Saying farewell to our graduates

I am writing this essay on the day before baccalaureate, just 40 hours until commencement. It’s a glorious Friday afternoon. Bleachers, chairs and stage are now full of the commencement green. Students are loading their cars, huggng their friends and chatting about their return in the fall. Others, staying for the summer, are sprawled on the lawn, enjoying the sunshine that separated the clouds as finals ended.

And then there are the seniors.

Some are with their friends on the grass, not quite as relaxed but trying to savor the last few moments of Linfield’s sun. Others are walking around campus with their parents, pointing out buildings where they took classes or athletic fields where they competed. A few are at their computers, frantically updating (or creating) their résumés and finally facing a future outside the Linfield bubble. Many are emptying their rooms and thinking about the trek to new apartments and jobs in distant cities.

All week long I’ve seen students signing their names on the senior bench, painted this year with the outline of an oak tree.

It is one of the happiest weekends of the year. It is one of the saddest weekends of the year.

In higher education, we expend all of our energies to reach this day. We embrace our calling because we believe so fiercely in the development and success of our students. And we celebrate their arrival as Linfield students, as our equals in the world of learning and work, as citizens and leaders in communities all over the world. We take pride in who they are and what they have become.

And yet we also know that we will not see these graduates very often in the future. We will miss them because they have enriched the life of this college. We know that they will succeed, we rejoice in their future, because they have become.

The question that students ask is, “When can we return?”

To those who have graduated, to those who are about to graduate, we wish you all the best, and we invite you, at any time, to rejoin us even briefly here at Linfield. We will think of you often. We will await you with open arms.

And meanwhile, we will look forward to meeting the class of 2012.

— Thomas L. Hellie

President Thomas L. Hellie congratulates Katie Dolph ’08 during commencement exercises on June 1.

Inside Linfield Magazine

Linfield students have a tradition of being busy, which is evident in Marvin Henberg’s snapshot of student life, the final in our sesquicentennial series. Students are still involved and engaged, as shown through several student features in this issue. In one we follow a student during a 12-hour day. Another tells about the combined work of students and community members in Guatemala. View some stunning photos shot by a student during a kiln firing in the Coast Range near Willamina. We saw farewell to three extraordinary professors and share some of the wisdom of Professor Emeritus Win Dolan, who at 99 years young, addressed the class of 2008. Even as we look to the end of our sesquicentennial celebration, we anticipate the rich and vibrant future that lies ahead for Linfield College.

On the cover:

Front: A firing at the Anagama kiln, owned by Nils Lou. Turn to page 20. (Joe Robinson ’09 photo)

Back: Scenes from 2008 commencement. Turn to page 34. (Laura Davis, Mardi Mileham photos)

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Professor Emeritus Win Dolan captivates graduates.

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Linfield's Old Oak may have fallen, but it will remain very much alive on campus. Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January. President Thomas L. Hellie announced during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9 how that wood will be used.

“Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January. President Thomas L. Hellie announced during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9 how that wood will be used. Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January. President Thomas L. Hellie announced during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9 how that wood will be used. Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January. President Thomas L. Hellie announced during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9 how that wood will be used. Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January. President Thomas L. Hellie announced during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9 how that wood will be used. Wood from the Old Oak was preserved after it crashed to the ground in January. President Thomas L. Hellie announced during the sesquicentennial celebration on May 9 how that wood will be used.

The college will continue to rely on the oak as the iconic image of Linfield. However, no one tree will serve as the new “Old Oak.” Instead the Oak Grove will be maintained and enhanced.

Martin Bode awarded Fulbright

Fulbright Award-winner Martin Bode ‘08, shown here with a model magnetic levitation train he designed and built for his senior project, will study and conduct research at the Institute of Space Systems in Stuttgart, Germany, next year. Bode, who earned a degree in applied physics, plans to work with plasma ion engines, technology which has ties to space exploration. Since 1999, 16 Linfield graduating seniors have been awarded Fulbright grants.

Hellie signs Presidents Climate Commitment

Linfield College will intensify efforts to reduce its carbon footprint in the coming months and years.

Linfield College President Thomas L. Hellie signed The American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment on Earth Day, April 22. He made the decision based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Environment and Sustainability (ACES), a group made up of faculty, staff and students. They studied the issue for six months and recommended that Linfield join more than 500 institutions in all 50 states by signing the agreement. It calls for colleges and universities to attain a position of carbon neutrality with respect to greenhouse gas emissions.

The college has flexibility in the timing and means of achieving the goal. ACES has made a number of recommendations including recycling, requiring new buildings to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, purchasing more locally grown foods, promoting water and energy conservation, exploring alternative means of transportation, and purchasing energy-efficient vehicles and appliances.

An environmental study class conducted a carbon footprint inventory during spring semester. Future classes are expected to build upon and expand that report.

Day pledges $3 million to project

T.J. Day ’71, vice chair of the Linfield College Board of Trustees, has pledged $3 million toward the renovation of historic Northup Hall.

“All of us at Linfield are very grateful to T.J. for his generosity and leadership,” President Thomas L. Hellie said in making the announcement. “This is the single largest gift commitment by a living individual in the college’s history.”

Day has served on the board of trustees since 1972. He and his family have provided exceptional support to the capital programs and project initiatives at Linfield. Hellie said without his efforts, the acquisition of the former Hewlett-Packard property and its transformation to the Keck Campus would not have been possible.

Day is the chairman of Dacole Co., a private investment firm in Reno, Nev. In addition to serving as vice chair of the Linfield board, he also serves as chair of the upcoming Linfield comprehensive fundraising campaign. The campaign will focus on increasing the college’s endowment and enhancing facilities, including Northup Hall.

Once renovated, Northup Hall will become home to the Departments of Business, Economics, English and Philosophy, and several academic centers.

T.J. Day ’71, right, talks with Ma Montzari and Lucinda (Day) Fournier ’95 during a trustee dinner at Montzari’s Maysara Winery in May. Day made the single largest gift commitment by a living individual to support the renovation of Northup Hall.

Northup was constructed in 1936 and housed the college library until the opening of the Jeryl R. Nicholson Library on the Keck Campus in 2003.
Snapshots of student life

1872-73

Hopes were high among the 160 students arriving at McMinnville College in 1872 – the largest enrollment until well into the 20th century. The majority were from McMinnville, with two students from Walla Walla, Wash., and one from San Francisco, Calif. Most instruction was at the primary level, with some in high school. McMinnville College had yet to see a student qualify for study at the collegiate level.

Students lived at home or with local residents at a cost of $2 to $2.50 a week. With the rhythms of agricultural life dominating their lives, the dictates of “early to bed, early to rise” left little free time outside chores and recreation, the favored mode of instruction.

Music and oratory dominated entertainment. Students organized the college’s first literary/musical club, the Philergian Society, whose records date from 1874. Students enjoyed the relative leisure to study intensively and to devote energy to an array of extracurricular pursuits. Playfulness became a matter of record, as in this account of a Philergian Society debate on the question, “Resolved, that if you were out in the midst of a desert and had hold of a lion’s tail you had better not let go:”

Mr. Knapp represented the affirmative, Mr. Sawtelle the negative. After the usual exchange of words, which in this instance pictured many humorous scenes, the judge, Messrs. Blood and Black, were called upon to cast their votes, which decided in favor of the affirmative. The question was now left to the tender mercies of open debate, in which Messrs. Ramsey, Tony Hilton, and Black took part. Several ladies were called upon to speak, but somehow they did not seem to be greatly interested in the question. Finally, by vote of the house, this momentous question was decided in favor of the negative.

