Shelter for the homeless

Architecture students and faculty help plan and create a village of sleeping pods // 10

A lasting legacy // 14
I am not invisible // 17
Quake-proof engineering // 20
Someone to talk to // 22
Growing up with dyslexia made Pete Denman '98 doubt his abilities. But an accident that left him quadriplegic enabled him to find the power in his dyslexia and to help world-renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking communicate.
2 FROM THE PRESIDENT
Vikings forever

3 LETTERS
Here’s to successful women
Memories of Karl Miller
Moral courage
Lessons of history
Preaching to the choir

4 PARK BLOCKS
Coming and going in Portland
Succeeding with autism
A good turn rewarded

Cyber war games
New building, new partnerships
Where inventions are born
Malaria drug reaches new phase
What’s in a name?

8 FANFARE
Five galleries, one show
A nuclear close call
The latest from Ooligan
New Works

25 GIVING
Making a scholarship come true

26 ALUMNI
A Native voice at the capitol
Alumni in the news

28 ATHLETICS
A turnaround season
Cleary returns to top spot

29 LOOKING BACK
Dorm life in 1967

Rahmat Shoureshi has been chosen the ninth president of Portland State University. See story on page 16.

ON THE COVER Architecture student Olivia Snell helped design and build this sleeping pod, which will shelter homeless women in the Kenton neighborhood. See story on page 10. Photo by NashCO Photography.

10 SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS
Architecture students and faculty help plan and create a village of sleeping pods.

14 A LASTING LEGACY
Wim Wiewel looks back on his presidency, a time of major change.

17 I AM NOT INVISIBLE
Women military veterans get their due in a new photo exhibit.

20 QUAKE-PROOF ENGINEERING
Preparing Oregon for the big one.

22 SOMEONE TO TALK TO
School counselors do more than you know.
THIS IS my last column in my role as PSU’s president, and I want to dedicate it to all of you. These past nine years have been a wonderful experience, full of exciting academic achievements by faculty; heart-warming student stories of success and challenges overcome; new buildings that facilitate learning; improved rankings that raised PSU’s profile; and wonderful friends and donors who have stepped forward to support our work.

With more than 100,000 alumni in our region, Vikings are a formidable and growing presence. The 10 largest employers in the area hire more alumni from Portland State than from any other university. Not surprisingly, we run into them everywhere: the airport, stores, restaurants and the beach, and through the many business, government and education partners that we work with. You do incredible work. 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. I deeply appreciate the loyalty and support of so many alums and hope that you see the benefits from PSU’s growing reputation and find opportunities to reconnect and perhaps give back.

Alice and I felt welcomed from the first day we met the PSU community. We found Portland an easy and open city, with the strongest distinct culture of any place we know. Some of that at times took getting used to (like the “Portland polite”), while much was very easy to adopt (great beer, wine, coffee and Northwest cuisine, for instance). Both of us quickly were pulled into various boards and committees as well as social networks that made us feel at home and an integral part of the community. We thank our friends at the Portland Art Museum, All Hands Raised, the Portland Business Alliance, Alice’s Swim Club, the Arlington Club and many other places for their friendship and civic enthusiasm.

MAKING a university great requires an excellent faculty and a dedicated staff. While not everything has always been smooth—union negotiations were not my favorite part of the job—PSU truly is blessed with superb teachers, researchers, counselors, advisors, police officers, accountants, advisors, police officers, accountants, techies, administrators and hundreds of other professionals who make up this institution. To all of them, and our Foundation staff and board, the Alumni Association and its board, our Board of Trustees, and all others who support PSU and have worked with us to leave this place hopefully better than we found it—thank you, thank you.

Alice will continue her work as State Architect, and I will continue to work on improving higher education and improving the city. We will continue to support PSU, and hope you will, too.

Go Viks!

Wim Wiewel
PRESIDENT, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Here's to successful women

I appreciate very much you writing about Betty Roberts [“Passing the Torch,” winter 2017]. I worked on her 1973-74 campaign for Oregon governor.

Betty went on to be appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1977 by Gov. Bob Straub. And in 1982 (not 1972 as reported in the article), Gov. Vic Atiyeh appointed her to the Oregon Supreme Court, because she was going to run against him for governor, and she would have won.

Keep writing about women succeeding—both past and present.

Amy Duncan
Yoga Instructor, PSU College of the Arts

Memories of Karl Miller

What a pleasant surprise! Karl Miller, the grandfather of donor Rick Miller, was my commanding officer in the Oregon Air National Guard. Page 20 of the Portland State Magazine, winter 2017, carries the wonderful story of the new Karl Miller Center groundbreaking. I was an enlisted member of his 142nd Installation Squadron. He was a great commanding officer. Big, burly, kind and competent, with a cigar stub in his mouth as his trademark. You were glad to work hard for him because he was right there with you working.

I was just one of the many working full-time parents, grinding my way thorough Portland State. Captain Miller was always supportive. “What are you taking this term?” and then “Hang in there, you will be a good teacher.” We would talk; he was my cheerleader.

I am old now, but with age comes the wisdom that we do not succeed on our own, but need the counseling and support of mentors along the way. I am so thankful and proud to have had Captain Karl Miller as my mentor.

Arnie Leppert ’63

Editor’s note: Below is a representation of the many letters Portland State Magazine received regarding President Wim Wiewel’s message, “The University as Sanctuary” in the winter 2017 issue.

Moral Courage

I always enjoy Portland State Magazine and read with interest and pride the article about current programs and events at PSU. However, I have never been prouder of my alma mater than when I read Wim Wiewel’s message declaring Portland State University a “sanctuary campus.” I heartily applaud that decision and hope that many other universities have the courage to stand by their morals and support basic human rights for everyone, regardless of race, ancestry, or religion.

It would be easy to say a great deal more on this topic, but actions matter far more than words, and President Wiewel’s action in the face of these dark times provide a ray of hope. Thank you for supporting all of your current students!

