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FALL 2017

PORTLAND STATE

MAGAZINE



MOONSTRUCK

Students document the Great American Eclipse /12

New President Rahmat Shoureshi / 10 Sharing the world / 15
Open for Business / 20 Teaming up for science / 22

11.28.17



GIVE CHANGE.

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 **Portland State**
UNIVERSITY



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ON THE COVER A NASA-funded project allowed Portland State engineering students to record the eclipse and its shadow on the surrounding countryside from balloons at 100,000 feet. See story on page 12.



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EDITOR

Kathryn Kirkland

WRITERS

Stephanie Argy, John Kirkland, Paige Parker

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kelly James, Edis Jurcys, NashCO Photography, Peter Simon

COPY EDITOR

Martha Wagner

DESIGN

Brett Forman, Evan Kirkley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

810 Market Center Building
PO Box 751
Portland OR 97207-0751
503-725-4451, fax 503-725-4465
psumag@pdx.edu

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please go to the website
pdx.edu/alumni/contact
or call 503-725-4948

ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE

Tom Bull, Executive Director
Simon Benson House
1803 SW Park Ave.
PO Box 751
Portland OR 97207-0751
503-725-4948
alum@pdx.edu

PSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



A new beginning

I AM THRILLED to serve as the ninth president of Portland State University. It is an opportunity that marks the culmination of my professional career and also brings a responsibility to build upon the successes of my predecessors and the entire campus community to help make PSU a top-tier urban university. I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received.

Portland State has much to be proud of. What drew me here is its commitment to civic engagement and service, the entrepreneurial faculty, the rich diversity of students, the dedicated staff and the progressive spirit of the Portland community. I am grateful to Wim Wiewel for his leadership in setting a high standard of excellence and accomplishment.

Readers can learn about my background elsewhere in this magazine. For my first column, I'd like to talk about my priorities and vision for PSU.

My first goal this fall is to learn about PSU's culture and connect with students, faculty, staff, alumni and campus leaders. With 29,000 students and more than 4,000 faculty and staff, PSU is a city in itself.

Over the long term, I would like to focus on key areas of strength and develop strategies to broaden resources that will expand upon such areas as:

- **Access:** I strongly believe that any student who has the academic potential and drive should be able to attend and thrive at Portland State University.
- **Partnerships:** PSU already has many close ties with local governments, nonprofits, businesses and schools. I would like to deepen and expand those ties, particularly with other universities such as OHSU, and with businesses, artistic organizations and technology firms.

- **Resources:** While working with the governor and legislators to increase state support for PSU, I also will be heavily involved in philanthropy efforts with business leaders and others. Let's increase resources to support student achievement, campus educational and experiential opportunities, and expansion of the University's infrastructure.
- **Research:** I'm excited about research activities at PSU because so many of these efforts have a real-world impact. I am particularly interested in developing projects that integrate expertise across diverse disciplines such as art, business, technology, and the social, physical and health sciences.
- **Alumni:** Our graduates can be influential ambassadors for PSU whether they live in Portland, across the United States or overseas. I would like to expand outreach efforts to help them remain engaged with PSU.
- **Reputation:** Students have choices, and we want Portland State to be their first choice. That means we need to explore ways to burnish our brand, improve our rankings and promote the outstanding people and the programs that PSU has to offer.

Let me know what you think will help make PSU great. With campus and community partners working together, we can accomplish these goals. I look forward to both the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Rahmat Shoureshi
PRESIDENT, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

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.*



Early Ondine was coed for sure

It was a fun flashback to see the 1967 yearbook photo of the residence hall on page 29 [spring 2017 *Portland State Magazine*, Looking Back]. My memory may be a little off, but it seems to me it was still called The Viking [now the Ondine] when I moved there for the 1969-70 school year.

However, my memory is very clear about the coed status at the time. In fact, my roommate got kicked out of the dorm when she was caught on one of the "boy's" floors. The switch to women only had to be fall of 1970 or later.

Jennifer Sims '73



Coed housing led to true love

Having been a freshman in 1970 and living in the "Viking" I can attest that it was coed as late as 1971. In fact, it was so coed I met my future wife while we were both living there at the time. She was on the 11th floor and I lived on the 6th. I believe it was sold and changed in 1972. We both have obviously great memories about that place to this day.

Todd Jensen '75

Homeless label disappointing

As an MSW graduate, I have continued to value the perspective, values, and article breadth of the *Portland State Magazine*, which I appreciatively receive free of charge.

Nevertheless, I am disappointed that your lead story in this spring 2017 issue is "Shelter for the Homeless." This appears to label people by their condition rather than their full personhood.

To name persons who are without homes, as "The Homeless," is similar to calling persons who have a mental illness "The Mentally Ill" or persons who are terminally ill "The Dying" or persons with handicapping conditions "The Handicapped" or persons who are unemployed "The Jobless."

I don't have good suggestions for how to avoid the obvious difficulty of saying, "persons with ... or persons without ..." given the concern for being concise in print. But the MSW program certainly affirms the importance of recognizing the humanity and worth of all people which labels of "The ..." do not.

Priscilla A. Walters MSW '01

Living free in Massachusetts

I'm an alumnus and read about the project, "Shelter for The Homeless." I live in the Annie Maxim House in Rochester, Massachusetts. It contains apartments for 12 residents of "slender means."

We pay no rent, electricity, heat or water. There is a community dining room where we eat dinner prepared by a very good cook Mondays through Fridays. We cook in our own kitchens all other meals. There is also a library and a community living room at the house, which is in a rural area in the midst of

fields and bordered by a large pond. The residents may live here as long as they are independent or until they go to a nursing home or die. It's a 'permanent' residence.

We feel so blessed to be here. We would all be homeless if it weren't for Annie and George Maxim. They set aside money to build this place many years ago before George died. It was built in memory of his wife, Annie, after his death some 35 years ago.

For those interested in this project, email me at shawnhiggins888@yahoo.com.

Shawn Higgins '71



PSU gear hard to find

In the spring 2017 *Portland State Magazine*, Wim Wiewel wrote in his last column, "My only wish is that more of you would show Viking pride and wear our gear or display the PSU logo on windshields and bumpers."

Well, I think we would see some of that if PSU merchandise were available outside of the PSU campus store/online. Why is there a big display in a store like Fred Meyer of OSU and U of O merchandise but nothing from PSU? The PSU campus is right here in Portland!

I'm sure that there are other alumni out there who would like easier access to a PSU T-shirt, and would wear it with pride.

Lisette Sage '86

Park Blocks



Starting Four Years Free

FRESHMAN Marisol Flores first heard about PSU's Four Years Free program when she saw a friend's post on social media. Flores, then a student at Clackamas High School, went to her school's college counseling center the next day to look up the program. "I wanted to make sure it wasn't some rumor," she says. The program was indeed real. Starting with undergraduates who enter PSU this year, Four Years Free will cover standard tuition and mandatory fees for Oregon residents who meet academic and financial aid requirements, including a minimum 3.4 high school GPA. Flores is the first in her family to attend college, and she plans to major in business.



Turn on, tune in, but don't drop out

CAMPUS RAP-IN, a student radio show that aired Sunday nights during the 1969-70 academic year, is now available to the public through the PSU Library Archives. The half-hour programs are a mix of commentary on collegiate, city and national news, ranging from satire to serious discussions of the Vietnam War, political protest and freedom of expression. Anti-war protests at PSU gathered momentum during that year, culminating in May with a campuswide strike that ended in violence on the Park Blocks. Perhaps coincidentally, the Rap-In, which increasingly declared an anti-war position, did not return to the airwaves after the strike. Check out the recordings at pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/campusrapin/.

