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Memories: Fun and Poignant

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Memories: fun and poignant

They represent a total of 133 years of service to Linfield College. Now as they retire, their plans are varied, the memories poignant. Here they provide a glimpse into what they gave to – and gained from – Linfield College.

Frank Nelson, Professor of Philosophy
At Linfield College since 1970, Director of the Honors Program, 6 years; Director of January Term, 11 years; established the Walter Powell Philosophy Lectureship

Most memorable moment:
Riding a Clydesdale around the McMinnville Campus right in the middle of the work day. A troop of performers, who traveled by horse (Clydesdales) and wagon, told me that they'd give me a ‘ride on a Clyde.’ So, I took it.

Favorite campus hangout:
A favorite campus hangout is the fountain between Riley and Walker, at least when the weather was good. For the last five years, however, it seems to have been my office!

Gloria Flower, Director of Registration and Records, Portland Campus
At Linfield College since 1979; numerous positions in Student Services on both campuses

Favorite campus hangout:
The most fun I had was in Freshman Colloquium, working with peer advisors and helping students get off to a good start. My favorite academic course has been introductory astronomy, primarily because I have had to learn so much about an (initially) unfamiliar subject.

Favorite course:

Paul Davis ’66, Professor of Physics. At Linfield College since 1991

Retirement reading list:
I will continue to read avidly about astronomy and science. I also want to read more about history, the Civil War in particular.

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Favorite course:

Retirement reading list:
Books from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and many garden and landscaping books I have not even opened. I’ll also be doing some writing, so some of my reading will relate to that.

Favorite campus hangout:

In McMinnville, back in the early ’80s, a group of us would hang out at Jake’s. Those lunch hours created bonds that have lasted 25 years. In Portland, I have enjoyed many lively, often hilarious, hours with colleagues at the Tara Thai Restaurant.

Favorite campus hangout:

Most memorable moment:
I will always remember the three times the preschool flooded. After the last time, Dr. Bull came down in her boots and hardhat to make sure things were going to be all right.

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Favorite campus hangout:
Jake’s. I go there more than I should. I can remember when that was a gas station. I was also partial to “Nelson Plaza,” a space with benches and a planter at the southeast corner of Walker Hall.

Learned from students/colleagues:
I learned the importance of listening. You don’t go into a relationship having made up your mind on something without hearing the views of others. I have opinions, but I try to listen and understand where others are coming from.

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Memorable moment:
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Title of next public lecture:
“Philosophy and Public Policy,” specifically focusing on issues concerning church and state, to be given at the “Philosophy and Public Policy,” specifically focusing on Title of next public lecture:

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Favorite campus hangout:
In Portland, being part of the graduations and seeing that my students accomplished so much and overcame so many difficulties in order to complete their education. It was always inspiring and moving to me.

Retirement reading list:
Elizabeth George mysteries, Kate Runnion, The Art of Esting by M.F.K. Fisher, don’t think of an elephant! by Richard Wrorty, John Rawls, John Milton and Richard Hooker. In a democracy you try to provide for a variety of opinions and expressions with respect for one another as citizens.

Paul Davis ’66, Professor of Physics. At Linfield College since 1991

Favorite course:
The most fun I had was in Freshman Colloquium, working with peer advisors and helping students get off to a good start. My favorite academic course has been the introductory physics sequence, which I have taught to both majors and non-majors. I also enjoyed teaching introductory astronomy, primarily because I have had to learn so much about an (initially) unfamiliar subject.

Most memorable moment:
The time, part way into an astronomy lecture to 40 students, when I discovered my fly was open!

Lynne Desel ’64, Director of the Pre-Kindergarten. At Linfield College since 1973

Title of final public lecture, if invited to give one:
“Children are My Priority!” The information would include why educating the very young is so very important to the future of society.

David Lowen, Professor of English, Portland Campus. At Linfield College since 1980

Favorite course:
Although I didn't originally learn this from students or colleagues, my belief in “trusting the process” was borne out time and time again. This actually comes from the psychologist, Carl Rogers.

Most memorable moment:
I will always remember the three times the preschool flooded. After the last time, Dr. Bull came down in her boots and hardhat to make sure things were going to be all right.

Retirement reading list:
Books from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and many garden and landscaping books I have not even opened. I’ll also be doing some writing, so some of my reading will relate to that.

Favorite campus hangout:
My favorite campus hangout is the Pre-Kindergarten – of course!

Learned from students and colleagues:
I've learned the importance of being a lifelong learner and keeping ahead of new concepts. Every day can lead to growth and learning.