

Spring 5-1-2013

## Portland State Magazine

Portland State University. Office of University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: [https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/psu\\_magazine](https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/psu_magazine)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

### Recommended Citation

Portland State University. Office of University Communications, "Portland State Magazine" (2013).  
*Portland State Magazine*. 2.  
[https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/psu\\_magazine/2](https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/psu_magazine/2)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Portland State Magazine by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: [pdxscholar@pdx.edu](mailto:pdxscholar@pdx.edu).

SPRING 2013

# PORTLAND STATE MAGAZINE



## THE NEW COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Evolution of the arts on campus / 10

Hazardous to your health / 14

Rethinking Portland State / 17

Here in America / 18

A bigger, better Business School / 21

Aging with purpose / 22





## Making a life by giving

TOM FINK '71 paid his way through Portland State by working in a Tillamook plywood mill. His story would be difficult to duplicate today.

“When I was in school, 80 percent of my tuition and every other in-state student was paid by the state of Oregon,” says Tom. “These days, the state funds less than 20 percent, and students are responsible for the rest. The opportunities for college students to earn 80 percent of their tuition are few and far between.”

Thanks to a strong PSU network, Tom began his career in financial services at Standard Insurance Company. Later, he formed his own company and today is managing partner of Magnacorp Financial.

“I graduated from PSU with no student debt and that gave me a tremendous head start. I feel a responsibility to give back and help students in the way the state helped me years ago. Nearly 50 percent of PSU students are, like me, the first in their family to attend college. For Oregon to remain economically viable, we must have an educated workforce and give these students the same opportunities we had.

“I like to live my life by the words of Winston Churchill, ‘We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give,’” Tom says.

Today, Tom gives to PSU scholarships and encourages others to do the same. He’s right on target, because scholarships are PSU’s top fund-raising priority.

Tom and his wife, Marilyn, give to student scholarships at PSU. You can too. For more information, please contact Ellecia Williams at 503-725-2649 or [ellecia.williams@pdx.edu](mailto:ellecia.williams@pdx.edu).

# Departments

- 2 FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
Measuring a Portland State degree
- 3 LETTERS**  
Old cameras, fond memories  
Working pro teaching film students  
Cafeteria social strata  
Low rent and store credit
- 4 PARK BLOCKS**  
Relating the history of Russia's Jews  
A big, big barometer  
Children and violence  
Fueling Oregon's economy  
Phoning a cookstove in Kenya  
Stories of women leaders  
Sandbox for college students

- 8 FANFARE**  
Saving Havana  
Helping new authors  
Screenplay success  
Voices of immigration  
New Works
- 25 GIVING**  
A place of honor  
Virtuoso remembered
- 26 ALUMNI**  
Portland State of Mind  
Table manners matter  
On the road again  
Connect and benefit  
Socialize!
- 28 ATHLETICS**  
Newcomer scores and rebounds  
Catching football fever
- 29 LOOKING BACK**  
Help solve campus history  
mysteries



Page 18

**ON THE COVER** Student Eva Andrews was one of the stars in *The Servant of Two Masters*, produced in March by the newly renamed School of Theatre & Film. Photo by Dan Carver. See story on page 10.

# Features

- 10 THE NEW COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**  
Name change reflects an evolution of the arts on campus.
- 14 HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH**  
Radon gas poses a real risk in Oregon homes.
- 17 RETHINKING PORTLAND STATE**  
New ideas from faculty and staff could transform the classroom.
- 18 HERE IN AMERICA**  
Women students from Saudi Arabia find a different but welcoming culture at PSU.
- 21 A BIGGER, BETTER BUSINESS SCHOOL**  
An \$8 million gift fuels plans for more space, more collaboration, and more success.
- 22 AGING WITH PURPOSE**  
Alumni couple want us to be valued by others and ourselves as we grow old.



Page 21

**EDITOR**

Kathryn Kirkland

**WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Chris Broderick, Dan Carter, Kelly James, Suzanne Pardington, Heather Quinn-Bork, David Santen '99, MS '04, Peter Simon, Melissa Steineger

**COPY EDITOR**

Martha Wagner

**DESIGN**

Brett Forman, Katie LaRosa

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

**ADDRESS CHANGES**

PSU Alumni Association  
www.pdx.edu/alumni  
click on "update your info"  
or call 503-725-4948

**ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE**

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

**PSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dan McDonald MBA '91,  
President  
Ron Adams '60  
Leila Aman '99  
David Audley MA '97  
Theresa Bell '11  
Aubré Dickson '98  
Al Fitzpatrick MA '83  
Nicole Gallagher '01  
Richard Helzer '62  
Kelly Hossaini '90, MURP '93  
Matthew Johnson '03, MURP '06  
David Keys '81, MBA '92  
Bill Lemman, Vanport, HD '04  
Kendal McDonald MA '02  
Greg Meyer MBA '08  
Jacob Sherman '10, MS '12  
Kirk Sidley '72  
Trudy Toliver '84  
John Whearty '91  
Ex-Officio: Marlon Holmes, ASPSU  
Vice President

*Portland State Magazine* is published three times a year, during fall, winter, and spring terms. Contents may be reprinted only by permission of the editor. The magazine is printed on recycled paper. Portland State University is an affirmative action / equal opportunity institution.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Measuring a Portland State degree



SPRING IS A REWARDING time on campus because it brings another record-breaking graduating class to Portland State. We expect more than 6,000 students to receive degrees this year.

This time of year also gives rise to a debate on the value of a college degree. In Oregon, where state support has declined and tuition has increased, it's a legitimate question: Is a bachelor's degree worth it?

Research shows that lifetime earnings for a college graduate are 2.3 times higher on average than for those without a degree. A recent national study from the Pew Charitable Trust showed that even during the recession, 21- to 24-year-olds with four-year degrees landed more higher-paying jobs than their peers with high school diplomas or two-year college degrees.

But there is much more to a degree than return on investment and more to a college education than job training. The true value of a university is to create educated citizens, and much of this is done through the interaction between students and faculty.

At PSU, faculty excellence is everywhere. Let me recognize some examples:

**Leslie Hammer**, psychology professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, heads a team that recently won a \$5 million grant from the Department of Defense to train employers of military veterans to provide more supportive workplaces.

**Sergio Palleroni**, professor of architecture in the College of the Arts, has won international acclaim for his work, often collaborating with his wife, PSU professor **Margaret Leite**, for projects such as affordable housing and "green" modular classrooms.

**Kelly Clifton**, civil and environmental engineer in the Maseeh College of

Engineering and Computer Science, won national attention for a surprising study that shows how Portland bicyclists spend more on average at neighborhood businesses than traditional car commuters.

**Lisa Bates**, urban studies professor in the College of Urban and Public Affairs, embodies PSU's "Let knowledge serve the city" mission for her work with planners to help create more opportunities in low-income neighborhoods in Portland, New Orleans, Chicago, and other cities.

Another professor whose passion is social justice is **Ann Curry-Stevens** in the School of Social Work. Her work with Multnomah County's Coalition of Communities of Color has helped spur reforms to reduce disparities in education, jobs, and justice.

**Mellie Pullman**, professor in the School of Business Administration, helps Oregon food producers improve their sustainability and market practices—her latest project focuses on teaching emerging craft brewers how to be successful.

**Hanoch Livneh**, professor in the Graduate School of Education, specializes in rehabilitation counseling and looking at how individuals cope with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries, disease, and disability.

These professors and others provide students with invaluable opportunities to assist in their real-world research. That's the PSU way.

Wim Wiewel  
PRESIDENT, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY



Portland State Magazine *wants to hear from you*. Email your comments to [psumag@pdx.edu](mailto: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.

# Letters

## Old cameras, fond memories

How nice of you to recall Andries Deinum and Tom Taylor in the winter 2013 issue of *Portland State Magazine* ["Cinematic Craft: Backstory"]. People involved in film during those years knew Deinum and Taylor well. They were a resource for people like me who got most of our training from trial and error.

Hard to believe now, but we had Arriflex, Eclair, and Mitchell cameras; Nagra sound; KEM, Steinbeck, and Moviola editing machines. And very little experience.

We all gained from association with Deinum and Taylor, who gave graciously. They were a big part of Portland film production history, and I didn't know of Deinum's run-in with HUAC [House Un-American Activities Committee].

*John D. Haney '56*  
Battle Ground, Washington

## Working pro teaching film students

Just enjoyed the winter magazine and especially the profile of the film program. You may already be aware that we're fortunate to not only have Dustin Morrow leading the charge for narrative film, but we also have Steve Amen, executive producer and host of *Oregon Field Guide* [Oregon Public Broadcasting]. We're truly blessed to have this national and regional Emmy Award-winning producer here at PSU. Steve's three-term Documentary Production series is the most comprehensive one in the region. PSU is way beyond lucky to have a 30-year veteran like Steve on board!

*Bruce Rash '12*

## Cafeteria social strata



Wow! The photo of PSC undergrads around the table in the College Center Cafeteria brought back instant memories [Looking Back, *Portland State Magazine*, Winter 2013]. That was my gang! We called ourselves Pung's Corner (after "The Wizards of Pung's Corners," a sci-fi story by Frederik Pohl).

Our table was on the left as you came down the stairs from the Park Avenue entrance, which sociologically put us in the "moderately social" section of the cafeteria. The gradation was unmistakable—fraternity row in the booths under the windows at the north (Montgomery Street) end, trending steadily to Pung's Corner (we were fairly studious, but you can see the card players), and on past the stairs into the growingly scholarly and alternative south end. By the time you reached the south wall, you were into the beards and long-haired protester types.

**In the photo** (we were freshmen in the spring of '63), clockwise from the lower left corner, are Vern Crow, me (just my right hand), Alison Love, Leighton Smith, Patricia Oberlander, Doug Evenson, Roger McLain, and a

friend of Roger's who was just visiting. The full ashtray is in front of him. Most of us traced our friendship to Professor Robert Tuttle's freshman honors English class.

Thanks for bringing us all together again inside your back cover.

*Jim Westwood '67*

## Low rent and store credit

I was reading your latest edition of *Portland State Magazine* and wanted to add a little note. My wife was working in the business office, and I was working as a janitor after getting out of the Air National Guard, and housing was critical for some students to stay in college.

PSU owned some houses on Broadway starting in about 1960, and one of those was 1867 SW Broadway, a three-story home. On the top floor were three or sometimes four girls who paid \$75/month rent—a lot when you consider wages were \$1.25 to \$1.50/hour. Without this affordable rent, attending college would have been impossible. Also there was PaPa John's grocery across the street that extended credit for needy students and always was repaid on payday.

*Bob Westlund '66*

**Editor's note:** Before urban renewal demolished the area directly around campus in 1968, there were many affordable apartments, restaurants and grocery stores now remembered fondly by students. I am pretty sure they were all privately owned, including this home that is now the site of PSU Parking Structure 1. However, please let me know if I am wrong.

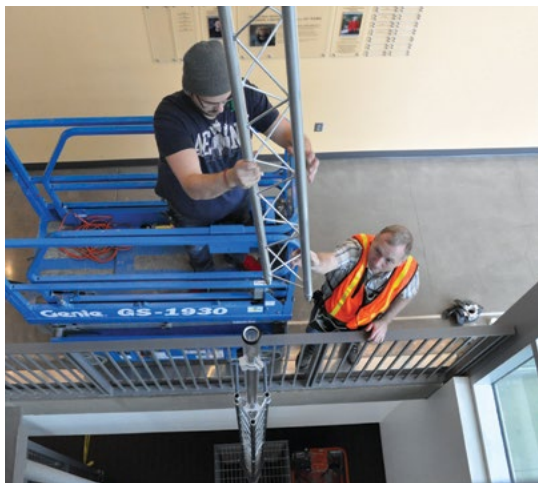
# Park Blocks



## Relating the history of Russia's Jews

A handful of consultants from around the world helped conceptualize and design a historic, new Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center that opened this fall in Moscow, Russia. Among the group was PSU's Natan Meir—the first academic called on to fill the huge museum with information and exhibits from Russia's Jewish history. Meir's expertise is especially evident in the rooms dedicated to Jewish migration,

the shtetl, and late Imperial Russia. These and all the special exhibits rely heavily on technology, such as interactive video screens and simulated fog and earthquakes. "It's one of the most exciting new museums to open in Russia in a long time," says Meir, who is the Lorry I. Lokey Chair of Judaic Studies in PSU's Harold Schnitzer Family Program.



## A big, big barometer

**AFTER THE REMODEL** of a science building several years ago, a pile of discarded glass pipes—two inches in diameter and up to 10 feet long—caught the eye of Tom Bennett, a civil and environmental engineering instrument technician. "What," he wondered, "can you do with long pieces of thick glass pipe?" His answer: Build a really tall barometer. Bennett (right), colleague Kyle Lutz, and a group of grad students installed the 47-foot instrument in the atrium of the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science. Barometers measure air pressure, and the taller they are, the more sensitive they are. "I'm kind of expecting that when someone opens the building's door," says Bennett, "we'll see a little blip from the pressure change."





## Children and violence

IT'S NOT HOW MUCH violence a child is exposed to that can create emotional and behavioral problems. It's exposure to a variety of different types of violence. That was a surprising finding in a five-year study by Laura Hickman of Portland State and researchers at the RAND Corporation. The study, published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, found

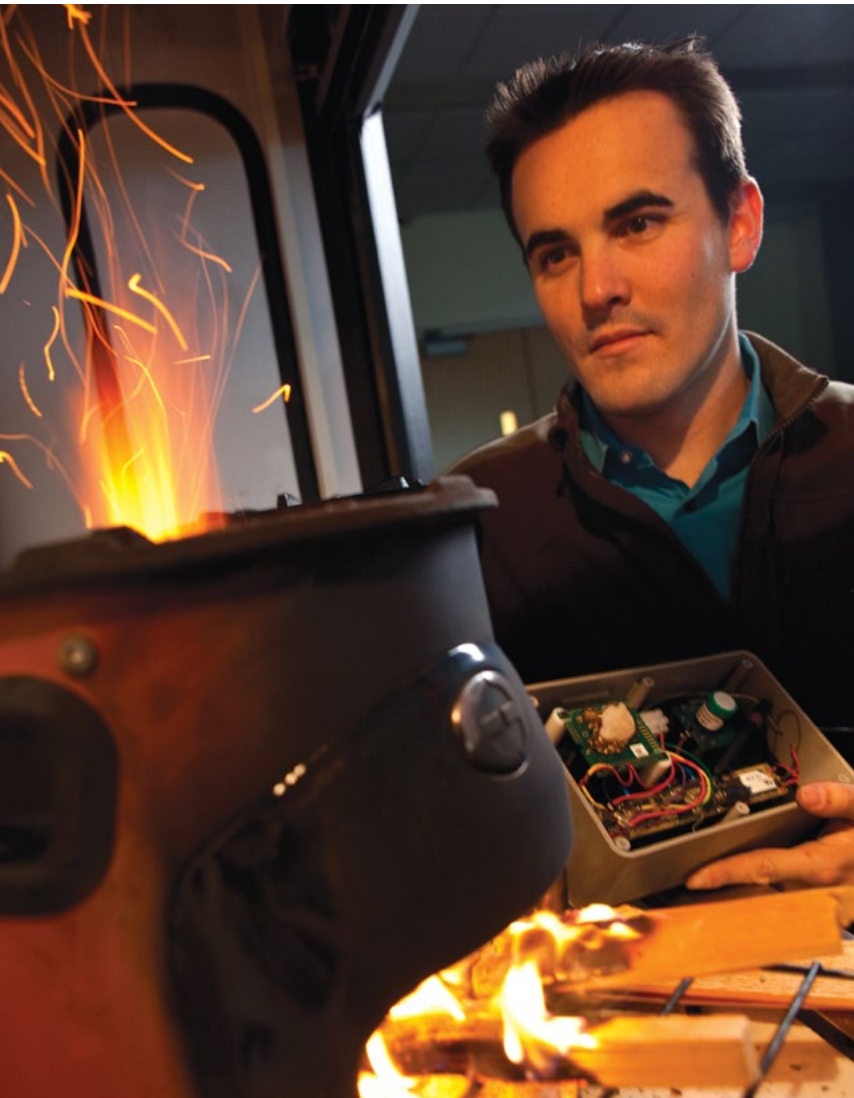
that children had the most negative symptoms when exposed to more than one category of violence, including sexual abuse, maltreatment, or witnessing violence such as last year's fatal shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. *Photo © Shannon Hicks/Newtown Bee/ZUMAPRESS.com.*

## Fueling Oregon's economy

OREGON'S ELECTRIC vehicle industry has grown significantly despite the recent recession, according to a new report by Portland State's Northwest Economic Research Center. The report found the electric vehicle industry—including parts suppliers, engineering firms, and manufacturers—plugged \$266.6 million into the state's economy and paid an estimated \$32.7 million in local, state and federal taxes in 2012. The study sets a baseline to gauge future industry performance. Electric Avenue, a block of charging stations on campus (pictured here), is another way Portland State is studying EV use in the region.







