As interns on the set of the television show *Portlandia*, PSU students Will Whitley, Briauna McKizzie and Julie Lew gained invaluable career experience and contacts in the film industry.
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ON THE COVER Portland Community College student Nista Shrestha visited the state capitol in Salem last year while enrolled in a Portland State Center for Women’s Leadership program. See story on page 11. Photo by Katana Triplet.

PORTLAND STATE MAGAZINE
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I GREW UP in the Netherlands in the aftermath of World War II. It’s not well known, but a greater proportion of Dutch Jews were deported than Jews in any other country. It happened in part because the Netherlands had a very complete population registry, and “good” bureaucrats were complicit, or at the very least, stood aside.

I have been a naturalized U.S. citizen for more than 20 years, and I never dreamed that I would hear threats from the highest levels of my government about the possibility of mass deportations and religion-based registries. With the inauguration of a new U.S. president and arrival of a new administration, some Portland State students are rightfully fearful for their future. I’m not going to be complicit or stand aside in the face of these fears. I am standing with our students.

We have declared Portland State University to be a sanctuary campus. What this means, in broad terms, is that we will not—unless compelled by law—share confidential student information, including immigration status; consent to immigration enforcement activities on campus; or enforce immigration law.

In short, we will not voluntarily be a party to policies that seek to disrupt the education of students who are on a path to become our future leaders, our teachers, our scientists, our entrepreneurs and the backbone of our economy.

I MADE A CAREER in higher education because of my unswerving belief that our universities are sanctuaries of a different sort—places where students of all backgrounds come for knowledge, wisdom and the tools to make a better life and better world. These are places of hope, not hiding.

Portland State is home to more than 80 undocumented students who are part of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—the “dreamers.” These are students who came to Oregon as children of undocumented parents. They were raised here, went to high school here and now attend PSU. Declaring ourselves a sanctuary gives them reassurance that we are committed to their safety and their education.

We are also home to a thriving Muslim student population. They, too, have reason to be concerned about the vitriol during and since the presidential election. Muslims at campuses around the country—and regretfully that includes PSU—have reported an increase in hostile acts. One of the things that impressed me about the United States when I first came as a high school exchange student was its amazing diversity. PSU exemplifies that diversity, and I have made it clear that while we consider ourselves a bastion of free speech, there is also no place at PSU for discrimination, harassment or intimidation.

I am aware that declaring Portland State a sanctuary campus brings a certain level of risk at a time of political upheaval. But promoting fear by targeting a particular group of our students is wrong. We must stand with them.

The University as sanctuary

Wim Wiewel
PRESIDENT, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Deinum’s influence lasts a lifetime

I was interested in seeing Andries Deinum’s name in the short article about a film student’s plan to document a refugee family in the fall 2016 issue of Portland State Magazine. I was one of hundreds of students who took his film classes during the school year 1968-69. Dr. Deinum was one of my heroes. I remember many of his comments (like making light of the movie Sound of Music by calling it “The Sound of Money”). I use this phrase and many others to this day when discussing the power of the moving image. After taking every film class Portland State offered, including classes with Tom Taylor, I went on to receive a master’s degree in film education from Columbia College in Chicago in 1972.

I began teaching Film Study, Filmmaking and Mass Media at a high school in Illinois for 10 years during the 1970s until the district dropped the film classes because they thought film study was “frivolous” and students needed to learn about the “important serious” subjects such as English and math. However, I soon became involved in adult education classes and continued my “Deinum” (and Columbia College’s) approach to leading discussion about the art of film.

I retired from full-time teaching but have stuck with adult education. For the past 12 years I’ve been teaching a class I call Passion for Film.

Many of Andries Deinum’s ideas about the art of film discussion became part of a book I co-authored, Understanding the Film, with five editions published between 1975 and 1995.

Now that I’m retired and have more time, I’ve gotten back into film production in a local community college film production program. But instead of working with physical film on a Moviola as I did at Columbia College, I’m now working with digital images on a computer. I just completed my first short film, Uncle Ken, which can be viewed on Vimeo.

Ron Johnson ’69

Defending English language classes

I just finished reading the article “Culture Challenge” [Fall 2016 Portland State Magazine]. I am an ELD [English language development] teacher, and I take issue with this statement: “English as second language classes aren’t always best for Korean students even if they’re not yet fluent.” Please tell me what you are basing this rather extreme opinion on? Can you cite some research for me? You seem to be equating SPED [special education] classes with ELD classes (which is what they are called in Oregon).

If a student doesn’t know English, and if their parents are not going to pay for private tutors, the only way a student is going to get instructed in learning the English language is through dedicated English language learning classes. In Oregon, ELD teachers have an extra teaching credential for teaching ESL [English as a second language] and are highly qualified teachers. I think it was irresponsible of you to imply otherwise.

Maureen Ray EdD ’15
Milwaukie, Oregon
Dan Bernstine, former president, passes away

**DAN BERNSTINE**, who led PSU through a 10-year period of explosive growth, passed away at his home in New Hope, Pennsylvania, in September. He was 69. During his tenure as president from 1997 to 2007, PSU brought in $114 million in donations, built new facilities for the colleges of Urban Studies and Engineering, added the Native American Center and Broadway housing, and increased enrollment by about 70 percent. His contributions to the University were also behind the scenes—encouraging those around him to excel.

“Dan was modest and unassuming in a manner that was intertwined with humanity, infectious laughter and effective leadership,” wrote engineering professor Franz Rad, in a remembrance for Bernstine. For the past nine years, Bernstine was president of the Law School Admission Council in Pennsylvania.
STUDENTS convened an impassioned Speak Out more than a year ago to discuss the racial and cultural challenges they face on campus. As a result, two new cultural centers were recently opened in Smith Memorial Student Union: the Pan-African Commons and the Pacific Islander, Asian & Asian American Student Center. They take their place alongside the Multicultural and La Casa Latina student centers in Smith and the Native American Student and Community Center on Southwest Jackson Street. Students are using the centers, which hosted more than 400 events and recorded approximately 64,000 unique visits last year. In addition to offering events and special programs, all the centers provide computer labs, lounges and study spaces for students of any culture or race.

