

Wine Country Chapter Woman of the Year

Each year, the Wine Country Chapter emphasizes the outstanding achievements and contributions members make by electing a Chapter Woman of the Year. There are many benefits to participating in this national ABWA program. For our chapter, it can boost our public image, spark interest from prospective members and reinforce current members' decisions to stay involved in ABWA, and, for all members, increase their evaluation and decision-making skills. Recognizing a member for her accomplishments demonstrates our commitment to support the mission of the American Business Women's Association. Past winners have included:

2002, Lucy Lewand
 2003, Anna Scally
 2004, Diana Blakeley & Holly Schatz
 2005, Carol Feuerstein
 2006, Margi Williams-Weiranga

**Our 2007 Woman of the Year
 is Anna Smith.**



Anna Smith, 2007 Woman of the Year

Anna Smith and her husband of 21 years, Stan Smith, are the proprietors of the Shelford House Bed & Breakfast in beautiful Cloverdale, California.

Anna was born in Vallejo and has lived in Northern California most of her life. She was a hairstylist before going back to school to acquire her degree in Business Management. Anna has four children who were all raised in Santa Rosa. She and Stan moved to Cloverdale when they bought the Shelford House in 2002.

Anna is a board member of the Cloverdale Farmers Market, a Cloverdale Chamber Ambassador, current Vice President of Hospitality for ABWA Wine Country Chapter, and incoming Vice President of Hospitality, serving a second term, for ABWA Wine Country Chapter. Anna has been a member of ABWA since 2003 and has been in charge of our monthly raffle from 2004 through 2006. She has

donated wine, desserts for meetings and countless hours to ABWA and to the last Economic Forecast Luncheon in 2005. Her hobbies are gardening, traveling, wine tasting and spending time with her grandchildren.

Anna always brings a smile and a laugh to every situation, making it a joy to spend time with her. It is because of her hard work, positive outlook, sense of responsibility and fun that we award her with ABWA Woman of the Year.

Awards Ceremony

June 2007

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OUR MISSION:
 To bring together
 businesswomen of
 diverse occupations
 and to provide
 opportunities
 for them to help
 themselves and
 others grow
 personally and
 professionally,
 through leadership,
 education,
 networking support
 and national
 recognition.

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Inspiring Women Scholarship Program

Every year, ABWA Wine Country Chapter members work hard to raise money for scholarship awards to help women in Sonoma County achieve their business and/or professional goals through education. This year's Wine Raffle and Silent Auction was tremendously successful, and we are excited and pleased to announce our 2007 Inspiring Women Scholarship recipients:

Wendy-Lynn Jones

\$2,500 • SONOMA STATE

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, 3.88 GPA

Wendy-Lynn is studying to be a Conservation Biologist. She is married and the mother of an 11 year old son; she volunteers as a librarian and coach at her son's school. While at SRJC she discovered that she is dyslexic, but with the help of the Disability Resource Department achieved a 4.0 GPA. She continues her excellent grades at SSU and plans to continue on until she achieves a Masters in Ecology. One of Wendy's professors describes her as "a truly amazing person who has exceptional intellectual abilities, despite possessing a learning disability and a late start in education. She is a wonderful mother... and first-class in all respects. She deserves to be recognized and rewarded generously for her tremendous achievements and exciting future."

Ashley Bell

\$2,250 • SONOMA STATE

DUAL MAJOR: ART & PREMED, 3.94 GPA

Ashley is the first person in her family to attend college. Her double major will make her studies one year longer, and is an added economic burden. Ashley works part-time as an EMT, which helps her pay bills and gain medical experience. Ashley's professors praise her disciplined and conscientious work and study ethic, and her calm demeanor. Both commented on the fact that they believe she will be an excellent physician.

Erica Peringer-Batten

\$2,250 • SONOMA STATE

MUSIC EDUCATION, 4.0 GPA

A music teaching credential will allow Erica to teach both elementary and

high school levels. She has been working part-time as a teaching assistant at SSU for the past year, and in the fall of 2006 organized the High School Choral Festival at SSU. Her professors praise her skills as a pianist, percussionist, and conductor; and comment on what a great "ear for music" she has.

Gianna de Persiis Vona

\$2,250 • SONOMA STATE

TEACHING CREDENTIALS, 3.9 GPA

Gianna graduated in 2000 Cum Laude with a degree in English, and completed her Masters in Creative Writing in 2001. Gianna is a single mother of two boys ages 10 and 12, and currently works three jobs: part-time barista, creative writing instructor and advice columnist. This scholarship will allow her to drop one of her part-time jobs. One professor describes her as a "critical thinker and excellent writer" and another as "highly deserving of a scholarship (because) she already demonstrates the skills in her chosen career: educator and writer."

Suzanne Duffy

\$1,000 • SONOMA STATE

SPECIAL EDUCATION CREDENTIALS, 4.0 GPA

Suzanne is completing her teaching credential in order to help support her family. She and her husband have two children, one of whom has developmental delays and requires therapies for which they pay out-of-pocket. Her professor's comments: "Suzanne's final paper eloquently yet succinctly synthesized all the important aspects of teaching mathematics to children. We need people like Suzanne in the teaching profession." And, "Suzanne has a solid presence in the classroom,

confirming seriousness of purpose with warmth and a genuine interest in student success."

Elyse Jaynes

\$1,000 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

HEIDI ROOS AINSWORTH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
CULINARY STUDIES, NUTRITION EMPHASIS

Emily Morrison

\$1,000 • SONOMA STATE

MASTERS COMMUNITY COUNSELING, 4.0 GPA

After receiving her BA in Psychology, Emily worked with the Sonoma County of Education helping teach at risk youth and special needs preschoolers. She has been working the rape crisis line for two years and was nominated for the Community Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in 2006. Her professors describe her as "in every regard—scholarly, professionally and personally—Emily is simply outstanding." And, "Emily demonstrates a very strong ability to combine head and heart."

Jessica Stull-Otto

\$1,000 • SONOMA STATE

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, 3.91 GPA

Jessica works part-time to support her educational goals. Her professors say it best: "I feel that Jessica is an exceptional person. I can honestly say that she is one of the best students I have ever had in the ten years that I have been teaching." And, "Ms. Stull-Otto has displayed a strong philosophical and ethical concern with our subject matter in Environmental Studies and Planning. She has been one of the outstanding students I have had in my twelve years of teaching."

Sarah Uyehara

\$1,000 • SONOMA STATE

MASTERS IN COUNSELING, 4.0 GPA

Sarah is retraining herself following a disability sustained during surgery and treatment for breast cancer. Because of this disability Sarah was no longer able to perform her old job, and hopes to become a counselor working with people experiencing their own health challenges. She has a daughter

in 7th grade, and a son who is a freshman at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her professor's comments: "I often found that while other students fulfilled the requirements of the assignment, Sarah had grasped the intent behind it. I am no less impressed with Sarah's dedication to her academics in the face of many competing life demands."

Celeste Hoffman

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Celeste currently volunteers part-time with the campus cops.

Lori Louise Lawrence

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Megan Parnow

\$750 • SONOMA STATE

STUDIO ART, 3.97 GPA

Megan lives at home with a single parent and funds her education through scholarships. She has a passion for art and badminton. She is a past winner of the Doyle Scholarship and the ABWA scholarship will enable her to purchase much needed art supplies. Professor comments: "Megan is extremely hard-working and self-motivated. Her sense of craft and the degree of execution was always at the top of the class, and she was well respected by her peers." Her emphasis is on painting, but also likes photography and sculpture.

Leanne Sjoen

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

UNDECIDED: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

OR CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Melissa Steenport

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

ARCHITECTURE