



Celebrating the Success of Manson Graduates

January 2012

This year's Alumni News is very special as we feature seven unique graduates who represent our diverse community. The roads these graduates took to reach their goals are unorthodox, making them role-models for our students. Their stories show that one's post-high school goals take commitment, sacrifice and creativity. What these alumni discovered was that with the support and encouragement of our incredible community, anything is possible!

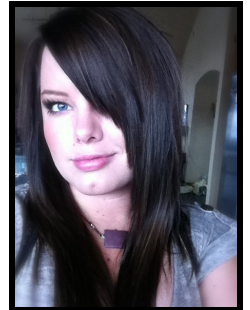
Chelsea Holm-Nielsen: Star Prototype China Ltd, Plastics Engineering Technology

Chelsea Holm-Nielsen attended Whatcom Community College after graduating from Manson in 2005. She then attended Western Washington University where she earned a B.S. in Plastics Engineering Technology. The summer following graduation, Chelsea was an intern for a summer for a company that makes non-woven fabric out of plastic. She is currently an intern at Star Prototype China Ltd. where she makes prototypes out of plastic and aluminum. "I am lucky to have a job that I really enjoy," says Chelsea. "I work with people I really like, plus I am living in China, which is quite an adventure." Chelsea is currently working in the CNC department where she programs computers to cut plastic and aluminum. She makes prototypes, molds and tooling for production. Chelsea highly recommends her field to other students. "There is a great demand for skilled people and it is a very hands-on and technical career." While at Manson High School, Chelsea recalls, "Mr. McClure was my favorite teacher; he was really inspiring and allowed us to be really creative. I still remember the things we did in his class, even to this day." Chelsea's advice to future Manson graduates is to, "try and figure out how you can create value in the world. What skills can you learn that people need done? What can you learn to be good at? Get creative." Chelsea also suggests students work hard, but also be patient with themselves. "If you weren't successful in high school, that doesn't mean you can't be later in life."



Amber Redfield-Moore: Business Owner, Licensed Cosmetologist at Deep Water Salon & Spa

During her senior year at Manson Secondary, Amber attended the Academy of Hair Design in Wenatchee for cosmetology. Her intentions were to use cosmetology to help pay for her education at the University of Hawaii, but three weeks into the program, she knew she'd found her calling. Through the Academy, Amber received her basic education in cosmetology. She then graduated from Manson Secondary in June of 2005 and then from the Academy of Hair Design in February 2006. After graduation from the Academy, Amber took both the practical and written tests required to become licensed. In less than a year out of high school, and at the age of 19, Amber was a licensed professional! "Cosmetology, like fashion, is a world of beautification that changes daily. With this constant change comes continued education," says Amber. Thus, she has specifically chosen to continue her education by becoming a color specialist in the last few years. She attends color-specific classes, hair shows, inspirational workshops and, of course, experiments with her artistic abilities! Currently, Amber is the owner and operator of Deep Water Salon, a Paul Mitchell Focus Salon, in Chelan. She has owned her shop for two years and has three cosmetologists and a massage therapist who work for her. She is always looking for new talent to add to her team. At this point in time, Amber is also in training to become a Paul Mitchell Regional Artistic Color Director and Educator. With this additional education, she will continue to work part-time at her salon, but will begin traveling around Washington, Idaho, Oregon and, possibly, Alaska to educate regional Paul Mitchell Salons in hair color. In addition, Amber will also be performing and educating on the platform at hair shows regionally and hopes to someday take her talent in hair shows to an international level. Amber says, "My education and leadership opportunities at Manson Secondary helped to instill a drive to achieve my goals and has continued into my adult life. The following Manson staff helped mold me into the person I am today: Mr. Joey Castilleja, Mr. Phil Thomas and Mrs. Marcella Lindert, all taught me to express myself through art, and thus I have made a career of it. Mr. Kevin Amsden, who through FFA, succeeded in teaching me how to be a team builder and hard worker. Mrs. Jennifer Rayner-Koth and Mr. Michael Dewey, my public speaking and educational skills are all owed to you two! Thank you, thank you, thank you. To future Manson Secondary graduates, a quote from Robert Cromeans, 'If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.'"



