

# Linfield



**Celebrating a wild(cat) century**



Photo by: Andrew Beauchamp



**CH-CH-CHANGES:** Time may change the 'Cat, but old photos in the Linfield Archives trace the evolution of the costumed version of Linfield's mascot. Learn more about the origination of the Linfield Wildcat – in name, logo and costume – in the story, "Celebrating a wild(cat) century," on page 12.

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** Linfield Magazine tells bold, ambitious and entertaining stories of Linfield University. It strives to explore pressing topics, in higher education and the world, and inspire active participation in the Linfield community by covering the people, places, teams, events, successes and challenges that make up the life of the institution. The magazine is published twice annually by the Office of Strategic Communications.

# WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

There's still time to take the Magazine Readership Survey by Dec. 31.

Your feedback will help us keep Linfield Magazine connected to what inspires our community. It only takes 10 minutes to share your thoughts and help shape the future of Linfield Magazine.

**Make your voice heard.** Complete the survey today.



Questions? Contact editor Kathy Foss at [kfoss@linfield.edu](mailto:kfoss@linfield.edu).

## A culture of engagement

By Becky Johnson, interim president

It's been almost a year since I arrived at Linfield, and I can't believe how fast it's gone. I've experienced a commencement, a pinning ceremony and a convocation. There's also been a national softball tournament, an incredible luau, a Built to Burn arts event, a "last lecture" by a retiring faculty member, the renaming of Loveridge Hall on the Portland campus and the International Pinot Noir Celebration on the McMinnville one, as well as multiple plays, gallery openings and much more. There's a lot to do here!

All those engagement opportunities are a hallmark of Linfield's culture. As students came back to campus this fall, we encouraged them to get involved – in clubs, sports, Greek life, student government and myriad other activities. We asked parents to go home on Friday after dropping off their new students, so the first weekend could be spent on campus activities. Research clearly shows that an engaged student is more likely to be a successful student. Engaged students also develop more affinity for their alma mater. Most of you reading this can probably attest to that fact.

I saw this affinity firsthand at homecoming this year. It was a great opportunity to connect with so many of our alumni and celebrate our annual alumni award winners. And, of course, we won the football game. I spent most of my career at an institution that didn't always win the homecoming game, so I have to say we are spoiled here. In addition to athletics, it was great to witness reunions between old friends and classmates. More than once, I saw alumni reconnect with much-loved professors who had taught them and helped shape their future.

Speaking of professors, our faculty continue to do an amazing job in the classroom. They engage students in debate and dialogue, and they show genuine concern for each student's success. Almost every student I meet has both a



Photo by: Timothy D. Sofranko

**A WILDCAT WELCOME:** Interim President Becky Johnson enjoyed her first convocation and homecoming this fall. She finds that active and busy students become engaged alumni.

major and a minor – some have two majors, others three. I attribute this to students getting hooked on another subject when they take a class from a compelling professor outside of their majors. It doesn't hurt on the resume, either.

I suspect many of you are eager to know more about who Linfield's next president will be, as am I. You may have seen news articles claiming that no one wants to be a college president these days, as protests erupt on college campuses and presidential statements get increasingly politicized. But I think Linfield's opportunity, where we keep the focus on student success, will look great in comparison to many other universities. I expect to see very strong candidates. The finalists will visit campus this month, and I know Linfield will be in good hands going forward.



## Lorenzen earns NSF research grant

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced a \$247,348 grant in September for Kate Lorenzen, an assistant professor of mathematics. The grant supports research of pre-tenured faculty members that are historically excluded and currently underrepresented in math and science. Lorenzen's proposal, "Algebraic Methods in Spectral Graph Theory," continues her work analyzing networks, such as social media or computer systems, using matrices. The funding supports collaborative research with four Linfield students over the next two summers. Lorenzen also plans to develop a partnership with McMinnville High School to engage high school students in mathematical projects. This award is made in accordance with the provisions of NSF Solicitation: NSF 22-604 Launching Early-Career Academic Pathways in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences.



U.S. National Science Foundation

## Fall enrollment numbers show growth in graduate, OCE and first-year students

Linfield continues to find interest in its master's degree programs. Enrollment in the graduate-level nursing, business, education and sports science programs grew to 69 students this fall, up from fall 2023. Each program saw an increase in enrollment.

Additionally, the Online and Continuing Education (OCE) program saw an increase to 92 undergraduate and 13 graduate students this fall. That's up 20 students from last year.

Linfield's overall population decreased slightly to 1,709 students. However, the cohort of new students on the McMinnville campus is larger than in recent years. There were 426 new students, up from 391 last year.

Linfield has also seen an increase in the diversity of the student body. Some key demographic information on Linfield's undergraduate student population:

- 41% are first-generation students
- 23% are Hispanic/Latine/Latinx
- 40% are U.S. students of color

- 35% are Pell Grant eligible

"The number of Pell-eligible students demonstrates that Linfield continues to be an engine of economic mobility for families," said Gerardo Ochoa, vice president of enrollment management and student success.



## Donation updates Student Media Center spaces

The Student Media Center, located in the basement of Renshaw Hall, is receiving a much-needed update thanks to a \$25,000 donation from John '63 and Kathleen Buchner. The funding will allow for a new audio recording bay; adding and updating meeting spaces for student clubs; and purchasing additional state-of-the-art equipment.

## Buildings to reopen after mainline failure

Jereld R. Nicholson Library and Ford Hall are scheduled to reopen soon to the public after being closed due to a main waterline failure in June. Thankfully, contents within both buildings were spared; however, there were considerable repairs needed inside the spaces.

Public hours for Nicholson Library are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays. Ford Hall hosts its next performance, "Death by Design," running Nov. 14-23.

“This generous gift will update the Student Media Center to make it much more inviting for our students,” said Kevin Curry '92, assistant professor of journalism and media studies. “It will be much more usable for student collaboration, both educational and social.”

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies used some of the new equipment to host a new pre-orientation program for first-year students on podcasting. Six students in the Mic'd Up Program learned the basics of podcasting and told their own stories by creating podcast episodes.



## MACK'S MARCAT

### New dining locations provide late-night options

McMinnville students were welcomed back to campus this fall with three new retail locations, offering dining options after Dillin Hall closes.

A walk-up window service, called **subhub**, crafts built-to-order sandwiches until 11 p.m. Mack's Marcat, a micro-market with self-checkout, provides grab-and-go salads, drinks, snacks and pre-made sandwiches 24/7. The just baked Smart Bistro in Riley Campus Center is an elevated vending machine

available 24/7. It serves a rotating variety of cooked-to-order hot foods, such as White Castle sliders, breakfast sandwiches and baos.

“We have already received many positive comments, from both new and returning students, about the many great dining options available this year,” said Javier Lopez, the Linfield Dining Services general manager. “Students are ecstatic about the delicious Molten Double Chocolate Lava Cake at the new just baked Smart Bistro.”

### Three members added to board of trustees

In May, the Linfield University Board of Trustees unanimously approved the addition of three new members. The new trustees have deep ties to Linfield, as well as experience in the business and nonprofit sectors.

Mary (Nightingale) Lago '97 is a principal owner and chief wealth strategist at Ferguson Wellman Capital Management. She was named to Portland Business Journal's “Forty Under 40” and “Women of Influence” lists.

Katie Paullin '03 is chief marketing officer for Moda Partners, a regional health care company. Paullin sits on Linfield's Business Advisory Council and previously was on the board of Camp Fire Columbia.

Laurie Reser is parent to alumnus Amanda Reser '21, '22. She is deeply focused on philanthropic and volunteer work, including ALS Northwest, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Meals-On-Wheels and the Reser Family Foundation.



### Theatre professor Lindsey Mantoan receives national award for editing

Lindsey Mantoan, associate professor and the Ronni Lacroute Chair in Theatre Arts, won the 2024 Excellence in Editing Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Mantoan was honored along with her co-editors for the book, “Troubling Traditions: Canonicity, Performance, and Theater in the US.”

According to the award committee, “Troubling Traditions” is “timely, urgent, and quite comprehensive in its approach.” Specifically noted was “the opportunity to reflect on the ethics of what we teach, how we teach, and what we are teaching toward. This book will be an essential collection for teachers and students in coming years.”

In addition to teaching a variety of courses at Linfield, Mantoan directs musicals, plays and readings; is a contributor to CNN.com; and is an intimacy director. She is currently co-editing two new anthologies of trans plays and directing “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical” at Linfield in April 2025.

## Linfield recognized for excellence in student voter engagement

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge recognized Linfield in September for its nonpartisan engagement efforts that fostered high levels of student voter engagement in the 2022 midterm elections. Linfield earned a Gold Seal for having a student voting rate of more than 40%.

Linfield was recognized among the 500 campuses for voting in the 2022 midterms. ALL IN uses data gathered from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement out of Tufts University.

“Civic engagement is a key part of Linfield’s mission of connecting learning, life and community,” said Jeff Mackay ’88, vice president for student affairs. “We encourage our students to learn more about voting measures, engage in thoughtful dialogue with their peers, and most importantly, to be active citizens by voting.”

ALL IN previously recognized Linfield for the voter engagement campaign leading up to the 2022 election.

## Nobel Laureate Randy Schekman to speak at symposium in April

The Oregon Nobel Laureate Symposium at Linfield University returns April 10-11, 2025. The event will feature Randy W. Schekman, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2013.

His research was recognized for

the discoveries of machinery regulating vesicle traffic, a major transport system in human cells. As a result of his work on yeast membranes, advances have been made in life-saving drugs and vaccines. This includes insulin production for people with diabetes, the vaccine for hepatitis B and discoveries concerning genetic forms of Parkinson’s disease.

Additional details on the symposium are forthcoming and will be shared on [linfield.edu/nobel](http://linfield.edu/nobel).



## Linfield Collaborative Music Ensemble earns national recognition

The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts – one of the nation’s biggest arts contests – recognized the Linfield Collaborative Music Ensemble (LCME) recently for its excellence in chamber music.

LCME was named a national finalist in two categories: The Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music 2024 (Chamber Ensemble Division) and The American Prize in Chamber Music Performance

2024. Among the recordings honored were a pair composed by Linfield student Elana Gatien ’25 (“Dance of the Bat-Eared Fox”) and alumnus Zach Gulaboff Davis ’14 (“Twist”). The latter was commissioned with the support of a Lacroute Arts Series grant.

LCME was founded in 2022, and features the following Linfield faculty members: Florian Conzetti (artistic director, marimba), Alexis Evers (flute), Isaac Beu (clarinet) and Noah Seitz (cello). Recordings were produced with the support of a Linfield University Faculty Development Grant.

Listen to the recordings online at [magazine.linfield.edu](http://magazine.linfield.edu).

## Linfield ranks as top college for social mobility

This fall, Linfield received top marks for making a notable impact on its graduating students.