On a regular basis, The Review listed every book added to the Pioneer Hall library. The first acquisition that year, number 589, was Physiology (sic) of Education, and the last, number 1,636, was The Life and Times of Rev. Elijah Hedding, D.D.

In early November a tradition reappeared when Linfield hosted its first football game in 16 years, defeat-
Women’s sports still were a far cry from the men’s in terms of competition, with the women’s basketball team playing only five games against area high schools. But, an important first step was taken when the student body amended its constitution so that the basketball players could earn the first letters awarded to women in college history. Despite ardent opposition from President Riley and from the faculty, Greek letter organizations regularly publicized their social activities in The Review. Pledge dinners and Christmas parties by Iota Omega Mu Fraternity and others were often held in Portland:

Seven car loads of merry I.O.M.’s and their lady friends left Linfield Friday afternoon and, in a few hours ride through the snow-covered valley, arrived in the Oregon metropolis. From warm reception parlors the merry makers found their way to the Washington street (sic) Hazelwood where a banquet table was attractively arranged for them in the Colonial room.

Other fraternities such as Phi Epsilon were forced to travel on the Southern Pacific Railroad, whose local schedule was printed in the student handbook. A train from Portland to McMinnville took one hour and 46 minutes.

The growing popularity of Greek social organizations and the abundant accompanying opportunities for entertainment cut into membership in college literary societies. Long gone were the Philergian Society and The Nicaian Society.

The election of the May Queen continued at the new Linfield College. Esther Telcher ’23 from Grangeville, Idaho, was selected and presided at the annual “burning of the green” (green beenies and caps consumed at the campus bonfire).

1947-48

The college was dramatically different and rapidly changing for the 899 students who enrolled in fall of 1947. Enrollment had tripled, and a substantial number were World War II veterans; most were older than the norm and many were married. Dancing had been approved on campus the year before, underscored by The Linfield Review’s list of “Do’s and Don’ts for Dancing Demons” that included the following advice: “DON’T be a gorilla gripper. If you wrap your arms around the unsuspecting girl’s waist in a death-like grip, you might easily cut off her breathing. If the girl cannot breathe she certainly can’t dance.”

The year was also the second for the campus Baby Show, which The Review called a “new tradition”: “Not that the coon-skin coat and the sweater girl are doomed to fade from the campus scene, it’s just that the new era has all that and babies too.” A day care program was offered through the Department of Home Economics in an area of Pioneer Hall remodeled for that purpose.

The celebration of Sadie Hawkins Day was in its fourth year. Drawn from the syndicated comic strip Li’l Abner, Sadie Hawkins Day featured women dressed in costumes befitting the raggedy characters of Dogpatch, the strip’s setting. If a woman caught a man during the Sadie Hawkins Day Race, he was obliged to marry her. To the predominantly female Linfield student body in the inaugural year of 1944, the celebration perhaps expressed hope for a conventional matrimonial future. Men who preferred to deter the interest of fleet-footed women grew beards. Jack Graham ’50 was Linfield’s winner for “the longest beard grown in comparison to his competitors.”

The boom in student numbers was likewise a boon to Greek Life. Rush in 1947 netted 115 new pledges for sororities and 116 for fraternities.

Come raise your voice in rousing song, The music casts its spell. We serenade the well-known spot Where Linfield loafers dwell, We sing this song to thee, Oh Pop, And to thy shop so dear, Forever will thy memory To weary hearts send cheer. Oh, haven of the hungry hordes That from the Commons pour, Oh, Mecca of the lovelorn lads Turned back from Failing’s door. So Pop’s Shop, here’s a toast to thee Thy coffee and thy smoke, A toast to thy fraternity Forged fast in song and joke.
Theatre and movies offer entertainment

From early in the 20th century on, movies and theatre have provided entertainment for generations of Linfield students. Some of the offerings were:

1922-23

**Lark Theatre movies:** The Old Homestead, Powell, The Cowboy and the Lady, The Queen of Sheba

**Linfield plays and operettas:**
Stop Thief, The Japanese Girl, In the Garden of the Shah

1947-48

**Films:** Meet John Doe, Bring on the Girls, My Wild Irish Rose, Daisey Kenyon

**Theatre:** Arms and the Man, Joan of Lorraine, State of the Union

1972-73

**Films:** The Godfather, Play Misty for Me

**Theatre:** Figaro, The Matchmaker

1997-98

**Films:** Titanic, Men in Black

**Theatre:** Mama’s Stars, The Brothers Menaechmus

Freshman-sophomore tug-o-war during the 1947 homecoming festivities.
Female students “capture” the men during the 1947 Sadie Hawkins Day, a popular celebration on campus for many years. To the predominantly female Linfield student body in the inaugural year of 1944, the celebration perhaps expressed hope for a conventional matrimonial future. But by the post-war years when marriage and babies became a part of the Linfield present, Sadie Hawkins Day was enjoyed both for its message and for its ironic twist on the conventions of courtship.

1972-73

By 1972-73, the change in the student body was nearly as dramatic as 25 years earlier. Conventional is the last word anyone would choose to describe students that year. Despite Linfield's traditionally conservative bent, 1970s students saw themselves as social critics. They criticized the Vietnam War, openly publicized (in The Linews) the availability of birth control pills, and questioned college rules and practices.

The waning employee-student childcare center was re-vitalized, but with a different focus. The new center in Potter Hall provided day care for low-income and migrant families, freeing up parents for employment. This transformation reflected priorities for a new age, and the 1972 experiment was a forerunner of today's Pre-Kindergarten.

OSPIRG unleashed a broadside at the Linfield Bookstore, which was accused of being “the one bookstore that is overpricing in the state of Oregon.”

The Black Student Union (BSU) became increasingly active in the 1970s, its numbers swelled by admission of many black students from the East. The BSU was a force socially, politically and athletically (it won the fall intramural football championship), but did not promote black separatism as at many other colleges of that era. A BSU member, Billy Hutchins ’74 (now known as Baruti Artharee), lost the ASLC presidential election to Mike Martinas ’74 by only 24 votes. Other groups organized that year included a Chicano Student Union, a women’s liberation group (the Ms. Club), and the United Student Liberation Group (USUL), a group organized to ensure “a complete review of professors, their methods of instruction, and [of devising] a means to handle student complaints in all fields of study.” Eventually the USU collaborated with a faculty committee to establish the now familiar and universal Linfield system of student evaluation of faculty. Amidst all the scrutiny of contemporary human institutions and with sublime confidence in their ability to create new institutions, Linfield students’ interest in Greek Life waned. Rush in November secured only 31 pledges among the four fraternities and 48 pledges for the four sororities.

A men’s soccer club, spearheaded by Nigerian student Sam Ogunlade ’74, laid the foundation that in 1994 gave birth to varsity men’s and women’s soccer teams. A 1974 fencing club, by contrast, was short-lived.

