2015

Alumni Notes

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Linfield College

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol12/iss2/17
Take pride in your outstanding Alumni Award winners

Homecoming 2015 has come and gone, and what a wonderful weekend it was. There are many things that likely come to your mind when you think of Homecoming: a beautiful campus, reunions with long-time friends, reconnecting with beloved faculty and a football game. All are part of Homecoming. But I want to mention an aspect you may not have considered.

Alumni Awards, recognizing alumni who are outstanding in their fields and who serve Linfield, are presented during Homecoming. This year, four individuals were recognized (see page 26). These are people who are bright and interesting. During the awards presentation at Linfield’s Finest, I listened to all of their accomplishments with pride. Earlier in the day, two of the award recipients gave inspiring presentations on campus. They spoke about their work and how Linfield played a role in shaping them as individuals and as professionals.

If you know of someone who is worthy of an Alumni Award, I hope you will visit the alumni webpage and nominate that person. If you think you might make a great nominee, ask someone to submit a nomination on your behalf. Regardless, I invite you to attend Linfield’s Finest during Homecoming next year. I think you will be impressed by the caliber of Linfield alumni who are recognized, and you will be both awed and humbled when you learn more about some of those individuals who also have a Linfield degree.

– Debbie Harmon Ferry ’90
Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

1940-49

Margery (Jordan) Pease ’47 of Billings, Mont., celebrated her 90th birthday June 7 at a party hosted by her family and friends. More than 80 people attended.


1960-69

Pete Dengenis ’64 of Seattle, Wash., Bob Raffalo ’65 of Old Saybrook, Conn., and Bob Sullivan ’71 of Milwaukee, were inducted into the first Hall of Fame class at Bulkeley High School in Hartford, Conn. All are members of the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame.

John Lee ’67 of Portland was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in August in Worcester, Mass. He is also a member of the Hartford Connec-
tion and the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame.

1970-79

Mark and Barbara (Dodson) Whitehurst, both ’73, have retired. Mark retired after a 25-year teaching and coaching career in Anchorage, Alaska, plus another 15 years as a performance manager at Alaska Airlines in Seattle, Wash., and Barbara after nearly 30 years as a fundraising executive in Alaska and Washington. They have purchased an RV and plan to travel in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

1980-89

Stan Manley ’82 of Coburg led the Sheldon High School baseball team to their second 6A state championship in three years. He is an assistant baseball coach at Linfield.

Ed Lamberger ’83 of San Francisco, Calif., was named chief human resources officer at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Tony Smith ’83 of St. Paul was named principal of St. Paul Middle and High School. He will continue serving as athletic director.

Sandy Cameli ’85 of Honolulu, Hawaii, completed her Ed.D. in instructional leadership and her dissertation research resulted in two books for educators and students. Watching Students GLO: General Learner Outcomes Build Character and Career and College Readiness Skills in the Middle Grades is geared toward middle school classes and promotes advisory and social skills. The second is A Happy a Day Keeps the Grouchies Away, a children’s picture book geared for preschool through third grade.

Larry Whalon ’86 of Apple Valley, Calif., was named the superintendent of Lava Beds National Monument and the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument in northeastern California.

1990-99

Anne Marie (Flora) Lowe ’92 of West Linn and her husband, Jason, adopted a daughter, Olivia Ruth, in November. Anne Marie is the director of advancement for Portland Youth for Christ.

Toni Davis ’94 of Kelso, Wash., had a child, Rayland, Aug. 13.

Todd Farmer ’94 of Edmond, Okla., is department chair of Health and Physical Education at Langston College.

Scott Gilbert ’94 of Seattle, Wash., is regional vice president of LoCorr Funds.

Chun Jang ’95 of Anchorage, Alaska, is senior corporate counsel at Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

Rebecca (Kragrud) Larkin ’96 of Redmond completed a master’s degree in elementary literacy and reading.

Kristin Feters-Walp ’96 of Lake Stevens, Wash., is health room assistant at Lake Stevens High School.

Shanda McCormick ’99 of Honolulu, Hawaii, is regional director of advancement at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

2000-09

Erick Trachsel ’00 of Bend is director of sales and marketing for
Alumni honored during homecoming

Each year, the Linfield Alumni Association honors dedicated individuals for their hard work, innovation and generosity of spirit. Here’s a look at Linfield’s 2015 award recipients.

Marcy (Hamby) Towns ‘85 was named Distinguished Alumna for her work and dedication in her profession. Towns, professor of chemistry and the director of general chemistry at Purdue University, is a nationally and internationally known leader in the field of chemistry education research and discipline-based education research. In her role at Purdue, she is modeling the department after Linfield’s student-centered approach and is dedicated to her research and students.

Dan Roth ’00 was named Outstanding Young Alumnus for his commitment to public service. Roth is an international business graduate and was active on the Linfield College forensics team. As communications director for Rep. Karen Bass of California, he works nationally to elevate the voices of the more than 400,000 young people who are a part of the nation’s foster care system to ensure that members of Congress recognize their unique needs as they craft public policy.

Ray Olson ’54 received the Alumni Service Award for his continuous support both financially and through his leadership throughout the decades. In 1998 he organized the first of many reunion luncheons in honor of former football coach and athletic director Paul Durham ’36. The group was responsible for funding the Paul Durham Endowed Fund as well as raising the money for the statue honoring Durham.

Maria Stuart received the Walker Service Award. Stuart and her husband, Rob, own R. Stuart & Co. Winery in McMinnville, where she is the director of marketing, direct sales, public relations and hospitality. In addition to her role at the winery, Stuart has been a powerful advocate for Linfield and is a member of the Linfield College Business Advisory Council. She has employed numerous Linfield graduates and speaks to students considering careers in the wine industry.

For more information on this year’s recipients, go to linfield.edu/homecoming. Nominate someone for the 2016 awards at linfield.edu/alumniawards.

Got news?

Have you changed jobs? Received a promotion? Returned to school? Received another degree? Started a business? Did you get married or have a child in the last 12 months? If you have news for your classmates and other Linfield friends, visit us, linfield.edu/alumni.
Jennifer Allen ’01 of Portland was recently promoted to team leader position for Family Health Care. Lemond Hunter ’02 of Portland opened his own practice, Hunter Dental Care.

Dan and Kelsey (Lange) Davison ’03 and ’11 of McMinnville had a daughter, Ella Marie, July 8.

Benjamin Driver ’03 of Portland and his wife, Jenny, had a son, Luke, April 24, their second.

James Tate ’03 of Salem and his wife, Kacey, had a son, Judah, May 30, their fourth.

Pamela Canady ’04 of Salem was named Rotary McMinnville’s 2015 High School Teacher of the Year.

Sevda (Speroff) Day ’05 of Bend is pro deal coordinator for Hydro Flask in Bend.

Jeremy Wood ’05 of Portland is the chief information officer for Central City Concern.

Susan (Wilderman) Baertlein ’06 of Manzanita and her husband, Geoff, had a son, Charles Lloyd, Feb. 19. Susan is the English Department chair at Seaside High School.


April (Kelly) Huggler ’06 of Beaverton completed her MBA in healthcare management from Oregon Health and Science University and Portland State University.

Tara Meno ’06 of Portland received a master’s in nursing from Oregon Health and Science University.

Heidi Nusom ’06 of Portland married Seth Turner Aug. 22 in Bay City.

Carlye (Hill) Parascand ’07 of Tumwater, Wash., is teaching a sports medicine class at Timberline High School.

David Shot ’07 of Seattle, Wash., passed the Washington State Bar Exam and is practicing law at a private firm in Seattle.

Deeksha Sivakumar ’07 of Dubai and her husband, Briggs Rajagopal, had a daughter, Avighna Brihish, April 7.

Erica (Shanta) Towers ’07 of Redmond, Wash., and her husband, John, had a son, Jasper Paul, April 24, their second.

Matthew Atkinson ’08 of Spokane, Wash., received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Oregon State University and Oregon Health and Science University College of Pharmacy. He also received the Teva Pharmaceuticals Outstanding Student award, which is given to the graduating senior who consistently demonstrated exceptional qualities throughout their academic career and maintained the highest scholastic standards. He is continuing his pharmacy education as a resident at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children’s Hospital in Spokane.

Christopher Braden ’08 of Minneapolis, Minn., received a Ph.D. in molecular, cellular, developmental biology from the University of Minnesota.

Jamie McIntyre ’08 of Austin, Texas, married Raymond Taylor of Porterville, Calif., May 23 in Hawaii.

Marie Rode ’08 of Beaverton graduated magna cum laude from Oregon Health and Science University with a bachelor’s in nursing. She is working at Legacy Health in labor and delivery and post partum care.

2010-15

Ezequiel Arredondo ’10 of Woodburn was named the 2015 CFO of the Year for small companies. He is the owner of Dealer Spike in Lake Oswego.

Greg Blakeman ’10 of Susanville, Calif., is regional program coordinator for Long Valley Charter School.

Rachel Burand ’10 of Excelsior, Minn., graduated with a master’s in landscape architecture degree from the University of Minnesota in May and joined the Landscape Architecture and Urban Design Studio at SRF Consulting Group.

Duncan Reid ’10 and Andrea Kovacs ’15 were married May 9, 2014 in McMinnville.

