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## **Goodbye Classroom, Hello Retirement**

Linfield Magazine Staff

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# Goodbye classroom,

With a combined 127 years of service, four long-time faculty members share their biggest surprises, favorite classes and the secret to what's kept them at Linfield all these years.

## Bob Wolcott, *professor of chemistry, at Linfield since 1980*



*Memorable moments:* During the Harry Potter craze, appearance of a carefully lettered sign on the door of the organic chemistry lab that read "Potions Lab"; another time, in the same lab, a Muppets poster appeared: "Another Day in the Lab" featuring Beaker and friends.

*Favorite course:* Biochemistry

*Changes in students:* In recent years a higher proportion have become very intentional and dedicated to doing well academically and maturing personally.

*Learned from students and colleagues:* How to work constructively with people with different learning and communication styles.

*What I will miss:* Seeing the joy of "I get it!" in students when they first understand a difficult concept; positive interactions with students and colleagues.

*What I won't miss:* Grading lab reports.

*Biggest surprise:* A phone call out of the blue from President Hellie to ask if I would consider being the interim dean of faculty (2010).

*Best thing about Linfield:* Sense of cooperative community among students and faculty.

*Retirement plans:* Some travel in the western U.S./Canada, volunteering in my church and the community, possibly part-time teaching.

## Diane Welch, *professor of nursing, at Linfield since 1992*



*Memorable moment:* The moments just keep coming: every time I encounter a Linfield student out in the community taking care of clients I feel so proud of having contributed to their careers.

*Favorite course:* I enjoyed introducing students to nursing in the fundamentals course Nursing 106 and watching them go from knowing virtually nothing about the discipline to becoming 'nurse persons.'

*Changes in students:* It was very exciting to add the second degree summer students to our program. Their commitment and focus brought amazing energy to the program and the college.

*What I will miss:* The individual connections with students.

*What I won't miss:* Grading papers in APA format in the evenings, weekends, early mornings, late nights, etc.

# hello retirement

Dave Hansen, *professor of economics, at Linfield since 1969*



*Memorable moment:* Giving the commencement address last year. Sitting on the speaker stand and thinking about all the graduates I had seen cross that stage over the years. Thinking this would be among the last times I would experience that exciting day.

*Favorite campus hangout:* The old Riley Gymnasium. It was historic, it was intimate.

*Favorite course:* I loved teaching Principles of Economics and lived for those days when I could see that students first got excited about learning.

*Learned from students and colleagues:* One's acts have more meaning to others than you might first realize.

*What I will miss:* Day-to-day contact with students both in and out of the classroom.

*What I won't miss:* Committee meetings, grading papers, starting to get ready for the next week starting mid-Sunday afternoon.

*Best thing about Linfield:* The genuine feeling of community.

*Retirement plans:* I came to Linfield without many preconceived expectations. I enter retirement much the same way. I look forward to seeing how it unfolds. I think we may travel some, walk more, continue to attend campus events, garden a little and develop new interests as yet to be discovered.

Eugene Gilden, *professor of psychology, at Linfield since 1983*



*Favorite course:* Really three of them: Introduction to Social Psychology, Seminar in Social Psychology, and Senior Seminar.

*Learned from students and colleagues:* Achievement is not unidimensional and there are insights gained only by considering lots of points of view.

*Retirement plans:* Travel, reconnect with music, see more baseball in person, volunteer.

*Favorite campus hangout:* Fred Meyer Lounge while working on a novel with Ken Ericksen, *Anything that Moves* (unpublished).

*Favorite Linfield tradition:* Annual Psych Department barbecue

*Last lecture title:* "How Did I Get Here or From Type A Behavior to Black Helicopters"

*Current activities:* Take care of the garden, and dogs; travel the Northwest, enjoy not being on a schedule.