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Old Oak will remain icon of college

Linfield's Old Oak may have fallen, but it will remain very much alive on campus.

Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January. President Thomas L. Hellie announced during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9 how that wood will be used.

“Some of the wood will also be used for awards and commemorative items and for sale to alumni, students and friends of the college,” Hellie said.

The college will continue to rely on the oak as the iconic image of Linfield. However, no one tree will serve as the new “Old Oak.” Instead the Oak Grove will be maintained and enhanced.

T.J. Day ’71, vice chair of the Linfield College Board of Trustees, has pledged $3 million toward the renovation of historic Northrup Hall.

“All of us at Linfield are very grateful to T.J. for his generosity and leadership,” President Thomas L. Hellie said in making the announcement. “This is the single largest gift commitment by a living individual in the college’s history.”

Day has served on the board of trustees since 1972. He and his family have provided exceptional support to the capital programs and project initiatives at Linfield.

Without his efforts, the acquisition of the former Hewlett-Packard property and its transformation to the Keck Campus would not have been possible.

Day is the chairman of Dacole Co., a private investment firm in Reno, Nev. In addition to serving as vice chair of the Linfield board, he also serves as chair of the upcoming Linfield comprehensive fund-raising campaign. The campaign will focus on increasing the college’s endowment and enhancing facilities, including Northrup Hall.

Once renovated, Northrup Hall will become home to the departments of Business, Economics, English and Philosophy, and several academic centers.

Linfield College will intensify its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint in the coming months and years.

Linfield College President Thomas L. Hellie signed The American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment on Earth Day, April 22. He made the decision based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Environment and Sustainability (ACES), a group made up of faculty, staff and students. They studied the issue for six months and recommended that Linfield join more than 500 institutions in all 50 states by signing the agreement. It calls for colleges and universities to attain a position of carbon neutrality with respect to greenhouse gas emissions.

The college has flexibility in the timing and means of achieving the goal. ACES has made a number of recommendations including recycling, requiring new buildings to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, purchasing more locally grown foods, promoting water and energy conservation, exploring alternative means of transportation, and purchasing energy-efficient vehicles and appliances.

An environmental studies class conducted a carbon footprint inventory during spring semester. Future classes are expected to build upon and expand that report.
Drickey receives Fulbright Award

Nancy Drickey, associate professor of education and department chair, received a Fulbright Award this summer under the Teacher Education Administrators Program to India. The program is administered under the United States Educational Foundation in India.

She will travel to Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata with 10 other teacher education administrators to investigate teacher preparation practices in India. Drickey will have the opportunity to meet with individuals and learn about programs that play a key role in the planning and administration of school education in India. As a result of this experience, Drickey will propose a January Term 2010 Linfield course in India and Hong Kong to explore issues related to teacher training, faculty training, student teaching and licensure.

“This particular program is a perfect fit with my expertise in teacher education and my passion for international travel,” Drickey said. “This is a wonderful opportunity to explore India while interacting with other U.S. teacher educators as we strive to make new connections with schools and teachers in a diverse culture.”

Martin Bode awarded Fulbright

Fulbright Award-winner Martin Bode ’08, shown here with a model magnetic levitation train he designed and built for his senior project, will study and conduct research at the Institute of Space Systems in Stuttgart, Germany, next year. Bode, who earned a degree in applied physics, plans to work with plasma ion engines, technology which has ties to space exploration. Since 1999, 16 Linfield graduating seniors have been awarded Fulbright grants.

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Linfield's Old Oak may have fallen, but it will remain very much alive on campus.

Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January through the efforts of President Thomas L. Hellie, who arranged the donation during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9. Some of the wood will be used for awards and commemorative items and for sale to alumni, students and friends of the college.

A cross-section of the trunk, noting historical dates, will be displayed on campus, with another cross-section donated to the Yamhill County Historical Museum. An archway will be designed and constructed from the oak, to be used during convocation, commencement and other ceremonial events. If the grafting effort is successful, several new trees will be planted in the Oak Grove. The site of the Old Oak will be integrated into the overall landscape plan for the Oak Grove and Pioneer Hall, with a special living memorial established. Artists and landscape architects will be invited to submit proposals.

Day pledges $3 million to project

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Hellie signs Presidents Climate Commitment

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