2016

Alumni Notes

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1950-59
John and Bette (Lawson) Blaser ’51 and ’54 live in Emmett, Idaho, where John was honored for 50 years of service at the Masonic Lodge.

John and Mary (Erickson) Burgess ’52 and ’50 of Everett, Wash., recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Enid Briggs ’53 of Portland is an active volunteer including working at a camp for the blind.

Evelyn (Waswick) Norheim ’53 of Petersburg, Alaska, retired 20 years ago after a 30-year nursing career and then opened her own flower shop.

Nadine (Gilfillam) Dietz ’57 of Anchorage, Alaska, retired in 1999 as president of Medical Office Management Services Inc.

Karl Morris ’57 of Garibaldi and his wife, Delores, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last June.

Gordon Hammerle ’58 of Tucson, Ariz., and his wife, Delpha, will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary this year.

Hiram Crane ’59 of Gresham and his wife, Marlene, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary.

1960-69
Gary Vaughan ’63 of Portland and his wife, Janine, will celebrate 50 years of marriage this year.

Carol (Roarig) Palmer ’63 and ’77 of Bend was honored as a distinguished alumnus of Bend High School.

Sue Ann (Taylor) Sawyers ’64 of Willits, Calif., and her husband, Douglas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.


Barbara Davis ’67 of Kingsford, Mich., was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Emergency Nurses Association last May.

1970-79
Kathleen (Hamilton) Brown ’71 of San Angelo, Texas, has been choir director at her local church for 15 years.

Jim Sims ’71 of Genesee, Idaho, owns the Pastime Bar and Grill.

Robert and Lori (Adams) Crump ’73 and ’75 of Woodburn have retired and returned to Oregon.

Kent Van Cleve ’75 and ’12 of Walla Walla, Wash., was recently elected vice president of Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless.

Michael Anderson ’76 of Bakersfield, Calif., recently retired from teaching.

Sheilagene (Hickerson) Shaw ’76 of Clackamas retired as principal in the North Clackamas School District in 2014.

Diane (Paxson) Branson ’77 of Albany, a nurse at Salem Hospital, received the Distinguished Certified Emergency Nurses Award from the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing. In presenting the award, the board cited her work to defray the costs of CEN prep courses and materials, making sure new CENs are listed on the department’s “Hall of Fame.” Her efforts to promote the value of certification in emergency nurses have increased the number of CENs from 5 to 50.

Jenny Ulum ’78 of Eugene is the managing director of strategic communications for King Estate Winery.

Robert Mack ’79 of San Jose, Calif., publishes the magazine Cycle California! It has recently expanded distribution into southern Oregon.

1980-89
Shelly (Paxson) Herron ’80 of La Mesa, Calif., is senior writer/clinical content manager at the University of California, San Diego Health.

Kenneth Billeci ’83 of Aloha was recently promoted to operations assistant at Fred Meyer.

Donald Locke ’85 of Salem is retired and works with church organizations and the Elks Lodge.

Marie (Walton) Pestalozzi ’85 of Damascus moved to Costa Rica in December.

Scott Brosius ’88 of McMinnville was named hitting coach at Triple-A Tacoma Rainiers, affiliated with the Seattle Mariners. Brosius spent 13 years coaching baseball at Linfield, serving as head coach from 2007-15.

Eugene Thompson ’88 of Eugene is taking art classes at the community center.

Rose-Marie Brannigan ’89 of McMinnville published her first book, The Spiritual Newcomer’s First Devotional.

1990-99
Kai and Deah Shimaneke Shelton ’90 and ’89 live in Scio where Kai is working on the special effects for the fifth season of the television show Grimm.

Lisa (Lino) Berry ’91 of Boise, Idaho, is an instructional design manager at Boise State University.

Steve Kilgore ’92 of Roseburg is vice president of sales and marketing for Roseburg Forest Products. He was named Lumberman of the Year by the Portland Wholesale Lumber Association for 39 years of achievements in the Pacific Northwest lumber industry.

Robert Lever ’92 of Edgar, Ariz., was promoted to fire management officer at the U.S. Forest Service in Glide.

Diana Ewing ’93 of Prineville volunteers for the Oregon Department of Justice as a member of the Citizens Review Board on cases related to displaced children.

Leslie (Williams) Morrison ’94 of Vancouver, Wash., received the Salvation Army’s Volunteer of the Year Award at the GATE Program, which is an educational program addressing learning style of gifted and talented students.

