



The Redwing

Skagit Valley College Federation of Teachers
Local 4985



In Recognition of Our Faculty Retirees

<i>2020-21 Academic Year</i>	<i>Spring/Summer 2020</i>
Bobbi Ashe , BEdA, 14 years	Theresa Allyn , BEdA 3 years
Linda Chang , BEdA, 3 years	Eric Anderson , Counseling, 32 years
Anne Danford , Psychology, 18 years	Michael Baker , Welding, 15 years
Amy Edwards , Mathematics, 23 years	Stephanie Bethea , Music, 19 years
Susan Gonzales , BEdA, 14 years	Terri Donovan , BEdA, 11 years
May Haley , BEdA, 32 years	Zoe Grimshaw , Mathematics, 35 years
Hilda Halliday , Computer Sci & Math, 36 years	Raymond Heltsley , Criminal Justice, 29 years
Pam Kaczmarczyk , BEdA, 12 years	David Kern , Mathematics, 5 years
Greta Kocol , Mathematics, 23 years	Pat McVicker , Fire Protection Tech, 19 years
Kathy Larson , Mathematics, 23 years	Ben Munsey , BEdA, 28 years
Chuck Luckmann , English, 24 years	John Ogden , Business Administration, 18 years
Tamara Oakes , OBT, 31 years	Cynthia Scaringe , Nursing, 21 years
Shawna Poynter , Culinary Arts, 15 years	Katherine Scott , BEdA, 14 years
Bobbi Sandberg , Social Sciences, OBT, CIS, CSS, 22 years	
Tina Schaffner , Mathematics, 30 years	
Ann Zukoski , Physics, 18 years	

Thank you, and best wishes!

SVCFT Officers:Kip Zwolenski, *President*Jocie Slepian, *Vice
President for Associate
Faculty*Brian Manning, *Vice
President for Whidbey
Island Campus*Hilda Halliday, *Treasurer*Diane Johnson & Elena
Bianco, *Co-Secretaries***Contribute!**

We encourage contributions to the newsletter. If something is happening in your area that you feel your fellow faculty need to know about, send an article to Editor Elena Bianco at skagitaft@gmail.com. Contributions will be edited for grammar, length and content.

The next issue will be in Summer, deadline for submissions will be Aug. 1.

Contact us:

<http://svcft.wa.aft.org/>

skagitaft@gmail.com

From the President*by Kip Zwolenski*

In this issue we are highlighting our colleagues who have retired since the COVID-19 shutdown. We would normally have recognized these faculty members in end-of-year department meetings and at our June General Membership Gathering at Lorenzo's. However, as we are all aware the last 18 months has been anything but normal. So, please join me in recognizing and celebrating their careers of service to the college and the community.

I also want to temper our celebration a bit by drawing attention to the loss we all face in their retirement. First, the sudden loss we experienced in the separation of long-term associate faculty members last spring and again this winter. I know this came as a shock to the individuals affected, as well as their colleagues. Second, the massive loss of experience, institutional knowledge, and dedication. These retirees represent nearly 600 years of service to Skagit Valley College. Third, is the fact that this loss occurred during a time when we could not gather to reflect on the effects and or changes it will bring. We do hope however to come together in person this fall to celebrate these individuals.

In this edition of *The Redwing*, you will read memories in the retirees own words, as well as tributes written by other faculty. I want to thank Elena for collecting these thoughts and words, but know they are a small fraction of the care and gratitude shared by the campus community for these faculty members.

Retirees: In Their Own Words...***Anne Danford***

Anne with her new puppy, which, she says, "should occupy me, along with my grandchildren, in retirement. Thanks to everyone for all the kindness, support, and inspiration over the years."



Faculty Retirees: In Their Own Words...