## Phoning a cookstove in Kenya

**WHAT'S THE POINT** in bringing water filters, clean-burning stoves, and sanitation facilities to the world's poor if they are not being used? None at all. That's why SWEETsense, a monitoring sensor that uses cell phone networks to transmit information from devices and facilities in Rwanda, Kenya, Indonesia, and Haiti to Portland State laboratories is so important. Engineering professor Evan Thomas (pictured here) and his students have created a new level of accountability for international relief efforts. It's also led to a new way to track air and water quality in the U.S. The work is part of Thomas's SWEETLab—Sustainable Water, Energy, and Environmental Technologies—where engineers design gravity water filters, compact clean-burning stoves, and other items for people in developing countries.

## Stories of women leaders

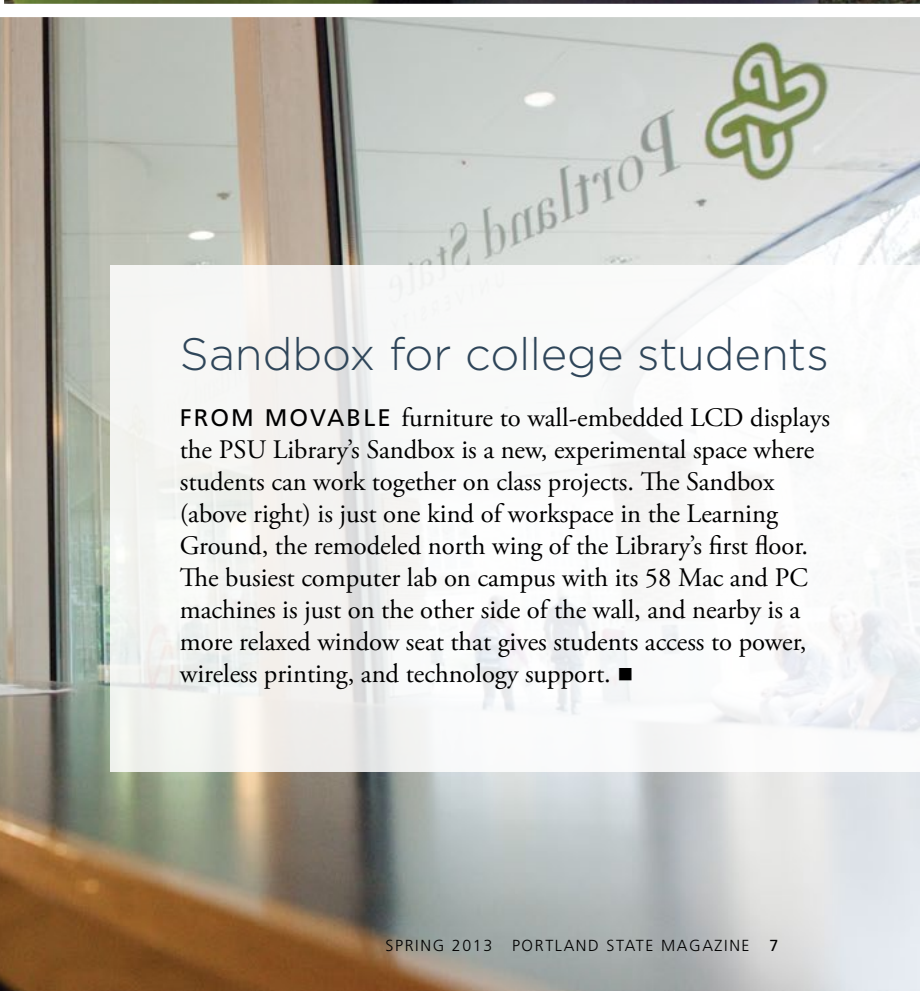
**THEY STARTED** their political careers as activists and volunteers for their neighborhoods, their children's schools, and for community issues that mattered to them. Today Eleanor Davis, Avel Gordly, Gretchen Kafoury, Vera Katz, Barbara Roberts, and Betty Roberts are recognized civic and political leaders for all Oregonians. The six women donated their papers to the PSU Library Special Collections, which makes them available to the public (the Katz Papers are still being cataloged). From Avel Gordly's efforts to remove racist language from the Oregon constitution to Barbara Roberts (seen here) becoming the first woman governor in the state, the papers show how these women shaped Oregon and the region.







PARK BLOCKS



## Sandbox for college students

**FROM MOVABLE** furniture to wall-embedded LCD displays the PSU Library's Sandbox is a new, experimental space where students can work together on class projects. The Sandbox (above right) is just one kind of workspace in the Learning Ground, the remodeled north wing of the Library's first floor. The busiest computer lab on campus with its 58 Mac and PC machines is just on the other side of the wall, and nearby is a more relaxed window seat that gives students access to power, wireless printing, and technology support. ■





## Saving Havana

The greenest building is the one that's already built, or so the saying goes. This is especially true in Havana, Cuba, where the city's repurposing of historic buildings has earned it a reputation as a leader in sustainability. In December, a group of six film, sociology, and urban planning students traveled there to study building reuse in action. What they found formed the basis for their interactive website, *TheGreenestPlaces.com*, and a soon-to-be released documentary. Their conclusions? Havana's historic preservation efforts are a short-term success, but city officials must address the dire housing needs of its most vulnerable residents.

**WE WANT TO HEAR** about your books and recordings and your future exhibits, performances, and directing ventures. Contact the magazine by emailing [psumag@pdx.edu](mailto:psumag@pdx.edu), or mailing Portland State Magazine, Office of University Communications, PO Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751.

## Helping new authors

**HOW DOES** a first-time author reach a larger audience? Late Night Library has some ideas. The Portland nonprofit, which celebrated its two-year anniversary this spring, works to introduce the reading public to debut authors through podcasts, readings, and reviews. And it's meant to be fun. "One of our goals is to get outside of a hyper literary audience," says managing editor Candace Opper MFA '12, pictured here. To do this, Late Night Library may feature music or performance art sandwiched between readings by new authors. Opper, who has a graphic design background, says she didn't feel particularly connected to the literary community before studying for her master's in nonfiction writing. She now uses that perspective to her advantage, making readings into appealing multi-genre events.





## Screenplay success

DOUGLAS SOESBE '71, MA '76 has hit the big time in Hollywood. Robin Williams (above) is set to star in a film that he wrote the screenplay for, titled *Boulevard*. Williams plays an unhappily married man whose life changes after meeting a guarded young man. "It's really about when we get to the middle of our lives, and realize we're not living the lives we should," says Soesbe. Dito Montiel is directing the movie, which is set to start filming this May in Nashville, Tennessee. Soesbe, a proud alumnus of PSU's playwriting program, has lived in Los Angeles for 35 years. He is currently a story analyst for Universal Pictures as well as a screenwriter.

## Voices of immigration



"WHEN YOU SEE a person telling their story, you can't help but be empathetic," says Melanie Blesio '00, MA '12. Stories are the focus of the new documentary, *The Unheard Voices of Our Neighbors*, told through heartfelt interviews with immigrants living in Oregon. Blesio produced the documentary as a project for her Conflict Resolution degree, while working as an intern at the Center for Intercultural Organizing in Portland. Her main goal was to raise awareness of the hardships immigrants face. "It

gave people a voice to tell their story, and I know it opened up many people's eyes." The documentary premiered in December at Portland's Hollywood Theatre, and the Center for Intercultural Organizing is planning future screenings. ■

## New Works

### EINSTEIN'S PHYSICS: ATOMS, QUANTA, AND RELATIVITY – DERIVED, EXPLAINED, AND APPRAISED

By Ta-Pei Cheng (Physics adjunct faculty),  
Oxford University Press, 2013

### ALIVE AT THE CENTER: CONTEMPORARY POEMS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Edited by Susan Denning MA '04, Daniela Elza, and Cody Walker; PSU's Ooligan Press, 2013

### WILL THIS BE CHINA'S CENTURY?: A SKEPTIC'S VIEW

By Mel Gurtov (Political Science emeritus faculty),  
Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013

### GOOD, CLEAN MURDER: A PLAIN JANE MYSTERY

By Traci Tyne Hilton,  
CreateSpace, 2013

### SECOND BEST: THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN VICE PRESIDENCY

By James E Hite '91, MPA '04, MS '11;  
Cognella Academic Publishing, 2013

### PRODUCING FOR TV AND NEW MEDIA: A REAL-WORLD APPROACH FOR PRODUCERS

By Cathrine Kellison, Dustin Morrow (film faculty), and Kacey Morrow; Focal Press, 2013

### UP NIGHTS

By Daniel Kine, PSU's Ooligan Press, 2013

### WHITE VESPA

By Kevin Oderman MA '76, Etruscan Press, 2012







## THE NEW

# COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

STUDENT DEMAND, GROWING PRESTIGE, AND SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY HAS LED TO A NEW NAME AND DESIGNATION FOR THE ARTS ON CAMPUS.