Kyle Jaynes & Leslie (Johnson) Jaynes: Seattle Public Schools Special Education Instructional Coach & Bellevue School District Middle School Health and Physical Education Teacher

Kyle Jaynes and his wife, Leslie Johnson both graduated from Manson in 2000. After graduation, Kyle spent a year at Wenatchee Valley College and Western Washington University before settling into his education at Central Washington University. He earned his degree in History from CWU with a minor in Religious Studies. After graduation from CWU, Kyle worked as a Special Education Instructional Assistant in various elementary classrooms. "It was in these programs that I got a lot of on the job training that helped me become the educator I am today," said Kyle. He then pursued his teaching certificate and eventually got his Master's Degree in Elementary Education from City University in Bellevue. Currently, Kyle is working for Seattle Public Schools as a Teaching Coach in the Integrated Comprehensive Services Program for the Seattle School District. This program is designed to integrate special education students into general education classrooms. Kyle helps the general education teachers adapt their teaching, curriculum and classroom to fully integrate those students into the general education setting. "There were many people in the Manson community who helped me reach my full potential," says Kyle, "Kyle Plew, Dan Reed and Sue Neff, stand out to me the most. Kyle Plew remains a dear friend; someone I can always count on. Mr. Reed taught me to push myself and I can still hear him reminding me that I am capable of more than I realize. And then there's Mrs. Neff, my mom and Language Arts/Social Studies teacher. I am proud of who I am today, and a tremendous part of who I am is because of her." Kyle's wife, Leslie, attended Pacific Lutheran University after graduation from Manson where she earned her BA in Health & Fitness Education and a Minor in Sport Psychology. Leslie recently became a National Board Certified Teacher to extend her teaching certificate and further her professional development. She currently teaches middle school in the Bellevue School District where her content consists of a semester health class that focuses on mental, emotional, social and physical health, P.E. courses and various coaching positions. "I am passionate about teaching and helping students. The phrase, 'It takes a village to raise a child' comes to mind when I think of Manson because of the immense community support that was given to me during my time there," says Leslie. A few teachers/coaches/leaders who made a big impact on her were Frank and Desiree Phelps, Tom Alexander, Susie Bennett, Kyle and Darlene Plew, Sue Neff and Dan Reed. "These amazing people motivated me to pursue my passions, be positive and make the right choices even when it was hard. They are part of why I became a teacher and I am forever grateful for them." The quote, "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it," from Charles Swindoll is one of Leslie's favorites. She says, "In other words, focus on what you CAN control, stay positive, find what brings you joy and go after it." Kyle and Leslie recently had their first child, a baby girl named Annette "Nettie" who is now 6 months old. Leslie is taking a year of child care leave to stay home with Nettie this year.



Morgan Picton: stand-Up Comedian

Morgan attended Wenatchee Valley College and then Evergreen State College in Olympia upon graduating from Manson in 1997. At Evergreen, Morgan obtained a Bachelor's of Arts focused on stories and history. Morgan has held various jobs since graduation and he says a sense of humor was required for all of them, which led him to his current profession. Morgan is currently the host and producer of the Royal Comedy Lounge where he is a stand-up comedian at a weekly open mic and comedy showcase in Olympia. Morgan thanks two special teachers for his education at Manson Secondary, Rolfe Korsborn and Bob Johnson. "I took history and social studies courses from both of these men and English Literature from Mr. Korsborn. I admired how they were able to transmit complex material in an engaging and entertaining fashion." Morgan adds, "If one thinks of a class period as a show and students as a crowd, then comedians and educators alike risk bombing every time they present their content. It might sound frivolous to compare lessons, but I think it's no small thing for a teacher to make their classrooms a fun place to be. A bored class is a disengaged class and getting any information at all to stick in such a case is Sisyphean. Johnson and Korsborn routinely killed it while I was at MHS. My peers and I always looked forward to our lessons from them and for my part at least, I can still recall many of their precise turns of phrase a decade later—long after dryer bits of instruction have blown away. Mr. Korsborn and Mr. Johnson's classes were by far and away my favorites and their fields are the ones I chose to focus on once I reached college as a result. Furthermore, I learned from them that laughter can often be the only sane reaction to



human history and social conditions—without this instinct, my present occupation would be most difficult indeed." Morgan also mentions Mr. Greg Neff, who was the first person to put him on stage and instill in him the love of performing in front of an audience. "My life would be very different now had I not been in so many of Mr. Neff's productions. During my junior year of high school, he even produced a show that I wrote and directed. This was huge for me, absolutely huge. I got to work with my peers to collaboratively create a really fun show, all while Mr. Neff provided the exact right amount of guidance. He kept us from allowing inexperience to steer the show into an iceberg and otherwise hung back to let us students make it happen. Of everything I did while in high school or college, producing that play with Mr. Greg Neff most resembles what I do now," says Morgan. Morgan's advice to graduating seniors and to all students in general is that, "Under no circumstances should a person ever allow narrow social constructs make them doubt their own instincts. There are so many people and institutions in this world that will define you if you let them. Never, ever let anyone tell you your passions are somehow incorrect. What would anyone else know about what moves you? They've not seen what you've seen nor been where you've been nor known who you've known. So long as you do no harm to others, the way you live only has to make sense to you. In short, you and you alone get to define you. All else is static."