Lauren Nichols-Kinas ’89, MS ’92
(formerly Lorrie Riat)

Lessons of history

Thank you, Dr. Wiewel and the leadership team at PSU for your staunch commitment to your 80 undocumented students and our community. I am struck, as is Dr. Wiewel, at how an awful time in our history seems to be rearing its ugly head in our world today—even on our campuses. I appreciate that the lessons from his home country so passionately inform his leadership and outspokenness. I am proud to be an alum.

Maureen Fallt MS ’09

Preaching to the choir

From the perspective of totally agreeing with his views, I do, however take umbrage with Wim Wiewel, president of PSU, using the winter 2017 issue of the alumni magazine to very eloquently present his thoughts about “The university as sanctuary.”

Consider me an old fogy if you will, but I think about the magazine as being a kind of sanctuary in itself that should be devoid of the extraordinary tensions that prevail in this modern world. Further, one should assume that those of us who are recipient of degrees from PSC/PSU are as much cognizant of the political machinations that permeate the international air as the good president. Therefore, one might say his missive is akin to the old colloquialism, “Preaching to the choir.”

Ron Pedersen ’59, ’69
Vancouver, Washington
PORTLAND’S newest residents are more diverse than the region as a whole, except when it comes to African Americans, according to a new University study. Urban Studies and Planning researchers Jason Jurjevich, Greg Schrock and Jiuye Kang found 38 percent of all Portland newcomers between 2012 and 2014 were people of color, compared to 25 percent of the metro area’s overall population. But the diversity boost came mostly from Asian, Pacific Islander and Hispanic migrants. The Portland area lost a net of 800 African American residents in that time period, while other large metro areas recorded net gains in African American migrants. The study is part of PSU’s America on the Move project, which tracks migration trends across the largest U.S. metro areas.

Succeeding with autism

RESEARCH professor Dora Raymaker doesn’t hide the fact that she is autistic, and she wants other autistic adults to be just as up front and succeed in their workplaces. She recently received nearly $500,000 in grants to lead a study that will determine what helps autistic people do well professionally. Her research team will interview autistic adults and those who work with them and turn their findings into recommendations. Raymaker’s own path to professional success has been an unconventional one. She says she faced discrimination and inadequate disability services resulting in multiple career shifts before finding a home at PSU and a profession that values her abilities. “I want to make the way easier for people who come after me,” she says.
A good turn rewarded

**DOING** the right thing was a simple decision for student Masoud AlMazrouei. The PSU economics major bought a used laptop, but as soon as he turned it on, he discovered personal files and photographs. AlMazrouei, who is from the United Arab Emirates, tracked down the stolen computer’s owner and returned it, refusing any reimbursement. An *Oregonian* newspaper columnist ran the story, which caught the eye of President Wim Wiewel. He wanted to meet and thank the student for his honesty. Wiewel ended up surprising AlMazrouei with a used MacBook Pro for his studies. “We’re very proud of you,” said Wiewel. “It was a great story, and you did the right thing.”

Cyber war games

**THIS JULY,** 60 high school students from Oregon and Washington will have less than 24 hours to respond to an imminent cyberattack and create an action plan for how to proceed. The fictional calamity is part of the fourth annual CyberPDX, a five-day residential camp in which PSU faculty introduce students from 10 different schools to cybersecurity, law and ethics, programming, and creative arts, including filmmaking. A goal of the organizers is to encourage women, minority students and students who are the first in their family to attend college to consider pursuing these fields. During the camp students are kept busy from breakfast to bedtime and live in the Ondine with teachers from their school. The camp ends with a student film festival and a final cyber challenge and policy debate.
Where inventions are born

SHASTINA HOLMES, a senior in physics, was building race cars as president of PSU’s Viking Motorsports while working at a shoe store to help pay for school. The two experiences provided inspiration for her design of a more comfortable, longer lasting high heel shoe that incorporates some of the same carbon fiber material used in high-tech cars. Holmes and her team took the idea to the next level through The Beta Project, a program in the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science. Each term, students pitch their ideas to a panel of faculty, mentors and students to win workspaces, advice and up to $1,000 to develop their inventions. Holmes’ high-heeled prototype will need more time and money before it can step out onto the market.

New building, new partnerships

THE THREE largest public colleges in Portland are teaming up with the city to build a new $100 million education and health center in the heart of Portland State’s campus. The historic project will turn a parking lot at Southwest Fourth Avenue and Montgomery Street into a new home for the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health (Portland’s first school of public health), PSU’s Graduate School of Education, Portland Community College’s dental programs and a city bureau. The building is expected to open in September 2020, and at nine stories, it will be one of the tallest academic buildings on PSU’s main campus.
Malaria drug reaches new phase

FIRST-IN-HUMAN clinical trials of DesignMedix Inc.’s malaria drug are just months away. The drug development company, which is housed in the Portland State Business Accelerator, has entered into an agreement with the National Institutes of Health for the next phase of testing. Spread by mosquitoes, malaria parasites have developed resistance to almost every drug currently available. “Our malaria drug is designed to overcome drug resistance,” says DesignMedix CEO Sandra Shotwell. “We believe it will make a positive impact on global health.” The company exclusively licensed the malaria drug technology from Portland State. The trial and further studies will take five to six years to complete before the drug becomes available.

What’s in a name?

DOES IT MATTER if a married woman keeps her own surname and doesn’t adopt her husband’s? Only to less-educated men, according to a new study by Emily Fitzgibbons Shafer, sociology faculty at PSU. In a national survey, Shafer found that men with a high school diploma or less saw women who kept their own name as less committed to their marriage, but surname choice had little effect on men with more education and on all women. The results are somewhat surprising but consistent with the “uneven and stalled” gender revolution, Shafer writes. “The gains women have made in the last 60 years—for example, in terms of employment and earnings—have not occurred equally across socioeconomic groups or across outcomes.”
ART STUDENT Joshua Sherburne says he is “trying to contain anxiety, but it can’t be contained” in his piece Angora Organismo, made from vinyl, water and light. Sherburne’s work will be part of the “We__” BFA Thesis Exhibition June 5-16 in five galleries on campus. Fourteen students graduating from the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program will show pieces that incorporate diverse practices: print, painting and sculpture as well as video, photography and digital media. The thesis exhibit takes place in Autzen Gallery; AB Lobby Gallery; MK Gallery; and Littman and White galleries (which will display the art through June 23). Visit www.pdx.edu/art-design/exhibitions for location information and hours.

A nuclear close call

IN JANUARY 1964, a B-52 carrying two thermonuclear bombs crashed 90 miles from Washington, D.C. Although the Air Force kept the incident as hushed up as it could, its story was family lore for Matt McCormick—his grandfather (pictured left) was the plane’s pilot. McCormick, now a Film Studies instructor at Portland State, has made a one-hour documentary called Buzz One Four about the crash, and about the broader, even more disturbing discoveries he made as he conducted his research. “We so nonchalantly handled nuclear weapons back in those days,” says McCormick. “It made me suspect that we were in greater danger of nuking ourselves than getting bombed by the Russians.” Buzz One Four is now playing at film festivals, and McCormick anticipates a digital release in late fall or early 2018.
The latest from Ooligan

A YEAR AFTER a catastrophic earthquake devastates Portland, Meryem Zarfati is still searching for her mother when she receives a magical prayer shawl and must detour to 16th century Istanbul to rescue a girl living in slavery. The novel Seven Stitches explores how we recover and rebuild after the worst has happened. Ruth Tenzer Feldman’s novel was published this winter by PSU’s student-run Ooligan Press. It is the third volume in Feldman’s Oregon Book Award-winning Blue Thread series for young adults. Another Ooligan young adult novel, Eliot Treichel’s A Series of Small Maneuvers, won an Oregon Book Award this spring.

New Works

LIFE WITHOUT A RECIPE: A MEMOIR OF FOOD AND FAMILY
By Diana Abu-Jaber (English faculty), W.W. Norton & Company, 2016

THE PAPERMAKERS: MORE THAN RUN OF THE MILL
By Robert J. Bresky ’04, CreateSpace, 2016

GOOD MORNING, MIDNIGHT: A NOVEL
By Lily Brooks-Dalton MFA ’16, Random House, 2016

PROSTITUTION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WORLD
By Gary Leiser ’69, I.B. Tauris, 2016

EARLY WOODS AND THE GUEST HOUSE MURDER

INTERFACE
By Lucy Mihalich ’12, Interface Publishing, 2016

THUNDERLORD
By Marion Zimmer Bradley and Deborah J. Ross MS ’93, DAW, 2016

CALVIN TIBBETS: OREGON’S FIRST PIONEER
By Jerry Sutherland ’89, CreateSpace, 2016

PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN ISLAM
By Flamur Vehapi MA ’13, TaHa Publishers, 2016

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER: A TRUE STORY, A CRIME STORY AND A LOVE STORY
Todd Ferry (right), architecture faculty, headed a project that resulted in a village of tiny structures for homeless women. Student Olivia Snell was one of the designers and builders. Photos by NashCO Photography.
SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

Architecture students and faculty help plan and create a village of sleeping pods

WRITTEN BY KAREN O’DONNELL STEIN

HOMELESSNESS IN PORTLAND is at a crisis point. At last count, an estimated 3,800 people in Multnomah County were homeless and thousands more were living in unsafe or unstable conditions. For women, being homeless comes with greater risks of sexual assault or other violence.

Soon 14 previously homeless women in the Kenton neighborhood of North Portland will begin to rebuild their lives after months or years of living on the street. Their new home is the Kenton Women’s Village, a community made up of tiny “sleeping pods.” When they lay their heads down at night, they will do so in their own beds, in their own cozy little homes, complete with locking front doors, bathroom facilities and a kitchen nearby, and a community of peers surrounding them.

The Kenton Women’s Village is the product of nearly a year’s worth of efforts by community groups under the organizing force of PSU’s Center for Public Interest Design (CPID) in the School of Architecture.

In 2016, Village Coalition, a group of homeless advocates, local activists and people who have experienced homelessness, came together with CPID in response to the state of emergency on homelessness declared by the city of Portland. They asked themselves, “How can architecture and design help?” The Partners on Dwelling (POD) Initiative was born.

“We knew what we didn’t want: impersonal, warehouse-style shelters that treated houseless people like cattle. Instead, our goal was to create personal, well-designed, safe structures that would be welcomed by neighbors and residents alike,” says Todd Ferry, a CPID research associate who helped spearhead the project.

He says the group was inspired by the recent successes of homeless communities such as Portland’s Hazelnut Grove and Dignity Village, where residents worked together to build small structures to help them transition out of tents and create a shared community.

FOR THE POD INITIATIVE, the first major step was to hold a brainstorming session to generate design solutions. More than 100 architects, designers and community members, including dozens of PSU architecture alumni, showed up. They listened to the needs of homeless individuals and housing advocates, and spent the day generating a plethora of “sleeping pod” designs, which they presented to the group.

The architects embraced the project, and a majority signed up to form professional design-build teams, many of which were sponsored by their architecture firms, including SERA, LRS, Holst, S|EA, Mackenzie, Communitecture and others. Under Ferry’s leadership, a PSU senior undergraduate architecture studio class formed one of the 14 teams, and CPID students and faculty fellows formed another.

The POD Initiative challenged each teams to thoughtfully design and build a full-scale, maximum 8-by-12-foot prototype of a sleeping pod that would be safe, warm and structurally sound. Each pod had to include a lockable door
and at least one operable window, and meet specifications to make them portable and replicable. The designs also needed to help change the prevailing public perception of homeless populations—ideally shifting the image of a homeless person to that of a valued, competent, human being deserving of the same comforts and dignity that the rest of us expect.

Charlie Hales, then mayor of Portland, threw his support and funding behind the project. The city donated $2,000 per pod to cover the cost of materials and other logistics, and agreed to take custody of the pods in order to ensure that they would be put to use when completed.

By December 2016, the pods were ready. The result was a full-scale exhibition of all 14 unique tiny dwelling units in the Pacific Northwest College of Art parking lot in Northwest Portland. This gave the public, as well as homeless community members, a chance to view the structures and provide feedback.