THE FACE OF CHANGE is about to appear on Lincoln Hall.

It's a new \$3.6 million glass tower that will be built this year on the Southwest Broadway side of Portland State's oldest building. The tower will house a dance studio, acting studio, and an art gallery, all prominently visible from the street. This glass addition is the result of a \$2.3 million gift from Portland arts benefactor Arlene Schnitzer, and will be the final phase of a more than \$30 million renovation of the hall itself.

But the tower is just a physical symbol of a larger change: the evolution of the entire arts spectrum at the University. In February, the School of Fine and Performing Arts became the College of the Arts. The name change is a reflection of the growth in prestige,





enrollment, and research dollars that the school—now the college—has been undergoing for years.

"The college name reflects the stature of our programs, the outstanding work of our faculty, and the vital support of the arts community in Portland," says Barbara Sestak, dean of the college.

The new college is made up of the School of Architecture, School of Art & Design, School of Music, and School of Theatre & Film, and is home to some of the fastest growing programs at the University. More than 2,800 students are majoring in arts programs at PSU. The College of the Arts is one of only a handful of institutions in the world to bring this variety of creative disciplines under one umbrella.

Here's a look inside.

Opposite page photos, clockwise starting top left: PSU Symphony Orchestra, costume shop, graphic design class, Time Arts Club exhibit, musical *Urine Town*, architecture design class, campus foundry, taiko drum performance

-  SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
-  SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN
-  SCHOOL OF MUSIC
-  SCHOOL OF THEATRE & FILM







# SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Shattuck Hall had its own major renovation three years ago, which transformed the 1915 building into a naturally lit, open, dynamic facility for Portland's next generation of architects. Last year it opened the Ecological Learning Plaza featuring vertical gardens, a green roof system, and original furniture designs.

Rethinking spaces is what architecture is all about, and the work coming out of the School of Architecture is an expression of that idea. A recent PSU project redefined modular classrooms, transforming them from stuffy bungalows into bright, sustainable, healthy learning spaces. Faculty and students have worked all over the world, from helping the rebuilding efforts in post-Katrina New Orleans, to designing schools in Nepal.

Recently, the school's Master of Architecture degree received accreditation from the National Architecture Accrediting Board. This allows its graduates to pursue professional licenses.



*Fine arts class*

# SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN

Students from a variety of backgrounds interact, exchange ideas, and expand their aesthetic boundaries in the School of Art & Design. It boasts more than 1,400 students taught by a faculty of internationally recognized artists, designers, and scholars. Graphic design is one of the school's most popular programs, and its unique Art as Social Practice master's program brings interactive, collaborative art to the public.

Art and design students have easy access to the Portland Art Museum, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, and major downtown galleries and design firms. This gives them a great opportunity to gather inspiration for their own developing expression.

In March, the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation announced the creation of the Arlene Schnitzer Visual Arts Prize, awarding a total of \$9,500 annually to two outstanding PSU art students. It will be the largest cash award offered in the School of Art & Design, and is recognition of PSU as a major player in the arts in the Pacific Northwest.



*Architecture studio*

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Take a walk through Lincoln Hall, and you'll hear a jazz combo rehearsing in one room, a student practicing violin or trumpet scales in another, and a guitarist or bass player working through arpeggios in a hallway. The building is brimming with glorious sounds.

The School of Music provides an outstanding forum for the training of students seeking professional music careers, preparing for advanced degrees, or pursuing non-major study in the areas of performance, composition, conducting, jazz studies, theory, history, music education, pedagogy, music technology and ethnomusicology.

The school also presents top-notch performances throughout the year, from full-on orchestral and choral concerts to solo recitals. This is where Grammy-winner Esperanza Spalding got her start. PSU is also one of the few universities in the country that produces a full opera with orchestra every year, and many of the singers and musicians are undergraduate students.



*The Servant of Two Masters*

## SCHOOL OF THEATRE & FILM

Whether in front of an audience or behind the stage or camera lens, PSU theatre and film students get a chance to stretch their performing and production skills.

The theatre arts program puts on performances throughout the academic year, from Shakespeare to modern musicals. The film program has one of the fastest-growing majors at the University. More than 300 students are enrolled in the program and over 100 students graduated in the first five years. Students have found work opportunities with locally filmed shows such as *Portlandia*, *Leverage*, and *Real World*.

Headquartered in Lincoln Hall, the School of Theatre & Film features dedicated rehearsal and design studios, screening rooms, production offices, scene and costume facilities, and computer labs. ■



*Jazz studies class*



# Hazardous to your health

Odorless, colorless and dangerous, radon gas poses a real risk in Oregon homes.

WRITTEN BY JOHN KIRKLAND

**TOWARD THE END** of the last ice age—between 15,000 and 18,000 years ago—one of the most cataclysmic events in Pacific Northwest history reshaped the upper Willamette Valley. As a result, it gave certain areas of modern-day Portland a lung cancer risk that is second only to smoking.

The culprit is radon. It's an odorless, colorless radioactive gas emitted by all types of rocks, but especially granite. It becomes harmful when it seeps up through the soil and into residential basements. Every year, 20,000 people in the United States die of radon-caused lung cancer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Portland State geology professor Scott Burns has spent the past 20 years mapping the radon levels of locations throughout the Portland metro area. His first study in 1993 took radon data from 1,100 Portland homes, and mapped low, moderate and high levels of risk. The study changed the way government officials, homeowners, builders, and real estate agents looked at radon, and eventually helped to create new building laws to guard against radon exposure.

Scott Burns and his student research team looked at radon levels in 32,000 Portland homes and another 22,000 around the state.

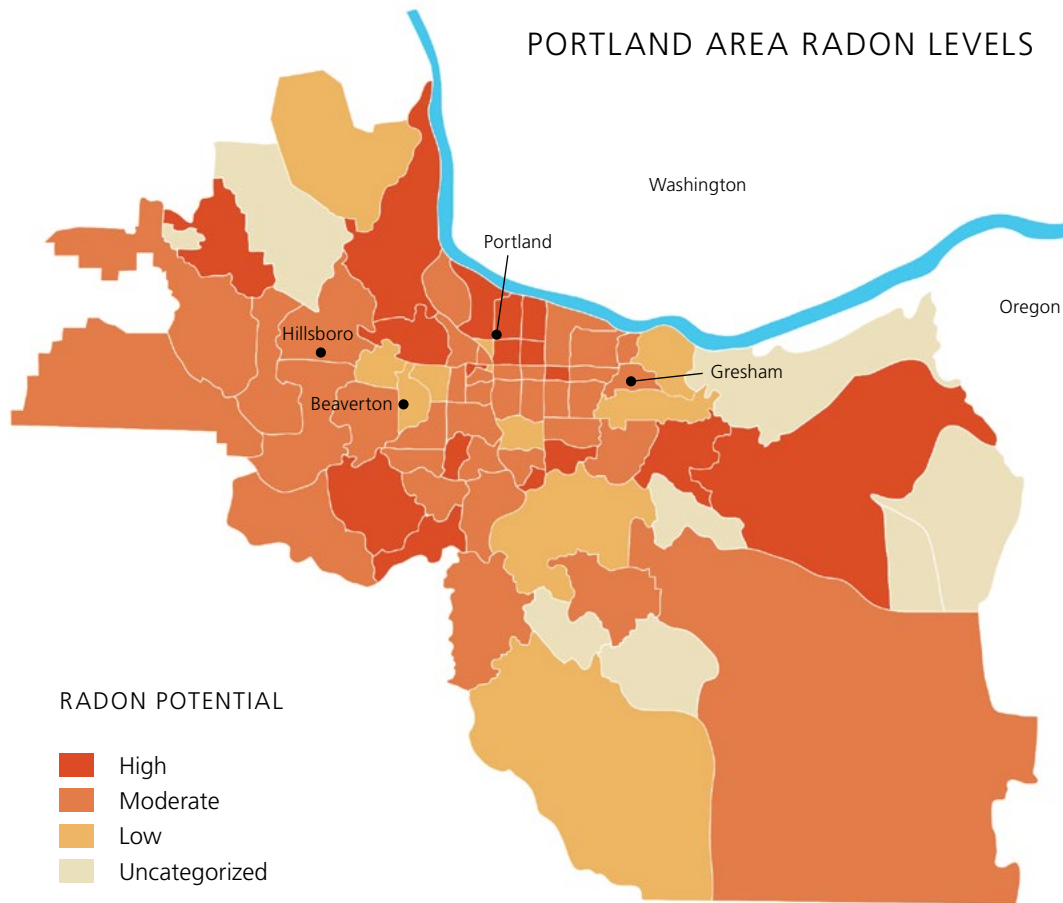
That initial study turned out to be the tip of the iceberg. In January, Burns and his student research team came out with a report from a much broader sampling: 32,000 homes in the Portland area and another 22,000 from around the state. It showed more places in the Portland area with a high risk of radon exposure, and for the first time, pointed out other hot spots in the state with dangerous levels of radon, including Milton-Freewater, Lakeview, Sandy, Silverton, and parts of Baker County.

