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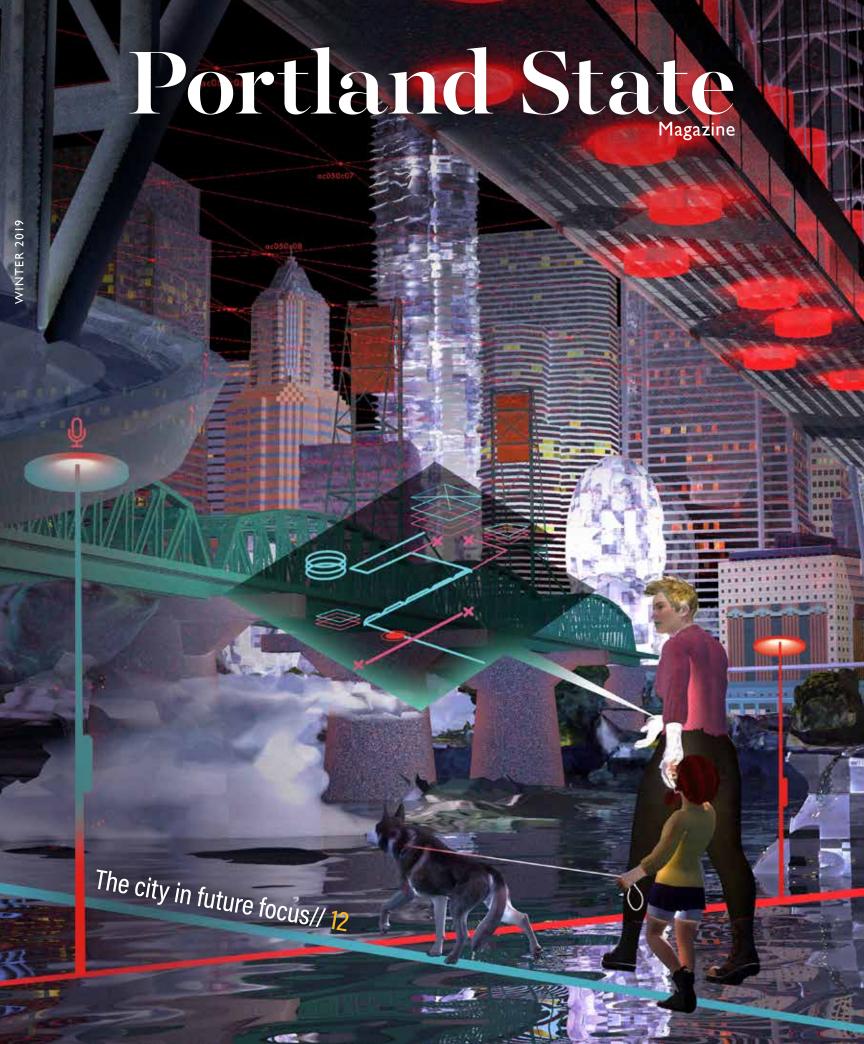
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Portland State

Magazine

Winter 2019 VOL. 33 / NO. 2

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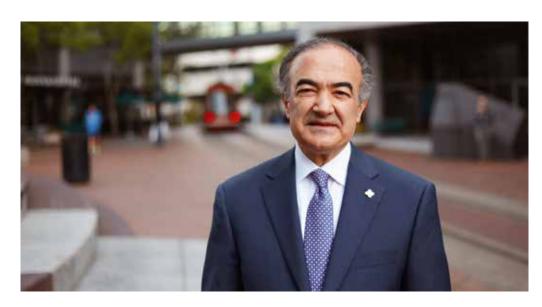
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Join the Campaign for PSU

AFTER A YEAR in your company, I have truly come to understand that Let Knowledge Serve the City is more than a motto. It's a mission. Every great city needs a great university. With our bold vision and direction for PSU, the Portland area community is developing a greater appreciation and recognition of the major role that the University plays in the socioeconomic growth of the region.

Portland State's mission was born when a group of students and teachers joined forces in 1946 to build a college for anyone who wanted to look beyond what is, to envision what could be. From the beginning, they wanted to venture outside the classroom to gain real-world experience in overcoming obstacles and inventing solutions. And to this day, their spirit—your spirit—animates PSU, drawing the most diverse student body among Oregon universities to explore and excel in our classrooms, laboratories and studios.

Today, we are at a critical juncture at PSU. Our University is earning much-deserved recognition for innovation. Our faculty are pursuing breakthroughs in fields as varied as technology-based pedagogy, nanomaterials, transportation, urban planning, cyber security, blockchain technology, healthy and sustainable cities, and the discovery of new drugs. And our students continue to inspire us all with their talent and tenacity.

To secure the essential support needed for our students, our faculty, our programs and campus, in October we launched a \$300 million fundraising effort: Let Knowledge Serve: The Campaign for PSU. Please visit the site at

letknowledgeserve.org to learn more about this important effort, and how we serve our students, our city, and our world.

AMONG MY highest priorities is alumni engagement and recognition. We are reaching out to over 180,000 alumni around the globe and making them more aware of what PSU is today. As part of that effort, starting in 2019, every year we will celebrate an Alumni Golden Year Reunion. The PSU Alumni Office is beginning by inviting alumni from the Class of 1969 to events on campus, culminating with commencement in June. Please visit the Class of 1969 website at www.pdx.edu/alumni/1969-reunion. Come back and breathe in the exciting air of today's Portland State University. Don't miss a moment of the fun!

Every graduating class puts its own mark on our city and our University, embodying the Viking spirit. This magazine showcases much of what makes Portland State the city's most vibrant resource for learning, scholarship, artistry, culture and workforce development. I know you'll enjoy reading these fascinating stories about what's going on at PSU today, and please consider a campus visit in 2019, to relive memories, experience the exciting growth of our campus and community, and look with us toward a bright future. Please let me know when you are in the Portland area; I welcome a visit with you to learn about what will make PSU a great university.

Rahmat Shoureshi

President, Portland State University

LETTERS

I know Ed

I was very pleased and happy to read the great article by Kurt Bedell on Ed Washington ["Taking a Stand," fall 2018 Portland State Magazine]. Both Ed and I attended Grant High School and graduated from Portland State. He is just a couple of years older than I am. I graduated from Grant in the class of '57 and PSU in the class of '65. As a former member of the alumni board, we shared many wonderful memories at Portland State. We also shared some of the same experiences, having been in the airline industry. I remember Ed at Continental Airlines at PDX, while I was at Northwest Airlines, "back in the day."

~Don Rickel '65





Program 'serves the city'

Just a brief note to say how glad I am to see the great work being done in Deborah Smith Arthur's Juvenile Justice Senior Capstone class ["Just Kids," fall 2018 Portland State Magazine] For the students, the people in detention, for PSU, for Portland and Oregon, this program exemplifies "Let Knowledge Serve the City."

~Bill Michtom '95

Portland State Magazine wants to hear from you. Email your comments to psumag@pdx.edu or send them to Portland State Magazine, Office of University Communications, PO Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity.

Golden Year Reunion CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 1969

Are you a member of the class of 1969? You're invited to attend University events and join us in June as part of commencement festivities. For details and to update your contact information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 503-725-4948 or email *alum@pdx.edu*.



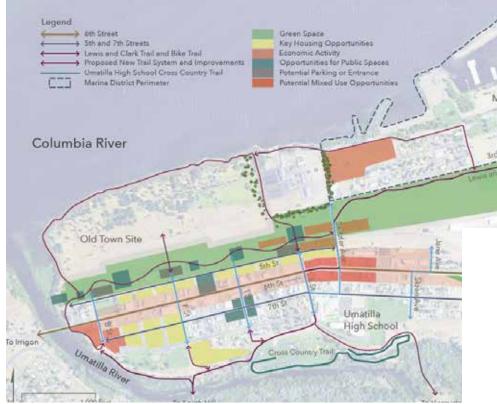
PARK BLOCKS



Establishing Native studies

OREGON'S FIRST bachelor's degree program in Indigenous Nations and Native American Studies started this fall at the University. All students may enroll in the program, not just Native students such as Serina Fast Horse (right), who graduated last year Magna Cum Laude in community development. She was presented with a blanket during a ceremony that honors graduating Native students regardless of their major. The new Native Studies degree was approved after years of effort and a petition signed by hundreds. A minor has been offered since 2002, but the long-term goal was always to establish a major, says Winston Grady-Willis, director of the School of Gender, Race and Nations, which houses the degree program. Photo by Shayla Naswood.





Revitalizing Umatilla

A DOWNTOWN plan for Umatilla, a small Eastern Oregon town ideally located at the confluence of the Columbia and Umatilla rivers, has earned a team of Portland State students a national award. In collaboration with the town's residents, "Umatilla Together: A Framework Plan" was created by students in the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program. The plan, which won the 2018 American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Student Project Award, creates a vision to revitalize the city's downtown core and increase community livability. Students have designed more than 30 plans for local cities and neighborhoods in the past five years and have won more national AICP awards than students in any other planning program in the United States.

Re-honoring the Neubergers

THE NAME Neuberger has been associated with the University since well before 1972, when PSU renamed the former South Park Hall after journalist, politician, and longtime PSU supporter, Richard L. Neuberger. The name has now switched buildings. The Richard and Maurine Neuberger Center is the new name of PSU's Market Center Building at southwest Fourth and Market, home to many PSU administrative functions, including the President's office. The new name was chosen by the University as a way of carrying on the Neuberger name while the old Neuberger Hall—which eventually will be called something else—undergoes a massive renovation. *Photo by Don Dill/Oregon Historical Society Lot 1007*.





Conn. "We want to help."

Sleeping pods for veterans

IN OCTOBER, a group of veterans moved into their brandnew sleeping pods in a transitional village for houseless veterans in Clackamas County—a project that came about through the contributions of students and faculty in the School of Architecture and Center for Public Interest Design. The village's 15 tiny dwellings were constructed from several hundred wooden trusses, last seen as the primary building material for the Treeline Stage at 2017's Pickathon music festival, which was designed and built by architecture students. Students and faculty provided research into veterans' housing needs, collaborated on the site design, contributed to pod design and construction, and helped with landscaping the new community.



Free tuition draws students

ALYSSA HEMINGER cried when she found out she qualified for PSU's Transfers Finish Free program. Now, instead of taking out private loans to finance her education, Heminger can put her money toward study abroad programs or graduate school. "I have been afforded unimaginable opportunities," says Heminger, 21, who transferred from Portland Community College. This program and the Four Years Free opportunity for freshmen brought more than 2,000 new students to PSU this year. Both programs cover tuition and fees for full-time, lowincome students who are eligible for federal Pell grants and Oregon Opportunity Grants.

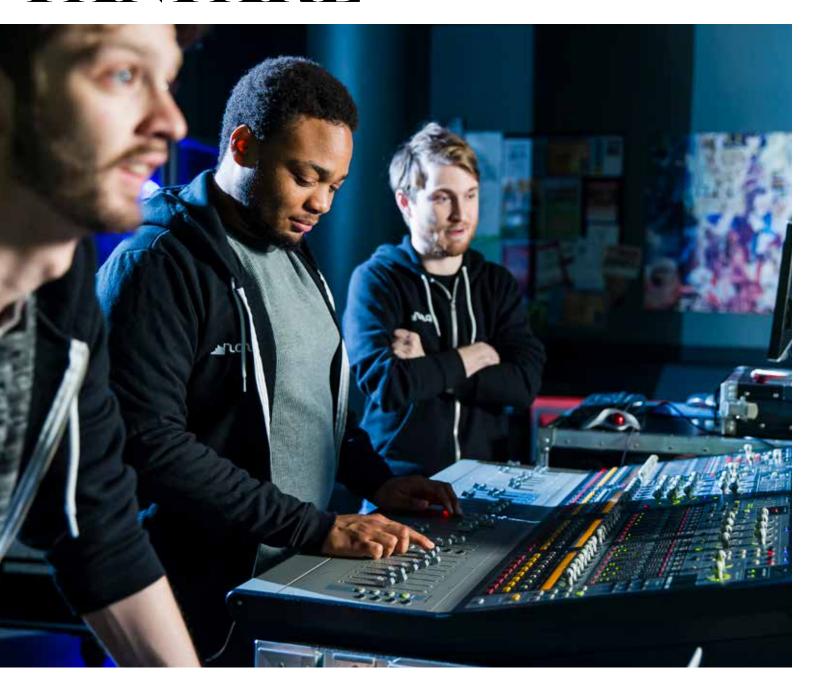


The power of natural regeneration

AFTER A FIRE, forest managers often turn to salvage logging and replanting in an attempt to regenerate conifer forests, but according to a new study by researchers at PSU and Oregon State University, such actions might be unnecessary. The study found that 20 years after the Klamath fires in southwestern Oregon and northern California, even in severely burned areas Douglas fir trees grew back on their own. "We forget about the power of natural regeneration," says Melissa Lucash, geography faculty at PSU and a co-author of the study. Lucash suggests that resources could instead be reallocated elsewhere, perhaps to thinning forests to prevent extreme wildfires.



FANFARE



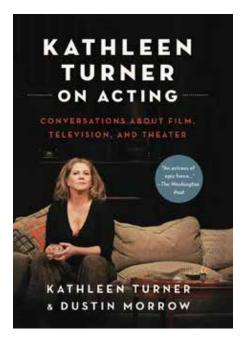
Exploring the Sonic Arts

WHEN PROGRAM coordinator Anwyn Willette and School of Music & Theater Director Bonnie Miksch first proposed the Sonic Arts and Music Production program, they estimated they'd have about 25 students enrolled by fall 2018; instead, they now have more than 60. "Lots of other schools offer music technology classes, but offering a whole degree is uncommon," Willette says. In its second year, students are honing their skills through local projects, including recording an audiobook with the student-run Ooligan Press and providing sound engineering for Fear No Music, a Portland contemporary music ensemble. The degree program even has its own ensemble in which students compose and perform music from their laptop computers.



New honor for composer

ERIC FUNK '75, MS '78 won Best of Show honors from the 2018 Global Music Awards for his "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Op 71." The well-known international music competition celebrates independent musicians. A music faculty member at Montana State University and an Emmy award-winning contemporary classical composer and conductor, Funk has composed nine symphonies, six ballets, four operas, 19 concertos and five string quartets, as well as large and small choral works and chamber works. He returned to his native Montana in 2002 after a long stint teaching at Portland State, where he studied piano and composing under the renowned Tomas Svoboda.



