2005

Alumni Profile

Laura Davis
Linfield College

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol2/iss2/18

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
McClure receives Grimes Award

Education and innovation have been career hallmarks for Carol McClure. GSH ’55 of San Antonio, Texas. McClure, this year’s recipient of the Lloyd G. Grimes Award for Excellence in Nursing, is 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.

McClure started out at Good Samaritan Hospital as a head nurse of the diabetic medical/surgical unit two weeks before graduation, and was later a GSH 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, McClure 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, McClure was responsible for over 2,800 personnel in over 70 overseas locations.

She also created and managed her retirement community’s newsletter editor for the Society of Air Force Nurses.

1988, McClure was responsible for over 2,800 personnel in over 70 overseas locations. When she retired in 1988, McClure was responsible for over 2,800 personnel in over 70 overseas locations.

Since retirement, McClure has served as board member for American Heart Association, as well as board member for the Society of Air Force Nurses. She is also pursuing a masters degree in mathematics at Portland State University.

“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 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 sophomore, Yonker discovered a passion for accounting and bookkeeping. He buckled down to complete his college coursework and 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, save 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.

“Once they are fascinated,” he said, “I love being in front of people. I love teaching. I love interacting. And I think a lot of that came from my father and growing up around Linfield. Enrolling there was the natural next thing for me to do.”

Yonker’s initial interest in marine biology and forestry was short lived. Prompted by his sister, Kathy (Yonker) Bernard ’76, a business major, Yonker enrolled in an accounting class taught by Mike Jones, professor of accounting. For both Yonker and Jones, it was their first accounting class at Linfield — Yonker as a student and Jones as professor.

“He really took me under his wing,” Yonker said of Jones. “He saw in me what I didn’t realize I had. Had he not taken that level of interest in me, I doubt I would have taken the track I have.”

Under Jones’ guidance, Yonker interviewed and secured an internship with Arthur Andersen & Company, setting into motion the now successful Linfield accounting student recruiting program.

Fast-paced finance good fit for CFO

“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 out the best in the people around him.

As CFO he works with employees in all departments.

“I do everything I can to help them achieve work beyond what they think they’re capable of doing,” said Yonker. “As the people I work with achieve greatness, it raises all the boats in the company, including mine.”

Yonker, who married Robin (Haun) ’83, is a strong proponent of a liberal arts education. He encourages students, including his own three children, to step outside their comfort zones by studying abroad.

“As a result of this, 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 sophomore, Yonker discovered a passion for accounting and bookkeeping. He buckled down to complete his college coursework and 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 based in Wilsonville.

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

“At the end of the day, I can’t imagine doing anything other than what I’m doing and loving this work,” said Yonker. “I’m a play-hard, work-hard person.”

“My work is good fit for me. I love the fast pace. I love the challenge of taking on new projects and really jewels.”

As a result of this, 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 sophomore, Yonker discovered a passion for accounting and bookkeeping. He buckled down to complete his college coursework and 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 based in Wilsonville.

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