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In Search of Cathlapotle
Uncovering an Ancient Chinook Village

Kid Power
Young Readers Know What They Want

Amazon Mission
Bringing Sight to People of the Rain Forest

Greetings, American Style
Our Often Tacky but Touching Holiday Letters

Eyes on the Skies
Alumna Rises through the Ranks of NASA
We got involved with PSU in the mid-'80s, just after we came to Portland and started our Nautilus Plus business (now part of the nationwide Bally Total Fitness Company). Our introduction to the University was a tailgate event, where we met Randy Nordlof, Roy Love, Pokey Allen, and others active with athletics at that time. The quality of the people and their values were a perfect match for us—like shoes and socks going together.

Both of us feel strongly about higher education and understand how difficult it can be to find the opportunity to earn a college degree. Jack grew up in a working family in Akron, Ohio—definitely not part of the “country club set.” He couldn’t have gone to college without an athletic scholarship (football, basketball, baseball and track). In fact, he was the first and only college graduate in his family until his daughter graduated many years later. We know first-hand what promise athletics holds for young people.

When we first got acquainted with PSU we discovered a tremendous need for athletic facilities and staff. There was no faculty weight trainer, so our Nautilus club trainers filled the gap. Right away we brought the Vikings into our statewide speed, agility, and quickness training program, and we gave the University its first line of weight training equipment and have kept that program growing.

Our relationship with the University reaches into every area of our lives. Many of our friendships started here. Hundreds of student athletes have used the Nautilus clubs, as have alumni and staff.

Portland State is absolutely essential to the vitality of the city and the state of Oregon. Everyone who lives and works here should be investing in PSU. One reason we encourage others to get involved with PSU athletics is that sports can be a great way to open the door to the rest of the University—it’s a broad-based way to reach a lot of the community. In fact, we don’t believe any university can successfully engage its community without a strong athletics program.

We try to help the community and Portland State as much as we can. With our giving we are helping student athletes directly through scholarships. Our most recent gift is an endowment that will permanently assure scholarships far into the future—this is a key issue for us—and the nest egg should be there forever.

Jack and Deane Garrison
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Ancient cultures thrived along the Columbia. See story on pages 6-8. Photo of the Columbia River by Bruce Forster. Photo of “Anthropomorphic Figure, Columbia River, AD 1000 to 1700,” courtesy of the Portland Art Museum.
Opera Theater program takes top honors

The Opera Theater program, directed by Professor Ruth Dobson, is receiving a first-place award from the National Opera Association's Opera Production Competition this month. The award will be given at NOA's 46th annual convention in New York. This good news comes on the heels of three PSU singers winning top spots in a recent Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions for the Oregon district.

The Marriage of Figaro, which was performed in April and May of 2000, is receiving recognition as an outstanding production by an academic or community ensembles. The opera won for Division II schools. PSU was in good company: judges chose from 32 taped submissions, and College Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, won for Division I.

The Marriage of Figaro performed to sold-out houses and earned outstanding reviews. Because of its popularity, the Opera Theater has chosen another Mozart opera, The Magic Flute, for its upcoming production on May 4-12. Many of last year's singers are returning for the opera. Audrey Luna, a winner in the recent Met competition, will also be part of the cast.

PSU in movie Bounce

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow looks good in a PSU T-shirt in the major motion picture Bounce, and the Portland State diploma on the wall fits with the storyline that has her husband an alumnus of the University. So what that he dies early in the film. His memory and that of PSU live on through at least two more scenes.

The film, starring Paltrow and Ben Affleck, was released before the holidays by Miramax Films. The production's costume designer came looking for PSU props more than a year ago to fill out the Greg Janello character played by Tony Goldwyn. No one at PSU thought to ask, "why us?" It's probable that someone on the Bounce production team was familiar with the University, and with luck, screenwriter Don Roos will use PSU in another major film.

Student numbers at all-time high for University

The University marked its highest enrollment ever this fall at 17,241 students. Until this year, the record was 16,841 students in 1979-80.

Compared to last year, Portland State is experiencing a 7.5 percent increase. Combined enrollment, which includes Extended Studies, rose 3.9 percent to 19,029. The University saw its largest increase in freshmen enrollment (up 8.5 percent), especially in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The college experienced a 12.4 percent increase in undergraduate students who declared engineering or computer science as their major, and a 10.6 percent increase in the number of graduate students declaring these majors.

In addition, total graduate student enrollment rose 6.4 percent; minority student enrollment rose 8 percent to 2,808 students, representing 16 percent of total enrollment; and international student enrollment rose 23 percent from last year to 961 students.
Student ad campaign was ECHOgood

A group of PSU alumni heard an echo this fall all the way from Los Angeles.

A print advertising campaign created in the Los Angeles office of mega-agency Saatchi & Saatchi looked familiar to former advertising students of Don Dickinson. In spring 1999 they presented an ad campaign on Toyota’s new ECHO car model at an American Advertising Federation-sponsored contest. Among the students’ many proposed tag lines to market the car were “ECHOcentric”—car as an extension of personality—and “ECHOchamber”—another take on interior roominess. This past summer and fall Saatchi & Saatchi ran ads for Toyota using the theme ECHOcentric (pictured at right), ECHOchamber, and ECHOmania.

Coincidence or making use of a good idea? Saatchi & Saatchi say coincidence; they had the idea already “in the can.”

“It is not our contention that they copied us. It doesn’t really matter,” says Dickinson, director of Advertising Management in the School of Business Administration. “The fact is, our students did agency-quality work.” Dickinson, who the students affectionately call Professor D, notes that by vying in the competition students gave up all rights to their ideas.

“I have mixed feelings,” says Roshan Bellavara, leader of the 1999 student team from Dickinson’s National Student Advertising Competition class. “I’m upset that we didn’t win with the ads, and happy that our work was worth using. We knew exactly what the client needed.”

The students took second in the regional competition back in 1999, but that didn’t stop most of the 11 members of the team from graduating and getting jobs in the field. Bellavara works in the media department of Wieden & Kennedy in Portland. He stays in touch with many of his team members. With more experience under their belts, the alumni see places where their plan for Toyota’s ECHO
could use fine-tuning, but all in all they’re still pleased with the package.

This year, Dickinson’s students have a new challenge for the American Advertising Federation competition, and it’s a big one. They must develop a global image campaign for DiamlerChrysler even though the merger between the two auto giants has turned ugly. Maybe the company will find a new image from the students— they will have many to choose from.
A lab opening frenzy

The College of Engineering and Computer Science opened four state-of-the-art labs in the past year and will open another in February as part of its strategic plan to double the college’s enrollment in the coming years.

The labs represent a marriage of industry and academia—one that will attract students and aid local high-tech companies, says Executive Dean Michael Driscoll. The additions are:

• a computer-aided engineering lab, including a rapid prototype machine, which creates 3-D working models.
• a computer-aided engineering lab, including a rapid prototype machine, which creates 3-D working models.
• the new Tektronix Circuit Design & Testing Lab. Tektronix, which has given more than $2.5 million to the College since 1984, donated equipment for the lab.
• the Chemical Mechanical Planarization (CMP) laboratory. It enables PSU and industry partners to explore improvements in semiconductor materials processing. PSU is the only university in the Northwest with a research lab equipped at this level.
• the Integrated Circuit (IC) Design and Test Laboratory. The lab includes an IC tester valued at $1 million that was donated by Credence Systems Corp. The opening of the lab makes the College of Engineering and Computer Science one of a few schools in the nation to offer a complete academic program in the design and testing of integrated circuits.

In addition, the college is scheduled to open a new materials lab in February, and is being strongly considered by a consortium of companies led by Intel, IBM, and Hewlett-Packard to be the home for a pioneering open-source development lab for the Linux computer operating system.

The college also has dramatically increased its number of scholarships over the past year and is ahead of schedule in its plan to double enrollment—a goal that will likely be reached in 2005, says Driscoll.

Could it be alien DNA?

I'm not a molecular biologist, but I can tell you that if Chad Baker's double helix (cover, fall 2000 PSU Magazine) is supposed to be DNA, it's not a variety that exists anywhere outside Mr. Baker's imagination.

This double helix is left-handed; there is left-handed DNA, but it's extremely rare and it's never found in humans as far as I know. This double helix has 20 base pairs per twist; human DNA (and all DNA as far as I know) has 10 base pairs per twist because it's physically impossible for the bases to fit together in a twist looser or tighter than that. This double helix has color-coded base pairs in at least three different color combinations. There are four and only four base molecules, and they can only form two combinations: A with T and C with G. If blue represents A (for example), it's impossible for it to pair both with T and either C or G, a possibility this illustration asserts.

It's not hard to get this right. You might consider having an expert on your faculty review the illustrations you use and/or coach the artist in the future.

Joan C. Cook
Sent by e-mail

To burn manure or not

In the article on Professor John Hall's invention of a better camp stove (page 18, fall 2000 PSU Magazine) there is one item which I object to. “With the Bush-Buddy, users don't have to destroy trees for cooking; they can use twigs, or even dried animal waste...” I don't object to referring to animal waste. I object to the ignorant use of that as a bonus. Loss of arid land, especially in Africa, can be traced, among other things, to the use of animal waste for burning rather than its use as fertilizer to keep soil viable for growing or grazing. I am sure Professor Hall's invention can be of real value to many, but it is not the definitive answer to the third world's cooking fuel problem.

Marguerite Becker
Sent by e-mail

Based on my observations of denuded land and agriculture practices in southern Africa, I am inclined to think that the burning of some animal manure in a BushBuddy cookstove would register as but a minor ecological imbalance in the nitrogen cycle when measured against the backdrop of open grazing, over grazing, and climatic changes that have result in prolonged drought in this region. —John Hall, professor of economics

PSU Magazine wants to hear from you. Send your comments to PSU Magazine, Portland State University, PO Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751; or to e-mail address psumag@pdx.edu. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity.
Seven Come Eleven: Stories and Plays 1969-1999
by Charles Deemer (English faculty), Writers Club Press, 1999.