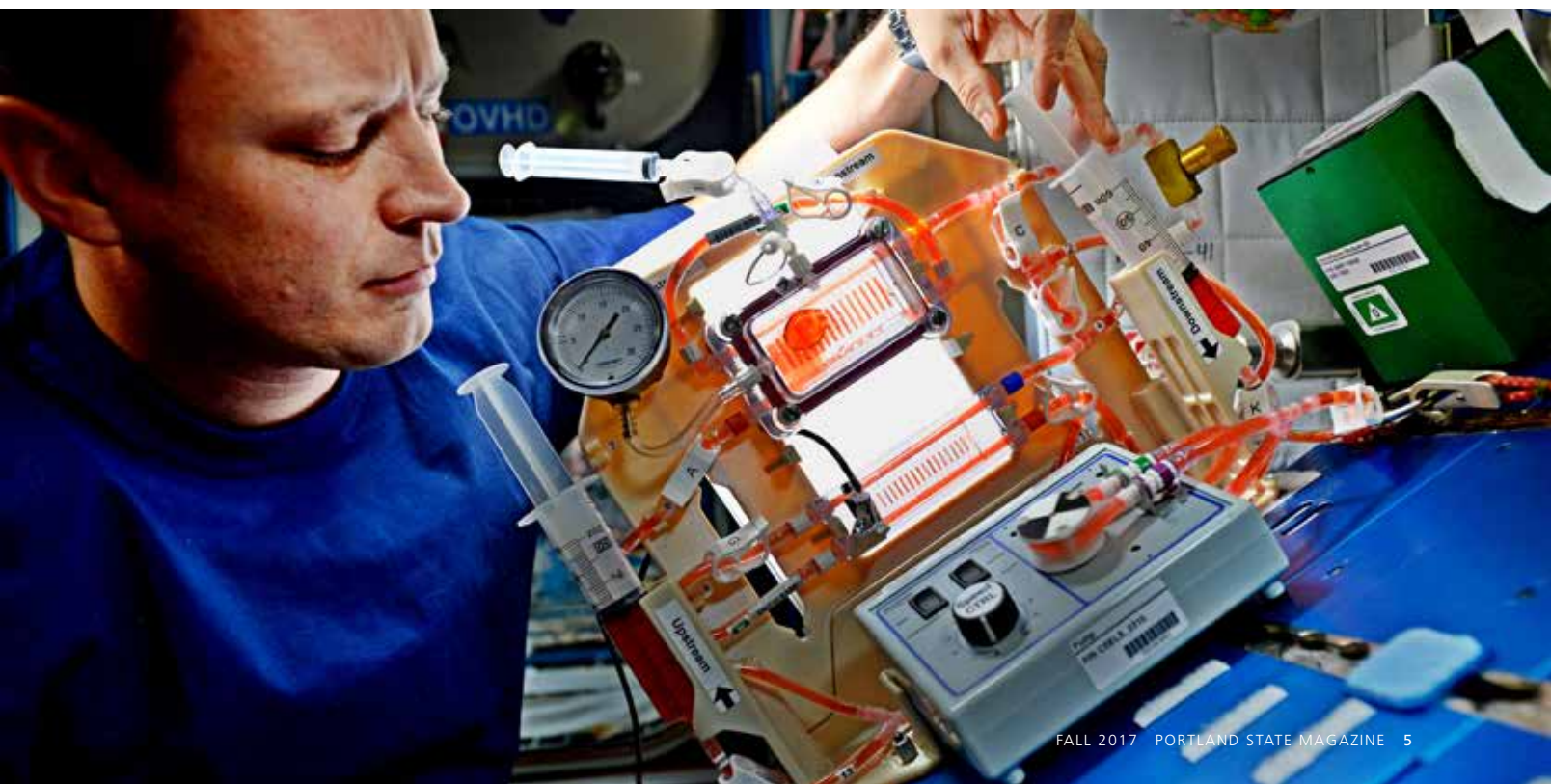


Bizarre discovery leads to NASA grant

BIOLOGY professor Ken Stedman received a \$540,000 grant from NASA to study the evolution of viruses, which may shed light on how viruses form, adapt and infect hosts. The study stems from a bizarre virus Stedman (pictured here) discovered in a hot spring at Lassen Volcanic National Park five years ago. The virus's genetic code is derived from both DNA and its evolutionary predecessor, RNA. The vast majority of life on Earth switched its genetic code from RNA to DNA about four billion years ago, so the fact that this virus has both is highly unusual, according to Stedman. Studying the hybrid virus may show that viruses themselves paved the way for genetic evolution eons ago.

Experiments in space

IF ASTRONAUTS are ever able to fly to Mars, they may have a PSU student and a faculty member to thank for it. Engineering student Kyle Viestenz and engineering professor Mark Weislogel designed two experiments essential to long-distance manned space travel, and astronauts aboard the International Space Station performed them this summer. The experiments explore technologies to recover potable water from urine, vapor and other sources, and to scrub carbon dioxide from the air so that it's safe to breathe. Space station astronaut Jack Fischer is seen here with CO₂-scrubbing hardware. Photo courtesy of NASA.



Find a tree to know its history

A CENTURY-OLD white oak in Portland's Lents neighborhood, which survived logging, farming, and housing developments, has sparked the imagination of four Portland State history students. They included the tree, which the city has designated as Heritage Tree 27, in a geocache—a modern-day treasure hunt. Using a GPS-enabled device such as a smart phone, and the Geocaching app, anyone can navigate to a small container or cache the students have placed on or near 14 designated Heritage Trees. Each container holds a brief history of the tree and a log for geocachers to sign and date. Printable directions to the trees are also available at bit.ly/tree_geocache.



Film captures unsettled resettlement

A YEAR AGO, when film student Paul Newman began documenting the resettlement process of a newly placed Iraqi refugee family in Portland, he had no idea of the impact current events would have on the project. A new president, a Middle Eastern travel ban, and a fatal, hate-fueled stabbing on a local MAX train, have made this family's integration traumatic. Newman, the inaugural winner of the \$10,000 Andries Deinum Prize for Visionaries and Provocateurs in PSU's College of the Arts, will hold an advance screening of his film, *Unstated*, on Oct. 12 at this year's Portland State of Mind (see schedule on pages 18-19).



Red Means Help

BEHIND PORTLAND'S hipster facade lurks a secret: The city is a national hub of human trafficking. Advertising students have teamed up with the Portland Police Bureau to build awareness and help victims escape with a new ad campaign, Red Means Help. Lured to Oregon with promises of work, trafficking victims are held against their will. Most speak no English, making it impossible to ask for help. The PSU student-run ad agency, FIR Northwest, has created ads in six languages telling victims they can silently request assistance by flashing anything red at a police officer. The ads will be placed in areas where victims often travel, such as on public transit. Students hope to expand the campaign to other communities in Oregon and beyond.

