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Century Farms Carry on Tradition

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Faculty books now available

Out of Town, by Lex Runciman, professor of English
(Cloudbank Books/Bedbug Press, 2004)

Out of Town is a collection of 50 poems and one of three books in the Northwest Poetry Series. The poems tell stories of family and growing up, of celebrating an anniversary and snorkeling in Hawaii. Readers recall learning to ride a bike, imagine the pain of a broken eardrum and look back on a brother’s life-saving operation. This may or may not be a glimpse of Runciman’s approaches to governing, helpful lists of the women governmental leaders of the men’s political communication techniques and include Rodham Clinton. The authors compare women’s and the U.S. House of Representatives — to Hillary the early 20th century, the book features select women to lay out innovative approaches to leadership.

Women’s Political Discourse: A Twenty-first Century Perspective, by Brenda DeVore Marshall, professor of theatre and communication arts
Co-authored with Molly Mayhead)

Wisom’s Political Discourse profiles women in the most highly visible political offices today, to the most highly visible political offices today, highlighting their communication strategies. Following an overview of women’s political discourse from the early 20th century, the book features select women governors, representatives and senators of the past several decades, from Jeannette Rankin — the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives — to Hillary Rodham Clinton. The authors compare women’s and men’s political communication techniques and include helpful lists of the women governmental leaders of the 20th and the 21st centuries. Exploring women’s unique approaches to governing, Wisom’s Political Discourse seeks to lay out innovative approaches to leadership.

Prophetic Politics: Christian Social Movements and American Democracy, by David Gutterman, assistant professor of political science
(Cornell University Press, June 2005)

“What are the relationships among religion, politics and narratives? What makes prophetic political narratives congenial or hostile to democratic political life?” Gutterman explores the prophetic politics of four 20th and 21st century American Christian social movements: the Rev. Billy Sunday and his vision of “muscular Christianity”; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement, the conservative Christian male organization Promise Keepers; and the progressive anti-poverty organization Call to Renewal. Gutterman develops a theory based on the work of Hannah Arendt and others and employs this framework to analyze expressions of the prophetic impulse in the political narrative of the United States. In the process, he examines timely issues about the tense and intricate relationship between religion and politics.”

Cornell University Press

Freedom of the Press: Rights and Liberties Under the Law, by Nancy C. Cornwell, associate professor of mass communication
(A B C-CLIO, December 2004)

“From the abolitionist press of the Civil War era and the Sedition Act of World War I to gag orders, invasion of privacy, obscenity, news rack regulation, copyright laws and cyberspace, this work chronicles the U.S. judicial system’s struggle to balance freedom of the press with a host of competing rights. Students, legal professionals and general readers will discover that development of the free press clause of the Constitution is more about fine-tuning the balance among competing rights, needs and responsibilities than believing that the tension may ever be resolved.”
[Barnes and Noble]

Origins of Japanese Wealth and Power: Reconciling Confucianism and Capitalism, 1639-1885, by John Sagers, assistant professor of history
(Palgrave Macmillan, February 2006)

The trans-Merri Restoration story of the ideological transformation that made modern capitalism possible in Japan is the focus of Origins of Japanese Wealth and Power. After 1680, former samurai from the domain of Satsuma became key economic policy makers in Japan’s Meiji government. Within two decades, Meiji officials cleared away much of the Tokugawa feudal system and established capitalistic institutions to facilitate Japan’s industrial revolution. To understand the intellectual foundations of these sweeping reforms, this study traces the evolution of Satsuma economic thought that overcame traditional Confucian moral bias against commerce and increasingly regarded market activity as a force that could be managed for the wealth and power of the state.

Swedish immigrants Frank and Anna Jernstedt were newly married when they moved to Carlton in the late 1860s, bought a cow and a plow, and began farming.

Now, more than a century later, their grandchildren, including Gordon Jernstedt ’60, continue to cultivate their 640 acres in Carlton. The success of the Jernstedt Century Farm, and other farms like it, is the focus of a Linfield College research project.

Tom Love, professor of anthropology and two students researched more than 90 Yamhill County century farms — those that have remained in the same family for more than 100 years — to determine the secret to their endurance.

“They’re doing something right because they’re still going 100 years later,” Love said. “What is it that’s led to this longevity?”

With the support of a Linfield collaborative research grant, Love and sociology students Kelly Stewart and Sirpa Peterson, both ’06, decided to find out. They have spent two years investigating environmental, economic, social and cultural factors.

Stewart and Peterson surveyed the century farms represented in Yamhill County, conducting phone and personal interviews to piece together family histories. They combed libraries, phone books and the Internet to find census records, marriage licenses and birth and death certificates.

“One of the homesites are absolutely gorgeous,” said Stewart, who was raised in Banks, and whose godfather owns a century farm. “These are the first farm families to settle here, so to learn about that history has been a great opportunity.”

Tracing the family trees proved particularly satisfying for Peterson, who grew up on a farm near Dallas.

“It’s really interesting to find out that a lot of these families are intertwined,” she said. “In many cases, they know just as much history about their neighbors’ farms as their own.”

Stewart and Peterson also mapped the farms using geographic information systems GIS technology. The overall view let them analyze geographical aspects that might affect productivity and provide clues to the farms’ success.

They found about one-third of the farms on record are no longer in existence — one is a trailer park; another, a housing development — and they reported that information to the Oregon Historical Society, which maintains the state’s master list.

Love and the students have begun to draw a number of conclusions, which they are summarizing in an online report to be made available this summer at www.linfield.edu/soan/. They found one of the leading indicators to farms’ longevity is location. Farms that produced multiple crops weathered the agricultural markets over the years. Another factor is the families’ involvement with farming organizations, which instilled a love of farming in children who would eventually take over the farms.

“Farming is important to the families,” Stewart said. “They’ve passed on ideas from generation to generation about working hard and preserving the family farm.”

Students also learned the significance of agriculture in Yamhill County.

“For Jernstedt, the research project is tracking a valuable aspect of local history. “This farm is part of the history of this area,” he said. “The people who lived here, whose farms are into the second century, are part of the development of Yamhill County.”

— Laura Davis

Swedish immigrants Frank and Anna Jernstedt, center, began farming in Carlton in the late 1860s, with their children Ernest, left, and Albin, on bike. The Jernstedts had four more children, Fred, Maurice, Signe and Leonard. A bird’s-eye is pictured on the right.

Century farms carry on tradition