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Dolan Shares Wit, Wisdom

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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. Hellie 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. Hellie) 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 peaks of laughter. “And of course he is right. I am an antiquarian. I’ve been on 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 trustees, shared some of his own experiences on how the world has changed dramatically during his lifetime, changes including advances in health care, transportation and technology.

Raised during an era when many rural areas did not have indoor plumbing, central heat, a telephone or electricity, Dolan said they had never heard of radio, much less television, supermarkets, heart surgery or air travel. They could not envision computers, cell phones, digital cameras or antiques.

The backdrop was World War I, the first of six major wars Dolan has seen in his lifetime.

“I wonder if, and I hope that, your generation can do better with finding a way out of that cycle. Do you think you can?” he asked. The response was a round of applause from graduates.

After joining the Linfield faculty in 1948, he used one of the first IBM computers installed in Portland. In 30 minutes it calculated tables that would have taken him months to complete on a calculator, but today can be done in seconds on a laptop computer.

“Amazing. 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 booms 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 abroad and to work in the Peace Corps or through outreach programs of their churches.

Dolan 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,” he said. “Let it stick in your mind before you go on your way.”

— Mark Michelson

1950-59

50 Ranuy ’56 of Camas, Wash., owner of Ranuy’s Jewelers, is retired.
50 Manley Stave ’56 of Seco, Maine, is the interim pastor for the Standish Congregational Church in Standish. He also is the minister of visitation for First Parish United Church of Christ in Saco, Maine.
50 Jules and Joyce (Andrews) Christen ’57 and ’56 of Mount Vernon, Wash., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family in Maine.
50 George Polley ’57 of Sop- poro, Japan, retired after 41 years as a psychiatric social worker. He is learning a new language and writing fiction and poetry.
50 Howard Morris ’58 of Klamath Falls had 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.
50 John O’Hara from Ohio High School and the NCAA.
50 Charles Burrows ’58 of Honolulu, Hawaii, a cultural resource specialist and environmental advocate, was named a 2008 Living Treasure. He is co-founded Ahiulali Malama i ka Lokahi, which seeks to conserve Hawaiian culture and natural resources.
50 Robert Bollini ’59 of Spa- kanow, Wash., is retired.

1960-69

59 Perry Stubbendorf ’62 of McMinnville, Jack Temple ’62 of Amity, Terry Durham ’67 of Hillsboro and Jeb Blalock ’69 of McMinnville were inducted into the McMinnville High School Sports Hall of Fame.
59 Marilyn Bryson ’61 of San Jose, Calif., served as a social work supervisor for San Andreas Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities before retiring in 2004.
59 Rom and Elaine (Scott) Rod minibuer ’63 live in Austin, Texas. Rom is semi-re-

tired from the display electronics industry and works as a consultant. He traveled to Siberia, Russia, to help with Hurricane Katrina recovery.
59 Sally (Ferguson) Skelding ’62 of Portland is an early childhood educator. She recently created two DVDs, Grandmas’ Hour and Tell it with Poppets.
59 Delia Po Debairement memorial gathered each homecoming for a few rounds of golf. Fraternity brothers include Bob Niles ’62 and Jack Cooley ’62, both of Belling- ham, Wash. Larry Jones ’62 of Chico, Calif. Dean Richardson- son ’62 of Pleasanton, Calif., Don Fraley ’63 of Springfield and Doug Sargent ’64 of Beaverton.
59 Hazan (Cook) Flock GSH ’64 of Hampden-Sydney, Va., retired as a pediatric nurse prac- titioner. She and her husband will take a five-month trip to Maine in their 44-foot trawler.
59 Dick and Gayle Withnall, both ’64, live in Ketzick, Dent, a Linfield trustee, is a writer of Water. He is a coach with the Marion County Chil- dren and Families Commission.
59 Steven Hanamura ’67 of Beaverton, president of Han- amura Consulting Inc., spoke on “Achieving Diversity through Adversity” at the Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture at Linfield in January.
59 Jeffery Fisher ’66 of Irvine, Calif., is vice president of NO’S Systems for WAHL- CO, Inc.

1970-79

79 Baruti Archare ’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 security services, has signed an agreement to become five of one minority-owned firms in Office Depot’s Tier One program.
79 Robert Lowe ’76 of Carson City, Nev., has served as the Nevada State Police’s athletic and recreation specialist for over 30 years.
79 Debra (Bennett) Derr ’78 of Sun Prairie, Wis., was named president of North Iowa Community College.
79 Jeff Brown ’78 of Beaverton is vice president of market- ing and sales for Clear Choice Health Plans.
79 Greg Cotton ’78 of Portland retired as math teacher, and track and field and cross country coach at Grant High School.

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 accreditation visitors will visit Linfield College on Oct. 22-24, 2008. Included in this 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- fer 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- creditation review. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities must receive comments by Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, at its headquarters, 8060 16th Ave. NE, Suite 100, Redmond, WA 98052, 425-536-4224. 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.