FREE COLLEGE? The answer is “yes” for incoming fall 2017 freshmen meeting qualifications under a new program called Four Years Free, which PSU unveiled in October. Four Years Free will pay tuition and mandatory fees for Oregon students who have a 3.4 grade point average and apply for federal student aid. Students must be eligible for the Federal Pell Grant for low-income families and apply for and accept federal and state grants. The program is made possible by combining the grants and money provided by PSU. “There are so many costs associated with going to college,” says Shannon Carr, PSU’s executive director of admissions and new student programs. “We want to make it more affordable and attainable for Oregon residents.”
Teaching from a Native American perspective

CHELSEA HALLAM, a member of the Klamath Tribes, found her way at Portland State when she enrolled in Native American Studies classes. “Finally support came from a perspective that was similar to mine,” says the recent master’s in Education graduate. Today Hallam is a teacher at Portland’s David Douglas High School, where her multicultural perspective is paying off with a student body that speaks over 50 languages. Hallam is answering the call for Native American teachers—there are less than 1 percent in all of Oregon. She is a graduate of the PSU American Indian Teacher Preparation program, which was recently awarded its third grant—$1.2 million—from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Indian Education to recruit and prepare Native American students to become teachers. PSU is one of only eight colleges and universities in the nation awarded this federal funding.
New paths toward a law degree

LAW SCHOOL and Portland State may not seem to go together, but they will, starting in fall 2017. Thanks to new partnerships with Lewis & Clark Law School and Willamette University College of Law, ambitious students can earn a bachelor’s degree from PSU, plus a law degree from either school, in a total of six years rather than the traditional seven. PSU and Lewis & Clark have also launched a four-year program in which students can earn an MBA and JD at the same time—the only program of its kind on the West Coast between a public and private institution. The JD/MBA Joint Degree program is expected to save students more than $25,000 in tuition. For information on this program, visit pdx.edu/sba/jdmba. For information on the accelerated baccalaureate and law programs, visit pdx.edu/history/3plus3.

Portable classrooms like you’ve never seen them

PORTLAND’S Lincoln High School recently added four new classrooms in bright, spacious-feeling portable buildings designed by PSU architecture students and faculty. The SAGE (Smart Academic Green Environment) classrooms were designed by professors Margarete Leite and Sergio Palleroni and their students, as a healthier alternative to the ubiquitous portable classrooms installed at schools across the country. They feature large windows, vaulted ceilings and efficient energy-recovery ventilators that provide fresh air. A total of 59 SAGE portable classrooms have been installed at 32 schools around the Pacific Northwest since 2014. Local manufacturers and contractors are responsible for building and installing the structures.

Opera composed for PSU singers

PSU OPERA director Christine Meadows struck up a conversation with California composer Mark Lanz Weiser, saying she was looking for ideas for a fall 2016 production. Before she knew it, Weiser offered to compose an entire opera just for PSU performers. He teamed up with librettist Amy Punt to create *The Place Where You Started*, a modern opera about a frustrated writer who rediscovers her creativity while talking to her gardener, an exiled Latin American intellectual. “Mark and Amy allowed us to be a part of their creation every step of the way,” Meadows says. “What a gift to our students, to have roles written for them!” After a successful run on campus, the cast, crew and directors traveled in December to Suzhou, China—Portland’s sister city—to perform it at two universities. The Confucius Institute at PSU arranged the trip.
100+ PSU alumni work at Daimler Trucks on Swan Island, including business grads (left to right) Yelena Ibadul MIM ‘13, Nikol Marinova ‘13, Stefanie Lechner ‘13 and Scott Sutton ‘08, MIM ‘13. Photos by NashCO Photography.
Partnering with Daimler Trucks is giving students experience and jobs.

Imagine a convoy of six tractor-trailer rigs driving down I-5 so close together that the lead truck drastically cuts the wind resistance—and, thus, fuel costs—for those that follow.

Now imagine that the trucks are driving themselves. That’s the new reality coming out of Daimler Trucks North America, headquartered on Portland’s Swan Island. It was the first company in North America to produce a self-driving truck, one of which was prominently displayed at PSU’s Simon Benson Awards dinner in November.

Many of the bright people creating this new reality are Portland State alumni.

The University and Daimler have had a long, mutually beneficial relationship that has helped shape the curriculum of the business and engineering schools and has produced internships and high-paying jobs for grads. Daimler even bought a company started by PSU students: GlobeSherpa, a mobile app that lets users buy TriMet tickets. PSU and Daimler (formerly Freightliner) are now formalizing the relationship by forming a strategic partnership that could expand Daimler’s presence in other parts of the University.

PSU has strategic partnerships with nine other business and government entities to fulfill shared economic, social and environmental goals in the Portland metro region. Daimler becomes the tenth.

Blake Kashiwagi, the director of mechatronics engineering, is one of the hundreds of PSU alumni working at Daimler. He earned a master’s degree in mechanical engineering at PSU in 2003. His specialty at Daimler—mechatronics—melds several interconnected engineering fields, including...
mechanical, electrical and software for the purpose of integrating electronics with all parts of the trucks. “We’re designing the nervous system of the vehicle,” he says.

Mechatronics is what makes self-driving trucks possible, and is a reason why Daimler is supporting a scholarship, begun two years ago, for students to study it at PSU and then go on to an internship at Daimler to apply what they’ve learned. “When students go through that experience, they really understand the technology inside these trucks,” Kashiwagi says.

In addition to engineers, the company also employs many PSU business alumni, including Lori Heino-Royer MBA ’02, who heads the company’s business innovation department; colleague Katie Tucker MBA ’16; and Finian Small ’08, who works in supply chain management—a fast-growing field involved in planning and oversight of a company’s entire supply chain, from people and activities, to resources and products.

“You could walk through that department and at least half the employees would be PSU alums,” says Small.

THE UNIVERSITY received advice from leaders at Daimler, Nike, Boeing and other companies when it was designing its Global Supply Chain Management graduate degree, which launched in fall 2013. The executives expressed what they wanted from graduates, and helped guide the curriculum.

“Daimler wasn’t looking for supply chain people who only knew traditional things like procurement, planning and logistics. They were looking for people to think strategically, similar to what engineers are thinking about in terms of design,” says Cliff Allen, dean of PSU’s School of Business Administration. “They wanted an emphasis on leadership, which is hugely important when you’re taking a holistic view of something.”

Allen sees a long road ahead with Daimler, with the truck maker helping to keep PSU tuned in to the needs of business, and with PSU placing more and more of its graduates in the company’s Swan Island headquarters. The very fact that Allen, or any business dean, leans on outside businesses for insight is essential to staying current in what the University teaches.

