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Students Learned Lessons Well

Rick D. Pullen '67
California State University, Fullerton

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Students learned lessons well

By Rick D. Pullen '67

Editor's note: It's clear that one of the many lessons Charlotte Filer '54 taught her students was accuracy, accuracy, accuracy. And a number of them caught an error in the last issue of Linfield Magazine. Marvin Henberg wrote that "journalism became a separate major in 1970." Many readers with journalism degrees prior to that time wrote to protest this date, the result of a typographical error which we regret. The actual date for the journalism major was 1950. As is the case with many Linfield professors, Filer gave her students much more than just class time. She became an integral part of their lives and careers and many remain in touch with her to this day.

Rarely does one have the opportunity to pay tribute publicly to a former professor who made a difference in one's life, especially 41 years after graduation.

Charlotte Filer, a Linfield professor long retired, is held in high regard by all who took journalism classes from her. Ms. Filer graduated from Linfield in 1954, with a B.A. cum laude in journalism and went to work in the Linfield News Bureau in 1955. She took a one-year leave in 1959 to complete her M.A. in journalism from the University of Iowa. She returned to Linfield and taught journalism from 1960 to 1974.

Fortunately, Ms. Filer was on the faculty the day I arrived at Linfield in 1963. She hired me to work in the News Bureau and began a four-year process of advising and encouraging me. I speak for myself and others as I pay tribute to the excellent mentoring we received from Ms. Filer during our days at Linfield, either as journalism majors or students with other majors taking journalism classes. Many of these students went on to successful journalism and media-relat-

ed positions or, as in my case, positions in journalism education. She continued to provide support and encouragement as our careers evolved.

Ms. Filer wore many hats while I was at Linfield. She was the one and only journalism professor, editor of the *Linfield College Bulletin* (predecessor of *Linfield Magazine*), director of the News Bureau, adviser to the student newspaper and yearbook, and adviser to the student chapter of Pi Delta Epsilon, the national college journalism honorary.

Rusty Rae '70, a journalism alumnus, said of her: "If it had not been for Ms. Filer, I probably would not have gotten through Linfield. She saw something in me that no one else saw. She pushed at times, pulled at others, and sometimes said, 'Just do it and stop whining.'"

Ms. Filer took over journalism in 1960 from Earl "Jim" Milligan (1947-79), another great Linfield professor who taught in the English Department. Mr. Milligan and Ms. Filer knew their subject matter well and created excellent learning environments. It was the environment

created by Ms. Filer that provided excellent hands-on experiences for me and others when we served in editorial and reporting positions on the newspaper and yearbook and worked in the News Bureau.

Without a doubt, had it not been for the encouragement, mentoring and support I received from Ms. Filer, I would not be in my position today.

Dr. Rick Pullen '67 is the dean of the College of Communications at California State University, Fullerton. The college is one of the largest in the nation with more than 3,500 majors at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The staff of the News Bureau in 1964 included, back row, left to right, Sharon Greenhoot '68, Richard McKillop '65, Gail Nokes '66, Frank Seufert '65, Rusty Rae '70, Rick Pullen '67, with Charlotte Filer '54, seated.

