

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Reid Family



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Britt Reid—
Branch Chief of the
National Cancer Institute,
SC Alum

Traditionally, Schoolcraft College takes a few moments during the annual commencement ceremony to acknowledge a past graduate with the Distinguished Alumni Recognition Award. At the ceremony in May, the award was bestowed upon six Schoolcraft graduates, the siblings of the Reid family.

For Shirley Reid, the family matriarch and a retired school teacher, the evening was a great honor. “I was disappointed Bill, my husband, could not be with us, but I know he was there in spirit.” Both Shirley and her late husband were college graduates and believed in the importance of higher education. “We have always been so proud to have Schoolcraft College in our community.”

Raini Reid Gilmore is quick to add, “We knew all along that we were going to college.” Bill and Shirley made it clear the choice was “Schoolcraft or move out!” All the kids followed the direction of their parents and worked to pay their own way to Schoolcraft.

The first to arrive on campus was Britt, the eldest of the Reid progeny. “Occasionally life presents you with an incredible opportunity to make a breakthrough and advance yourself. Schoolcraft College was that opportunity for me.” Britt would use a Schoolcraft education to propel himself through Dental school at the University of Michigan and into the Navy as an officer. He now resides in Rockville, Maryland and is a branch chief of the National Cancer Institute. “Looking back, I do not know how else I could get that kind of quality education at a price I could have afforded. I had an educational plan, but few options to make it happen financially.”

Sister Mardi received a nursing degree from Schoolcraft while her sisters Kalli and Crisi followed in their mother’s footsteps and pursued teaching as a vocation. Crisi says, “I am very proud of my family...for instilling in all of us the desire to go to college and help, in our own

small way, to make the world a better place.” Kalli offers, “I cherished my time at Schoolcraft; I had some of my favorite classes and instructors there.”

Raini, the second youngest, admits, “I wasn’t a very good student in high school.” She explains that a major advantage of Schoolcraft College is how it gives students an opportunity to find their way in college. “You spend the first two years learning how to learn.” Youngest brother Brion echoes the sentiment. “Leaving high school, I felt ill-prepared and without direction.” He credits the Schoolcraft faculty and staff with helping him to become a better student and find his focus. “This gave me the preparation I needed to move on to the University of Michigan and receive my Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.”

When asked about reconnecting with the Schoolcraft community, Raini emphatically states, “I’ve always stayed connected.” Her son Ryan attended SC before moving onto Lawrence Technological University to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. Her daughter Amanda though enrolled at Central Michigan University, has taken advantage of Schoolcraft’s summer classes to bolster her education. In addition, as a member of the Zonta Club of NW Wayne County she donates to SC on a regular basis. Kalli adds, “My son currently attends Schoolcraft and plans to transfer to a university next year.” Crisi, already established in her career, continues to use SC courses to keep her teaching certification current.

Six SC graduates. Five bachelor’s degrees. Three master’s degrees. Two doctorals. Two generations. One inspiring family. When contemplating the role Schoolcraft College has played in her children’s successes, Shirley states simply, “It has truly been a blessing for our family.” ●