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What Brings Them Back?

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“Learning there’s nothing here is just as important because we can rule this area out,” Smith said. “Archaeology identifies what people leave, and there’s little here.”

However, there is evidence that China Camp existed, even if the site wasn’t located this year. Two of the structures were moved in the 1950s to the site of the main farm and were used as a tool shed. Hatchet marks, indicating the logs were hand-hewn, are clearly visible.

“We have learned some things, and we now know some of the right questions to ask and what to look for,” Smith said. “We know that at least two of the structures were picked up and moved here physically, so we don’t need to find timbers or stumps of timbers.”

Craig Geffre ’11 kneels at the edge of one two-foot by two-foot plot and with his trowel, scrapes about a quarter of an inch of soil from the surface. He dumps the dirt into a screen positioned over a wheelbarrow and Jade Severson ’11 shakes the screen, looking for bits of glass or other debris. She says with a laugh. But she is questioning what she previously thought about archaeology and the idea of reconstructing someone’s past based on what is left behind.

“It’s ethical?” she asks. “It bothers me. I have problems with some of the ethnographic aspects of anthropology and thought archaeology was a little more pristine in terms of judging people. I want to pursue this, even though I’m a little ambivalent. I’m interested in the philosophical aspects of archaeology. Is it ethical to try to reconstruct someone else’s past?”

The field school was almost a magical experience for Maguire, the place where he realized he finally had found a job he thinks he could enjoy the rest of his life.

“Not only do I like what I’m doing, I’m good at it and it’s the kind of environment I want to be in,” he said. “We are working on this one idea, trying to find this Chinese immigrant village.”

What brings them back? We asked faculty what excites them about the new academic year.

Jill Timmons, professor of music since 1981

Returning to Linfield this fall is particularly exciting since we are now well established in our new music building. I have some excellent pianists beginning their studies at Linfield, several senior thesis and recital projects await, and we are resuming our Linfield Lively Arts series in the Delkin Recital Hall. It’s a stimulating and inspiring time to be at Linfield!

Jana Taylor, professor of nursing since 1991

As I begin my 17th year teaching nursing at Linfield College, what sparks my passion is knowing that each student with whom I teach and learn will impact the lives of many others who need quality nursing care. This brings me deep gladness and a sense of fulfillment in my work. Making a lasting, positive difference in people’s lives is what brings me back each semester.

Kay Livesay, associate professor of psychology since 2003

What brings me back each year? The students. I look forward to teaching – it is my favorite part of my job. I like to do research, but teaching is my passion. I enjoy introducing cognitive psychology to a new group of students each year. I look forward to the challenge of making them as excited about cognitive psychology as I am.