

Spring 5-1-2020

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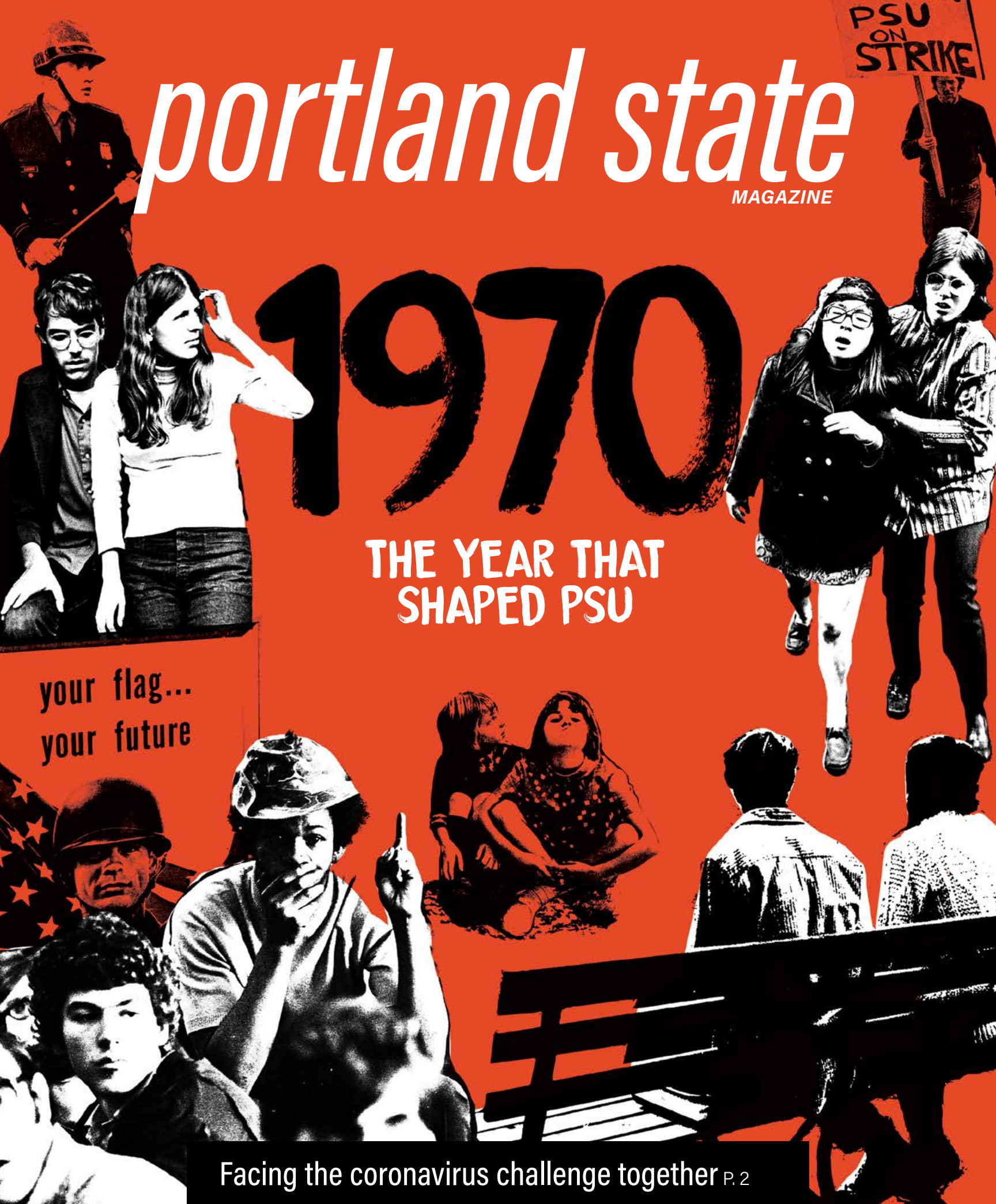
# portland state

MAGAZINE

# 1970

## THE YEAR THAT SHAPED PSU

your flag...  
your future



Facing the coronavirus challenge together P.2



# BE A PART OF OREGON COAST AQUARIUM'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is one of the jewels in the Pacific northwest, frequently rated among the top ten aquariums in the U.S. Since opening in 1992, the Aquarium has immersed more than 15 million visitors in the mysteries of the deep blue sea. To expand our reach and continue our mission for generations to come, we have embarked on a campaign to remodel our exhibits, enhance the education programming experience, and build a new facility dedicated to meet the growing need for marine wildlife rehabilitation. We invite you to help us fulfill our role as a crucial resource for marine wildlife wellness, ocean literacy, and imparting values about Oregon's natural wonders.

Donate today at [givetoaquarium.org](https://givetoaquarium.org)



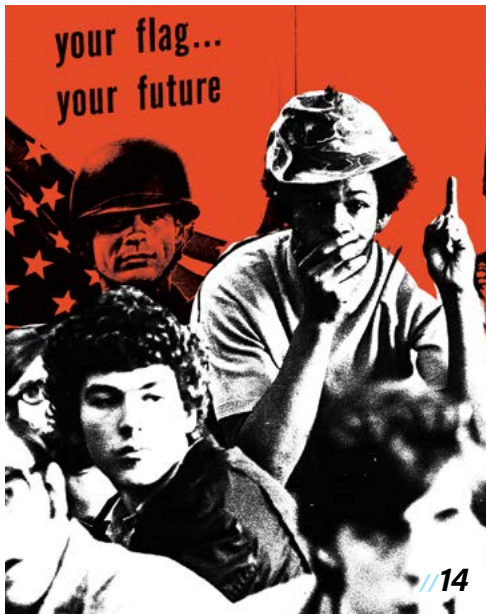
OUR OCEAN  
OUR COAST  
YOUR AQUARIUM



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Spring 2020// The magazine for alumni and friends of Portland State University

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### 1970

From "The Battle of the Park Blocks" to protests that led to campus childcare, this pivotal year of turmoil shaped the modern PSU.



### 50 Years of Honors

PSU's haven for high achievers has evolved from a small, experimental program into a leader in educating first-generation college students.



### Art for All

PSU's new museum brings art to the heart of the city with a focus on free exhibitions and educational programming.

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from the president

## OUR CAMPUS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

**THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS** has unfolded on our campus the way it has in communities across our nation and our world: in the words of Ernest Hemingway, “Gradually, then suddenly.”

We had to respond quickly when it became apparent the virus was spreading across the Northwest. Working with Gov. Kate Brown and presidents of other universities, we made the decision in mid-March that all courses would be offered remotely for the entire spring term in order to keep our students, faculty and staff as safe as possible.

As always, our students are foremost in my mind and the minds of my colleagues. They deserve a high-quality education, and we are working tirelessly to provide it in a virtual learning environment. Remote learning is a new term for many of us. It describes the strategy of moving content designed for face-to-face teaching to a digital format. PSU is well-positioned to be a leader with our existing tools and capabilities, and more of them under development.

Our talented faculty is rising to the challenge with characteristic innovation, enthusiasm and a willingness to put students first. This goes beyond making sure students can attend classes remotely; we are also working to find new ways to continue offering supports, like tutoring and advising, that they usually get in person. Sometimes when things are shaken up—and we scramble to respond—

amazing things happen! I anticipate that this shift will lead to profound learning experiences.

We realize that many of our alumni have their own questions about the crisis or are searching for a way to help students in need. Please visit [letknowledgeserve.org/resilience](http://letknowledgeserve.org/resilience) to read perspectives from PSU researchers responding to this moment in history.

On this page, you can also find information on making a gift to the **PSU Resilience Fund**—a new philanthropic fund established to help address critical needs across campus in the wake of the coronavirus. Many PSU students are particularly vulnerable and may be facing new pressures during this time. Areas of urgent need include emergency funds for students, basic needs support, and resources for remote teaching and learning. Every gift to this important fund is deeply appreciated. After all, we’re all in this together.

I wish you good health. Thank you for being a part of PSU.

Sincerely,

Stephen Percy  
Interim President, Portland State University

# inbox

## FOND MEMORIES OF PROFESSOR NUSSBAUM

Just want to say how delighted I was to see an article [“Voices of the Holocaust”] about my former German teacher at PSU, Laureen Nussbaum. It brought back a memory from that class many years ago. The article mentions Dr. Nussbaum’s language expertise. It was the first day of class in second year German and we were all asked to take a short quiz to see where we were with our German knowledge, so that Dr. Nussbaum could see just what review we needed. We handed our papers in and sat quietly while she looked them over. Suddenly she beckoned me to her desk at the front of the class. She whispered to me, “Are you Dutch?” “Yes,” I replied, “How could you tell?” “Well,” she said, “the mistakes you made are what a Dutch person would make, not an American!” Needless to say, I was expected to get an A on all exams that year!

—Lisette Sage ’86



## BUILD EXITO PRIDE

It was a privilege to read about [the BUILD EXITO] program [in “Smart. Motivated. Diverse.”], especially while so many in our country seem to be dedicated to small-minded bigotry. As a person who got my bachelor’s degree at 48, I understand, somewhat, being outside the mainstream, which makes what you’re doing even more of a blessing to your students. I’m so proud to be a PSU alum.

—Bill Michtom ’95

## CONNECTING STUDENT ACTIVISTS ACROSS THE YEARS

Thank you for publishing my “Looking Back” column [“When unrest reigned”] on the history of the 1969-1970 student anti-war protests at PSU and in Portland. It was an important and dramatic time in American history, when our campus became a major part in the activism of that era. I plan to be at the PSU campus for the May 11 ceremonies in memory of the violent confrontation between student anti-war protesters and large numbers of Portland Police officers in the Park Blocks. I am eager to address PSU students of today and be able to relate the experiences I had there 50 years ago, and hard lessons learned by everyone there, of which I’ve always felt proud.

—Doug Weiskopf ’70

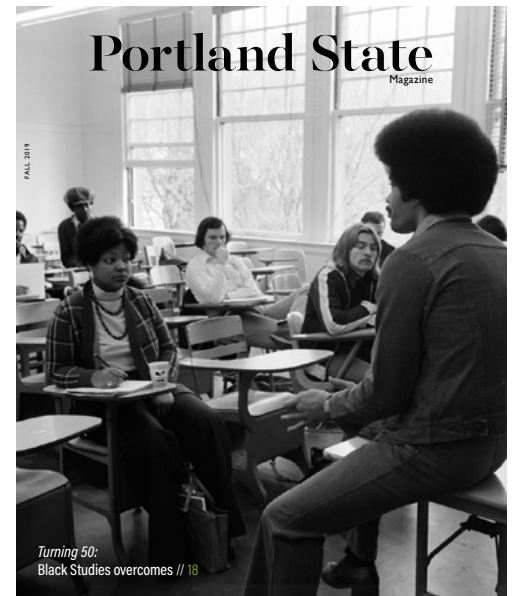
*“As a person who got my bachelor’s degree at 48, I understand, somewhat, being outside the mainstream, which makes what you’re doing even more of a blessing to your students.”*

## PICKATHON TRAGEDY

I find it odd and somewhat disturbing that in your glowing description of the site design of last summer’s Pickathon festival [“Unique stage presence”], no mention was made of the two men who were killed while dismantling part of the venue. Brad Swet and Brandon Blackmore died when their boom lift tipped over as they were taking down the fabric panels over the site. I do not mean to imply that PSU’s School of Architecture was in any way responsible, but I imagine that the families and friends of the two men might find the cheery, self-congratulatory blurb in questionable taste.