Washington Monthly named Linfield the No. 1 liberal arts college for both social mobility and graduate earnings in Oregon. The publication also included Linfield on its 2024 Best Bang for the Buck Rankings in the West.

Similarly, U.S. News & World Report named Linfield to its “Top Performers in Social Mobility” list for the sixth consecutive year. Linfield was the No. 1 liberal arts college in Oregon for social mobility in its 2025 rankings.

Overall, Linfield was tied for No. 108 in the nation’s top liberal arts colleges and also listed among the “Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs.”

Additional ranking information is available at [linfield.edu/rankings](http://linfield.edu/rankings).

## New honors program pilot set for fall 2025 start

Linfield is piloting a new honors program, which is enrolling its first cohort of 16 students for fall 2025.

The LEAD Honors Program builds a close-knit community of scholars, who will participate in common courses, on- and off-campus practicum experiences and personalized mentorship from two faculty advisors. Each LEAD scholar receives a renewable \$5,000 scholarship.

“Students are coming of age in a world with unprecedented challenges: political polarization, complex problems and a rapidly evolving economy. The need for inspired leadership has never been greater,” said Patrick Cottrell, the program’s inaugural director. “LEAD stands for Leadership and Ethics Across Disciplines. While there is no single blueprint for an effective leader, we believe that students best positioned to be difference-makers of tomorrow will be open-minded, superior communicators and mindful of ethics.”

More about the LEAD Honors Program is available at [linfield.edu/lead](https://linfield.edu/lead).

## Students get free access to wellness app

A new partnership is making it easier for students to set and prioritize healthy habits. Linfield students now have free access to BetterYou, a leading mobile wellness app.

BetterYou lets users set goals in four wellness categories: physical, social, educational and mindfulness. It has challenges to motivate users and

## Linfield fills several key positions

The university announced the hiring and promotion of the following individuals this fall.



**HANNAH FISHER '19** started as the director of student care and support in October. She joins Linfield from the Hillsboro School District, where she served as a high school teacher for the last three years. In her new role, Fisher leads the McMinnville campus’ Care Team in responding to and supporting students through educational and personal challenges.



In July, **KIKI FORNERO** was appointed as the director of simulation for the School of Nursing. Fornero has been at Linfield since 2019 as an assistant professor. During that time, she has worked with nursing students at various levels, helped develop new programs and fully integrated simulation experiences into the curriculum. She has served as the director of the ABSN and MEPN programs since February 2024.



**JOE READY** joined Linfield in August as the athletic band director. Ready is the principal tuba for the Portland Opera and an associate artist for The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass. He is also an instructor for the Seattle Cascades Drum & Bugle Corps and Pacific University.



In August, **KATRINA VALERA** started as the assistant dean of students/director of Portland Student Life. Valera has an extensive background in student affairs. Prior to joining Linfield, she served as associate dean of students at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In her new role, she oversees student affairs, activities and support initiatives on the Portland campus.

offers rewards for hitting goals.

“The BetterYou app is a great complement to the many student support programs and services available to Linfield students,” said Jenny Hauben-

reiser, director of Linfield’s Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center. “It is a helpful tool in setting habits and mindsets to support overall student health and well-being.”

# Linfield University

# HOMECOMING 2024

Relive the unforgettable moments of Homecoming Weekend 2024! From reunions to celebrations, the weekend was filled with memories that will last a lifetime. Mark your calendars for next year: Oct. 10-11, 2025!



Photos by: FMiller Photography unless otherwise credited

Andrew Lee



# Celebrating a Wild(cat) century

A look at the 100-year history of Linfield's mascot

By Kathy Foss

The term "mascot" comes from the French "mascotte," meaning lucky charm. It came to the United States in the 1880s thanks to a French opera, "La Mascotte."



This picture of a paper mâché Wildcat was taken by Reid Blackburn '74, who was killed in the 1980 volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens.



Editor Dolores (Harris) Laners '57 drew 10 cartoon wildcats that are sprinkled throughout the 1957 Oak Leaves. See more in the digital yearbook collection at [digitalcommons.linfield.edu/yearbooks](http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/yearbooks).



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It was a celebration a century in the making. Mack wore a special jersey bearing the number 100 during the Oct. 12 homecoming game, fans received commemorative hats and t-shirts, and of course, there was cake. Linfield celebrated its 100th year of being known as the Wildcats with a lineup of festivities fit for the occasion.

Interestingly, it was a far cry from how Linfield first adopted the nickname. Records are limited about how the Wildcats became, well, the Wildcats. It isn't known if there were choices or a debate, but a small column on the bottom of the Dec. 3, 1924, edition of The Linfield Review simply read:

*“Athletic nickname. ‘Wildcats’ is the new name which will strike terror into the hearts of Linfield’s antagonists in future athletic games.*

*The associated students Wednesday morning selected the name ‘Wildcats’ as the official nickname for Linfield’s teams, since it is a small school with a lot of fight and scratch.”*

Much has changed in the last 100 years — buildings erected and torn down, school name changed (from college to university), generations of people have come and gone — but through it all, the Linfield community has united as Wildcats.

**Athletic teams were previously referred to as the “Baptists,” the “Cardinal and Purple” or “Old Mac.” Often, sports writers simply used the school’s name.**

## What’s in a name?

That’s not to say the story of the Wildcats is a simple one. Inconsistencies have run rampant, even from the day it was announced. That same Dec. 3, 1924, edition of The Linfield Review featured stories with the spelling “Wildcats” and “Wild Cats.”

Women’s athletic teams over the years have been called the “feminine Wild Cats” in 1924, “Wildkittens” in 1963 and

Lady Cats in the 1980s. Also used regularly in the Linfield vernacular is the ever-popular Cats or ‘Cats.

In the world of college mascots, the Wildcat is not unique. In fact, in 1998, it was listed among the top 12 nicknames used at colleges and universities in the United States, behind several other felines, including tigers, panthers, lions and cougars. Today, the ‘cat’ category makes up roughly 16% of all American college nicknames. While Linfield is bordered by Wildcats to the north at Central Washington University and to the south at California State-Chico, most cat-themed college mascots are located in the Midwest and eastern United States.

**The Chico State student body also voted to become the Wildcats in 1924, and CWU adopted the mascot in 1926.**

## What is a Wildcat?

Early renderings of the school’s favorite feline can be found throughout Oak Leaves, Linfield’s yearbook, starting in 1925. The 1935 and 1938 covers feature an embossed (and rather toothy) Wildcat, while the pages of several utilize a variety of hand drawings in the pages, ranging from detailed cartoons to more realistic line sketches.

The college logo and seal during the early 1900s used images of the Old Oak or a book. It took until the middle of the century for Linfield (or at least some of its organizations) to use a common image of the Wildcat.

Even then, the depictions ranged from cats that resembled mountain lions or bobcats to the common (and sometimes angry) housecat. A window decal produced in the 1940s shows a screaming Wildcat — resembling a cougar — on top of the words Linfield College. This same artwork was being used in 1963 in a Linfield Review advertisement selling Wildcat checkbook covers.

But there were other Wildcats. A Campus Handbook from 1950-51 used a full-bodied, scratchy looking Wildcat

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wrapped around a block L. Yell leaders throughout the 1950s and 1960s would use this image on their sweaters, which also seemed a favorite for retailers.

There was a cross-eyed bobcat head, another used by song leaders with a mischievous grin and a full-bodied snarling Wildcat used between the 1960s and 1980s.

## Sporting a new look

A more consistent look for the Wildcat, and the athletic department logo, emerged in the 1960s.

Charlie Sheckler '66 designed and painted a sign displayed under the Maxwell Field scoreboard in the summer of 1961. The Wildcat he used bears a striking resemblance to today's athletic logo, with the snarling face and sailor hat. It is the first documented use of the Wildcat used to this day on Linfield uniforms and on a wide variety of merchandise.

A more refined version appeared as decals on the football team's helmets in the 1963 season under head coach Paul Durham '38. In a letter dated January 2004 to Tim Marsh '70, Durham wrote "About the helmet decal – I remember nothing except that it looks like a Disney wildcat, which I think is distinctive and great."

**The Walt Disney Company is responsible for several collegiate mascots created in the 1940-50s. In addition to the University of Oregon Duck, Disney produced mascots for the University of Denver, University of Missouri, Point Loma College and the College of Staten Island.**

The genesis of the logo as we know it now has long been unverified. Potter Manufacturing, a Eugene-based company from 1923 to 2023, created the helmet decals, which were also sold in the Linfield Bookstore. Potter Manufacturing was also a major supplier of the University of Oregon bookstore until its closing. It is not far-fetched to believe a designer at Potter created the logo that was then used and sold on campus.

Another popular collegiate mascot designer of the time was Arthur Evans, who served as art director for Angelus-Pacific Company in Fullerton, California, for 45 years. Historian Roy Franks called Evans "the most prolific cartoonist" and attributes at least 90% of the college mascots created between 1932-77 to Evans. He created the Washington State College Cougar, the University of Idaho's Joe Vandal, Oregon State University's Benny the Beaver and UCLA's Joe Bruin, among others. Hallmarks of Evans' designs include a small V-shaped notch in the eyes, emotional facial expressions (usually angry), and a tilted sailor hat.

**Why a sailor hat? Some believe it's a tribute to beanies that were popular for underclassmen to wear on college campuses. Others believe Evans added sailor caps in homage to his time as a merchant marine.**

The Angelus-Pacific connection to Linfield takes on more gravity if you compare the company's logo for Northwestern University (also the Wildcats) seen in a 1963 trade ad to the full-bodied snarling Wildcat used for merchandise sold in the Linfield Bookstore between 1966-80. The images, though reversed, are identical.

Tim Waddell, former president of Angelus, explained in a 2013 interview that Evans would draw a character, and the company would sell it to college bookstores repeatedly. It was a time before trademarking and licensing were the norm (this would come in the late 1970s). Waddell also said, "other printers also copied Arthur's designs and sold them not only to schools but to anyone who wanted a mascot."

Regardless of its origination, Linfield Athletics has used essentially this logo since the 1960s. That's not to say it hasn't evolved. Between 1963 and 1975, athletic department publications used logos that sometimes included "LC" on the brim of the sailor hat rather than just "L."

Ed Langsdorf, the football coach from 1980-2000, updated the original red and black logo to purple and cardinal in 1992. He told the Wildcatville blog via email in 2004: “The reasons were strictly cosmetic. I thought the logo was a little difficult to see at its former size and the black really wasn’t part of our uniform color scheme in any way.”

A university-wide rebrand in 2010 with the firm Brand Navigation modernized the logo by simplifying the lines and adding a gray outline for easier reproduction. The most notable changes, however, were uncrossing the Wildcat’s eyes and evening out the number of whiskers to five on each side.

## Bringing the Wildcat to life

Popularity for costumed mascots arose in the United States in the 1960s, thanks to the emergence of the New York Mets’ Mr. Met in 1964 and the Ohio State Buckeyes’ Brutus Buckeye in 1965. Historian Roy E. Yarbough described mascots as “an identity, a source of entertainment, a rallying point.” Former Wildcats agree.

