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Ignorance explored in summer essay contest

Four incoming students earned prizes after entering the Summer Common Reading essay contest. The annual contest, open to all first-year and transfer students, was based on this year’s Common Read, Ignorance: How It Drives Science by Stuart Firestein, who spoke at Linfield’s opening convocation in August. Prizes included gift certificates to Barnes and Noble Linfield College Bookstore and were sponsored by the Linfield College Office of Enrollment.

The Common Read project identifies a single book for all first-year and transfer students, and serves as a centerpiece for discussions and special programs throughout the year during Colloquium and the college’s PLACE initiative (Program in the Liberal Arts and Civic Engagement). This year’s PLACE theme is “How do we know? Paths to wisdom.”

First place – Ehren Cahill ’18

Cahill thoroughly explores his own ignorance and what this realization means to him on the cusp of his next big adventure – college. “Firestein has helped me become aware of my own ignorance and has not only inspired me to continue asking questions, but also to ask questions that will help me direct my journey in higher education. Ignorance is unbound, why should we try to change that?”

Second place – Maddy McCaslin ’18

McCaslin makes a convincing argument for the value of ignorance, stating “embracing ignorance opens the doors of discovery in areas one may have previously dismissed as outside of their expertise.”

Third place – Emma Coleman ’18

Coleman applied the book in her own life by taking inventory of subjects she felt she knew a lot about and discovering that, in fact, her own ignorance was vast on these topics. Coleman states the value of ignorance when she writes, “Without ignorance, there is no progression, no change, no means of expansion.”

Transfer student winner – Suzanne Johnson ’16

Johnson writes about acknowledging and addressing her own ignorance through making meaningful connections between her world religions and political science courses. Her statement “each day provides an opportunity to ask a new question or look at a previous question in a new light” is the perfect challenge for those embarking on their journey at Linfield College. Read the full essays: linfield.edu/linfield-news/essay-winners
The Religious Studies Department faculty, previously housed on the top floor of Melrose, are now located in Pioneer Hall. Institutional Advancement, previously on the lower level of Melrose, is now located on the second floor.

**Hoover, Chidlaw receive Gilman, Kemper scholarships**

Brian Hoover ’15 of Newport received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and is studying in Peking University in Beijing, China, this fall. Hoover, an anthropology major, is one of more than 700 American undergraduate students from 341 colleges and universities across the U.S. selected to receive the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of the award are chosen on a competitive basis.

Tatum Chidlaw ’17 of Sherwood is the newest addition to Linfield’s Kemper scholar group. Kemper scholars are chosen from 16 select liberal arts colleges around the country, with one scholar typically named for each school. Chidlaw, an exercise science major, anticipates pursuing an advanced degree in physical therapy, but plans to explore other opportunities as a Kemper scholar. Kemper scholars receive annual scholarships up to $10,000 based on need during their sophomore, junior and senior years.

**New faculty welcomed**

Linfield greeted a new cohort of faculty – and a large one at that. Some 18 new additions represent 11 different departments across the campuses – from nursing to education to music to the sciences. They join a strong existing Linfield faculty, known for their dedication to students – not only as superb teachers in the classroom, but as partners on experiential projects and research.

Faculty additions include Megan Bestwick, assistant professor of chemistry; Malynda Bjerregaard, visiting assistant professor of communication arts; Bonnie Bolkan, visiting assistant professor of biology; Tania Carraquillo, assistant professor of Spanish; Sarah Coste, assistant professor of health and human performance; Leonard Finkelman, assistant professor of philosophy; Julie Fitzwater, visiting assistant professor of nursing; Megan Ludena, visiting assistant professor of nursing; Priya Meyer, visiting assistant professor of nursing; Pamela Pearson, assistant professor of education; Andrea Reinkemeyer, assistant professor of music; Evan Schick, visiting assistant professor of health and human performance; Paul Smith, assistant professor of nursing; Brittany Teahan, assistant professor of economics; Cecilia Phillips Toro, visiting assistant professor of biology; Beth West, assistant professor and reference and distance education librarian; Isaac Winkler, visiting assistant professor of biology; and Patrick Wohlmut, visiting assistant professor and reference and instructional librarian.

**Smith named Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar**

Paul Smith, assistant professor of nursing at the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing, has been selected as a Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar. The selection was made by the School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Smith, a doctoral student at UNLV, was one of two students selected to receive $20,000 for nursing studies over the next two years. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in nursing, focused on the nurse educator track. The award is part of a national effort to combat the nursing faculty shortage and prepare future nurses as America’s health care system continues to evolve. The Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program supports more than 250 scholars in all 50 states.

**Meet the incoming class**

A new group of Wildcats arrived on campus this fall ready to begin the next phase of their lives. The class has 463 incoming freshmen, along with 75 transfer students. Thirty-six percent are U.S. students of color and 128 are first-generation students. There are 50 Legacy students, whose family members have also attended Linfield. The majority of students are from Oregon, Washington, California, Hawaii and Alaska with 10 other states and seven countries represented.

**Cycle Oregon visits Linfield**

Linfield became a tent city for more than 2,000 cyclists when they embarked on rides from the Linfield campus as Cycle Oregon brought its annual Weekend Ride to McMinnville July 11-13. The event is a companion to the popular Cycle Oregon week-long ride which is held in September. This weekend featured routes of varying lengths, extending southwest of McMinnville and east of McMinnville past the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum.