From the Desk of the Dean

This final edition of the 2012-13 Family Newsletter holds information that I hope will be useful for your family as you and your PSU student prepare for summer. Several sections will help you plan for upcoming terms. Money Matters will help you prepare for the coming months, whether your student is enrolled in summer courses or taking a breather from classes. In the Campus Spotlight section, you will learn about how your student can utilize PSU’s Degree Mapping website in order to get an immediate update on his or her current academic progress. Other sections will introduce you to some individuals at PSU. The Employee Spotlight features Jen Dugger, Director of the Disability Resource Center. You will also get to know Danielle Grondin who is one of the outstanding student leaders in the Sustainability Leadership Center at PSU. Danielle is this year’s recipient of the Student Employee of the year award for PSU and the state-wide award for all of Oregon. Additionally, throughout the newsletter you will find helpful reminders about approaching deadlines and timely updates.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Dean of Student Life if you have ideas, suggestions, or questions about the newsletter; if you can’t find information you’re looking for; or if you’d like to schedule an individual meeting with the friendly, knowledgeable staff in our office. You can reach us by calling 503.725.4422 or e-mailing askdos@pdx.edu. We are always happy to assist you and your student. Thank you for your interest and commitment to partnering with us in supporting your student’s success at PSU.

Best,

Michele Toppe, Dean of Student Life

Resource Spotlight: Campus Safety

The Campus Public Safety Office on Portland State University is an important partner in ensuring student success. Uniformed Campus Public Safety Officer’s patrol the university on foot, by bicycle, and in a patrol vehicle 24/7 and are often times the first responder to students experiencing difficulties.

Campus policing in the United States has become increasingly complex and specialized. In recognition of this Portland State University has incorporated significant recent changes including relocating the dispatch center to provide face-to-face contact 24/7 for students needing assistance, as well as increased specialized training for all officers. Officers hired this year include a 30-year British police officer, as well 2 retired Portland Police Officers, a former Park Ranger, and other persons that embrace the community-policing role on the campus.

Expect more discussion on campus this year as the importance of having a well trained and modern campus police department becomes an important topic for Oregon’s largest, and only urban university. Providing a safe environment in which students can grow and learn is a top priority at Portland State University.

Spring Commencement is Sunday, June 16th!

Dear Families,

Do you have a graduating student that will walk in commencement this June?

Commencement this year falls on Sunday, June 16 in the Rose Garden Arena. We’ll commence students in two ceremonies that are split between the schools and colleges, you can find more information on the commencement website at pdx.edu/commencement.

Please encourage your graduate to order regalia early and celebrate their achievements at commencement. Registration opens May 1 and tickets will be available from the commencement website.

If you have any questions regarding commencement, please feel free to contact me at commencement@pdx.edu.

Best,

Nicholas Running
Coordinator of Commencement

Campus Spotlight: Degree Mapping

Navigating PSU’s academic requirements has recently become easier with the launching of the Degree Mapping website. The site contains links to every academic major, term by term academic plans for every degree, information to connect students to academic advising, and career information for each program. The Degree Mapping site is one aspect of PSU’s Advising Initiative which also included the hiring of additional professional advisers to enhance intentional advising efforts to assist students in meeting their academic goals. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisers early and often to maximize their experience while attending PSU.
When I was a freshman, I realized that our world needed to be changed.”

Each year, the Western Association of Student Employment Administrators identifies one student as the Oregon student employee of the year, a competitive state-wide award. On April 11 at a PSU student employee celebration, student Danielle Grondin was not only named PSU student employee of the year, she was also named the Oregon student employee of the year. She is the third consecutive PSU student to receive this honor.

“When I was a freshman, I realized that our world needed to be changed,” said the senior sociology major and food systems coordinator for the Sustainability Leadership Center (SLC).

Danielle has been working to spur that change at PSU since fall 2010 when she became a resident assistant with University Housing. Her experience working with at-risk youth prior to coming to PSU primed her for her new role mentoring peers who were living away from home for the first time.

In December 2010, Danielle transitioned into a new position with the SLC, where she designed and launched the PSU EcoReps program to inform and engage students around sustainability issues in the residence halls. This year, Danielle made another shift into the newly created food systems coordinator position. She has been working with campus dining services to bring more local, sustainable food to campus and launch composting programs in the residence halls. She also worked with a team of volunteers to host an event for indigenous and non-indigenous people to engage with each other about the often-ignored but contentious issues around the holiday of Thanksgiving.