May Haley



It has been the greatest pleasure of my life to have been a college teacher for Skagit Valley College because our college is the educational and cultural heartbeat of our community. For 32.5 years I've worked in the basic skills area teaching math and GED prep to students who were reengaging with their education, just finishing high school, and beginning their college adventure. My students showed me their strength and persistence. They taught me compassion and patience. Many of my students had gone through a great number of tragic experiences and so felt beaten by the system. I was trusted by my students because they saw I was empathetic; I had been there myself. They trusted me to illuminate for them the universal connections; I taught solid skills and secret strategies that they could use to solve everyday math problems. I shared my enthusiasm with them, and they enjoyed that. Some

shared that they began dreaming about successfully doing their math: I realized that they had transformative experiences.

Over three decades, I was trusted by my colleagues and our administration to help in academic and professional programs beyond my own: helping to establish bilingual instruction for Licensed Practical Nursing, facilitating a new program to ensure Certification of Bilingual Early Educators, and co-directing the Title III grant component to Improve Basic Skills Instruction. I served on the college Governance Steering Committee. With enthusiasm for the chance to see into the classrooms of other disciplines, I served on a few tenure review committees. I was secretary for the faculty union and continued to be active in faculty union issues. For many years as department chair, I represented SVC as the director of Adult Basic Education on the Council of Basic Skills in quarterly statewide meetings. I was supported by SVC to participate in Leadership Skagit in 2007; our team's community project was to establish the first website for Skagit Special Olympics.

My plans for the future include visiting my brother who pulled up stakes and moved to Thailand. I will travel with a faculty group to Rwanda in 2022 to install solar panels for lights and teach women how to use foot-treadle sewing machines. This idea of retirement is new and exciting, indeed.

Hilda Halliday

For those of you who know that I have served SVCFT in the capacity of Secretary, President and Treasurer over the course of several years, it might come as a surprise that I used to hold adamant anti-union sentiments. I hated the "us versus them" dynamics and naively thought the faculty and administration should simply work together for the greater good of the college. I remained a union member so I could have a vote in what the union did on behalf of our bargaining unit, but I quit attending meetings and frequently complained to my husband Mitch about the stupid things "they" did. I thought my complaints fell on sympathetic ears because Mitch



Hilda, her first year at Skagit

Hilda Halliday (cont'd.)

tended to grouse about his Teamster representatives too. Then one day he said something that changed my view of unions forever: “You know, Hilda, a union is only as strong as its members.”

That began my years of active service in our SVCFT local 4985, participation in monthly AFT Washington meetings in Seattle with other college union presidents, and attendance at state and national conventions. I used to wonder how our SVCFT presidents were so passionate and knowledgeable about various challenges facing faculty at SVC and in other state institutions of higher ed. How could their advocacy be so unequivocal when I was so ambivalent if not hostile? Now I get it. I am now a huge proponent of labor unions. Labor unions are the only organizations with the primary mission of protecting workers’ rights. They are messy organizations run by messy human beings. Sometimes members vote to promote agendas you don’t agree with. Sometimes unions defend the rights of people you don’t like. Unions can become corrupt or abuse their power—just like their opponents.

Unions require its members to pay dues. This is a big source of anti-union sentiment, but the data show union workers have better working conditions and pay than their non-union counterparts. People sometimes point to the “outrageous” pay and benefits received by union members. Unions fight for “living wages,” not boundless wealth. They aspire to solid middle class and upper-middle class incomes for their members. This is not an unreasonable goal. Achieving this goal requires informed and committed leadership and legal battles. Those things cost money that is paid for by union dues.

The less active you are in your union, the less likely you are to appreciate what it does for you. The less likely you are to feel solidarity with your sibling union members. There are many different levels of participation in unions.

- At a minimal level, members can attend General Membership meetings.
- Optional attendance at Executive Council/Board meetings can give you more insight into how your union leadership operates and how it determines agendas.
- Members often form committees that study issues and make recommendations to the union leadership and its other members. Committees can be invaluable in determining the direction a union will take on an issue.
- There is a revolving seat on the Joint Labor Management Committee. This is one of the places you discover that being tenured and/or a member of a union gives you power to speak truth that those who serve in exempt positions at the pleasure of the college president or board cannot.
- You can volunteer to serve on the Executive Council/Board.
- You can volunteer to serve as an officer.
- You can volunteer to serve on the Negotiations Team.