Charles Deemer, an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, short story author, and journalist, teaches screenwriting at PSU. Seven Come Eleven is a collection of seven of his short stories and 11 of his plays—his favorites or as he writes, “stories that still resonate with me.” In The Half-life Conspiracy, a playwriting comes to the premiere of his one-act play only to discover that it is being directed by his ex-wife, who left him for another woman—the very subject of the play. Goodwill takes on ers of the day. Fiction, her diary, and prominent writ­

Crime and Culture in Yup’ik Villages

Nella Lee chose an unusual focus— Eskimo Indians of southwestern Alaska—for a criminological study. It’s an old story: the imposition of Western culture over a native society’s values and traditions, and in the case of the Yup’ik, it had disastrous conse­quences. Her data show that the vil­

The Kitchen Spoon’s Handle: Transnationalism and Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids

Michele Gamburd attended her first field study in Sri Lanka at the age of two. She and her father were accom­

Other books & recordings


The Structure of English: Studies in Form and Function for Language Teaching (and workbook), by Jeanette DeCar­

Reviews are of faculty and alumni books, recordings, and Web publications. To have a work considered for this page, please submit pertinent information to Mary Ellen Kenreich, PSU Library faculty, via e-mail to kenreichm@pdx.edu, or fax to 503-725-5799, or mail to Portland State University, PO Box 1151, Portland, OR 97207-0751.

WINTER 2001 PSU MAGAZINE 5
Most of the footprints of cultures that preceded us have disappeared. At one time the Pacific Northwest was home to the largest indigenous populations in all of North America. Large towns, one right after another, dotted the rivers of the Portland Basin and the area known as Wapato Valley. The people developed complex social structures, specialized labor, and highly developed art. But when Chief Cliff Snider of the Chinook asks local fourth-graders to draw pictures of Native Americans, they give him images of tepees and feathered headpieces.

"It is the Indians of Hollywood that they know," he says. "They have no idea about the Native American culture that was here, where they are now."

By and large, the evidence from the lives of previous native people have disappeared from the edges of the rivers. Tools, trade goods, and towns, which demonstrated the Chinook world view, have all but vanished from sight. And the remaining people have lost their ability to describe the world of the past to future generations.

The silence might be deafening if it weren't for the work of scientists such as PSU's Kenneth Ames, professor of anthropology. Ames has been conducting fieldwork to excavate the ancient Chinook town of Cathlapotle for the past nine years.

He located the former town site in 1991 at the request of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials. They knew approximately where the site was because they had written accounts from several sources, including the Lewis and Clark party who visited Cathlapotle in 1805 and again in 1806. But only a few years later—beginning in the 1830s—the whole of the Wapato Valley suffered fearfully from attacks of fever, later identified as malaria. The disease devastated the native population of the valley—located on the site of today's Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

There is evidence that the area was occupied by natives from other tribes after the original inhabitants had died as a result of the epidemic. No one is absolutely sure when Cathlapotle, which had lasted for half a millennium, sank back into the landscape to be reclaimed by the relentless growth of the wetlands. Certainly the signs of its former glory are unremarkable amongst the soggy features of what is now the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge in Ridgefield, Washington.

Annan Raymond, regional archeologist for the agency, says that without work like the excavations Ames is directing, we might lose the knowledge that the area had once been a metropolis for centuries.

"That perspective is mostly lost on people," he says. "The spectacular
nature of the civilization of the Chinook has been lost. This area teemed with people for hundreds of years before the wagons made their way over the Oregon Trail."

In his search for the lost town site, Ames took careful account of the maps of the area, but he also had the help of a local landowner whose family had owned the property before it became a wildlife refuge. He took Ames to the part of the refuge where he found artifacts as a child. Ames and his students spotted depressions in the soft river soil that didn't look as if they had been formed by natural forces. They ran an auger into the ground and examined the soil, which was rich with material used and discarded by a people generation after generation.

"Besides the artifacts—mostly tools and the debris from making tools—there is evidence of elk, deer, bears, beavers, skunk, and mountain lions. They were hunting mountain lions for food, which is very interesting," Ames says. "There were salmon, of course, but also sturgeon and lots and lots of smelt. There are also a lot of floral remains, and there are acorns, hazelnuts, and seeds."

Ames, who has worked for 30 years to understand the native peoples of the Pacific Northwest, says the site is one of the best preserved of any along the Columbia from The Dalles to the mouth of the river. "It may be the only Chinook village that's intact in Western Oregon and Washington," he says.

At first, radiocarbon dating seemed to suggest that the town might be 1,000 years old, but subsequent excavations haven't borne that date out. Most of the material removed seems to span the last 500 to 600 years.

"It's quite clear," says Ames. "We've been able to date the initial construction of the two of the houses (we have been excavating), and they both date to about AD 1450. We still can't explain those earlier dates."

The age and the sophistication of the town's organization are of considerable interest, because they fly in the face of generally held theories that assert that farming was the first and most important of all social revolutions. Through farming, it is held, people attached themselves to the land. Their permanent settlements grew into villages. With the addition of a political structure, villages became towns. As aristocracy developed and wealth accumulated, the large economies found they could support specialized labor, which encouraged artistic and technological expression.

That's the theory and for the most part it's true. But the theory can't account for the people who lived for thousands of years in the Pacific Northwest portion of North America. These people had large towns, monumental architecture, enormous wealth, a highly evolved artistic style, and an aristocracy. All without tilling a field.

Here in the wetlands of the Wapato Valley, the earth itself was very generous. Fish, birds, animals, and people all enjoyed tremendous natural abundance, and vegetation ran rampant just as it does today. The area was such a rich profusion of life and natural resources that despite flooding, the people returned time and time again to rebuild their homes and resume their relationship with nature's bountiful banquet table.

"I think one of the most interesting things of all is that even though the site was flooded regularly, perhaps every year, the people returned," says Cameron Smith, a doctoral student from Simon Fraser University in Canada working with Ames. "Wetlands, of course, are one of the most productive biological zones that you can have on earth. They've got all of the fish. They've got all of the mammals that are walking around in the marshes, and a huge variety of birds. Combining a wetland's biological productivity with the predictable and abundant salmon run, and well, it is an

This hammer head was meticulously pieced together by students of Ames's. The sculpture above, thought to be created by people living near the Columbia River 1000 to 300 years ago, is on display at the Portland Art Museum.
extraordinary environment," says Smith.

Traces of this abundance are evident in the remains and artifacts found at Cathlapotle. "There is a whole range of material that was uncovered at the site," Ames says, "and it has been dispersed to various places. The animal remains are at the University of Missouri and the floral remains are in southern Illinois. The artifacts are here."

The walls of the archeology lab in the basement of Cramer Hall are lined floor to ceiling with boxes containing the thousands of tiny pieces of stone, bone, bead, and metal artifacts that have been excavated from the site. They literally bulge with material that waits for analysis, classification, and computation.

"Of the 75,000 artifacts, there are about 10,000 that are cataloged as artifacts. That is, they were objects that were really being used by people. There are an additional 60,000 artifacts that are waste products," says Smith, whose work involves searching for evidence of specialized labor.

"It's hard to imagine how much information is contained even in the rubbish. For example, under a microscope I can tell the different types of scratches and polishes that come from using a scraper on wood from a scraper on antler or on leather," he says. "By studying all the different kinds of artifacts—bone, antler, and stone tools—I can reconstruct a more detailed picture of what people were doing."

In some ways the digging is the easiest part of the puzzle. After the fieldwork come long hours in the laboratory, counting, cataloguing, measuring, analyzing, and teasing the meanings out of the collected material.

"Generally speaking we figure that for every person-day in the field we have four-person days in the lab—minimum," says Ames. "So, say you spend seven weeks at a site, as we did in 1995. With 45 students, that calculates out to a lot of person-days in the lab. And we can't have 45 people in the lab. It won't accommodate that many, so it's a much slower process."

But some early finds are already emerging. An iron adz blade, probably Chinese, dating to AD 1450 has been unearthed, as well as a Chinese coin and copper from a variety of places. Ames says the copper and iron date from 500 years ago into the 1830s, which spans the beginning of the fur trade with Europeans. The find reveals a tremendous amount about the trade routes and the distribution of goods.

The animal remains supply other fascinating facts to ponder. "The animals bones, the stuff in Missouri, are much larger than modern forms," says Ames. "So one question done with it," says Ames. "We just don't have room for it here."

Tom Melanson, who heads U.S. Fish and Wildlife's effort to raise funds for the center, says that raising the money remains a real challenge, but he hopes private donors can be found.

"The Chinook would like it to stay either close to where it was found, or they would like to store it," says Ames, "but until they get recognition by the federal government as a tribe, they're not going to have the resources to build a facility of their own."

"Knowing the story of the former residents is essential for understanding our place here in the Portland Basin," says Raymond. "Dr. Ames's work provides an example of a time when the Columbia River was full of Chinook Indians living in great affluence. Cathlapotle is one of the few intact examples of this former glory. Ken has been able to give us a little window into this fantastic and bustling civilization that was here for hundreds of years."

(merlin douglass '95 is a portland freelance writer.)
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire shook up the publishing world last July when it became the fastest-selling book in history. It tested the limits of Amazon.com's shipping and delivery system, made the cover of Newsweek, and caused the New York Times Book Review to form an entirely new category of best seller list: one for children's books alone.


"We were facing the possibility that four or even five books on the list would be children's books. That seemed to me to be excessive," says New York Times Book Review editor Chip McGrath.

Disgruntled authors thought so too, coining the term "Pottered," meaning to be edged off the list because of that damned wizard kid.

The fact that a children's book has become the most spectacular British import since The Beatles is a cause of celebration among advocates for children's literacy. But to those living and working in the genre, it's merely a pleasant blip on the radar screen—an affirmation perhaps of what they've known all along. Children's literature has been thriving, enjoying a renaissance that can be traced back to the 1960s, and no one knows that better than authors and educators from Portland State.

"Children's literature has always been here, but publishing has changed tremendously" says Eric Kimmel, prolific children's author and professor emeritus of education. While the genre—always a relatively small slice of the publishing pie—used to be driven primarily by teachers and librarians, budget cuts in libraries and schools have shifted the marketing emphasis to bookstores where it has become more visible, he says. There, books are likely to share the same shelf space as toys, because the entertainment conglomerates that publish the books spin off related products to pull in more revenue.

And who can blame them, considering that kids wield immense commercial power from clothing, to toys, to music, to breakfast cereal? While some authors worry that dollars are driving too much of the publishing world, others marvel that books like the Harry Potter series can fly off the shelves with little marketing at all. They've sold, Kimmel says, because of one child telling another.

