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## **Linfield Digest**

Linfield Magazine Staff

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## Hellie heads national committee



Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie was named chair of the National Association of

Independent Colleges and Universities' Committee on Student Financial Aid in February. He also serves on the executive committee of the association, which represents nearly 1,000 private American colleges.

The work of the financial aid committee is central to the mission of the NAICU, which has spearheaded the Student Aid Alliance, an ambitious public initiative that supports students across the country.

"Our goal at NAICU is to ensure that Pell Grants and other student scholarships and loans do not fall victim to the current recession," said Hellie, who also chairs the Oregon Independent Colleges Association. "All sectors of Oregon's higher-education community — including private, public and community colleges — are taking on the challenge of ensuring access. We share a goal of keeping our doors open to every student who desires a college education and is willing to work hard."

## Linfield named to national Community Service Honor Roll

Linfield College was recently recognized for exemplary community engagement by the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

The college was noted for its outreach to homeless people in Yamhill County and beyond, where students served more than 2,000 meals to individuals who are struggling to remain housed, and coordinated a homeless youth reading program. Through service learning projects, students conducted interviews with homeless individuals, documenting their personal stories and connecting them to community services that address housing and hunger.

Other student volunteers mentored elementary school children in the McMinnville School District. They supported afterschool Power Hour and Kids on the Block programs, literacy initiatives such as SMART and America Reads, and college access programs, including ASPIRE and Upward Bound. More than 1,000 Linfield students volunteered 25,000 community service hours in 2009.

The college is one of nine Oregon schools to be honored. The award is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

## Chinese debate team battles Linfield

Environmental issues headlined a lively debate between the Linfield debate team and a team from Xi'an Jiaotong University in China in February in McMinnville.

The debate was part of a tour coordinated by the International Debate Education Association to give Chinese students the opportunity to engage in democratic free speech by discussing topics that are often censored in their home country. IDEA has learned how to debate censored topics safely, but that doesn't mean the topics have been toned down. In fact, the Chinese debaters qualified for the tour by debating the topic, "The People's Republic of China should forswear military force in Taiwan."

"We were so delighted to welcome the debaters from China to our campus," said Jackson Miller, associate professor of communication arts and director of forensics. "The Linfield forensics program received a warm welcome when we participated in a debate tournament in Xi'an, China, in 2006, and it is nice to have the opportunity to return the hospitality. Competitive debate is growing quickly in China and it is providing some wonderful opportunities for promoting dialogue, cooperation and cultural understanding."



## Linfield students got a firsthand lesson in collaboration and public art

when they painted a mural in McMinnville's downtown historic district in May. The students spent a string of 90-minute class sessions to paint a colorful — and quirky — scene on the side of Harvest Fresh Grocery and Deli. They signed the mural "The Chicken Coop Collective," a nod to an earlier class project — designing and building a chicken coop. The art class was taught by adjunct Professor Totem Shriver.





## Linfield College students pitched a large Native American tipi

in the Oak Grove for a week in May and hosted a ceremony, which included Native flute music and a blessing. Art students in Professor Totem Shriver's class painted the tipi, a gift from a member of the Lakota Sioux Tribe, designing a medicine wheel for the canvas. The four directions represent Mother Earth, water, sky and fire. Shriver spent the week camping out in the tipi, talking with students and community members who stopped by.

## Biologist investigates tree life in Forest Park

Nancy Broshot has observed plant communities at 24 sites located throughout Forest Park for 17 years, and her findings were especially relevant in May, as the city of Portland deliberated policies for bike use in one of the country's largest urban parks. Regional news outlets recommended that the discussion be informed by Broshot's research, and a comprehensive study by the Portland City Club used her findings to support their recommendations.

The issue of public use turned controversial after a rogue mountain bike trail was cut through the forest in February, but even greater threats endanger the park, according to the environmental studies professor. Broshot's data show high mortality in all but the largest

trees. More significantly, she found that very few younger trees of all species



are surviving, even in the remote section of the park.

"In other Western states high tree mortality has been linked to water stress due to global warming," Broshot said. "The high mortality in itself is not a huge cause for concern, but the lack of tree recruitment – younger trees to take the place of those that die – is alarming. This trend has been observed in other urban forests, and current research is underway to pinpoint the cause."

Oregon Public Broadcasting, *The Oregonian*, a Portland City Club report, KGW Channel 8 News, the *Portland Tribune*, *Willamette Week*, *Portland Mercury* and other news outlets covered Broshot's research.

## Deployment accelerates classes

On April 15, while most people were sending in final tax returns and most Linfield seniors still had six weeks left before graduation, students in Eric Schuck's economics courses were winding up the semester.

Schuck, associate professor of economics and lieutenant in the U.S.

Naval Reserve, reported for duty on April 16, to spend the remainder of the year in the Persian Gulf. Schuck is a lieutenant in the Supply Corps, United States Naval Reserve Logistics Officer, Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Nine.

After his classes for this semester were curtailed, his students came early and stayed late, attended lectures outside the original schedule and accepted an accelerated pace.

"They have done so without complaint, and with an unswerving and unflinching devotion to their studies," Schuck said in an email message to students and colleagues the day before his departure. "Words fail in expressing the honor and privilege I feel at sharing a classroom with these young women and men, and it is no small thing to state that after my own family, it is our students I will miss the most."

As a special tribute to his seniors, Schuck and colleague Randy Grant donned robes, hoods and caps and walked with seniors across campus.

"Until I return," Schuck says, "may you all find only fair winds and following seas."