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'Oh Happy Day' as 480 Graduate

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'Oh happy day' as 480 graduate

Cool, cloudy skies – but no rain – greeted nearly 480 candidates for graduation during the 2005 commencement ceremonies in the Oak Grove May 29. Six faculty and administrators, including President Vivian A. Bull, presiding over her final commencement before retiring, received emerita/us honors.

Doug Tunnell, an award-winning journalist and local winery owner, received an honorary degree for his professional achievements, service to the community and embodiment of a liberal arts education.

Tunnell encouraged students to “hold so-called ‘conventional wisdom’ up to the light and turn it carefully in your hand...scrutinize its many facets...and even then, be slow to believe.

“Whatever it is you want to accomplish, keep in mind that one gift Linfield has given you,” he said. “What the philosopher Bertrand Russell called ‘the critical habit of mind.’ You may well forget the data...the dates and details learned in classes here. But that other gift will always be with you.”



College enters new phase in presidential search



Dave Haugeberg

Linfield College is in a new phase in its search for a president to replace Dr. Vivian A. Bull. McMinnville attorney Dave Haugeberg, secretary of the Board of Trustees and a member since 1982, is chair of the search committee. He has had extensive experience serving on search committees, at Linfield and for other organizations. Here, he shares his insight into the process and what steps will be taken in the coming months.

What is involved in seeking a new president?

The process of identifying top candidates can be lengthy, from creating an institutional profile outlining Linfield College's strengths and challenges to reviewing credentials and checking references. Campus visits give our various constituents the opportunity to meet the candidates and also give the candidates a chance to meet us as a community. The process is really two-way, we are looking at the candidate and the candidate is looking at us.

Are you disappointed that you have not yet identified a new president?

I am not disappointed. For me, a failed search is one that brings in the wrong person to serve as president of Linfield College. We have learned a great deal through our efforts. The feedback the committee received from members of the college community has

helped further define the attributes and experiences the next president should possess.

What qualities is the committee looking for in a new president?

We are looking for qualities similar to those exhibited by our last two extraordinary presidents, Dr. Charles Walker and Dr. Vivian A. Bull. We need an accomplished scholar and experienced administrator, a strategic thinker who can align the college community to a common vision. We also need someone with strong interpersonal skills and who is a respected and articulate spokesperson on issues relating to higher education. We need someone well-versed in the importance of multicultural and global awareness and who has a proven record in generating financial support from the public and private sectors.

What are the next steps?

The committee and our consultant are generating a pool of candidates with the qualities we are seeking. We will begin to narrow that pool in late August and plan to bring candidates to campus in the fall. We encourage members of the Linfield community to check the website regularly for updates on the search process and to provide feedback to the committee. The institutional profile, which provides an overview of Linfield College and outlines the qualities we seek in the next president, is posted on the web for review by alumni, staff and friends of the college.

www.linfield.edu/president_search/index.php

