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Linfield Magazine Staff

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spark wonder

Linfield University

Linfield celebrates record-breaking Spark Wonder campaign

Spark Wonder, the largest and most successful fundraising campaign in Linfield's history, raised \$81.7 million in philanthropic contributions. The university surpassed its initial fundraising target of \$75 million to benefit Linfield's people, places and programs, and concluded the campaign a year earlier than originally planned.

One of the most visible outcomes of the Spark Wonder campaign is the Linfield University Science Complex, an 84,400 square-foot set of new and rebuilt facilities. The complex included the construction of a 24,000-square-foot building known as the W.M. Keck Science Center. In addition to place enhancements, gifts during the campaign

increased funding for student scholarships, internships and experiential learning opportunities, and provided new faculty and program support.

"This campaign raised vital resources to create endowed funds in support of our community, provided capital to ensure that Linfield's facilities truly advance its mission, and benefited operating funds to sustain excellence and fuel innovation," said Joseph Hunter, vice president for university advancement.

Leadership moves in the School of Nursing

The Linfield-Good Samaritan-School of Nursing promoted two faculty members into leadership roles this spring. Heidi Johnston, associate professor of nursing, became an associate dean of the school. Johnston came to Linfield in 2021 and previously served as program director for the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master's Entry in Professional Nursing programs. Now serving as those programs' director is Kiki Fornero. Fornero has been an assistant professor at Linfield since 2019.



Linfield Fulbrighter to teach English in Peru

Iván Galicia Sixto '24 received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to teach English in Peru during the 2024-25 academic year. Galicia Sixto graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and secondary education with an ESOL endorsement.

"As a first-generation student, this feels unreal," he said. "My parents did not even complete their elementary education, so this accomplishment represents years of overcoming obstacles. However, I am proud to say that, even with the challenges and barriers of being the first, I am grateful for the opportunity to represent my school, community and country. This opportunity serves as the first step for my professional career as a bilingual educator and a representative of the United States."

While in Peru, Galicia Sixto plans to volunteer with Voluntades, a nonprofit that builds self-confidence in those living in vulnerable living situations.

Three professors granted emeritus status

The Linfield University Board of Trustees awarded emeritus status to a trio of retiring faculty members. The Linfield community thanks and congratulates:

- **HENNY BREEN**, professor of nursing and director of the RN to BSN program.
- **MICHELLE NELSON**, the Glen and Helen Jackson Professor of Business.
- **DAWN NOWACKI**, professor of political science and Elizabeth and Morris Glicksman Chair in Political Science.

First Scholars program receives nearly \$300,000 in grant support

The university's award-winning Linfield First Scholars program, designed to build community and support for first-generation students, received a \$298,646 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. The grant, entitled "Growing First Generation Student Support Through Peer Mentoring," buttresses and expands the Linfield First Scholars program from May 1, 2024, through Sept. 30, 2027. Over that time, this award expands programming for up to 525 incoming students, 210 peer mentors and 20 peer ambassadors.

"We know that first-gen students bring with them incredible skill sets and lend us their hopes and energy toward their goals," said Gerardo Ochoa, vice president for enrollment management and student success. "This grant will allow us to ensure students' college dreams become reality, that their time at Linfield will be memorable for all the reasons their families envisioned."

Students assemble 5,000 meals for local community

Each month, the Office of Service Leadership provides opportunities for McMinnville students to give back to the community. In November 2023, students partnered with Meals of Hope Oregon, a nonprofit that provides meals to those facing food insecurity, for their "Second Saturday of Service" project. In just two hours, Linfield students packed 5,000 meals for the organization.



English professor named Oregon Literary Fellow

In January, Portland's Literary Arts named Linfield professor Joe Wilkins one of its two 2024 Oregon Literary Career Fellowship recipients. With the fellowship came \$10,000 and one of the most prestigious literary honors in the Pacific Northwest.

Wilkins serves as chair of the English department, director of the creative writing program and a member of the environmental studies faculty. He won an Oregon Book Award for "When We Were Birds," a poetry collection, in 2017.

For Literary Arts, Wilkins submitted two short stories, "Every Moment Shines, When You Cut It Open," published in Moss, and "Enough of Me," which appeared in High Desert Journal.

Wilkins' next book, "The Entire Sky," will be released July 2.

Campus sustainability efforts highlighted

Linfield remains a leader in its commitment to sustainability. It was no sur-

prise, then, that the university was once again named to "The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2024 Edition." The publication has included Linfield among its best green colleges list since its inception in 2010. Colleges are included for their "programs, policies and practices related to sustainability and the environment." In conjunction with the announcement, Linfield launched a sustainability webpage to highlight its environmentally friendly projects and resources. Visit the page at: linfield.edu/sustainability.



Two students earn elite reporting internships

Journalism students Mariah Johnston '25 and Tori Schuller '25 are interning in Oregon newsrooms this summer as part of the Charles Snowden Program for Excellence in Journalism. The pair are members of the 2024 intern class, comprised of 20 students from universities across the state. Students selected for this paid internship spend 10 weeks reporting on community news in various media organizations. This is the first time that Linfield has had two students named to the same cohort.



18-year-old becomes youngest graduate in school history

In May, Dan Khazaei '24 walked across the commencement stage with his bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology. In doing so, the 18-year-old became the youngest known graduate in Linfield's history.

