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## Western lauds local outstanding grads

Three local students were honored as outstanding graduates during the June 11 commencement at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

Faculty members select an Outstanding Graduate of the Year for each department. The honor is based on grades, research and writing, service to the campus and community, and promise for the future, according to a news release.

Natalie Holmstrom, daughter of Mike and Sandy Holmstrom of Mount Vernon, was named the Decision Sciences Outstanding Graduate. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Operations Management and graduated magna cum laude.

Holmstrom is a graduate of Mount Vernon High School and Skagit Valley College. She was selected to attend the College of Business and Economics Leadership Luncheon in 2011. She is also a recipient of the Karen Freeman Seattle Business Forum Scholarship and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society for business students. Holmstrom will begin a full-time position this month with Boeing, where she interned during the summer of 2010.

Jennifer Liddle, daughter of Doug and Bev Liddle of Anacortes, was named Chemistry Outstanding Graduate. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and graduated magna cum laude.

Liddle was homeschooled and attended Skagit Valley College. She is a former piano teacher and has been an assistant youth choir director and the pianist for the adult choir for her church in Anacortes. Liddle has worked as a lab teaching assistant in both the chemistry and biology departments at Western.

She has been a volunteer in the Science Olympiad Program at Mount Baker Middle School in Mount Vernon, assisting seventh- and eighth-graders with research techniques and experimental design, and with Skagit Literacy, designing and teaching a curriculum for adult English language learners.

Liddle plans to attend the University of Colorado-Boulder to earn a doctorate in biochemistry, then work to improve the public's understanding of science.

Ursula Remaklus, the Elementary Education Outstanding Graduate, graduated cum laude in March and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education, with a major in Elementary Education and an early childhood education endorsement.

Remaklus, daughter of Bob and Amy Schroeffer of Camano Island and wife of Justin Remaklus of Ferndale, was homeschooled and attended Skagit Valley College. She interned in the Western Child Development Center and in a first-grade classroom at Blaine Primary School. She also serves as a board member and stage manager for Lyric Light Opera of the Northwest.

Remaklus has been a substitute teacher in elementary and preschools since March and wants to start a preschool in Whatcom County.

– Skagit Valley Herald staff

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Liddle



Holmstrom



Remaklus