2005

Class Notes

Linfield Magazine Staff

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The children touched Thomas Pryor ’96 the most. After all, he had left his own baby daughter in Arizona when he boarded the U.S. Navy’s hospital ship off the shores of tsunami-ravaged Indonesia.

Pryor, a registered nurse, is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. He works for one of its agencies, the Indian Health Service, most recently in the intensive-care unit at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. He spent the month of February with a medical team working to relieve the suffering inflicted by the monster wave that slammed into southern Asia in December, killing an estimated 221,100 people.

It was an unprecedented international relief effort, Pryor said: one month, compared with the normal two-week deployment for such emergency aid, and the first joint operation of the U.S. Navy and Project HOPE volunteers. Amid the chaos and destruction there were political sensitivities. Indonesia is the world’s largest Muslim nation, and the Americans did not want to force themselves on the government. Civil strife compounded their safety concerns.

Banda Aceh’s ruined University Hospital served as a reminder in Harapan and his uncle that we share so much history. “It’s a constant reminder to us,” Pryor wrote of the reunion in his online journal that day: “The Americans may be too uniformed in life, but their humanity is too real.”

There, he found a 7-year-old girl in similar respiratory distress. While arranging for her transfer to the ship, he noticed several very ill babies about the age of his daughter, Audrey. “That’s when I really felt the heart tugs, because I recognized that in my efforts in helping one, there were two or three others who didn’t get my help that day,” he said.

Despite the devastation and limited medical resources, there were signs of hope. “Those that got antibiotics, of whatever kind—it was amazing to see how rapidly they got better,” Pryor said, adding that their response was partly because the Indonesians, unlike most Americans, rarely get antibiotics. “Some of our basic antibiotics that we hardly ever use anymore were very effective and powerful over there.”

On Feb. 23, Pryor flew by helicopter with Harapan from the Mercy back to shore to join the boy’s uncle, aunt and their 2-year-old son—his only surviving relatives. Pryor wrote of the reunion in his online journal that day: “I guess what I was most struck with as I left Harapan and his uncle that day was the bond we share in common—the strength of family.”

Pryor returned March 2 to his own family, wife Erin and daughter Audrey, who is now a year old. In September he entered the two-year Kaiser program in nursing anesthesia in Pasadena, Calif., and after completion will continue to work for Indian Health Services.

“Harapan,” Indonesian for “hope.”

Without assistance.

Thomas Pryor ’96 with “Harapan,” who nearly drowned in the tsunami and lost his entire family.

Dressed to win

Wildcat fans Ty Angeline ’93 and Marilyn (Dresser) Cooper ’86 sport nylon windshirts by Russell Athletic.

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wildcatbookstore.com

A view of the beach front in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, during Thomas Pryor’s work there in February.

Class Notes

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— Beth Roger Thompson
‘New Directions’ for Oregon inmates

Evelyn (Andrus) Hanks ’57 is offering inmates at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution a key to life beyond bars. 

Hanks taught French and Spanish at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton from 1993 to 1999. She also taught English as a second language at the medium-security prison in Pendleton during those three years, full time in the fall from 1991 to 1993. Today, Hanks chairs the board of the New Directions Education Project, a nonprofit organization she launched in 1999 after hearing about a similar prison program in Kentucky. Since spring 2000, about 130 inmates have participated.

Only 57 percent of the inmates have completed high school or the GED, making them eligible for New Directions classes. “Most of them were losers all the time in school,” Hanks said. With New Directions, they are discovering that they can be successful in academics.

New Directions offers courses leading to an Associate of Arts degree, including college-level courses in English, psychology, biology, computer science, social sciences and general education. Hanks and her husband, Ron, a retired manager at Talbot, Whittier LLP in Portland, have contributed more than $4,000 to the organization, Hanks said.

The classes are taught by volunteers. Textbooks have been donated by publishers. The balance of the funding is provided by an annual capital campaign.

“All except one prep math class are transferable to a four-year college,” Hanks said.

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“Most of them were losers all the time in school,” Hanks said. “Day one we get them, and they do their homework.”

“They are so motivated, and they do their homework.”

Amada (Wilson) Kapelka ’86 of Keton, Wash., and her hus-

bant, Ben, had a son, Benjamin Wilson, April 25.

Michael McGrath ’86 of Portland is a partner in the law firm of Granting, Raskin and Engel, LLP in Portland.

Ryan McWayne ’86 of Springfield has an son, Jaxon Paul, Aug. 4.

Stefani Bailey ‘96 of Springfield teaches at Patton Middle School and coaches football and track at Linfield.