Tiny home village complete

IN EARLY JUNE, 14 formerly homeless women moved into the Kenton Women's Village in North Portland. As reported in the spring 2017 *Portland State Magazine*, the community features 14 micro dwellings designed and built by teams of PSU architecture students and professional architects. Since that story was published, students helped with the village layout and design of the shared kitchen and bathing structures, which were made from shipping containers. Residents are now working with caseworkers to transition out of the village into permanent housing within the year. The project stems from a landmark collaboration launched by the PSU School of Architecture's Center for Public Interest Design with nonprofit, community and public agencies. Photo by Zach Putman. ■



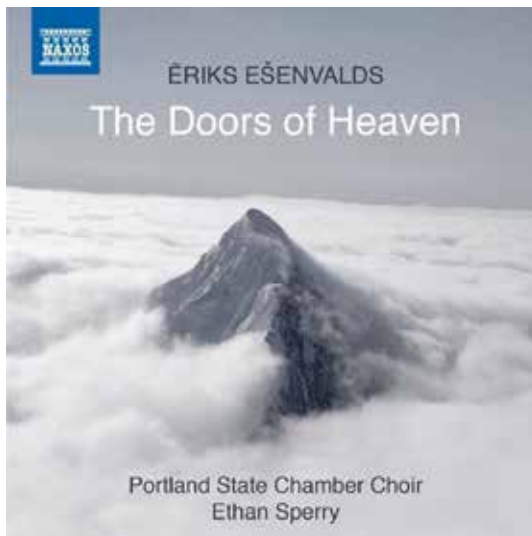
Fanfare



Big win in Bali

THE PORTLAND STATE CHAMBER CHOIR, the first American choir ever to compete in the Bali International Choral Festival, won the Grand Prix at the July 14-20 festival, which included more than 100 choirs. “This trip was a profound experience for our students,” says Ethan Sperry, the Barre Stoll Director of Choral Activities in the PSU School of Music. “Asian choirs have a distinctive approach to music, and our ears were opened to a new palette of sounds. I hope that we offered a similar experience for the people hearing an American choir for the first time.” As they enjoyed the island’s scenic attractions, choir members also sang at a charity concert to raise money for homeless youth. Sperry is pictured above holding the trophy.





Hear them for yourself

SOON AFTER returning from Bali, members of the Portland State Chamber Choir saw its new CD, *The Doors of Heaven*, the first American recording of works by Ēriks Ešēvalds, released by Naxos Records. The CD made it to #1 on Billboard's Traditional Classical Albums chart—the first university ensemble to ever hit the charts. Conducted by PSU Choral Director Ethan Sperry, the recording originated with the choir's performance at a national conference in 2015. Naxos Records took note and contacted Ešēvalds, a prize-winning Latvian composer, about creating an album with the PSU Chamber Choir. Ešēvalds will return to Portland for the choir's upcoming performances November 10 and 12 at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson. Visit psuchamberchoir.com/events for details. ■

New Works

MORE POWERFUL

CD by George Colligan (jazz faculty), Whirlwind Recordings, 2017

TACOMA

Video game by Steve Gaynor '05, The Fullbright Company, 2017

AMISH WEDDINGS

By Leslie Gould MA '09, Bethany House Publishers, 2017

LOVE'S LAST NUMBER: POEMS

Christopher Howell MA '71, Milkweed Editions, 2017

DEATH BREW

By Bob Jonas MS '92, Vagabond Librarian Publishing, 2017

BLOCKCHAIN FOR DUMMIES

By Tiana Laurence '14, For Dummies, 2017

REVENGEANCE

Animated film by Bill Plympton '69 and Jim Lujan, 2016

THE HORSE LATITUDES

By Matthew Robinson MFA '15 (English faculty), Propeller Books, 2016

GUERRILLAS OF DESIRE: NOTES ON EVERYDAY RESISTANCE AND ORGANIZING TO MAKE A REVOLUTION POSSIBLE

By Kevin Van Meter (geography faculty), AK Press, 2017

DISINHERITANCE: POEMS

John Sibley Williams MS '11, Apprentice House, 2016

BRAVE THE STRANGE

CD by Robert Wynia '01, Cavity Search Records, 2017



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Rahmat Shoureshi begins a new era as president of Portland State University.

WRITTEN BY PAIGE PARKER

IN THE EARLY 2000s, Lockheed Martin Corporation had fighter jets and communication satellites to build, and a shortage of engineers with advanced degrees to design them. A program to pay their graduate school tuition had floundered because universities were reluctant to adjust their class hours to accommodate the working engineers' full-time schedules.

That is, until a Lockheed Martin executive met Rahmat Shoureshi, then dean of the engineering school at the University of Denver. Shoureshi offered to schedule evening graduate-level classes. Then he went a step further, remembers Michael Ragole, retired Lockheed Martin director of engineering resources and development.

Shoureshi sent the professors to teach on Lockheed Martin's Littleton, Colorado, campus.

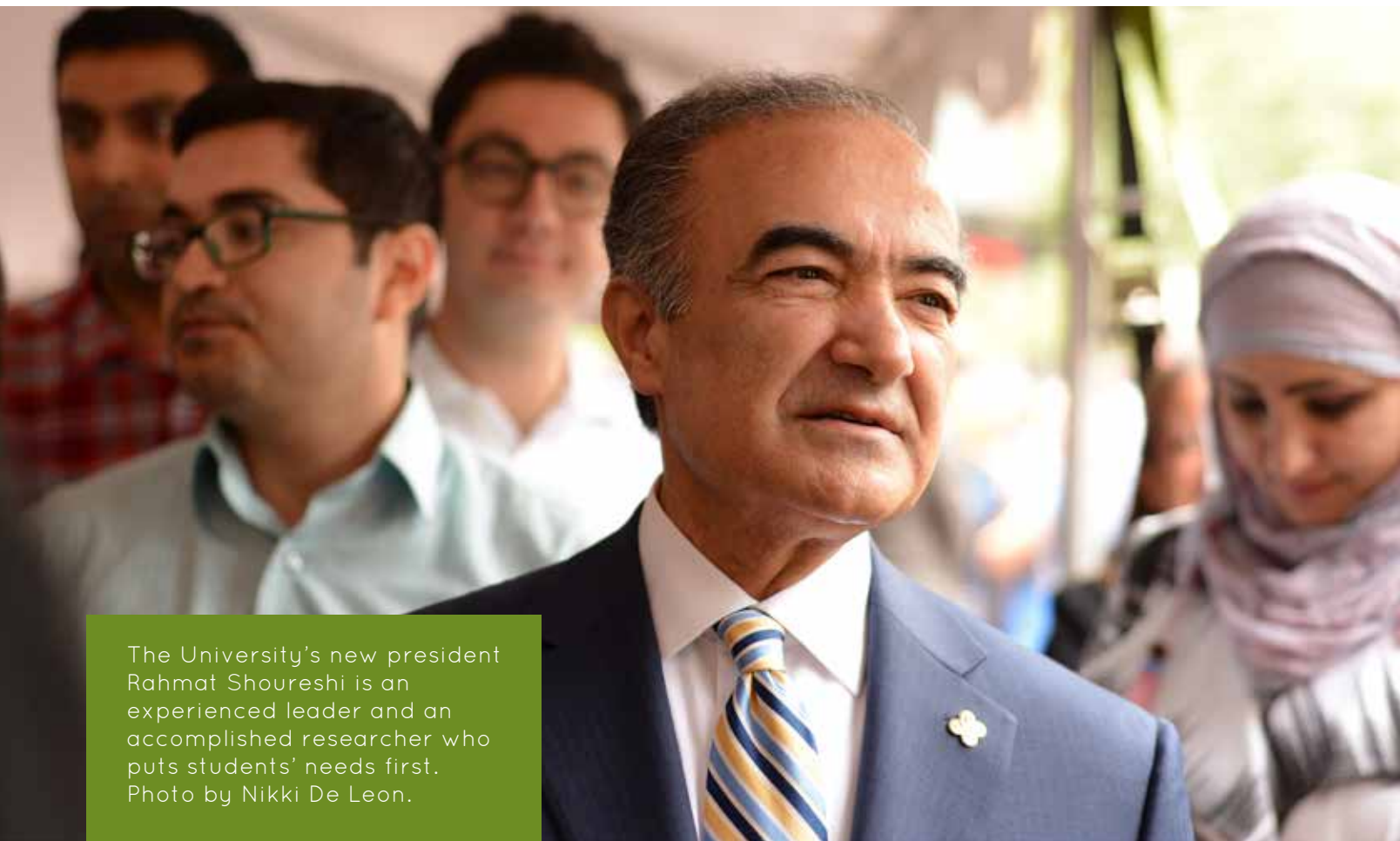
Ragole wanted to make it worthwhile for the university and promised that at least 10 engineers would enroll in those first master's in engineering classes. Today, more than 300

engineers have earned master's as well as doctorate degrees through an expanded program now offered by video-conferencing in additional Lockheed offices.

