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Thinking about the Future

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Thinking about the future



Of all the professors that I have interacted with at Linfield, Brian Gilbert easily stands out. I first met Brian when I was a prospective student. Brittany Hartzell Baguley '00 works for my mom, and through her I heard great things about the Chemistry Department. She helped me set up a meeting with Brian and Liz Atkinson (professor of chemistry) at Competitive Scholarship Day. I thought it was great that they met with me, a prospective student, on their own time.

After enrolling at Linfield, I was excited to find out that I would have Brian as a Colloquium advisor and impressed by how much he remembered from our conversation. Brian has since been my advisor and an awesome mentor. He has been a great resource for me as well as many other students in the department – his door is seemingly always open.

In the summer of 2012 I worked on a research project with Brian and Jim Diamond (professor of chemistry). Brian was a constant resource for me as I delved into my work. It is one thing to be in class where the ideas are well established, but it's another to do research on questions never previously considered. He was available to me every step of the way, and it was one of the best experiences of my life. However, I didn't spend my entire summer in the lab; Brian organized weekly volleyball games among students and faculty and invited the chemistry students to his house to celebrate the Fourth of July. I worked with Brian during the iFOCUS program and shared the knowledge I had gained with Linfield's newest science students. Last year, I attended three conferences with Brian and other chemistry students



Brian Gilbert, associate professor of chemistry, left, has been influential in the education of Kevin Romero '15.

and faculty: the Murdock Undergraduate Research Conference, the Oregon Academy of Sciences Conference, and the American Chemical Society national meeting. This was the culmination of a lot of hard work and it was a fantastic experience. All of these things may seem small, but to me they have made a big impact.

The biggest influence Brian has had on me has been in thinking about life after Linfield. Brian has not tried pushing me in any direction; instead he's helped me to consider a number of opportunities. I came to college convinced that I wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon, and I was blind to many other potential careers. I previously saw chemistry as a means to getting accepted to medical school. It is now my passion. Based on his suggestion, I spent the summer of 2013 conducting

research at Northwestern University – another wonderful experience. This opportunity was a result of Brian's mentorship and recommendation, and words can't express my gratitude.

I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry and I can attribute this directly to Brian's influence. He has opened my eyes to a world of possibilities that I had no clue existed. I am considering becoming a professor so that I might influence young people the same way that Brian has me. Thanks to Brian, and many other wonderful faculty members, my Linfield experience has been more than I could have ever hoped for and I can't wait to see what else is in store. 🍷

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