



Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation Newsletter

A Dollars for Scholars Organization, Mount Baker School District

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

MBSF meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Baker School District Administration Office, September through June. Everyone is welcome!

An Interview with Joel Perry, Mt. Baker High School Class of '96



Joel is currently attending the University of Washington pursuing a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.

Tell us about your undergraduate years at Gonzaga.

At the time I began my undergraduate studies, Gonzaga had only about 4,000 total students, 2,500 at the undergraduate level, so although it was 10 times larger than what I came from at Mt. Baker High School, it was also 10 times smaller than the University of Washington. This difference in size was definitely a motivating factor in my selection process. Gonzaga is a Jesuit school and there is something there

that's just different than what you experience at any public university. The people are different. They are filled with an inexplicable joy and contagious enthusiasm for life, and people notice it, atheists and agnostics alike.

What made you choose engineering as a major and why a Ph.D.?

I chose engineering as a major because I loved math, science, and physics, and disliked English and history. I guess I fit the engineer mold. Another influence on my choice was my dad, a chemical engineer by trade, from whom I developed my early appreciation of physics and astronomy and an inquisitive mind that drove me to take virtually everything apart just to see how it worked, and then to see if I could put it back together again (usually I could).

What is the focus of your Ph.D.?

Presently, I am working in the Biorobotics Lab, a multidisciplinary lab in the electrical engineering department to develop a neural-controlled exoskeleton arm. It's basically a robotic arm that can be worn over one's existing arm to enhance functional ability. The 'neural' part means that we tap into the same

Reports from our graduates...

command signals that drive your muscles and use them to control the exoskeleton. It gives the user a sense of oneness with the device, with seemingly instant feedback. The aim of the project is primarily for the disabled population: patients with muscular deficiencies as a result of stroke or spinal cord injury.

What kind of job do you envision getting after graduation?

There are essentially endless jobs you can get with a degree in mechanical engineering. That's another one of the reasons I chose ME as a major. I'm still not sure which path I will take, but I like knowing that I have options available. If I stay within my area of focus, I will be working either in mechanical design, or in the control of robotic systems.

I envision either working for or starting a small company developing medical devices, or possibly going straight into teaching at a smaller university.

What activities outside of the classroom are you involved in?

While studying at Gonzaga, I participated in track and field, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, became a certified scuba diver, and did a lot of snow skiing and mountain biking.

During my graduate work, my extracurricular activities have definitely lessened in frequency and variety but I still find time to get at least a little exercise. Just before starting my Ph.D., I married my best friend, Kelly, whom I met at Gonzaga. We bought a house away from the city

where we could have trees in our backyard. We're expecting our first child in February, and I can only imagine how my activities will change then! Someday I'll have time to scuba dive again, but for now I'll spend time driving home through the woods and baby-proofing the house.

What do you do for fun?

I try to do everything for fun. I believe in the philosophy that if you're not enjoying what you're doing, then you're either doing the wrong thing, or you're focusing on the wrong thing while you're doing it.

What advice do you have for upcoming Mt. Baker grads on how to succeed in college?

This one may be obvious, but do your homework. Look over your homework early, even if you don't have time to do it yet. Even just reading my assignments ahead of time helps get the wheels in motion to solve the problem. Find a group of friends who are motivated as well, and study together, work on homework together, not to copy from each other, but to learn from each other.

Learn how you study best. Some people need to study alone, while others need to bounce ideas off of friends. I prefer to first study alone to wrestle with problems for a while and then get together with friends for further discussion or help.

Especially important if you don't study with friends: attend office hours. Your teacher holds office hours for a reason. Sometimes a

teacher will leave out information in the question just to see if you'll take the time to come ask about it. A lot of wasted time can be saved by visiting your professor and asking questions.

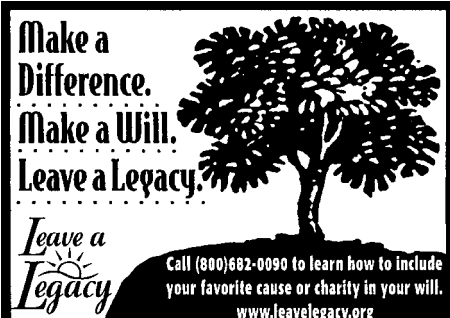
Take the time to exercise. Exercise relieves stress. It also releases natural antidepressants in your body, things you definitely want late at night when studying for a final you need to pass!

One of the smartest things you can do financially to prepare for college is take the time to apply for scholarships. There are tons of scholarships available and often very few applicants. The more scholarships you apply for, the more financial help you are likely to receive. So take the time, it's worth it.

Joel is the son of Rich and Fran Perry of Bellingham.

*Do you know a Mt. Baker Scholarship recipient?
Email me at June@nas.com so that I can contact them for an update to include them in a future newsletter!*

- June Thompson



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Leave a Legacy

Call (800)662-0090 to learn how to include your favorite cause or charity in your will.
www.leavelegacy.org

Reports from our graduates...



Karly Postlewait, Class of 2002

When Karly left home to attend Webber International University in Babson Park, Florida, she probably didn't expect to encounter a hurricane as part of her college experience. But Karly, graduate of 2002 and recipient of a Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation Endowed Scholarship, survived two hurricanes just in the last year. She's busy pursuing a degree in Sports Management and participates in the Leadership Club, Government Debate Club, and is, of course, the top pitcher on the softball team.

Because Karly received athletic scholarships in addition to the MBSF scholarship, she has used her MBSF funds for moving expenses, groceries and school supplies. She writes: "The scholarship money will help me buy groceries to eat balanced meals. Considering that I am a college athlete, eating fast food will not help me

to excel in my sport. As well as eating nutritionally, the money will really come in handy for my much needed school materials. All in all I would like to thank the Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation for their time, money, and interest in me succeeding as a college student athlete."

Karly is the daughter of Randy and Laurie Postlewait of Deming.



Zac Beckhusen, Class of 2002

Zac Beckhusen, graduate of 2002 and recipient of the Horn Scholarship, has wasted no time in pursuing his academic goals. He hopes to earn a double bachelor's degree in Marketing and Entrepreneurship in 2006 from Washington State University where he is currently a junior. He recently joined the Kappa Sigma Fra-

ternity and serves as both the Alumni and Public Relations Chairperson and the Brotherhood Chairperson. For physical activity he participates in intramural softball and soccer and also finds time to work for Vector Marketing, making direct sales in the Palouse and east side area.

Zac works for Vector Marketing during the summer as well. He was the #2 salesman this past summer and is already lined up for a job this coming summer in the Bellingham Division as Division Manager. He will run sales training sessions and workshops.

Zac's best memories of Mt. Baker High Schools are three favorite teachers: Mr. Thibault (Physics) for combining learning and fun, Mr. Underwood (Building Construction, Manufacturing & Digital Media) for teaching valuable, applicable skills, and Ms. Pitts (English) for the best class ever in writing skills. Although Zac is appreciative of his formative years spent in a small town, he was ready for "a much needed academic experience of diverse people, ideas, and educational assessment," which he is experiencing at WSU. He says "the Horn Scholarship will greatly help my expensive, but well spent, academic pursuit of excellence and further lighten my student loan payments in the future."

Zac is the son of Rolfe and Joyce Beckhusen of Deming.

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 (donor entitled to commemorative tile on Wall of Honor)

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:

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Mt. Baker Scholarship Foundation
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