

Spring 2021

Portland State Magazine

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portland state

MAGAZINE



INSIDE: OBJECTS THAT TELL PSU'S HISTORY | KNOW YOUR VIKS QUIZ

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and friends of Portland State University

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from the president

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF OPPORTUNITY

FEBRUARY MARKED a milestone for Portland State: our 75th anniversary. We must not let the occasion pass without acknowledging how far we have come as an institution. It's been a sometimes exhilarating, sometimes exhausting journey. But we have succeeded in creating a unique urban research university appreciated across the state and beyond.

From our determined beginnings at Vanport, we have evolved while staying true to our mission. We remain a university of opportunity, where people come to improve themselves and their communities. This change is created through the dedicated instruction of students and comprehensive systems that support their academic journey. It is also bolstered by scholarship and creative endeavors that bring new ideas and new experiences that enrich the soul.

Since I became Interim President in 2019 and PSU's 10th President in 2020, I have reflected on the core values that have guided us to today. Established on the streets of Vanport, these have adapted and endured over time:

- An abiding commitment to student learning
- A persistent effort to create social mobility for every student
- Active engagement with our community
- A belief that knowledge and artistic expression are key to making our community better
- An unmatched spirit of innovation

For 75 years, allegiance to these core values has enriched our academic and scholarly effort,

sustained our spirit and guided us through the inevitable challenges of a young university. When we are successful, it is transformative. We achieve one of our central tenets: creating social mobility.

Social mobility is a new phrase that describes what we've always done: offer a path to a more prosperous future open to opportunity and advancement. Seventy-five years ago, we did this with veterans returning from World War II. Today, we do this with Oregon's most racially, ethnically and economically diverse students.

We haven't always gotten it right. Importantly, we have fallen short of the mark in regard to creating and sustaining a racially just campus. Amazing faculty, staff and students are leading us forward. I call out and celebrate their work and leadership.

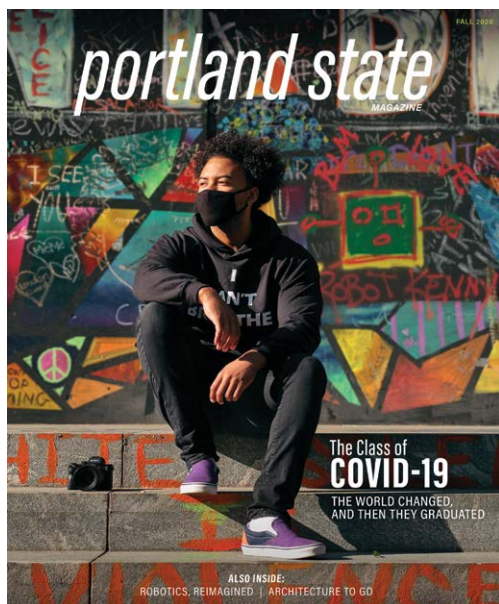
Still, our efforts to advance racial justice and equity, dismantle white supremacy, and decolonize ourselves and our approaches are incomplete. We have a moral imperative to lean into this work deeply now and over the long run.

Our charge is to root out policies and practices that discriminate, to advance the well-being and success of all in our diverse community, and to act with courage, much as our founders did 75 years ago.

Sincerely,

Stephen Percy
President, Portland State University

inbox



LOVING AND ... NOT LOVING THE FALL ISSUE

Your Fall 2020 issue was so informative and enlightening that it persuaded me to write to you for the first time. I appreciated the “One Year, Many Points of View” Inbox article with its many historical and personal perspectives. Of particular interest to me, as a retired educator and PSU alumnus, were the graduating students highlighted in “The Class of COVID-19.” This article portrayed the struggles and strengths of these young graduates in their unique voices. The Alumni Life and the Looking Back articles defined the possibilities of the future for PSU and its graduates. Thank you for an enlightening, joyous read. —*Linda Strode '92*

The left-leaning bias [of the Fall 2020 issue] was overwhelming. Katy Swordfisk writes “Data Science Provides Election Protection.” We must recognize in 2016 the Democratic Party chalked up Trump’s electoral victory to Russian meddling. Later, Scholle McFarland highlights Joseph Blake Jr.’s participation in activism for Black Lives Matter [in “The Class of COVID-19”] and Christina Rojas highlights local Democratic candidates [in “From Portland State to Public Office”]. Of the candidates Rojas cites, five are Democrats, two are Republicans, and one is nonpartisan. These inclusions are not representative of my own politics, nor are they representative of

the American public at large. I’ve veered away from the liberalism of my college days and have embraced the holistic conservatism of individuals such as Dr. E. Michael Jones, the editorial board of *The American Conservative Magazine*, and, gasp, voted for President Donald J. Trump, as did nearly 72 million Americans, with 40% of votes from Oregon voters. Most importantly, editor Scholle McFarland and the Portland State Alumni Association need to recognize pushing a hard-left agenda, including Black Lives Matter, will not resonate with conservative alumni readers (read “donors”) such as myself. —*Mark Abell '11*

I am ashamed of this school and your biased liberal views. I think you’re part of the problem of the demise of our beautiful City of Roses. —*Marlene Singlehurst '62*

MORE SECRETS TO SHARE

I’d like to share some of the work surrounding Portland State’s 15th-century codex [featured in “Hands-on History”]. On Jan. 13, two student-led organizations, the History Club and the PSU chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, hosted a webinar, “Witch-hunting, Dog-men and a World Chronicle: Researching a 500-Year-Old Codex at PSU,” in which a panel of graduate and undergraduate students shared their findings with 75 attendees. The students’ work caught the attention of a colleague in Germany, whose own students are researching a book from the same period, opening the way for future collaboration and sharing of information. Once we resume face-to-face teaching, I hope to launch another practicum, as the codex has by no means revealed all its secrets! —*Prof. John Ott, chair, History Department*



MEMORIES OF 1970

I was a student on the PSU campus in May of 1970, and as a Vietnam-era veteran and a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against

the War, I participated in the protests those days on campus. I vividly remember what was obviously an undercover police car with two officers in it sitting curbside all day on campus, oblivious to the “Stop the War” sign balanced on their rear bumper that some student had placed there. Although I was a veteran, I never experienced any disrespect because of it. I was asked by one of my professors to speak to the downtown Portland Rotary Club (which I did) about why I was opposed to the war, which by then I had realized had no end game and the “domino theory” on which it was based had been discredited. I traveled in uniform many times during my time of service and was never treated disrespectfully. In addition, I was never thanked for my service, which I am afforded on an almost daily basis now. I believe a lot of stories about service members being treated disrespectfully, however ugly they sound, never happened. It was a momentous time in our country’s history, much like recent times, that will be long remembered. It was a privilege to be a part of those times. —*Steven F. Scanlin MSW '71*

“Thank you for an enlightening, joyous read.”

I would like to respond to Jim Knoll’s letter [in the Fall Inbox] that falsely charged Vietnam War protesters as spitting upon veterans and singling them out as “Neanderthal relics.” On the contrary, our protest group worked closely with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) during the May 1970 PSU student strike and the summer protests against President Nixon coming to Portland as the keynote speaker at the American Legion Convention, which Nixon ultimately canceled due to the threat of large marches. Former U.S. Marine Sgt. Mike McCusker of the VVAW was our media spokesman for the planned protests. —*Doug Weiskopf '71*

MARKING THE STUDENT STRIKE

The May 11th Committee, which is composed of alumni and faculty who participated in the PSU strike against the escalation of the Vietnam War in the spring of 1970, has postponed the installment and dedication of a memorial commemorating the Portland Police attack on nonviolent demonstrators in the Park Blocks, until Oct. 13. Funded completely by the Committee, the plaque will

be placed in the front garden of the Simon Benson House, headquarters of the Alumni Association. The marker has been designed and will be installed under the direction of noted memorial fabricator John Laursen. —
Prof. David A. Horowitz, faculty coordinator for the May 11th Committee

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



THE INSPIRING MIRIAM MCKEE

Martin Ross' letter ("The Difference One Instructor Can Make") really sent me back with a flood of memories. I was an 18-year-old freshman in 1968 and had no idea of what I wanted to major in. I signed up for Tom Benson's Geology 101 class and, like Martin, ended up in Miriam McKee's lab. Living with my parents and commuting to PSC, the College was a lonely place for me. Mimi made me feel right at home. She was my first teacher that treated me as an adult. Always telling great adventurous stories of her career in exploration geology, she was always positive, humorous, friendly, unpretentious and supportive. She also often invited us students to her home for Friday night social gatherings. Because of her, I became a geology major, went on to get a master's in economic geology from the University of Idaho School of Mines, and had a career in the mining industry. —*Glen Kirkpatrick '72*

IMAGINING A MORE AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

There can be no social justice without an affordable university education. I know this goal can be met because I graduated from PSU with a bachelor's degree in 1966 without any debt and without scholarships. Here's an example of how it can be done: Convert into today's dollars the cost of tuition and fees for an undergraduate degree

at PSU, beginning in 1961. Then convert into today's dollars the cost of rent for four years in the Park Blocks area, beginning in the fall of 1961. Then compare the fall 1961 through spring 1965 budgets to the most recent budgets. Search for the areas where costs have increased much more than justified by inflation and growth. Cut tuition and fees, as well as housing costs, so they are comparable with the 1961–65 era, adjusted for inflation, of course. Should you adopt this modest proposal, please let me know. It's about time that the wealth at PSU was redistributed. —*Jeff Watkins '66 MA '70*

THE HIGH PRICE OF TEXTBOOKS

Across the country people are choosing between meals and text books, just like I did my first year at PSU. Textbook prices are out of hand, and renting, buy-backs, and financial aid aren't effectively addressing the problem. The average price of a science textbook is \$250, and has risen by 800% in the last 30 years. When students try to use a buyback program, they often get little to nothing back and can't afford the next term's books. When students chose to rent books, any small damage can make it so that on top of the renting fee, they also have to buy the book. This has caused 65% of students to opt out of getting a required textbook for a class [according to a report by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group]. We need grants and support systems for teachers to allow them to switch to open resource textbooks, so that everyone has access to education no matter their financial status. Portland State needs to expand its Open Education Initiative. —*Kai O'Dell, student*



OREGONIAN PUBLISHING CO.

This photo by Viking Yearbook photographer Dan Long '69 appeared in the Oregonian in September 1967 with the caption: "\$331...\$332...\$333...and that's my tuition for the fall quarter at Portland State College," quips Alan Cherney, undergraduate student from California. Cherney paid tuition in \$1 bills during Friday registration at the college."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters and comments to psumag@pdx.edu. We reserve the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for clarity, accuracy and length.

CORRECTIONS

All of the students mentioned in the story "First Cohort of Students With Intellectual Disabilities Graduates" have intellectual disabilities, but only Rachel Esteve has Down syndrome.

In "Robots, Reimagined," the correct source of Alex Hunt's grant is the National Science Foundation.

The story "From Portland State to Public Office" neglected to include Brandee Dudzic '16 MS '19, who lost her bid for Columbia County Board of Commissioners, position 1; and Zach Hudson MEd '05, who now represents District 49 in the Oregon House of Representatives.

faculty voices

Have a question you'd like to ask Portland State's faculty? Email psumag@pdx.edu

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM COVID-19?



**RYAN
PETTEWAY**

Assistant professor,
OHSU-PSU School of
Public Health

COVID-19 has revealed that too many of us have been sleeping our way through the last 400-plus years, waking only when it's convenient and comfortable. We couldn't have otherwise arrived in this moment without the willful ignorance that enables folks to conclude COVID-19 is the core problem. The same ignorance would encourage us to believe "returning to normal" will make everything OK again. "Normal" is how we got here. It's also made it clear that folks are capable of compassion, empathy and solidarity on a level that helps us to imagine what normal was supposed to have looked like all along.

Mainstream public health would have you believe that a vaccine is going to save us. It is not. It will certainly help. But if we want a future in which crises like these are averted entirely or substantially mitigated, we need to deal with our root pathologies: structural racism, wealth inequality and ecological disruption. They have structured the inequitable impacts that the pandemic has had.

Asking about how to "improve resilience" suggests that the root of the problem is communities not being strong enough or creative enough or resourceful enough, and it creates this narrative of "vulnerability" and "being at-risk" without interrogating the forces that rendered communities vulnerable. We need a different frame—one that understands communities are not "at-risk," but rather, they are actively and systematically *risked*.

COVID-19 was the spark that landed on 400-plus years of kerosene. We need to clean up the kerosene, not optimize fire extinguisher distribution.



**DILAFRUZ
WILLIAMS**

Professor, Educational
Leadership and Policy,
College of Education

THE PANDEMIC has exposed blatant economic and racial injustices even as it has revealed the connectedness of all life. It has elevated the need to not think of education as occurring solely indoors enclosed within four concrete walls. We must expand the notion of education and embrace "living" classrooms and schools. Being outdoors and learning in and with nature are essential.

We cannot go back to old educational paradigms where learning is anchored in seat time with often irrelevant, predetermined outcomes. We must focus on the holistic dimension of our lives, not simply cater to numeracy and alphabets. Children and youth become resilient when education is directly linked with the day-to-day nuances of life, with community engagement, and with exploration that generates questions, wonder and critical thinking.

Much of my research is related to equity, community-based education, environmental education and garden-based learning. The pandemic has opened up opportunities across countries and continents to be outdoors (with mask precautions). Beyond the centuries-old concept of indoor formal learning, we find that children, youth and adults are coming together to learn on school grounds and in parks, forests and gardens. These are all prime educational settings. The pandemic dares us to integrate life and learning.



**AARON
GOLUB**

Associate professor,
Toulan School of Urban
Studies and Planning

I THINK the pandemic has highlighted the selflessness of many workers who, in the face of significant personal health risk, have remained dedicated to their jobs serving people in hospitals, grocery stores, on buses and trains, and in countless other ways. Sadly, many workers haven't had a choice—and the pandemic has revealed just how barbaric our economy has become. Workers with little safety net, no health insurance and substandard pay have been asked to risk their health to keep the economy going, with arguably little reward. I would go so far as to say it raises the question of whether we can call ourselves a society at all, considering the vastly disparate burdens and risks borne by different members of our communities.

My field of urban studies and planning has long challenged how urbanization creates and reinforces the "haves" and the "have-nots." The pandemic hasn't changed that, but it certainly makes it more urgent. Housing affordability, job security, fair pay and benefits (including access to health care), and basic health and human dignity are not only urban issues, but affect and reflect the very fabric of our society. These issues all rose to the surface during the pandemic. For example, renters were already facing precarious housing markets before the pandemic, and tenant protections were an important part of the urban response to the pandemic. While it was exciting to see renter protections implemented, we can only hope they remain long after, as they surely will still be needed.

park blocks



SO MIN KANG

HAPPY 75th, PSU!

PORTLAND STATE'S 75th anniversary kicked off on Founders' Day, Feb. 14. We'll celebrate this incredible milestone in our University's history all year, beginning virtually, with the hope that fall opens up possibilities for in-person activities. Watch the video "Starting from Nothing" at pdx.edu/75th-anniversary. Take a walk through the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at Portland State's exhibit, "Building Community: Past + Present" at pdx.edu/museum-of-art. There you can browse the artwork of more than 50 faculty members from across the years. Celebrate the transformational power of a PSU education with friends, faculty, alumni and students at the free online Simon Benson Awards in October. (For date and registration details, see psuf.org/sbad.) You can also get in the spirit by sharing a fond PSU memory and photo. The first 25 readers to add theirs at pdx.edu/my-psu-memory will receive anniversary swag featuring this issue's beautiful cover illustration by Jessica Hische.

Piece of Cake Catering and Desserts in Southeast Portland baked this sweet treat to help us celebrate PSU's big anniversary. After winning the Cooking Channel's Sugar Showdown competition in 2015, founder Marilyn DeVault MS '71 used her prize money to create a scholarship for PSU graduate students in special education.

NEWS BY THE NUMBERS

OPEN FOR ALL

To make applying for admission a zero-stress experience for pandemic-impacted high schoolers, PSU waived application fees, lowered GPA requirements, extended housing discounts to low-income students and is offering a Summer Bridge program to help prepare selected students.

0

RISING STARS

Three Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science faculty—Ehsan Aryafar, Alex Hunt and Fang Song—won the National Science Foundation's CAREER award, the most prestigious award in support of early-career faculty.

3

CLIMATE CHANGEMAKERS

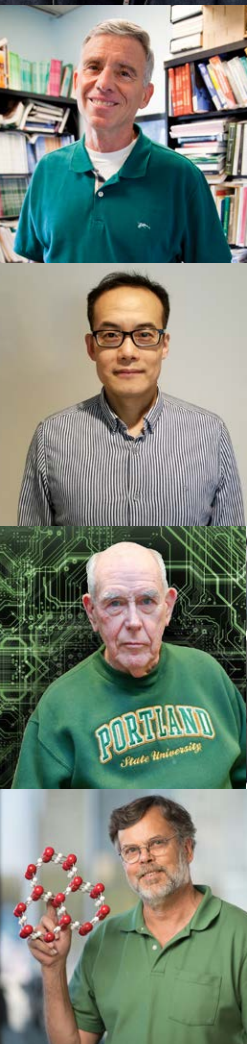
College Magazine named Portland State University the No. 4 university in the nation—and the top rated school on the West Coast—for students who want to make a difference in climate change.

No. 4



PSU RESEARCHERS RANK AMONG WORLD'S BEST

THIRTY-FIVE Portland State University researchers are among the world's most-cited and the top researchers within their discipline areas, according to a new study by PLOS Biology Journal. The study ranked more than 6 million researchers based on data from 2019. PSU's hail from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (14), Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science (10), the School of Business (5), the College of Urban and Public Affairs (3), the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health (2) and the College of Education (1). (Go to pdx.edu/news/top to see the list; most are pictured here.) "The recognition of so many extraordinary faculty members highlights the impact of PSU research and scholarship across a diversity of disciplines," said Jason Podrabsky, interim vice president for Research and Graduate Studies. "The work our faculty members do is essential to solving the challenges facing our local and global communities, and to providing the highest-quality experiential learning opportunities to our students." —*SHAUN MCGILLIS*



ACCESSIBLE AND PROUD

The first cohort of 131 students in Portland State's Four Years Free program—which covers tuition and fees for income-eligible Oregon high school graduates—receive their diplomas this June.

131

FREE WHEELING

New Mobility Magazine ranked Portland State No. 12 in the nation for college students who use wheelchairs, noting campus sky bridges, easy access to transportation and holistic supports, as well as Campus Rec's adaptive equipment.

No. 12



park blocks



SPENCER RUTLEDGE

TAKE A 'TOON TOUR' OF CAMPUS

WITH BAGPIPES FLAMING, Portland's most famous unicycling bagpiper, Brian Kidd (a.k.a. the Unipiper), installed the final piece of a new self-guided, COVID-safe campus tour this February. The painted cartoon cutout of the Unipiper stands at the entrance to the Karl Miller Center, joining 23 others scattered across campus. "Every single piece has a fun little backstory based on Oregon, Portland, or specifically Portland State," said local artist Mike Bennett. In addition to the Unipiper, walkers can catch Victor E. Viking at Viking Pavilion, the elusive Sasquatch beside Campus Rec, or a happy streetcar outside the University Welcome Center. For details, and to see all of Bennett's characters, go to admissions.pdx.edu/tour. When the tour concludes in June, the art pieces will be sold at auction, with the proceeds going to support student scholarships. —*CHRISTINA WILLIAMS*



LISA PATTERSON

HYGIENE HUB OFFERS HOPE UNDER THE MORRISON BRIDGE

A NEW HYGIENE hub has taken aim at issues facing community members without shelter. Two years in the making, Hygiene4All (h4apdx.org) is a cluster of structures and a garden located under the Morrison Bridge in Southeast Portland. It provides a place for people to take a hot shower, exchange dirty bedding and clothing for clean, get first aid, dump trash legally, use the bathrooms and warm up. Designed by Lisa Patterson MArch '18, the project brought together Portland State faculty, alumni and students. Patterson worked with Todd Ferry of Portland State's Center for Public Interest Design and team members Molly Esteve MArch '20 and Marta Petteni on the site's layout. Design of the structures and storage fell to School of Architecture students, with Patterson's guidance, as part of a public interest design seminar. Several structures were also provided by the Useful Waste Initiative (spearheaded by Julia Mollner MArch '15), which facilitates the reuse of construction mock-ups as shelters rather than sending them to landfills. "It takes a village, and everyone just showed up, despite COVID, despite fires and everything," Patterson said. "There was so much community support." —*KATY SWORDFISK*

GLOBAL IMPACT: SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH AROUND THE WORLD

by Shaun McGillis



THE FUTURE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

CHILE

In the mountains of the Patagonian region of South America, Andrés Holz, geography faculty, and Ph.D. student Paola Arroyo-Vargas study how factors including vegetation, climate change, wildfires and human activity impact the resiliency of forests, potentially rendering these ecosystems more prone to devastating burns and ecological collapse. Their research supports land management and post-fire restoration efforts in Chile, Argentina and the U.S.



PRESERVING NATIONAL TREASURES

CHINA

Yangdong Pan, environmental science and management faculty, conducts research intended to safeguard China's premier national reserve, the Jiuzhaigou Valley. The park attracts millions of visitors a year, and with them, pollutants like nitrogen and other fertilizers that threaten the park's water ecosystems. Pan recently led a team of researchers developing cost-effective and easy-to-use tools that park managers can use to monitor potentially harmful nutrients that could damage the pristine waterways that punctuate the park's natural beauty.



INJUSTICE AND THE RISING TIDES

JAPAN

Jola Ajibade, geography faculty, studies the interrelationships between resilience planning, climate change adaptation and urban sustainability. Her research examines how cities such as Tokyo, Japan; Manila, Philippines; and Lagos, Nigeria, apply plans to manage rising tides and sea levels as a coastal climate adaptation strategy. Her recent works demonstrate how these programs can intersect with class, identity and gender relations to perpetuate social and environmental injustice.

FACING DEFORESTATION

NEPAL

In Nepal and Ethiopia, the United Nations-backed REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) program aims to reduce deforestation while supporting local communities through poverty-reduction efforts. With the World Bank's support, Randy Bluffstone and Sahan Dissanayake, economics faculty, provide valuable insights into the program's community-managed forestry efforts by surveying community members and reporting their findings on community preferences to program administrators.



WINE, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AUSTRALIA

For her dissertation, Erin Upton PhD '20 explored the intersection of decision-making around water resources and climate change adaptation in global wine regions, including Australia and South Africa. Upton's approach included interviewing regional stakeholders. Her work helps illuminate how relationships between social, institutional and ecological systems contribute to resilience in the face of climate challenges.

NEW ADVOCATE HELPS STUDENTS SUCCEED

AS PORTLAND STATE'S first Student Success Advocate, Joe Soto '17 seeks to see the whole student and form a genuine connection. Soto is leading a one-year data-driven pilot program to help identify and support students experiencing challenges adapting to college life as part of PSU's Students First initiative, a campus-wide commitment to helping students succeed. The first cohort of 400 was selected using the new Student Success tool, which combines data about 50 different factors, such as high school GPA, first-generation status and housing insecurity. Students may also be flagged for support during the school year—for example, if they haven't logged into their online courses or do poorly on exams. Soto connects students to resources with a focus on self-advocacy and community. Early outcomes are promising. The percentage of students who re-enrolled for winter term was higher for Soto's at-risk cohort than for PSU students in general. Depending on this year's results, PSU may expand the number of advocates or explore different ways to apply what's been learned. —*SUMMER ALLEN*



park blocks



VANPORT BUILDING OPENS

WHEN PORTLAND STATE'S education and public health students return to campus this fall, they'll have a new building to call home. Rising seven stories at the corner of Southwest Montgomery and 4th Avenue, the Vanport Building now houses the College of Education and the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, as well as the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Portland Community College's Dental Services programs. This collaboration means that, in addition to spaces designed for training tomorrow's teachers and public health professionals, the building also hosts a dental clinic and low-cost mental health services for the general public. Topped by an eco-roof, the LEED-Gold certified Vanport Building features an open-air courtyard and a variety of public art, including a pandemic portraits video series by Susie J. Lee and mixed-media by Jeffrey Gibson in the lobby. On the south exterior, a text-based work by Dao Strom illuminates at night. —*SCHOLLE McFARLAND*

MAGAZINE BRINGS HOME GOLD

PORTLAND STATE MAGAZINE was recognized with two regional awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The Spring 2020 issue—a reader favorite, according to survey data—won a gold award for best magazine on a limited budget. Judges noted that the cover feature, “1970: The Year That Shaped PSU,” was a “standout for its approach, writing and design” and that “revisiting these events in 2020 brings a whole new level of engagement to the historical retelling.” Written by Suzanne Pardington Effros, the cover feature also won a silver award for writing. CASE is North America's largest higher education advocacy organization. CASE's District VIII represents institutions in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho and Alaska, as well as seven Canadian provinces. —*SCHOLLE McFARLAND*



INSTAWORTHY PSU

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

LEFT:

In early spring, cherry blossoms festooned the walk to Hoffman Hall with pink.

CENTER:

On the anniversary of PSU's shift to remote operations, faculty and staff (including Becky Sanchez, seen here with her kids) reflected on the year's surprises.

RIGHT:

In PSU's most popular Instagram post to date, the Inauguration Day meme of Sen. Bernie Sanders decked out in mittens found its way to campus.



OPEN FOR FALL. OPEN FOR ALL.

Do you know a senior in high school? We have good news to share with them: Portland State University is safely reopening for in-person instruction this fall, and we want to make sure all Oregonians have the chance to join us—**no stress required.**

High school seniors can apply to PSU for fall 2021 admission with:

- No application fee through June 15
- Temporarily reduced GPA requirements
- Extra financial and academic support

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



research

THE CHANGING NORTHWEST

From extreme fire to vanishing ice, Portland State scientists are tracking the region's transformation

ASK A SKIER and they'll tell you the seasons are getting shorter. Ask a hunter and they'll tell you herds are being driven out by fire. Ask a fisher and they'll tell you salmon runs are smaller. Climate change is transforming the Pacific Northwest.

"It's helpful for us to be able to quantify what to expect so we can prepare for it," says Kelly Gleason, an assistant professor of eco-hydro-climatology at Portland State University. "The future is going to be very different than what we're used to."

Gleason is one of many Portland State researchers working to understand exactly what's happening to our climate so scientists can develop effective mitigation strategies.

Her research focuses on the relationship between snowpack and wildfire. So far, the data points to an accelerating cycle in which each change feeds the next. "Snow is melting faster, which lengthens fire season. And forest fires lead to snowpack melting faster," she says. "It's a vicious cycle."

ANDY MCEVOY, a graduate student in environmental science and management, has been studying forest fires in the Clackamas Basin. In his simulations, wildfires like the ones that burned across more than a million acres of Oregon in a matter of days last summer are likely to become more common. In the Cascade Range of Oregon and Washington, the data points not only to larger average fires, but also to more extreme forest fires.

"No matter which scenario we model, they all projected more days that are conducive to fire spread," he says. The simulations showed that the fire season increased from as little as eight days to as many as 32. Hotter days with lower relative humidity mean more opportunity for dry wood to ignite and for fire to spread and grow. In the least impacted scenario—with the coolest and wettest weather—the average area burned by wildfires increased by 50%. In the most extreme—the hottest and driest—it increased by 540%. For the Clackamas Basin region, that's the difference between a burn the size of the John F. Kennedy International Airport and one the size of Manhattan.

In September 2020, the Archie Creek Fire (seen here) scorched 131,542 acres east of Roseburg. According to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, the historic 2020 Oregon wildfires destroyed 4,021 homes. Between 2015 and 2019 all of Oregon's wildfires combined burned 93 homes.

“We can’t reverse temperature changes or relative humidity,” McEvoy says, “but there are some creative and effective solutions that would reduce the likelihood of an ignition—from a cigarette butt, campfire, piece of equipment, powerline, whatever it is—that coincides with some of these really severe weather events we’re forecasting in the future.”

McEvoy’s research shows that increased messaging about wildfire danger, coupled with ignition management scenarios like shutting off power lines before a large storm, could reduce human-caused ignitions by approximately 75%.

“It’s helpful for us to be able to quantify what to expect so we can prepare for it.”

ANDREW FOUNTAIN, professor emeritus of geology and geography, studies another aspect of the changing climate—the effect on glaciers. He is currently working with the U.S. Forest Service to remap all of the glaciers in the western United States. He’ll use that information to get a more accurate picture of not only how glaciers are changing, but also how fast.

One of the biggest issues impacting glaciers is the trend toward more winter rain and less snow.

“That doesn’t nourish the glaciers. And it reduces our winter snowpack,” Fountain says.

Snowpack acts like natural water storage in the Northwest, releasing its supply in the spring and early summer. Reduced snowpack also leads to more glacier melt because glacier ice is exposed to sunlight sooner and begins melting earlier. Fountain’s research shows that the larger glaciers on Mount Hood lost 30-40% of their area between 2000 and 2018. Looking at the Three Sisters, the larger glaciers lost 20-50% of their area.

“Glacier change is very tangible evidence of climate change. You can talk about warm temperatures or more or less precipitation, but that’s qualitative in terms of our experience,” he says. “The glacier used to be here and now it’s over there. That’s tangible for everyone.”

This knowledge is vital because it’s important to understand how much of the Earth’s water is being stored on land. Most glacier ice melt occurs in August and September after the seasonal snow has melted away, maintaining streamflows in the hottest, driest parts of the summer. The agriculture on the north side of Mount Hood is a beneficiary of this process.



c.1902
Unknown



2018
H. Basagic

“During the Ice Age, a lot of ice was stored in the landscape and the ocean levels were lower. Now we’re melting the ice off the land, putting it in the ocean, and the sea levels are rising,” Fountain says. “This research is part of the global effort to understand how much water is being lost from glaciers and contributing to sea level rise.”

GLEASON, the eco-hydro-climatologist, is studying how to mitigate widespread impacts by using fire to maintain snowpack levels.

“Forests with more open areas tend to accumulate more snow,” she says. That could mean that targeted use of fire, to burn out underbrush and create more open areas, might

Professor Emeritus Andrew Fountain has been remapping the glaciers of the western United States. Everywhere he goes, glaciers are disappearing. These photos show Mount Hood’s White River Glacier in 1902 versus 2018.

create conditions that help snow melt less quickly.

Without mitigation, regional impacts will get worse. Some are already being felt, Gleason says. For instance, in recent years, dams along the Clackamas River, like many in the area, must release water just to ensure salmon have enough water for their annual run around Labor Day.

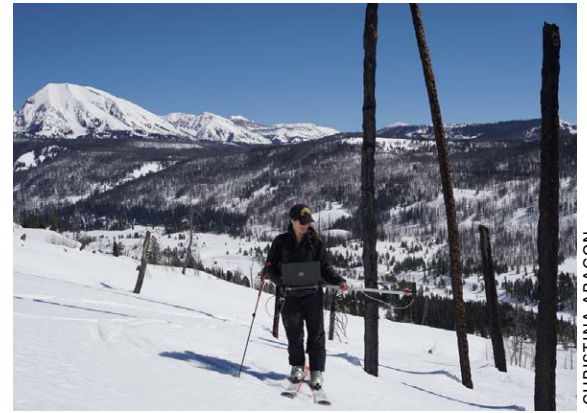
“[Water resource managers] haven’t hit their target water levels for the last decade,” Gleason says. “It’s going to be a lot more common that we have to make value judgments.”

Holding back water for summer demand could lead to flooding as weather phenomena like atmospheric

ivers—corridors of concentrated moisture capable of carrying massive amounts of rain—continue to occur.

“Unfortunately, we don’t really have the data to make those decisions,” Gleason says. But, she adds, Oregon is becoming a water-scarce state where shortages—similar to those seen in California—could become the norm.

