2008

Alumni Profile

Beth Rogers Thompson

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Jan Edmonson '72 sits in front of a tapestry from Venezuela. As a career foreign service officer, Edmonson has enjoyed collecting ceramics, watercolors and tapestries from her global travels.

Jan Edmonson '72 has met Nobel laureates, political opposition leaders, presidents and dictators. As a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State, she also has experienced the hardships and dangers of life in hot spots around the globe. Currently, Edmonson is deputy director for the Near East-South Central Asia Office in the Department's Bureau of International Information Programs. She oversees the Department's Persian-language Web site, publications and other outreach programs to Iran abroad.

Edmonson, whose career has focused on public diplomacy and public affairs, says she decided in first grade that she wanted to do something that would allow her to travel. She applied only to Linfield after a neighbor gave her a catalog, and fell in love with the campus immediately. “Linfield set me on the path to success – the size of Linfield made me want to do something that I felt would be challenging. My focus was on military history and foreign policy.”

Edmonson says her proudest accomplishment is “that I have represented my country very well overseas in a variety of foreign cultures, often in difficult or dangerous conditions; and that I’ve respected my local staff’s professionalism, dignity and culture.”

When her Washington tour is up in summer 2009, Edmonson hopes for an assignment in Afghanistan. Then, she says, “I will probably retire in a couple of years and go on my ‘busman’s holiday’ – traveling and doing things I have. I also love northern Italy – the food, the wine, the lifestyle, the food, the wine…”

Despite her fluency in Spanish and ability to speak Burmese and Croatian, Edmonson wishes she were known as Myanmar)” from 1996 to 1999, she said. “The Burmese people are simply remarkable – it is one place where the people do not deserve the government they have. I also love northern Italy – the food, the wine, the lifestyle, the food, the wine…”

For more information about bequests, trusts or other giving options, contact Craig Haisch ’95, director of planned giving, 503-885-2675 or chaisch@linfield.edu.

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that the homeless by providing job skills training programs and assisting with job placement.

Aaron Chantler '99 of Tacoma, Wash., teaches high school science and math at Westfield High School.

Nancy Dillard '90 of Nicholson is the administrative assistant at Montana State University.

Mike Greenberg and Kathleen Wochnick, ‘86, of Vancouver, Wash., were married July 6. He is a partner in Rooters football.

Lakewood, Colo., Aug. 7.

20. She is pursuing her doctorate in science and math at Wilson High School.

Tacoma, Wash., teaches high school science and math at Wilson High School.

2006.

married Travis Burke July 14.

Oakland, Calif., married Peter Israel, played soccer for a profession-


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