ADP meets growing online demand for classes

Linfield’s online education program is expanding to support the growing enrollment of online college students. The program offers adults the opportunity to earn bachelor’s degrees and certificates online.

Enrollment in online programs has increased by 832 percent since 2001, to more than two million students in 2009, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Linfield College’s Adult Degree Program supports this trend, offering five accredited online degrees and three accredited online certificate programs.

Although classes are entirely online, Linfield still emphasizes professor-to-student and student-to-student interaction. Through online group discussions, message boards and emails, communication and social interaction are keys to learning and earning an online degree at Linfield.

“Courses may be designed to gain experiences through online reading and writing, but I encourage my students to always contact me with questions,” said William Millar ’60, department chair of religious studies at Linfield. “We are still available to help students discern the issues, clarify problems and give them the opportunity to respond.”

Linfield College has developed A Guide to Online College (www.linfield.edu/dce/online-college) to present a comprehensive and detailed picture of what online learning is and what to expect in an online college environment.

Linfield named to Kemper program

Linfield College has been selected as one of 16 national liberal arts colleges to participate in the Kemper Scholars Program.

Created by the James S. Kemper Foundation six decades ago, the Kemper Scholars Program’s mission is to prepare students for leadership and service, especially in the fields of administration and business. The program aims to promote education in the liberal arts while providing students opportunities for career exploration and practical experience. One student is selected annually from each institution in the program.

Kemper Scholars receive annual scholarships of $3,000-$10,000 during their sophomore, junior and senior years of college. They receive stipends to cover the costs of their work as interns in major nonprofit organizations in Chicago during the summer following their sophomore year. Scholars are placed in full-time administrative positions where they can learn about such things as financial management, organizational strategy, fund-raising and nonprofit administration. Past internship placements have included the Chicago Mayor’s Office, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Greater Chicago Food Depository and WTTW public television, among many others.

During the summer following their junior year, scholars are eligible for summer stipends to cover the costs of a learning opportunity and an internship in a for-profit corporation. In the past, these internships have occurred not only throughout the United States but also in Europe.

Linfield’s president, Thomas Hellie, was president/executive director of the James S. Kemper Foundation from 1999-2006.

“I know from past experience that it is very difficult to be included in this program,” he said. “Linfield was selected because of our demonstrated commitment to experiential learning and our integration of the liberal arts with business and the professions.”

Linfield welcomes new academic vice president, dean

Susan Agre-Kippenhan has been appointed vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, effective July 1. She replaces Victoria McGillin, who left the post last summer.

Agre-Kippenhan has served as dean of the College of Arts & Architecture at Montana State University since 2006.

She previously served as chair of the Department of Art at Portland State University, visiting art and design professor at the University of Ulsan in South Korea, and art professor at Loyola University Chicago.

Her publications have focused on engagement with the arts, design education, engaged scholarship and service learning. Presentations at national conferences have focused on rethinking education for the 21st century, digital classrooms and community-engaged scholarship. She has participated in numerous juried and invitational art exhibitions in the U.S. and South Korea and has developed and designed identity and promotional materials for corporations, nonprofit organizations and universities.

Agre-Kippenhan serves on the board of directors for the Museum of the Rockies and for the National Review Panel for the Scholarship of Engagement. She has provided consultation to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Arts Bridge (Chicago) and several nonprofit organizations.
Sir Harold W. Kroto, a co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, will speak on “Science, Society and Education in the 21st Century” at the Oregon Nobel Laureate Symposium Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Ice Auditorium.

The Oregon Nobel Laureate Symposium engages Nobel laureates from a variety of disciplines in discussions of problems and issues of global significance. Kroto will spend several days at Linfield, meeting with faculty and students. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Kroto, now a chemistry professor at Florida State University, is a passionate advocate for science education and devotes a great deal of time and energy promoting careers in science among young people. He co-founded the Vega Science Trust, which produces science programs for network television. He is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Cultural and Creative Education in the UK, the Global Educational Outreach for Science Engineering and Technology (GeoSet www.geoset.info) and is director of the Florida Center for Research in Science Technology and Math Education.

Kroto and his colleagues received the prize for their discovery of the buckminsterfullerens, a form of pure carbon better known as “buckyballs.” Kroto spent 37 years teaching at the University of Sussex, where he holds an emeritus professorship, before joining the faculty at FSU in 2004. He received his degrees from the University of Sheffield.

Kristof, WuDunn book selected for MacReads

The seventh annual MacReads program will feature award-winning author Nicholas D. Kristof with this year’s selection, Half the Sky.

MacReads is a community-wide book reading and discussion that culminates in a presentation by the author.

The highlight of MacReads will be a reading by Kristof Monday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Jereld R. Nicholson Library.

Half the Sky, written by Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, uses personal accounts from women around the world to focus on the three main abuses that women face: sex trafficking and forced prostitution, gender-based violence and maternal mortality.

Kristof, who was raised in Yamhill, and his wife have also published two previous books, Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia and China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power. They won a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the Tiananmen Square Democracy Movement. He won a second Pulitzer in 2006 for his commentary in The New York Times. The reading is free and open to the public.

Green roof

Linfield College raised its first green roof in November, thanks to a Learn and Serve grant from the Northwest Sustainability Initiative, funded by Oregon and Washington Campus Compacts. Students and staff installed the green roof on a new bike shelter located between Terrell and Elkinton Residence Halls. The project is the first in a series of sustainability workshops and projects planned on campus.

Students inspired to serve on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

From left, Katherine Takaoka ’13, Sarah Valentine ’12 and Kady Kirkendall ’11 were among 95 Linfield College students and staff who honored Martin Luther King Jr. through a United Day of Service on Jan. 17. Students from eight colleges and universities around the Portland metro area worked on projects including planting trees, painting classrooms and organizing at schools, parks, social service agencies and other nonprofits. Takaoka, Valentine and Kirkendall served at Schoolhouse Supplies, which supports Portland Public Schools by providing free school supplies to teachers.