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Linfield Digest

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Earning gold

T. J. Day Hall received a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certification for sustainable building, awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The \$8.2 million renovation was completed last year and was the third building in Oregon to feature radiant heating and cooling ceiling panels, an energy-efficient system. The roof has 85 solar panels, along with photo cells elsewhere in the building. The wood used was milled from certified forests and carpets are made from recycled materials. Water conservation systems have been installed both inside and outside the building. The historic building served as the college library for more than 60 years. It now houses the departments of business, economics, English and philosophy.

Endowments boost academic programs

Two new endowments, established through gifts and bequests from alumni, will strengthen the college's programs in creative writing and political science.

Dawn Nowacki, professor of political

science, has been appointed the Elizabeth and Morris Glicksman Chair in Political Science, effective July 1, 2013. The late Mrs. Glicksman '32 was a longtime generous supporter of the college.

Nowacki is current department chair and has taught at Linfield since 1994. This endowment will allow the college to add another full-time faculty position in political science.

Nowacki's research focus is on women's representation in governments around the world. Her scholarship, including study in Russia, Turkey, Jordan and China, has been supported by a Fulbright Scholar Award and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and she has secured funding to support Canadian studies.

The second endowment is the Renshaw Distinguished Professorship in Literature and Writing. Anna Keesey, associate professor of English, was appointed to that position this fall. Please see related story on page 14.

The Renshaw Distinguished Professorship in Literature and Writing was established through lifetime gifts and a bequest from the late Philip Renshaw '31, who served on the college's board of trustees from 1957 to 2005. The appointment allows Keesey to continue to teach creative writing at Linfield, while also providing time to undertake future writing projects. The college plans to add another full-time faculty member to the English department, with a focus on creative writing.

"We are deeply grateful for these gifts from our alumni and friends," said President Thomas L. Hellie. "Their support assures a permanent investment in the outstanding teacher-scholars who educate Linfield students, and it represents a critical first step in the implementation of our new strategic plan."

These two new endowments help move the college toward meeting one of the goals of the recently completed strategic plan to provide significant investment in faculty to maintain and improve the quality of their work.

Strategic plan charts the future of Linfield

Linfield's new strategic plan (linfield.edu/strategicplan) charts a course for enhancing the student experience through strengthening and expanding learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

The result of a year-long engagement of hundreds of faculty, staff, students, alumni and others, the plan was approved by the board of trustees in May. It calls for ensuring that a Linfield education be accessible and affordable for students from a variety of backgrounds; attracting and retaining the very best faculty as key to the Linfield Experience; providing innovative academic programs and career and community service experiences; and increasing connections between the college, alumni and organizations. Periodic updates on progress in achieving the plan's goals will be posted at the website listed above.

In this year's President's Report (linfield.edu/presidents-report), President Thomas L. Hellie notes significant accomplishments by Linfield students and faculty in 2011-12, and describes how implementation of the strategic plan through increased philanthropy will impact the Linfield Experience for future students.

No time for quiet

Although students and many faculty are away in the summer, Linfield remains an active campus.

On the McMinnville Campus, the second floor of Melrose was remodeled to accommodate the academic affairs staff, providing a consolidated space for the dean of faculty, associate deans and the office of institutional research.

The physics department moved into the space in Graf Hall that was vacated by mathematics when that department moved to Taylor Hall last winter. The move allowed for the addition of a new

biology lab in Graf Hall, which will supplement existing biology lab space in Murdock Hall.

Thanks to a generous donation by Steve '74 and Ann Pickering, the Pickering Fitness Center opened in the Athletics Center this fall, expanding fitness workout space. Branching off from the Hal Smith Weight Room, the Pickering Fitness Center provides ample space for cardiovascular equipment, such as stationary bicycles and elliptical machines, stretch cords and mats. It adds 1,600 square feet of exercise space for intercollegiate student-athletes as well as general recreation users, including students, faculty, staff and alumni. On the Portland Campus, the Wildcat Den and outside garden have been renovated, creating comfortable spaces for students to study and relax.

Conference and event planning hosted 4,520 guests over the summer months. During the International Pinot Noir Celebration, guests from 13 countries and 38 states visited campus.

Science, service draw new students

More than 40 first-year students started their Linfield careers early through two special pre-orientation programs this summer.

First C.L.A.S. is a leadership and community service immersion program. iFocus gave students the opportunity to work with Linfield College faculty and student researchers to learn about science across the traditional science disciplines of biology, chemistry, math and physics.

First C.L.A.S. students volunteered for a variety of nonprofits throughout the week, learning about important campus and community resources, gaining valuable leadership skills and discovering what McMinnville and Linfield have to offer. They painted the bike co-op at Linfield, worked with Habitat for Humanity and helped in a local community garden.

iFocus introduced new students to Linfield professors and experiential

learning opportunities in biology, chemistry, math and physics. As part of this year's early immersion program, students conducted research on campus and also spent two days at the Oregon coast studying microbial ecology with biology Professor Jeremy Weisz. For photos of orientation go to linfield.edu/photogallery.

This year's freshmen class is 443 strong. Thirty-three percent are American students of color, 16 percent are legacy students and 17 percent are first-generation college students. Just under 50 percent are from Oregon, with an additional 33 percent from Washington and California, 8 percent from Hawaii and the remaining 11 percent from 11 states and five countries. On the Portland Campus, 22 percent are male, 148 students are working on their second degree and they range in age from 19 to 54.

NSF funds microscope

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded almost a quarter of a million dollars to science programs at Linfield College.

The grant of \$223,182 will allow Linfield's Department of Biology to purchase a state-of-the-art microscope

system that will support the scholarship and research of science faculty and students. The system will enable high-resolution imaging and data analysis, and will strengthen Linfield's molecular and cell biology facilities. In the past five years, the school's biology department has experienced significant growth, and currently spans multiple subdisciplines, from ecology studies to cancer research. The equipment will also give a boost to Linfield's faculty-student collaborative research program.

Linfield students across the scientific disciplines conduct research in partnership with faculty, generate publishable data and present their findings at national conferences. Many co-author papers with professors that are published in peer-reviewed journals. The NSF grant was awarded to biology Professors Anne Kruchten, Catherine Reinke and Jeremy Weisz.

"We want to provide outstanding research facilities to help prepare our students for future research or medical careers," Kruchten said. "About 40 percent of our biology graduates in the past five years have gone on to graduate school or professional programs, and the trend is increasing."



A group of first-year science students study microbial ecology in Newport as part of iFocus, an interdisciplinary program held prior to orientation.