“A logo like the Nike swoosh is a symbol of something larger than yourself. A mascot is the physical embodiment of the institution. It brings awareness of the institution,” said Timothy Love ’07, who served as the Wildcat mascot for four years.

At Linfield, the first mention of a costumed mascot on the Linfield sidelines appears in the 1950 edition of Oak Leaves.

A short paragraph about the accomplishments of the Spurs service organization that year reads, “Spurs have worked hard ... making the wildcat outfit which will be Linfield’s mascot ...”.

However, photos of a Wildcat costume do not appear in the archives for more than 20 years. The first one is identifiable in the 1974 Oak Leaves, showing a person wearing a paper mâché Wildcat head.

This was followed in 1978 with a full-body costume reminiscent of an adult onesie pajama-set. This costume, a far cry from today’s Wildcat, showed the student’s face, which was painted with a nose and whiskers. As their identity was not hidden, the student mascots participated in cheers and chants with the spirit squads.

Though they would be identified in several yearbooks, future Wildcats began to perform with an air of mystery starting in 1986. A new costume was unveiled at a football game that year with a toothy, smiling Wildcat jumping out from underneath a giant gift box.

By this time, the Wildcat was a regular fixture at Linfield football games and occasional basketball contests. Fans — especially the youngest Wildcats — responded positively to the mascot’s presence.

“All the kids would come up and take photos,” remembered Susan Greenwood ’90, who was the Wildcat for two years. “The funny part is I would be inside grinning even though no one could see it.”

## Modern Wildcat evolution



**PUTTING ON HIS GAME FACE:** The Wildcat logo used by Linfield Athletics has undergone rounds of edits since its inception in the 1960s.

**Greenwood often did cartwheels as the Wildcat. She ended up sewing an elastic band into the costume to keep the head secured when doing stunts.**

She loved being “wild and crazy” in the suit and bringing a sense of camaraderie to Linfield, she said.

“I would interact with the next generation of fans,” she remembered. “They had the most fun with the mascot.”

Bridger Hayes-Lattin '22 agreed. “I loved seeing all the alumni and families light up when they saw me, especially alumni,” he said.

Jake Jenkins '20 believed the ability to unite fans was the best part of the role.

“Mascots connect people,” he said. “People will come back for 40-year anniversaries and look for the mascot. I have pictures as a 9-year-old with the Wildcat, and then later, there are pictures with me in costume with 9-year-olds.”

## Suits of many Wildcats

The costume changed over the years, most notably in 1998, 2006 and 2019. The Wildcat’s facial expressions ranged from happy to angry and fierce. Sailor caps came and went (and came back again). There was also a quick chapter where the Wildcat often wore an athletic headband.

Tony Carpenter '98 is responsible for the Wildcat finally wearing clothes.

“I took one of Sean Stortzum’s [’98] jerseys from the laundry room to wear over the costume,” he remembered. “It needed more school spirit.” Oak Leaves from the time show the Wildcat donning a number 38 jersey. In 2017, the Wildcat started wearing a football jersey with the year of The Streak, a tradition that continues to this day.

But that’s not to say all he wears is a jersey. The Wildcat has been known to dress for the occasion. Throughout the years, he has worn Santa and Easter Bunny costumes, various t-shirts, a kilt at the McMinnville Scottish Festival and even a handcrafted Speedo.

## What’s in a name? (Part two)

Known for decades simply as the Wildcat, Linfield’s mascot finally received a name in 2014, 90 years after Linfield adopted the Wildcat nickname. Dan Ferguson, then director of college activities, led a Name the Wildcat contest. The name “Mack” was announced in May of that year.



**Jake Jenkins '20 fondly remembers when Mack switched his jersey to the number 64 when The Streak extended, which was his brother’s football number.**

“Mack is such a part of the community,” Jenkins, who was the first to be called Mack, said. “It is a fitting name as Linfield and McMinnville are so connected.”

Some of the other former Wildcats shared what their other ideas had been from Winfield (“because we WIN”) to Willy or Linnie.

## The walk, the (non-verbal) talk, the antics

Regardless of being called “the Wildcat” or “Mack,” students in the suit have a pretty unified idea of who he is and how he acts.

He is an actor. As Love said, “Being a mascot is an art – its theatre, it’s pantomime. You do things that as a normal person you would never do. When you’re dressed, it’s expected. You over-exaggerate everything because you are selling an idea.”

## The Wildcats behind the mask

Due to the mystery behind mascot identity, former mascots are not always recognized for their service. Thank you to these Linfield alumni, who donned the Wildcat costume and were a special part of Linfield history.

Tina McCormick '85

Ashley (Heinrich) Sage '88

Susan Greenwood '90

Alex Woodward '92

Tony Carpenter '98

Timothy Love '07

Bryce Borland '12

Jake Jenkins '20

Bridger Hayes-Lattin '22

Abram Nelson '24

Were you also the Wildcat? Let us know!  
Email [linfieldmagazine@linfield.edu](mailto:linfieldmagazine@linfield.edu).

He also balances confidence with comedy.

“I always wanted him to swagger, puff his shoulders out and be the ‘big man on campus,’” Jenkins added. “He has swagger, but jokes around, trips and makes kids laugh.”

But mostly, he is Linfield’s biggest supporter.

“The Wildcat personality is enthusiastic. He is the team’s number one fan,” Greenwood said. “It didn’t matter what sport; the Wildcat is the number one fan.”

And that is something that won’t change in the next 100 years.

“In athletics, the coaches change, and the players change. The mascot doesn’t,” Jenkins said. “He may improve or get work done, but he is always going to be there.”

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the Linfield Archives and Special Collections, especially Annette Castillo-Rodriguez '25. Also to Kelly Bird, Tim Marsh '70, the former Wildcats and “Inspired Pragmatism.”



Photo by: Timothy D. Sofranko



# A wine club as unique as you.

Linfield University's wine clubs have expanded, with more wineries and ways to customize your membership. Club proceeds support student scholarships.

## Oak & Vine Society

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- Two free tastings and a 10% discount at all partnering wineries.
- Invitations to three catered wine tasting receptions per year.
- Members-only discounts at Acorn to Oak Wine Experience in McMinnville.
- Access to a private tour of the Oregon Wine Archives.

## Acorn to Oak Wine Club

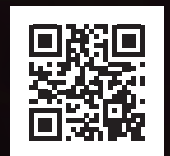
Upgrade to Linfield's newest wine clubs, featuring Oak & Vine Society benefits for two people, as well as:

- Customizable wine shipments twice per year.
- Complimentary tastings for two guests at Acorn to Oak.
- Greater purchase discounts at Acorn to Oak.
- And more!

Choose your benefits for a club experience right for you!



Learn more or register online:  
[acorntooakwine.com](http://acorntooakwine.com)





**BUILDING CONNECTIONS:** Becky Johnson said one of the challenges of being named interim president is forming the meaningful relationships to do the job — with students, employees, alumni and donors — knowing her time at the institution would be short.

Photo by: F Miller Photography

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# The art of the interim

President Johnson reflects on her second time around as an interim leader

By Scott Bernard Nelson '94

Rebecca “Becky” Johnson spent virtually her entire career – 37 years – at Oregon State University, rising from assistant professor in the College of Forestry to the presidency, becoming the first woman to oversee the institution. It’s surprising for Johnson, then, to find herself answering questions about what it’s like to be a short-time leader.

“It’s kind of strange,” she acknowledged, while discussing how she became interim president at two different universities, and how an interim role differs from being a permanent hire in the corner office.

When then-OSU President F. King Alexander resigned abruptly in the spring of 2021, Johnson was leading the university’s Cascades Campus in Bend. The board of trustees turned to her to bring stability to its campuses at a fraught moment. She spent the next year and a half as interim president before announcing her retirement in September 2022.

Retirement, though, didn’t last long. When President Miles K. Davis resigned in late 2023, the Linfield University board went looking for an experienced interim president to lead through a transition period. It found one nearby in Bend, where Johnson had settled down in retirement with her wife, Lori Elkins.

“I wasn’t looking for another job,” Johnson said, “but I was looking for something of purpose to do in retirement.”

Bob Carlson, president of the interim-placement arm of organizational consulting firm Korn Ferry, has been helping recruit and place interim CEOs and high-level executives at for-profit and non-profit organizations for three decades. He says the skills that make a good interim leader and the

“If someone is going to be important for the next 15 years ... you’re looking for someone who has upward mobility for evolving into more than they are in their current form. You’re not as concerned about that for an interim.”

– Bob Carlson, president of the interim-placement arm of organizational consulting firm Korn Ferry

mandate they are given differ from someone being hired to do the job long-term.

“If someone is going to be important for the next 15 years, you’re looking for some things in addition to the technical skillset. You’re looking for someone who has upward mobility for evolving into more than they are in their current form,” Carlson said. “You’re not as concerned about

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that for an interim. You're hiring a set of skills and experiences that are quite specific."

He says interim CEOs and presidents generally have a particular mandate from the board of trustees (or board of directors) about what needs to be done over a relatively short amount of time, and they need to hit the ground running.

"They don't get the same grace period or honeymoon period that a permanent person would," Carlson said.

Johnson says that was the case when she was hired as Linfield's interim president. The board was clear that the university's structural deficit, pattern of declining enrollment that began in the early 2010s and lingering distrust in the administration by some factions of the faculty were areas that would need to be addressed.

Johnson says she found a number of strengths and opportunities at Linfield that have outweighed the challenges. A strong and experienced board is populated with people who are deeply committed to the university, and faculty and staff members are uniformly focused on student success. Recent recruitment classes have also diversified the student body in a way that reflects the surrounding region. In particular, Linfield has done a good job recruiting first-generation students, who can benefit greatly from Linfield's deep-rooted support network.

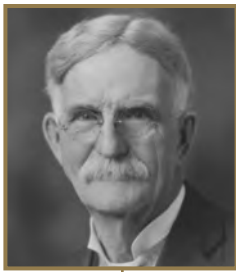
Part of her job, as Johnson sees it, is setting the next president up for success.

**"One of the most difficult things about being an interim is developing a lot of new relationships, with employees and students, and with donors and other external constituents, knowing that my time at the institution is going to be short."**

– Rebecca Johnson, interim president, Linfield University

"One thing I learned from my interim presidency at OSU was that people need a calm, transparent leader after going through some turmoil," Johnson said. "And I learned that people need to be reminded that, despite some hard times,

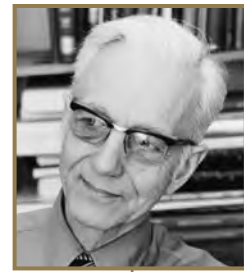
## Linfield's previous interim leaders



**EMANUEL NORTHUP**  
(1905-06)



**WILLIAM R. FRERICHS**  
(1931-32)



**WINTHROP W. DOLAN**  
(JULY 1-AUG. 31, 1968)  
(JUNE 1-AUG. 1, 1974)

the core of the institution hasn't changed – the same strong faculty and staff are doing all the great things they have always done. We just needed to put the focus back on that.”

