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Celebrating Linfield's birthday



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 Beckwith.

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.

Left: Some Linfield College faculty members from 2007-08 are, from left: row 1, Will Lingle, Ken Ericksen, Peter Richardson, Mike Jones, Dave Hansen, Barbara Seidman, Kareen Sturgeon, Mike Roberts; row 2, Rob Gardner, Kathy Kernberger, Ron Mills, Malcolm Greenlees, Jeff Petersen, Howard Leichter, Bill Apel, Nils Lou; row 3, JoAnn Sims, Amy Orr, Hillary Crane, Debbie Olsen, Bonnie Long, Rich Emery, Dawn Nowacki, Martha Van Cleave '75, Jean Caspers '71; row 4, Marvin Henberg, Lex Runciman, David Massey '78, Barbara Valentine, Lee Bakner, Joelle Murray, Gudren Hommel-Ingram, Violeta Ramsay, Elizabeth Atkinson, Scott Chambers; row 5, Chuck Dunn, Scott Smith, Eric Schuck, Jennifer Heath, Kay Livesay, Jennifer Linder, Tara Lepp, Steve Bernhisel, Chris Keaveney, Thierry Durand; row 6, Julia Fredericks, Peter Buckingham, Tanya Tompkins, Eugene Gilden, Brian Winkenweder, Brad Thompson; row 7, Nick Baccola, Chad Tillberg, Carol McCully, Mindy (Legard) Larson '95, Dawn Graff-Haight, Michael Crosser, Lissa Wadewitz, Kay Johnson, Tianbao Xie, Jim Diamond, John Sagers.