memorial  
 Buck & Ruby Williams Memorial

## Endowed Voc/Tech Scholarships

Carlbohm Family  
 Coos Bay Lions Club  
 Dashney Family  
 Johansen Family  
 John and Ginger Niemeyer  
 Page Family  
 James Rippey  
 Dean & Dixie Sheldon Memorial  
 F. Willis Smith Memorial  
 Stamper Family  
 Chick and Spud Kysar Memorial



*Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate!*

**Marshfield High School  
Community & Memorial  
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SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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*Make your contribution to the future...*

Enclosed is my contribution.

I would like a committee member to contact me.

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\$50

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\$250

\$500

\$1000

Other \_\_\_\_\_ (endowment: \$12,500 or greater)

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Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**MAIL to: PO Box 1541**

**Coos Bay, OR 97420**