Nursing to Boost Hispanic Recruitment; Nursing School Committed to Increasing Diversity

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Nursing school committed to increasing diversity
by Beverly Epeneter
Interim Dean of Nursing

The Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing is committed to increasing diversity on campus and in the nursing workforce. We believe that it is essential to create an academic environment that facilitates intellectual curiosity and respect for diverse viewpoints, whether cultural, racial or gender. The article in the summer Linfield Magazine, “Men in Nursing – Filling in the ranks” was the first time in the 20 years that I have been with Linfield that we have given our male students an opportunity to express their thoughts about their experience in nursing in a public forum.

The nursing profession is facing a serious nursing shortage compounded by the limited diversity in the workplace – both gender and cultural diversity. This article examined one aspect of the issue – the shortage as it relates to men in nursing from the perspectives of the men on the panel. The primary question was, How can we attract more men into nursing and the related question, how do we make them feel welcome in nursing school and in the practice setting? Our approach: we give them an opportunity to speak, we listen, and we seek to understand. We can do this knowing in our head and feeling in our heart that nursing at any point in time is a worthy profession. We hope to give other students, other groups, similar opportunities, through efforts such as the HRSA grant that Linfield was just awarded (see related article) and through other forums that will allow their voices to be heard.

Nursing grows stronger as a profession when we honor and learn from the past; become more educated, understand society and culture, and plan together for the future.

Defending the environment

Lindsay Aney ’05, has a year-round commitment to the forest.

During the school year, she studies the environment at Linfield College, and each summer, she defends it as a firefighter for the United States Forest Service in Silver Lake.

“Fire is really a natural part of the ecosystem. I’m interested in using fire to help our ecosystems; using fire when we can control it in order to prevent catastrophic and dangerous wildfires in the future.”

– Lindsay Aney

“I enjoy being out in the natural environment,” said Aney, who majors in environmental studies with a science focus and has minors in biology and economics. "I like being able to observe fire behavior, and then see how the burn has affected the forest."

Aney spent most of her summer living in a Forest Service bunkhouse and working with 12 other firefighters. As a member of an engine crew for the past three summers, she filled her days with training, maintaining equipment and familiarizing herself with the forest terrain. Part of her training covered weather and fire behavior.

“We look up a lot,” she said. “We pay attention to clouds because they tell us what weather and winds will be coming our way.”

Over the summer, Aney estimates she fought about 20 fires, most of which were relatively small one-quarter-acre burns. And though Aney works to prevent forest fires, she has also become a proponent of prescribed burning, a growing trend in forest management that advocates burning under controlled circumstances.

“Fire is really a natural part of the ecosystem,” Aney said. “I’m interested in using fire to help our ecosystems; using fire when we can control it in order to prevent catastrophic and dangerous wildfires in the future.”

Aney inherited her love of the outdoors from her parents, both of whom also worked as Forest Service firefighters while in college. Her father is a wildlife biologist and Forest Service ranger in Paisley. Growing up, Aney recalls living in close contact with the natural world, listening to bid signals through monitors and learning to distinguish different types of trees, birds and other forest inhabitants.

Her deep respect for the environment is evident in her work at Linfield, said Jack Murphy, assistant professor of biology, who collaborated with Aney on fungi research at Charles Menster Park near McMinnville. She presented her results at the Linfield Science Symposium and plans to present again at the Murdock College Science Research Conference this fall.

Murphy praised Aney’s independence and maturity.

“Lindsay has a personal commitment to do something for the environment,” Murphy said. “Her civility and intelligence give her good presence and will translate into effectiveness in whatever job she chooses.”

– Laura Davis
Remembering service and sacrifice

They’ve been friends for more than 70 years – through childhood, college, a war and now, volunteer efforts.

Two World War II veterans, Lieutenant Tom Maloney ’46 and Captain Colin Armstrong ’51, had a chance to reflect on their friendship and the war that shaped their lives, when they attended the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., on May 29. Evergreen International Aviation sponsored the trip for four veterans, all volunteers at the Evergreen Aviation Museum, including Maloney and Armstrong.

