

# LEGACIES

Central Oregon Community College Foundation • Summer 2014

## Endowment sparked by lifelong love of botany Celebrating the generosity of Dick and Marge Ettinger

Passionate about plants, Dick and Marge Ettinger collected and preserved hundreds of Central Oregon species and donated many of them to the COCC Herbarium. Through their foresight and generosity, they established a COCC Foundation endowment to promote the study of local flora.

Dick and Marge Ettinger moved to Bend in 1954, and he joined the Bend Memorial Clinic as their seventh physician. Dick practiced medicine in Bend for 50 years, and was the Chief of Medicine at St. Charles Medical Center during most of his career.

After a rich life, Dick passed away this last April. He was a consummate volunteer and civic leader, whose contributions included leading efforts to ban motorized vehicles in the wilderness, serving children on the Citizen's Review Board and acting as one of the founders of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades.

The father of five, he instilled in all his children—and later to his grandchildren—the passion of intellectual



*Dick and Marge Ettinger looking for mosses along the McKenzie Highway near Belknap Springs in the spring of 2011.*

pursuits and the love of the outdoors. He was an avid mountain climber, elk hunter, bird watcher, photographer, woodworker, sailor and fisherman. His enthusiasm for learning was contagious. *(Continued on page 9)*

## Foundation scholarship provided hope Marika Collins now teaches kindergarten

When Marika Collins was 18, she married her knight in shining armor. But over the next dozen or so years, the fairy tale spiraled into a nightmare as her husband's addiction to pain medications caused his abusive behavior to escalate.

"He was unpredictable in his actions, and I never knew what was going to come through the door. My children and I were constantly walking on egg shells, always waiting for him to explode," remembers Marika. "When he did, the brunt came at me and sometimes it would spill over to the children."

After 13 years of marriage, her husband filed for divorce *(Continued on page 4)*

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## Valuing people and progress

### A message from Dr. Middleton



*Dr. James Middleton*  
*COCC President*

I was honored this year to be the speaker at the COCC Commencement ceremony in June. It is a difficult task to say a few words to graduates as you know they are focused on receiving their certificate or degree and that, you, as the speaker are delaying that glorious occasion. I did try to share with them a few words of wisdom and I hope that at least some in the audience found what I had to say to be inspiring.

In preparing my remarks, I reflected on my pending retirement from COCC, and thought back to the accomplishments here at the College over the past decade. Most people assume I would cite our new buildings as what I would say would make me feel most proud. Certainly, the modernization of the campus, and the expansion of our reach with new facilities in Madras and Prineville, have been a significant advancement for how COCC serves the residents of our District. The new buildings allowed us to create high quality learning environments and to bring together faculty who had been scattered across campus into close proximity with their colleagues from within their discipline.

But what I truly value most are not the buildings. It's the people I have worked with here at COCC, and the progress we have been able to make in serving students, that I have found to be most rewarding.

Prior to coming, I had been told that Central Oregon was a welcoming place and one with a real "can do" attitude. I have certainly seen that with the Foundation Board of Trustees, with the elected COCC Governing Board of Directors and with the countless volunteers and donors who have helped establish and nurture COCC throughout its history.

Also, the people who have come to work at COCC and those who have remained at COCC; they are the heart, soul and engine of the work we do. Just over half of the faculty members here today have been hired during my tenure. As with the faculty, the administrative and support staff are a combination of veterans who have helped establish the reputation of this institution, and new members of the community who will assure continuation of our strong tradition.

Working together, we have established new instructional programs, expanding the dimension of the teaching/learning opportunities at COCC. Among the new areas are aviation, business entrepreneurship, veterinarian technician and pharmacy technician, plus a matrix of new automotive certificates, a significant redesign and growth of our culinary program and additional opportunities in other areas.

I am also proud of the expansion of our partnership with regional high schools, allowing hundreds of young students each year to get a head start on college by earning credits while still in high school. Many of these students then matriculate to COCC while others go on to other colleges and universities with a leg up on many of their freshman colleagues.