1997-98

Students in the last 10 years may best be summed up as combining some of the conventional, obliterating traits of 1947-48 with some of the radical thinking from 1972-73. This group put great stock in its homecoming, featuring such traditional amusements as a bonfire song contest and a Twinkie eating contest. At the same time, they organized Fusion, a gay and bisexual alliance. Many students supported and most were accepting of the organization, putting them in polite but firm opposition to their elders at home and in the community.

The Linfield football team hit a milestone when a 31–14 win over the University of Puget Sound propelled the Wildcats into a tie with Harvard and Notre Dame for the most consecutive winning seasons in American college football history. Mawa’Stim, a play by Professor Thomas Gressler, thrust actress and singer Stephanie Routh ’99 into the finals of the prestigious Irene Ryan national acting competition in Washington, D.C.

Nicole Payne ’99 was elected as the first female student body president in 15 years and the first non-Greek in six years. Her victory was soon overshadowed by the announcement that the college had acquired most of the acreage and all the buildings in the former Hewlett-Packard property, more than doubling the size of campus.

The year ended on a somber note with a memorial service for popular alumnus Christopher Hubbard ’96, who died in Venezuela as the result of a fall during a hiking excursion. The Review reported: “Tears and laughter filled Melrose Auditorium...[as]...a small group of students and faculty congregated at the memorial service to remember Hubbard and to give support to his parents Steve and Ann Hubbard and his sister Louise Hubbard.” Like her brother, Louise Hubbard ’98 is a Linfield graduate.

It is fitting to remind ourselves that the college family extends over many generations and encompasses many bonds, always rallying to honor what is right and good in its sons and daughters.

— Marvin Henberg
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 Honberg 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 to 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-related 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 Greenhout ’68, Richard McKillop ’65, Gail Nokes ’66, Frank Seufert ’65, Rusty Rae ’70, Rick Pullen ’67, with Charlotte Filer ’54, seated.

The Sesquicentennial Plaza, featuring more than 1,500 bricks inscribed with names of alumni and friends, was dedicated May 9.

Photos, counter-clockwise from top left: President Thomas Hellie and President Emeritus Charles Walker cut the ribbon; Walker, President Emerita Vivian A. Bull, Hellie, student body President Chipo Dendere ’08 and Peter Richardson, sesquicentennial committee chair; Matthew Wakeford-Evans ’08, winner of the spring sing contest; Professor Emeritus Doug Cruikshank; Professor Howard Leichter and Trustee Emeritus Vern Delap look for bricks.
Retirees look back on the years

Three longtime Linfield College faculty members — Kareen Sturgeon, Howard Leichter and Linda Olds — along with alumni they have influenced, share memories of the past and plans for the future at retirement.

Kareen Sturgeon, professor of biology since 1981

**Favorite course:** What I liked best about the courses I taught was the variety. Some were largely descriptive; others were more conceptually challenging. Some had substantial field and lab components; others were more discussion-based. I was never bored! Some had me teaching largely descriptive; some had me teaching students about the excitement of collaborative thinking and learning.

** Learned from students and colleagues:** Kareen is passionate about the art of teaching, the subjects she teaches, the students that she encounters and simply about learning. When a person is that passionate, people can see it and it is infectious. That kind of passion makes learning all the more fun. Kareen is dedicated to her students, friends and family. She has always been multidisciplinary in her approach. She is skilled in making connections to what she is studying. It is not just the plant we study, but the habitat, socioeconomics, climate, history, culture and politics in the area.

— Judy Lunt ’89, assistant research coordinator and assistant private non-profit hatchery coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**Retirement plans:** I look forward to having the freedom to “do nothing” and to see where that leads me.

Linda Olds, professor of psychology since 1975

**Most memorable moment:** Times when a class truly comes alive as a community of inquirers and tastes the excitement of collaborative thinking and learning.

**Favorite campus hangout:** Classrooms (during and after a class) and the Oak Grove.

**Learned from students and colleagues:** The excitement of collaborative thinking and learning.

— Ann Johnson ’79, professor of psychology, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul

**On learning:** True learning is self-motivated.

Howard Leichter, professor of political science since 1980

**Most memorable moment:** When I found out that I won a Fulbright to England.

**Favorite campus hangout:** The swimming pool

**Favorite course:** The Study of Public Policy

**Learned from students and colleagues:** It’s difficult for me to put into words how influential Linda has been in my life. She has been such a tremendous role model. I recall her genuine care for students and also her intellectual integrity as a teacher. Both of those attributes I try to emulate in my own work as a professor now, and Linda is a constant inspiration to me.

— Rob Johnson ’05, government affairs representative, Oregon Health Care Association

**Changes in students:** Less engaged in politics, more engaged in community service

**Person you most want to emulate:** My wife, Elisabeth

**Retirement plans:** Writing, fly fishing, international travel, hiking, reading

If there is one single person who positively influenced my academic experience at Linfield, and consequently my life choices in the years following, above all others, it is Howard Leichter. He was a mentor in the most genuine sense of the word.

Howard was notorious for demanding the most of students, a quality I credit with developing unparalleled critical thinking skills and work habits of an entire generation of Linfield political science majors. He was the toughest grader, but he was also the most constructive. He demanded the most from his students because he knew we were all capable of great things, and was unwilling to sit idly by while we ignored our potential.

He never shied from being self-deprecating to lighten the mood, especially when he showed up to class missing a belt, wearing mismatched socks or even two different shoes after coming directly from the gym.

I simply would not be where I am today had I not signed up for that American Politics class with “the hardest professor at Linfield.”

— Rob Johnson ’05, government affairs representative, Oregon Health Care Association

**Changes in students:** Less engaged in politics, more engaged in community service

**Learned from students and colleagues:** Humility

**Person you most want to emulate:** My wife, Elisabeth

**Retirement plans:** Writing, fly fishing, international travel, hiking, reading

It’s difficult for me to put into words how influential Linda has been in my life. She has been such a tremendous role model. I recall her genuine care for students and also her intellectual integrity as a teacher. Both of those attributes I try to emulate in my own work as a professor now, and Linda is a constant inspiration to me.

I remember when I was completing my senior thesis and about to graduate, Linda invited me to her home one day for lunch and to talk over my project. I still vividly recall sitting around her dining room table, eating homemade soup and talking about my paper. She treated me as an almost-colleague, and it was such an honor.

Her love of ideas, her high standards, and her humor made her a very popular and memorable teacher. I took every class she offered and still find myself referring back to some of the books she assigned in her courses 30 years ago.

— Ann Johnson ’79, professor of psychology, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul

**On learning:** True learning is self-motivated.

**Changes in students:** Becoming an active learner is as exciting and daunting a quest as ever at the heart of education.

**Retirement plans:** Retirement feels more like a beginning, an opportunity to focus on the integrative writing and themes I have always loved, culminating from a lifetime of teaching and scholarship.
Building hope in Guatemala

It’s 8 a.m. in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and at 8,000 feet elevation, January frost clings to a dusty metal wheelbarrow full of sand. Soon, Linfield College volunteers will peel off layers of clothing as the sun and hard work warm them.

Through her gloves, Becca Williams ’10 feels the sting of her blisters as she grips the rope attached to the wheelbarrow and gazes 60 yards up the terraced hill to the building site. With a deep breath, she begins pulling the load up the slope – she is the “burro” – as a partner pushes from behind. The two work as a team and, with muscles burning, move the sand up the hill.

That’s how some houses are built in Guatemala.

