Linfield Digest
Linfield Magazine Staff

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New certificates offered by OCE

Linfield College’s highly respected adult degree program is broadening its offerings with five new certificate programs and changing its name to better reflect its focus.

The Online and Continuing Education program – formerly known as the Division of Continuing Education – now offers certificates in wine marketing, cyber security, creative writing, coaching and yoga instruction.

The five new certificates complement the five bachelor degrees and six certificates currently offered. The name change and the reorganization were made to reflect the program’s focus to provide high quality online opportunities to adult learners, whether they are seeking a bachelor’s degree or additional education to support their current profession. This change also reflects the fact that other, more traditional-age students now also seek flexible, online educational programs.

The new certificates, ranging from 12 to 24 credits, provide the breadth and depth necessary to establish a solid foundational understanding of a specific area, according to Laura Brener, director of Linfield’s OCE.

“Certificates are beneficial to individuals just starting out in a career area or those who are already in the field, but are seeking to enhance their skills in a specific area,” she said. “Certificates are also a great alternative for working adults to learn additional skills, if they don’t have the time or the finances to complete a full liberal arts degree, she added. Some employers cover the costs because it provides educational training that benefits both the employer and employee.

Additional certificates will be offered in the future as Linfield continues to develop educational opportunities to meet the needs and demands of the changing workforce and current and future students, Brener said.

Mellon grant funds arts, humanities learning

A grant of $100,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Linfield will establish Arts and Humanities in Action (AHA), an interdisciplinary program increasing the number of students engaged in arts and humanities learning activities while connecting the skills developed in these disciplines with future careers.

The new program will launch this summer with a week-long lab for first-year and transfer students held prior to orientation in the fall. The lab will include 10 to 15 students who will participate in scholarly and creative projects, be mentored by arts and humanities faculty, and learn how arts and humanities majors can lead to successful careers. Lab participants, as well as all Linfield undergraduates, will also have the opportunity to become a part of AHA learning communities during the academic year, take an arts and humanities career development course, and participate in a guided internship program focused on careers for arts and humanities majors.

AHA is partly modeled on Linfield’s successful iFOCUS program, which engages first-year students in a variety of natural sciences disciplines that may potentially lead to careers as scientists. Similarly, AHA will foster a community of young undergraduates who are passionate about and engage in arts and humanities activities at Linfield and beyond. For more information please go to: www.linfield.edu/aha-program-overview

Whyte appointed to head CIC initiative

Susan Barnes Whyte, library and educational media services director at Linfield College, is serving as senior advisor and director of the Consortium on Digital Resources for Teaching and Research to the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC).

The new initiative is designed to provide innovative, cost-effective ways to increase the utility and availability of digital resources for teaching and research at CIC member institutions. Barnes Whyte will remain in her position at Linfield while she manages the initiative.

Approximately 48 member institutions will be selected to join the Consortium to improve teaching and learning, enhance faculty and student/faculty research, and streamline administrative capabilities through a uniform system. The project is made possible through a $2.2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Barnes Whyte has been a librarian at Linfield since 1990. In addition to teaching in the mass communication department, she has been library and educational media services director at Linfield since 2000.

Faculty recognized for teaching, research

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

• Anne Kruchten, associate professor of biology: The Allen and Pat Kelley Faculty Scholar Award, recognizing outstanding scholarly achievement.

• Jennifer Nordstrom, professor of mathematics: The Edith Green Distinguished Professor 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.
Students receive prestigious awards

- Erin Carson ’15 of Vancouver, Wash., and Breanna Ribeiro ’14 of Hines have been offered Fulbright grants to teach and study in Taiwan and Rwanda respectively.

- Seven graduates will spend next year teaching English in Japan after being accepted to the Japanese Exchange Teaching (JET) program: Sydney Owen ’15 of Sandy; Caitlyn Talbot ’15 of Lake Forest Park, Wash.; Joel Trousdale ’15 of Hillsboro; Jeremy Odden ’15 of Seattle, Wash.; Dawn Wyruchowski ’15 of Kirkland, Wash.; Nicholas Coney ’15 of Volcano, Hawaii; and Gabrielle Nygaard ’13 of Forest Grove.

- Angela Leingang ’18 of Tacoma, Wash., and Garrett Lodge ’18 of Boise, Idaho, were selected as Kemper scholars, chosen from a select 16 U.S. liberal arts colleges.

- Luis Santillan-Guzman ’17 of Parkdale will study abroad in Marseille, France, next year after receiving the Gilman Scholarship.

- Ellen Massey ’16 of Sequim, Wash., is working with children’s education in Granada, Nicaragua, this summer after earning the Deborah M. Olsen Public Service Internship.

Linfield Magazine earns CASE award

Linfield Magazine earned a bronze award in the general interest magazine category at the 2015 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VIII Communication Awards. The award recognized Mardi Mileham, editor; Laura Davis, assistant editor; and Candido Salinas, graphic designer. The magazine previously won awards for cover design, writing, overall improvement, and photography and illustration.