2009

Table of Contents

Linfield Magazine Staff

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol6/iss2/3

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
Fuel for inspiration

Whenever my schedule permits, I stroll over to Dillin Dining Hall for lunch. I order something that looks good, pay my bill, and take my tray to a table populated by students. I always ask the occupants if I may join them, and I’ve never been turned down, though a pair once warned that they were willing to talk but I had to understand that they were in a hurry to finish and depart!

If I’m talking to first-year students, there is usually some hesitation and nervousness. (“What does he want to know about us and why is he here?”) Sophomores, who have already learned that the eccentric president drops in on lunch, are a bit more forthcoming, often ready to make culinary suggestions. Upperclassmen are the least surprised or intimidated; they simply clear a space, finish their conversations with each other, and ask how I’m doing.

I eat lunch with students several reasons. For one thing, it’s usually a pretty good meal! But the freshmen are partly right about my motives. I do want to learn about them. We usually talk about their reasons for coming to college, their experience so far and the changes they’d like to propose. I also make sure to ask what they like about Linfield, and I’m pleased that they like much more than they dislike. In fact, there’s usually a very long pause when I ask what they would like to change at the college.

Over the last three and a half years, I’ve had lunch with more than 500 students. And while this isn’t a scientific survey, I’ve found some common themes.

There are a few common suggestions for change: more variety in the dining hall (particularly at the end of the semester, when the menu seems old); newer or more expansive facilities in a few areas of the college; easier access to Portland (hard to accomplish until a bypass is built around Dundee and Newberg).

But there are many things they like about Linfield College. First, our students feel at home here. They talk about the friendliness, the feeling of acceptance, even the remarkable politeness. “At Linfield, everyone opens doors for everyone else — is that typical of college life?” one student asked me. If they’ve studied abroad, they’re passionate about what they did and learned. Many are involved in athletics, the arts or campus organizations. Invariably students talk about the small, personalized classes, and they praise the faculty and staff.

This issue of Linfield Magazine describes some of those faculty and staff. Anne Kruchten is not only a fine young teacher, she is doing cutting edge research in collaboration with her students. Rob Gardner’s work on homelessness has inspired many of his students; not only are they conducting research, they are serving the greater community. And groundskeeper extraordinaire Carol Gallagher has not only turned Linfield into the city’s most beautiful garden, she has mentored and supervised a host of student assistants over the years. From her they have learned attention to detail, the discipline of hard work and a passion for excellence.

When I eat lunch with Linfield students, I invariably hear stories about Anne Kruchten, Rob Gardner, Carol Gallagher and many other Linfield faculty and staff. I learn what we do well, and I learn what we could do better. But my lunches in Dillin Hall do more than provide me with inside information, they also inspire me to do my work and to find more support for the college. I am not certain that we have the finest young people in the world at Linfield, but it sure feels that way. Dillin’s food gives me physical sustenance; Dillin’s students fill me with inspiration and joy. ●

— Thomas L. Hellie

President

Inside Linfield Magazine

Photographs of Joseph Medicine Crow receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom dressed in his war bonnet ran in newspapers coast-to-coast in August. And while the recognition is long overdue, few heard the details of the rich life he has led or the contributions he has made in preserving history and culture of the Crow and other Plains Indians. The Battle at the Little Bighorn comes to life after talking with Joseph Medicine Crow ’38, one of the law living connectors to the battle, fought more than 133 years ago. We share some of his memories in this issue. He is just one of many amazing linfield alumni, students, faculty and staff, who are conducting research, performing community service and enhancing the Linfield experience. We hope you share our pride in their achievements. We look forward to telling more stories about members of the Linfield family.

On the cover: President Barack Obama places the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Joseph Medicine Crow ’38

(Madeline Marshall photo)

Features

6 Honoring a cultural treasure
Joseph Medicine Crow ’38, the last living Plains Indian war chief, is an author, anthropologist, historian and veteran. In August he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, for a career that had its beginnings at Depression-era Linfield College.

12 Finding the homeless at home
Professor Rob Gardner helps students get an up-close look at poverty and homelessness in Yamhill County while lending a hand in the community.

14 A day in her boots
Spend a day with groundskeeper extraordinary Carol Gallagher to learn some of the secrets behind what makes the Linfield campus so beautiful.

18 Searching for a cure for cancer
For Professor Anne Kruchten, cancer is more than a disease as she and her students pursue a research agenda to help improve understanding about how the disease spreads.

Departments

1 A View from Melrose
4 Linfield Digest
24 ’Cat Tracks
26 Alumni News
28 Class Notes
31 Alumni Profile

Linfield Magazine

Editor
Mark Mيلةham
mmileham@linfield.edu
503-883-2498
Assistant Editor
Laura Davis
Graphic Design
Candice Schmitz Hill
Photography
Toni Ballard
Kelly Bird
Joan Cabellino

Laura Davis
Dedebe (Hansen) Harmon ’90
Madeline Marshall
Mark Mيلةham
Karina Peyrot ’10
Cheryl Rapplinsky
Pete Souza

Contributors
Kelly Bird
Dedebe (Hansen) Harmon ’90
Thomas L. Hellie
Beth Rogers Thompson
Karina Peyrot ’10

Advisory Board
Dick Hughes ’75
Laura Graham ’07
Chris Miles ’86
Sherry (Dunnery) Partridge ’86
Larry Roby
David Summer

President
Thomas L. Hellie
Vice President for College Relations
Bruce Wyatt

Linfield Magazine

October 2009

31 Alumni Profile
28 Class Notes
26 Alumni News
4 Linfield Digest
2 A View from Melrose

Linfield Magazine is published three times annually by Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon. Send address changes to: College Relations Linfield College, 900 SE Baker St. McMinnville, OR 97128-6894 linfieldmagazine@linfield.edu

Linfield Magazine

Director of Alumni Relations
Debbie (Flamen) Harmon ’90

Fall 2009 Vol. 6, No. 2
Linfield Magazine is published three times annually by Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon.