Shouts and laughter filtered into the President’s House one evening during new student orientation. I looked out to see hundreds of first-year students racing back and forth, throwing Frisbees and chasing each other through the Oak Grove. They were claiming Linfield’s sacred space as their own, joining generations of students who have run and played, dreamed and studied, worked and rested under the oaks.

As I watched the students, I couldn’t help but think about what they might learn and experience during the next four years. I thought about the professors and staff who will influence them and provide direction and mentoring. I wondered where their passion for learning and service will lead them.

I thought too about the Linfield alumni I have met since becoming president 17 months ago. Individuals whose passion led them to become physicians, teachers and entrepreneurs. They too once played in the Oak Grove.

The alumni I have met deliver a consistent message. It isn’t about athletics, the buildings or the Old Oak. It’s about the faculty and the staff at Linfield – the professor, administrator, coach, staff member or resident advisor who became a friend or a mentor.

It’s about the faculty and the staff at Linfield – the professors and staff who will teach students today and tomorrow? How can we ensure that current and future teacher-scholars will advise and mentor and guide students the way generations of Linfield faculty have done? Endowments to support new and continuing faculty will guarantee that the quality of a Linfield education remains available to students who will grow and thrive.

Every fall we experience a kind of rebirth at Linfield with the arrival of new students, faculty and staff, joining those of us who already love this place and care about its future. Our founders gave us the principles upon which to build. For a century and a half, those values have shaped and guided thousands of students.

“Our founders gave us the principles upon which to build. For a century and a half, those values have shaped and guided thousands of students.”

— Thomas L. Hellie

Our greatest strength is our community.

Linfield at 150: Linfield’s faculty predecessors
As Linfield College moves into its sesquicentennial year, join Marvin Henberg on a journey exploring how the college has Connected Learning, Life, and Community throughout its history.

Student dynamo accepts challenge
Chipo Dendere ’08 completed an internship at the Carter Center last summer. That is just one achievement of this exceptional student who serves as student body president.

Exploring culture, meaning of space
Professor David Sumner explained the expansive of the American West to European and Asian students during his Fulbright Lectureship in Germany.

Committed to the environment
Nancy Broshot, this year’s Edith Green Distinguished Professor, put her passion for the environment to work in Portland’s Forest Park.

Sharing his knowledge with Africa’s students
Professor Martin Dwomoh-Tweneboah is helping to bring higher education in Zimbabwe.

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