Suddenly Burns was on the front page of Oregon newspapers and was being interviewed by radio and TV reporters. Not long after, Salem's *Statesman Journal* reported hardware stores in Silverton were having a hard time keeping home radon test kits on the shelves. That's because Burns wasn't just talking about the newfound prevalence of radon, but the fact that it's something homeowners can do something about. Homeowners can perform an inexpensive test in their homes, and if levels are high, they can fix the problem by repairing basement walls and installing ventilation.

"It's the cheapest of all the geological hazards out there," he says.

But how did it get here?

**MOST OF THE RADON** danger in the Portland area and, in fact, much of Portland's topography, can be traced to the Missoula Floods, which occurred several thousand years ago. During the last ice age, a glacier in Idaho blocked a major river coming out of Montana. Water behind the blockage rose to



a depth of 2,100 feet and contained the equivalent of half of Lake Michigan. The ice dam broke, creating a flood of biblical proportions. It scoured the eastern half of Washington, then filled up the Columbia Gorge, traveling at speeds of up to 60 miles an hour.

“If you take the flows of all the rivers in the world measured in cubic meters per second, add them up and multiply by 10, you have the flow rate of the Missoula Floods,” Burns says.

The floodwaters filled the Willamette Valley to a depth of 400 feet all the way to present-day Eugene, and then receded north, joined the Columbia River, and drained into the Pacific.

The water carried granite sediment from Montana, and deposited it at various spots along its course. All rocks are radioactive to some extent, because they all contain trace levels of uranium, but some have more than others. Basalt, coming from the Northwest’s volcanoes, doesn’t have much; granite does. Radon is a product of the breakdown of that uranium. A house built on soils containing granite sediments—especially porous soils that allow the radon gasses to rise and dissipate—is subject to dangerous levels of radon exposure.

Portland’s Alameda Ridge is one such place, and has one of the highest radon levels in the city. The ridge was formed when the Missoula floodwaters encountered Rocky Butte. There, the waters slowed and changed course, depositing several cubic miles of granite-rich sediment.

Burns has known about radon levels on Alameda Ridge since his first study came out 20 years ago, and his most recent study backed it up. The surprises came when areas that were not really affected by the Missoula Floods cropped up as being high in radon: Sandy, for example.

“Sandy is my mystery city. It was above the Missoula Floods, so I can’t figure out why the levels are high.”

Newberg also doesn’t fit the same profile as other high-radon areas. The soils there are not very porous—which seems to be a prerequisite for high readings. However, it sits on top of major faults, which enable the release of radon from deep in the earth, Burns says.

**DATA FOR THE STUDY** came from tests people throughout the state performed in their homes. For as little as \$12, you can get a test kit from your local hardware or home



# THE OREGON IDEA

## Students and families pay more when the state invests less

A university education may soon be out of reach for many Oregonians, who now pay 20 percent above the national average for a college or university education.

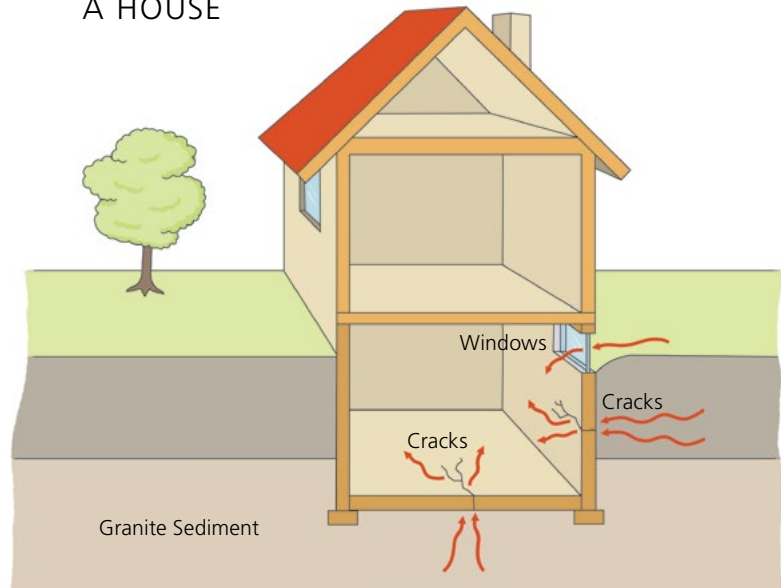
The Oregon Legislature is making decisions this spring that will determine the cost of an education at Portland State and at the other state universities. It's worth it to invest in higher education, which creates more than \$6 billion dollars in economic impact for the state each year.

The Oregon Idea is a statewide nonprofit group that advocates for affordable college opportunities for all Oregonians.

Join The Oregon Idea to keep tuition affordable

theoregonidea.com  
503-595-7619

## HOW RADON ENTERS A HOUSE



improvement store. You just open the kit and place it in your basement. Material in the kit reacts to radon in the air. After a week, you send the kit to a lab, and the lab sends back a reading, measured in picocuries per liter. Anything over 4 picocuries per liter is considered high. Testing is included in the price of the kit.

For \$25, you can get a longer-term, more accurate test kit. It's made of a different material, and it's placed in a home for three months.

"It gives you a better picture of what's going on," Burns says.

Brett Sherry, the state radon officer with the Oregon Health Authority gathers test results from the manufacturers of the kits, and that's where Burns got the data for the recent mapping study. Sherry says his office is too small to do the mapping work. As a result, Burns plays a valuable role in the state's effort to get the word out about radon.

Burns enlisted students Tamara Linde, Kassie Lindsey, and Hilary Whitney to crunch the test numbers, sort them by zip code, and plot the results on a map. The experience was eye-opening for Whitney, who talked with the owners of private radon testing companies in Portland. Their test results showed that one house could test radically different than one next door.

The difference is often the result of the home's condition. A home with cracked basement walls that let in radon gas can have a much higher reading than one with no cracks, even if they're right next to each other.

"So the risk of being exposed to radon is really not guaranteed to be distributed evenly in a given neighborhood or area, and that's why the EPA, local radon testing companies, and those of us who are studying radon at PSU recommend that every home be tested for radon gas. Because you never know," Whitney says.

Burns couldn't agree more. He says the data his team gathered showed that Portland in general had twice the national average of homes with radon levels higher than 4 picocuries per liter, and that it's in everyone's best interest to do a home test.

"We will probably generate another 20,000 to 30,000 tests in the Portland area as a result of our findings," he says. ■

*John Kirkland, a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications, wrote "Stop-Motion Magic" in the winter 2013 Portland State Magazine.*

# Rethinking Portland State

The classroom experience may radically change because of new ideas from faculty and staff.

**STUDENTS ANYWHERE** in the world can soon earn an undergraduate business degree, study the emerging field of complex systems science, or learn how to start a business with a social mission—all fully online through Portland State.

These are three of the initiatives that grew out of “reThink PSU,” a campuswide push to improve teaching and learning at the University by investing in innovation.

The new programs are different from other online classes and degrees because they are testing ideas and technology that could transform every student’s experience at Portland State, making classes more flexible, interactive, and affordable.

Sona Andrews, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, put out a call last fall for new ways to adapt to the rapid changes in higher education, such as the growth of online education, the rising cost of tuition, and the demand to educate a larger and more diverse student population.

On the table: \$3 million in seed money for the most promising ideas.

The response was overwhelming. In December, faculty and staff submitted 162 proposals for everything from interactive classroom strategies to new online degrees. Awards were announced in May.

“This is a real opportunity for PSU to think creatively about the challenges we face and to create learning environments for students that address current and future needs,” Andrews says.

Some of the projects selected for funding focus on developing and supporting online, business, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs, as well as assessing and awarding credits for prior learning.

The School of Business Administration plans to expand its reach with a set of related initiatives that could be a model for other schools, including two new online undergraduate business degrees, a new online certificate in social entrepreneurship, and more online support for internships and advising. The University currently offers four fully online degrees.



Jeanne Enders, associate dean for undergraduate business programs, says more students are asking for the flexibility of online classes, and real-time video is making it easier for students and faculty to interact without coming to campus.

“More and more professional work is being done in these kinds of environments,” Enders says. “If we miss this boat, it’s going to be hard to be relevant.”