The company's pipeline of highly skilled engineers looks fuller these days. "Without Rahmat, it never would have happened," Ragole says.

Shoureshi hopes to put that same resourcefulness and problem-solving to work as Portland State's new president. He formally took over on August 14, following six years as the provost and interim president of the New York Institute of Technology.

Colleagues, partners and former students of Shoureshi say the PSU community can expect a leader who is keenly focused on students' needs and who will find new ways to collaborate across the campus, city and region to build the University's stature and strengthen it financially.



The University's new president Rahmat Shoureshi is an experienced leader and an accomplished researcher who puts students' needs first. Photo by Nikki De Leon.

He brings an engineer's mindset and a penchant for making connections to the position.

"What I've done in the past is identify key areas and focus on developing the strategies, resources and manpower to make them happen and be successful," Shoureshi says. "That's the strategy I want to use for Portland State. Get to know the faculty, get to know the culture, the areas of strength within PSU, and carve those niches that differentiate PSU from everybody else."

SHOURESHI says his interest in engineering grew from his love of mathematics. As a fourth-grader in his native Iran he tutored seventh-grade math students. Shoureshi earned his bachelor's degree from Sharif University of Technology—considered the MIT of Iran—before earning a master's and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the irrefutable MIT in Massachusetts. His doctoral studies coincided with the American hostage crisis of the early 1980s. In light of that crisis, the MIT faculty senate took the approach of protecting its Iranian students from potential deportation, he says, and allowed them to finish their studies.

Shoureshi's personal experience gives him a window into the anxiety and fears of students from the six majority-Muslim countries affected by the travel ban executive order.

"We welcome students no matter their background or ideology," Shoureshi says. "We as a university are going to make sure that our students are protected."

One of Shoureshi's early graduate students says his advisor treated him like family.

"He values people extraordinarily. If somebody is having a bad day or has been left out or feels ignored, he notices those things," says Dave Swedes, now vice president of engineering and manufacturing for Valco Melton, a worldwide manufacturer of adhesive dispensing machinery.

Swedes kept in touch with Shoureshi, and their families recently reconnected for the first time in 25 years.

In Shoureshi's private office, Swedes noticed that, "He kept my thesis on his shelf with just three or four other students'. It showed me the depth that he values relationships with the people he works for and who work with him."

Shoureshi counts his work with students as his greatest accomplishment.

"When you come out of a classroom and you feel like you made a difference with your students in terms of them learning something completely new, you can't compare that feeling of satisfaction to anything else," Shoureshi says. "I have supervised the theses of over 80 Ph.D. and master's students, which means that together we have formulated their passions and their futures."

AN ACTIVE researcher throughout his career, Shoureshi has authored more than 250 technical publications. He is an expert in automation, control systems design and artificial intelligence, and revels in applying his mechanical engineering knowledge to unfamiliar fields and developing new technology. Even as a dean and provost, he maintained his

research and advised graduate students. He is interested in continuing some level of research in collaboration with other faculty at PSU.

Shoureshi was among the pioneers of the ideas behind smart buildings and smart appliances, long before the Internet and wireless technology made it possible to order a pizza or turn down the thermostat with just one's voice. He developed noise and vibration cancellation technology that is used in cars and on airplanes. Shoureshi recently designed a smart shoe insole (IntelliSole) that monitors movement, can prevent the elderly from falling and detect formation of foot ulcerations to prevent neuropathy in people with type 2 diabetes.

When encouraging faculty to pursue cross-disciplinary ideas, Shoureshi draws on his own experiences applying mechanical engineering principles to other fields.

For example, he developed the first mechatronic systems engineering program in the U.S. While dean of the engineering school at the University of Denver, he partnered with its business school when he set up Lockheed Martin's systems engineering program. Engineering faculty taught two-thirds of the required courses, and business school faculty taught classes in program management.

As provost of the New York Institute of Technology, Shoureshi oversaw the establishment of a Leadership in the Arts and Entertainment Industries master's degree. The program is offered in partnership with a Broadway business that owns and manages theaters and presents musicals and plays in the United States and internationally. Students can work on projects such as launching a capital campaign for a performing arts facility or planning a production's international tour.

"He's quite an entrepreneur," says Paul Dangerfield, who was dean and executive director at the Vancouver, British Columbia, campus of the New York Institute of Technology when Shoureshi was provost of the six-campus NYIT system. "Previously, the (Vancouver) campus had no connections to the local business community," says Dangerfield. "He encouraged those connections. When I put him in a room with business leaders he had no problem whatsoever coming up with ideas about what the next programs would be."

At PSU, Shoureshi will preside over the University's efforts to boost enrollment and raise money. He drove research funding at NYIT to an all-time high. Tom Willoughby, recently retired vice chancellor of enrollment for the University of Denver, credits Shoureshi's strategic planning and initial fundraising for the construction of a new \$70 million school of engineering.

"He wasn't here to see it built, but he was the one who built the relationships that led to it," Willoughby says. "He really knows how to engage people, how to empower people. He brought the university community together in ways that it hadn't been brought together before." ■

Paige Parker is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.



MOONSTRUCK

Students send balloons into the stratosphere to document the Great American Eclipse.

Written by John Kirkland

A team of Portland State engineering students prepare their balloons for timed launches with two other college teams on Peavy Fields at Oregon State University. Photo by Ben Semerjian.



WHILE MILLIONS of spectators watched the skies during the total eclipse, Monday, Aug. 21, a team of PSU engineering students watched the Earth from the edge of space.

The team—led by Rihana Mungin, Harmony Ewing and Olea Stevens—were part of a nationwide NASA-funded project to send weather balloons more than 100,000 feet into the sky to photograph the eclipse shadow as it moved across the United States. By comparison, commercial jets cruise at an altitude of about 40,000 feet. The project involved 55 college and high school teams, all of which launched balloons along the eclipse path, which started near Lincoln City and ended in South Carolina.

In addition to the NASA project, the PSU team launched other balloons as part of their senior capstone project—one of the final requirements of their baccalaureate degrees. The balloons, equipped with high-resolution digital cameras, hovered at different altitudes, giving a multidimensional view of the event.

“This project gave us engineering skills you don’t get in a classroom,” says project leader Rihana Mungin, a mechanical engineering senior. “We produced incredible images that people wouldn’t ordinarily have seen.”

The PSU team launched from an athletic field at the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis due to its location in the path of totality. The first round of balloons went up at 7 a.m. as spectators started gathering with their lawn chairs outside the field perimeter. Within minutes, they became tiny specks in the cloudless blue sky. More launches followed right up to eclipse time.



The balloons each supported three cameras that took photos of the changing landscape and celestial bodies at 96-frame bursts every 30 seconds. As the balloons popped, their elegant, high-altitude deflation was also caught on camera. Lower left photo by Isabel Rodriguez.