When his high school classes moved online due to the pandemic, Khazaei used his free afternoons to take additional credits. He would graduate from Lincoln High School in 2021 and Portland Community College in 2022. He plans to attend Portland State University in the fall to pursue a doctorate. Learn more about Khazaei at magazine.linfield.edu.

Faculty members awarded promotion and tenure

The Linfield University Board of Trustees recently voted to grant four faculty members tenure, promotion or both. The new ranks become effective July 1, 2024.

- Jennifer Rauch, professor of journalism and media studies, was granted tenure.

- Rainer Seitz was promoted to associate professor of business with tenure.
- Jeremy Weisz was promoted to professor of biology.
- Mindy Zeitzer was promoted to associate professor of nursing with tenure.

University 'moves the needle' on retention

Linfield continues its partnership with Credo, a leading educational consulting company, to improve student retention and graduation rates. After the completion of the second year of this five-year arrangement, Gerardo Ochoa, vice president for enrollment management and student success, reports that first-year student fall-to-spring retention grew to 95%. This is the highest point it has been in years. Improving fall-to-spring retention is one indicator of growth in overall student retention. The Moving the Needle (MTN) initiative seeks to increase the fall-to-fall retention rate of Linfield's first-time full-time students by five percentage points, from a three-year average of 81% to 86% by 2028. To date, MTN task forces have implemented Cat Compass, a tool designed for retention interventions; improved registration readiness; and streamlined communication for first-year incoming students.

Certified public manager courses begin in July

The Oregon Certified Public Manager program prepares managers for federal, state and local government careers. Linfield is the only institution in Oregon authorized to provide this

national certification. The two-year comprehensive program includes a one-year Public Management Academy, which begins July 16, 2024, and a monthly Leadership Academy held throughout 2025. Live weekly courses for the Public Management Academy are taught by Jennifer Madden, dean of the School of Business, with additional self-paced, asynchronous assignments. For more information about enrolling, contact program manager Rob Zioli at rzioli@linfield.edu.



Honoring the Loveridge legacy

Nursing pioneer Emily Loveridge founded the Good Samaritan Hospital nursing program in 1890. Her name is etched in Oregon history books, and as of this summer, it also became memorialized on the Linfield University Portland Campus. The board of trustees voted to rename Building 2, which houses the Portland campus's main lecture halls, to Loveridge Hall. To honor the building's namesake, a permanent historical exhibit featuring information about Loveridge, and the Good Samaritan program, will be added to the foyer. Items displayed

from the Linfield Archives will include Loveridge's personal letters, her memoir, vintage nursing uniforms and historical nursing practice implements. The exhibit was funded in part by the Oregon Heritage Commission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Loveridge's personal memoir, "As I Remember," is also available online at digitalcommons.linfield.edu/nursing.

All-time high raised on One Wild Day

One Wild Day, Linfield's annual giving day, drew \$738,109 in support during this spring's 28-hour event. This marked the ninth year in a row that the university's alumni, donors, employees, students and friends gave more than the anticipated goal. In fact, thanks to the generosity of more than 600 donors, Linfield not only blew past the \$600,000 goal for 2024 but also exceeded the \$680,000 raised in 2023.

"It's just tremendous," said Joseph Hunter, vice president for university advancement. "We had students who donated \$5 to the art department, and anonymous donors whose contributions were in the five figures. But every gift was driven by a love for Linfield — of the community we offer, the opportunities we provide students, our superb academic offerings, athletic excellence and more."

Expanding access to food and other essentials

Through a partnership with Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP), the Wildcat Food Pantry on the McMinnville campus now offers

Hires made in key campus roles

Linfield celebrated the addition and promotion of several staff this year.



After serving as interim for four months, **ANNA MARIA PONZI** was named permanent director of Linfield University's Center for Wine Education. The former owner, chief executive and president of Ponzi Vineyards, she is a second-generation wine producer who was instrumental in establishing Oregon's Willamette Valley as a world-renowned winegrowing region.



As a child of two veterans, **EMILY DELO** brings a personal connection to her role as veteran affairs and student outreach coordinator. She offers targeted support and resources for veterans to ensure that students maximize their veteran benefits. DeLo joined the Linfield community in September 2023.



CALLIE NEES '18 joined Linfield in July 2023 as the director of student activities. In this role, she oversees several areas of student involvement on the McMinnville campus, including the Associated Students of Linfield University, student clubs, the Wildcat Events Board, Fraternity and Sorority Life and new student orientation, among others.



RICK SNARIC '24 was promoted to chief information officer in September 2023. Snaric has been with the university since 2015, most recently in the role of director of technical services. As CIO, he leads Information Technology Services for Linfield's Portland and McMinnville campuses, as well as the eCampus.

fresh produce, dairy and frozen items several days per week. It continues to offer snacks and canned goods to students 24 hours per day. With the new addition, the pantry moved to a larger location on the second floor of Riley Campus Center.

On the Portland campus, ASLU-

Portland Campus leaders re-envisioned the previous pantry, called the Snack Shack, into a more comprehensive resource for students. The newly dubbed Resource Room offers food staples and hygiene items, in addition to a continued supply of snacks.