**THE FIRST** fully online, part-time undergraduate business degrees will start in fall 2013. And the first online social entrepreneurship certificate will launch in spring 2014, tapping a growing market of adults who want to use business tools to address a social or environmental problem.

Technology is also changing the way students learn on campus.

For instance, Melanie Mitchell, a computer science professor, will post her introductory lectures online for students to watch on their own time and use her live class time for student projects. This approach, called a “flipped classroom,” will give students more time to work together to apply what they are learning to real problems.

Mitchell’s lectures will be part of a new cluster of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in complex systems science in partnership with the Santa Fe Institute, courses that are free and open to anyone.

The MOOCs have the potential to raise Portland State’s reputation in the emerging field of complex systems, the study of large, self-organized networks without a central control, such as ant colonies and the immune system, Mitchell says.

It seems to be working: Her first MOOC, launched in February, has already enrolled 6,600 students.

.....  
For the full list of proposed projects, go to [rethink.pdx.edu](http://rethink.pdx.edu). ■



# HERE IN AMERICA

Women students from Saudi Arabia are finding a strikingly different but welcoming culture at Portland State.



WRITTEN BY MEG DESCAMP

**MASHAER ALFARAJ** came here from Alsharqiya, Saudi Arabia, two years ago, right out of high school, to study geology. Her father and older sister came along and stayed for one month while she got set up in an apartment.

“I did not know how to do anything!” Alfaraj, now 20, remembers. “My mom bought all my clothes, she did all my laundry. I had never written a check. I had to learn to do everything by myself. I have a brother studying in Eugene, and he comes up every so often, but mostly I am doing everything by myself.”

Alfaraj’s story is not unusual for the more than 100 Saudi Arabian women enrolled at PSU, part of a swelling Saudi student population across the United States. In 2005, the Saudi Arabian government launched the Saudi Scholarship Program, which has pushed PSU’s Saudi student population from 49 in 2005 to nearly 500 in 2012, including another 200 students in English language classes. Their government pays for full tuition, health care, a housing stipend, and yearly round trip airline tickets for trips back to Saudi Arabia.

With more than 70,000 students across the globe, the program is designed to promote cultural understanding and establish closer ties between Saudi Arabia and more than 20 other nations. Forging those ties is challenging when language, cultural customs, and everyday expectations are radically different. Life in the U.S. is especially daunting for Saudi women, who are not used to mixed-gender classrooms, living on their own, interacting with strangers, or the informal manners of many Americans.

**DINA LINGGA**, 37, works with Saudi students in the international student advising office. As an advisor, she helps these students—especially women—adjust to life in the U.S. Her duties are many, and include acting as an interpreter, helping Saudi women navigate the PSU campus, and providing general information.

“We encourage the women to really engage with America and to build social networks both with other Saudi students and with American students,” says Lingga. “Living as a woman



Left to right: Mashaer Alfaraj, Dina Lingga, and Rawan Altaweel are three of more than 700 students from Saudi Arabia now studying at Portland State.

*Life in the U.S. is especially daunting for Saudi women, who are not used to mixed-gender classrooms, living on their own, interacting with strangers, or the informal manners of many Americans.*



in the U.S. is so different than in Saudi Arabia. There, women must have a male to do everything—drive, get a contract of any sort such as rent or utilities. So we help them do these things for themselves. They want to experience a different kind of life, and PSU offers a great opportunity.”

Lingga came here in 2008 from Jeddah, along with her two young sons and her mother. Like many Saudi students, she chose PSU based on family connections—two brothers and an uncle had studied here. She spent a year studying in PSU’s Intensive English Language Program, which prepares students to tackle university classes taught in English.

It’s not always a painless transition from English language classes to University classes, where lectures and discussions seem to move at lightning speed. Lamia AlHamidi, a business student, initially found it challenging to be surrounded by native English speakers, and says of her public speaking class, “It was terrifying! I couldn’t stop shaking before my first speech. Then I noticed that all these English speakers were really nervous, too, even though they were speaking in their

native language. So that gave me more confidence to speak up. I learned it’s just fine to make mistakes.”

Alfaraj, the geology student from Alsharqiya, agrees. “It goes so fast, and my brain still thinks in Arabic, translates everything into Arabic and then back. I am working very hard! I would sit through a whole calculus class and not understand a single word the instructor said, even though I understand the calculus. For about a month I just wanted to go home.”

She stops for a deep breath. “I don’t know anyone in my class, and I don’t know how to respond if another student tries to make friends. But I came here all the way to be a geologist, so I have to be successful. I want to work for a large Saudi petrol company, and then come back to the U.S. to earn my graduate degree. That keeps me going.”

**LIKE MOST SAUDI** women on campus, Alfaraj, AlHamidi, and Lingga choose to wear headscarves and modest clothing.

“One of the best things about PSU is that we can be who we are and not feel as if people are judging us based on what



we wear. When I dress like this, people react to me as a person, not as a woman,” Lingga says.

Some Saudi women at PSU wear extremely conservative clothing that covers most of their face and body. “They are not hiding,” says Lingga. “They tell me they feel comfortable here. They can enjoy American life and still keep their customs and cultural dress.”

AlHamidi agrees that Portland is a welcoming place to be a Saudi woman. “I really like the people here, how friendly they are. I feel that I am not judged on my culture or religion or dress.” Now 22, she arrived five years ago from Riyadh with her parents, one brother, and two sisters, so that she and her siblings could study in the United States.

“I have been visiting here since I was 9, and I know and like this culture,” says AlHamidi. “Here, people respect your time. Even if it’s the dean, he’s on time when you meet with him. That’s a very good thing.

“Another difference between here and Saudi Arabia is that people respect younger children, like my little sister. They ask her what she needs. Back home, people ask the parents what the child needs. I think this way is good for children.”

After graduating this spring with a double major in human resources and leadership/management, AlHamidi is looking forward to building her career in Saudi Arabia. “I will miss the creativity of the United States, but I miss my friends so much!” She hopes to work in human resources for a corporation and eventually open her own business, perhaps a cafe.

“In Saudi Arabia, cafes are split into two sections: one just for men and the other for families, including husbands,” says AlHamidi. “I think women are more comfortable around other women, so my café would be just for women.”

Lingga has earned a graduate degree in conflict resolution and has applied to Portland State’s doctoral program in sociology. She plans to stay in the U.S. for now, furthering her education and supporting young Saudi women who are a world away from home, but determined to be successful—women like Alfaraj, who says, “I’ve learned from this that challenges come for everyone. It was so hard at first, but now it gets better and better, and I know I can handle it and graduate.” ■

*Meg DesCamp, a Portland freelance writer, contributed the story “Is Portland Really Portlandia?” in the Winter 2013 Portland State Magazine.*



Left to right: Students Dina Lingga, Mashaer Alfaraj and Rawan Altaweel find support in the Middle East Studies advisors office.





A remodel and expansion of the School of Business Administration as seen (left) from Southwest Broadway and in the new lobby and event space.

# A bigger, better BUSINESS SCHOOL

**An \$8 million gift fuels plans for more space, more collaboration, and more success at the School of Business Administration.**

IN TODAY'S collaborative business world, it makes sense for business students to practice working in teams, but at PSU a lack of space has made that tough. Until now.

An \$8 million gift, the largest ever to the School of Business Administration, is supporting an ambitious plan to triple the size of the school by 2016.

A local MBA alumnus and his wife, who wish to remain anonymous, made the investment for students like Emily Schrum. She led a team of finance students to victory in a recent competition judged by industry professionals, despite a lack of team meeting space.

With just two months to put their financial analysis of Nike together, the students first tried meeting in a nearby restaurant, but it was too noisy and

lacked laptop projection. They eventually found an empty conference room in the Business School, but it was only available on Saturdays.

"We met anywhere we could," says Schrum, but "a team room would have made a big difference."

The remodel and expansion of the School of Business Administration will relieve overcrowding and allow the school's nearly 5,000 students to learn under one roof. Currently students, professors, and classrooms are scattered across campus.

Some might say it's about time. PSU's Business School is the largest in the Northwest, offering master's degrees in business administration, financial analysis, international management, healthcare management, global supply chain management and real estate management. The school's MBA program is ranked first in the world among small business schools by The Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C.

The recent \$8 million gift, a tie for the second largest gift in the University's history, brings PSU much closer to the \$20 million it needs to raise in private funds for the \$60 million project. Private funding has now reached \$13 million, and PSU is seeking authorization for \$40 million in state bonds from the

Oregon Legislature. The bond request is first on the Oregon University System's priority list and has been recommended by Gov. John Kitzhaber.