MEANWHILE, the biggest challenge loomed: Where would the pods be used? Could they form a village for people in need of shelter?

Eventually, an empty lot in the Kenton neighborhood was identified as a possibility. Owned by the Portland Development Commission, close to public transportation and near a park, the spot seemed ideal.

A focus group of women residents of the Hazelnut Grove community was formed to provide guidance on the design of the village—from the policies (Should overnight guests be allowed? The group said no, due to security concerns) to the layout of the site (a community garden was favored), to how to make the site safe.

As part of a graduate architecture studio class led by CPID Director Sergio Palleroni with Ferry’s support, student Alesha Hase attended these meetings so she could absorb the group’s wishes and translate them back to her fellow students, who were working on design proposals for the village site.

“One of the main topics we talked about was safety, and how (homeless women) stay safe at night. They had lots of stories about getting attacked, and lots of ideas for policies to try to keep everyone safe,” says Hase.

“It was really powerful to hear how important having a house is, not only for safety, but for being able to build social connections with other people.”

UNLIKE HAZELNUT Grove and Dignity Village, which formed organically and later entered into agreements with city agencies, this tiny community’s infrastructure, policies and social services will be set up from the start, including a vote of support by the Kenton neighbors. Getting the structures in place has been a true community effort, with critical commitments of expertise, services and funding coming from both public and private entities.

CPID students and faculty designed the kitchen, storage and bathing facilities, expertly fitting appliances and fixtures into shipping containers, with adjacent communal dining areas. The city is paying for the installation of electricity on-site to power cooking, bathing and exterior lighting. Catlin Gabel high school students created portable solar-powered electrical outlets (the “JuiceBox”), so each resident can plug in a phone, light or laptop in her pod.

Catholic Charities is the village’s on-site service provider, providing a full-time staff person to
address emergencies, make sure the facilities are running properly, and help coordinate the residents’ connections to case workers. The Kenton Neighborhood Association will coordinate with local residents to help with the community garden and organizing donations of needed items. The Joint Office of Homeless Services, operated by the city and Multnomah County, is helping to tie all of these elements together, working to ensure that the village isn’t a dead end for the residents, but provides a realistic path out of homelessness.

Marc Jolin, director of the Joint Office of Homeless Services, spoke about how the success of the endeavor will be measured. “Is it a welcoming and safe and supportive environment for people while they are there? Does it give them the stability that they need to work toward getting out of homelessness altogether and back into housing?”

Jolin says he expects it will work well and that the women who are staying there will benefit from the community that’s created.

“I think the sense of ownership that they have over the space will translate into whatever work they need to do to move back into more permanent housing,” he says.

“It’s been exciting to get to know some of the work that’s going on at Portland State and to see how students can contribute to solutions for people experiencing homelessness,” he adds. “It is the best of what you can do when you pull people together around a shared goal.”

Karen O’Donnell Stein is communications, marketing and recruitment administrator in the PSU School of Architecture.

Fourteen unique tiny dwelling units for the homeless were designed and built by Portland teams. Two of those teams were from Portland State and included (left to right) architecture graduate Tomasz Low, faculty member Todd Ferry and current student Olivia Snell.
A LASTING Legacy

Wim Wiewel looks back on his presidency, a time of major change.
FOR NINE YEARS, Wim Wiewel has been the face of PSU. He arrived from the University of Baltimore with a big agenda to move the University forward in everything from sustainability to the way it partners with businesses and government. He achieved most of the items on his to-do list and ushered PSU through unexpected changes, including breaking away from the statewide university system and depurizing the campus’s security force.

Now it’s time to move on. He’s stepping down as Portland State president this summer after helping the transition of PSU’s next president, Rahmat Shoureshi, who starts on August 14.

Looking back, he points to three accomplishments of which he’s most proud: forming PSU’s first independent board of trustees, modernizing the campus, and making the University more welcoming to students of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

SOON AFTER arriving at Portland State, Wiewel took over the effort to give public universities in the state, including PSU, more autonomy by creating individual boards.

“Based on our research, I concluded it would be better for PSU to have its own board. We’d have a stronger group of advocates for the institution, and we’d be more nimble,” he says. “I liked the idea of getting rid of a lot of bureaucracy.”

The initiative to divorce from the State Board of Higher Education had started at the University of Oregon. The board fired its president, Richard Lariviere, over his aggressive pursuit of the idea.

That left Wiewel as the main proponent for independence, going against the opinions of the other Oregon universities.

It took a lot of work and a lot of politicking to get it through the Oregon Legislature. Not surprisingly, some of the staunchest objections came from the state board and the chancellor’s office—both of which were dismantled in 2015 as a result of the legislation.

Wiewel says establishing an independent board of trustees immediately raised PSU’s stature. “When I came, there was UO, OSU, and the four regionals. PSU was sort of in-between: too big for the kid’s table; too small for the adult’s table,” he says. “Nobody thinks that anymore. We’re one of the big three now. End of story.”

Wiewel tapped international businessman Pete Nickerson, who was on the PSU Foundation Board, to lead the new PSU Board of Trustees. Nickerson was reluctant at first, but says he was so impressed by Wiewel and the other people he wanted to bring to the board that he said yes.

“He really got my attention,” Nickerson says. “I listened to what he had to say, and what he said made a lot of sense. In a very short period of time I realized here was one of those unique humans who does what they say they’re going to do. That’s an unusual characteristic.”

Within a few months, the new board was embroiled in the decision to create a sworn campus police force, budget deliberations and annual tuition increases—all of which drew protests from student groups.

“It was a test by fire of our ability to cooperate,” Nickerson says. “Three years later we’re still together.”

MEANWHILE, constant building has been changing the look of the University. Construction is entering the final phase at the Karl Miller Center, an expansion and remodel for the School of Business Administration. Wiewel calls the center the crown jewel of all the building projects that have taken place during his presidency. It was the one he was most involved with; he worked with his wife, Alice, an architect, on the nature of the overall design. The center is set to open in the fall.

It’s one of 10 campus building projects completed or initiated during Wiewel’s tenure—more than one for every year he’s been president. The projects include a massive renovation of Science Building II, which was renamed the Science Research and Teaching Center; completion of the Collaborative Life Sciences Center on the South Waterfront; the ongoing construction of the Viking Pavilion; the initiation of a renovation of Neuberger Hall; and upcoming construction of a building at Southwest Fourth and Montgomery that will house the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health and the PSU Graduate School of Education.
NEW PRESIDENT CHOSEN

RAHMAT SHOURESHI, a champion of collaborative learning, innovative research and community engagement, was unanimously selected by the PSU Board of Trustees to be the ninth president of Portland State University starting in August.

“He is an ideal fit for PSU because of his vision and initiatives to enhance research, increase educational and professional opportunities for students, develop community partnerships and boost philanthropy,” says Board Chairman Pete Nickerson.

A mechanical engineer, Shoureshi (pronounced Shoe-re-she) has been a university administrator and academic for the past 38 years. He is currently interim president at New York Institute of Technology, where he was provost from 2011 until this recent appointment. As president and provost, he has overseen all university operations, academic programs and faculty of NYIT, which has two campuses in New York, two medical schools, four global campuses and joint degree programs in eight countries.

Prior to joining NYIT, Shoureshi served as dean of the University of Denver’s School of Engineering and Computer Science, was a top administrator and professor of engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, and was also an administrator and professor of mechanical engineering at Purdue University.

During his tenure at NYIT and University of Denver, Shoureshi helped increase research funding to an all-time high and raised multimillion-dollar funding for construction of a new engineering building. He also initiated advanced degree programs in partnership with Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman and led creation of several new cross-disciplinary degree programs and centers that brought together art, medicine, business, engineering and education to focus on innovations in pedagogy and technology entrepreneurship.

An active researcher, Shoureshi earned advanced degrees in mechanical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a bachelor’s degree in Iran, his native country. He holds nine U.S. patents for biomedical and engineering systems, sensors and devices.

“Rahmat Shoureshi’s leadership experience and accomplishments at several prestigious universities will bring the innovation, entrepreneurship and operational knowledge to take Portland State to the next level,” says Nickerson.

CHANGE was also happening to support PSU’s diverse student body and culture. When Wiewel came to Portland State, the University had two cultural centers and neither exclusively served Latino students, who comprised a large part of the Portland Public Schools population. Now it has five, including the La Casa Latina Student Center. He established the Task Force for Latino Student Success with Carlos Crespo, director of the School of Community Health. That effort resulted in the new center and the hiring of more Spanish-speaking staff for outreach and financial aid.

“We did a whole bunch of things to make us more hospitable to Latino students,” says Wiewel. “And it’s paid off: We’ve more than doubled our Latino enrollment, and our Latino student retention and graduation rates are the same or slightly higher than non-Hispanic whites. There’s no achievement gap.”

PSU’s Pan-African Commons and the Pacific Islander, Asian and Asian American Student Center, created within the past two years, were also products of that effort toward greater diversity. And at the beginning of this academic year, Wiewel declared the University a sanctuary campus, which means PSU will not—unless compelled by law—share confidential student information, including immigration status; consent to immigration enforcement activities on campus; or enforce immigration law.

Wiewel can point to other successes too, but also a few disappointments, including not being able to put a business tax initiative, which would have brought in $35 million a year in much-needed revenue to the University, on the local ballot. PSU pushed for the initiative in 2016, but decided to abandon it because of business opposition and board concerns.

Instead of the tax initiative, PSU joined with the local business community to form the College Affordability and Success Coalition, which seeks $25 million a year for need-based scholarships and faculty and staff support.

“I’m very encouraged with where that’s going, but we’re not there yet,” Wiewel says.

He and Alice are still exploring what comes next, but they plan to stay in Portland and stay involved in higher education, but also travel a lot.

As Wiewel says, “there’s a lot to be seen and still a lot to be done.”
Women military veterans get their due in a new photo exhibit.

MARIA CAROLINA GONZÁLEZ-PRATS was two days away from finishing the final phase of Army officer training when, on Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked planes crashed into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

“There was a sudden realization that we would be going to war,” she says.

González-Prats deployed to Iraq 18 months later, where she led a platoon that provided mission critical supplies and logistical support to the 3rd Infantry Division. Supply units were frequent targets, and although hers never came under fire, “being responsible for the lives of 35 soldiers, many of them parents with small children, weighed heavily on me.”
A DOCTORAL STUDENT in PSU’s School of Social Work, González-Prats is one of 22 women veterans—six of whom are PSU students—featured in a photo exhibit titled “I Am Not Invisible,” a project of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) and PSU’s Veterans Resource Center.

Felita Singleton, director of the PSU center, came up with the idea after repeatedly hearing women student veterans talk of feeling ignored and unappreciated for their military service. Elizabeth Estabrooks from ODVA made the exhibit possible and curated a debut showing at the Portland Art Museum.

Women comprise 9.6 percent of all armed services veterans in the United States. Yet they’re under-recognized and continue to face significant barriers in accessing health care and other services. About 22 percent of women who are active in the military have complained of sexual harassment, and in one year, 4.9 percent reported being sexually assaulted, according to a 2014 Rand Corporation study.

Photographer Sally Sheldon’s portraits depict the women as a powerful, energetic force. “I wanted to capture what all women have inside them: beauty, strength and courage,” she says.

The exhibit is displayed online at www.iani.oregonva.com, along with a schedule of showings (not all portraits included here).

JACQUELINE CAPUTI
Marine Corps veteran, PSU senior in international and global studies

CHRISTINA EBERSOHL
Army veteran, PSU senior in music performance
I AM NOT INVISIBLE is a remarkable exhibition featuring 20 portraits of Oregon women military veterans. There are more than 28,000 women veterans in Oregon — a number that has risen steadily over the past three decades — representing almost one-tenth of Oregon’s veteran population. And yet, women veterans continue to face significant barriers and challenges in accessing necessary health care and other services, while experiencing a lack of recognition unlike their male counterparts. By spotlighting the many faces of this diverse and important segment of the Oregon veteran community, IANI aims to increase awareness and dialogue about women veterans, as well as open viewers’ eyes to the myriad contributions, needs and experiences of women who have served in the military.

