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Departments

2 FROM THE PRESIDENT
Our faculty make us who we are

3 LETTERS

Courtesy of the Viking Vets Club Gregory Wolfe's compassion remembered The people behind PSU's success Graduating at age 73

4 PARK BLOCKS

Fifty years of teaching A sign of the times One million downloads



Ping-pong in space Giving Portland babies a boost Old technology meets new Keeping campuses safer

8 FANFARE

Puppetmaster Intrigue in Saudi Arabia Dairy farmer documentary New Works

25 GIVING A lasting legacy

26 ALUMNI

Engineering is right fit for vet Alumni in the news

28 ATHLETICS

Winning by leaps and bounds

29 LOOKING BACK

50 years in the great outdoors



Features

10 PASSIONATE VOICE

Choral Director Ethan Sperry inspires grand performances.

13 THE MUSLIM STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Seen as outsiders or worse, Muslim students seek acceptance.

16 ART CONNECTION

Works of art by alumni and faculty are everywhere in Portland.

20 PORTLAND'S GROWING PAINS

More people, more cares, higher rents. What are we to do?

22 INQUIRING MINDS

PSU program gives high schoolers a jumpstart on college-level learning.



PORTLAND STATE

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Our faculty make us who we are

IT'S NO SECRET why Portland State attracts world-caliber faculty. Our commitment to innovation and excellence, our enviable location between the Cascades and the coast, and our close relationship with a remarkable city give us a distinct leg up on the competition.

The dividends of such benefits play out every day, primarily with students who get excellent instruction, but also throughout our region, where work by PSU faculty continues to have a big impact.

You'll read stories in this issue about works of public art by our faculty, about the tremendous accomplishments of our chamber choir and its director, Ethan Sperry, and about our Senior Inquiry program, which sends PSU faculty into area high schools to help students jumpstart their college careers.

Those are just a few examples of PSU's reach into the region. Others abound. Our faculty help plan the region's growth, help neighborhoods become more sustainable, monitor air quality and more.

CONSIDER THE WORK of Kris

Henning in our Criminology and Criminal Justice Department. With his students, Kris made detailed historical data maps of crimes, pinpointing current hotspots and helping the Portland Police Bureau to allocate resources efficiently.

In the Honors College, Olyssa Starry and her students helped the U.S. Forest Service collect and analyze moss samples, which confirmed suspected toxic air contamination in inner southeast Portland. PSU environmental science professor Linda George, who studies air quality in the Portland region, became a go-to source for local news media to explain the environmental regulations—or lack thereof—associated with the emissions.

Faculty were instrumental in crafting PSU's new strategic plan, which sets ambitious new goals for student success, academic quality, campus equity and community engagement. They also are a prime force behind reTHINK PSU, which is developing new ways to ensure students complete degrees while containing costs, and is one of the reasons U.S. News & World Report this year ranked us among the 20 "most innovative" universities in the nation.

A university is only as good as its professors and instructors. Our faculty are a key reason why I have one of the best jobs in academia.

Wim Wiewel

PRESIDENT, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Win Wievel

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

Courtesy of the Viking Vets Club



Regarding
"Looking Back"
in the winter
2016 issue, the
musical group
pictured on
page 29 was of
the Brothers
Four appearing
at Franklin
High School.

They were a popular group from the Northwest. The Viking Vets Club was the dance sponsor. Students from that era [mid-1960s] may also recall the "adult" dances, various term ending parties and of course the annual Strawberry Pop Festival at Bullfrog Park. The Vets Club was very active at that time and made some positive contributions to the college and community. And yes, some of its "doings" are better off not mentioned.

Gary M. Curtis '63

Gregory Wolfe's compassion remembered

In browsing through your magazine [winter 2016], I noticed with sadness the passing of Gregory B. Wolfe. The article seemed such a small cameo for a man I will always remember with a great deal of respect.

The accompanying explanation mentioned that he was president of PSU during the turbulent years of campus protest against the Vietnam War. There's no mention of other tensions on the campus that he dealt with in a professional yet very understanding and even compassionate way. Women's liberation, pro-abortion, Black power, free speech, the environment and myriad other activist agendas were simultaneously

and vigorously emerging and being pressed by inexperienced, immature, uneducated teenage students and nonstudent campus agitators.

The backdrop on campus was decidedly anti-military, and as a recent Vietnam infantry veteran, I had to bite my tongue on more than a few occasions. Ill-informed students and derisive comments from my professors were not uncommon. Regardless, Dr. Wolfe took the time from his busy schedule to take me, and my wife, into his office and personally recognize me on behalf of the University.

Barry Babin '74

The people behind PSU's success

I received my copy of *Portland State Magazine* [winter 2016] today. Reading the notices about the passing of former (and, I might add, popular in my student days) PSU President Gregory B. Wolfe and the 2002 retirement of Librarian Evelyn Crowell, I believe that they were among the many who have made PSU the successful educational institution it is today.

John Reichlein '68

Graduating at age 73



I have a possible story idea for you that would be great press for the University, as well as a warm human interest article.

Kathy (Lee) Meehan My mom, Kathy (Lee) Meehan, will be graduating this spring—more than 50 years after starting at PSU!

Letters

Back then it was proper to put your husband's needs before yours, so she had to quit to financially support her (then) husband and family (me and my sister). Along the way she became a fantastic artist and strong independent woman. I admire her so much for making the decision to complete her education at age 73. She has done this all through scholarships, grants and on her own. She's graduating cum laude in arts and letters.

I am so proud of her!

Heather Willig

GET YOURSELF IN A

PORTLAND STATE of Mind OCTOBER 13-22

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Fifty years of teaching

TONY WOLK, professor of English who teaches in Portland State's Freshman Inquiry program, still rides his bicycle to work as he has done since 1969. He also bakes his own bread and regularly plays tennis—all factors, he says, that have kept him vibrant throughout a long career at Portland State.

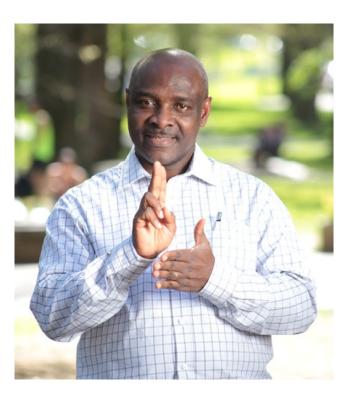
Wolk recently celebrated his 50-year anniversary at PSU. The feat is unprecedented; no one has worked at the University longer than Wolk.