“At Portland State, we are very, very ingrained in the community. We can’t and should not ignore what community members need from us,” Allen says. “They very much want to be involved with us because they want talent, they want access to researchers, and they would like to understand what it is they may be missing in the world of business.”

He points out that executives from many companies, including Daimler, give guest lectures at PSU on a regular basis. “When you go to Portland State as a student, you have access to vice presidents and CEOs in your classrooms every day. That hugely impacts your educational experience. It’s what our students want,” he says.

EMPLOYMENT at Daimler isn’t restricted to engineering and business. Stefanie Lechner, who graduated from PSU in March 2013, got her degree in applied linguistics with a minor in psychology. She’s German, and liked the idea of working for a German company (Daimler’s main headquarters are in Stuttgart). Her initial goal when she came to the United States was to become an English teacher. At Daimler, she gets to speak German and has been involved with employee training.

Lechner is one of the 1,100 people (out of 2,800 Daimler employees in Portland) working in a brand new, $150 million LEED Platinum building on the banks of the Willamette River. The inside is open, airy and full of amenities such as ping pong tables, lounges, a fitness center and a cafeteria that, according to Lechner, serves excellent food. The outside is nicely landscaped, and employees can recharge by taking long walks on the riverside trails.

“Work-life balance is a big topic here,” she says.

The building opened in May, taking the place of a more traditional office building. “In the former building, everyone had their own silos,” says Finian Small. “The company’s effort is to become more flexible and open. The point of this building was to get everyone working in the same world.”

That world will include more PSU grads as the partnership between the University and Daimler continues to evolve. For Renjeng Su, dean of PSU’s Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, the relationship is a natural.

“We produce two things: people and ideas. And they produce technology and products,” he says. “I see this as a very strong marriage.”

John Kirkland is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.
INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS.

Betty Roberts ’58 blazed political trails for Oregon women. Starting in the 1960s, she served in both houses of the Oregon Legislature and became the first woman on the Oregon Supreme Court in 1972. Determined and bold, Roberts smashed through the obstacles she faced—from subtle, insidious discrimination to inappropriate touching. More than half a century after the late Betty Roberts was first elected to the Oregon House, women in politics and other positions of leadership still face barriers and need guidance and support.
At Portland State, the Center for Women’s Leadership is training and mentoring the next generation of women leaders. Founded in 2004 by then PSU professor Melody Rose, with counsel from Roberts, the center offers programs in which professional and political women leaders share their wisdom and experience to help prepare high school and college women for positions of authority.

The underlying principle is that every woman is already a leader; the Center for Women’s Leadership simply helps her acknowledge that aspect of herself.

The center’s flagship program is NEW Leadership Oregon (NLO), an intensive six-day symposium open to women enrolled at any college in Oregon. NLO participants live on the PSU campus for the week. They meet with past and current women officeholders, business leaders, policy specialists and activists. Those mentors might include an attorney general, a state senator or a tribal council leader, says Mariana Lindsay, interim executive director of the center. “These are women who have broken through in many different ways.”

“I think young women don’t realize they have access to this network of women who have power,” says Martha Pellegrino, director of the city of Portland’s Office of Government Relations, and the center’s current board chair. “I tell them you are the next generation of leaders, and women leaders in the state want to hear from you. It’s as easy as picking up the phone and saying, ‘I would like to talk with you.’ We’re starting to see the ripple effect of women moving up in their career roles.”

A lot of skill building happens at NEW Leadership Oregon, says Pellegrino. “They work on public speaking, learning how to make an impression, how to follow up, how to thank people. Every time a volunteer does something for NLO, she gets a handwritten note from all these women saying how impactful it was.”

Mariana Garcia, a senior studying political science at Portland State, is an alumna of NLO. At the time she participated in the program, Garcia was interning in the Portland mayor’s office, but she doubted herself. “NLO really helped me become more confident,” she says. “I do have the power; I do deserve a seat at the table.”

Since her experience at NLO, Garcia has become the director of Las Mujeres, a student group that addresses the needs of Latina women at PSU and in the community. Garcia plans to work closely with immigrants, on immigration policy or advocacy after she graduates this spring.
The center recently added programs for high school students, including a one-day summit called Girls: Oregon, Action, Leadership, Service (GOALS).

“We recognize that NLO really enables college-age women, but it’s important to go upstream and start talking to younger women,” says Pellegrino. “A lot of women in high school aren’t sure that’s their path.”

The center also offers ongoing networking, mentoring and educational opportunities for its alumna, including its September Training Day, which addresses issues such as career enhancement, serving on boards and wage negotiation.

“The conventional wisdom is that women don’t ask for higher wages,” says Mariana Lindsay, the center’s director. “Part of the problem is that they can get punished if they do ask. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t teach negotiation, but we have to be aware of greater realities.”

WITH ONLY two full-time staff—Lindsay and Bernice Benade, program and communications assistant—the center is a lean operation, funded by the PSU Foundation and private and corporate donors. It offers a full scholarship to NLO to any woman who needs it.

“We believe in the idea of being of service to women,” says Lindsay. “Each cohort is kept to about 40 to let relationships develop, but with more money, we could do more workshops and help more people. We have many more women who want to participate than we have room for.”

Each participant is a success story waiting to happen. Pellegrino recalls a woman named Chido Dhliwayo, who was originally from Zimbabwe and won a fellowship to work in Pellegrino’s office. “This was a young woman who came in with a lot of potential,” says Pellegrino. “She was extremely thoughtful and meticulous, but not very vocal in staff deliberations.” Then, Dhliwayo attended NLO, and Pellegrino was thrilled to see the change in her.

“It unlocked something for her. I saw her find her voice,” says Pellegrino. “This is a powerful social movement with Portland State at its center. The work we’re doing is going to transform the future of leadership in Oregon.”

In 2009, the center presented Betty Roberts with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and she told a room full of center alumnae, “I’m not done with my torch yet. Go get your own.” Nationwide about 25 percent of state legislators are women. But in Oregon—thanks in part to efforts like those of the Center for Women’s Leadership—more and more women are picking up their torches. In the incoming Oregon House of Representatives caucus, 19 of the 35 Democrats are women; marking the first time the controlling party has more female than male lawmakers.