Understanding how these elements work together is key to not only setting expectations for the future, but working toward solutions. As Gleason says, it’s going to take more than shorter showers to save the planet: “For change to happen it’s going to have to be all of us working together.” —KATY SWORDFISK



CHRISTINA ARAGON

Kelly Gleason takes snow reflectivity measurements in a burned forest in western Wyoming in 2019.

SEEING SCIENCE: Cycle City

TEXT BY SUMMER ALLEN
ILLUSTRATION BY COLIN HAYES

As is fitting for a university in a city renowned for its bike infrastructure, Portland State is a hub of world-class transportation research. Much of this is conducted at PSU’s Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC). TREC is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation and works with sister centers at partner universities to conduct research that improves mobility and builds strong communities. Here’s what recent studies by TREC researchers have revealed about getting around by bike.

BIKE LANES CAN BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS

A TREC study of six cities—including Portland—found that adding bike lanes either improved or had nonsignificant impacts on sales and employment. The food service industry benefited the most. Even when parking had to be removed for bike lanes, food sales tended to go up.

BIKES DON’T SLOW CARS ON SHARED STREETS

Bicyclists do not significantly reduce car speeds on low-speed, low-volume city streets without bike lanes. Speeds differed by only one mile per hour or less with and without cyclists.

E-BIKE INCENTIVES REDUCE EMISSIONS

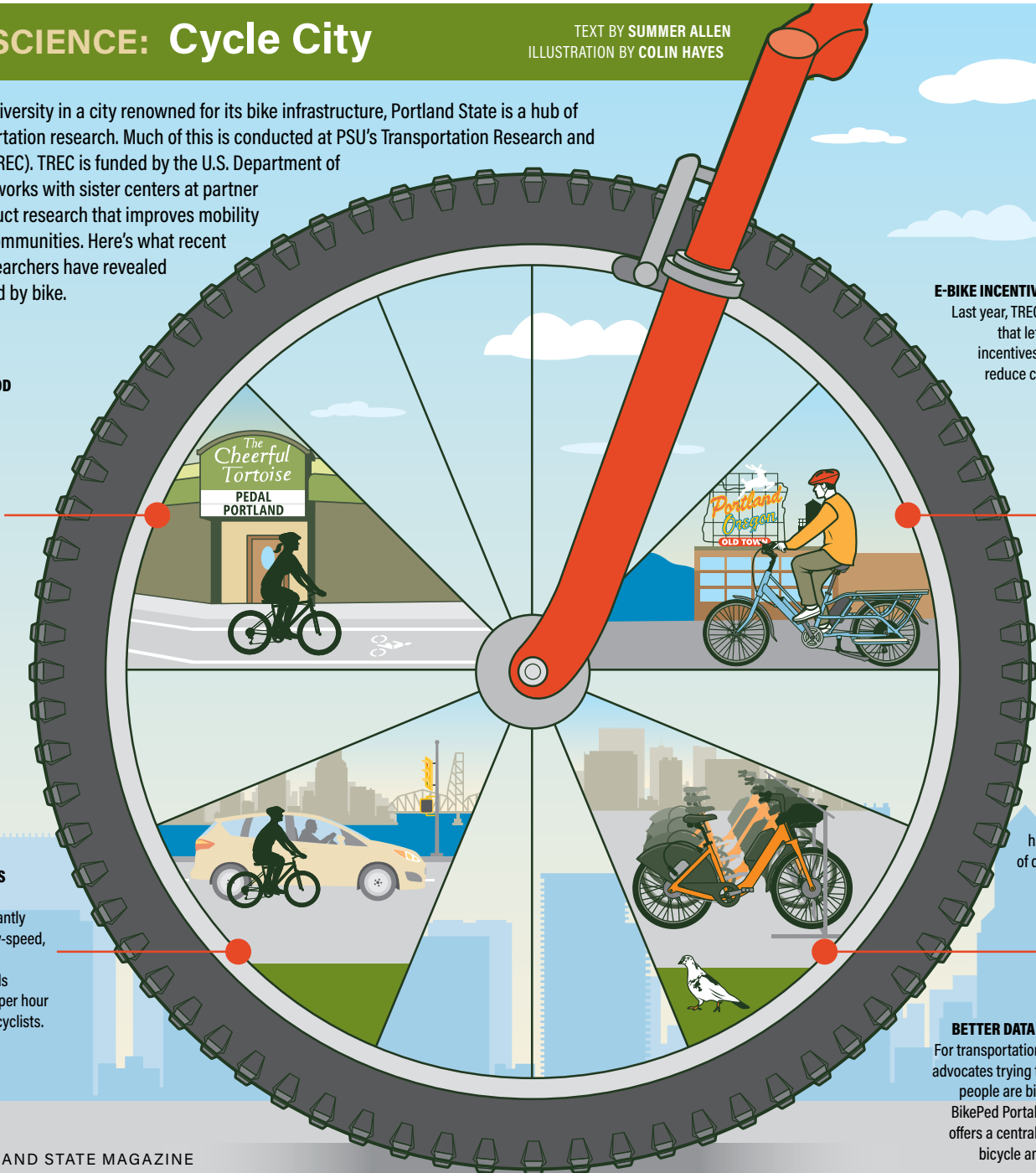
Last year, TREC launched an online tool that lets policymakers test how incentives for electric vehicles can reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Case studies found that in terms of cost and CO₂ savings, incentives for e-bikes often beat those for electric cars.

PANDEMIC BIKE SHARE USE PLUMMETED DOWNTOWN

Ridership for Portland’s bike share system dropped 73% during the pandemic’s first six months. The biggest reduction was between downtown and other areas during normal commute and happy hour times. Outside of downtown, the number of trips remained similar to pre-COVID times.

BETTER DATA MAKES BETTER POLICY

For transportation agencies, planners and advocates trying to understand how many people are biking and walking, TREC’s BikePed Portal (bikeped.trec.pdx.edu) offers a central standardized database of bicycle and pedestrian count data.



1946

75
YEARS

2021



Toast PSU's 75th anniversary with a limited-edition bottle of **Viking Cuvée Pinot Noir** from alumni-owned Sokol Blosser Winery.

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YOUR VOICE IS CRITICAL TO PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

PSU Advocates is the PSU Alumni Association's legislative advocacy program, dedicated to mobilizing alumni and friends on behalf of maximizing state support for PSU and higher education.

4 WAYS TO BE A PSU ADVOCATE



1 SIGN UP

Become an advocate by texting **Portlandstate** to **52886** or visit pdx.edu/alumni/advocates



2 CONNECT

Tell law makers why you care about PSU. Use tools at pdx.edu/alumni/advocates



3 FOLLOW

Follow **@PSUGovRelations** on Twitter and Facebook



4 LEARN

Learn about the timely issues that face PSU students at pdx.edu/government-relations

the arts



Launched in 2019, Textile Arts is an elective track for students pursuing a BFA in Art Practice who want to focus on textiles in any of their many forms, from sustainable fashion to soft sculpture. “Students learn skills such as construction weaving, surface design and pattern development, combined with context courses that cover the social history of textiles and dress,” says Heryer.

In the BFA program, students are required to take half their credits in the form of elective courses, which they select according to their interests, with the goal of building a body of work for their portfolio. For instance, a student interested in textile design might also take printmaking and drawing courses to get experience with illustration and color theory and inform their thinking about patterns and motifs.

“My philosophy centers around helping students find their own path,” she says. “What I love about the BFA program is that we encourage these kinds of intersections to happen.”

“With costume, the body is the canvas, which lives on the larger canvas of the stage.”

HERYER’S MOTHER and grandmother taught her to sew as a child growing up in Kansas City, Missouri. This sparked her interest in thrifting and fashioning new apparel out of old. “I’ve always been a kind of a magpie that way,” she says.

Later, as an art student at Washington University in St. Louis, she continued to explore making wearable art. Recognizing her potential and her determination not to be limited to just one discipline, her advisers allowed her to create her own major that incorporated both sculpture and fashion.

Her first steps into the world of costume design came as something of an accident, after a staff person at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis spotted her work in a student exhibit and recommended that she apply for a summer job in the company’s craft department.

“In that role, I was working with some of the biggest names in costume design at that moment. One of them was Marty Pakledinaz, and he offered to review my portfolio. When he saw my work, he said, ‘You should do this.’”

With that vote of confidence, after graduating Heryer moved to Chicago to work with Redmoon Theater. “Their method was putting a physical performer in the room, a musician in the room, and a designer in the room and you just create from there,” Heryer says. “That was always my happy place.”

Her work with Redmoon led to projects with prestigious companies including Steppenwolf and Second City, which in turn led her to decide to pursue an MFA in theatrical design at University of Texas, Austin.

Afterward, she took a position at the Kansas City Art Institute’s fiber program. “That was the first time that I’d ever taught within an art context, and that was where I started to think about how I could teach costume differently,” she says.

“With costume, the body is the canvas, which lives on the larger canvas of the stage. When creating a work of art, whether it’s a costume or a fiber-arts sculpture, you have to have both of those visual skill sets,” she reflects.

“I’ve always really wanted to create a program that just taught the skill sets that are related to costume design and textile design, and

UNCOMMON APPAREL

A new program explores the intersection of costuming, sculpture and fashion

IF YOU ASKED Alison Heryer if she is a costume designer, a sculptor or a textile artist, her answer would likely be “yes.”

With a resume boasting dozens of costume design credits at many of the country’s most respected professional theater companies, Heryer has brought her multidisciplinary approach to Portland State’s School of Art + Design, where she heads the burgeoning Textile Arts program and was recently named the Sue Horn-Caskey and Charles F. Caskey Professor in Textile Arts and Costume Design. In this role, Heryer has built a program that offers students the same creative versatility she has sought in her own career.



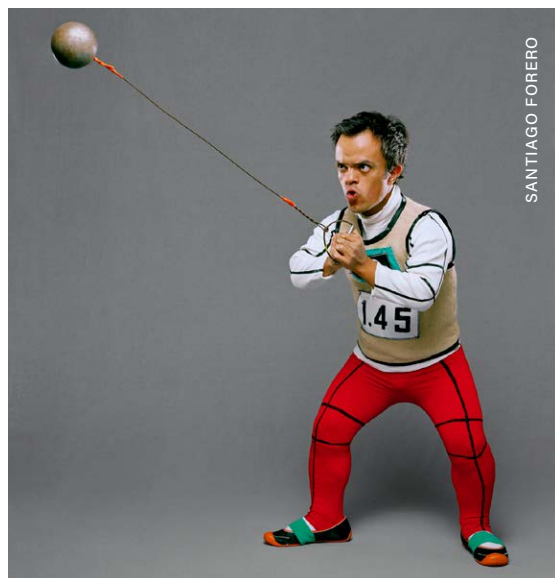
ALISON HERYER



PATRICK WEISHAMPEL



ALISON HERYER



SANTIAGO FORERO

let the student decide whether they want to become a fashion designer or work in the entertainment industry or do conceptual performance art," she says.

To that end, she helps students tailor an educational experience that suits their desires. "I've got a student right now who's developing a portfolio around sustainable textiles where she's creating her own leather out of mushrooms, weaving and dyeing grasses and creating shoes," she says. Others are pursuing inclusive and sustainable fashion, soft sculpture, live performance and stop motion. Students are also beginning to build portfolios around textiles for augmented reality, virtual reality and video games. "I love that students are thinking about how to create a new world within the industry," she says.

THE TEXTILE ARTS program is still small, but thanks to a significant donation of looms and other weaving equipment from the now defunct Oregon College of Art and Craft, Heryer and the School of Art + Design faculty plan to expand it. Their goals include launching a certificate program in conjunction with the School of Business and a pre-college program for high school students interested in apparel and textile design.

Additionally, thanks to a gift from Sue Horn-Caskey and Charles F. Caskey that funded her professorship, Heryer plans to launch new outreach initiatives, including guest workshops on surface design and digital weaving that will be open to the public, as well as international collaborations, alumni support resources and open-source publications around issues of sustainability and inclusive design.

"One of the reasons I came to PSU is its motto, 'Let knowledge serve the city,'" Heryer says. With that ethos in mind, she is dedicated to making the Textile Arts program an asset to the University, the Portland creative community and beyond.

—KAREN O'DONNELL STEIN

A small sampling of Heryer's costumes includes (clockwise from top right) Portland Center Stage's production of "Sense and Sensibility," the photography collaboration "The Olympic Games," as well as "The Idiot" and "The Difficulty of Crossing a Field," both produced by the University of Texas at Austin.



EVENTS

NOON CONCERT SERIES

APRIL 1-JUNE 3

[PDX.EDU/MUSIC-THEATER/NOON-CONCERT](https://pdx.edu/music-theater/noon-concert)

Experience the sounds of the School of Music and Theater in this weekly online concert series happening Thursdays at noon. Listen to student recitals in an array of instrumental concentrations, including piano, guitar, brass, composition, jazz and more.

PORTLAND IN CONVERSATION: THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC CITY

APRIL 16-MAY 28

[PDX.EDU/ARCHITECTURE/UD-SERIES](https://pdx.edu/architecture/ud-series)

The School of Architecture hosts a free online spring lecture series on urban design, part of the newly formed PSU Urban Design Collaborative, a joint effort of the School of Architecture and the Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning.

MFA/BFA SHOWCASE

MAY 25-JUNE 27

[PDX.EDU/ART-DESIGN/EVENTS](https://pdx.edu/art-design/events)

Join the School of Art + Design in celebrating the work of graduating students in the MFA Studio Practice, MFA Art + Social Practice and BFA Art Practice programs with this digital exhibition.

PSU FILM SPRING SHOWCASE

STARTING JUNE 11

[PSUFILMSPRINGSHOWCASE.COM](https://psufilmspringshowcase.com)

The School of Film's online showcase features award-winning student work and a portfolio show, where these emerging professionals share their work with friends, family, alumni and the media.

LOUISE BOURGEOIS: WHAT IS THE SHAPE OF THIS PROBLEM?

JULY 27-OCT. 24

[PDX.EDU/MUSEUM-OF-ART/UPCOMING](https://pdx.edu/museum-of-art/upcoming)

From the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation, this exhibition explores the haunting, expressive work of French-American artist Louise Bourgeois.

athletics

THE VIKINGS VS. COVID-19

How three student athletes adjusted to the new (ab)normal

WITH CAMPUS shut down by COVID-19 and classes remote, Portland State's student athletes found themselves left in limbo. Fall sports were postponed. Then, PSU, along with four other schools, withdrew the football team from competition, citing a lack of preparation. Men's and women's basketball were barred by state decree from five-on-five practices until the day before Thanksgiving—just weeks before competition began in December.

Behind every canceled game and season delayed was a group of athletes denied their time to shine. Three of them shared their experiences struggling to adapt and find a new perspective on school and sports.

"It was frustrating seeing some of my friends return to their schools and get to practice while I was stuck at home," said senior men's basketball guard Ian Burke.

Burke took classes remotely from his parents' house in Phoenix, Arizona, last spring. As the pandemic shut down collegiate athletic activities across the country, varying state guidelines soon produced a patchwork of restrictions for athletic teams.

"In early summer, we still had hopes to play," said senior safety Anthony Adams, a 2019 All-American and 2020 pre-season All-American and All-Big Sky selection. As the Vikings watched other division football teams begin practicing while they could not "it took a toll emotionally," Adams said. "Not being able to do what we love was really difficult...and it still is."

He's coping pretty well with the late decision to completely cancel the football season except for one non-counting game. He's learned to take things day-by-day. But, he says "it's nice to potentially have games scheduled for the end of spring practice, because that gives our team hope of competition that we have wanted since last March. Guys are eager to compete and would love to have the ability to see another color jersey across from us."

Ruchae Walton, senior guard on the women's basketball team, agreed. "This season has been difficult for everyone on every level—physically, mentally and emotionally," she said.

Her team had hoped the pandemic would fade as fall progressed. Little did they know, their first five-on-five practice wouldn't happen until November. Scheduled games were canceled. Non-conference contests were hastily arranged to fill schedule holes. Fans weren't allowed to attend in person, but virtual tickets and streaming packages were available through the website goviks.com.

