Oak Fallen

It never knew itself as oak
or old or anything but root, trunk,
leaf, an ecology of collaboration.
Part dirt, part air and moon,
part dim and blinding sun,
it made of itself lifetimes
of shade and pattern, lichen, a habit of crows.
It made of itself a majesty
of instruction so intricate, commonplace
and intimate, we feel the loss.

Earth speaks the one language it knows.
Obligations and gratitudes, pleasures,
courage, joy – we make of it what we make.
One oak is a sand in the cosmos.
It is the fact and mystery we celebrate.

– Lex Runciman
Preparing students for change

When President Leonard Riley spoke at the 50th anniversary of Linfield College in 1958, we still knew it as McMinnville College, and our future was precarious. Thanks to him, and to our faculty, staff, friends, students and alumni, we survived and began to prosper.

In 1958, at age 100, we were Linfield College, with many new buildings, a national reputation in the sciences, and more than 250 students. And while our football winning streak now extends 52 seasons, our most recent national sports championship was won, just last year, by a softball team of Linfield women.

Much has changed here. But change is the watchword for the future of American higher education, and for the future of Linfield College. Politics, society, business and science—all are spinning faster in a global vortex. Thanks to information technology, communication and travel, we are living in a vast web of cultural changes and connections.

We must prepare our students for change, to learn how to learn from experience, to gain cultural sensitivity and understanding, to become citizens of the world, to be flexible and adaptable rather than rigid and unchanging.

On Jan. 8 our beloved Old Oak fell. It had stood there long before there was a college, but it was an emblem with which we identified. Enormous, strong and dramatic, it sheltered us from the sun and rain. But it was old and rigid. No longer able to bend in the wind, its roots weakened, it became vulnerable, and it fell.

In the coming months, we will continue to discuss and mourn the Old Oak. But we will also talk about the future of our many young trees—that of our many young students. Our task must be to bend in the swirling winds without yielding our place or identity. To harness the power of the winds rather than be damaged by them. To remain true to our heritage while facing the inevitability of change.

We will remain egalitarian, excellent, pragmatic and inspired. We will honor and encourage the search for truth. We will connect learning, life, and community. And we will prepare young, flexible, strong, dynamic students who are ready to engage the world in their commitment to justice and their quest to serve humanity. But most importantly, our students will be going forth into the world, doing well and doing good, remembering that the Old Oak—and Linfield—give us courage and keep us steadfast on our way.

~ Thomas L. Hellie

On the cover:
Oak Falls, © Lex Runciman, professor of English (Juan Calvillo photo)

Inside Linfield Magazine
As we celebrate, so do we mourn. Just three weeks before celebrating the 150th anniversary of the chartering of the Baptist College at McMinnville, the Old Oak crashed to the ground—a symbol of Linfield College. It looks as though we have lost an old friend. On the cover and inside is a tribute to this silent guardian. We also continue our journey through Linfield’s history, as Marvin Henberg looks at how the educational curriculum has changed over 150 years. This issue also features one of Linfield’s senior professors, whose passion for his subject has taken him around the world. We cover two students, one a former Army Ranger, critically injured in Afghanistan, and another whose talent for talking has led to a major in communication arts. Join us as we continue our journey through Linfield’s rich past and as we plan and prepare for a vibrant future.

~ Mardi Mileham

Linfield at 150: Professional education at Linfield
Join Marvin Henberg for a look at how professional education evolved at Linfield College from its chartering in 1858 through the addition of the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing.

Farewell old friend
A tribute to the Old Oak, the silent guardian that has been a symbol of Linfield throughout the college’s history.

Passionate number-cruncher
Mike Jones, the Harold Ekinton Professor of Accounting, is a passionate teacher whose enthusiasm for accounting has taken him around the world.

Taking off at Linfield
For Tom Wiggins ’09, a zest for life combines a full-load of classes and a busy career.

Communication is easy for this natural-born talker
Aaron Larsen ’08 parlayed his natural talent for talking into success as a debater and speaker.
McGillin named academic vice president

Victoria McGillin, the new vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, is no stranger to Linfield College. McGillin, the associate provost at Texas Woman’s University, served as a consultant to Linfield several years ago. She looks forward to returning to a smaller liberal arts institution.

“I truly believe that you can make a difference in the lives of students and in their intellectual learning experiences at smaller institutions,” she said. “That is where most of the exciting, cutting-edge things are happening.”

McGillin said Linfield’s faculty are committed to teaching, but are also dedicated scholars in their disciplines. Students are focused on their education and actively teaching, but are also dedicated scholars in their disciplines. McGillin earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Minnesota.

“The commitment to globalism, experiential learning and what it means to be educated in the 21st century are all my own priorities.”

McGillin has one other tie to Linfield — her husband’s paternal grandparents, including Viola Newby, are from the Newberg/McMinville area.

“Dr. McGillin is an experienced, thoughtful, creative intellectual who is devoted to academic quality and the education of undergraduate students,” said Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie. “She has worked at institutions that are much like Linfield and understands private, liberal arts colleges.”

McGillin earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology at Penn State University; she completed her Ph.D in clinical psychology at Michigan State University. She has taught and administered programs at Michigan State, University of Wisconsin, Clark University and Wheaton College (Massachusetts), where she was dean of studies and assistant provost from 1991 to 2005.

Prickett makes a difference in Ghana

Don’t tell Seth Prickett ’05 one person can’t make a difference. In 2005, inspired by a January Term class to Africa, Prickett, former student body president, led a fundraising drive to construct a school in Amonfo, Ghana. Linfield students raised more than $6,000 to begin construction of Linfield Primary, which now serves 350 students.

“There is so much one person can do,” Prickett said. “I don’t buy the mantra of ‘I can’t make a difference.’”

