



Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation Newsletter

A Dollars for Scholars Organization, Mount Baker School District

“Our Students,
Their Future,
Your Support”

MBSF is a volunteer group of community members committed to encouraging academic achievement by providing scholarships for students in the Mt. Baker School District.

Dr. Megan Thompson Ph.D. Class of 1996



Photo provided by June Thompson

Megan Thompson, the 1996 recipient of the *Christine Sygitowicz-Sherman Scholarship*, graduated from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts in 2000 with a degree in Neuroscience. She is now living in San Diego and will fill us in on major milestones in her life since her graduation from Smith.

What did you do after your graduation from Smith?

I moved to San Diego and got a job in Biotech. I worked in the lab doing cellular and molecular biology research looking for potential medical treatments. When the biotech industry

took a downturn, I was laid off and took some time to figure out what I wanted for my long-term career.

Tell us about your Ph.D. What field are you in and how did you work towards pursuing an advanced degree?

I enrolled in a psychology Ph.D. program in San Diego where I focused on Health Psychology and the relationship between our physical health and our mental health. It was a five-year program which included two internships where I got to do therapy in clinical settings. I took out federal student loans to pay for graduate school. There are also a number of grants and scholarships for students seeking degrees beyond a bachelor's making it possible for anyone to pursue a graduate degree, particularly in science.

What is your work in San Diego?

I work in a variety of settings using my health psychology training. I provide biofeedback therapy in an integrative medicine clinic, work with individuals, couples, families and children doing therapy in a general practice, and work with developmentally disabled adults to help increase their ability to live independently.

MBSF Board Members: Why We Do What We Do!

What is life like in San Diego? What other new things have happened for you?

Living with so much sunshine and so little rain took some adjusting and I still miss Whatcom County. I make sure to come back every winter to get some cool weather and rain. I recently got married and we are busy raising our dog and cat.

What childhood or early education experiences led you to where you are now?

I always thought that becoming a doctor was the highest career goal you could have. Once I got to college I experienced so many fascinating classes I had a hard time choosing what to major in. So I followed my interests and even though I didn't end up choosing medical school, I ended up being a doctor of another kind. I look back to my experience in the Mt. Baker School District and credit the small classes and the individual attention I received from my teachers for keeping me inspired and interested in learning. From kindergarten in Maple Falls to 8th through 12th grade in the "new" high school building, I always felt attached to my school because it was a part of the community.

What would you say is important in achieving a goal?

I feel it's important to see your goals as steps on your way to living a life of value, and to focus on discovering your own values and knowing what is important to you. Achieving other people's goals won't get us as far as working towards our own.

Megan is the daughter of Ben and June Thompson of Glacier.



WHY VOLUNTEER?

Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation volunteers come from various backgrounds and professional fields but we all believe in supporting our students in pursuing learning opportunities beyond high school.

Having children in Mt. Baker schools is not a prerequisite for volunteering. In fact, there is only one board member who has a child in the Mt. Baker School District currently. Most of the other members have children who have already graduated so we are actively seeking volunteers with children currently enrolled. Two board members, Neal Bittner and June Thompson, were founding members of the foundation and are still actively giving their time and energy to this endeavor even though their offspring graduated years ago.

We'd like to introduce you to some of these unsung heroes. We don't have room to include every member here but look for more profiles in future newsletters. Perhaps your name will appear next!

Mary Compton

Day Job: Branch Manager at People's Bank

MBSF: Over 10 years on Board, President for 4 years.

"One of the more appealing reasons I volunteer for the MBSF is that it is not "time" demanding with also working fulltime. Having kids in the school district and knowing many of the students and their families, it is rewarding to be part of an organization that is benefiting the students in their next journey. How lucky am I to be on a board with so many committed community members."

Neal Bittner

Day Job: Financial Advisor

MBSF: Fundraising Chair.

"I was looking for an opportunity to give back to the community in which I live. What better way than to help our next generation? It is a rewarding experience, particularly when you read the goal statements submitted by our recipients, which are brimming with hope and optimism. It is also satisfying to be on a successful board. Even though on an individual basis I am very good at creating the life that I want, I have learned the power that comes from the synergy of an excellent board of directors, and how much more we can accomplish as a group."

Joan Hammer

Day Job: Maintenance and concession stand operator

MBSF: 2 years on board, entering in to secretarial position.

"I volunteer so I can help make a difference in a young person's life. I enjoy hearing about where these kids want to go in their futures."

Cathy Harris

Day Job: Retired Mt. Baker Junior High School Principal, 1991-1999

MBSF: Awards and PR Chair

"I volunteer because my principalship at Mount Baker was a highlight of my work in education. I loved (and still love) the way the community is committed to providing such a solid grounding for their children, by giving so freely to all aspects of their education. Volunteering on the MBSF is one way I could say thank you to the community for providing me with the opportunity to have had the best school administrative job in Whatcom County."

