Alumni Profile

Laura Davis
Linfield College

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Managing that growth has been his number one priority, first as a member of the planning commission, then as city council president and now as mayor. Along the way, Mays has helped revitalize the once stagnant community and mend long-standing conflicts between the city and school district. They formed a partnership to jointly manage and maintain school district ball fields and gyms. Last year, the city formed Sherwood Broadband, and Mays hopes to partner with the school district in this area, too.

Mays used the same innovative leadership at Linfield when he helped to create the Catalyst, Linfield’s student-run deli that operated until 2004, according to Jeff Mackay, associate dean of students and director of residence life. “As student body president, Keith was a hard worker who served the students well,” Mackay said.

Although he was an applied physics major at Linfield, Mays didn’t limit himself to the science lab. “Linfield gave me the opportunity to try new things, to test my interests and abilities and learn from my professors, coaches and peers,” he said. “Linfield taught me how to learn, communicate and listen — important skills for the rest of my life.”

Mays works hard to balance his mayoral responsibilities with his personal life and career — he has worked in the commercial equipment finance industry for the past 12 years. Much of his time is spent listening. “In a small community like Sherwood, it’s about getting out, listening to your neighbors and finding out what’s important to them,” he said. “And then trying to deliver.”

— Laura Davis

Former ASLC president becomes ‘Face of Sherwood’

When Keith Mays ’91 led the Linfield College student body as president in 1990, he never imagined a career in politics. Yet today, Mays is putting his leadership skills to work as mayor of Sherwood. At 37, Mays is one of Oregon’s youngest mayors, leading a small city of 18,000 residents since he moved there in 1996, and managing that growth has been his number one priority, first as a member of the planning commission, then as city council president and now as mayor.

Moss combines banking, service

Banking and community service go hand-in-hand for Patricia Moss ’85.

Moss, president and CEO of Cascade Bancorp and CEO of Bank of the Cascades, is a leader in both the banking industry and the Bend community, where she’s made her home for the past 32 years. For her efforts, Moss has been named by US Banker Magazine to its annual “Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking” list for 2005. This is the third year she has been named to the distinguished list, which profiles individuals whose professional achievements and personal integrity have made them icons of influence in the workplace, at home and within their communities. The ranking traced more than 5,000 women in banking across the U.S.

Moss said the award reflects the achievement of her entire group. “It’s flattering,” she said. “But I clearly understand that I’m there because of the performance of my team. The credit goes way beyond me as a person.”

That team philosophy extends beyond the workplace to the community as well. In addition to serving on a number of boards, she is former president of the Bend Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Bend Rotary, and vice chair of United Way, and was named Central Oregon’s Citizen of the Year and Soroptimist International Woman of Distinction.

She considers community service a natural responsibility. “In order to have a great community, you have to contribute your part,” Moss said. “We all have to do what we can do to build a community that thrives in the next generation.”

Moss has practically grown up with Bank of the Cascades. She was a teller when the bank opened its doors in 1977, and she has worked her way up to the top position, earning a degree from Linfield’s Adult Degree Program along the way. With an associate’s degree from Central Oregon Community College in hand, Moss spent nearly a decade picking up classes from various institutions before enrolling at Linfield. Eighteen months later, she earned a management diploma.

“I ended up with the right solution with Linfield,” she said. “I love numbers that tell a story,” said Moss. “I like to look into the future to help strategize what we’ll be.”

A self-described people person, Moss said the banking industry combines people and strategy, two of her favorite things. “In order to have a great community, you have to contribute your part.”

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