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## **Memories: Fun and Poignant**

Linfield Magazine Staff

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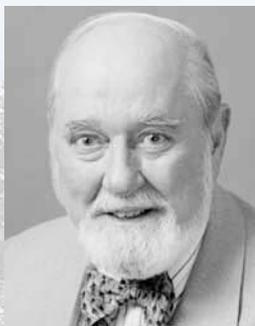
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# Memories: fun and poignant

They represent a total of 133 years of service to Linfield College. Now as they retire, their plans are varied, the memories poignant. Here they provide a glimpse into what they gave to – and gained from – Linfield College.



**Frank Nelson, Professor of Philosophy**  
At Linfield College since 1970, Director of the Honors Program, 6 years; Director of January Term, 11 years; established the Walter Powell Philosophy Lectureship

## On philosophy courses:

When I first taught here there were only eight philosophy courses. Now there are 21, plus others on the Portland Campus.

## Memorable moment:

Students brought me a Jake's coconut cream pie plus a Linfield coffee mug on the day of the final exam.

## Title of next public lecture:

"Philosophy and Public Policy," specifically focusing on issues concerning church and state, to be given at the Walter Powell Lectureship in the fall.

## Reading list:

Largely in the area of church and state, and public policy.

Books by Richard Rorty, John Rawls, John Milton and Richard Hooker. In a democracy you try to provide for a variety of opinions and expressions with respect for one another as citizens.

## Favorite campus hangout:

Jake's. I go there more than I should. I can remember when that was a gas station. I was also partial to "Nelson Plaza," a space with benches and a planter at the south-east corner of Walker Hall.

## Learned from students/colleagues:

I learned the importance of listening. You don't go into a relationship having made up your mind on something without hearing the views of others. I have opinions, but I try to listen and understand where others are coming from.

**Gloria Flower, Director of Registration and Records, Portland Campus**  
At Linfield College since 1979, numerous positions in Student Services on both campuses

## Most memorable moment:

Riding a Clydesdale around the McMinnville Campus right in the middle of the work day. A troop of performers, who traveled by horse (Clydesdales) and wagon, told me that they'd give me a 'ride on a Clyde.' So, I took it. In Portland, being part of the graduations and seeing that so many students accomplished so much and overcame so many difficulties in order to complete their education. It was always inspiring and moving to me.

## Retirement reading list:

Elizabeth George mysteries, Kite Runner, The Art of Eating by M.F.K. Fisher, don't think of an elephant! by George Lakoff, and Book Lust by Nancy Pearl. And

Cool Mac Apps by Robin Williams.

## Favorite campus hangout:

Tully's Coffee near the Portland Campus when I could. Working at Linfield, I found, didn't offer much time for 'hanging out,' not to mention no one to hang out with!

## Learned from students and colleagues?

Although I didn't originally learn this from students or colleagues, my belief in 'trusting the process' was borne out time and time again. This actually comes from the psychologist, Carl Rogers.





Lynne Desel '64, Director of the Pre-Kindergarten. At Linfield College since 1973

**Most memorable moment:**

I will always remember the three times the preschool flooded. After the last time, Dr. Bull came down in her boots and hardhat to make sure things were going to be all right.

**Title of final public lecture, if invited to give one:**

“Children are My Priority.” The information would include why educating the very young is so very important to the future of society.

**Retirement reading list:**

Books from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and many garden and landscaping books I have not even opened. I'll also be doing some writing, so some of my reading will relate to that.

**Favorite campus hangout:**

My favorite campus hangout is the Pre-Kindergarten – of course!

**Learned from students and colleagues:**

I've learned the importance of being a lifelong learner and keeping ahead of new concepts. Every day can lead to growth and learning.

Paul Davis '66, Professor of Physics. At Linfield College since 1991

**Favorite course:**

The most fun I had was in Freshman Colloquium, working with peer advisors and helping students get off to a good start. My favorite academic course has been the introductory physics sequence, which I have taught to both majors and non-majors. I also enjoyed teaching introductory astronomy, primarily because I have had to learn so much about an (initially) unfamiliar subject.

**Most memorable moment:**

The time, part way into an astronomy lecture to 40 students, when I discovered my fly was open!

**Title of final public lecture, if invited to give one:**

For several years, the McMinnville Lions Club has invited me (“the astronomy guy from Linfield”) to give an annual talk about some aspect of astronomy. I hope this tradition continues.

**Retirement reading list:**

I will continue to read avidly about astronomy and science. I also want to read more about history, the Civil War in particular.

**Favorite campus hangout:**

At one time it was the bench near the fountain between Riley and Walker, at least when the weather was good. For the last few years, however, it seems to have been my office!

**Learned from students and colleagues:**

Patience and the ability to understand different perspectives on issues.



Robin Lawton, Professor of English, Portland Campus. At Linfield College since 1980

**Favorite course:**

Those moments in any course when students are surprised by a newly-found mastery over materials, when they discover something unexpected about themselves or when they connect with deeper sources of wisdom.

**Title of final public lecture, if invited to give one:**

Observations on some parallels between politics in the U.S. (2000–2005) and the development of the Apartheid government in South Africa (1948–1989).

**Most memorable moment:**

Theologian and radical feminist Mary Daly, who addressed the college in 1981 or 1982.

**Retirement reading list:**

I expect to read biography, novels, history and – of course – poetry. I have an intense desire to return to Hopkins and Wordsworth in a leisurely fashion.

**Favorite campus hangout:**

In McMinnville, back in the early '80s, a group of us would hang out at Jake's. Those lunch hours created bonds that have lasted 25 years. In Portland, I have enjoyed many lively, often hilarious, hours with colleagues at the Tara Thai Restaurant.