Alumni Profile

Beth Rogers Thompson

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol6/iss1/19

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
Alumni Profile

Mary Dowd ’53 of San Diego, Calif., Sept. 6. Survivors include her husband, John E. ’50.

Fred D. Fisher ’54 of Richland, Wash., March 5. Survivors include two sisters, Daisy (Fisher) Kubek ’56 and Phyllis (Fisher) Wolfe ’61.


Kenneth C. Williams ’55 of McMinnville, March 30. Survivors include her husband, Gail (Blush) ’58, daughter, Brenda (Williams) Westfall ’82 and son, Drexel ’91.

Richard L. Hofferich ’56 of McMinnville, March 10. Survivors include his wife, LaVelle (Fisher) Kubeck ’56; brother, Jim ’64; and sister, Joy (Pollard) Kelly ’45.

Jon R. Lewis ’52 of Puyallup, Wash., Feb. 24. Survivors include a brother, Jim ’64.

Larry Blum ’65 of Baker City, March 5.

Charles E. Roberts, Jr. ’71 of Enterprise, Jan. 26, 2008. Survivors include his wife, Diane (Soza) ’95; brother, Jim ’64; and sister, Susan (Roberts) ’70.

Kevin Kyle Mosley ’77 of Hillsboro, March 23. Survivors include his wife, Marissa (Magdaluyo) ’80; brother, Shawn ’79; and niece, Stephanie Hoffert ’94.

James L. Haerrett ’93 of Albany, Jan. 18. Survivors include his wife, Diane (Soza) ’95; brother, Jim ’64; and sister, Susan (Roberts) ’70.

GSH

GSH ’86 of Canby, March 15. Survivors include a brother, Neal Craft ’86.

Friends and family

Elmer G. Million of Denver, Colo., professor emeritus of history, April 18.

Fran Hodges of Forest Grove, retired GSH faculty member, Feb. 21.

Elizabeth Baldwin of Conbert, former GSH faculty member, March 25.

Tenacity key to success

Michelle Johnston-Holthaus ’93

Just reading the résumé of Michelle Johnston-Holthaus ’93 is intimidating. All those abbreviations and technical terms: CPQD, channel strategy, OEM, RFP… It is clear even to the uninitiated, however: she has had great success and responsibility at Intel Corp., the world’s largest computer-chip maker.

Johnston-Holthaus joined Intel in 1996 as a program manager in Hillsboro. Since then, she has held a number of other positions, including product marketing engineer in the OnSource Equipment Manufacturers platform solutions division and product line manager for desktop boards. As general manager of the Reseller Product Group, she led the boxed desktop and server business to record sales in 2004.

Since January, Johnston-Holthaus has been general manager of the Channel Platforms and Strategy Division. “My group takes Intel hardware, boxes it in a retail package and distributes it globally,” she explained. The “channel” refers to computer builders that sell to smaller retailers.

“We talk with power supply vendors, motherboard vendors and others to make sure the right products are available when a new Intel product is launched,” Johnston-Holthaus said. “My job is to make sure products are ready and relevant for customers.”

Modestly brushing aside comments about her meteoric rise, she said, “I’ve been lucky” and, “At Intel our titles change a lot and don’t necessarily mean promotions.”

But seriously: “I work really hard,” she said. “I’m willing to dig in, maybe take the extra step. I’ve spent a lot of time trying to understand my business partners and their needs, and customer satisfaction is one of the highest rated items for me. I hold myself totally accountable. If I commit, I deliver.”

Among her proudest accomplishments was receiving an Intel Achievement Award for managing a program to take back or replace a faulty chip. “It’s the best award at Intel. Less than 1 percent of employees win it each year; it’s based on getting something extraordinary done, so it’s a big deal.”

Last year, VARBusiness magazine named Johnston-Holthaus one of the 50 most powerful women in the channel. “I would have preferred ‘influential’ or something,” she said. “The client I represent is huge in the channel. ‘I can see why they might use the word powerful.’”

The Dundee native had planned to attend college farther away, but had studied in Thailand and Malaysia. Many more students have that experience today, but my potential boss was really surprised by that at the time.”

Tom Rampeo, vice president of Intel’s Digital Enterprise Group, has known Johnston-Holthaus since she joined the company and has worked with her on projects. Her tenacity has impressed him: “Once she’s signed up to a goal, she will move mountains to achieve it,” he said. “She’s grown into an excellent leader and manager. She spends tremendous energy mentoring others, providing Dundee to her employees and supporting other women at Intel.”

Outside of work, Johnston-Holthaus said she once was an avid horseback rider but has no time for it now. She devotes her scarce free time to a close-knit group of friends and her family: husband Bob and sons, Cole, 6, and Jack, 3.

“Tenacity key to success

Michelle Johnston-Holthaus ’93

Got news? Have you changed jobs? Received a promotion? Returned to school? Received another degree? Started a business? Ever been awarded a publisher’s prize? Or been interviewed for a book or magazine? Have you been honored for your volunteer work? Let us know! Send your news to: alumni@linfield.edu –Beth Rogers Thompson