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Goodbye 9-5, Hello Retirement

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Goodbye 9-5, *hello retirement*



Gwen Leonard, professor of music, at Linfield since 1984

Favorite course: American Sense in Sound (American Music)

Learned from students and colleagues: The polar opposites of when to be more intense and when to lighten up.

Most memorable moment: The most memorable moments have been the senior recitals of dedicated, talented student singers with the evidence of their closing the gap between mere potential and the ability to deliver.

What's kept you at Linfield: The flexibility of the faculty appointment ...an obvious emphasis on teaching but opportunity to "move out," both in external professional activity and, for the curriculum, a topics course for a freshman Inquiry Seminar.

Biggest surprise: Being selected for the Edith Green Teaching Award.

Retirement plans: To stare at myself for a month or two, to decide how to create my own agenda, and to eventually move to California to be near family. I will open a teaching studio there, either private or at an institution.



Will Lingle, professor of mass communication, at Linfield since 1980

Favorite course: Too many to list but I will – Introduction to Media Writing, Introduction to Film, History of the American Mass Media, Mass Media and Popular Culture.

Learned from students and colleagues: That limited resources are not a barrier to achievement.

Most memorable moment: Spending a semester sabbatical in Japan at Kanto Gakuin University.

Favorite campus hangout: The old Riley coffee shop circa 1980s.

Last lecture title: "Films That Have Known Me"

Favorite Linfield tradition: *The Linfield Review*

Retirement plans: Take time to breathe and reflect; watch more baseball.

With a combined 124 years of service, four longtime faculty members share biggest surprises, favorite classes and the secret to what's kept them at Linfield all these years.

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Bill Apel, professor of religion and former chaplain, at Linfield since 1975

Favorite course: I have three: Monks and Mystics, taught with Brother Mark at the Trappist Abbey; Living Faiths; and the Dietrick Bonhoeffer Seminar, a course on freedom and responsibility in Nazi Germany.

Last lecture title: "Open Windows: The Seen and the Unseen" or teaching and living a spiritual quest for peace, justice and interfaith understanding.

Biggest surprise: Not really a surprise, but a sense of delight and gratitude for friends over three decades at Linfield – students (most especially), wonderful faculty, staff and administrative colleagues, who were all a part of my vocation as both chaplain and professor.

Retirement plans: A balance of rest and relaxation (travel?), with some research and writing (oh, yes, don't forget golf!) and volunteer service, too.



Mary Margaret Benson, professor and technical services librarian, at Linfield since 1981

Most memorable moment: As a member of Professor Stephen Snyder's seminar on the Holocaust, our small class was one of the few groups selected to meet with Elie Wiesel, the speaker at the 1988 Oregon Nobel Laureate Symposium.

Biggest surprise: Two or three years ago, after a question from a new library colleague, I realized that I had touched at least 95 percent of the physical library collection, whether from acquiring, cataloging, recataloging or, of course, just plain reading.

Favorite campus hangout: The old Northrup Library. Because it was too small, it always seemed full of people and activity; moreover, my office window had the best campus view of people, trees and flowers.

Current activities: This summer we will be visiting South Korea with our nephew Eric and his family. Eric was adopted from South Korea nearly 13 years ago.

Retirement plans: I plan to read poetry, listen to jazz and baroque music, play in my herb garden, and spend quality time with my cats. And, of course, I will continue to study the works of Jane Austen.