As Roberts wrote in her autobiography, With Grit and by Grace, “In today’s world, every woman should be able to explore her own life, discover her own uniqueness, break her own trails, and pioneer her own destiny.”

READ ABOUT OREGON WOMEN LEADERS

In addition to the work that the Center for Women’s Leadership does to help women develop the skills and confidence to lead, it has also partnered with the departments of History and Black Studies to archive papers from Oregon’s pioneering female political leaders in the PSU Library Special Collections. The Women in Oregon Politics & Policy collection includes campaign materials, correspondence, recordings, photographs and speeches from:

- **Avel L. Gordly**, who was the first African-American woman elected to the Oregon State Senate in 1997 and was a representative in the Oregon House from 1991 to 1996.
- **Barbara Roberts**, who was elected the first female governor of Oregon in 1990 following six years as Oregon Secretary of State and service in the Oregon House.
- **Betty Roberts**, who was the first woman to serve on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the Oregon Supreme Court (see page 11 for more information).
- **Nancy Ryles**, who served in the Oregon Legislature from 1979 to 1987 and was the first woman appointed to Oregon’s Public Utility Commission in 1987.

PSU Library Special Collections house rare and historically significant materials, which students, faculty and staff are encouraged to use in their work. They are located in Millar Library and can be reached at 503-725-9883 or specialcollections@pdx.edu.

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

Stephanie Argy is a graduate assistant in the Office of University Communications.
WHILE PORTLANDERS were huddled against the rain and gloom in the winter of 2001-02, Antarctica was experiencing an unusual warm spell. A sudden temperature rise in East Antarctica’s McMurdo Dry Valleys—one of the most arid places on Earth—caused glaciers to melt and triggered massive flooding.

About the only life found in that part of the continent is microbes in the soil. “There are no penguins. No birds. Nothing,” says Andrew Fountain, a PSU geology professor who recently co-authored a paper on the impact of the warming event. When the floods came, the microbe population bloomed along with phytoplankton in nearby lakes, and stayed at unusually high levels for the next five years.

The warming event affected life in other parts of the continent too. Snow that was usually firm on the Antarctic Peninsula near South America became wet and sloppy, destroying the
nests of Adélie penguins and causing their numbers to decline. Another species, the Gentoo penguin, flourished because they breed later in the season when there’s no snowmelt flooding.

“Rising sea levels are kind of abstract,” Fountain says. “But dying baby penguins—that’s pretty tangible.”

In a kind of zero-sum ecological game, one species’ loss is another’s gain. For example, global warming is good for krill, which is good for whales. But at the North Pole, polar bears are endangered because their habitat is melting away.

“With climate change, it’s not a matter of good or bad, but winners or losers,” Fountain says. “The climate is changing. Whether or not you like the change is up for you to decide.”

A NUMBER of PSU researchers—as well as scientists from all over the world—have found Antarctica to be one of the world’s best laboratories for studying the effects of climate change. Some 30 countries operate seasonal and year-round research stations on the continent, which is roughly the size of the United States. Antarctica is a hostile landscape that locks up millions of cubic miles of ice, and where biological activity is sparser than in warmer parts of the globe. With global warming, all that is changing. And the change is visible.

Brad Buckley, PSU biology faculty, has traveled to Antarctica seven times in the past 16 years studying the effects of warming on fish. He’s found that it doesn’t take much change to have a dangerous impact on the health of the fish he’s studying. At the same time, other species, including king crabs, are moving in—just one effect out of thousands that result from small changes in temperature. He sees more consequences on the horizon.

“We’re worried that the sea ice is going to be thinner—that it’s going to form later and break up sooner than usual,” he says. “When you do that, you disrupt the base of the Antarctic food web, which is the algae that grows on the bottom of the sea ice. Tiny grazers eat the algae, and fish eat the grazers. If we start seeing a significant loss of sea ice in the Antarctic, it’s going to have major ecological ripple effects.”

Meanwhile, biology faculty Todd Rosenstiel and Sarah Eppley are in the second year of a three-year project with the Chilean Antarctic Institute to study mosses on the Antarctic landscape. Rosenstiel says it’s the largest global warming experiment in Antarctica, based on the number of experiment installations. The team set up 60 open-top chambers that operate like mini greenhouses over mossy areas. The chambers raise the temperature 2 degrees—a number selected to align with the Paris Agreement’s mandate to reduce carbon emissions and keep global temperature increases this century to below 2 degrees—and provide scientists a glimpse of how further warming might impact the antarctic ecosystem.

The experiments are taking place on an island off the coast of the Western Antarctic Peninsula, where mosses and lichens are spreading over vast areas once covered by glacial ice. It’s warming faster than almost anywhere else on Earth. Rosenstiel says there are 110 species of moss in Antarctica, including the moss commonly found on Portland rooftops.

The presence of moss is an indicator that the Earth is warming, but it’s also a harbinger of even more rapid change. Moss absorbs the sun’s heat and warms the underlying soil, creating conditions that invite even more plants. Also, there’s a possibility that the presence of moss may affect the precipitation cycle, helping to create more rain.

“It’s beginning to rain in the Western Antarctic Peninsula and nothing melts ice quicker than rain,” Rosenstiel says.

Mosses are opportunists, and as glaciers continue to retreat, Rosenstiel says, “Antarctica is theirs for the taking.” And the more the moss spreads, the more the ecosystem will change with some species likely moving down from South America. Eppley says the team is already seeing the spread of flowering plants, and they’ve even observed a winged insect.

FOR ANDREW FOUNTAIN, Antarctica is an ideal place to study glaciers, which is his specialty. Melting glaciers are the source of water that is already causing sea levels to rise. There are three main places to study them: mountains, Greenland and Antarctica. Mountain glaciers are retreating, but at a steady rate. By contrast, the melting in Greenland and Antarctica is accelerating, he says.

The kind of extreme weather event that triggered the flooding in the McMurdo Dry Valleys is happening more frequently, and is not confined to Antarctica.

“There was a really warm event in Greenland at about the same time,” he says.

All of which is setting the stage for a new Earth, one that is changing before our eyes.

Chelsea Bailey is the communications and marketing manager in the PSU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
JUST ASK ROBERT

ROBERT MERCER HAS HELPED COUNTLESS STUDENTS NAVIGATE THEIR WAY TO A PSU DEGREE.

