Class Notes

Linfield Magazine Staff

Beth Rogers Thompson

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in June. He will teach a naval history class from Norwich University in Mill Creek, Wash., received a Master’s degree in history from Stony Brook University. She celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Brenda Pollen ’77, of Yorba Linda, Calif., is dean of the College of Communications at California State University at Fullerton. He received the 2018 Cornerstone Award from the Oregon Department of Education, which recognized his efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students.

Carol (Smith) Hoser ’68 of Kearney, Ariz., is a member of the Friends of Women, Environment, and Human Rights (WEHR) Board of Directors. The group funds support the work of Hoser’s Linfield-located WEHR affiliate, the (WEHR) Board of Directors. The group funds support the work of Hoser’s Linfield-located WEHR affiliate, the (WEHR) Board of Directors. The group funds support the work of Hoser’s Linfield-located WEHR affiliate, the Oregon Women’s Alliance.

Cindy Davis ’80 of Hilo, is a second team All American and was named to the Western Athletic Conference All-Tournament team.

Teresa Marie (Spencer) Glaser ’70 of Happy Valley celebrated her 80th birthday.

Brian (Bryan) McAdams ’59 of Pittsford, N.Y., is executive director of the Institute of Global Education. He lives half the year in Vijayapura in the state of Karnataka in India.

Jeanette (Tuttle) Nun ’57 of Buckleary, Wash., and her husband, Charles, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii, a gift from their children.

Kathryn (DeVore) Johnston ’68 of Sacramentop, Calif., is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis. She is also the director of the UC Davis Child Development Center.

Lori (Fisher) McQueen ’59 of Sweet Home is an art teacher at the Center School. She has served as a school counselor for 19 years and recently relocated to Oregon.

Viola (Washburn) Allan ’60 of Azle, Texas, is retired. She has two daughters, Emma Margaret and Camille Marie, both of Dallas, and four grandchildren.

Susan Hanson ’59 of Happy Valley celebrated her 80th birthday.

Gary Stevens ’63 of Kodiak, Alaska, is executive director of the Alaska State Penitentiary. He has served as an Orange County, Calif., is an associate professor of sociology at Linfield College.

Sharon Sanderson ’97 of Hillsboro and her husband, Wayne, had a 50th wedding anniversary in August, and their second child.

Christopher Forshaw ’95 of McMinnville is an associate professor of history at the University of Western Oregon and curator of the Oregon State Capitol Museum. He established an endowed scholarship in memory of his late wife, Sherry Sanderson, who graduated from Linfield in 1978.

David Nicewonger ’84 of Lincoln, Neb., is an assistant professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He teaches courses in the Modern Languages and Literatures Department.

Amber Blakely ’17 of Shiprock, N.M., and her husband, Kody, have a daughter, Seraphina Grace, born January 27, 2017. Their first child Allison teaches elementary school part time.

Linda Bierman ’66 of Portland and her husband, Henry, have a daughter, Abigail, and a grandson.

Alicia (Cordell) Brown, both of Shrewsbury, had a son, Landon Brown, April 28, 2017.

Randy Stevens ’63 of Kodiak, Alaska, Anchorage. He teaches chemistry I-III in Sheridan.

Rudy Van Dyke ’64 of Portland married Julie Hansen Sept. 27. He is a consultant and is also a lead business advisor and instructor at the Portland Community College Small Business Development Center.

Rivka Goodman ’95 and Rick Crotts of Corvallis opened a consulting business, Goodman & Crotts. They are both second generation immigrants from the Middle East.

Annie E. Johnson ’65 of McMinnville and her husband, Bill, had a son, Tim, on March 31, 2017.

Scott Scherbouse ’93 of Jacksonville is the Southern Oregon branch manager of Western Western. He is a member of the Oregon State Senate.

John Strehl ’63 of Las Vegas, Nev., is science department co- chairman at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. He teaches chemistry II-III in the international baccalaureate program.

Jennifer (Gvozdy) Beauchemin ’93 of Tigard and her husband, Brad, had twin daughters, Emma Margaret and Camille Marie, both of Dallas, and four grandchildren.