He came to PSU in 1965 as a professor of Renaissance literature and writing. He broadened his focus to science fiction and has co-taught classes with renowned Portland author Ursula K. Le Guin. He is as comfortable teaching Dante as he is teaching about science fiction author Philip K. Dick.

An avid writer, Wolk is currently at work on his 15th novel. His time-traveling fantasy *Abraham Lincoln, A Novel Life* was the first book published by PSU's Ooligan Press.

Wolk says he likes PSU's working class roots and teaching returning older students. However, since 1993, he has spent half of his time on campus teaching the multi-disciplinary Freshman Inquiry course, which all incoming freshman must take. Some of his students are the children and grandchildren of students he's had in the past.

"Teaching is one of the few places where you can quickly have an impact on others. I'm thrilled I became a teacher."



A sign of the times

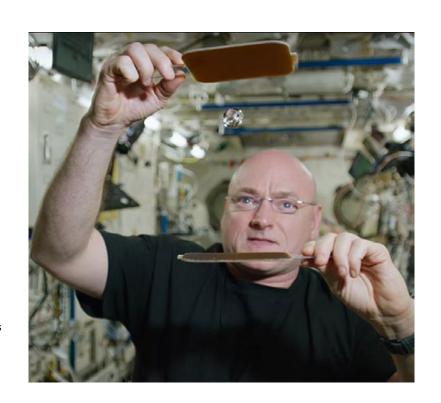
AMERICAN SIGN Language is the fourth most popular "foreign" language taught at Portland State, with the number of courses more than doubling in the past five years. Jonah Eleweke, pictured here, is a full-time instructor. As at many colleges and high schools across the country, ASL fulfills Portland State's foreign language requirement. In just the past year, the number of Portland public high school students enrolled in ASL has increased 245 percent. Why? "It seems there are a lot of personal reasons," says Jennifer Perlmutter, chair of the PSU World Languages and Literatures Department. "Many students hope to work with deaf children, or have deaf relatives or they themselves are losing their hearing." However, if they think ASL will be easy, Perlmutter warns that with its own grammar, syntax and lexicon, ASL is just as difficult to learn as any other language.



THE UNIVERSITY'S online digital repository, PDXScholar, has achieved a major milestone: 1 million downloads. On the evening of January 21, readers around the world, as depicted on the map here, collectively downloaded that many articles, dissertations, master's theses, conference papers, textbooks and more—all by PSU faculty, students and staff. Managed by the PSU Library, items in PDXScholar are discoverable through Google and other search engines, giving the repository international reach. Search the collection at pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu.

Ping-pong in space

BEFORE NASA astronaut Scott Kelly returned to Earth from the International Space Station, he shared a video of himself bouncing a blob of water between ping-pong paddles designed by student Karl Cardin. The mechanical engineering senior created an etched grid pattern on coated polycarbonate paddles that repel water in zero gravity. Cardin tested and refined his design using the five-story Dryden Drop Tower on campus, which can simulate 2.1 seconds of weightlessness. His project is one of many conducted in the field of fluid dynamics under Mark Weislogel, mechanical engineering faculty and former NASA researcher. Weislogel is one of the inventors of the zero-gravity espresso cup that has helped keep space station astronauts caffeinated for the past year.



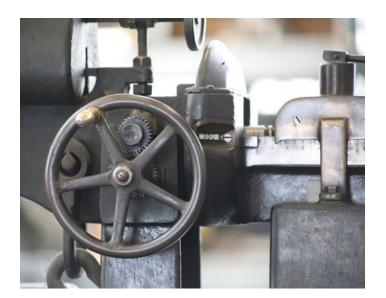


Giving Portland babies a boost

THE FIRST thousand days of a child's life—from conception to age two—are considered the most important stage of development, say experts. Nutrition, parenting skills and exposure to toxins are all tied to a child's ultimate health. Portland State's Institute for Sustainable Solutions is partnering with ROSE Community Development and other organizations on the Baby Booster initiative, which will improve the health and livability of families in east Portland's 97266 ZIP code—an area bordered by southeast 82 and 122 avenues and southeast Division and Clatsop streets. Multnomah County data shows that this area has a high incidence of low birthweight, which the initiative intends to reduce by half in the next 10 years.

Old technology meets new

CITY OF PORTLAND engineers used the machine pictured here to test the strength and durability of manhole covers in the first decades of the 20th century. The 8,500-pound, Riehle Brothers machine now sits in the PSU Materials Research Laboratory as mechanical engineering students automate it with electronics, sensors and a computer system so it can test modern materials. "It's a cool project that's giving us solid modeling experience," says Tom Langston, student project leader. The machine is purported to be more accurate than most tensile testing machines today. The students are testing that claim. They are also making sure the machine can be unplugged and function as it did 100 years ago for demonstrations, including one at the Portland Mini Maker Faire at OMSI in September.



Keeping campuses safer

THE FEDERAL government has awarded a Portland State professor a \$750,000 grant to design a comprehensive manual to help colleges and universities stop sexual assaults before they occur. Psychology professor Keith Kaufman received the grant through a U.S. Department of Justice program on monitoring and tracking sex offenders. The project to develop the manual will involve eight public and private universities across the country, including PSU, Linfield College and Portland Community College. Portland State is already working on strengthening sexual assault precautions. A University prevention specialist was recently hired, and all students are required to take a tutorial on sexual assault prevention. ■



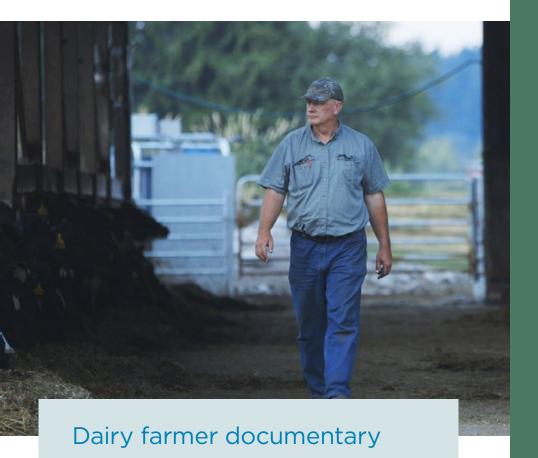
Puppetmaster

PUPPETS IN the classroom are magical, says Penny Walter MA '01. When she was a teacher, children in her blended kindergarten and first-grade classroom would suspend their disbelief, she says, and learn from and often cooperate better with a puppet than a teacher. But as Walter encouraged her students to follow their natural gifts, she realized, "I needed to follow mine, so I decided to quit and become a professional puppeteer." In 2002, Walter started Penny's Puppet Productions. With her 500 puppets she creates and performs mini musicals at libraries, schools and birthday parties in Portland and the outlying communities. "The best thing about being a puppeteer," she says, "is I get to laugh every day I go to work and share laughter."



Intrigue in Saudi Arabia

AN AMERICAN teenager's rebellion turned into an international Chinese incident in Bob Jonas' first young adult novel, *ChinAlive*. Now Jonas MS '92 has set his second novel, *Imposter*, in Saudi Arabia, where a teenage boy from Portland creates an online Muslim cleric persona for an assignment at his international school. His work inexplicably goes live and the consequences are disastrous. Jonas' 20 years working overseas with expat kids, three of which were in Saudi Arabia, enriches the story's authentic voice. Jonas (pictured here) recently retired from being a school librarian, a career that started in Beaverton and took him to China, Chile, Saudi Arabia, and most recently Germany. Now Jonas is crafting his young adult stories from his home on Vashon Island in Washington.



DO DAIRY farmers allow Bossie to graze green pastures or do they keep her penned-up, factory style? What most urbanites know about the dairy industry could fill a thimble. Jan Haaken, professor emeritus of psychology, dispels the myths of dairy farming and explores the pressures these farmers face in her newest documentary, Milk Men: The Life and Times of Dairy Farmers. Haaken has produced or directed six feature-length films that explore the lives of people who work or live on the social margins: war zones, refugee camps, drag clubs and mental hospitals. Her films detail the complex humanity of her subjects and give audiences an insider's view to their lives. Eight PSU students were involved in all aspects of production for Milk Men, which will screen July 18 in Portland

on the opening night of a Northwest Film Center program on

ethical issues in farming. View a trailer at *milkmenmovie.com*.

New Works

DESOLATION

CD by Andrew Endres (BM '14) Collective, self-released, 2015

SHAME ON THE MOON: UNLEASHING THE PAST, A MEMOIR

By Paul Dean Jackson '78, Biblio Publishing, 2015

THE LOST JOURNALS OF SYLVIA PLATH: A NOVEL

By Kimberly Knutsen '92, Switchgrass Books, 2015

HAUNTING THE PAST: HISTORY, MEMORY, DREAMS, AND THE REFLECTIONS OF A DYING HISTORIAN

By Joseph W. Laythe MA '92, CreateSpace, 2016

TO THE TABLE: A SPIRITUALITY OF FOOD, FARMING AND COMMUNITY

By Lisa Graham McMinn MS '92, PhD '95, Brazos Press, 2016

GROWING UP WITH G.I. JOE'S

By Janna Orkney (attended in the '60s and '80s), Columbia Press, 2016

MAKING THE WHITE MAN'S WEST: WHITENESS AND THE CREATION OF THE AMERICAN WEST

By Jason E. Pierce MA '00, University Press of Colorado, 2016

PLEDGES OF HONOR: **GODDESS'S HONOR BOOK ONE**

By Joyce Reynolds-Ward MS '05, CreateSpace, 2016

GOOD BEAST

By Andrew Michael Roberts '04, Burnside Review Books, 2015









FOR SPERRY, music professor and director of Choral Activities at PSU, the goal of choral performance is to make the music come to life and connect with the audience. He knows that if the emotional level has dropped on stage, it will drop in the audience as well, and that same principal applies to a recording. Sperry thinks that too many performances offer perfect notes and rhythms but lack intensity and the ability to convey a story, which is bad news for classical music.

Since arriving at PSU in 2010, Sperry has established himself as a leader in the Pacific Northwest choral scene. He's done this by creating more opportunities for students to sing, expanding the PSU choral program with the Man Choir and Vox Femina, and by maintaining the high standards of the University's choral tradition. In 2013, under Sperry's direction, the Chamber Choir won the Seghizzi International Competition for Choral Singing in Gorizia, Italy, becoming the first American choir ever to win the Grand Prize in the competition's 52-year history. The Chamber Choir has also released two CDs, *A Drop in the Ocean* in 2012 and *Into Unknown Worlds* in 2014 to great acclaim.

In addition to his work at PSU, Sperry is also the artistic director and conductor of the Oregon Repertory Singers, and when he is not conducting, he tries to carve out some time to compose music. Around 25 of his works have been published by Hal Leonard Corporation, earthsongs, Santa Barbara Music Publishing and Musica Baltica, including pop songs, world music and arrangements of Indian ragas and Bollywood movie songs.

IT COULD BE said that making music is in Sperry's blood. His father, Paul Sperry, is a renowned lyric tenor whose international career included appearances at La Scala and with the New York Philharmonic. Ethan Sperry's interest in conducting began when his parents took him to his first orchestra concert at the age of eight. He started out playing piano and cello

before discovering the joy of singing in choirs during his undergraduate years at Harvard.

Sperry taught music in a private school before pursuing his master's and doctoral degrees in choral conducing from the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. He taught music at Miami University (Ohio) before moving to Portland with his wife, Siri Hoogen, and children to take the job at PSU.

"One of the most valuable lessons someone can learn from Ethan is the importance of being vulnerable with a choir, creating a partnership and acknowledging that they are going on a musical journey together with you," says Ben España who received his master's in choral conducting under Sperry and is now the associate conductor of the Oregon Repertory Singers.

At the end of May, Sperry embarks on another musical journey when his choirs perform in the annual Global Rhythms concert at Lincoln Hall. Sperry's Global Rhythms series, published by earthsongs, is one of the bestselling series of world music for choirs in the United States. The May 28-29 concert, entitled "Global Rhythms V: Stand Against Violence," emphasizes times and places where music has been used as a unifying force to stand against violence and oppression. The choirs will sing spirituals and South African freedom songs, music tied to Gandhi's nonviolent revolution in India and music from the Singing Revolution in Estonia.