The group was among more than 150,000 people who attended the dedication ceremony. The memorial honors the 16 million people who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died and all who supported the war effort from home.

For Maloney, the experience was, “inspirational and quite touching. I thought about how we were there and all our friends who were killed were not.”

Maloney was 20 and had attended Linfield for three years when he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in October 1941 as a dive bomber pilot. Two months later, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. During his four years of service, he was awarded 14 service medals, including two navy crosses, one distinguished flying cross and five air medals.

Maloney lost a number of friends and family members during the war including Linfield classmates Jimmy Breeding ’39 and Gilbert Roberts ’41. “We had more egotism and confidence than we had brains,” he said. “Inside of us, we had the feeling we were all supermen. When I came back, I realized I was 26 going on 56.”

Maloney returned to Linfield and finished his degree in 1946, marrying Nita (Glascoe) ’48 later that year. Returning veterans changed the climate of Linfield’s campus, Nita noted. “Most of the veterans smoked and danced,” she said. “Within a few years, rules changed on campus, too.”

Armstrong agreed, adding “things were much more strict and proper before the war. The attitude was more relaxed and informal when I returned.”

Armstrong entered the navy in 1942 as a dive bomber pilot, fulfilling a lifelong dream. “Becoming a navy pilot was my career ambition,” he said. “Seldom do you know that and get to do it. I was lucky that way.”

After the war, Armstrong earned a business administration degree at Linfield before continuing his career in the military, serving as a carrier pilot, meteorologist and oceanographer. He spent the next two years forecasting ice in the Arctic Ocean, and went on to serve a total of 30 years, earning 14 service medals along the way.

After retiring from the military, Armstrong was a Yamhill County commissioner for eight years. – Laura Davis

Investing in higher education

Kirby (Noland) Dyess ’68

“I can’t imagine my career if I hadn’t pursued a college degree. I want to work on whatever I can to increase the investment in higher education.”

After a brief stint with a law firm, Dyess spent a decade at IGN Medical Laboratories Inc. in Portland, where she started and operated the Diagnostic Products Division based on her research in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism.

She joined Intel’s staffing department in 1979, where her curiosity and love of a challenge propelled her through the ranks. When she retired in 2002 as vice president and director of operations for Intel Capital, Intel’s strategic investment program, she managed a portfolio of over 400 national and international companies and had handled more than 50 Intel mergers and acquisitions.

“Every time there was an opportunity, I looked at it from the perspective of ‘can I learn something new and can I make a difference?’” she said. “And that continues to guide me today.”

Professionally, Dyess has been pleased to have been part of a number of successful teams that have worked together for a common goal.

“I see that with members of the Linfield board frequently and now with the Oregon Board of Higher Education, all of whom are focused on the same objective,” she said. “It’s amazing what can happen when you bring those diverse perspectives together and deliver exquisite results.”

In addition to being a member of the Board of Trustees for Linfield, Dyess is a member of the Menasha Corporation Board of Directors, the Merix Corporation board and the H2F Media board, and she chairs the Business Advisory board for the University of Oregon Lundquist College of Business.

If there’s one area Dyess has yet to master, it’s retirement. She remains challenged by her work as a personal investor with Austin Capital and with her board responsibilities.

“It’s all a labor of love,” she said. “I think I’ve flunked retirement but the good news is, I love what I do.” – Laura Davis

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that the nursing school has developed will be important to the current project’s success, from the middle schools where Linfield has a long-established mentoring program to community organizations that provide sites for clinical experiences. One such partnership was established this past summer, when the Oregon Health Career Center held its Summer Enrichment Academy for volunteer efforts.

Class Notes

Josie Rodriguez, director of cultural liaison at Silverton Hospital, has long been one of Linfield’s partners. She praised the program and the other nursing school faculty she has worked with for their efforts and their sincerity.

“They come to us,” she says. “They seek advice from the stakeholders.” Rodriguez believes this project will have a direct impact on health disparities and a number of beneficial ripple effects on the Hispanic community.

The grant fully funds the Linfield program for three years, with $186,343 provided for this year and amounts of $172,721 and $196,664 recommended for years two and three respectively.

– Peter A. McGraw