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Goodbye Classroom, Hello Retirement

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Goodbye classroom,

With a combined 127 years of service, four long-time faculty members share their biggest surprises, favorite classes and the secret to what's kept them at Linfield all these years.

Bob Wolcott, *professor of chemistry, at Linfield since 1980*



Memorable moments: During the Harry Potter craze, appearance of a carefully lettered sign on the door of the organic chemistry lab that read "Potions Lab"; another time, in the same lab, a Muppets poster appeared: "Another Day in the Lab" featuring Beaker and friends.

Favorite course: Biochemistry

Changes in students: In recent years a higher proportion have become very intentional and dedicated to doing well academically and maturing personally.

Learned from students and colleagues: How to work constructively with people with different learning and communication styles.

What I will miss: Seeing the joy of "I get it!" in students when they first understand a difficult concept; positive interactions with students and colleagues.

What I won't miss: Grading lab reports.

Biggest surprise: A phone call out of the blue from President Hellie to ask if I would consider being the interim dean of faculty (2010).

Best thing about Linfield: Sense of cooperative community among students and faculty.

Retirement plans: Some travel in the western U.S./Canada, volunteering in my church and the community, possibly part-time teaching.

Diane Welch, *professor of nursing, at Linfield since 1992*



Memorable moment: The moments just keep coming: every time I encounter a Linfield student out in the community taking care of clients I feel so proud of having contributed to their careers.

Favorite course: I enjoyed introducing students to nursing in the fundamentals course Nursing 106 and watching them go from knowing virtually nothing about the discipline to becoming 'nurse persons.'

Changes in students: It was very exciting to add the second degree summer students to our program. Their commitment and focus brought amazing energy to the program and the college.

What I will miss: The individual connections with students.

What I won't miss: Grading papers in APA format in the evenings, weekends, early mornings, late nights, etc.

hello retirement

Dave Hansen, *professor of economics, at Linfield since 1969*



Memorable moment: Giving the commencement address last year. Sitting on the speaker stand and thinking about all the graduates I had seen cross that stage over the years. Thinking this would be among the last times I would experience that exciting day.

Favorite campus hangout: The old Riley Gymnasium. It was historic, it was intimate.

Favorite course: I loved teaching Principles of Economics and lived for those days when I could see that students first got excited about learning.

Learned from students and colleagues: One's acts have more meaning to others than you might first realize.

What I will miss: Day-to-day contact with students both in and out of the classroom.

What I won't miss: Committee meetings, grading papers, starting to get ready for the next week starting mid-Sunday afternoon.

Best thing about Linfield: The genuine feeling of community.

Retirement plans: I came to Linfield without many preconceived expectations. I enter retirement much the same way. I look forward to seeing how it unfolds. I think we may travel some, walk more, continue to attend campus events, garden a little and develop new interests as yet to be discovered.

Eugene Gilden, *professor of psychology, at Linfield since 1983*



Favorite course: Really three of them: Introduction to Social Psychology, Seminar in Social Psychology, and Senior Seminar.

Learned from students and colleagues: Achievement is not unidimensional and there are insights gained only by considering lots of points of view.

Retirement plans: Travel, reconnect with music, see more baseball in person, volunteer.

Favorite campus hangout: Fred Meyer Lounge while working on a novel with Ken Ericksen, *Anything that Moves* (unpublished).

Favorite Linfield tradition: Annual Psych Department barbecue

Last lecture title: "How Did I Get Here or From Type A Behavior to Black Helicopters"

Current activities: Take care of the garden, and dogs; travel the Northwest, enjoy not being on a schedule.