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Alumni Profile

Beth Rogers Thompson

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Walker Award: Dave Hansen

He’s a father figure to thousands of Linfield College students but Dave Hansen takes his paternal role in stride. As dean of students and vice president for student services, Hansen oversees the student body while maintaining an active role in the administration and even teaching an occasional course. For his work on behalf of Linfield during the past 37 years, Hansen earned the Walker Award, given to a non-alumnus in recognition of service to the college.

Distinguished Alumnus Award: John Creasman ’59

For John Paul Creasman ’59, helping those less fortunate is a way of life. From the steamy jungles of South America to the head waters of the Amazon, Creasman, assistant professor in ophthalmology and department chair at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona, has spent more than three decades performing humanitarian work and teaching health education around the world. He earned the Linfield College Distinguished Alumnus Award, which honors graduates whose professional achievements mark them as leaders in their fields.

Alumni Awards Recipients

Alumni Service Award: Dick Hughes ’75

Dick Hughes ’75 gets paid for having an opinion. As editorial page editor of the Salem Statesman Journal, Hughes shares his thoughts with newspaper subscribers on a daily basis. For the past three years, he’s also voluntarily shared his opinions and publishing expertise as a member of the Linfield Magazine Advisory Board. His efforts on behalf of the college have earned him the Alumni Service Award.

Outstanding Young Alumnus: Peter Fisher ’96

Entrepreneurial spirit emerged early for Peter Fisher ’96. At 7, he pulled his red wagon door-to-door selling Holly. At 18, he started a painting company to subsidize his Linfield tuition. Now after rising through the ranks of a national finance company, Fisher has once again set out on his own in the business world, this time as co-founder of AndersonFisher LLC, a third party investment and 401(k) consulting firm. Fisher, this year’s Outstanding Young Alumnus, is recognized for distinguishing himself in his field.

For complete stories:
www.linfield.edu/alumni/features

No cheating: Hyde studies international elections

Susan Hyde ‘00 is making a major transition from graduate student to Ivy League faculty member. She finished her Ph.D. from the University of California-San Diego and has joined the political science faculty at Yale University this fall.

Hyde had been serving as a research fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., while completing her dissertation on the promotion of democracy. Her focus is international elections observation. She has visited Venezuela, Indonesia and Albania for her research. She also has read hundreds of reports from other elections observers.

“This is an extraordinary young woman, just about every respect,” Leichter said. “She has a well-developed social conscience. She is articulate and a serious scholar, but also very generous and gregarious.”

Nowacki described Hyde as “engaging and dis- coined in a joyous way. Anything she sets her mind to, she does very well.” Nowacki said she was pleased when Hyde was accepted at UC-San Diego, one of the nation’s top international affairs graduate programs.

“At Yale, Hyde will work with the Yale Center for International and Area Studies and will teach courses in international affairs. ”

“A woman who is interested in politics and in the world, who is interested in international affairs and international relations,” she said. “She’s a different style of teaching.”

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When I’m thinking of how to run my classes, the people I tend to think back to are people at Linfield.”

“With the puzzle I started with is why do leaders of countries invite international elections observers and then cheat in front of them?” she said. “Another thing I’m doing is applying experimental meth- ods to look at whether inter- national observers reduce fraud on election day if they are randomly assigned to polling stations.

Her research shows fraud is reduced. But the cheat- ing observed is often not as explicit as shoving a hand-

It’s a different style of teaching. ”

“I don’t think we saw a woman cast her own ballot ful of pre-marked ballots into a box, she said. “Mostly, we’re looking for procedural violations, such as family voting. In Albania, a family would come in, and the head of the family would fill out everyone’s ballot, which is prohibited under Albanian law; but it’s a long-standing practice. The voting began at 6 a.m., and I don’t think we saw a woman cast her own ballot before noon.”

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