Salem children's author Ellen Howard, a PSU alum and recent winner of the Oregon Book Award, recalled last Easter when her 13-year-old grandson—a non-reader for most of his childhood—had to be called several times to the dinner table because he was so engrossed in Harry Potter.

"It's the only time in my memory that for a fifth grader to be considered cool, he has to have read a certain book," she says.

Author Roland Smith, who attended PSU in the early '70s, says children really want to read as long as they are presented with books that will capture their interest.

"A lot more kids are reading these days; statistics show it. Video games are
fine, but it's pretty hard to beat a good story," he says.

The importance of quality children's literature in school is such that an increasing number of colleges are offering children's lit classes as part of their required curriculum for elementary education degrees. Portland State is the only university in Oregon to offer a graduate certificate program in children's and young adult literature, according to its coordinator, Paul Gregorio.

The program was created five years ago out of the interest expressed by students who took classes in children's literature at the University. Other trends in literature and society helped fuel that interest, he says: a steady flowering of the genre over two or three decades; the emergence of respected adult writers such as John Updike, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker trying their hands at writing for younger audiences; multiculturalism; and a realization among writers and editors of the need for higher quality children's books and ones that tackle hard issues.

Until the 1960s, the children's literature landscape was considerably drier than it is today. With the obvious exception of classic works such as C.S. Lewis's Narnia series, The Wind in the Willows, and Treasure Island, Gregorio says most books for children and young adults avoided real-life issues in favor of cheap excitement (the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries, for example) or sentimentality. They didn't engage readers much, and most were written to the lowest common denominator.

Even at the beginner level, Dick and Jane readers taught basic language, but were artificially contrived and didn't engage the reader.

"With a good story, you care about what happens. But who really cares about Dick and Jane?" he says.

Dr. Seuss (Theodor S. Geisel) turned the basal reader idea on its head in the late 1950s and early '60s with books such as Hop on Pop and Green Eggs and Ham. Entertaining, bizarre, funny, and endlessly creative, the Seuss books gave young Baby Boomers something totally new — the first in a long string of innovations that would mold the generation for the next four decades.

Meanwhile, readers of middle school age were getting their first taste of the real world with works such as The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, about peer pressure, and If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin, about teenage pregnancy. This is the period Gregorio calls the golden age of young adult literature. One reason is that it produced books that didn't talk down to kids. It dealt with issues they were aware of in their lives, but up to that point were avoided in books.

For another, it marked a turning point in the way literature was taught. Before, educators assumed high school students should make the leap directly to adult literature, Gregorio says. With the shift during the '60s, the young adult genre gained respect and became viewed as a bridge to the classics. Over the years, young adult literature has grown to explore myriad grown-up problems and has expanded to include other cultures.

For younger kids, the shift happened 10 years later. Dear Mr. Henshaw, a 1974 Newbery Award winner by Beverly Cleary, dealt with divorcing parents. A decade later, Make Lemonade by former PSU student Virginia Euwer Wolff dealt with single parenthood. Her most recent book, Bat 6, is about Japanese-Americans returning to Hood River after being in internment camps during World War II. Losing Uncle Tim by Mary Kate Jordan is about a favorite relative dying of AIDS.

"I can't think of any theme that couldn't be in a children's book," says Howard, whose 15 books have touched on incest, childbirth, and abortion. Whatever the issue, Howard says children's literature should be empowering.

"Children are the most powerless people in our society. They have to find a sense of power and self sufficiency in
the world," she says.

Perhaps the most prevalent tool authors use to empower children is to remove strong adults. They have to be dead, weak, dysfunctional, preoccupied, or simply absent in order for the child protagonist to have the opportunity to solve the book’s problem. Children want the assurance that they can get through a tough situation if they have to.

"We murder mothers," Howard laughs. "I hold the record: in one of my books I kill off three mothers in succession."

Good children’s literature treats its readers with intelligence, which dispels a myth about the genre: that somehow writing for children is easier than writing for adults. In many cases, it’s harder. Smith, who in addition to writing books for children has spent 20 years as a zookeeper and research biologist, calls children "as smart or smarter than we are. They just don’t have quite as much information."

Conveying information must be done in context, allowing children to figure out facts and situations on their own without feeling that they’ve been lectured to. For Smith, an environmentalist whose themes deal with nature conservation, doing the job right is a high calling.

"This is important stuff. It’s important because you’re communicating with people who haven’t made up their minds yet," he says.

Because the stakes in the battle for young minds are so high, and the reality that few—if any—taboos still exist in the genre, children’s literature is a constant target among parents and religious groups. Harry Potter has been challenged in schools throughout the United States by groups who say it advocates witchcraft. Smith’s books have been challenged because of language. His Thunder Cave has been targeted for containing "hell," "bastard," and a description of a lion “pissing.”

Smith says he doesn’t include such words to condone coarse language, but to acknowledge that it exists and give kids yet another way to glimpse the real world. "To deny it and not discuss it in the open is wrong," he says. Kimmel has similar views on reasons why adults feel threatened by what their children read.

"Children’s books make adults uneasy not because they’re imaginary, but because they’re real. Telling kids not to read Harry Potter is like telling the tide not to come in," he says.

If the use of language and real-life themes are examples of broken barriers in children’s literature, Harry Potter has proven that length is too. At 734 pages, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire looks more like a dictionary than the typical children’s book. And kids can’t seem to get enough of it.

“A lot of adults have sold kids short, saying that they couldn’t read longer books. Harry Potter has proven that they can,” Gregorio says.

A question on the minds of children’s authors is, Will the popularity of Harry Potter carry over to other children’s books?

Some fear the evil goblins of marketing will dominate the scene, only producing books that have the greatest potential to be turned into movies, lunchboxes, and action figures. Purists will be dismayed to know that, in December, How the Grinch Stole Christmas was number 6 on the New York Times list of children’s best sellers — not the Dr. Seuss original, mind you, but a novelization of the screenplay of the movie.

Others, such as Smith, Kimmel, and Howard, say good will conquer all. Even cookie-cutter thrillers such as R.L. Stine’s Goosebumps series, which has spun off into TV shows and board games, is seen as successfully putting books in the hands of children. Sympathetic editors will continue to exist, and quality children’s authors will continue to write.

"Authors of children’s literature care about children," says Howard. "It’s nice if somebody buys our books, but the truth is most children’s writers would write whether they got paid or not."

In the end, the success of children’s literature will rest where it belongs: with the kids themselves. ☐

(John Kirkland, a Portland freelance writer, wrote the article “Our Bodies, Our Cells?” in the fall 2000 PSU Magazine.)
Providing needed medical assistance in the Amazon Basin.

For Professor Jan Semenza the health of people—all people—is a passion that has taken him from Egypt to Asia to South America. Semenza is a molecular epidemiologist, a relatively new field that combines the study of genetic and environmental risk factors at the molecular level with the distribution and prevention of disease within populations. A native of Zurich, Switzerland, he brings a global perspective to PSU’s School of Community Health through his worldwide investigations of environmentally caused health crises.

As a former epidemic intelligence officer with the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), he received a commendation from the city of Chicago for his work following the 1995 heat wave that killed more than 700 people. Semenza identified risk factors for heat-related death that has formed the basis for an extensive public health intervention by the city for future crises.

The CDC also took him to Nukus, a city near the Aral Sea in Uzbekistan, where extensive irrigation of cotton fields has created one of the greatest ecological disasters in recent history. He was able to pinpoint the link between water contamination and diarrheal disease that resulted in treatment and distribution of drinking water.

Today he remains a collaborator with the World Health Organization, having traveled to Egypt and Sudan in the fight to eradicate polio throughout the world. During the academic year, he teaches classes in environmental health and epidemiology, and conducts research on environmental causes of cancer. He is currently investigating gene-environment interactions and cancer susceptibility.

This is an account of his recent experiences in Brazil’s Amazon Basin.

When a friend from Sao Paulo contacted me in Portland and asked me to join a health mission to the Amazon in Brazil, I could not in my wildest dreams imagine what she had in mind. She wanted to draw on my expertise in preventive medicine and epidemiology and suggested that I assist in a project dedicated to delivering health care to the local population along the Amazon. I was intrigued by the project and decided to embark on the mission.

I flew directly to Manaus, at the confluence of the Amazon and Rio Negro rivers, where I caught a boat for the three-hour trip to Ariau Tower, a conference resort in the middle of the jungle where a public health meeting was planned to kick off the mission.

I found myself not only in the middle of tropical forest but also in the middle of a vast spider web-like network of cat walks spreading above nine miles of flooded jungle. The Rio Negro, an Amazon tributary, floods vast areas of jungle forest annually. Walking through dense jungle brush several feet above turbid water, made me feel disoriented, and I began to question having accepted the offer. Then I noticed wild monkeys bouncing from branch to branch stealing food and teasing one another. And how could I have missed the colorful macaws? Fascinated by these exotic animals I eventually overcame my initial disorientation and began to appreciate this unique environment.

Brazil, the largest country in South America, has a population of 157 million, which ranks it fifth in the world. The Amazon River is the largest in the world in area of drainage and in volume of discharge into the sea. With 2.3 million square miles, the Amazon Basin contains the greatest rain forest in the world. When the river floods it...
inundates the forest for four to seven months of the year, creating a unique habitat of swamp forest, called igapo. The combination of dense rain forest and seasonal flooding results in a profoundly inaccessible landscape with a unique public health challenge.

The native population of the Amazon Basin suffers from a variety of health problems, including diarrhea and respiratory infections as well as parasite infections such as malaria and amoebas. In addition to these infectious diseases, inhabitants also suffer from eye problems. Pterygium, cataract, and glaucoma are diseases of the eye that, if untreated, lead to blindness.

Pterygium affects the conjunctiva of the eye resulting in an abnormal membrane growth that eventually will cover the pupil. It is possible to restore the eyesight in patients with pterygium by surgical removal of the membrane. Cataracts account for 80 percent of blindness in this population and can also be reversed through surgical replacement of the affected lens with a synthetic intraocular lens. In contrast, blindness from glaucoma cannot be reversed.

Dr. José-Ricardo Rehder, chairman of ophthalmology at the faculty of medicine at ABC University in Sao Paulo, has spearheaded a program that provides ophthalmologic services to remote areas in Brazil. Together with Dr. Halmélio Sobral, director of medical services for the fire brigade in Brasilia, they created “Amazon Vision 2000.”