—Jefferson Ranck, MA ’92

*Editor’s note: Pickathon has established a memorial fund for Brad Swet and Brandon Blackmore at [tinyurl.com/pickathon-memorial](https://tinyurl.com/pickathon-memorial)*



## WHO SHOULD THE CENSUS COUNT?

How disappointing to open the magazine and see Lyneil Vandermolens letter [in reference to “Census may undercount Oregonians”] displaying her own dishonesty and political bias (something she accused PSU and the magazine of having). Shamefully, she accuses “illegal aliens” of “stealing” political representation, simply by virtue of existing. It is not possible to steal something that is granted freely—congressional representation is applied by total population and not by citizenship status, something that an anti-immigration activist would already know. Ms. Vandermolens also attempts to buttress her weaker-than-weak argument by claiming that no citizen would have reason to evade contact from a census worker, a suggestion that flaunts its own failed understanding of what motivates people (including fears of many types).

—Alan Silver ’96

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters and comments by email to [psumag@pdx.edu](mailto:psumag@pdx.edu) or by mail to Portland State Magazine, University Communications, P.O. Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751. We reserve the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for clarity, accuracy and length.



# park blocks



BRUCE BRADBURY

## AMBASSADORS BOOST CAMPUS SAFETY

**NEW STUDENT SAFETY AMBASSADORS** sporting Viking caps and fluorescent vests began patrolling campus this February after completing basic training. A key part of Portland State Interim President Stephen Percy's plan to bolster campus safety, the paid students will answer questions, refer people to campus resources and provide assistance. "They'll be the eyes and ears for us and for the community," said Joe Schilling, interim chief of

Campus Public Safety. The first safety ambassadors are students Liam Cole, Camila Oliveira and Aseel Alattabi (pictured here), as well as Briana Benson. They'll be joined by six more in months to come. Other elements of the initiative include increased oversight of Campus Public Safety Office training and investigations, and improvements to campus buildings and physical security.

## NEWS BY THE NUMBERS

### WISE INVESTMENT

In 10 years, students graduating from PSU earn a higher return on the investment from their degree than their counterparts at Oregon State University and University of Oregon, according to a study by Georgetown University.

**10**

### TRANSFORMING TRANSFERS

The new Transfer and Returning Students Resource Center in Fariborz Maseeh Hall (formerly Neuberger Hall) offers enhanced services from advisers who spend half their time at community colleges. Sixty percent of PSU's student body is transfer students—more than any other Oregon university.

**60%**

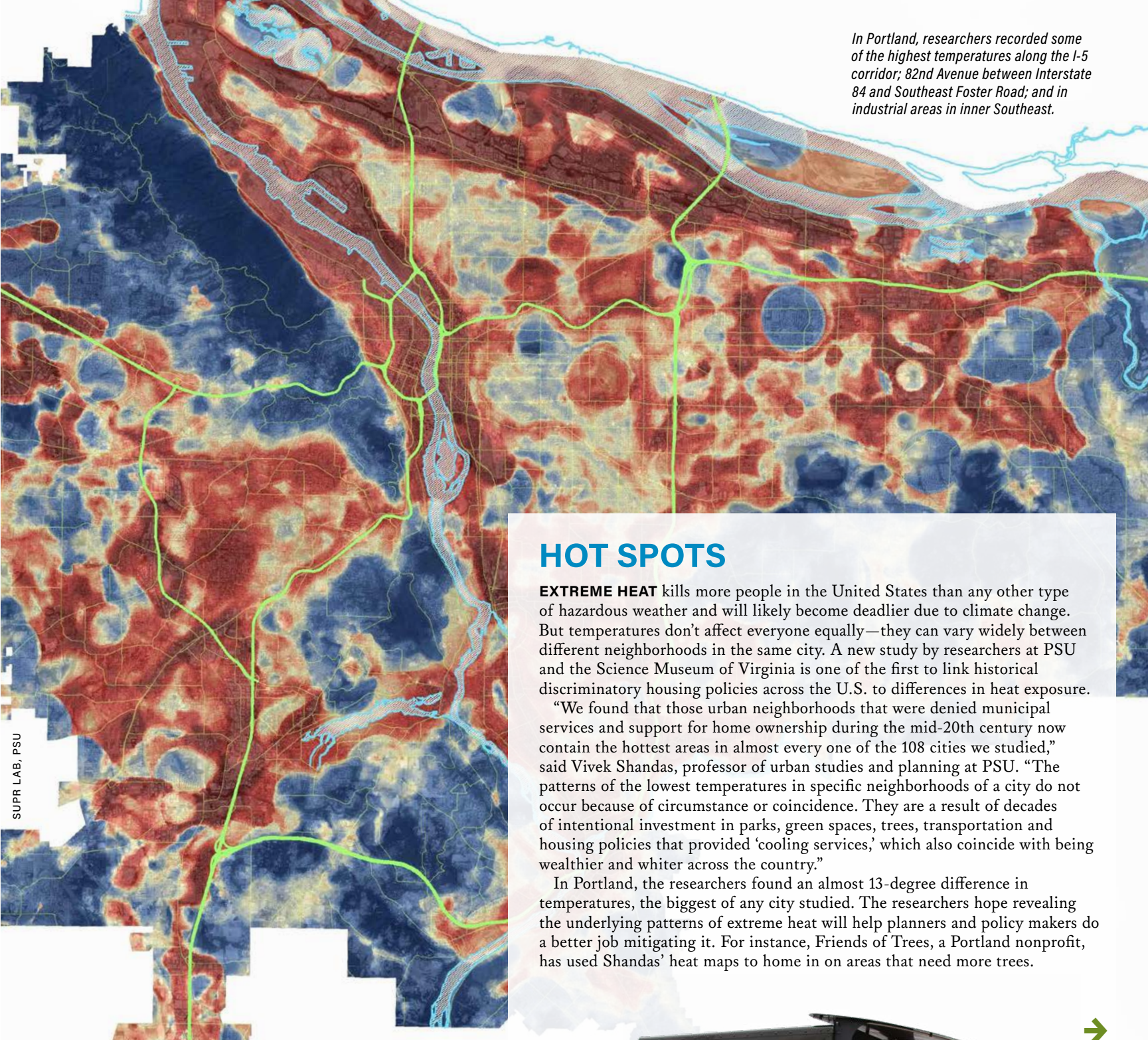
### MORE YEARS FREE

PSU's popular Four Years Free program for income-eligible students lowered its GPA requirement from 3.4 to 3.2, which means more Oregon high school students can attend PSU without paying tuition and fees.

**3.2**



*In Portland, researchers recorded some of the highest temperatures along the I-5 corridor; 82nd Avenue between Interstate 84 and Southeast Foster Road; and in industrial areas in inner Southeast.*



## HOT SPOTS

**EXTREME HEAT** kills more people in the United States than any other type of hazardous weather and will likely become deadlier due to climate change. But temperatures don't affect everyone equally—they can vary widely between different neighborhoods in the same city. A new study by researchers at PSU and the Science Museum of Virginia is one of the first to link historical discriminatory housing policies across the U.S. to differences in heat exposure.

“We found that those urban neighborhoods that were denied municipal services and support for home ownership during the mid-20th century now contain the hottest areas in almost every one of the 108 cities we studied,” said Vivek Shandas, professor of urban studies and planning at PSU. “The patterns of the lowest temperatures in specific neighborhoods of a city do not occur because of circumstance or coincidence. They are a result of decades of intentional investment in parks, green spaces, trees, transportation and housing policies that provided ‘cooling services,’ which also coincide with being wealthier and whiter across the country.”

In Portland, the researchers found an almost 13-degree difference in temperatures, the biggest of any city studied. The researchers hope revealing the underlying patterns of extreme heat will help planners and policy makers do a better job mitigating it. For instance, Friends of Trees, a Portland nonprofit, has used Shandas' heat maps to home in on areas that need more trees.

## STUDENT SUPPORTS

PSU is the first four-year institution in the nation to receive a grant from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Training and Education Program, which is designed to promote self-sufficiency for people who receive food stamp benefits.

1st

## PEDAL POWER

Last fall, United Parcel Service (UPS) began delivering packages on campus using a zero-emissions, electrically-assisted cargo trike that can more easily navigate in tight, urban areas.

0





## park blocks

SCHOLLE MCFARLAND



## OCAC LOOMS FIND NEW HOME

**WHEN THE 112-YEAR-OLD** Oregon College of Art and Craft closed in May 2019, it donated its weaving equipment—15 looms in all—to Portland State’s new Textile Arts program. That included the Macomber 8-harness floor loom student Maddy Beer is pictured working on here, as well as a TC2 digital Jacquard loom worth \$40,000 that will allow students to weave photographic images. “The donation has dramatically expanded our Textile Arts curriculum offerings,” said Alison Heryer, art faculty.

## WHAT SMART CITIES CAN LEARN FROM A DEAD OX AND LIVE FISH

**IN 1906**, Francis Galton visited a country fair where attendees had the opportunity to guess the weight of a dead ox. Galton took the guesses of 787 fair-goers and found the average was only one pound off the correct weight—even when individual guesses were off base.

This concept, known as “the wisdom of crowds,” has been tested for a century, but PSU’s Antonie J. Jetter, associate professor of engineering and technology management, wondered if it also applied to *systems*. Was it necessary to perform lengthy and expensive scientific studies

to describe and manage something like an ecosystem or city—or was it possible to leverage crowds there, too?

To find out, Jetter and a team analyzed data from about 250 anglers, water guards and board members of German fishing clubs who were asked to draw connections showing how ecological relationships influence the pike stock. The drawings were mathematically combined into a collective model representing the average understanding of the ecosystem.

Astonishingly, it corresponded almost exactly to scientific knowledge of pike

ecology. The study found that it was important to get opinions from a variety of groups with interest in the fish, so one group’s biases didn’t accumulate and throw off the solution.

“I am excited about the possibilities for other complex systems,” Jetter said. “We now understand how we can investigate problems like improving schools or increasing ridership in public transportation—we ask people who frequently interact with these systems and merge their system descriptions. This has huge potential for making cities smarter.”

## INSTAWORTHY PSU

Here are some of our favorite PSU Instagram photos from the past few months. Tag up with [#portlandstate](#), [#portlandstatealumni](#), or [#proudviks](#).

### LEFT:

Oregon’s seven public universities came together for University Day at the Capitol in February.

### CENTER:

Taylor ’14 and Gabe Flores ’15 shared their PSU love story for Valentine’s Day.

### RIGHT:

Finals week in the library.

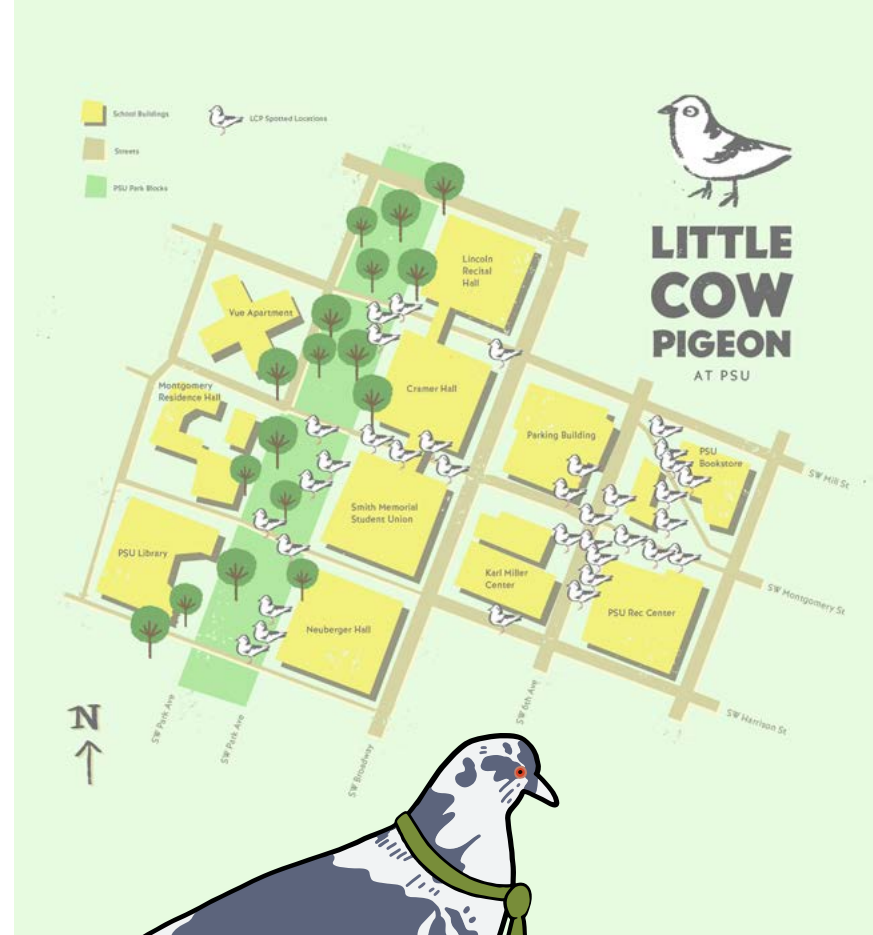


# CAMPUS TREND: LITTLE COW PIGEON

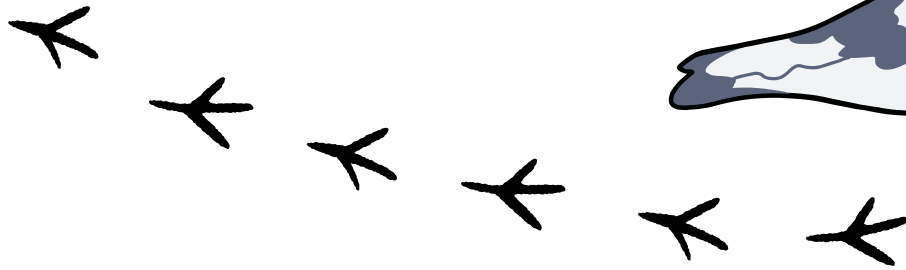
**AROUND CAMPUS**, there's a little bird with a big following. Nicknamed Little Cow Pigeon because of its distinctive black-on-white markings that resemble those of a dairy cow, the pigeon has nearly 2,000 followers on Instagram (@littlecowpigeon) and has served as the inspiration for student art projects, Halloween costumes, a crochet pattern and at least one tattoo.

It all started in November 2017, when "Have You Seen This Bird?" flyers appeared around campus directing people to post Little Cow Pigeon sightings on Instagram. "I thought maybe everyone sees this pigeon, but nobody acknowledges it," Katie Borton '18 recalled. The film major started the account as a joke, assuming it would die out after she graduated. "Just as I was preparing to move out of state, the account picked up real speed and I just kept with it. As long as people wanted to shout-out Cow Pigeon I was going to keep posting their submissions," she said. This fall, Borton, who now lives in Nevada, raised \$100 for Portland animal hospital DoveLewis, selling a Little Cow Pigeon enamel pin and sticker pack on Etsy.com.

As the magazine went to press, there hadn't been a recorded sighting of Little Cow Pigeon since December, causing some to fear the beloved oddball is no more. But one thing's for sure, Little Cow Pigeon left tracks through the hearts of many at PSU. As student Claire Golden wrote: "I get weird looks sometimes for getting so excited over a pigeon, but life is more fun when you get excited over the little things."



*Little Cow Pigeon inspired a lot of student art, like this illustration by junior Lupita Sanchez Lopez and map of sightings by Elisa Hung '19. See more at [pdx.edu/magazine](http://pdx.edu/magazine).*



*Artist's rendering of the future renovation of undergraduate science building SB1.*



## TRANSFORMING SB1

**LONG-TIME** Portland State advocates Christine and David Vernier—founders of Vernier Software & Technology, an Oregon company providing scientific hardware and software for education—made a \$4.5 million pledge to PSU. Pending public investment by the Oregon Legislature, the University plans to use the gift to renovate the 53-year-old undergraduate science building, SB1, to provide flexible classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories, and collaborative research and teaching spaces critical to multidisciplinary, interactive learning. The building will be renamed the Vernier Science Center. The Verniers have made a lifetime philanthropic contribution of more than \$10 million to PSU and Christine Vernier serves as a member of the University's Board of Trustees. After the renovation, PSU's programs supporting first-generation and historically underrepresented minority students in STEM and health-related fields will move into the building. More than 80 percent of Portland State's STEM students remain in Oregon after they graduate.





# research

## PUSHING BACK AGAINST PLASTICS

Graduate student seeks new ways to deal with waste around the world

**IN THE MIDST** of today's environmental crisis, Ph.D. candidate Katie Conlon says the world shouldn't want to simply manage waste. Instead, it should create a new system for understanding materials and resources so we can have honest conversations about what we use with the aim of reducing or eliminating waste altogether.

This is the foundation of Conlon's research in the Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning at PSU, which has garnered her a National Science Foundation fellowship, a Fulbright award and, most recently, a National Geographic Explorer research award. Through this work, she's hoping to help change the world's views on waste.

"Waste management implies [waste simply] has to be managed, that waste is not a problem," Conlon said. Instead, she has in mind a network of "community resource coordination centers" that would recycle or remove waste and then minimize the flow of what's left to landfills.

Conlon has researched the impact of plastic waste for several years, a subject she was inspired to pursue after spending time in West Africa as a member of the Peace Corps. When items are shipped around the world, she said, plastic packing material is leftover. If communities don't have the access or technology to recycle it, plastics pile up.

She is focused on working with communities to find local waste solutions that work with their specific situation. Starting this summer, she will implement an intensive field-work project across the Himalayan belt, which will include spending time in communities in northern Indian states and various spots across Nepal and Bhutan.

She will team up with an Indian university professor, a filmmaker, local grad students and partners from various local waste awareness groups—including the Eco-Tourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim and the Waste Warriors in Dharamshala—to create a social media campaign focused on how different communities in the Himalayas tackle waste challenges. The group will produce 23 short videos documenting their field visits, which will be shared on Instagram (@Himalayas2Sea\_PlasticFree).

Mary Ann Rozance, one of Conlon's PSU classmates, said she admires Conlon's optimistic personality, which is vital in her work.

"I think her optimism comes from working with communities that are finding solutions and ways to push back and tackle the issue," Rozance said. The research "can be really depressing because things are happening that [communities] have no control over, but it can be really heartening because they have found ways to push back against the system, and we can learn from that."

Every community has its own approach, Conlon said. For example, in the Indian territory of Ladakh, they have an unusual way of preventing garbage from being dumped into the Indus River. If a family isn't sorting its waste properly, it gets a warning. If that same family receives a second warning, one of its members is required to work in the

*"I wanted a Ph.D. not to get stuck in academia, but to serve the public."*



town's materials recovery facility for a day to gain an understanding of the process and its importance to the community.

Conlon is set to graduate this spring. Originally from Portland, she said growing up in the Pacific Northwest had a formative impact on why she is pursuing her work to begin with. PSU's emphasis on sustainability made it a natural choice for her, especially since it offered unique opportunities through the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program.

IGERT was a nationwide fellowship through the National Science Foundation (NSF) that included five years of tuition remission. It was the flagship effort of the NSF to educate future American natural and social scientists in areas beyond their discipline until the agency discontinued the program.

"The faculty and students that were involved in the IGERT program were able to continue their research and engagement without

that framework because PSU had long built its graduate programs around engaged scholarship in the first place," said Aaron Golub, associate professor and director of PSU's School of Urban Studies and Planning. Golub serves as Conlon's dissertation committee chair and principle adviser.

PSU's different programs and their relationship with the city showed Conlon the truth behind the school's motto, "Let knowledge serve the city," and it made the university an ideal option to host her research.

"(PSU) seemed like a perfect fit for me because it really helped push me into being actively engaged," she said. "I wanted a Ph.D. not to get stuck in academia, but to serve the public." ■

**JENNIFER LADWIG**, a graduate assistant in the Office of University Communications, is working toward her master's in book publishing.

## SEEING SCIENCE: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Text by Cristina Rojas | Illustration by James Wilson

Tiny threads of plastics are showing up in Pacific oysters and razor clams along the Oregon coast—and the yoga pants, fleece jackets, and rainproof clothing that Pacific Northwesterners love to wear are a source of that pollution, according to a Portland State University study.

Britta Baechler, a Ph.D. student in PSU's Earth, Environment and Society program, and Elise Granek, a professor of environmental science and management, studied microplastics in Pacific oysters and razor clams with

support from Oregon Sea Grant. While they found plastics in all but two of 300 samples from 15 sites between Clatsop and Gold Beach, spring oysters contained by far the most.

The researchers concluded that synthetic clothing worn in winter and spring may have been a factor. When this clothing goes through the wash, plastic threads shed from it—up to 700,000 strands per load of laundry—and travel through wastewater out to estuaries, where the tide meets the stream and oysters are feeding and growing. Special washing machine filters might help interrupt this process, Granek said, but they are still in the early stages of development.

More research needs to be done to determine what effect microplastics have on the oysters and clams, as well as the humans who eat them.





# the arts

## UNFLINCHINGLY OPERA

Darrell Grant makes the medium his own to tell the tale of gentrification in Northeast Portland

**MUSIC PROFESSOR** and acclaimed jazz musician Darrell Grant's first opera, "Sanctuaries," combines elements of jazz, spoken word and theater to explore the effects of Portland's gentrification and the experience of displaced residents of color in the historically black Albina district. It features a libretto by two-time National Poetry Slam Champion Anis Mojgani and is directed by Alexander Gedeon. We asked art professor Lisa Jarrett, who co-directs KSMoCA (King School Museum of Contemporary Art) at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, to sit down with Grant to talk about his experience conceiving of and composing "Sanctuaries." This is an abridged version of their conversation. Watch the interview at [pdx.edu/magazine](http://pdx.edu/magazine).

Due to coronavirus measures, the opera's premiere has been postponed until April 2021. See [thirdangle.org/sanctuaries](http://thirdangle.org/sanctuaries) for dates and tickets.

*Lisa Jarrett:* You've been focused on working on a story about gentrification and the history of blackness in Portland. Can you tell us a little about "Sanctuaries"?

*Darrell Grant:* Almost three years ago, I was approached by Third Angle New Music about doing a collaboration. The subject of chamber opera came up and I was like, "Why would I even think about doing that?" But the more I turned it over in my mind, the more I thought well, why wouldn't I do that? That became the more interesting question: What is it about that genre, or that word, or the image of that art form that made me feel like an outsider? I started to wonder, is there a way for me to bring who I am—a jazz musician, an improvising musician, African American, performer, composer—to that genre in a way that feels really authentic and meaningful? "Sanctuaries" became the outgrowth of that exploration.