Conversations with Kathleen Turner

EMMY AWARD-WINNING filmmaker and film faculty member Dustin Morrow idolized actress Kathleen Turner since he was a kid. In a previous teaching post, he moderated a talk Turner gave to his students. The two hit it off, and he pitched the idea of collaborating on a book about acting done in an interview-conversation format. "She liked the idea," he says. The result is *Kathleen Turner on Acting: Conversations about Film, Television, and Theater*, recently released by Skyhorse Publishing. Morrow recorded dozens of hours of conversations with Turner in her home in Manhattan, then used the transcripts to sculpt the book's text.

NEW WORKS

Formosa Moon

By Joshua Brown and Stephanie Huffman '16, Things Asian Press, 2018

Poetic Stuff

By Ralph Bunch (political science emeritus faculty), Odin Ink, 2018

The Best Bad Things: A Novel

By Katrina Carrasco MFA '15, MCD Books, 2018

Forty Ways to Square a Circle

By Neil Hummasti '73, Svensen Pioneer Press (published posthumously), 2018

Burnside Field Lizard and Selected Stories

By Theresa Griffin Kennedy '10, MS '13, Oregon Greystone Press, 2018

Sleeping in My Jeans

By Connie King Leonard, PSU Ooligan Press, 2018

A Kiss in Kyoto: A Story of Love in Japan

By Kumiko Olson '99, MA '02, The Publishing Circle, 2018

Understanding Addiction: Behind the Scenes

By Sadie Petersen '16, Rosedog Books, 2018

Jake and the Quake

By Cary Sneider (education faculty), Tumblehome Learning, Inc., 2018

Squat

By James T. Speirs '72, MS '76, Inkwater Press. 2018













EDGE

SERVE



AT PORTLAND STATE, a single classroom may include a high school valedictorian who is the first in her family to attend college, an international student from China, a 30-something completing a second degree while juggling job and family.

The University is committed to helping each of them along the path to becoming successful scholars and citizens. That requires inspired faculty, collaborative programs and state-of-the-art facilities—all aspirations of Let Knowledge Serve: The Campaign for PSU announced in October.

The campaign is the largest in the University's history, with the goal of raising \$300 million in philanthropic contributions by 2021, the year of Portland State's 75th anniversary.

"We are thrilled to launch this important effort," says PSU President Rahmat Shoureshi. "Everything we do at Portland State—from creating pathways for student success to supporting the ground-breaking research of faculty to enabling regional economic development opportunities—affirms our powerful mission to 'let knowledge serve our city' and the world."

The campaign focuses on four key areas: supporting students, empowering faculty, enhancing campus facilities, and powering initiatives to address urban challenges and opportunities. Key giving opportunities include scholarships, cooperative educational internships, named professorships, and support for centers of excellence, including PSU's Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative and Digital Cities Testbed Center (see story on page 12).

SUPPORTING student success is the campaign's highest priority. Portland State serves the most

diverse student body among Oregon's universities. Fully 75 percent of its 27,670 students work while attending school, and 35 percent are the first in their families to attend college. Scholarships and other resources ease financial burdens and provide new learning opportunities that allow students to thrive.

"For students, private support is a game changer," says PSU Foundation President Bill Boldt. "It can be the difference between graduation and giving up."

More than 30,000 donors already have come forward to support students and faculty and help construct or transform campus facilities, including the Viking Pavilion at the Peter W. Stott Center, home to PSU athletics; the Karl Miller Center, home to The School of Business; and the 724 SW Harrison Building (formerly Neuberger Hall).

PSU's campaign takes its name from its motto, Let Knowledge Serve the City, established three decades ago to honor the connections between Portland and its urban research university, and to celebrate a shared vision of progress and vitality.

"Every great city needs a great university," says Walter Van Valkenburg, PSU Foundation board chairman and Portland attorney. "I believe that PSU and Portland rise together, and that the vitality sparked at PSU creates a ripple effect that benefits every Oregonian."

To learn more, read campaign stories, or make a gift, visit letknowledgeserve.org.

THE CITY E

New research centers search for urban solutions.

PORTLAND State's motto is Let Knowledge Serve the City, and in October, President Rahmat Shoureshi launched two centers of excellence—the first in the University's history—to do just that in multifaceted ways.

"Creating these two university research centers was a high priority for me to fulfill our mission," he said at the announcement. "Both centers will expand upon the existing research and scholarship our renowned faculty have produced in these areas to find innovative and effective solutions for the future."

The PSU Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative will harness the power of faculty expertise to understand the root causes of the homelessness epidemic and find solutions to reduce it. The work by PSU faculty and students across multiple disciplines will help empower community leaders, elected officials, service providers and advocates to make informed choices.

Meanwhile, the Digital City Testbed Center will explore how "smart city" technology can make cities more safe, accessible, economically viable, healthy and climate-friendly.

Mark McLellan, PSU's vice president of research, summed up their importance: "Both of these centers have the potential for literally changing the world, and I don't say that casually."

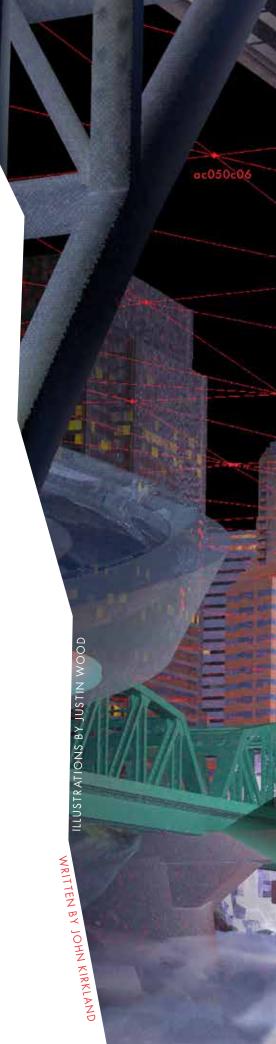
Creating smarter cities

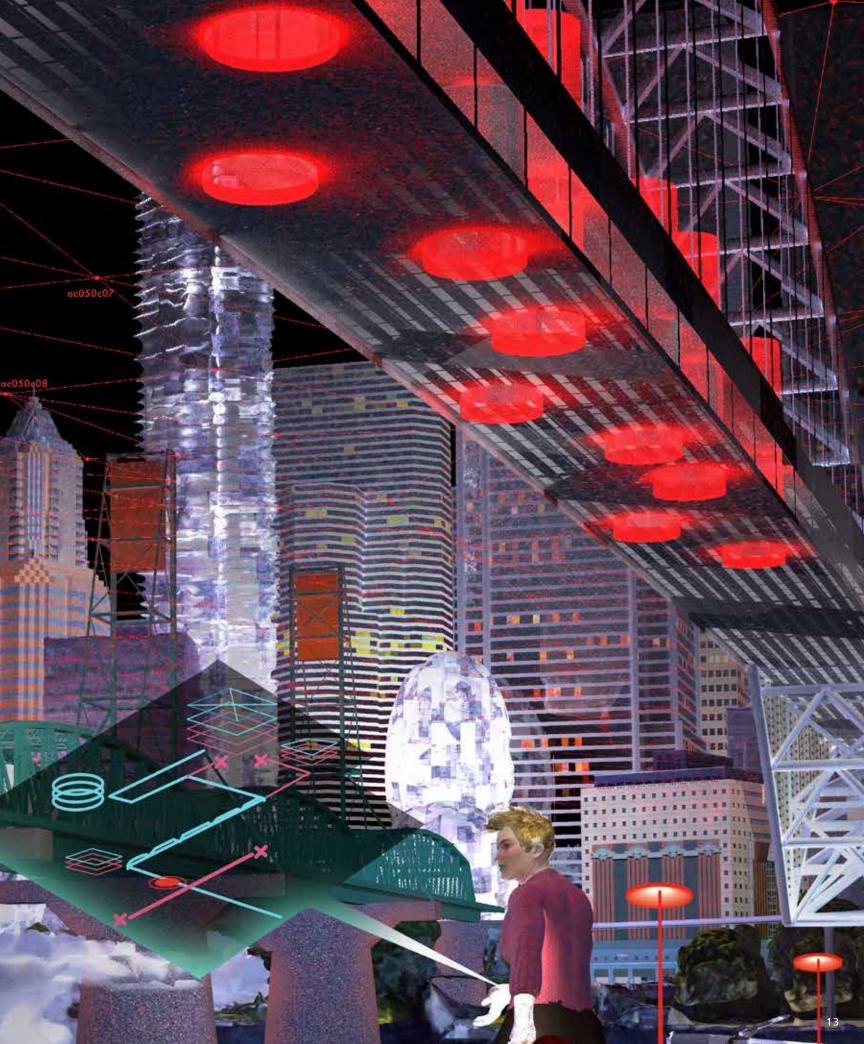
IMAGINE installing sensors along busy Portland streets to track near misses between pedestrians and cars. That kind of data could go a long way to reducing fatalities. Or imagine sensors set up throughout the city to come up with better and cheaper ways to monitor air pollution.