Tim Tetz ’94 and Claudia Ramos-Tetz ’99 of Boring celebrated their 20th anniversary in August and plan to visit Dubai this spring.

Steven Nofziger ’96 of Portland was promoted to owner in Garvey Schubert Barer’s Portland office. His practice focuses on employee benefits and executive compensation, tax and business matters.

Nick Sheedy ’96 of Sandy, Utah, and his wife, Chelsea, had a son, Declan Forrester, Oct. 9. Nick is a genealogist at Lineages, Inc., and conducts research for the PBS series Finding Your Roots.

Eric McDonald ’96 of Shedd is a senior examiner of large financial institutions at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s Portland office. He spent the past eight years working in the FDIC’s headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Todd Lang ’96 of Collierville, Tenn., is chief medical officer for Coliseum Health System, overseeing Coliseum Medical Centers and

Wild for Wildcat plates
The Linfield Wildcat license plates are now available for Oregon drivers. Do your car a favor and order one today. Wildcat fans can add the Linfield license plate for a one-time $24 plate fee, plus a $32 affinity fee added to your regular registration fee and due every two years. Those fees will help support student scholarship and alumni programming. Visit your local DMV office to order yours today or visit linfield.edu/alumni/services to learn more.
Coliseum Northside Hospital.

Brian Simpson ’96 of La Quinta, Calif., is regional sales manager for Kemper Sports in southern California.

Mitchell Allen ’97 of Eugene is property director for St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County.

Amy (Bick) Jackson ’97 of Tualatin is manager of launch and development for Ecova.

Mary (Nightingale) Lago ’97 of Hillsboro is vice president and a member of the wealth management committee at Ferguson Wellman Capital Management.

Samantha (Christensen) Yaple ’97 of Eugene is teaching Spanish at O’Hara Catholic School in Eugene.

David and Jessica (Brewer) Gaibler ’98 and ’99 of Portland had a daughter, Stella Rose, Sept. 14, their third.

Kristin Abel ’99 of Portland is a partner in the firm Bodyfelt Mount, a civil litigation firm.

Courtney (Woodruff) Flood ’99 of Happy Valley is president of the Junior League of Portland, benefiting victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking.

Karen (Churchill) Garcia ’99 of Yuba City, Calif., was one of three nominees for the 2016 Pinnacle Award for Affiliate Manager of the Year by the performance marketing industry. She is CEO at GTO Management.

Carol (Zeigler) Underhill ’99 of Victorville, Calif., is returning to Oregon to serve as public affairs specialist for the Blue Mountains National Forests. She will be stationed in Pendleton.

Fancy footwork

If you can imagine it, Blake Barash ’06 can paint it on your Nikes.

As the founder of B Street Shoes, Barash combines savvy business skills with artistic design to create custom hand-painted shoes based on a client’s concept.

The work is a seamless blend of his liberal arts education, which combined a degree in international business with art and travel. As the son of an art teacher, Barash discovered a love of art early. At Linfield, he explored painting and torch working, while taking business classes and studying abroad in Oaxaca, Mexico.

“The best thing an artist can study in college is business,” he said. “You want to be able to make money with your art, and business teaches you to do that.”

After graduation, Barash was a credit analyst in the banking industry, nurturing his creativity by painting for Toms, a shoe company.

“Those were building years,” he said of his work at Tom’s.

“I was figuring out the logistics of running a small business and I learned all I could about e-commerce.”

The B Street Shoes business model relies heavily on e-commerce, offering more than 200 unique designs for sale on their website (bstreethoes.com) and Etsy. Barash spends little on advertising, spreading the word of his products through social media instead – on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr. Photography and video are keys to his success.

“It might take a buyer seeing the shoe to decide what they want,” he explained. “These aren’t impulse buys. Showing buyers what I do every day lets them get to know me as a person.”

He and three other artists paint some 45 pairs of shoes each month, and that number doubles during the holidays. Shoes range from $150-300. His company was featured in The New York Times, and is on target to gross $250,000 this year.

Barash said Linfield’s small classes and individual focus on each student were crucial to his success as a student.

“You don’t fall through the cracks,” said Barash, who built strong relationships with faculty including the late Clemens Ady (business) and Jeff Peterson (sociology). “I learned that my teachers were counting on me to get things done, and I felt responsible to them and myself. College was the first time I really learned how to study, and that has benefited me since. You have to be learning every day or you will fall behind.”