To extend the reach of the program, Rehder joined forces with the Brazilian Navy, which designed and built two ships for the sole purpose of providing health services to inaccessible populations in the Amazon. A draft of only 10 feet allows the ships to navigate in shallow waters. Equipped with an operating room, dentist office, x-ray machine, pharmacy, gynecology clinic, examination rooms, and a landing pad for a helicopter, the floating clinic was an ideal resource for Rehder.

For our mission, we signed on a crew of 40 sailors, five ophthalmologists, four general practice physicians, one psychiatrist, two dentists, one pharmacist, and one epidemiologist (me). We made for a truly multidisciplinary team. Our goal was to assess the health needs of this population, provide health care, and surgically restore eyesight among the blind.

The Carlos Chagas was equipped with state-of-the-art ophthalmologic equipment that would allow cataract and pterygium surgery on an outpatient basis. To minimize surgical steps and maximize rapid recovery, the surgeons used a recently developed dehydrated acrylic lens (the Acqua lens by Mediphacos, Brazil). It can be inserted into the eye through a minimal incision and after 20 minutes swells three times its volume to serve as a new cornea for the patient. The lens will respond to postoperative laser treatment, when indicated.

Although such surgical intervention provides tremendous improvements in quality of life, the native population was initially suspicious. During Rehder’s first trip, an Indian tribe refused to be treated by white doctors. They based their reluctance on the colonial legacy of maltreatment. Rehder was able to convince the blind wife of the tribal chief that the operation was safe. She underwent the surgery and regained her vision—and could see her grandchildren for the first time.

This earlier experience paved the way for our month-long trip from Manaus to Belem. We focused on small villages and cities that lacked health care for their residents. My job was to monitor the health status of the population served on our voyage. I developed a questionnaire to be filled out by the physicians that would allow us to calculate the prevalence of diseases in this population. Such a cross-sectional survey is usually conducted to determine health needs of the study population with the goal of being able to respond with the most appropriate health services. In our case, anything we found would be useful, since little health information exists regarding the

Locals often came by boat to be treated at the medical ship.
population along the Amazon River.
From Manaus we traveled down the
Amazon to our first destination, Oriz­
imina, where at 7 a.m. 200 patients
awaited our arrival. We worked around
the clock to meet their health needs. I
had previous training in giving eye
exams, assisting with cataract surger­
ies, and performing diagnostic tests.

Dr. Karanjit Kooner, an ophthal­
mologists from University of Texas,
performed the first operation on
board—a complicated case of glau­
coma and cataract surgery. Rehder and
Sobral operated late into the night on
an additional 14 cases.

One of our first patients had
taveled for an entire day to
reach the boat, which she
called "the boat sent from God." A
woman in her seventies, Antonia was
virtually blind due to cataracts in both
eyes. The operation is usually not per­
formed on both eyes at once, so she
could have only one eye operated on.

Antonia's operation was successful,
and Rehder gave his postoperative
advice, "Do not touch your eye, refrain
from heavy exercise, and when you go
to bed make sure that you don't sleep
on the side of your operated eye!"

"But I don't know how to sleep in a
bed," she replied. "I have never slept
in a bed. I can only sleep in ham­
mocks!"

In fact, when we visited Antonia at
home after surgery, she was relaxing in
a hammock. She was excited to see us.
Although she had not yet fully
regained her vision, she was on her
way to recovery and hopefully will be
able to have her other eye operated on
next year when "Amazon Vision 2000"
returns.

What would she do when she
regains her vision? "Well, I'll sit on the
plaza and watch the guys!"

Our journey took us to Porto de
Moz and Senator José Porfirio, two vil­
LAGES on the Xingu River. The river
reached international prominence
when the Kayapo Indians who live
upstream successfully fought the con­
struction of a hydroelectric dam that
would have destroyed their land, cul­
ture, and ultimately their lives.

We embarked on a speedboat with
all our portable equipment to reach a
little village on the Xingu, Vila Nova,
embedded in the midst of the jungle.
We passed island after island, swamp
after swamp, until the jungle closed in
on us. Suddenly our engine sputtered
and stopped working.

This moment of silence gave us
time for reflection and allowed us to
observe the wildlife that we had
missed: great blue herons, egrets fish­
ing in the shallow water, and red­
headed vultures in the crowns of the
trees drying their wings in the sun.

After several tries the engine came
back to life. Relieved, we continued
our journey to Vila Nova. At the same
time some of our colleagues had flown
by helicopter farther up the Xingu,
where waterfalls make the river impos­
sible to navigate.

At month's end, we had
performed 77 ophthalmologic
operations—an amount that
pales in comparison to the number of
people in need of surgery. In many
cases patients have to be turned away
in favor of those with more promising
outcomes. Such difficult decisions
were necessary in order to maximize
the impact of our mission. Regardless,
we witnessed many memorable, life­
transforming moments as bandages
were removed and patients experi­
enced restored vision.

Although as many as 16 percent of
the population we served suffered from
cataracts in at least one eye, pterygium
was clearly the most prevalent eye dis­
ease, affecting 44 percent of the peo­
ple. The high prevalence of both
cataract and pterygium is most likely
due to exposure to UV irradiation
from the sun. Since many of these
individuals work outside, it is difficult
to avoid exposure to sunlight; how­
ever, it might be possible (with appro­
piate funding) to provide the
population served by Carlos Chagas
with sunglasses to reduce damaging
UV exposure.

We also performed 2,405 eye exams.
Fifty percent of the population suffered
from hyperopia and from astigmatism
and were to receive glasses within a
few months from the government.

Through this floating hospital I met
the local population and saw parts of
the Amazon secluded from the outside
world. I consider it a privilege to have
been able to encounter this rich cul­
ture, one with a lifestyle based on
laughter and happiness despite all the
challenges and difficulties in their
lives. I also saw tremendous grace,
patience, and pain tolerance among
the patients, and dedication, commit­
ment, and hard work among the doc­
tors. While restoring vision for some of
these individuals, they also taught all
of us to see the world in a different
light.

For more information about Vision 2000,
or to contribute financial support for the
health mission in the Amazon, please
contact: ONG Brasil Visão 2000; Rua
Funchal, 19-5 andar-São Paulo-Brasil
CEP:04551-060; tel.: 55 11 38457007;
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'Champions' transform education

What can you and I do to make the future we envision a reality? By becoming champions for our values and creating opportunities for individuals and communities to realize their full potential. That is what the 1999-2000 Partners In Education report is all about.

The people recognized on these pages are bringing the transforming power of higher education to our region through their support for Portland State University.

At PSU we believe that higher education should offer a continuum of lifelong experiences which blend seamlessly into individuals' needs for learning throughout their professional and personal journeys. This kind of educational opportunity is the bedrock of our region's high quality of life.

The PSU model fuses academic knowledge with hands-on involvement. We ask our students to go beyond the expected, to convert what they learn in the classroom into meaningful contributions in the community surrounding them. I'd like to share just a few examples:

- Computer science students, working in our Center for Software Quality Research, help local software companies train professionals and test new products.
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- Our innovative University Studies curriculum engages more than 1,400 seniors with over 185 community-based projects annually, giving students with different majors experience working together as a team and building community values for the future.

In these and a multitude of other ways, Portland State is emerging as our region's primary catalyst for improving the way we work and live together. With the crucial partnership of many of you, we are meeting our community's call for leadership in higher education.

Happy New Year!

Daniel O. Bernstine
President

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Dan Bernstine
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“The Simon Benson House is a jewel—I’m excited about the role it will play in bringing alumni and the community to campus.”

Joan Johnson ’78
Friends of Simon Benson House

PSU alumna Joan Johnson on the steps of the Simon Benson House. Joan’s volunteer efforts assisted the Friends of Simon Benson House and the PSU Alumni Association in raising private funds to relocate and restore the historic house. It will be used as a visitor’s center and quarters for the Alumni Association.

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The PSU Foundation received thoughtful gifts in memory of the following individuals between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000.

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Names appearing in italics are donors to the Fund for PSU; * denotes faculty/staff member; † denotes deceased donor; and • denotes faculty/staff/her/him/emeriti donor household.
From the PSU Foundation Board President

On behalf of the Foundation board, I thank all of PSU’s friends for making this another year of stellar growth in private support for the University. The dedication, generosity, and hard work of a wide circle of alumni, friends, faculty, and students have made it possible to break new ground in community impact and academic excellence.

The PSU Foundation benefited from the generosity of alumni and friends and the increased recognition of the University’s academic excellence within our region and beyond.

- Total assets increased nearly 15 percent from $21.2 million to $24.31 million as of June 30, 2000.
- Scholarship awards increased nearly 10 percent to $941,280 as of June 30, 2000.
- Total revenue grew dramatically, reaching $11.1 million in 2000 compared to 5.5 million in 1996, a five-year increase of 102 percent.

The Foundation’s board of directors is a diverse group of community and business leaders who volunteer their time helping lead PSU to greater prominence and stature. We are proud to be associated with this University and to be in partnership with so many of the University’s friends in reaching our shared aspirations for PSU.

David W. Morthland President, PSU Foundation Board

For additional details regarding PSU Foundation financial information, please contact Philip Varnum, chief administrative officer, at 503-725-5881.
New library research center funded

Major gifts from four individuals will change forever the way students, faculty, and community patrons use the Branford P. Millar Library.

 Contributions totaling over $600,000 from James F. Miller, the estate of Marie Brown, Elizabeth Swindells, and Robert and Joan Williams will match state and federal funds to construct a new $2.86 million Library Research Center on the second floor of the Millar Library.

The Center will create a single initial point of access to the Library's extensive collections and the vast informational resources available worldwide. By consolidating state-of-the-art reference resources and highly skilled personnel, says Director Tom Pfingsten, "we will greatly improve the ability of librarians to serve PSU students, faculty, and the community as a whole."

As the largest academic library in the region, the Millar Library is the PSU resource area residents most often use, and the hub of the Portland Area Library System (PORTALS), a 16-member consortium of academic and research libraries. With the completion of the Research Center, the Library will be equipped with the most advanced tools to guide users toward their research goals.

"Thanks to these generous donors," Pfingsten notes, "the Millar Library continues to be the heart and soul of a great urban university."