Finally, I want to note the expansion of courses, programs and services through our vast District. With the increase in offerings in Redmond and the new campuses in Madras and Prineville, we have been able to make college education more accessible and affordable to Central Oregonians.

When I came here 10 years ago, I "inherited" a college in great shape – with outstanding support and people with passion for the community college mission. I am pleased to be able to leave knowing that the support and passion will continue well into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

## How your educational gift to COCC is managed

### A message from your foundation director



*Jim Weaver, Executive Director  
COCC Foundation*

In this column, I have enjoyed sharing the various ways people have given to the Central Oregon Community College Foundation. Today, I want to share how we steward the funds after receipt.

When individuals create an endowment (an endowment is where the principal gift is invested and the earnings are used to support the area of

interest of the donor), during life or after death through their estate, it is a profound statement of belief in the charitable organization's purpose and an important stewardship responsibility on the charity's part. The COCC Foundation handles stewardship in three important manners:

- For 20 years, the COCC Foundation trustees have had the Foundation's endowments invested and managed at Commonfund ([www.commonfund.org](http://www.commonfund.org)), which is a not-for-profit "manager of managers" organization created in 1969 in order to manage the endowments of Yale, Harvard, Stanford, etc. It has grown to manage \$24 billion in funds for 1,500 institutions; the COCC Foundation has \$16 million in endowments invested, with 65% in multi-strategy equity and 35% in multi-strategy bonds.
- The appropriate management of these funds are guided by the COCC Foundation's Investment Policy Statement.
- The adherence to the Investment Policy Statement and to Commonfund's performance is overseen by a nine member Investment Committee, which is composed of volunteers from the local legal, accounting, and investment sectors.

It is a system that works well. Most importantly, it is a system that is appropriate to the significance of the gifts, given with perpetuity in mind.



The above illustrates the several ways to give to the Central Oregon Community College Foundation.

An unrestricted gift is allocated where the need is the greatest at COCC. Or you may designate your gift to:

- Scholarships
- New facilities
- Special programs
- Faculty development

If you would like to talk about estate giving or giving to the COCC Foundation, you may reach me at 541.383.7212 or [jweaver@cocc.edu](mailto:jweaver@cocc.edu). If you would like to benefit the college in your estate, please make sure your will or trust directs the proceeds to come to the Central Oregon Community College Foundation.

## Foundation scholarship provided hope

Marika Collins now teaches kindergarten *(continued from front page)*

but only after he had bullied Marika into signing everything over to him, including the children. She hired an attorney to help fight for her kids, and a year later she was awarded full custody. She had her kids, she says, but no money, no home and no hope.

“I made a choice to go to school and get an education,” she said. “I wanted my children to see that no matter what someone says about you or to you, that you have the ultimate control of your destiny.”

Marika eventually decided to major in Early Childhood Education at COCC. There she met Amy Howell, an associate professor in the ECE program, who offered support and encouragement.

*“In one moment my life went from hopeless to hopeful.”*

—Marika Collins

“It was Amy Howell who saw something in me,” she says. “She gave me the information about the Saving Grace women’s and children’s shelter and her mom’s number. (Amy’s mother is a child psychologist.) It was with Amy’s support, the women at Saving Grace and my parents that I was able to fight for my children and get free from my ex-husband.”

At the end of spring term in 2008, she had just left the Saving Grace shelter fearing that she would not be able to continue to go to school.

“I was sitting on the steps with my face in my hands crying when I received news that forever changed my life,” remembers Marika. “Amy Howell called to tell me I had been awarded a COCC Foundation scholarship.

“In one moment my life went from hopeless to hopeful. With the news of the scholarship, I realized that there are people who care and believe in me. That I am not



worthless, but worthy. I knew then that I would be able to continue with school.”

After receiving the scholarship, she took 16 to 21 credits a term (12 credits is full time) year round for four years while working two jobs. “My children remember my years in school as a time when I drank a lot of coffee and diet coke, stayed up late typing and fell asleep a lot at dinner time.