WRITTEN BY HARRY ESTEVE

Beloved advisor Robert Mercer talks with English undergrad Brian O’Donnell about continuing his education in a master’s program at PSU. Photo by NashCO photography.
It’s 1976. President Gerald Ford is in the White House. Olivia Newton-John serenades the nation on the radio. Mary Tyler Moore smiles on TV. And college dropout Robert Mercer is happily ringing up customers at a small grocery store in Cannon Beach.

“I loved it. I thought I could be there forever,” says Mercer, reflecting on what might have been as he wraps up a nearly 40-year career at Portland State University.

His boss—“My second mom,” he calls her—had other ideas.

“She pulled me aside and said, ‘If you don’t go back to college in the fall, we’re going to fire you.’ Which seemed really mean to me at the time.”

Cannon Beach’s loss turned into Portland State’s gain. Mercer, 61, leaves as one of the University’s longest-serving and most beloved student advisors. He came to PSU in the late ’70s and worked in various jobs as he earned a bachelor’s in history and a master’s in English. In 1992, he was hired as an advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences dean’s office and for the next two and a half decades has helped countless students navigate their way to a PSU degree.

One of the students he counseled was Cynthia Gomez, a fellow dropout who made a crucial decision to return to school in the late 1990s. Gomez had been working her way up at the Bagdad Theater & Pub in southeast Portland, but realized she wanted to do more with her life.

She chose PSU, and sat down with Mercer to discuss what courses she should take. He encouraged her to enroll in a University Studies course taught by one of the few Hispanic professors on campus.

“She and other students were so inspired,” Gomez says. “It blew my mind.”

The class rekindled her passion for learning and led to projects working with Latino youth in the community. After getting her master’s in education, she stayed on at PSU as a University Studies instructor. Two years ago she was hired as director of PSU’s Cultural Resource Center.

Gomez credits much of her success to Mercer’s early guidance.

“It was the best thing I ever did,” she says about their counseling sessions. “It completely changed my life.”

Success with students comes from Mercer’s deep knowledge of PSU and from a personality that puts students at ease, says close friend Larry Bowlden, a Portland State philosophy professor.

“He just has a gentle presence” that encourages students to open up, Bowlden says. “Everyone trusts him.”

When Mercer began advising students, he was one of two dedicated counselors in the dean’s office. Since then, concern over stubbornly low graduation rates has thrust advising into a much higher profile, and there are now 18 full-time adviser positions in liberal arts and sciences.

Growth in advising represents an acknowledgment of broader changes in higher education, he says. Students, especially at PSU, come from all backgrounds and phases of life. Most hold at least one job; many have families or children to support.

“Students’ lives are so complicated now,” says Mercer, who holds the title of assistant dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “I know what a difference it makes to have a human-to-human experience in a big school where you can get lost. Someone who cares about you, who knows your strengths and weaknesses.”

He recounts the story of a student who came for advising for the first time just two terms before graduation. He hadn’t had a positive experience with the system at PSU and assumed that advising would be no different.

“He crossed his arms and stared at me,” Mercer recalls. “He said, ‘You’re going to tell me I’ve screwed up my classes and I’m not going to graduate.’”

Together they worked out a way for the student to graduate as planned. A continuing friendship grew from that meeting. The student completed his bachelor’s degree, then a graduate degree in sociology. He is now a highly respected instructor at Clackamas Community College and works tirelessly for student success.

Mercer’s takeaway: “Just keep at it.”

Personally, Mercer and his husband, Jim Heuer, understand what perseverance can accomplish. They were among the first in line when Multnomah County initially sought to offer marriage licenses to gay couples in 2004. Those licenses were later rejected, but the two were married again in 2014 after a federal judge ruled Oregon’s ban on same-sex marriages to be unconstitutional. His PSU colleagues threw them a reception.

“You couldn’t ask for a more supportive community,” he says about Portland State.

One of Mercer’s most important legacies at PSU is the Last Mile program. Working with departments across campus, he identified students who had applied for graduation but for various reasons had dropped out before completing their final requirements. He contacted the students and brought them back into the fold by giving them the support and resources they needed to earn their diploma. To date, the Last Mile program has helped more than 900 students earn their degree.

The positive momentum of the Last Mile program inspired colleagues in the College of Liberal Arts and Science to create the student Last Mile Award, which they hope to name in Mercer’s honor once $10,000 or more is raised. Gifts can be made at psuf.org/lastmile.

Like the Last Mile students, Mercer says he has benefited greatly over the years from the encouragement of others, including the Cannon Beach store owner. It’s not lost on him that he made a career of returning the favor.

“There are a million skills that I don’t have,” he says. “But I think I am easy to talk to.”

Harry Esteve is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.
As a first-generation college student, I have experienced the tremendous impact higher education has on not only individuals and their families but also on what they can then give back to the community. It comes as no surprise to me that a university like Portland State, with more than 52 percent of its student body first-generation, has alumni as its largest donor base and that scholarships are their top priority.

Over the following seven pages you will read about a small fraction of the $32,121,618 in gifts Portland State received between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, and the life-changing influence this generosity has had on students, faculty, research and programs. We celebrate the giving of alumnus Rick Miller and his wife, Erika, and community members Christine and David Vernier, founders of Vernier Software & Technology, as well as the transformative support received from the Lemelson Foundation and the David E. Wedge Estate.

It is my honor to serve as the PSU Foundation’s new president and CEO and to share these inspiring stories of impact. For such a young University, we have accomplished much and continue on an upward trajectory of access and excellence made possible by the entire PSU community. To all of our donors who are helping create the next generation of great leaders, thinkers, researchers and entrepreneurs, thank you.

William Boldt
PRESIDENT & CEO, PSU FOUNDATION
Reynolds High School senior Viet Block was unsure about where to attend college. Having started violin at age 6, she was an accomplished musician looking to make performance her career. Block turned to her music teacher, celebrated violinist Carol Sindell, for advice.

“Carol encouraged me to go to PSU, so I could get the individual attention I needed, compared to a conservatory,” says Block.

Now 22, she has earned a bachelor’s in music performance from PSU and is enrolled in the master’s program. This past year, she was one of four students to receive the inaugural David E. Wedge Estate Scholarship in the School of Music.

“I would not be able to afford the cost of tuition and focus on my music full time if I had not received this scholarship,” says Block, who is also a core member of the Portland Columbia and the Vancouver symphony orchestras and plays with the Oregon East Symphony.

