2009

Class Notes

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Corporation, which specializes
a training manual about
Pete Dengenis ’64 and
and poet. Recent work includes
Sapporo, Japan, is a mental
free series of conversations about
Gilda (Holderman) Taylor
’51 and
Elaine (Ongman) Edstrom
at Linfield in August.
She lives with her daughter,
and
Stewart ’49 of Bend celebrated their 69th
Wedding anniversary June 9.
Amanda Paquette ’37 and
’t38 of 1930-49
Class Notes
and
management.
’75 and
of Medford has taught
’83 and
of West Linn is the primary care
Rambod Rokhbakhsh ’95 of West Linn is the primary
program and drug management.
Joan Friesen ’80 has been elected to serve as the next
evacuation, and work with people with
disabilities other than blindness. She was referred to the orga-
nization by her family and the school. She has
Brad Robbins ’90 of Mc-
november married Julie Williams
on March 26 in Las Vegas, Nev. He is an
a graphic artist teaching in
at Patton Middle School.
Domma (Hadday) Casted
’51 and
Frank Chaddick, who has a daughter, Ethan D., her second
dughter, Corrina Helen, April 21.
Brian Simpson ’96 of Anchorage, Alaska, and his
wife, Elizabeth, had a daughter, Freya
Linfield DCE program.
they live with their daughter,
and
Weschester, Calif., is senior vice president of
Portland nonprofit wild.
Amy Grassell ’98 of Portland founded Doc Dengenis-
Consulting, specializing in bargaining training and strategy.
He is the author of Bargaining Es-
tentials, a training manual about
how to more successfully from
dispatch to settlement.
Hugh Branch ’73 of Indiana,
Calif., is senior director of
security consulting at PACA Corporation, which specializes in
brand protection, loss preven-
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Colleen (Lloyd) Jackson
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Among awarding-winning alumni and friends honored
The Linfield Alumni Association honors dedicated individuals for their hard work, innovation and generosity of spirit. For complete profiles of this year’s winners, go to www.support.linfield.edu/alumni_awards

Bennie Turner, Walker Award

The philosophy of giving back has been ingrained in Bennie Turner since childhood. A retired pastor and Linfield trustee, Turner has spent four decades investing his time and talents in the Linfield College and McMinnville communities.

Bert Waugh Jr., Distinguished Alumnus Award

Empty bedrooms are hard to come by in the Waugh household. Bert and Susy Waugh share a passion for helping abandoned young people and have helped provide shelter – both in their home and through their organization, Transitional Youth – for thousands of teens over the years.

Kristine Oller ’93, Alumni Service Award

At age 14, Kristine Oller’s idea of fun was to clean her sister’s room. Some things never change. Oller ’93, an organizational expert and career strategist, now spends her professional life organizing others and volunteering for Linfield.

Michelle Johnstone Holthaus ’95, Outstanding Young Alumna

Michelle Johnstone Holthaus ’95 has had great success and responsibility at Intel Corp. She joined the program manager and has progressed to general manager of the Channel Platforms and Strategy Division.
Gale Castillo ’73

Advocate for Latinos

When Gale Castillo ’73 entered Linfield, she saw few people who looked like her – only a handful of Latino students. Even fewer students had babies and husbands.

Married at 16 and a mother at 17, Castillo had been accepted at the University of California at Berkeley. But a family friend whose children attended Linfield suggested that she and her then-husband, Carlos Mejia, check out the college. “We toured the campus and liked the area, although it was kind of a culture shock coming from Oakland, Calif., so we decided we would move to Oregon and get off on our own.”

Despite its lack of diversity at the time – “The only diversity was the Hawaiian football players,” Cas- tillo says – the young couple found Linfield welcoming: “The staff, people in admissions, made an effort to help us settle in,” she says. “They helped us find housing and employment.”

Working at the News-Register newspaper, changing diapers, canning and sewing, in addition to studying, left little time to socialize or get involved in campus activities, she says. Son Roberto Mejia, now 38, was one of the first children enrolled at the Linfield Pre-Kindergarten. Castillo was a student representative on its Board of Directors.

She fondly remembers psychology professor Mar- celle Robinson, who became a strong role model for Castillo. “I’m the first in my family, like many others, to attend college, so having someone like her to look up to really made a difference,” she says.

Overall, Castillo found Linfield “a wonderful experience and a wonderful introduction to Oregon. My husband went back to California, and I stayed.”

Castillo remained in 1975. She and husband Jerry Brown live in Portland and own Cascade Centers Inc., where Castillo remarried in 1975. She and husband went back to California, and I stayed.”

Castillo’s leadership and service have drawn re- cognition for Latinos in the community for every citizen in the U.S.,” she says. “Our whole idea is to support the Latino community – students and small Latino businesses. The ethic here is to give back and be supportive for coming behind us.”

Castillo’s leadership and service have drawn regional and national kudos. Her latest was in January, when she was selected as one of 22 Latinos in the U.S. to participate in the National Hispanic Leader- ship Institute.

“Education is the avenue for economic opportuni- ty for every citizen in the U.S.,” she says. “Our whole idea is to support the Latino community – students and small Latino businesses. The ethic here is to give back and be supportive for coming behind us.”

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– Beth Rogers Thompson

A dozen Linfield College alumni were part of a group that climbed Mount St. Helens recently. Pictured here at the tailhead of the Winter Hiking Route in the Huckleberry Moun- tain Sno-Park area, back row from left: Alon Robertson ’04, Stephen Teater ’04, Ira Foster ’05, Dennis Pasquinelli ’05, Oliver O’Gara ’05, Elizabeth Gratton Teater, Nancy Alexander, Seth Prickett ’03, Josh Johnson ’04, Kalea Iyle ’07 and Meach Baker ’03. Front row from left: Zach Elwood, Molly Johnson ’04, Jared Staber ’04 and Melissa (Schmeier) Baker ’04.

‘Ain’t no mountain high enough’: alumni climb St. Helens

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From both the McMinnville and Portland Campuses are among the current recipients, including Tony Lash ’10, a nursing major from North Bend who one day hopes to get her nurse practitioner license.

“As a first-generation college student, it was dif- ficult for me to guide my way to college,” Lash says. “I hope to give back the way many Linfield alumni and the Metropolitan Chamber members have. It inspires me to do the same one day.”

Castillo has seen first hand the importance of part- nering with institutions to support Latino students.

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Got news? Have you changed jobs? Received a promotion? Returned to school? Received another degree? Started a business? Did you get married or have a child in the last 12 months? If you have news for your classmates and other Linfield friends, visit us online at www.linfield.edu/alumni.

Advocate for Latinos

When Gale Castillo ’73 entered Linfield, she saw few people who looked like her – only a handful of Latino students. Even fewer students had babies and husbands.

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