

2010 Alumni Awards

Our award winners share a common trait: Their enthusiasm is not just inspiring, it is infectious. Our 2010 honorees personify the very best of what a LCSC education stands for: dreaming big, working hard and reaping the rewards of a job well done.

Alumni of the Year Awards

The Outstanding Alumni award is presented to an alumnus/alumna who has enriched the lives of others through their generous gifts of time and talent, their involvement with civic, charitable and social causes and their ability to inspire.

Alumna of the Year Award Liz Chavez '70



Our Alumna of the Year Award recipient has deep roots with L-C. Liz Chavez's mom, Virginia Leach, began work at Lewis-Clark Normal School as the assistant registrar, a job that she held until she retired in 1981. Liz chose to attend Lewis-Clark Normal School for two reasons – her boyfriend, now husband, Jerry was attending and playing baseball and she wanted to become a teacher. Liz never regretted the decision to stay in Lewiston and attend L-C. She received her bachelor's degree in education from Lewis-Clark Normal School in 1970. She later went on to receive her 5th year master's equivalency from Lewis-Clark State and the University of Idaho. She spent (in her words) a delightful 32 years teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grade at Lincoln Middle School in Clarkston. Liz retired from teaching in 2000. Liz was elected to the Idaho State Legislature in 2006 and continued her educational efforts.

She recently was recognized for her efforts to raise awareness of fetal alcohol syndrome

by receiving the 2010 Patricia Kempthorne Award. State Representative John Rusche was quoted as saying "I'm very proud of her. This comes from deep within her as a teacher and from her personal experience. She doesn't do it for recognition, but for who she is."

Liz is also well known for her involvement with LCSC. Her children grew up going to basketball games in the old gym and baseball games at Harris Field. When her father was killed in a construction accident, a scholarship fund was set up at the college, and when her mom passed away in 2006, her name was added to that scholarship that the Chavez's contribute to on a monthly basis. Jerry and Liz were pledged contributors to the Activity Center, as well as members of the Women's Basketball Scholarship Club. She recently also became a member of the LCSC Foundation Board.

Alumnus of the Year Scott Baldwin '93



Scott was a pitcher on the baseball team at L-C and graduated in 1993 with a degree in Business Administration. He became involved with the Lewiston community where he grew up almost immediately after graduation and belongs to a number of boards and agencies. He has the second-longest tenure of any current Twin County United Way board member, which is approaching 10 years. He also has been a member of the Warrior Athletic Association for the past four years, and currently serves as president. Scott also coaches little league baseball and is a past member of the Youth Accountability Board.

Now, the Associate Vice President and

a financial consultant for D.A. Davidson Company in Lewiston, Scott and his wife, Stacy, have been an inspiration to others after suffering through one of the most tragic events one can imagine, the death of a child. The Baldwin's lost their son, Jackson, to cancer after a lengthy and courageous battle.

"I have always enjoyed helping people and our community, but when I saw what a community could do for my family in hard times, my desire grew immensely. Scott says, "Since the community came forward for us, we have done our best to help other families in need, including many that have been impacted by Jackson's Pay it Forward Foundation." The Baldwin's set up the foundation to help families with children going through medical crisis and to help them offset medical bills, living expenses, or something fun for the child.

Rising Star – Young Alumni Awards

This year we are proud to present two Rising Star - Young Alumni Awards which recognize significant contributions by an individual in their field of endeavor, whether through professional achievement or community service. The recipient is aged 40 or under, and sets an inspirational example for future young alumni.

Rising Star – Young Alumna Award Christina Wegner '08



We are proud to recognize Christina Wegner as our Rising Star - Young Alumna of the year. Christina graduated with her BSW in 2008. After graduation, she completed her MSW degree through Boise State University and has worked as a social worker in one of

the most difficult positions as a child welfare professional. Christina was elected as the National Association of Social Workers, Idaho Chapter Branch Chair, serving Region II of Idaho. She has demonstrated true leadership as a "rising star" serving on the NASW board as an emerging leader in the Lewis-Clark Valley representing and leading over 300 professional social workers in our local area. Furthermore, Ms. Wegner volunteers in the community and provides professional development workshops to professionals in partnership with Lewis-Clark State College.

