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Linfield Professors to Retire This Summer

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Linfield professors to retire this summer

They arrived on campus before computers, email and cell phones. Much has changed since Joel Marrant, Barbara Drake and Fred Ross joined the Linfield College faculty nearly three decades ago. Here they provide a glimpse back at their tenures and ahead to their futures as Linfield retirees.



Joel Marrant, left, with Stan Towner, professor emeritus of sociology, during the opening of an exhibit in the Anthropology Museum that highlighted Marrant's career.

Joel Marrant, professor of anthropology since 1978

Good moment: Getting back from my 2007 Jan Term journey knowing that all 181 who had gone out with me over the years had come back alive.

Bad moment: Discovering students dumped five

pounds of sugar into my old Plymouth's crankcase the evening after I delivered my first lecture on evolution.

Favorite campus hangout: In the oaks, and the Catalyst when it was the social heart of the college.

Favorite course: Folklore and Mythology. It has allowed me to roam free and play with important stuff, and keep tabs on what's in students' heads and hearts.

What I will miss: I'm taking all the important things with me. Loves and friendships travel well all the way to the 19th hole.

What I won't miss: The inanities that plague all modern institutions. And people who take themselves way too seriously.

Changes in teaching and students: An unsettled and disorganized idealism still lies at the core. I've gotten better at getting out of the way, but most students have grown ever more anxious and timid about what to do with the freedom.

Title of final public lecture, if invited to give my own eulogy: "Curious mind; Pretty good heart; Flawed technique"

Retirement reading list: I'd love to get back to reading novels and poetry.

Retirement plans/travel: Archaeology at the Salmon River Estuary and Mt. Rainier; working with communities at the Trappist Abbey and Romania; exploring more of Ireland; grandfathering and golfing. Slowing down to enjoy each moment.



Barbara Drake on her Yamhill-area farm

Barbara Drake, professor of English since 1983

Most memorable moment: Being hired. I had a good job at Michigan State, but I wanted to move back west and this job seemed to be in the perfect place. It still seems like it.

Learned from students and colleagues: What you can accomplish in a smart, supportive work group. From students I've learned that education definitely does take place — by the time they graduate, enormous changes have gone on, all to the good.

Favorite course: My American Expatriate Writers in Europe January Term class. Colleagues are amazed that I get to live that dream and take students with me.

What I will miss: Having students on whom I can try out new ideas for teaching and learning.

What I won't miss: Having way too much to do. As a writer I'm always trying to balance my writing time with grading and class preparation.

Title of final public lecture, if invited to give one: "How to Live the Good Life Through Books" or "Would Hemingway and Stein have Sent Text Messages if They'd Had Cell Phones in the 1920s?"

Retirement reading list: I downloaded a list of popular novels that take place in Italy. When I can't be in Europe, I enjoy reading fiction that takes place there.

Retirement plans/travel: I plan to continue writing, publishing and giving readings from my work. I have a couple of book manuscripts in progress.



Fred Ross at Potter Hall

Fred Ross, professor of education since 1983

Favorite campus hangouts: After Potter Hall, the weight room, pool and HHPA multipurpose room for yoga.

Biggest change: In the technology of teaching. We no longer use ditto machines, blue mimeograph paper and reel-to-reel film projectors.

What I won't miss: Getting blue fingers from preparing those mimeos! Grading all of those papers.

Most memorable moment: When the Education Department moved from Cook Hall into Potter Hall in 1989. The change provided more space and united the department with the Linfield Pre-Kindergarten.

Changes in students: They've remained consistently interesting, challenging and motivated to become teachers through the years.

Favorite course: Education psychology because it explores the theoretical underpinnings of most of what teachers do.

What I will miss: The semi-annual renewal, which accompanies meeting new students and starting courses over again.

Retirement plans: My wife, Cindy, and I plan to take a retirement trip to France and Switzerland to hike the "Haute Route" around Mont Blanc. Following that trip, I will become senior advisor and assistant to President Hellie.

— *Laura Davis*