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Goodbye Classroom, Hello Retirement

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Goodbye classroom,

Four faculty members with a total of 114 years of service retired from Linfield this year. We take a look back at some of their memorable moments, favorite classes and plans for retirement.



Michael Jones
*Harold C. Elkinton Professor of Business,
at Linfield since 1977*

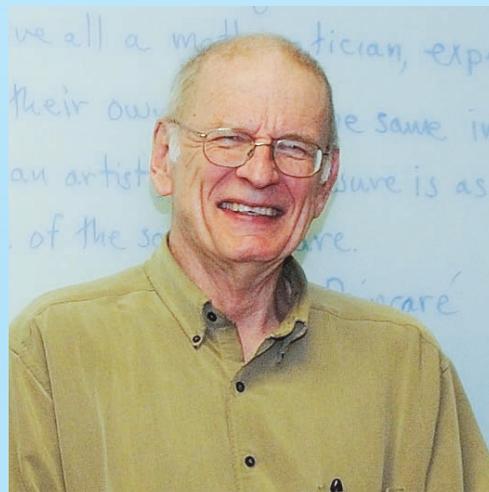
A memorable moment: *Holding hands and walking to campus with my daughter. She would go downstairs at Potter Hall to the 3-year-old class in the Linfield Prekindergarten; I would go up to the third floor of Potter Hall to teach my Advanced Accounting class. Afterwards, we would hold hands and walk back home together.*

Favorite campus hangout: *The KSLC radio station on Tuesday evenings (for the Prof. Jones Classic Rock Music Hour).*

Favorite course: *Financial Accounting. It was my only accounting class with non-accounting majors.*

Changes in students: *There have been no changes in students, other than names and faces. Today's students are every bit as talented and enjoyable as those I taught in the 1970s.*

Retirement plans: *Relocating to Bellingham, Wash. Spending more time with my family. Searching the world for the most perfect plate of Huevos Rancheros.*



William Raddatz
associate professor of math, at Linfield since 1983

When William Raddatz arrived at Linfield in 1983, mainframe computers were just beginning to be replaced by personal computers. He served as the first coordinator of academic computing at the college. At that time, there was one computer lab located in Graf Hall, with less than a dozen computers for student and faculty use. He taught mathematics and computer science courses and one of his most cherished memories is working on research on fractals with Catherine Vetter '90, who went on to graduate study at the University of California, Berkeley. He served as math department chair, science division chair and on numerous committees. He is a guitar player and often played early in the morning in his office. Since retiring, he moved from rural life in Sheridan to life in the woods in eastern Wyoming to be near his daughter and grandchildren.

hello retirement



Vivian Tong
professor of nursing, at Linfield since 1992

A memorable moment: Receiving a call from Shaik Ismail in International Programs requesting that I do a January Term course in India. My response was, "No." He persisted and it wasn't until weeks later that I finally agreed. This was the beginning of many January Term abroad courses. That one phone call affected my career and my attitude about life. I learned a lot about myself while I was attempting to learn about others.

Favorite course: I have two: the Adult Health Theory and the January Term International Health Care courses.

Changes in students: When I first started teaching, nursing students were mostly single, female and were supported by their parents. Today, many of our students have jobs (many full-time), are married (or in serious relationships) and have children. Their lives are complicated and stressful.

Learned from students and colleagues: Determination is key to being successful.

What I will miss: Colleagues and staff at the Portland Campus.

What I won't miss: Faculty meetings.

Biggest surprise: In the course syllabus, we include a policy that says all cell phones must be turned off during class. During one of our class breaks, a student approached me and asked if she could have her phone on. Her husband was in the military in Iraq and it was unpredictable when he could call her.

Best thing about Linfield: There is a sense of community.

Retirement plans: Live life!



Robert McCann
associate professor of education, at Linfield since 1994

Memorable moments: Bob Week 2014. At the end of December, before I retired, students organized "Bob Week," decorating my offices, delivering flowers, wearing "Bob Week" T-shirts. It was really something special. A second memorable moment was a faculty exchange with a professor from Nottingham Trent University in 2000. I taught classes and experienced life in a small English village. I returned to England for two January Terms and our students were able to work in British schools.

Favorite campus hangout: Steve Bernhisel's office. I would go to Steve's office and he would give me dark chocolate.

Favorite course: Educational Psychology. It is one of the most important classes education students take. It lays the foundation for all the classes that follow.

Changes in students: We have a larger multicultural student population and it is wonderful. When we talked about social issues in the schools and how society affects schools, I could ask students to share their own experiences. They added a richness to classes.

Learned from students and colleagues: I took a personal interest in my students. I could ask them to share their personal experiences and use those illustrations as teaching tools. It added a depth to the classes.

What I will miss: Friendships and interactions with students and colleagues.

Best thing about Linfield: The students are serious, well-rounded and have many interests and that is energizing. Study abroad changed my world view and students who study abroad come back different people.

Retirement plans: More tennis, more music, more time with my dog. Building a garden shed and learning new skills.