There are some things an interim president shouldn't do, Johnson says, like embarking on a new strategic planning process or a new capital campaign. Long-term initiatives like that should be left to a long-term leader.

But the interim president shouldn't just be a placeholder, she says – the role contains the full power of the presidency, and the university has important issues to address here and now. It's a delicate balance.

Ultimately, Johnson says, the president's job – interim or otherwise – is about helping the community succeed. It's about the rest of the people at the university as much as it is about the person sitting in the president's chair.

“One of the most difficult things about being an interim is developing a lot of new relationships, with employees, students, donors and other external constituents, knowing that my time at the institution is going to be short,” she said. “At OSU, that part of the job was easier because I already had those relationships. As an interim president here with no previous connection to Linfield, it could have been difficult. It was made far easier by the great faculty, staff and members of the leadership team who care so deeply about this place. People have been willing to dig in to address our challenges, and they have an optimism about the future.

“The incoming president,” she said, “will be fortunate to be joining such an institution.”

## Presidential search timeline

The search process for Linfield's next president is proceeding, with a strong group of qualified applicants. The updated anticipated timeline for the process is:

### **OCT. 4**

Preferred filing date for interested applicants.

### **MID-OCT.**

Search committee members met to select semi-finalists.

### **OCT. 31**

First round interviews over Zoom completed with semi-finalists.

### **EARLY NOV.**

Search committee chose finalists.

### **MID-NOV.**

Finalists invited to Oregon for on-campus interviews.

### **BEFORE END OF 2024**

Announcement of new president.

The most up-to-date information is available at [linfield.edu/presidentialsearch](http://linfield.edu/presidentialsearch)

Read more about Linfield interim and acting presidents online: [magazine.linfield.edu](http://magazine.linfield.edu)



**CORNELIUS SIEMENS**  
(1974-75)



**MARVIN C. HENBERG**  
(2005-06)



**REBECCA L. JOHNSON**  
(2024- )

# Reflections of a servant leader

By Paul Smith, dean of the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing

I wasn't always a nurse. Among other things, I spent eight years as a manager in a fast-food restaurant before I went back to school to move into a health care profession. But the lessons I learned throughout my career — in hospitality and as an intensive care unit nurse, nurse manager and nurse educator — all still apply to my work as dean of the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing.

**Lead with empathy, respect and a deep commitment to those you serve.** As I cut my teeth in restaurant management, I learned many of the do's and don'ts of effective leadership. Early in my career, I took on every challenge myself — handling inventory, resolving complaints, covering shifts — thinking it would help my team. Instead, they felt sidelined and morale dropped. That experience taught me real leadership isn't about doing it all; it's about respecting and empowering others.

This shaped my belief in servant leadership, a philosophy that emphasizes serving others as the primary goal of leadership. Robert Greenleaf, who first coined the term, said it best: "It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead." Embracing servant leadership transformed my approach, allowing my team in the restaurant to grow stronger together.

When I started in nursing, my first position was in a small hospital in LaGrange, Georgia. I quickly realized that nursing, like leadership, is about service. It's about being present for patients, families and colleagues — supporting them through their most vulnerable moments.

My experiences — both in nursing and in life — have taught me that the most effective leaders are those who lead with heart and put others first. This is the type of leader I strive to be every day.



Photo by: F Miller Photography

**INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS:** Dean Paul Smith, who has long been a popular educator, still finds time to get in the classroom.

**Leadership is a skill and a continuous learning process.** I have participated in the National League for Nursing's Leadership Institute, called LEAD, as well as a leadership program sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. These programs reinforced the importance of skills such as listening, adaptability and empathy. In health care, these skills are critical to building teams, advancing initiatives and, ultimately, providing the highest quality of care.

One of the most valuable lessons I've learned along the way is the importance of listening. Those who know me understand that I love to talk, but the leadership programs have taught me that listening is often more powerful than speaking. People want to know they are heard, that they are cared about and that their work matters. This is the same whether you are managing a fast-food restaurant or being the charge nurse in a busy ICU. Developing this ability to listen intently has been a crucial part of my growth as a leader and one I continue to work on daily.

**Leadership is not a title.** I currently co-teach a leadership course for our traditional BSN program and have previously taught the leadership course for our master's program. My goal in these leadership classes has been to ensure that students understand they don't need to be managers to be leaders. Leadership can and should come from any nurse, at any level, and I structure my courses to be more conversational to encourage students to see themselves as leaders.

I was recently delighted to receive an email from a student in that class, Natisha Ortiz Rodriguez '24, who said, "Your insights and stories during the class have been incredibly inspiring. They have encouraged me to stay grounded, while also embracing growth. As a first-generation Mexican navigating a profession with a limited Mexican presence, I often face unique challenges. Your words have given me the motivation to strive not just for myself, but also for my patients and future generations." I am grateful that Natisha is pursuing nursing and she already is envisioning herself as a leader for the patients in her care.

**The best leaders inspire and celebrate others' leadership growth.** Simon Sinek wisely said, "Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge." This philosophy guides my work as dean and in the classroom. I want our students to graduate with not only the technical and critical thinking skills needed in nursing but also with the confidence to step up as leaders in their field. I am overjoyed when I connect with alumni who have found their voices and are leaders in their organizations.

As dean, I see my role as a leader who supports not only our students but also our dedicated faculty and staff members. By fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment, I strive to empower every member of our community to excel and contribute to the continued success of our school.

## About the author

Paul Smith is dean of the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing. He has served Linfield in a variety of professorial and administrative roles since 2007. His research focuses on diversity, cultural competence and health disparities seen in the LGBTQ+ community.



In addition to several school- and university-wide leadership roles, Smith has also distinguished himself as a leader in nursing.

He participates as an active member of the National League of Nursing (NLN), American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, SIGMA and Western Institute of Nursing Research. He was elected as a commissioner for a three-year term on the NLN Commission for Nurse Educator Certification in 2017 and was selected to participate in the LEAD program for emerging nurse educator leaders in 2013.

Smith has long been a popular professor and educator in all nursing programs at Linfield and is currently co-teaching the Nursing Leadership course with Associate Dean Heidi Johnston.

It's why I have encouraged our employees to enroll in professional development opportunities, pursue advanced degrees and participate in programs like LEAD.

Great leaders don't fear when others grow around them. They encourage, support and inspire others in their organization to rise together.

Looking ahead, I am excited to continue serving our Linfield community, supporting the next generation of nurses and helping them become compassionate, capable leaders in their own right. Our students are amazing, and it is a privilege to help guide them on their paths to becoming leaders in health care.

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# Linfield looks to attract more vets

Newly created coordinator position helps military veterans navigate path to campus

By Scott Bernard Nelson '94

Stacey Prescott '25 originally thought she wanted to be an astronaut. Or maybe a fighter pilot. Then, as a student at the Naval Academy in the 1990s, she discovered that high-flying aerobatics gave her motion sickness.

“So I went into helicopters,” she said recently, sitting in Fred Meyer Lounge as undergraduate students decades younger than her streamed by on the way to Starbucks.

Prescott graduated with a degree in aerospace engineering and flew Navy helicopters for seven years, including two overseas tours. Then came an extended run as a Navy Foreign Area Officer, with deployments to Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

She earned two master's degrees, learned to speak Mandarin and developed a habit of hosting wine dinners for dignitaries and officials. At some point, she started taking wine vacations to destinations like New Zealand, South Africa and California's Napa Valley.

“That's where this idea of wine becoming a post-retirement gig came to mind,” Prescott said. “Everywhere I went in wine country, there was another beautiful vista. I loved the idea of actually living in one of those areas and of being a part of the industry, or something adjacent to it.”

Now a retired Navy captain, Prescott is in her first semester of the wine business leadership track in Linfield's Master of Science in business program. She's tapping into the GI Bill® and the Yellow Ribbon Program to help pay for tuition, housing and books.

But it wasn't easy to navigate the Veterans Affairs Administration, and Prescott said she leaned heavily on the help of Emily Delo, Linfield's veteran affairs/student outreach coordinator.

“I knew I didn't want to navigate the VA and education benefits on my own,” she said. “Emily made it absolutely seamless for me.”

Delo, a child of Air Force veterans who attended college using her parents' GI Bill benefits, is the first person to hold her position at Linfield. She's thrilled that the university is investing not only in financial aid for veterans, but also in making it easier for them to apply and access the VA benefits they've earned.

“Many veterans can come here tuition-free, but it's so ridiculously confusing to navigate the VA system or even to reach someone there to ask questions,” she said. “I have personal experience being a military brat and utilizing VA benefits to pay for college. I know what it's like; I can help them walk through the process.”

Linfield has 44 veteran and military-affiliated students who are in contact with Delo's office, but she believes there are others who haven't reached out to her. She also expects the number to grow in the years ahead as Linfield leans into its status as a Yellow Ribbon school with a School Certifying Official like her to help guide them.

“For vets, it can be scary to figure all this out,” Prescott said of VA benefits. “My message to them would be to open yourself up and take the leap, find a person like Emily and a place like Linfield to help you figure out the next chapter in your life. You'll be glad you did.”

## LEARN MORE

Find information about available veterans' benefits and support services at [linfield.edu/veterans](https://linfield.edu/veterans).



**ADVANCING ON THEIR NEXT CAREER:** Stacey Prescott (left) spent 20 years in the Navy and retired this year as a captain. She is joined by fellow veterans or military-affiliated students Leanne Babcock (front), Divenson Willis '24, '25 (right), Azia Salbego (center back) and Evan Salbego (rear) in this fall's cohort of students in Linfield's Master of Science in business program.

ts From Emily's Memoir  
remember" Pgs. 6-7 & 32



April 26,  
1941  
Emily dies  
at age 81  
as a  
patient at  
the Good  
Samaritan  
Hospital



Commencement 1949

1952  
Lloydena  
Grimes  
begins a  
30-year  
career  
managing  
the  
School of  
Nursing

1940

1950



Generations of Good  
Samaritan Nurses

1950's  
Good Samarita  
Hospital serve  
as a leading  
polio treatment

# Worth 1,000 words

A historical exhibit honoring nursing pioneer Emily Loveridge was officially unveiled on Sept. 24 in the Portland campus' newly renamed Loveridge Hall. The display showcases items from the Linfield Archives, as well as a timeline highlighting key moments related to Loveridge, the Good Samaritan Hospital nursing program and the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing. The exhibit was funded in part by the Oregon Heritage Commission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. See more images and a video of the event at [magazine.linfield.edu](http://magazine.linfield.edu).



