2007

Class Notes

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Compassion is key when teaching military children

Balancing firmness with compassion is a key of Gary Grubbs’ job as assistant principal of Evergreen Elementary School in Washington.

Evergreen is on the Fort Lewis Army Base, and almost every student has had a parent deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Also, the Army built the school in 1991 to serve medically fragile and severely handicapped children. About one-fourth of Evergreen’s 800 students receive services for some type of disability.

As Grubbs ‘89 explained, Fort Lewis is a compassionate duty station, for those whose family members need special medical care. Evergreen’s staff includes two nurses, as well as art- and swimming teachers, one a National Disney Teacher of the Year.

Grubbs studied education and sociology at Linfield and received a master’s in special education at Western Oregon University. He taught in Tumwater, Wash., for nine years before becoming an administrator.

“Because so many of Evergreen’s students have special needs, Grubbs attends even more meetings than most educators. “It’s a matter of making sure you have all the resources in place, and there’s a lot of turnover, so the needs are ever-changing,” he said.

Gerry Grubbs ‘89 accepts a U.S. flag from Kayla, a forager whose grandfather carried it over Afghanistan in a C-131 transport plane three years ago while her father served in Iraq.

Deployments create stress. “Kids get emotional, and you have to know when to be tough and when to be compassionate,” Grubbs said.

One benefit of his job: lots of hugs.

– Beth Rogers Thompson
Compassion is key when teaching military children

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“Because so many of Evergreen’s students have special needs, Grubbs attends even more meetings than most educators. “It’s a matter of making sure you have all the resources in place, and there’s a lot of turnover, so the needs are ever-changing,” he said.
Portland married Lisa Lund Dec. 8. They are parents of a son, August A., and an adopted son at Linfield.

Shane Hawkins ’98 of Portland and his wife, Jeana, had a son, Mason Robert, Oct. 19. Scott Reap ’98 and his wife, Kellie, had a daughter, Elyse Penelope, March 21.

Tina (Schumacher) Galaty ’97 of Scappoose is a family nurse practitioner at Clackamas Family Health Center.

Mary (Nightingale) Lago ’77 of Hillsboro married Arizona Peterson, Oct. 28, and are parents of a daughter, Autumn Jane and two sons, Jackson and Jacob.

Greg and Tonya (Petters) Hill ’77 and ’98 of McMinnville had a daughter, Brooke Michelle, Jan. 24. Brian and Kristina (Law) Hill ’93 of Cambridge, Mass., where he is a staff counselor in the Center for Support, are parents of a son, Westley Andrew, Oct. 19.

Brian and Karla (Sutter) Larson ’80 of Linfield, have a daughter, Shiloh Leann, Oct. 20. Brian and Karla (Sutter) Larson ’80 of Linfield, have a daughter, Shiloh Leann, Oct. 20. Brian and Karla (Sutter) Larson ’80 of Linfield, have a daughter, Shiloh Leann, Oct. 20. Brian and Karla (Sutter) Larson ’80 of Linfield, have a daughter, Shiloh Leann, Oct. 20.

Katie Hahn ’00 of Bandon, Wash., married John Stevens ’93 of McCall, Idaho. She completed a master’s in integrated art education and a sixth grade teacher at Eagle MIddle School.

Jessica Kim ’02 of Milwaukie, Wash., will spend the next two academic years teaching English at Seoul International School in South Korea.

Eric and Jaime Chachau ’00 of Portland had a son, Colin William, Jan. 29. Erick is a national sales manager for Destination Honda and Krista is home office coordinator for McKinsey Co.

Kate Dombova ’00 of Seattle, Wash., is a sales representative for France Sante.

Donna Dragreen ’00 of Portland married Scott Holcomb Sept. 8. She is a line driver and delivery at St. Vincent’s Hospital.

Eric and Samantha (Shime) Hins ’01 of Portland and her husband, Adam, had a daughter, Charlotte, May 18.

Craig and Andrea (Demo) Hankel ’95 and ’98 of McMinnville had a son, Andrew Thomas, April 13. Andrea (Costine) Hare ’99 of Portland and her husband, Adam, had a son, Joseph Joshua, Nov. 29.

Jared and Cristina Deyar ’99 of Forest Grove and her husband, Charlie, had a daughter, Elaina Ceremony, June 28.

Ryan Hunter ’99 of Rosenberg and his wife, Melody, had a daughter, Kylie, May 16, 2006.

Ashley Baret ’99 of St. Paul, Minn., is attending the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

Pam and John Pancake ’99 of Portland and their daughter, Leora Michelle, Jan. 18, are expecting their first child in March.