Clockwise starting from top left: H. Jean Wojnowski, Army veteran and WWII nurse; Renee E.A. Dick, Army veteran; Dayle Shulda Hite, Air Force veteran; Eileen Garlington, Navy veteran, PSU senior in arts and letters; Victoria Huckaby, Navy veteran; Kim T. Gray, Coast Guard veteran; Rosy Marcelino-Macias, Marine Corps veteran; Jen Bell and Jen Sheetz, Navy veterans.
Quake-Proof Engineering

Preparing Oregon for the Big One

Written by Stephanie Argy
WHEN Peter Dusicka and his team of researchers go to work each day, they confront a difficult challenge: finding ways to help the Pacific Northwest prepare for earthquakes with infrastructure built under the premise that there would be none.

For more than a century and a half, people believed the Pacific Northwest was a seismically inactive part of the world. Buildings, bridges, highways and the power grid were constructed with the assumption that they would never be threatened by earthquakes. The region is filled with concrete and unreinforced masonry structures that don’t do well when shaken. Only in the late 1970s and early 1980s did geologists, historians and seismologists make the discovery that the Pacific Northwest is in fact extremely dangerous, seismically speaking.

Piecing together clues from many different disciplines, researchers deduced that on January 26, 1700, the coast of northern Oregon and southern Washington was struck by a 9.0 earthquake, which in turn generated a tsunami recorded in Japan 10 hours later. Further research indicates that northern Oregon experiences a quake of that magnitude roughly every 350 years, and there’s a 20 percent chance that the region—including Portland—will be hit by an earthquake of 8.0 or higher within the next 50 years.

What happens to our built environment in the event of such a cataclysm? Engineering professor Dusicka and his team have two main focuses: first, to help the existing infrastructure, especially bridges and high-voltage power, survive a massive earthquake, and second, to devise approaches to engineering and construction that will result in resilient, sustainable new structures.

“Our built environment is already there, and we have to live with what we’ve got,” says Dusicka, civil and environmental engineering faculty in the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science. To that end, his lab collaborates with the Oregon Department of Transportation to help determine the seismic vulnerability of more than 2,000 highway bridges in the state, and with the Bonneville Power Administration to retrofit their critical equipment.

“Our relationship with PSU has been very long and historic, and we’ve solved a lot of problems together,” says Leon Kempner, Jr., principal structural engineer with the Bonneville Power Administration, which has facilities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and western Montana. “We have a large system that is vulnerable, based on today’s hazards.”

DUSICKA’S LAB. The infraStructure Testing and Applied Research (iSTAR) lab, has a large platform that can reproduce the shaking of real earthquakes. It’s been used to test equipment and battery racks, flexible conductor links and seismic dampers for Bonneville.

“It’s difficult for us to shut the system down to do that kind of work,” says Kempner. “The devices we’re developing in general are meant to be installed while the system is energized.”

Kempner says that the Bonneville Power Administration’s current project with iSTAR lab involves developing damping devices using deformable plates that can absorb shocks during an earthquake.

“They did the research for designing the device, and now we’re asking Dusicka’s team to help implement it,” says Kempner. “We’re having them work on an installation—near Oregon City—where we’re concerned about seismic vulnerability. It’s a unique task that they’re doing: taking it from the research to the implementation. That’s not usually done at the university level.”

The other part of Dusicka’s work involves planning for the future by coming up with innovative construction methods for new buildings. “We’re looking at ways to make structural systems out of mass timber that are seismically resilient,” says Dusicka. Mass timber uses new technologies to compress and laminate multiple layers of wood, so that this material can be a sustainable alternative to steel or concrete for large building construction.

Dusicka is collaborating with the designers of Framework, a 12-story all-mass-timber building that is going up in Northwest Portland. Although there are many buildings that use mass timber in some form, there are only about 12 in the country built entirely out of mass timber and none higher than Framework.

The framework project won the U.S. Tall Wood Building Prize Competition, which provided $1.2 million to fund the exploratory phase of the project, including research, development and project-specific tests. The engineering firm working on the project, KPFF, has been using the iSTAR lab to subject the building’s beam-to-column connections to the kind of movement they might undergo in a seismic event. “We want to make sure that the connection won’t tear itself apart in an earthquake,” says Eric McDonnell, an associate at KPFF.

AN EXCITING feature of mass timber, says McDonnell, is the promise that buildings made from it could be repaired after an earthquake and thereby have a longer lifespan, an important consideration when assessing the sustainability of a building. Standard earthquake code ensures that people within a building survive, not that the building ever be usable again or might be possible to repair.

After Christchurch, New Zealand, was struck by a massive earthquake in 2011, over 100 buildings had to be demolished. “Not because they failed,” says McDonnell. “They performed up to the life-safety objective that was required of them: People were able to get out, but a number of the buildings weren’t economical to repair.”

Dusicka, who spent time in New Zealand after the Christchurch earthquake, says the country is actively pursuing the means to become more resilient. “On infrastructure and building, they don’t mind experimenting with innovative systems in search of improved performance. They learned that lesson the hard way.” In the United States, he does not find the same openness.

“It’s a lot harder to introduce new technologies into practice. But recently, I sense that people in Portland are starting to get it. They’re starting to understand that there is a potential risk,” says Dusicka. “I feel that Portland State and some of the work we do are making an impact. Being an urban campus and being part of the community does help us in terms of having our recommendations heard.”}

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

School counselors do more than you know

WRITTEN BY SUZANNE PARDINGTON
THE NEWS reached counselors at Faubion School that night: A man had fired multiple gunshots into a mobile home park where about 100 students live. Bullets tore through the thin walls after dinnertime as the man shouted racist insults at the mostly Latino residents.

Although no one was hurt, the counselors knew it would be a traumatic experience for children and parents alike and braced for the steady stream of families who would show up at the Northeast Portland school the next day looking for support.

The community turns to the school first because they trust it, which is exactly what the counselors want.