Suzanne Hansen ’93 of Happy Valley has served as principal for over 20 years and recently relocated to Shanghai.

Jessica Tyrone ’93 of Linfield named his wife, Bridget, had a daughter, Jaelyn Brynn, Sept. 25, 2017, their third child.


Leonard G. Cooke ’96 of Glen Allen, Va., is a director of the education department of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Rick Noel ’97 of Portland and his wife, Judy, have a daughter, Signe Beth Noel, born Aug. 13, 2017.

Eden (Reed) Francis ’93 of Sherwood and her husband, Perry, had a son, Perry Reed, May 16.

Susan McDaniel ’97 of McMinnville presents an annual recital in Linfield College in October.

Brenna Powell ’93 of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, was named one of the Top 25 Health and Wellness leaders in medicine by Capital Gazette. She works as a community health nurse at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Linda Anderson ’84 of North Bend is director of quality improvement and regulatory compliance at Parkrose Health Clinic and is a certified professional in healthcare.

Nancy Webster ’84 of Oregon was inducted into the West Linn High School Hall of Fame. A native of Linfield basketball player, he also served as team All-State All-Four for four years.

Christopher B. Nash ’91 of Eugene and his wife, Erin, a son, Austin David, born July 27, their first child Allison teaches elementary school part time.

Tisha Gilchrist Mallon ’92 of Lincoln, Neb., was recognized by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents for her service as a volunteer and as a member of the Methodist Foundation For Children.

Perry Reed, had a son, Perry Reed, July 15. He is Linfield’s head softball coach, and has been at the university since 2017.

Rachel (LeFebvre) Williams ’98 of Leavenworth has been inducted into the Clarkeside High School Hall of Fame. After graduating, she was employed as a CPA.

Amber Blakely ’17 of Shiprock, N.M., is a baby sleep coach.

John Strehl ’63 of Las Vegas, Nev., is science department co-chairman at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. He teaches chemistry II-III in the international baccalaureate program.

Rudy Van Dyke ’64 of Portland married Julie Hansen Sept. 27. He is a consultant and is also a lead business advisor and instructor at the Portland Community College Small Business Development Center.

Aaron and Alicia (Cordell) Brown, both of Shrewsbury, had a son, Landon Brown, April 28, 2017.

Amy Blakely ’17 of Shiprock and her husband, Jon, are the proud parents of a daughter, Addison Grace, born July 27, their first child Allison teaches elementary school part time.

Dawn (Sargent) Shuey ’91 of Beaverton and her husband, Todd, have a daughter, Adeline Rae.

Candy Goodman ’95 of McMinnville has a son, Perry, and a daughter, Shelly, born July 15. He is Linfield’s head softball coach, and has been at the university since 2017.

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Karen Smith ’76 of Hillsboro and her husband, Wayne, had a 50th wedding anniversary in August, and their second child.

Jennifer (Gvozdy) Beauchemin ’93 of Tigard and her husband, Brad, had twin daughters, Emma Margaret and Camille Marie, both of Dallas, and four grandchildren.
Dorothy (Williams) Dickie '35 of Lodz, Calif., is living at The Vintage, a retirement com-

Enid (Emery) Larsen '39 of Happy Valley celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends.

Viola (Wheaton) Allain '50 recently edited Allie or Eve (Bonk on the Rock), a history of the Christian church in Congregational. She translated from Kikongo into French.

Richard Schneider '57 of Pittsford, N.Y., is the assistant superintendent for Battle Ground School District.

Ted and Elise (Thrasher) Henry '60 and '69 of McMinnville celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii, a gift from their grandchildren.

Carol (Adams) Gleason '68 of Vancouver is the Southern Oregon group raising funds to support the Linfield Distinguished Alumnus Award. She has also participated in marathons and is involved with Team in Training and regulatory compliance.

Carolyn (Jones) and Brian Van Pelt '75, '83 of Las Vegas, N.M., and his wife, Tara, of Tacoma, had a daughter, Everley Rose, Aug. 12, their first.

Jennine (Hinchliff) '95 of Tigard and his wife, Bridget, had a daughter, Jaylnn, Sept. 15, their third child.