Sperry says the selection of music to be performed is one of the most import aspects of his work.

"Choral literature goes back to the Renaissance. It's wonderful to have so much to choose from." ■

James Bash is a technical writer and freelance classical music writer in Portland.





Interviews with PSU students, faculty, staff and alumni paint a picture of a largely tolerant campus—but one where slights, bias and "microaggressions" are part of life.

Those rituals, and other experiences of being Muslim on campus, have drawn a spotlight at PSU and at campuses across the country, where tensions over race, ethnicity and religion are on the rise. Many Muslims say their religion has been singled out by the superheated rhetoric of the presidential campaign and atrocities committed by supporters of Islamic State terrorists.

After a recent "Beyond Islamophobia" panel discussion attracted hundreds at Portland State, the question of how Muslims are treated on campus took on new relevance. Interviews with PSU students, faculty, staff and alumni paint a picture of a largely tolerant campus—but one where slights, bias and "microaggressions" are part of life. Nearly all agree there is plenty of room for improvement.

Karimyar, whose parents fled Afghanistan, grew up in Beaverton and attends the local mosque. Because she doesn't wear a headscarf, few are immediately aware of her background.

"The hijab is synonymous with Islam," says the junior pre-med student. "So I'm treated 'normally' as opposed to someone who shows the faith." On the other hand, she says, when people find out she is Muslim "I'm defined as less faithful than my friends. It's really frustrating."

HANAN AL-ZUBAIDY, who graduated from PSU last spring, says she felt isolated in her first years on campus. Her parents are Iraqi, and she was born in a Saudi refugee camp. She wears a

headscarf, which she says attracts more than her share of unkind comments and questions.

"A lot of questions," says Al-Zubaidy. "Rather than asking me, 'Are you married?' they would ask, 'Oh, did your dad arrange your marriage?""

There were the rare taunts of "terrorist!" when she walked down the Park Blocks. And the evangelical preachers, who would visit campus and use derogatory terms to tell her she was headed for perdition.

"My favorite sentence of all time is: You're not defined by what happens to you, you're defined by how you handle it. That applies to Portland State."

In her junior year, Al-Zubaidy started working for the PSU Orientation Team and formed a large network of Muslim and non-Muslim friends. That led to a deeper sense of belonging on campus that continues even though she has moved on. After getting her bachelor's degree in speech and hearing sciences, she is looking at entering a master's program in applied behavioral analysis.

"When I got an email about the Islamophobia discussion, that made me really happy," Al-Zubaidy says. "I wish it would have happened during my four years there."

Carmen Suarez, PSU's vice president for Global Diversity and Inclusion, says the concerns expressed by Muslim students are real. Reported bias complaints include classroom interaction, sidewalk encounters and emails that cross the line, she says.

"We immediately investigate every complaint," Suarez says. "My favorite sentence of all time is: You're not defined by what happens to you, you're defined by how you handle it. That applies to Portland State."

Her office also offers ongoing educational outreach to increase multicultural understanding. "PSU has to be a leader that says, 'When it comes to inclusion, there is no compromise.' We have to work harder."

PORTLAND STATE has a long

history of attracting students from the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia, says Shpresa Halimi, program administrator and outreach coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center, Yet, she says, there's a noticeable "disconnect" among all levels at the University on how best to accommodate the broad range of Muslim students.

Halimi spent two months interviewing students, faculty and staff for a presentation at a regional conference on "challenges and opportunities of supporting students from the Middle East." She drew a number of conclusions from her research.

Muslim students, she found, note a lack of halal (permitted) food





Tahmina Karimyar finds that friends define her as "less faithful" when they find out she is Muslim.

The identifying headscarf worn by Hanan Al-Zubaidy '15 has led to unkind questions and taunts.

on campus; insensitivity during Ramadan; lack of single-sex student accommodations and lack of a Muslim chaplain. Faculty, meanwhile, point to their own concerns about Muslim students, such as difficulties with critical thinking, expressing opinions in class, and classroom tensions between Muslim and non-Muslim students and between Muslim students who follow different branches of Islam.

"There are some gaps in there that need to be filled," Halimi says. Nonetheless, she says, "PSU is perceived as a very welcoming place. From what I've read about other campuses, we're way ahead."

AMONG THOSE who would agree is Bashar Al-Daomi, an Iraqi doctoral student whose specialty is wastewater engineering. After spending four years as a teaching assistant at the University of Baghdad, where he had to be much more guarded with what he said, he sees PSU as an oasis of tolerance in an often intolerant world.

When Al-Daomi first arrived in Oregon, he lived with a Christian family that went out of its way to ensure he was able to practice his faith. "I got a warm welcome from my adviser. I don't know if he was Christian or Jewish or what."

He later became a mentor for other international students, spending time with students from Canada, China, India and Vietnam.

"That was a life-changing experience," he says, as he observed students from around the world, of multiple religions, all showing respect for him and for each

Al-Daomi takes a philosophical view of life as a Muslim student in a largely non-Muslim university.

"College is not just giving us technical knowledge, like how to build a better water treatment plant," he says. "It also teaches us to accept each other." ■

Harry Esteve is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.

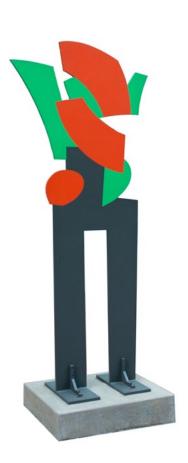
art/connection

Works of art are everywhere in Portland. And many of the outdoor sculptures and murals we pass every day are by Portland State alumni and faculty. Most of the works on these pages are part of the city of Portland and Multnomah County public art collections.

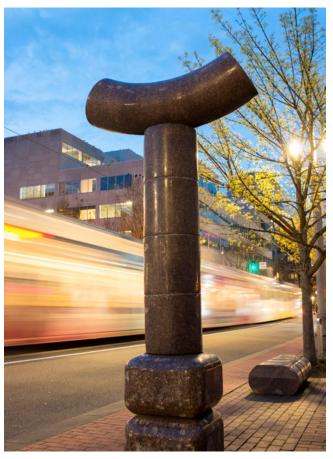
Did we overlook your outdoor art? Email *psumag@pdx.edu* and we'll include your work online. Photos are by Edis Jurcys, Dan Kvitka, and courtesy of the Regional Arts & Culture Council.