Block’s scholarship is from the estate of the late David Wedge, a PSU alumnus who earned a bachelor’s degree in applied science in 1969. He and his first wife, Jeanne (Godwin) Wedge ’67, MA ’70, managed apartments as part of their firm, Wedge Investment. Jeanne, who earned her PSU degrees in English, had a passion for jazz. She returned to PSU at the age of 67 to pursue a music degree. Tragically, she died from ovarian cancer in 2005 before she could finish the program.

In addition to the School of Music scholarship, which honors Jeanne, Wedge directed his estate to also benefit the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, leaving more than $9 million to be divided equally between the school and college. Wedge died in 2014 at the age of 69.

With the Wedge estate gift, the PSU School of Music will provide eight to 10 music scholarships each year for the next 15 years. “It’s an incredible investment in the school’s future,” says Bonnie Miksch, the school’s director, who expects to be able to recruit “the best of the best undergraduate and graduate students,” thanks to the gift.

For Block, who came to the United States from Vietnam as a baby with her Vietnamese mother and American father, the scholarship not only offers financial ease but also serves as motivation to be the best. “When I start to feel undeserving or overwhelmed, I remember other people believed in me and my abilities enough to help me. I must always continue to further my craft and share my music with others in order to thank them.”
Karl Miller was a World War II veteran, a Portland firefighter and the owner of a small construction company. A selfless, quiet leader, he was a man of few words who commanded respect when he did speak. He loved his community and family, and he was married for 65 years to Lorraine, the love of his life.

Karl’s grandson, Rick Miller, started working for the family construction business when he was 13, but his grandfather insisted that he go to college before joining the company on a permanent basis. And so Miller attended University of Oregon in 1987 and then PSU, earning his MBA in 1991. He and his wife, Erika, have made a lead contribution of $9 million to Portland State’s re-envisioned School of Business Administration building—which has been named the Karl Miller Center, in honor of Rick Miller’s humble grandfather.

The Millers’ gift, along with support from over 200 other donors, will more than double the size of the building, slated to open in fall 2017.

A seventh-generation Oregonian whose great-great-grandfather came to Oregon in 1853, Miller founded the Avamere Group in 1995 when he acquired a skilled nursing facility in Hillsboro. Today, the Avamere Family of Companies is a large and diversified group of health care properties and services, including pharmaceuticals, home health care and hospice agencies, contract rehab therapy and senior housing. The company operates across 11 states and has nearly 10,000 employees. Miller is currently chairman of Avamere’s board. In 2010, he co-founded the venture capital firm Rogue Venture Partners, which focuses on investing in Oregon-based entrepreneurs and early-stage businesses.

At PSU, Miller is vice-chair of the PSU Board of Trustees and serves as chair of the board’s finance committee.

“Serving PSU is an honor for me,” he says of his involvement with the board as well as his contributions to the University. “The professors at PSU armed me with the tools to become a successful entrepreneur,” says Miller. He and his wife cite the pivotal role PSU plays in providing opportunities for Oregonians and note how “we all are responsible for supporting our community and the organizations that make our community better.”

Miller also credits Scott Dawson, former dean of the School of Business, as well as Debbie Hutchins, a former development officer with University Advancement (now the PSU Foundation), for re-engaging him and his wife with PSU and for nurturing an authentic relationship. “They inspired us with the vision for what a state-of-the-art business school could do for so many PSU students to come.” He adds that President Wim Wiewel and his wife, Alice, played a significant role in ensuring that the new building was top-tier in its design and construction, something he believes his grandfather would have appreciated.
When Erick Lorenzo was a 17-year-old student at Westview High School in Beaverton his father was deported, leaving Lorenzo to care for his four younger siblings. “I was inexperienced, nervous and frustrated,” says Lorenzo. But he would not relinquish his dream of going to college. Lorenzo chose to attend Portland State, partly because PSU was close to home, which meant that he could continue to care for his brothers (now ages 18 and 15) and sisters (ages 14 and 12). PSU was also affordable because of the financial aid Lorenzo received—most importantly, the President’s Equal Access Scholarship.

The scholarship assists outstanding students of diverse backgrounds and experiences who may be traditionally underrepresented in higher education. It began in 2011, when PSU President Wim Wiewel redirected $70,000 meant as a pay increase for him into a fund to establish the scholarship. “I wanted to assist in making PSU a more diverse and inclusive institution, where anyone with the drive and commitment to pursue a higher education would have access,” Wiewel says.

PSU now has the most diverse student population in Oregon. More than 40 percent of those enrolled come from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Fifty-two percent of PSU students are the first in their families to attend college, and a large number of students are of nontraditional age. In addition, the number of Latino students at PSU this fall increased by nearly 5 percent over last fall, and one in nine students is Latino.

“This growth is not happenstance,” says Wiewel. “We have worked hard to both recruit and support not only Latino students but other underrepresented populations in Oregon. I am proud of this legacy from my time at PSU.”

Scholarships and other forms of support enable students like Lorenzo to stick with their educational goals while balancing work and personal responsibilities. Lorenzo believes that his experience at PSU makes him a role model for his younger siblings, who also plan to attend college. At the same time, his brothers and sisters motivate him to continue working toward his degree.

Lorenzo, a senior majoring in accounting and finance, belongs to multiple Chicano and business student groups, and he helped bring to Portland State the Omega Delta Phi fraternity, which provides a support system for men of color. He also completed a corporate management internship at the accounting firm KPMG, and after graduation he would like to help people in the Latino community work toward their financial goals.

Since 2011, the President’s Equal Access Scholarship has awarded nearly $560,000 and helped 664 students. The scholarship is supported by funds raised at the annual Simon Benson Awards Dinner and by other private donations. Wiewel’s connection to the program will be acknowledged even after he retires in 2017. At the 2016 Simon Benson Awards Dinner, the Wiewel Presidential Scholars Program for Equal Access Scholarships was announced to continue his legacy of giving.
This is the largest number of students in PSU history supported by one scholarship program during a single year. The students are enrolled in the School of Social Work and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs.

Math major Agreepenna Alagoz is a first-generation college student like most of the Vernier Endowed Scholars. She grew up in Woodburn in a traditional Russian Orthodox family and attended Canby High School. In her faith, she says, it is not unusual for families to encourage girls to marry at a young age, and it is still somewhat unusual for a Russian Orthodox woman to pursue a higher education. “Receiving this scholarship means I can live on campus and get that full college experience,” she says.

