

Fall 2015

Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Fall 2015

Portland State University Library

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Recommended Citation

Portland State University Library, "Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Fall 2015" (2015). *Library Newsletters*. 21.

https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/ulib_news/21

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Fall 2015



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From the Dean's Desk



The fall term is in full swing, and the Library is full of students conducting research, studying, in classroom sessions with our library faculty, and getting help at our reference and circulation desks. One of the joys of working at a university is seeing the students return in the fall!

The PSU Library just completed a new five-year strategic plan and a one-year annual plan. The commitment of library faculty and staff to our students and their success was evident throughout the process. For example, our first strategic goal is, “Support student success with library services, collections, and spaces

that meet students’ educational, research, and informational needs in equitable and inclusive ways.”

One of the fun parts of our strategic planning was a “Strategic Snacks” session held during finals to gather input from students. (The snacks helped generate interest, of course!) We asked students several questions, and here are some of the answers we heard:

What could the library do to help you do better in school?

- “Teach people how to better use the library.”
- “Provide more tutorials on how to find research articles.”
- “Do more research help with classes.”
- “Extend hours.”
- “More study rooms.”
- “More group study rooms with whiteboards and technology.”
- “These snacks help a lot.”

What should the library do with a \$1 million gift?

- “Book. Lots of books.”
- “Medieval manuscripts!”
- “Continual expansion of digital services – wider availability of digital texts.”
- “Interactive tools for sciences. Chemistry models, math models.”
- “Updating library resources, more textbook reserves.”
- “More spaces for us.”
- “Extend hours to 24/7.”
- “Remodel, paint.”
- “More computer booths. Like a computer café.”
- “An art gallery of student work. It makes a chill atmosphere.”

Thanks to the many students who shared their feedback! And thank you for your support of the Library and PSU students.



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Finals Week at the Library

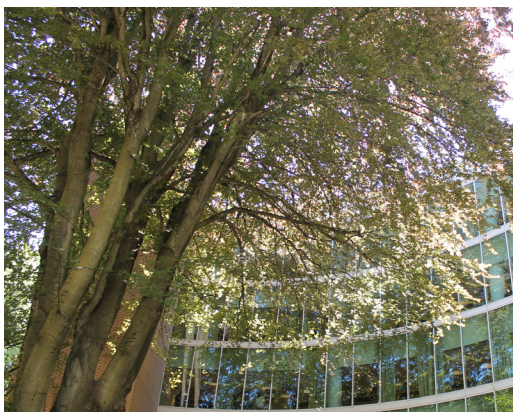
Final exams are a stressful time for many Portland State students, and the Library does what it can to help. During the last week of class and finals, the building stays open 24 hours. On our busiest nights, head counts show more than 100 students in the Library even during the wee hours.

We also try to have some fun. A few years ago, librarian Joan Petit and former development director Jennifer Wilkerson transformed an old book truck into the Library's Candy Cart. During Finals Week, you'll find librarians and library staff pushing the Candy Cart around the Library to share treats with students. The Candy Cart is always a big hit! One student even told us, "This is the best finals week ever!"



In June, we were pleased that Provost Sona Andrews (shown at left in her Wonder Woman outfit) and History Professor John Ott (at right in the Vikings helmet) took the Candy Cart for a spin. Thanks very much to Library donors, as donations fund candy purchases. A relatively small amount of money has a big impact on our students.

Copper Beech Turns 125



The Library's iconic Copper Beech Tree was planted around the year 1890, according to University Archives records. To celebrate the 125th anniversary of our favorite tree, we invited students to join us for a finals week study break birthday party, complete with cake! The Library also put together an exhibit displaying the history of the Copper Beech Tree and the Library building's construction. Happy birthday, Copper Beech!



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Oral History Project & Exhibit Now Online



In 2008 and 2010, public history students at Portland State conducted oral history interviews with former members of the Portland chapter of the Black United Front, a branch organization of a national group that focused on civil rights in the 1980s, including issues of school desegregation, police brutality, and apartheid in South Africa. This past winter, students working with History Professor Patricia Schechter reviewed the recordings and transcripts and created a digital exhibit with audio, written excerpts, and photographs. A link to the exhibit can be found on the Library website.