Williams and 12 other Linfield students took part in the January Term course Guatemalan Development and Underdevelopment, taught by Jeff Peterson, associate professor of sociology. In a unique collaborative effort, students were joined by 17 McMinnville Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

Together, they moved rock and gravel, hoisted bags of cement and transported blocks by human brigade. They mixed cement with shovels and hoes, cut wire, bent rebar and laid blocks, all the while learning age-old techniques from Guatemalan carpenters.

“A mason grabbed a piece of clear plastic tubing and put water in it, and it became a level,” said Bob Ledden, a retired pastor and member of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries. “I had never seen that before in my 70-plus years.”

The McMinnville group worked on four homes

with Global Village/Habitat Guatemala, a branch of Habitat International. It builds 3,500 homes each year, with a goal of 5,000, to address the shortage of 1.6 million homes in Guatemala.

Linfield students and volunteers, ranging in age from their teens to 70s, built houses in the morning and spent afternoons in classes on Mayan culture, social movements, urbanization and the civil war.

“Too often we talk about getting students ready for the outside world as if the worlds are separate,” Peterson said. “But community members wrestle with the same questions. It was important for folks of different generations to work together.”

Peterson, a Habitat volunteer for five years, grew up in Brazil, lived in Mexico and has twice been the field director for Linfield’s Oaxaca, Mexico, program. Through such immersion projects, volunteers make contacts and become part of a community, he said.

“It’s hard to make assumptions about another group when you interact with them,” Peterson added. “This allows people to see each other as human beings, and on a global level, to develop a better understanding of the world in which we live. We come to see Linfield as a point of intersection for many communities, rather than only as a destination point.”

The trip’s emphasis on learning drew Doug Cruikshank, professor emeritus of education, and his wife, Linda, a former kindergarten teacher. They have volunteered for Habitat since retiring in 2001.

“There was never a question about whether we would want to go or not,” said Doug. “We knew the kind of richness we could get from being part of the January Term class.”

A bonus was the opportunity to work with students.

“They had a whole lot more energy than we did, but we worked as hard as they did,” he said.

During free time in the afternoons, Williams ventured to cafes and schools to interview locals for her project on indigenous language and identity and saw firsthand the concepts she’d been learning about in class – poverty, housing and Mayan identity, among others.

“At our Habitat site we interacted with people who are affected by the housing deficiency,” she said. “We met people who can tell us what it’s like to be Mayan in Guatemala and the issues of having to learn Spanish and lose their indigenous language.”

This was Williams’ third trip to Latin America and she insists it won’t be her last. She plans to study abroad in Ecuador next spring, continuing her Guatemalan research relating to language identity for her honors thesis. After graduation, she hopes to teach abroad.

“The experience expanded my understanding and my view of the world,” she said.

At the final dedication dinner, tears of gratitude and understanding fell freely. Volunteers exchanged mentors with the family, said Williams, who was humbled by the generosity of her hosts.

“For three weeks we’d been working next to these families and having conversations with them,” she added. “It was bittersweet to say goodbye.”

– Laura Davis

During free time in the afternoons, Williams ventured to cafes and schools to interview locals for her project on indigenous language and identity and saw firsthand the concepts she’d been learning about in class – poverty, housing and Mayan identity, among others. 

At our Habitat site we interacted with people who are affected by the housing deficiency,” she said. “We met people who can tell us what it’s like to be Mayan in Guatemala and the issues of having to learn Spanish and lose their indigenous language.”

This was Williams’ third trip to Latin America and she insists it won’t be her last. She plans to study abroad in Ecuador next spring, continuing her Guatemalan research relating to language identity for her honors thesis. After graduation, she hopes to teach abroad.

“The experience expanded my understanding and my view of the world,” she said.

At the final dedication dinner, tears of gratitude and understanding fell freely. Volunteers exchanged mentors with the family, said Williams, who was humbled by the generosity of her hosts.

“For three weeks we’d been working next to these families and having conversations with them,” she added. “It was bittersweet to say goodbye.”

– Laura Davis

Linfield students and McMinnville community members worked together on four Habitat for Humanity houses during a January trip to Guatemala. Linfield students plan to return to Guatemala in March for an alternative spring break project. This home, located on a rural site in the steep hills outside Quetzaltenango, is nearly ready for a roof.

Jeff Peterson, right, associate professor of sociology, and Marianne Mills ’72, executive director of Habitat for Humanity, talk with Doña Manuela, left, whose son and family will move into the home. Mills said the trip was a combination of learning, service and adventure.
The Art of Firing

Based on an eighth century wood-fired Korean kiln, the East Creek Anagama was built on his property in 1985 by Professor Nils Lou, author of *The Art of Firing*, now in its fifth edition. The firing creates a wild beauty with flames licking around the kiln’s openings and encasing pots in a white-orange glow. Temperatures reach 2400° F. Six cords of wood are consumed in 60 to 70 hours, firing 400 to 600 pieces by artists from around the world. The process encompasses three weeks for loading, firing and unloading. These images by Joe Robinson ’09 offer a glimpse into the process. Others assisting are: counter-clockwise from top left, James Duckworth ’07, Cindy Hoskisson and Dan Hoskisson, parents of Brittney Hoskisson ’09, Seattle artist Nancy Gill and Ally Cross ’09.
Tenacity key to success

When Andrew Webber ’10 gets excited, words tumble from his mouth so rapidly that it’s hard to keep up.

His enthusiasm is as contagious as his passion for learning, his intensity tempered by a self-deprecating humor and eagerness to share. He admits that he has had to learn some restraint—every time he takes a new course, he wants another major or minor.

Webber enrolled at Linfield College as a political science major, with emphases on the Middle East. But after one religious studies course taught by Professor Bill Millar ’60, he switched to religion.

“I just fell in love with the discipline,” he said. “I love political science, but religious studies encompasses so much more of what I’m interested in.”

To gain an even deeper understanding, Webber joined a handful of students studying Hebrew with Millar this year. He plans to combine his interest in the language and his fascination with the Middle East during an immersion program at Hebrew University in Jerusalem this summer.

“Religious studies comes from a lot of disciplines—politics, gender, sociology and psychology,” Webber said. “There are so many different ways to look at religion. Islam, Judaism and Christianity all can be traced to Abraham. When we realize that we do have a connection, that we have an identity with Jews and Muslims, maybe we can work together to make the world a little more peaceful.”

His desire to read the Old Testament in its original language was the impetus to study Hebrew. He especially wanted to learn new ways to look at religion.

“His tenacity,” Millar said. “When others give up, he goes the extra mile and he never feels that the extra work is a burden. He outperforms his peers because he hangs in there.”

Webber, a native of Vancouver, Wash., gave up his dream of playing college football to achieve his long-term goal—becoming a college professor. He devotes extra effort to his academic work, but he needs to reach his dream graduate program—Harvard Divinity School.

“He’s been a tremendous influence in class, Millar said, because the students pick up on his enthusiasm. “He is tenacious,” Millar said. “When others give up, he goes the extra mile and he never feels that the extra work is a burden. He outperforms his peers because he hangs in there.”

Webber’s passion for learning isn’t limited to religion. Everything excites him, from philosophy to international relations, gender studies and feminism.

“All of my classes are opening new doors, new levels of analysis and new perspectives that enrich what I am learning,” he said. “There are so many different perspectives and ways of looking at things, it brings it to life for me and that’s really exciting.”

— Manli Milham

Interest in debate, history earn cross-border prize

When Morgan St. Jean ’09 checked her email one day in January, she expected the usual spam and Facebook updates.

But instead, a message from Jackson Miller, her forensics advisor, caught her eye.

“It was a notice to his students about a competition, “Crossing Borders: Issues and Resolutions” hosted by the Consulate General of Canada. The event paired American and Canadian college students to argue their countries’ positions on international political issues.

St. Jean, a communication arts and history double major and an avid debater, thought this fit her interests exactly. She was right, and ultimately won Best Speaker at the conference along with a $1,000 prize.

“I was really interested in the topics, and I liked the idea of working with someone from Canada and getting their perspective of the issue,” said St. Jean, one of only eight American students selected to participate.

She will use the prize money to attend a three-week debate institute, hosted by the International Debate Education Association, in Turkey this summer.

She and her partner, Thomas Kearns, a University of Alberta student, debated the topic of United Nations and multilateral diplomacy. Through research over the next month, the two studied the differences and similarities of opinions between the United States and Canada about the U.N., especially post-Sept. 11.

“I learned that the Canadians have always been much more committed to the U.N. and use it as a mediator between countries,” St. Jean said. “Whereas the United States has always seen the U.N. as one option of foreign policy, yet they will use others if it is more to their advantage.”

Through their research, St. Jean and Kearns proposed the solution of United Nations reform.

“The U.N. needs to come into the 21st century,” St. Jean said. “It is very much based on country-to-country conflict. Warfare has changed to terrorist organizations within countries, and the U.N. is not equipped to handle that.”

St. Jean and Kearns presented the American and Canadian sides, along with their joint solution, to a panel of three judges and four moderators who were then allowed to ask questions.

Learning about different government systems spurred St. Jean’s latest goal of studying abroad. In January, she will travel to Brussels, Limerick and Luxembourg to study the European Union, and she also hopes to study abroad after graduation, perhaps in Canada.

“I realized through this experience that Canada has a much different culture than we do,” said St. Jean. “They are not a mirror of the United States.”

A natural leader, St. Jean has mentored new members of the Linfield forensics team, served as assistant coach for the McMinnville High School forensics team and will serve as the student coordinator of the Linfield Speaking Center next year. She is curious and hard working and has a keen sense of intellectual inquiry, according to Brenda DeVore Marshall, professor of theatre arts.

“One of the goals of a liberal arts institution is to guide students to become good citizens of the world,” said Marshall. “and Morgan is one who will make a difference.”

— Kasey Richter ’09

Bill Millar ’60, left, professor of religion, consults with Andrew Webber ’10, one of a handful of students studying Hebrew this year. Webber is the recipient of the Gabriele Hertich Endowed Scholarship, established to assist students who are majoring or minoring in religion.
Learning beyond the classroom

When Keston Obendorf ‘08 and Nathan Oliver ‘09 spent an afternoon playing rock, paper, scissors last fall, it was more than just casual fun.

Hunched over a computer in an auditorium full of competitors, the two computer science majors collaborated on code directing a computer to play the age-old children’s game at the Pacific Northwest Regional Intercollegiate Programming Competition (ICPC) at the University of Washington. Once that was accomplished, they tackled 10 other problems during the intense five-hour contest, successfully solving three and finishing in the top half of the regional competition.

“It’s like taking 11 consecutive final exams,” said Dan Ford, assistant professor of computer science, who accompanied Obendorf and Oliver to the competition. “They did exceptionally well.”

Dan Ford, assistant professor of computer science, who accompanied eight Linfield students to the competition. “They did exceptionally well.”

Obendorf and Oliver are part of a growing segment of Linfield students taking part in academic endeavors off campus. Each year, an average of 250 students, representing half of the academic departments on campus, travel to professional conferences and competitions, according to Elizabeth Atkinson, associate dean of campus, who has accompanied chemistry students to regional and national conferences. Linfield students have also competed internationally. “These types of experiences enhance students’ eligibility for future internship opportunities,” Atkinson added. “It gives them opportunities to interact with CEOs, administrators, graduate school representatives and student peers.

“They find soul mates, others who are passionate with similar interests,” Atkinson added. “It gives them insight into what they can do beyond their undergraduate careers. It’s eye opening.”

That interaction with students and faculty from other institutions is crucial, Ford said. The ICPC is the largest programming contest in the world with more than 200 students from other institutions and notable experts from around the world. Students interact with CEOs, administrators, graduate school representatives and student peers.

“It helps to boost their confidence knowing they can compete,” Ford said. “It also shows us what we can improve on. We realized a lot of math is required for this computer competition.”

As a result, Oliver enrolled in a mathematical graph theory class and plans to better prepare for next year’s competition. Obendorf is contemplating graduate school and said the competition advanced his computer science skills.

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Students represent academic departments spanning the curriculum, including humanities and the social and physical sciences. Some students present scholarly research developed with faculty mentors at professional meetings. Others perform creative works at music and theatrical competitions. Still others, like Obendorf and Oliver, enter academic competitions.

“Linfield is committed to giving students opportunities for hands-on learning so they can achieve success in graduate school or in the workplace,” said Atkinson, who has accompanied chemistry students to regional and national conferences. Linfield students have also competed internationally. “These types of experiences enhance students’ eligibility for future internship opportunities.”

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A day in the life

Jim Welch '08 is lanky, his slender frame bending gracefully as he directs the Linfield Concert Choir. His narrow face is intense, almost grim with concentration, occasionally breaking into a smile when one section sounds perfect.

Just five weeks before his senior composition recital, he's facing 12-hour days on campus filled with meetings, lessons, classes, tests, practices and rehearsals of the 15 pieces he's written. His recital involves some 40 students performing in the largest senior recital ever presented. It's a grueling pace, requiring stellar organization, patience and commitment.

Once he graduates, Welch intends to launch a career composing music for films and multimedia.

Welch's passion for writing music began in high school, where he first collaborated on songs for a rock band, before beginning to write on his own. He says his music is about telling a story and touching the listener. "What I am presenting isn’t virtuoso music," he says. "I write it for the listeners. I create it for expressing some kind of message or concept. It would be the perfect marriage if I could tell a story (in a film) through my music."

After an hour in the library to catch up on reading, Welch heads to the composition room in the Miller Fine Arts Center to squeeze in some practice on the French horn. In his brass class, he is learning trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium and tuba to help him write better compositions for the instruments. With about two weeks per instrument, finding the time to practice is a challenge. "I should practice every day," he admits, "but this week I've only practiced once."

He meets with Jon Newton, his composition instructor, to discuss scheduling and logistics, and review his program. Newton, a professional musician, advises Welch on how to script the program for the stage manager and how to keep stage hands and musicians in sync.

Newton describes Welch's music as eclectic, touching on styles from traditional to experimental. "This (recital) will serve him well. If he works in film, he will have a large palette of styles to draw from," Newton says. "As much as music composition requires inspiration and talent — and Jim has lots of both — it’s mainly a clerical job. Jim's attention to detail and his organizational abilities are what will allow him to create a large volume of work on the deadline that is required of a contemporary composer."

Welch heads to the Vivian A. Bull Music Center to conduct the Concert Choir rehearsing his composition, "Coelestia Canimus (We Sing of Heavenly Things)." While the choir warms up, he practices conducting, arms floating gracefully above the music. He’s still learning the art but is gaining confidence. He admits he sometimes still flies by the seat of his pants.

By 1:15, Welch is running slightly behind schedule. He hunkers down in the lobby to take a written test on the French horn under the eye of Professor Joan Paddock. The final portion of the test is performing several short pieces.

Jim Welch '08 practices the guitar, which he says is his strongest instrument. He takes lessons from Pamela Goldsmith, adjunct music professor and classical guitarist. Welch carried 18 credits and endured grueling days to present one of the largest senior composition recitals ever performed at Linfield.

Perfecting his music

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“I don’t want you to compose just for the horn in your current playing range, because a professional player will have a more extended range,” she tells him. “You don’t have to limit what you can do, but you need an understanding for how many notes are available on an instrument.”

One hour later, still running late, he races across campus to Ice Auditorium for a meeting with the lighting crew. Welch has programmed 17 light changes throughout his recital but discovers there are a number of technical challenges.

After the meeting, Welch and Jesse Hughey ’10 head across town to Jo-Ann Fabrics in search of buttons to build a stringraphy, a sound installation that utilizes a multitude of “string telephones” made of silk threads attached to paper cups. They manage to squeak out some sound, but it will take some work to have it ready for the recital.

By 4:15 Welch crosses campus again for his guitar lesson with Pamela Goldsmith. With one member of their trio missing, he and Mike Fahy face a difficult rehearsal. Goldsmith promises to bring some of her music for duets to the next lesson.

By 5, Welch has only one hour before a marathon of four back-to-back rehearsals begins. He runs through a piano piece he will need to perform and works on music and lyrics. He’s not worried about getting the compositions finished. His biggest challenge is depending on his fellow student musicians.

What worries me is getting musicians to show up on time or at all, and making sure they are prepared,“ he says. “It’s a challenge to walk that fine line of being appreciative of their help, yet being firm with them about sticking to their commitment.”

He spends four hours running through four very different pieces ranging from the jazzy “Annie Needs the Knife,” to “Nightmare – Voice of the Fawn,” which he calls a “throwback to my former life as a rock musician.”

Sometimes rehearsals are a cacophony of sound as if everyone in the room is playing something different. There’s a tense moment when Welch realizes he’s missing the bass music for one piece, but he fires up the laptop and sets it in front of the bass player.

For “Annie Needs the Knife,” he has the trumpet players grab the plungers for a gravelly “via was” sound. In “G&G Calibre,” he tries to cue a film while simultaneously cueing the musicians and conducting. Finally, a volunteer steps in to help with the film, freeing him to conduct.

In another piece he plays guitar and sings. He stops the rehearsal and starts it again, sometimes playing the same section over and over until he is satisfied. Even when he is blocked by the singers, he is undaunted and he leaps in the air to cue the brass players. Patients answer questions, explains his compositions, helps a singer with her cue and offers encouragement.

Through it all, Welch remains calm and alternates between laughter and quiet intensity. Eventually in each rehearsal it starts to come together and the music begins to flow.

At 10:10 p.m. the final rehearsal ends. Looking tired, Welch says it is adrenaline that keeps him going throughout the day. By 10:20, he heads out the door on a cold April night that will bring an unusual covering of snow to the valley floor by morning.

Once home, he may grab some dinner, having missed all meals since breakfast, and collapse. He has 35 days before his recital.

Top, Jim Welch ’08 practices the French horn, one of five instruments he was learning in a semester-long brass class. Bottom, he conducts the concert choir performing his piece “Caelus Caenitus (We Sing of Heavenly Things).”

Editor’s note: On May 24, Jim Welch presented his senior recital in Ice Auditorium to an audience of students, faculty, friends, family and local residents. He is currently in negotiations with filmmaker Jeff Burke, who created G&G Calibre, to write scores for a full series of short films.

-Mardi Mileham
Spring sports have stellar year

It’s been a banner spring for Linfield College athletics. Five sports — baseball, softball, track and field, and tennis — progressed to national competition after leading the Northwest Conference this spring.

The Linfield baseball team closed out a storybook season with a record of 35-13, losing to Adrian at the NCAA Division III championship series in Appleton, Wis. Led by first-year head coach Scott Brosius ’02, Linfield captured NWC and Central Regional titles on its way to the championship finals. The season will be remembered as one of the greatest in program history, alongside the 1966 and 1971 NAIA national championship years.

One of the finest softball seasons in Linfield history ended in May as the defending national champion Wildcats fell in extra innings to host school Texas-Tyler at the NCAA Division III West Regional. The team, which won a school-record 19 consecutive games, finished with a 38-6 record.

On the track, Linfield twin brothers Josh and Jeremy Lovell, both ’10, competed in the men’s decathlon at the NCAA Division III Championships in Oshkosh, Wis. Each earned All-America honors, with Josh claiming third place and Jeremy notching sixth place in the decathlon points standings.

The men’s golf team won its first Northwest Conference team championship in 44 years and went on to grab 17th place at the NCAA Division III Championships in Braselton, Ga. Andrew Fitch ’09 and Tyler Nelson ’10 both took all-conference honors, and head coach Greg Copeland, Linfield controller, was named NWC Coach of the Year.

The women’s tennis team ended its winning season in the first round of the NCAA Division III national championship tournament in Saint Peter, Minn. This was Linfield’s second NCAA playoff appearance and its seventh consecutive NWC championship. Kasey Kuenzli ’08, Kelli Sides ’08 and Sallie Katter ’10 all received NWC all-star accolades.

A number of Linfield athletes have been named to conference, regional and national all-star teams. For details, go to:

www.linfield.edu/sports

Casey Stepan: three-sport scholar-athlete

Sports: Cross country, basketball, track and field
Hometown: Vancouver, Wash.
Major: Accounting; history minor
GPA: 4.0

Athletic achievements: Second team all-conference in cross country; three-year basketball team captain; ESPN The Magazine academic college division All-District First Team (’06-’07); Academic All-Northwest conference team selection in all three sports; CoSIDA academic all-district selection in 2007.

Favorite sports memory: “I have been blessed with some wonderful athletic opportunities and moments. My favorite memories are simply being with my teammates on a daily basis and sharing good times with them, including beating Whitworth with my game-winning shot.”

Favorite professors: “Randy Grant, professor of economics, builds students’ confidence and inspires students’ interest in economics. Mike Jones, Harold C. Elkinton professor of accounting, is dedicated to helping students identify and reach their goals inside and outside of the classroom.”

Favorite class: “Economics of College Sports, a January Term class with Randy Grant that appealed to me as a sports fan and also as a business/economics student.”

Will miss about Linfield: “The opportunity to put on a Linfield uniform and compete with my wonderful teammates. I will also miss building and strengthening relationships with my professors, coaches, teammates and friends on a daily basis.”

Life after Linfield: Accepted a position with Deloitte and Touche, a public accounting firm in Portland.

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Will the real Linfield mission statement please stand up?

While “Always Beat Pacific Lutheran University” is a goal of Linfield College athletic teams, it really isn’t the five-word mission statement of the college. A recent alumni survey asked a number of questions. Some of our favorite answers were:

What is the five-word mission statement of the college? (Answer: Connecting Learning, Life, and Community)

Which president has served the longest term? (Answer: Leonard Riley and Harry Dillin.)

While filming the last campaign video, one of our alumni said, “To create something from scratch is a challenge, but to contribute to something that is good already, I think, is an opportunity that shouldn’t be missed.” I feel that way about the Linfield community. Each of us has had a part in shaping Linfield and its reputation. This really is a case where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

I hope you, like me, will continue to take pride in the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. I hope you will share with us your successes so we can celebrate with you, and I hope you will lend your time, treasures and talents when you can to make Linfield even stronger. After all, “It’s your Linfield.”

– Debbie (Hansen) Harmon ’90
Director of Alumni Relations

Take pride in your Linfield

The last few weeks, I listened with pride as our softball and baseball teams represented us in regional and national competition. It is similar to the pride I feel when the theatre produces a high-quality production, when a student is awarded a Fulbright or when an alumnus receives an honor.

Why am I beaming with pride? I am not the one receiving the award or making the base hit, and yet those successes are every bit as exciting as my own. Each of us who is connected to Linfield has the sense of being a part of the whole Linfield community.

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Calling class spirit

Team up with classmates to win two new alumni awards

Spirit of Linfield award: Class with the highest percentage of giving during 2008

Class Act award: Class with highest attendance at Homecoming

Pencil Us In

Avenue Q / June 29

Join other Linfield alumni and friends for Avenue Q, the 2004 Tony Award winner for best musical, best score and best book, on Sunday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m. in Keller Auditorium in Portland. The comedy features a cast of smart and hilarious people and puppets. Not recommended for children under age 13.

Feed your focus / Sept. 24

Career strategist Kristine Oller ’93 will present “Feed Your Focus: How to Maximize the Time, Energy and Money You Have Right Now to Get Where You Want to Go” on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 6:30 p.m. in Portland. Drawing upon insights gained during a decade spent guiding actors, musicians, writers, voice-over artists and other creative professionals, Oller will offer tools to evaluate opportunities, make decisions, build momentum and network efficiently and effectively.

Homecoming / Oct. 10-11

Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2008, Oct. 10-11. Come home to Linfield and catch up with classmates and friends at one of many weekend events—alumni picnic, football game, class reunions, the annual celebration A Taste of Linfield’s Finest and more. Reunions are planned for the classes of 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988 and 1998. For more information, call the Alumni Office 503-883-2607, alumni@linfield.edu or http://www.support.linfield.edu/class_awards.

Linfield faculty, staff and students celebrated Tuition-Free Day April 24 with a trivia contest featuring questions about Linfield history, activities and charitable giving. Participants included, from left, Duncan Reid ’10; Farshid Rafahi Shirpak ’10; Dan Ferguson, director of college activities (not shown); Dave Hansen, vice president for student services; Brian Winkenwader, assistant professor of art history; Dawn Grafthaight, professor of health education, and Babula Lemon ’11. Tuition-Free Day represents the point at which revenue from tuition and fees stops covering educational costs. Linfield tuition covers 83 percent of the actual cost of education, with the remainder paid for by gifts to the college.
Dolan shares wit, wisdom

A t 99, Winthrop Dolan may have slowed down a little, but he’s as sharp, witty and wise as when he was a math professor at Linfield College.

Dolan received a standing ovation after his charming, entertained and challenged the nearly 500 members of the class of 2008 during his commencement address on June 1.

Dolan quipped that when Linfield President Thomas L. Helie first contacted him about speaking at commencement, Dolan didn’t have his hearing aids on and thought the president wanted him to spell sesquicentennial.

“I’ve been uneasy about spelling since the fourth grade when a girl named Marjorie Smith beat me in the finals of the spelling bee,” he said with a pokerface. “You can tell how traumatic it was because I can still remember the details after 90 years.”

“(Dr. Helie) said, at commencement we are calling attention to the college’s relics and antiques and we thought it would be appropriate to have you join us,” Dolan said to peals of laughter. “And of course he is right. I am an antique. I’ve been around the college for about 40 percent of those 150 years. So here I am and you have to make the best of it.”

“Dolan, professor emeritus of math who also served as dean, twice as interim president, and on the board of trustees, shared some of his own experiences on how the world has changed dramatically during his lifetime, changes including advances in health care, transportation and technology.

Raising during an era when many rural areas did not have indoor plumbing, central heat, a telephone or electricity, Dolan said they had never heard of radio, much less television, supermarkets, heart surgery or air travel. They could not envision computers, cell phones, digital cameras or antiques.

The backdrop was World War I, the first of six major wars Dolan has seen in his lifetime.

“I wonder if, and I hope that, your generation can do better with finding a way out of that cycle. Do you think you can?” he asked. The response was a round of applause from graduates.

After joining the Linfield faculty in 1948, he used one of the first IBM computers installed in Portland. In 30 minutes it calculated tables that would have taken him months to complete on a calculator, but today can be done in seconds on a laptop computer.

“I think that in your lifetime, you will see equally astonishing advances that we can hardly imagine today and that they will come at an ever faster speed,” he told the graduates.

“But will the basic problems of our society be any closer to a solution?” he asked. Problems such as economic booms and busts, lack of a national health program, budget deficit and national debt, disappearing natural resources, global warming and persistent wars need to be addressed.

“You must be involved in the effort to get a handle on such matters and on the equally great problem of spreading the so-called advances of our society to the less favored parts of the world,” he added, encouraging graduates to take advantage of their experiences traveling and studying abroad and to work in the Peace Corps or through outreach programs of their churches.

He told of visiting a math classroom in the Congo shortly after he retired and spending some time with students.

“Dolan’s final thought?

“Just for the improvement of life, look or listen for something beautiful each day, perhaps a flowering tree or a meadowlark,” he said. “Let it stick in for a moment before you go on your way.”

— Mark Meekham

1950-59

Paul Runyan ‘56 of Camas, Wash., owner of Runyan’s Jewelers, is retired.

Marie Stave ‘56 of Soco, Maine, is the intern tutor for the Student Congregational Church in Saco. She is also the minister of visitation for First Parish United Church of Christ in Saco.

Jules and Joyce (Andrews) Christen ‘57 and ‘56 of Mount Vernon, Wash., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family in Mount, Hawaii.

George Polley ‘57 of Sopron, Japan, retired after 41 years as a psychiatric social worker. He is learning a new language and writing fiction and poetry.

Howard Morris ‘58 of Klamath Falls has been inducted into the Oregon chapter of the national wrestling Hall of Fame.

Charles Butrous ‘58 of Honolulu, Hawaii, a cultural resource specialist and environmental advocate, was named a 2008 Living Treasure. He co-founded ‘Ahu‘ui Malamia i ka Lokahi, which seeks to conserve Hawaiian culture.

Robert Bullo ‘58 of Spa- kane, Wash., is retired.

1960-69

Perry Stubbscher ‘62 of McMinnville, Jack Temple ‘62 of Amity, Terry Durham ‘67 of Hillsboro and Jib Bladine ‘69 of McMinnville were inducted into the McMinnville High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Marvin Bryson ‘61 of San Jose, Calif., served as a social work supervisor for San Andreas Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities before retiring in 2004.

