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Alumni Profile

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Powered by Linfield grads

Not many CEOs have given finals to their employees.

But that is the case for Bill Mackie '71, Linfield professor of physics and co-founder of Applied Physics Technologies (APTech). Of the 12 full-time and two part-time employees, seven are Linfield alumni and some are even Mackie's former students. A number of Linfield student interns can also be found working during summer months.

"There's definitely the Wildcat pride around here," said Alana Celia '07, vice president of business operations. APTech, incorporated in 1995 by Mackie and Gary Cabe '72, develops and produces electron emitting materials and electron sources, work that stems from the Linfield Research Institute. They provide materials for industry, government and academic researchers.

Why hire a Wildcat?

Simply put, Linfield generates good employees. Mackie points to the well-rounded nature of a liberal arts college which translates to agile workers. Linfield emphasizes learning, innovation, a strong work ethic, communication skills, and individual as well as group work.

"We do more than just physics here," said Mackie.

"We wear many hats, and Linfield students have an advantage in that regard. Linfield encourages experiences outside the classroom."

Celia, who earned a double major in physics and business management, developed a passion for physics while working as a student intern at APTech. As a Linfield junior, she designed a web site and wrote a business plan.

"It's my dream job," she said of her work, which combines her business and physics skills. "I'm able to talk with scientists about how the products work because I understand the chemistry and the physics behind it. And I can also talk to the customers to find out how the equipment is working."

Not all employees are scientists. Lauren Loepp '10, director of business development, holds a psychology degree and Laura (Sibley) Lovell '09, marketing manager, studied exercise science.

Since 2009, APTech's net earnings have increased by more than 600 percent and the company is directing some of the earnings to an endowed scholarship at Linfield.

"We have so much to be thankful for," said Celia. "The Linfield experience has made us the people we are today and allowed us the opportunities we currently have. We want to give back to the college." 🍷

— Laura Davis

Half of the APTech staff are Linfield graduates including the three-person executive team, front from left, Alana Celia '07, vice president of business operations; Bill Mackie '71, founder and CEO; and Gerald (Bud) Magera '89, vice president of research and development. Other Wildcats include, back from left, Josh Lovell '10, Lauren Loepp '10, Ryan Douglas '09, Laura (Sibley) Lovell '09 and summer intern Nicholas Fairhart '14.