THE BALLOON launches were the culmination of months of work by the students, during which they made equipment housings with 3D printers, fine-tuned the remote tracking technologies required to transmit data, calculated the balloons' likely trajectories, and tackled hundreds of other details essential for success. The work also included practice launches at the rural home

of engineering professor Mark Weislogel. After the big event came the work of retrieving the cameras and data collection equipment. Each balloon was designed to pop when it reached a specific altitude, with parachutes carrying the high-tech payloads back to Earth. The PSU team recovered one of the payloads from a farmer's field near

Corvallis Municipal Airport. They found another 80 feet up in a tree in the Coast Range. And the next morning, the team was headed back to the Coast Range to recover two more.

Not all of the balloons survived. One of them, perhaps due to a small leak, never gained full altitude, which caused it to drift out over the Pacific, never to be seen again. But small glitches are part of the learning process and were more than made up for by the stunning images collected from the remaining balloons.

You can see the video feeds from different teams at the Eclipse Ballooning Project at eclipse.stream.live. ■

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



SHARING THE WORLD

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BRING A FRESH
PERSPECTIVE TO THEIR AMERICAN PEERS.**

WRITTEN BY STEPHANIE ARGY

BHAVANA RAMESH grew up and went to college in India. Seven years after graduating, she decided to get a master's degree from Portland State University's Engineering and Technology Management program.

She wanted to experience firsthand the differences between developing and developed countries. "How do we collaborate?" she asks. "We have to understand both sides." And while the

experience helped educate her about Americans, Ramesh also enlightened her American classmates about India.

This past year's controversies about immigration and travel bans raise an important question: What do Portland State's 2,100 international students, like Ramesh, bring to their American-born classmates, to the University, to Portland, and to the nation as a whole?

Bhavana Ramesh shared her Indian culture with students while enrolled in PSU's Technology Management master's program.

SHARING THE WORLD

IN AN increasingly globalized world, a university has a responsibility to prepare its students to work with people from other nations. Studying overseas is one way for American students to develop that ability. But a long stay abroad can be hard or impossible for many Portland State students, according to Shawn Smallman, chair of International and Global Studies.

“A lot of our students are a little bit older, and they may have jobs or families already,” he says. “As a university, we’ve tried to focus on short-term study-abroads, but the reality is that most students aren’t going to do a study-abroad.”

The presence of international students on campus can awaken some of the same cultural awareness as a study-abroad experience. “They help to internationalize the curriculum in a different way,” says Smallman.

American-born students who are studying with international classmates have discussions and strike up friendships with people who have very different backgrounds and perspectives. Stories in the news take on new context, and religious and political viewpoints can be explained by those with a firsthand understanding.

At Portland State, Ramesh found herself on project teams with Americans, as well as with students from all over the world. In the past two years, international students in the Engineering and Technology Management program represented 24 countries

and made up 57 percent of the enrollment. “It was about respecting mutual ideas, and brainstorming,” says Ramesh.

Those sorts of interactions and collaborations help students overcome some of their prejudices and judgments, and that influence goes far beyond classroom encounters. “These students are also in the residence halls, they’re in the rec center, they’re on sports teams,” says Smallman. “That’s a different way of getting to know people and forming relationships.”

AS PART of a research project on how international students affect their domestic peers, Alex Accetta EdD ’17, assistant vice president of Campus Recreation and Student Union Services, asked students in PSU’s intramural soccer program to confront their own preconceptions about others. For six weeks, before each game, players from the United States and other countries talked openly about times when they felt they had been stereotyped. Accetta recalled one student from Ukraine who complained how everybody thought he was from Russia. This alone surprised some of his fellow players, who asked, “Oh, there’s a difference?” The student then added, “And because they think I’m Russian, they think I’m anti-gay.”

Carlos Shay, a social science major in his senior year who played in the soccer league, says the pre-game conversations opened students’ eyes to the humanity of the other players.

“They realized, ‘This is more than soccer, these are actual people I’m playing against.’” In the past, some American



International students on campus can awaken some of the same cultural awareness as a study-abroad experience.

players had resented their international peers for playing too aggressively, but the Americans came to understand that for the international students, soccer was the equivalent of football in Texas, almost a religion. “There’s food, work, family ... and soccer,” says Shay.

THE PERSPECTIVES offered by international students can also help Americans learn to navigate situations differently. Thitisak Duadsuntia, a student from Thailand pursuing a doctorate in public administration, taught his colleagues in PSU student government about how to work within bureaucracies. “In Thailand, we are quite hierarchical, more hierarchical than in the United States. I can show how we can collaborate with other entities to accomplish a goal. How do we negotiate for resources within bureaucracies? How can we improve student government as a unit of bureaucracy?”

Many international students reach out beyond the University while they’re in Portland. Ramesh, for example, visited schools and other institutions, did cultural presentations and performed volunteer work as part of the International Cultural Service Program. International students also do internships, take on outside jobs, and, like many other Portland State students, find ways to make their education serve the needs of Portland and beyond.

Masami Nishishiba, chair of the Department of Public Administration, enlisted students from China, Japan and Thailand to help the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists conduct interviews to find out why so many unlicensed massage therapists came from Asian Pacific nations. The students, in addition to being skilled researchers, had the cultural fluency to win the confidence of the massage therapists. They found that the Asian men and women didn’t think the job warranted licensing and had a hard time understanding and completing the process.

There are also financial benefits to having international students at Portland State. They pay out-of-state tuition, which helps fund programs and classes at the University, and according to a national report, they contributed \$71.1 million to the Oregon economy in 2015-16, which directly and indirectly created or supported 877 jobs.

EVEN AFTER international students finish their degrees at Portland State, many of them stay involved and contribute to the University and its worldwide presence. “There really is this network of people in the world who love Portland and Portland State and are grateful for their education here,” says Margaret Everett, interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Out of that passion, some of those students have gone on to make enormous contributions to PSU. “The college of engineering is named after an international student,” says Tim Anderson, chair of the Department of Engineering and

International students at PSU

7.5% of the student body

Top nations

1. China
2. India
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Kuwait
5. Japan

Technology Management. “Dr. Fariborz Maseeh arrived at PSU as a freshman from Iran in 1977.” In the decades since, Maseeh pioneered micro-technology and has been a generous supporter of the University, most recently pledging \$5 million to renovate Neuberger Hall (see story on page 28).

But the current political climate is taking a toll on international enrollment. As of August, total applications from international graduate students for 2017-18 were down 7 percent, according to Everett. For international freshmen, applications were down 10 percent, and the number of freshmen who had confirmed their intention to enroll was down a startling 40 percent. The decreases can also be attributed to events and policies in the students’ home countries, says Everett.

The potential loss of all those international students would cost the University an enormous amount on many levels. But perhaps the greatest loss would be the large-scale impacts those students make.

“The importance of having international students goes beyond just the classroom, or even a single university,” says Smallman. “It’s about who the United States is as a nation and a society, and how we’re perceived abroad. If we have students who come here, who learn about the United States, and they go back to their home countries as advocates, having had a wonderful experience here, then that’s a really positive outcome, not just for Portland State University, but for the country as a whole.” ■

Stephanie Argy is a graduate assistant in the Office of University Communications.