Since his initial visit, Prickett has returned to Ghana twice, most recently in 2007 to set up an Internet café near the school. He said the January Term experience and class, History of Modern Ghana, changed his perspective on life.

“That trip was an amazing eye-opener for me,” he said. “It made me think of more than just my everyday life in the United States and that life is so much more than that.”

After earning his Linfield degree, Prickett spent four months volunteer teaching in a nearby primary school in Ghana so he could oversee construction of the Linfield school. He raised money through his church, family and friends, shipped hand-made crafts to family in the U.S. to sell at a Christmas bazaar and hosted a fundraising dinner when he returned.

“In Africa, you can really make an impact on people’s lives at a relatively low cost,” he said. “For a little over $20,000 we were able to build a school for children who otherwise wouldn’t have a place to learn. We will have seriously impacted the lives of thousands of children who will some day be the leaders in Ghana.”

Lacroute, Aslanian, Phillips named to board

Three individuals have been elected to the Linfield College Board of Trustees — Ronni Lacroute, co-owner of Willakenzie Estate Inc.; Paul Aslanian, emeritus professor of economics at Macalester College; and Timothy Phillips, pastor of the University Baptist Church in Seattle.

Lacroute co-founded Willakenzie Vineyards and Willakenzie Estate Winery in 1991. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University, a master’s from the University of Michigan and degrees from the Université de Paris-Sorbonne. She is affiliated with Chamber Music Northwest, Cornell University Arts and Sciences Advisory Council, the Salem Audubon Society, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Arts Alliance of Yamhill County and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Aslanian is a former economics professor and vice president of finance and administration, serving at Macalester College and Swarthmore College. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Washington and completed coursework toward a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. He is a trustee for the Friends of the Boundary Waters and The Schubert Club, and a member of the Sierra Club. He served as interim vice president for finance and administration at Linfield College in 2006-07.

Phillips, ordained in 1981, served as pastor of churches in Michigan and Illinois before coming to the University Baptist Church. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Grand Rapids Baptist College, a master’s of divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and a pastoral leadership certificate from Seattle University’s School of Theology and Ministry.

He is a board member for the Institute for Ecumenical Theological Studies at Seattle University and is a member of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches Ministers Council, the Alliance of Baptists, the Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Timmons soundtrack featured in war documentary

The soundtrack for a recent war documentary has been music to the ears of Jill Timmons, Linfield College professor of music.

A recording by Timmons, a pianist, and string player Laura Klugherz, professor of music and department chair at Colgate University, has been included in The Hot, a seven-part documentary on World War II directed and produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, which aired on PBS last fall. The piece, “La Captive,” is from the Klugherz-Timmons Duo CD, Amy Beach: Music for Violin/Viola and Piano. The CD was the result of a research project Timmons conducted at Linfield.

“It’s a very soulful, yearning piece,” said Timmons. “I remember how simple and beautiful it was to perform. To this day, it’s one of my favorite pieces on the recording.”

Timmons, whose father served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, the documentary spurred family conversations about his experiences, in addition to the war in general.

“I found it to be an extraordinary documentary,” said Timmons. “It covered a great deal of history in a very moving and experiential way. It really brought the personal stories of soldiers to life.”

Jill Timmons, right, with Laura Klugherz
Professional education at Linfield

Greek, dictation, home economics and typewriting have disappeared from the curriculum of Linfield College. During the early years of the Baptist College at McMinnville and McMinnville College, most students were in primary or secondary school, with only a few advanced students working on baccalaureate degrees. Although the curriculum is vastly different today, Linfield has always been distinctive in offering a combination of theoretical and practical courses. During this sesquicentennial year, Professor Marvin Henberg traces the history of professional education at Linfield which is grounded in the liberal arts tradition, always emphasizing Linfield’s mission of Connecting Learning, Life, and Community.

Although the Baptist College at McMinnville met the educational needs of primary and secondary students in the Yamhill Valley, it wasn’t until 1884 that the college had its first graduate – J.H. Smith, who became a prominent attorney in Astoria and poet laureate of Oregon. Law, science, teaching and the ministry were central to the professional goals of students who studied at the college. Greek and Latin classics, coupled with a strong scientific knowledge and a serving of faith-based philosophy, prepared students for the next stage of their lives. The most advanced students took courses from a classically based college curriculum. For decades, students needed only a year or two of college to become teachers, qualify as a minister or take the bar exam after serving an apprenticeship with a practicing lawyer.

The truth was, “Old Mac” had existed as a college more in name than in reality. By around 1915, McMinnville College’s expenses were covered almost entirely by students who were not enrolled in college level courses – “commerce,” “pedagogy” and other subjects. High school students continued studying at the college well into the second decade of the 20th century. In the early 1900s, enrollment in the Music Conservatory accounted for more than half the college’s revenues, and a non-standard bachelor of music degree (less than four years in duration) was granted to conservatory students. As early as 1902, a Commercial Department taught the useful skills of stenography and typewriting, but those courses were never included in the college curriculum.

The roots of professional education

So where and when did Linfield’s professional, college-level education begin? As with much of history there is no easy answer.

During the darkest days of the college’s financial crisis prior to and immediately following Leonard Riley’s election as president in 1906, the college worked hard to attract students of any stripe. High-school-level courses and non-standard degrees requiring less than four years of study were offered.

Riley, in his quest to establish McMinnville College as a standard college defined by the U.S. Bureau of Education, eliminated all of those programs. McMinnville needed at least six faculty members devoted full-time to collegiate instruction. All bachelor degree offerings had to conform to a four-year model, so the college reassigned faculty away from high school and certificate teaching.

Among the early professional programs, only the bachelor of music degree survived the transition to four years when the conservatory was moved into the liberal arts curriculum. In 1926, the faculty voted to change it to a B.A. degree. Today’s Music Department descended from the conservatory after its original status as a professional training program was broadened by the liberal arts mission.

