

Distinguished graduate to speak

By Ann Strosnider
October 7, 2004

A former Olympic College student who is now a nationally recognized lawyer will be the featured speaker at the college's annual community luncheon Monday at Bremer Student Center.

William Marler, a Bainbridge Island resident and managing partner of Marler Clark in Seattle, has represented victims in cases of national importance, including the Jack in the Box and Odwalla E. coli cases.

Marler grew up in Silverdale and graduated from Central Kitsap High School in 1976. His mother, Diane Marler, served on the nursing faculty at Olympic College for five years, beginning in the 1968-1969 academic year. His father, Lawrence Marler, spent many of his 27 years at Olympic College teaching in the apprenticeship program.

After attending Olympic College, Marler earned his undergraduate degrees in political science, English and economics from Washington State University.

At age 19, Marler was elected to the Pullman City Council where he served as the youngest member, and the first student ever elected.

He later graduated from Seattle University of Law.

In 1997, Marler received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the WSU College of Liberal Arts. One year later, Gov. Gary Locke appointed him to the University Board of Regents. He recently was appointed to the Higher Education Coordinating Board. He also has been voted by his peers as a pre-eminent lawyer in the United States and as a "Super Lawyer."

Recently, Marler has been active in the campaign for Initiative 884, which would raise sales taxes by 1 percent to create an educational trust fund.

The luncheon is the kickoff event to the annual fund-raising campaign for the Olympic College Foundation, which raises money for student scholarships and grants, program grants, and faculty development and training opportunities.

The 2004-2005 goal for the fund-raising drive is \$150,000. Last year, 50 percent of fund-raising efforts came from the Community Luncheon.

The public is welcome at the luncheon. A \$125 gift or pledge will be requested. All of the proceeds go to Olympic College students and programs.

Reach reporter Ann Strosnider at (360) 792-9219 or at astrosnider@kitsapsun.com.

What: Olympic College Community Luncheon

When: 11:45 a.m. Monday

Where: Bremer Student Center, OC Bremerton campus

Cost: A \$125 gift or pledge is requested; proceeds go to OC students and programs

Sponsor: Olympic College Foundation

Reservations: Call (360) 475-7120

By Ann Strosnider

Sun Staff