Portland-area philanthropists honored

Former New York Governor Mario Cuomo was the keynote speaker at a dinner honoring three Oregonians who are giving back to the community.

Mary Clark and her husband, Maurie Clark, and Don Frisbee received the second annual Simon Benson awards on November 14. The award, which was named after early philanthropist Simon Benson, honors individuals who have demonstrated the same commitment to Oregon as Benson did in the early 20th century.

Mary and Maurie Clark are longtime supporters of education around the state. Don Frisbee, former chairman of PacifiCorp, has contributed to dozens of Oregon-based institutions and organizations.


Portland Mayor Vera Katz (top photo) talks with guest speaker Mario Cuomo at a dinner honoring Don Frisbee (left) and Mary Clark (above, left), seen here with Gerald Frank and Christina Friedhoff.
hen I was a kid, it wasn't Christmas until Uncle Ted's family letter came in the mail. He lived on a dusty almond orchard off Interstate 5 in central California. My sisters and I were usually inclined to bicker, but every winter we stood around Mom and Dad to examine Ted's signature array of rubber stamps, ka-chunked in deep blue across the envelope. Our favorite was a little bald man who looked just like Ted, standing, legs akimbo, pointing at his head. Above was a great big light bulb. Personal encouragements to everyone, individually, were hand-typed across the gummed edge. While we'd usually rip it open and roll on the floor at what passed for amusement 50 miles south of Modesto, the year cousin Wendell died we cried over Ted's simple prayer.

It was tacky, tender, and goofy even, but Ted always made each of us feel like a loving family no matter how far away or how seldom we met.

And that is the whole point, according to Susan Poulsen, assistant professor of speech communication. Impersonal and silly as they sometimes seem, holiday letters play a key role in strengthening America's particularly far-flung family ties. In some ways, they even define them.

According to Poulsen, holiday family letters have circulated in the United States for at least the past 50 years. They were mass-produced on
hand-cranked ditto machines before photocopiers and computers came along to make it even easier. They’re in some ways the outgrowth of Christmas cards, a British export dating from the late Victorian era.

But whether the writer is Christian, Jewish, or born-again pagan, whether he celebrates Kwanza, Hanukkah, or the Winter Solstice, Poulsen stresses that holiday letters are a uniquely American institution.

We have a long tradition of being separated from our families, and, according to Poulsen, an important purpose of the holiday letter is to renew our ties to extended family.

Over the past five years Poulsen and her research colleague, George Ray at Cleveland State University, have analyzed and archived hundreds of holiday letters. By examining communication and language these experts explore how the family sees itself—and how it’s holding together.

“It becomes a significant expression of family identity,” Paulsen says. “The first thing to convey is that the family is intact and functioning, which is important in light of the present divorce rate.”

But that’s also what can make them so annoying.

The typical family letter is often coming to terms in some way with a 1950’s model of family success, Poulsen says. The more like Beaver Cleaver your family appears, the more reassuring, and the more irritating. “We’re ambivalent about both the content and the form,” she says.

“Operating with a kind of idealized model of the family from the fifties is interesting if you’re a single mother,” observes Poulsen. “When writing family letters, people sometimes feel the need to account for the fact that theirs is a single parent family. Sometimes they don’t.

“It’s unfortunate, because this shows that models change slowly,” she says.

As far as the concept of photocopied personalization, “I think we’re offended on some level; someone ‘should’ be sitting down and writing something more personal,” Poulsen says. “At the same time, everyone appreciates the fact that no one has the time to write 73 personal letters.

“That’s why the ambivalence; we don’t have the time, but we miss the personal touch,” she says. “So people gitch about them, make fun of them, but those same folks really notice if someone doesn’t stay in touch—send a letter, and further, they may be sending out their own letter as well.”

In writing the holiday letter, the details vary but there’s a definite pattern. “This is supposed to be a cheerful time of the year, and yet we know that’s not always the case,” notes Poulsen. “However, holiday letters generally are in keeping with the spirit of the season. This even affects how we convey bad news, which is often buried towards the bottom in tones as upbeat as possible, if at all. Those writers whose letters are ‘too gloomy’ are sometimes viewed as having violated this unspoken rule,” she says.

Obscure rule number two: The body of the letter generally discusses each member of the family in turn—even the pets. “Now, this certainly wouldn’t be common practice in some other cultures,” Poulsen says. Lastly, letters usually end with a prayer, or blessing, or some type of good wishes bestowed on the recipient.

The Internet has revolutionized the medium. Commercial Web sites offer generic letters they will personalize and mail off for you; others take your hand-written letter and lay it out with photographs and art along the edges.

A few Web sites specialize in humor and sarcasm. An alternative health and lifestyle Web site, Thirdage.com, lists the top family letter-writing no-nos on its “Family Letters from Hell” link: “Did we mention that Sis won the Pillsbury Bake Off, New York State Lottery and Miss America contest—and landed a highly-paid job as a supermodel? That was in addition to the release of her novel—first try, we might add.”

Elsewhere on that same page, readers respond with their own comments. One posts:

“Reminds me of some I have received in the past. Funny but sad.”

Most amusing by far is a Web site dedicated to the fictional Smithee family (http://smithee.com) with satirical holiday letters backdated to 1993. That year’s missive begins:

“Hi everyone! Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas!

“Hope things are going well for all of you! It’s been a busy year for us. We spent three months in Romania; created a viable, non-polluting substitute for gasoline; went to the dentist; participated in the running of the bulls; and washed our car.”

The Web holds a number of real family letters, too. One clan publishes a truly charming one-page newsletter on their, what else, family Web site (www.flieger.com). Even just the computer-assisted freedom to drop in each recipient’s name on 40 sheets with a few keystrokes might explain why more letters are sent today than ever before.

Nevertheless, Poulsen finds most people do it the old-fashioned way. “These things are actually labors of love,” she contends. “They’re not just pumping them out, but carefully considering what they want to say about their family.”

I fan the rubber stamps around a four-inch stack of envelopes; still haven’t found any that look like a light bulb or a big-haired woman pointing at her head. I remove the top two inches of the envelope stack—otherwise there are just too many—and set to with what remains. It looks like a chore but there’s no reason to be dull about it. My own tribe is so wild by comparison to the rest of the family they’d believe anything about us. I’d hate to disappoint.

“Hi everyone! Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas . . . We spent three months in Romania . . .”

Lisa Loving, a regular contributor to PSU Magazine, sent out 17 holiday cards with short handwritten notes and a photocopied letter in each. (She was aiming for 34.)
Michelle Collins’ career trajectory has just one way to go—up.

By Melissa Steineger

Achieving your dream can include many strange twists of fate, including the ultimate irony—finding that your dream has changed.

Michelle Maynard Collins ’85 was a senior at Clackamas High School when she wrote to astronaut Sally Ride asking, Could a girl from ends-of-the-earth Oregon hope to fly through the heavens? Ride sent back the message: Follow your dream.

Since that time, Collins has focused on one goal, but serendipity, coincidence, and quirks have often turned and twisted her planned trajectory.

Collins, having scoured biographies, résumés, and other sacred texts of NASA’s elite, deduced that her first step toward the skies was to earn credentials as a mechanical engineer. She entered the honors program at Oregon State University. The school’s Air Force ROTC quickly offered her a full scholarship and a coveted pilot’s slot, but the size of OSU overwhelmed Collins. “I was shy, and it was such a huge school,” she says. “I was totally lost.”

Dispirited and broke, Collins retreated to Portland after one term at OSU. But, after a few months, she got back on track, enrolled at Portland State, and found a job at a local radio station sweeping floors from midnight to morning. “I slept a few hours before my work shift and a few hours after, but I was tired a lot,” she says. “Fortunately, my professors were very understanding.”

Understanding, perhaps, because they recognized her potential. Pah Chen, professor of mechanical engineering, was so impressed with Collins that he has stayed in touch with her during the 15 years since she last sat in his classroom. Last fall, Chen nominated Collins to the College of Engineering and Computer Science Academy of Distinguished Alumni. “She was a very special student,” says Chen. “Hard to forget. She set goals for herself, created opportunities for herself to reach those goals, and followed through.”

Collins demonstrated those traits during her senior year, when she methodically wrote to the 40 or so contractors who supply NASA with everything from O-rings to oxygen. Morton Thiokol wrote back. In August 1985, Collins joined the then-obscure supplier of rocket boosters. Five months later, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded on lift-off, and Morton Thiokol and O-rings became household words—driving home the dangers of shooting into outer space while sitting on a tank of flaming rocket fuel.

“When I joined Morton Thiokol, the first thing they did was show new employees a film of the dangers of working with the things we would be handling, like nitroglycerin,” recalls Collins. “They showed us the handprints left in doorways by people trapped in burning buildings, things like that.”

Danger didn’t deter Collins, although her meticulous planning almost did. Collins had scheduled her trip to the stars to include some practical experience before returning to school for advanced engineering degrees. But opportunity couldn’t wait.

“If I had planned to work three years, then go back to school and get a master’s,” recalls Collins. “After two years and eight months, an opening came up at Kennedy Space Center. I thought I should wait because it hadn’t been three years—typical engineer.”

Impulsively—for an engineer—Collins applied. Her résumé earned her a trip to the Florida Space Center and a chance to walk on the launch pad.

“It was so amazing,” she says. “Even though they canceled the job, I had seen it—I had walked on the launch pad. I then applied with every agency, every contractor, everyone who had anything to do with Kennedy.”

Collins landed a job with EG&G, Inc., the contractor responsible for Space Center facilities. EG&G needed to revamp its fire-suppression systems, and although Collins didn’t have a lot of experience, she leapt in. Upon joining the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Collins learned that one of the most potent fire-extinguishing substances in EG&G’s arsenal was raising environmental red flags.

Halon is the best when it comes to fighting fires in flammable liquids—like rocket fuel—and electrical equipment. It’s also one of the most potent greenhouse gases known—eight times more powerful than fluorocarbon refrigerants in damaging the Earth’s protective layer of ozone.

Collins developed a stellar program for EG&G to reduce the use of halon, and caught the eye of NASA officials. NASA created a job for a halon expert, and she successfully applied—joining the agency in 1990.

