

# Laker Club

SOUTHWESTERN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Stay engaged with Southwestern Oregon Community College. Join the Laker Club! The Laker Club Alumni Association began in 2007 and now has over 900 members. Laker Club members will have access to Laker Club electronic newsletters and exciting 50th Anniversary campus events. Anyone who's taken a class at Southwestern is eligible to sign up for free Laker Club membership. For more information or to sign up, those interested can contact the Southwestern Foundation office at (541) 888-7211 or e-mail the Laker Club at: [lakerclub@socc.edu](mailto:lakerclub@socc.edu).



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
Oregon Community College

1988 Newmark Ave., Coos Bay OR 97420

[www.socc.edu](http://www.socc.edu)

Southwestern Oregon Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

## The Southwestern Foundation

The Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation began in 1962 immediately following the establishment of Southwestern Oregon Community College in 1961 as the first community college district in Oregon. Since that time, more than one-hundred thousand students have attended the college. Each year, one out of every six adults in the college district takes a class at Southwestern. The college provides a positive impact on almost every citizen in the college district whether you have taken a class, know someone who is student, are an alumnus or have been to an event on a Southwestern campus.

The Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation is committed to providing opportunities and removing barriers for students to receive an education at Southwestern. In addition to providing student scholarships, the Southwestern Foundation supports multiple campus initiatives. Since 2007, the Southwestern Foundation has supported the Laker Club Alumni Association, now with over 900 members. The Laker Club Alumni Association wants to connect alumni with current news about Southwestern and its alumni. Other initiatives sponsored by the Southwestern Foundation to promote growth and improvement at Southwestern include: the Visions high school art competition; Southwestern Math & Skills Day competition and Faculty Excellence Awards.

Committed community volunteers serve on the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation Board. They continue their work removing barriers to education and providing Southwestern students with educational opportunities.

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Please contact the Foundation Office at 541-888-7211 or e-mail us at [foundation@socc.edu](mailto:foundation@socc.edu) for additional information or to become involved with student success at the Southwestern Foundation.



## THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



**LINDA PREFONTAINE**  
Recipient of Southwestern's 2011  
Distinguished Alumni Award

# The Southwestern Impact

Many Distinguished Alumni fondly recall favorite Southwestern instructors who were instrumental in steering the courses of their lives towards success. Many found Southwestern to be a valuable resource, close to home, where they learned to establish lifelong professional and personal goals. While some moved out of the area, others were drawn back to the South Coast with a vision to enhance the hometown communities they love. Some came to Southwestern early in life, and some came to the college in the midst of a career or personal transition. While each Distinguished Alumnus's story is unique, all recognize that their educational experience at Southwestern played a very important role in achievements earned over the years.



## 2011 Linda Prefontaine

Linda Prefontaine

Linda attended SWOCC from 1971-73, earning an Associate's degree. An excellent athlete, she was a three-time district doubles champion, State of Oregon quarter finalist, and State Semifinalist

in high school. Linda played tennis for the Lakers, voted Team Captain and Most Valuable Player as a sophomore. Following her academic transfer to the University of Oregon, she earned a PAC 8 Northern Division Doubles Championship. She graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Oregon.

Linda learned, and excelled at, the game of racquetball, winning the 1978 Oregon State Singles Championship, placing second in the Amateur National, and placing third in the International Racquetball Championships. She turned professional in 1979, maintaining a top ten ranking throughout most of her career.

In 1981, Linda retired from professional racquetball to pursue a career in teaching and coaching. She also has devoted much energy to keeping alive the spirit of her brother Steve Prefontaine, using his memory and legacy to illustrate to others the value of hard work and dedication to achieve goals and dreams. Linda created Prefontaine Productions LLC in 2006 to create items to inspire runners in the spirit of her brother. She also helped author a children's book in Steve's name with all royalties given to Blossom Gulch Elementary School.

An active person in the community, Linda established the Linda Prefontaine Fund with the Oregon Community Foundation in 2009. "My intentions are to help fund animal shelters in Coos Bay and Eugene and to set up a scholarship program to help young females who have demonstrated a talent in music, arts, or athletics but do not have the funds to pursue their dreams," she said.

## 2010 - Michael Snedden

Michael "Mick" Snedden, Fire Chief, Charleston Rural Fire Protection District

"My education from Southwestern has meant a world of knowledge and has opened doors, giving me the skills to seek what I need to excel."