Watch professors Lisa Jarrett and Darrell Grant discuss Grant's new opera at [pdx.edu/magazine](http://pdx.edu/magazine)

**Jarrett:** There was a quote that came up from one of your collaborators, Alexander Gedeon, who said, “We’re unflinchingly calling it an opera. People will have to unpack their resistance to this.” What was it about the form of opera that made “Sanctuaries” manifest in that way?

**Grant:** The idea that opera is a medium for storytelling writ large. It’s these huge, human themes of tragedy and the essential mythos of humanity. Oftentimes, those stories are told in the operatic genre because it combines in real time drama, literature, music, stagecraft and art. It’s the medium that ties all these things together. What was daunting was that most of the time the stories that it’s applied to are based in Western European cultural history. More recently, contemporary opera has started to deal with stories that don’t come from that lens. This idea that opera is becoming a medium through which other cultures can tell their own authentic stories was really interesting to me.

**Jarrett:** What potential do you think “Sanctuaries” has to more deeply connect us as African Americans?

**Grant:** In looking at the impact of gentrification on the black community, what’s happening now when you go to Mississippi Avenue or Williams Avenue is just the tip of an iceberg of systemic discrimination and disinvestment that goes way, way, way down. You trace it back through the Emanuel Hospital expansion, the construction of I-5 and the Minnesota Freeway and the demolishing of the black community with that. Then you look to the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and why we needed it, and you realize that African Americans could not get FHA loans, or VA loans. I have this opportunity here to tell this story.

A quote that I’ve been circulating in my mind a lot is “Art does not change the world, but art is able to give people a perspective that allows them to change the world.” So, when I think about my art

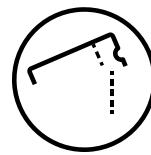
informing that new perspective, one of the ways I can do that is to try and teach members of the population who are in positions of power and privilege. But then the other possibility is *not* to do that with the art. And that’s where I feel like “Sanctuaries” has landed. How do I tell this story not as a teaching thing for white communities, but as an empowering narrative of resilience for the black community? I’m going to use the fact that I’m a classically trained musician, but what if I invest all that education and energy into musical themes that come from the black vernacular? What would it take for me to create a piece that the African American community—which inspired this piece, which it is about, which it’s for—feels such ownership of it that it’s like this is *our* opera.

That’s as much of a challenge as writing the opera. In doing that and in seeing it witnessed—that’s liberating. The process of holding onto oppression, of keeping the privilege in place, it’s draining so much energy from everybody in the community. Even though it’s scary to let go of some of the privilege, the energy released from it, from not having to protect it, and in seeing others thrive, is a greater victory.

**Jarrett:** In the process of making the work, what kind of dialogues did you find yourself having with Portland?

**Grant:** Part of doing this in Portland is that it’s about the city and it’s for the city, so it gives us an opportunity to amplify conversations that are already going on about how to make this city something different than it is becoming.

If we don’t want gentrification, what are the alternatives? Transportation, housing, racial equity—how might we do things differently in order to come to something different than what is the inevitable result of this gentrification in every city in America? We’re devaluing cultures, displacing people, erasing communities. We have to be able to do something better than that. ■



## EVENTS

Many PSU events and performances have been canceled or delayed because of coronavirus health and safety measures. Please check websites for the latest updates.

**SCHOOL OF ART + DESIGN SHOW & TELL LECTURE SERIES**  
THURSDAYS AT NOON THROUGH MAY 28  
[PSU.GD/SHOW-AND-TELL/](http://PSU.GD/SHOW-AND-TELL/)

Graphic design pros share their wisdom during these lunchtime Zoom lectures. Spring term’s lineup features designers from Columbia Sportswear, Nike, POW Interactive and more.

**SCHOOL OF FILM PORTFOLIO SHOW AND SHOWCASE**  
JUNE 5, 3:30–6:30 P.M.  
[PDX.EDU/FILM](http://PDX.EDU/FILM)

Celebrate the talent of PSU’s film students with a portfolio show, film showcase, reception and awards ceremony. Though planned for Lincoln Hall, this event might be moved online.

**ASSEMBLY 2020**  
JUNE 5-7  
[PSUSOCIALPRACTICE.ORG/ASSEMBLY](http://PSUSOCIALPRACTICE.ORG/ASSEMBLY)

Join us for a free, thought-provoking weekend of discussions, activities, participatory projects, meals and workshops. Assembly is a co-authored social practice conference organized by the Art + Social Practice MFA program. This event might be moved online.

**DESIGN PORTLAND OPEN HOUSES**  
AUGUST 1-8  
[PDX.EDU/ARCHITECTURE](http://PDX.EDU/ARCHITECTURE)

Learn how the School of Architecture uses research, design and innovation to address building performance issues in real-world projects and about the Center for Public Interest’s Small Backyard Homes Initiative, making accessory dwelling units (ADUs) more affordable. This event might be moved online.



# athletics

## BRISTER'S ODYSSEY

A walk-on player's long journey to a scholarship and starting position with Viking football

**LARRY BRISTER III** didn't draw any collegiate football offers when he graduated from Portland's Jefferson High School despite a host of league and team honors. Rather than looking for a lower division school, he decided to take the academic scholarship offered by Portland State and try walking on to the Viking football program.

One problem: the coaches weren't interested.

As a freshman, one coach told him he needed to gain weight. He did, but was turned down again as a sophomore.

"I kept trying to play, but they wouldn't give me a shot," said Brister. "I wondered if I'd ever get a chance to prove myself. I kept watching practices and thinking 'I can do that.'"

A year later as a junior, he gave it one more try. "He kept coming back, so we let him on the team," recalled offensive line coach Matt Leunen.

Being away from competitive football for more than two years required a lot of catching up, but getting in shape and learning plays and footwork weren't the only obstacles Brister faced. In addition, he would have to negotiate a disability that he'd had since childhood—a legally blind right eye.

He was up front with the Viking coaching staff, but Leunen said he didn't think the disability would be a problem. Still, the Portland State coaching staff never discussed Brister's visual impairment publicly. They felt it was important not to let an opponent learn of a potential competitive advantage.

Brister worked his way onto special teams that first year, starting on the back line in kick returns during the Northern Colorado game. "I was very nervous on that first play, but I also was really excited. On that play, I



SO-MIN COTIK

knocked my guy over and my teammates were just yelling and cheering me on," he said.

A turning point in his Viking football career came during 2019 spring ball.

"Spring is a big evaluation period. After getting used to our system he played really well. Although he's a bit undersized for an offensive lineman [6'2" and 285 pounds] he's very quick and aggressive," said Leunen, who began considering him for a starting position.

Hard work over the summer earned him that starting position against Arkansas in the season's first game. And that summer produced another memorable event.

It was the Fourth of July and a party was in full swing at the Brister home in North Portland. Viking head coach Bruce Barnum called to say he needed to drop by. "I was extremely nervous to hear what he had to say," said Brister.

"It looked like the whole neighborhood was there for the Fourth of July," Barnum recalled. "The porch was covered in red, white and blue flowers."

He was there to tell Brister that his play had earned him an athletic scholarship.

"I was speechless and very emotional," Brister said. "It made me realize all that hard work I put in the weight room, on the field and on film meant something."

"His reaction was something money can't buy," Barnum said. "At that moment, his grandfather was the proudest grandfather in America and that was the best Fourth of July party in the country."

Brister and his grandfather told the rest of the party guests after Barnum left. "I'm told they didn't need any fireworks to heighten the celebration," Barnum added.

Besides rewarding Brister's persistence and efforts, Barnum had another reason for making his summer announcement.

"He was having a little difficulty affording a summer class he needed to graduate. If he hadn't been able to take that class, it would have delayed his graduation," the coach said. "I didn't want that to happen. I wanted him to graduate this year."

The moment was doubly sweet because it also confirmed to Brister that he was successfully working with his disability.

On the offensive line, Brister said it was sometimes hard to see when linebackers were blitzing, "so I needed to study film as much as possible so I could recognize when a blitz was more likely to happen."

"During his career, he played both sides of the line," Leunen said. "He never used it as a crutch. When I asked him to do a job and it was difficult because of his sight, he took that as a challenge. Even if he thought it might be a problem, he'd always find a way."

It hadn't always been easy. As a child, when Brister realized people could tell he was blind in one eye, it made him uncomfortable and he would try to avoid eye contact. This led people to think he was anti-social. And, it kept him from trying sports.

"I had a lot of anxiety in middle school. I was just stressing about everything. I wanted to play football to make my dad proud," he said. His father played as a fullback and linebacker at Jefferson.

"Once I started playing, I liked it and the anxieties began to drift away," he said. "After coming to terms with being legally blind in one eye, I realized I couldn't let it stop me from accomplishing anything."

Brister started all 12 games this year and was also successful in the classroom, carrying a 3.4 GPA in applied health and fitness. He earned Academic All-Big Sky Conference honors and graduates this spring. He will be only the second person in his family to earn a college degree, joining his grandmother.

His college years have been quite a journey. "I never gave up on playing and I felt proud for making it. I tell people, 'If you have a dream, don't give up. Be persistent.'" ■

**JOHN L. WYKOFF** '65 started writing sports stories for PSU 11 years ago after a long career as a public relations consultant. In his student days, he was a *Vanguard* editor.

*"When I asked him to do a job and it was difficult because of his sight, he took that as a challenge. Even if he thought it might be a problem, he'd always find a way."*



## MIGHTY VIKS

compiled by Michael Lund

### HELPER

Point guard Holland "Boo Boo" Woods has become the number one "helper" in Portland State basketball history. Woods passed Terry Adolph's record of 421 last December, with 444 assists as of Jan. 10.

**444**

### HALL OF HONOR

The newly installed Beetham Family Portland State Athletics Hall of Fame features 111 former Viking student-athletes, coaches, teams and administrators. It's available for viewing in Viking Pavilion during business hours and home sporting events.

**111**

### CROWDED HOUSE

Portland State women's basketball team, winners of the 2019 Big Sky Championship, established a new attendance record on Dec. 21, 2019. The Vikings hosted the storied Tennessee Lady Vols, drawing 1,748 fans.

**1,748**

### STUDENT-ATHLETES

Portland State boasted 247 athletes in its sports programs this March. Among those, 164 held grade point averages of 3.0 or better. The overall cumulative GPA for PSU student-athletes was 3.24.

**3.24**





LET'S  
GET IT  
TOGETHER  
PSU  
ON  
STRIKE

*Scenes from the 1970 Viking yearbook: students and police clash during the May 1970 student strike (top), a marching striker (right); a student injured by police is helped by a friend (far right); students at a forum on campus military recruitment (bottom); an officer watches the May 1970 violence (left).*

# 1970



## THE YEAR THAT SHAPED PSU

*By Suzanne Pardington Effros*

**FIFTY YEARS** ago on May 11, graduate student Cathy Wood Wyrick was returning home to her apartment across from Lincoln Hall when she heard screaming from the Park Blocks.

She had just helped negotiate what she thought would be a peaceful end to a week-long student strike protesting the Vietnam War. But as she rushed back outside, she saw a crowd of terrified students running toward her, upset and crying. She could see police farther up the block. "You won't believe what just happened," a friend told her.

*"They attacked us."*





All year long, tension had been building at Portland State as student activists marched against the escalating war and blocked military recruiters on campus.

“The war was like a giant cloud hanging over your head every single day,” Wyrick says.

After the Ohio National Guard shot to death four unarmed protesters at Kent State, she and hundreds of other PSU students joined a national strike. They boycotted classes and barricaded the streets entering the Park Blocks—still open to traffic in those days—to create a loud and lively “liberated zone” where they camped out with tents, tarps and even TVs connected by long extension cords to neighboring apartments.