– Laura Davis

Blake Barash ’06, founder of B Street Shoes, lives and works two blocks from the beach in Costa Mesa, Calif. “I feel fortunate to wake up, play with my dog, surf and spend the rest of the day discussing art work and painting,” he said.
2000-09

Shelby Darland ’00 of Meridian, Idaho, received the 2014 Luc R. Pelletier Award from the National Association of Healthcare Quality.

Mark Mathison ’00 of College Station, Texas, is teaching mathematics at Blinn College in Bryan, Texas.

Amber Larsen ’01 of Sacramento, Calif., is a track coach at Sacramento State University.

Sam Houston ’02 of Bend is president of Sun Forest Construction Ltd. He has worked for them for 15 years.

Austin and Jillian (Ward) McFeeley, both ’02, had a son, Simon, Nov. 29, 2014, their third.

Matt Loehrke ’02 of Missoula, Mont., is the education director for Missoula Children’s Theatre.

Kathleen (Harper) Cook ’03 of Helena, Mont., and her husband, Brad, had a son, Elijah, Sept. 29.

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

Kitri (Gulbertson) McGuire ’03 of Tigard is marketing manager for Visit McMinnville, a full-service marketing group dedicated to enhancing McMinnville’s economy through the promotion of tourism.

Aliza Libby-Tucker ’03 of La Junta, Colo., is the financial director for the City of La Junta.

Brandon Standridge ’03 of Bandon is dean of students and athletic director at Bandon High School.

Denise (Biron) Arnold ’04 of Newberg was promoted to the Emergency Department at Salem Hospital.

Joseph Fisher ’04 of Longview, Wash., is vice president of sales for AirGas.


Katie Leitheiser ’04 of Stevenson, Wash., and her husband, Matthew, had a child, Amaya, in September, their second.

Isaac Levy ’04 of Mercer Island, Wash., has taken nine photography trips in six different countries.

Traci (Johnson) Miller ’04 of Hood River and her husband Kip, had a son on May 25, their first.

Joe O’Neill ’04 of Sisters is finance officer for the City of Sisters.

Andrea (Wavra) Pfau ’05 of Woodburn and her husband, Joseph, had a son, Drake, March 20, their second.


Kelly Bechtell ’06 of Portland and his wife, Becky, had a son, Daniel, April 10, their second.

Hannah (Arntz) Hatley ’06 of Cove and her husband, Jake, had a son, Owen Kristofer, Aug. 1.

Matthew Hodges ’06 of Keizer is a development officer in the Linfield College Institutional Advancement Office.

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

Christopher and Danielle (Bielenberg) Miles, both ’06, of McMinnville had twin girls, Raelynn and Jaden, Aug. 13.

Morgan Yeates ’06 of Silverton is the technical director for Oregon...
Children’s Theatre.
Leah (Caine) Bannon ’07 of Cheyenne, Wyo., graduated with honors from Colorado State University with a master’s in healthcare administration and management with specialization in finance.
Chris Engbreton ’07 of Portland is conducting the choral ensemble Voce Femminile and teaching studio voice lessons at Willamette University.
Melissa Golden ’07 of Montereey, Calif., completed an internship with Volunteer in Asia, which resulted in a job as operations director.
David Sho Ly ’07 of Seattle, Wash., passed the Washington State Bar Exam and is practicing law at a private firm in Seattle.
Benjamin and Allison (Hendrix) Greenberg ’08 and ’09 of Seattle, Wash., joined the board of directors for Washington Appleseed. Benjamin was also selected as a rising star by the Washington Super Lawyers.
Kim Lee ’08 of Reno, Nev., was married on June 12.
Jacob and Laurel (Schultz) Peterson, ’08 and ’07, of McMinnville had a daughter, Zoe Grace, Aug. 17, their first. Jacob is a special education teacher and an assistant varsity football coach at Newberg High School and Laurel is the costume designer and shop manager at Linfield College.
Andrew Fitch ’09 and Emily Erwin ’11 of Redmond were married Oct. 10. He is an associate attorney at Fitch Law Group and Emily is a regional recruiter with Signature Hospice, Home Health and Home Care.
Calvin and Katie (Kilborn) Park ’09 and ’11 of Sloughhouse, Calif., had a son, Logan Glenn, July 15, their second.
Jeffrey Primozich ’09 of Portland earned a bachelor’s in architecture from Portland State University.
Colin Rowles ’09 and Courtney Hatch ’12 of Hillsboro were married Sept. 6.