Rom and Elaine (Scott) Redbird ‘60 live in Austin, Texas. Rom is semi-re- tire from the display electronics industry and works as a consultant. He traveled to Bredell, Mans., to help with Hurricane Katrina recovery.

Sally (Percussion) Skelding ‘62 of Portland is an early childhood educator. She recently created two DVDs, Grandma’s Hour and Tell it with Peppa.

Debra F. Du Foe fraternity member gathered each homestay, coming for a few rounds of golf. Fraternity brothers include Roger Mills ‘62 and Jack Cooley ‘62, both of Belling- ham, Wash. Larry Jones ‘62 of Chico, Calif., Dean Richard- son ‘62 of Pleasanton, Calif., Don Fraley ‘63 of Springfield and Doug Sargent ‘64 of Beaverton.

Haazi (Cook) Fleck GSH ‘64 of Hampden-Sydney, Va., retired as a pediatric nurse prac- titioner. She and her husband will take a five-month trip to Maine in their 44-foot trawler.

Dick and Gayle Withnell, both ‘64, live in Kerikeri, Dick a Linfield trustee, is a winner of Whanganui Music Cookie Awards, with the Marion County Chil- dren and Families Commission.

Steven Hanamura ‘67 of Beaverton, president of Han-amura Consulting Inc., spoke on “Achieving Diversity through Adversity” at the Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture at Linfield in January.

Jeffery Fisher ‘66 of Irvine, Calif., is vice president of NO’s Systems for WAHL- CO, Inc.

1970-79

Baruti Artharee ‘74 of Portland is transitioning from his executive role at Providence Health Systems to take a leadership role in Coast Industries Inc., which is owned by him and his wife, Coast, which is known for providing janitorial and facility services, has signed an agreement to become one of nine minority-owned firms in Office Depot’s Tier One program.

Robert Lowe ‘76 of Carson City, Nev., has served as the Nevada State Peon’s athletic and recreation specialist for over 30 years.

Debra (Bennett) Derr ‘78 of San Pascual, Wis., was named president of North Idaho Area Community College.

Jeff Brown ‘78 of Wilson- ton is vice president of market- ing and sales for Clear Choice Health Plans.

Greg Cotton ‘78 of Portland retired as math teacher, and track and field and cross country coach at Grant High School.

1980-89

Ted Harrison ‘80 of Ama- da, Calif., received the James T. Calkind Award recognition his pro bono contribution to the Lawyers’ Committee Legal Services for Entrepreneurial Programs. In May, the chief judge of the California Supreme Court presented him the Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service Award for pro bono work in 2007 by the Bar Association of San Francisco’s Volunteer Legal Services Program.

Sean Hoar ‘80 of Eugene recently founded the CyberSafe

Accreditation visit scheduled in October

Linfield College is in the process of reaffirming its accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. A team of accreditors will visit Linfield College on Oct. 22-24, 2008. Included in the visit will be a review of all college programs, including the Linfield College-Portland Campus/ Linfield Good Samaritan School of Nursing and the college’s adult degree completion programs. The purpose of the visit will be to review Linfield’s Self Study Report and to meet with members of the col- leges and community to assess Linfield’s compliance with the commission’s accreditation standards.

Linfield is accredited at the present time to of the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. In present accreditation was affirmed at the last accreditation review in 1998 and the most recent accreditation ac- tion was the affirmation of accreditation at the 2003 interim visit by the Commission.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities invites comments from members of the public pertinent to Linfield College’s reac- creditation review. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities must receive comments by Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, at its headquarters, 8006 16th Ave. NE, Suite 100, Redmond, WA 98052, 425-538-4224. Comments must be in writing and signed in order to be accepted by the Commission.

Further information about Linfield College can be found at www.linfield.edu or the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities at www.wvccu.org.
Mayer’s clients are the four-legged kind

Devon (Evans) Mayer ’03 has been using her psychology degree in ways she never imagined when she graduated from Linfield College.

After college, she worked in resident treatment centers with schizophrenic clients. Then, “I was given a dog and was having some trouble with her. I had a friend who was an animal trainer in movies, so I called her, and in the conversation I joked: ‘You don’t need an assistant, do you?’” Mayer was hired for six months to work on the movie Bailee. 10 hours a day, six days a week for $510 a week. Mostly, she cleaned the film’s birds. “I learned a lot from the other trainers,” she said. “At the end of that movie, I was hooked.”

Ten years later, she trains dogs, cats, rodents, birds and monkeys (nothing big – “I don’t want to get eaten,” she said) with Boone’s Animals for Hollywood. She has more than 20 films to her credit, including Firehouse Dog, Most Love Dogs, Catwoman, What's Wrong with0 Smart Little.

Mayer and her husband, Morgan, an account executive for ClickTime in San Francisco, live in Avon, Colo. Among their three dogs is the Yorkie Mayer worked with on the Seventh Heaven TV show. Mayer has a dog-training business and conducts obedience school when she’s not in Los Angeles.

On the movie set, she said, training is similar. “Once you learn the concept of training and relating to the animals, it’s being very aware, reading them and finding a way to connect with them,” she said. One of the first things she teaches animals is their mark, or position, like a human actor’s. Clickers, food and toys help to reinforce behavior.

At Linfield, Mayer’s internships included a pet therapy program. She said her college classes instilled in her a work ethic that serves her well in an industry where millions of dollars are on the line.

— Beth Rogen Thompson

Remember the fiscal year ends June 30 – support the Alumni Scholarship Fund today by going to: www.linfield.edu/asf

Devon (Evans) Mayer ’03 has trained animals for the films Cats and Dogs, Must Love Dogs and Year of the Dog.
Entrepreneur has global career

Steve Marshall ’86 was drawn to Linfield for its international opportunities. An exchange program at Kanto Gakuin University left him smitten by Japanese culture and inspired a global career.

Marshall immersed himself in Japanese studies, including a year at Keio University that helped him earn a degree in communications and Japanese studies.

He returned to Japan during a stint as Sokol Blos- ser winery’s business manager. Later, he landed a translation project for Jantzen. Marshall then flew to Japan with 100 copies of his book and landed a job with Manufacturers Hanover Securities, as a salesman in fixed-income securities. Earning little money, he lived in an apartment measuring six tatami mats. At first, he had no shower, and if he worked late he missed out on public baths. Finally, the landlord installed a small plastic-tube shower.

After three years, a big break came: Barclays Securities wanted to establish a fixed-income trading desk in Tokyo and hired him to head up sales. It was a full ex-parrot program that allowed for trips home and a three-bedroom house in central Tokyo, a significant contrast to his previous lifestyle.

International work offered exciting opportunities. “I put myself in a position to experience business and life at a much faster and dynamic pace than I ever would have back home,” Marshall said. “The world offers so many potential opportunities for our life if we step out and experience it.”

He advises today’s Linfield students to embrace different cultures: “Life is short; it’s crazy-busy 24/7/365. Opportunities to step outside your comfort zone are rare, so live it and learn while you are young.”

He also values the relationships he has formed: “People I’ve met all over the world have defined who I am and the perspective I take on many issues.”

In marketing, he advises today’s Linfield students to embrace different cultures: “We have to experience business and life at a much faster and dynamic pace than we ever would have back home,” Marshall said. “The world offers so many potential opportunities for our life if we step out and experience it.”

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Scenes from Commencement 2008

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