Retirees Chart New Courses

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Retirees chart new courses

Four Linfield College friends bid goodbye to campus routines and hello to retirement. Longtime Linfield educators Larry Marsh, professor of music; Sandie Kiehl, associate professor of business; David Groff, associate vice president for academic affairs and director of the Portland Campus; and Bonnie Long, visiting instructor in business, share plans for their future — some of which include Linfield.

David Groff  Associate vice president for academic affairs and director of the Portland Campus, at Linfield since 1987

Favorite course: Race and Ethnicity in America — I learned a great deal teaching this course and derived much satisfaction from helping students grapple with their own understanding of the place of race and ethnicity in American history and in their own lives.

Learned from students and colleagues: My work with Portland Campus colleagues and students has taught me a good deal about the complexity of modern health care and has also given me an enormous admiration for nurses and nursing.

Sandie Kiehl  Associate professor of business, at Linfield since 1988

Favorite course: The leadership seminar I taught each spring semester and then one final time last fall. It always evolved into a dynamic, student-driven learning experience.

Learned from Taylor Hall colleagues: That there are at least eight “best” teaching styles, besides my own.


Retirement plans: Enjoying one lovely day at a time. Spring and summer: growing a garden, upgrading the kitchen. Fall, road tripping through the Southwest with my two favorite “boys,” husband Gale and pup Charlie.

Outside Linfield: I’m the vice president for Delta Mu Delta, an international honor society in business, currently planning the biennial conference, which will be held in November. I’m the party planner.

Most memorable moment: Choir tours to Europe, New Zealand, Australia, China, Jordan, Israel, South Asia and Hawaii.

Favorite campus hangout: My spacious if somewhat cluttered office where I’ve spent so much of my time over the past 22 years.

Retirement plans: I’ll become more involved in the two non-profit organizations on whose boards I serve — Operation Nightwatch, an ecumenical street ministry for the homeless, and Friends of WEH, which supports the work of Ruth Titi Manyaka ‘69 and Women, Environment and Health in Cameroon.

Larry Marsh  Professor of music, at Linfield since 1981

Favorite course: Concert choir class; my life’s work is directing concert choir.

Learned from students and colleagues: They had as much to offer me as I had to offer them. The faculty has always been so supportive and engaging. I have never worked with a group of people who cared more about their students.

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Bonnie Long  At Linfield since 1994, most recently visiting instructor in business

Favorite course: The leadership seminar I taught each spring semester and then one final time last fall. It always evolved into a dynamic, student-driven learning experience.

Learned from students: To listen first, laugh easily and be myself in the classroom. To expect the best but be quick to forgive mistakes. That superior athletes are quite able and willing to do equally superior academic work. And that driving 50 miles to work each morning really isn’t that far if you love doing what you do when you get there.

Learned from Taylor Hall colleagues: That there are at least eight “best” teaching styles, besides my own.


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Travel: I have a home in Phoenix, Ariz., and live there from January through March. I average 10 days each month traveling – to Vermont when the colors are out, and I’m looking forward to a Panama Canal cruise.

Having it all: The wonderful thing about being retired from my day job is I can easily mix professional work and pleasure because of technology. Have computer, will travel. Life is VERY good.

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Sandie Kiehl  Associate professor of business, at Linfield since 1988

Current Activities: I continue to teach online through Linfield because I love it. It keeps me connected to the classroom which is important to me. I’m also working with the Division of Continuing Education as the Liaison’s Liaison to provide a faculty conduit, working to improve communication and ultimately our DCE offerings.

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