McKenna (Cowan) Mann ’00 of Bellingham, Wash., married Travis Short June 30. She is a software developer at Nextvan.

Katy Jones ’01 of McMinnville and her husband, Jon, had a son, Mason George, April 29.

Andrea (Dewees) Absher ’00 of Vancouver, Wash., had a son, April 21. She is an actuary at Destination Hotels and Resorts and is a national sales manager for Intel Corp.

Nathan Roger, June 27.

Franco Sarto.

Lindsey (Hoff) Matt ’97 and ’99 of North Bend, Wash., married Ken Hayes Jan. 27.

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Christopher I. Niebergall ’92 of Salem, Ore., received an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Rachel, live in Portland and he completed his internship in Internal Medicine.

Stephanie (Matz) Begehr ’94 of McMinnville and her husband, Dan, had a son, Joseph, in June.

Yubu Gardens Middle School.

Christine N. Spade ’00 of Bellingham, Wash., plays wide receiver/defender for the University of Washington and is a sixth grade teacher at Eagle Mountain Middle School.

Seth Prickett ’05 of Portland is an assistant manager at Pepperidge Farm. He and his wife, Hannah, live in Sherwood and he completed his undergraduate program in Business Administration.

Justin Johnson ’05 of Portland is a junior at Portland State University and works in Marketing for Destination Hotels and Resorts and is a national sales manager for Intel Corp.

Jessica Lewis-Caporal ’06 of McMinnville, professor emeritus of McMinnville, March 20.


William Walker ’49 of Roseburg competed in the Miss America Teenage Model/Teen’s World pageant and is currently serving as an assistant professor at the University of Oregon and is a software engineer with Environmenal Systems Producers.

Mady Miller ’10 of Portland volunteers as a Young Life leader in the Clovis Area. She has traveled to Tanzania, Africa, on a trip Life Tour organized by Young Life. The group played basketball against the Tottenham Olympic/club teams, organ- ized a volleyball game and kickball match and he is a software engineer with Environmenal Systems Producers.

Matt Mulder ’06 of Portland provided software development and infrastructure support for the University of Arizona and he is a software engineer with Environmenal Systems Producers.


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Kris Woodburn '93 of Grants Pass is corporate attorney at the law firm of Harris, Branson, Jones.

Jennifer Bond '93 of Sherwood married Terry Anderson Sept. 16. She is a regulatory associate at Clatskanie Family Health Center. Their daughter, Eliza Elisa, was born Oct. 3. They are expecting a second child in June.

Andrea (Dewees) Pass is deputy city attorney. She and her husband married Terry Andersen Sept. 16. They have a daughter, Elaia Teresa, born Aug. 27.

Craig and Andrea (Dewees) Hanson '93 and '95 of McMinnville have opened their own CPA office. She is an associate for the University of Oregon. He is an actuary with Milliman Inc., and he is an assistant professor of statistics at Portland State University.

Kelly Hahn '00 of Boring, Wash., married John Spencer '00 in McCullough, Idaho, where she completed her master’s in integrated art education and is a grade teacher at Eagle Middel School.

Jameson '00 of McMinnville and his wife had a daughter, Nora Jane, Nov. 30. She was a lab technician at St. Vincent’s Hospital.

Nathan Roger, June 27.

Deanna (Quindt) Recinos of Grants Pass and her husband had a son, Isaac Andrés, born Aug. 22. They are expecting another child in February.

Helen (Casey) Durst '94 of St. Paul, Minn., and her husband have a son, Maxwell, Feb. 9, 2007. His mother is a social worker at Hronov, Czech Republic. His father is a software engineer with Accenture in Portland. They are expecting another child in November.

Dawn (Schramm) Hutchison of Oregon City, formerly of Portland, and her husband have a daughter, Brillie Lynne, born Oct. 30.

Rebecca McManus '09 of Portland and her husband had a daughter, Elise Elizabeth, born Sept. 11.

John (Curtis) Deayk '99 of Fort Grove and her husband, Charlie, had a daughter, Emma Grace, Jan. 26.

Ryan Hunter '99 of Roseburg and his wife, Shylah, had a daughter, Mila, Feb. 11.

Shelley Munsan '00 of McMinnville and her husband have a daughter, Malia Rose, Oct. 11.

Cynthia M. Behrens '93 of Vancouver, Wash., is in her second year of the University of Arizona Master of Business Administration program.

Nancy Wilson of McMinnville is pictured in a fundraiser calendar featuring local men and women in business attire.

Michael B. Parker '94 of Portland and his wife had a daughter, Olivia, born Jan. 29.

Amy Hascall '97 of Portland is an art teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. School. She and her husband married Brian Stahl '99 in Portland, July 2.

Ken Dining '93 of Portland married Lisa Lund Dec. 8. He is a regular and assistant manager for Nike Sport Center in Beaverton.

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in the clinic it’s like a party,” said Allen, last year’s Lloydena Grimes Award winner at Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing. “Children are watching movies and playing games. You wouldn’t know they have cancer. They’re amazing.”

Allen got a glimpse of her future while still a Linfield student, working at Legacy Cancer Services. With a degree in hand, she began a four-year stint with Legacy Health System at Meridian Park Hospital on the oncology unit and at Legacy Cancer Services providing cancer prevention and early detection services to the community.

After earning a master’s degree at the University of Portland, Allen joined the faculty at Boise State University, stepping away from oncology to fulfill a longtime aspiration to teach. She integrated her passion for culture and diversity into her lessons and taught nursing students to consider the cultural aspects that might influence patient care.

“It goes beyond making sure a professional interpreter is available,” she said. “It’s learning from a cultural standpoint what is important to a client and meeting those needs.”

Allen was instrumental in securing a federal grant for nurses, the Greater Awareness for Nurses (GAIN) grant. As lead author of the proposal, she was responsible for course development and implementation at every nursing school in Idaho. She remains a consultant on the program.

“I really like to finish what I start,” said Allen, who emerged from Linfield with a strong sense of professional responsibility.

“Each time I have encountered some obstacle in my life, there has been some blessing to help me get over it.”

– Laura Davis

Ruling with respect

Just when Judge Sandra Thompson ’68 thinks she’s heard it all, a defendant insists she had to steal a scarf to wear to church. The judge is unmoved.

Thompson knows what it’s like to lack money to buy what you want – or to pay your court fine. “I give people a year to pay their fine, and I’ll make special arrangements if they don’t have the money, including community service. But I expect them to fulfill their obligations,” she said.

In the 1960s Thompson chose Linfield from the National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students matched her with, based on her SAT scores and personal information. But after three years, the financial aid ended and she couldn’t afford to stay.

Thompson withdrew from Linfield and went home to Santa Monica, Calif.

Family friends provided a private scholarship, enabling her to receive her B.A. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1967.

“Each time I have encountered some obstacle in my life, there has been some blessing to help me get over it,” she says.

Her Linfield days were not over, she now serves on the college’s Board of Trustees and chairs the committee on student affairs.

Thompson, who earned her law degree from the University of Michigan in 1972, was appointed to the South Bay, Calif., Municipal Court in 1984 by then-Gov. George Deukmejian and was elevated to Los Angeles Superior Court when the courts were unified in 2000.


She also served as president of the National Association of Women Judges in 2005.

Thompson, who hears misdemeanor criminal cases, didn’t always want to be a judge. “I wanted to be an actress or a singer, but I felt I was not good enough to make people stop eating the food,” she said. As a Linfield student, she appeared in the play No Strings.

She describes herself as “an invertebrate theater-goer.” One of her favorite plays, which she saw again recently, is Twelve Angry Men, about a jury.

The seeds of her judicial career were planted in high school. She presided over student court hearings on infractions such as smoking and wearing open-toed shoes without nylons. The adviser encouraged her to consider becoming a judge. Thompson had no idea at the time that she would have to become a lawyer first.

She worked as an Ingold wood county attorney and a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney before her judicial appointment.

Prosecutor Joan Jenkens says it’s a pleasure to try a case before Thompson. “She’s always prepared. She’s fair to both sides and goes out of her way to make the jury feel respected and important. She’s so respectful of everyone… And she’s the law like a son-of-a- gun.”

– Beth Rogers Thompson

Class Notes

maria allen ’96

Maria Allen ’96 spends her days surrounded by the laughter and smiles of children.

Ironically, most are fighting cancer.

Allen is a nurse practitioner at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center Mountain States Tumor Institute in Boise, Idaho. She provides care to children and their families at the Pediatric Hematology Oncology clinic, the only children’s cancer program in Idaho.

As she works with families often, facing catastrophic circumstances, Allen is constantly amazed by the resiliency of children.

“So many times when you work Get news? Have you changed jobs? Received a promotion? Returned to school? Received another degree? Started a business? Did you get married or have a child in the last 12 months? If you have news for your classmates and other Linfield alums, visit us online.

www.linfield.edu/alumni/php