In her first year at the Space Center, Collins hit the stratosphere. She was named to manage NASA’s entire halon program. She also was invited to join the NFPA’s halon committee, and she became a member of an international halon group. Eventually the
United Nation's halon committee requested her presence. At the Space Center, her group designed and built the world's first halon reprocessing unit, and she is currently establishing a research lab to develop new fire suppression agents for NASA facilities on Earth and in space, such as a future Mars base. In her spare time, Collins earned her master's and doctorate degrees in environmental engineering, and what followed was another twist in her trajectory.

Eight years ago, Collins was asked at the last minute to attend a weeklong course for managers. She went, although she hadn't had time to read the required material. Fortunately, another engineer from Kennedy had. But during the initial introductions, Collins was turned off by the "know-it-all" whose preparation helped him answer every question without hesitation. To her chagrin, the instructor put them both in the same small workgroup for the duration of the course. But by the end of the week, Collins had changed her mind about her fellow engineer and asked him out. As a result, she and David Collins have been happily married for six years.

As for becoming an astronaut, Collins says she's still interested. But having observed the everyday world of astronauts up-close, she's also aware that not every astronaut gets to travel in space. Most put in many hours of overtime, spend weeks on the road away from home and family, and spend hours as public relations emissaries.

Now 40 and thinking about starting a family, Collins no longer remains as convinced of the trade-offs. "I am very confident we're going to commercialize the space program in my lifetime, so there will be that opportunity to see the planet from outer space. After putting in so much overtime getting degrees while working, developing the halon phaseout program and now thinking about having children—I have to ask myself, in the long run, what will be more important?"

For now, Collins is working on a special one-year assignment at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., designing a program to help NASA managers develop a new way of thinking. "Our mindset at the agency has been very traditional," says Collins. "We need to think more like Silicon Valley."

Collins got the job in typical fashion. "I took a management development course at the (NASA) academy, and I had some ideas for improvements. I was giving the director that feedback after the course and he invited me to work for him."

In D.C., Collins will also be helping find ways to incorporate recommendations from the blue ribbon panel on the failed Mars missions. In her mind, the problem lies with the aversion to risk that has built up at NASA over the last decade. "People joined the agency because we want to push to the limits," she says. "We need to return to that mindset—to challenge ourselves and to challenge the future."

(Melissa Steineger, a Portland freelance writer, wrote the articles "Mural Master" and "Burn, Buddy, Burn," which appeared in the fall 2000 PSU Magazine.)
Amazing contrasts seen in China on alumni tour

Pat Squire (kneeling, second from right) led friends and alumni of PSU on a tour of China during November. They enjoyed the music played by the man pictured below, in an area that was once forbidden to most people.

By Pat Squire

China is a country of great beauty and contrasts. That’s what a PSU alumni tour group of the People’s Republic of China discovered during a three-week trip in November. I led 34 alums and friends of the University on a journey that started in Beijing and ended in Hong Kong. We covered over 3,000 miles by plane, bus, boat, and train.

"Tiananmen Square looks so lively, with kites flying next to bright red Chinese flags. It’s hard to believe it was a place of protests and violence," said Susan Mattson Delaney ’69, ’75. Next to the public square is the Forbidden City, now swarming with tourists, but once a very private place for emperors and their families. And the Temple of Heaven, where emperors prayed in seclusion, is now an area where the elder generation gather each morning to socialize, play cards, make music, and trade stories.

Visiting Chinese people in their homes and students in their schools was a favorite part of the trip for Bev Pratt Miller ’74. "We felt very welcome in our host’s home. She was gracious and charming and pleased to share food and tea with us. And the children were delightful, just like ours."

"We marveled at the ancient tombs housing the Terra Cotta Warriors," said Bill Long ’71, ’79. Buried near Xian as part of Emperor Qin Shi Huang’s tomb in the second century B.C., and discovered by farmers in 1974, the site was excavated to showcase the life-size warriors and their horses and armor. The mausoleum is now a major tourist site and considered an eighth wonder of the world. Justifiably so, thought Long.

Life on the Yangtze was different from the big cities. We enjoyed a leisurely pace as the riverboat cruised up the brown river, which would remain shallow until summer’s rainy season. We were awed at the Three Gorges Dam project, designed to solve navigation and flooding problems and to deliver much-needed water to northern China. The Three Gorges are more graceful and less geometric than our beloved Columbia Gorge, and seem perpetually shrouded in mist and fog. Their beauty is captured in countless Chinese drawings, watercolors, illustrations and scrolls.

Dirce Toulan liked the Lesser Three Gorges. While smaller and less frequent, they are stunningly beautiful and have the remnants of remarkable ancient towpaths carved into the rock face of the gorge. With the dam project, we all pondered what would happen to the scenic beauty and archeological sites, some of which would be permanently altered and submerged by the high waters from the dam.

Our boat stopped at city after city, each one registering millions of people, and each having its own contrasts: farmers’ markets overflowing with fresh vegetables and a KFC just a block away, and vendors hawking cheap wares down the street from stores with designer jewelry and clothing.

Nearly every day on the journey we were warmly welcomed by the people we met amid the striking contrast of old and new resulting from rapid growth and change. "A once-in-a-lifetime trip," said Bob Rawson ’58, "and part of it was a result of a great group of traveling companions."

For information about future trips of the Alumni Office, call 503-725-4949 or see our Web site at www.alumni.pdx.edu.

(Pat Squire is director of PSU Alumni Relations. This was her second visit to China.)
Nominations sought for outstanding alumni and faculty

Nominations are now being accepted for Outstanding Alumni and Distinguished Faculty Service awards. Selections will be made in February and honorees will be recognized at PSU Salutes in May.

The selection committee is seeking nominations of alumni who have achieved success in their field, and who have brought recognition to PSU. The Distinguished Faculty Service Award recognizes a faculty member "who has made extraordinary contributions, not only to the University, but to the Portland community."

Last year's recipient was Darrell Millner, professor of black studies.

Nomination materials can be obtained by contacting PSU's Office of Alumni Relations at 503-725-5073 or psualum@pdx.edu.

There's no better way to recognize an outstanding alum or say thanks to a faculty member who made a difference in your education than to nominate her or him for one of the PSU Alumni Association's annual awards. What a difference it can make in their lives.

Even though it has been almost a year since I was fortunate enough to receive PSU's Outstanding Alumni award, I still look back on the honor with renewed pride. To tell you the truth, I was happy just to have received the nomination; it meant one of my professors still remembered me even though it has been a long, long time since I attended classes.

To actually get the award and be listed among some truly incredible PSU alumni is humbling.

It is one thing to receive recognition within the small communities that make up our professional lives, it's quite another to be honored by our alma mater. Over the years I have looked at the long list of accomplishments by the University and have always been proud to say I graduated from PSU.

Steve Amen '86

President Dan Bernstine (left) congratulates Steve Amen on receiving an Outstanding Alumni award in May 1999.

Just 200 left . . . buy a brick today!

Your $100 tax-deductible contribution will buy a brick inscribed with your name—or any message you choose—to be placed in the patio garden behind the Simon Benson House on the Portland State campus.

And that's not all. Your donation will help save and restore the Benson House, the future home of PSU's Alumni Association.

All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Mail your brick order or contribution to:
Friends of Simon Benson House, PO Box 1326, Portland, OR 97207

Yes! I want to help save the Simon Benson House!

NAME __________________________ PHONE __________________________

STREET ADDRESS __________________________ CITY __________________________ STATE __________ ZIP __________

☐ I would like to purchase ________ brick(s) at $100 each.
☐ Enclosed is my check for $ ________ made payable to Friends of Simon Benson House.
☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard, CARD NO. __________________________ __________ EXP. DATE ________

SIGNATURE __________________________

Print in capital letters. Two lines per brick, up to 20 characters per line. Spaces count as one character.
Compiled by Myrna Duray

'60
R. Ronald Thurman is a self-employed financial services adviser living in Keizer.

'61
Patricia "Pat" Renner is a watercolor artist whose set of paintings entitled Grandmother Obsession was exhibited at the Chetco Community Public Library in August. Renner previously spent 28 years as a school librarian and taught in a variety of fields, including general art and graphic design at Gold Beach High School. She lives in Gold Beach.

'64
C. Thomas Rogers is a mathematics teacher at Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, California. Rogers is also a law clerk and paralegal. He lives in San Luis Obispo and writes, "I'm living in my favorite city in the whole world. Portland prepared me for it."

'66
Patricia "Pat" Evenson-Brady MST '73 is the Region 9 Educational Service District (ESD) superintendent. Evenson-Brady previously served as assistant superintendent for instruction in special education and technology. She lives in Hood River with her husband, Phil Brady, who is responsible for the PSU master's program there.

Molly Gloss is a Portland-based author whose latest novel, Wild Life, was published in June (see page 5). Gloss' earlier work, The Jump-Off Creek, won the Oregon Book Award and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award in 1989.

'67
Mark Adams writes, "I received a degree in economics... followed by a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and later did graduate work in history at PSU under Charlie White. I practiced law in Tacoma, Washington, and served as commissioner of the Washington Court of Appeals for 16 years. I retired last April

and live with my wife and daughter on Puget Sound near Gig Harbor. I have fond memories of my days at PSU."

Vicki Thomas MST '74 is a counselor at St. Helens High School. Thomas previously was a counselor at Parkrose High School in Portland and has also taught health and fitness in Mt. Hood Community College.

Richard White is general contractor at Richard White Construction in Portland.

'68
Terrie Wettle MS '71, PhD '76 is associate dean of medicine for public health and public policy at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Wettle writes, "...I have been asked to launch a new public health program and to join the faculty as professor of community health. I will also monitor, advise, and serve as a spokesperson for the Brown School of Medicine on issues of medical education and health policy." For the past five years, Wettle served as deputy director at the National Institute on Aging in Bethesda, Maryland.

'71
Alan Federici is senior vice president and area manager at Centennial Bank. Federici is responsible for all Centennial Bank branches' development and sales activities in the Portland and Salem areas. He has 27 year's experience in banking, mostly with U.S. Bank.

Annabelle Jaramillo MS '74 has been elected to the Benton County Board of Commissioners. Jaramillo is the director of the Oregon Citizens' Representative Office. She lives in Philomath.

'72
Paul DeMuniz was elected to the Oregon State Supreme Court in the November 7 election. DeMuniz previously served as an Oregon Appeals Court judge for two terms.

