2016

Linfield Digest

Linfield Magazine Staff

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

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol13/iss1/4

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

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

Jeremy Weisz, associate professor of biology, The Samuel 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.

Scott Smith, professor of history, 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.

Ty Marshall, professor of theatre arts, The Olds and 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.

Students earn congressional internships

Two Linfield students have been selected for congressional internships this summer in Washington, D.C.

Sara Gomez ’17 of Ketchikan, Alaska, is one of 34 finalists from around the country selected for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s (CHCI) 2016 Congressional Internship. “I chose to apply because of their commitment to developing Latino political leaders and their great alumni network,” said Gomez. “The program is unlike any other D.C. internship and provides a unique opportunity to not only intern in Congress but to gain access to the CHCI’s excellent mentorship.” Gomez will work in a congressional office, interning with Rep. Suzan DelBene from Washington’s First District, for a minimum of 32 hours a week. Gomez will also participate in community service projects, attend a one-week orientation as well as weekly leadership development sessions. She will receive a stipend, domestic round-trip transportation to Washington, D.C., housing and academic credit.

Giselle Narango-Cruz ’17 of Dundee will participate in the Verdell A. Burdine and Otto G. Rutherford Summer Congressional Internship in Washington, D.C., working for Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley. The internship provides an opportunity for an undergraduate student from Oregon to experience public policy-making up close and to further the causes of...
economic and social justice.

“ I have always wanted to be a politician, and I can’t wait to get first-hand experience with politics and policy creation,” said Naranjo-Cruz. “My passion has always been to help people, and I believe that I can make the greatest impact via politics. I really want to change the world, and that motivated me to apply for this opportunity.”

**Patterson receives study abroad scholarship**

**Grey Patterson ’18** will study in Vienna, Austria, this fall with assistance from the James G. Stemler Study Abroad Scholarship.

Patterson, a music and computer science double major, chose to study in Vienna for several reasons. “It turns out that many music majors go to Austria, it’s almost a tradition,” he said. “Also, the school in Vienna is across the street from the Vienna State Opera house, so it’s basically perfect for music nerds like me.”

Patterson received the award from the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, which recognizes academic achievement among first-year students.

Patterson studied abroad in Denmark through Rotary International, while he was in high school.

**Ochoa selected to participate in Senior Leadership Academy**

Gerardo Ochoa, assistant dean for diversity and community partnerships at Linfield College, was one of 30 administrators in higher education nationwide selected to participate in the Council of Independent College’s 2016-2017 Senior Leadership Academy.

The academy is designed to prepare prospective leaders to assume positions as the chief officers in any division, including academic affairs, student affairs, finance, enrollment management and advancement, in independent higher education.

“Oregon’s demographics are rapidly changing; this change has shifted the demographic makeup of our students,” Ochoa said. “I feel honored to be invited to the Senior Leadership Academy to learn with experienced professionals and enhance my leadership skills to help facilitate the challenges associated with change.”

Ochoa earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a minor in Latin American history at the University of Oregon, and received his Ed.M. in higher education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He has worked at Linfield since 2004. Ochoa has extensive experience developing culture-specific strategies to empower students to afford higher education and he is committed to serving underrepresented students.

The Academy is co-sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges and the American Academic Leadership Institute.

**Linfield STEM program earns NSF grant**

Science education at Linfield College has received a big boost with a $648,563 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The grant, funded by the Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program, will increase the number of Linfield students graduating with natural science and mathematics degrees. Specifically, it is designed to help with the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of low-income students who are interested in pursuing a degree in STEM majors. Over the next five years, students will receive scholarships that will continue over the course of their Linfield education, ranging from two to four years depending on whether they are transfer or first-year students.

“This grant will help Linfield build upon an already robust interdisciplinary science program that includes research opportunities and student-led learning communities,” said Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie. “Not only will it allow low-income students the opportunity to study in sciences, math or technology, it will also enhance and expand existing programs for all our students.”

The grant has the potential to change science education at Linfield, according to Brian Gilbert, professor of chemistry. It will build on programs that are in place and formalize an interdisciplinary approach to STEM teaching.

“The overall goal is to graduate more STEM majors who find success after Linfield, which might include entering a STEM profession or graduate program,” he said. “I’m excited for the opportunities we have to rethink undergraduate STEM programming at Linfield, and what that can mean as we go forward with the STEM building initiative.”

Only the top 20 percent of the proposals submitted for these grants were funded by NSF, which recognizes the strength of Linfield science programming. This grant will help expand the high quality of scientific inquiry and exploration at Linfield to help meet the need for a more educated workforce.