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Committed to the Environment

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Committed to the environment

Nancy Broshot, left, measures a sapling in Portland’s Forest Park with help from Tanya Helm ’08, right. Broshot’s ongoing commitment to students and research has earned her the Edith Green Distinguished Professorship. The award is made annually to a Linfield faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding performance in teaching and related faculty roles.

Her friends call her a tree hugger, and that’s fine with Nancy Broshot, associate professor of biology at Linfield College. “You have to hug them in order to measure them,” she said with a laugh.

Broshot, chair of Linfield’s health sciences program and this year’s Edith Green Distinguished Professor, has been measuring trees in Portland’s Forest Park since 1993, when she began a comprehensive research project to study the effects of urbanization upon a naturally forested area. Established in 1948, Forest Park covers 5,090 acres and is the largest wooded park within city limits in the United States. Broshot found it to be the perfect setting for her research.

“It allows me to look at one contiguous forest area and there are parts of it right next to downtown Portland and other parts that are still pretty remote,” she said. In 1993, Broshot chose 25 sites, scattered throughout the park, to measure the plant and bird communities. One site lies adjacent to the Pittock Mansion parking lot, while the park, to measure the plant and bird communities. One site lies adjacent to the Pittock Mansion parking lot, while the park...

Sharing his knowledge with Africa’s students

As a young boy growing up in Ghana, Martin Dwomoh-Tweneboah always knew he’d go to college, thanks to the encouragement of his father. Now he’s helping other Africans achieve a quality education as well.

Dwomoh-Tweneboah, chair of the Linfield College Computing Science Department, has spent the past three summers bringing technology to Africa University, the first private institution of higher education in Zimbabwe.

First, he helped the institution establish a computer science department and develop a curriculum. Then, he designed and implemented a campus-wide computer network, installing state-of-the-art fiber optic cables and “smart” classrooms, saving the university hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“An African, I feel that sense of responsibility to help improve the educational system on the continent,” Dwomoh-Tweneboah said. “That will be my contribution to help improve the lives of the younger generation to bring about peace and prosperity.”

Thanks to his efforts, 30 students are now in their second year of computer science study at Africa University, according to Rekabud Joseph Murapa, vice chancellor of Africa University.

“Africa University has one of the best campus networks in Southern Africa,” Murapa said. “Students and staff will now be able to collaborate with colleagues around the world.”

Dwomoh-Tweneboah has brought extraordinary assets to the African continent, said Vivian Bull, Linfield president emerita. Bull, a former trustee of Africa University, is associated with the General Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church, which is supporting the work.

“He’s African, and the African people respond to him,” she said. “He’s a hands-on person and he has brought a wonderful work ethic to the people. There’s nothing he won’t do.”

Dwomoh-Tweneboah works side by side with staff and students, teaching them about the equipment. He said his work in Africa is a way to put into action Linfield’s mission, Connecting Learning, Life, and Community, while modeling service to Linfield students.

“I talk with my students about the project,” he said, “and they learn how technology is important in the lives of others outside the U.S.”

Now, as part of the assessment team for the

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