Those are just two projects in which researchers at Portland State are already working with government officials to make the city safer, cleaner and more efficient.

Smart city technology is the use of computerized sensors to measure, track and observe myriad aspects of busy city life in order to improve efficiencies and help the people who live there.

It's no wonder this was chosen as a focus for one of PSU's centers for excellence. In 2016, Portland—in part because of PSU—was one of seven national finalists in a \$50 million federal grant competition called the Smart Cities Challenge. Columbus, Ohio, was named the winner. And then what happened? "After they won, they flew out to Portland to see what we do," says Jonathan Fink, professor of geology and PSU's first vice president of research and strategic partnerships.





PSU has a nearly six-year history of partnering with the city of Portland on smart city projects, and now Fink heads the new Digital City Testbed Center. Like the homelessness collaborative, the Center will draw on support from multiple departments across campus, with an emphasis on computer science and engineering.

As the name indicates, the center will create testbeds for new applications of sensor technology. They will be located on college, corporate and nonprofit campuses throughout the Pacific Northwest.

PERFECTING new technologies is one of the goals, but another is educating the public on their benefits. That's part of the center's mission, and it's a reason why much of the research will be done away from neighborhoods where sensor technology will eventually be installed. It will eliminate feelings of intrusion that residents might have about computer sensors being installed nearby, Fink says.

One of the testbeds will be the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where Fink is a visiting professor of urban analytics. There, student projects have spawned startup companies such as Sensible Building Science, which mines the information generated by commonly used WiFi routers to measure building occupancy. The more users on a router system, the more people are occupying that building at a given time. That data is used to adjust heating and cooling, saving money and energy. It's also used to assign janitorial staff.

"Having multiple campuses is part of the novelty of the Center," Fink says. "It lets us do comparative studies in different settings, and also learn from other places that are farther down the path than we are."

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry is the other campus currently involved with the Center. In the future, Fink says Intel, the Oregon Zoo and the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington, may join the fold. Collaborators will work on issues such as making transportation and other city services accessible to people with physical limitations, and even helping the Northwest prepare for the long-anticipated Cascadia earthquake. But the possibilities of smart city technologies are virtually limitless.

"This is the next step in the evolution of PSU's connections to the city of Portland," Fink says. "There's so much expertise across campus. This is an opportunity for all of us."

The many facets of homelessness

PSYCHOLOGY professor Greg Townley, research director of the new Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative, says understanding homelessness requires getting away from the assumptions many people have about the homeless population—that addiction and mental illness are the root causes. It's much more complicated than that.

Other parts of the country have addiction and mental illness rates at least as high as in Portland, but have less of a problem with homelessness. What sets Portland and other West Coast cities apart is the combination of high cost of living, steep increases in home and rental values, and wages that have not kept pace with those costs that, when combined with other factors such as addiction, make it harder to obtain and keep stable housing.

Racism is also a factor; a disproportionate number of adults experiencing homelessness are people of color.

It affects people of all ages, from millennials who were hit with the Great Recession just as they were trying to enter the job market, to baby boomers who, despite a lifetime of working, have found themselves without a safety net.

HOMELESSNESS is more than tent cities. It's people living in their cars or couch surfing. It includes the working poor—people who work two or three minimum wage jobs, yet can't afford rent. It's people who are just one traumatic event away from losing shelter altogether.

And they include students at PSU. Townley's office is one of many clustered in a part of Cramer Hall that has a central lounge area. It's not unusual for Townley to come to work and see a student sleeping on one of the couches. These students are routinely asked to move along, but that just means they'll find some other public area to sleep.

"There's a study by researchers at Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab that shows that 9 to 14 percent of college students nationally are experiencing homelessness," he says. "We want to do a study of students who are literally homeless and those who are in doubled-up or other precarious housing situations. From that, we want to help support community organizing





Understanding homelessness requires getting away from the assumptions many people have about the homeless population—that addiction and mental illness are the root causes. It's much more complicated than that.

to make the issue known and to push for more affordable student housing."

That's the kind of practical approach the new collaborative will take in the broader community. Faculty are already working with state and local governments, including contracts with Clackamas and Multnomah counties to identify who's homeless and why in an effort to find ways to help. The collaborative also has attracted the attention of philanthropic leaders, who have pledged nearly \$1 million to support the center's activities.

As a psychologist, Townley has done lots of work examining the mental health side of homelessness, but the center's focus as a whole is much broader. Its director, Marisa Zapata, is an urban planner who specializes in using land in socially just ways. Other faculty include Sergio Palleroni and Todd Ferry from the School of Architecture, who have designed alternative shelter communities; English professor Maude Hines, who is looking into ways to combat negative narratives about homelessness; Lisa Hawash from the School of Social Work, who is researching ways to improve hygiene facilities for people experiencing homelessness; Paula Carder from the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, whose work focuses on housing for older adults; and Jacen Greene, director of Impact Entrepreneurs at The School of Business, who specializes in social enterprise approaches to job training and employment.

"We're all very collaborative," Townley says. "Hopefully, the solution to homelessness is nearer than we think." ■

John Kirkland is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.



A FEW years ago, Karen Kinnison was working an unfulfilling retail job when she had an epiphany.

"I had this job I hated and I wanted something more satisfying, something that I could see myself working at and feeling proud of the work that I had done," Kinnison says. "I wanted to be around like-minded people, people who committed themselves to their work."

All she needed was a mentor.

Kinnison, 33, a first-generation college student, found that mentorship at Portland State through assistant chemistry professor Marilyn Mackiewicz, who gave her a research job in her lab, and the McNair Scholars Program, which provides guidance and assistance to low-income and first-generation students who have Ph.D. aspirations. In turn, she's gone on to mentor others.

It's changed the trajectory of her life, but it took a while to get to this point.

Growing up in Corvallis and transferring to Jefferson in Portland during her senior year in high school, Kinnison didn't see herself working in science. She struggled through algebra, hated math in general, and didn't finish the requirements to graduate. She eventually got her GED.