The transformative project calls for renovation of the entire building and a new 42,000-square-foot building connecting to its north side. Classrooms will be redesigned to create more usable spaces that encourage student participation and group discussion. And for the first time, the Business School will have an auditorium for large presentations and lectures. In addition, the building will have space for retail on the ground floor, which has already prompted multiple inquires from businesses. The goal is to ensure that retailers add value to the new Business School community.

The state-of-the-art facility will be designed for LEED Platinum status, the independent certification awarded when a building meets 80 percent or more of criteria set for environmentally responsible construction and ongoing operations.

Groundbreaking is set for January 2015 with completion expected in fall of 2016.

And the project includes something that would have made the student finance team's job a little easier—25 team rooms. ■



Students Preety Novlani, Emily Schrum, Sameer Allabadi (pictured left to right), and Shauna Thomas took first place at a regional financial analyst competition.



# Aging with purpose

Alumni couple Keren Brown Wilson and Michael DeShane want to make sure that as we grow older we are valued by others and ourselves.

WRITTEN BY CARRIE STURROCK

**NO ONE** should look forward to retirement.

At least that's the way Keren Brown Wilson PhD '83 and Michael DeShane MA '71, PhD '77 hope to shape the conversation as society grows proportionally older.

"Meaningful and purposeful activity is critical to people's sense of well-being," says Wilson. "If you're 65, you have a good 25 years ahead of you—more than one-quarter of your life. And the notion that you don't have anything left to do and can't be fully integrated into society is silly."

Wilson, 65, and DeShane, 71, have no plans to retire and much they want to accomplish. They funded the Aging Matters: Locally and Globally Initiative at the PSU Institute on Aging with \$1 million, and Wilson has also been instrumental in the institute's evolution. The initiative seeks to broaden and change the way society views aging, and Wilson and DeShane have worked with the University to highlight challenges facing the most underserved elderly here and abroad.

As true change agents for the elderly, Wilson, DeShane and a few other visionaries started the first assisted living residence in Oregon in 1983. It provided personal care services to residents in their private apartments—a radical departure from the nursing home model where residents had little independence or control. Wilson served as the residence's first administrator and further delineated its model of care from those of nursing homes. Today, she is considered the architect of the Oregon model of assisted living, a model that has been copied across the country.

DeShane is president of Concepts in Community Living Inc., headquartered in Clackamas, which operates 17 assisted living residences, mostly in rural communities.

In June, the two will receive the College of Urban and Public Affairs' Urban Pioneer Award—its most prestigious honor.

"They're thoughtful and very engaged in terms of thinking about the situation in our world today and trying to identify solutions to problems," says Margaret Neal, director of the Institute on Aging.

**THE COUPLE** have dedicated themselves to serious work, but weave humor into their interactions and outlook. With 7,000 to 10,000 Baby Boomers turning 65 every day for the next 18 years, they see a vital need for more policy discussions on how this demographic change will impact everything from housing to transportation to employment.

"Aging is not sexy," says Wilson. "If we could just figure out how to make it sexy."

"That's going to be difficult," says DeShane.

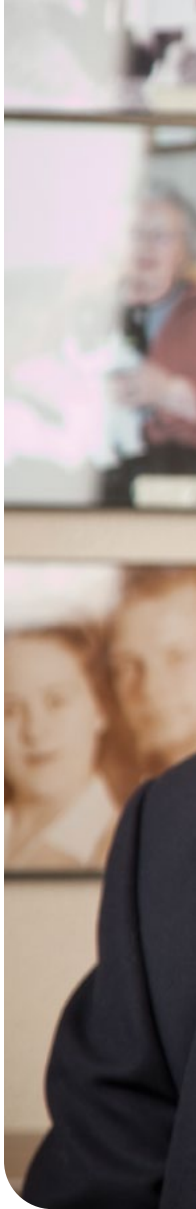
At least, says Wilson, we can make it interesting.

That's something both believe aging is, since older people have crucial skills, experience, and perspective—and often aren't as worried about what other people think.

"You should think of old age as the time to get political: 'By God, let's go out and get them,'" says DeShane.

Or, says Wilson, simply "find something with meaning and attach yourself to it and have the same kind of fervor and passion we think is appropriate in very young people."

In changing how society thinks about aging, Wilson and DeShane say it's important to scrap many "age appropriate" boundaries, especially in education. Instead of considering





Michael DeShane MA '71, PhD '77 and Keren Brown Wilson PhD '83 have done a lot for older Oregonians, including funding the Aging Matters: Locally and Globally Initiative at the PSU Institute on Aging.

college mostly for the 18- to 21-year-old set, society should embrace the idea that people attend periodically throughout their lives. A big goal of the Aging Matters Initiative is to make universities relevant to older people.

“We need an ageless society where starting college at 45 is no different than starting at 20,” says DeShane, adding, in a nod to the IFC television show *Portlandia*, “We want Portland to be a place where old people go to unretire.”

The DeShane Wilson Scholarship, which the couple established in 2007, is helping students in their 20s, but is open to those of any age. The scholarship is for students who complete two years at Clackamas Community College and then transfer to PSU to earn a bachelor's degree. Preference is given to health studies and social science students. So far, eight DeShane Wilson scholars have graduated from Portland State, three others attend the University, and several more attend Clackamas Community College.

“We invest in scholarships because we believe they have the power to change lives and because we derive pleasure from returning the investment others have made in us,” says Wilson. “Most of us have benefited from someone's kindness at some point in our lives.”

**FOCUSED KINDNESS** is a good descriptor for Wilson, who now spends most of her days running the Jessie F. Richardson Foundation. She established the foundation in the mid 1970s and later named it after her mother, whose nursing home experience of no door locks or independence prompted her to ask her daughter, then a graduate student, “Why don't you do something to help people like me?”

The foundation works with PSU as well as Concordia and Pacific universities on student service learning projects to help poor and elderly people in Nicaragua. At PSU, students take a spring course and then spend two weeks in Nicaragua building



physical improvements like handrails. They also train caregivers and medical first responders on what to do when an elderly person falls, becomes lost, or has a heart attack.

“If your family can’t take care of you, you are in a world of hurt,” says Wilson. “It’s just a lot of extreme poverty.”

And the problem isn’t just in Nicaragua. By 2050, 80 percent of the world’s elderly population will be in developing countries.

The foundation just started a new initiative in Appalachia where a big challenge is protecting the elderly from drug-addicted children and grandchildren. Wilson wants to create a special community health worker program to train older people to help their peers recognize and come to terms with the abuse. That model could be replicated across the U.S. since the problem is becoming endemic.

These specially trained workers would also help their peers handle chronic medical conditions. Evidence suggests Baby Boomers, particularly those born between 1946 and 1964, will experience more health problems, including obesity, diabetes, and hypertension, says Wilson. Partly, she says, it’s diet and partly people are simply living longer due to advances in

The foundation run by Keren Brown Wilson just started a new initiative in Appalachia where a big challenge is protecting the elderly from drug-addicted children and grandchildren.

modern medicine. DeShane himself had fairly routine heart valve replacement surgery at 65.

But the model of care DeShane and Wilson promote is intentionally not a “medical model” that treats a person as a disease or set of problems, says Paula Carder, a faculty member in PSU’s Institute on Aging. Instead it’s a “social model” that considers a person’s life history and honors their independence—including allowing people to make choices that could be judged bad from a medical standpoint.

**ALTHOUGH THEY** have no plans to retire, Wilson, who has worked long days for many years, would like to work a little less. The two have a child from DeShane’s first marriage and four grandchildren. They have 38 nieces and nephews. And four cats. Wilson wants to spend more time with family and friends, work on her genealogy research, and volunteer for organizations whose missions she supports. DeShane plays golf when he can, he says, “but not well.” He occasionally tinkers with old cars. The two live in Happy Valley, have a home in Bend, but like to travel. They’ve been to every continent except Antarctica.

DeShane won’t stop working in part because there is so much to do for the frail and elderly. And his friends are at work.

It’s his purpose. ■

*Carrie Sturrock is a Portland freelance writer.*



Michael DeShane visits with a resident at Rackleff Place in Canby, one of 17 assisted living residences his company, Concepts in Community Living, manages.

## A place of honor

WITH DIRECTOR Ann Marie Fallon's vibrant new leadership, the University Honors Program is attracting top-tier students—and significant gifts.

The Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust announced earlier this year its commitment to give \$1 million to the program, including the third-largest gift to establish a scholarship endowment in PSU history. The Tucker gift supports Honors students through scholarships, research, internships, visiting scholar seminars, and a new urban ecology lab.

The University Honors Program challenges high-achieving, academically motivated undergraduates in all majors to develop critical reading, writing, and research skills through classes and projects unique to Portland State's urban location. Enrollment has more than doubled in the past two years, from 153 students in 2010 to 343 students this year. The Tucker gift is expected to help boost enrollment to 600 within five years.