“COCC was a great place for me,” recalls Marika. “I felt safe, supported and strong while I was there. Each term I gained more strength and confidence in myself. This confidence gave me the courage to continue on to OSU, to earn my bachelor’s degree and ultimately my graduate degree.”

Since earning her master’s degree, Marika has been teaching kindergarten at Mosier Community School in Hood River, where she works to make a difference in the lives of children.

“My life is different today,” she says. “Our home is filled with love, laughter and lots of hugs. Life is good now. It wasn’t good for many years, but my education—made possible by Foundation scholarships—turned it around and hopefully stopped the cycle of abuse for my children. They know now that they will get an education because no matter what happens in life, no one can take that from you.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Brad Sullivan

### COCC degree and new career within reach

Brad Sullivan, born and raised in Bend, worked in construction until the recession of 2008. In that year he started attending church after hitting “rock bottom” due to the effects of an addiction to methamphetamines. He then decided to make some changes in his life.

“I have always been fascinated with cars and wanted to know more, so I started taking classes at COCC in fall 2011 in hopes of earning my master automotive certificate,” explains Brad. “After a year, I realized that I wanted more, so I switched my degree to automotive management so that one day I could start my own business.”

With his wife also taking classes and four children to support, the debt that he was incurring felt overwhelming. Brad’s adviser, Ken Mays, told him about the Foundation’s scholarship program.

“When I received the scholarship, I felt extremely blessed,” says Brad. “My wife and I are both attending college, but with three children at home, it makes it extra stressful to balance school, homework and home life. I work part time, but most of it goes to child support for my first child.

“I was not sure if I would be able to continue, so when I received the scholarship, I was at peace with going to school and am extremely grateful. My education is going to benefit my family and my future greatly, and thanks to the Foundation scholarship, I can continue.”

Brad volunteered at this year’s Meal of the Year event: “It was my honor to volunteer; it was the least I could do.



When I arrived, I was shocked of how beautiful the place was and how friendly all the people were.”

For the last two years, Brad has been a sponsor for the youth ministries at his church, helping out with 7th through 12th grade youth: “It has been a huge inspiration in my life.

“I have almost completed my Automotive Management degree and one day hope to open my own repair shop,” says Brad. “I have gained an enormous amount of knowledge from the great instructors. With this scholarship, I am closer to my degree than I ever thought possible. I cannot show enough appreciation.”

## Foundation scholarship provided hope

### Marika Collins now teaches kindergarten *(continued from page 4)*

“I have hope today—hope that I can help those children who pass through the doorway of my classroom. I have hope that my children will see that you can change your path even when it seems hopeless. I have hope that Foundation scholarships will change other lives the way it changed mine.”

Epilogue: Jim Weaver, Executive Director of the Foundation, talked to a number of donors after the Meal of the Year, where Marika spoke, and virtually every one said that Marika had inspired them to give even more than they had planned to give. In one case it was \$2,500 instead of \$1,250 and in another it was \$6,800 (two full scholarships) instead of one.

## Jarid Warfield

### Engineering student thankful for support

After graduating from La Pine High School, Jarid Warfield served in the Air Force for eight years as a member of the Security Forces. After exiting the Air Force, he immediately decided to pursue a degree in engineering.

“I am a very curious person with a passion for problem solving and learning, so I felt it was a good fit for my personality,” he says.

A COCC Foundation scholarship is helping him to realize his potential.

“As a ‘nontraditional student,’ I have mountains of responsibility (three children) aside from school, so when I was awarded the Foundation scholarship, I was elated knowing that some of the financial burden had been removed from my shoulders,” says Jarid.

“I have done my best to not pile up student loan debt so this scholarship definitely helps me keep on track with my goals. With the financial support the Foundation scholarship has provided, I can focus more on the college learning experience and less on the burden of loan debt.