When I studied world religions in college, we learned the ironic fact that religions that don’t change over time die out. To remain strong, unions need to grow and change to reflect the times. This requires an active membership with dedicated and visionary leadership. Millennials deserve non-abusive working environments and living wages. The internet provides a forum for abuse of labor on a massive scale. Opponents of labor unions have come close to killing them off in recent years. To resuscitate them, a PR campaign that addresses workers’ responsibilities as much as their rights may be called for—and be a whole other conversation at local, state and national levels.

Faculty Retirees: In Their Own Words...

In Dedication

We celebrate today our collective voices inhaling and exhaling, dreaming and aspiring, mythologizing the millennial cycles of human landscapes;

We celebrate concrete, steel, wood, and glass of architectural splendor, mirrored in height the soul of its inhabitants, spaces that open up—allowing kinship with light and each other;

We celebrate air, water, soil of the Skagit River Valley, “tasting in our hearts the wine made before Adam,” and the alder thickets and surmountable peaks of the spirit;

We celebrate anadromous salmon, in Lushootseed s?uladxw, who struggle like us to make their way home, from the depths of the universe to the gravelly spawning redds;

We celebrate seasonal cycles of the Nook-wa-chah-mish, and their ancestors who first lived here, near this college: villages of longhouses, racks of drying salmon, canoes beached on gravel bars;

We celebrate the first American surveyor, George Gibbs, who in 1850 recorded the breadth of valley and height of ridge, the many village fires kindled near rushing water;

We celebrate joining of freshwater and saltwater, cycles of new

mixing with old, from the mountains to the sea, from Lightning and Thunder Creeks to Skagit and Padilla Bays;

We celebrate the gold aura of these halls with the gold ore in the mountains, gold in the forests of old-growth fir, cedar, and hemlock; gold in the estuaries, diked and drained for farmland and cattle;

We celebrate the gold in hydropower from Gorge, Diablo, and Ross dams; gold in the persevering spirits of Dutch, Chinese, Japanese, Sikh, Mexican, Russian, African and many more from all over the Earth;

We celebrate the fires of the artist’s forge—creating by remembering, remembering by creating, inviting the reach and muse, the song and dance, the symphony of all these voices to this—our place, one center.

—Charles Luckmann

McIntyre Hall Dedication Ceremony (20 November 2004)

(Chuck submitted this poem, which he read at the Spring Celebration, saying “I wrote it for the November 2004 dedication of McIntyre Hall, but it’s how I still feel about the college.” - Ed.)

Faculty Retirees: In Their Own Words...

Ann Zukoski



*The end to a wonderful chapter in my life
— now on to exploring new countries
and opportunities!*



Your SVCFT Executive Council Representatives

Travis Alexander, Associate Faculty Liaison	Matt Mardesich, Workforce
Claudia Avendano-Ibarra, Workforce	Beth McGuire, Counseling/Library
Jennifer Boland, BEdA/AESL	Cliff Palmer, Natural Sciences
Neta Cahill, past officer	Matt Scammell: Lead Negotiator
Sally Dixon, Social Science	Sunaina Virendra, BAS Programs
Jason Lind, Humanities	

Colleague tributes for our retiring faculty

Eric Anderson

By Gail Bruce

There is one thing to know about Eric Anderson's contribution to SVC, his passion supporting students. This passion came to light when Eric was asked to manage the disability access services in the early 1990's. Eric was the first person to coordinate and directly support differently abled students at Skagit, installing automatic doors, hiring ASL translators, providing testing time accommodations and a host of other services. Eric built the foundation for a program to serve Skagit students, and over time built the foundation for what would become a statewide college model.



As a natural outgrowth of this work, Eric advocated for and initiated the INVEST Program (a transition program to support individuals with intellectual disabilities) to serve students at the college. This pioneering program provides a bridge for student coming to Skagit to be successful.