Educating educators

Today’s Education and Business Departments are rooted in humanities and social sciences. In 1917, Curtis P. Coe, the former head of the college’s Commercial Department, became professor of education and mathematics as a result of new state laws requiring teachers to complete a specific core of education courses. Coe’s successor in 1920 was the wonderfully named Lebbeus Smith Schumacher, who seemed perfect for the title professor of philosophy and education and dean of men.

In 1927, Paul J. Orr became professor of psychology and education, solidifying education as an extension of the psychology and philosophy curricula. Under Orr, who served with distinction until his retirement in 1949, education emerged as a mainstay within the social sciences. It is Orr who led the way for a master’s of education, the college’s first graduate degree, in 1947-48.

Building business curriculum

The early business curriculum was the exclusive creation of Professor Harold Elkinton (1927-69). Educated as an economist, Elkinton received an explicit charge from President Riley to organize a college-level curriculum in business administration. He fulfilled this charge, first by adding it to offerings in economics and, in 1949, by developing a separate bachelor’s degree in business administration. He was the first faculty member at Linfield to teach accounting and the first to organize internships.

Bob Jones, left, and John Day, both professors of physics, working in the physics laboratory in 1959. Jones served on the faculty from 1953 to 1980. The Bob Jones Advanced Physics Lab is named in his honor. Day served as professor from 1958 to 1978 and was involved in a number of initiatives, including launching an experimental bachelor of arts program for nursing graduates that has since grown into the Division of Continuing Education.
His genuine popularity as a teacher was balanced in students’ minds with the certainty that a course from “Elkie” would be demanding, especially when it came to assigning grades. Elkinton was also very much a man of McMinnville and the larger state. He served as general raconteur in and a president of the local Kiwanis Club. He issued annually an economic forecast for Oregon, delivering it orally with great zeal and conviction to local chambers of commerce throughout the state. He also provided a written version of his economic forecast to Oregon newspapers, many of which obliged by printing every colorful word he sent them.

Developing physical education and health

In 1930, three years after recruiting Elkinton in economics and business, Riley hired Henry Lever to teach physical education and coach, sowing the seed for athletics to carve its way distinctively into Linfield’s educational focus. In subsequent years this seed, first planted and nurtured by Lever, would sprout into degree programs in physical education, health education, exercise science and athletic training. Equally important, it was the beginning of Linfield’s robust and winning tradition in intercollegiate athletics.

Lever, 47, provided exactly what the college needed during the Great Depression: leadership, a capacity for hard work and a personal integrity that would inspire many distinguished successors. His experience as an athlete, coach, teacher, farmer and engineer suited him for the rigors of a college where a coach was expected to help plan and build physical structures as well as conduct winning programs. Linfield’s “building president,” Harry Dillin, found a ready partner in Lever, who assisted in work on Maxwell Field and Memorial Hall.

Still, upon his retirement in 1948, Lever was best known for his qualities as a coach who taught players to respect their game, their opponents and themselves. He was coach and mentor to Paul Durham ’37, who succeeded him as football coach and athletic director, and to Roy Helser ’37, who succeeded him as baseball coach. Lever won the college’s first Northwest Conference titles in football (1935) and baseball (1947), while his winning percentage in basketball (613) is the best in college history for anyone coaching at least two seasons.

It is no secret that coaches at Linfield actively recruit student-athletes to the college. It is also no secret that they take special care of those who accept the challenge to compete for the cardinal and purple. This pattern of...
Dr. Jane McIlroy, women’s athletic director, to extend Linfield’s athletic prowess into an entirely new realm. A military veteran who had helped establish the first Linfield’s commitment to undergraduate education, excerpted here from the 1872-73 catalog General Information section:

“The great work of our American colleges is to lead the minds of the young into all truth, and so to develop their nobler intellectual powers, that in all the walks of life they may be prepared to grapple with and settle the great problems of life on the principles of eternal truth; for wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation.”

**The rise of journalism and communication**

Jack Burrows Bladine, editor of McMinnville’s Telephone Register, taught Linfield’s first course in journalism in 1933. Teaching journalism later fell to staff members in College Relations such as Charlotte Filer ’54, editor of the Bulletin, or to local freelance writers such as Victoria Case, a contributor to Linfield’s Hundred Years. It was not until Professor Earl J. Milligan was hired in 1950 that journalism was taught by a full-time faculty member. Originally offered in the English Department, journalism became a separate major in 1970, and Milligan nurtured it until his retirement in 1979. In turn, journalism became a pillar of today’s Mass Communication Department, which features additional instruction in radio and television broadcasting, visual communication, film history and public relations. The B.A. in journalism was folded into the major in mass communication.

The college’s most senior communications program took root in the debate and forensics competitions sponsored by the 19th century literary societies. Roy “Hap” Mahaffey established Linfield’s national reputation for the 19th-century literary societies. Roy “Hap” Mahaffey established Linfield’s national reputation for....

**The demise of home economics**

Consumer and Family Studies appeared in the Linfield catalog in 1986. In 1934, the major was founded as homemaking, pioneered by Frances Wright Jonasson and later known as Home Administration and Home Economics. CFS inherited a struggling history based on the expectation that most women would either teach or spend their careers at home rather than in business or industry. Practical arts, such as nutrition, home finance, cooking and clothing design were the heart of the program, and the college’s homemaking graduates included Irene Hartman Dillin ’39, wife of President Harry Dillin.