“This was my first year helping with the Meal of the Year event,” says Jarid. “I pitched in to help with the set up of pretty much everything: tables, banners, kegs, books and signs. While helping out, I learned that the scholarship program was funded largely by this event, which made me even more motivated to ensure things were done exactly right.”



Jarid’s primary educational goal since starting college has been to finish a math course every term with an ‘A’ grade in order to be eligible for entry into the Engineering program. “This has been difficult, as math is by far my weakest area; however, with perseverance and dedication, I have achieved this goal for four consecutive terms.”

His long-term goals include graduating in 2017 with a degree in engineering and working in a paid internship the following year.

“I look forward to contributing to the COCC Foundation in the future to help support other curious learners such as myself.”

#### Would you like to receive Legacies electronically?

The Legacies newsletter is now available for distribution via email. To sign up for this option, please contact the COCC Foundation office at 541-383-7225 or [foundation@cocc.edu](mailto:foundation@cocc.edu).

#### Gift Specification

If you decide to benefit Central Oregon Community College through your estate plans, please be certain the gift is specified to come to the Central Oregon Community College Foundation (or COCC Foundation). To discuss this or any other aspect of the Foundation, please contact Jim Weaver at 541-383-7212 or [jweaver@cocc.edu](mailto:jweaver@cocc.edu).

## Amber Ruedi

### Scholarship helps single mom overcome challenges

Amber Ruedi is halfway to her goal of earning her degree in criminal justice with a 3.6 grade-point average and will be the first in her family to earn a degree.

“My education would be extremely difficult to continue without the financial assistance of a COCC Foundation scholarship,” Amber explains.

Amber’s 16-year-old son has a mental illness, developmental disabilities and behavioral and emotional disorders. She schedules her classes around her son’s school hours to make sure she is home when he leaves for school and home before he returns. She is unable to work as she would need a babysitter with special training and that would be unaffordable. She is a single mom without family in Central Oregon.



*“The impact of this scholarship on my goals has been tremendous.”*

—Amber Ruedi

“I cannot even begin to explain how honored and excited I feel to have received this scholarship,” she says. “I cannot thank the donors enough for helping me to achieve my dreams.”

“The impact of this scholarship on my goals has been tremendous. I am able to attend classes year-round, which helps me graduate six months sooner. It has also helped in purchasing course books, school supplies and gas for commuting.”

Amber volunteered for ASCOCC last spring and also held a work-study position at Campus Services as an office assistant last year. She is chair of the Diversity Committee and has served on many committees at COCC. She has been serving as the ASCOCC Director

of Student Affairs since November 2013. She also served on the COCC Presidential Search Committee.

“I also have had excellent experiences volunteering my time in a variety of events,” says Amber. “My experiences have been challenging and exciting, and I feel blessed to have been actively involved in so many areas within the college and our community.”

Amber is an advocate for children and adults with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities and volunteers for the Deschutes County Developmental Disabilities Program. She is a certified Therapeutic Foster Parent.

“I love helping people find ways to better themselves or loved ones by advocating,” she says. “I didn’t have anyone to help guide me along the way, and it made me want to help others in my situation.”

“Being a probation officer would be a challenging yet wonderful career,” Amber says. “It would give me the opportunity to help juveniles and their families. There are so many juveniles without a positive support system. I hope to help change the outcome of many people’s lives by educating, guiding and providing a positive learning environment.”

## Meal of the Year and Taste of the Town Thanks to your support we set a fundraising record!

More than 850 attendees of COCC's Foundation's Taste of the Town and Meal of the Year benefits set a 36-year fundraising record: \$330,000 was raised for student scholarships.

"This was such an inspiring expression of generosity and will forever change the lives of the students who receive scholarships because of this giving," said Jim Weaver, Executive Director of the COCC Foundation.



This year's benefit included Taste of the Town on February 28 and the Meal of the Year dinner and auctions on March 1. The sold-out Friday event featured signature selections from 20 local restaurants, live music by High Street Band, dancing and a silent auction.

