Sharing His Knowledge with Africa's Students

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Committed to the environment

Nancy Broshot

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.

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According to Barbara Seidman, dean of faculty, “Her ongoing research in urban natural environments like Portland’s Forest Park is a model of the reach of academic inquiry beyond the campus itself and into the life of the community encompassing it,” Sedman said.

Looking ahead, Broshot already knows where she’ll be during the summer of 2013. "I’ll be in the woods measuring all my trees and counting birds again," she said.

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.

At Linfield since 1984, Broshot maintains a passion for her research. “I’ll be in the woods measuring all my trees and counting birds again,” she said.

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.

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Dwomoh-Tweneboah, associate professor of computer science, helps to install a satellite dish on the roof of a learning center in Mozambique. Due to lack of infrastructure, African universities can accommodate only 5 percent of eligible students.

Martin Dwomoh-Tweneboah

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 is helping to expand Africa University through distance learning at satellite campuses. He and Bull have conducted feasibility studies for future sites in Congo, Angola, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

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