In reflecting on her student experience at PSU, Danielle says, “I am so happy to have a job that I wholeheartedly enjoy. I know how to be a part of a community because of this experience — it’s all about working together.”

Congratulations to Danielle as she truly exemplifies to Portland State motto to Let Knowledge Serve the City.

Money Matters:
Financial Considerations for Summer

Did you know that despite rising costs of nearly everything these days, the student incidental fee will not be increasing? This is of course great news, but your first question might be, “What is the student incidental fee?” The student fee is a required fee — $214 per student per term — that yields a collective annual fund of approximately $13.8 million. This fee funds over 35 on-campus programs including Campus Rec, Athletics, the Women’s Resource Center, the Queer Resource Center, the Graphic Design Center, and student publications and radio.

The student fee is student-managed — students recommend to the university President how this money should be allocated through the Student Fee Committee (SFC), an elected group of eight students. The role of each student on the committee is to represent the student body and to allocate the fee in a manner which benefits students to the highest possible degree while maintaining the fee amount charged to students per term. The SFC spends between six to twenty-five hours each week engaging with professional staff from large and crucial budget areas on-campus, debate the value of various services and programs, engaging in long-term planning of program areas, and ultimately setting the per term fee that will be charged to each student the upcoming year.

This year, the SFC began with the goal of maintaining (not raising) the student fee for the upcoming year — a difficult task considering that there were several areas which required a budget increase (like the new Veteran’s Resource Center). They are proud to announce that they were successful in reaching this goal — a goal that continues to provide students with necessary resources all the while maintaining the affordability of attending PSU. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the students of PSU!

Preparing Yourself for the Real World

Saturday, May 18, 2013 — 5:00pm
ASRC Lobby (Student Rec Center),
1800 SW 6th Ave.

Graduation looms. Your sunny days as a Portland State student are coming to an end. Think you’ll be left stranded in the real world without a compass? The Portland State University Alumni Association is here to help!

In this free one day event hear from Portland State Alumni who have made it to shore. Learn from experts how to write a great resume, dress for success, network, and navigate those murky waters of insurance, employee benefits, and job hunting.

Featuring workshops, information tables, and a closing reception, all students are encouraged to connect with us and start preparing for the real world (It’s not so bad out there).

Contact Jimmy Hsu for more information: 503-725-4949 • posheng@pdx.edu

Portland Farmers Market in the PSU Park Blocks

Saturdays, March 16th through December 21st
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – March thru October
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – November & December
The Saturday Market is located at Portland State University in the South Park Blocks between SW Hall & SW Montgomery.
portlandfarmersmarket.org/markets/psu/
Employee Spotlight: Jen Dugger

Portland State University is pleased to welcome Jen Dugger as the new Director of the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Though commencement preparations are keeping everyone at PSU delightfully busy, Jen found a few moments to chat with us about her background, the role of the DRC, and some helpful tips for students.

Tell us a bit about yourself/what were you doing before coming to PSU?

I’m from St. Louis, MO originally. I completed my Masters in Higher Education Administration at Southeast Missouri State University and promptly moved to Philadelphia, PA where I worked for 6 ½ years in a few different positions. When I left, I had been the Director of the Office of Disability Resources at Drexel University for three years.

How did you end up at PSU/how long have you worked here and what positions have you held?

I moved to Portland from Philadelphia in December to assume the position of Director of the Disability Resource Center. Not only was I looking for a change professionally, my partner and I had been considering a cross-country move for a while, looking forward to exploring the cities and wilderness of the other side of the U.S.

What is the most fulfilling aspect of the work you do for PSU, especially as it relates to students?

The most fulfilling aspect of my work is in educating students, faculty, and staff about ability and accessibility. I find that most people have been conditioned to believe certain falsehoods about people with disabilities (as we’ve been conditioned to believe other falsehoods about other cultures and communities) and I enjoy breaking down these stereotypes and assumptions and rebuilding an understanding of a group of people in a way that really emphasizes the connection with diversity, creating welcoming environments, and fostering inclusion.

How does the DRC work towards supporting student success?

Our main responsibility in the DRC is in working with students and academic departments to determine what accommodations exist to allow a student to reach their full potential at PSU while still holding them to the same overall academic standards. Accommodations may be in the classroom environment (i.e. accessible classroom location, receiving PowerPoint slides before the lecture), in the testing environment (i.e. extended time for exams and quizzes, testing in a distraction reduced place), or even for study (i.e. the use of adaptive technology, textbooks in an electronic format).

What advice would you give students and families of PSU students or individuals thinking about attending PSU? Any helpful tips regarding student resources or such?

1. Incoming students and families oftentimes don’t know that we work with students who have all different types of conditions. We serve students who are experiencing any sort of limitation at PSU that is created by an environment that is not accessible to them based on the medical, mental, or physical condition they have.

2. It’s also good to note that we function under a different set of laws and policies than do high schools and elementary schools. Therefore if a student receives a certain set of accommodations before entering PSU, they may or may not get the same accommodations here. They may get more or less … or even just different accommodations here!

3. You’ll also want to get started with the process as soon as you’re able! Students must self-identify to the Disability Resource Center if they’d like to request accommodations and accommodations are not retroactive. This means that accommodations must be in place BEFORE a student needs to use them. It’s never too early to start this conversation with our office.

Research Spotlight: Carbon Tax and Shift

Portland State University’s Northwest Economic Research Center released a report March 11 exploring the idea of a carbon tax for Oregon. The report makes the case that shifting the tax burden — reducing individual and business taxes at the same time the carbon tax is implemented — could prove beneficial for Oregon’s economy.

The NERC report, “Carbon Tax and Shift: How to Make It Work for Oregon’s Economy,” explores several ways to structure the tax and reinvest the revenue. The most promising scenarios project the tax policy would prompt positive job growth for Oregon while generating annual revenues of up to $2.15 billion over a 20-year horizon, along with greenhouse gas reductions of up to 15 percent.

“A carbon tax is an efficient way to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions — you tax what you want less of,” said Tom Potiowsky, director of NERC and chair of PSU’s Department of Economics. “With a policy that uses the revenue from a carbon tax to reduce other taxes, Oregon could accelerate the process of reducing those emissions while still supporting a vibrant economy.”

The report’s researchers, Jenny H. Liu and Jeff Renfro, looked closely at the experience of Canadian province British Columbia, which implemented its own carbon tax in 2008 that was also designed to be revenue neutral. The report is based on Oregon’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 75 percent by 2050, and explores a variety of carbon tax plans that would support those goals.

Click here to download the report.
University Housing & Residence:

**Housing Updates for Spring and Summer Term**

Summer is almost here! Please take time to read these important Spring Move-Out Procedures. Spring Move-Out this year is June 15th. Residents must be moved out of their rooms before noon.

**Steps to Move-Out:**

**Step 1.** Residents either signup for a Walk-Through or plan to complete an Express Check-Out. (More information below)

**Step 2.** Residents must thoroughly clean their room and remove all garbage and personal belongings. Residents may not leave items behind to pick up later or for the next occupant to use. Anything remaining in the room will incur charges for removal.

**Step 3.** Residents check out either through an Express Check-Out or a Walk-Through (see below). During check-out times, University Housing staff will evaluate the condition of the room and charge any applicable fees to the student’s account, including the cost of repairing any damage not recorded on the Room Condition Report at check-in and cleaning or repair costs for damages exceeding normal wear and tear.

**Express Check-Out:** Express Check-Outs are a good option for students who are unsure about the date or time they plan to move out and need extra flexibility. If residents choose to complete an Express Check-Out, they will return their keys to the Area Desk (between 9 am – midnight) or the Housing Office drop box. Staff will complete a walk-through of the room after the resident has moved out, and the resident will be unable to appeal any charges for damages or cleaning in the room.

**Walk-Through:** Walk-Throughs are a good option for students who believe there may be cleaning or damage charges in their room, and/or know when they plan to have their room cleaned and belongings moved out. Residents need to sign-up for a walk-through time in advance. Residents must have their belongings out of the room before a walk-through can be completed. Residents will agree on a time/date to meet with their RA, who will provide an assessment of possible charges based on the condition of the room while the resident is present.

**Step 4.** Residents return their keys to the Area Desk immediately following check-out. If the Area Desk is closed there is a drop box at the Housing and Residence Life Office at Broadway 210. If residents have lost any keys, please notify the Area Desk as soon as possible rather than waiting until check-out.

**Graduating?** Congratulations graduates! Students who are participating in commencement and would like an extended move out date need to make a request with the Housing and Residence Life Office. Please email housing@pdx.edu with this request. We are only offering extended stays until Monday June 17th at noon.

**Parking:** Parking Structure 1, 2, and 3, Blumel, Ondine, Montgomery, and limited street parking will be available for usual use. 30 minute loading permits will be available from the University Housing Office and the Montgomery Area Desk. Remember to pay the meter; parking will continue to be enforced. Use of pods or large trucks is not usually allowed on campus. If you wish to use one, it should be scheduled through the city. Blackstone, Parkway, and Montgomery residents should also note the Saturday Farmer’s Market will occur Saturday, June 15th.

**Storage:** Is your student leaving Portland for the summer? Store items with Pearl Self Storage just down the street. Pearl Self Storage offers 50% off of first month’s rent for Portland State University students. Pick up a flier for this discount in our office, Broadway 210.

**Is your student living in Portland this summer?** Have your student live with you! It is not too late to stay with University Housing. Come in to the Housing Office to sign a paper contract. We cannot guarantee students their current room, but we will certainly try. Summer housing is offered to current residents with no academic requirement.

**Need Housing for the 2013-2014 Academic year?** It is not too late to sign a Housing Contract for 2013-2014! Current Residents need to go to our Housing website to fill out a contract for 2013-2014. Hurry, space is limited and filling up fast!

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**Blumel is now open!**

After months of renovations, Blumel Hall re-opened for Spring 2013! Several students moved in at the beginning of Spring and more will move in for Summer. If students sign a contract for Blumel, they can be the first to live in these newly renovated one-bedroom units with new kitchen cabinets, counter tops, flooring, and an accent wall. Space is still available, but hurry, we are filling up quickly for Fall 2013.

**Campus Rec Outdoor Program**

Did you know the Outdoor Program (part of Campus Rec) has all sorts of gear for your family’s adventures? With a wide selection of items available to rent, we can help you and your family explore the richness of Oregon’s outdoors. With our equipment, you could experience activities in the backcountry, whitewater, snow, and so much more. We have sleeping pads, sleeping bags and tents to keep you warm when it’s cool outside, hefty propane stoves to cook gourmet meals at the camp site, or small backpacking stoves for extended trips. We have lanterns to light your way, backpacks to hold your belongings, and cook sets so you can cook in style. When snow hits the ground rent some snowshoes, cross country skis, or four season tents for those long journeys. We have mountaineering boots, crampons, and ice axes for those looking to climb some steep ice along with beacons and probes for extra safety measures. If you’re interested in whitewater, we have a fleet of paddle rafts, oar frames, inflatable kayaks, white water kayaks, sea kayaks and even some inner tubes if you want a nice float. We also have a library accessible to all which can aid in planning trips for backcountry skiing, day hikes, rafting and kayaking, cycling, camping, and more. For any inquiries, please stop by our office; all our staff will be more than happy to help you!

**The School of Theatre and Film invites you to our Spring productions:**

**The Good Person of Setzuan**

by Bertolt Brecht; Adapted by Tony Kushner; Direction: Julie Akers

Lincoln Performance Hall
Preview: Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Performs: Friday – Sunday, May 24-26 (Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday 2:00 pm); Wednesday-Saturday, May 29 – June 1 at 7:30 pm.

**New Works Reading Series**

Film and Theater students’ dramatic writing projects in workshop performances, May 28, 2013 in Lincoln Performance Hall, 7:30 pm, Free.

**2013 COTA Student Moving Image Show**

A selection of student work from courses in Art, Film, and Graphic Design Friday, June 7, 2013, 7:00pm, 5th Avenue Cinema, 510 SW Hall Street (between 5th & 6th Avenue). Free and open to the public. Reception to follow at Rogue Hall, 1717 SW Park Avenue.

Come see the best work created in COTA production classes this past year! New student work in narrative film, music videos, experimental video, documentary, animation, and motion graphics! Selected by a jury of COTA faculty members.

**Movement and Dance Performances**

Movement Performance June 5 and 6 in Lincoln Studio Theatre, 7:30 pm, Free.

Dance Performance June 10 and 11 in Lincoln Performance Hall, 7:30 pm, Free.

PSU BOX OFFICE: 503.725.3307
Ticket Prices for Mainstage Productions:
Previews – $6.00, PSU Students
$6.00 at the Door; *General Admission – $12.00* * PSU Staff/Seniors/Students – $8.00 Ticket Prices for Studio Theatre: * $6.00, students, $4.00 at the door (*Service Charge Applies)