Table of Contents

Linfield Magazine Staff
Wildcat champions on and off the field

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This year one of my Midwestern colleagues, Paul Adanian, served as our interim CFO. Paul has taken to referring to Linfield as “the Notre Dame of NCAA Division III.” Paul is talking about more than football when he makes his quip: Notre Dame is one of America’s strongest academic institutions.

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But my main point is this: When a student is looking for excellence, both within and outside the classroom, Linfield is a great choice. Tim Benzel knew what he was doing when he chose Linfield. Our athletic teams get plenty of press, but in fact our academic programs are the true measure of our achievement. I contend that Benzel, Johnson, Smith and Mills and all the others are champions because they have their priorities in order – because they decided to attend an academically excellent college. Linfield has enabled them to find their calling and pursue their passions – on the playing field, in the studio, on the stage and in the classroom.

— Thomas L. Hellie

The Linfield and McMinnville communities gathered to celebrate the women’s softball team’s national title, the first women’s national championship at Linfield. Those honored on their return are, back row, from left, Coach Jackson Vaughan, Amanda Abdellabar, Scott Camarillo, Kelly Bird; middle row, Brittany Miller, Jenny Marshall, Meredith Brunette, Jena Loop, Stephanie Rice, President Thomas Hellie, Cori Simmons, Lisa Smith, Michelle Silbernagel, Assistant Coach Lisa Allen, Assistant Coach Ben Blaser; front row, Erica Hancokc, Rochelle Friend, Candice Fujino, Jenessa Peterson, Jessica Papel, Danielle Straton, Kendra Straten, Rachelle Wildsten, Jessica Bock and Samantha Van Noy.

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