"BEING

REBELLIOUS

AND I'M NOT GONNA

YOU.'

GET MY DEGREE, AND

I'M GONNA SHOW

"I think what really derailed me from finishing high school and immediately pursuing college was that I was sick and tired of my teachers and my parents telling me that I had to get this diploma and go to college," Kinnison says. "They were like, 'This is the only option you have or you're going to work at McDonald's.

"Being the rebellious teenager I was, I said, 'I'm never going to work at McDonald's, and I'm not gonna get my degree, and I'm gonna show you.' My natural talents leaned toward the arts, and I was not encouraged to pursue those dreams. I felt like my dreams were being crushed."

Kinnison had a difficult home life at the time and felt unsupported at

"If I'd had someone to go to, a mentor to look up to, maybe things would have gone differently," Kinnison says. "But I just felt like I didn't have a lot of guidance."

IT COULD have been just gaining some maturity, or maybe it was wanting to escape the job she hated, but in her late 20s, Kinnison made the decision to go to college. She started taking classes at Portland Community College, completed her associate's degree in 2014, and transferred to Portland State. She's currently pursuing a bachelor's in chemistry and expects to graduate in December 2019.

Despite her previous problems in math, she found herself gravitating toward the sciences and began attending Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) meetings on campus. That's when she met Mackiewicz, who gave a presentation on mentorship. For Kinnison, it was serendipity—Mackiewicz had an opening in her lab, so Kinnison began working as an undergraduate research assistant, studying nanoparticles.

Her research on using nanostructured materials for biomedical applications went so well that she presented it at the second annual American Chemical Society meeting at PSU; the 2016 Sigma Xi Research Symposium, where she won a first-place award; and at the

253rd American Chemical Society national meeting and exposition in San Francisco.

In October 2016, Kinnison was named a McNair scholar, which included a stipend that allowed her to continue studying nanoparticles full-time over the summer under Mackiewicz. Kinnison's fellow McNair scholars had faced similar challenges and obstacles to find success in their fields, and she enjoyed getting to know them.

"I can't speak for everyone in the program, but I struggled through a lot of insecurity and self-doubt and feeling like I don't belong here," Kinnison says. "I was never interested in science in high school; it wasn't something that I went straight into. With those types of struggles, you're constantly questioning yourself. So, it's really helpful to have consistent support."

IN ADDITION to finding her own mentors, Kinnison has worked as a mentor to others. From September 2017 through June 2018, she worked with Build EXITO, a program that helps undergraduate students develop as researchers. As a peer mentor, she met oneon-one and in groups with her mentees and helped design and lead workshops on subjects such as personal development and dealing with the same kinds of self-doubt that she had experienced.

"It's harder to go back to college when you have a life established as opposed to being a kid right out of high school," Kinnison says. "But programs like McNair, EXITO—the people who provide those programs are doing a lot to try to support people like me."

Kinnison also credits her professors and other students at PSU TEENAGER I WAS, I SAID, who had similar life experiences 'I'M NEVER GOING TO WORK AT MCDONALD'S, while she works full-time to help pay for classes. At her current job, Kinnison does plant tissue cultures as a laboratory technician for a company called Phytelligence. Although it doesn't involve chemistry, the job works with her class schedule, and she enjoys getting to wear a lab coat with her name on it.

> are pretty understanding and accessible if you work a full-time job, or if you have kids. But I would say there are times when I obviously get down on myself, when I wish I had just done this when I was younger."

> **ALTHOUGH** Kinnison's path toward graduation has been longer and more circuitous than most, the careful balance of work, classes, research and extracurricular activities has paid dividends. Contrary to what she believed in high school, she actually enjoys math—she's aced every class she's taken up through calculus—and her research experience in the Mackiewicz lab will give her a leg up over other students when she does graduate.

> "I tell my mom, 'Man, I just wanted to be graduated sooner, and I'm really struggling toward the end here with these last few classes. I just don't want you to think I'm a loser," Kinnison says.

> "And she says, I can't possibly think of you as a loser. You've done so much, you've come so far.'" ■

> Madison Schultz is a graduate assistant in the Office of University Communications.



by Celeste Hamilton Dennis

AT ONE of his performance finals at Portland State, student James Valenzuela was feeling a bit self-conscious. He wasn't nervous about his abilities; his performance had been flawless. He was nervous about his choice of shoes—short black suede boots with a small heel and an adornment of gold rings.

Afterwards, the panel of prominent brass community members told him they had comments to share. Valenzuela held his breath. Bold fashion choices are typically not accepted in the world of classical music, especially not in more traditionally conservative circles.

"The entire panel was really impressed with how you played—and with your shoes," they said. He breathed a sigh of relief. It's this open-mindedness that has made Valenzuela feel so at home at Portland State the past two years.

"What I appreciate most about the PSU community is the acceptance of creative thinking and new ideas," he says. "I am definitely not a traditionalist."

Valenzuela is a recent recipient of a College of the Arts scholarship and student leader of the Portland State University orchestra, often the principal horn player at concerts. He's also played with the University's wind quintet. Last term, he made Dean's List. It may seem natural that he's where he's at today, but his dream almost didn't happen.

VALENZUELA was born to Guatemalan immigrant parents and grew up in an evangelical Christian household in Eugene. For a while, Bible studies and baptisms were all he knew.

In middle school, he realized he was gay. When he came out to his mom at age 14, their relationship suffered. He experienced anxiety and depression and turned to music to cope. He liked the way the French horn felt in his hands, the range of sounds it could make from melancholic to heroic. In his school orchestra they played the "Barber of Seville" overture, made famous by Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, and Valenzuela fell in love.

High school came around. Disapproving of his identity, and how he'd practice music instead of worshiping, his mom kicked him out.

While the world he had always known was falling down, a new one was forming. One that was full of top tier band clinics, comfortable orchestra chairs, and encouraging teachers and supporters—including a woman named Candy, his mom's former employer, who had given him his first Mozart CD.

"That's when I thought a career in music is something I can do," he says. "Going to college is something that I can do."

be accepted into the prestigious Julliard School. But when it came time to fly to New York for auditions, his parents couldn't afford the tickets and refused to help. Without support from his family and with life being so complicated, he lost his motivation. He took classes at Lane Community College and occasionally worked at a bagel shop.

Every now and then he'd still get invitations to play his instrument, including at the Northwest Horn Symposium where he learned about Portland State and was eventually offered a partial scholarship after a strong audition. But that, too, became complicated when he realized he couldn't pay the remaining costs on his own.

"I had to forfeit my scholarship, and I completely gave up on the French horn," he says. "I felt like all music had ever brought me was trouble."

Then, he ran into Candy. She invited him and his boyfriend over for dinner, and knowing all that had happened to him, wanted to help. She offered to help pay for whatever his scholarship didn't cover. She told him, "I just can't imagine a world without you playing the French horn."

"We both bawled our eyes out," he says. "I finally felt like I was home."

Valenzuela called Portland State the next day. His audition was still in good standing; all he needed to do was re-submit an application. It was that simple.

people who loved to talk about art and history and culture. He recognized one of his teachers as someone he'd played alongside at a concert, and he offered to give Valenzuela lessons so he could be prepared.

He found his community. "You do you," they'd say.

And Valenzuela does. He's constantly experimenting with fashion, art and self-expression, and he isn't afraid to be vulnerable with the emotions he conveys to an audience through his horn. He hopes that being himself will help break down the unspoken barriers of who classical music is for, and who it isn't. He wants it to be for everybody.