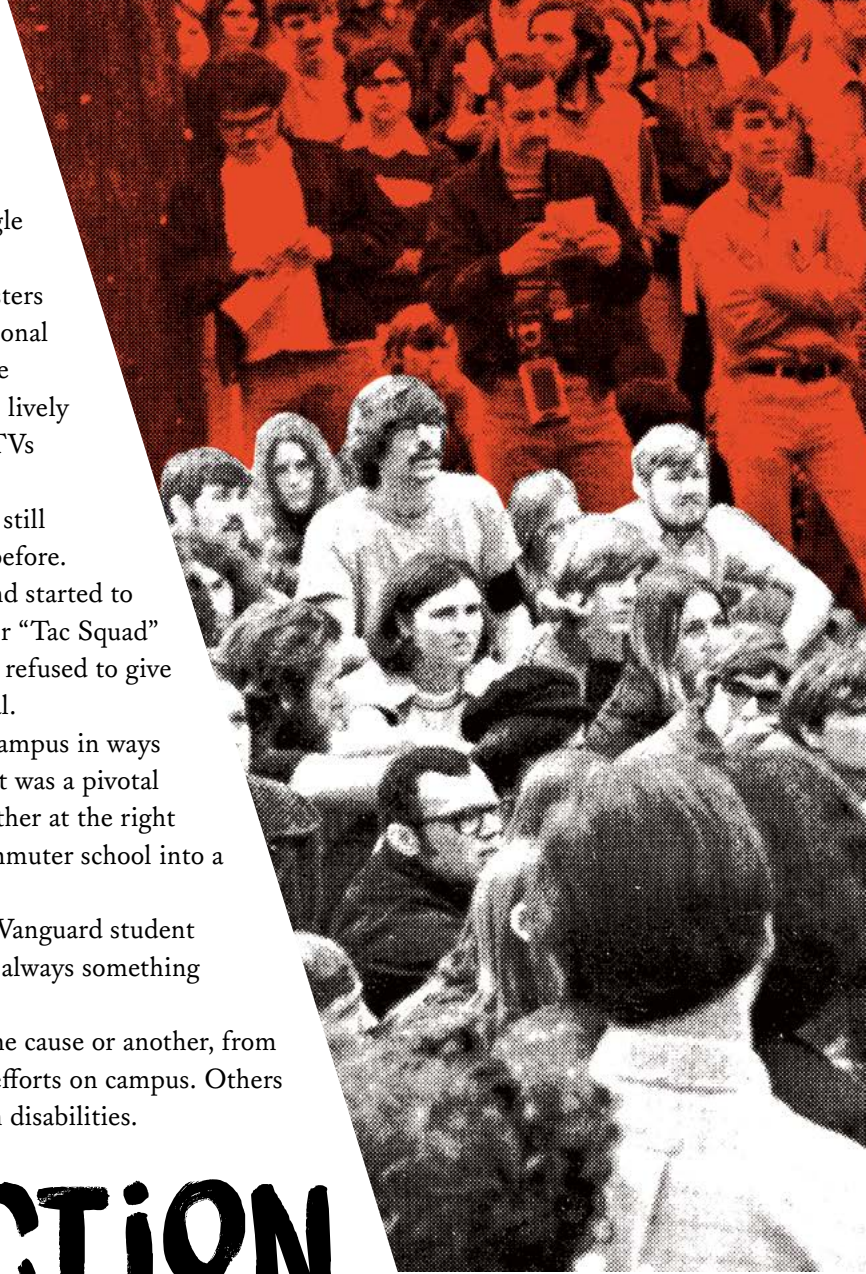
The strike deeply divided faculty and students at PSU, which was still growing into its new status as a full university, achieved just a year before.

Under pressure, protesters agreed to take it all down on May 11 and started to disperse when Mayor Terry Schrunk’s Tactical Operations Platoon or “Tac Squad” came in with batons to push them out faster, beating protesters who refused to give way. Twenty-seven strikers and four officers ended up in the hospital.

The clash thrust PSU into the national spotlight and shaped the campus in ways still seen and felt 50 years later. It was the most visible event in what was a pivotal year in PSU history, thanks to students who raised their voices together at the right time and place. They helped transform the campus from a quiet commuter school into a hot spot for social change and academic opportunity.

“There was a tremendous energy,” says Joe Bernt, who edited the Vanguard student newspaper from 1969 to 70. “There was always a protest. There was always something going on. It was a very exciting time to be at Portland State.”

He remembers being bombarded with requests for coverage for one cause or another, from mothers demanding child care to the first Earth Day and recycling efforts on campus. Others pushed for more student housing and better access for students with disabilities.



# YEAR OF ACTION

## JANUARY 12

Faculty Senate approves new Black Studies certificate program, the first such program in the Pacific Northwest.



## APRIL 15

President Gregory Wolfe holds a student and faculty referendum on military recruiting after continuing unrest over their access to campus. A majority supports allowing recruiters.

## MAY 11

Classes resume and barricades are disassembled. Only a medical tent is left. About 5:40 p.m., a police special forces unit orders students to disperse and then attacks, sending 27 to the hospital.

## MAY 12

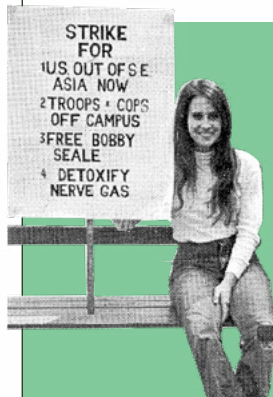
Roughly 3,500 people march from the Park Blocks to City Hall to demand an investigation of the police action. Mayor Schrunk refuses to address the protesters.

## MARCH

Masters student Art Honeyman helps teach “Relations with the Physically Handicapped” class to raise awareness of how difficult it is for students in wheelchairs to navigate campus.

## APRIL 20-24

First Earth Week (later Earth Day) takes place. The yearbook dedicates eight pages to landscape photos in honor of this “environmental teach-in.”



## MAY 6

During an opening rally for a student boycott of classes, a car hits a striker, breaking his leg. Strikers construct barricades from park benches to stop traffic entering the Park Blocks.



## JUNE 22

Classes begin at a new educational center—part of PSU’s new Black Studies program—in the Albina neighborhood.



1970 was the year the Gay Liberation Front held its first meeting, Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) was conceived, Black Studies officially launched and a new women's union formed, laying the groundwork for what would soon become the Women's Resource Center and Women's Studies.

Four years later, the city permanently closed the streets around the PSU Park Blocks to traffic in the same spots where students placed their barricades.

"They were generating lots of news," Bernt says, "and we were right in the middle of it."

**THE DAY AFTER** police clashed with protestors, The Oregonian reported that 3,500 people marched down Southwest Broadway from PSU to City Hall to protest the brutal police tactics. Even some of those who disagreed with the strike thought the police had gone too far. But they also worried Portland and PSU were gaining national attention for the wrong reasons. At a large meeting of faculty and spouses, history professor David A. Horowitz, then in his second year, made a plea for donations to help cover the injured students' medical expenses. He had witnessed the police violence and felt it was gratuitous.

Horowitz was booed loudly. Some faculty members supported the strike but most did not, because they feared state leaders would cut support for the new university, he says.

"It was surprising how angry they were," he says. "I was pretty shaken."

Doug Weiskopf was one of the students on the front lines when officers charged. They clubbed him on his head and stomped on his back in heavy boots.

"We thought it was our job to make people face what was going on in Vietnam," he says. "We were predominantly middle-class white kids, and we were as middle America as it gets. We were the people they thought supported them."

*Four years after the strike, the city permanently closed the streets around the Park Blocks to traffic in the same spots where students placed their barricades.*



## SEPTEMBER

Under the leadership of W. Philip McLaurin, Black Studies offers its first classes in fall term, including "Peoples and Cultures of Africa," "Introductory Swahili" and "Afro-American Poetry."



## SEPTEMBER 17

Women organize their second "Baby In" to demand campus child care, bringing 77 children to President Wolfe's residence. The Portland State Child Care Center—now the Helen Gordon Child Development Center opens a few months later.

## NOVEMBER 18

Five members of the newly formed Portland State Gay Liberation Front speak about stereotyping and discrimination in front of a capacity crowd.

## SEPTEMBER

The Women's Union forms to work for women's rights on campus. Nancy Hoffman, English faculty, and Nona Glazer Malbin, sociology faculty, begin designing a Women's Studies program. The first classes are offered winter term 1971.

## OCTOBER

PSU students begin organizing the grassroots advocacy organization Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)—the second in the nation when established—and set up a campus chapter to address environmental and consumer issues.



## NOVEMBER

Students create the College Resources Information Program to provide resources for students with disabilities and work to convince the University—and the state legislature—to make the campus accessible.





CRAIG HICKMAN



THE SEVENTH DAY

*Students and their children occupied the president's office and house for two "Baby-Ins." As a result, the first child care center opened on campus in 1971.*

Anti-war activists took on other environmental and social causes as well, including the proposed shipment of deadly nerve gas through Oregon and the imprisonment of Black Panther co-founder Bobby Seale. But the war “kind of sucked up all the oxygen in the room,” Weiskopf says.

Women, in particular, felt left out of leadership roles in the anti-war movement.

“If women came to some of these meetings and wanted to participate, people just didn’t listen to them,” Wyrick says. “It could be blatant. Girls weren’t expected to be standing up and talking, but they were expected to take care of the food.”

Women started to speak up and fight for more rights. At PSU, one of their first issues was affordable child care, a key to enabling more women to go to college.

They held two student “Baby-Ins”: one with 15 mothers and their children in the president’s office and one with 77 children ages 2 months to 10 years at the president’s house. As a result, the first child care center opened on campus with spots for about 31 children in 1971. Today Portland State serves about 230 children each day in four centers, including the flagship Helen Gordon Child Development Center.

“That’s incredibly fast, effective action,” says Ellie Justice, former director of the Helen Gordon Center. “I think part of why it was able to happen so quickly was really about the era. It was an era of action.”

Child care was one of the first ways PSU showed early support for non-traditional students, Justice says. Since then, PSU has become the most diverse public university in Oregon. It has resource centers for women, veterans, parents, students with disabilities, and multicultural, pan-African, Pacific Islander, Asian, Asian American, Native American and LGBTQ students.

“Having an array of programs to support those students brings them to PSU and helps them succeed here,” she says.

**PORTLAND STATE** planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the strike on May 11 with a panel discussion of those who were there, but because of coronavirus health and safety restrictions, that event has been delayed until May 2021. Horowitz hopes the discussion will help students reflect on what works and what doesn’t work in activism.

There are some similarities between then and now, he says. Both are times of political unrest and rapid social change. Yet the threat of climate change, authoritarian leaders and deepening economic, educational and cultural divides are putting more pressure on today’s students.

“The situation today is so much more dire than we thought it was in 1970,” he says. “I think in many ways we are in new territory.”

Wyrick says it felt scary for students to step out of their normal routines and go on strike. She hopes to give today’s students courage by telling her story.

“Look around you, see what you can do that’s positive,” she says. “People are really going to push back against you. People are going to be hostile. Figure out how to keep going. Be brave.” ■

SUZANNE PARDINGTON EFFROS is a Portland writer and former staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.



# SEE AND HEAR

# 1970

A host of resources can take you back to this turbulent time in PSU's history. Go to [pdx.edu/magazine](http://pdx.edu/magazine) to see it all and share your own story.