Daddy Long Legs Mel Katz, professor emeritus of art SW 6th & Stark



Continuation Michihiro Kosuge, professor emeritus of art Between SW Columbia & Clay

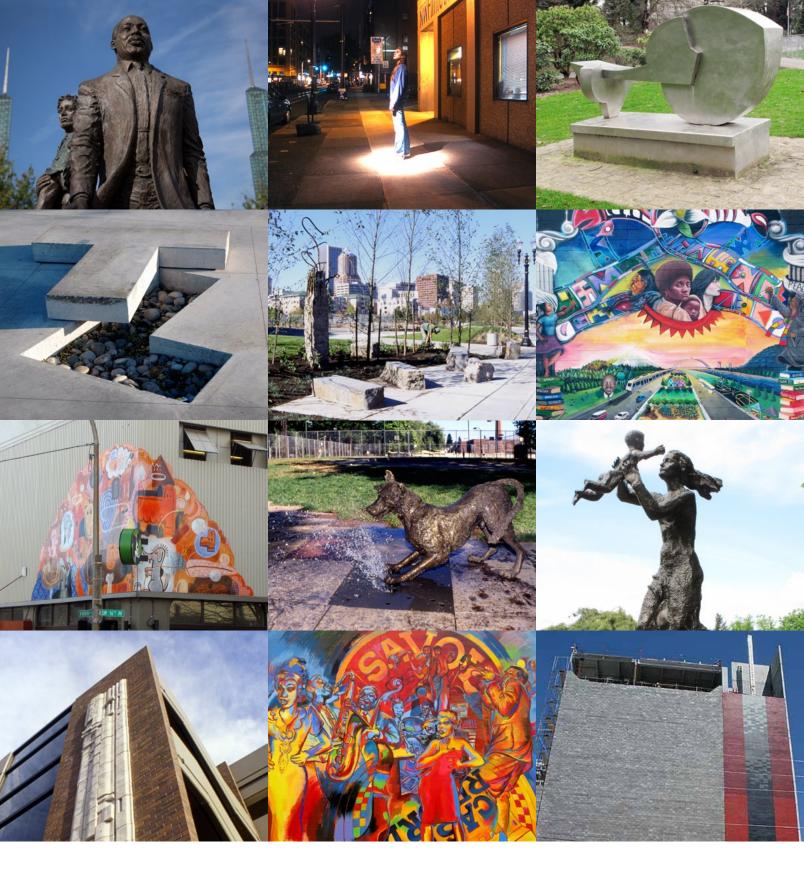




The History of Hawthorne Chris Haberman '97 4904 SE Hawthorne



Talos No. 2 James Lee Hansen, professor emeritus of art Between SW Oak & Stark



Starting top left: The Dream, Michael Dente '73, Oregon Convention Center; More Everyday Sunshine, Harrell Fletcher, professor of art and social practice, Portland Streetcar route; Triad, Evelyn Franz '72, MFA '76, Laurelhurst Park; Tread Lightly, Dan Garland '97, Ed Benedict Park, SE 100th & Powell; River Shift, Mathieu Gregoire '79, South Waterfront Park; Children and Youth Bill of Rights, *Margret Harburg '13, Trillium Charter School, 5420 N Interstate Ave.; Outside in Dogs (1), Michael T. Hensley, SW 16th & W Burnside; Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden for Children, Lee Hunt '73, Grant Park; Joy, the late Frederic Littman, professor of art, Council Crest Park; 118 Modules, John Rogers '73, SW Yamhill between 9th & 10th; The Musicians Union Building Mural, *Isaka Shamsud-Din '98, MFA '01, 325 NE 20th; Falling Light, Scott Sonniksen '73, NW 14th & Northrup. ■

*Contributing artist

Portland's Growing Pains

MORE PEOPLE, HIGHER RENTS WHAT ARE WE TO DO?



WRITTEN BY JOHN KIRKLAND

THE TIMES they are a changin', and for Portlanders, it's getting worrisome.

In the last two years, the city's population has spiked upward. Rents are through the roof. Lower-income neighborhoods that were decaying 30 years ago are now the city's new hotspots, and the people who would like to live there are getting priced out. Residents of Portland's tonier neighborhoods are fighting the demolition of older homes on their streets. Even if the homes that replace them fit well with the others, they are viewed as changing the neighborhood's character. And by implication, no change is good. All of this is contributing to a level of homelessness in Portland that city leaders have declared as a crisis.

Ethan Seltzer, PSU professor of urban studies and planning, says the rapid pace of change in Portland—and society as a whole—presents some interesting challenges for those who are planning the city's future. That will include a new mayor, who will be elected this year.

Seltzer and his colleagues at PSU's College of Urban and Public Affairs have their collective fingers on Portland's pulse, and while they may not have the answers to Portland's growing pains, they can frame the political discussion and point to the things we ought to be talking about.

POPULATION GROWTH—GET USED TO IT

Last summer, PSU's Center for Population Research announced that Oregon's population had breached the 4 million

mark for the first time ever. The Portland metro area, which includes Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, has about 1,743,385 residents—almost 100,000 more than lived here just five years ago. Portland, grew at an average of 1.4 percent a year from 1990 to 2010, slept during the Great Recession, and then grew by 1.9 percent in 2014 to a total of 613,335 people.

That, Seltzer says, is getting long-time residents to harken back to a mythical Golden Age of Portland that is now lost because so many people want to live here.

"What's happening in Portland is simply a rate of growth that we're unfamiliar with," Seltzer says, noting that people from outside the area have always gravitated to Portland, and that recent growthaveraged over time—isn't all that unusual.

"Well over half the people who live here were not born here. This is a place that is continually new," he says.

WHERE ARE PEOPLE GOING TO LIVE?

The desire to live here is making the Portland metro area more expensive. According to Gerard Mildner, head of PSU's Center for Real Estate, apartment rents and home prices in the region have reached new historic highs, even after accounting for the 30 percent decline in prices following the Great Recession. In fact the increase in Portland home prices from 2014 to 2015 was the biggest in the country, according to "CNN Money." The median home price in Portland is now \$351,700—up 17 percent over last year.