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THURSDAY, OCT. 12

Our American Eyes: Prints by Roger Shimomura

Exhibit, 7:30 am-8 pm Mondays-Thursdays (until 5 pm Fridays), Broadway Gallery in Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park, free (on exhibit through January 8, 2018)

Julia Hwakya Lee, Piano Concert

12-1 pm, Lincoln Recital Hall, free

Homeless and the Environment

5-6:30 pm poster session, 6:30 pm seminar, 1st Floor Lobby; 7:30 pm alumni celebration, 2nd Floor Lobby; Science Research and Teaching Center, 1719 SW 10th, free

A Stoic Guide to Modern Life

Panel discussion, 5-6 pm, 2126 Urban Center, 506 SW Mill, free

Does History Matter?

Talk, 5-6:30 pm, 75 Lincoln Hall, free

The Concept of the Silk Road: Asset or Liability?

Talk, 6-7:30 pm, 296 Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, free

Andries Deinum Prize Showcase

Documentary *Unstated* to premiere, 6-8 pm, 115 Lincoln Hall, free

Light in the Dark: A Panel Discussion on Truth and Advertising

5-8 pm, Karl Miller Center, 631 SW Harrison, free

FRIDAY, OCT. 13

Preschool for All: Investing in Equity

Presentations on early childhood education, 9 am-4 pm, Ballroom in Smith Memorial Student Union, free with reservation

The Lord of the Seven Climes: Iran at the Center of Eurasian Exchange

Talk, noon-1:30 pm, 296 Smith Memorial Student Union, free

Chemistry Alumni Seminar and Student Poster Symposium
3:15 pm seminar, 107 Science Building 1, 1025 SW Mill; 4:30 pm symposium, Science Research and Teaching Center, free

SATURDAY, OCT. 14

Homecoming Football: PSU vs. Northern Arizona
Noon party, free; 2 pm game, \$5-\$70; Providence Park, 1844 SW Morrison

OCT. 14-15

Portland Piano International: Yekwon Sunwoo
4 pm, Lincoln Performance Hall, \$45-\$55

Rakugo: Japanese Comic Storytelling
Performances, 7:30 pm on Oct. 14, 2 pm on Oct. 15, 75 Lincoln Hall, \$15/\$10/\$8

SUNDAY, OCT. 15

Winery Tour
Led by geology professor Scott Burns, 10 am-6 pm, charter bus leaves from Stott Center, SW College & Park, \$50

Lost City, Living Memories: Vanport Through the Voices of its Residents
Documentary and exhibit, 3-5 pm, 327 Smith Memorial Student Union, free

MONDAY, OCT. 16

Arie da camera with Luigi Boccia
Master class on Italian song literature, 3:30-5 pm, Lincoln Recital Hall, free

TUESDAY, OCT. 17

#PSU Tweetup + Thriller Flash Mob: Throwback '90s
Food and prizes, noon-2 pm, Urban Center Plaza, 1742 SW 6th, free

Transnational Intersections
Panel discussion, 2:30-4 pm, Native American Student and Community Center, 710 SW Jackson, free

Portland's Homeless Crisis
Public interactive forum, 7-8 pm, Ballroom in Smith Memorial Student Union, \$5

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18

Economic Forecast: Is Portland Due for a Recession?
Panel discussion, 7:15-9 am, Ecotrust, 721 NW 9th Ave, \$25

Discover the GSE
Noon-3 pm, Graduate School of Education, 1900 SW 4th Suite 200, free

100 Years on: The Legacy of Russia's October Revolution
Panel discussion, 3:30-5 pm, 296 Smith Memorial Student Union, free

Artist at Work: How to Score a Film
Silent film screenings and composer discussion, 4:30-6 pm, 225 Lincoln Hall, free with online RSVP

Arlene Schnitzer Visual Arts Prize Awards and Exhibit
5-7 pm, Autzen Gallery, 205 Neuberger Hall, 724 SW Harrison, free (on exhibit October 2-25)

Reclaiming the Urban Forest for Food, Medicine and Ceremony
Projects presented, 6-8:30 pm, 110 Native American Student and Community Center, free

Listen, We Need to Talk: How to Change Attitudes about LGBT Rights
Talk, 7-9 pm, 212G Urban Center, free

PDXTalks
Knowledge and experience from faculty and alumni, 7-9:15 pm, 75 Lincoln Hall, free with ticket

THURSDAY, OCT. 19

Campus Art Tour
4-5:30 pm, meet in Broadway Lobby Gallery, Lincoln Hall, free

Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science Open House
4-7 pm, Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, 1930 SW 4th, free

Public Health Portland Style
Talk, 5:30-7 pm, Lucky Labrador Beer Hall, 1945 NW Quimby Street, free with online RSVP

An Intimate History of Slavery and Freedom
Talk, 6-7:30 pm, 338 Smith Memorial Student Union, free

OCTOBER 19-21

Northwest Dance Project: Fall Performance
7:30 pm, Lincoln Performance Hall, \$34-\$58

FRIDAY, OCT. 20

Biology Alumni Lecture and Event
4:30-5:30 pm lecture, 107 Science Building 1; 5:30-9 pm reception, 2nd Floor Lobby, Science Research and Teaching Center, free

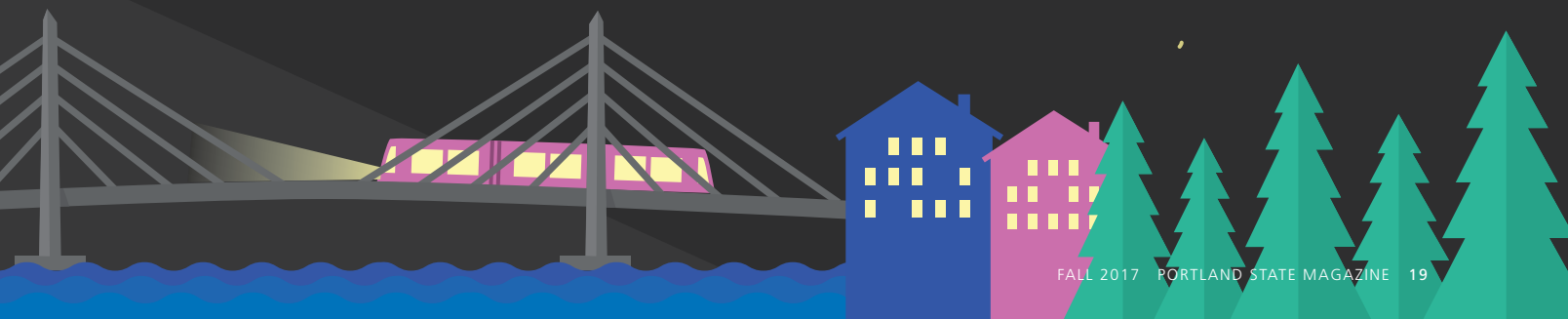
Student Films from New York City
Short films by PSU students, 7-9 pm, 5th Avenue Cinema, 510 SW Hall, free

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

Day of Service
Projects on and off campus, 8:30 am-2 pm, meet at Native American Student and Community Center, free

POP-UP MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
12-3pm, Lobby, 219 and 257 Science Research and Teaching Center, free

Housing and Residence Annual Fright Night
7-10 pm, Montgomery Court, 1802 SW 10th, \$2/5 donation



OPEN

for business

It's bigger, brighter and designed to transform The School of Business.

Beginning this fall, business students Alexis Alarcon and Anastasiya Guzenko can take advantage of the atrium in the new Karl Miller Center, which includes soaring art pieces.



A LIGHT-FILLED atrium with crisscrossing bridges and stairs surrounded by study spaces is at the heart of The School of Business remodel. The building, now known as the Karl Miller Center, is opening this fall after a two-year, \$62 million renovation and expansion.

