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Investing in Higher Education

Laura Davis
Linfield College

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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 men and women 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 Robert ’41.

“We had more egotism and confidence than we had had before,” he said. “We had the feeling we were all supermen. When I came back, I had matured. I was 26 going on 56.”

Maloney returned to Linfield and finished his degree in 1946, marrying Nita (Glascue) ’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.

“Being 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.

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“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 ICN 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 skimmed retirement but the good news is, I love what I do.”

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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 to encourage Hispanic students to complete high school.

Careers in Health on Linfield’s Portland Campus.

Josie Rodriguez, director of cultural liaison at Silverton Hospital, has long been one of Linfield’s partners. She praises Wros 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

Kirby (Noland) Dyess ’68

Kirby (Noland) Dyess ’68 learned early on she could do whatever she put her mind to.

That legacy, instilled by her father and reinforced by a series of mentors, has been the basis for successful and diversified careers in biochemistry, high technology management and most recently, education.

Dyess, founder of Austin Capital and a member of the Linfield College Board of Trustees, was appointed to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education in January. She chairs the Academic Excellence and Economic Development Committee, focused on research areas that will become economic development engines for the state.

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