### Self-guided Walking Tour

See PSU with new eyes on this self-guided walking tour of student strike landmarks, created by the Portland State University Archives.

### The Student Strike on Film

Student filmmakers from Portland State University's Center for the Moving Image grabbed their cameras and waded into the chaos of the 1970 campus strike. The result was a 30-minute documentary, *The Seventh Day*, that captured the high emotions and violence that ensued in a deeply divided Portland.

### Voices of the Times

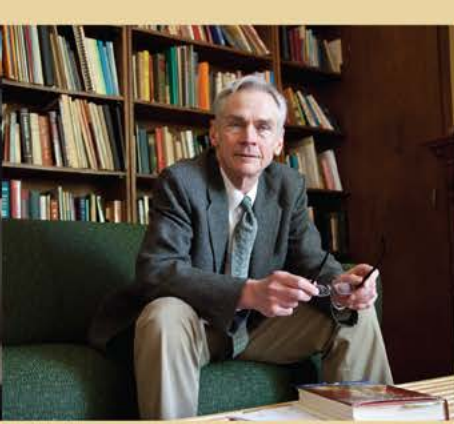
The Portland State Library's Oregon Public Speakers Collection includes speeches, interviews, panel discussions, and readings hosted by the university. In 1970, that included a contentious forum about military recruiting on campus, talks about black cultural awareness and the women's liberation movement, as well as a speech by Ralph Nader that soon after led to the founding of PSU's chapter of OSPIRG.



CRAIG HICKMAN







# 50 Years of HONORS





# PSU'S HAVEN FOR HIGH ACHIEVERS CELEBRATES A LEGACY OF CHANGING LIVES

BY SUMMER ALLEN

**MELANIE BILLINGS-YUN '76** scraped together savings from a minimum wage job for 18 months to take a few classes at Portland State. Then, she was invited to join the university's honors program.

"Feeling like a nobody, I was shocked," she said. "In that moment, my life changed."

The Honors College nurtured Billings-Yun's self-confidence along with her interest in history. Faculty encouraged her to press on even when she had to drop out every few terms to earn money to cover tuition.

Billings-Yun was the first in her family to graduate from college—with honors, no less. She went on to get a doctorate in diplomatic history from Harvard and then spent 33 years seeing the world. Now she's an author and international negotiation consultant for some of the world's top companies and also works as an adjunct professor for PSU's School of Business.

This year, the University Honors College (UHC, formerly the University Scholars' Program) is celebrating 50 years of changing lives like Billings-Yun's. Since its humble beginnings in 1969, the Honors College has grown from a program of fewer than 30 students into a leader in educating first-generation college students and students of color.

"Our goal in Honors is to give students the tools to transform their own lives," Brenda Glascott, the program's director, said. "They're the ones who have agency to actually do the transforming, but by giving them these experiences and this community, we're hoping to catalyze and support that process."

The Honors College provides high-achieving students from diverse ethnic, social and economic backgrounds with a rigorous liberal arts education and extraordinary research

opportunities, all within a close-knit community of resident faculty and supportive peers.

"I applied to the Honors College because I was looking for some sort of academic community amidst the large number of students at PSU; and I found exactly that," Benny White, a junior English major, said. He likens the Honors College to a "kind of scholastic family."

## LIBERAL ARTS WITH AN URBAN FOCUS

The interdisciplinary Honors curriculum is designed to provide students with writing, research and critical thinking skills that prepare them for graduate or professional school.

"We're trying to demystify the ways researchers and scholars read, write and think together," Glascott said.

The program's core curriculum replaces students' general education requirements. Honors students develop research skills and deep knowledge of the social sciences, natural sciences and humanities all presented within the context of the city of Portland.

"One of the amazing advantages of Portland State is its location in this incredible city where there's so much opportunity," Glascott said.

This urban-focused curriculum may take the form of measuring trees, setting up cameras

to monitor urban wildlife, or sifting through the archives at the Oregon Historical Society.

In their third year, Honors students can get credit for experiences outside of traditional courses, such as research opportunities and internships. Since fall 2016, Honors students have completed 242 internships with organizations including the Northwest Film Center, Oregon Health & Science University, Immigration Counseling Service, the U.S. Embassy in Norway, the American Councils for International Education in Azerbaijan and many others.

Two study-abroad trips are available through the Honors College: a spring break sustainability seminar in Borneo and a month-long summer program in London. For many students, these study-abroad opportunities are their first time out of the country.

In their final year, Honors students apply what they've learned by designing their own in-depth thesis project. All Honors students conduct a research project, present their research and write a thesis that is published in PDX Scholar ([pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu](http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu)), the PSU Library's online journal.

"My experience in the Honors College was so valuable because it offered

**The Honors College has transformed from a program of fewer than 30 students into a leader in educating first-generation college students and students of color.**



# WELCOMING TRANSFER STUDENTS

Portland State's Honors College is dedicated to serving high-achieving students from diverse backgrounds, but not all those students come to PSU as freshmen. Jasmine Gloden is one of the growing number of transfer students in the Honors College. She joined Honors after attending Clackamas Community College for two years.

"At first it was a bit intimidating; it seemed like everyone was smarter or more prepared than I was," said Gloden (pictured), a quantitative economics major. But then a discussion about impostor syndrome in one of her classes put her at ease. People with impostor syndrome lack confidence in their abilities and experience chronic feelings of inadequacy despite success.

"It was very eye opening," Gloden said. "Almost everyone else was feeling the same thing, which reassured me that I did deserve to be there."

Gloden learned about impostor syndrome in a new, accelerated course that gets junior transfer students up to speed on the academic writing and research tools that are foundational to the Honors curriculum. Added last year, Honors 399 is much more than a research and writing class. The course also builds community for transfer students, who now make up about 30 percent of the Honors student body.

PSU's focus on providing a path for transfer students is unusual among honors colleges, many of which do not even admit them. "We noticed our transfer numbers were increasing and the faculty wanted to have a better way to support these students," program director Brenda Glascott said. "We wanted to live up to our mission of being an honors college focused on access, and building a specific entryway for transfer students seemed important to this mission."

With a retention rate of 91 percent for transfer students, the Honors College's push to focus on community and inclusion for these students appears to be working. For her part, Gloden recommends that other transfer students consider joining. "You'll get to challenge yourself and expand your horizons," she said.



a unique perspective outside of my architecture major," said Jonathon Brearley, an Honors College graduate now pursuing a master's in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The curriculum expanded his "understanding of architecture's role in the academy and the world."

## A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

Honors students and alumni frequently point to community as one of the most vital elements of their Honors education.

"My favorite part about Honors is the close community," White said. "Every once in a while, I'll be in a degree-specific course, and I'll find out that a peer is in Honors. Before even speaking to them, there is already a foundation of mutual classes, professors and friends."

To help build that camaraderie, Honors students share a student lounge and computer lab, a peer tutoring writing program and a dedicated faculty adviser. They also have the opportunity to live in Honors housing at Stephen Epler Hall. A few years ago, the College started a Community Fellows program to strengthen these bonds even more. Fellows—sophomores, juniors and seniors who are paid a quarterly scholarship for this work—organize events like movie nights and midterm de-stress parties.

"The students are really hard-working and generous to each other. That's one thing I really admire," Glascott said. "It would be very easy for a group of high-achieving students to have a community that was competitive, but our students are really rooting for each other."

## A TRANSFORMATIVE HISTORY

Honors education at Portland State has undergone various transformations over the past 50 years. It once had no required coursework; now there is a rigorous Honors-specific curriculum. The thesis once was optional; now it is required. The first Honors class was quite small; this year there are nearly 800 Honors students in 49 majors.

Among the current Honors students, 27 percent are first generation-college students; 34 percent are from racially or ethnically marginalized groups; and 39 percent are Pell Grant-eligible. Federal Pell Grants are limited to students from low-income

**"It would be very easy for a group of high-achieving students to have a community that was competitive, but our students are really rooting for each other."**

families. The number of transfer students in the Honors College is also growing—they now make up 30 percent of the Honors student body. (See the sidebar "Welcoming transfer students.")

"Those are extraordinary numbers for an honors college, and they make us quite distinct," Glascott said.

PSU's Honors College has a higher percentage of both first-generation and historically underrepresented students than any other honors program in the state. Oregon State University's Honors College population is 8 percent first-generation students and 10 percent historically underrepresented students. Clark

Honors College at the University of Oregon includes 16 percent first-generation students and 23 percent students of color.

Lawrence Wheeler, humanities and applied linguistics faculty, directed PSU's Honors program from 1992 to 2011 and was himself a member of the first Honors class.

"To have taken part in developing projects that led students to realize that they could work with great competence in a demanding curriculum preparing them for graduate study, that they could engage in meaningful dialogue with internationally-known scholars, that they could thrive in the rigorous atmosphere of internationally-known laboratories, clinics, museums and a host of other institutions, has been an indescribable privilege," he said.

Showing students that they are capable of doing high-level work in a rigorous academic environment can have lasting impact. The 2018 Strada-Gallup Alumni Survey, which polled college graduates from across the United States, found that college students who strongly agreed that they were challenged academically were more than twice as likely to say that their education was worth the cost and more than three times as likely to say that they were prepared for life after college than alumni who did not feel they were challenged.

## A LASTING IMPACT

Alumni outcomes suggest that the Honors College succeeds in its mission of transforming lives. According to exit surveys, 30 percent of Honors College graduates go directly into graduate or professional programs and another 45 percent plan to enroll within two years of graduation. But to the students who live the experience, it's about more than numbers.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, Melanie Billings-Yun—the student who scraped together savings from her minimum wage job to attend PSU and join the second year of the Honors program—will speak at an alumni panel this fall. Students from different generations of the program will come together to talk about what they've done since graduating and how the Honors experience affected their life paths.

"I will forever be grateful to PSU and the Honors College for building that bridge for me," Billings-Yun said. "And, I am sure, for so many others." ■

**SUMMER ALLEN** is a staff member in the PSU Office of University Communications.



When students apply for the Honors College, they also have the opportunity to apply to become Sustainability Scholars. The program currently provides 10 students with \$2,500 scholarships for up to three years and gives them the opportunity to tackle urban sustainability challenges through group service projects and their senior thesis research.

"I'm really excited about this program's potential to bring together students with shared interests to work on service projects," said Olyssa Starry, associate professor of urban ecology and faculty mentor for the program. "These projects map well onto the Honors College's urban focused curriculum."

Sequoia Bellanca, (pictured) a junior in the Honors College, is in her third year as a Sustainability Scholar. She was inspired to apply for the scholarship by a high school experience. She visited a community in Haiti with limited access to clean water as part of a global health program.

"That experience really solidified my interest in sustainability and sustainable solutions," she said.

But Bellanca, who is pre-med and is majoring in public health studies, didn't know how she could fit her interest in sustainability into her already packed schedule. The Sustainability Scholars program gave her a structured way to do just that.

In her first two years as a Sustainability Scholar, Bellanca was involved in community volunteering projects and learned research methods in Professor Olyssa Starry's Urban Ecology course, a required course for all Sustainability Scholars.

This year Bellanca will be surveying Portlanders to see how prepared they are for a big Cascadia earthquake. The results will be presented as part of PSU's annual Sustainability Celebration.

The Sustainability Scholars are also partnering with Cascadia Clusters, a local nonprofit addressing homelessness by providing employment and living opportunities via the construction of tiny house villages. The students will install solar panels on the tiny houses.

As Bellanca looks to the future and works to pursue a career in medicine, she plans to keep her interest in sustainability front and center.