Business students will have double the space, triple the number of classrooms, 10 project and team rooms (there were none before), and four industry-specific centers. The renovation incorporated the west side of the building, which previously housed the Graduate School of Education, and added a new space on the north side.

With 3,500 students, The School of Business at PSU is the largest in Oregon.

“For too long, the quality of students and the product of our terrific faculty have not matched the building in which they have taught and learned,” says Rick Miller MBA ’91, who with his wife, Erika, donated \$9 million to the renovation. “An MBA student said it best a few years ago when asked about her experience at Portland State. She said, ‘It’s like a wonderful caviar in a bad tin can.’ Not any longer!”

The building is named after Miller’s grandfather, Karl Miller, who was a World War II veteran, firefighter and entrepreneur. This summer, Rick Miller became chair of the PSU Board of Trustees.

German firm Behnisch Architekten designed the new facility, working with the Portland office of SRG Partnership Inc. Skanska USA was the general contractor. The project received LEED Platinum designation—the top category for sustainable construction. ■



Teaming up for Science

Grants enable high school teachers to partner with PSU professors.

WRITTEN BY JOHN KIRKLAND



A deer observes professor Catherine de Rivera and high school teacher Jeffrey Buckingham as they count animal tracks left in sand placed at an under-bridge wildlife crossing in Wilsonville.

JEFFREY BUCKINGHAM, used to take care of injured animals as an Audubon Society volunteer. Now he teaches advanced placement biology at Beaverton High School, and for the next two years will be working with PSU environmental science professor Catherine de Rivera to study how to help animals survive in the urban environment.

“This is something I strongly believe in. I just love this realm of life science,” he says.

Buckingham is one of two local high school teachers recently paired with PSU professors as part of M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust’s Partners in Science program. The program grants \$15,000 per high school teacher to do graduate-level research. This is the 28th year of the program, and PSU has had at least one partnership in 22 of those years—a total of 63 teacher-researcher partnerships in all.

Partners in Science work occurs over the course of two summers. After the first summer, the partners develop posters showing their research and present them at the National Partners in Science conference in San Diego. After the second summer, partners return to the conference to deliver an oral presentation on their progress.

THE OTHER teacher starting a partnership this year at PSU is Heather Blair from David Douglas High School. She will be working with PSU biology faculty Anne Thompson studying ocean phytoplankton.

The partnerships are a win-win for all involved.

“I get an extra pair of hands in the lab,” says Thompson, who says she’ll put Blair to work analyzing 2,000 recently collected seawater samples taken from the Pacific Ocean.

“The work Heather is doing is high quality, so this will help us publish our research,” she says. Another benefit is the fact that Blair will be able to take those research findings and the methods used to achieve them back to her classroom at David Douglas. This helps make connections between the university and students who are just starting to get excited about science.

MEANWHILE, Buckingham will be working with de Rivera on a project that ultimately will help wild animals in the Portland metro area to survive the hazards of urban living. It will involve tracking animals—10 species in all—to see how they respond when they encounter roads, fences and other structures. Then, the researchers will compile suggestions on how urban planners can design ways for the animals to get from one place to another without being hit by cars. “All species need to move, whether it’s for food or mating or a change of habitat,” he says. “If we’re creating roads and fences and limiting their movement, their populations decline.”

Buckingham will use the experience to create a high school curriculum, and may involve his students in his field work.

De Rivera has worked with other high school teachers through Partnerships in Science.

“They’re eager to learn, and I like knowing that the work we’re doing will translate down to high school students,” she says. “And hopefully, some of them will come to PSU!” ■



High school teacher Heather Blair (left) works with professor Anne Thompson in recording data on phytoplankton life appearing in Pacific Ocean seawater samples.



Alumni

Working her way up the corporate ranks

RISING THROUGH the male-dominated ranks of one of the largest truck manufacturers is only one of the hurdles Lori Heino-Royer has overcome in her unconventional career path.

"Much of what I have accomplished started with me accepting that I am different than everyone around me and not being afraid to act on it," says Heino-Royer MBA '02.

Those accomplishments make an impressive list.

She currently heads business innovation and the Program Management Office at Daimler Trucks North America, a role she built on her track record of knowing what the company needed and delivering it. Among her successes: Daimler's first iPad sales app, an internal creative idea incubator, and a strategic foresight team.

Her route to an executive position at Daimler has had as many gear shifts and reinventions as the massive trucks she helps build.

While working as an order intake clerk after graduating from high school, the owner told her she would never earn a higher salary as a woman in his company. Heino-Royer took

the snub as a challenge. The real hurdle, she determined, was that she didn't have a college degree or a skill that would help her rise.

She decided to learn accounting—a feat she managed while parenting a baby with little support because her family was on the other side of the country.

AFTER BEING hired by Daimler, Heino-Royer enrolled in Portland State's MBA program, where she juggled classes, work and childcare. "I knew I had to get through, because I wanted to diversify myself out of being seen as just a finance person," she says.

Her tenacity paid off. With the academic credentials to back up her insights, Heino-Royer moved into sales at Daimler, and then project management before being promoted to her current role, where she leads a team of 25 and reports directly to the CEO.

"After your first act of bravery," she says, "all other challenges seem manageable." ■

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



Avel Gordly

Gerry Cameron '62, Avel Gordly '74 and Anas Khaled Al Saleh '97 received honorary degrees at Portland State's spring commencement ceremonies June 18. Cameron is a philanthropist and a retired U.S. Bank executive. Gordly was the first African American woman elected to the Oregon State Senate. Al Saleh is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Kuwait.

James Nosen '83 was named OnPoint Credit Union Educator of the Year for 2017. Nominated by his school, Nosen was the art teacher at Baker Prairie Middle School in Canby where he worked for 34 years. He has now retired.



Anas Khaled Al Saleh

Louis Pain '88 will be inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame in October. Pain is a renowned Northwest blues, soul and jazz keyboard sideman and also a bandleader. Read about him at www.louispain.com.

Rick Miller MBA '91 is now chairman of the PSU Board of Trustees. Miller is co-founder of the private equity firm Rogue Venture Partners and founder and chairman of the Avamere Group, a senior care and housing provider.



Rick Miller

Tim Malone MSW '93 has opened Gero Care Solutions, a new counseling practice in Bend. He specializes in family caregiving.

Caroline Wilcox Reul '94 is a freelance lexicographer and translator. She recently translated a book of poetry, *Who Lives*, by Elisabeth Borchers from German to English.

Eleni Kehagiaras '95 is a hands-on franchise owner and publisher of *Portland Heights Living* and *Moreland Living* magazines.



Andrew Shearer

Andrew Shearer '00 a Portland Police lieutenant, graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, in June. Shearer has served at the Portland Police Bureau for 25 years.

Robert Wynia '01 is a member of the Portland rock band Floater, which will be inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame in October. Wynia put out a new solo album, *Brave the Strange*, earlier this year.



Juan Serratos

Juan Serratos '04, MPA '10 was elected by the Woodburn City Council to fill a vacant seat on the council. Serratos works in the Oregon Department of Justice child support division.

Derrick Welfare '09 is a real estate sales executive with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group. He is working in the Zephyrhills, Florida, office.

Morgan Griffin '12 is a legislative assistant covering healthcare policy issues in the Washington, D.C., office of Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a senator from Alaska. Griffin earned a law degree from Gonzaga University.