Becca Williams ’10 of Boise, Idaho, is pursuing a master’s in international peace studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Jesse Aerni ’11 of Portland is foundation events specialist at Portland Community College.

Kayla Reiner ’11 of Nashville, Tenn., is in an accelerated nursing program at Belmont University and plans to graduate in December.


Cesar Bueno ’12 of Salem is working on a master’s degree at Lewis & Clark College.

Amanda Contreras ’12 of Lake Oswego graduated from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Penn., in August with a master’s in occupational therapy.

Katherine Graaney ’12 of Salem graduated from George Washington University with a master’s in systems engineering.

Gregory Schockelt ’12 of Minneapolis, Minn., is enrolled in the MBA program at the University of St. Thomas.

Maritoni Tizon ’12 of Oak Park, Calif., works at Kaiser Woodland Hills.

Kelli Van Wagner ’12 of Wenatchee, Wash., was promoted to director of neuroscience at Confluence Health and will receive a master’s from Oregon Health and Science University in June.

Keeley Abbott ’13 of Corvallis published a paper in Visual

It's back!

Take your Wildcat spirit to the open road. Linfield College license plates are available for purchase.

The plates are a great way to show your Wildcat pride. A portion of the fees will support student scholarships and alumni programming. Plate costs include a $32 surcharge plus any applicable registration fees.

To confirm cost, contact Oregon DMV at 503-945-5000. Learn more at linfield.edu/plates.
Languages and Human-Centric Computing.

Meghan Gillen ’13 of Bellingham, Wash., plans to serve with the Peace Corps in Uganda beginning in November.

Kathie Byers ’14 of Sheridan was grand marshall of the Phil Sheridan Days celebration, for her support of the nonprofit Leading, Inspiring, Nurturing, Connecting and Succeeding (LINCS), where she currently serves as board president.

Eureka Foong ’14 of Penang, Malaysia, is a user experience researcher at Piktochart, an online tool that can help people create infographics with no design experience.

Clara Martinez ’14 of Bangalore, India, received the IDEX Accelerator Global Fellowship in India and InvestWISE Scholarship. The fellowship involves social entrepreneurial and start-up work.

Terah Hall ’15 of Gainesville, Va., works at the Smithsonian’s Freer Sackler Galleries digitizing and cataloging the collections.

In memoriam

Mildred (Laughlin) Chodrick ’35 of McMinnville, July 19.

Virginia (Stout) Klein ’37 of McMinnville, June 8.

Harold Hight ’40 of Quarryville, Pa., March 30.

Woodrow Lovelace ’42 of Salem, June 29. Survivors include his wife, Jane (Jensen) ’43.


Dorothy (Capps) Howd Paola ’43 of McMinnville, Sept. 28. Survivors include sons, Robert ’66 and Russell ’69, and a daughter, Rita (Howd) Tomison ’70.

Janet (Herring) Dewitt ’48 of Sioux Falls, S.D., Aug. 20.

Phyllis (Jones) Lilly ’48 of McMinnville, Aug. 20.

Austin Donald Robert ’48 of Portland, Aug. 30. Survivors include a granddaughter, Eleanor Evans ’12.

Ruth (Delzer) Yllwock ’48 of Dallas, April 28.

Is that your phone ringing?

It might be a Linfield student. Please take a moment to answer.

This fall Linfield students will be calling for your help. We hope you’ll take a moment to answer. Students reach out to alumni, parents and friends each year to make sure we are keeping in touch with you and to ask you to make a gift of support. It takes just a few minutes, yet has an enormous impact on our students. So please, answer the call!

For more information on giving to Linfield, visit linfield.edu/giving or contact Lisa Goodwin, director of annual giving, at lgoodwin@linfield.edu or 503-883-2492.

Forty consecutive years of presidential leadership at Linfield College were represented at Homecoming in September. From left, President Emeritus Charles U. Walker (1975-1992), current President Thomas L. Hellie (2006-present), Interim President Marvin C. Henberg (2005-2006/interim) and President Emerita Vivian A. Bull (1992-2005).
Elba Pielstick ’49 of Keizer, Jan. 1.
Gerald “Buck” Schultz ’49 of Longview, Wash., Sept. 9. Survivors include a daughter, Delaine (Schultz) Nored ’72.
Frederick Baugh ’50 of Tualatin, Sept. 21.
Curtis Benefiel ’51 and ’63 of Stayton, June 16. Survivors include a granddaughter, Otoia Sweeten ’96.
Vance V. Bingham ’51 of Port Angeles, Wash., March 25. Survivors include his wife, Ethel (Colby) Helm ’51.
Frederick Baugh ’50 of Longview, Wash., Sept. 9. Survivors include a daughter, Darleen (Baugh) Schenk ’60.
John Howey ’69 of Maupin, May 19.
Dorothy F. Paul ’70 of McMinnville, Sept. 20.
Donald K. Hoyt ’85 of Medford, May 5.
Steve Peters ’94 of Sherwood, Aug. 14. Survivors include his wife, Kristin (Bright) ’90 and mother, Patricia, former Linfield employee.
Linda (Thornton) James ’98 of Keizer, Jan. 9.
Matthew L. Deming ’05 of Portland, May 14.