Consumer and Family Studies was singular for teaching skills that went generally unpaid, however indispensable they were to the national welfare. Equally, the program was singular in being the sole professional program to suffer termination. All degrees in Consumer and Family Studies were discontinued by faculty vote, effective for the 1990 catalog. The program’s demise was a consequence of expanding opportunities for women, especially in the sciences, in government service, and in professions such as law and business.
Nursing and the Portland Campus

A landmark agreement in 1982 between Linfield College and the Good Samaritan School of Nursing launched Linfield's Portland Campus. The Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing transformed the hospital nursing school into a four-year program offering a bachelor's of science in nursing degree. GSH had long been a leader in nursing education in the Northwest, a reputation established by the truly remarkable achievements of Emily Loveridge. In 1890, Loveridge founded the Good Samaritan Hospital diploma program in nursing. A 30-year-old graduate of the Bellevue Hospital nursing program in New York City, she was devoted first and foremost to her patients. Her care and devotion inspired nursing graduates for the first 15 years, prior to her assuring directorship of the entire hospital in 1905. Despite this higher post and its imposing regime of administrative duties, Loveridge never lost touch with “her” nurses. During World War I, she corresponded with every one of the more than 300 Good Samaritan graduates serving at a field hospital in France.

That nursing program was shaped in later years by Lloydena Grimes, a teacher and director who, like Loveridge, served Good Samaritan for 30 years. Between 1952 and 1982, Grimes transitioned the school to a more science-based curriculum while maintaining the traditional focus on holistic patient care. Even so, her greatest challenge lay in understanding the lives and demands of 1960s and 1970s nursing students, who were determined to break out from stereotypical molds.

Nursing students train with a mannequin at Good Samaritan Hospital, in an undated photograph. The Good Samaritan School of Nursing program was founded by Emily Loveridge in 1890. When not caring for patients or attending classes, the students scrubbed, cleaned and even painted the facility. Loveridge oversaw the 300-bed hospital until her retirement in 1930, and was known to visit each patient daily. Linfield took over the program in 1982, developing a baccalaureate degree in nursing with a liberal arts emphasis.

These “new” aspiring nurses rebelled at standing whenever a physician entered the room, and some were comfortable in calling physicians by their first names. They insisted on the right to be married while still a student. Those who remained unmarried staked claim to a more robust social life. Like their 1970s student counterparts in McMinnville, the nursing students successfully campaigned to end residence hall policies restricting opposite-sex visitation. Without Grimes’ skill in managing such potentially explosive changes, the culture at Good Samaritan Hospital would never have opened up, making way for a merger with Linfield’s McMinnville Campus. John Day physics professor from 1958 to 1978, who founded the college’s successful venture into adult education, played a significant role in the merger, which ensured a thriving nursing education program. That story, however, must be left for readers of Inspired Pragmatism.

Note: The author thanks Tim March ’70, whose article on Henry Lever provided much of the information about Lover's background and accomplishments. — Marvin Henberg

McIlroy left her mark

Jane McIlroy left an indelible mark on the Linfield athletic department during her 32 years of service to the college. The former physical education professor, women’s athletic director and coach of five sports pioneered women’s sports in the Northwest.

Before McIlroy’s arrival at Linfield in 1950, there were no women’s athletics. Opportunities for women to compete in sports were limited to “play days” and “sports days.”

“After he hired me, I asked President Dillin, “Where are the teams?” recalled McIlroy, now 88. “He said I was being hired to get the program going. So that’s what I did.”

Soon after, she developed the Women’s Conference of Independent Colleges.

“When I took teams anywhere, each girl had to pay 25 cents for the gas,” she said. “If they didn’t, there was no way I could afford to transport them. I bought a station wagon that carried six in the seating area and had a big space for the equipment. One more regular car would do it.”

McIlroy continues to follow Linfield athletics and remains a strong proponent of the scholar athlete.

“I’m in favor of women having opportunities in competitive sports, but sports should not be number one,” she said. “Academics should be number one. That’s the way I’ve always felt.”

Longevity at Linfield

Linfield is known for attracting faculty and staff who stay awhile—and decades, in fact. Average length of service for Linfield’s 395 employees is more than 10 years. Some of Linfield’s longtime employees include:

Faculty:
Ken Erickson, professor of English, 42 years

Administration:
Dave Hansen, vice president for student services, dean of students and professor of economics, 38 years

Staff:
Linda Taylor, computer operations coordinator, 27 years

Senior alumni:
Based on current records, our most senior alumni are Delbert Edwards ’30 of Eugene; Edna (Breeding) Britten ’31 of Tigard; Helena (Gabbert) Moore ’32 of Union, Wash.; and Marguerite (Doak) Schreiber ’32 of Los Alamos, N.M.

Legacy:
According to our current records, our largest legacy families are the McBrides with 19 relatives attending Linfield; the Ezells with 16; and the Levers with 14.
The founders of Linfield College might be astounded at all the changes over the last 150 years. But one thing that has stayed the same is the dedication to educate students and a commitment to the McMinnville community.

On Jan. 30, more than 250 people turned out to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the chartering of the Baptist College at McMinnville by the Oregon Territorial Legislature.

A cold drizzle with a light wind didn’t stop a few dozen hardy souls who followed a mule-drawn surrey from the First Baptist Church – the original home of the college – to the current campus. Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie; Win Dolan, professor emeritus of math who served as interim president twice; and Glenna Kruger ’68, chair of the Board of Trustees, rode in the surrey along with owner and driver Wayne Bockwith.

More than 100 people packed the gathering room at the First Baptist Church to hear college trustees Kent Harrop and Bernie Turner, current and former pastors of the church, and Barbara Seidman, vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty, salute the relationship that has endured between the college and the church. Some of the college’s most inspirational leaders have come from the Baptist church, including former presidents Truman Brownson and Leonard Riley and the much loved Dean Emanuel Northup.

Quoting from Marvin Henberg’s book, *Inspired Pragmatism: An Illustrated History of Linfield College*, Seidman said, “The tireless spirit of free inquiry that the Baptists bequeathed to Linfield has over time fostered a broad, ecumenical perspective well suited to the challenges of modern life.”