This year tested the mettle of student athletes across the country, including Ruchae Walton, senior guard on the Viking women's basketball team.

“Throughout that time of no basketball at all, taking care of our mental health was something that we talked about as a team,” Walton said. “As college athletes—and, I think I can speak for everyone—playing our sport is really what makes us happy.”

In addition to all the uncertainty, men’s basketball was recovering from the setback of last March.

“We’d won six straight [games] and were coming into the tournament with a lot of confidence,” said Burke. The morning of the 2020 quarterfinals game, the Big Sky Conference canceled the remainder of the tournaments.

“We didn’t even get to play a game,” Burke said. “It was most disappointing especially for the seniors on our team. It was a tough way to end the season.”

Women’s basketball player Tatiana Streun had invited Walton to spend spring break at her Bellevue, Washington, family home. The teammates had planned a Florida vacation following the tournament’s abrupt cancellation.

“We were in Washington when Tots and I, along with the rest of the world, realized how serious the virus really was.”

“You don’t realize how much you care about something until it is taken from you.”

Then, head women’s basketball coach Lynn Kennedy called and urged Walton to head home to Milton Keynes, England, rather than wait for summer and get stuck stateside.

“It’s always nice to visit home, see family and friends, eat food that I’ve missed,” Walton said. “But, I was not expecting to be home for five months.”

Still, coaches and teams adjusted.

“The most difficult element of the past year has been the uncertainty and lack of routine,” said Valerie Cleary, director of athletics. “We’ve worked hard to stay connected with student athletes and staff via Zoom and Google Meets and have developed protocols for the resumption of athletic activities focusing on health and safety.”

Loss of daily routines as well as the rhythms of sports seasons proved particularly jarring. They had been a key part of most of the athletes’ lives since grade

school. This also left them scrambling to stay ready for whatever the ever-changing situation might bring.

Adams, at home in Newberg, lifted weights and did field drills to stay in shape for football. (Because of restrictions, the football team went 10 months without formal workouts.)

“I was fortunate,” he said. “Some guys didn’t have access to weights or equipment.” To stay sane, he said “there was a lot of golf played last summer and I got up to the mountain to snowboard this winter.”

Adams, Burke and Walton found the transition to online classes difficult, especially Walton. While she was in England last spring—with an eight-hour time difference—she found herself glued to her computer for an online class at 1:30 a.m. with other classes late in the evening.

Still, she’s on track to graduate this spring, as is Adams, who plans to work on his master’s degree in health promotion during the two years of football eligibility he has left. The NCAA has granted athletes an additional year of eligibility.

All three reported that they’d found silver linings in a season none will forget.

“It has made me realize that I have to be patient for the future. I have been here for three and a half years and was eager for the real world. But, this has been a good reminder to be patient and remember that it has all happened for a reason,” Adams said.

“We have all grown as individuals and as a team,” Walton said. “I know that we all are very grateful for every opportunity to get on the court this season.”

The past year has been crazy, Burke said, noting a recent game that was canceled after a five-and-a-half-hour bus ride to Cheney, Washington.

Still, “it has helped me put basketball into perspective. You don’t realize how much you care about something until it’s taken from you,” he said.

“It’s also reminded me that this game is so much less important than the health and well-being of friends and family.” —
JOHN L. WYKOFF ’65



MIGHTY VIKS

compiled by Michael Lund

EMPTY STANDS

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no fans were allowed to attend the first home event of the pandemic, a Dec. 8 Portland State men’s basketball game against Northwest University.



TESTING, TESTING

During basketball season, approximately 125 COVID-19 tests were administered weekly to the men’s and women’s teams to ensure a safe return to play.

125

GUARD SUPER STAR

Senior guard Kylie Jimenez finished her career with 1,279 points, 538 assists and 283 steals. She is only the third player in Portland State history to reach those numbers, joining Hall of Famers Claire Faucher and Kim Manifesto.

1 of 3

CARING FOR COMMUNITY

The Portland State Athletics’ Viks vs. Hunger program raised \$10,153 from 158 donors and received a \$10,000 matching donation from On-Point Community Credit Union to provide 201,530 meals on campus and in the community.

201,530

Pieces of

HISTORY

*A fond and
fascinating look
at PSU's past
through 21 objects
and artifacts*

You probably know the basic outline of the story: Started to educate veterans returning from World War II in 1946, the school that would eventually become Portland State was swept away by the 1948 Vanport Flood. ***From the water-logged wreckage, it stubbornly rose again, got a toehold in the Park Blocks, and over the decades grew to be the most diverse and accessible university in Oregon.***

Instead of retelling that well-known tale, to celebrate Portland State's 75th anniversary we sought out the small stories. Each of these 21 objects and artifacts—some little known, some unexpected—adds a different perspective on the people who lived Portland State's history and made it what it is today. We hope you learn something new about your alma mater.



DRY



PHOTOS
BY SO-MIN
KANG



1

The Rock and the Rising Waters

It's easy to miss the Vanport Rock as you pass in and out of Lincoln Hall, but this mossy memorial has a story to tell. Named after PSU's first iteration, the Vanport Extension Center, the rock was dedicated in honor of the college's second anniversary and buried nine days later by the devastating Vanport flood. Dug out of the mud and debris, then moved to the college's second home—the former Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation Building—the rock was picked up and moved again when campus relocated to downtown Portland in 1952, finally finding a permanent place outside of Lincoln Hall (then known as “Old Main”). The Vanport Rock is one of only a few items that survived the 1948 flood, including three library books rescued by the college founder and director, Stephen Epler; a few microscopes; football gear recovered by athletics director Joe Holland; and a Vanport administration guestbook. —JENNIFER LADWIG

2 Ancient Treasures

The Roman lamp shaped like a man's head seen here (left), is from the first century B.C. and is one of the first ever made in human form. It's part of a collection of nearly 200 ancient oil lamps and burial urns made from 5,000 B.C. to the first several centuries of the current era. The collection includes lamps both simple and fanciful, including one (bottom right) decorated with a frog, symbolizing fertility and spring, and another (top right) shaped like a fish, a secret symbol for early Christianity. All were donated to Portland State's Middle East Studies Center in 1962 by Robert Bogue, a friend of Frederick Cox, the center's founder. Bogue, formerly adviser to the World Health Organization, collected ancient artifacts across the Middle East and Mediterranean. Founded in 1959, Portland's Middle East Studies Center built one of the best Arabic collections in the western United States and the lamp collection is unlike any other in the nation. A few of the artifacts are on campus, nine are on display at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University in Salem, and the rest are stored at the Portland Museum of Art. —JENNIFER LADWIG



MIDDLE EAST STUDIES CENTER



3 A Kind Gift

Vanport Extension Center librarian Jean Black was giving a presentation at the American Library Association conference in Atlantic City when the infamous 1948 flood ripped through Vanport. A telegram reassured her that her family and other residents were safe, but brought the hard news that the college's library was destroyed. The story traveled around the conference, finally reaching Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck, another speaker at the event. Buck found Black and started a conversation with her, which ended with Buck donating a selection of her published work to help rebuild the library's collection. After decades on the shelves for students to read and enjoy, Buck's signed copies now live in the Library Special Collections. —JENNIFER LADWIG

Pearl S. Buck

4 The Spirit of the Student Body

The first issue of Portland State's newspaper was prepared in a student's apartment—not unlike what's happening 75 years later during the COVID-19 pandemic, as student journalists continue to report on the news from their homes.

Don Carlo, an Army veteran who lost his sight in combat, prepared the first issue of what was then called Vet's Extended in his apartment on Cottonwood Avenue. It was published on Nov. 15, 1946, with a welcome letter from Vanport Extension Center founder Stephen Epler. The first editorial was titled "The Spirit of a Student Body," and declared: "We, as students, are helping to start a new idea for colleges.... We have within us the insatiable search for knowledge that was born while

waiting for the end of the war. Many of us waited years so that we might have an opportunity to attend such a school."

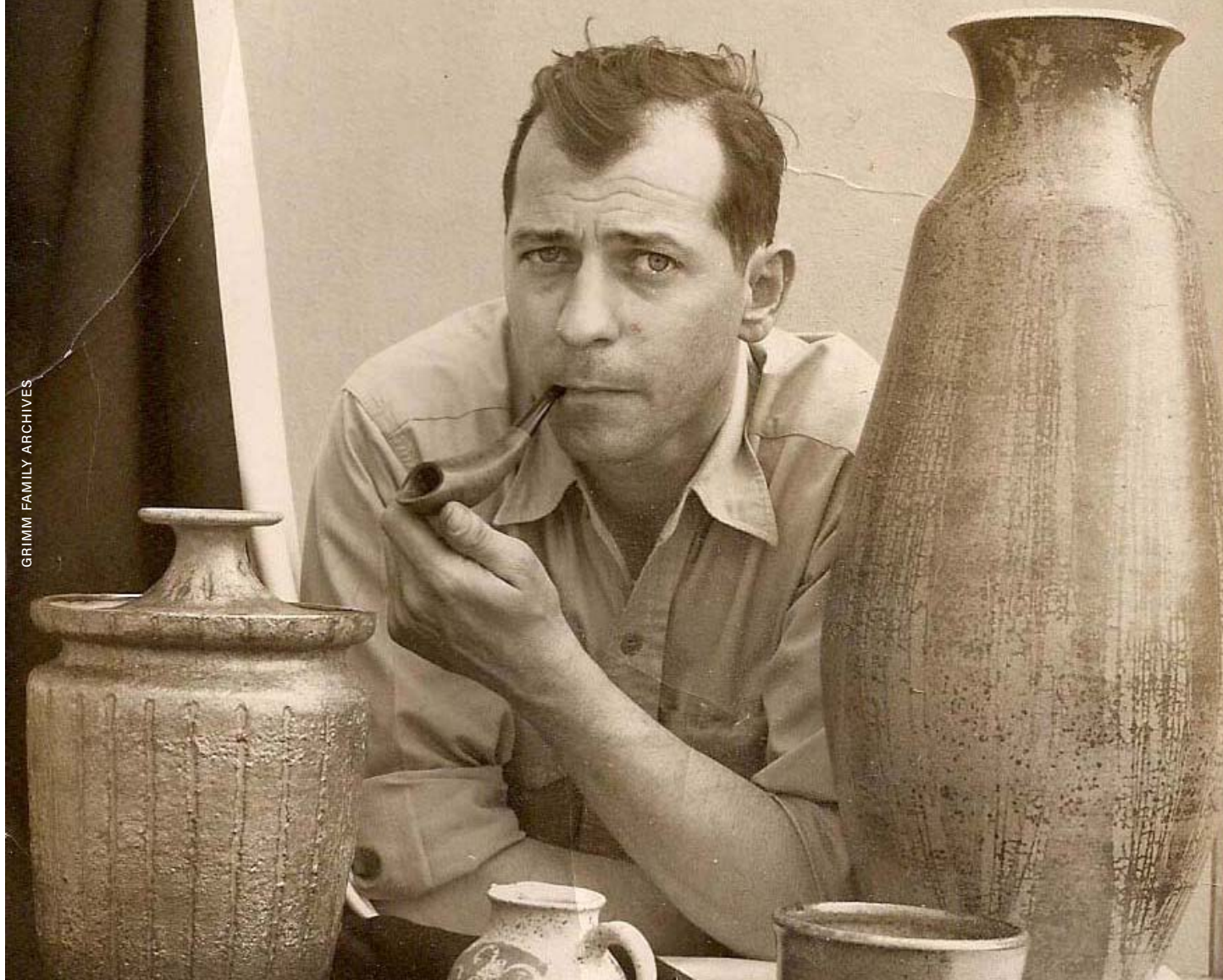
The paper was soon renamed the Vanguard at the suggestion of faculty adviser and English professor Vaughn Albertson. The first issue of the paper under that name appeared on Jan. 14, 1947. It would be another seven years before photographs graced the pages. The weekly newspaper was given free rein by the administration, but was not without its controversies. In 1967, the paper went on strike over the Dean of Student Life's handling of its finances. The strike was settled, but within a month the paper's choice of photos in back-to-back issues caused an uproar. First, a photo of beat poet Allen Ginsberg nude from the groin up appeared before his campus visit. Next, a publicity photo for the musical Archy and Mehitabel showed a rear view of a woman in tights bending over a garbage can with the caption, "Touching Bottom."

President Branford Millar—hard at work to gain university status for Portland State and sensitive to public perception—felt the editors were out of hand. He suspended publication until further notice, a decision that drew both support and criticism from the campus community. A radical faculty group, the Society for New Action Politics, offered its office and equipment, and philosophy professor Donald Moor organized support from 80 faculty members for an Independent Vanguard. It published two editions before Millar reinstated the official Vanguard with a mutual agreement for organizational changes and publication standards.

Today, the student-run paper publishes a weekly print edition and daily stories online. It's been the recipient of many awards over the years, including 22 in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association's 2020 Collegiate Newspaper Contest. —CRISTINA ROJAS



GRIMM FAMILY ARCHIVES



5 Clay and Community

For decades, Jere Grimm stared at a photo of her late husband Ray Grimm, fresh from graduate school, holding a pipe and posing with a few of his latest ceramic pieces, and she wondered where a lidded jar that holds so many memories ended up.

The jar traveled with the Grimms from Illinois to Portland in 1956 when Ray was hired to help set up a new ceramics department for Portland State College, which had just become a four-year school. Jere said the jar is certainly reflective of the pottery of its time, but “Ray didn’t do a lot of things like everybody else,” she added. “So it’s a rather unique shape and it’s quite original. He was doing a lot of experimentation with glaze development during his graduate year.”

During Ray’s first year at PSC, he hosted a ceramic show featuring the jar. It was purchased by friends, but for years Jere couldn’t recall who. Recently, she was talking with PSU’s School of Art + Design about a donation from Ray’s collection and mentioned the jar. To her surprise,

it had been donated back by the estate of former dean of students, Charles W. Bursh, and his wife, Julia, and was on display in the dean’s office. “After all those years,” Jere said. “This story tells me about the closeness of those people building the University. It’s such a tight-knit community.”

When Fariborz Maseeh Hall opened in 2019 after renovations, Jere visited the campus to see a display featuring nine of Ray’s pieces—with the jar now featured. The display case resides about 5 feet from the original entrance to the ceramics department her husband loved so dearly and dedicated 30 years of his career to. The department may have closed in 2000, but Jere said the memories live on—even if the building looks nothing like its former self. “I almost expected to still see the clay footprints coming in the hall from the ceramics department,” Jere said. “It’s perfect.” —KATY SWORDFISK



JOSH GATES



The Flood in Vivid Color

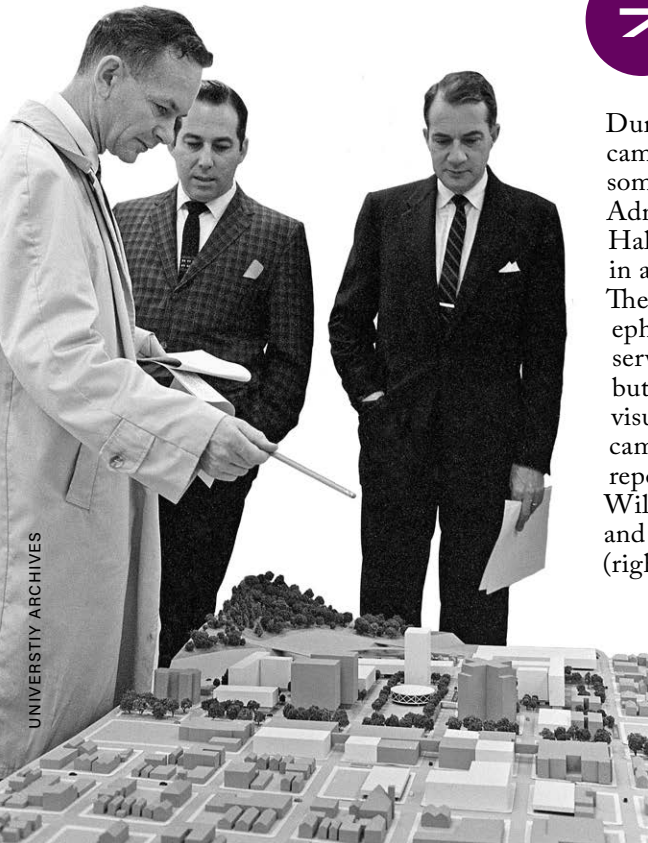
Tucked into the south stairwell in Smith Memorial Student Union, a vibrant, 14-foot mural by Isaka Shamsud-Din '99 MFA '01 tells the story of the Vanport flood. As a boy, Shamsud-Din and his family fled a racist mob in Texas, landing in Vanport, Oregon, where his father worked at the Kaiser shipyards. (A temporary city built to accommodate the influx of World War II workers, Vanport was the only place in the area, other than Portland's Albina District, where Black people were allowed to live.) Less than a year later, on May 30, 1948, the flood hit. The waters overwhelmed the barriers, killing 15 people and washing away the homes of 18,500—including some 6,000 Black residents. Seven-year-old Shamsud-Din and his family were among those displaced. The Vanport Mural puts the viewer in the center of the turmoil he and his family experienced that day. Adults and children flee on foot as rising waters fill the frame. Pain, chaos and bewilderment are expressed through his distinctive style and vivid color.

Shamsud-Din painted the mural as an art student in 1965 after winning a contest held by Portland State's Art Department. He left his studies to become an organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a civil rights group, in Arkansas. Returning decades later in his 50s, he completed his bachelor's and master's degrees, and later served as the James DePreist Visiting Professor of Art. In 2019, Portland declared June 19 Isaka Shamsud-Din Day, in honor of his art and social justice leadership. For more than half a century, the Vanport Mural has quietly stood both as a window into the life of this important artist and activist, who spent his career working to document and illustrate the African American experience, and as a powerful connection to a core event in PSU's history—the Vanport flood. —KAREN O'DONNELL STEIN



A Growing Campus

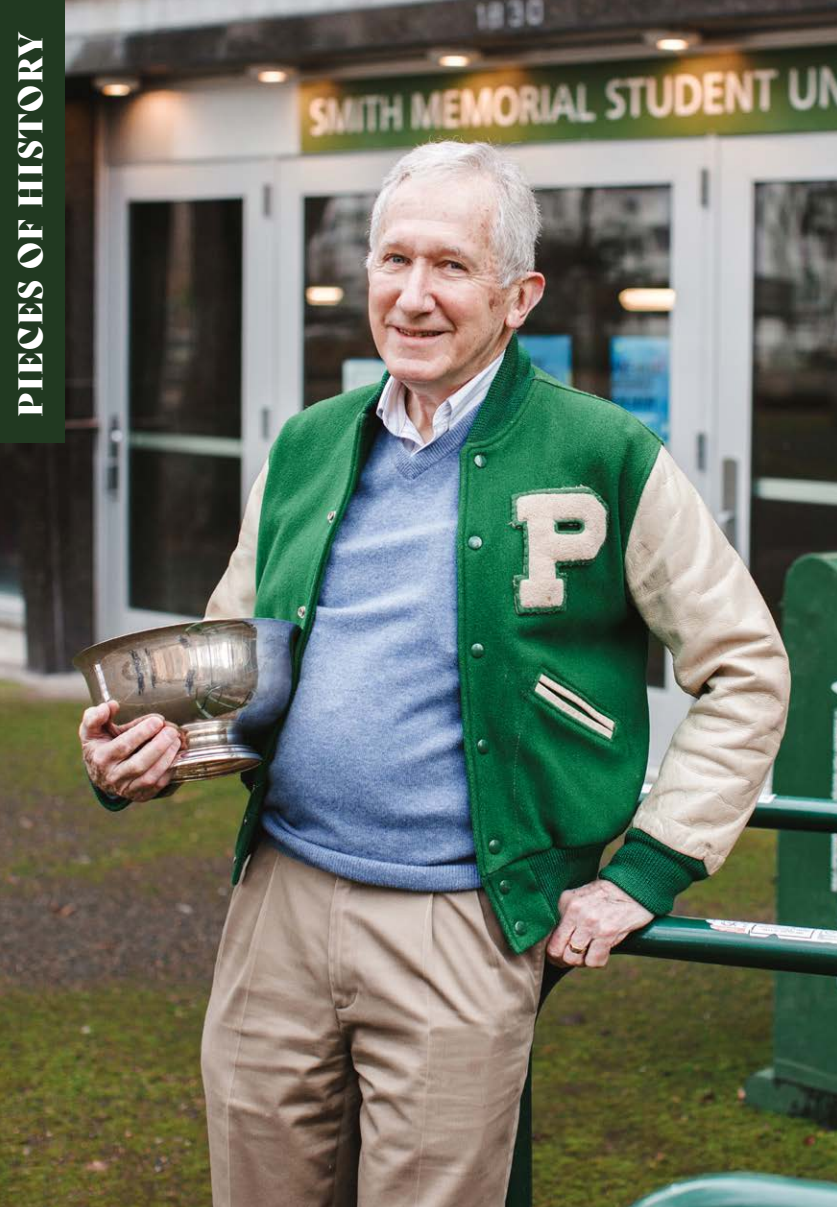
During the 1960s, Portland State College grew quickly, and with that growth came the need for more buildings and parking. Today, we can still find some of the project models from this time, including those of the Business Administration building and State Hall (now Cramer Hall) stashed in archivist Bryce Henry's office. The University kept models and ephemeral items not because they serve a practical purpose anymore, but because they show interesting visual and historical looks at campus. In this archival photo, a reporter (left), Business Manager William T. Lemman, Jr. (center) and President Branford Price Millar (right) examine an early scale model of planned growth during the 1962 homecoming. An aerial photo of campus from that year shows the mere six main buildings that were the campus at the time. —JENNIFER LADWIG



A 1962 shot of campus, looking westward toward the Park Blocks.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

DELANO PHOTOGRAPHICS



8 Whiz Kids

Jim Westwood '67 was barely 20 when he and his teammates, Robin Freeman '66, Larry Smith and Michael Smith smashed expectations for the little-known Portland State College with a record-breaking run on a nationally televised quiz show. Led by the legendary Professor Ben Padrow, the team won five contests in a row in the “intercollegiate battle of brains”—the General Electric College Bowl.

Before that first trip to New York City in 1965, Westwood had never flown on a jet plane. Soon he and the team were flying back and forth weekly to compete. The first time they returned victorious to Portland, a small group came out to congratulate them. By the last time, they were met by a crowd. “It could have gone to my head,” Westwood jokes. “It did.”

When the final buzzer sounded, they’d racked up \$13,200 in scholarship money (roughly \$88,000 in today’s dollars) and clinched the College Bowl trophy. But they’d achieved something else, too—they’d put Portland State on the map. After their victory splashed across national media, the state legislature invited the team to Salem, and Westwood addressed the Senate and House. “The idea was to show Portland State had arrived in the big leagues and that the legislature could send more money our way,” he says. Applications skyrocketed and three years later the college gained university status.

Unknown to most, team member Michael Smith was battling cystic fibrosis even as he competed each week. After his death in 1968, Smith Memorial Student Union was named in his honor. It’s a rare example of an American university building named not for a benefactor or official, but for a student. That’s where the team trophy etched with all their names is usually on display. Westwood, now a retired attorney, asked to pose with it outside the building in Smith’s memory. The last surviving member of the team, he wore the letterman’s jacket he received after their victory and held that trophy in his hands for the first time since 1965. —SCHOLLE McFARLAND

9 Grit and Guts

This mountaineering ice axe from the mid- to late-1960s is a relic of the Portland State Outdoor Program’s earliest inventory. How it survived this long without getting lost, stolen or broken is a mystery. The axe was connected to the Outdoor Program by the number 11 imprinted on the handle, which is in series with the numbering on ice axes pictured in this photo from the 1969 Viking yearbook. The photo was likely taken on the south side of Mount Hood during a program trip. Printed above it is a poem that includes the lines: *Somewhere amid bruises / and sore muscles and minor traumas, / you find strength. / On the outside, it’s know-how. / On the inside, it’s guts.*

Established in 1966 and celebrating its 55th anniversary this year, the Outdoor Program was the first of its kind and has served as a model for university programs across the nation. Today, it’s housed within Campus Recreation and offers guided trips, workshops and rental gear, as well as an indoor Climbing Center. You can even rent an ice axe, albeit a newer version, for your next adventure. —BRITTANY GOLTRY





10

Taking to the Sky

In 1966, the architectural firm Campbell, Michael and Yost came in with a “daring” approach to expanding Portland State that featured twice as many buildings and numerous skybridges, modeled after the University of Illinois at Chicago. That was too much for the Portland Development Commission, says Ellen Shoshkes, urban studies and planning adjunct faculty. “They balked at the skybridges.” Over the course of several years, though, plans for Portland State’s expansion continued to shift and refine, ultimately resulting in a skybridge network connecting seven buildings that contained nearly half of the University’s classrooms, as well as offices, storage and two parking structures. The first skybridge opened in 1970. Installing a skybridge network signaled a new focus on pedestrian access and safety—at the time, even the Park Blocks were not yet closed to cars—and a marked shift away from vehicle-focused design. —*KATY SWORDFISK*

11

The Nude in the Park Blocks

While strolling the Park Blocks, it’s hard to miss the sculpture of a semi-reclining nude in the angular reflecting pool across from Cramer Hall. “Farewell to Orpheus,” by the late Professor Frederic Littman, was installed in 1973 as part of urban renewal efforts that transformed the South Park Blocks into a pedestrian-only zone. Dedicated in 1975, the cast-bronze sculpture captures the moment when Eurydice—wife of Orpheus, the mythical Greek prophet—is forced to return to the underworld. Eurydice’s fate is the unfortunate result of Orpheus’ love; after she dies of a snakebite, he persuades Hades, the god of the underworld, to release her. Hades’ only condition is that Orpheus avert his eyes from her until they reach the land of the living. When Orpheus steals a glance, she is ripped away forever.

Frederic Littman was one of Oregon’s most influential artists. Born in Hungary in 1907, he enrolled at prestigious fine arts schools in Budapest and Paris, but like many Jewish artists, was forced to flee Nazi persecution as World War II began. He landed in New York in 1940 and joined



Portland State in 1960, where he taught for 13 years. His students included many of Oregon’s sculpture luminaries—James Lee Hansen, Manuel Izquierdo, Charles Kelly, Lee Kelly and Donald Wilson—creating a lasting cultural legacy. His works adorn spaces throughout Portland, including Council Crest Park, the Portland Art Museum and Temple Beth Israel.

At the statue’s dedication, Littman thanked the city for the newly installed reflecting pool and benches “that we may on some nice summer afternoon, sit here and contemplate the changing patterns of light and shadows as the sun moves slowly around the sculpture and brings it to life.” —*KAREN O’DONNELL STEIN*

The Million Dollar Tree

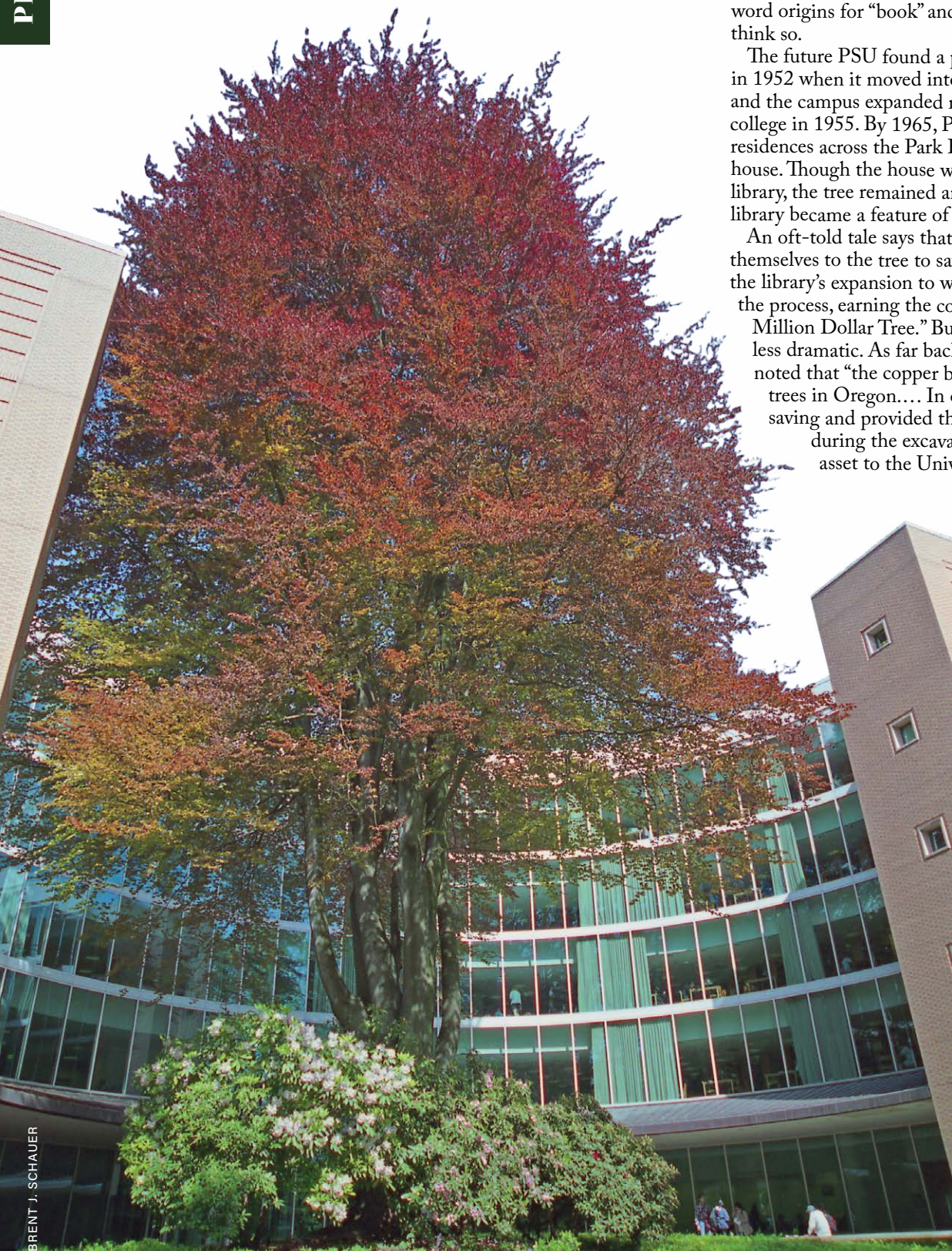
If trees could talk, the impressive 130-plus-year-old copper beech in front of Millar Library would tell of the growth of Portland State, students studying beneath its shade and the bustling farmers market on Saturday mornings. The tree itself dates back to the 1890s, when the Watson family planted it in front of their newly constructed home on the corner of Hall and Park. Joseph Franklin Watson, a Massachusetts merchant, arrived in Portland in 1871 and quickly established himself as an influential figure in the city's growth and progress. Is it any coincidence that Watson had a taste for literature, or that the word origins for "book" and "beech" may be related? We don't think so.

The future PSU found a permanent home in the Park Blocks in 1952 when it moved into the former Lincoln High School, and the campus expanded rapidly after becoming a four-year college in 1955. By 1965, Portland State acquired three private residences across the Park Blocks, including the former Watson house. Though the house was demolished to build the campus library, the tree remained and the grassy area in front of the library became a feature of student life.

An oft-told tale says that in the 1980s, students chained themselves to the tree to save it from the wrecking ball, altering the library's expansion to wrap around its branches—and in the process, earning the copper beech the nickname "The Million Dollar Tree." But our research suggests events a little less dramatic. As far back as February 1969, a tree company noted that "the copper beech tree is one of the more unusual trees in Oregon.... In our estimation, the tree is worth saving and provided the roots aren't damaged excessively during the excavation for the new library, will be an asset to the University."