Friends and family

Levi J. Carlile of McMinnville, professor emeritus of economics, Aug. 10. Survivors include his wife, Janice (Johnson) ’74 and daughter, Carrie ’81.
Sherie Dulaney of McMinnville, former director of administrative services, June 15.
Mary Louise Benbow Paul of Portland, retired professor of consumer and family studies, Aug. 18.

Hawkinson puts business degree to work as park ranger

Some days, Colby Hawkinson’s office is a raft on the Rogue River. Other days, he attends to business on a rugged trail or busy campground.

Whatever his location, Hawkinson ’94, a park ranger with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Grants Pass Resource Area, is putting his Linfield College business degree to work.

“The best thing about my work is helping to manage resources that the public uses and loves,” said Hawkinson. “That frequently gets me outside to those beautiful places. I always wanted to do this type of work.”

While the job title “park ranger” might conjure up images of giving talks or leading hikes at a national park, Hawkinson’s job involves management of recreational resources. He is in charge of trail construction, trail maintenance, coordinating maintenance of recreation sites, tracking visitor use numbers for the trails and organizing volunteer groups such as youth groups from Josephine County Job Council and Northwest Youth Corps. Hawkinson also manages a section of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, which includes patrolling the river in boats and rafts, helping float groups on the river and more.

Above all, his job is dynamic, and involves frequent re-balancing of priorities to adjust to changing conditions. For example, when wildfires closed sections of the Rogue River in 2013, Hawkinson had to reprioritize work on a daily basis to balance safety and environmental concerns.

Ultimately, the path that led Hawkinson to his current career started with a rafting trip led by Scott Chambers, Linfield trustee and former professor of finance.

“After graduation, I began working as a guide in Idaho where I put my business degree to work,” said Hawkinson. “While the job title ‘park ranger’ might conjure up images of giving talks or leading hikes at a national park, my role involves management of recreational resources that the public uses and loves.”

Hawkinson believes his education, business degree and contacts from Linfield have helped him excel in his career.

“The most significant aspect of my job is that it involves managing people just as much as managing the resources they use,” he said. “Linfield and my business degree prepared me for this by helping me learn to balance operational level thinking with strategic level thinking. It also prepared me by helping me develop solid communication and organizational skills.”

Colby Hawkinson ’94 uses skills from his liberal arts business education each day as a park ranger with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Grants Pass Resource Area.

Scott and his wife Susan both used to work,” said Hawkinson, who also led trips in Alaska. “I have guided a number of trips that took the Linfield president and members of the faculty down the Grande Ronde River in northeast Oregon.”

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A lasting legacy

The late Charlotte Filer ’54 made an impact on many as a member of the Linfield faculty in the 1960s and ’70s.

She was a mentor in the truest sense, willing to listen, ask thoughtful questions and teach by example the meaning of honesty and journalistic integrity.

In 1986, Ms. Filer’s former students made gifts to Linfield to create an endowed scholarship fund in her name. In 2007, Ms. Filer updated her estate plan to provide a gift to that scholarship.

Her spirit lives on in the Charlotte Filer Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to students majoring in communications/print media.

Thank you, Ms. Filer, for this enduring legacy you leave.

If you’d like to have a confidential conversation about how to configure your estate plans to benefit future generations of Linfield students, please contact Craig Haisch ’95, director of development, at 503-883-2675 or chaisch@linfield.edu.

Oak & Vine Society launched

Linfield College has joined with a select group of local wineries to create the Oak & Vine Society to provide members with a variety of benefits. Each of the partner wineries supports the Linfield Wine Education Fund to help support scholarships, internships and other wine-education opportunities for Linfield students.

Members will have access to benefits that are unique to each winery, such as: special wine discounts, private winery events, two-for-one offers, complimentary tastings or other similar benefits. This program is open exclusively to Linfield alumni, parents, donors, faculty, staff and students over 21. Members will receive a personalized membership card to use at participating wineries and a wine glass with the Linfield logo. Annual membership dues are $60 for individuals, $90 for couples and $30 for students (over 21).

For more information and list of wineries go to linfield.edu/oakandvine.