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A Legacy of Nurses: Longtime Professors Retire

Linfield Magazine Staff

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A LEGACY of NURSES

Longtime professors retire

With nearly five decades of service between them, professors Donna Routh and Barbara May have shaped countless Linfield nursing students. Here, they share memories from the past and plans for their retirements.



DONNA ROUTH

..... ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING, SINCE 1985

Most memorable moments Some of the most enjoyable and satisfying times occur in the clinical area, seeing our competent graduates mentoring today's students.

Favorite campus hangout The coffee shops on 23rd Ave.

Favorite course Electives I developed or co-developed: Adult Critical Care Nursing and Clinical Ethics.

Changes in students We have much more of a mixture of students than when I began at Linfield – many second degree students, wide variety of backgrounds, ages and interests. Makes teaching more challenging and more fun.

Learned from students and colleagues Where to start!

I constantly learn, from students and faculty and clinical colleagues.

Will miss Friendships, collegial relationships with other faculty members, interactions with students.

Won't miss Meetings.

Best thing about Linfield The relationships I have formed, and the ability to do a variety of things and still remain engaged as a nursing professional.

Retirement plan More time with family. Some traveling. Will continue as a nursing representative to a state-wide task force, and on the Oregon Nurses Association task force on Ethics and Human Rights.



BARBARA MAY

..... PROFESSOR OF NURSING, SINCE 1989

Most memorable moments The honor of receiving the Samuel H. Graf Award, and the opportunity to be a co-investigator on the HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant, which over the six years since its start, has brought our campus diversity to a critical mass.

Favorite course Family Violence, an elective I developed to better prepare future nurses for the complex dynamics they will encounter when working with families.

Changes in students When I started, students were primarily traditional college age and our nursing program was four years in length. However, in order to meet the market shifts and the nursing shortage, the nursing program transitioned to a more accelerated program. This attracted second degree and older-than-average students into the nursing profession.

Learned from students and colleagues The value of collaboration in contributing to a successful nursing program.

Will miss Daily connections with students. Sometimes the informal visits with them in the hallways and walkways are the most meaningful moments.

Won't miss All the committee work, meetings and course coordinator administrative responsibilities.

Biggest surprise As the time draws nearer to my retirement, I am surprised by the bittersweet feelings I have in leaving Linfield as a full-time faculty member.

Best thing about Linfield The commitment to the students and the student learning process.

Retirement plans Becoming a pianist. It has been a lifelong goal of mine and until now I have not had the time I felt I would need to do it justice. I just invested in a baby grand piano and I am looking for piano teachers – suggestions anybody?!

On the web: www.linfield.edu/retirees2010