Dolan Shares Wit, Wisdom

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Linfield College

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Dolan shares wit, wisdom

“A t 99, Winthrop Dolan may have slowed down a little, but he’s as sharp, witty and wise as when he was a math professor at Linfield College.

Dolan received a standing ovation after he charmed, entertained and challenged the nearly 500 members of the class of 2008 during his commencement address on June 1.

Dolan quipped that when Linfield President Thomas L. Heflin first contacted him about speaking at commencement, Dolan didn’t have his hearing aids on and thought the president wanted him to spell sesquicentennial.

“I’ve been uneasy about spelling since the fourth grade when a girl named Marjorie Smith beat me in the finals of the spelling bee,” he said with a pokerface. “You can tell how traumatic it was because I can still remember the details after 90 years.”

“(Dr. Heflin) said, at commencement we are calling attention to the college’s relics and antiques and we thought it would be appropriate to have you join us,” Dolan said to peals of laughter. “And of course he is right. I am an antique. I’ve been around the college for about 40 percent of those 150 years. So here I am and you have to make the best of it.”

Dolan, professor emeritus of math who also served as dean, twice as interim president, and on the board of overseers, is retired.

“I think that in your lifetime, you will see equally astonishing advances that we can hardly imagine today and that they will come at an ever faster speed,” he told the graduates.

“But will the basic problems of our society be any closer to a solution?” he asked. Problems such as economic boom and busts, lack of a national health program, budget deficit and national debt, disappearing natural resources, global warming and persistent wars need to be addressed.

“You must be involved in the effort to get a handle on such matters and on the equally great problem of spreading the so-called advances of our society to the less favored parts of the world,” he added, encouraging students to take advantage of their experiences traveling and studying aboard and to work in the Peace Corps or through outreach programs of their churches.

He told of visiting a math classroom in the Congo shortly after he retired and spending some time with students.

When he left, he thought, “Wow, if I had been exposed to this situation when I was 23 instead of 68, this is where I might have been teaching.”

His final thought?

“For the improvement of life, look or listen for something beautiful each day, perhaps a flowering tree or a meadowlark’s song,” he said. “Let it sink in for a moment and then think about how you can participate in something beautiful each day.”

— Mardi Mileham

1950-59

1950 Runyan ’56 of Camas, Wash., owner of Runyan’s Jewelers, is retired.

Marie Stava ’56 of Seav. Manue, is the intern pastor for the Standish Congregational Church in Standish. She is also the minister of vacation for First Parish United Church of Christ inSac. Manue.

Jules and Joyce (Andrews) Christ ’57 and ’56 of Mount Vernon, Wash., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family in Manue, Hav.

George Polley ’57 of Sopo- poro, Japan, retired after 41 years as a psychiatric social worker. He is learning a new language and writing fiction and poetry.

Howard Morris ’58 or Klamath Falls has been inducted into the Oregon chapter of the national wrestling Hall of Fame. He is also in hall of fame at Linfield, where he was a first-team All-American football player.

Charles Burrows ’58 of Honolulu, Hawaii, a cultural resource specialist and environmental advocate, was named a 2008 Living Treasure. He co-founded ‘Ahu ‘ai Malama I ka Lokahi, which seeks to conserve Hawaiian ecosystems.

Robert Bollin ’59 of Spou- kane, Wash., is retired.

1960-69

1960 Perry Stubbsberger ’62 of McMinnville, Jack Temple ’62 of Amity, Terry Durham ’67 of Hildbro and Jib Blalock ’69 of McMinnville were inducted into the McMinnville High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Marvin Bryson ’61 of San Jose, Calif., served as a social work supervisor for San Andreas Regional Center for Develop- mental Disabilities before retir- ing in 2004.

Rom and Elaine (Scott) Reddinder ’67 of Seattle, Wash., have been in Austin, Texas, Rom is semi-re-

1970-79

Burari Artharee ’74 of Portland is transitioning from his executive role at Providence Health Systems to take a lead- ership role in Coast Industries Inc., which is owned by him and his wife, Coast, which is known for providing janitorial and health services, has signed an agreement to become one of nine minority-owned firms in Office Depot’s Tier One program.

Robert Lowe ’76 of Carson City, Nev., has served as the Nevada State Prison’s athletic and recreation specialist for over 30 years.

Debra (Bennett) Derr ’78 of San Pearsal, Wis., was named president of North Idaho Area Community College.

Jeff Brown ’78 of Wilson- ville is vice-president of member- ing and sales for Clear Choice Health Plans.

Greg Cotton ’78 of Portland retired as math teacher, and track and field and cross country coach at Grant High School.

80-89

Ted Harrison ’80 of Alam- da, Calif., received the James T. Caudle Award recognizing his pro bono contribution to the Lawyers’ Committee Legal Services for Entrepreneurs Program. In May, the chief justice of the California Supreme Court presented him the Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service Award for pro bono work in 2007 by the Bar Association of San Francisco’s Volunteer Legal Services Program.

Sean Hour ’80 of Eugene recently founded the CyberSafe

Accreditation visit scheduled in October

Linfield College is in the process of reaffirming its accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. A team of accredited will visit Linfield College on Oct. 22-24, 2008. Included in the visit will be a review of all college programs, including the Linfield College-Portland Campus/ Linfield Good Samaritan School of Nursing and the college’s degree completion programs. The purpose of the visit will be to review Linfield’s Self Study Report and to meet with members of the college and community to assess Linfield’s compliance with the commission’s accreditation standards.

Linfield is accredited at the present time to of- ffer the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. In present accreditation was affirmed at the last accreditation review in 1998 and the most recent accreditation ac- tion was the affirmation of accreditation at the 2003 interim visit by the Commission.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities invites comments from members of the public pertinent to Linfield College’s reac- reditation review. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities must receive comments by Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, at its headquarters, 12006 16th Ave. NE, Suite 100, Redmond, WA 98052, 425-358-4224. Comments must be in writing and signed in order to be accepted by the Commission. Further information about Linfield College can be found at www.linfield.edu or the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities at www.nwccu.org.

Class Notes

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