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Linfield Digest

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Students gear up for election

Linfield students and faculty launched a collaborative non-partisan effort to register, educate and mobilize students to vote this fall. Members of the Linfield College Democrats and Linfield College Republicans worked together to organize voter registration drives and host Linfield Debate Watch 2008, which included viewings of the presidential and vice presidential debates followed by discussions facilitated by faculty members from the departments of political science and mass communication.

We asked four students why they think this election is important, who they support and why.



Jake Masin '11, business major and president of the Linfield College Democrats

I support Obama-Biden. It isn't often that we get an active role in determining our future. The fate of this election will determine so much for us. I support the person who not only leads, but also proves that they know what the American public needs now and is willing to work towards the future.



Ashlee Carter '10, business major

This election is incredibly important because of the issues facing our country including the economy, terrorism and taxation, issues that will affect my generation after we leave college. We need someone with a lot of experience to deal with these problems in positive and smart ways; that's why I support McCain and Palin.



Josh Planton '09, political science and finance major and president of the Linfield College Republicans

The election is important because whoever is elected president has the potential to affect Americans socially, economically and politically long-term. This is why I am voting for John McCain. His record and experience in government leads me to believe that his decisions will produce the best overall long-term effects for Americans.



Megan Wills '09, mass communication major

I support Barack Obama. Obama is young and he understands what the younger generation is looking for. I believe Biden's experience is beneficial for the country. Together, Obama and Biden are a good balance. This election will bring either an African American president or the first female vice president and that is a huge accomplishment for America.

Heard around the Linfield campus

David Oliver Relin, co-author of the bestseller *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*, told of his work with Greg Mortenson, whose life-long mission is to educate the children of Pakistan.

On Greg Mortenson: "Here's someone really fighting (terrorism) the only effective way it can be fought. Not by fighting the symptoms of the disease of terrorism, but by fighting the root causes of terrorism and by that I mean poverty and ignorance. Greg was going to work every day, building schools for girls in Taliban areas. I could think of nothing that is doing more good than that. It's making a stronger argument that Americans want to extend hope and opportunity and we are not their enemy."



David Oliver Relin, award-winning author of *Three Cups of Tea*, the Common Read selection for incoming students, spoke at Opening Convocation Sept. 2.

Linfield expands its nursing enrollment

Renovated and expanded facilities and a new scholarship program will help the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing educate more nurses to meet a growing national demand.

A \$1.2 million renovation at the school, located on the campus of Legacy-Good Samaritan Hospital in Northwest Portland, is providing more classroom space to accommodate increased enrollments in Linfield's nursing program. Two additional grants funded an expansion of the simulation laboratory and scholarships for populations currently underrepresented in the nursing field, including minorities and men.

In response to calls locally and nationally to increase nursing graduates, Linfield more than doubled its number of nursing graduates between 2001 and 2007, from 70 to 187 annually, according to Bonnie Saucier, dean of the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing.

The school redesigned the nursing curriculum; created an 18-month accelerated program that begins in the summer; began accepting only transfer students and students with prior bachelor's degrees into the nursing program; and established an online RN to BSN program, designed for working registered nurses seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees.

"The growth of our student body put a severe strain on spaces, faculty and resources," Saucier said. "This renovation allows us to expand our facilities as well as bring them up to date technologically. We now have new teaching spaces that feature the latest in digital equipment as well as space that can serve many purposes including teaching, studying, meetings and extra-curricular activities."

Funding for the classroom renovations includes \$200,000 from The Collins Foundation; \$100,000 from the William G. Gilmore Foundation; \$300,000 from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation; \$50,000 from the Ann and Bill Swindells Charitable Trust; and \$25,000 from the Wessinger Foundation. The remaining costs were covered by the college.

In addition to the renovation, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust recently awarded Linfield \$148,000 to expand equipment and staff in the high-fidelity nursing simulation laboratory. The nursing simulation lab is critical to nursing education, providing students with realistic experiences in health crises without fear of making a critical mistake that could harm a patient.

Students from populations that are typically under-

represented in the nursing profession – such as men and people of color – will have more opportunities at Linfield as the result of a \$120,000 grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The funds will provide scholarships to 12 students from groups who are underrepresented in the field. The scholarships will be awarded to students who enroll in Linfield's 18-month accelerated program, increasing that enrollment from the current 48 students to 60.

Linfield has become a leader in recruitment of minority students into nursing as a result of significant grants from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Linfield has established a program of services and activities designed to recruit and retain students from underrepresented populations, particularly from the Hispanic community.

"These grants will help Linfield in its effort to increase nursing workforce diversity by providing scholarships that will enhance our ability to recruit and retain students from populations underrepresented in nursing," Saucier said.



Ken Westhusing, director of learning support services, leads Linfield students in a class in one of the recently renovated classrooms featuring the latest in digital technology on the Portland Campus.