Kelly Oriard MS ’14, Claire LaPoma MS ’15 and Megan Thomer MS ’16, graduates of Portland State’s Counselor Education program, together run a unique mental health program at Faubion that aims to wrap children in a full range of care. It’s part of the school’s plan to become a one-stop shop for academic, health and social services, all offered on-site.

“A lot of families feel they can come to school with whatever big problem and feel they’ll be supported,” says LaPoma. “They know when in doubt, go to the school, because they’ll help you with resources.”

Most of Faubion’s nearly 600 students in preschool to eighth grade live in poverty, nearly half are homeless or living in subsidized housing, and two-thirds are children of color. About 30 percent of students are Latino, many of them from immigrant families. Some children crossed into the U.S. by themselves.

Those numbers add up to a high level of traumatic stress that can affect behavior and performance in school.

That’s why the three counselors use a method called “trauma-informed” care, which seeks to identify triggers and give students coping skills to counteract them. Trauma can include anything from neglect and abuse to community violence, such as the shooting at the neighborhood mobile home park.

BY THE THIRD week of school, the Faubion counseling team had identified more than 140 students with complex trauma that severely impacts their academic and social success.

“It’s not what’s wrong with you, but what happened to you?” LaPoma says. “We like to say that kids have an invisible backpack that they carry around all day, and it’s full of their trauma.”

The skills that students have learned to keep themselves safe outside of school, such as aggression, often don’t work well in school. Some students come to school hungry or with other needs that prevent them from focusing in class. Faubion runs a clothing closet, offers free lunch to all students and sends home bags of donated food with 150 students each Friday.

“It’s our job to figure out if anything like that is going on for the student,” Thomer says. “When they are here we try to wrap them up in love and understanding. It’s not all about academics; we want to know their life stories, so we can put tools and coping skills in place.”

Eighth-grader Marley Honl and her mother, Georgie Honl, felt the difference from the moment they walked in Faubion’s front door.

School was often overwhelming for 14-year-old Marley, who was adopted from foster care and struggles with anxiety and other issues related to fetal alcohol exposure. But since she enrolled in Faubion last fall, she has been more relaxed, confident and engaged in her classes, her mom says.

Marley’s previous school was slow to help, and Georgie says she had to constantly advocate for her. But the Faubion counselors are responsive and sensitive to Marley’s needs.

“They’re always there for Marley,” Georgie says. “They feel like their goal is to help Marley.”

LAPOMA, a prevention specialist for Trillium Family Services who is based at Faubion, greets students as they arrive each day. If a student is in crisis, she ushers the child into her office next to the front door, a comforting space with big pillows, stuffed animals, a tent, a sand table, and soft dolls with different expressions to help children describe their feelings.

“There’s a lot of distrust in mental health systems,” she says. “I’m proud of being that first contact, being that trusted person so they open up and access services in the future.”

Oriard and Thomer, who work for Portland Public Schools, lead classroom lessons, talk to students in small groups and individually, and support teachers. They have created safe spaces throughout the school where students can go to calm
SOMEONE TO TALK TO

Megan Thomer MS ’16 is one of three PSU Counselor Education alumni who make a difference for the students and their families at Faubion Elementary School.

down or just take a break. And they check in at the beginning and end of each school day with students who need extra support.

They all drop everything for a crisis call. “On any given day, anything could happen, so having a good team is really necessary,” says LaPoma.

Oriard was the first of the three women to work at the school, then pushed to hire more PSU alumni, because they’re ready for this kind of work the day they graduate. Portland State’s three-year, 150-student Counselor Education program includes intense clinical training.

Faubion will expand its health and social services next fall when it moves into a new building and launches the “3 to PhD” initiative with Portland Public Schools, Trillium Family Services and neighboring Concordia University. The new campus will house the Concordia college of education, an at-cost grocery store, a health and dental clinic and an early childhood program. The Concordia students will take classes, tutor and intern at Faubion, and the preschoolers will be able to peek through a window from their room into the college classes.

Thomer likes that the grade school students will have this view. The idea is that all the Faubion children “can and will go to college,” she says.

Suzanne Pardington is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.
EDUCATION ALUMNA Carol Scharfer (Engdall) MS ’74 was taking audiology classes at PSU when she first crossed paths with Professor Mary Gordon-Brannan. “Everywhere Mary went a crowd of eager students accompanied her. Her door always seemed to be open so students could ask her questions and share ideas,” Scharfer remembers.

Scharfer went on to a career in speech pathology in a variety of settings, including outpatient clinics, public schools, home health and private practice. To this day she thinks of Gordon-Brannan with respect and admiration.

A professor emerita and former program director in Speech and Hearing Sciences, Gordon-Brannan taught at Portland State for 30 years, starting in 1972. She and her husband, Steve Brannan ’57, a beloved professor emeritus of special education, have dedicated themselves to supporting and making a difference for PSU students.

In 2014, at the encouragement of her husband, Gordon-Brannan established the Mary Gordon-Brannan Scholarship, which was recently awarded to Jenae Dunlop, a soon-to-be PSU master’s graduate and budding public school speech-language pathologist. More than a decade after her work at PSU, Gordon-Brannan continues to feel a special connection with students in the field.

“The students in the Speech and Hearing program are fabulous,” she says. “Education today is expensive, and we wanted to help how we could.”

MORE THAN 50 colleagues, former students, family and admirers—including Scharfer—contributed to make sure the scholarship reached endowment and benefited students for generations to come. “I just wanted Mary to see her dreams for this scholarship come true,” says Scharfer.

In addition, Scharfer says she wanted to support future speech pathologists “who might gain as much joy from their years in the profession as I have.”

Scharfer has made several gifts to the scholarship fund, including one in memory of her granddaughter. She encourages others who have found their PSU experience particularly meaningful to consider supporting student scholarships. “The cost of completing a speech pathology course of study is continually increasing, and it seems public funding for college programs is diminishing.”

