

9-2019

## 2018-2019 President's Report

Linfield College Office of Institutional Advancement

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# Stronger together



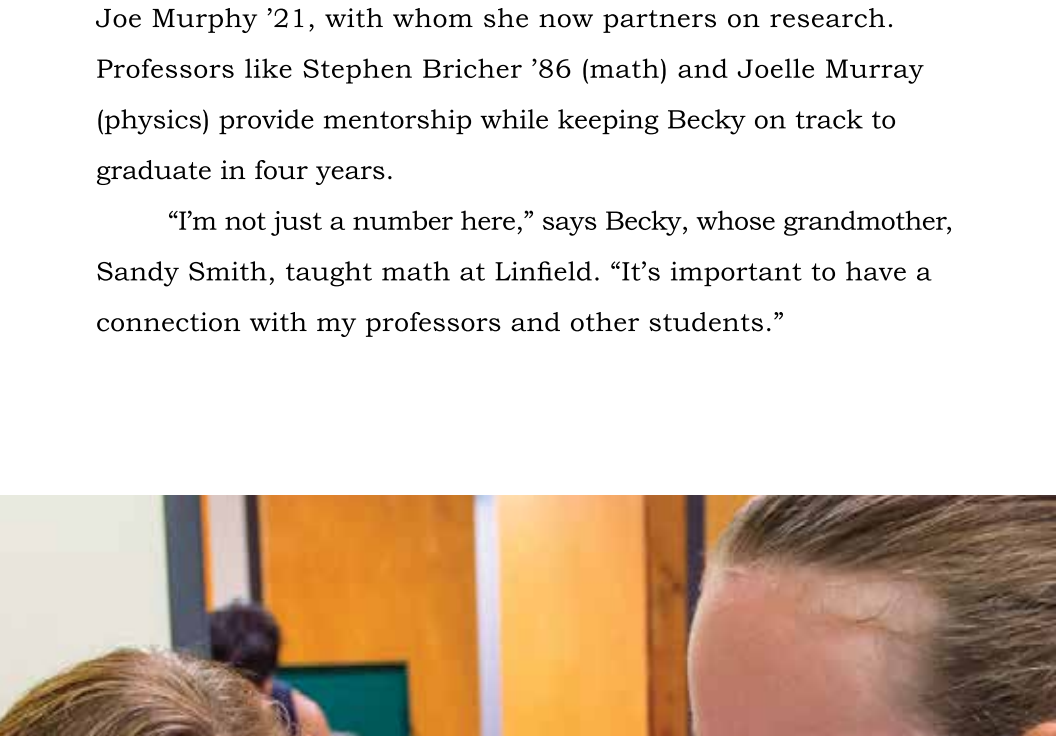
## Meet Becky, future astrophysicist

*Jupiter is the largest planet. Saturn has 62 rings.*

Growing up, Becky Smith '22 remembers taking notes during countless hours watching the Science Channel. By age 7, Becky had set her sights on a NASA career. A self-motivated learner, she worked ahead in her high school physics class, launched a rocket for a final exam and graduated at the top of her class.

But as the eldest of nine children, Becky says her family had little savings for college. She considered joining the U.S. Air Force. But Linfield, with its science curriculum, expansive campus and proximity to home, was her dream. She studied rigorously for competitive scholarships, submitted her FAFSA and hoped.

Sometimes, she then discovered, dreams come true. "If I hadn't received financial aid, I wouldn't be at Linfield," says Becky.