Welcome to Gayle Schneider



Gayle Schneider has been appointed Development Officer for the School of Social Work and University Library. Originally from Detroit, Gayle holds a degree in hospitality management from Michigan State University. She eventually settled in Portland with her husband, an Oregon native and PSU alum, along with their two children, and worked for several years in fundraising at the University of Portland. She joined Portland State's development office in 1999 and has worked in various roles in advancement, most recently at the PSU Foundation.

Gayle loves meeting library supporters and hearing their stories. If you want to help provide important resources and support for PSU students, faculty, or disciplines, there is a meaningful way to do that at the University Library. Call or email Gayle—she's looking forward to talking with you!



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Current Exhibit: 1970 Student Strike

The fall term exhibits at PSU Library and the City of Portland Archives and Records Center (PARC) tell the history of the May 1970 Park Block protests from a range of perspectives—student activists, Portland citizens, university faculty, city officials, and the police—using original photos, letters, newspapers, police reports, and other documents from the Portland State University Archives and the City of Portland Archives.

The exhibits were researched by PSU Honors College students in a Spring 2015 junior seminar, “Activism in the Archives,” led by PSU faculty member and PARC artist-in-residence Kaia Sand. The seminar students investigated original archival sources with the goal of telling the story of the Portland State strike from multiple perspectives. Their research examined the context and significance of political and local issues, including the Vietnam War, and the various organizations and institutions involved in the strike. In addition to having access to original documents from the 1970s, the seminar students had opportunities to hear from former Portland State students who had participated in the demonstrations.

Their projects opened up the archives and proposed new views on historic events through physical exhibits, video and visual art presentations, a digital exhibit with an interpretive website, public events, and a walking tour through the Park Blocks.

Honors student intern Corinne Rupp worked with PARC and PSU Archives’ collections this summer to continue her colleagues’ research and curate the current documentary exhibits, which describe the buildup and aftermath of the heated and finally violent conflict between protesters and police in the Park Blocks from both sides of the barricades.

Through December, visit these two unique displays at the following locations:

City of Portland Archives & Records Center

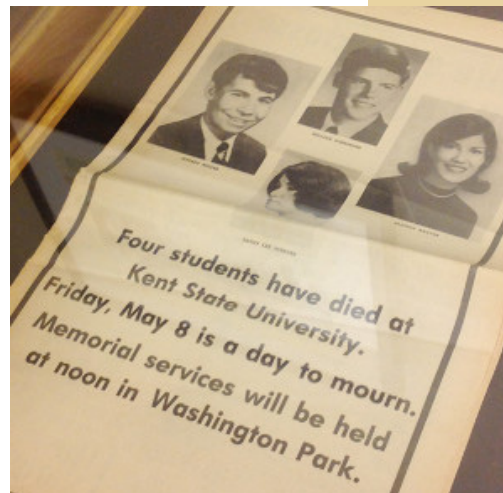
1800 SW 6th Ave, Suite 550

(On the PSU campus in ASRC, the Academic & Student Recreation Center building)

Portland State University Library

First Floor, Elevator Lobby

Visit the Library website for additional information and a link to the walking tour.



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News in Brief

Summer Mini-Exhibit: Wear Your Politics!

Oregon politician Gretchen Kafoury saved thousands of political and campaign buttons during her two decades in public office, her work with the National Organization for Women and the Oregon Women's Political Caucus, her career as an educator, and a lifetime of volunteer activism. PSU Library Special Collections is the home of the Gretchen Kafoury Papers and other materials. This summer, Special Collections gathered part of Kafoury's pin collection for a colorful display. Humorous, emphatic, sassy, serious, right to the point: a slogan on a pin sometimes sums it up perfectly.



Good Luck to Lauren!

Lauren Clark, the Library's former Development Officer, has a new position as Development Officer for the PSU School of Business Administration. Best of luck, Lauren!

Student Planning Projects Digitized

In collaboration with the Toulan Library of Urban & Public Affairs, the Library has digitized historic student-authored planning projects. Planning Workshop Projects, created for local and regional governments and civic sector clients, are the culminating works of teams of Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) students. The plans, which go back to 1977, are available online through PDXScholar.



Design by Emily Goldman. Text by Carolee Harrison and Joan Petit. Photos by Michael Brown, Carolee Harrison, Turner Masland, and Joan Petit.

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