Juan Patino: Stihl Technician, Classic Car Design & Restoration

Juan graduated from Manson in 1997 and moved directly into the work place. He works for All-Season Rentals where he has advanced to Manager and Stihl Technician. To become a Stihl Tech, Juan completed three levels of training in Chehalis, Washington. Then after a few years of repairing chainsaws, and all other Stihl products, he traveled to Virginia Beach, VA, with a group of ten other technicians from around the nation. Juan's group was the first to obtain the gold certificate out of all other technicians in the United States. Juan pursues his real passion in his spare time, building classic cars. To date, Juan has restored six vehicles. "Restoration," he says, "takes a long time because most of the cars that I rebuild are not stock; they are custom which means there is a lot of modification work to be done on the body and suspension to make them look unique from the original car." Juan began building classic cars because he admired them and had always wanted to drive one. Realizing a stranger wasn't going to hand him over his keys, Juan decided to build his own car. He read books and magazines extensively on the subject to gain the knowledge to learn how to rebuild classic cars on his own. Now his hobby has dovetailed into a part-time job where he builds and restores classic cars for himself and clients. Juan's favorite car is the second he built, which was a 1954 Chevy Bel-Air. "It took me about two years to complete and it's all custom inside and out. I enjoy building these cars because I have met a lot of people who share the same interests in cars as me. I have also had the opportunity to attend car shows where I have had the opportunity to hear the history of these cars and the memories surrounding them." Juan says, "I learned a great deal from all my teachers, especially Mr. Amsden. I learned welding and small engine repair which has helped me a lot on my current job and on my classic car projects." His advice to Manson students and graduates is to, "Learn the most while you're in school; you never know when or where you will use the information you learn there."



Araceli Morfin-Lopez: Executive Manager, Cosmetologist Professional

After graduation in 2003, Araceli earned her Cosmetology License after 200+ hours of ongoing education in various hair, nail and product specialization courses. She furthered her education with 6 years of management training, business classes, and customer service training which included accounting, employee relations, marketing trends, merchandising, loss prevention and inventory training. Araceli's current job is as manager for Cosmetology Professionals, a nation-wide beauty supply store. Cosmo Prof is the sister store to Sally's Beauty Supplies. At Cosmo Prof, Araceli runs a multi-million dollar business and oversees fourteen employees. Araceli furnishes salons from Walla Walla and Moses Lake to Northern Oregon and Western Idaho where cosmetologists purchase their professional hair care products from her at wholesale prices. Some of Araceli's greatest career accomplishments include furnishing the



Walla Walla State Penitentiary with a barber shop and running all of the Beauty Systems Group (BSG) Hair Shows in Seattle where she had the opportunity to meet celebrity hairstylist Paul Mitchell and his team. Araceli attributes much of her professional success to the staff at Manson who helped shape her work ethic. She wishes to thank the people who set an amazing example for her. "I have borrowed many of my management skills from what these people have taught me over the years and applied it to my work regime on a daily basis!" Araceli thanks Mrs. Susie Bennett who taught her, "That you should always be consistent in your teaching methods and follow-through with disciplinary actions." She says, "Mrs. Kelly Bell taught me that I can still be an amazing teacher even if I have to be stern or strict to keep my employees in check." Mr. Ken Nelson taught her that it's important to have fun in a work environment. "The word 'duh' comes to mind when I think of Mr. Nelson." Mr. Dean Morehead ensured she had proper grammar by always making her use the word "well" rather than "good" when appropriate, which Araceli says helped her get her current job because the employers were impressed with her professionalism. Former Manson Principal, Mrs. Marsha Hanson, taught her that, "Even when you're the 'Big Kahuna' you can still be compassionate and humble." To all aspiring business owners, Araceli says, "I am proof that it doesn't matter how old you are; you can be as successful as you want to be, but you have to crawl before you can walk. I had odd management jobs leading up to my current career, but every job has helped me gain the management experience I needed to land this position." She goes on to say, "You really are the only person who holds the key to your own success, so stay motivated, driven and passionate about what you want to do in life and never give up!"

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