After PSU, Alagoz plans to earn a master’s degree and envisions using her mathematics background to work in her local community, perhaps in the field of parks and recreation. She would also like to spend time working in the business world and is interested in teaching mathematics. Alagoz sees herself as a role model for other girls in her community, including her 16-year-old sister who is passionate about writing. “She wants to go to college, and I’m helping her to push herself,” Alagoz says. “I’m there to help her and other girls in my community if they want to pursue a higher education path, to show them that they can do it, too.”

The Verniers themselves are both first-generation college graduates and received scholarships to attend college. “We know what a difference it makes to get help with college costs,” says Christine Vernier. “We attended at a time where it was not as expensive as it is today.”

Christine Vernier majored in sociology and worked as a social worker, and David Vernier majored in physics and worked as a science teacher. The two founded Vernier Software & Technology, an Oregon-based company that produces software and hardware for science classrooms across the country and the world.

When Christine and David Vernier walked onto the PSU campus for the first time many years ago, they were impressed with the diversity of the student population. “PSU does an amazing job of providing opportunities to first-generation, minority and underserved students,” Christine Vernier explains.

For two decades, the Verniers have been generous supporters of Portland State. They have also given to other scholarships and a variety of initiatives across campus, including the University Venture Development Fund, the School of School Work and the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science. In honor of their continued support of PSU and its students, they received the 2014 Simon Benson Award for Philanthropy.
THE IMPACT OF GIVING

LUZ ALVAREZ
Biology

ANGELA VAN ECKEN
Biology

NHAN DUONG
Mathematics & Science

BRENDA CRUZ JAIME
Social Work

SAMUEL REYNOLDS
Physics & Mathematics

RENE RICE
Social Work

BRANDI STARBIRD
Social Work

ELIZABETH PEREZ
Biochemistry

ALEX KUNZ
Biochemistry & Psychology

AMANDA SINCLAIR
Social Work

REEVES WILSON
Biology

JAMAICA IMANI-NELSON
Social Work

SEBASTIAN SINGLETON
Biology & Chemistry

SHALLY WOLF
Biochemistry

STACEY BONNER
Geology

VANESSA TRAN
Biology
Last year two Portland State students invented a conductive gel that can be printed onto clothing to power electronic devices. At the same time a team of University of Oregon students created omega-rich oils and protein powders made from crickets and mealworms, and two Oregon State University students designed a safety system that holds a cut tree in place and directs its fall.

These students were creating environmentally friendly inventions entered in Portland State’s Cleantech Challenge. They received mentoring and cash prizes for their efforts.

The Lemelson Foundation is supporting InventOR in alignment with its mission “to use the power of invention to improve lives, by inspiring and enabling the next generation of inventors and invention-based enterprises to promote economic growth in the United States.” The foundation, which is based in Portland, was started in the early 1990s by successful inventor Jerome Lemelson and his wife, Dorothy, and their family.

“Student inventors are essential to the success of Oregon’s future economy,” says Carol Dahl, executive director of the Lemelson Foundation. “By inspiring students to look critically at problems in our state and beyond, inventing solutions that can turn into successful businesses, we can ensure that great ideas make it into the marketplace. We chose to partner with Portland State University because of their educational influence and ability to foster one of the most diverse student bodies in the state.”
Speakers at the Cleantech Challenge included (left to right) Lemelson Foundation Director Carol Dahl, PSU President Wim Wiewel, PSU Center for Entrepreneurship Executive Director Angela Jackson and Business Oregon Commission Director Chris Harder.

Cricket Flours, developed by recent University of Oregon graduates Charles Wilson and Yesenia Gallardo, won the $10,000 grand prize for creating healthy oils and protein powders made from crickets and mealworms. Portland-based Voodoo Doughnut and Sesame Donuts used their cricket powder to craft new donut flavors especially for the event.

Tree Dog, created by Oregon State University students Dylan Gould and Zach Caprai, won the $5,000 People’s Choice Award. Tree Dog is a safe tree-cutting system that holds a cut tree in place and directs its fall.

The second-place prize of $5,000 went to Liquid Wire from Portland State. Mark Ronay (pictured here) and Bahar Ajdari invented a flexible, highly conductive printable fluid to power electronic devices in clothing and soft robotics.
THE EMAIL had a familiar, desperate tone. A 4-week-old Romanian infant had developed a giant growth on her neck that would kill her if she didn’t get emergency surgery. Dr. Daniel Petrisor was the child’s last hope.

“They said if I didn’t come they would be forced to make a difficult decision,” says Petrisor ’99, a Portland State alumnus and leading cancer surgeon.

Petrisor made the trip to his native country and performed hours of intense surgery to remove the tumor and reconstruct the girl’s neck and jaw. She survived, and a recent photo shows barely a trace of her malady.

It was the second time Petrisor had been called to an urgent need in Romania, the country he fled as a young child with his family to escape an oppressive communist government. In 2010, he responded to pleas from the parents of 6-month-old Matia Simion to save their child from a mouth cancer that was threatening his life. With help from churches, the child was flown to Louisiana, where Petrisor was practicing. He sliced apart the jaw, removed the tumor and reconstructed the boy’s lower face. Later, media coverage of the successful surgery turned Petrisor into a minor celebrity in Romania and his hometown of Beaverton.

NOW AT Oregon Health & Science University, Petrisor, 41, has become a go-to surgeon for some of the most complex head and neck cases. If cancer has invaded the mouth, eyes, throat or neck, often because of smoking, drinking or a combination, Petrisor removes it—a procedure that requires some gut-wrenching cutting and deconstruction, then painstaking reconstruction.

It’s a rare skill, with roots in his days as a biology student at Portland State. As one of the early members of PSU’s nascent Honors College, Petrisor spent time as an intern with a surgeon at the National Institutes of Health who worked on saliva glands. Fascinated by the intense, precise nature of the work, he enrolled in dental school as a steppingstone to becoming an oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Between rounds at OHSU, Petrisor spent a few minutes reminiscing about his time at PSU. He was a member of the first group of PSU Ambassadors—a group of students who welcome newcomers to campus, lead tours and promote the University.

“That was an exciting time,” he says. “You really got to know the heart of the University and showcase it.”

