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Linfield Digest

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Communication prof offers insight for OPB, Oregonian



Jackson Miller, associate professor of communication arts and one of the foremost experts on Oregon's ballot initiatives, was called upon to serve as a political analyst during a recent election on two controversial state ballot initiatives.

Miller shared his expertise with *The Oregonian* and Oregon Public Broadcasting for an election that received national attention as a possible snapshot of the mood among voters.

"It's surprising to see so much money being spent in a down economy," Miller said of Measures 66 and 67. "But at the same time, the stakes are so high for both sides that the level of investment doesn't surprise me."

The tax measures, which raise taxes on house-

holds with taxable income above \$250,000, set higher minimum taxes on corporations and increase the tax rate on upper-level profits, passed.

On behalf of the Oregon Council of Humanities, Jackson has facilitated citizen discussions throughout the state about ballot initiatives. He has also conducted extensive research on issues such as physician-assisted suicide, gay rights, medical marijuana, logging practices and land-use regulations. In 2008 he scripted and directed an irreverent original play focusing on the state's controversial ballot initiatives, titled *82,769 Signatures*.

Miller is also director of forensics at Linfield and a trainer for the International Debate Education Association, which sponsors debate forums for high school and college students from around the world.

State again cuts grants to neediest students

For the second year in a row, Oregon Opportunity Grants (OOG) to some of the neediest students have been cut. In response, Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie has promised Linfield's 304 students to make up the shortfall in financial aid.

Linfield enrolls more OOG recipients than most Oregon private colleges. Students will lose \$120 of their grants. In some cases, even the smallest cuts for these students could result in their withdrawal from college.

Hellie has made a personal appeal to faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and donors asking for additional contributions above their current gifts to the college, to ensure that students can attend school this coming semester.

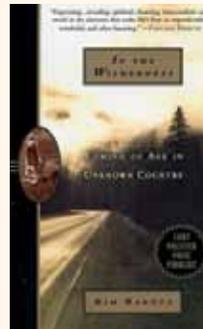
"Many students and their families are in need, due to the struggling economy, and we want to do everything we can to support them," Hellie said. "We are proud of our students and their accomplishments. We hope that they might, in turn, pass on this gift to other students after their graduation."

This is not the first time the Linfield community has stepped up to help students. A 2002 funding crisis in the state resulted in major cuts to OOG. Linfield trustees, alumni, faculty and staff donated \$90,000 to cover reductions in financial aid to 200 students. Last year, Linfield covered more than \$27,000 in OOG reductions to 365 students.

This year, more than \$32,000 in new donations will be needed to make up the difference.

For more information contact Kurstin Finch-Gnehm '97, 503-883-2492 or kfinchg@linfield.edu.

Memoir selected for MacReads



Join Linfield students, faculty and staff along with local book clubs for this year's MacReads program featuring Kim Barnes' memoir, *In the Wilderness: Coming of Age in Unknown Country*.

MacReads is a community-wide book reading and discussion that culminates in a presentation by the author.

Schools, book clubs and residents are encouraged to participate in the program, which is in its sixth year. The highlight of the MacReads program is a presentation by Barnes on Wednesday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Jereld R. Nicholson Library. Discussions of the book will be scheduled later this spring and a reception will follow her appearance.

In the Wilderness: Coming of Age in Unknown Country, a memoir focusing on family, religion and the Idaho wilderness, was selected as a finalist for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize. Barnes is also the author of the novels *Finding Caruso* and *Hungry for the World*. Her latest novel, *A Country Called Home*, received the 2009 PEN USA Literary Award in Fiction.

MacReads is designed to create intergenerational conversations with a common book and discussion opportunities. It is sponsored by the English Department, Friends of Nicholson Library, Friends of McMinnville Public Library and Third Street Books.

www.linfield.edu/linfield-libraries



on The Web

New trustees join Linfield board



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Students 'light up' for a good cause

Linfield College students spent January lighting up for a good cause.

The student-initiated project didn't involve smoking, but walking door to door in McMinnville, asking to change residents' light bulbs. For free. Without a catch.

Their goal? To replace the town's incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescents.

A "Light Up McMinnville" effort drew 80 students last fall and 40 in January. They fanned out across town carrying light bulbs in donated reusable shopping bags through rain, drizzle, fog and cold.

The project is a collaboration between Linfield students and McMinnville Water & Light, and for every bulb replaced, students earn a \$2 energy credit to be applied toward solar panels on campus. Using more energy-efficient bulbs is also good for local residents, who can save 75 percent on their light bill.

Linfield students were recently recognized for their sustainable activities in the National Wildlife Federation's report, "Generation E: Students leading for a sustainable, clean energy future." The report highlights 165 campuses in 46 states.



Torah donated to college for faculty, class use

Bill Millar '60, professor of religion, front, Andrew Webber '10 and Chris Norman '10 inspect a Hebrew Manuscript Sefer Torah Scroll donated to Linfield last fall by Cindy Boyce. The scroll was written in an Arabian Jewish Scriptorium by Yemenite Jews about 200 years ago. It is housed in special collections at the Nicholson Library. The gift is a particularly valuable resource for Linfield's courses in biblical Hebrew and for students and faculty focused on research centered in the Middle East.