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Linfield Magazine Staff

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A View from Melrose

When I left the presidency of a foundation in 2006 to become president of Linfield College, one of my friends, himself a college president, joked that I was crazy. “Now instead of giving money away you’re going to be begging for it,” he said. He wasn’t serious – at least not entirely – but the more common path is to go from a college presidency to a foundation job. In fact, many college presidents used to say that they viewed their opportunity to award grants at the foundation rather than apply for them.

I have now been my final year at Linfield, and I know that I made the right decision to come here. I also know that there’s no shame in asking for money if your cause is just and the need is great. Growing up, my parents made sure my siblings and I understood our obligation to give back – with our treasure as well as our time and talent. That principle has driven much of America’s success and prosperity; it’s been at the heart of my professional calling; and it’s been fundamental to the history of Linfield College.

Every year, I meet a new group of Linfield students. Their stories are compelling, and often their financial needs are great. Every time I enter a campus building, I’m struck by the quality of facilities and equipment – as well as the need to provide more. Every time I meet a new group of alumni, I hear about their relationships with Linfield faculty and staff – different names, different people, but similar stories of inspiration, transformation, and success; alumni say they owe much to Linfield.

I will have one more opportunity to write this column, so this is not my final word, but I hope you will reflect on what Linfield has meant to you and then find a way to give back.

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I will have one more opportunity to write this column, so this is not my final word, but I hope you will reflect on what Linfield has meant to you and then find a way to give back. You can recommend the college to a prospective student, offer an internship or job interview to a current student or alum, attend a gathering of our parents and alumni, or make a financial gift to enhance aid for needy students, reward talented faculty, and improve campus facilities and equipment. I ask you to do this proudly, fervently believing that our college and our students are making a difference in the world. I think my friend was wrong when he joked about begging for money; this is an exhortation, a challenge, and I believe, a responsibility to invest in the college we love.

– Thomas L. Hellick, President

The cover: Which version did you get? This issue of Linfield Magazine has alternate covers featuring faculty who have been leading Linfield in conversations surrounding technology. One cover features Susan Carrie Sivik, associate professor of mass communication and last year’s director of the Program for Liberal Arts and Civic Engagement (PLACE). The other features Patrick Coslett, associate professor of political science, and the current PLACE director. For the past two years, PLACE has explored “The Digital Society,” and produced a final paper for Linfield to explore questions such as: “Is the Internet good for democracy?” and “How do we distinguish truth from falsehood in a digital age?” (Timothy D. Sofranko photos)