Portland rents were much lower than the national average prior to 2009. Now they're higher, hovering around \$1,275 for a typical one-bedroom apartment. Mildner says Portland rents rose more than 35 percent from July 2008 to October 2015 compared to a national average of less than 20 percent. At this rate, he says the average apartment rent in Portland will be only slightly less expensive than San Francisco by the year 2035.

The growing population is pushing apartment construction in Multnomah County to an all-time high. In Portland, 4,675 new apartments are set to be completed this year, adding to the 3,349 units built in 2015 and 2,866 built the year before that. But while apartments are going up all over, the metro region is building 20 percent fewer single-family homes than in the period from 1990 to 2007, Mildner says.

Rising rents for lower-income Portlanders in neighborhoods where buildings are being torn down to make room for more upscale housing-a process known as gentrification—are pushing them to move out to the fringes of east Multnomah County. A study by "Governing" magazine showed that Portland gentrified more than any of the 50 cities on its list between 2000 and 2015. It showed that 58 percent of Portland's low-income neighborhoods—all located in north, northeast and southeast Portland—gentrified during that period, measured by the rise in home values and percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees.



That's a trend that creates both social and environmental problems, says associate professor Lisa Bates, director of PSU's Center for Urban Studies.

"Involuntary moving is very disruptive to work, education and life success," she says.

It's also bad for the environment. She says when low-skilled workers have to move out of the city core, they have longer commutes to work, adding to traffic congestion and the pollution that goes with it.

TRAFFIC A GROWING HEADACHE

Portland is also impacted by the presence of more cars on the road. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, there are 92,355 more passenger cars in the tri-county area than there were five years ago.

Kelly Clifton, professor of civil and environmental engineering who also works with PSU's Transportation Research and Education Center, agrees that lack of affordable housing is a big contributor to traffic congestion.

"Moderate and low-income households have a harder time living closer to work or in the denser areas that are well served by mass transit. So it's not surprising that we see a rise in congestion," she says. "The economic recovery and low fuel costs also result in more travel, which was dampened during the recession."

Portland's mass transit system can't keep up, Clifton says. TriMet built the MAX Orange Line and added more frequency to existing lines. Yet, she says, much of the region has relatively low transit service and poor connections for north-south corridors.

"Until these service gaps are addressed, mass transit cannot be a viable substitute for driving," she says.

So, does that mean we should be building more roads? Not necessarily. Highway projects are expensive and take a long time to build. And, she says, there are lots of examples around the country where traffic is still congested even after new highways are built.

There are other options.

"We can take advantage of all of the new mobility offered by ridesharing services such as Uber and Lyft, car sharing with things like Zipcar, Car2Go and Getaround, and bicycle sharing," she says.

STAYING ON TOP OF THE ISSUES

As citizens witness the changes happening all round them, how will they talk about them in a way that shapes a vision for a new era? Daily newspapers used to play a central role, not just in Portland but in the

rest of the country, in shaping opinion and influencing local governments. These days, not so much.

"Whatever role we expect the news media to play in a democracy is not being played. The alternatives we have now are haphazard and not at all up to the task," Seltzer says.

Substituting the Internet—fragmentary and often unreliable as a source of information—for more traditional media undermines the collective "we" in society and creates a world where everybody is pursuing their own little slice of reality, he adds.

But Seltzer sees hope in the idea that maybe we're just really young in our understanding of how the Internet can serve us, and that we'll come out of this period of rapid change with a better idea of how the world—and the Portland region—is put together.

"Our challenge is to not get too hung up on the past, but to figure out the era we're in and what 'forward' means," Seltzer says. "No matter how many people come here, we need to ask ourselves if we've retained the essential attributes that make this place what we think is a good place to live."

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

Inquiring PSU program give high schoolers a jumpstart on college-level learning

WRITTEN BY BESS PALLARES

HIGH SCHOOL seniors hear a lot about how the transition to college means dealing with new responsibilities and schedules while also adjusting to life away from home and family. What they don't hear much about is how the study and research skills they need to apply in university courses will differ from what they needed in high school classes. Portland State is tackling that issue head-on by bringing critical-thinking courses directly to Portland-area high schools.

The Senior Inquiry High School Program pairs a PSU faculty member from University Studies with two teachers at select high schools for a yearlong, dual-credit course. The

Michael Lupro, senior inquiry coordinator, is the PSU faculty member at Jefferson High School in northeast Portland, where the program was expanded this year to include the entire senior class of about 110 students. The classes themselves, which are split into two large sections at Jefferson, are heavily focused on student-guided inquiry.

"We put an idea out there and if they engage in it, we build more curriculum immediately to respond to that," Lupro says. "Sometimes they don't bite. Most often it's things we didn't see coming, so our planning is very iterative."

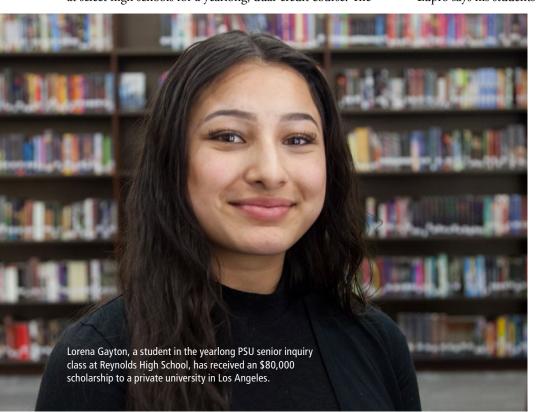
Lupro says his students already have a highly developed

understanding of the world coming into the course, though they may lack the critical academic vocabulary to communicate it in a college-level course. Through assignments such as reading literature, exploring current events, planning service projects and completing a large research paper, students apply the course theme—race and social justice—to draw connections between what they're learning and their own experiences.

Senior inquiry students also visit the PSU campus a few times throughout the year to learn about conducting academic library research and for the course graduation. Many students in the program will be first-generation college students, so the campus visits combined with faculty interaction and inquiry-based learning are a vital part of preparing for college, says Lupro.

"If you've never met someone with a Ph.D., you think of them as

a specialized, other kind of person that can be intimidating," he says, "But if you've spent a year interacting with someone like that, it demystifies it. It makes you a lot more comfortable dealing with the next professor you meet."



courses, which have been offered at different Portland schools since 1994, cover a range of general education subjects through the lens of overarching themes such as race and social justice; power and imagination; human nature; and knowledge, art, power.