Not only has Gordon-Brannan witnessed the generosity of numerous individuals providing financial assistant for future speech-language pathologists, the scholarship also resonates deeply for her on a personal level. Soon after establishing the scholarship, Gordon-Brannan had a severe stroke. Fortunately speech-language pathologists have provided ongoing treatment and services that have led to significant improvements in her communication and social interactions.

Written by Cecily Walters, marketing and communications assistant in the PSU Foundation.

To learn more about supporting scholarships and their importance, please visit PSUF.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS.
WHEN A SEAT opened up in the Oregon House of Representatives, Tawna Sanchez’s cell phone started buzzing with texts and calls. The gist: Go for it.

“My first reaction was, are you out of your mind?” Sanchez says. “Then I started seriously thinking about it and said, ‘What the hell.’ I can keep doing what I’m doing now, or I could step it up and do a little more.”

Sanchez, a Democrat, went on to win the 2016 race for District 43, which represents the North Portland neighborhood where she grew up. It was a historic victory. She became just the second Native American to serve in the Oregon Legislature, and is one of a growing number of Portland State alumni playing an active role in state politics.

Sanchez is a 2012 graduate of the PSU social work master’s program. She has spent the last several decades working to support victims of domestic violence for the Portland-based Native American Youth and Family Center. Before that, she attended an alternative high school, dropped out, and moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to become a political activist. She marched for treaty rights and joined antiwar and civil rights protests before returning to Oregon to get a degree in psychology and communication from Marylhurst University.

In 2010, she learned of efforts by PSU to get more people of color into the MSW program. “It seemed like a good opportunity,” she says. “It doesn’t matter how long you work in the field; a lot of people don’t think you know anything unless you have some letters after your name.”

AS A FRESHMAN lawmaker, Sanchez says she plans to focus on children in foster care, as well as domestic violence issues. “Not just Native kiddos,” she says, noting that federal law calls for special consideration of tribal members, including extra efforts to keep the child with relatives or other tribal family members. Those same efforts “should be implemented for every child,” she says.

She also hopes to provide a level of expertise on government-to-government relations between the state and its nine recognized tribes and other issues Native Americans face in Oregon.

Many legislators don’t have a solid understanding of tribal rights and Indian history and culture, says PSU political science professor Richard Clucas. Even if they want to represent or address tribal concerns, they often lack the background, he says.

“Having her there could make a big difference,” Clucas says. “She is in a position to really help the problems confronting Native Americans in Oregon.”—Written by Harry Esteve, a former PSU University Communications staff member.
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Don Dickinson ’67, MBA ’72 was recently awarded emeritus status at Portland State. He directed the Advertising Management program from 1998 to 2012 and continues to teach an elite advertising class every summer.

Jerome Griffin ’76 has been appointed dean of the college of education at African Methodist Episcopal University in Liberia, West Africa.

Yvonne Christensen ’86, MEd ’95 was named 2017 Substitute Teacher of the Year by the Oregon Substitute Teachers Association. At age 71, Christensen says she has “no plans for retirement and never will.”

Sonya Fischer MPA ’93, a lawyer from Lake Oswego, was appointed to the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners.

Aplinairo “Joe” Ancheta ’00 was promoted in February to chief operating officer at Birdsmouth Construction in Portland.

Paul Coakley ’00, MEd ’01, EdD ’13 was selected as superintendent of Portland/Gresham’s Centennial School District in February.

Paul T. Pederson ’04 recently joined Polymer Logistics in Riverside, California, as vice president of protein and dairy supply chain and food safety. Polymer is an international supplier of reusable packaging for retail stores.

Karlyn Gibson ’06 is an Emmy Award-winning editor at NBC Universal/Comcast SportsNet NW. She recently hired film studies alumnus Tyler Pickron ’16 as an assistant editor.

Rachel (Peters) Young ’07 is owner of Miss Moffett’s Mystical Cupcakes and has three retail outlets in and near Olympia, Washington.

Amanda Gomm MS ’11 was named National Jurist 2017 Law Student of the Year. She attends Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland and is co-founder of Digital Bindery, a publishing company.

Daniel Ball ’12 and Christopher Joseph ’12 are owners of Wild Roots Vodka, a handcrafted vodka available in Northwest stores and restaurants and at their Portland tasting room.

Kate Rogers MURP ’15 joined Otak’s Portland office as a planner in February. Otak is an international architecture and engineering company.

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 751, Portland OR 97207-0751. To submit your own alumni news online, go to pdx.edu/alumni/contact.
A turnaround season

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL posted their biggest turnaround in program history, finishing the season 12 games better than last season with a 16-17 overall record. The Vikings knocked off the first-place team in the Big Sky Conference twice during the regular season before defeating second-seeded North Dakota to advance to the Big Sky Tournament semifinals. Portland State has much to look forward to for next season. The Vikings return with nearly their entire roster, including Ashley Bolston pictured here, who finished the season with 521 points.

Cleary returns to top spot

VALERIE CLEARY has returned to Portland State as director of Athletics after spending the past two years as athletics director at Willamette University in Salem. The former PSU associate athletics director says, “I feel fortunate to return to a campus and department where I learned so much and developed lifelong friendships.” Cleary takes over leadership of a program that has won 28 conference team championships and made 18 NCAA post-season appearances since 2003. She replaces Mark Rountree, who is now deputy athletics director of Georgia Tech.
FIFTY years ago, the first dorm opened at Portland State College. The Viking Residence Hall, known today as the Ondine, was owned by the Dan Davis Corporation, which built it to capitalize on the shortage of student housing at PSC. At first it was co-educational, but in 1968 it became a women-only residence and was renamed the Ondine—likely inspired by Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué’s *Undine*, a German romance novella. Bryman Schools, a for-profit career college, had space in the building from 1970 to around 1985. The Ondine was purchased by Portland State University in 1976 and is again co-educational, with first-year students living on the lower floors and upperclassmen and transfer students on floors 7-15. Photo from the 1967 Viking yearbook.
As a child of a single mom in the military who suffered from post-traumatic stress, Willow Wallace witnessed the hardships that disease places on low-income families. Now she’s intent on becoming a doctor and working her way through the new OHSU-PSU School of Public Health.