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FOR MORE ALUMNI NEWS follow us [@PSU_Alums](https://twitter.com/PSU_Alums) on Twitter and [PortlandStateAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/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 751, Portland OR 97207-0751. To submit your own alumni news online, go to pdx.edu/alumni/contact. ■



Honoring football great Arthur Dickson

WHEN FORMER Viking football player Tony Beatty '78 was approached about getting involved with PSU Athletics, he knew exactly what form he wanted that involvement to take.

Beatty, who graduated with a degree in psychology and went on to earn a master's degree, is currently senior vice president for SIOR, a commercial real estate firm in Walnut Creek, California. He said he wanted to provide funds for an Arthur Dickson Memorial Scholarship. He had played four years, 1973 to 1976, in the Viking defensive backfield with Dickson, who died in 1998 of a rare stomach cancer.

Beatty had greatly admired Dickson, who had had a profound effect on his life, he says.

"Art was a competitor. He practiced hard, played hard, didn't complain, always picked up his teammates and never made excuses," says Beatty. The two teammates played under coaching legend Mouse Davis.

With Dickson at free safety and Beatty at right cornerback, "needless to say, we communicated every day, and every play on the field. Off the field, Art and I lived in the same (Goose Hollow) apartment complex."

He describes Dickson as "a reserved, kind, classy and quiet man who always let his play do the talking. I can remember many a time I was playing

man coverage on the outside, only to have Art swoop in and make a flying interception over my head."

Dickson still holds the PSU career interceptions record at 29 and his oldest son, Aubre '98, a KeyBank vice president and senior relationship manager who also serves on PSU's Athletic Director's Board, recalled that was a source of great pride for his father.

"He would occasionally talk about some of the big plays he made (and did not make) in his career. And, of course he took a lot of pride in the fact that he was the record holder for interceptions. He would joke that if he had better hands, he would've had 100 because he knocked down a lot and dropped even more," says Dickson, who followed in his father's footsteps into a Viking football uniform. Aubre left the team his redshirt junior season in 1996 due to injuries.

Aubre's younger brother Aaron '09, currently male leadership coordinator for Self Enhancement Inc., had a successful football career at Portland State from 2005 to 2008, choosing the school over several other offers because of family ties. He also recalled his father's pride in the interception record.



A teammate has funded a scholarship in memory of Arthur Dickson (above and left), who played Viking football from 1973 to 1976 and still holds the career interceptions record.



Aaron Dickson '09 wore his father's number 26 and his actual jersey under his uniform every game he played for the Vikings from 2005 to 2008.

"Prior to my arrival on campus, it became my duty to break the record. Unfortunately, I fell a little short, ending my career with four," Aaron says laughing.

His dad's career did have a profound effect, though.

"I was 12 years old when our father passed away, so I didn't have the privilege of having him at all of my games," says Aaron. In college, he wore his father's number 26 and his actual jersey under his uniform every game. "Mentally this was my way of having him with me during those times."

ARTHUR DICKSON "was a 6'2" specimen of fluidity and athletic grace with zero body fat," says Beatty. He earned a free agent tryout with the Dallas Cowboys and roomed with Tony Dorsett for a few days his rookie year in camp. Unable to pass the physical, he spent a couple years playing for the Calgary Stampede and played competitive softball. He'd been drafted by the Kansas City Royals to play baseball out of high school, but chose football until he became too sick to play, says Aubre Dickson.

Arthur Dickson worked for United Grocers until the time of his death.

"I feel a profound sense of regret and loss that Art's life was cut short while he was in his prime. I know Art and I would not have been able to attend college if not for a football scholarship, and those four years did more to shape my life than any other I can remember," says Beatty.

Dickson's qualities as a player and a person "are cherished in the business world. College football teaches boys how to become men, take responsibility for themselves, work through discomfort and pain, never giving up and always striving to win," he says.

Aubre remembers his dad as a hardworking guy who was difficult to please. Besides working at United Grocers, Arthur Dickson had a janitorial business. "Both my parents were most concerned with me doing well academically and would reward me with special gifts or treats for making Honor Roll." And, he says, he finds himself doing the same thing with his sons.

The first Arthur Dickson Memorial Scholarship was awarded at the start of the 2016 season to running back Mitch Thompson, who head coach Bruce Barnum described as embodying "all the things I want this program to represent ... tough, blue-collar football. He works hard, does everything you ask of him, never complains, and sacrifices for the team. He is respectful, leads by example and is a great young man on and off the field."

Thompson, originally a walk-on player from Oregon City, will graduate next year with a degree in finance. He described the scholarship as "an incredible honor, even bigger because it's honoring Arthur Dickson, who was such a big part of Portland State's football history. It relieves a lot of financial stress and allows me to continue to play the game I love."—*written by John Wykoff '65, a feature writer for PSU Athletics who worked for the Vanguard as a student. He went on to a 38-year career in public relations in Portland.* ■

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Giving



Project renderings by Hacker architects

Donor investments transform Neuberger Hall

ALUMNUS Fariborz Maseeh, a pioneer in micro-electro-mechanical systems, and Jordan Schnitzer, a local businessman and philanthropist, have each made a \$5 million gift to the University that will anchor the renovation of Neuberger Hall.

The two investments will augment \$60 million in public bond funds approved by the Oregon Legislature to renovate Neuberger Hall, which is expected to take two years to complete at a total cost of \$70 million.

Maseeh's contribution—through the Massiah Foundation—will re-imagine the 56-year-old building into a vibrant learning center for arts and sciences, including the Fariborz Maseeh Department of Mathematics + Statistics. Refurbished classrooms will support programs in design, theater, English, business analytics and biomedical engineering, among others. The renovated facility will also house vital student services such as admissions, financial aid and career services.

Born in Iran, Maseeh's relationship with PSU spans four decades—as a student, alumnus and advocate. He has supported scholarships, fellowships, endowed professorships and other funds and awards at PSU, and made a transformative gift resulting in the creation of the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science.

THE GIFT from Jordan Schnitzer—made through the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation—will create the first art museum on campus. The museum will occupy 7,500 square feet over two floors in Neuberger Hall. It will include state-of-the-art galleries offering free and accessible art experiences to students and the public, and feature the work of Portland and Northwest artists, faculty and students, and exhibitions by national and international artists.

The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art will bring creative, educational and research opportunities to campus as well as new occasions for cross-campus collaboration in the arts and sciences.

With this commitment, Schnitzer builds upon the legacy of his parents, Harold and Arlene Schnitzer, who have previously funded projects on campus in excess of \$4.5 million. ■

In the midst of change

PORTLAND State College was physically transforming in the 1967-68 academic year. Since 1962, six buildings had either been built or expanded and urban renewal had cleared space for another nine. For students like Mike Smith, pictured here from that year's yearbook, it was a difficult transition. The culture he'd known had been bulldozed. No more Cable Alley or The Village on upper Hall Street. Smith wrote about it for the *Vanguard*, and his piece was reprinted in the yearbook.

Smith, a smart English and psychology major, helped lead PSC's College Bowl team to victory on national television in 1965. The win was credited with influencing the Oregon Legislature to support the college and fund graduate programs. Smith suffered from cystic fibrosis and was frequently hospitalized while a student. He died in October 1968, and Smith Memorial Student Union was named after him the following year—the same year PSC was made a university. ■



The Viking yearbooks are available online at bit.ly/viking_yearbook.

Come to
PORTLAND STATE OF MIND
OCTOBER 12-21



LET KNOWLEDGE SERVE A BETTER LIFE

KEELEY MCCONNELL, a high school dropout, became a single mom of three when she fled from her children's abusive father. Now she's in PSU's EXITO program, working toward a career as a physician's assistant. EXITO has enabled her to get hands-on experience inside OHSU's Trauma Research Center.