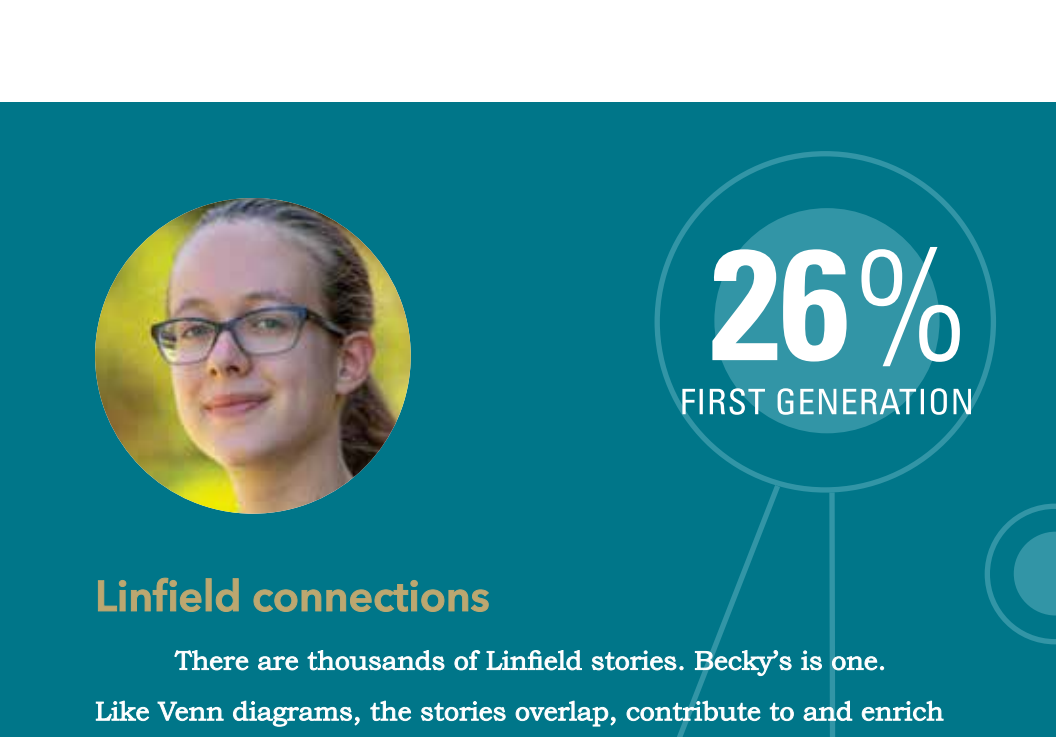
## BUOYED BY OTHERS

Becky's hard work and exceptional test scores paid off. She was named a STEM scholar and qualified for financial aid that covered the cost of her Linfield education.

Before classes even started, she arrived on campus to participate in a science pre-orientation program, marching band and cross country.

Becky met fellow physics students Joel Toledo '20 and Joe Murphy '21, with whom she now joins to do research. Professors like Stephen Bricher '86 (math) and Joelle Murray (physics) provide mentorship while keeping Becky on track to graduate in four years.

"I'm not just a number here," says Becky, whose grandmother, Sandy Smith, taught math at Linfield. "It's important to have a connection with my professors and other students."

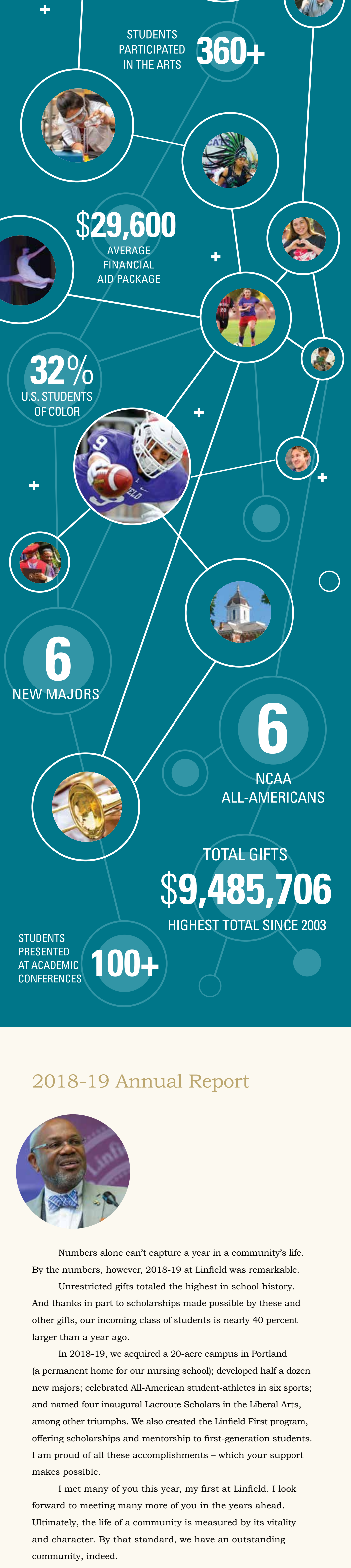


## NEXT STOP, NASA

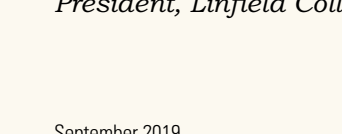
Now a math and physics double major, Becky spent her first summer at Linfield collaborating with Professor Jennifer Heath (physics) and a team of students. Together they explored the properties of two-dimensional materials like graphene, a class of atom-thin materials 200 times stronger than steel. This research is supported by donations from a group of physics alumni. Becky will present findings at both the Murdock College Science Research Conference and the Linfield Curde Student Symposium.

The strength of learning together at Linfield is making Becky's dream of working at NASA feel closer than ever.

"I love the idea that we're super small and there's so much we don't know about the universe," she says. "My goal is to understand as much as I can."



## 2018-19 Annual Report



Numbers alone can't capture a year in a community's life. By the numbers, however, 2018-19 at Linfield was remarkable. Unrestricted gifts totaled the highest in school history. And thanks in part to scholarships made possible by these and other gifts, our incoming class of students is nearly 40 percent larger than a year ago.

In 2018-19, we acquired a 20-acre campus in Portland (a permanent home for our nursing school); developed half a dozen new majors; celebrated All-American student-athletes in six sports; and named four inaugural Lacroute Scholars in the Liberal Arts, among other triumphs. We also created the Linfield First program, offering scholarships and mentorship to first-generation students. I am proud of all these accomplishments – which your support makes possible.

I met many of you this year, my first at Linfield. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the years ahead. Ultimately, the life of a community is measured by its vitality and character. By that standard, we have an outstanding community, indeed.

Thank you for making 2018-19 a marvelous success.

Miles K. Davis  
President, Linfield College