That year, then-President Judith Ramaley adopted PSU’s motto “Let Knowledge Serve the City.” As their end-of-the-year gift to PSU, Petrisor’s ambassadors group installed the motto on the Broadway overpass, making it an instant PSU landmark.

Service to humanity has become Petrisor’s calling.

“My motivation is the patient,” he says. “They each have a story. They each have a family. They’re someone’s son or daughter. For them to entrust their care to me and my team is an incredible privilege.”
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

**Dennis King ’70** retired in September when he closed his downtown restaurant Veritable Quandary. He opened VQ in 1971 and employed fellow PSU students. King sold the building at Southwest First Avenue to Multnomah County, which plans to build a new county courthouse at the location.

**Donna Darm ’77** was appointed to the Pacific Salmon Commission in November by President Obama. Darm is an administrator for the West Coast Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service. She lives in Seattle.

**Diann Owen ’86** was named a mortgage lending manager at Oregonians Credit Union in September. Oregonians is headquartered in Milwaukie.

**Vickie Schray MS ’90** was promoted to executive vice president of regulatory affairs and public policy at Bridgepoint Education in November. Bridgepoint is a for-profit educational services company based in San Diego.

**Leshu Torchin ’95** is a senior lecturer in film studies at University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

**Mindy Tran ’97** joined the Portland office of Seacoast Commercial Bank in October as a senior vice president and small business development officer.


**Ben Kujala ’07, MS ’09** was recently named power division director of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council in Portland. The council is a federally mandated agency that maintains a regional electric power plan that takes into account environmental needs for Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

**Sarah Luvaas MS ’08** received the White House Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in September. Luvaas is a third-grade teacher at Redland Elementary School in Oregon City.

**Steven “Pv” Jantz ’12** was appointed by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducy to the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing. Jantz has been a rehabilitation counselor for the state.

**Lucy Mihajlich ’12** received more kickstarter funds than she asked for to write and publish her first book in a young adult trilogy. *Interface* is set in a future when the Internet is worshiped and a daughter of a powerful computer company has been kidnapped.

**Tawna Sanchez MSW ’12** and **Teresa Alonso Leon MPH ’13** were elected in November to the Oregon House of Representatives for Districts 43 and 22, respectively. Sanchez is the first Native American to serve in the legislature, and Leon is the first immigrant Latina.

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FOR MORE ALUMNI NEWS follow us @PSU_Alums on Twitter and PortlandStateAlumni on Facebook. Have news you would like to share? Email alumni@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.
THE UNIVERSITY’S signature fund-raising event, the Simon Benson Awards Dinner, drew more than 1,600 people to the Oregon Convention Center on November 3 and raised more than $1 million for scholarships and other student support.

PSU honored alumni and philanthropists Keren Brown Wilson PhD ’83 and Michael DeShane MA ’71, PhD ’77 and alumnus Tom Fink ’71 for their years of public service and scholarship support for PSU students. The annual event is organized by the PSU Foundation and has raised more than $9 million for PSU since it began in 1999 to honor the memory of Portland’s pioneering philanthropist and timber baron Simon Benson.

The evening included an announcement that the PSU Foundation has created the Wiewel Presidential Scholars Program for Equal Access Scholarships, a permanent endowment to honor President Wim Wiewel’s longtime commitment to help students with financial need.

“Providing opportunities has been my No. 1 goal, and I’m grateful to the donors who are creating this fund,” said Wiewel, who will step down next summer after nine years of leading Portland State. He plans to remain in Oregon, return as a part-time faculty member and continue his advocacy for PSU.

TWO CURRENT scholarship students also spoke at the dinner, thanking attendees for their support, which has enabled them to not only be the first in their families to attend college but to also thrive at PSU.

Alexandra Van, a senior sociology major, recounted how she grew up amid violence and chaos at home and struggled to graduate from high school. A scholarship founded by Tom and Marilyn Fink enabled her to attend PSU, where she is immersed in the School of Social Work with plans to obtain a master’s degree so she can help young people overcome the kind of family and poverty hardships that she faced.

Jean-Luc Toku, a sophomore business major, immigrated to the United States at age 6 from West Africa with no knowledge of English. Today, thanks to a Roslyn Farrington Scholarship, he is studying finance and marketing and is an accomplished long jumper on PSU’s track team.

Keren Brown Wilson and her husband, Michael DeShane, have devoted their lives to helping people with limited means age with dignity through assisted living alternatives to nursing homes and other programs. They also have a legacy of funding scholarships and providing student support.

Tom Fink, who graduated from PSU with an economics degree and was the first in his family to attend college, has also given back to PSU with scholarships and many years of active alumni leadership. Fink told the crowd that education not only transformed his life and the lives of his family members, but it needs to be society’s most cherished value in creating opportunities for future generations.

The evening, which was hosted by KATU-TV anchor Steve Dunn, ended with a comedy routine from former “Tonight Show” host Jay Leno.

For more information on the PSU Foundation, visit psuf.org
THE 1967 VIKING YEARBOOK included so many great photos taken by students Jerry Croft ’67, Clyde Keller, Jim Felt, Craig Hickman ’71 and Sheridan Long ’69. However, captions were often general or poetic, providing little identification. View the book for yourself online at pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/viking.
When David Audley ’97 got involved with the Portland State University Alumni Association in 2011, he gained a new appreciation for the financial struggles that undergraduates face at the school where he earned a master’s degree in French revolutionary history.

“I know my kids are going to be able to afford college,” says Audley, immediate past president of the Alumni Association. “But there are other people whose kids can’t afford it.”

That’s why Audley and his wife, Erin, a current PSU graduate student, decided to include Portland State in their will. Audley is 45 and has two daughters, his eldest a freshman in PSU’s Urban Honors College. He sees no reason for donors to wait until they reach a certain age or achieve specific financial goals to make a planned gift to PSU.

“What you’re doing,” he says “is making a pledge.”

WHY MAKE A BEQUEST TO PSU?

• Easy to arrange and update over time if your life circumstances change
• Retain full ownership and use of your assets throughout your lifetime
• Dollar-for-dollar estate tax charitable deduction
• Make a substantial charitable impact at PSU

Remembering Portland State University in your will is a wonderful way to make a lasting gift to support students, faculty and programs at PSU. We are pleased to provide sample bequest language and consult with you and/or your attorney to ensure we understand your intentions. Contact us today for more information about making a bequest to support PSU, or visit our website at plannedgiving.psuf.org.

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