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Prickett makes a difference in Ghana

Don't tell Seth Prickett '05 one person can't make a difference.

In 2005, inspired by a January Term class to Africa, Prickett, former student body president, led a fundraising drive to construct a school in Amonfro, Ghana. Linfield students raised more than \$6,000 to begin construction of Linfield Primary, which now serves 350 students.

"There is so much one person can do," Prickett said. "I don't buy the mantra of 'I can't make a difference.'"

Since his initial visit, Prickett has returned to Ghana twice, most recently in 2007 to set up an Internet café near the school. He said the January Term experience and class, History of Modern Ghana, changed his perspective on life.

"That trip was an amazing eye-opener for me," he said. "It made me think of more than just my everyday life in the United States and that life is so much more than that."

After earning his Linfield degree, Prickett spent four months volunteer teaching in a nearby primary school in Ghana so he could oversee construction of the Linfield school. He raised money through his church, family and friends, shipped hand-made crafts to family in the U.S. to sell at a Christmas bazaar and hosted a fundraising dinner when he returned.



Seth Prickett '05 taught fourth grade in a Ghana school while overseeing the completion of Linfield Primary in Amonfro, Ghana, which now serves 350 students.

"In Africa, you can really make an impact on people's lives at a relatively low cost," he said. "For a little over \$20,000 we were able to build a school for children who otherwise wouldn't have a place to learn. We will have seriously impacted the lives of thousands of children who will some day be the leaders in Ghana."

McGillin named academic vice president



Victoria McGillin

Victoria McGillin, the new vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, is no stranger to Linfield College.

McGillin, the associate provost at Texas Woman's University, served as a consultant to Linfield several years ago. She looks forward to returning to a smaller liberal arts institution.

"I truly believe that you can make a difference in the lives of students and in their intellectual learning experiences at smaller institutions," she said. "That is where most of the exciting, cutting-edge things are happening."

McGillin said Linfield's faculty are committed to teaching, but are also dedicated scholars in their disciplines. Students are focused on their education and actively pursue the goals they have set.

"Students, faculty and administrators have a strong sense of commitment to the institution and are passionate

about Linfield and what a Linfield education means," she added. "Linfield's commitment to globalism, experiential learning and what it means to be educated in the 21st century are all my own priorities."

McGillin has one other tie to Linfield – her husband's paternal grandparents, including Viola Newby, are from the Newberg/McMinnville area.

McGillin will replace Barbara Seidman, who has served in that position for three years and who will return to full-time teaching in the Department of English. McGillin will begin her duties on July 1.

"Dr. McGillin is an experienced, thoughtful, creative intellectual who is devoted to academic quality and the education of undergraduate students," said Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie. "She has worked at institutions that are much like Linfield and understands private, liberal arts colleges."

McGillin earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology at Penn State University; she completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Michigan State University. She has taught and administered programs at Michigan State, University of Connecticut, Clark University and Wheaton College (Massachusetts), where she was dean of studies and assistant provost from 1991 to 2005.

Lacroute, Aslanian, Phillips named to board



Ronni Lacroute

Three individuals have been elected to the Linfield College Board of Trustees — Ronni Lacroute, co-owner of Willakenzie Estate Inc.; Paul Aslanian, emeritus professor of economics at Macalester College; and Timothy Phillips, pastor of the University Baptist Church in Seattle.



Paul Aslanian

Lacroute co-founded Willakenzie Vineyards and Willakenzie Estate Winery in 1991. She holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, a master's from the University of Michigan and degrees from the Université de Paris-Sorbonne. She is affiliated with Chamber Music Northwest, Cornell University Arts and Sciences Advisory Council, the Salem Audubon Society, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Arts Alliance of Yamhill County and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.



Timothy Phillips

Aslanian is a former economics professor and vice president of finance and administration, serving at Macalester College and Swarthmore College. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of

Washington and completed coursework toward a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. He is a trustee for the Friends of the Boundary Waters and The Schubert Club, and a member of the Sierra Club. He served as interim vice president for finance and administration at Linfield College in 2006-07.

Phillips, ordained in 1981, served as pastor of churches in Michigan and Illinois before coming to the University Baptist Church. He earned a bachelor's degree from Grand Rapids Baptist College, a master's of divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and a pastoral leadership certificate from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.

He is a board member for the Institute for Ecumenical Theological Studies at Seattle University and is a member of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches Ministers Council, the Alliance of Baptists, the Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Timmons soundtrack featured in war documentary

The soundtrack for a recent war documentary has been music to the ears of Jill Timmons, Linfield College professor of music.

A recording by Timmons, a pianist, and string player Laura Klugherz, professor of music and department chair at Colgate University, has been included in *The War*, a seven-part documentary on World War II directed and produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, which aired on PBS last fall. The piece, "La Captive," is from the Klugherz-Timmons Duo CD, *Amy Beach: Music for Violin/Viola and Piano*. The CD was the result of a research project Timmons conducted at Linfield.

"It's a very soulful, yearning piece," said Timmons. "I remember how simple and beautiful it was to perform. To this day, it's one of my favorite pieces on the recording."

Timmons, whose father served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, said the documentary spurred family conversations about his experiences, in addition to the war in general.

"I found it to be an extraordinary documentary," said Timmons. "It covered a great deal of history in a very moving and experiential way. It really brought the personal stories of soldiers to life."

Jill Timmons, right, with Laura Klugherz

