

2015

## Alumni News

Linfield Magazine Staff

Debbie Harmon Ferry '90  
*Linfield College*

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## Road warrior for Linfield – 13,000 miles and counting



I feel a bit like a road warrior. On behalf of Linfield, I have traveled to Seattle, Spokane, Washington, D.C, Denver, Palm Springs, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland and San Francisco. That's roughly 13,000 air miles and 10 nights in hotels, all for Linfield events. Some were held in conjunction with the Office of Admission, while others were geared for alumni and current parents.

While business travel is not as glamorous as some may think, the events have been wonderful and connecting with alumni and parents around the country makes it completely worthwhile.

The value of these regional meetings isn't just for me to have the chance to meet and talk with alumni and parents. It's also valuable to those Wildcats who live there. It may lead to a professional link, a friendship or even just the opportunity to share memories. They can get updates about the college or inquire about a favorite professor and

long-lost friend. We want our alumni and parents to feel connected to the college and proud of the work that is being done to educate the next generation of leaders.

All of us at Linfield love to reconnect with alumni, to find out where their careers have taken them and what is happening in their lives. We hope and expect they will be inspired to recommend the Linfield experience to future generations of students. We hope they will support the college with charitable gifts that will continue to enhance a Linfield education. Alumni may also want to help current students or other alumni by serving as mentors or resources. All of this strengthens Linfield, and in turn, makes each of our degrees more valuable.

This fall I may be hitting the road again and I hope to see you at one of our regional events. I know you have stories about your Linfield experience and I hope you will share them.

– Debbie Harmon Ferry '90  
Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

## Award-winning nurse inspires, leads by example

Natural leadership and inspirational skills have earned Sara Mosher '01 the admiration of her peers – along with a number of awards in the nursing field. Mosher is the recipient of the 2015 Lloydena V. Grimes Award for Excellence in Nursing from the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing.

Mosher points right back to Linfield as one of the reasons for her success.

"Nursing School was not easy, but they (the professors) taught me how to work really hard," she said. "They truly wanted me to succeed and even after a long day of lectures, they would still find time to meet with me to make sure I understood the content and felt confident going into a test."

Mosher, manager of care coordination with the St. Charles Health System in Bend, is passionate about improving the patient and family experience. From being a bedside nurse, to a clinical coordinator and now

practicing in management, she focuses on the patient experience and leads by example.

"My passion and focus has been to improve the patient experience," she said. "What an honor it is, as a nurse, to be with the family on a journey that is terrifying and scary and emotional. Every single day I go to work it's an honor to walk alongside families."

That is what prompted her to start her own business, Patient+Family Care, partnering with organizations to blend technology and medical care with a focus on patient and family support.

She was also named the 2014 Oregon Community Health Nurse of the Year and was one of the 2014-15 National Association of Professional Women VIP Women of the Year. She was the 2011 Oregon Pediatric Nurse of the Year and received a 2012 Leading Practice Award, both presented by March of Dimes.

Mosher, who earned a master's in health/health care administration/management from the University of Phoenix, is an active mentor and has served as a clinical preceptor for several Linfield nursing students. She is a sought-after national speaker. She has volunteered for the March of Dimes for 17 years, serving as head volunteer and member of the community board for Central Oregon. She was recently elected as a member of the Central Oregon Ronald McDonald House Charities Board of Directors as well. Mosher is the 25th recipient of the Lloydena Grimes Award, established in 1991.



 Watch video: [youtube.com/linfieldcollege/videos](https://youtube.com/linfieldcollege/videos)



## Homecoming 2015

Sept. 11-12

Come home to Linfield. See what's new on campus while renewing your connections with classmates through a variety of reunions planned for the classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005. Reunions are also planned for members of the Lambda sorority, Alternative Spring Break participants, HHPA majors and those who took part in music. Plan to celebrate award-winning classmates and favorite professors during Linfield's Finest, take in the football game and catch the alumni music performance.

[linfield.edu/homecoming](http://linfield.edu/homecoming)



## Memories of Dr. Fricke

*Editor's note: A photo from the Linfield College Archives featuring Elmer Fricke, the late professor emeritus of mathematics, included in the winter 2015 issue, inspired memories from former students. Here are some excerpts.*



My math professor, Elmer Fricke, was a well-organized and energetic, positive and hopeful fellow. What I was doing in his class still baffles me. I limped through first semester calculus on a crippled wing and multiple prayers, aided by a Vietnamese chemical engineering major named Myanh. Myanh understood calculus; I didn't get it at all. So when the final came, with its five questions and three hours to complete them, I was not in the best of shape. Nearly the last person out of the room, I still had completed only two of the five. Chalk that one up as one of my major college failures, I thought.

But once the pressure lifted in the chow line of the cafeteria, I couldn't get the questions off my mind. I dropped out of line, headed for an empty table, pulled out paper and pencil, and completed two more of the questions that had eluded me. I noted the time (well past office hours), ran to his door, slipped the paper under, and knew that I'd failed the course. I just wanted him to know, I had written on the paper, that I could do more than it showed on my final.

I don't think I encountered Professor Fricke again. Certainly I quit taking math classes and concentrated on my major: English literature and education. Somehow I came to know that Professor Fricke gave me at least partial credit for the paper I slipped under his door well past test time. I passed his class with a C, and a more grateful student would be hard to find. I was ecstatic, first of course, that I'd pulled my grade out of the ditch, but also that Professor Fricke believed me enough to count my tardy paper and factor it into my grade. He trusted me, and I guess that's the lesson that stuck.

*Julie (Olson) Otrugman '68*

What Professor Fricke said every morning of my 1980 intermediate algebra class: "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor..."

*Kristen Wilson '83*

Dr. Fricke epitomized the small school learning environment. In the early 1960s a bunch of us took a statistics class from a professor Linfield had hired as sort of a last resort. About eight to 10 of us were hopelessly lost. The night before the final we called Dr. Fricke and he came to the old Fire Station where many of the rascals lived. He stayed until the wee hours of the morning. We all passed with a C or better. Dr. Elmer Fricke was a generous human being as well as a person with a sense of humor.

*Bob Ferguson '65*

For more information, call 503-883-2547 or [alumni@linfield.edu](mailto:alumni@linfield.edu), [linfield.edu/alumni](http://linfield.edu/alumni)