2013

Goodbye Classroom, Hello Retirement

Linfield Magazine Staff

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol10/iss1/6

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
Goodbye classroom,

With a combined 127 years of service, four long-time faculty members share their biggest surprises, favorite classes and the secret to what’s kept them at Linfield all these years.

Bob Wolcott, professor of chemistry, at Linfield since 1980

**Memorable moments:** During the Harry Potter craze, appearance of a carefully lettered sign on the door of the organic chemistry lab that read “Potions Lab”; another time, in the same lab, a Muppets poster appeared: “Another Day in the Lab” featuring Beaker and friends.

**Favorite course:** Biochemistry

**Changes in students:** In recent years a higher proportion have become very intentional and dedicated to doing well academically and maturing personally.

**Learned from students and colleagues:** How to work constructively with people with different learning and communication styles.

**What I will miss:** Seeing the joy of “I get it!” in students when they first understand a difficult concept; positive interactions with students and colleagues.

**What I won’t miss:** Grading lab reports.

**Biggest surprise:** A phone call out of the blue from President Hellie to ask if I would consider being the interim dean of faculty (2010).

**Best thing about Linfield:** Sense of cooperative community among students and faculty.

**Retirement plans:** Some travel in the western U.S./Canada, volunteering in my church and the community, possibly part-time teaching.

Diane Welch, professor of nursing, at Linfield since 1992

**Memorable moment:** The moments just keep coming; every time I encounter a Linfield student out in the community taking care of clients I feel so proud of having contributed to their careers.

**Favorite course:** I enjoyed introducing students to nursing in the fundamentals course Nursing 106 and watching them go from knowing virtually nothing about the discipline to becoming ‘nurse persons.’

**Changes in students:** It was very exciting to add the second degree summer students to our program. Their commitment and focus brought amazing energy to the program and the college.

**What I will miss:** The individual connections with students.

**What I won’t miss:** Grading papers in APA format in the evenings, weekends, early mornings, late nights, etc.
hello retirement

Dave Hansen, professor of economics, at Linfield since 1969

Memorable moment: Giving the commencement address last year. Sitting on the speaker stand and thinking about all the graduates I had seen cross that stage over the years. Thinking this would be among the last times I would experience that exciting day.

Favorite campus hangout: The old Riley Gymnasium. It was historic, it was intimate.

Favorite course: I loved teaching Principles of Economics and lived for those days when I could see that students first got excited about learning.

Learned from students and colleagues: One’s acts have more meaning to others than you might first realize.

What I will miss: Day-to-day contact with students both in and out of the classroom.

What I won’t miss: Committee meetings, grading papers, starting to get ready for the next week starting mid-Sunday afternoon.

Best thing about Linfield: The genuine feeling of community.

Retirement plans: I came to Linfield without many preconceived expectations. I enter retirement much the same way. I look forward to seeing how it unfolds. I think we may travel some, walk more, continue to attend campus events, garden a little and develop new interests as yet to be discovered.

Eugene Gilden, professor of psychology, at Linfield since 1983


Learned from students and colleagues: Achievement is not unidimensional and there are insights gained only by considering lots of points of view.

Retirement plans: Travel, reconnect with music, see more baseball in person, volunteer.

Favorite campus hangout: Fred Meyer Lounge while working on a novel with Ken Ericksen, Anything that Mows (unpublished).

Favorite Linfield tradition: Annual Psych Department barbecue

Last lecture title: “How Did I Get Here or From Type A Behavior to Black Helicopters”

Current activities: Take care of the garden, and dogs; travel the Northwest, enjoy not being on a schedule.