1966  
The original  
Loveridge Hall  
opens



1976  
First Bachelor's  
degrees awarded  
through Linfield  
College to  
Samaritan's  
graduate

1960

1970





**MAKING MUSIC:** William Campbell, director of composition studies, works in his home studio in southwest Portland.

Photo by: Timothy D. Sofianko

## In process with the energies

### Composer William Campbell creates haunting backdrops for internationally acclaimed documentaries

By Kelly Williams Brown

In late August, William Campbell found himself in a situation any creative would find simultaneously horrifying and envy-inducing.

Campbell – the chair, associate professor and director of composition studies in Linfield’s Department of Music – spent most of his waking hours composing the scores of not one but two prestigious documentaries, and the deadlines were only a few weeks apart.

“They were not supposed to overlap,” he said, laughing.

Luckily, he said, the two films called for very different compositions: “Chasing Roo,” about kangaroo hunting in Australia, was mostly electronic, while “Keep Quiet and Forgive,” about cycles of abuse in Amish communities, called for acoustic instruments. Both were “dark, ambient, mostly environmental — and emotional, too.”

Campbell has scored eight movies. Two – “Lifeboat” and “Hunger Ward” – were Oscar nominees in 2018 and 2020, respectively. He also received an Emmy nomination for Best Original Score for the 2020 docudrama “Sons & Daughters of Thunder.”

He has a niche — “documentaries with a social-justice lens.” His range of work has addressed starvation in Yemen, Libyan refugees who flee across the Mediterranean on crowded rafts and a surgeon operating on victims of the Syrian civil war.

Some call for haunting, repetitive piano. Others, mournful string arrangements. His process varies.

“Sometimes, I’m working out the ideas at the piano, and it’s the physical, auditory experience,” he said. “Sometimes, working it out in my inner ear, then on paper. But it’s the emotions ... always the emotions.”

And, he said, it involves something powerful and intangible beyond himself.

“I feel like I’m a partner in process with whatever energy is there,” he said. “When I’ve lost myself in the composing, I’m totally unaware of time or anybody. Even myself, really. It’s a very wonderful out-of-body — but still in the body — experience.”

Now he is working to bring Linfield students to that same place.

“The student talent is higher than any group I’ve had the privilege of working with,” he said, laughing. “Maybe it’s something in the water?”

Through the Lacroute Composer Readings and Chamber Music Mentorship Program at Linfield, students work directly with professional musicians to perfect, and ultimately perform, their original compositions. Acclaimed pianist María García is mentoring students throughout the fall semester.

Come this spring, the student composers might follow in Campbell’s footsteps.

“Next semester, Dr. Campbell is trying to get some short films made for us composers to write scores for, which is something I’ve never heard about at any other school,” said Aaron Smith ’27, a composition major from Everett, Washington.

Offering students these real-world opportunities, Campbell said, allows students to experience a full creative process and build confidence in their skills.

“Our job is just to create,” he said. “It’s rare that someone sits down and improvises a piece of music and it’s done. It’s really in the revision process where the finished piece of music comes into its own. It requires a lot of work, and you have to maintain a sense of confidence in your own ability while also maintaining a sense of humility about the process.”

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:** Read a Q&A with documentarian Skye Fitzgerald on his decadeslong collaboration with William Campbell at [magazine.linfield.edu](https://magazine.linfield.edu).

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# Living the dream

Katelyn Greenawalt '23 journeys from McMinnville to the sidelines of Major League Soccer

By Kelly Williams Brown

“On Christmas Eve-eve, they called and said, ‘If you want this internship, it’ll be a yearlong internship instead of a summer one, and it starts January 5.’ I’m at home in Pennsylvania. All of my stuff is in Oregon at Linfield. And I was like, ‘Yep, no problem. I’ll be there.’”

– Katelyn Greenawalt '23

On a cold January morning in 2023, Katelyn Greenawalt '23 pulled into one of the 4,500 parking spots at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas, for the first time.

Life had come at her fast. Only eight months before, in May 2022, she graduated from DeSales University with a Bachelor of Science in sport management. That August, she moved from Center Valley, Pennsylvania, to Oregon to begin her Master of Science in sports science and analytics at Linfield. Only a few months later, on December 23, she was contacted by Major League Soccer’s FC Dallas.

“On Christmas Eve-eve, they called and said, ‘If you want this internship, it’ll be a yearlong internship instead of a summer one, and it starts January 5,’” she recalled. “I’m at home in Pennsylvania. All of my stuff is in Oregon at Linfield. And I was like, ‘Yep, no problem. I’ll be there.’”

While Greenawalt chose Linfield for the in-person learning experience, both she and associate professor Cisco Reyes knew saying “no” wasn’t an option.

“It was definitely a ‘You need to go — you applied, they want you there, this could lead into bigger and better things’ situation,” recalled Reyes, who coordinates the graduate program.

Greenawalt finished her master’s degree online, and the gambit paid off. In less than two years, Greenawalt steadily moved up the ranks — from intern to full-time employee and now, the team’s sports scientist.

“There’s a lot that she does for us, and it is all very important to our team’s success,” said Ardavan Vahidvari, performance coach for FC Dallas. “For example, when we are looking at an injured player’s medical progress, we need to be able to identify every positive and negative trend. With the live data tracking, we can decide if things are progressing naturally or if there might be an underlining muscular issue that hasn’t been corrected.”

On an average day, Greenawalt said, she’ll arrive at the stadium at 6:30 a.m. to make sure her hyper-precise GPS



**A DREAM REALIZED:** Katelyn Greenawalt '23 has wanted to work for a professional sports team since high school. Today, she is living her dream as the sports scientist for FC Dallas.

units are charged. By 7:15 a.m., she's on the pitch setting up equipment, then in a meeting to discuss individual and team goals for the day. Around 9 a.m., the players begin training.

As the players run through warm-ups, passing drills and keep-away drills called "rondos," Greenawalt's GPS units capture nearly 200 datasets on each player. While results stream to her iPad in real time, Greenawalt observes.

"I'm not the coach, and it's not my job to see if they're doing skills correctly," she said. "I'm watching them and saying, 'OK, I know from the data this guy has a hamstring issue; let's see how he receives the ball.'"

After practice, the biggest part of her work begins. She curates the massive spreadsheets of data that show everything from intensity to max deceleration speed. Out of the data,

she finds the crucial points that can maximize the players' advantage performance — or warn of an undetected injury.

"Part of being a sports scientist is that you're a jack of all trades," she said. "You have the whole circle — the data analytics, the coaching, the psychology, the strength, and conditioning, the performance side, the medical side. You have to know a little of all of it."

Even a few years in, Greenawalt is amazed at how fast everything transpired.

"It didn't really hit me until our first friendly [exhibition match] that I get to sit on the sidelines of a professional team. This was my dream since I was 17," she said. "Everything I've worked for is to get this job, and I still can't believe I get to do it. It doesn't feel real."



HALL

Photo by: Timothy D. Sofranko

# Athletic leadership team ushers in new era

Trio of top administrators in the athletic department are new in 2024-25

By Scott Bernard Nelson '94

Fans following Linfield's athletic programs over the past couple of decades probably know of Scott Brosius '01. He's arguably the best-known professional athlete among Linfield alumni – 11 years in Major League Baseball, more than 1,000 hits, three World Series titles and a World Series Most Valuable Player award will do that – and he came back to campus after retirement to coach the Wildcat baseball team to a national championship and four NCAA Division III World Series trips.

In May, Brosius came out of retirement again – this time, to manage all of Linfield's sports teams as vice president for athletics and athletic director.

"I know what Linfield athletics has meant in my life," Brosius said. "How much I learned, how much I grew up here. I want to do what I can so others can share the same type of experiences."

Brosius quickly set about building an administrative team to help usher in a new era for the athletics department.

In June, he named Jessica Hollen as assistant director of athletics and senior woman administrator in the department. Hollen was a four-time softball Northwest Conference Coach of the Year at George Fox. She also handled compliance issues and served as senior woman administrator there.

Then in July, Brosius named Casey Powell '97 as assistant director of athletics for facilities. Powell, a former

baseball conference player of the year for the Wildcats, filled a similar role at Pacific University. Powell also did stints as the head baseball coach at Whitman College and general manager of the Bend Elks minor league team.

"I think goal No. 1 when I arrived was to get the right team in place," Brosius said. "Jessica and Casey are quality people with the right backgrounds and experience. Now, we can refocus and start to re-envision where we are going forward."

Brosius said he and the athletic leadership team have spent a lot of time in recent months meeting with chief financial officer Mike Wenz and budget director Mike Nardoni '16 about department finances. Figuring out a realistic budget for each program and then holding coaches accountable to live – and flourish – within it is a high priority.

Another priority is raising the floor for Linfield athletics, bringing lower-performing programs up to the level of perennial powerhouses like softball and football. Focusing on fundraising in order to upgrade some of the athletic facilities will also be necessary soon, Brosius said.

"A year from now, I hope everybody on and off campus notices that athletics is really clicking, running on all cylinders," he said. "Some of those long-overdue facilities improvements should have been made by then, and people will be able to recognize that things are going well."

**ELEVATING ATHLETICS: Casey Powell '97 (left), Scott Brosius '01 and Jessica Hollen expect to raise the floor for Wildcat sports teams – helping all 23 programs find the on-field and on-court success exhibited by football and softball in recent years.**



## Cheer and dance add 21 new students this fall

Chants from the sidelines sound a little louder this fall thanks to a stellar recruiting season for the Linfield cheer and dance programs. The teams, now at 50 squad members, accounted for 21 new first-year students this fall.

Gina Regalado, in her sixth year as dance coach, is joined by first-year cheer coach (and daughter-in-law) Kristen Regalado, who also leads the state champion Yamhill-Carlton High School cheer team.

## Class of 2024 inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

The Linfield community celebrated the induction of the newest class of Wildcat greats into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 26.

The Class of 2024 includes:

- **Jeff Brooks '87** (men's soccer): He was a first-team all-conference performer for three years. After coaching at Linfield, he led Mountain View High School in Vancouver, Washington, to a boys soccer state championship in 1993.

- **Emily (Keagbine) Conner '11** (softball): This three-time NFCA All-American was also voted Most Inspirational Player on Linfield's 2011 national championship team. She still holds seven top-10 career records.

- **Karleigh (Prestianni) Potter '13** (softball): Her home run in the 2011 national championship game sealed the title. She is a four-time first-team NFCA All-American and holds 14 top-5 single-season and career records.

- **Melody Sherman '00** (track and field): Earned back-to-back conference crowns in the 100- and 200-meter dashes in 2005 and 2006. She competed in three national championship meets and holds school records for the 100- and 200-meter dashes and the 4x400 relay.

- **Emily (Fellows) Terry '14** (women's soccer): She is the most prolific goal scorer in Linfield history. She holds school records for most points, goals, game-winning goals and minutes played. She is a three-time NWC Offensive Player of the Year and two-time NSCAA All-American.