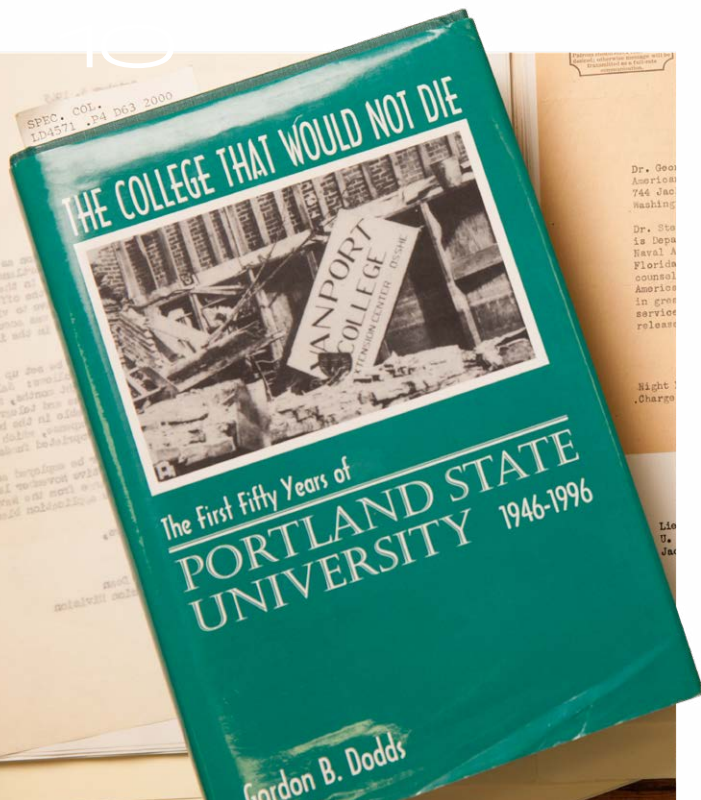
In 1986, as plans for a library remodel took shape, architects, administrators and the library planning committee agreed that the tree should be preserved and that the building should be designed to protect it. Meeting minutes from April 10, 1986, read, "It is felt that the tree is a major element of how campus is identified." The resulting design bent around the tree, creating both a focal point and entry courtyard. According to Tom Pfungsten, director emeritus of the library, the architects "enjoyed the challenge," eventually landing on "the impressive, curved glass wall with brick anchors at each end, which the architects called the 'bookends.'"

Though the "Million Dollar Tree" tale may be tall, "it gives me a smile that people use it as a story that connects the love of the students for a place with their ability to make a difference," says Carolee Harrison with the University Archives. "It's wrong for that tree, but not wrong for PSU student protests in general."
—CRISTINA ROJAS



13

Making History



Portland State’s story is one of perseverance—founded in 1946 as the Vanport Extension Center for the surge of World War II veterans returning to Portland, resurrected from the devastating 1948 Vanport flood, designated a four-year college in 1955 and given university standing in 1969 after years of political struggle. The aptly named book “The College That Would Not Die” by the late Gordon B. Dodds, former chair of the History Department, chronicles the school’s first 50 years, taking its title from the Vanguard student newspaper, which after the flood, included the line “The College That Wouldn’t Die” under its name, inspired by a national story in the Christian Science Monitor about Vanport’s post-flood success. “One of the major themes of the university has always been a sort of eye-of-the-storm institution, beleaguered and making its way against tremendous difficulties,” Dodds told *PSU Magazine* in 1988, after he was charged with preparing a history of PSU in time for its 50th anniversary in 1996. He drew on oral interviews with faculty and administrators, the University Archives’ hundreds of boxes of materials, minutes of faculty senate and state board meetings, and articles from the Vanguard, The Oregonian and Oregon Journal to compile the history. He dedicated the book to Stephen Epler, “founder and savior of the university.” Find copies in the University library as well as in limited quantities through Powell’s Books and Amazon.

—CRISTINA ROJAS

14

A New Motto

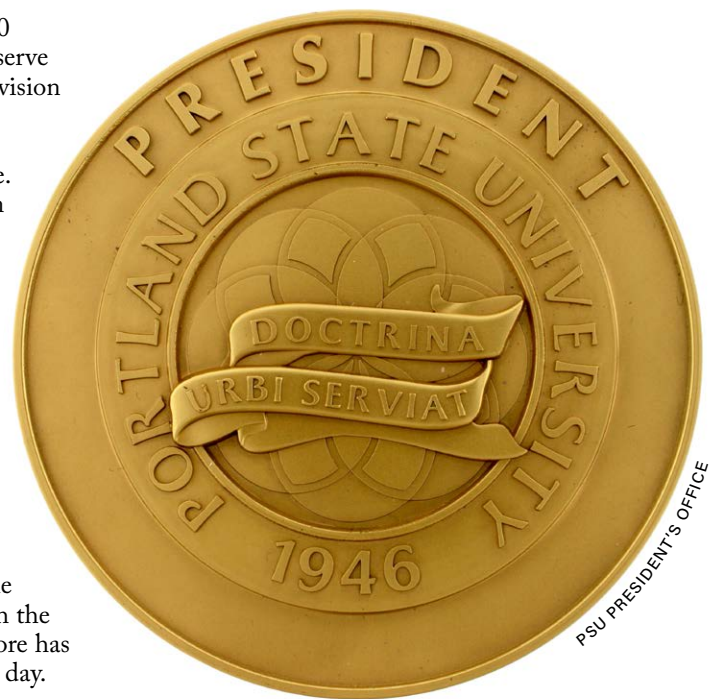
Portland State’s motto “Let Knowledge Serve the City” was adopted in 1990 when Judith Ramaley, sixth president of Portland State and first woman to serve as a president in the Oregon state system, created the phrase to sum up her vision for the University’s future.

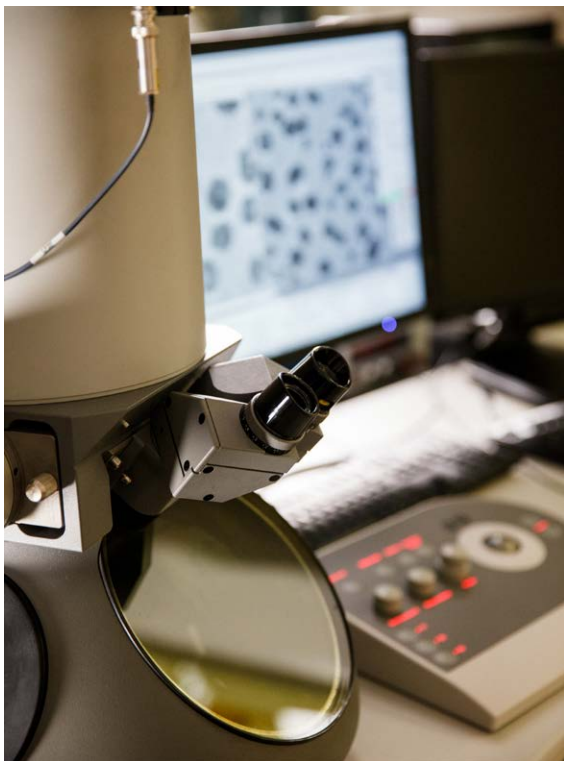
“Across the country there is a kind of institution emerging in the major metropolitan areas,” Ramaley told *PSU Magazine* in the Summer 1990 issue. “This kind of institution draws its strength and its inspiration from the urban area, and first and foremost responds to the needs of the urban area.”

Professors Rod Diman and John Cooper translated the motto into Latin (“Doctrina Urbi Serviat”) and Professor Robert Kasal fashioned it into a new seal, incorporating a classic rose window in reference to “Portland, the City of Roses.” The old seal had mirrored the State of Oregon’s. “Somehow it didn’t seem to me that a picture of a Conestoga wagon and team, or a sailing vessel, represented us very well,” Ramaley explains today. Neither did the old seal’s reference to 1955 as the institution’s beginning. Though that was when Portland State officially became a college, it had actually been established in 1946 as the Vanport Extension Center—a fact Portland State now embraced with pride.

The new seal was etched onto Ramaley’s presidential medallion for her inauguration that fall in 1990. “Given our financial condition at the time, the medallion was made of steel,” she says. A few years later, it was replaced with the fancier golden version seen here. Though the original medallion Ramaley wore has been lost, the message that first appeared on it shapes Portland State to this day.

—SCHOLLE McFARLAND





15

Thinking Very, Very Small

When Professor Jun Jiao decided to purchase a transmission electron microscope for Portland State in the early 2000s, she encountered more barriers than just the hefty \$1.5 million price tag. Ultimately, it took more than a dozen letters from companies based in Portland's Silicon Forest to prove Jiao's efforts had the backing of the local science community. In 2001, PSU became the first university in the Pacific Northwest to secure such state-of-the-art nanotechnology.

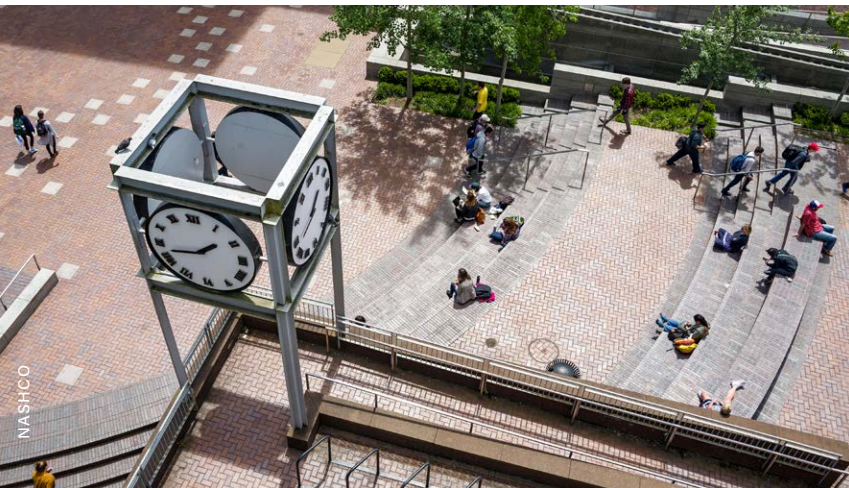
After adding a scanning electron microscope in 2003, Jiao and a group of PSU researchers celebrated the opening of the \$3 million Center for Electron Microscopy and Nanofabrication. Housed in Science Building 1, the facility serves students, faculty, the public, other universities and local semiconductor companies that can't afford their own electron microscope, providing more than 5,000 user hours annually to Portland's microscopy community.

Jiao and the center's new manager, Greg Baty, recently purchased a dual electron beam plasma focused ion beam microscope. Once again, it is the only of its kind at an Oregon university and puts PSU at the forefront of the microscopy community. —KATY SWORDFISK

16

The Clock at PSU's Front Door

Above the clang of passing streetcars and chatter of students drinking coffee atop the Urban Center Plaza's fountain parapets stands the Debbie Murdock Memorial Clock Tower. Named for a lobbyist, adviser and mentor who advocated tirelessly for Portland State for 14 years, the clock was added in 2008—seven years after the Urban Plaza was created by closing off Southwest Montgomery Street to traffic between Fifth and Sixth avenues. Murdock was a true public servant, known for encouraging students along their academic and professional paths. In 1993, she joined Portland State as a special assistant for government relations to President Judith Ramaley. Murdock's intellect, passion and powers of persuasion led to tens of millions of dollars in funding—making possible, among other accomplishments, the plaza itself. While she was known as an outspoken crusader for Portland State, Murdock famously eschewed the spotlight. Placement of the majestic clock tower right at PSU's front door assured that her presence would always be felt, and her years of service would never be forgotten. Murdock died of cancer at the age of 52 in 2007. —ERIN SUTHERLAND



17

Marking Traditions

Standing 50 feet tall and overlooking the Native American Student and Community Center, the Salmon Cycle Marker rests at the intersection of Southwest Broadway and Jackson streets. Made by Ken MacKintosh and Lillian Pitt and installed in 2005, the sculpture was designed to symbolize the cultural traditions of PSU's Native American, Alaskan Native and Pacific Islander students while also pointing toward the future. The wood and metal marker depicts the salmon cycle from birth to spawning and features the likeness of She Who Watches, also known as Tsagaglalal, a mythical figure found in a petroglyph in the Columbia Gorge. Pitt speculates the log, found floating in water on Mount St. Helens, had been there since the 1980 eruption. "We thought that by using it we would not be destroying any living thing," Pitt said in her recounting of the project, "and at the same time, we would be honoring all of the creatures and plant life that once lived on that mountain." —KATY SWORDFISK





18

The Home at the Heart of Campus

The Simon Benson House, built in 1900, fits so well into the Portland State campus, it looks as though the University was built around it. In truth, however, it has only sat on the Park Blocks since 2000. Built by lumberman and philanthropist Simon Benson (of Benson Bubbler fame), the graceful Queen Anne-style house originally stood at Southwest Clay and 11th Street, but fell into disrepair and was condemned in 1991.

Since the house was on the National Registry of Historic Places, it could not be torn down. Under the leadership of the late City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury MPA '08, the Friends of the Simon Benson House was formed. Critically, Kafoury forged a partnership with PSU's Alumni Association. With the financial support of more than 1,000 businesses and individuals, a total of \$1.6 million was raised from donations both large and small. (The house's patio bears the names of donors who gave \$100 to have their names engraved on a brick.) The Alumni Association contributed \$285,000. People lined the Park Blocks on Jan. 16, 2000, to watch workers slowly transport the house by truck to the plot of land donated by the University at the corner of Southwest Park and Montgomery.

Led by the Alumni Association's long-time executive director, Pat Squire, who finagled, fund-raised and served as the official project

manager, the painstaking restoration of the building was completed—including tracking down the original 13 leaded glass windows, some of which had been stolen. The Alumni Association scheduled a dedication ceremony for Sept. 10, 2001, but bumped it to Sept. 11 to avoid the opening of Trimet's new MAX Red Line to the Airport. "Sadly, we know what events occurred on that day," says Mary Coniglio, current executive director of the Alumni Association, of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. "While we did not have the fanfare we had planned and hoped for, people still came to the house that day to find comfort and solace in one another and in community."

Since its move to campus, the house has been the site of many photoshoots, tours and parties. One that stands out for Coniglio is the ceremony for Joseph LaBaron '69, who in 2008 was sworn in as U.S. ambassador to Qatar on the patio. It was the first swearing-in of a U.S. ambassador outside the District of Columbia. Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul De Muniz '72 HD '16 officiated. Most importantly, Coniglio said, the Simon Benson House is now "home for the University's greatest assets—its alumni—and a visible presence to students to encourage their life-long relationship with PSU." —*JENNIFER LADWIG*

19 Defying Gravity

In the center atrium of Portland State's Engineering Building sits the Dryden Drop Tower (see photo, left), a six-story marvel that defies gravity—literally. Objects dropped from it experience a 100-foot fall and 2.1 seconds of weightlessness, allowing students and researchers to test how materials and prototypes would behave in space.

While the atrium of the Engineering Building was originally designed with room for the tower, actual construction was only a pipe dream. The drop tower didn't become a reality until 2010, when donors gave money in honor of Robert Dryden, who served as dean of the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science for 13 years until 2008.

"It's the first of its kind," says Mark Weislogel, mechanical engineering faculty, who previously worked at NASA. "It's a high-rate drop tower that's extremely safe, that's in an open-air environment and which has a very low cost to operate."

The low-cost design makes doing experiments more accessible. "Students come out of here with hundreds and hundreds of 'drops,' more than most NASA folks," says Weislogel. As a result, they develop a feel for how things behave in low gravity. PSU drop tower alumni use this intuition as aerospace engineers at companies like Blue Origin, and their drop tower experiments have sparked publications in scientific journals, multiple patents and even a start-up company.

Weislogel and his lab use the drop tower to test 3D-printed prototypes for fluid systems to be used in spacecraft. Successful ideas are tested on the International Space Station (ISS), with the lab running experiments with astronauts via the NASA-PSU telescience center—a remote control room for communicating with the ISS. One notable discovery: the Space Cup, which astronauts on the ISS now sip from to enjoy their morning brew.