**Rising Star – Young Alumnus Award
Jon Munkers '98**

Our rising star young alumnus of the year, Jon Munkers, graduated in 1998 with Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry and Human Biology. He also graduated with his MS in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho in 2000 and his MBA from the Boise State Executive MBA program in 2008.



Jon has great memories and experiences from his time at L-C. Even before he was a LCSC student, he spent summers playing Legion Baseball for Dwight Church on Harris Field. He says, "Winning state championships on the Warrior field is a memory that stays with you for a lifetime." He also has fond memories of walking to the Nursing Building and through its halls, passing the snakes and geology specimens behind the plexi-glass, where the majority of his classes were held.

Jon is the Assessment and Monitoring Division Manager for TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering, Inc. Jon has worked to help TerraGraphics grow from a small firm of 20 or so scientists and engineers into a firm that now employs more than 120 people out of five offices. After being head of Business Development, he moved to the Boise office that, with his support, has gone from 2 to 12 people in four years. He received the Idaho Business Review "40 under 40" award last year that recognizes the top 40 professionals in the State of Idaho under 40 years of age. He

also serves on the Northwest Environmental Business Council Board of Directors, has taught at the college level, and recently was asked to serve on the University of Idaho Environmental Science Program Outside Advisory Board.

Not only has Jon succeeded in his professional career, but he is dedicated to serving his community too. He has coached flag football and baseball for his two sons Benjamin and Andrew. He is currently working on a fundraiser for cancer research. His nomination letter shares that Jon brings a balanced approach to life, is down to earth, and lives life with integrity and zest that is inspiring to those around him. He truly represents the kind of alumni you aspire to be. Jon is definitely a rising star!

Spirit Award for Extraordinary Service

This year the Alumni Board of Directors is proud to present the Spirit Award for Extraordinary Service to Joni Mina. This award is presented to an individual that builds pride and spirit on campus and who consistently demonstrates extraordinary loyalty, commitment, dedication and service to Lewis-Clark State College and their community.

Joni Mina



Joni is an associate professor in the Legal Support Programs at Lewis-Clark State College. Courses she teaches are ethics and professional responsibility, legal terminology, beginning and advanced legal research and writing, beginning and advanced civil litigation, business law, and business organizations.

Joni's work in the legal profession informs much of her educational strategies. She served from 1976 to 1996, first as a legal secretary, then as litigation paralegal and office manager at the Pullman, Washington

law firm of Irwin, Myklebust, Savage & Brown, P.S. She retired in 1996 to return to graduate study; she completed her Ph.D. in education in 2002.

A strong advocate of service work, Joni served for three years as a member of the Washington State Bar Association's (WSBA) Character & Fitness Committee. In that capacity, she wrote two opinions denying attorney applicants' admission applications that were affirmed by the Washington State Supreme Court. Thereafter, she was appointed to serve on the WSBA Character & Fitness Committee Task Force assigned to revise the Admission to Practice Rules for attorneys to more clearly define fitness to attorneys' practice. She was then appointed to serve on the WSBA Disciplinary Board; she completed a three-year term in 2008.

Active in LCSC faculty affairs, she has served as the Chair of the LCSC Faculty Senate. Joni has adamantly worked on protecting LCSC faculty contracts and employment matters. An avowed research geek, she has published in the area of higher education leadership. She is currently working on research projects involving paralegal licensure, women in leadership, web response, and a book for paralegals on court rules. The LCSC students in Joni's paralegal classes enjoy her "real life" experiences and the high standards of conduct and work she sets in each LCSC class.

Excellence in Education Award

The Excellence in Education Award recognizes superior achievement in the field of education. The recipient serves as a role model and sets standards of excellence to which others can aspire.