Sanderson '97 of Hillsboro and her husband, Wayne, had a son, Keanon, Aug. 13, their second child.

Susan '98 of McMinnville presented an alarm research paper on Al Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan to assist others in training in her formal education, the path Grenny herself followed. She has a son, Risen, '07, and twin daughters, Emma Margaret and Camille Marie, Dec. 30. They have two other daughters and one son.

Leonard G. '96 of Shrew-

Rudy Van Chick '97 of Tacoma, Wash., and her husband, Cort, had a daughter, Avery, June 22, their first.

Liz Chick '97 of Tacoma, Wash., and her husband, Cort, had a daughter, Avery, June 22, their first.

Jennifer (Gregory) Beauchemin '93 of Tigard and her husband, Brad, had twin daughters, Emma Margaret and Camille Marie, Dec. 30. They have two other daughters and one son.

Carolyn (Kenney) and Brian Van Pelt '75, '83 of Las Vegas, N.M., and his wife, Tara, of Tacoma, had a daughter, Everley Rose, Aug. 12, their first.

Nick Breed '95 of Portland married Julia Hansen Sept. 7. He is a consultant and is also a lead business advisor and instructor at the Portland Community College Small Business Development Center.

Tisha Gilreath Mullen '92 of Walla Walla has studied child development and is a social studies teacher at Walla Walla High School.

Cody McLaughlin '96 and '95 of Portland married Brooke Peterson Sept. 7. They own and operate Visual People Design, a web site and graphics art company from Canby.

Tisha Gilreath Mullen '92 of Walla Walla has studied child development and is a social studies teacher at Walla Walla High School.

Jay Buse '75 of Portland had a son, Keanon, Aug. 13, their second.

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Kirsten (Syrstad) Hamb- 

bird ’06 of Corvallis and her 

husband, Parker, had a son, 

Parker, May 17.

Danya Lunk ’04 of Bone, 

Idaho, received a master’s 

degree in instructional 

design at Western Carolina 

University. She is a market- 

manager for OnlineRoad.

Libby Mendenhall ’02 of 

Portland married Brett Provost 

May 3. She is working on a 

master’s degree in history at 

Portland State University.

Andrea Goddard ’02 of 

Spokane, Wash., has released 

her first CD, This Road. She has 

taken her license as a medical 

health counselor.

Lauri Wroniak ’01 of Tigard 

has been attending nursing school 

at Linfield’s Portland Campus.

Austin and Jillian (Word) 

McFaysey, both ’02, of Everett, 

Wash., had a daughter, Kathryn 

Eyrus, June 12.

Kara (Heins) Buchheit ’02 

of Salem teaches kindergarten 

at Rosedale Elementary and 

is the freshwater volleyball coach 

at West Salem High School.

Jessica Condon ’01 of 

Newberg and her husband, 

Jeff, had a daughter, Rosy, 

Feb. 22.

Aron Thornton ’03 of 

Australia has been one of 

the leaders of the East-West 

Shrine All-Star Game that will 

be played in August. He is 

head coach at Kangs High School.

Alex Martin ’03 of Beaver- 

ton married Tracy Freeman 

Aug. 24. He received his 

master’s in athletic training 

education from West Virginia 

University and is the head tennis 

coach at the West Valley Boys 

and Girls Club.

Erinn Bouchard ’01 of 

McMinnville has completed her 

master’s at Amity Elementary 

School.

Kimberly Hartman ’08 

of McMinnville is a first grade 

teacher at Gubser Elementary 

School in Keizer.

Kimberly (Christensen) 

Lammers ’08 of Petaluma, 

Calif., is an assistant police 

director for the national Federa- 

tion of IBEW.

Jennifer Aaby ’04 of 

Portland worked for OpenRoad Inc.

Becky Gustav ’04 of 

Lake Washington School 

District in Kirkland is a 

high school athletic trainer at 

Mercy Medical Center.

Brent McMillan ’05 of 

Phoenix, Ariz., is working in the 

communications and 

public relations department at 

Tucson’s Elks Rehabilitation Services in 

Tucson.

Tracy Kletter ’07 of 

University Place, Wash., married 

Stephanie Gilchrist July 21.