—SUMMER ALLEN

20 World's Tallest Barometer

In 2013, Portland State took its commitment to recycling to new heights by transforming recycled drainpipes into the world's tallest barometer (see photo, right). Barometers measure atmospheric pressure. The taller they are, the easier it is to measure small differences in pressure. PSU's is a whopping 47 feet tall, earning it a place in fluids textbooks. Besides its height, the PSU barometer is unique because it uses vacuum pump oil rather than mercury or water as its barometric fluid. A good barometric fluid must have very low vapor pressure. The oil used in PSU's barometer has a vapor pressure four orders of magnitude less than mercury.

Development engineer Tom Bennett, who conceived and led the project to install the barometer in the Engineering Building, got the idea after plumbers salvaged a trove of old glass drainpipes removed during the remodel of Science Building 2. Seventeen students, faculty and staff helped design and install the barometer. Now civil engineering students have the special opportunity to use the barometer in their fluids lab course.

When students are allowed back on campus, Bennett has another project for them: replacing the 40-year-old glass pipe fittings with new coupling to reduce air infiltration. This means rebuilding the barometer, all 47 feet of it. A tall order, indeed. —SUMMER ALLEN



21 The Story of PSU

For 34 years, *Portland State Magazine* has strived to promote a greater sense of connection between the University and the community it encompasses—newly minted alumni and those who graduated decades ago; faculty and staff, supporters and friends.

Editor Cynthia D. Stowell oversaw the metamorphosis of Portland State’s original alumni newsletter (published 1969-1986), into magazine format, editing the first three issues. “Bright and bold, *PSU Magazine* is the expression of a university in its prime, confident of its future,” she wrote in the premiere issue. Its pages included articles about an outdoor aerobics show on local cable TV that promised the “nicest buns in Portland”; the quest for funding to expand the library; and research into the safety of storing nuclear waste at Washington’s Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

The magazine’s next editor, Kathryn Kirkland, would steer its direction for 32 years as first the cover gained color (1990) and eventually all of its pages did (2000). “When I first started, the magazine’s circulation was around 35,000, and when I left it was 138,000,” Kirkland says. “I witnessed, and the magazine covered, momentous changes both academic and physical: the birth of University Studies, which revolutionized undergraduate education at PSU, and the construction and major remodel of at least 17 buildings.”

The magazine’s back issues provide a fascinating window into the University’s transformation and the lives of its students, alumni, faculty and staff. Just in time for PSU’s 75th anniversary, the complete archives are now searchable online. Take a look at pdx.edu/magazine/archive. —SCHOLLE McFARLAND



KNOW YOUR VIKS

EST. 1946

1. "POKEY" ALLEN, PSU'S BELOVED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH FROM 1986-1992, WAS KNOWN NOT ONLY FOR WINNING GAMES, BUT ALSO FOR ZANY TELEVISION COMMERCIALS AND GAME-DAY ANTICS. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DID HE DO?

- a) Bet a month's salary on attendance at a game
- b) Ride an elephant
- c) Get shot out of a cannon
- d) All of the above

2. PORTLAND STATE BOASTS ONE OF THE NATION'S ONLY COMIC STUDIES PROGRAMS AS WELL AS THE COMPLETE DARK HORSE COMICS ARCHIVE. WHAT IMPORTANT FIGURE(S) OF THE COMICS WORLD DOES THE UNIVERSITY COUNT AMONG ITS ALUMNI?

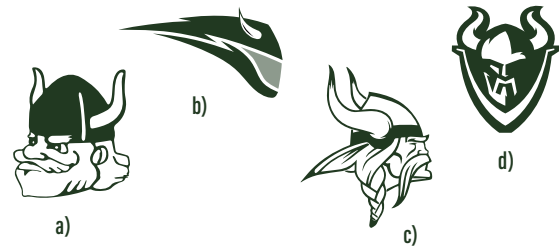
- A. Dark Horse Comics founder Mike Richardson '77
- B. Cartoonist John Callahan '83
- C. Editorial cartoonist Jack Ohman '99
- D. All of the above

A SIMPLE GAME OF TRIVIA launched Portland State onto the national scene in 1965. With five straight wins, our team became record-breaking champions of the nationally televised college trivia game show, the G.E. College Bowl (see page 26). Think you've got what it takes to continue the tradition? Test your knowledge of all things PSU.

3. HOW DID PORTLAND STATE COME TO OWN OREGON'S ONLY STUDENT-RUN CINEMA?

- a) A student group secured funding from the University
- b) The film department bought it with donor support
- c) A theater chain donated it to PSU
- d) The University built the theater

4. WHICH OF THESE HAS NEVER BEEN A PSU VIKINGS LOGO?



5. WHAT CONFERENCE DO THE VIKINGS COMPETE IN?

- a) West Coast Conference
- b) Big Sky Conference
- c) Mountain West Conference
- d) Pac 12 Conference

6. WHAT OTHER NAME(S), OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL, HAS PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY HAD OVER ITS 75-YEAR HISTORY?

- a) Portland State College
- b) Vanport Extension Center
- c) "The College that Would Not Die"
- d) All of the above

7. WHICH FAMOUS MUSIC GROUP WARMED UP SMITH MEMORIAL STUDENT UNION BALLROOM ON A SNOWY JANUARY EVENING IN 1968 (FOR \$2.50 A TICKET)?

- a) The Grateful Dead
- b) The Doors
- c) Nirvana
- d) The Partridge Family

8. WHAT PATH-BREAKING POLITICIAN(S) GRADUATED FROM PORTLAND STATE?

- a) First Black person elected to public office in Oregon
- b) First Black woman elected to the Oregon State Legislature
- c) First woman to serve on the Oregon Supreme Court
- d) All of the above

9. PORTLAND STATE EDUCATES MORE OREGONIANS THAN ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF PSU STUDENTS ARE OREGON RESIDENTS?

- a) 69%
- b) 79%
- c) 55%
- d) 85%

10. MANY PEOPLE DON'T NOTICE THAT THE LETTERS "P," "S" AND "U" ARE HIDDEN INSIDE THE PSU LOGO. WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE LOGO?

- a) The interconnectivity of campus and the city
- b) A pinwheel representing campus' constant state of motion
- c) A four-leaf clover
- d) It was the official Vanport emblem



11. WHAT NOTABLE MUSICIAN(S) STARTED, BUT DID NOT FINISH, COLLEGE AT PORTLAND STATE?

- a) Aminé
- b) Courtney Love
- c) Esperanza Spalding
- d) All of the above

12. WHICH BUILDING WAS PORTLAND STATE'S FIRST HOME ON THE PARK BLOCKS?

- a) Smith Memorial Student Union
- b) Lincoln Hall
- c) Peter W. Stott Center
- d) Shattuck Hall

13. WHEN DID PORTLAND STATE ADOPT THE MOTTO "LET KNOWLEDGE SERVE THE CITY"?

- a) 1946
- b) 1982
- c) 1990
- d) 2000

ANSWER KEY: 1. D; 2. D; 3. A; 4. The PSU Film Committee, led by student coordinator Mark Huibal, arranged the purchase of 5th Avenue Cinema in 1988; 4. C; 5. B; Portland State joined the Big Sky Conference in 1995; 6. D; 7. A; 8. D; Gladys McCoy MSW '67 was the first Black person elected to public office in Oregon; Margaret Carter '73 was the first Black woman elected to the Oregon State Legislature; and Betty Roberts '58 was the first woman to serve on the Oregon Supreme Court; Avel Gordley '74 was also the first Black woman elected to the Oregon Senate; 9. B; 10. A, H, I, D; 11. D; 12. B; 13. C.

FINISH!

alumni life

4 TIMES ALUMNI SAVED PSU

Portland State wouldn't be the same without the PSU Advocates, a network of tireless alumni and supporters who promote the University whenever and wherever they're needed. Indeed, PSU might not even exist. Here are four times the Advocates came together to shore up PSU against threats both existential and symbolic—and helped the University gain recognition in its own right.

1. SURVIVING "A BIG THREAT"

Pat Squire had just started her new job as executive director of the PSU Alumni Association in 1989 when she found out she had to act fast to protect PSU. A commission on the future of higher education in Portland, appointed by the governor, was considering dividing PSU between the University of Oregon in Eugene and Oregon State University in Corvallis.

In its early years, PSU often took a backseat to UO and OSU, which some considered to be the two premier state universities. But this, Squire said, was "very clearly a big threat."

"The idea was to divide up the new kid to the more established universities," she said.

The newly formed Advocates lobbied hard for more than a year to keep—and strengthen—PSU. New Portland State President Judith Ramaley, inaugurated in 1990, negotiated a compromise that backed PSU as a full urban university and encouraged greater collaboration among all the colleges that serve Portland.

The Advocates were united behind PSU's new motto—Let Knowledge Serve the City—and ready for the next threat to its existence, which came only five years later.

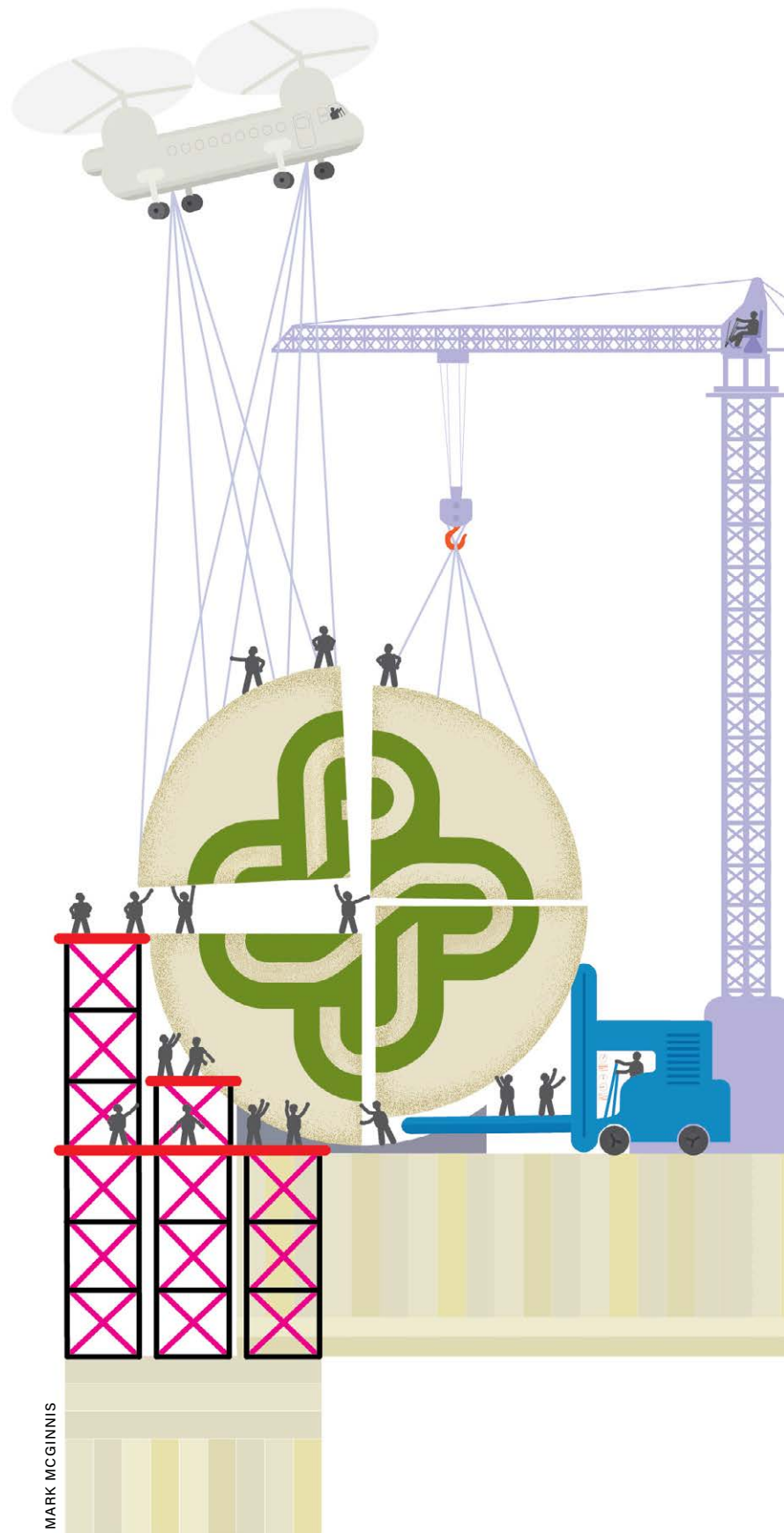
2. ENGINEERING SUCCESS

UO and OSU were still eyeing Portland—and PSU—for expansion. In 1995, a proposal again surfaced for UO and OSU to take over PSU. Alumni came out of the woodwork to support the Advocates, who swung into action, pressuring lawmakers for a more thorough study of higher education issues. After the study, the Chancellor instead recommended merging PSU's engineering school with OSU and giving some of its graduate business programs to UO.

The Advocates launched letter-writing campaigns, gained editorial support from major newspapers, sponsored ads highlighting outstanding alumni, and won over key decision-makers. They also created a fact book to show the University's importance to the Portland area.

"Our strength was knowing who to reach out to," said Joan Johnson '78, a lead volunteer. "We went wherever we could make an impression or had friends. We ran a tough campaign."

Johnson and other supporters filled the board room in Portland for the final vote. When the vote went in their favor, she "could have screamed," she said. "If they had split us up [as originally planned], PSU would have been like a community college."



3. SAVING THE SIGN

Every time you see the iconic “Portland, Oregon” sign in lights next to the Willamette River, you can thank the Advocates that it doesn’t say “University of Oregon.”

In 2008, UO moved its Portland programs into a historic building in Old Town with the landmark Oregon-shaped sign on top. UO wanted to put its own name on the sign, but some Portland residents thought it was a step too far for the Eugene-based university.

“UO wanted to put its own name on the sign, but some thought that a step too far for the Eugene-based university.”

The Advocates didn’t want to start a turf war between PSU and UO, so they worked as individuals to “Save the Sign.” They met with city leaders, testified at meetings, and spread the message to 30,000 supporters on Facebook.

“When it got on Facebook, that was a godsend,” Johnson said. “Suddenly we had all this backing.”

The city settled on a compromise, “Portland, Oregon,” as the message to light the way across the river into downtown.

4. FUNDING THE FUTURE

The Advocates have been behind all of PSU’s legislative victories for the past three decades. They helped keep tuition as low as possible, protect grants for low-income

students, and transform the campus with modern, sustainable buildings. They helped win funding for the Urban Center Plaza, the Campus Rec Center, Karl Miller Center, Viking Pavilion, Fariborz Maseeh Hall, and the brand new Vanport Building, among others.

The late Debbie Murdock, PSU’s long-time government relations leader, played a big role in the group’s successful strategy until she died of cancer in 2007.

Over the years, the Advocates began to

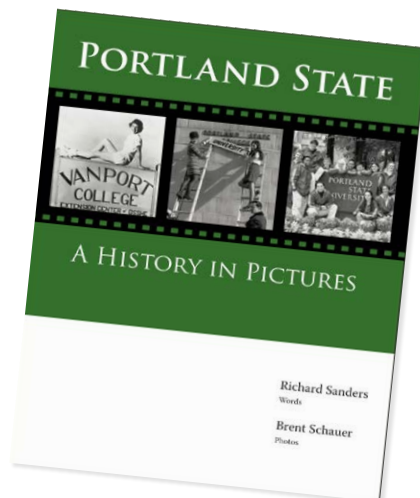
work more closely with students, faculty and—despite past rivalries—other Oregon universities to rally together for state support of higher education. That collaboration and support will continue to be important as all the public universities adapt to the challenges of COVID-19, Squire said.