Nearly 400 people attended the Saturday dinner, which featured a four-course gourmet dinner created and served by Cascade Culinary Institute students and chefs as well as live and silent auctions. In addition, John and Nancy James were honored for their numerous contributions to the Central Oregon community.

- (1): Cascade Culinary Institute students prepare the first course at Meal of the Year.
- (2): Guests browse the silent auction.
- (3): Guests enjoy cocktail hour and conversation at Meal of the Year.





## Endowment sparked by lifelong love of botany

Celebrating the generosity of Dick and Marge Ettinger *(continued from front page)*

After Dick retired from his medical practice, he successfully pursued his interest in identifying mosses found in Central Oregon and the Cascades, especially the fens and bogs of the eastern slopes of the Cascades. He identified more than 150 species during his pursuits.

According to daughter Susan Schneider, Marge's interest in botany started when she began volunteering for Harvey Waldron, COCC associate professor of biology from 1968 to 1984, grading tests and helping with projects. He then taught her how to identify or "key out" plants, a process she grew to love. Realizing that she wouldn't be taken seriously as a botanist without a degree, she completed her degree in 1987, becoming at age 63, the oldest graduate in the Bend program that year.

During field trips to the Warm Springs Reservation, Dick and Marge created a botanical list of more than 1,000 identified species, 18 of which are listed on Oregon's Rare, Threatened and Endangered list from 1989. Two plants were new species that are still undergoing molecular and taxonomic determinations.

Access to the reservation was facilitated by the tribal council as well as long-time neighbor and attorney, Owen Panner, Sr., who then represented the tribe and now serves as a federal judge. "Many of the tribal members were patients of Dad's, and both my parents were regarded fondly by many Tribal Council members," remembers Susan.

About 1970, Harvey Waldron started the COCC Herbarium when he purchased several cases specifically designed to preserve plant specimens. Today six cabinets hold more than 3,500 specimens in a designated temperature-controlled room in the Science Center, known as the Harvey M. Waldron Jr. Herbarium.

The collection of specimens is a teaching tool, but also an important record of plants in Central Oregon, according to Harvey. There are still many undiscovered plants—possibly with important medicinal qualities—and the herbarium serves as reference material to compare known species in the area to unidentified—and possibly unique—plants, he says.

In 1998-99, the Ettingers donated part of their collection of plants to the herbarium as well as funds to establish an endowment with the COCC Foundation to benefit the herbarium.

Christine Ott-Hopkins, who has been teaching at COCC since 1993 and retired as professor of plant biology last July, still teaches part time. She helped the Ettingers collect for the herbarium and accompanied them on some of their field trips. She has used the earned income from the endowment to purchase books for the COCC Herbarium, such as copies of botanical reference guides to be used by students in the general botany courses.

<b>GENERAL</b> I would like to contribute: <input type="checkbox"/> tuition for one year (\$3,400) <input type="checkbox"/> tuition for half the year (\$1,700) <input type="checkbox"/> books for one term (\$500) <input type="checkbox"/> other \$ _____ Please send me information about: <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer opportunities with the COCC Foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Planned or estate giving through life insurance, life income plans, wills or bequests	<b>PERSONAL INFORMATION</b> I am: <input type="checkbox"/> COCC Alumni <input type="checkbox"/> Past COCC Scholarship Recipient Name (s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would like my donation to remain anonymous
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Mail form to: COCC Foundation, 2600 NW College Way, Bend, Oregon 97701	

## Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program Long history of bringing the world to Central Oregon

What do paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey, Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Nicholas Kristof, food critic and culinary judge Ruth Reichl, and socio-political activist Arun Gandhi have in common? All have come to Bend to speak through the sponsorship of the COCC Foundation's Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program. The program has a 29-year history of bringing a variety of renowned thinkers to Central Oregon.

The late Robert W. Chandler, journalist, businessman and philanthropist, served as the editor and publisher of *The Bulletin* for 43 years. He also founded Western Communications, Inc., a company that owns and publishes newspapers in Oregon and California. He and his wife Nancy often hosted visitors from across the nation and around the world. Discussions with these visitors at their dinner parties covered wide-ranging topics and perspectives. Nancy took great delight in hosting these parties and sharing the knowledge of their visitors with those around her in the community.