Kris Klinkhart ’07 of 

McMinville is a first grade 

teacher at Gober Elementary 

School in Keizer.

Tina Teixera ’08 of 

Los Angeles, Calif., and her husband, 

Stephen, have a daughter, 

Nia, July 25.

Caitlin Opstad ’05 of 

Portland married Tom Novak 

15. Erin O’Loughlin ’05 of 

Bend is a firefighter with the 

U.S. Forest Service.

Jordan Hollern ’08 of 

Great Falls, Mont., had a son, 

Jay, Oct. 3.

Kathleen Serrano ’08 of 

San Antonio and her husband, 

Jim, had a son, Alex, Oct. 8.

Andrea Goddard ’02 of 

Spokane, Wash., has released 

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For more information, contact Craig Haich ’95, director of planned giving, at 503-883-2675 or chaisch@linfield.edu.

Mentor’s help offers hope

José Gaitán ’73, managing member of The Gaitán Group PLLC

College was not on young José Gaitán’s radar while witnessing drug-dealing and murder in his central Seattle neighborhood. His career horizon expanded from bus driver (to see more of the city) to garbage collector (better union), before he decided on ferry deck hand as the perfect job.

His father, an undocumented worker from El Salvador, was deported when Gaitán was 5. His mother struggled to support José and his younger brother and sister. As a child he experienced homelessness and hunger.

Gaitán found his vision of a better future at Seattle First Baptist Church, where the late Walt Pulliam, a former Linfield trustee, was Christian education minister.

“Walt was just a phenomenal guy,” Gaitán said. “He and [pastor] Bernie Turner and others at that church had a strong commitment to social justice and inclusion.”

Pulliam started a neighborhood youth program where Gaitán played basketball after school. That led to his joining a Boy Scout troop and learning “the Scouting way,” he said. “It had a very profound effect on me, and still does.”

One day Pulliam asked if he’d thought about college. Gaitán had no money and mediocre grades. But with his mentor’s encouragement, he obtained scholarships and a work-study position at Linfield. The college’s quiet atmosphere was such a shock that he considered leaving, but Gaitán learned to appreciate having time to reflect and think, in addition to abundant food.

“I had a wonderful academic experience there,” he said. “It was a values-based education; values were woven into the curriculum. The professors had a genuine interest not only in their subject matter but also in helping young people grow.”

He learned to study, graduating magna cum laude with a history major and political science minor.

Gaitán returned to Seattle and earned a law degree at the University of Washington. He is now managing member of The Gaitán Group PLLC, a law firm specializing in corporate litigation. His clients include Walmart, Shell Oil, General Motors and Denny’s. Chemical Bank hired his firm to represent its bondholders in the $4.5 billion class-action lawsuit against Washington Public Power Supply System, 1983-96, then the largest bond default in history.

Gaitán has appeared on the cover of Money magazine. He has met world leaders, including former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; Presidents Clinton and George H.W. Bush; former Attorney General Janet Reno and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. But the names Gaitán drops most are people he credits for his success.

“I believe I got to be a lawyer because of the hard work of so many other people,” he said. “I believe there’s no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Everyone that goes to any college, including Linfield, should recognize that others have made sacrifices for that institution to survive and deliver a good education. We need to give back, in time or in wealth if we have it.”

Gaitán continues to give back. A former Linfield trustee, he received the 2000 Alumni Service Award. He mentors first-year students at the University of Washington, where he has taught as an adjunct. He has served as president of the Hispanic National Bar Association and chaired the Washington State Commission on K-12 Accountability in Public Education (the A+ Commission). He chairs the Urban Enterprise Center, which promotes diversity in business. And he served as chairman of the board of the Safeco Field Public Facilities District, helping to get Seattle’s Major League Baseball stadium built in 1999. These are only a few of his many civic and professional contributions – a list as lengthy as this entire article.

“I have known José a long time, and I have a very high regard for him,” said Bernie Turner, a Linfield trustee.

“His early life was very difficult, but he was able to make use of programs available through the church and community that gave him a leg up on life. He saw the possibilities and made tremendous use of the help offered and his college experience.”

~ Beth Roger Thompson