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Linfield Digest

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The Princeton Review's

GUIDE TO 322 GREEN COLLEGES



*Linfield honored for service,
sustainable practices*

Linfield College has been recognized with two national honors in recent months – named to the *Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges* and the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

The *Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges* profiles 322 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada that have an outstanding commitment to sustainable practices. Linfield offers an environmental studies major, and environmental themes are infused throughout the curriculum. Much of the curriculum and research is tied to the region, with students focusing on issues such as invasive species in local habitats or sustainable approaches to growing pinot noir grapes.

The 2011 green restoration of Linfield College's historic library led to the selection of radiant ceiling panels for both heating and cooling, one of only four such systems in Oregon. Buildings across campus have been retrofitted for energy efficiency and all new major capital projects are required to meet LEED Silver standards. The school was among the first colleges in the Pacific Northwest to partner with U Car Share, a car sharing program. Special efforts are made to maximize water conservation in caring for the large, park-like campus. Students sponsor conferences and initiatives focused on environmental activism, including the establishment of a student-managed bike shop that loans bikes to the campus community free of charge. There are now roughly 300 bicycles on campus.

Linfield was also named to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in recognition of outstanding leadership in civic engagement and service learning during the 2010-11 school year. More than 900 students volunteered more than 50,000 hours in the community, reflecting both an institutional commitment to community engagement and a shared mission of compassionate outreach among Linfield students. Their efforts focus primarily on sustainability, outreach to those who are homeless or hungry, and mentorship of disadvantaged youth.

This is the fourth consecutive year Linfield has been recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The college was also honored last year by *Washington Monthly*, which named Linfield one of the top 100 liberal arts schools that make a vital contribution to society. In February, Linfield was recognized for sustainability initiatives and featured on the homepage and in the national newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.



Students debate human rights via Skype

The Linfield forensics team bridged a 12-hour time gap and a centuries-old cultural gap to connect with college students in Afghanistan. They staged two debates via Skype, in which they deliberated whether the Afghan government should negotiate with the Taliban and whether access to the Internet is a fundamental right.

Formal arguments were followed by a conversation among college students curious about each other. Young people on opposite sides of the world asked each other, "What stereotypes of us did you bring to this debate?" and both sides prefaced their comments with, "Well, I don't want to sound offensive, but ..." It turns out, perhaps not surprisingly, that Afghan students had thought of Americans as "soldiers with a gun waiting to kill," and the American students sheepishly admitted that they had often thought of Middle Easterners as "the people who took down the Twin Towers."

Students at Kabul University asked Linfield College students to let Americans know that Afghans are more multidimensional than they are often portrayed, with one student saying, "We have to solve these things." And as far as future student exchanges, "We have to have hundreds of debates."

The debates were organized and facilitated by Rachel Mills '11, Linfield Professor Jackson Miller and Adam LeClair,

a coordinator with the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening in Afghanistan.

Mills, who spent a month in Kabul last summer teaching Afghan students about debate and plans to return later this year, said debate teaches people to think critically and exchange ideas respectfully.

"The world is so much bigger than the United States, and the issues that my generation is about to face are so much bigger than the U.S. media can reflect," said Mills. "Debating against and talking to students from other countries, particularly countries like Afghanistan that are so negatively portrayed in nearly every aspect of the media, is extremely valuable for students and for everyone else."



Wine history archive lauded nationally

Linfield's Oregon Wine History Archive has been crucial to a number of teaching and research projects since opening last summer.

The archive, which preserves irreplaceable historical documents from early wine growers, played a role in "Grapes of Place," a new documentary about early Oregon winemakers that was produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting. Oregon Experience producers made use of the Linfield College archive, which preserves historical documents, images and interviews with winemakers, and the documentary was shot, in part, at Linfield College as the school hosted the International Pinot Noir Celebration. OPB premiered the documentary at Linfield during a May reception for OPB donors.

The archive has also been highlighted in *The Huffington Post* and proved crucial to the production of *The Pinot Chronicles: 25 Years of Oregon's International Pinot Noir Celebration*, a documentary about the first Pinot Noir celebration in the U.S., produced by Michael Huntsberger, assistant professor of mass communication, and students. The documentary was shown at the 25th anniversary International Pinot Noir Celebration held at Linfield last summer.

The collection is maintained by Linfield archivist Rachael Woody, who is organizing other elements of Linfield history as well. It is Oregon's first wine history archive, and is sponsored by the Linfield Center for the Northwest and the Linfield Libraries. Learn more at digitalcommons.linfield.edu/wine_project/

Tree documented in three-year project

Molly Chew '12 was a freshman when she came upon a weeping cherry tree, exploding with blossoms near Melrose Hall. She pulled out her digital Casio camera and snapped a shot.

Since that April day three years ago, Chew, a philosophy major, has taken a photo of the tree every day. Eventually, when her camera gave out, she used her cell phone. Photos were taken at different times of day and night, but always from the same angle.

"The way its drooping branches seemed to be dripping flowers gave the tree a magic feel," she recalled. "When the breeze caught it, its weeping limbs danced and I almost expected the trunk to move with them. I took the first picture just to try and capture what little aspect of that beauty that I could."

Chew didn't set out to photograph the tree daily, but she returned the next day to snap a shot, and the next, and the day after that. Soon, it became habit.

"It was interesting to see how different it could look just based on how the wind maneuvered its way through the branches," said Chew, who found the daily routine therapeutic.

The photos culminated in an art project



this semester, for which Chew hung more than 50 photos of the tree from its branches. She attempted to place them in a way that made it look like they were dripping from the weeping branches. The installation also included a song lyric, "When the seasons change again, I will, too."

Chew watched the tree change through every season multiple times, and like people, it had some rough days.

"Just this past fall, the leaves began to have holes in them, as if an insect had been feeding on it," she said. "But it shed its leaves in the winter and they have grown back."

Chew said there is much to be gained from looking at something from the exact same angle time and again.

"I have realized the perpetual change that occurs within objects, people and places that might appear to be stagnant at first glance," she said. "So I took a second glance...then a third...and a fourth...and a thousandth. It was never the same from one day to the next."



Bils joins
Linfield
trustees

Stephen Bils III
Executive minister, American
Baptist Churches of Oregon
Portland