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Linfield Magazine Staff

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Four retirees from Linfield

Four longtime Linfield College faculty members have helped to shape students for the past three decades, and along the way, they have gained as much as they have given. Now, as professors emeriti, they share memories of the past and plans for the future upon their retirements.

Linda Farris, Professor of Education since 1974

**Most memorable moment:** Watching one of my former students, Dr. Mindy (Legard) Larson ’95, interview for my job. She was fantastic and will be the new literacy professor at Linfield next year.

**Favorite course:** Literacy 1 and Literacy 2. Preparing teachers to teach children to read and write is the most exciting job anyone can have.

**Changes in students:** The students don’t change. They always have been and always will be amazing.

**Changes in teaching:** The use of technology in our courses.

**Title of final public lecture:** “Improving Comprehension Through a Strategies Approach,” Oregon Reading Association State Conference, February 2006.

**Retirement reading list:** Too many books to list.

**Retirement plans/travel:** Motorcycling on our Harley, scuba diving in Hawaii, and boating in the San Juan and Gulf Islands.

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**Favorite campus hangout:** Nicholson Library, because of the lovely Austin Reading Room with fireplace and comfortable armchairs.

**Learned from colleagues:** More than I could list here. But most importantly, that it takes everybody to make Linfield work.

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**Travel plans:** Cross-country train rides through the Copper Canyon (Mexico) and the Canadian Rockies, and a series of connected European train rides on the Eurostar (Chunnel) train, the French TGV, the Orient Express and the Glacier Express.

**What I won’t miss:** Preparing and grading exams, committee meetings, enough other things to fill about a page and a half on a yellow legal pad.

**Biggest surprise:** That I would become a better teacher each year. That I would know more about how to do this job on my last day than at any time previously.

**Best thing about Linfield:** The students. I got to work with entering freshmen and watch them mature and progress over four years into graduating 22-year-olds ready to enter graduate or professional school.

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Changes in students: I feel the students today are every bit as talented and dedicated as when I came 32 years ago.

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Retirement plans/travel: I plan to cook, bake and read food writers such as Patricia Wells and K. Witherspoon. I’ll walk, go to the gym, practice yoga and garden. I also hope to volunteer as a docent at the Portland Art Museum, giving tours to K-12 students.