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No 'Feet Up' for These Retirees

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Another Linfield ‘defining moment’

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 target of $70 million. But then came that phone call, telling me that the Hewlett-Packard Company would match its next hundred years.

It would shape its next hundred years.

Another Linfield ‘defining moment’

A phone call one rainy November morning in 1996 changed everything.

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

President Vivian A. Bull, center, speaks with Catherine Dondlinger ’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 David McDade ’04, presented research.

No ‘feet up’ for these retirees

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.’”

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.

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Barbara, to work fewer hours, but he plans to resume his consulting prac- tice. 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 nutri- tion, as well as ESL.

“I’ve been lucky enough to work in two departments with won- derful 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 gained 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 hulking IBM 1620. Thirty megabytes of disk space, 96K of memory. They began putting 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 served Linfield players get bigger as computers have gotten smaller but far more powerful.

Irv Wiswall, Linfield’s chief technology officer, said he wondered when he arrived 12 years ago what it would be like with 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 porch rockers for these three.

~Beth Rogers Thompson