Connie Ellis '72



Connie Ellis received her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from L-C in 1972, the same year she began teaching for the

Lewiston School District. During her 38 year career working with early education level children, she has encouraged her students to give back to their community. Each year she takes her students to the Veterans Home to sing, and makes Christmas stockings, baskets and quilts for soldiers in Iraq, the Salvation Army and the Ronald McDonald House. Connie has also been involved with the Wishing Star Foundation.

Centennial Principal Ron Rees says of Connie "She is a dedicated teacher. It is the daily things that go unnoticed that really make a difference and add up. She has a kind spirit and nature. That's just who Connie is."

This year, Connie was named the Veteran of Foreign Wars teacher of the year for the state of Idaho. The award recognizes the nation's top elementary, junior high and senior high teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions. She was also named Lewiston School District's Teacher of the Year for 2006-2007.

Connie is grateful for the education she received at L-C. She says she was one of those kids that might not have been able to afford a college education if not for L-C. She has continued to stay connected to her alma mater through continuing education classes and working with student teachers.

Connie is looking forward to retirement this year and being able to spend more time gardening and just enjoying life, but she is really going to miss her wonderful students.

Aletha Pabst Award

The Aletha Pabst Award pays tribute to someone who is not an alumnus, but has made significant contributions to Lewis-Clark State College and their community.

Brad Cannon



This year's recipient believes in the power of one – the power of one person to make a difference! We are proud to recognize Brad Cannon as the recipient of this award.

Brad believes in the power of education. He has been an active member of the Lewis-Clark State Foundation Board since 2008, and is Past President of the Warrior Athletic Association. He is also a dedicated supporter of the Alumni Association and our programs and events.

Brad believes in the power of giving back to his community. He currently serves on the Lewiston City Council and is Mayor Pro Tem, he is past chairman of the board for the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce, and past director/vice president for the Lewis-Clark Building Contractors Association. He currently serves as board president of the City of Lewiston's Urban Renewal Agency; and president of the Lewiston Roundup Association. He is a board member with Winter Spirit, has served as past president with the Walla Walla Community College Advisory Board, and was the 2006 Honorary Chairman for Twin County United Way.

In his spare time, Brad serves as owner and president of Cannon's Building Material Center, Inc. He has worked in the lumber industry for the past 33 years, 30 of those years in a management position.

Marion Shinn Life Long Achievement Award

The Marion Shinn Lifelong Achievement Award recognizes outstanding contributions of an alumnus who has shown long-term dedication and service to the College and their community. This year the board chose to honor Dr. Milton Lee Pritchard Snyder for his distinguished record of service and achievement.

Milton Lee Pritchard Snyder '51



This year's recipient graduated from

Northern Idaho College of Education in 1951 with a degree in Education. He went on to receive his Masters in Education from the University of Washington in 1959, his Superintendent's Credentials from the University of Washington in 1964 and his Ph.D. in Leadership and Human Behavior from the United States International University in 1972. Dr. Milton Lee Pritchard Snyder began his teaching career in 1953. His education career as a teacher, principal and superintendent spanned more than four decades. His commitment to excellence was recognized when Milt received the honor of being named one of the national top 100 school district superintendents. His career was capped by being named executive director for the 18,000 member American Association of School Administrators. Milt continues to share his passion as a national senior consultant for five corporations for education delivery systems. He is also the author of several education publications.

Recently, he decided to publish his memoir, *Maybe Milton Should Go Work in the Woods*, which is about his early years on an Idaho farm and the impact education had on his life.

To say education has changed his life seems to be an understatement – education IS his life. Now he finds ways to give back, supporting students making their own educational journey. Milt says he gives because of what he has received. And in doing so, he begins the cycle for others again.

With his enthusiasm, Milt serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and is a dynamic ambassador for the college in all he does.