- **2013 Linfield baseball team:** Under head coach Scott Brosius '01, the team captured Linfield's first national baseball title since 1971. The Wildcats set four program records and went 21-3 versus NWC competition.

## The Streak extends to 68 winning seasons

With a win over the University of Puget Sound on Oct. 26, the Wildcat football team secured its 68th consecutive winning season, the longest

in college football history. No other college or university at any level is within 24 years of that record.

Linfield's Archives and Special Collections has an oral history project featuring interviews with members of the 1956 football team who started The Streak. To access the digital collection, visit [linfield.edu/thestreak](http://linfield.edu/thestreak).

## Home events for winter sports begin in November

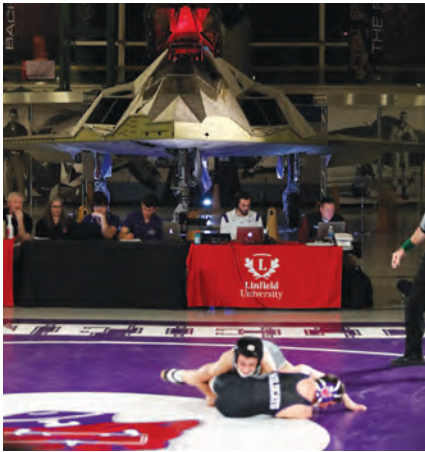
As the fall sports seasons move into post-season, things are heating up indoors with Linfield's winter sports.

After hosting exhibition games in October, the women's basketball team competes in away matchups in early November. The men's basketball team also starts with a string of road games. Both teams return to McMinnville for a doubleheader on Nov. 26. The women play Corban at 5 p.m., and the men take on Redlands at 7 p.m.

Men's and women's wrestling open their seasons traveling to regional tournaments. The Wildcats host their first home dual at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 versus Pacific.

The swim teams jumped into conference competition on Nov. 1. With only one home meet in the early part of the season (Nov. 9 vs. George Fox), the Wildcats return in 2025 to host home meets, scheduled Jan. 11, Jan. 24 and Feb. 1.

The men's and women's indoor track and field teams begin their winter schedule in January. They then head outdoors for the Erik Anderson Memorial Icebreaker in McMinnville on Saturday, March 2, 2025.



## Night at the Museum returns Jan. 24

The men's and women's wrestling teams once again host the annual Night at the Museum wrestling event on Friday, Jan. 26, 2025, at the Evergreen Air and Space Museum.

At last year's inaugural event, Linfield split a dual match with Umpqua Community College. Fans in attendance were treated to a series of intense matches, with athletes competing on mats surrounded by a NASA space capsule, stealth fighter jets and a Navy helicopter.

## 1984 NAIA Championship team honored at homecoming

Members of Linfield's 1984 NAIA championship football team celebrated the 40th anniversary of their historic season at the Oct. 12 football game against Lewis & Clark.

The 1984 Wildcat football team clinched the NAIA Division II football national championship after coming back from a 22-point second-half deficit

to beat Northwestern (Iowa) 36-22.

During the season, coach Ad Rutschman '54 passed Paul Durham '36 to become the winningest coach in

Linfield football history.

The team was inducted into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004.

## New head coaches join Linfield Athletics

"Our new coaches are strong additions to the Wildcat Athletics team," athletics director **Scott Brosius '01** said. "Each brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the athletic, academic and social development of our student-athletes."



**LACEY BELL, VOLLEYBALL:** Bell brings 15 years of professional and semi-professional international playing experience to her position, most notably as player-coach and seniors elite team captain with Volley Ball Pexinois Niort France, a club team located in France's central-west coast region. She came to Linfield from Pacific University, where her most recent role was as an assistant varsity coach, recruiting coordinator and junior varsity coach.



**TODD MANSFIELD, MEN'S TENNIS:** Mansfield is a former Division I tennis player and longtime Oregon high school tennis and basketball coach. He previously coached tennis at Oregon Episcopal School, Lincoln High School and Catlin Gabel School for 17 years. He was named Oregon Coach of the Year in 2023 and recently earned a master's degree in positive coaching and athletic leadership from the University of Missouri.



**PHIL WHITEHEAD, WOMEN'S TENNIS:** Whitehead, who brings more than 30 years of coaching experience, is a familiar face to Linfield's women's tennis program, having previously coached the Wildcats from 1988 until 1994. During that span, he compiled a 57-49-1 win-loss record and was twice honored as the Northwest Conference Coach of the Year. He joins Linfield from Central Oregon Community College, where he served as the women's tennis coach and organized intramural and club sports. He previously coached at Mountain View High School (2020-24), Newberg High School (2002-04) and Willamette University (1996-99).

Read in-depth student-athlete profiles, download sports schedules and watch livestream events: [GoLinfieldWildcats.com](https://www.linfield.edu/sports/GoLinfieldWildcats.com)

# Checking every box

Kaili Saathoff '25 is a force on the field, in the classroom and the community

By Kelly Bird, communications and marketing director for athletics

Since arriving at Linfield, Kaili Saathoff '25 has compiled a rare resume of all-around accomplishment.

The list starts with Saathoff receiving what is considered the highest scholarly honor for an NCAA Division III softball student-athlete last spring. That's when she was named the 2024 Softball Academic All-American of the Year by the College Sports Communicators organization. The Philomath native is only Linfield's third two-time CSC Academic All-American in any sport and only the second Linfield athlete ever to be accorded CSC's prestigious Academic All-American of the Year award, joining volleyball's Lindsay Harksen '06 in 2005.

Equally impressive, Saathoff became the first repeat winner of the Elite 90 Award for Division III softball, awarded to the top scholar from competing institutions at each of the NCAA's 90 national championship events.

Now in her seventh semester at Linfield, Saathoff maintains a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while pursuing a double major in mathematics and physics.

Classroom studies, she says, are especially exciting when course content blends together math and physics, opening her eyes to entirely new ways of understanding the world.

"Even if I don't know an answer, let's see how far I can get to find the answer," she says. "Rather than focusing on the correct answers, it's more the process to getting there."

She seemingly has the answers on the field. Starting 52 of Linfield's 54 softball games at first base last spring, Saathoff hit .479 with 23 doubles and 43 runs batted in. She scored 71 runs and added 18 stolen bases for good measure. During Linfield's dominant 40-game regular season, in which the Wildcats became just the second college softball program to go unbeaten, Saathoff batted .504. She was the only conference player to hit over .500.

She contributes to Linfield's student culture as a member of the Students Advocating for Gender Equity club, as a leader within Residence Life and as a member of several student

"Growing up, my parents always told me 'You're a student-athlete, [but] the student comes first.' I focus on that, and athletics is kind of my reward ... I'm here to be a student."

—Kaili Saathoff '25

clubs, all while aiding fellow students as a tutor and teacher assistant in the math and physics departments.

"Growing up, my parents always told me 'You're a student-athlete, [but] the student comes first.' I focus on that, and athletics is kind of my reward ... I'm here to be a student. I'm here to learn and then graduate and go on to earn my Ph.D. in physics.

"I haven't entirely determined which area I'm most interested in," she added. "I would love to either work as a professor for a university and teach the next generation while continuing research, or I would like to work for NASA."

See the full Saathoff file at [magazine.linfield.edu](https://magazine.linfield.edu)



**Kaili Saathoff**  
LINFIELD

THE SAATHOFF FILE	
2024 Offensive Statistics	
At bats.....	165
Hits.....	79
Batting Average.....	.479
Runs Scored.....	23
2B.....	3
3B.....	1
HR.....	43
RBI.....	18
SB.....	18
SB Attempts.....	569
On-Base Pct.....	.673
Slugging Pct.....	.996
Fielding Pct.....	31
Walks.....	13
Strikeouts.....	

# Time to give

## Three alumni are making a difference through mentoring, sharing and service

By Chase Estep

There are many ways for alumni to support their alma mater: They could donate money to support a scholarship or the general fund, gift investments like real estate or stocks, or include the university in their wills. Some alumni, however, have discovered the deep impact they can make with a gift of their time. While financial contributions are vital, the value of time, mentorship and personal connections often resonate deeply with students who are looking for guidance. Below, meet three Linfield alumni who opened their schedules to stay connected to Linfield and make a difference in the lives of students.

### Mentoring medical school hopefuls

Dr. Beth Harmon '79 had always dreamed of going to medical school, but as a high school student, she didn't think it would be possible. She was drawn to the small, supportive environment of Linfield, and upon visiting, she immediately felt accepted and supported. At Linfield, she found a mentor in John Day, who would go on to help create Linfield's RN to BSN program, and support from professor John Hare. Day guided Harmon through the medical school admission process, while Hare encouraged her in her studies.

"He gave me a love for microbiology, specifically immunology," she said. "His passion was infectious, no pun intended. I continue to call on the lessons that he taught in his classes."

Now an obstetrician and gynecologist in Salem, Harmon is repaying Hare's kindness by mentoring students who are interested in pursuing a medical degree. One such student

was Raquel Bryant '20, an employee who she started mentoring when Bryant started researching colleges. Harmon encouraged Bryant to attend Linfield. Harmon continued mentoring her during her undergraduate studies and through the passing of her RN certification test.

"I only mentor students who don't come from medical families," Harmon said, explaining that students who have health care professionals in their families usually have access to information and resources that non-medical families don't. "I help them understand the path to medical school."

Harmon also supports current Linfield students by helping them improve their interview skills and essays for medical school. With a 100% success rate in helping students get into medical school so far, she asks only that they also pay it forward to help the next generation.

"No matter your field, mentorship can change a life," Harmon said.

### From students to stars

Peter Clem '88 found his professional calling as an upperclassman at Linfield. The mass communications major remembers attending class trips to radio and television stations in Portland, where he built professional connections that would later open doors. That network led to a summer internship at KATU-TV, where he honed skills that would shape his entire career. Clem credits these early opportunities at Linfield as crucial stepping stones that helped him build the foundation for his success.

"That internship at ABC started my career in the media industry," he said. "From there, I eventually went on to work on the Oprah Winfrey Show, HGTV and then



**BEHIND THE SCENES AND STREAMS:** Peter Clem '88 gives a presentation on streaming apps during the 2023 NW Media Fest. He shared advice with students on careers in an evolving media landscape.

“Just do it! Explore the many ways to stay engaged with Linfield.

Try it for a year and see where it takes you — you won't regret it!”

—McKenna (Pyeatt) Knapp '13

Warner Bros. Discovery, where I launched and worked on the streaming app, Max.”

Clem, now based in Knoxville, Tennessee, returned to Linfield in October 2023 as part of the NW Media Fest. During a talk titled, “Behind the Streams: An Inside Look at How Streaming Apps Work,” Clem shared information about content development for streaming apps, as well as his career journey since his days as a student. Over two days in McMinnville, he spoke to more than 80 students, offering not only industry insights but also career advice and encouragement.