At Linfield’s Richard and Lucille Ice Auditorium, proclamations from Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and McMinnville Mayor Ed Gormley declared Jan. 30 as Linfield Day in the city and state. Amy Orr, professor of sociology, and Dave Hansen, vice president for student services, reviewed curriculum and student life throughout the college’s history. Peter Richardson, professor of German, read a poem by English Professor Lex Runciman in memory of the Old Oak.

Edna (Breeding) Britten ’31, who read President Leonard Riley’s remarks from the college’s 50th anniversary, remembered walking into Ice Auditorium for the first time 80 years ago, when Riley escorted students from Pioneer.

“He said, ‘When you walk through the doors you must be quiet and remain quiet until you leave,’” she recalled. “It was wonderful to have that experience with the pipe organ playing. It is still beautiful and I love it.”

Trustee emeritus Bruce Stewart ’49 read remarks made by President Harry Dillin at Linfield’s 100th anniversary. Stewart remembered standing on the same stage 60 years before to campaign for student body president. “I promised the students that if they would elect me president I would see to it that the president of the college would respond to student requests and make changes,” he said with a laugh.

Geoff Young ’08, current student body vice president and trustee, said Linfield provides a home for students like him who didn’t want to attend a college the size of a small town.

“Students like me are interested in broadening their horizons, exploring their options and pushing their boundaries,” he said. “I’ve been able to pursue not just one of my interests, but all of them. That’s what makes Linfield so great – the understanding that learning is not a goal or an event, but a way of life.”

Remarks by Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie (see page 2) and the singing of the alma mater closed this celebration, which will be continued at other events in May.
Farewell old friend

It went down with a mighty crash. No warning, just a huge bang on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 1:30 p.m., that shook Pioneer residents and echoed throughout the college. The crash brought people from across campus. Word spread over land lines and cell phones, Internet and email: “The Old Oak fell.” No other explanation was needed. Although the tree had been in decline for many years, its collapse was a shock. Just one month before, it withstood nearly gale-force winds. And on Jan. 8, winds were calm, although rain was falling.

For most, it was like losing an old friend, a member of the family. Older than the college, and even McMinnville, the Old Oak had been the silent guardian, standing stately over generations of Native Americans, early pioneers, McMinnville residents and college students. Brides and May Queens celebrated under those majestic branches. It provided a solemn and peaceful site for memorial services. Thousands of students passed by it on graduation day. The senior bench featured a parting message from graduating classes for 60 years – the whimsical Dr. Seuss title painted by the class of 2007 proved a little prophetic, a little ironic: Oh, the places you’ll go.

A committee made up of faculty, staff and students will make recommendations regarding the Oak Grove and use of the wood from the Old Oak to President Thomas L. Helhe later this spring. Although its passing leaves a gap, its spirit will live on and the oak will remain a part of Linfield – a fitting symbol as the college celebrates its 150th anniversary.

– Mardi Mileham

Old Oak collapses Jan. 8
Mike Jones

Mike Jones may owe the launch of his teaching career to an empty stomach. During a 3 a.m. snack break, while finishing a project for Arthur Andersen & Co., Jones glanced at his mail and found an ad seeking an accounting professor at Linfield College.

“If I hadn’t been hungry, I wouldn’t have seen the ad and I’d be rich and retired right now,” he said with a laugh.

Instead, as the Harold Elkinton Professor of Accounting, he has spent the last 30 years teaching more than 4,500 McMinnville Campus students the intricacies of a profession that continues to excite and challenge him. He carries that passion into the classroom, sometimes so absorbed in his subject, he fails to hear the bell.

His enthusiasm for accounting has taken him around the world, where he has honed his expertise in international accounting practices through skills he honed on sabbaticals with Arthur Andersen offices in Munich, Germany, and Beijing, China. He’s well versed in Swiss Bank Accounts, is now in its fifth printing. He’s the editor of all the international accounting chapters in the textbook Advanced Accounting. He’s taught CPA review courses to accountants in Hong Kong and consults for businesses with ties to Asia.

His interests shifted from Europe to Asia after he spent a semester teaching at Wenzhou University, Linfield’s sister institution in China. He’s currently working on a project to link classrooms at Linfield and Wenzhou, once some technological hurdles have been resolved.

Linfield students benefit from Jones’ international accounting experience in multinational operations, foreign subsidiaries, import and export, and foreign currencies.

“Numbers aren’t the only things that feed Mike Jones’ soul. He says his perfect retirement job will be playing fiddle—or maybe harmonica—in a country music band. It’s not unusual to see him riding to campus on his Yamaha FJR 1300 with his fiddle strapped to his back so he can practice in his office over lunch. He can also sometimes be found playing one of the 20-plus harmonicas in his collection while sittin in traffic.”

“Mike is passionate about a subject that you don’t think anyone could be passionate about,” said Dave DeLap ’80, who now heads the Portland accounting firm DeLap White, Caldwell and Croy LLP. “He was exuberant in his classes and always smiling.”

Jones was attracted to teaching for a variety of reasons, including the urge to spend more time with his young family. It didn’t take long for him to realize he had a flair for it.

“It’s fun to talk about things you know really well to people who are eager to learn them,” he said. “But even as he stepped into the classroom, he kept one foot in the accounting world and remains well-known around the state. For many years he assisted in the administration of the CPA exam, helped write regulations governing CPAs in Oregon and served on numerous professional committees.”

Those ties have paid big dividends for his students and he’s been able to match them up with accounting firms, both large and small. Linfield alumni have established a reputation for high quality work and most years every accounting major who wants a job has one by the time he or she graduates. For example, DeLap hires Linfield alumni not through loyalty but because of their quality.