Named director of the program in 2011, Fallon, a humanities faculty member, has earned high praise from President Wim Wiewel.

"Leadership matters," he says. "You have the right person, the right focus, the right energy and you can make things happen. Ann Marie Fallon took it and said, 'I'm going to build this into a great program.' And she is doing just that."

Freshman Melecio Estrella of Davis, California, found what he was looking for in PSU's Honors Program. He chose it because he liked its smaller, discussion-based classes, easy access to professors, and urban focus. "It fit perfectly," says the environmental engineering major. "I couldn't imagine everything coming together so well."

Estrella was named a Sustainability Scholar, a new award for Honors freshmen with support from the PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions and the James F. and Marion L. Miller



Freshman Melecio Estrella is in the University Honors Program and is one of the first students to receive the program's sustainability scholarship.

Foundation. The scholarship comes with a yearly \$5,000 grant (renewable for four years), a faculty mentor, and research opportunities. Estrella lives on a new Honors Program-only floor in Stephen Epler Hall.

"I would really encourage applicants to sit in on a class, because that was a huge part of my decision," Estrella says. "All the students seemed engaged, and the professor did a great job of directing the discussion."

The Tucker gift includes \$500,000 for Honors Program scholarships in the form of a challenge grant, calling on PSU to raise an additional \$500,000 in scholarship gifts. To participate in the challenge, contact Liz Frawley, 503-725-2681 or [efrawley@pdx.edu](mailto:efrawley@pdx.edu). ■



**VIRTUOSO REMEMBERED.** James DePreist, who transformed the Oregon Symphony during his 23-year tenure as music director, died February 8, 2013. In 2002, the University established the James DePreist Visiting Professorship in Art through gifts from the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation and many generous community members. For more information about the DePreist Visiting Professorship, contact Ann Prater, 503-725-3396 or [aprater@pdx.edu](mailto:aprater@pdx.edu). Photo courtesy [Julliard.edu](http://Julliard.edu).



# Alumni



## PORTLAND STATE OF Mind

GET INTO THE Portland State of Mind October 19-27 as the University opens its doors to the community for fun, athletic, and educational events.

## Table manners matter

THE PSU ALUMNI Association hosted the first annual Student Etiquette Dinner in January. More than 150 students and alumni enjoyed a four-course meal while etiquette expert Simi Ranajee explained the art of balancing dining etiquette with great networking skills. Since many

internship and job interviews take place over coffee or lunch, learning how to combine table manners with effective networking is vital, says Ranajee. PSU alumni volunteered as table hosts to create a more realistic networking atmosphere and connect with current students.



## On the road again

RECREATING A MOTORCYCLE trip he and his friends took 50 years ago, David Yaden '70 proves that age has nothing to do with adventure. Yaden, who rode with one of the original bikers as well as new friends, wrote to the Alumni Association via email, "I cannot imagine not having this adventure. And, forget the easy road. Get lost and find yourself." He is now back home in Lake Oswego with wife, Janice '66, but his blog from the road, [yaden.org/motoraidblog](http://yaden.org/motoraidblog), remains an inspiration.



## Connect & benefit

**MEMBERSHIP** in the Portland State Alumni Association is **FREE!** We are committed to keeping our 130,000 (and counting) alumni engaged with the University. Your PSU journey does not have to stop once you graduate. Visit [pdx.edu/alumni](http://pdx.edu/alumni) to sign up for your free membership card, which includes use of the library, a discounted membership at the Rec Center, and free services at the Career Center. Alumni Association membership also provides discounts on select services and products.

## Socialize!

**FOLLOW THE PSU Alumni Association** on Twitter, [@PSU\\_alums](https://twitter.com/PSU_alums), for updates on networking events, job postings, news, and more.



## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



**Pareesh K. Patel '96, Travis Knight '98, Brisa Trincherro '01** and **Laila Umpleby MPA '10** were named to the January *Portland Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list recognizing 40 outstanding local professionals under 40 years of age.

**Brian Cone '73** is an industrial program manager at Apex Laboratories in Tigard.

**Marty Voge '73, MS '84**, a retired Oregon educator, was recently appointed to the Portland Rescue Mission board of directors.

**Matt Albright '80** earned a doctorate last year in environmental science from Oklahoma State University, where he also received his master's degree. Albright is an adjunct professor in biology at Tulsa Community College in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Pamela Luna, '80, MST '82** is a master trainer with Project ALERT, a training program for people who work with seventh- and eighth-graders to prevent drug abuse. In August 2012, she took the program to government officials and teachers in Chile. Since then the country has passed a law requiring drug use prevention in schools. Luna, who is also a health and education consultant, lives in Riverside, California.

**Richard Carson '82** is working on a doctorate at Washington State University while employed as a senior associate at

Citygate Associates, a management consulting firm. Carson has 30 years' experience in city, county, regional, and state government and has worked for three Oregon governors. He lives on a 20-acre farm in southwest Washington.

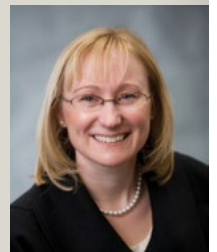
**Mark Davis '89** is a senior mechanical engineer for CH2M Hill's Energy and Chemicals Division in Houston.

**Lynn Peterson MPA '95, MS '08** is the state of Washington's new Secretary of Transportation.

**Rachel "Jordan" Houghton '96** was named an associate fellow by the Society for Technical Communication. She provides software documentation and online help at Sage Software in Beaverton.

**Kevin Snyder MPA '98** is the new community development director for the city of Sedona, Arizona.

**Justin Zoradi MS '09** was named one of 25 Portlanders who are changing the world in the February issue of *Portland Monthly*. Zoradi, 30, leads a nonprofit called These Numbers Have Faces, which sends around \$200,000 a year to underserved youth in South Africa and Rwanda for college scholarships. ■



Lynn Peterson

**READ MORE CLASS NOTES** on our website at [pdx.edu/alumni/notes](http://pdx.edu/alumni/notes). Email us your own news at [psualum@pdx.edu](mailto:psualum@pdx.edu) or mail your information to Portland State University, Office of Alumni Relations, PO Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751.



# Athletics

GET ALL OF THE LATEST sports news at [GoViks.com](http://GoViks.com). Game stories, statistics, schedules, and much more are available and updated daily. You can also hear and/or see game broadcasts. Buy season and single-game tickets online at [GoViks.com](http://GoViks.com) or call 1-888-VIK-TIKS or 503-725-3307.



## Newcomer scores and rebounds

Junior forward Angela Misa was a dominant force in Big Sky play for PSU women's basketball this past winter. Misa averaged 10.8 points and 10.2 rebounds per game before suffering a knee injury in February and missing the final six games. Even so, she was named the 2012-13 Big Sky Conference Top Newcomer. Misa is from Oceanside, California, and came to PSU from Oregon State. The team finished 12-17 overall and 6-14 in the Big Sky Conference. Photo by Scott Larson.



## Catching football fever

Senior running back DJ Adams will lead the Vikings' ground game during a 2013 football schedule that has a little of everything. The season, which opens August 29, will feature six home games (two on Thursday nights); six road games; a Pac-12 opponent; a return to matchups with past Big Sky Conference rivals Montana, Sacramento State, and Weber State; and three nationally-televised games on Root Sports. The first Root Sports game will be against an old friend, former head coach Tim Walsh—now coach of the Cal Poly Mustangs. Visit the [goviks.com](http://goviks.com) website for schedule information and season tickets. Photo by Larry Lawson. ■

# Looking Back

---



## *Help solve campus history mysteries*

THIS PHOTO was taken on campus in March 1967, but who are these people, what they are doing, and why?

This is one of more than 6,000 images documenting Portland State's history that are now available online in the new University Archives Digital Gallery created by the PSU Library. Visit the website [archives.pdx.edu/digitalgallery](http://archives.pdx.edu/digitalgallery) to browse photographs by date, name, location, or subject. The librarians and others have done their best to provide descriptive information, but if you know more, click on "Tell us!" under each image to send them a message.

University Archives will continue to add images as they are digitized and cataloged. Next up: photographs of campus life from the 1950s and over 500 images of Portland State athletics spanning three decades.

If you know anything about this photo, email *Portland State Magazine* at [psumag@pdx.edu](mailto:psumag@pdx.edu). ■





Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

**Portland State Magazine**

P.O. Box 751  
Portland OR 97207

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND OR  
PERMIT NO. 770

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY



# FUTURE FORWARD MBA

**Anita Ramachandran, MBA '07**

*Partnerships Development Officer, Mercy Corps*

[mba.pdx.edu](http://mba.pdx.edu)