As a member and president of the Washington Association on Post-Secondary Education and Disability (WAPED), Eric provided leadership, mentoring and advice to his peers in Washington State colleges for many years. His expertise in serving students was tapped by our Human Services Degree Program, where he taught Human Services 121, Introduction to Disability and Disability Law, for over ten years. In addition to classes, Eric also supported college faculty and staff in learning and understanding the reasons for accommodating students in the classroom from a compliance and equity perspective.

On the lighter side, Eric could often be found playing basketball on a faculty team, competing in campus tennis tournaments and participating in yoga classes with students and staff. He also had the honor of playing flag football with Dr. Jim Ford (former SVC President) and Dr. Jim Monroe (former SVC Biology Professor). Thank you Eric, and best wishes for a great retirement!

Bobbi Ashe

by Neta Cahill

Those of us who have had the gift of working alongside Bobbi these past 14 years would most certainly attest to the heart and compassion she has brought to our community here at SVC. Whether helping and caring for students in the ELA and BEdA programs or supporting and encouraging her colleagues, Bobbi has not only been a dedicated instructor, but also a respected leader with a vast set of skills and an admirable social conscience. Bobbi put in many late nights in her role as ELA

Bobbie Ashe (cont'd.)

department chair, so often we would ride home together after my night class ended. Our conversations were inspiring, enlightening, and at times, uproariously hilarious. NPR touts “Driveway Moments”, but Bobbi and I shared many of our own sitting in my car in front of her house late at night.

No matter how busy she may have been, Bobbi made sure the student at her office door had her full and undivided attention and would go out of her way to help them get whatever support or resources they needed. She did the same for her colleagues and treated each with respect and integrity. She noticed and praised the good work and accomplishments of others, making that extra effort to share gestures of appreciation or acknowledgement that meant so much and made our days. Thank you, Bobbi, for having such a kind and caring heart, and for being there as an advocate for our students and our college family with your positive energy and dedicated teaching. The world is a better place because of you!

**Amy Edwards**

by Abel Gage

Amy brought creativity, humor, and an artist's perspective to the math department. She always sought ways to bring that creativity into the classroom. I was honored to play guitar in her class a couple times as she sang her Elvis-parody math songs. Her colorful clothes brought color to the math hallway, and her creative personality equally brightened up math department meetings. She is one of a kind, and irreplaceable.

Hilda Halliday

by Neta Cahill

How to describe someone in 300 words who could easily be a best-selling book? Impossible, but here are my grossly inadequate ‘Cliff-Notes’ for Hilda. Before ever coming to SVC, Hilda was a ground breaker in her military service as one of the first women to serve as a jet engine mechanic in the Air Force. Hilda is a Skagit original, growing up in our valley with her with many siblings. We are so fortunate that she chose to come back and share her talents and dedication with our students at SVC in computer science and math.

Those of us who have had the gift of knowing and working with her can attest to her incredible commitment to learning-- her own as well as her fortunate students. Over more than three decades, she has accepted every change with optimism, enthusiasm, and a stellar sense of humor. Never one to shirk from a new challenge, this was never more evident than the day she accepted the SVCFT co-presidency (with Anne Ziomkowski) after literally being cornered (by me) in the McIntyre Hall washroom the first day of in-service. My sudden shift to tenure track had necessitated this last minute change, and Hilda and Anne rose to the occasion. Hilda continued serving our membership for 7 years as president, countless years on the SVCFT Executive Board, and most recently, as our treasurer.

Hilda Halliday (cont'd.)

Despite facing enormous pressures and heartbreaking personal losses, Hilda always came to campus with a smile, gave her time and patience to her students, supported her colleagues, and exemplified professionalism and grace. To say that SVC will not be the same without her is an enormous understatement. Her laughter and presence will be greatly missed, but Hilda's new adventures will help keep us inspired as she embarks on her retirement journey. See you at Max Dale's again soon, Buddy!

