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## Prepared for Launch

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# Prepared for Launch

Hannah Waterman '21 fondly remembers walking into a general chemistry class her first day at Linfield, and the inspiration and purpose she felt.

*By Laura J. Graham '07*

"It was my first time learning structured techniques. I said, 'This is it. I love science,'" she recalled.

Kristin Ziebart was a visiting assistant professor who taught that class. She recognized her new student's abilities and passion, nominating Waterman for an outstanding freshman award and offering her a lab assistant position.

"Hannah brought a positive energy to the classroom that was contagious," Ziebart said. "But when class began, Hannah would get right down to business. She asked good questions, contributed to class discussions and was a model student all around."

Waterman may not have recognized it at the time, but she was diligently working and creating a path to success at Linfield and beyond.

And work is a word that is not to be used lightly when it comes to Waterman. Her list of accomplishments is extensive – first woman in her family to go to college; two undergraduate majors; three seasons captaining the Wildcat volleyball team; recruitment chair for her sorority; and nearly 6,000 hours worked to pay for her college expenses.

"I love the leadership and growth opportunities Linfield provided me," she said. "I wanted to get involved in everything, and I did."

Waterman graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and mathematics. As she prepares to start her graduate degree at Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine, she feels confident and prepared.

"I have never doubted myself as a woman in STEM," Waterman said. "If you look around at Linfield's chemistry department, there are many female faculty members, and they are great role models."

Ten years from now, she sees herself pursuing a meaningful career – whether she's doing forensic science at the Federal Bureau of Investigation or leading a laboratory curing disease. And when that time comes, Waterman knows the people, programs and places from her time at Linfield will remain close to her heart.

"Linfield shaped me; the connection does not end here," she said. "I look forward to being a resource for Linfield science students for years to come."

Hannah Waterman, B.S. '21, is the first woman in her family to earn a four-year undergraduate degree.