Michael "Mike" Houck is an urban environmentalist with the Audubon Society and an adjunct geography instructor at PSU. Houck co-edited the book Wild in the City: A Guide to Portland's Natural Area, pub-

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI ELECTED and re-elected into the Oregon Legislature on November 7.

Margaret Carter '73 (Democrat) was elected state senator for District 8 in Multnomah County. Carter was a state representative for six years. She is president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Portland and a counselor at Portland Community College.

Richard Devlin '76 (Democrat) was re-elected state representative for District 24 in Clackamas and Washington Counties. Devlin is a legal investigator and has been a juvenile surveillance officer and a correctional officer. He and his wife live in Tualatin.

Avel Gordly '74 (Democrat) was re-elected senator for District 10 in Multnomah County. Gordly is a director of the Albina Community BANCORP, an unpaid position. She served as a state representative for six years before joining the Senate. Gordly has served as program director for the Portland House of Umoja; director of American Friends Service Committee; director of youth services for the Urban League of Portland; and adult parole and probation officer for the Oregon Corrections Division.

Randy Leonard '75 (Democrat) was re-elected to the Oregon House for District 21 in Multnomah County. Leonard was a state senator for six years. He has been a fire inspector and fire lieutenant since 1978 and is currently assigned to fireboat 17. He lives in east Portland.

Steve March MUSP '91, PhD '97 (Democrat) was elected state representative for the 15th District in Multnomah County. March is a county policy analyst and formerly was project director for the senior adult learning center at PSU.

Bruce Starr '91 (Republican) was re-elected state representative for District 3 in Washington County. Starr owns a small roofing and residential construction firm. He and his family live in Hillsboro.

Carolyn Tomei '71, MSW '73 (Democrat) was elected to the House for District 25 in Clackamas County. Tomei is mayor of Milwaukee, and she has worked as a child development specialist for Portland Public Schools; schools consultant for Multnomah County Mental Health; and an instructor at Portland Community College.
Molly Cook writes, "I returned to the Northwest in June 1999 after spending three years in Maine teaching and writing. I have since moved to Bellevue, Washington, where I work as an internal organizational communication consultant for Entranco, Inc., a 350-person consulting engineering firm."

D. Scott Davis is chief financial officer and senior vice president of finance for UPS in Atlanta. Davis, a certified public accountant, joined UPS 14 years ago. He also serves a committee of the Georgia Council on Economic Education.

Richard Koenig is an organic instrumental systems specialist with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in Portland.

Joel Selling is business development manager at Frezant Associates, Inc., an industrial hygiene and safety company in Seattle.

Mario Bolivar MSW '77 is director of the Wallowa Valley Mental Health Center. He and his family live in Joseph.

David "Dave" Fitzpatrick MS '77 is assistant vice president and associate group actuary at The Standard in Portland. Fitzpatrick has also been appointed to the faculty of the University of Phoenix teaching business statistics. He also serves as vice president for strategic planning and projects on the PSU Alumni Association board of directors.

M ARK GARDINER '75 IS FINDING A UNIQUE WAY to strengthen ties with his alma mater and to also indulge his passion for sports. A part owner and CFO of Portland Family Entertainment (PFE), Gardiner helped start up the sports and entertainment business in 1998. Now, with 30 employees and annual revenues exceeding $10 million, PFE is a partner with the city in the $38.5 million renovation of PGE stadium (formerly Civic Stadium) and will operate all aspects of the stadium for the next 20 years.

Last summer, PSU and PFE reached an agreement that will bring the Vikings back to the site where they've played since 1967. Besides providing the Vikings with a spiffy, fan-friendly venue to showcase its football team, the school will benefit from an attractive 10-year lease, says deputy athletic director Brent Wilder. "Playing in a first-class stadium will be a big boost for us. We hope it will double our net football revenue from last year."

Gardiner is one of four PSU alumni at PFE, which also owns the Portland Beavers and Tri-City Dust Devils baseball teams and the new Portland Timbers soccer team. Joining him are senior vice-president Mike Higgins '84, sales director Ron Henderson '87, and event coordinator Mike Carrico '73.

Gardiner, who learned the intricacies of public financing from the ground up, worked as an economist for the city of Portland and climbed to director of fiscal administration—basically the CFO/CAO of the city. He left in 1985 to specialize in public finance consulting. In the 1990s, Gardiner worked on about 30 sports- and entertainment-related deals including arena projects in Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Diego.

Since helping to start PFE, Gardiner has traded in his frequent flier coupons to spend more time with his wife, Mary Nolan (a state representative from District 11), and their five-year old daughter, Liz.

Gardiner, a former PSU Alumni board member, says he is delighted to be working with PSU again. "We're excited about the success of the Vikings football program, and we look forward to helping bring them a higher profile." —John Rumler
Jerry Roberts is a lieutenant with the Hermiston Police Department. Roberts is a 25-year law enforcement veteran and in 1998 was invited to attend the National Academy for Police Officers at FBI headquarters at Quantico, Virginia.

Carol Van Natta is director of development at the University of Denver, Daniels College of Business. Van Natta lives in Westminster, Colorado.

Ronald "Ron" Carlson MS is principal at Washougal High School in Washington.

Stephanie Hallock MPA '79 was recently named director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Hallock joined DEQ in 1988. She was most recently administrator of the DEQ's Eastern Region.

Jerome "Jerry" Moss has been principal at Hathaway Elementary School (Washougal School District) for six years. Moss and his wife, Kathleen, enjoy golf and snow skiing and live in Camas, Washington.

Sherry Phillips is development supervisor at ADP Dealer Services, a software development firm in Portland.

Jeff Svejcar is executive director of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC). OSAC administers student financial aid programs for the benefit of Oregonians attending institutions of postsecondary education. Svejcar was deputy director for seven years.

Randal "Randy" Rosin is general superintendent at Advanced American Diving/M. Cutter Company, a marine, industrial construction, salvage, machine works, and diving firm in Vancouver, Washington.

David Streicher is senior attorney at Black Helterline LLP, where his practice focuses on taxation, estate planning, and business. Streicher is a member of the Oregon Bar, as well as the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Paul Maier is a data conversion specialist with M & M Consulting in Beaverton.

Chester "Chet" Orloff MA retired from the position of executive director of the Oregon Historical Society in December. Orloff continues to work as director emeritus of the society and is pursuing potential projects with Oregon Public Broadcasting and the news media.

Julie Pedersen-McDevitt is a retirement plan consultant with Lincoln Financial Group, a non-profit retirement planning firm in Lake Oswego.

Steven Hedberg was recertified as an expert in business bankruptcy law and creditors' rights law by the American Bankruptcy Board of Certification. Hedberg is a partner at Perkins Coie, L.L.P., and heads the firm's reorganization and bankruptcy practice group in Portland.

Jay Rathe is a certified public accountant at Jay Rathe CPA, P.C., in Portland.

Candace McCormack Clarke is fiscal director of Columbia Community Mental Health, an agency serving Columbia county. Clarke is also an adjunct faculty member at the Small Business Development Center in Portland. She lives in St. Helens.

Eric Ellis is a property claim adjuster with Travelers Property Casualty insurance company. Ellis lives in Troy, Michigan.

David Manougian is chief operating officer with The Golf Channel. Manougian previously served as director of golf sales and marketing for Nike, Inc. He lives in Orlando, Florida.
Lela Triplett Roberts is principal of Brooklyn-Winterhaven School in Portland. Brooklyn Elementary enrolls kindergarten through eighth grade, and Winterhaven is a K-8 magnet program with a special focus on math, science, and technology. Roberts previously was principal at Jefferson High School.

Luay Aljamal is senior engineer at SJO Consulting Engineers in Portland.

Michelle DeBoard MS '00 is associate principal at Sherwood High School. DeBoard formerly was a French teacher and coordinator for the department of second language at Tigard High School. She lives in Tualatin.

Mark Fujii MBA is a project manager with DPR Construction, Inc., a national building contractor. Fujii has 17 years experience in the completion of complex, multi-discipline projects and previously was the manager of Portland-based IDC's Japanese business.

Russell Grate owns Grate Computers, a computer retail business in Portland.

Dana Jensen is controller at Gray Purcell General Contractors in Tigard. Jensen previously was the accounting manager at Road Machinry, Inc.

David Rostal MS is an associate professor of biology at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia.

Jeffrey "Chip" Butson is an auditor with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. He lives in Estacada.

Ray Kelly is a committee administrator for the Oregon Legislature and is a member of the Keizer Parks Advisory Board. Kelly also is doing graduate work in public administration at PSU.

Politics, economics, even nature stood in the way of the establishment of Portland State University. It's a unique story and Professor Gordon Dodds reveals it in The College That Would Not Die: The First Fifty Years of Portland State University, 1946-1996.

Published in collaboration with Oregon Historical Society Press, The College That Would Not Die is 544 pages and contains more than 60 black-and-white illustrations. Cost is $40 and all proceeds go to scholarships.

To order a copy, call 503-725-8205.
Jennifer Butcher poses with her newly won Bronze medal and her husband and coach, Bryan, at the 2000 Paralympic games. Butcher, who turned 28 in October, lost her sight in college to a progressively degenerative condition called Stargardt's disease. Up until that point her athletic future had been bright. She has swam competitively since the age of 12, although it got harder and harder to walk away with the medals. She graduated from Linfield in 1995 unsure of what she could do. She had always planned to be a teacher, but wasn't sure she could manage it as a blind person.

A year after she earned her teaching certificate at PSU, Butcher was offered a position at the Washington State School for the Blind in Vancouver. Having led her there, fate dangled one more prize in front of her. The possibility of renewing her competitive swimming career in the company of the world's top disabled athletes.

The Paralympic games have been connected with the Olympic games since 1960 when both competitions were held in Rome. "Para" in Paralympics is from Latin and refers to 'on par with' or 'parallel to' and not paralyzed. A total of 4,000 athletes from 125 countries participated in the Paralympic games this year in Sydney. Butcher was one of four Paralympic athletes from Oregon who attended the 2000 games. She competed in four events: the 50-meter freestyle, the 100-meter freestyle, the 100-meter breaststroke, and the 200 individual medley. She took the bronze medal in the 100-meter freestyle race in her category.

"It was the best thing that ever happened in my whole life," she says. "I'd love to be able to help some of the kids at the school be able to experience that." --Merlin Douglas

Nathan Swenson is manager of computer services for Selmet, Inc., a manufacturing facility in Albany.