“Jones’ professional ties have also given him an edge in the classroom. He became an expert in international accounting practices through skills he honed on sabbaticals with Arthur Andersen offices in Munich, Germany, and Beijing, China. He’s well versed in Swiss banking, and his book, Swiss Bank Accounts, is now in its fifth printing. He’s the editor of all the international accounting chapters in the textbook Advanced Accounting. He’s taught CPA review courses to accountants in Hong Kong and consults for businesses with ties to Asia.”

“Mike sets high standards for himself and expects his colleagues to maintain the same standards, yet he does all that he can to help his colleagues excel,” Emery said. “He is extremely concerned with doing everything he can to make the business and accounting program at Linfield the best it can be. He constantly strives to stay current in the subjects he teaches and is always looking for new and better ways to reach his students by making the subject of accounting more interesting.”

“Mike is an enthusiastic teacher and a mentor to countless Linfield students.”

“Mike Jones, professor of accounting for 30 years, is known as an enthusiastic teacher and a mentor to countless Linfield students.”

“His enthusiasm for accounting has taken him around the world, where he has honed his expertise in international accounting practices through skills he honed on sabbaticals with Arthur Andersen offices in Munich, Germany, and Beijing, China.”

“Even as he stepped into the classroom, he kept one foot in the accounting world and remains well-known around the state.”

“He became an expert in international accounting practices through skills he honed on sabbaticals with Arthur Andersen offices in Munich, Germany, and Beijing, China.”

“Mike Jones’ professional ties have also given him an edge in the classroom. He became an expert in international accounting practices through skills he honed on sabbaticals with Arthur Andersen offices in Munich, Germany, and Beijing, China.”

“It’s fun to talk about things you know really well to people who are eager to learn them.”

“Mike is passionate about a subject that you don’t think anyone could be passionate about.”

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“I would have had an accounting major for that part of my life.”

“If our students are in demand, it may be because we are not an accounting program in a college of business. We are an accounting program in a liberal arts college and I think that’s attractive to some employers,” Jones said.

“His interests shifted from Europe to Asia after he spent a semester teaching at Wenzhou University, Linfield’s sister institution in China.”

“International accounting experience in multinational operations, foreign subsidiaries, import and export, and foreign currencies.”

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Taking off at Linfield

Wiggins used a dry-erase board to communicate during his 18-month recovery at a series of military hospitals. Although the shooting left him deaf, he now has limited hearing thanks to a surgically implanted cochlear device that amplifies sound.

Wiggins, senior leader of Evergreen Defense and Security Services, relocated to McMinnville and resumed the education he set aside for the military. He has found an unexpected camaraderie among Linfield students, faculty and staff and has been particularly impressed by the strong Business Department.

“Everyone at Linfield wants to see each other succeed,” said Wiggins, who models his life as a business. “Everything that you do every single day is a part of your business, and depending on how you run that business, you will either succeed or fail.”

In his Linfield classes, a stenographer sits beside Wiggins in the front row, types each lecture and transmits the classroom discussion instantaneously to his laptop screen.

Mike Jones, Harold C. Elkinton Professor of Accounting, is also a military veteran and has connect-ed with Wiggins on a personal level.

“I feel invested in him and I enjoy having him in class,” Jones said. “He’s a quick win.”

Besides managing a full course load at Linfield, Wiggins also travels extensively for Evergreen—he logged 85 days last year escorting politicians and celebrities to high-conflict areas around the world. Clients have included former President George H.W. Bush and actor George Clooney.

Delford Smith, owner and founder of Evergreen Aviation and a Linfield College trustee, said Wiggins’ initiative drives his success.

“Tom has demonstrated natural leadership, which is one of the rarest talents on earth,” he said. “Tom has the ability to overcome adversity. These setbacks seem to be a launching pad for him to conceive, believe and achieve.”

Looking ahead, Wiggins hopes to hold public office one day.

“I have a lot I want to do,” he said. “My goal has always been to be in the U.S. Senate by age 32. That may seem very ambitious, but I’ve learned that goal setting is goal-getting.”

— Laura Davis

Communication is easy for this natural-born talker

Aaron Larsen ’08 was born into a family of talkers. Whether he learned it from his grandma, who told incredible stories, or his grandfather, “a barber with the soul of a poet,” Larsen has always known how to keep a conversation going.

“Both my parents are social, especially my mom who likes to chat it up with people,” Larsen said. And it’s clear he got that gene—he can’t go more than five minutes without waving to someone across the room or having a friend stop by to chat.

Larsen, a communication arts major, has parlayed his natural talent into success as a debater and speaker, participating in several tournaments as a member of the Linfield forensics team. He recently placed fourth in the Mahaffey Memorial Tournament, hosted by Linfield.

But he struggled to express him-self while studying in Costa Rica his junior year. His host sister, Yuli, helped him overcome obstacles presented by the Spanish language.

“There I was, a communication arts major, learning how to speak English effectively and persuasively, yet when I’m in Costa Rica, I’m outdone constantly by her and her language,” Larsen said. “It became a goal of mine to really learn the language so, in a way, I could compete with her.”

Larsen’s competitive spirit and wide-ranging interests pushed him into film last summer, when he served as a production assistant and actor on a film directed by Kevin Curry ’92 and Devon Lyon ’97. The movie, Age, Sex, Location, deals with the dangers of the Internet. Larsen’s primary responsibility was to provide an experience that they can both enjoy and build upon,” Larsen said. “All relationships begin with a shared interest, and in this case it is music.”

Linfield has been a perfect fit for Larsen, who has developed deep relationships with classmates, fraternity brothers and professors such as Jackson Miller, his voice professor.

“Many of these people have become like family to me,” Larsen said. “The people you find here are the people who genuinely care and who see you not as a number but as a person. They want to see you succeed.”