Outstanding Coeur d'Alene Alumni Award

The Outstanding Coeur d'Alene Alumni Award is presented to an alumnus of LCSC-Coeur d'Alene who has enriched the lives of others through their generous gifts of time and talent, their involvement with civic, charitable and social causes and their ability to inspire.

Jerry Baltzell '95

Jerry Baltzell graduated in 1995 with a degree in Business Management. Jerry was a non-traditional student that successfully balanced family, career and community involvement, all while achieving a 3.5 GPA.

Jerry is a retired Support Group Commander for the Washington Air Guard's 141st Air Fueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base. He then worked as the Executive Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. In spring of 2007 he was



appointed as University of Idaho's Business Manager of the Center for Advanced Microelectronic and Biomolecular Research in Post Falls, where he is responsible for all business operations for CAMBR, including grant administration.

Jerry is a true credit to our institution and is well known for his involvement with LCSC and his community. He volunteered to be part of the steering committee for the Inland Northwest Alumni Chapter and has served as a member of the advisory board for the past four years. With his involvement, the advisory board has significantly grown chapter involvement and visibility and established the Inland Northwest Chapter Scholarship which benefits LCSC CDA

students. Jerry remains a vital and active member of the chapter and serves on the scholarship review committee.

Jerry serves as a Commissioner on the Post Falls Urban Renewal Agency, where he participates on the Finance and Personnel Property and Communications Committee. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Biathlon Association, which is the national governing body for the winter Olympic sport of biathlon. He also served as the family/staff support coordinator for the U.S. Olympic Biathlon Team at the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Warm send-off for L-C retirees

It was with hugs, sadness and well wishes that Lewis-Clark State College saw two long-time faculty members retire after the 2009-10 school year.

Alan Marshall, who taught in the Social Sciences Division since 1979, and Patricia Keith, who taught in the Humanities Division since 1983, both bid LCSC a fond adieu in the spring.

Alan had the second-longest tenure of any current faculty member before he retired, behind only Tom Urquhart.

Alan made impacts in several areas at the college while teaching in the Social Sciences Division, which is why he was honored with the H.L. Talkington Faculty Achievement Award last spring for his exceptional devotion to helping others achieve a quality learning experience.

During his career, Alan helped develop such diverse courses as social science methodology, culture and environment, world prehistory, and globalization. His greatest contributions to the curriculum came in the area of Native American studies where he was instrumental in developing and implementing the Nez Perce Language Instruction at LCSC.

Alan has a variety of interests, including studying how people symbolize their relations with their environment, especially their natural environment, consulting with the Nez Perce Tribe's Office of Legal Counsel on the Snake River Basin Adjudication, and publishing results of his studies. He also was active with the faculty, serving a variety of positions, including the coordinator for the Social Science Program.

Alan and his wife Diana Ames make their home in Lewiston.

Patricia taught a variety of courses in English for the Humanities Division. She is one of a select few that has won all three faculty honors awarded by the college. She won the Foundation Award in 1988, the H.L. Talkington Faculty Achievement Award in 1994 – the first year it was awarded – and the President's Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2002.

As well as being known for her excellence in the classroom, Patricia is also well-known for her documentary work in a variety of areas. Last October, Patricia along with Humanities professor Sean Cassidy premiered their documentary "Burma: Reflections of a Hidden Land." The documentary followed their travels through the country over a four-year period and examined both the geography and the people of Burma.

In 2007, Patricia and Sean made "Tibet: A Light in the Darkness," which followed "It's Our Country, Too!" on Alvin Josephy and the American Indians. She also has spent the past 11 years studying Hells Canyon and in collaboration with historian Carole Simon-Smolinski, she produced a documentary on the early 20th century mining operation at Eureka Bar and another on homesteading and ranching in the canyon.

In 2005, she lived in the canyon for one month as a Forest Service volunteer. In 2009, she directed the first Hells Canyon Institute Field School.

This past year, Patricia was selected as a Fulbright Program Scholar.

Thank you Alan and Patricia for making a difference with so many students.