2004

No 'Feet Up' for These Retirees

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Recommended Citation
Thompson, Beth Rogers (2004) "No 'Feet Up' for These Retirees," Linfield Magazine: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 5.
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol1/iss1/5

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A View from Melrose

Another Linfield ‘defining moment’

President Vivian A. Bull, center, speaks with Catherine Dunellinger ’05 about the latter’s research during the Linfield College Science Symposium held on May 14 in Murdock Hall. More than 20 Linfield students, including Dord McKenna ’04, presented research.

A phone call one rainy November morning in 1996 changed everything. We were in the planning stages of a capital campaign, and were concerned about a proposed goal of $28 million. Little did we anticipate the challenge of raising $65 million, much less the possibility of reaching an extended target of $70 million. But then came that phone call, telling me that the Hewlett-Packard Company would be such that students would petition to have library hours extended. We responded by doing so. I cannot imagine better testimony to the benefits this new facility is bringing to our campus.

I was fortunate enough to be present when the first students came into the new F. Miller Fine Arts Center. You could see the excitement in their faces as they contemplated working in a place that is spacious, well equipped, and flooded with natural light from the floor-to-ceiling north windows. The exceptional work displayed in the spring senior art show must have drawn inspiration from the new surroundings.

I sometimes joked with the theatre faculty and students about losing their creativity once they no longer had to cope with the hardships of Pioneer Hall. Well, just take in a play someday soon, and you’ll see that far from dulling creativity, the Marshall Theatre has created new possibilities for some highly talented individuals.

As important as the new land and buildings are, the campaign addressed other priorities as well. The endowment for scholarships, completion of the chaplaincy endowment, enhanced resources for technology, faculty development and collaborative student-faculty research. One can never anticipate exactly how all campaign gifts will be designated. For instance, the goal for scholarships was $5 million and we received more than $15 million. That is a real joy!

Every campaign ends with some objective unrealized. For Linfield, our immediate capital priority remains a new facility on the Keck Campus for our outstanding music program.

While there are always tasks for tomorrow, today we celebrate an achievement undreamed of just a few years ago. I want to express my deep appreciation to all who have worked for and contributed to the success of “Linfield—The Defining Moment.” The college is stronger because of your support.

~Vivian A. Bull

No ‘feet up’ for these retirees

Everett Curry
Georgann Percival
Ted Henry ’61

Forget the rocking chairs. That’s not what three Linfield employees have in mind as they retire June 30.

The trio—Ted Henry ’61, director of Linfield’s academic computing center; Georgann Percival, associate professor of health and English as a second language, and Everett Curry, director of planned giving—will wrap up a combined 67 years of service.

It’s a second retirement for Curry, an American Baptist minister who has led churches in Oregon, California and Hawaii. “I actually planned to retire four years ago,” he said, but son Kevin ’92 had heard Linfield was seeking a planned giving director. Kevin called and pleaded, “Dad, they need you.”

“I’ve enjoyed seeing Linfield when it is reaching some important goals,” he said, “and I meet really interesting people who love the college or they wouldn’t be talking to me.”

Bruce Wyatt, vice president for college relations, described Curry as “a very warm, caring person. He came to us with a strong background in institutional development, and he’s done a wonderful job of working with alumni and supporters of Linfield.”

Curry has promised his wife, Barbara, to work fewer hours, but he plans to resume his consulting practice. He also has offered to continue to be available to Linfield. “I’m not a ‘feet-up’ retiree,” he said.

Neither is Percival. She joined Linfield in 1976 to teach nutrition in the consumer and family studies department. When that program closed, Percival shifted gears and earned a master’s in teaching ESL at Portland State University in 1991. She has continued to teach nutrition, as well as ESL.

“I’ve been lucky enough to work in two departments with wonderful people,” Percival said.

Sandra Lee, ESL director, said Percival has bridged international students’ ESL and degree programs and has led the use of technology in language classrooms.

Taking students beyond the classroom, Percival has gamely pitched tents in the rain, driven unwieldy 15-passenger vans and chopped mounds of vegetables for Japanese curry cooked over a campfire, Lee said.

Percival said she longs to visit Japan and parts of the United States she hasn’t seen. She also wants to return to Colombia, where she served in the Peace Corps in 1968-69. Closer to home, she wants to do volunteer work and nurture her yard.

Like Percival, Henry has served Linfield in multiple roles. He joined the college in 1969 as a math professor and assistant football coach. In 1974, he became the computer center director. He and work-study students were the computer center. At the time, Linfield had a bulking IBM 1620. Thirty megabytes of disk space, 96K of memory. They began using all administrative files on the computer and by the time a consultant’s report arrived saying that couldn’t be done, it was.

In 1991, Henry retired from coaching along with head coach Ad Rutschman ’54. “Developing young people gave me as much pride as winning football games,” Henry said.

He has seen Linfield players get bigger as computers have gotten smaller but far more powerful.

Irv Wiswall, Linfield’s chief technology officer, said he wondered how he would like working with “this sports guy.” He quickly realized Henry’s understanding of Linfield and people was invaluable.

Wiswall said Henry has carried the team spirit that wins football games to his work in Integrated Technology Services. “Ted is an enormously hard worker, with patience and tenacity,” Wiswall said.

Henry is excited about his newest sport, golf. He and his wife, Elsie ’89, also enjoy traveling and recently visited Hawaii.

No ‘feet up’ for these retirees.

~Vivian A. Bull

SUMMER 2004 - 54 - LINFIELD MAGAZINE