DIANA SALGADO and Lorena Gayton are seniors at Reynolds High School in Troutdale, and both will be first-generation college students next year. They heard about senior inquiry from teachers and wanted the opportunity to explore what a college course would be like while taking advantage of the dual-credit option that allows students to transfer up to 15 credits when they enter college.

Salgado—who serves as a nonmember, student representative to the Reynolds School District Board—says she appreciates how the class with 60 of her fellow students has expanded her perspective and the way she learns.

"We have discussions that are meaningful," Salgado says. "In senior inquiry we talk about real things that are happening today. You think more critically. It has helped me because once you read something and apply it to your life, it has a different meaning to it."

She also enjoys the opportunity to interact with the PSU instructor for Reynolds, Sonja Taylor. Salgado has

applied to more than 20 colleges, and though she's been accepted to most, she's waiting to hear back from more before making a final decision about where to pursue her bachelor's degree—probably in biology. As a prospective first-generation college student, she says getting to ask Taylor for advice about college and developing comfort with college-style learning through senior inquiry is an important benefit of the course.

Gayton echoes that sentiment. Next year she'll likely start college at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles, where she's received an \$80,000, four-year scholarship. Gayton previously took AP classes, but senior inquiry has allowed her to dive into critical thinking and push herself to prepare for next year.

She says the best part of the course is the diversity of topics and the way students are encouraged to engage with the curriculum in new ways.

"They tell us to connect two totally different topics together—or even a book we're reading on a foreign affairs topic—and you really have to sit there and think and analyze every aspect of the situation to find a connection," Gayton says. "I think that's the best way to go about curriculum in general because you really expose yourself to different perspectives and different beliefs."

THIS IS TAYLOR'S first year teaching senior inquiry, though she also teaches sophomore inquiry at PSU. She says the two days a week she spends at Reynolds are inspiring, and she's



excited by how the students are growing and learning through the course.

"Even if they never go to college, because of the way we run the class they're going to be more engaged, thinking citizens," she says. "They have an edge."

Taylor, who is currently completing her doctorate in sociology, was a first-generation college student herself, and says it took her until halfway through her second master's degree to realize how much money and time she'd spent just to understand the higher education system. Working with first-generation students to better understand college early on is an important part of her work in senior inquiry.

"It makes them so much more likely to be successful and less afraid of failure," Taylor says.

And her students have embraced the format of the class. Though she's enjoyed her senior inquiry experience, Gayton says high school students need much more of this type of learning at every grade level.

"This course has been the most enlightening class I've ever taken, honestly," she says. "The things we talk about and the combination of intellectual challenge and personal reflection I think is the most important thing a student needs to acquire." ■

Bess Pallares is a graduate assistant in the Office of University Communications.





The PSU Alumni Association is dedicated to providing benefits and services to our 165,000+ alumni that will keep you connected to each other and the University.

In 2012, we conducted a survey to better understand what motivates you to stay engaged with PSU and what we can do better to serve

you. We heard back from nearly 3,000 alumni, and the results provided rich and comprehensive insights that helped us evaluate our strengths and address our weaknesses. This process informed a three-year strategic plan that focused on increasing alumni benefits, developing more effective communications, connecting students to alumni, strengthening regional alumni networks and making campus resources available beyond graduation.

I invite you to read the next iteration of our strategic plan at www.pdx.edu/alumni/plan. Spanning the academic years 2015-2017, our new plan builds upon the momentum and success of the initial strategic plan by widening our scope to the global alumni community, enhancing services and benefits for alumni, and deepening engagement opportunities across the Portland State community.

Our goals aim to **involve**, **inspire**, **connect**, **provide** and **create**. We hope you will join us to create a strong, vibrant, proud and engaged community for Portland State University.

Ton Buse

Tom Bull
Executive Director
Portland State University Alumni Association



Giving

A lasting legacy

WHEN ROSLYN FARRINGTON

died in 2014, more than 500 people attended her memorial services. She was 50, a professor in the University's Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program and an artist, mentor and community activist.

"Roslyn Farrington taught me about self-love, love for community, feminism and gave me opportunities that have moved me toward a better life," wrote former student Anna Beaty on Roslyn's Facebook page. "I learned from her more than I can say."

Farrington's influence still changes lives today. Following her death, her family created a PSU scholarship that students, colleagues and former students helped fund. It provides support for PSU students who intend to use their education in the service of social justice.

The Roslyn Farrington Scholarship was awarded for the first time in fall 2015 to Jean-Luc Toku. A native of Togo, West Africa, Toku and his family moved to Portland more than 10 years ago. He graduated from Central Catholic High School and now studies finance and international business at PSU. He hopes to use the skills he learns at PSU to create educational and career opportunities for young people in Togo.

"Roslyn would love Jean-Luc," says Evette Bowens, Farrington's sister. "He is just the sort of person the scholarship was intended to serve. He's had some tough times, but kept his thirst for knowledge alive."

TOKU JOINED Farrington's family, including her mother Anitra Farrington, at PSU's Annual Scholarship Reception on March 1. The event brought PSU scholarship donors together with the students they support, providing donors with first-hand reports on the impact of their gifts.

The Farrington scholarship has given Toku the support he needs to concentrate on his classes and the track team, for which he competes in the long jump and the triple jump.

"Receiving this scholarship took a lot of stress off my back and allowed me to focus more on school," says Toku. "I'm very thankful for that and the relationship I have with the Farrington family. Evie and I text each other and we've been talking about getting our families together in the summer."

To find out more about the Roslyn Farrington Scholarship, please visit psuf.org/farrington. ■

Written by Jyoti Roy, PSU Foundation marketing manager.



Jean-Luc Toku (back row, left) joins four generations of Roslyn Farrington's family, including her mother, Anitra Farrington (front, third from left), sister Evette Bowens (front, right), eldest niece LaRhonda Farrington (back, right) as well as great-nieces and a great-nephew at PSU's 2016 Annual Scholarship Reception.



WRITTEN BY HARRY ESTEVE

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST Jack Ohman '99 has spent a generation skewering politicians, poking fun at Portland's liberal quirks and championing artistic freedom. In April, the Portland State Honors College graduate learned he had won the nation's highest award for journalism, the Pulitzer Prize.

"I'm still in shock," says Ohman, who was toasted with champagne by his colleagues at the *Sacramento Bee*, where he has worked since 2013. "You're competing with some very talented people. It's a surreal experience."