The Chandlers established the Visiting Scholar Program (VSP) in Nancy's honor in 1985 to continue the tradition of bringing engaging speakers to Central Oregon. The mission of the program is to stimulate conversations that broaden perspectives and perceptions.

During the last decade, the program has hosted about 14 speakers per year. The program also partners with other organizations to make events more accessible to the community. Attendance has ranged from 50 to 1,500 people, with most audiences averaging approximately 150 people.

When Patti Knollman and her husband heard that Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough would be speaking in Bend in 2005, they immediately purchased tickets. They have been devoted attendees of VSP events ever since.

This year, Patti especially liked "Beyond Bars: Rethinking Our Reliance on Prisons," conducted by Walidah Imarisha. "It was top notch—not only her dynamic presenta-



tion and up-to-date facts, but also her ability to connect and lead discussion with all ages."

"We will continue to invite others as we benefit from the ongoing discussions over shared meals and outings with friends and new acquaintances," she continued. "Our lives are enriched as we learn more about issues that affect us locally and globally. I am a better citizen. We will continue to share our positive experience with others.

"I am grateful to the COCC Foundation for investing in these programs that foster greater understanding and new insights on relevant topics. We look forward to more speakers whose expertise intersects with our concerns.

"How valuable it has been to discuss topics in small groups and listen to different perspectives and voices—from a student, a professional, a retired teacher and a community volunteer," said Patti. "I have especially enjoyed the interaction with college students."

Currently, two endowments provide annual disbursements that together fund approximately 60 percent of the program's budget. The Oregon Community Foundation manages the Robert W. Chandler II Fund and reviews the program annually to ensure the program meets the criteria set forth by the Chandlers. The COCC Foundation provides management of an additional endowment that is also designated to support the VSP. The program coordinator secures additional funding through grants, sponsorships, donations and ticket sales.

# LEGACIES

## Donors Investing in Community

The following individuals, businesses and foundations are generous friends of the Central Oregon Community College Foundation who gave cash gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2013. We have worked to have an accurate list, but encourage you to call Brittany Nichols 541-383-7582 if you find an error. Most of all, to those who give: Thank you!

### Organizations

Advertising Federation of Central Oregon  
ASCOCC  
Avion Water Co. Inc.  
Ball Janik LLC  
Bank of the Cascades  
Barbara Emily Knudson Charitable Foundation  
Bend Foundation  
Bend Garbage and Recycling  
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## Donors Investing in Community *(continued)*

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## Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program Events

### Glaciers, Science and Top Secret Military Schemes

Dr. Mark Carey, University of Oregon  
October 16, 6:30 p.m.  
Hitchcock Auditorium, COCC Bend Campus

Join us for an evening exploring how Greenland's ice has changed the world and captured our imagination! Dr. Mark Carey will discuss the continuing history of human interaction with Greenland's ice from the ill-fated voyage of the Titanic, which led to iceberg bombing and oceanographic research, to Camp Century, an under-ice nuclear-powered US military base, the site of early glacial ice coring that is at the root of recent climate science. He will bring us up to present-day concerns about climate change, Greenland ice, and the reason melting glaciers matter even for societies that might never even see a glacier or an iceberg.

Dr. Carey is an associate professor of history at the Robert D. Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon. He is the author of "In the Shadow of Melting Glaciers: Climate Change and Andean Society" (2010) and is currently at work on his next book.

Tickets are \$8 for Nature Center members; general public is \$10. Students are free with ID card. Tickets are available through the Sunriver Nature Center and at the door.

For information, call 541-593-4394 or visit [www.cocc.edu/foundation/vsp](http://www.cocc.edu/foundation/vsp) or [www.sunrivenaturecenter.org](http://www.sunrivenaturecenter.org).

The series is sponsored by the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program and the Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory.