

Fall 2021

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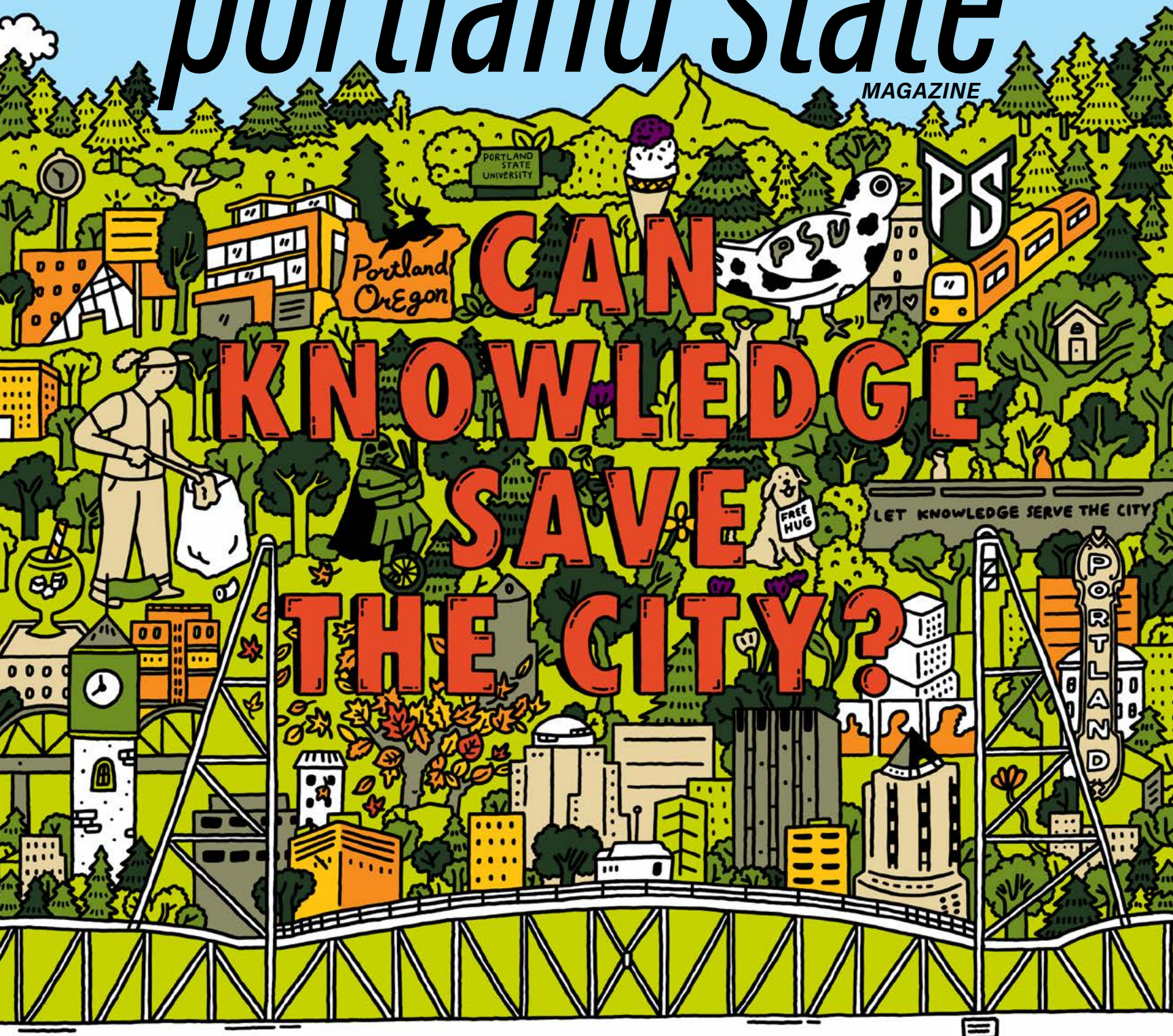
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portland state

MAGAZINE



INSIDE: PORTRAITS OF PSU VETERANS | HOW COVID-19 CHANGED CAMPUS

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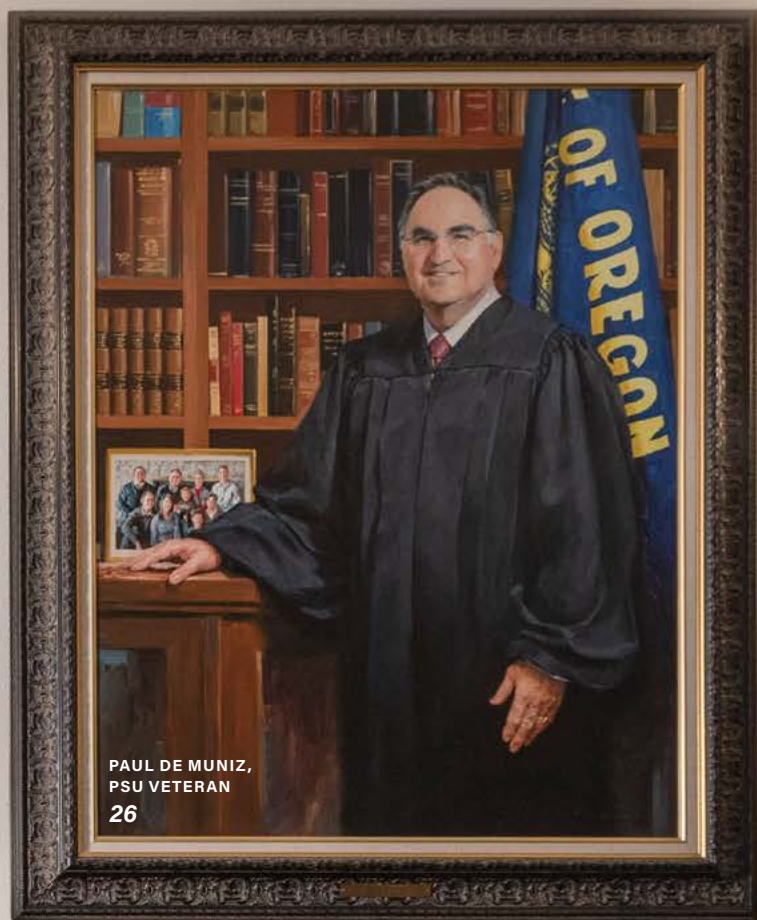
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EDMUND KEENE

from the president

THE JOY OF WELCOMING STUDENTS BACK TO CAMPUS

I WELCOMED more than 200 new students to Portland State at the end of August. It was the first time in 18 months that I'd interacted with so many at once. We were outside, masked and safely distanced in the Park Blocks, but I could still see and feel their excitement—and trepidation—as they stood together under the elms for the first time.

They came from all over Oregon and other states for the launch of our Summer Bridge Scholars Program, a free, four-week introduction to college life and academics designed for students whose high school education was disrupted by COVID-19. They plan to study everything from social work to computer science—and they chose PSU for our programs, location and connections in the Portland area.

Like all new students, they were getting a feel for what their lives would be like here. But unlike in past years, many were coming from months of intense stress and disjointed learning experiences. To help them make connections and succeed, the Summer Bridge Scholars Program gave them a strong foundation in college-level math and writing, as well as effective learning skills. We included support from peer mentors and, of course, some fun along the way.

These students are a primary reason we have worked so hard to safely reopen our campus this fall. It's hard to imagine an entire class going through their first year of college without ever seeing an instructor in person, but that's what happened last year. We understand, now more than ever, the importance of the college

community to our students' success. They need to interact inside and outside of the classroom, develop relationships and meet with faculty in person—all, of course, in a safe environment.

Indeed, the pandemic has helped me realize how much my top priorities for PSU—advancing student success, acting on racial justice and equity, and strengthening our city—overlap and connect. When we peel apart the factors that lead to student success, we find strategies that meet the needs of students from different cultural and educational backgrounds and address historic inequities. And as we enrich our students' learning experience on campus, we help our city recover by bringing students back to downtown.

The Summer Bridge Scholars Program is one innovation that does it all at once, and it was a joy to see it in action. That's why, when I met students outside at a safe distance, I pulled down my mask briefly, smiled, and said, "Hi. I'm President Steve. How are you? Welcome to PSU!"

Personal interactions like these may seem small, but they build connections that will help our students and our city emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

Stephen Percy
President, Portland State University

inbox



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Compliments on the current issue of Portland State Magazine. While (obviously), as a historian, I appreciated the historical perspectives the issue provides, it is good journalism and design, plain and simple. You and your team deserve the University's thanks. —*Chet Orloff MA '80, Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies and Planning 2000-16*

Regarding "Pieces of History" and Professor Frederic Littman, artist extraordinaire: As a freshman, I took one of Fred's sculpture classes and spent time in his open studio, on an upper floor in Cramer Hall, most late afternoons during the spring of 1970. On May 11, I was working on a piece that was soon due. There were no other students and Fred was in and out of his office in the back. Soon, we heard a racket outside and looked down towards the Park Blocks. Across the park, we could see police lining up in military formation on the street and students moving towards the medical tent farther down the park, but out of view. As we watched the police march toward the students, Fred said it brought back so many memories of Hungary during WWII. He told me some of his experiences, which were shocking. Juxtaposed with what we were watching outside, it was a big experience for an 18-year-old. I learned a lot from Fred that day and left thinking I had just witnessed Portland history through

the eyes of an artist who survived WWII. —*Kathleen (Nolf) Granderson '73*

Thank you for the lovely writeup [in "Pieces of History"] about the Debbie Murdock Clock Tower and the legacy of Debbie Murdock. As you mentioned, Debbie's impact touched every aspect of PSU and went a long way toward shaping the Park Blocks and the University District as we know it. A humble visionary, a relentless worker and an invaluable mentor and friend, Debbie was truly larger than life. She left us way too soon. To ensure her legacy is not forgotten, a number of her friends established the Debbie Murdock Scholarship Fund to support inspiring graduate students continuing the work that Debbie started. To learn more or donate, please visit giving.psuf.org/murdock. —*Beckie Lee, Chris Pierce, Mary Carroll, Debbie Kirkland and Ian Ruder*

"While (obviously), as a historian I appreciated the historical perspectives the issue provides, it is good journalism and design, plain and simple."

That beautiful "130-plus-year-old" copper beech at the Millar Library [in "Pieces of History"] has to be one of my all-time favorite trees! I loved looking at it from inside while studying. I also loved learning about it in Dr. Joe Poracsky's class on the urban forest. (R.I.P. Joe. You were such a great teacher!) He loved that tree, too, though he lamented that the University wasn't planning on the tree's eventual demise, saying that its lifespan of 150-200 years meant the tree could have only a few decades left. He would have liked to see a sapling planted alongside it that could grow to take its place as the old one ages and dies. Joe's obituary suggests planting memorial trees. Maybe we PSU alumni could arrange for the planting of a baby copper beech in Joe's honor. I'll gladly pitch in. —*Jan Dougall MA '07*

Thank you so much for the spring edition of the alumni magazine. I enjoyed tracking the landmarks, especially from "the old days," as I attended 1964-69. During those years I worked in the Middle East Studies Center office, on the third floor of South Park Hall and spent much of my time delivering and collecting documents from the History and Political Science departments and standing in line to use the Xerox machine in the basement of Smith Center. (Actually, I had to hand over my document to the official operator.) So I can attest that the first sky bridge opened well before 1970, as I used it often. I vividly remember being on the bridge when a small earthquake caused the floor to undulate. —*Lillian Avery Carbone '69*

I had no particular attachment to the old Outdoor Program axe [shown in "Pieces of History"], but the yearbook behind it brought back a flood of memories of climbing trips to Horsethief Butte and to Smith Rocks, of kayaking trips, all encouraged and enabled by the late (alas!) mentor and part-time leprechaun, [Outdoor Program founder] Sam McKinney. The black-and-white photos in that yearbook article were all taken by Outdoor Program member Margie White; the text was written by me. Thanks for the memories! —*Ellen (Sandberg) Cameron '71*

SEEING PSU EVERYWHERE

I enjoyed the ["Know Your Viks"] quiz in the Spring 2021 issue very much. For question No. 10, you could have also added that the inspiration for the [University] logo even predates the four-leaf clover. I was visiting this Roman ruin in Geneva a few years ago and the PSU logo jumped out at me! [See photo below.] —*Sally S. Mudiamu EdD '20, Director, PSU Office of International Partnerships & Initiatives*



COURTESY OF SALLY S. MUDIAMU

ENTERTAINED AND EXASPERATED

Hats off to the creative editors and writers of Portland State Magazine's 75th Anniversary issue. It was clever, entertaining and informative. However, I was equal parts exasperated with and embarrassed by the latter part of President Percy's introductory statement and could only wonder who wrote this sophomore, cut-and-paste pablum for him (what does "decolonizing ourselves" even mean?). As president of a school of PSU's caliber, he should stick to spotlighting the university's academic, artistic, research, philanthropic and even athletic successes. —*Jeanne Kurzenhauser '80, MST '81*

REACTIONS TO FACULTY VOICES

I read the three responses in Faculty Voices ["What Have We Learned from COVID-19"] with great pleasure. As each professor correctly points out, if we do not learn the societal lesson of this pandemic, the medical lessons are all for naught. Believe it or not, like it or not, everything in life is interconnected. Similar to viruses not respecting the invisible lines on the ground humans revere as "national borders," the social issues of health, climate, justice and equality do not respect the separate, invisible silos many have attempted to place them in. On the contrary, they greatly impact each other, along with everyone and everything else throughout society. Ironically or cynically, the greatest teaching on the interdependence of humanity is ignored by many: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). The only way to live this powerful admonition is to realize there are no "others"—we are all in this together. —*Brad Stephan '77*

What a great thinkpiece you published from Dilafruz Williams [in Faculty Voices]. I've shared it with others, including on my Facebook account, so that my fellow professors across the country and world could see her reflections. She turned our challenges into opportunities in such wise ways. —*Prof. Tom Hastings, Conflict Resolution*

After reading the recent edition of Portland State Magazine, I am reminded of all the discussions I had with my over-the-top liberal professors, defending my conservative perspective. This idea that structural racism is the problem in the U.S. is phony. It's causing class warfare and hatred. This continual blaming everything on the "system" or blaming the rich guys just breeds contempt and hatred. Look at the cities in this country where the leadership is the most progressive. How have these progressive ideas improved

crime, poverty and drug abuse? Where is the success of this leadership? The cities that these liberal politicians lead, that continually push the victim mentality, are the worst off in nearly every category of measured prosperity. It is time for leaders like [Professors Pette-way, Williams and Golub] to embrace the principles that made this country great. I'm not saying that things are perfect. I'm saying change your focus if you want a different result. —*Charles Blatner '85*



THE CHANGING NORTHWEST

"The Changing Northwest" confirmed the tragic trajectory of climate crises and what we're experiencing here in the Pacific Northwest. Our beloved Northwest of mild climate and nature's beauty is fast changing to dry and hot summers resulting in ever-worsening wildfires. The disappearing glaciers are not only sad to see but contribute to the worsening fire season. We have piled the kindling; just a spark is needed to set it off. —*Janet Liu*

I was delighted to read "The Changing Northwest." I had some experience with the Eugene Bureau of Land Management office (six summer jobs) during my profession as a science teacher. [One fire] (started by a road grader!) burned up 40,000 acres west of Eugene in the 1960s. Also, my daughter Karen Nielsen MS '82 lost her lovely cabin

up the Breitenbush River where 70-plus other cabins burned, too. She had the cabin for over 40 years. I hope we can get better fire control in our beautiful forests. —*Victor D. Nielsen*

MORE MEMORIES OF 1970

To read [the Spring 2020 story, "1970: The Year that Shaped PSU"], one might get the idea that PSU was a cauldron of political activism sparked by the U.S. National Guard actions against student protestors on the Kent State campus. A more balanced narrative about May 1970 on the PSU campus is a story of a minority of off-campus radical activists who tried to engage a vulnerable student body which was countered by a few non-violent students who showed a more peaceful way to preserve a campus climate for calm deliberation. Students who have not experienced the hyper-emotion of group protests or riots orchestrated by trained radicals unfortunately will learn from their own destructive actions that they are culpable to being led like sheep to the slaughter by those who have another agenda. —*Bob Jones '70*

[The May 11th Committee is] happy to report that our commemorative gathering has been rescheduled for May 11, 2022. We're officially calling it "50+2." Much has occurred since spring of 2020, from the pandemic to the mass protests over the murder of George Floyd to the defeat of Trump to the dangerous right-wing insurrection on Jan. 6. We no doubt can expect many more upheavals and changes between now and next May 11. Those of us who are still around from May 1970 when we were youthful PSU students look forward to returning to the Park Blocks to reconnect with each other and try to say something useful to today's generation of young people. —*Doug Weiskopf '71*

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

In the feature "Pieces of History," the last name of Charles W. and Julia Bursch, mentioned in "No. 5: Clay and Community," was misspelled. We apologize for the error.

Construction began on Portland State's first skybridge in 1968, not 1970.

faculty voices

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

UNCIVIL DISCOURSE

What has contributed to political polarization in the U.S. and how has that affected our ability to compromise?



RICHARD CLUCAS

Professor of Political Science, College of Urban and Public Affairs



MARC S. RODRIGUEZ

Professor of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



BARBARA TINT

Professor of Conflict Resolution and Political Psychologist, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

POLITICAL SCIENTISTS often trace the history of political polarization in modern America to President Lyndon B. Johnson's decision to support the Civil Rights Movement. After Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964, Southern white conservatives began to flee the Democratic Party, making it more liberal and the Republican Party more conservative.

In subsequent years, political leaders took positions that intensified the divide, from the Republican Party's strategy to appeal to white Southern voters and blue-collar workers to the Democratic Party's embrace of more liberal positions on national defense and social issues, such as abortion.

Profound economic, social, religious and demographic differences have also emerged between urban and rural America. Urban areas tend to be more affluent, better educated, more ethnically diverse and less religious than rural areas. They also tend to have larger and more complex economies. These differences have created profoundly different perspectives on society and politics.

Moreover, studies have found that Americans have become more ideologically consistent in their policy preferences. The result is that there are two Americas, one urban and liberal and the other rural and conservative.

With leaders taking positions intensifying the divide and the public itself deeply split, it makes compromise difficult. It is not just that Americans disagree on policy solutions. Rather, they disagree on what the problems actually are and on the proper role of government.

FOR THOSE who remember broadcast television and daily newspapers like I do, you remember a world where there were far fewer news sources. Most journalism work functioned within the boundaries of the "fairness doctrine," which required programs to offer differing viewpoints on controversial issues of public importance, until 1987. Newspapers and TV news had journalistic standards.

The loss of that and the advent of the internet changed everything. Those looking to polarize can narrow their audience using a huge platform aided by social media companies. Everyone with a cell phone is now "Press" and the echo chamber has replaced balanced discussion.

Gerrymandering made things worse. Republicans could ignore moderate voices and so could urban Democrats. The middle ground fell out of politics. Many academics called on states to use nonpartisan or bipartisan redistricting commissions to create competitive districts to little avail. Elected officials often sounded unhinged to those on the opposite side of the political divide in ways that would have shocked Republican and Democratic elected officials from, say, the 1980s.

It may be time for a new "fairness doctrine" and the regulation of social media platforms as publishers and, of course, bipartisan or nonpartisan redistricting commissions. At many levels, Americans of all races, ethnicities and political affiliations often have more in common than they think they do. If only they knew it.

WHILE OUR beliefs may seem more polarized, underneath that polarization, our deeper values and needs are often more aligned than we think.

I see over and over how seemingly opposed parties are driving toward the same need. For example, a need for security may lead some to pursue climate change policy and others to work to preserve the coal industry. Our core needs for identity, security, belonging, meaning, acknowledgment and justice are typically at the root of even the most seemingly extreme beliefs or behaviors.

Increased polarization is also fueled by misinformation spread through social media. Facts rarely change our beliefs, which are rooted in long held perceptions, strong emotions and affiliation with our like-minded peers.

As polarization grows, we are less likely to naturally encounter or seek out those whose beliefs are different from our own, further increasing the chasm between us. With such profound identity issues such as race, gender and sexual orientation on the table, differing perceptions become threats to other people's existence. Our motivation to separate is enhanced as fear, anger and real power imbalances send us scurrying to our corners.

Education is essential in addressing this by cultivating the ability to think critically, fostering the skills for civil discourse across differences, and the conviction to understand (not necessarily agree with) multiple perspectives. Much of what divides us is learned, and therefore learning is a necessary tool to create stronger bridges between us.

park blocks

ZACH PUTNAM

HOW COVID-19 CHANGED CAMPUS

AT FIRST, it seemed the COVID-19 pandemic would disrupt life as we knew it for a few weeks, tops. In fact, 556 days—more than a year and a half—passed between Portland State University going remote and the return of in-person classes on Sept. 27. During that time, students, instructors and staff alike had to reimagine the university experience, mastering digital tools and virtual ways of interacting. Such an unprecedented experiment couldn't help but change the way we work and learn. Beyond temporary precautions, here are a few changes we think just might stick:

→ **New ways to take classes:** Though many students longed for a return to in-person classes, some discovered reduced commute times made it easier for them to balance school with other obligations. A pilot program offers a new choice: “Attend Anywhere” courses that meet in person, but also offer a remote option for every class.

Using 133 new campus “Zoom rooms” with touchscreen controls and podium computers that include integrated webcams, participating faculty broadcast in-person lectures via video conferencing, allowing flexibility for students whose work or family commitments sometimes make it difficult to get to campus.

The School of Business has led the way. Before the pandemic began, it had converted

about a third of the rooms in the Karl Miller Center into “global classrooms,” equipped with ceiling microphones and high-definition cameras that zoom in and out as the instructor steps on floor pads in the front of the room. This fall, 20% of School of Business courses will be offered in the “Attend Anywhere” format.

→ **Virtual supports:** During remote operations, some student activities and services saw attendance as much as double, in part because using video conferencing made participation easier for students with long commutes, family obligations or social anxiety. As a result, resources including counseling, health services and the Veterans Resource Center are continuing to let students opt for telehealth or Zoom-based appointments.

NEWS BY THE NUMBERS

SAFETY FIRST

Portland State University is one of 1,060 colleges and universities nationwide requiring their communities to be vaccinated against COVID-19 this fall. All Oregon public universities require the vaccine for students, faculty and staff.

1,060

SERVICE STAR

U.S. News & World Report ranked Portland State No. 5 in the nation—tied with Stanford University—for service learning. PSU has the nation's largest Senior Capstone program, which requires seniors to complete community service projects.

No. 5

OPEN BOOK

Materials from the library's award-winning, open-source textbook initiative, PDXOpen, have been downloaded more than 400,000 times since 2019, saving students more than \$1 million in textbook costs.

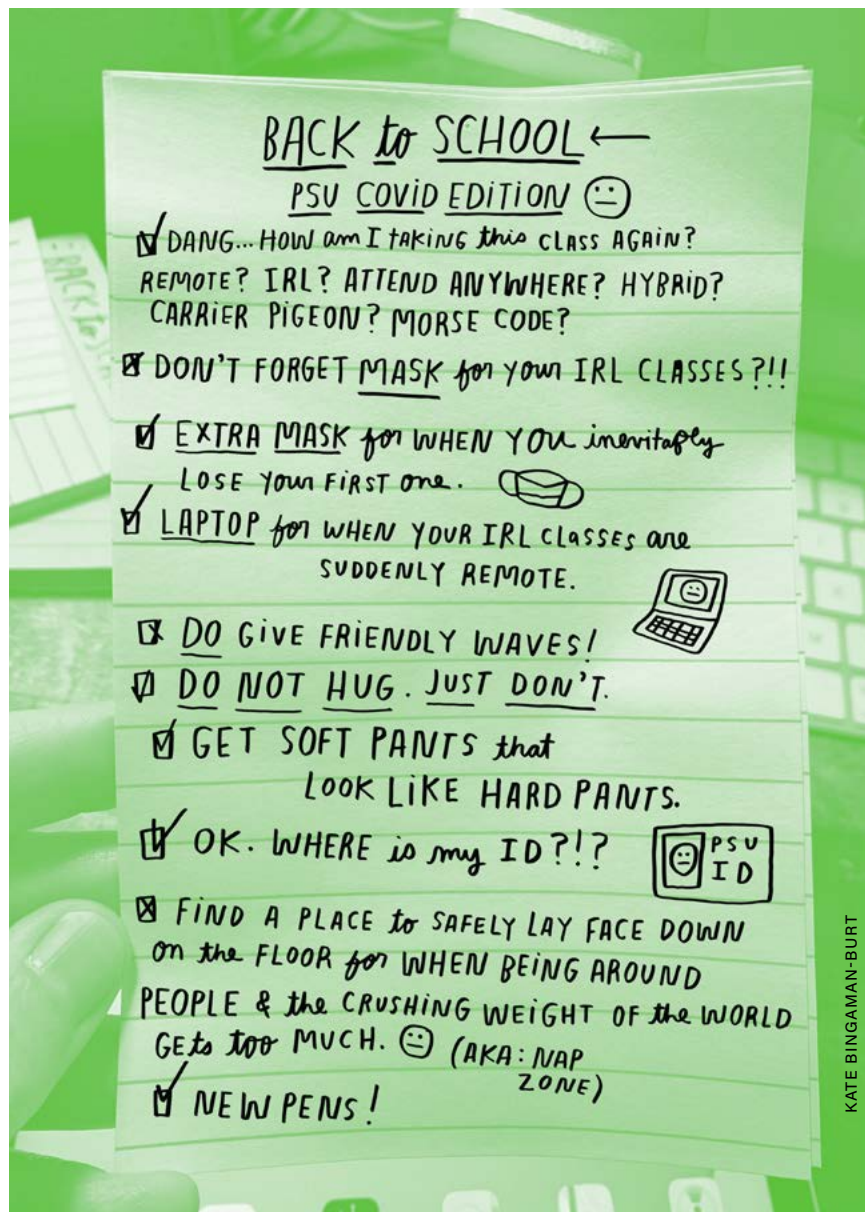
\$1M

Likewise, Campus Rec is keeping a selection of live virtual exercise classes introduced during the pandemic, as well as on-demand workouts and virtual group training. Student government, which plans for the majority of its meetings and events to be online this fall, is looking at whether a mix of virtual and in-person meetings and events may work best in the long term to engage more nontraditional and commuter students.

“Such an unprecedented experiment couldn’t help but change the way we work and learn.”

→ **New approaches to fieldwork:** How do students experience fieldwork if they can’t be in the field? Faced with that conundrum, as well as the shift in how community-based social services were being provided, the School of Social Work’s Field Education Program jettisoned long-held assumptions to figure out new ways for students to learn and engage in the crises of the times.

Many changes carry forward this term. Students can now structure their internships to include both in-person and remote opportunities with their agencies. That not only makes it possible for them to pop in via Zoom to meetings and committees they would have missed in the past, but also gives them the ability to truly go beyond direct service to engage in policy- and research-focused activities. Students already employed at social service agencies can use their positions as internships, if they meet criteria. Faculty fieldwork liaisons will no longer drive to multiple agencies, instead sticking with virtual site visits that save time and keep extra cars off the road. Quarterly Zoom Supervision Roundtables started during the pandemic will also continue bringing together field instructors from all over the state to troubleshoot and share best practices.



KATE BINGAMAN-BURT

The last 18 months tested the PSU community, but crisis can also spark creativity. Changes to how students attend class, access support and get experience in the field promise to make for a more flexible, and accessible, university experience. —SCHOLLE McFARLAND

PATH TO LAW

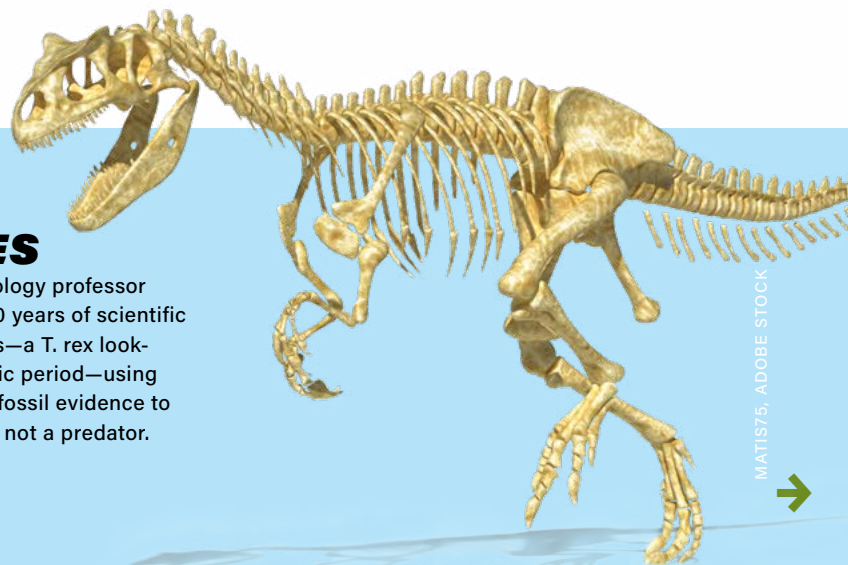
A new partnership guarantees qualified PSU undergraduates and alumni admission to Willamette University College of Law, as well as a \$10,000 scholarship, renewable for three years.

\$10,000

DINOSAUR DETECTIVES

Cameron Pahl '16 and biology professor Luis Ruedas upended 150 years of scientific thought about Allosaurus—a T. rex look-alike from the late Jurassic period—using biological modeling and fossil evidence to show it was a scavenger, not a predator.

150



MATIS75, ADOBE STOCK

park blocks



New faculty members include (top row) Bright Alozie, Courtney Terry, Cristina Herrera and Kai Hang Cheang; (bottom row) Kali Simmons, Martín Alberto Gonzalez, Melissa Patiño-Vega and Molly Benitez.

PSU REINVESTS IN SCHOOL OF GENDER, RACE AND NATIONS

THIS FALL, a cohort of eight new faculty members joined the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' School of Gender, Race and Nations. With specialties ranging from Chicana/Latina young adult literature to race and gender equity in the labor trades, they represent a critical reinvestment in scholarship dedicated to understanding and advocating for historically underserved populations. (They also include one alum, Kali Simmons '13.) "We are committed as an institution to building a community of scholars who will contribute to our collective, inclusive and future-oriented work of becoming a university that truly lives up to its ideals," President Stephen Percy said. Studies suggest cluster hiring not only boosts interdisciplinary collaboration, but also builds faculty diversity by creating a built-in support network that helps with retention—all the more important as PSU serves an increasingly diverse student body. "It's not only the right thing to do to have faculty reflect those students," said Ted Van Alst, director of the School of Gender, Race and Nations. "It's incumbent on us to model and show those students that there's a place for them in the world." —*CRISTINA ROJAS*

GLOBAL IMPACT: STUDYING SOCIETY AROUND THE WORLD

by Shaun McGillis



FINDING INSIGHTS THROUGH IDENTITY

BRAZIL

Charles Klein, anthropology faculty, uses ethnographic approaches to examine the forces driving societal trends in Brazilian cities. Klein looks at how elements of identity—such as race, gender and sexuality—intersect with political activity, participation in higher education, social segregation, socioeconomic relations and demographic transformations.



HERROD'S GOT TALENT

AFTER SINGING a soaring rendition of "Tomorrow" from the musical Annie on NBC's America's Got Talent, Jimmie Herrod MM '16 received a rare Golden Buzzer that catapulted him directly to the hit television show's live quarterfinals. (Within a month, the performance had been watched nearly 11 million times on YouTube alone.) Song by song, as the competition advanced, Herrod wowed judges who called his performances in turn "stunning" and "unforgettable." He competed against nine other acts in the September finals, but, in the end, magician Dustin Tavella took the \$1 million prize. Still, we won't soon forget moments like Herrod holding his own with Broadway legend Idina Menzel in a duet of "Defying Gravity." There's no doubt he proved himself a voice to be reckoned with. (Go to tinyurl.com/5epxr7f to watch his performances.) This fall, Portland State presented Herrod with the 2021 Simon Benson Award for Alumni Achievement, the University's top honor for alumni. —*SCHOLLE McFARLAND*



TRAE PATTON, GETTY IMAGES



MIGRANTS, URBANIZATION AND INEQUALITY

CHINA

Yiping Fang, urban studies and planning faculty, examines the social and spatial inequalities of China's urbanization processes, including the disadvantages domestic migrants face when seeking opportunities for upward social mobility.



HOPE AND PEACEBUILDING

THAILAND

In partnership with Chulalongkorn University and the Tham Hin refugee camp in Thailand, Staci Martin, social work faculty, is studying the role of hope and how emotions contribute to peacebuilding, agency and action, specifically with Thailand's youth and refugee youth integrating into Thai culture. Martin is a 2021-2022 Fulbright Scholar.

HIDDEN RESILIENCE IN REFUGEE CAMPS

JORDAN

Theodore Khoury, business faculty, and colleagues study how refugee-led, informal supply networks in the Za'atari camp just south of the Syrian border in Jordan contribute to the camp's resilience and benefit the nearby community of Mafraq. The team's work dispels the notion of refugees as passive aid recipients, demonstrating that people living in refugee camps form societies with complex social and economic systems.

THINKING BEYOND BORDERS

Alexander Sager, philosophy faculty, writes about the need for new categories of thinking about human mobility. His defense of open borders, *Against Borders*, was selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic Book of 2020. His earlier book, *Toward a Cosmopolitan Ethics of Mobility*, advocates for an ethics that celebrates human movement, diversity and deep connections across borders.

ILLUSTRATION BY AIRDONE, ADOBE STOCK

NEW HOME ON HORIZON FOR SCHOOL OF ART + DESIGN

THE OREGON LEGISLATURE has approved \$50 million in funding to create a modern facility that brings together all of PSU's Art + Design programs under one roof, creating a central hub for the school. The University will raise an additional \$5 million through philanthropy to complete the project, which is expected to be finished in 2024. The center will provide teaching spaces, digital labs and maker spaces, materials storage and gallery spaces for the school's nearly 1,100 students. Right now, students and programs are spread across five non-contiguous campus locations, without a unified space to gather as a community or a central site to seek advising and peer support. The project will increase the School of Art + Design's space capacity and is expected to boost efficiency. Carefully designed spaces will also help advance the school's focus on increasing retention and completion among students, nurturing partnerships with community partners and employers, and contributing to the diversity of the regional creative workforce. PSU educates the most underserved students in the state, and 43% of students in the School of Art + Design identify as underrepresented minorities.

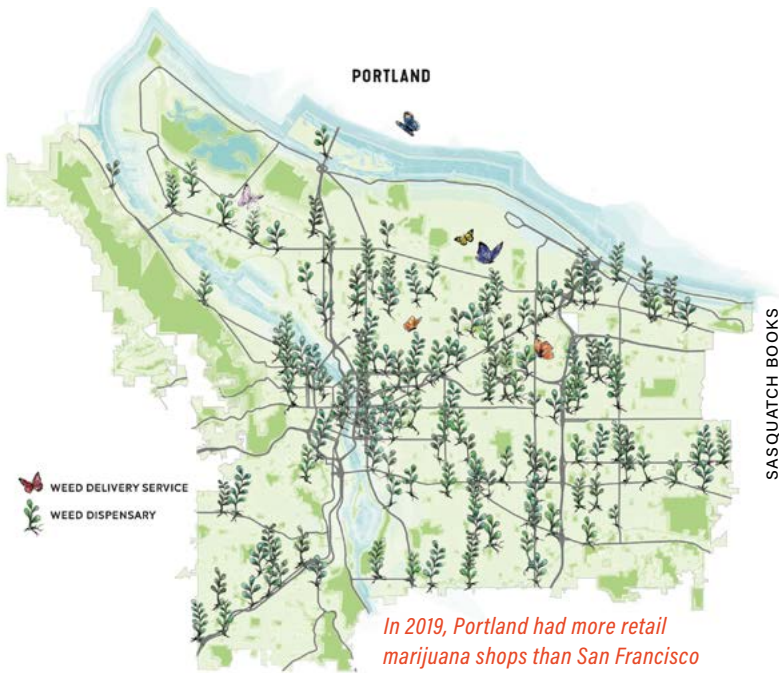
—KAREN O'DONNELL STEIN



ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT RENDERING

SRG PARTNERSHIP

park blocks



SASQUATCH BOOKS

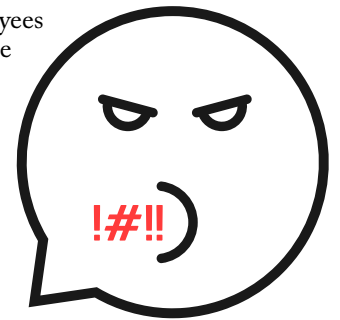
In 2019, Portland had more retail marijuana shops than San Francisco and Seattle combined—a high achievement considering Portland has a smaller population than both.

A TALE OF THREE CITIES

WHAT'S SUSTAINABILITY-CONSCIOUS, transit-friendly, and known both for its hipsters and its progressive politics? The answer could be San Francisco, Seattle or Portland. But how much are these three cities, connected by I-5, really alike? Take a deep dive into the data with a colorful new cultural atlas by Hunter Shobe, geography faculty, and David Banis, associate director of PSU's Center for Spatial Analysis and Research. Through essays, photos and more than 150 ingenious infographics—one is even stitched in needlepoint—*Upper Left Cities* compares everything from voting patterns and demographics to carless commuting and housing costs. (Think Portland is expensive? In 2019, its median home price was twice the national median at \$416,000, but Seattle's was \$714,200 and San Francisco's was \$1,351,900.) The authors' hope is to "bring academic research to people who don't usually read geography and urban studies journals" and "storytelling and graphics to people who do." More than 30 students and alumni contributed, including Zuriel van Belle MS '15, Geoff Gibson '13 MURP '17 and Sachi Arakawa '16 MURP '18. —SCHOLLE McFARLAND

RECYCLING RUDENESS

A NEW PORTLAND STATE study found that not only is workplace incivility on the rise, but that employees who experience or witness it are more likely to be uncivil to others, a trend that could intensify as people return to in-person work. Uncivil behavior can range from overt rudeness, criticizing someone in public, or withholding important information to more subtle acts such as ignoring a colleague or checking email and texting during a meeting. The study, by Larry Martinez, industrial-organizational psychology faculty, and Lauren Park PhD '21, was published in the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology* and is the first to analyze factors that predict uncivil behavior in the workplace. They found that employees who have more control over their jobs, employees whose immediate team or workgroup typically engages in civil behavior, and employees who are older are all less likely to reciprocate rudeness. How should employers respond when incivility takes hold? "Providing support is not only the right thing to do," Park said, "but it stops that behavior from spiraling through the organization." —CRISTINA ROJAS.



INFAPHEL, ADOBE STOCK

INSTAWORTHY PSU

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

LEFT: Residence assistants greeted students returning to PSU's nine residence halls on Move In Day in September.

CENTER: Victor Viking received his (ceremonial) shot at Portland State's long-awaited on-campus COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Smith Ballroom.

RIGHT: Stratford Hall was home to thousands of students between 1969 and 2017 before being demolished in August to make way for a major expansion to Science Building One.





CHAMPION ACCESS FOR ALL

Criminology student Citlaly Arroyo-Juarez has seen how immigration policies can tear families apart and is determined to do something about it. She is the first in her family to attend college and is passionate about using her education to help immigrants navigate the judicial system. Students like Citlaly believe change isn't a maybe, it's a must.



Portland State
UNIVERSITY

research

DEFENDERS OF THE SMART GRID

Portland State researchers lead efforts to protect the Pacific Northwest from cyber threats

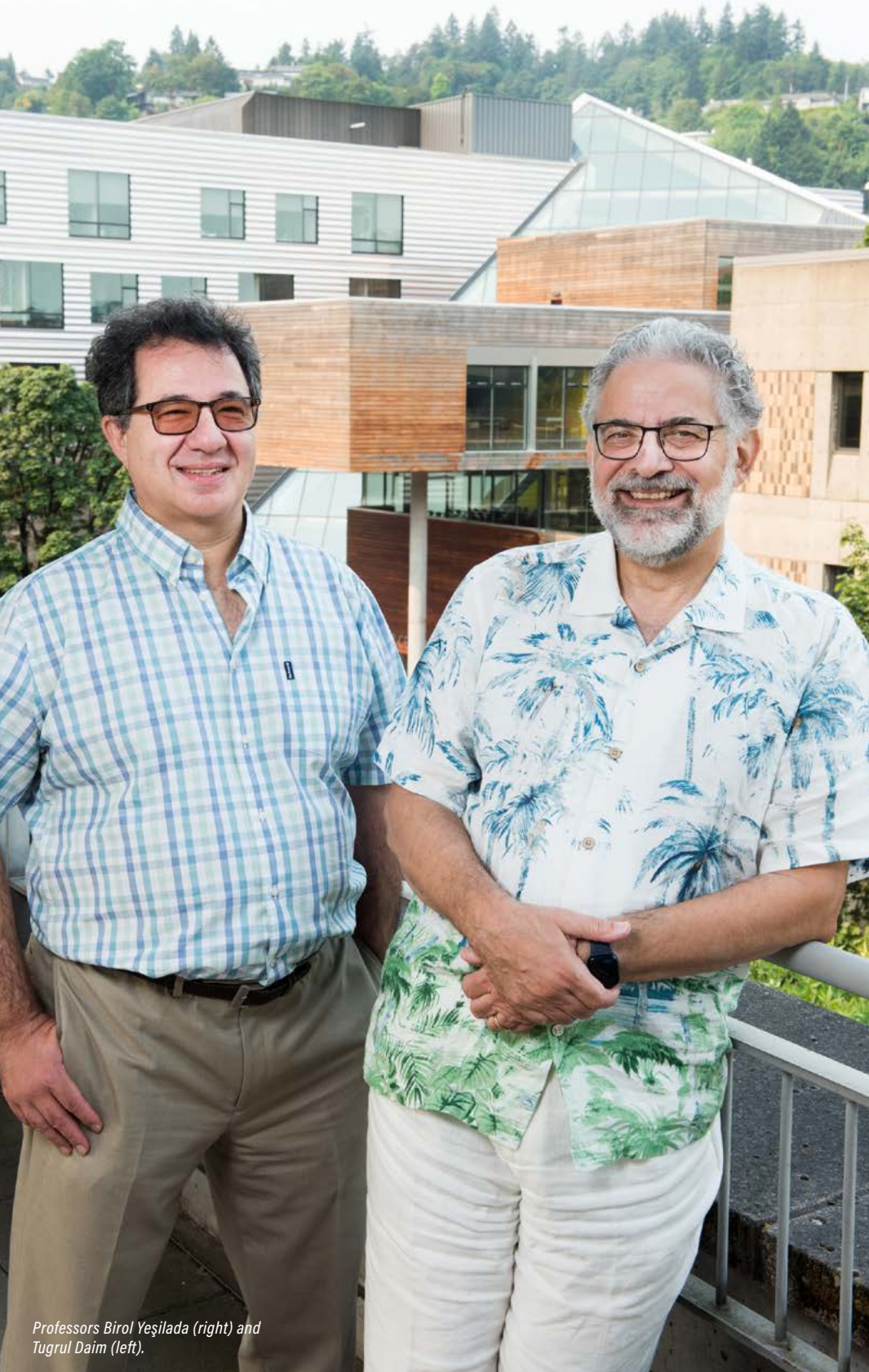
IMAGINE MASSIVE blackouts, the disruption of essential government services, or hackers gaining access to millions of networked consumer devices. When it comes to cyber threats, national attention has primarily focused on defense, transportation and telecommunications, but Birol Yeşilada has been thinking about infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest.

“For the federal government, much of the focus has been on upgrading and securing the top level of infrastructure from cyberattacks,” said Yeşilada, government faculty and director of Portland State University’s Mark O. Hatfield School of Government. “We also need a bottom-up approach if we’re going to protect what I call ‘America’s soft underbelly’—the vulnerabilities at local and regional governments, utilities and special districts serving the communities we live in.”

Yeşilada is the principal investigator of a new two-year, \$2 million grant awarded to PSU by the National Security Agency. The grant establishes and funds a consortium of public, private and academic partners that will address cybersecurity issues related to smart grid infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii and Colorado. Yeşilada will work with co-investigators Tugrul Daim, PSU engineering and technology management faculty, and Barbara Endicott-Popovsky, executive director of the Center for Information Assurance and Cybersecurity at the University of Washington Bothell. Portland State is the only Oregon university recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity by the federal government. The new grant solidifies the university’s regional leadership in the area of cybersecurity risk management.

What’s the smart grid? It’s the electric grid of the 21st century, incorporating digital technology that enables two-way communication between power utilities and customers. Think smart meters that send electricity, gas or water usage data back to the supplier wirelessly in real time.

The smart grid promises to improve transmission and integration of renewable sources like wind, solar and wave energy. It also makes it possible to reduce demand and mitigate the impact of power outages by



Professors Birol Yeşilada (right) and Tugrul Daim (left).

EDIS JURCVS PHOTOGRAPHY

allowing for automatic rerouting of electricity across the grid.

Still, its network connections are not without security risks. Today's grid is susceptible to physical attacks and cyberattacks directed against power plants and other power infrastructure. But with the smart grid, a determined hacker can penetrate a victim's networks and computers and use them as a jumping-off point to attack others, as demonstrated by recent cyberattacks on firms SolarWinds and Kaseya.

In those cases, hackers infiltrated the vendors' software updates and used them to push out malware to customers. Thousands of businesses and government agencies were caught in the net of the attacks, demonstrating just how vulnerable end-users are to cybersecurity threats by malicious actors intent on disrupting critical systems, conducting espionage, or collecting ransom.

Protecting municipal, regional and state governments and other critical users such as public utilities, healthcare providers, and water, police and fire districts from cyber threats to the smart grid will require a holistic approach. "No single entity or institution can address this kind of challenge on its own," Yeşilada said. "You need to work together from the bottom up."

What does that look like? "It starts with understanding what the risks and challenges

are," said Daim, "And to do that, we have to bring the stakeholders together."

These include colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii and Colorado; federal agencies such as the Bonneville Power Administration, the Departments of Energy and Defense; as well as private organizations like Palo Alto Networks, Portland General Electric and T-Mobile.

"A determined hacker can penetrate a victim's networks and computers and use them as a jumping-off point to attack others."

Through workshops with consortium partners, Daim and a team of researchers will develop technology roadmaps. These management and planning tools help link the challenges in a technology-oriented sector or business—in this case, the smart grid—to the research, development, policy and education needed to address those challenges.

Then, Yeşilada and the Portland State team, in partnership with consortium members

across Washington, Idaho and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will lead virtual tabletop exercises integrating real-world equipment to analyze and evaluate current technologies in order to uncover future smart grid solutions.

According to Daim, the goal of these exercises is to help stakeholders identify gaps within their organization and develop plans to address them. Those plans might involve investing in new technologies, workforce education and development, and advocating at the state and federal level for cybersecurity laws and policies better aligned with the challenges presented by the smart grid.

"This is the start of many years of work," Daim said. "Cybersecurity is a big challenge. We are under attack and we need to address that."

The new grant provides opportunities for Portland State to step in and meet some of the needs identified by consortium members, be they building communities of stakeholders, developing new technologies, providing policy expertise or educating the next-generation workforce.

"Given the threats we face, we have a long way to go," Yeşilada said. "Hopefully, this project starts us moving in the direction of a whole-of-system approach to addressing the cybersecurity threats posed by smart grid technology." —SHAUN MCGILLIS

SEEING SCIENCE: TIMBER TROUBLES

Text by Summer Allen | Illustration by Shaw Nielson

It's easy to take supply chains for granted. When they work correctly, they're largely invisible. But supply chains affect our lives profoundly, as we discovered when the COVID-19 pandemic sparked shortages of everything from toilet paper to used cars to microchips. We asked PSU's Carlos Mena, Nike Professor of Supply Chain Management, to help us understand why some supplies became scarce during the pandemic, focusing on lumber as an example. (Lumber prices climbed 300% above pre-pandemic prices, peaking in May 2021, according to the National Association of Home Builders.) "Like most industries, the lumber industry has suffered significant disruptions to supply and demand," says Mena. "Many of these disruptions are associated with COVID-19, but not all."



CLIMATE CHANGE:
Higher temperatures make trees more vulnerable to fires and pests.



PESTS:
Bark beetle infestations have destroyed timber across central Europe and are a growing problem in the U.S.



WORKER SHORTAGES:
Pandemic social distancing requirements meant fewer workers on the floor.



WILDFIRES:

"It takes years for a tree to grow," says Mena. "If the forest burns, you cannot just increase supply."



DRIVER SHORTAGES:

Fewer drivers make it difficult and expensive to move the lumber.

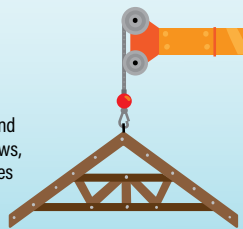
FEWER MILLS:

Since the financial crisis of 2008-2009, many sawmills have closed.



MORE BUILDING:

With housing inventory and interest rates at record lows, construction of new homes increased rapidly in some regions.



MORE PROJECTS:

With people spending more time at home during lockdowns—some with increased savings—projects like new decks and fences increased demand.



the arts

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Comics break stereotypes by bringing stories of student homelessness to life

COMICS ENCOURAGE readers to lean in with wonder. Images punctuated by words draw us into the story like no other medium.

“There is something about the language of comics that allows us to connect in a different way than if we were reading a book or listening to a podcast,” said Portland State instructor Kacy McKinney.

That’s why she turned to the medium to share stories from PSU students experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. “The hope is that these stories will resonate,” she said, “that they will touch people in unexpected ways, and change the way we think, talk and teach about homelessness and poverty.”

McKinney teaches in the College of Urban and Public Affairs. She is also an illustrator and comic artist, and has served on the board of Sisters of the Road, a Portland nonprofit working to end poverty and homelessness. With a grant from PSU’s Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative (HRAC), she’s leading a project to create a series of comics on student homelessness.

About one in six PSU students have experienced homelessness, according to a 2020 HRAC report. That figure is even higher for Black, Indigenous and other students of color.

Daniela Ortiz experienced housing insecurity growing up and continues to feel its impact. She answered the call for students to participate in the project because she wants to fight the stigma of homelessness, which is why she chose to share her name in this story.

“I need to stop being ashamed of my childhood and what my reality might be,” she said. “I want people to see me and hear my story.”

“We should stop looking down on homelessness and look at the real reasons why we have homelessness,” she said. “I hope people see that housing instability has many different faces and many different realities.”

Ortiz is one of 10 current or former PSU students selected to share their stories. The team also includes McKinney, two student researchers, two student interns, and 10 professional artists. Each comic will tell a story from a student’s perspective. The stories explore themes including safety, survival, connection, fear and isolation. They center the voices of historically marginalized groups and show how forms of oppression underlie, exacerbate and perpetuate housing insecurities.

The work is part storytelling, part research and part teaching tool. This collaborative process is called ethnographic cartooning, which uses a combination of in-depth interviews and a back-and-forth editing that includes frequent check-ins with students to make sure the stories reflect the storytellers. The research team interviewed students this spring and prepared notes and guidance for artists to draw from.

“How we view the most vulnerable members of our society reflects how we view the most vulnerable parts of ourselves.”

“It was beautiful the way they wrote it,” Ortiz said about the interview notes. “I thought ‘This is me, and this is OK’.... It made me thankful to be where I am now.”

The team, with input from storytellers, will match each story to an artist. For example, one student’s journey starts in an opulent home that feels dangerous, but ends in safety, surrounded by nature. It has the feel of a fairy tale or epic quest, so the team hopes to pair the story with an artist whose style reflects that energy and emotion.

“Each story has a theme or important set of meanings connected to who each person is,” McKinney said. “It’s about us translating, and the artists translating again, and creating space for the audience to connect.”

The artists will collaborate with the students to make sure the comic reflects their experience in a way that resonates with them. The goal is to disrupt harmful stereotypes and build greater understanding, empathy and awareness.

Portland comic artist Quinn C Amacher, one of the artists on the project, noted that art can reveal the humanity of subjects who don’t get their stories told very often, but can also reveal the humanity of those experiencing the art.

“How we view the most vulnerable members of our society reflects how we view the most vulnerable parts of ourselves,” she said.

Amacher likes to tell stories about real people using a cartoon-like style. People are bendy, stretchy and Looney Tunes-esque, emotional and dynamic, she said.

“Sometimes steam comes out of our ears one second and water pours down our faces the next,” she said. “We’re always changing. It’s the silliness of being human and the absurdity beneath all of it.”

People seem to connect deeply with this project, McKinney said. More than 75 artists and 55 students applied to participate. When



SO-MIN KANG

Artist Christina Tran works from notes prepared by the research team as she brings the story of student Daniela Ortiz to life. The back-and-forth collaboration between the artist, student and research team is called “ethnographic cartooning.”



CHRISTINA TRAN

McKinney reached out to Street Roots, a weekly street newspaper, about publishing the comics, they offered to create full-color booklets. Portland’s Independent Publishing Resource Center stepped in to support the artists, the production and the creative process. The enthusiastic response inspired McKinney to dream bigger. She hopes to raise \$38,000 to create another 10 comics and then publish both sets as a book. Learn more and donate at pdx.edu/homelessness/StudentStories.

The booklets will be available from Street Roots vendors in February. McKinney also plans to display the original artwork on campus.

“So many students do not realize that the experience of homelessness and housing instability is very much around them,” she said. “There are people next to us or sitting on the Zoom call who have experienced it—and may be experiencing it right now.”

—STEFANIE KNOWLTON



Instructor Kacy McKinney (center right) with research team members (left to right) Kimberléa Ruffu '21, Aven Handley-Merk '21 and student Shaun Hardy.



EVENTS

LOUISE BOURGEOIS: WHAT IS THE SHAPE OF THIS PROBLEM

THROUGH DEC. 4

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

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

DEINUM PRIZE SHOWCASE EXHIBITION

THROUGH DEC. 10

[PDX.EDU/EVENTS/DEINUM-PRIZE-SHOWCASE](https://pdx.edu/events/deinum-prize-showcase)

Master Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. MFA '20, winner of the 2020 Andries Deinum Prize for Visionaries and Provocateurs, explores the importance of relationships and mutual support in building strong, resilient communities.

ARLENE SCHNITZER VISUAL ARTS PRIZE EXHIBITION AND RECEPTION

NOV. 2-DEC. 4

[PDX.EDU/EVENTS/SCHNITZER-PRIZE](https://pdx.edu/events/schnitzer-prize)

Join the School of Art + Design in celebrating the work of this year’s winners of the prestigious Arlene Schnitzer Visual Arts Prize with an exhibition at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at PSU and a reception on Nov. 18.

STEINWAY PIANO SERIES

NOV. 4-5

[PDX.EDU/MUSIC-THEATER/STEINWAY-PIANO-SERIES](https://pdx.edu/music-theater/steinway-piano-series)

Acclaimed pianist William Chapman Nyaho joins the School of Music and Theater as the Steinway Piano Series guest artist, with a public recital, a lecture and a masterclass, presenting music from African traditions and composers.

TOMAS COTIK VIOLIN AND PIANO CONCERTS

FEB. 19, 2022, 7 P.M.

[PDX.EDU/MUSIC-THEATER/BEETHOVEN252](https://pdx.edu/music-theater/beethoven252)

In honor of Beethoven's 252nd birthday, join faculty members Tomas Cotik, on violin, and Julia Hwakyu Lee, on piano, as they take to the Lincoln Recital Hall stage to perform two of the master's violin sonatas.

athletics

AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME

Former Viking Ime Udoka named head coach of the Boston Celtics

THE WIDTH of a continent was not enough to hold all the pride felt in the Portland State Athletic Department when basketball alum Ime Udoka (pronounced EE-may you-DOKE-uh) was named the new head coach of the Boston Celtics this summer.

“This is an incredible opportunity and accomplishment for Coach Udoka to be the head coach of such a historic NBA franchise,” said men’s basketball head coach Jase Coburn. “It really gives our student athletes motivation to know that they too can succeed in life after college as a former Portland State student athlete. The opportunities are endless!”

Udoka, a Portland native who starred for the Vikings during the 1999-2000 season, has traveled the world as a player and a coach over the past two decades to achieve his dream of being an NBA head coach—the first ever to come out of the Park Blocks. The only alum with a comparable achievement in the world of sports is PSU Hall of Famer June Jones, head coach of the NFL’s Atlanta Falcons from 1994 to 1996. And though he will be coaching 3,000 miles away, Udoka will no doubt maintain the interest of many on campus.

A graduate of Portland’s Jefferson High School, Udoka played college basketball in Utah and California before he found his way back home to Portland State. He made the most of it, earning All-Big Sky Conference honors and Big Sky Newcomer of the Year for the Vikings in 1999-2000. The 6-foot-6-inch forward averaged 14.5 points, 7.3 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.6 steals that season.

Few expected what came next, or more accurately, six years later, with his hometown Portland Trailblazers. After short stints with the Los Angeles Lakers (four games in 2003-04) and the New York Knicks (eight games in 2005-06), Udoka was given a chance in the Blazer preseason camp before the 2006-07 season.

His first appearance as a Blazer was supposed to be Oct. 17, but that day his father, Vitalis Udoka, died suddenly. (He started a PSU Athletics scholarship in his father’s name for students on the basketball team.) Despite the shock, he took to the court a few days later, showing the spark

that Blazers coach Nate McMillan sought. The solid play continued throughout the pre-season to the point that his teammates lobbied the coaches and front office to keep Udoka on the team as a member of the regular season roster.

But Udoka did more than just “make the team.” He started 75 games for the Portland Trailblazers in 2006-07, averaging 8.4 points and 3.7 rebounds per game. He anchored the small forward position for the season, playing good defense and team-oriented, intelligent basketball, making few mistakes and hitting enough shots to be respected by the opposition.

After that season, Udoka moved on to play for the San Antonio Spurs and also spent time with the Sacramento Kings, playing seven NBA seasons in all. Getting to the NBA included lengthy time in the NBA’s Developmental League and playing overseas. He also competed for Nigeria, his father’s country of birth, in the World Basketball Championships.

Udoka’s quest to become a head coach began immediately after his playing career ended with the Spurs. He served as an assistant under the legendary Gregg Popovich—the coach with the most wins in NBA history—for seven seasons, winning an NBA title in 2013-14. Udoka then moved on to a stint with the



Ime Udoka drives against the Utah Jazz as a member of the Portland Trail Blazers during the 2006-07 season.

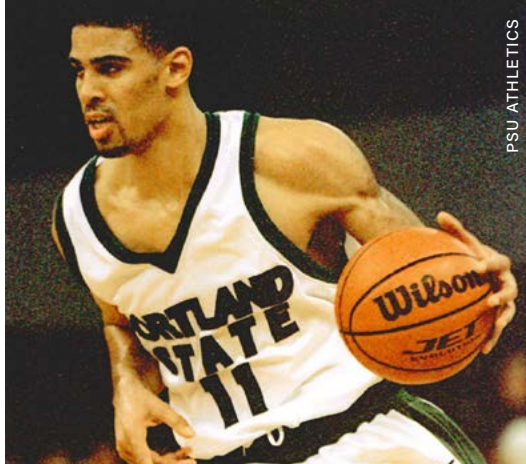
“Udoka’s quest to become a head coach began immediately after his playing career ended with the Spurs.”

Philadelphia 76ers and last season was an assistant with the Brooklyn Nets. Considered a bright young mind in professional coaching, Udoka was often mentioned—and occasionally interviewed—when head coach openings came up in recent years.

This summer, his chance finally came. Udoka was hired not just to be an NBA head coach, but to be the head coach of the most storied organization in NBA history. Winners of 17 NBA titles, the Celtics chose Udoka to help them pursue number 18.

“It’s an honor to be a part of the historic Celtics franchise,” Udoka said in a press release. “I look forward to getting started right away.”

“Among the many outstanding qualities that Ime brings to the table are his integrity, humility and competitiveness,” Celtics general manager Brad Stevens stated. “He has a relentless work ethic and a vast array of experiences



PSU ATHLETICS



BOSTON CELTICS

as a player and coach. He’s a leader that is warm and demanding, and we are so excited that he has chosen to join us in pursuit of Banner 18.”

“I did talk to a lot of people—some publicized, and many others that weren’t,” Stevens added. “Ultimately, it’s an amazing group of talented coaches, whether they’ve been head coaches before or haven’t got their shot yet in the NBA. To separate yourself amongst all of them is difficult, but Ime did that.”

Udoka will now have the opportunity to coach the Celtics’ uber-talented team, including Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Marcus Smart and others.

“The sky is the limit,” Udoka said of his young stars. “The fact that you are not All-NBA should be a chip on your shoulder. My message to them would be, ‘Why, wait?’ The talent is there. The work ethic is there...go out and take it now.”

—MIKE LUND

As a Viking, Ime Udoka was Big Sky Conference Newcomer of the Year in 1999-2000 (top). This summer, he addressed the media after being named the Boston Celtics’ new head coach (bottom).



MIGHTY VIKS

compiled by Mike Lund

BIG SKY CHAMPS

Portland State’s softball team won the 2021 Big Sky title to advance to the NCAA Tournament. Since 2006, the Vikings have won the Big Sky Conference Championships six times.

6

SEMISESQUICENTENNIAL SEASON

Portland State football jumps into its 75th season of competition this fall. The school’s original Vanport team played its first official football game against Pacific University in 1947 (losing 48-0).

75

DEFENSIVE STAR

Junior defensive back Anthony Adams was named first team All-American by four national media outlets after the Vikings’ last complete football season (2019). Before this season, HERO Sports named him the top returning defensive back in the nation at the NCAA I FCS level.

1st

TOUGH TRAIL RUNNER

Camelia Mayfield ’14 MSW ’19 placed 8th in the 2021 Western States Endurance Run, the renowned 100.2-mile trail race that tests long-distance runners through grueling peaks and valleys of California’s Sierra Nevada mountain range. Mayfield has placed among the top 10 women for the last three years.

8th

SPORTS ARE BACK!

Cheer on PSU’s volleyball or basketball teams at Viking Pavilion this fall or catch the last home football game of the season on Nov. 20 at Hillsboro Stadium. See schedules and buy tickets at goviks.com. This year, games will also be streamed through ESPN+.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

A CAMPAIGN TO LET KNOWLEDGE SERVE

In 2018 Portland State University publicly announced its first major fundraising campaign, a \$300 million initiative named for the university's iconic motto, *Let Knowledge Serve the City*. Thanks to donors, alumni and friends, PSU exceeded its goal this fall.

Since the campaign's launch, much has changed—but PSU's enduring mission remains vital. For 75 years, Oregon's only public urban access university has been serving students with chances to do more and be more.

Engaging our city's deepest challenges and aspirations. Supporting faculty whose expertise sparks new knowledge. Connecting learning to the vibrancy of our city. Building tomorrow's workforce and powering our region's bright future.

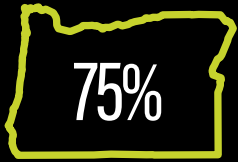
Thank you for the steadfast support that has brought PSU to this milestone moment. It's time to look ahead to our next 75 years—and to celebrate the remarkable opportunities made possible by philanthropy.

CAMPAIGN FOR PSU BY THE NUMBERS

\$306M
RAISED

77,456
TOTAL GIFTS

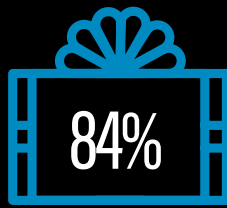
23,098
TOTAL DONORS



DONORS FROM
OR & SW WA



ENDOWMENT
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GIFTS LESS
THAN \$1,000

KEY AREAS DONORS SUPPORTED



SCHOLARSHIPS



FACULTY



CAMPUS FACILITIES



EMERGENCY FUNDS



PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



BUILDINGS
CONSTRUCTED OR
RENOVATED



SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED



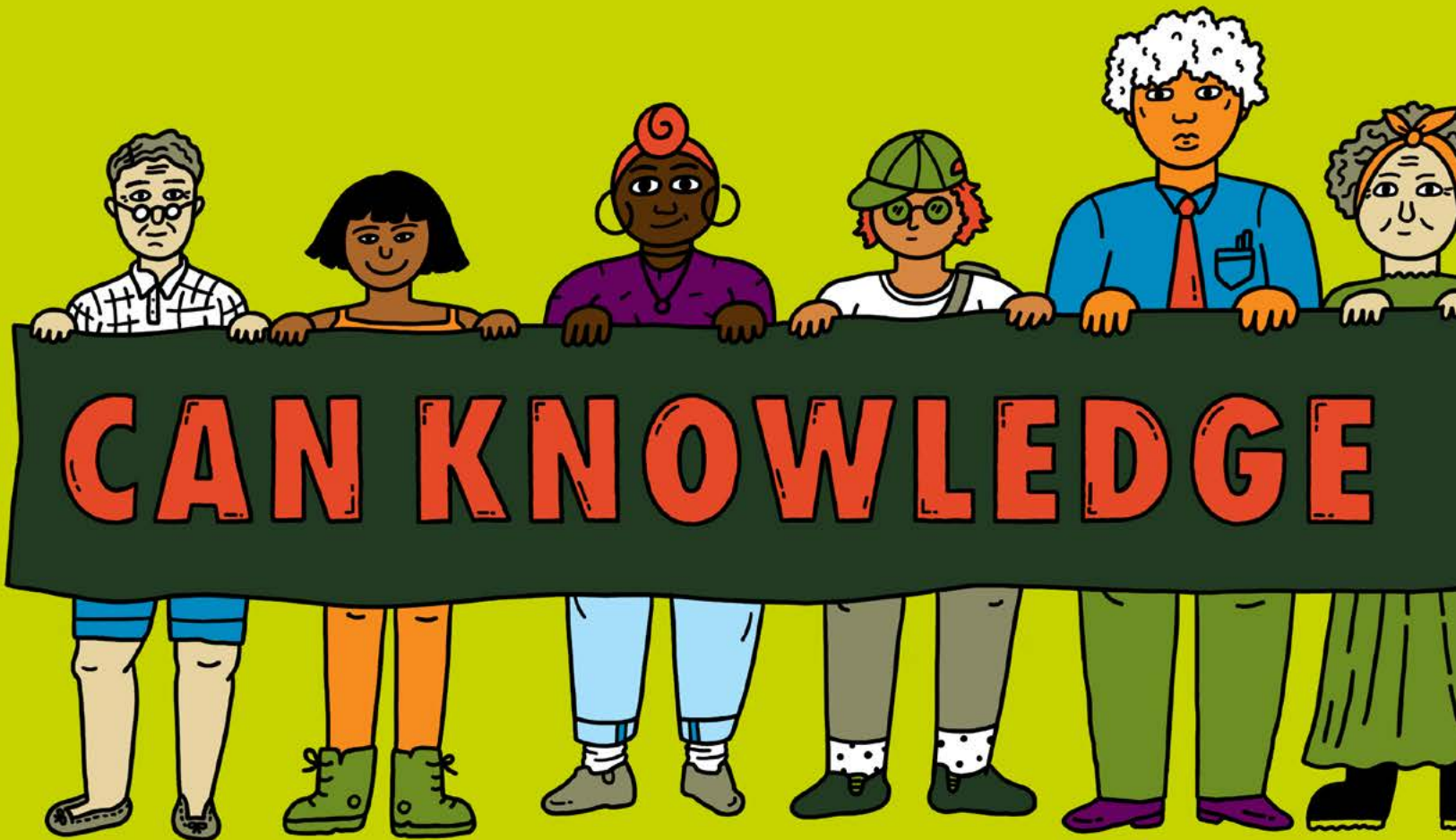
PROFESSORSHIPS
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**THANK
YOU**

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
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PSU
Foundation
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY



How PSU is leading Portland's comeback from COVID-19



WRITTEN BY CLIFF COLLINS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY HYESU LEE

If Portland State University volunteers have anything to say about it, Portland will soon return to being the city that works.

Since the COVID-19 crisis began in March 2020, PSU faculty, students and alumni have been working to tackle the city's biggest issues, including trash, the housing and homelessness crisis, community safety and struggling businesses.

When the pandemic struck, lockdowns and safety restrictions emptied the usually bustling downtown. According to a study by the Portland Business Alliance, for every five people walking downtown in December 2019, there was only one in December 2020—an 82% drop. The question quickly became how to get them back.



Cleaning up the city

As COVID-19 restrictions started, most of the city's clearing of illegal dump sites and roadside litter stopped. The result was trash. *A lot* of trash.

In a May survey sponsored by The Oregonian, respondents named a cleaner downtown as one of their top priorities for making the city more appealing, notes Kris Carico '97, CEO of SOLVE. Carico is co-chair of Mayor Ted Wheeler's Clean & Green Action Table, one of five committees Wheeler convened this spring to address problems facing the city. Cleanliness ranked higher at 70% than less crime (67%), restaurants, bars and theaters reopening (61%) and fewer protests (55%).

Responding to that need, the 50-member coalition led by Carico holds monthly events to support cleanup efforts aimed at improving Portland's livability. These are focused on picking up litter, hauling away illegal dumping, cleaning streets, and removing graffiti, human waste and abandoned cars. A staff member and about 30 SOLVE volunteers attend each cleanup, she says. Usually the organization attracts 30,000 volunteers annually to cleanup events but has gained even more in 2021.

"This year, the number of volunteers has gone up noticeably," she says. A few reasons: "People feel compelled to help because of the conditions the city has experienced over the last year; being able to do the work outdoors makes volunteers feel safer; and there is a tangible effect—you

can see the results." You can weigh them, too. At a downtown cleanup in September, SOLVE volunteers collected more than 2,240 pounds of garbage. At another on North Greeley Avenue, they collected 3 tons.

"I'm a native Oregonian, and it makes me proud to be part of a community that wants to be part of this," Carico says.

Sharona Shnyder '20 also has played a role in the monumental task of removing garbage from the streets. She is co-founder and CEO of Tuesdays for Trash, a grassroots effort turned worldwide movement that's now on every continent except Antarctica.

Stuck at home during lockdowns in May 2020, Shnyder and fellow student Wanda McNealy decided to turn frustration into action by picking up trash on Tuesdays, first on the Park Blocks and soon across the city.

Spreading the word via Instagram, they encouraged others to get involved and turned Tuesdays for Trash into an LLC.

"Tuesdays for Trash contributed to helping Portland make a comeback by revitalizing community in the city," says Shnyder, who has relocated to Israel and works for an environmental organization while continuing to lead the

"Keeping Portland clean means bringing back the original Portland I grew up with and cherish."



Kris Carico '97, chief executive officer of SOLVE, at a downtown cleanup organized by her nonprofit this September.



Frustrated by being stuck at home during 2020's lockdowns, students Sharona Shnyder (left) and Wanda McNealy (right) began picking up litter on the Park Blocks and turned their Tuesday cleanups into a global Instagram movement.

group. "Picking up trash with the movement not only benefits our environment but also the wildlife, people and businesses in the area." For her personally, "Keeping Portland clean means bringing back the original Portland I grew up with and cherish."

Shnyder's group also has collaborated with Dirtbag Runners, a community of trail runners founded by Crista Scott Tappan. Shnyder and Tappan first met at Portland State's School of Business, where Tappan is an instructor and content marketing manager and Shnyder was an accounting major. Tappan suggested a partnership with Tuesdays for Trash because she was inspired by Shnyder's dedication to improving the world. The two organizations share similar missions of environmental activism, community engagement and fundraising, Tappan says.

Together, they've completed two successful cleanups, with a third planned. One, at Laurelhurst Park, "was a community-centered event in Portland as part of our last Run for the Planet to get participants connected in the area," Tappan says. "Our organizations really mesh well together because they're both about getting people who are passionate and active in their areas to raise their voices and dedicate time to care for the environment around them."

Building safe and secure housing

Students and faculty members in the School of Architecture's Center for Public Interest Design drew on the center's long experience in applying design to social needs to answer the call when the pandemic underscored the urgency of supporting individuals experiencing homelessness.

The center previously had brought architecture and design services together with stakeholders to bring to fruition several tiny house—or pod—villages, a model pioneered by the houseless community, says

Todd Ferry, associate director and senior research associate at the center. The model combines the security and dignity of being able to have a safe place of one's own with a supportive community structure. During the pandemic, a new, 19-unit village opened in St. Johns using a pod design developed in one of Ferry's architecture studios with input from villagers. Units at the Kenton Women's Village and Clackamas County Veterans Village employ the same design.

Designing elements such as pods and seeing their impact in the real world has been "a transformative experience for students," Ferry says.

The work on villages and pods has also informed other center projects pursued during the pandemic to support the people living without shelter: Recent student projects include structures for the Hygiene4All hub under the Morrison Bridge, led by Lisa Patterson MArch '18; the design of a self-care station called The Groom Room where people can attend to personal needs; and a collaboration with the Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative to share stories of the houseless experience during the 2020 Oregon wildfires through a mobile exhibit and engagement station.

Interest in alternative shelter models is growing nationally, Ferry says. "A lot of people are looking at Portland" both for guidance on highly technical aspects of building pods and villages, and for how they and other emerging models can foster "community cultures."

One alum has taken a different approach to Portland's housing challenges. Recognizing that communities of color have been disproportionately affected, both medically and economically, by the pandemic inspired Randal Wyatt '21 to found Taking Ownership PDX.

"I would love to have a hand in creating Black homeowners."

He launched the organization last year to help African Americans resist being displaced by gentrification.

“We fix up homes free of charge so they can keep their homes,” says Wyatt, a longtime community activist and hip-hop artist. Support for the idea “snowballed, much faster than I could have imagined,” he says. Taking Ownership PDX raised \$100,000 in one month during August 2020, and “since then, over \$400,000. We’ve helped over 40 families with roof replacements, window upgrades, yard work” and more. Donors and supporters have included real estate agents and developers.

“We have over 100 people on our waiting list,” Wyatt says. “I’m meeting with other communities about the model I’ve used. I would love to have a hand in creating Black homeowners.” It’s been a wild ride, he says, and something he’s amazed he might be able to do for a living.

Helping businesses bounce back

When stay-at-home orders hit in spring 2020, shuttered businesses suffered, and the alumni-powered Portland Business Support Project sprang into action to help them stay afloat. Over a 26-week period, volunteers devoted more than 1,900 hours to 40 projects helping small businesses, says Jennifer Greenberg MBA ’19. Greenberg, who is also an adjunct faculty member at PSU’s School of Business, was part of the core group that spearheaded the emergency effort. Each business received help from a designated team of experts to solve problems after the shutdown.

Many faced issues small businesses regularly struggle with, Greenberg says. The pandemic made clear that a lot weren’t data driven. At PSU’s Portland MBA program, she says,

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SPEND A LITTLE TIME EVERY WEEK
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FIND INSPIRATION ON INSTAGRAM
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DONATE TIME, MONEY OR MATERIALS
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KEY: 📍 IN PORTLAND 🌿 IN OREGON 📍 WHEREVER YOU ARE



Randal Wyatt '21 started Taking Ownership PDX as a student. The organization does repairs like roof replacements and yard work free of charge to help Black community members keep their homes and resist being displaced by gentrification.

MELISSA BABASIN

Bringing joy back to downtown

After a tumultuous year, Portland officially kicked off “the post-pandemic era” with a Pink Martini concert in Pioneer Courthouse Square this summer. While the delta variant soon made clear that the optimism was a bit premature, there’s no doubt downtown streets have started to pulse with music, art and life once again.



(Clockwise from top left.) Dozens of entrepreneurs, makers, artists, culinary wizards and beverage crafters gathered to sell their goods at My People’s Market in the Park Blocks. Snowcones sweetened the start of the four-week Summer Bridge Scholars Program at a celebration for participating students and their families. Darrell Grant, music faculty, played at one of a series of “Soul Restoration Project” performances he organized to “renew and re-consecrate our civic space.” Student artists and volunteers painted street art to brighten a PSU pedestrian plaza. Rain couldn’t dampen the spirits of Vikings who came out for doughnuts, games, a silent disco and live music in the Urban Plaza on the first day of classes. (Photos by Patric Simon; Darrell Grant photo by Shawnte Sims.)

students learn to think analytically about business, while considering issues around equity and sustainability. “As a group of MBA professionals, we said, ‘Let’s look at data and the market and see what’s possible.’”

The School of Business is “at the forefront” of generating and maintaining relationships with the Portland business community, and participants in the project were able to hone their own consulting skills while meeting an immediate need. “We think it’s a nice benefit to the school alumni and local businesses,” Greenberg says.

Current students have also helped with the effort. The Rose City Downtown Collective, a group dedicated to supporting downtown businesses, approached PSU for marketing advice. Their request became a project for 51 students of Jacob Suher, marketing faculty, who volunteered to form 10 teams to create marketing plans for seven downtown Portland businesses. Each team prepared a video presentation and a written marketing plan to guide companies’ strategies.

A key element of that was enhancing their ability to employ social media. That’s where tech-savvy students such as Idee Contreras Itenhua could offer especially valuable advice. She says she learned that “a lot of these businesses are needing tons of help understanding social media in connection to their business. Either they lack social media presence or are completely lost trying to navigate through.”

This fall, Suher’s teams will lend a hand again, and they’re expecting to help up to 12 additional enterprises.

Making the streets safer

Portland State also is helping create positive solutions to overlapping problems such as those related to shelter and safety. For example, PSU’s Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative has been working with several community partners to help develop and evaluate a new public safety program that provides an alternative to armed police.

The group surveyed people experiencing homelessness to understand their needs, concerns and preferences for a safe and effective response.

The results informed a city pilot program called Portland Street Response, which sends a firefighter paramedic, mental health crisis clinician and two community health workers to non-violent 911 calls involving mental health, substance use or people experiencing homelessness.

“Not only will the program help reduce the criminalization of homelessness and mental illness, but it will also help connect people to services, housing and other support they need to address the complex traumas they’ve experienced,” said Greg Townley, research director at Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative and the lead researcher for the survey and evaluation. “At a time when cities across the country are rethinking how public safety efforts are structured and funded, Portland Street Response can help lead the way for what a new public safety system can look like.”

“Portland Street Response can help lead the way for what a new public safety system can look like.”

Preparing for next time

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us all a lot—how to be flexible, how to work remotely, how to situate a webcam just right so the kids playing in the other room are out of view. But perhaps the most important lesson we've learned from these unprecedented times is that as a country, we were unprepared for this kind of large-scale disaster. Portland State researchers are investigating how to do better next time.

With funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute for Transportation and Communities, Kelly Clifton is looking at how people in Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington have dealt with provisioning during COVID-19, research triggered by the dramatic shifts in shopping seen at the beginning of the pandemic.

"There was the initial crisis that was really about supply chain shortages," says Clifton, civil and environmental engineering faculty and interim associate vice president for Research and Graduate Studies. "Grocery stores were running out of hand sanitizer and toilet paper, dried beans, all of those things, because people were hoarding."

Since April 2020, she and her team have surveyed people about their shopping habits—including whether they shop online or if others help them—to examine how new technologies have affected provisioning and to identify the most common barriers faced by

vulnerable groups like the elderly. Since each of the included states approached pandemic restrictions in different ways, the researcher have also had an interesting view of how provisioning differs depending on the level of lockdown.

John MacArthur, Sustainable Transportation Program manager, is working on a National Science Foundation rapid grant to see how COVID-19 has impacted people's travel behavior in Portland and Nashville, Tennessee, especially their use of public transit and micro-mobility vehicles like bike and scooter shares. The goal is to create models that help predict how city transit systems recover from future public health crises.

Most people who had the option switched from public transit to private transportation. (According to Portland's Trimet, weekly average rides on public transit this August were less than half the average of February 2020.) It's not clear whether they'll return. For instance, over the years, PSU's Transportation and Parking Services strived to shift people from driving to using public transportation. "Will they go back to using the bus?" MacArthur wonders. "Will they start using a car? Or, will they pick up a bike and start biking?"

One finding both Clifton and MacArthur have noticed is that the pandemic highlighted class and income disparities. Some people simply don't have the means to avoid disease exposures by shopping online or traveling by car. "In planning for the next pandemic," MacArthur says, "it's always this group we need to be focused on the most." —JENNIFER LADWIG MS '21



For now, the program is limited to Portland's Lents neighborhood and surrounding areas with plans to scale up citywide in 2022.

Restoring people's confidence that it is safe to return to downtown will take time, and presents a knotty dilemma, points out Kris Henning, criminology and criminal justice faculty. On the one hand, feelings of safety will be enhanced when more people visit or go back to work or school; but "that requires that people feel safe," he says.

The reopening of PSU should be beneficial, because it means roughly 20,000 more people "will be downtown for legitimate, positive purposes. The more of that we have, the closer we will get to the point where people feel safe."

Clifford Allen, dean of The School of Business, agrees. "When people see each other, that tends to make people feel more comfortable," he says.

Allen serves on the mayor's Business Success & Job Creation Action Table and worked with other members on a creative strategy to engage students as they return to downtown and help local businesses at the same time.

The group used a Portland-based payment app called Kuto to put \$30,000 of federal relief funds into the pockets of 600 students specifically so they could spend the money at downtown businesses. The partnership has even grown to include a program where 30 students will get paid internships helping businesses that have suffered pandemic losses.

As Allen notes, downtown still has a lot to overcome, but if knowledge truly can save the city, Portland State is leading the way to make its comeback a success.



Members of the unarmed Portland Street Response team respond to an emergency call at an encampment in the Lents neighborhood. PSU's Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative contributed to the development of this new public safety pilot program.



Richard Pimentel HD '08 in Nampa, Idaho.



Photos by Jim Lommasson '72
Stories as told to Suzanne Pardington Effros &
Katy Swordfisk

To understand Portland State, you should know this: It was built by and for soldiers returning from war. They were our first students and teachers. And 75 years later, they remain an important part of the University.

Our emphasis on service, embrace of nontraditional students and spirit of innovation all started with the World War II veterans who created PSU from nothing but makeshift classrooms and a desire to serve their community. They were mostly older, often had families, and saw PSU as a “people’s college,” giving “all those who want it the kind of training they want as cheaply and conveniently as possible.”

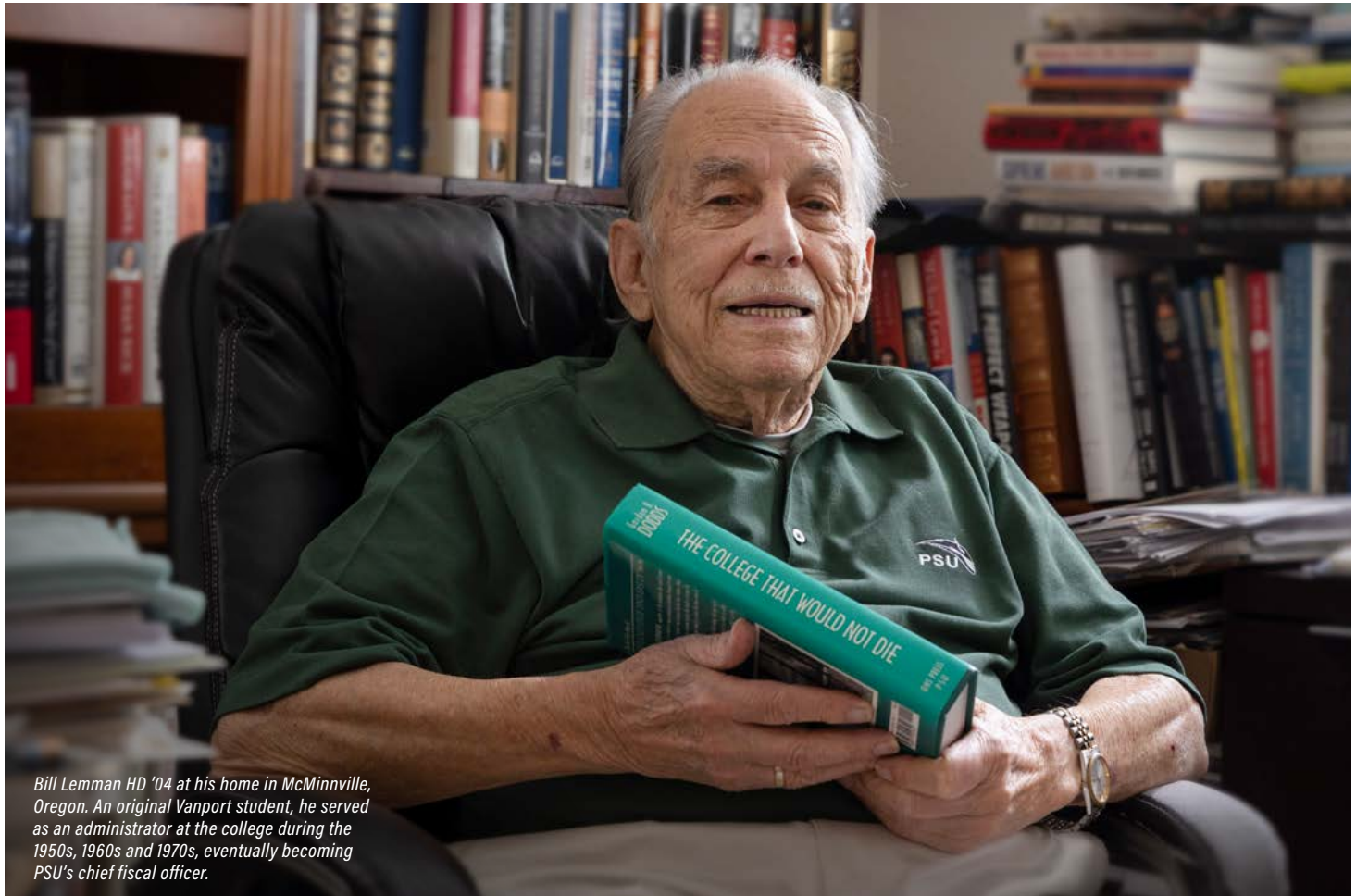
Hundreds of veterans continue to enroll at PSU each year and though it hasn’t always been easy, they’ve been as resourceful as those first World War II vets in finding ways to support one another. This fall, the Veterans Resource Center—a national model for student support conceived at PSU—moves into expanded offices in Smith Memorial Student Center.

To mark this anniversary year, we asked six alumni and faculty veterans to share their experiences for the University’s oral history project and have their portraits taken by award-winning photographer Jim Lommasson '72. We hope their stories provide new perspectives on our shared history.

Once a

WARRIOR

PORTRAITS OF PSU VETERANS



Bill Lemman HD '04 at his home in McMinnville, Oregon. An original Vanport student, he served as an administrator at the college during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, eventually becoming PSU's chief fiscal officer.

Bill Lemman

U.S. MARINE CORPS, 1943-1946

I joined the Marines three weeks after my 18th birthday in 1943 and served in the Pacific. When I came back, I enrolled in the Vanport Extension Center—which later became PSU—soon after it opened in 1946. I moved in with my parents in Southeast Portland and bought a 1933 Ford Model A sedan for the commute. My dad wouldn't ride in it, because he didn't want to be seen in my old, rickety car.

The extension center was created for returning veterans like me in Vanport, a city built for wartime shipyard workers on the Columbia River. I went there because it was the easiest option. It had the business administration classes I wanted, and I didn't have to move to Corvallis or Eugene.

Our classes were in a group of converted buildings, sometimes blocks

apart. Many students and faculty members lived in the former shipyard housing with their families. We formed clubs and started co-op stores. It was easy to make friends. Many faculty members also were veterans, and they were just a few years older than we were. So 26-year-old faculty members were teaching 21-year-old students.

The day the dike broke and Vanport flooded, I drove to the edge of the water on Denver Avenue. Some people had time to drive out in cars; others had to wade through the flood water.

For the next few days, we helped people whose homes had been wiped out to find food, clothing and shelter.

I remember seeing my literature professor out in the street looking through tables of clothing trying to find something to wear, because her home

had washed away. There was also an administrator who left his unfinished doctoral dissertation on the second floor of his apartment when he fled with his wife, so he rowed back in a boat and climbed through a second-story window to rescue it.

I finished my bachelor's degree at the University of Oregon and then returned to Vanport to be the assistant business manager. My former teachers became fast friends.

I continued to work in higher education in Oregon for 41 years. After the surge of World War II veterans subsided, some people wanted to close Vanport. But we worked very hard to keep it open and help it grow into a full university.

Now PSU is 75, and I'm 96. I'm blessed to still be here.

Paul De Muniz

U.S. AIR FORCE, 1966-1970

I did not view the Vietnam War as a looming danger when I registered for the draft in 1966 at age 18. I saw the Air Force as a good way to get career training.

At my first duty station in Maine, I worked in a supply warehouse, taught ski lessons on the weekends, and took my first college classes at the University of Maine. It was a positive experience. Then my base closed, and I got orders to go to Vietnam.

I was 20 and running a civil engineering supply point at a remote air base with millions of dollars of supplies. I worked with a team of six to eight Vietnamese men for my yearlong tour. When I left, they gave me two brass vases made out of spent shells and a card that I still have. Then they took a hold of my legs and wept.

“ You learn in the military to practice and prepare, so that you don’t get confused when it all starts to go bad. ”

I came back to Portland in 1970. I lived in an apartment on the east side, took classes at PSU in the morning, and unloaded freight on Swan Island at night. I didn’t participate in any war protests. I wasn’t hostile to anyone. I knew there were serious problems with what we were doing in Vietnam.

I was not one of those people who always knew I wanted to be a lawyer. I started working at 16 to help my mother pay the mortgage. No one in my family had gone to college, and I wasn’t about to get any academic scholarships with my high school grades.

But I kept my head down at PSU, then went to law school, became a lawyer and an appellate judge. As I look back, the things I learned in the military really helped guide me through my career. For me, it was a life-shaping experience, although I did not understand it at the time.

You learn in the military to practice and prepare, so that you don’t get confused when it all starts to go bad. Trial work is like that. Prepare. Prepare. Prepare. So when you’re in the courtroom, you know what you’re going to do. You’re not making it up.

Looking back, Vietnam seems so unsettling and dangerous. I am proud of my service, and I have a great admiration for those who have served.

Paul De Muniz '72 with his portrait in the Oregon Supreme Court Building in Salem. He served as Oregon's first Hispanic chief justice from 2006-12.



Richard Pimentel

U.S. ARMY, 1967-1969

I'm a Portland boy. I wanted to study speech at PSU, but I simply couldn't afford it. So I volunteered for the draft instead. I took my chances in what we called the 'Go to Vietnam and if you live, you can go to college' lottery.

In Vietnam, a rocket hit my bunker. The explosion damaged my hearing and gave me a traumatic brain injury. I had to learn to talk again. I had to learn to walk again. But I was lucky to come back. The VA told me I couldn't become a professional speaker, because I was deaf and it would affect my speech—and no one would want to listen to me.

So I talked with Ben Padrow, a PSU speech professor. He looked at me and said, 'Who told you that? Don't believe it. We can do this.' He was one of the more powerful, influential people in my life—and one of the nicest.

It was 1969 and the perfect time for me to be at Portland State. There was a lot of energy around war protests and other social movements on campus.

We veterans got together a lot, but we didn't wear our fatigues or medals. I dressed like a hippie like everyone else. And we didn't talk about our experiences, except with each other.

“ We figured out that ultimately, people's opinions of the war become the opinions they have of the warrior. ”

It wasn't just the war protestors who had a problem with us. We tried to join the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but they didn't want us either. We figured out that ultimately, people's opinions of the war become the opinions they have of the warrior. If you are fighting a popular war, you'll come home to parades. If you're fighting an unpopular war, you'll come home to demonstrations. Some

of us could live with that, because we didn't much like the war either.

My friend Art Honeyman, a fellow PSU student who had cerebral palsy, was a fierce advocate for all sorts of causes. He was beyond a force of nature, and he inspired me to start helping student veterans with disabilities find jobs. Eventually, I turned it into a profession, creating training programs to help employers rethink disability issues—not to assume someone can't do something, but to ask how they can do it.

I would tell employers, 'You may think I'm here to change your mind about people with disabilities, but I'm not. I'm here to change your mind about yourself. To give you confidence in your ability to do what's necessary to hire and work with people with disabilities.'

People sometimes say I gave a voice to the voiceless. I did not. We've always had a voice, but we were in a soundproof room. I just opened the door so everyone could listen.



Richard Pimentel HD '08 with his wife and children in Nampa, Idaho. The 2007 movie Music Within, shot in part on the PSU campus, tells the story of how he became a disability rights advocate after returning from Vietnam.



G.L.A. Harris, former public administration faculty, taught at PSU for 17 years and was instrumental in the creation of PSU's Veterans Resource Center.

G.L.A. Harris

U.S. AIR FORCE AND U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE

Soon after I started teaching at PSU in 2004, I noticed the veterans were not participating in class. Many individuals at the time were returning from either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and didn't feel that the civilian world would understand what they were going through.

A chance encounter with the then-dean of the School of Extended Studies Mike Burton led from one thing to another and we decided we needed to do something about the situation. We started meeting with a third veteran off campus and eventually formed a veterans task force.

At the time, despite PSU's founding, the campus climate was one of hostility toward the U.S. military. And, even

though my students knew that my area of research included the military, I never disclosed that I had both served on active duty and was, at that time, still serving in the reserves.

I conceived of the idea that we should study these veterans' needs during their academic pursuits at the university. We collectively learned what we had anecdotally surmised all along—that student veterans indeed felt estranged. Yes, they were attending the university as students, but they didn't feel connected to the university as a community.

We convinced the State Legislature to give us the seed money to do a pilot for one year for what we then called the Student Veterans Service Office.

Given the success of this project, Gov. Ted Kulongoski—a veteran himself—

helped push House Bill 2178, which said any higher education institution within the Oregon university system that received funds from the state had to create a student veterans service office.

The federal government got wind of what we were doing at PSU. General Eric Shinseki, who was the head of the USVA [United States Department of Veterans Affairs], visited in 2009 to give us accolades. A few years later, the Student Veterans Service Office was renamed the Veterans Resource Center.

What was created at PSU, based on my research, was used as a model for creating veterans resource centers around the country. Little did we know that something this small could have resulted in such a phenomenal thing for the benefit of so many.



Jose E. Coll

U.S. MARINE CORPS 1996-2001

My parents and I were born in Cuba and immigrated to the U.S. in 1980 during the Mariel boatlift. As our boat reached the shores of Key West, the first image that I have is the American flag and that of a Marine. I was 8 years old, and to me he was this enormous African American Marine with a rifle. Growing up in Cuba, the propaganda was that the U.S. was always going to come in and invade. As this little kid seeing this Marine, I got scared. But I remember my dad saying, ‘These are the good guys now.’

When I made the decision to join the service, I easily gravitated to the Corps. This was my opportunity to serve a nation that provided so much to my family and immigrants historically.

After serving honorably for four years, a combat training incident—which fractured my back—prohibited me from re-enlisting. I started taking courses at Palomar Community College on base while going through physical rehabilitation.

“ This was my opportunity to serve a nation that provided so much to my family and immigrants historically. ”

I had this remarkable anthropology professor and Indigenous scholar named Dr. Featherstone. They were able to shed a light on so many things that are happening to our communities of color and Indigenous communities. Up to that moment, I had never been able to articulate the systemic challenges that exist and that I had experienced.

I decided I wanted to be an anthropologist, but the VA said there’s no jobs. I go back and say, ‘OK, I’ll study political science.’ They said, ‘Sorry, no jobs.’ So I threw my hands up in the air—‘I just need a job. I’ve got a family and will be discharged in six months. What have you got?’ They literally said, ‘Obviously you’re a person of service. Why don’t you become a social worker?’

I remember taking home this book called *101 Careers in Social Work* and going through it. Everything Dr. Featherstone talked about, I felt I could do with a degree in social work. So I decided then this would be my path and career.

A lot of our veterans are similar to me in that they find social work to be the perfect profession. Portland State University has a long and rich tradition of serving student veterans and as dean, I take pride in continuing this legacy of serving those who have served.

Jose E. Coll, dean of the School of Social Work and interim dean of the College of Education, is known nationally for his research on counseling veterans and their families.



I wanted to be a Marine because I wanted to do something that most men are afraid to do and prove that I could do it. Marines are honorable, they're dependable, they're loyal, they're courageous. I wanted to be all of those things. And their uniform. They have the best uniform of all the branches, you gotta admit, if you see a Marine you're like, 'Damn, they look good.'

Serving as a queer person was fine at first. You know they can tell and they didn't care. But then a female Marine outed me. I started getting threatening phone calls to my barracks. I was told 'Don't do things that might be seen as gay.' Just my very existence is gay.

I went for a run on the beach and I got attacked from behind by three guys who sexually assaulted me and left me there. I crawled back to my barracks and then spent a couple of weeks in the hospital. The higher ups were like, 'We're going to

keep this in house so that we can make sure you're taken care of.'

Nothing changed. They gave me a bottle of antidepressants. But the phone calls didn't stop. I had to live across the street from where it happened.

I eventually got deployed to Afghanistan and actually welcomed the distraction because it got me off the base. But at the same time, I didn't know if any of the guys that were with me were the ones that attacked me.

I left the military not sure if I was going to be proud of being a Marine anymore. When I got to PSU, I didn't plan to go into the Veterans Resource Center, I didn't plan on hanging out with veterans and I didn't plan on talking to people about the fact that I was a veteran. But this big dude said, 'You're with your family' and carried me to the VRC. (I was like 'Put down the lesbian!') He told me he suffered from

military sexual trauma. The fact that he shared that with me, so openly, it just instantly started my healing in a way that no counselor could. My service dog, Daily, named because she saves my life on the daily, also helped improve my life. Before her, I slept on the couch with a knife under my pillow.

Because of the healing I felt from the veterans at school, I started wanting to help other veterans. Before I knew it, I'm in the School of Social Work and doing an internship as a veteran caseworker in Senator Wyden's office. I continue that work to this day. The school gave me back my identity that I thought had been taken from me and that I thought I would never want back. I am a Marine.

If you or someone you know needs help, call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-4673 or the Military Crisis Hotline at 800-273-8255.

India Wynne

U.S. MARINE CORPS 2000-2005



Recent graduate India Wynne MSW '21 with service dog Daily. Wynne serves as Fellow Veteran Case Worker in the office of U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.

Alumni Life

IMPORTANT WORK

Mitchell S. Jackson talks about his Pulitzer win and PSU's pivotal role in his journey

WRITER AND PROFESSOR Mitchell S. Jackson '99 MA '02 was awarded the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Feature Writing for his article "Twelve Minutes and a Life." The article, published in *Runner's World*, looks at the life of Ahmaud "Maud" Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man who was shot and killed while jogging in Georgia.

The piece, described by the Pulitzer Prize jury as "a deeply affecting account of the killing of Ahmaud Arbery that combined vivid writing, thorough reporting and personal experience to shed light on systemic racism in America," features honest, tear-jerking anecdotes from Arbery's family and friends, mixed with an account of the 12 minutes leading up to his murder on Feb. 23, 2020.

Jackson says receiving the Pulitzer was surreal, but what made it all the more meaningful was the life he was honoring with his work. "I don't want to just write," he says. "I'm not writing for entertainment. If someone happens to be entertained, that's fine, but to me, it's [about] what kind of important work are you doing?"

While researching the article, Jackson was impressed by how generous and forthcoming the people in Arbery's life were. Their honesty allowed him to find not only Arbery's heart, but the core of the issue at hand.

"One thing I really tried to do with Ahmaud's people was to let them know my intentions, and what I did not intend," Jackson says. "I'm not out here trying to sensationalize your friend or your brother or your son. I am trying to understand who he was."

Much of Jackson's writing aims to shed light on the Black experience, and he encourages everyone to take the time to learn what's going on in their own backyard, not just what's being talked about in the news.

While the streets of Portland rightfully filled with protestors after George Floyd's death, Jackson notes, shootings continued without notice in "The Numbers," neighborhoods east of Portland's 82nd Avenue where many former residents of the historically Black Albina District now live.

"I've had two or three friends that have had kids killed," he says. "So I hope protestors also direct [that same kind of energy] at what's happening here, because those people out in the Numbers getting shot and shooting people are the same people that were displaced from Northeast. It's part and parcel with what's happening,



and part of the national conversation about police violence.”

Jackson grew up seeing a side of Portland that’s often overlooked. But the city, he says, is more than lumberjack beards and naked bike rides. “That is part of Portland but it’s not all of Portland,” he says. “And though we are a really small part of the population here, I think the Black community at large has an outsized influence on the culture, for good or for bad.”

He draws many parallels between his life and Arbery’s in his article. Both were high school athletes hoping to make it pro. Both lost their sports dreams and were trying to figure out where life was taking them. Both had run-ins with the law.

Jackson, however, was able to make the transition from sports to academics because of an Underrepresented Minority Achievement Scholarship he received to attend Portland State.

“Luckily, I had an institution and I was a good enough student to stick in school,” Jackson says. “Who knows what would have happened if [Arbery] had an opportunity like I did to stay in the university.”

Jackson, who started dealing drugs as a student at Jefferson High School, was arrested and sentenced to 16 months in prison during his junior year in college.

During that time, he sat down to write his life story, leaving with 60 pages on loose-leaf paper. “Without PSU holding my [scholarship], it’s safe to say I might be dead or back in prison,” he says. “That was a defining moment in my life.”

Portland State provided a lifeline, both by protecting his scholarship and by offering him an example of another way to live. “To walk the Park Blocks and to

see people, students, going in and out of Smith, going in and out of Neuberger,” he says. “To have that as a reprieve when there were some days that I was coming to school and I got robbed the night before. It was like a world that let me get away from the world that was really damaging me and the people that I knew.”

After completing his degree, Jackson went on to participate in the early years of Portland State’s graduate writing program, where English faculty members Diana Abu-Jaber and Michael McGregor helped guide him to his life as a writer. Those 60 pages he wrote in prison resurfaced to be used in his graduate school application.

“I’ll never forget, [Abu-Jaber] called me and said that I got in, and I hadn’t even finished the complete application yet,” Jackson says. “It was really serendipitous.”

Abu-Jaber, who was his thesis advisor, saw Jackson’s promise immediately. “Right from the outset, Mitchell’s voice was all his own—brilliant, audacious, smashing rules in all the best ways,” she says. “His spirit leaps off the page. I was so excited when I read his work and just knew he was going to skyrocket.”

Jackson went on to complete his master’s degree at PSU and a master’s in fine arts at New York University. He has since published two books, *The Residue Years*, a novel, and *Survival Math: Notes from an All-American Family*, a memoir, each receiving national recognition. A third is in the works. And it was Jackson’s time with PSU which started it all.

“It was that phone call from Diana Abu-Jaber [that changed everything],” he says. “It was her opening the door to a new life.”—JENNIFER LADWIG MS ’21

HIGHLIGHTS



EDIS JURCYCS

Brett Bigham MS '02 received an honorary doctoral degree in humane letters from Portland State this spring in recognition of distinguished public service. The 2014 Oregon Teacher of the Year known for his work in special education—including the creation of a

nationally recognized Special Needs Prom—was fired after speaking up as an openly gay teacher for the rights of LGBTQ+ youth. His fight to retain his job with the Multnomah Education Service District went to the Supreme Court in the form of an amicus brief in the historic *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, ruling, which made it illegal to discriminate against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Bigham now works for Portland Public Schools. Watch his acceptance speech at tinyurl.com/r56yutp6.



GRETCHEN CORBETT

Molly Gloss '66—an Oregon novelist whose works include *Wild Life*, *The Jump-Off Creek* and *The Hearts of Horses*, among others—was honored at the 2021 Oregon Book Awards with the C.E.S. Wood Distinguished Writer Award for her “enduring, substantial literary career.” From horse

whisperers and homesteaders to newly discovered planets and an elusive Sasquatch or two, Gloss’ tales bend genres and break conventions. She has won an Oregon Book Award, two Pacific Northwest Booksellers Awards, a PEN West Fiction Prize, the James Tiptree, Jr. Award and a Whiting Writers Award.



COURTESY OF CHRISTINE MEADOWS

Christine Meadows '83 retired after 15 years as PSU’s director of opera and vocal area coordinator. Under her leadership, Portland State Opera flourished into an award-winning professional training program, with two full-scale productions per year performed for sell-out crowds. Meadows received the

Maseeh Award for Outstanding Fine and Performing Arts Faculty in 2012 and was named the Vollum Professor of Voice in 2017.

Ahmaud Arbery, by all accounts, loved to run but didn't call himself a runner. That is a shortcoming of the culture of running. That Maud's jogging made him the target of hegemonic white forces is a certain failure of America. Check the books—slave passes, vagrancy laws, Harvard's Skip Gates arrested outside his own crib—Blacks ain't never owned the same freedom of movement as whites.

From “*Twelve Minutes and a Life*” published by *Runner's World*. Mitchell S. Jackson's article won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize and a National Magazine Award for feature writing. Jackson, a Whiting Award recipient and past winner of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, currently lives in New York City.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Sara Jean Accuardi '06 won a \$3,500 Leslie Bradshaw Fellowship in Drama from the nonprofit Literary Arts.

Marwa Al Khamees '19 is Willamette University's new assistant director of student engagement and leadership.

Heidi Allen MSW '00 PhD '08, an associate professor of social work at Columbia University, was appointed to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). This federal, nonpartisan, legislative branch agency provides policy and data analysis and makes recommendations to Congress, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the states.

Leila Aman '99 was sworn in as city manager of Manzanita, Oregon, in June.

Oswaldo Avila '07 MA '14, Talent, Innovation and Equity Grant Administrator for the State of Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission, was elected to the Salem-Keizer School Board and voted in as board chair. He and two other newly elected members are the first Latino representatives to serve on the Salem-Keizer School Board.

Dawn Babb Prochovnic '89 published the children's book *Lucy's Blooms* with West Margin Press.

Marcy Bacon '94 and her Rochester, New York-based modern chamber music group, fivebyfive, are launching their debut album, which will be crowdfunded through the Eastman School of Music/ArtistShare New Artist program. Learn more at fivebyfivemusic.com.

Chelsea Bieker MFA '12 was a finalist for the 2021 Oregon Book Awards' Ken Kesey Award for Fiction for *Godshot*.

Alexis Braly James '08, lead consultant at Construct the Present; **Domonique Debnam '08**, senior director of fitness and tennis footwear at Nike; **Edward Dominion '05**, president and founder of D6 Inc.; **Liz Fuller '08**, president and CEO at Gard Communications; **Emily Henke MPH '14**, executive director of Oregon Public Health Institute; **Caroline Lewis MBA '11**, managing partner for Rogue Women's Fund; **Emielle Nischik MPA '09**, executive director of College Possible; and **Jacob Pavlik MRED '19**, research manager at Colliers, were named to Portland Business Journal's "Forty Under 40" list of the region's most influential young professionals in 2021.

Miriam Calderon MSW '02 was appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy and Early Learning, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education for the U.S. Department of Education by the Biden-Harris Administration. Previously, she served as the early learning system director for the state of Oregon.



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

McDaniel (left) jokes around in the 1980 Madison High yearbook.

HIS GOOD NAME

The local hero behind the new name of Portland's McDaniel High School

WHEN LEODIS V. MCDANIEL became principal of Northeast Portland's Madison High in 1983, he was one of the few Black principals in Oregon. In that role, he led the school through the difficult task of desegregation and busing. Nearly 40 years later, the high school is one of the most ethnically diverse in the state. After two years of a temporary relocation and remote learning, students returned this fall to a fully modernized facility. Along with that new home comes a new name to honor a respected leader: Leodis V. McDaniel High School.

McDaniel '57 grew up in Vanport, a temporary city built in the lowlands near the Columbia River to house World War II shipyard workers. It was one of the few places in the area that Black families were allowed to live. (Vanport was also the first home of the school that became Portland State University.) After the devastating 1948 flood wiped out the community, his family was moved to Guild's Lake Courts, a public housing project in Northwest Portland, with other evacuees.

"He was one of the greatest guys you'd ever meet," says John Mangum, his long-time best friend who also lived in Guild's Lake. "If you didn't like Leodis, you didn't like people. He was a people person."

Together with a third friend, they were considered "The Three Musketeers." Regina Flowers, who was in the same grade as McDaniel's older sister, Barbara Jean, remembers his sense of humor, teasing

personality and "excellent voice" from their bus rides to Lincoln High School. He had a special "oomph" to him.

"He had aspirations," she says. "I always thought that whatever he said he was going to be, he was going to be."

Ed Washington '74, who met McDaniel through his older brother, says McDaniel's parents were likely a driving force behind him going to college.

"I'm sure Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel encouraged Leodis to take a step farther than what they were allowed to take," says Washington, director of community outreach and engagement for PSU Global Diversity and Inclusion. "Even for him, I'm sure that step was not easy."

After graduating from Portland State, McDaniel was unable to get a job with Portland Public Schools because of discriminatory hiring practices. He was offered a job at Woodburn Boys Home—now MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility—where he spent more than a decade.

McDaniel eventually became part of the first cadre of African American educators in Portland Public Schools—originally as a counselor at the experimental Adams High School. He started at Madison High School in 1974 as a counselor, then became vice principal before taking the helm as principal in 1983. He served in that role until his sudden death in 1987 at the age of 51.

"If you didn't like Leodis, you didn't like people. He was a people person."

“He believed in his students,” Washington says. “He believed in their well-being whether they were the students at state institutions or whether they were at Adams or Madison. His first thing was to encourage those kids to do their very best, particularly African American kids.”

At McDaniel’s funeral, students, parents, teachers and community members lined the streets to pay their respects. To this day, a \$10,000 scholarship in his name is awarded each year to an outgoing senior at the school he served so long.

For years, students had advocated for a school name change, as the previous namesake, former President James Madison, was a documented slaveholder. When a formal process began in 2020, McDaniel’s name emerged as the clear winner. As a staff member put it in supporters’ published statements: “Mr. McDaniel exemplifies what all students should want to emulate and deserve to have in their lives.” —CRISTINA ROJAS



The newly renovated Northeast Portland school once known as Madison High reopened this September with a new name that pays homage to past principal Leodis V. McDaniel.

MANAGING OREGON'S PSYCHEDELIC REVOLUTION

LAST FALL, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 109, making the state the first in the nation to legalize the psychedelic drug psilocybin for use in therapeutic settings. In recent studies, psilocybin—a compound found in roughly 200 species of mushrooms—showed promise as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression and other mental health conditions that sometimes prove resistant to standard treatments. The measure gives the state until 2023 to figure out rules and regulations for the substance’s use. This is uncharted territory, but a Viking will lead the way. Angie Allbee



EMPA ’17 was named manager for the Oregon Health Authority’s new Psilocybin Services Section. “Healing is an essential part of experiencing a healthy, joyful life,” she said. “I am honored to lead this work in Oregon.” Allbee will work with the state’s Psilocybin

Advisory Board on recommendations—for example, for safety, manufacturing and dosage—and draft regulations. Allbee has served as senior policy advisor for Oregon Health Authority Government Relations since 2018. —SCHOLLE MCFARLAND

IARYGIN ANDRII, ADOBE STOCK

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Megan Crayne MS ’20, former digital manager at PSU’s Ooligan Press, launched a poetry publishing company, Crayne Books (craynebooks.com). Its inaugural book is *Away With Words*. Crayne also works as an ebook production assistant at W.W. Norton & Company.

Tony Crisofulli ’13, PSU record holder in the indoor and outdoor 800 meters, became a full-time firefighter in Colorado, fighting both domestic and forest fires.

Melinda Crouchley ’09 MA ’20, former managing editor at PSU’s Ooligan Press, independently published the second and third books in her *Metal Heart Trilogy* series: *Tin Heart* and *Iron Curtain*. Crouchley works as an associate editor at The Community Company.

Josh Davis ’21 was interviewed in *The Seaside Signal* about his work as the new veterans service officer for Clatsop Community Action.

Hadley Heck ’19, a four-year letter winner in volleyball, was selected to be a sports anchor at KVAL News in Eugene.

David Hedges ’59 published the novel *The Changer* with Road’s End Press. Poet and author **Walt Curtis ’66** created the book’s cover art.

Bill Keenan ’90 MA ’92, an abstract impressionist painter, released two videos of his artwork with soundtracks provided by Café De Anatolia. See the videos at keenangallery.com. **Louise Keenan ’94** manages the gallery’s business side.

Jenny Kimura MA ’19 has been promoted from junior designer to designer at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a part of the Hachette Book Group.

Anthony Levenda PhD ’16 was named director of the new Center of Climate Action and Sustainability for the Evergreen State College.

Michelle Lewis MSW ’13, co-owner of Third Eye Books (thirdeyebag.com), celebrated the grand opening of the African-centered bookstore’s new brick-and-mortar location in Southeast Portland this summer.

Jax McFarland ’14 MARCH ’17 was named the 2021 Joseph F. Thomas Visiting Professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

Jessica Mehta MS ’07 published *When We Talk of Stolen Sisters: New and Revised Poems* with Liveright Publishing.

Kathleen Mitchell Burrows MA ’09 was selected to be part of the U.S. Department of State’s prestigious three-month English Language Specialist virtual project focused on teacher training in Nicaragua.

Karen Phifer MSW ’95 is the new director of clinical services at Portland’s Cedar Hills Hospital.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Rebecca Saunders MA '16 presented "Is There a Linguist in the House? The Benefit of an In-House English for Specific Purposes Course for Hospital Employees" at the Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Engaging Humanities in Health Department Administration in April.

Tim Skrotzki MBA '12, senior market development lead for the nonprofit Elevate Energy, was honored in Corp! Magazine's Most Valuable Professional Awards. Skrotzki supports affordable housing owners and underserved communities with energy assessments and building retrofit plans.

Taylor Stewart MSW '21, founder of the Oregon Remembrance Project, a nonprofit dedicated to helping communities in the state confront and repair instances of racial injustice, helped dedicate a monument to Alonzo Tucker, the only documented African American victim of lynching in Oregon, in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Summer Newell MPH '05 PhD '18 co-authored a book with Melissa Thompson, sociology faculty, titled *Motherhood after Incarceration: Community Reintegration for Mothers in the Criminal Legal System*, published with Routledge.

Ethelyn Tumulad MA '16 MEd '17 was named 2022 Regional Teacher of the Year by the Clackamas Education Service District. She is finishing her fourth year as an English Language Arts and AVID teacher at Clackamas High School.

Daniel Vega '17 finished a double master's degree in music composition and saxophone performance at the University of Missouri. During his time there, Vega earned several awards and created a score for a film about Pedro Zamora, a Cuban AIDS activist.

Jason R. Wiles MS '99 was honored with a 2021 Friend of Darwin award from the National Center for Science Education. Wiles, a professor of biology at Syracuse University, is a specialist in evolution education.

Masaru "Mas" Yatabe '69 was awarded the 2020 Volunteer of the Year award by the Japan-America Society of Oregon, recognizing his more than 20 years as head judge of the Toyama Cup Japanese Speech Contest held among university students in Oregon.

LOSSES

Robert B. Everhart, dean of the College of Education, 1986 to 1998.

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.

5 WAYS TO DEAL WITH COLLEGE DEBT

COLLEGE MEMORIES LINGER ON, but unfortunately so can college debt. U.S. student debt totaled \$1.6 trillion in the first quarter of 2021. Though federal student loan payments were put on hold during the pandemic, they will resume in January. Here are five tips for taking charge of educational debt from instructors of Personal Finance (FIN 218), Andrew Adeboi, Andy Tilp and Melody Bell.

- 1. BE INFORMED:** Use student loan repayment calculators—for example, from the VIN Foundation (tinyurl.com/p7c65jux)—to evaluate options such as a standard repayment schedule, income-based repayment (IBR), Pay As You Earn (PAYE) or Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) repayment. The VIN Foundation calculator provides information on minimum monthly payments, years to repay, total cost of loan and effective interest rates for the different options. It also allows you to customize repayment calculations, for example, with regard to your annual income growth projections. Also, stay in touch with your lender. If you're having trouble making payments, your lender has options to help. You may be able to defer or switch to a plan that better fits your circumstances.
- 2. CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER:** Some employers are helping to pay student loans by giving employees the choice of a 401k match or equivalent student loan payment. When looking for a new job, find out if a company you are considering has a program to help and check with your current employer. This can also be a negotiation tactic with companies that currently do not offer such a benefit.
- 3. THINK TWICE BEFORE PAYING OFF EARLY:** The opportunity cost of paying off a student loan is the earnings realized on an investment. This is an easier decision if the investment return is higher, for example the annual percentage rate (APR) on the student loan is 4% versus the return on investment (ROI) of 7.5%. However, even if the APR and ROI are equal, it's often more beneficial to start investing before paying off a student loan. Why? Because there is an inherent value by starting a positive habit such as paying yourself first.
- 4. DON'T NEGLECT RETIREMENT:** Compound growth is the most fantastic tool you have for building the base you will need later in life. Balance paying off your student loan(s) and saving for retirement. Start by setting aside a small amount for retirement on a regular basis, for example, with automatic savings, and make a conscious effort to boost your contribution to your retirement savings with every raise and bonus.
- 5. REMEMBER ALL DEBT IS NOT CREATED EQUAL:** Consumer debt (credit card, personal loans, payday loans, and so on) is considered "bad" debt, while home and student loans are "good" debt. Consumer debt incurred for wants rather than needs should be paid off as fast as possible. But when it comes to student debt, be gentle on yourself. You are taking one step back to move two steps forward.

JULIA FREYBOTE is an assistant professor of finance and real estate in PSU's School of Business.



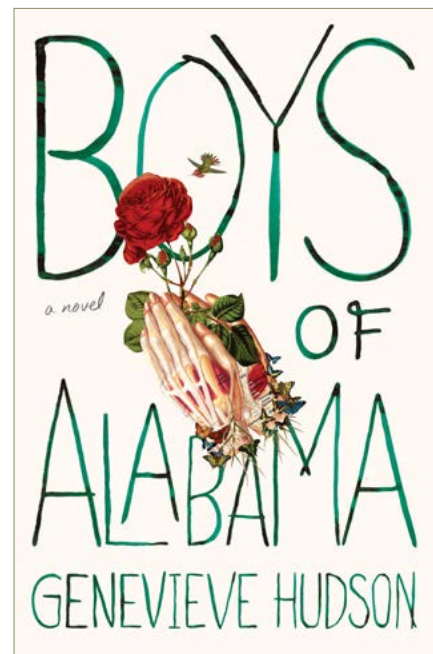
bookshelf

BOYS OF ALABAMA

GENEVIEVE HUDSON '13

LIVERIGHT PUBLISHING

In this debut novel, Hudson breathes new life into Southern goth, following the life of a young boy as he discovers love, magic and the power of all things fried and cheesy. Max explores his masculinity with the “cool kids,” drinking beers and shooting guns, but soon finds his true home with Pan, a mysterious boy dressed in black and dubbed the school witch. Max navigates religion, immigration and young love in the sticky Alabama heat on a journey to discover what’s more important, staying true to your roots, or staying true to yourself. *Boys of Alabama* was a finalist for the 2021 Oregon Book Awards. It was also named as a Best Book of the Year by Esquire and Best Book of the Month by Entertainment Weekly, Lambda Literary and Southern Review of Books. Hudson received an MFA in fiction from Portland State, and has published work in magazines including ELLE, Oprah Magazine, McSweeney’s, Catapult, Bookforum, Bitch and Tin House. Hudson is a visiting fiction faculty member at the Antioch University-Los Angeles MFA Program. —JENNIFER LADWIG MS '21

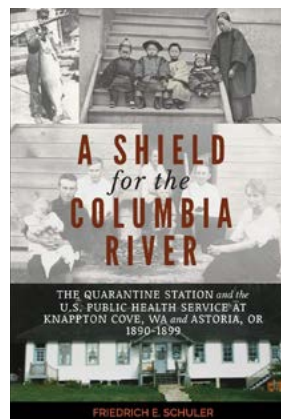


FUNERAL FOR FLACA

Emily Prado '12

FUTURE TENSE BOOKS

Emily Prado retraces her experience coming of age as a prep-turned-chola-turned-punk in this collection that is one part memoir-in-essays, and one part playlist, zigzagging across genres and decades. Co-founder of Portland in Color and director of youth programs at Literary Arts, Prado is a Blackburn Fellow and MFA candidate at Randolph College.



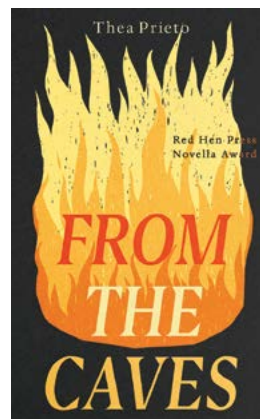
A SHIELD FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER

Friedrich Schuler,

history faculty

AMERICAN HUMANITIES PRESS

As the saying goes, history repeats itself, and a quarantine station in Knappton Cove, Washington, sits at the mouth of the Columbia River across from Astoria, Oregon, as a reminder that this region had to manage infectious diseases long before COVID-19 arrived. A timely new book, *A Shield for the Columbia River*, by Friedrich Schuler offers the stories behind the founding of the Columbia River Quarantine Station.



FROM THE CAVES

Thea Prieto MFA '16, English adjunct faculty

RED HEN PRESS

Sky, Tie, Mark and Teller have been driven into the depths of a cave in the wake of an environmental catastrophe. To survive, they must look to stories of the dead, pieced together from fragmented histories and recycled knowledge. *From the Caves*, Prieto's first book, won the Red Hen Press Novella Award. Prieto is a recipient of the Laurels Award Fellowship and her work has appeared in New Orleans Review, Longreads, Entropy, The Masters Review and more.



FINDING THE VEIN

Jennifer Hanlon Wilde MA '08

OOLIGAN PRESS

Located outside of Portland, Heritage Camp is a summer retreat for adopted international children where adoptees can explore their identities and bond over their shared experiences. When camp counselor Paul goes into fatal anaphylactic shock one evening, everyone believes it to be a tragic accident—well, almost everyone. Hanlon's debut mystery, published with PSU's student-run Ooligan Press, stems from her experiences as a nurse practitioner and teacher.

looking back



ABOVE: Teacher Patricia Crippen leads children down the Helen Gordon Child Development Center steps in 1987.

LEFT: Teacher Soobin Oh '10 MS '16 sings with preschoolers (including the author's daughter Kate, at left) in 2013.

50 YEARS OF CAMPUS KIDS

FLOWER PROJECTS. Tricycle races. Streetcar expeditions to downtown fountains. Singalongs. Dance parties. Homemade gingerbread and applesauce. Helen Gordon Child Development Center families carry a host of favorite memories from their time at Portland State's flagship child care center. What stands out for me is the one-way mirror and box of tissues a teacher led me to when I dropped off my toddler for the first time. At the mirror, teary parents huddled together to watch our tiny people explore the new world of the classroom without us. And then we left for our jobs and classes, knowing everything would be OK.

There are few experiences more agonizing for parents than leaving a small child in someone else's care. It was hard for me as a working parent, but for parents trying to get an education, finding and paying for care can make staying in school tough. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, student parents are 10 times less likely to complete their bachelor's degree within five years than students without kids.

In 1969 and 1970, Portland State student mothers decided to make a difference, staging "Baby-Ins" in the president's office and residence to advocate for affordable on-campus child care. Because of their efforts, the first center opened 50 years ago in the Smith Memorial Student Union basement with a few dozen kids. It struggled for space until 1972, when Portland State bought the brick building at 1609 Southwest 12th Avenue from private child care organization Fruit and Flower. Built specifically for children, it came with a kitchen and kid-sized spaces. Within a year, it was renamed for the influential child care advocate who helped shape the center's development.

"[Students] walk away with a view of children that's so special—that children are capable and competent."

"There were growing pains in the early years as the new program met challenges in staffing, space and funding," says former director Ellie Justice. A turning point came when the National Association for the Education of Young Children developed a voluntary accreditation system. With leadership from director Margaret Browning, in 1986 Helen Gordon became the first accredited program in Oregon.

Now the center serves roughly 200 children from 6 months to 5 years old and is nationally recognized as an academic hub, too. In a typical year, 80 undergraduate and graduate students assist in the classroom. They lead games of tag, help plan activities, relieve teachers for breaks, and carry out dissertation projects with groups of kids. Not all will become teachers, says current director Mary Schumacher-Hoerner, but "They walk away with a view of children that's so special—that children are capable and competent."

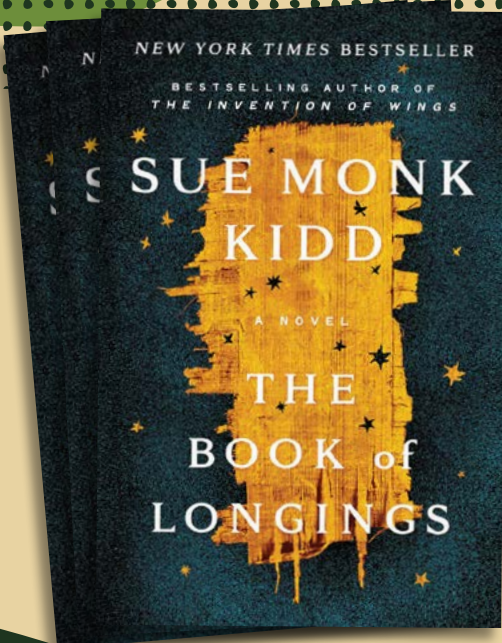
Fifty years after it all began, Helen Gordon's prime directive—to support students with young children—remains unchanged. The center is student-fee funded and reserves two-thirds of its spots for student parents. But some of the center's magic happens because of the way it connects families from across campus, like it did for the group I stood with on that memorable first day of school.

Universities can feel like hierarchical places, Schumacher-Hoerner says, with faculty, staff and students occupying separate spaces. "Whether you're a student or a professor or a staff member, you're going through similar discoveries when you have young children," she says. The Helen Gordon experience is "a great equalizer. They're learning about how to be parents together." —SCHOLLE McFARLAND

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