"I can never see myself doing anything but classical music," he says.

These days, after proving through hard work and dedication that he's serious about his career, he's been able to rekindle his relationship with his father. And thanks to his unwavering supporters and a scholarship at Portland State, he's now on his way to achieving his goal of becoming a professional musician.

Celeste Hamilton Dennis is Portland-based writer and editor.



MAKING IT WORK

WRITTEN BY KURT BEDELL

Online student Lisa Allred's resourceful approach to life is helping her reach her goals.

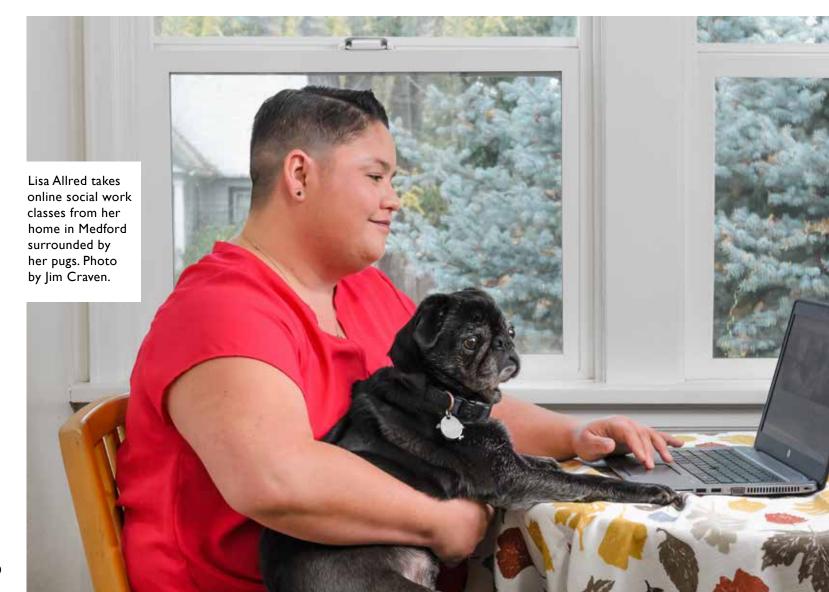
PORTLAND STATE students are known for going to great lengths to get an education, but Lisa Allred may have set a new bar.

Currently a master's student in PSU's School of Social Work, Allred did some of her undergraduate work in San Diego, and made it affordable by moving to Tijuana, Mexico, and commuting by motorcycle on and off for about 10 years.

"I couldn't afford to live in San Diego as a student," says Allred. "For \$300 a month I had an ocean view apartment in Mexico that would have cost me thousands in Southern California. It was the only way to be a college student without going into incredible debt."

The motorcycle was an integral part of her resourceful plan.

"Crossing the border in a car takes at least three hours post 9-11," says Allred. "On a motorcycle, I could zip right to the front of the line and cross in five to 10 minutes. It was the only way to make the commute possible."



Now she's commuting in another way. Allred is in the final year of her three-year online degree at Portland State, which means she reads articles, watches videos and participates in online discussions with her professors and classmates entirely from her Medford home.

THIS FOCUSED and resourceful approach to life has gotten Allred, 36, through years of ups and downs and closer to her dream of becoming a hospice social worker—a role in which she'll bring care and compassion to people nearing the end of their lives.

She finds the online format perfect for her lifestyle and much less time-intensive and intimidating than she first thought it might be. "My biggest fear going into this program was the technology component," says Allred. "But I've found the online format of this program to be intuitive and very easy to use for someone like me who didn't have the most extensive

technology background starting out."

She credits her mentor at Southern Oregon University, where she wrapped up her bachelor's degree in psychology, with her decision to study social work at Portland State. "She and a friend who I had lunch with many years ago highly recommended I consider social work ahead of all of the human services professions," she says. "I remember my friend saying very clearly to me—social work grads get all the jobs.' I was sold."

While working on her master's, Allred held internships in which she worked with individuals of all ages, from little kids in therapy to seniors looking for ways to battle depression and isolation. Social work students are required to complete 1,000 internship hours as part of their degree. Allred was also selected for a competitive, optional program focused on preparing her to help individuals often unreached by the health care system because of social, economic and cultural barriers.

ALLRED'S LIFE experiences shaped her decision to work in a helping profession like social work. For example, she had a brush with alcoholism in her teens, eventually going into rehab and doing years of recovery work. Sober for 18 years and counting, she credits her partner, Katie, plus friends, family and mentors with the support she needs to stay strong.

"Getting sober has shown me that I'm capable of much more than I ever would have anticipated and that life is much bigger than I ever imagined," she says. "I know now that I'm in control of the perceptions in my life and that sometimes I need others to help me see things in a different way. Perspective is everything."

Allred was also shaped by how she witnessed the death of her stepmom and the deteriorating health of her grandmother.

Her grandmother suffered from Alzheimer's disease for years before she passed away. "I felt lucky that I was able to spend time talking with her about her experiences growing up in the 1920s and '30s," says Allred. "Digging way back into her past and combining those stories with music she recognized really seemed to trigger the strongest memories for her."

While other family members seemed uneasy with her grandmother's deterioration, Allred remembers feeling particularly calm and collected through the whole experience.

While other family members seemed uneasy with her grandmother's deterioration, Allred remembers feeling particularly calm and collected. "It was then that I began to realize that hospice might be the work for me."

"It was then I began to realize that hospice might be the work for me. I seemed to have the temperament for it."

Years later, Allred's stepmother faced a much faster death than her grandmother, and again Allred was able to help her in those final days. She also served as a support to her father and observed how effectively the hospice social worker listened to and cared for her dad.

"She really saw my dad, talked about what to expect next and teared up a couple of times with him, all the while staying professional without going down the spiral staircase," she remembers. "It showed me how valuable and powerful the work of a skilled hospice social worker can be for everyone when bearing witness to a loved one's final hours."

Today, Allred balances the sometimes heavy weight of classes and an intense internship with her passion for playing music. She's played guitar since she was eight years old and has participated in open mic nights in clubs in every city she's lived in as an adult. "I like the energy of the crowd and the nervous thrill I feel performing in front of total strangers," she says. "It's something completely different for me."

It's a thrill that comes from courage and perseverance—attributes Allred has built up through a lifetime and will carry with her into the future. Kurt Bedell is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.

To provide scholarship support for Lisa Allred, James Valenzuela, Karen Kinnison and other students like them, visit *letknowledgeserve.org*.





{ Photo exhibit displays artifacts from history's worst nightmares. }

with storm clouds gathering on the horizon, my aunt's teldy bear was buried in a backgard for safekeeping. my ount and grandfather weathered the torrent and returned to Germany after three years in Theresienstack in Carechos Brakia. after learning of the Lamoge coursed by the deluge, my aun't and grand father wrote to my mother in america informing her that Tante Regine, Onkel Siegfried, Georg, Thate Tour, Hago and his two sisters and Onkel moritz and his family had been engalfed by on the aftermath of the storm, my aunt was reunited with her Thildhood teddy bear. marianne Hesse



JIM LOMMASSON '72 launched his photographic oral history of refugees after interviewing an Iraqi woman. When he asked her about a small family portrait in her living room, she told him, "When I left, all I could take was my daughter under one arm, my Quran and this picture of my family."

After Lommasson made prints of the photo for her, he asked her to write her story on the picture. "Once she did that, I realized this was the most effective means of storytelling I could do," he explains.