## CELEBRATE HONORS AND SHARE YOUR STORY

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the Honors College plans to host an Alumni Panel and Reunion during Portland State of Mind in October. (For details, see [pdx.edu/honors](http://pdx.edu/honors) this summer.) Attendees are invited to bring mementos and participate in an oral history project. You can also send your video, audio or written story to [uhcnews@pdx.edu](mailto:uhcnews@pdx.edu).





ANDIE PETKUS

# ARTFO



# PSU's new museum brings art to the heart of campus.

by Scholle McFarland

**PORTLAND STATE'S** first art museum opened to the public in November with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebrations. Part of the renovation of the Fariborz Maseeh Hall (formerly Neuberger Hall and South Park Hall), the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at Portland State University occupies 7,500 square feet with state-of-the-art galleries featuring work from Northwest artists, faculty and students as well as exhibitions by national and international artists. More than 4,500 people visited during the museum's first 14 days.

The museum was created with a \$5 million contribution from philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer through the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation. It's the third Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in the Northwest, joining those at the University of Oregon and Washington State University. But unlike those museums, it will not house a permanent collection of its own, focusing instead on providing free exhibitions and educational programming. The museum's motto is "Art for All."



# BRALL



## JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART AT PSU

Regular hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and  
Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday  
1855 SW Broadway, Portland, OR  
[pdx.edu/museum-of-art](http://pdx.edu/museum-of-art)

*Admission is always free*

*Due to coronavirus health and safety measures, the museum is temporarily closed. Visit the website for a virtual tour of exhibits and artist talks.*

“Many people view museums as some place for someone else, but I firmly believe art is for everyone. I’m trying to take down those perceived walls. A university campus is just the place to do it,” Schnitzer said. “This new museum will reach out to every student on campus, every young person in the surrounding counties, every adult within the Portland metropolitan area—providing activities that will enrich their hearts, minds and souls.”

### Making art visible

Its location in Fariborz Maseeh Hall gives the museum an opportunity to integrate art into the everyday life of the community. The building is home to several academic departments—from Mathematics + Statistics to the School of Art + Design—as well as the place where students come for workaday tasks like getting ID cards, checking on financial aid and using language labs. People passing by on SW Broadway or sipping coffee in the cafe just inside can see the two floors of artwork through floor-to-ceiling glass walls.

The central location makes it possible for students to “dip in for a few minutes here and there to maybe spend ten minutes with one work of art,” said interim director Linda Tesner, former gallery director at Lewis & Clark College, who will lead the museum for its first year, while a permanent director is found. “When viewers repeat visits like that, they really have the opportunity to develop a relationship with a work of art, or an artist.”

### Sparking new learning

Faculty began bringing their classes to see the art and assigning projects related to it as soon as the first exhibit premiered.

Sarah Dougher, University Studies adjunct faculty, took her freshman inquiry class of mostly first-generation college students during fall term. “For some of my students, it was the first time they had visited a museum ever,” she said. “I wanted to share the new space and art with the students in order to show them how accessible art could be, and how important it is to our learning community at PSU.”

Another University Studies faculty member, Sarah Newlands, has brought her students to the Portland Art Museum for years. Having more opportunities for students to interact with art is so important to her that she turned her own office into a teaching gallery, showcasing a different artist every few months. She’s encouraged her students to volunteer for a couple of hours in the new museum, sharing the skills of observation they’ve learned with visitors. “The museum is an extended classroom, just like the Park Blocks,” she said. “We’re looking at the world through various lenses.”

### Showcasing student artists

The museum is not only committed to exposing students to art, but also to celebrating them as artists. Three shows of student work are planned for each school year. This is a big change from previous







ANDIE PETKUS

Families visited for art and activities on Family Fun Day during opening weekend at the new Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at PSU.

years, when graduating BFA and MFA students exhibited at galleries across campus because of space limitations.

“It has always been challenging to demonstrate the impact and talent of our students’ work with these limitations,” said Lisa Jarrett, art faculty. “The new museum changes this. Now we can showcase their work to the campus and metro communities in one stunning location with greater visibility and accessibility. The professional impact on their work will be significant.”

Unlike previous gallery spaces, the museum can also accommodate larger, more ambitious work, said Lis Charman, director of the School of Art + Design, which means student artists can dream—and build—bigger.

## Sharing with the community

The museum’s grand opening exhibit included nearly 50 paintings, sculptures and prints from the Jordan D. Schnitzer Family Foundation collection, curated by Tesner. This spring, the museum features exhibitions from local artists Arvie Smith and Daniel Duford, on display through May 16. (Tour the exhibits virtually and see artist talks on the museum website during coronavirus closures.)

On the main floor, “Arvie Smith: 2 Up 2 Back II” retrospective highlights earlier works from this elder statesman of Oregon’s art community. Smith is a professor emeritus at Pacific Northwest College of Art and a Governor’s Art Award recipient for lifetime achievement as a painter.

On the lower level, “Daniel Duford: John Brown’s Vision on the Scaffold,” explores the mythology and storytelling of narrative figure painting, taking radical abolitionist John Brown as its central figure. Duford is an instructor at Pacific Northwest College of Arts and a 2019 Guggenheim fellow—an accomplishment shared by only one other Oregon visual artist.

Tesner hopes that the museum has an impact not only on the campus, but on the city at large. “I really feel like not only is the art for all—this is a museum for all,” she said. “PSU is doing something very important for the city of Portland and I’m honored to be a part of it.” ■

**SCHOLLE McFARLAND** is the editor of *Portland State Magazine*.

## NOW AT JSMA



**Arvie Smith:** A retrospective of local artist Arvie Smith’s work appears through May 16. It includes paintings created between 1988 and 2015, including this untitled portrait. “My paintings present historical inequities in ambiguous ways,” Smith says, “preparing the viewer to examine their own frame of reference and ideologies.”



**Daniel Duford:** The exhibit “Daniel Duford: John Brown’s Vision on the Scaffold,” explores narrative figure painting. Works on display include the General and the Supermax (shown here). Duford conceived this project after visiting Harpers Ferry, the site of Brown’s raid on the federal armory.



# alumni life



MEGHAN PADDOCK FARRELL

## SPOTLIGHT: TEACHING TECH

**IN CHRIS BARTLO'S** classroom at Portland's Wilson High School, students learn by doing. He gives them the freedom to take on projects of their choosing and progress at their own pace.

Bartlo said they not only learn how to write code for their websites, games and apps, but they also develop important skills—like logic, problem solving, creativity, collaboration and project management—that will help them succeed no matter what career they choose. Among the projects that have emerged from his classes are an app that detects melanoma and another that connects restaurants with leftover food to soup kitchens and food banks.

Bartlo (MS '07, MEd '08, MS '14) is a proponent of project-based learning. It's that approach to teaching that earned him a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in October.

"Receiving the Presidential Award is the highest honor for a teacher and I'm so excited that one of PSU's alums was a recent recipient," said Karen Marongelle, former College of Liberal Arts and Sciences dean for PSU and current assistant director of the National Science Foundation for Education and Human Resources. The NSF administers the award for K-12 math and science teachers. "Chris is amazing and incredibly dedicated, so this honor could not have been bestowed on a more deserving teacher."

Bartlo said he shares the award with his students. "It's just as much their win," he said. "If they didn't bring their energy

*His collection of degrees from Portland State have come in handy when experimenting with what works best in the classroom.*

# ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

and interest and creativity, I wouldn't have cool projects to talk about."

Since he arrived at Wilson in 2009, Bartlo has helped build computer science into a comprehensive, four-year program that is open to everyone, not just those in advanced math classes. He wants his students to become creators rather than simply consumers of technology. It's no surprise that the number of students in the program has grown from about 30 to more than 270.

With so little research about best practices in teaching computer science, Bartlo said his collection of degrees from Portland State have come in handy when experimenting with what works best in the classroom.

"I'm programmed to collect data and study it, so my research background ends up being really helpful when I try stuff out and document it," he said.

After graduating from Pomona College with a double major in mathematics and science as well as technology and society, Bartlo and his wife, Joanna, lived in Italy for a while. When they returned to the states for graduate school, they decided on Portland and were drawn to PSU's programs—he for the systems science program

and she for the highly regarded mathematics education Ph.D. program. It was also during this time that Bartlo discovered his passion for teaching high schoolers while volunteering at OMSI.

He completed his master's in systems science and earned graduate certificates in simulation and artificial intelligence. He then started the graduate teaching program with an emphasis on mathematics. Once he began teaching, he continued taking classes and eventually earned a master's in mathematics for teachers, too.

Bartlo said he found community at PSU—from the close-knit family in systems science to his cohort of fellow math teachers—and still keeps in touch with classmates.

"When you pick a program, hopefully there's great professors and things like that, but really, you're getting a community of people who want to learn the same stuff you do," he said. "PSU is such an interesting mix of people. They're coming for all different reasons and that's very stimulating on its own." ■

**CRISTINA ROJAS** is the communications manager for PSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Jordan Allen '05**, founder and CEO of Stay Alfred, a nationwide urban vacation rental company, received the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2019 Award in the Consumer Service category for the Pacific Northwest.

**Tareq Amin '99**, chief technology officer at Rakuten Mobile, was voted 2019's most powerful person in wireless technology by the readers of FierceWireless.com.

**Gustavo Balderas MEd '01**, superintendent of the Eugene School District, was named National Superintendent of the Year. Balderas is only the third Oregon superintendent to receive the distinction.

**Amelia Eichler '19** accepted the position of assistant theater manager at the University of Southern California, where she will work with 35 mm film and digital projection in support of the university's curriculum and events.

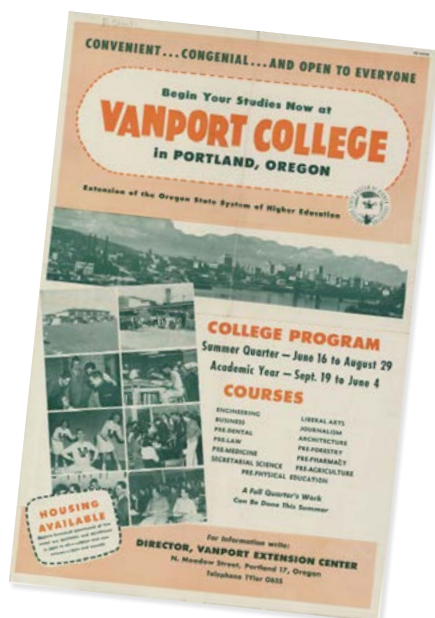
**Abbie Faingold '18**, former Vikings soccer player, signed a professional contract to play for Charme FC in Japan.

**Janna Ferguson MArch '17** has been promoted to Partner at Pyatt Studio, an architecture firm in Boulder, Colorado.

**Matt Freeman '89** was hired as director of sales for the Pacific Northwest for Torii Mor Winery in Dundee, Oregon.

**Stephanie Hough '11** screened her short film "Century: Summer" in the Portland International Film Festival in March.

**June Jones '76**, a former Portland State quarterback, is now head coach for the Houston Roughnecks of the XFL.



## Share your PSU keepsakes

Do you have a treasured object from your time at Portland State? Tell us about it and send a photo in an email to [psumag@pdx.edu](mailto:psumag@pdx.edu). If we share your story in the magazine or on Instagram, we'll send you some special PSU swag.



## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS CONTINUED

**Rose Jubb '11**, the CEO of Style Class, has launched "Closet Goals," a three-episode series makeover show broadcast on Amazon's Prime Video.

