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Alumni News

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Linfield College

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Every fall, I celebrate the holiday a little early. Homecoming is a bit like Christmas for me and this year was no exception – more than 600 alumni and friends returned to campus to visit with current Linfield students and connect with old friends. Alumni came from as far as Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Maryland and included class years ranging from 1931 to 2011. Alumni had the opportunity to tour a newly remodeled building, hear from world-class faculty and explore McMinnville and Yamhill County.

I witnessed as a group of fraternity brothers, all of whom graduated college before I was born, were transformed into 20-year-olds as they serenaded their sweethearts. I saw old friends share a hug after not seeing each other for 30 years. I smiled as I heard alumni beaming with pride at our beautiful campus. I agreed when alumni who graduated 10 years ago talked about all of the wonderful restaurants now available that weren’t “in our day.” I felt blessed and fortunate to be a part of homecoming because it was indeed a great celebration.

If you are now thinking to yourself, “I’m sorry I missed it,” my advice is to make plans now for next year. Mark Oct. 12-13 on your calendar and come home to Linfield. You’ll be glad you did.

– Debbie (Hansen) Harmon ’90
Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

Alumni Leadership Council helps shape future

Some come by car, others by plane, a couple phone in by conference call. Whatever the route, members of the Alumni Leadership Council gather three times a year at Linfield College.

Their goal – to make the Linfield Alumni Association as effective as possible and nurture lifelong connections with the Linfield community. The Alumni Leadership Council provides input and direction in matters regarding alumni events, services, programming and communications. They also select the recipients of the Alumni Scholarship and the Alumni Awards. Members serve three-year terms.

“The ALC gives alumni a voice within the college,” said Jason Little ’07, membership coordinator at Portland Business Alliance who has served on the council since 2009. “We represent alumni from many generations and offer a diverse perspective on programs and events that connect alumni to each other and to the college.”
Homecoming: What brings you back?

James and Charlotte (Landin) Erickson ’50 and ’51, Shoreline, Wash.: We came back for Charlotte’s 60th reunion. Although the campus is much larger now, I appreciate that the atmosphere has not changed.

Marilyn (Simonsen) van Dyk ’58, McMinnville: I always love to see people I know from when I was in school, and when my husband (the late Marion van Dyk, professor emeritus of music) was teaching.

George Lawson ’60, Lopez Island, Wash.: This year I hope to bump into classmates.

Eldon and Joy (Skoglund) Ernst ’61, Berkeley, Calif.: We met while we were dishing up breakfast working in the dining hall. It’s now our 50th class reunion and we are excited to connect with friends.

William and Sandra (Kasen) Berlin ’60 and ’61, Anacortes, Wash.: I didn’t want to miss the 50th reunion. We have a lot of friends here we like to connect with.

Phyllis (Graf) Oshikawa ’61, Edmonds, Wash.: I am here for my 50th reunion.

Ardi (Erikson) Ferguson ’68, Vancouver, Wash.: This year I hope to bump into classmates.

Kathy (Gray) Johnson ’86, Fruitland, Idaho: I’m here for my 25th class reunion. I’m going to stay with my college roomie who still lives in town. When we lived here, we had one phone for the entire girls’ floor. Technology and communication has changed quite a bit!

Jason Little ’07, Portland: I always enjoy coming back to McMinnville and visiting the campus. I’m very excited for the great list of events like Linfield’s Finest.

Fund supports legacy students

As part of the Linfield family, alumni have perks. One such benefit is the Alumni Scholarship Fund, available to siblings, children or grandchildren of alumni. The scholarship, awarded in amounts up to $2,500, is administered by the Alumni Leadership Council and is the only fund specifically targeted to support legacy students. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate involvement in school and/or community. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1.

The fund’s growth depends on annual giving by Linfield alumni and friends. Help make the Linfield experience possible for deserving legacy students. For more information on contributing to the fund or to learn more about applying for a scholarship, call 503-883-2607 or go to www.linfield.edu/alumni and click “services.”