2010–15
Juline Bodnar ’10 of Bend completed her CPA license.
Kerry Nordstrom ’10 of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, was named the 2015 counselor of the year for the State of Alaska. She is the school counselor at Scammon Bay School in the Lower Yukon School District.
Jennifer Parache ’10 of Beaver- ton is an ICU nurse at the Portland Veteran’s Medical Center. She was accepted into the nursing master’s program in adult and geriatric nursing practitioners at Gonzaga University.
Christopher Flores ’11 of Portland and his wife, McKenzie, had a daughter, Jessie Ella, Sept. 30.
Justin Derby ’12 of Eugene published Another Inconvenient Truth: What Secular America Hates on Amazon.
Nicole Robinson ’12 of San Leandro, Calif., married Ceylon Glyphm April 8.
Ronald Snively ’12 of Dallas received a master’s from Pacific University and is teaching in Anchorage, Alaska.
Mariel Tasche ’12 of Portland is an exercise physiologist at Providence Health Center in Hood River.
Justine Beaton ’13 of Portland married Tyler Clark ’11 in September.
Julia Cooper ’13 of Portland is a member of the 2015-16 poet’s studio at the Attic Institute in Portland.
Renae Marble ’13 of Salem is attending graduate school at Western Oregon University.
Kelsey Nordbak ’14 of Redmond, Wash., works at Fierce Company.
Emmanuel Recinos ’14 of McMin- nville is a mental health specialist and a foster parent recruiter for Yamhill County and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience at OHSU.

In memoriam
Zelna (Kreider) Robbins ’40 of Bend, Nov. 28.
June Bruce ’41 of Turlock, Calif., Sept. 27.
Elizabeth (Shawver) Orr ’41 of Albany, Oct. 20.
Luella (Brauch) Rauch ’42 of Powers, May 30.
Warren Bolin ’43 of Canton, S.D., Nov. 20.
Helen (Wallen) Trowbridge ’43 of Seattle, Wash., Nov. 8.
Leland Chou ’51 of Sedona, Ariz., Nov. 4.
Donn Gassaway ’51 of Portland, Oct. 26. Survivors include his wife, Janyce (Larson) ’53.
Bob Martyn ’52 of Pacific City, Dec. 2. Survivors include brother, Gerald ’61; sister-in-law, Daphne (Rawles) ’63; and niece, Lois Molyneux ’80.
Richard Alsleben ’53 of Seattle, Wash., Oct. 29. Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Anderson) ’55.
Ted Zetterberg ’54 of Milwaukie, Dec. 15. Survivors include
Dale co-founds Dinner with a Dane

What started as a social media experiment has turned into a nonprofit organization striving to create bridges between cultures.

Amanda Dale ’07, (below, right) who moved to Denmark three years ago to pursue a master’s degree, realized that she and her other classmates didn’t know many natives. Dale and her friend, Nanna Klerk, decided to experiment with the idea of bringing Danish and international residents within Denmark together to create community.

“Danes are a bit notorious for being reserved, and many international people in Denmark struggle to build a social or professional network, or ever really feel at home in the country,” said Dale. “Nanna and I thought we could be in a good position to try and change that, for at least a few people.”

The result was Dinner with a Dane (DWAD), a nonprofit that brings people together to help ease the transition for people who have relocated to Denmark.

Non-natives can go onto the website and fill out a questionnaire regarding their location, family and interests. They are then matched up with Danish volunteers who have registered to host a dinner. Once paired, they decide when the dinner will be held.

DWAD currently has around 500 total participants: half are Danish volunteers and the others are immigrants.

Dale currently works full time for a relocation company, helping people who move to Copenhagen find housing, carry out necessary registrations, and adjust to life in Denmark. Dale believes that her Linfield experience allowed her to grow in many ways, at her own pace.

“I think that everyone has the power to create positive experiences for other people in one way or another,” she said. “This is our way of trying to do that.”

– Morgan Gerke ’16
Pencil us in

Friends and family

Bill Johnson of Wilsonville, Nov. 29. Bill was the play-by-play radio voice for Linfield College football games.


Judith Johnson of Yamhill, Jan. 7. She worked at Linfield for 28 years in communications, administrative services, purchasing and personnel. Survivors include a daughter, Trina Bailey ‘87.

Got NEWS?

Have you changed jobs? Received a promotion? Returned to school? Received another degree? Started a business?

A gift to the Linfield Fund is an investment of hope!

Students like Sarah Snyder ’19 thrive at Linfield by living and learning in a close-knit, nurturing community. This is her “dream school,” made possible due to scholarship support.

“I faced many challenges as a teenager and want to help other kids find their way; Linfield helps me learn how and supports my passion for community service.”

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