That revelation led to his current documentary and photography project, "Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory," which showcases more than 60 personal objects and artifacts brought to America by displaced people.

The traveling exhibit was commissioned by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in the Chicago area, where it was on display until Jan. 13. For the exhibit, Lommasson photographed the treasured objects carried by refugees who fled from the Holocaust and genocides or conflicts in Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Iraq, Rwanda, South Sudan and Syria.

SHOWN on plain white backgrounds, the objects explore the relationship between what refugees took with them, the objects' meaning to the original owner, and the items' subsequent significance.

"The objects reflect the lives of their onetime owners: childhood, home, culture and



IT WAS 1938 AND THE NAZI PARTY HAD BEEN IN CONTROL OF GERMANY

SINCE 1933. I WAS BORN IN 1934. WE LIVED IN THE TOWN OF GOTHA.

THE NUREMBERG LAWS OF 1935 HAD TAKEN AWAY OUR GERMAN CITIZENSHIP

AND MY PARENTS DECIDED TO HOPEFULLY LEAVE GERMANY AND THAT IT WAS

TIME TO TRY TO GO TO AMERICA WHERE COUSINS OF OURS WERE LIVING.

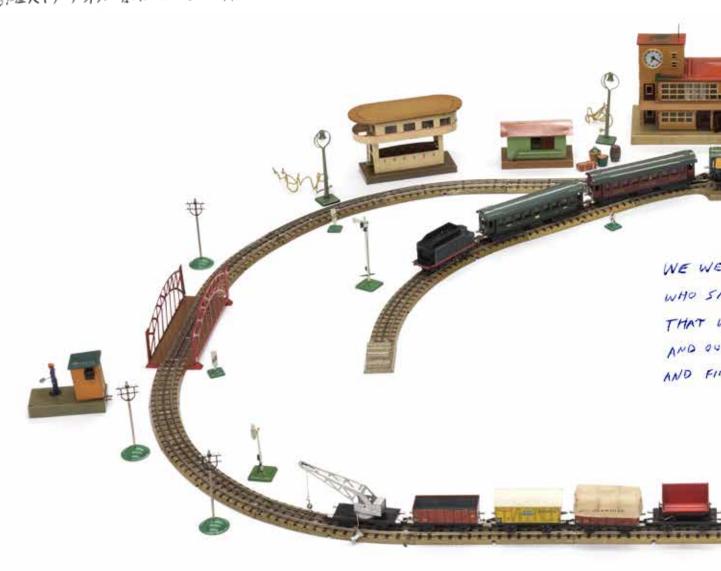
IT WAS NOW 1938. NORMALLY OF LIVE HAD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT.

PLANS WERE MADE TO LEAVE. EXIT AND ENTY LAWS WERE VERY STRICT.

THE FAMILY WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EQUIVALENT OF 4 US DOLLARS

OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND WERE REQUIRED TO PAY A HUGE "REICHE FLIGHT"

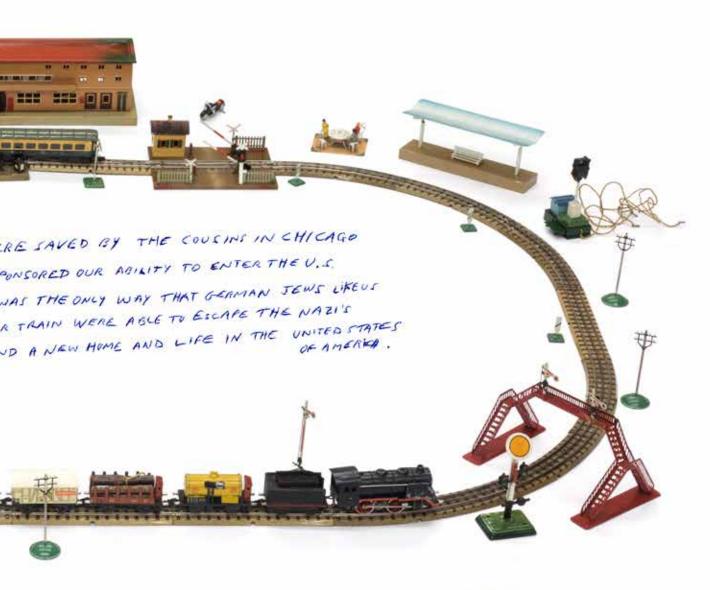
PROPERTY TAX BASED ON THE VALUE OF OUR BELONGINGS.



MY FATHER PURCHASED THIS WONDERFUL MARKLIN ELECTRIC TRAINSET FOR ME TO TAKE WITH US TO AMERICA. IT WAS A GREAT 'TOY" WHICH WAS ALWAYS LOVED BY ME, MY CHILDREN, AND MY GRANDCHILDREN THROUGH THESE MANY YEARS.

WE HAVE DONATED THE TRAIN SET TO THE ILLINOIC HOLOCAUST MUCEUM AND ARE VERY PROUD TO HAVE IT BE PART OF THIS EXHIBIT.

BO YEARS HAVE GONE BY AFTER THE TRAIN LEFT GERMANY WITH OUR FAMILY.



RALPH REHBOCK JULY 4, 2017 I was seven.

Clarissa Viernkunda's Dross (was brought in Egypt This diess belongs to clarisse Vwonkunda, when his father was traveling leave). my daughter; she was five during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. I found it in a grave in Rubavu, western Province, Ruanda last January 2017, Guent to Ruanda and wanted Rodies deferide to find your bodies (steleton) Bones are found apart Clothes | dieses are dirky, and restore your dignity. Pleasing but top their I found you on January 20th and took you to the forms . me morial rik of Nyanza, Kicukiscos 15 was exhausted agler that. expected to be seeleised and feel grateful for that accomplishment but instead became so pick . My muscles upre not before your trip to fulango and the day of our reparation. Our wish was for you to survice over if we die. telas, no dance for me! God only knows! We could not imagine someone killing a 3 or 5 year Immacules mulantapanino



religious practice; but also war, violence, displacement and exile," he explains. Paired with each photo is the handwritten account by each survivor translated into English. The objects are as everyday as a teddy bear, a candleholder and a black suitcase, and as symbolic as a young mother's cookbook and a wedding announcement.

"I believe in the power of images," says Lommasson. "One of the main purposes of the project is to put ourselves in the shoes of refugees." When the viewer sees pictures of familiar things people take with them, it leads them to think we are all more alike than different. He wants to coax viewers to contemplate, "What would you take with you if you had to flee your home suddenly?"

But he also wants them to go further: "I'm hoping people will ask, 'What am I leaving behind? Everything—friends, home, school, job,

culture and history.' That's what the main takeaway is: to bond, have empathy and compassion, to feel in a visceral way leaving everything behind you and going to a place where you're not necessarily welcome and people don't speak the same language."

A PORTLAND native, Lommasson landed his first commercial shoot while in college, which led to "a good, long career as an advertising and commercial photographer."

However, he viewed the work as a way to "pay the bills," he says. His long-range goal was to do "meaningful" projects that shed light on human rights and social justice. For the past 15 years or so, most of his time and energy have gone into those ventures, which include multiple photo exhibitions and several books. —written by Cliff Collins, a Portland freelance writer.





opioid use disorder, even if they return to using substances.

She says: "It's not good. It's not bad. It's their journey. How can we best support them on their journey?"