Recognition of Recent Donors

With Gratitude

As we enter the holiday season, the MBSF would like to celebrate and acknowledge the generosity and support of our community. You have supported us since our inception in 1995, and though we'd like to list all of you, our space here is limited to donors from 2009 to October 2010. Please forgive us for any inadvertent omissions or misspellings and know that we appreciate each and every donor.

Our community may not be big in numbers but our members, and those who have ties to our community, are big in heart and generosity even in these times of economic uncertainty. You have helped us award a scholarship to every student who submitted a completed application.

So it is with much gratitude that we recognize the following people and organizations. Thank you!

Fundraisers and Donations:

A.L.R.T.
Anderson, Michelle
Baisden, Tammy
Bellingar, Diane VanderYacht
Big Valley Reunion
Boncheff, Robert
Brouwer, Lorraine
Burleigh, Charles
Callahan, Kristine
Challender, Mark
Class of 1959
Conrad-Graham, Paula
Culbert, Sally Richner
Culver, Shelley

Cunningham, Martha
Ebert, Jacqueline
Fairhaven Runners
Freeman, Jim
Gantman, Richard
Golden, Jeff and Leslie
Golden, Leon and Virgene
Gosda, Gregory
Greater Bellingham Running Club
Hall, Trina
Hamilton, Kenneth C
Hammer, Joan
Haner, Russell
Hanson, Tom
Harmony PTA
Hart, Patricia
Henry, Eric
Hollingsworth, Jacqueline
Holmes, Patricia
Hubbard, Sandra
Hughes, John
IGA Dodson
Isenhardt, Bill and Shirley
King, Steven
Kratz-Hudson, Helen
Larry Brown Construction
Larsen, Kelli
Larson, Jermaine
Lee, Ivan A.
Leigh, Diane
Madison, Sandra
Marston, Toby
Menti, Melissa
Money, Steven
Moore, Ann
Mt. Baker Alumni 51 Plus Reunion
Mt. Baker Automotive
Mt. Baker HS Class of 1952
Mt. Baker HS Class of 1959
Mt. Baker HS Technology Dept.
Mt. Baker Rotary Club
Ostrom, Vincent

Pavesi, Susan
Peoples Bank
Porter, Lorene E.
Purdy, Cynthia
Reding, Colleen
Roames, DeAnn
Robinson, Chuck and Kay
Rohde, MaryAnn
Satushek, Laurie
Siper Quarry
Skelton, Anne
Smith, David
Smith, Eunice
Smith Ross, Sher
Smith, Scott
Strachila, Lisa
Sutton, Charlene
Sutton, Doug
Thomas and Martina Horn Foundation
Thompson, Ben and June
VanBuskirk, Kim
WA Higher Education Coordination Board
Webb, Barbara
Welch, Ann
Weyant, Beaudene
Wigen, Elizabeth
X-treme Bean Espresso

Tile Entitlements:

Brunk, Dwight Ann
Flint, Louise
Haglund, N.E.
Hanson, Tom
Hughes, John
Knutzen-Chin, Heather
Macaulay, Donald E.
Parsons, Charles
Strachila, Steve and Lisa

Recognition of Recent Donors

Louise Peterson Scholarship:

Harris, Catherine S.

Christine Sygitowicz Sherman Scholarship:

Espeland, Dennis and Karen

Gorski, Stu and Sharen

Hall, Donal

Hall, Leslie

Hughes, Ron and Lisa

Impero, Mike and Susie

Iverson, Carol and Gordon

Kuttel, Mrs. Edward

Likely, H.C. and Geraldine

Logan, Olga, and Espeland, Agnes

Luke, Sandra

Pfeiffer-Hoyt, Russell and Cindy

Quillen, Lucy

Riley, Caroline

Strozyk, Alene

Sygitowicz, Leonard

Sygitowicz, Stanley

Sygitowicz, Theresa

Sygitowicz, Jaime

Williams, Verna

In Memory of Elmer Duronso:

Hamilton, Kenneth C.

In Memory of Merle Gallman:

Arnett, Chappelle

Bannister, Herb and Jean

Blore, Bob and MaryAlice

Chads, Cora

Cloud, Robert

Davis, Bill and Fran

DeHon, William and Janet

First Baptist Church

Gallman, Marian

Gischer, Rob and Sandra

Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Burton

Green, Patrick

Gregg, Rita and Steven

Koplitz, Bertha

Lange, Robert and Kathleen

Lunde, Jan and Dave

Morse, David

Morse, Mrs. David

NALC

Richter, Gertrude

Rietman, Floyd and Alice

Ringhouse, Beverly

Root, Jack and Ann

Rosser, Mr. and Mrs. Dan

Smith, Mrs. Mae L.

Telfer, Peter and Holly

Thomas, Edward and Barbara

Thurston, Gilbert and Ingeborg

Watson, Verdie

What Knots Quilting Group

White, Sharon

Whitney, Dale and Pat

Whitney, Dean and Heidi

In Memory Alex McRae:

Hamilton, Kenneth C.

