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Alumni News

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Linfield College

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Morin recalls wimpy side of basketball

When Roberta (Amundson) Morin ’60 took her place among other Linfield College alumni basketball players in the Ted Wilson Gymnasium, she found some things never change.

She was still one of the shortest and most competitive women on the floor. At age 70, she was also the oldest.

Morin and other former basketball players from the ’60s, ’70s, ’80s, ’90s and ’00s gathered for a reunion, scrimmage and walk of honor Jan. 5 at Linfield.

“Roberta mixed it up and had a good time,” said Robyn Stewart, head women’s basketball coach since 1997.

Basketball has changed considerably and for the better, according to Morin, whose Linfield team played half court.

“Basketball back then was a little on the wimpy side,” she said. “Then they realized girls weren’t pushy. In sports, I could compete as hard as I wanted to. If I could have played football, I would have.”

After earning a degree in physical education, Morin went on to teach physical education at her alma mater and at Oregon State University.

Morin says one of the best things about athletics is the camaraderie. “Basketball is a great team sport. You build lifelong friendships,” Morin said.

Morin reflects on her Alumnae Award at the annual Alumni Dinner May 4.

“Alumni recognize that you’ve paid your dues, so to speak,” Morin said. “You’ve been a part of and a product of the Linfield Experience. It means that we are all connected regardless of class year, geographic location or career. It means that we are all a part of and a product of the Linfield Experience. As alumni director, I’d like to take it one step further. What could bring Linfield alumni/a a mean? There are several possibilities:

• a greatly expanded social and vocational network;
• programs, services and events designed to enhance our post-college lives; and
• volunteer opportunities designed to enhance the education of current students, elevate the reputation of Linfield and, ultimately, increase the value of our own degrees.

Part of my role as alumni director is to develop programs that will boost your status as Linfield alumni. If you have ideas and suggestions about how we can do that, feel free to get in touch with me at alumni@linfield.edu.

Go Cats!

Debbie (Hansen) Harmon ’90

www.linfield.edu/alumni/
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“Roberta mixed it up and had a good time,” said Robyn Stewart, head women’s basketball coach since 1997. “Basketball back then was a little on the wimpy side,” she said. “Then they realized girls weren’t pansies. In sports, I could compete as hard as I wanted to. If I could have played football, I would have.”

After earning a degree in physical education, Morin took PE and coaching, relishing each student.

“I always said old age was going to have to move fast to catch me,” said Morin.

Make the most of your Wildcat connection

What does it mean to be a Linfield alumnus/a?

That can best be illustrated with a story.

Following graduation, a dear friend moved to southern California. While driving on the freeway one day, a man began honking and motioning wildly, begging her to roll down her window. Once she decided he was harmless, she complied. An elderly gentleman grinned and said “Linfield, class of ’39.” He responded, “Linfield, class of ’93.” He had seen the Linfield decal on her window and couldn’t resist saying hello.

I love this story because it illustrates how much it means to be a Linfield alumnus/a – that we have a connection regardless of class year, geographic location or career. It means that we are all a part of and a product of the Linfield Experience. As alumni director, I’d like to take it one more step: “What could bring a Linfield alumnus/a a mean?” There are several possibilities:

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Seeing the Italian sites

As students, Tim Kubi and Dick Allen, both ’69, led the Linfield College student body as senior class president and vice president, respectively.

In November, nearly four decades later, the two caught up with one another and reconnected with other alumni during a Linfield trip to Italy. Kubi and Allen, along with 20 Linfield alumni and friends, explored Rome and Tuscany during an 11-day guided tour. Linfield partnered with Collette Travel to offer a trip that included visits to Rome, Florence, Assisi, Pisa and Siena.

The diverse group included graduates from the 1950s through the 1990s.

“It was fun to see the ties between the generations,” said Allen, former Linfield Alumni Association president. “The trip has spurred me to get back involved with classmates.”

Allen, who collects Italian wines, enjoyed the small towns, particularly in Tuscany.

Mark and Nancy (Foster) McCollum ’73 and ’75 took the tour to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

“We both agreed it was a perfect opportunity,” said Nancy. “We didn’t have a lot of travel experience so this was a good way to start.”

Both appreciated the friendships they made along the way.

“There was a camaraderie knowing we’d all gone to the same school,” said Nancy. “It was easy to talk and get to know people. We did a lot of laughing.”