2004

Defending the Environment

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/vol1/iss2/11

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
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, understanding, inclusive and diverse in the present; 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; during the 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 major 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 bat 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 Metkens Park near McMinnville. She presented her results at the Linfield Science Symposium and plans to present again at the Mundock 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

continued on page 30