**Greta Kocol**

by Abel Gage

Greta had high standards in the classroom for both her students and herself. She expected a lot, and she gave a lot to her students and received a lot from them in turn. She was tireless in pursuit of what was right, in the classroom, the negotiation table, or at play on the basketball court or the card table. Greta went out of her way to encourage creativity and collaboration in the math department. Outspoken and larger than life, her contributions to the college can't be overstated and she will be sorely missed.

by Kurt Dunbar

Greta was a tireless presence in the faculty union for years. Putting her math talents (and often administration's patience) to the test, all who knew or worked with Greta could attest to her amazing ability to sort out and understand the excruciating details and myriad fine points of contract negotiations. And she contested them all...every damn one of them! Faculty at SVC have some of the highest salaries in the state largely due to Greta's acumen and tenacity. In particular, she was a champion for part-timers like me. A down and dirty in the trenches fighter she never missed an opportunity to try and balance the inherent inequities between full and part-time faculty, including elevation of many us to tenure status.

But I am writing this because she was my friend. We ride shared to school for several years from Sudden Valley where we both lived. On absolute ends of the political spectrum from each other, we had a half hour every day coming and going to discuss issues and perhaps hash out our differences. We rarely agreed on a damn thing. Yet we respected and genuinely liked each other and never NOT ONCE let our different opinions or polar opposite views of the world get in the way of our friendship. This country could use more that. I will miss her like the dickens.

Chuck Luckmann

By Kurt Dunbar

Chuck Luckmann is known to most at SVC through the occasional brooding, cheerful, or pensive verse that greets us on our school email. He has worked tirelessly over the years to organize and promote the Skagit Valley Poetry Festival. But there is a lot more to Chuck than poetry. He has deep interest in the culture and art of Salish Sea peoples. He has written extensively on local tribal history and language and is personal friends with many local native elders and leaders. His practical experience with native peoples started when he lived among the Dene (Navajo) for several years. Recently, he has devoted an enormous amount of his own time and creative energies working to bring native art to SVC. By soliciting donations from individuals, businesses and other organizations

Chuck accrued a sizable fund to purchase the wares of local native artists, which will be displayed across SVC campuses.

Chuck has been one of the most dedicated (and prolific) supporters of collaborative learning. I believe he may hold the record for having taught the most Learning Communities at SVC. This is how I got to really know Chuck. He and I have taught “Clash of Civilization?” (Contemporary Middle East History with English Composition) at least a dozen times. Few things will bring out and exacerbate tensions between teaching styles and personalities than trying to fuse two disciplines into one course. It always went seamlessly between us and we enjoyed the process. Plus, we learned a lot from each other, which is the hidden joy of collaborate teaching. I will really miss this and those classes. As a school we are much less without you Chuck. I will miss seeing you around campus, my friend, but I hope we can still go out for that occasional beer.



Tamara Oakes

By Kristi Spine

Tamara Oakes--a fun-loving spirit who enjoys life to the fullest and brought that same energy to her work at Skagit Valley College. Tamara's passion for teaching is evident in the many ways she made learning enjoyable and entertaining for students. She is a master of finding creative ways to present content. She is also known for her willingness to take on extra responsibilities to help students, the department, and the college—from offering an independent study to ensure a student could finish a degree to years of leading the OBT program in her role as department chair. Tamara is a master of content and over the years taught almost every subject offered by the OBT department.

Tamara is also known for her clever Halloween costumes, her mind for trivia, and her love for travel. This fun-loving, talented colleague will be missed. She impacted the lives of students, she made me a more effective teacher, and she made SVC a better place. Her positive energy will be missed. Thank

Tamara Oakes (cont'd.)

you, Tamara, for the 31 years of dedicated service you gave to Skagit Valley College and for the friendship that you provided to many.

Tina Schaffner

by Abel Gage

Tina was relentlessly kind, both in the classroom and with her colleagues. She was often the one to reach out, or to start the small social traditions that made the math department brighter. Quiet around strangers, she has a mischievous streak. At our weekly card games, I knew I was in trouble anytime I heard that wicked chuckle of hers.

Many years we'd travel to math conferences together, and I will always cherish those long car rides for the chances it gave us to talk at length. We faculty don't get enough chances to socialize for hours at a time, but Tina was a joy to talk with, always. She will be greatly missed.