Priest believes a key step in stemming the U.S. opioid-overdose epidemic is decreasing the societal and institutional stigma that limits access to life-saving addiction medications. She sees this stigma in her clinical work as a medical student at Oregon Health & Science University and in her policy research as a Ph.D. candidate at the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health.

"People are not receiving access to care we know works, and that is deeply and profoundly wrong," she says.

More than 42,000 people died of opioid overdose in 2016, five times more than in 1999, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opioids include heroin, fentanyl and prescription medications such as oxycodone. Yet only about 15 percent of patients with opioid use disorder have access to lifesaving medications such as methadone and buprenorphine, which reduce withdrawal symptoms and aid in recovery, Priest says.

That's because complex federal regulations and insurance barriers limit their distribution, and some doctors don't know they can or should prescribe them, she says. The rules grew out of a deep social and racial bias that categorizes some drugs as deviant and their users as morally deficient.

"People think it's a spiritual failing. They think, 'What's wrong with you?'"

PRIEST, who grew up in Washington County, comes from a family of scientists, nurses and physicians.

Her father, who works for a software company, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease when he was 45 and she was 15. At first her family didn't know what to expect and kept the diagnosis private. There was shame around the neurological condition, similar to the shame around opioid use, she says.

After graduating from Willamette University with a degree in exercise science, she worked in the Balance Disorders Lab at OHSU on clinical trials for people with Parkinson's, including her dad.

The experience influenced her decision to follow her family's footsteps into a medical and research career. "It demystified Parkinson's for me," she says. "It was very therapeutic and healing."

While working in the OHSU lab, she started taking pre-med science courses at PSU and earned a master's in public health in 2014.

Now a joint M.D.-Ph.D. student at OHSU and PSU, she works with Dr. Dennis McCarty on opioid research and spends time with patients in OHSU's addiction medicine clinic with physician mentors Daniel Morris and Todd Korthuis.

SHE LIKES asking big-picture policy questions while treating individual patients.

For her dissertation, Priest has interviewed addiction experts across the country to find the best ways to improve opioid policy and hospital care for people with opioid use disorder. She won a training grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to support her education and research.

In the clinic, she enjoys connecting with patients and helping them through the ups and downs of recovery.

"It's incredibly rewarding," she says. "People going through addiction are so strong, so resilient." —written by Suzanne Pardington Effros, a Portland freelance writer and editor.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

BRENT LAWRENCE '86 and his son, Luke, displayed their metal sculpture at the Sunriver Resort Lodge Betty Gray Gallery in November. Brent is the son of Lawrence Gallery (McMinnville, Oregon) owner and artist Gary Lawrence.

RANDALL WHEELER '87 is chief financial officer for Saalex Corp., an engineering and information technology services company based in Rockledge, Florida.

RICK MCREYNOLDS '89, who worked for PSU Athletics for 30 years, recently retired as assistant athletics director for facilities and operations.

LYNN PETERSON, MURP '95, MS '08 was sworn in as the president of the Metro Council, Portland's regional government, in January. The longtime urban planner was elected to the post in May 2018.

CORI POLAND '00 was recently promoted to chief experience officer for Rivermark Community Credit Union, which has seven branches in Oregon.

L.M. ALAIYO FOSTER '01, '04, MA '07 was named executive director of the Black United Fund of Oregon late last year. She has over 18 years of experience working in nonprofits, county health departments, and the education and health fields.

ADAM MCMAHON MS '11 is a new assistant professor in the political science department at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. He earned a doctorate in political science from City University of New York.

JANET DO '12, ME '13 was awarded a Milken Educator Award, which comes with a \$25,000

cash prize, in December. The award celebrates innovators in the classroom. Do is a first-grade teacher at Whitman Elementary in southeast Portland.

KRISTIN MORRIS '10, ME '12 is lead electrical engineer at Pacific Diabetes Technologies, a Portland-based startup developing glucose sensing and insulin delivery technology.

ELIZABETH WOODY MPA '12 was recently appointed executive director of The Museum at Warm Springs. A former poet laureate of Oregon, Woody is a descendant of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Yakama Nation Wasco.

TIFFANY ROSAMOND CREED '13 graduated from University of Alaska Anchorage in December with an MFA in creative writing and literary arts. She was also invited to speak at the university's graduate hooding ceremony.

CHRISTOPHER MAIR '15 is a legislative aide for California Assembly member Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley.)

JENAVIEVE JOHNSTON '16 was the youngest student in the history of Willamette University to graduate from its College of Law, which she did in December at age 21. She plans to open a solo practice in criminal defense.

FOR MORE ALUMNI NEWS follow us @PSU_Alums on Twitter and PortlandStateAlumni on Facebook. Have news you would like to share? Email alum@pdx.edu or mail your information to Portland State University, Office of Alumni Relations, PO Box 75 I, Portland OR 97207-075 I. To submit your own alumni news online, go to pdx.edulalumnilcontact. ■



ATHLETICS



New space for the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame

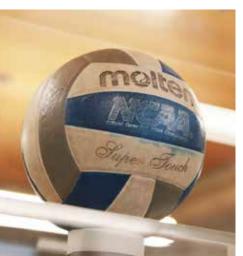
AN EXHIBIT honoring the legacy of more than 100 Portland State teams and individuals now has a permanent home in the remodeled Peter W. Stott Center. The Beetham Family Athletics Hall of Fame is located in the north lobby adjacent to the new Viking Pavilion arena. It is free and open to the public.

The Hall of Fame's namesake, former PSU football player Dennis Beetham '64 and his wife, Janet, donated \$2 million for the exhibit and for student scholarships in the sciences.

"Janet and I were both the first in our families to attend college, and we understand how challenging it is to go to school while juggling work, family or other commitments," says Beetham.

While at Portland State College, Beetham played both defensive end and middle linebacker for the Vikings from 1961 through 1963. After earning degrees at Portland State, Oregon State and the University of Oregon, he founded DB Western, a chemical engineering corporation with locations in North Bend, Oregon, and La Porte, Texas. Janet Beetham attended PSU as an undergraduate, where she met Dennis in a zoology class, and later returned to school at age 45 to earn a bachelor's in public relations.









THIS PAST FALL, those named to the 2018 Hall of Fame were: the 1987 and 1988 NCAA Division II national runners-up football teams, sprinter Geronne Black '14, quarterback John Charles '99, basketball forward Anthony Lackey '10, volleyball setter Garyn Schlatter '14, golfer Britney Yada '13 and alumnus Peter W. Stott for his outstanding contributions to PSU Athletics over the past decades. ■



academic year in the yearbook.

Obviously talented, McGillivray was in demand and joined a graphic design firm in Rochester, N.V. before he could finish his degree

in Rochester, N.Y., before he could finish his degree.

Oscar-nominated animator Bill Plympton, who worked with McGillivray on the Viking, credits McGillivray with helping him to get his start. "He's a brilliant

caricaturist, and he was a huge influence on me," wrote Plympton in his book *Make Toons that Sell*.

McGillivray spent his career as an illustrator and art director in New York, California and Oregon. Now retired but still drawing, he and his wife, Anita Malady '68, live in Portland. ■

Bruce McGillivray (left) and Larry Smith work on the Viking 1968 yearbook. McGillivray's caricatures of Eugene McCarthy, Hubert Humphrey, George Wald and Wayne Morse decorate the speakers page in the 1969 yearbook.







Portland State Magazine P.O. Box 751 Portland OR 97207 NONPROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID PORTLAND OR PERMIT NO. 770