— Kasey Richter ’09
Baseball play shapes life

By Mike Avery ’82

It wasn’t just the most memorable moment of the College World Series; it was the most memorable event in my entire baseball career. I’ve replayed it countless times in my mind, trying to understand why it has held me spellbound for 25 years.

I’ve often wondered if my teammate, Ron Webb ’72, felt the same transformational impact of The Play. Only a simple glance of mutual respect passed between us afterwards: “Good job.”

Ron was the Linfield catcher and everyone looked up to him. I was a timid freshman on a team of seasoned players on their way to a national title. Only a single obstacle stood in the way – a Tennessee team threatening to end our quest with a late rally. A lead-off double in the eighth had left them in an enviable position in a 7-7 game. In all likelihood, they would score. But fate intervened with The Play.

It was the boldest, yet most dangerous call anyone could make. Over the course of 60 games we had practiced a few times and had even tried it on occasion when a game was well in hand. But this was no ordinary game – it was the title game of the 1971 NAIA National Championship. The odds of The Play succeeding were minimal and there was considerable risk. I doubted that Coach Ad Rutschman ’54, with his years of experience, would have called for it. But Ron was our leader, our All-American. To me, it was the boldest, yet most dangerous call anyone could make.

Ron’s throw was perfect. The look of surprise and horror in the runner’s eyes said it all. The tag caught him nearly a foot off the base. We held them scoreless that inning and went on to win the game, 9-8 in 10 innings.

It was The Play that shifted the momentum that day. Ron and I knew it; Vince knew it, too. “The experience changed my outlook on life,” said Murray, who became interested in the project last summer during the Semester at Sea. During a stop in South Africa, he partnered with the World Hunger Project, working with malnourished children.

“The change experienced my outlook on life,” said Murray. “This is a way of showing others what my eyes have seen.”

Murray set to work organizing the chapter when he returned to campus last fall. Word spread quickly among Linfield students, particularly those with ties to the World Hunger Project. Grilled cheese sandwiches have been a staple at their fundraisers, which includes selling Feel Good T-shirts and photographs, taken by Murray and Lance Nelson ’99, along with funds to help stop it. They are selling Feel Good T-shirts and photographs, taken by Murray and Lance Nelson ’99, along with funds to help stop it.

Athletes team up to fight world hunger

Joe Murray ’08 has a new appreciation for grilled cheese sandwiches.

Murray, a Linfield College soccer player, has organized the Linfield chapter of Feel Good, a group with ties to the World Hunger Project. Grilled cheese sandwiches are the national organization’s signature fundraiser representing the 1.2 billion people worldwide who live on less than $1 a day.

“I could eat a grilled cheese sandwich every day of my life,” said Murray, who became interested in the project last summer during the Semester at Sea. During a stop in South Africa, he partnered with the World Hunger Project, working with malnourished children.

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Morin recalls wimpy side of basketball

When Roberta (Amundson) Morin ’60 took her place among other Linfield College alumni basketball players in the Ted Wilson Gymnasium, she found some things never change.

She was still one of the shortest and most competitive women on the floor. At age 70, she was also the oldest.

Morin and other forerunner basketball players from the ’60s, ’70s, ’80s, ’90s and ’00s gathered for a reunion, scrimmage and walk of honor Jan. 5 at Linfield.

“Roberta mixed it up and had a good time,” said Robyn Stewart, head women’s basketball coach since 1997.

Basketball has changed considerably and for the better, according to Morin, whose Linfield team played half court.

“Basketball back then was a little on the wimpy side,” she said. “Then they realized girls weren’t pansies. In sports, I could compete as hard as I wanted to. If I could have played football, I would have.”

After earning a degree in physical education, Morin went on to teach PE and coach, relishing each student.

“I could get along with the orneriest kids in school,” she said. “I always said old age was going to have more fan to catch me,” said Morin.
2010-2011

Class Notes

2014-2015

Class Notes

2010-2011

Class Notes

2014-2015

Class Notes
The Linfield College softball team was honored with a share of the George Pasero Team Award in recognition of its 2007 NCAA Division III national championship.

Given annually to the outstanding university or college team performing the most meritorious service in the academic year, the 56th annual George Pasero Team Award recognizes an entire university or college team for its outstanding achievements.

The Wildcats, who fought off elimination twice at the NCAA Finals in May, finished their remarkable season with a 45-12 record while becoming the first women’s team from Linfield to earn a share of the national title. The team was able season with a record 45 wins while becoming national champions for the cross country team, which also won national titles for the Oregon State baseball team and the Oregon Campus. Linfield shared the Pasero award with the Oregon Ducks.

The award was presented to Linfield at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Convention in Nashville. The award was presented to Linfield by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

that assure the homeless by provid- ing job skills training programs and assisting with job placement.

Aaron Cantwell from Tacoma, Wash., teaches high school science and math at Wilson High School.

Nancy Dillard ‘66 of Nichols is the administrative assistant for Multnomah County City Hall.

Mike Goergen and Kathleen Wichtnik of Vancouver, Wash., were married July 6. He is a partner with Bank of America.

Josh Ort ’60 of Consina, Texas, is attending Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas.

Annie Fox ’60 of Spokane, Wash., married Greg Alichek Aug. 18. She is pursuing her doctorate in physical therapy at Eastern Washington University.

Anthony Kelder ‘60 of Dallas is working on his MBA at Willamette University.

Bennett Christiansen ‘66 of Lincoln City has joined Depoe Bay Chiropractic in Dallas.

Adam Jaffee ’67 of Ed, Reno, joined a project for a professional task.

Kimberly Dodge ’67 of Oakland, Calif., married Peter Gonsin Aug. 4.

Kayla Knopp ’07 of Casco married Travis Burke July 14.

In memoriam

Dorothy (Davis) Russell ’33 of Seattle, Wash., Nov. 5.