In Memory of Doug

Monaghan:

Monaghan, Debbie

In Memory of Jack Postlewait:

Bentley, Doug and Louise

Buckenmeyer, Fred and Marilyn

Carleton, David and Ione

Chudek, Albert and Ann

Clark, Robert and Jean

Cunningham, Teresa

Hamilton, Kenneth C

Johnson, Chad and Norma

Meece, Gary

Monaghan, Marian

Monaghan, Debbie

Potter, Judy and Steven

Smith, Lorraine

Zimmerman, Phillip and Dee

In Memory of Pete Zender:

Johnson, Chad and Norma

In Memory of Erin Golden:

Bellingar, Diane VanderYacht

In Memory of Steven J.

Gregg:

Gallman, Marian

In Memory of Christopher Hodges and Jennifer Hodges Thompson:

Harmony PTA

In Memory of Anne Potter:

Grunhurd, Marvin and Roni

Hoagland, M.C. and Rosa

Johnson, Chad and Norma

Peterson, Bernice

Stern, Lorna

In Memory of Pavel Vetkov:

Brown, Patrick and Naomi

Henry, Janet

Prince, Kim

VanBuskirk, Kim

Varang, Fred



MBSF JOINS

THE FACEBOOK CROWD

Have you seen our web site lately? You can review scholarship descriptions, application forms and newsletters and link to our new "Facebook" page.

And if you prefer to download and print copies of our newsletters (both current and archived) instead of receiving them by snail mail, please e-mail us at mbsf875@gmail.com. This will help reduce our operating costs and save trees as well!

See us at <http://mtbakerscholarship.org>

Legacy of Merle Gallman

The Legacy of Merle Gallman

Sometimes donors include remarkable letters that give the Foundation members a glimpse into the reasons why donors chose MBSF as the recipient of their generosity. Last year, we received this from Marian Gallman. Marian sent this letter to all the donors who donated to the MBSF in memory of her late husband, Merle Gallman. We are including it here with her gracious permission. Thank you so much, Marian.



Photo provided by Marian Gallman

Merle Gallman

October 28, 2009

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to thank you for your donation to the Mt. Baker High School Scholarship Foundation in memory of Merle Gallman. I just received notifica-

tion that the donations totaled \$1,240 and since Merle and I planned to match any donations, the grand total is \$2,480. The people in charge of the Scholarship Foundation are most appreciative of your donations.

I would like to let you know why Merle and I chose this Foundation as his legacy. Merle attended MBHS from 1946 to 1948. He raised registered Guernsey cattle in FFA and showed them at the Lynden Fair. He also lettered in football and baseball. The Ag. teacher and the coach were both instrumental in forming Merle's character, but the most influential person on the teaching staff was the typing teacher, Mrs. Adams. She encouraged Merle to join her typing class. Back in those days, typing was considered a "girl" pursuit, but Merle overlooked the stigma and signed up to learn to type. In the 1940's, typing was taught on Royal manual keyboards, with many repetitious drills. Merle learned to type, not fast, but very accurately.

In 1950 Merle joined the U.S. Army and after basic training was assigned to a military company in Oklahoma. At a line-up one morning the troops were asked, "Does anyone here know how to type?" Merle raised his hand tentatively, not knowing just what doing so might entail. Merle was assigned to the company's headquarters as assistant adjutant. When the adju-

tant was discharged due to family hardship Merle was promoted to his position.

Merle's company was called to Korea where he spent 8 months near the front line which was either being chased south down the peninsula by the North Koreans and Chinese, or north up the peninsula after General Ridgway took over from General MacArthur. Merle was responsible for the company's communications, including the casualty reports. He always felt it was because of his ability to type and having been assigned to Headquarters that he survived the war unscathed. Several of his buddies did not.

He remembered fondly his 2 years at MBHS. He made many good friends there, and always attended the class reunions, except the last one on September 12, just 10 days before he passed away. He was fully aware of the event, and received several letters and visits from his classmates when they realized why he had not been able to attend.

Merle hoped, as I do, that the donations will serve to enhance the lives of selected MBHS graduates. Thank you so very much for your kind contributions in Merle's memory.

Sincerely,
Marian Gallman





Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation
P.O. Box 875
Deming, WA 98244

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Donation and Interest Form for Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Yes, I am interested in helping Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation raise scholarship funds for Mt. Baker students.

I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation for Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100

Other _____

Can we use your name in promotion efforts for the Foundation? Yes No Check with me first

I am interested in discussing setting up a Named or Endowed scholarship through Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation. Please contact me. A convenient time to reach me at home is _____.

Please contact me with more information about attending monthly meetings of the Foundation.

Please complete and mail this form to: Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 875, Deming, WA 98244.



Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation Board Members Include:

Mary Compton, *President*; Theresa Sygitowicz, *Vice President*; Kim Raper, *Treasurer*; Neal Bittner, *Fundraising Chair*; Mary Zender, *Alumni Chair*; Joan Hammer, *Secretary*; Gail Kuromiya/Sue Lenssen, *Newsletter Co-Chairs*.