Amy Van De Water writes, “Currently a stay-at-home mom, I am expecting our third child in February. We have two boys now, Theo (3 years) and William (17 months).” Van De Water and her family live in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Greg Lupfer is defensive coordinator for the PSU football team, after serving as an assistant coach for the past five years. Lupfer played linebacker for the Vikings in 1991 and 1993. He lives in Beaverton.

Nancy Pasternack is an audit manager with Perkins & Company in Portland. Pasternack, a certified public accountant, specializes in opinion audits for privately held companies and works in fraud prevention, detection, and resolution, and assists clients with acquisitions.

Kalley Aman MS ’97 is an associate in the litigation department of Miller, Nash, Wiener, Hager & Carlsen in Portland. Aman focuses on international commercial litigation and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyer’s Association and the World Affairs Council.

Rockmond Beach is an ergonomics consultant in Portland.

George Kalli is a hydrologist with the U.S. Chugach National Forest. He lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

Claire Slawson is director of operations for KVO Public Relations in Portland. Slawson oversees all internal operations, including information technology, human resources, and administration. She formerly was a benefits consultant for Legacy Health System.

Jeffrey “Jeff” Blackman is a mathematics teacher at Hood River Valley High School. Blackman also is a heavy equipment mechanic and previously taught integrated math and auto shop at The Dalles.

Melanie Kuppenbender is a technical writer for Stream International in Portland.

Charles Muir is a production control scheduler in the information technology department at PSU.

Jeffrey “Jeff” Jones is a senior technician with David J. Newton Associates, Inc. (DNA), in Bend. Jones focuses on construction observation testing and earthwork consulting.

Lauren Mantecón MFA is an artist, represented by Mark Woolley Gallery in Portland. Her work has been shown both nationally and internationally. Mantecón has also taught mixed media courses at PSU and at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology in Otis.

Kimber “Kim” Walmer is senior project manager at CIDA, Inc., a multi-disciplinary architecture and engineering firm in Portland.

Susan Barr is the morning host at KUPL, a broadcast radio station in Portland.

Krista Lynne Healy is marketing coordinator for Legend Homes in Tigard.

Theresa Hogue is a reporter covering higher education with the Gazette Times in Corvallis. Hogue previously was entertainment editor for News Times in Forest Grove.

Julie Kopet MS is education manager and instructs adult basic education at Portland Community College’s off-site location at the Columbia River Correctional Institution.

Bradley Kuhns is a design manager at Gap, Inc. Kuhns formerly was a designer at Nike, Inc., in Beaverton for three years. He lives in San Francisco.

Connie Peters Reiner MURP is a GIS specialist for the city of West Linn.

Melissa Waggy participated with the Devils Lake Water Improvement District in a study on aquatic plant growth in Devils Lake located in Lincoln City.

Sean Cox is founder and executive director of For Us Northwest (FUN), an agency that works with children in Oregon and southwest Washington who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

Michael Harrison MURP is a staff assistant with Multnomah County Commissioner Jim Francesconi. Harrison is responsible for communications, land use, economic development, and transportation issues for the commissioner. He formerly served as chief of staff for Congressman Earl Blumenauer in Washington, D.C.

Mark Hillmann is a senior image analyst with Orbital Imaging Corporation, a remote sensing company in St. Louis.

Joanne Lau is outreach coordinator for Community Energy Project in Portland.

Piyapong "Pete" Suppipat MBA is an accountant with the city of Vancouver, Washington.

Rebecca Swartzentruber MS is a special education teacher at Wy'east Middle School in Hood River.

Christopher Borton writes, "Shortly after graduation, I accepted the position of chief real estate appraiser with the Chicago District of the Army Corps of Engineers, where I work with non-federal partners on water-related projects in the Chicagoland area."

Randall "Randy" Ealy III MPA is city manager for Estacada. Ealy formerly was city manager of Wheeler and also has served as an executive analyst for Metro's executive officer, Mike Burton.

Donna Houston MSW is a child development specialist at Sweet Home Junior High School.


Mark Reeves MS is a senior environmental engineer with the solid waste program of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in Salem.

Dana Sedlak is development coordinator of external relations for the PSU School of Business Administration.

Victoria Brown is manager at the Tualatin Transportation Management Association (TMA). TMA is a service of the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce, advocates for mass transit to ease congestion and improve air quality.

Christen Depweg is a marketing assistant with KPFF Consulting Engineers in Portland. Depweg supports the firm in its structural, civil, and surveying marketing efforts.

Marcia Grzybowski is a course management specialist for the PSU Graduate School of Education's Continuing Education Department.

Ryan Murphy is a material planner with Freightliner Corporation, a truck manufacturer in Portland.

Debra Wartman is an administrative assistant with the city of Portland.

Richard Wilhelm is an associate in the intellectual property department of Miller, Nash, Wein, Hager & Carlsen in Portland. Wilhelm has more than 20 year's legal experience, managing regulatory compliance and technological projects in the financial services industry.

Christopher Zahas MURP is an associate at Leland Consulting Group, real estate economics and development advisers. Zahas formerly was a project coordinator with Portland Development Commission, helping to implement urban renewal projects in Portland's Lents neighborhood.

In Memory

Kevin Mulligan '71 died October 6 following a heart attack. Mulligan was the Northwest regional communications director for AT&T Broadband. Mulligan worked in media, including television, for more than 20 years. In 1992, his stepson, Jim Stolpa, his wife, and their infant son were lost in a blizzard in the Sierra Madre Mountains. Mulligan organized a search party and later sold the story rights of their rescue and survival. His ties to PSU go back to 1970 when he organized the student strike protesting the war in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and two stepsons.

Sheldon "Shelley" Maron, professor of special education, died October 29 from complications of diabetes. He was 58. Dr. Maron, who taught at PSU since 1978, specialized in the education of visually impaired children. In the early 1990s he oversaw a three-year, $226,000 grant to prepare teachers to work with visually handicapped children from the Pacific Northwest. He was teaching in the Graduate School of Education up to the week before his death. Dr. Maron is survived by his wife and daughter.

Tell us all about yourself

Please let us know about you or your PSU friends for Alum Notes. Tell us about honors, promotions, appointments, and other important events in your life. Send your news by e-mail to psualum@pdx.edu or use the form below.

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Name while attending PSU ___________________________

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Occupation ___________________________ Employer ___________________________

Home/Business Telephone ___________________________ Home/Business E-mail ___________________________

Send to: Myrna Duray, Alumni Relations, Portland State University, PO Box 752, Portland OR 97207-0751, 503-725-4948.
MEN'S BASKETBALL This is a transition season for the men's program. The Vikings, which opened the schedule with three straight road games against Pac-10 schools, are coming off of their third straight winning season, but the team also lost four key seniors. With a core of new talent joining returners Anthony Lackey and Luke Dean, head coach Joel Sobotka still has high expectations. One thing is certain, Sobotka's up-tempo run and gun style will be exciting to watch this year as the Vikings move back on campus, playing 11 of their 13 home games at the Peter W. Stott Center. Newcomers Dony Wilcher and Jabbar Washington will play pivotal roles for PSU as they make a run in the Big Sky Conference.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL The Vikings started a tough non-conference schedule with an 0-4 mark. Head coach George Wolfe has only one returning starter and seven new players for its Big Sky season, which started in January. Senior Hiedi Hatcher is capping off a stellar collegiate career and will try to duplicate or improve upon her honorable mention, all-conference status from a year ago. The women's basketball team also boasts a two-sport star in senior Alicia Russell. Russell is playing her first year on the team, having come from the softball diamond where she was a top player.

WRESTLING The 2000-01 edition of the PSU wrestling squad looks to take another step forward since joining the Pac-10 conference in 1998. Following a 10th place finish in their inaugural season, the Vikings jumped to eighth last season, and head coach Marlin Grahn is optimistic that this year's team will continue to improve in the tough Pac-10. The Vikings started the season with a bang, defeating conference rival Stanford in their first dual meet of the year. Portland State returns all three wrestlers who competed at last year's NCAA Championships in St. Louis. Sophomore Eric Arbogast (157 pounds) and junior Jeremy Wilson (184 pounds) will return to their starting roles while sophomore Mike Pierce (174 pounds) will redshirt this season. Wilson opened the season ranked No. 14 in the nation at 184 by Amateur Wrestling News.

FOOTBALL The Vikings completed what is very possibly its most impressive season, highlighted by an 8-4 overall record, a historic road win over Division I-A Hawaii, and a first-ever trip to the playoffs since moving up to Division I-AA in 1996. The senior-laden squad made its mark in the PSU record books and was ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation at one point during the season. Quarterback Jimmy Blanchard became just the second Viking in history to pass for more than 8,000 yards in a career, wide receiver Orshwante Bryant set all major career receiving records, and tailback Charles Dunn demolished 12 school rushing records in becoming the third most prolific running back in NCAA I-AA history and Big Sky Conference Player of the Year.

GOLF Both the men's and women's teams made impressive strides during their respective fall seasons. The women were led by Taya Battistella, who had a team-best 76.7 scoring average and led the Vikings to a best-ever third-place finish at the Bronco Fall Classic tournament. The men's team won its first team title in nearly two years by capturing the Idaho Vandal Fall Classic.

SOCCER The team finished a disappointing 2000 campaign without a victory and the program will rebuild next year under a new head coach. Senior midfielder Aimee Mansoor was honored as a Second-Team All-Big Sky Conference selection.

VOLLEYBALL The volleyball Viks will also get a makeover next season, as head coach Chris Stanley stepped down following a difficult 0-25 season. Strong play from freshman Tiare Alailima and sophomore Stacy Ball are encouraging signs that last season's struggles should only be temporary.

CROSS COUNTRY The men's and women's teams competed at the Big Sky Championships with the women taking seventh and the men placing ninth. Freshman Brian Orth led the men's squad, while women's team senior Melissa Telford, two-time all-conference performer, ran only two races before the Big Sky Championships.

Tickets to athletic events are available through the PSU Box Office, 503-725-3307, or by calling 1-888-VIK-TIKS. For a complete schedule of matches see the Web site www.goviks.com.
Show a valid PSU Student ID at any PSU athletics regular home game or match for free admission.

Heat Up Winter with the Vikings

WRESTLING

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

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