Earl Laughlin ‘34 of Lakewood, Colo., Aug. 7.


Sarah “Sally” (Leckey) Smith ’35 of Portland, Oct. 6.

Ardel Nealy ’36 of Gresham, Aug. 10.


Frieda (James) Sprolesliko ‘37 of Canton City, Aug. 22.

Beatrice (Davis) Donnelly ’37 of Nampa, Idaho, Nov. 28, 2006.

Frances (Westall) Daniels ’37 of Portland, Jan. 11. Survivors include her husband Franklin ‘38 of Tigard, Dec. 31.


Claudia (Shelby) Joewell ’42 of Portland, Nov. 5.

Ernest Jones ’46 of Portland, July 5.

 Marion McRea ’47 of Nampa, Idaho, Nov. 6.

 Roy Dancer ’46 of Beaverton, Jan. 7. Survivors include wife Betty (Maxwell) ’47 and daughter Dana (Dancer) Vandercook. ’43 of Des Moines, Wash., June 1.


 Arline (Redfield) Thetford ’50 of Corvallis, Oct. 27.

 James Osborne ’50 of Rancho Mirage, Calif., Jan. 16.


 Survivors include son Edwin Edinger ’79.

 Thomas Harley ’51 of Portland, Oct. 5.

 William “Norm” Welch Sr. ’52 of Vancouver, Sept. 5.


 Katharina “Niko” (von Ellen) Merrie ’54 of Keizer, Nov. 16.

 Mary Jean (Francis) Nicholls ’55 of Coos Bay, Calif., Sept. 5.

 Arthur Kristal ’56 of Boise, Idaho, May 25. Survivors include his wife Nancy (Calhoun) ’54.

 Frances (Walker) Ramkey ’56 of Beaverton, Dec. 31.

 Miriam McRea ’56 of Portland, Nov. 5.

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 Nancy Dillard ’56 of Perl., Nov. 5.

 Nancy (Calhoun) ’54 of Portland, Dec. 27.

 Patricia (Mcllary) Shaller GSH ’72 of Portland, Dec. 18.

 GSH

 Jean (Petersen) Hamilton GSH ’55 of Portland, Aug. 7.

 Jack Reed Crawford GSH ’43 of Woodburn, Nov. 24.


 Barbara (Prey) Leichleiter GSH ’62 of Portland, Dec. 27.

 Claudia (Adams) Reed ’88 of Sherwood, May 31. Survivors include Kathy (Land) Maley ’74.

 Sherrel Coleman ’81 of Salem, Sept. 18.

 Jan Edmonson ’72 sits in front of a tapestry from Venezuela. As a career foreign service officer, Edmonson has enjoyed collecting ceramics, watercolors and tapestries from her global travels.

 Jan Edmonson ’72 has met Nobel laureates, political opposition leaders, presidents and dictators.

 As a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State, Edmonson has experienced the hardships and dangers of life in hot spots around the globe.

 Currently, Edmonson is deputy director for the Near East-South Central Asia Office in the Department’s Bureau of International Information Programs. She oversees the Department’s Persian-language Web site, publications and other outreach programs to Iran abroad.

 Edmonson, whose career has focused on public diplomacy and public affairs, says she decided in first grade that she wanted to do something that would allow her to travel. She applied only to Linfield after a neighbor gave her a catalog, and fell in love with the campus immediately.

 “Linfield set me on the path to success – the size of the classes, wonderful professors and the camaraderie of the Linfield community,” she says. “It gave me an incredible set of language skills, wonderful teachers and the camaraderie of the Linfield community,” she says. “It gave me an incredible foundation for my work.”

 After receiving her B.A. from Linfield, she earned two master’s degrees in international relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston. In 2001 she received an M.S. in national security strategy from the National War College.

 Among her international experiences, Edmonson served in Panama during the U.S. Invasion that ended its military dictatorship in December 1989. From her apartment, she saw Manuel Noriega’s headquarters explode and burn.

 In August 1994, Edmonson was in Havana during the only anti-Castro demonstrations and riots in the history of Cuba. Her most recent overseas assignment, in 2002-2005, was at the U.S. Embassy in Lahore, Pakistan.

 “My favorite place that I’ve lived is Burma, (now known as Myanmar)” from 1996 to 1999, she said. “The Burmese people are simply remarkable – it is one place where the people do not deserve the government they have. I also love northern Italy – the food, the wine, the lifestyle, the food, the wine…

 Despite her fluency in Spanish and ability to collect Burmese and Croatian, Edmonson wishes she were more proficient in languages. For Persian, she relies on her Iranian staff.

 Edmonson staff members, not named here because of security, say she “uses her strong management and people skills to gather the troops and to support them, keeping the focus on successful and productive team work. Her sense of humor keeps us going on more difficult days.”

 Edmonson says her proudest accomplishment is “that I have represented my country very well overseas in a variety of foreign cultures, often in difficult or dangerous conditions; and that I’ve respected my local staff’s professionalism, dignity and culture.”

 When her Washington tour is up in summer 2009, Edmonson hopes for an assignment in Afghanistan. Then, she says, “I will probably retire in a couple of years and go on my ‘busman’s holiday’ – traveling and reading about exotic lands. And playing golf!”

 “I’d like to see the Great Wall in China, Red Square in Moscow; the Ganges in India, and Coca Cola in Egypt.”

 “I’d like to walk in Linfield’s Oak Grove at least one more time.”

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Join hundreds of alumni and friends supporting Linfield’s 150th anniversary. The deadline is June 30. Please call 503-883-2111 or go to www.linfield.edu/bricks on the web.

YOUR NAME HERE!

Celebrating 150 years of excellence

Add your name to a brick in Linfield’s Sesquicentennial Plaza. 4”x8” brick $150, 8”x8” brick $1,500.