**Ian Karmel '10**, a comedian and co-head writer for The Late Late Show with James Corden, won an Emmy for Outstanding Variety Special for his work on Carpool Karaoke: When Corden Met McCartney Live From Liverpool.

**Nancy Newton MPA '15** has been selected as the city manager of Springfield, Oregon.

**Julie Rowell MEd '05** was one of only 40 teachers in the country—and the only one in the state of Oregon—to receive a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award. Rowell was recognized for her work as an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher at Gresham High School.

**Judy Shelton '76**, an economic adviser to President Donald Trump, was nominated for a position on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

**Trish Skoglund '02** has been appointed vice president of sales and supply for Crowley Fuels LLC, one of Alaska's leading petroleum transportation, distribution and sales companies.

**Ime Udoka**, a former Viking basketball player, was named an assistant coach for the Philadelphia 76ers.

**Eric Wenzel '13** is a project manager for a major expansion at Scott | Edwards Architecture's headquarters on East Burnside.

*Have news you'd like to share?  
Email [alum@pdx.edu](mailto:alum@pdx.edu) or submit your own alumni news online at [pdx.edu/alumni/contact](http://pdx.edu/alumni/contact).*

## 10 WAYS TO TAP INTO ALUMNI RESOURCES

*As a Portland State alum, you have access to a host of resources—most of which are available through the Alumni Association at [pdx.edu/alumni](http://pdx.edu/alumni). Here's how to take advantage of all your alma mater has to offer:*

**1. JOIN UP:** Join the PSU Alumni Association by requesting your free alumni card. The Alumni Association is a worldwide community of over 183,000 alumni with 65% residing in greater Portland and throughout Oregon.

**2. GET DISCOUNTS:** Check out all the perks available to alumni, including a Campus Rec membership discount; popular Columbia and Nike employee store passes; discounts on insurance, moving, computers and more.

**3. BOOST YOUR CAREER:** Tap into PSU's career services through the Career Center, which includes access to Handshake ([pdx.edu/careers/handshake](http://pdx.edu/careers/handshake)), PSU's job and internship search portal.

**4. DISCUSS GREAT BOOKS:** Join the free, online Alumni Book Club ([pbc.guru/psu/](http://pbc.guru/psu/)) to discuss a different book every two months in a private forum.

**5. KEEP LEARNING:** If you're 65 or older, audit a class through PSU's Senior Adult Learning Center ([pdx.edu/senior-adult-learning-center/](http://pdx.edu/senior-adult-learning-center/)).

**6. CATCH SOME Z'S:** Need a room in Portland? Use the promo code STAYPDX to get an alumni discount at the University Place Hotel & Conference Center.

**7. WATCH A MOVIE:** Bring your alumni card to the PSU's 5th Avenue Cinema ([5thavecinema.com](http://5thavecinema.com)) to watch a movie for free. Popcorn included.

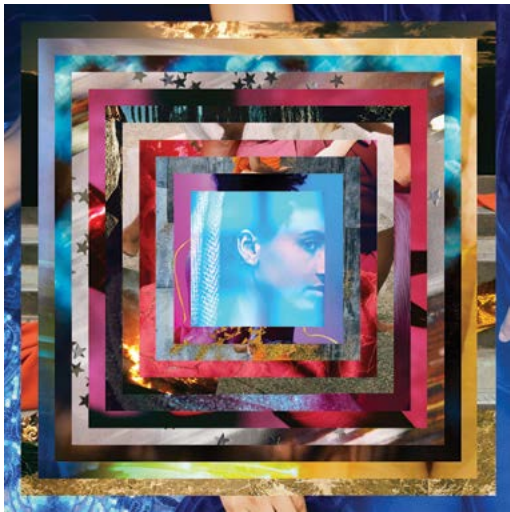
**8. TAKE AN ADVENTURE:** Travel the world with the Viking Adventures Alumni Travel Program. This year's remaining trips include journeys to Peru and the Mediterranean.

**9. STAY IN TOUCH:** Want to network, hear about events, share stories and keep up with PSU news? Follow the PSU Alumni Association on Twitter (@PSU\_Alums), Facebook (PortlandStateAlumni) and Instagram (@portlandstatealumni), and join the Portland State University Alumni LinkedIn group.

**10. STAND UP FOR PSU:** If you live in Oregon, join PSU Advocates to keep track of policy issues that impact PSU and make your voice heard ([pdx.edu/alumni/psu-advocates](http://pdx.edu/alumni/psu-advocates)).



# bookshelf

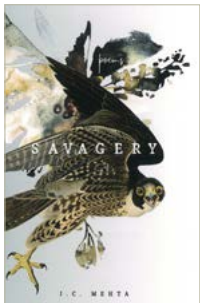


## 12 LITTLE SPELLS

Esperanza Spalding

CONCORD RECORDS

Former Portland State student Esperanza Spalding won Best Jazz Vocal Album at the Grammys for her album "12 Little Spells," described by the Rolling Stone as "radically inventive." This brings the composer, jazz bassist and singer's Grammy haul to four, including Best New Artist (2011), Best Jazz Vocal Album for "Radio Music Society" (2013) and Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s) for "City of Roses" (2013). Spalding, a Portland native, enrolled in PSU's music program in 2000 at the age of 16. She later received a full scholarship to the Berklee College of Music, where she earned her bachelor's degree and was hired as one of the youngest instructors in the college's history at the age of 20. —JENNIFER LADWIG



## SAVAGERY

Jessica Mehta '05, MA '07

AIRLIE PRESS

This book of poems reflects on what it means to be indigenous in America today, acting both as a lens and a mirror to the topics of self, loss, love and place. "Savagery" is the ninth book of poetry from Mehta, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She is a graduate of PSU's Ooligan Press program and a poetry editor at Bending Genres Literary Review, Airlie Press and the Exclam!on journal.



## THIS PARTICULAR HAPPINESS: A CHILDLESS LOVE STORY

Jackie Shannon Hollis MSW '94

FOREST AVENUE PRESS

Described by Cheryl Strayed as "A gloriously wise memoir about one woman's unexpected path to becoming," this book follows author Jackie Shannon Hollis as she navigates her desire for children while married to a man who wants none. "This Particular Happiness" tackles the difficulty in making room for love and the nature of a woman's role as a wife, daughter, sister, counselor and friend. Hollis is a graduate of PSU's social work program.



## THE MYSTERIOUS SOFÍA

Stephen J. C. Andes '04, MA '06

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS

In "The Mysterious Sofía," author Stephen J. C. Andes uses the remarkable story of Sofía del Valle to tell the history of the power shift in Catholicism from north to south and the importance of women to its survival. Sofía, neither nun nor mother, was a devout Catholic who resisted religious persecution in an era of Mexican revolutionary upheaval, becoming a labor and education activist. Andes received both a bachelor's and master's degree in history from PSU.



## REAL DAUGHTER

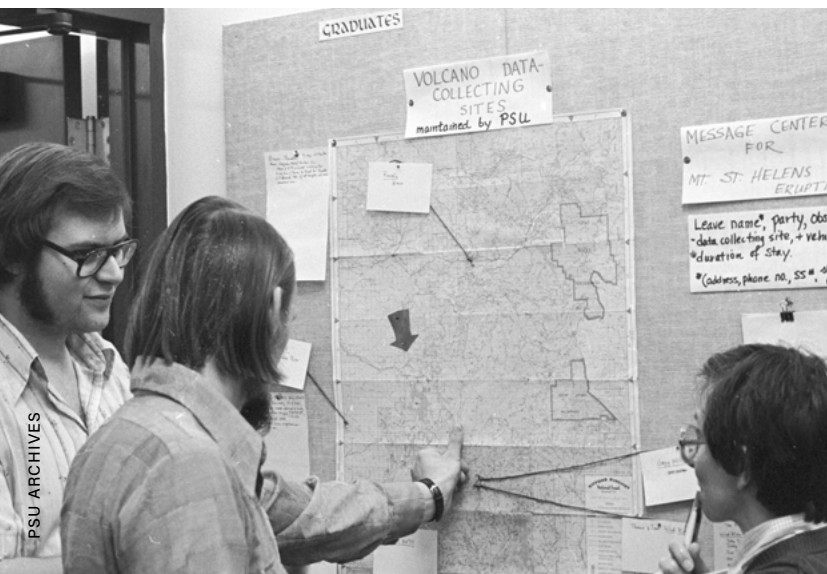
Lynn Otto '13 MFA

UNICORN PRESS

Otto's debut book of poems explores familial love and its entanglements as well as what it means to be authentic. "How is it," she asks, "we each learn / one story, and every sentence ever after / sounds to us like it belongs to it?" "Real Daughter" was a finalist for the 2020 Oregon Book Award Stafford/Hall Award for Poetry. Otto, a freelance academic copy editor and writing mentor, received an MFA from PSU.



# looking back



## AN EXPLOSIVE HISTORY

Forty years ago, on May 18, 1980, at 8:32 a.m., an earthquake occurred along the Mount St. Helens seismic zone, shaking the mountain and sending ash, magma and earth flying.

In the months leading up to this eruption, Portland State geologists were tracking Mount St. Helens' activity, beginning in March when the volcano started rumbling, said Scott Burns, professor emeritus of geology and past president of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment.

"The closest geologists to the mountain were Portland State geologists," Burns said. "Our faculty were very, very involved in those months of March, April, May and then when the eruption occurred and the recovery afterward."

After two eruptions in March, the mountain quieted, Burns said. Magma was still moving inside the northern part of the mountain, creating a bulge that crept five feet a day. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) sent people to the area, instrumenting the mountain with seismographs and tools to measure the bulge and analyze gas vents called fumarole.

***"The closest geologists to the mountain were Portland State geologists."***

When the mountain erupted again two months later, the bulge of magma thrust down the hill, creating the largest landslide in recorded history and sending debris into Spirit Lake and 25 kilometers down the North Fork Toutle River.

"All the gases and magma in there shot out as ash," he said. "Some went out laterally, and then upward, and then the whole thing just went wild."

The USGS geologists couldn't be everywhere at once, so PSU geologists Len (Leonard) Palmer, Marvin Beeson and Tom Benson stepped in to interview with news outlets, collect data and perform research. "Every night there would be at least one PSU geology professor on TV," Burns said.

Many news outlets came to take photos and collect data from the Geology Department's seismograph. PSU was also tracking the volcano's activity on a map. (See the photo of Ken Cameron '76 MS '80, Rita Gabor, and an unidentified student.) In the months following the May 18 eruption, there were several big eruptions, one of which covered Portland with inches of ash.

Later, the Cascades Volcano Observatory was created in Vancouver, decreasing the demand for PSU's geological expertise. However, PSU is still connected to the eruption, Burns said. Several students in the Geology Department have done related thesis work, some professors are still involved in Mount St. Helens research, and three times a year, Burns and other professors lead field trips to the mountain. Also, a recording of Benson explaining the May 18 eruption from a helicopter can still be heard at the Mount St. Helens Forest Learning Center to this day. —JENNIFER LADWIG



# *CHANGE ISN'T A MAYBE. IT'S A MUST.*

Portland State University has always been the testing ground for ideas and projects that show the world how different is done. It's where we learn how to overhaul the criminal justice system, engineer ordinary cars to run on hydrogen, and build concert stages that convert into homeless shelters. It's where we learn to think bigger and bolder and challenge what is with what could be.

Learn more at [PDX.EDU/CHANGE](https://pdx.edu/change) →



MORGAN GODVIN, Class of 2021  
Studying Public Health







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