“In the '80s, I was one of those students wondering what I was going to do after graduating,” he said while reflecting on NW Media Fest. “Linfield is deeply important to me, and I wanted to give students the confidence to thrive.”

Whether speaking to a club, class or larger event, Clem encourages other alumni to share their experiences with current students.

“If you want Linfield to grow, it's on all of us to build the community and make the students the stars,” he said.

## Balancing involvement and a busy life

McKenna (Pyeatt) Knapp '13 was interested in giving back to Linfield in a meaningful way that would accommodate her busy life as a young professional, spouse and parent. After being asked by Linfield's director of alumni and parent engagement, Debbie Harmon Ferry '90, she joined the Alumni Leadership Council in June 2022. The position

turned out to be the perfect fit, providing a way to stay connected to the university without overcommitting.

“Since we only meet a couple times per year, the meetings are high impact and cover a lot of material,” she said. “This makes it easy to schedule into my calendar.”

The Alumni Leadership Council is a group of 12-15 alumni from a range of graduation years and geographical areas. The council engages with university leadership, celebrates alumni accomplishments, awards scholarships to students and participates in homecoming events.

In addition to the Alumni Leadership Council, Knapp also volunteered with the alumni engagement team to help coordinate the 10-year reunion for the Class of 2013 as a part of the 2023 homecoming festivities.

“It was so much fun working with Debbie [Harmon Ferry]'s team to plan the event,” she said. “Reaching out to classmates and celebrating during Homecoming Weekend created unforgettable memories.”

She encourages all new alumni to consider joining one of Linfield's councils or helping plan an event like a reunion. Linfield offers numerous ways to get involved and stay connected, such as councils and advisory boards for parents, the School of Business, School of Nursing, College of Arts and Sciences, Center for Wine Education and the athletic department.

“Just do it! Explore the many ways to stay engaged with Linfield,” she said. “Try it for a year and see where it takes you — you won't regret it!”

**GET INVOLVED!** Email [alumni@linfield.edu](mailto:alumni@linfield.edu)



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# Alumni Notes

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## 1950-59

**Bob Lunt '52** of McMinnville celebrated his 70th wedding anniversary to wife Donna on July 5.

## 1960-69

**Emily (Gire) Duerfeldt '66** of McMinnville was selected as the woman of year for McMinnville in 2023. She and her husband Tim Duerfeldt '67 also received the 2022 Oregon Food Bank Volunteers of Year Award.

**James Johnson '68** of Keaau, Hawaii, sailed back to the Solomon Islands after a year in Micronesia. He is currently moored at Liapari Island near Gizo.

**Shirley (Niemuth) Lane '69** of Minong, Wisconsin, is in their sixth year living on a homestead in northern Wisconsin. They are retired and enjoying the good life with their four grandchildren.

## 1970-79

**Craig Howard '74**, who died in 2017, was inducted into the Southern Oregon University Sports Hall of Fame in September 2024. He was the head football coach at SOU from 2011-16, turning a program with an average of three wins per season to national champions. In 2014, he led SOU to the school's first NAIA National Championship. He holds a career record of 50-23 over six seasons. His win percentage of .685 remains the best in program history.

## Alumni honored as 'Linfield's Finest'

By Mariah Johnston '25

Four outstanding alumni received awards at Linfield's Finest for their contributions to their professions, community and Linfield. Congratulations to this year's recipients:



**LANCE LOPES '85**  
**2024 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**

Originally from Winnemucca, Nevada, where fewer than 10% of students attend college, Lopes was driven to succeed. His accomplishments include passing the bar exam in four states, serving as general counsel for NFL teams and lifting new companies like StubHub and the Seattle Kraken.



**MIRIAM VARGAS CORONA '14**  
**2024 OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS**

Corona has dedicated her professional life to closing the gap between immigrants and essential services. She has served as executive director for Unidos Bridging Community since 2018, and in 2020, she was named to Oregon's Racial Justice Council.



**DESI (NEELY) SHUBIN '96**  
**2024 DISTINGUISHED NURSING ALUMNUS**

Shubin is chief operating officer for McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center in Springfield. Throughout her 20+ year nursing career, she has been recognized with multiple regional and national awards. She continues to give back to the profession through presentations and publications on patient safety.



**KERRY CARMODY '73**  
**2024 ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD**

Carmody supports Linfield in many ways. He is a trustee emeritus of the Linfield University Board of Trustees and chaired the Spark Wonder Campaign. He and his wife Kristie (Pouliot) '73 host alumni events in California, created a student scholarship and donate to areas across the university.

**Read more** about this year's recipients at [magazine.linfield.edu](https://magazine.linfield.edu).

**Scott Lamb '74** of Green Valley, Arizona, spent five months in Ukraine doing humanitarian mission work, helping feed war refugees and providing supplies to the army and hospitals.

**John Axtell '75** of Chadron, Nebraska, retired in June after more than 50 years in the radio business.

**Kirk Bales '79, '12** of McMinnville was recognized by Marquis Who's Who Top Executives in June for dedication, achievements and leadership in real estate and land development.

## 1980-89

**Kimberly Colwell '80** of Berkeley, California, sits on the Superior Court of Alameda County in California, and is the supervising judge of the criminal division.

## 1990-99

**Bradford Robins '90** of Vancouver, Washington, is a grandfather of two. Emmalynn is 2 years old, and Bowen James was added to the family in May 2024.

**Julie Ryan '90** of Coos Bay began as the EMS program director and assistant professor of paramedicine at Southwestern Oregon Community College in August 2024.

**Kevin Snyder '91** of La Quinta, California, began as development services director for the City of Chandler, Arizona, in August 2024.

**Sharon Boyle '93** of Terre Haute, Indiana, earned a doctorate in health sciences in May 2023. She started as director of arts in health and associate professor of music therapy at Ohio University in August 2023.

**Derrin Broome '97** of McMinnville started as assistant professor of criminal justice at Kansas Wesleyan University in August 2024.

**Emily (Baker) Chadwick '98** of Carlton was hired as principal of Nestucca High School in August 2024.

**Jessica (Buell) Jensen '98** of Portland, launched her own company, Co-pilot Communications, in September 2024.

**Tony Hanna '99** of Rathdrum, Idaho, and his family moved from north Idaho to Ormand Beach, Florida, in August 2024. He and his wife Willow, both realtors, plan to get their Florida realty licenses.

## Welcome home, class of 1974!



Photo by: FMiller Photography

Forty-two members of the Class of 1974 gathered during Homecoming Weekend to celebrate their 50-year reunion.

The alumni met at Michelbook Country Club for dinner, dessert and reconnecting with classmates. Special thanks go to reunion chair Steve Pickering '74, as well as the following committee members: Connie Baldwin '74, Patty (Bergstrom) Hottmann '74, Deb Leith '74, Karen (Hagans) Miglioretto '74, John Oakes '74, Debbie (Lени-check) Schrepel '74 and Peggі (Thomas) Walsh '74.

See more photos of the Class of 1974 reunion at [magazine.linfield.edu](http://magazine.linfield.edu).

## 2000-09

**Cara (Pepper) Day '00** of Wilsonville is a member of the board of directors at Willamette Valley Vineyards.

**Matthew Polus '00** of St. Petersburg, Florida, retired from the United States Air Force at the rank of colonel after nearly 23 years of service. He and his wife, Jennifer, will stay in Florida initially, but are eager to return to the Pacific Northwest.

**Inkeri Chisholm '01** of Lake Oswego married Steve DeHaan on Aug. 2, 2023.

**Shane McRae '02** of New York, New York, collaborated with composer Michael Hersch on a new, two-act opera titled, "and we, each." Performances are scheduled throughout the fall in Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Brooklyn.

## Celebrating milestones

It's been a hallmark year for Linfield's oldest and exclusively local Greek organizations. Founded in 1924, Sigma Kappa Phi is the oldest sorority at Linfield. Members celebrated the organization's 100th anniversary in April.

Delta Psi Delta, the oldest local fraternity in the Pacific Northwest, is celebrating its 120th year. Originally founded as the Dirty Dozen in 1904, the organization incorporated as Delta Psi Delta in 1952.

Congratulations to the brothers and sisters of both organizations!

**Brandon Standridge '03** of Eugene earned the distinction of being a certified master athletic administrator from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

**Alma (Sproul) Mattocks '04** of Louisville, Kentucky, is the chair for the Division of Athletic Training at West Virginia University.

**Morgan Hawes '06** of New York, New York, summited Mount Everest.

**Patrick Miller '07** of Malibu, California, began as the director of assessment, research and evaluation for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in June 2024.

**Kara Bonham '08** of Lake Oswego is a nurse at the Portland VA Medical Center. She earned a master's degree in human nutrition and functional medicine from University of Western States in 2022 and a BSN from the University of Arizona in 2023.

**Sean Radford '08** of Sutherlin was named the 2024 Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year.

**Amber (Saxbury) Toomey '08** of Astoria started as a certified family nurse practitioner for the Columbia Memorial Hospital-Oregon Health & Science University Health Primary Care Clinic in Seaside in June 2024.

**Kate (Franklin) Kitchell '09, '11** of Ashland was named one of the Top 50 Women Chief Nursing Officers of 2024 by Women We Admire.

**Lacey Beth (Peck) '09** and **Bo Lockhart '06** of Sherwood welcomed their second child, Rip Russell, on Aug. 7, 2023.

**Erika (Rosenfield) Skaar '09** of Madras was hired as principal at Buff Elementary School in Madras.

## 2010-19

**Sarah Wendt '10** of Severance, Colorado, and husband, Brandon, welcomed a baby girl, Locklyn, in March 2024.

**Brittany (Inman) Zammarelli '10** of Keizer married Christopher Zammarelli on June 30, 2024, in Carlton.

**Maria Sandoval-Perez '11** of Dayton started as assistant director of financial aid at Linfield University in July 2024.

**Samantha (Keim) Arnst '12** of Corvallis and husband, Steve, welcomed their third child, Rudi Rae, on June 13, 2024.

**Kadin Hashimoto '13** of Portland is in his fourth year as a full-time middle school health and PE teacher and high school head tennis coach at Valley Catholic Schools.

**McKenna (Pyeatt) '13** and **Erik Knapp '13** of Eugene welcomed their second child, Peter Bowman, on Sept. 1, 2024.

**Annika Yates '14** of Bend married Braden Lambert on Sept. 21, 2024.

**Andrew Ackerman '15** of Cornelius started as Glencoe High School's assistant principal and athletic director, effective July 1, 2024.

**Jillaine Cook-Kamish '15** of Pasadena, California, married Jerome Kamish on Aug. 10, 2024.

**Julian Adoff '16** of Chicago, Illinois, currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois, Chicago, has been awarded a twelve-month Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship in support of his research in the Czech Republic and Poland.

**Sara Gomez Horta '17** of New York City founded Tesoro, a startup that helps mixed-status Latino families in the U.S. save for retirement and other long-term goals. She is in her final year of her MPA program at Columbia SIPA.