## 2009 - Mary Stricker

Mary Stricker, retired Director of the Southwestern Oregon Community College Library

"Southwestern gave me confidence to continue my education which ultimately changed my life."

## 2008 - Fran Worthen

Fran Worthen, Co-owner Pacific Properties/Marshfield High School Track & Field Coach

"There were so many things offered at the community college that just got you excited; all of them shape the fabric of a person's mind and emotions and they were all relevant. The community college opened doors for lifelong learning."

## 2007 - Peggy Goergen

Peggy Goergen, former Curry County Dean for Southwestern Oregon Community College

"Southwestern made it entirely possible for me to do what I wanted to do, which was work in education. Even though I did not obtain a degree from Southwestern, I would not have been able to obtain a degree at all without Southwestern."



## 2006 - Chuck McKay

Chuck McKay, President of McKay's and Price 'N' Pride

"I don't think there's an end to learning for any of us. My goal was not the credential or the diploma so much as the education and I certainly got that."

## 2005 - Cynthia Ball

Cynthia Ball, CFO/Vice President of Administration at Coos Bay Lumber Company, one of the largest wholesale forest product distributors and wood treatment facilities on the west coast.

"At Southwestern, I received more than just an education. I learned how to set goals and then achieve those goals."

## 2004 - Karl Kennedy

Karl Kennedy, President and Chief Technical Officer of ORCA Communications

"Some of my fondest Southwestern memories are of science and economics classes, and being on the wrestling team."

## 2003 - Robert "Gray" Jones

Robert "Gray" Jones, accomplished poet and English teacher, American International School of Vienna

"A large portion of the credit for everything that happened to me at Southwestern I owe to the professors I met there. Coming to the college was like walking into a dream that just kept on going once I left."

## 2002 -

### John D. Breuer

John D. Breuer, Physical Therapist, Southwest Physical Therapy LLC and John Breuer Rehabilitation Services

"Southwestern helped me refocus and become excited about college again. It is where my lifelong interest in science began."



## 2001 - Michael Hennick, Sr.

Michael Hennick, Sr., owner, Hennick's Home Center, Inc.

"Southwestern allowed me to get a job in the forestry industry with skills that were directly applicable to the job."

## 2000 - Peter Ruppe

Peter Ruppe, Global Product Director, Nike Inc.

"The preparation at Southwestern really helped. The teachers were really outstanding and serious. They helped me focus and master what it took to do well in school."

## 1999 - Chuck Knight

Chuck Knight, former Chief of Police, Coos Bay Police Department

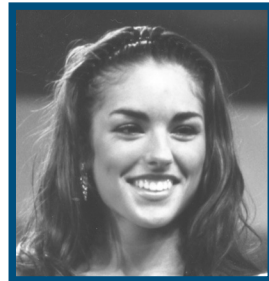
"The value of the College's program, whether it's criminal justice or any other program, is that it's well-rounded and you get a good education."

## 1998 -

### Tsianina Means

Tsianina Means, 1997 ESPN Fitness America Champion, Miss Coos County, 1993

"I received a strong education, enjoyed the highly competitive athletic scene and made true, lifelong friendships."



## 1997 -

### Mark Nightingale

Mark Nightingale, engineer, Tektronix

"Southwestern can prepare you for anything, because it's really the person, not the job. I encourage every student to follow his or her dream."

## 1996 - Don Hall

Don Hall, CPA, managing partner, Yergen and Meyer, LLP

"The counselors and professors really care about the students and take a sincere interest in them. It really made a difference to me."

## 1995 - Dr. Annette McGregor

Dr. Annette McGregor, Assistant Professor in the Theatre Division of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana

"I look back on my experiences at Southwestern as critical to my development as an artist, a teacher and a human being."

## 1994 - Peter Sorenson

Peter Sorenson, Eugene attorney and Oregon State Senator

"I took a geography class and ended up getting a BA and MA in geography because of the good start I got at Southwestern."

## 1993 - Mary Miller

Mary Miller, Executive Director and CEO of the Oregon, Idaho, Montana Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

"Southwestern has become a Miller family tradition."

## 1992 - Steve Greif

Steve Greif, history teacher, North Bend High School

"I am proud of the fact that I've come back to the community from Southwestern and that I've made my contributions here."

