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Linfield Magazine Staff

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Topping the roof *of* Africa





Three members of the Linfield College community reached the summit of Africa's highest point, Mount Kilimanjaro, 19,341 feet, in January. Scott Hamilton '77, Brian Lawrence '99 and Kevin Chambers, son of Linfield faculty members Scott and Susan Chambers, were members of the East Africa High Altitude Research Expedition, a 24-member biomedical research team led by Hamilton.

As altitude increased, so did headaches and nausea. Freezing temperatures and lack of oxygen sapped the climbers' strength. "We climbed very, very, very slowly," said Lawrence, who along with Hamilton, participated in a similar high-altitude research expedition to Mount Everest Base Camp in 2007. "The goal was to simply put one foot in front of the other, stay hydrated, and try to eat along the way to keep our energy up."

The journey up Kilimanjaro was Hamilton's second – he has climbed all over the world, in the Andes, Arctic and Himalayas, and said he thrives on the challenge. "Short of being an astronaut, it's the closest you can get to being out of this world," he said.



Photos by Brian Lawrence '99, Robert Hyman and Melissa Ryan