“PSU has gone through some struggles, and we’ve proven we’re resilient by overcoming them,” she said. “It’s not easy, but we can do it again.” —SUZANNE PARDINGTON EFFROS

*Sign up to become a PSU Advocate at pdx.edu/alumni/advocates or by texting **PORTLANDSTATE** to 52886.*

Picturing PSU’s Past

“Portland State: A History in Pictures,” written by the late Richard Sanders ’57 with photo editing by Brent Schauer, brings PSU’s history to life with 300 photos and stories. Published in 2009 by the Retirement Association of Portland State, the book is available again for the University’s 75th anniversary for \$5. Make checks out to the PSU Foundation and send them along with your address to RAPS, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207.



Melody Bell '04, founder and CEO of Financial Beginnings, **Brian Forrester '14**, co-founder and CEO of Midas Health (now Lumina), **Rachael Rapinoe MS '19**, co-founder and CEO of Mendi, and **Yoseph Ukbazghi '18**, co-founder of Simple X, were named to Portland Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40” list of the region’s most influential young professionals.

Sabra Boyd '10 wrote a story for the Washington Post about how surviving teen homelessness taught her skills for living through a pandemic.

Alison H. Chan '00 is now the commercial controller for the Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa regions at Herman Miller, a NASDAQ listed premium designer of office and home furnishings.

Sophorn Cheang '09 was appointed director of Business Oregon. Cheang will lead the state’s largest economic development agency to promote a globally competitive, diverse and inclusive economy.

Paul Deppen III MA '18 was hired by Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia as a clinical research coordinator in the Roberts Individualized Medical Genetics Center.

Andrew Dieckhoff '13 MA '17 announced that his proprietary sports analytics system, the Dieckhoff Power Index (DPI), is now partnering with one of the top independent college basketball websites in the country, Heat Check CBB.

Melanie Dixon MS '09 was selected as president of American River College, a community college serving 30,000 students in Sacramento, California.

Lifeng Dong MS '02 PhD '05 was named a member of the Minnesota Academy of Science’s board of directors, where he will be instrumental in guiding the nonprofit organization’s mission of advancing science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the state.

Eric Funk '72 MA '78 composed and performed Intermountain Opera’s first-ever commissioned composition, a vocal work titled “Requiem for a Forest,” inspired by the Bridger Foothills Fire in September 2020.

Hadley Heck '19, former member of the Portland State volleyball team, has been hired as a reporter at KVAL TV News in the Willamette Valley.

Sarah Iannarone '05 was named executive director of The Street Trust, a nonprofit group that promotes bicycling, walking and public transit safety issues across Oregon.

Sofia Jasani MS '20, the founder of the Oregon Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, won the Oregon Counseling Association’s Human Rights Award for her commitment to advancing social justice in the counseling field.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Mary Lee '20, Anthony Rhodes MA '11 MS '13 MS '19 PhD '20, and Linda Akagi '91 were awarded Topics in Language Disorders' inaugural 2020 Katharine G. Butler Trailblazer Award for their co-authored article titled "AAC and Artificial Intelligence (AI)."

Robert Raschio '97 was sworn in as Oregon Circuit Court Judge for the 24th Judicial District (Grant and Harney counties) on Jan. 4.

Chris Schweizer '16, a teacher at Roosevelt High School in Portland, was awarded a Knowles Teaching Fellowship for promising, early-career high school mathematics and science teachers.

Erin Stammer MPA-HA '09 published "Unassisted," a memoir centering around 18 months when she ran an assisted living facility and medical clinic in Portland. Learn more at erinstammer.com.

Jennifer Tenorio MS '14 presented "The Toolbox for Bystander Intervention," for Tedx Portland State. Tenorio works as a U.S. Customs broker and serves on the Oregon Mediation Association Board of Directors. She is an active member of the Portland Peace Team.

Ellis Torrance '18, a biology doctoral student at UNC Greensboro in North Carolina, was awarded a Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship. Torrance uses supercomputers to process massive amounts of bacterial data, tackling tough questions about how they evolve.

Jacob Wilson '20 published a revised version of his PSU honors thesis in peer-reviewed journal *Young Scholars in Writing: Undergraduate Research in Writing and Rhetoric*. Wilson is pursuing his PhD in English language and literature at the University of Washington.

Darlene Zimbari '10 MEd '14 premiered "A Window into Elder World," a theatrical reading about elder advocacy, at the Fertile Ground Festival in February with help from a grant from Portland's Regional Arts and Culture Council.

LOSSES

Tucker Childs, professor and chair of applied linguistics; Alexander "Xander" Davies, assistant professor of education; Chik Erzurumlu, founding dean of the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science; Derek Ott '20. Read tributes at pdx.edu/magazine/remembrances.

Have news you'd like to share? Email alum@pdx.edu or submit your own alumni news online at pdx.edu/alumni/contact.

ON AIR WITH BLACK EXCELLENCE

WHEN COVID-19 HIT, Rashad Floyd '00 found himself grounded. Usually, the former PSU football star and professional football player crisscrossed the country with his production company, Heart and Hustle, creating videos for clients like Nike, the NFL and the NBA. Now, they needed to pivot to stories close to home. He drew inspiration from the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests.

"We needed stories that were relevant and right now to the community," he said. "The narrative was stuck on the oppression and the systemic racism and the inequalities we were facing and fighting. I didn't want that to be the only narrative."

The result was "Expressions in Black," a series of short videos that aired weekly on Portland's KGW TV during "The Good Stuff" through March 22. (Watch episodes at expressionsinblack.org.) The people featured in these 10 documentary-style portraits come from a range of professions—Nike VP, Oregon Supreme Court justice, winemaker, vegan restaurateur—to present a stereotype-shattering view of Portland's Black community.

Floyd's concept took off after a meeting with Portland mayor Ted Wheeler, who connected Heart and Hustle with KGW. "It's the community that made this happen, because of the collective effort that everyone put out to try to create a different Portland," Floyd said. "That inspired more doors to be open to us than have ever been open before."

Each "Expressions in Black" episode explores what drives the person and makes them unique. This is how you learn that Jordan Carter, co-founder of the retail store Produce Portland, started to see himself as

TIP: Recent graduate? Your pdx.edu email address will stop working one year after you finish your last class or stop working for PSU. That's also when you lose access to the Google Drive associated with your campus account.

a role model as a top high school student; or that vintner Bertony Faustin didn't even drink alcohol before he started making wine; or that NBA veteran and University of Portland head basketball coach Terry Porter considers himself a dad and a teacher first.

It's not that far from what Heart and Hustle usually does, Floyd said. As an on-air commentator for the NFL network, ESPN and Fox, "I really got tired of talking about the x's and o's," he said. As he transitioned toward journalism, humanizing athletes became his production company's specialty.

"We've been built to dive deeper," he said. "Even if I'm with LeBron James, I'm interested in documenting him as more than an athlete, just the way I would be documenting Adrienne C. Nelson as more than just a judge. It was a natural fit for us to transition from projecting the voice of the athlete to projecting the voice of a culture."

Floyd credits PSU for helping him learn to connect with a broad range of people. "My eyes were wide open and my ears were wide open," he said. "There were so many languages, cultures, beliefs and perspectives."

With an additional 10 episodes of "Expressions in Black" funded and scheduled to air beginning this June, Floyd reflected on Heart and Hustle's quick pivot. "We all run the marathon toward equality by playing our role," he said. "This is ours." —SCHOLLE McFARLAND



bookshelf

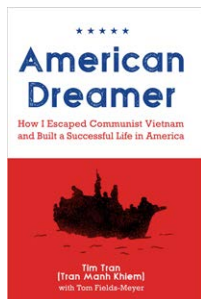


BLACK POOL

Dustin Morrow, film faculty

LITTLE SWAN PICTURES

Emmy Award-winning director Dustin Morrow's most recent film, "Black Pool," made its streaming debut on Amazon Prime at the end of 2020. Set all in one night in a basement, the thriller centers on an Irish immigrant who believes he's captured the man who murdered his father and, hammer in hand, is ready to make him pay. "Black Pool" explores Irish history and identity, as well as the lasting legacy of "The Troubles," Northern Ireland's 30 years of bloody conflict. Morrow was joined for this project by David Jordan (Rodriguez) '15, producer; Michael Hull '15, cinematographer; Connor Jones '15, camera; Christina Dodge '17, sound; and Jaden Fooks '16, sound. "Black Pool" was screened at more than 30 film festivals, picking up dozens of awards, including "Best Thriller" from the Oregon Independent Film Festival. —JENNIFER LADWIG



AMERICAN DREAMER

Tim Tran MBA '88

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY PRESS

This memoir, winner of a Best Indie Book Award, tells the story of Tim Tran and his journey from Vietnamese refugee to CFO of a multi-billion-dollar company. Tran escaped Vietnam after it fell under the Communist regime. He describes the despotism he survived, as well as the challenges he faced after arriving in Portland in 1979 with everything he owned in a plastic sack. Tran is the retired chief financial officer of Johnstone Supply.



CERTAIN AND IMPOSSIBLE EVENTS

Candace Jane Oppen MFA '12

KORE PRESS INSTITUTE

Still troubled by the death of a classmate who took his own life after musician Kurt Cobain's suicide in 1994, Oppen immerses herself in the cultural history of suicide in America in this investigative memoir, winner of the Kore Press Memoir Award as selected by author Cheryl Strayed. From middle school health classes to the influence of the internet and social media, Oppen reveals how no individual suicide—well-known or hardly documented—exists in a vacuum.



CURLING VINES AND CRIMSON TRADES

Kellie Doherty MS '16

DESERT PALM PRESS

In book two of the Broken Chronicles queer adult fantasy novel series, rare goods trader Orenda just wants to live a simple life. But when her wife is kidnapped, she must complete a list of nearly impossible tasks and trades in order to get her back. The problem is, her best friend also has been given a list, and the final task is to kill Orenda. Doherty won a Rainbow Award for the first book in the series.



TOGETHER // UNTETHERED

Ryan Petteway, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health faculty

INDEPENDENT RELEASE

Ryan Petteway, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health faculty, addresses the intersections of COVID-19, structural racism and racialized police violence in this poignant poem, written and performed soon after the 2020 shutdowns began. The winner of the 2020 National Poetry Month Award and a nominee for a 2021 Pushcart Prize, "TOGETHER // Untethered" is part of the series "Upon the Body: Poems of/to a Black Social Epi, Vol.II" See it performed at vimeo.com/petteway.

looking back

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

PORTLAND STATE'S REPUTATION for being student-centered, enterprising and resilient began with the personality of its founder, Stephen E. Epler. A Navy veteran with a doctorate in education, he saw the need for a higher education institution in Portland to serve veterans returning from World War II. He led the charge to create a new breed of school from scratch, despite natural disasters, political battles and many premature predictions of its early demise.

Born in 1909 to a Disciples of Christ minister and his wife, Epler grew up incorporating his parents' strong sense of independence and responsibility into his "indefatigable" work ethic, according to the late Professor Gordon B. Dodds in his seminal history of PSU, "The College That Would Not Die." After some teaching assignments and World War II service, he and his wife, Ferne Misner Epler, landed in Portland with their children in January 1946.

At that time, few of Oregon's colleges had enough housing—particularly family housing—for returning soldiers ready to take advantage of the GI Bill. Epler saw this as an opportunity. Why not open a program for veterans at Vanport, where many (including himself) already lived? Built as a temporary housing project for the Kaiser Shipyards in the lowlands near the Columbia River, Vanport offered affordable housing, public services and building space, with many facilities now vacant after the war.

So Epler and his resourceful team did just that. In just 86 days, they took the idea of the Vanport Extension Center and turned it into a program serving more than 200 students its first summer term.

But then, not two years after Vanport Extension Center was founded, disaster struck. The memory of this turning point in PSU's history—the great Vanport flood of May 1948—is forever etched in the minds of Epler's two children, Charlotte Gezi and Stephen M. Epler.

Since the student and faculty apartments stood so close to the waterline, the younger Epler, now a retired college president living in Rocklin, California, remembers his dad and other staff were

"Education is a form of wealth that bankruptcy or depression cannot destroy."

—Stephen E. Epler in the first Viking yearbook

among the first to see the levy give way under the force of the Columbia River.

"I remember them moving typewriters into one of the big army surplus trucks that they got after the war," he said. "Dad hopped in the truck and drove to the house where we were living and warned the family. Dad went through the building and knocked on doors and warned people to leave." Then it was off to Portland, with their mother, Ferne, driving their big, black '38 Plymouth behind the fully-loaded truck.

"The government had put out a notice saying that the dikes were safe at present," remembered Charlotte, a retired teacher now living in Sacramento, California. "They said: 'You'll be warned. You'll have time to leave. Don't get excited.' Thankfully, many of the students and teachers had left Vanport to visit other families because of the [Memorial Day] holiday weekend."

Fifteen people perished in the flood, which hit the Black community particularly hard. (See a related story on p. 25.) "Many students carried on rescue work, traffic direction and first aid," the elder Epler later recounted in a report. "The death toll would have been much higher had it not been for the valiant work of the college students."

Within weeks, classes restarted, thanks to Ferne securing space in Grant High School where she taught. "I don't know how my Dad could have done it," Charlotte recalled. "As people were moving and gathering their lives back together, the school carried on."

As historian Dodds put it, "overcoming obstacles was a way of life at Vanport." And that drive, that commitment to persevere despite all odds, born out of the hope and trauma of Vanport, has come to be a hallmark of Portland State. —KURT BEDELL



how

YEARS

OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT HELPED SHAPE PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

1948

After the Vanport flood, the **Portland community rallied** to find space for the "college that wouldn't die."

1978

PSU'S FIRST DONOR contributed \$60 to start an athletics scholarship.

1989

Alumni Advocates launched an all-out **initiative to showcase PSU** to legislators facing a proposal to dismantle the university.

1996

PSU's national-model **University Studies program** was created with grants from the Kellogg Foundation & Pew Charitable Trusts.

2012

Campaign for PSU Launched

2008

A landmark \$25 million grant from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation helped PSU and partners **explore sustainable solutions** to challenges.

2004

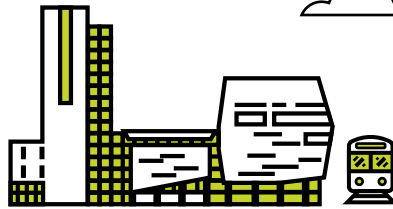
Alumnus Fariborz Maseeh made **PSU's first transformational capital gift** to name the Maseeh College of Engineering & Computer Science.

The **transformation of PSU's campus** was made possible by decades of public and private community support for new and renovated facilities.

2014
LINCOLN HALL



2014
ROBERTSON LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING

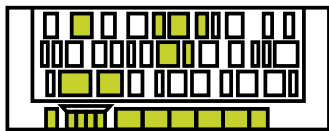


2014

PSU's **largest gift supporting student scholarships** was made by Christine and David Vernier.

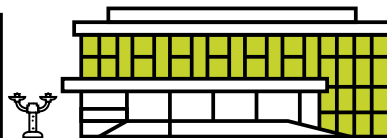
2019

FARIBORZ MASEEH HALL
JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART



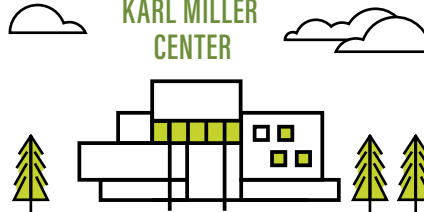
2018

IKING PALIION AT THE
ETER W STOTT CENTER

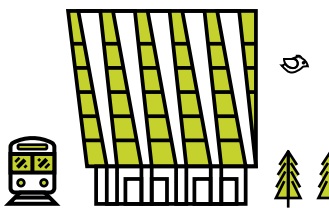


2017

KARL MILLER
CENTER



2020
AN ORT
BUILDING



2020

Donors across the region contributed more than \$583,000 to emergency funds for students struggling during COVID.

2021

The Campaign for PSU Count on

By the end of this year, more than **22,000 DONORS** will have contributed more than **\$300 MILLION** to support PSU students, faculty, and programs to serve our city.



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Afnan Althoupety
Ph.D. Candidate Computer Science