Before moving to California, Ohman spent most of his career at *The Oregonian*, drawing stylized caricatures of everyone from Ronald Reagan and Gov. John Kitzhaber to bearded craft beer drinkers and OR-7, the celebrated, wayward Oregon wolf.

His prize-winning cartoons range from the light-hearted (California Gov. Jerry Brown's dog running for office) to the penetrating (New York's twin towers juxtaposed with two Syrian refugees, both dated Sept. 11). In awarding the prize, Pulitzer judges credited Ohman for his "wry, rueful perspectives" and sophisticated style.

Ohman, 55, honed his craft early, drawing cartoons in high school, then getting hired by the student newspaper at the University of Minnesota. At 19, he became the youngest cartoonist ever to be syndicated nationally, and left college early for job offers from the *Detroit Free Press*, then the *Columbus Dispatch* and later *The Oregonian*.

Despite the rapid career rise, Ohman says he regretted not finishing his degree. In 1992, he enrolled in PSU's honors program to study history. Working full-time and raising a family meant taking classes early in the morning and studying late at night. It took years, and a senior thesis on the 1968 Oregon primary election, to make it to graduation.

It was all worth it, says Ohman, whose two sons are on track to graduate from PSU this spring and next year.

"My professors held me to an intellectual standard that I found enormously useful later in my career," he says. "They were very exacting mentors." ■

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

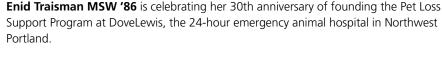
Dave Kruse '63 received the 2015 Robert Moore Award from the West Linn City Council in February for his decade-long volunteer work beautifying Mary S. Young Park in West Linn.



Fritz Bartsch

Jodi Watson

Fritz Bartsch '74 writes that he is a co-chair of the Community Promise Campaign for Albertina Kerr, an Oregon agency that offers services for children and families facing mental health and developmental challenges. Bartsch was a manager with US Bank before retiring in 2010.



Jodi Watson '88 is the first-ever senior vice president of Petco Direct, the e-commerce division of the pet supply national retail chain.





Mitchell Jackson

Mitchell Jackson '99, MA '02 won a prestigious \$50,000 Whiting Foundation award for emerging writers. Jackson, author of the autobiographical novel *The Residue Years*, was the subject of our cover feature in the spring 2014 *Portland State Magazine*.

Andrew Mayer MPA '01 writes that he was recently appointed the daily media reporter for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's Strategic Outreach Division, an Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy that oversees foreign military finance, training and diplomacy.



Virginia Chambers

Virginia Chambers '04 has won an educator-of-the-year honor for 2015 from the American Association of Medical Assistants. She is a full-time instructor and program chair for Portland Community College's Medical Assisting Program.

Adam (Hamilton) Cornett '04 and his partner Tilia Kimm placed first at the Argentine Tango USA Championship held in San Francisco in March. They won the salon division and will compete in the world cup held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August. They teach tango in Boston.



Adam Cornett

John Hillan MS '09 was named Oregon Music Educator of the Year in January by the Oregon Music Education Association. He teaches in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District.

Brad Richardson MA '15 was recently promoted to curator of the Clark County Historical Museum in Vancouver, Washington.

FOR MORE ALUMNI NEWS follow us @*PSU_Alums* on Twitter and *PortlandStateAlumni* on Facebook. Have news you would like to share? Email *psualum@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 *www.pdx.edu/alumni/contact*.



VIKINGS JUMPED high and far to take home trophies and school records at the Big Sky Indoor Championships in February.

Freshman ChaQuinn Cook (above) won the Big Sky title in the women's triple jump with a personal-best of 40-01.50 (forty feet and one and a half inches), a full foot ahead of her nearest competitor. She also claimed the Big Sky title in the indoor long jump, becoming the first Viking female athlete to win the title since 2005.

Sophomore Spenser Schmidt (right) won the men's long jump at 24-07.00 —the first time a male athlete has won the Big Sky title since 2003. The jump also gave Schmidt the school record. Senior Rockwell Tufty—while he didn't win at the championships—broke the PSU school record in the men's high jump at the indoor meet with a clearance of 6-09.50. He also holds the Portland State record in the outdoor high jump. Photos by Christopher Oertell and Sepp Jannotta.







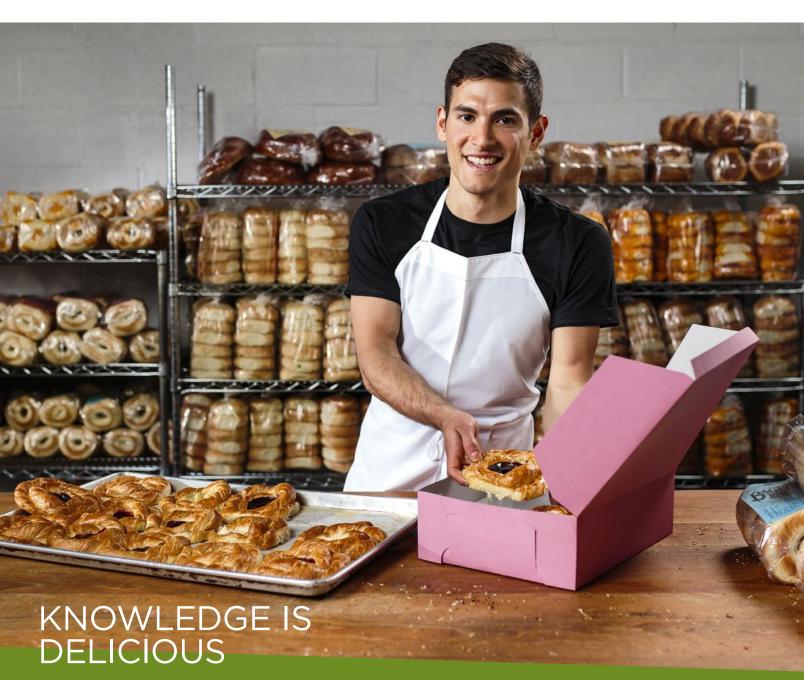
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FEARLESS GRADUATE Gabe Alvarez is using his new MBA to help run Gabriel's Bakery, a family business named after him. PSU's part-time program allowed him to keep working and immediately apply what he was learning to the bakery.