Taryn (Edmons) Roberts ’90 of Springfield married Adam Roberts May 19 in Puyallu, Wash., and

Suzanne Smith ’93 of Tigard ‘90 and her husband, Ben, had a daughter, Jaxon Paul, Aug. 4.

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Are you ready for a challenge?

These and other Linfield students will soon be calling you to join the “25 for 25 Challenge.”

Ten alumni have pledged a $25,000 gift to Linfield if 25 percent or more alumni make a gift by June 30, 2006. Step up to the challenge and be one of 3,352 alumni needed to reach 25 percent.

Look for details in the mail or ask phonomation students how your gift can help Linfield receive another $25,000.

www.linfield.edu/giving/lin/ giving.php
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Hanks taught French and Spanish at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton from 1973 to 1999. She also taught English as a second language at the medium-security prison in Pendleton during those years, full time in prison from 1991 to 1999.

Today, Hanks chairs the board of the New Directions Education Project, a nonprofit organization that launched in 1999 after hearing about a similar prison in Missoula, Mont., and 4-year-old twin grandsons.

College classes had been available at any prison in the state. Only 57 percent of the inmates have completed high school or the GED, making them eligible for New Directions.

New Directions offers courses leading to an Associate of Arts degree in education. "All except one prep math class are transferable to a school or the GED, making them eligible for New Directions," Hanks said.

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Taught English as a second language at Pendleton from 1983 to 1999. She also taught at Blue Mountain Community College in Rock Springs, Wyo.


Samara Sutula ’97 of San Pablo, Calif., earned a Master of Science in Counseling and is a special education teacher in both public elementary classrooms and a conferencing room.

April 25. Mike Westphal ’96 and Lauren Elizabeth, May 6, their second child. Both are managers in audit services at Talbot, a public accounting and consulting firm in Portland.

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McClarey receives Grimes Award

Education and innovation have been career hallmarks for Carol McClarey GSH ’55 of San Antonio, Texas. McClarey, this year’s recipient of the Lloydine Grimes Award for Excellence in Nursing, was a retired United States Air Force colonel. Throughout her 26-year career, she displayed a commitment to nursing that enhanced the profession around the world.

McClarey started out at Good Samaritan Hospital as head nurse of the diabetic medical/surgical unit two weeks before graduation, and was later a Grimes science instructor. She entered the Air Force in 1962, ultimately creating and implementing numerous first-time clinical, staff development and educational programs for staff and nurses.

Over the years, McClarey served in a number of overseas posts including Turkey, Vietnam, and Germany, and traveled widely through Europe from Norway to Turkey. She was command nurse in three major air commands, directly responsible to the command Surgeon. When she retired in 1988, McClarey was responsible for over 2,800 personnel in Europe from Norway to Turkey. She was responsible for the development and implementation of the now successful Linfield account-

Mike Yonker ’80 is the first to admit he’s an over-achiever. Sitting in his top-floor Wilsonville office, surrounded by family photos and drinks, he drinks from a water bottle, hydrating himself for the coming weekend’s Hood to Coast relay.

“I’m a play-hard-work-hard person,” he said. “Whatever it is, I go at it with 150 percent effort to be the best at it.”

So it came as no surprise when, as a Linfield College alumnus, Yonker discovered a passion for accounting and budgeting and completed his college coursework early. The only thing left to do was begin his career, which he did with a vengeance during his senior year.

Now Yonker is executive vice president and chief financial officer for InFocus Systems Inc., a multimedia projector maker with 700 employees and offices worldwide. He’s been with InFocus since 1993, saved for a three-year stint as CFO for Wieden & Kennedy. He spent his first 14 years out of college rocketing to partner status with Arthur Andersen & Company.

The son of Thomas Yonker, Linfield education professor from 1970 to 1988, Mike grew up enveloped in Linfield’s collegiate atmosphere. He developed a love of education and an interest in communication, recognizing early that people take different action as a result of how they understand something.

As the people I work with achieve greatness, it raises all the best in the people around me. As CFO he works with employees in all departments.

“I do everything I can to help them achieve more than what they think they're capable of doing,” said Yonker. “As the people I work with achieve greatness, it raises all the best in the people around them.”

Mike Yonker ’80 combines his enthusiasm for finance and high technology as CFO for InFocus Systems Inc., a multimedia projector maker based in Wilsonville.

“Mike had a spark that was evident even when he was a sophomore,” Jones remembered. “I’ve always appreciated how he paved the way for the lot of later generations of students. He was a tip student. I’m not surprised at his success.”

“While Yonker is fascinated with the fast-paced work and advanced technologies central to InFocus products, his favorite part of his job is drawing the best out of people,” his wife Robin (Haun) ’83, a strong supporter of her husband's work, said.

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