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DCE director named

Laura Brener has been named director of online and continuing education at Linfield College.

Brener has had a long career in adult and continuing education, with 20 years of teaching and 11 years in higher education administration. As vice president of instruction at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Wash., she planned, developed and coordinated the college’s instructional offerings. She was responsible for transfer, workforce, transitional studies, eLearning, continuing education and community education. She provided leadership for the expansion of eLearning at Lower Columbia including broadening student services and creating professional development opportunities for teaching online. She has also had extensive experience developing and implementing strategies for student success, including programs that aid in the transition to four-year colleges, integrate library services with tutoring and learning, and expand credit for prior learning options. Brener was previously dean of instruction and academic programs and taught history at Centralia College. She also taught at Whitman College and Walla Walla Community College. She has a bachelor’s degree in sociology and education, and a master’s in U.S. history, both from State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Faculty recognized with annual awards

Linfield College faculty members have been recognized for outstanding contributions to the college.

Randy Grant, professor of economics: The Allen and Pat Kelley Faculty Scholar Award, recognizing outstanding scholarly achievement.

Lex Runciman, professor of English: The Edith Green Distinguished Professorship Award, recognizing a senior faculty member who demonstrates sustained excellence in the classroom and has worked creatively to enhance Linfield’s commitment to academic excellence.

Patrick Cottrell, associate professor of political science: The Samuel H. Graf Faculty Achievement Award recognizing a faculty member who has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the college that extends beyond his or her regular duties.

Ron Mills de Pinyas, professor of art: The Julie Olds and Thomas Hellie Creative Achievement Award, honoring outstanding creative work that has been recognized by peers and has been or is slated for dissemination in ways appropriate for the specific focuses of the work.

The following faculty were awarded John B. Housley Memorial International Study awards:

Peter Buckingham, professor of history, to further ongoing research in Ireland for a biography of Thomas Aloysius Hickey (1868-1925).

Henny Breen, assistant professor of nursing, to support research studying the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of perinatal Malawian women regarding infant feeding practices and HIV.

Tom Love, professor of anthropology, to conduct fieldwork on a medicinal plant program in Peru this summer, continuing work with a multidisciplinary project in the central Andes with which he and Linfield students have been involved since 2009.

Summer named Hansen Chair in Economics

A new endowed faculty chair, made possible by gifts and bequests from alumni and friends of the college, will support the study of economics at Linfield. The chair is named for Dave Hansen, who retired as professor of economics in 2012 after 43 years. It honors the tremendous, positive impact he had on Linfield’s students.

Jeff Summers, professor of economics, has been named the inaugural Dave Hansen Endowed Chair.
in Economics, effective July 1. Summers’ teaching and research interests relate to public policy issues with an emphasis on the economics of higher education. Many of his publications and presentations focus on tuition and enrollment yields in higher education, tuition revenue generation and discounting, the effect of government financial aid on tuition at private colleges, and the privatization of public higher education. He has also studied the balance between instruction and administrative expenditures in higher education and has served as a reviewer for the American Educational Research Association, the Association for the Study of Higher Education and the journal Education Economics.

The endowment also allows for the addition of a new faculty member to the economics department, thus helping to meet the increasing demand for economics courses. That faculty member is Brittany Teahan, assistant professor of economics, who will join the department in the 2014-15 academic year.

Lipkind awarded Fulbright to Austria

Ariana Lipkind ’14 of Missoula, Mont., has been awarded a Fulbright grant to teach and study in Austria. In addition to teaching English at a trade school in Vienna, Lipkind will conduct research on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. She will focus her research on the progression of the LGBT movement in Austria and the different resources available for LGBT youth in and out of schools. She will conduct her research at multiple LGBT organizations in Austria, including the Homosexual Initiative and Rosa Lila Villa.

As a German studies major, Lipkind has visited Austria and Europe before. She studied abroad in Germany her junior year of high school and in fall 2012 as a part of the Linfield study abroad program. At Linfield, Lipkind was co-president of FUSION, a resident advisor, Sigma Kappa Phi community service coordinator and student assistant for Multicultural Programs. She helped organize lectures and events at Linfield in hopes of raising awareness about the issues the LGBT community faces.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. Linfield was named a top producer of Fulbright awards for bachelor’s institutions in 2006 and 2010.

Wadewitz receives grant, fellowship

Lissa Wadewitz, associate professor of history at Linfield College, will continue research on whaling in the Pacific thanks to funding from two prestigious organizations.

Wadewitz earned a fellowship from the George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation. The fellowship was one of only nine given this year and will extend Wadewitz’s spring sabbatical through fall 2014 to support research on a project titled “Whaling the Pacific World: Race, Sexuality, and Environment on the High Seas.” She also received a highly competitive Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society in support of the same project.

Wadewitz’s project examines race and sexuality on board American whaling ships, and by extension, the implementation of law and order in the maritime world of the 19th century. She aims to explore the connections between the social and environmental conditions that characterized this important extractive industry.

The Howard Foundation awards a limited number of fellowships each year for independent projects in selected fields. It was established in 1952 by Nicea Howard in memory of her grandparents.

The APS awards Franklin Grants in any discipline for research that is often travel-related. Out of more than 400 applicants, only about 80 are awarded on an annual basis.

Wine artifacts

A dozen artifacts from Linfield College’s Oregon Wine History Archive are part of “Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine,” a new exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society. The exhibit traces the history of Oregon wine from the earliest days through Prohibition and the renaissance of the industry in the 1960s.

The items on loan from Linfield include letters, notes and records. For example, a record book from James McDaniel including eight years of notes about his vineyard in the Dundee Hills, will be on display.

“This book is my favorite object in the whole of OWHA, because it’s roughly an eight-year record of what a vineyard owner in the Dundee Hills planted. There’s weather and harvest notes, brix measurements and crop yields,” said Rachael Woody, archivist for Linfield College and the Oregon Wine History Archive. In addition, Linfield’s contribution includes items from the ¡Salud! collection, a program unique to the Oregon wine industry that offers free healthcare for vineyard workers.

“Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine” runs from June 7 through Sept. 20 at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. For more information, visit obs.org/exhibits/upcoming/Clink/