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Linfield Digest

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Faculty take on leadership roles

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Seidman, professor of English and former associate dean, replaces Marvin Henberg, who is serving as interim president this year. A member of the faculty since 1983, Seidman played a key role in planning for the new library, serving as liaison with the planning committee for the new facility. In addition to her faculty role, she is also coordinator of the Gender Studies Program and is the internship coordinator for the Department of English. She served as associate dean of faculty from 1995 to 2001. Her dedication and commitment to teaching is reflected in the fact that she was twice named the Edith Green Distinguished Professor, in 1988 and in 2001.

Atkinson, associate professor of chemistry, has taught at Linfield since 1997. She has served as a Faculty Member for the 21st Century with Project Kaleidoscope, a highly competitive leadership program sponsored by the National Science Foundation. She also brings to the role distinguished past service as a member and as chairperson of the Faculty Development Committee.

Presidential search continues

The Presidential Search Committee planned to bring candidates to Linfield in October for a series of meetings on the McMinnville and Portland Campuses and with the local community. Barbara Seidman, interim dean of faculty, has been named as the new interim dean of faculty for the college this year. A member of the faculty since 1983, Seidman played a key role in planning for the new library, serving as liaison with the planning committee for the new facility. In addition to her faculty role, she is also coordinator of the Gender Studies Program and is the internship coordinator for the Department of English. She served as associate dean of faculty from 1995 to 2001. Her dedication and commitment to teaching is reflected in the fact that she was twice named the Edith Green Distinguished Professor, in 1988 and in 2001.

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Tour explores college history

Bob McCann learned a thing or two about Linfield College from his students during a recent class project.

He found Raley Hall once housed a two-lane bowling alley and, near Pioneer Hall, there was a well with a hand pump and a metal cup for thirsty passers-by. McCann, associate professor of education, and students in his Teaching Social Studies class included these and other facts in a walking tour brochure of the Linfield campus. The pamphlet features 11 historic buildings and a map of the core campus, along with a short college history. It’s designed for campus visitors, future students and those already familiar with the campus who want to learn more.

McCann said the project shows education students that history can be taught through community resources.

“History is not just dates, facts and information,” he said. “History is alive and embedded in buildings and places.”

In addition to learning more about Linfield, Erin Fleming ’06, who researched Raley Hall, said the experience strengthened her teaching skills.

“Part of being a teacher is putting together research, taking visual information and spicing it up,” she said.

Linfield again named top college

For the fifth consecutive year, Linfield College has been named the top college in the western region in the Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor’s category in rankings released by the magazine U.S. News & World Report.

Linfield had the highest average freshman retention rate (84 percent), highest average graduation rate (69 percent) and lowest student to faculty ratio (13:1) in the western region.

“It is a continuing compliment to our dedicated faculty and staff, to our supportive local community, and to those who sustain the college through private philanthropy for U.S. News & World Report to recognize Linfield as the top comprehensive bachelor’s college in the West for the fifth consecutive year,” said Marvin Henberg, interim president.

Linfield enroll students at near-record numbers

Plenty of new faces – 654 to be exact – were seen, as some of the best and brightest students ever to enroll arrived on the McMinnville and Portland Campuses for fall semester.

At McMinnville, 488 students enrolled in the class of 2009. On the Portland Campus, 111 new students are majoring in nursing or health sciences, with 40 more expected in the spring.

Many of Portland’s incoming students are working in professions such as health care, business, technology, research and education. Some have had the experience of living, working or studying in other countries and many are raising families.

Members of the new class have been involved in student government, music, theatre, art, communications and other high school activities. They are also active in community service projects such as Northwest Medical Teams, Hospice, Special Olympics, UNICEF, Meals on Wheels, Red Cross and Relay for Life, to name a few.

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Of the top 10 percent of their high school class.

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Many in the incoming class have served in leadership roles. There are 29 valedictorians, 14 student body presidents, 65 newspapers or yearbook editors, 123 team captains and 91 club officers. Sixteen percent are legacy students who have had a relative attend Linfield.

On the Portland Campus, incoming students have an average GPA of 3.63 on prior college work. Sixteen percent of the new students are male, and 15 percent are students of color. Thirty-three percent of the transfer students have a prior baccalaureate degree at the master’s level. Areas of study include psychology, exercise science, business and biology.

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