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Retirees Look Back

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Eight faculty members with a total of 228 years of service retired from Linfield this year. We look back at some of their most memorable moments.

Katherine Kernberger
Professor of English, 36 years

Best part of Linfield: Friendships with staff, colleagues and students from across Linfield’s campuses. The chance to teach a wide range of topics and works across periods, languages and cultures.

Won’t miss: Marking papers and assigning grades – the banes of the teacher’s world.

Plans (for this year): International Byron Conference in Paris, with trip to Geneva/Chillon/Chamounix, etc., in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the “Year Without a Summer” of 1816. Another Marie Bashkirtseff conference, this one in Naples, Italy, in September. Preparing an index for a manuscript for the University of Delaware Press.

William Millar ’60
Professor of religious studies, 32 years

Favorite campus hangout: Since my office is now back on the first floor of Pioneer, I am reminded of my first job washing pots and pans in the old dining room for 95 cents an hour in the late ’50s as a student. That’s where I met Donna (Vanderbrug) ’61, who kept stealing my “tuffy” to get my attention.

Biggest surprise: President Vivian Bull having the campus dug up to link us to the internet and all that flowed from that, such as the restructuring of the library. It really did connect us to the larger world.

Retirement plans: Teaching courses in OCE and returning more fully to an ongoing research interest in Isaiah.

Mary Lee Nitschke
Professor of psychology, 31 years

Favorite campus hangout: My office.

Favorite course: Psychology 360 Sexuality: A Developmental View.

What I’ll miss: Stimulation of students who are curious about their universe, their education, their community and their own development.

Best thing about Linfield: Students.

Retirement plans: Spending quality dog time, writing, gardening, music appreciation.

Gudrun Hommel-Ingram
Associate professor of German, 29 years

Favorite campus hangout: The music building when a choir is rehearsing.

Favorite course: Freshman Writing Seminar (INQS) titled Globetrotters.

Retirement plans: Spend time with my husband and friends “back home” in Europe, preferably on a small boat on various waterways.
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Barbara Limandri
Professor of nursing, 12 years

A memorable moment: There are many. In general, it is the moment when suddenly the student “gets it” and s/he is thrilled.

Favorite course: Mental health nursing theory and clinical experiences.

What I will miss: Talking with students about their lives, their process in becoming a nurse.

What I won’t miss: Grading.

Best thing about Linfield: The unified sense of teaching the whole student.

Retirement plans: Taking cooking classes and making great meals with friends, gardening, hanging out with homeless, mentally ill folks just because and not to “treat” them, taking my dog to the library for Read to the Dog program, learning Italian so I can go back to Sicily and meet my relatives, sleeping late, making wine.

Violeta Ramsay
Associate professor of Spanish, 26 years

A memorable moment: The day author Carlos Fuentes visited Linfield.

Favorite campus hangout: Ice Auditorium. Interesting events are always happening there.

Favorite course: The one I designed on pre-Colombian American cultures. I’ve learned a lot researching for this course, at professional workshops and travel, and plan to continue learning about those amazing civilizations.

What I will miss: Working with Professor Sonia Ticas and with students who want to learn.

What I won’t miss: Multi-tasking all day on job-related issues; students who don’t want to learn.

Retirement plans: I’ll continue working for Language Testing International evaluating samples of language, but mostly I’ll work on ambitious personal projects.

Among the faculty retiring from Linfield this year are back, left to right, Gudrun Hommel-Ingram, Katherine Kernberger, William Millar ’60, Malcolm Greenlees; front, Mary Lee Nitschke, Richard Emery; not pictured, Barbara Limandri and Violeta Ramsay.