**Katie (Kohler) Peters '17**, a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Oregon Health & Sciences University, earned her doctorate in August 2024.

**Rita (Cohen) Swartzentruber '17** of Federal Way, Washington, and spouse, Ryan, welcomed a son, Cannon Jude, on Dec. 15, 2023.

**Tyler Linscott '18** of Tucson, Arizona, joined Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, as an assistant women's tennis coach in August 2024.

**Audrey Hyem '19** of Happy Valley earned a Master of Health Science in physician assistant studies from Drexel University in 2023.

## 2020-

**Faith Soto '20** of Lyons earned a certification in infection control from the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology in September 2024. She works as a communicable disease registered nurse outbreak coordinator for Clackamas County.

**Tanner Autencio '21** of Madras began work as the physical education teacher at Madras Elementary School.

**Pedro Luis Graterol '21** of Midland, Texas, completed the Data and Policy Summer Scholar Program at the University of Chicago in 2023. He currently works for "Pueblo People," a Spanish current events podcast that processes U.S. news for a Latin-American audience.

**Annalise Oertwich '21** of Pendleton obtained a master's degree and certification in trauma-informed education from Eastern Oregon University. She is the youth director at Peace Lutheran Church.

**Ben Ranieri '21** of Eagle, Idaho, started in August 2024 as the school's first head baseball coach for Missoula Hellgate High School.

**Evan Bates '22** of Chubbuck, Idaho, graduated from Central Washington University with a master's degree in sport and athletic administration in June 2024. He is the director of sports marketing and promotions for the Idaho State University athletic department.

## Got News?

Share your professional and life updates with fellow alumni!



## Dave Drinkward '01 shares insights into employee well-being at business symposium



Photo by: FMiller Photography

Dave Drinkward '01, CEO of Hoffman Construction Company, was among the keynote speakers Oct. 16 as the Linfield University School of Business held its second annual YET... Symposium in downtown Portland.

The half-day event drew a capacity crowd of 200 students and business professionals, and featured a lineup focused on workplace relationships from a variety of perspectives: the personal ("me"); the collective ("we"); and what work and teams will look like in the future.

Drinkward told the audience about Hoffman Construction's Get Us There Safe program. By focusing on employee mental health, the program aims to reduce the number of suicides in the construction industry.

If you don't take care of yourself first, Drinkward said, then you won't be able to take care of your colleagues at work or your friends and family members at home. He encouraged symposium attendees to build good mental-health practices into their lives.

Other speakers included Linfield Athletic Director Scott Brosius '01, futurist Steve Brown and executives from Slalom Consulting. Students came from the McMinnville campus and had an opportunity to network with business professionals over breakfast and again during breaks throughout the morning.

# Alumni Notes

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**Kathryn Canfield '22, '23** of Beaverton started as the manager of marketing and creative services for the South Carolina Stingrays in July 2024.

**Ava Dumler '22** of Niwot, Colorado, was named Teacher of the Year at Mead Elementary School after her second year of teaching.

**Lucy Gordon '23** of Portland starred as Hero in "What Happened While Hero Was Dead," a new take on "Much Ado About Nothing," which ran in August and September at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall.

## In Memoriam

**Cecil Montgomery '51** of Happy Valley, June 21, 2024.

**Ray Olson '54** of Naperville, Illinois, June 27, 2024.

**John Davies '55** of Ferndale, Washington, Nov. 1, 2016.

**Verne Martin '55** of Gladstone, June 24, 2024.

**Glenda (Jacobsen) Crabbe '56** of Danville, California, Jan. 9, 2018.

**Dale Moll '56** of Pendleton, Nov. 24, 2023. Survivors include spouse **Shirley (Stewart) Moll '58**.

**Carol (Lee) Tookey '57** of Keizer, May 30, 2020.

**Sharon (Hagan) Reese '58** of Corvallis, Aug. 16, 2024.

**Pat (Oswalt) Sims '59** of Orange City, Florida, June 9, 2024.

**Robert Higgins '59** of Lake Oswego, Nov. 8, 2023.

**Margaret (Patrick) Jacox '61** of Chicago, Illinois, on July 8, 2024.

**Dean Johnson '62** of Keizer, July 15, 2023.

**George Gentry '63** of Long Beach, California, June 7, 2024.

**Nancy (Gaskill) Elliott '64** of Portland, Feb. 23, 2016.

**Fred McDaniel '66** of Springfield, June 11, 2024.

**Paul Davis '66** of McMinnville, July 12, 2024.

**Joseph Ezell '67** of Tacoma, Washington, March 4, 2016.

**Michael Stephenson '67** of Redmond, Washington, Aug. 29, 2024.

**David Thorne '67** of Steilacoom, Washington, April 14, 2020.

**Jim Ashby '69** of Penfield, New York, June 1, 2022.

**Bill Beatty '72** of McMinnville, March 13, 2019.

**Steve Neilsen '74** of Puyallup, Washington, May 23, 2021.

**Fred Wicknick '79** of Bellingham, Washington, June 14, 2024.

Survivors include spouse **Anne (Moore) Wicknick '81** and child **Connor Wicknick '15**.

**Charlie Gouge '89** of Renton, Washington, July 9, 2025.

**Charmae (Reynolds) Hampton '94** of Coos Bay, June 22, 2024.

**Lisa (Camp) Berry '95** of Battle Ground, Washington, April 22, 2020.

**Darla Lesan '95** of North Albany, Dec. 23, 2023.

**Kat Kordon-Wanaisie '04** of Harrisburg, June 3, 2024.

**Meggan Farr '08** of Portland, May 6, 2024.

**Brian Pullman '22** of Bellingham, Washington, July 3, 2024.

## Friends

**Bernie Turner** of McMinnville, former member of the Linfield Board of Trustees, June 28, 2024. Survivors include daughter **Linda (Turner) Baker '83**.

**Janet (Bullis) Coleman** of Portland, music department accompanist, July 6, 2024.

**William J. Weaver** of Vancouver, Washington, associate professor emeritus of biology, Aug. 24, 2024.

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## Remembering the Rev. William “Bill” D. Apel (1947-2024)

By the Rev. David Massey '78, chaplain emeritus and retired assistant professor of religious studies

Photo by: Mardi Mileham



**LIVING THE LOVE: Revs. Bill Apel (left) and David Massey (right) enjoy the gathering and each other’s company at Apel’s retirement celebration in 2011.**

The Rev. Apel, “Bill,” touched his students and the community of Linfield by actively living out the principles of those saints who went before him, referred to by Bill as his “cloud of witnesses.” In fact, he had a sermon he often gave about them, in which he spoke about the characteristics of people, some from the past and some living, who modeled for us what it means to be faithful human beings.

These were names like Merton, M.L. King Jr., Desmond Tutu, Gandhi, Howard Thurman, the Dalai Lama, Sister Teresa, Julian of Norwich or your grandmother or neighbor. People who reflected in their lives Bill’s favorite biblical texts: Hebrews 12:1 and Micah 6:8. People whose lives were a witness to peacemaking, justice, compassion and dialogue. Those people displaying high value for humanity across differences, embracing the beauty of diversity. These folks were true “witnesses,” not in the sense of modern evangelists, but more akin to St. Francis’ charge to “preach the gospel every day and, when necessary, use words.” They lived the love.

Bill taught and modeled for us that these “witnesses” were representative of healthy religion and a spirituality that valued

the notion that we are all made in the image of God. Indeed, Bill’s books emerged from this theme and these texts.

He was a narrative theologian who listened for people’s stories and reflected on how they captured the Holy. He was a teacher, pastor, provoker and encourager who inspired us by his aura, acceptance, playfulness and life.

We students were transformed by his lessons and left Linfield embracing these principles. Yes, Bill Apel lived the love and is now part of our “cloud of witnesses.”

### Other remembrances:

When news of the Rev. Apel’s passing was shared on Linfield’s social media, many in the community shared memories of Apel as a chaplain, professor and friend. Here are just a few:

“There are only a very few people I’ve met who were saint-like: fearless, strong, gentle, kind. Bill was one of those people.”

—Thomas L. Hellie, president emeritus

“His dedication to peace was admirable. I was surprised to discover he was a tenacious competitor on our weekly golf outings.”

—Dawn Graff-Haight, professor emeritus of health education

“He was such a caring person and a wonderful professor; I was grateful to get to know him during my years there.”

—Jennifer (Zody) Plantenberg '00

“Bill was one of the most important influences on me early in my adult life. He touched the lives of thousands of students and people in a positive way. Condolences to Jane, Emily and Paul. We will miss you, Bill.”

—Andrew McNall '88

# Abigail Hoppe champions Oregon and overcoming challenges

By Mercedes Rose

Diagnosed at age 10, Abigail Hoppe '21 understands the challenges of living with Type 1 diabetes.

At Linfield, she was deeply involved in student government, sorority life and cheerleading — all while managing the condition. The effort required her to monitor blood-sugar levels, plan meals, schedule rest periods and make sure her insulin pump didn't fly off while doing cheers and stunts.

As the newly crowned Miss Oregon, Hoppe is now aiming to elevate awareness and support for the Type 1 diabetes community through her platform, "Diabetes: Type None."

"I'm committed to educating others about Type 1 diabetes and advocating for better treatments," she said. "But, overall, my goal is to embody the lesson that our challenges do not define us."

It's a lesson she's learned not from her personal challenges with a chronic condition, but from her family.

"Thanks to my little brother Charlie, I've never seen Type 1 diabetes as a barrier," Hoppe said. "Charlie was born with severe cerebral palsy; he was a quadriplegic, nonverbal, had a tracheostomy and relied on feeding tubes. Despite these immense challenges, he was one of the happiest kids I've ever known. Charlie taught me that our struggles don't define our capabilities or limit our potential. This is a crucial message for many people, especially those with Type 1 diabetes."

Hoppe is no stranger to the Miss America Organization. The Salem native was crowned Miss Oregon Outstanding Teen in 2016. Today, Hoppe balances a full schedule of appearances as Miss Oregon throughout the state, while teaching fourth and fifth grade online.

Her reign has already taken her to a variety of events, ranging from the Harvest Parade in Tangent to the Oregon State Fair, and in early 2025, she will represent Oregon at the Miss America contest in Orlando.




Photo by: Timothy D. Sofranko

**SHARING HER STORY: As Miss Oregon, Abigail Hoppe '21 shares her experiences with Type 1 diabetes to educate others.**

In addition to championing Type 1 diabetes education and research, she also promotes the state of Oregon, as well as organizations and causes that impact the state.

"I am proud to represent my state as Miss Oregon — I absolutely love Oregon and everything it stands for," she said. "And, I will consider my Community Service Initiative successful if even one person I've had the privilege to interact with decides to overcome their obstacles and pursue their goals."

 Watch a video with Hoppe at [magazine.linfield.edu](https://magazine.linfield.edu).



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