**From the Desk of the Dean**

"We always talk about the physical engineering that we need to protect cities and systems and people during crises. We have failed to recognize the significance of our social infrastructure, the way in which communications matters, the way in which our relationships with neighbors and family and friends matter..."

Eric Klinenberg, author of Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago

As we gaze into the potential of a new year, it seems important to pause and reflect upon the trials of the previous one. This past year, across the nation, we witnessed some horrible tragedies — natural and social — that called upon a capacity for greater resilience than ever before.

In the current issue of New Yorker magazine, Sociologist Eric Klinenberg discusses what makes resilient communities. He cites the 1995 Chicago heat wave which paralyzed the city and caused one of the highest climate-related death tolls records for the city. Klinenberg notes that two adjacent neighborhoods, Engelwood and Auburn Gresham, both alike in demographics, experienced significantly different death rates during the heatwave: 33 per 100,000 residents (Englewood) verses 1 per 100,000 (Auburn Gresham). Klinenberg determined that these neighborhoods largely differed in only one aspect — social infrastructure. Klinenberg hypothesizes that because Auburn Gresham is a neighborhood with strong community bonds, residents experience greater quality of life and increased ability to withstand crises. Auburn Gresham residents have a life expectancy five years longer than residents of Englewood—literally the neighborhood next door.

We can draw inferences from Dr. Klinenberg’s research and why it’s more important than ever to foster these important community bonds that help our members thrive and succeed. The Family newsletter is coming to you as part of PSU’s effort to create these kinds of meaningful connections here on campus and with our extended PSU family (that’s you).

In this edition of the Family Newsletter you will meet Dr. CeCe Ridder, the new Executive Director for Diversity and Multicultural Student Services at PSU who just moved to Portland from Austin, Texas. You’ll hear from Victor Mena, an exemplary PSU student, who will share his perspective on the importance his immediate and extended PSU family has played in his academic success. You’ll learn about other vibrant PSU communities, such as the Academic Coaching program in University Success and Solutions Generator grants that provide seed money for innovative student and faculty sustainability initiatives. You’ll read about the MLK week of celebration and author, philosopher and activist Dr. Cornel West who will provide the keynote address for the week’s activities on campus.

As always, if you have ideas, suggestions or questions, please contact us at (503) 725-4422 or askdosl@pdx.edu so that we may assist you further. Thank you for your interest and commitment to creating a community in support of academic success at PSU.

Sincerely,

Michele Toppe, Dean of Student Life

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**Resource Spotlight: Academic Coaching**

We know that all students benefit from having someone in their corner — someone who listens and understands, and also helps them to prepare well and creatively problem solve in new situations. We also know that the first year of college can be filled with new challenges and experiences. That is why University Success hosts a program within University Housing and Residence Life, offering academic coaching for all first year students living in housing at PSU. Through the academic coaching program, interested residential students can take advantage of five sessions of one-on-one academic coaching, which aim to “teach the skills and strategies to help students become independent and active learners and to achieve academic success.”

One academic coachee recently shared the following: “My coach was a great help to me. I really benefited from the five academic counseling sessions that I ended up taking my first term here at PSU.” Another participant wrote, “Whenever I had concerns, whether it was financial or academic problems, we would spend our hour together researching solutions and resources to aid me in fixing and enhancing by confidence and knowledge of that area of gray.”

There are both peer and professional coaches. The peer academic coaches are part of the Learning Community Assistant team within University Housing & Residence Life and live in the residence halls with the first year students. The professional academic coaches are individuals who volunteer their time and work as professional staff members at PSU. These volunteers relish the opportunity to work with students one-on-one and help them to find their footing in college. Some of the academic coaches work in departments such as, the Office of the Dean of Student Life, Student Activities and Leadership Program, and Campus Recreation, using their own expertise and experiences to provide insight, empathy and advise for students who are new to college.

Working with their coach, students create measurable plans to meet their academic goals. These goals might include developing skills for balancing school and other demands, active learning strategies and various ways of mastering course content, developing communication skills, and accessing useful resources on and off campus. If this sounds like a resource your PSU first year residential student might benefit from, please encourage them to contact academicoaching@pdx.edu. If your PSU student does not live in the residence halls, academic coaches who are graduate students are available from the Learning Center in Millar Library and are available at tutoring@pdx.edu.

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**Student Health Insurance Winter Term Waiver Deadline:**

January 20th, 2013

See website for more info: [http://www.pdx.edu/shac/insurancewaiver](http://www.pdx.edu/shac/insurancewaiver)
Q: Where are you from and why did you choose to study at PSU?
I was born in Michoacán, Mexico, but when I was three years old my father decided to immigrate to the United States. I arrived at my hometown of Beaverton, OR and graduated from Sunset High School. I really love Oregon and was not able to leave the state for college, so after going to PCC I transferred to Portland State. Attending PSU has been the best move I have made in my higher education career.

Q: What are some of the activities you have been involved in at PSU?
Last year (my first year at PSU), I was the Multicultural Affairs Director for ASPSU. Soon after I ran for Student Body President which I did not win; however, my passion for serving students and making a positive difference for Portland State did not end with this loss. I was nominated to be the Academic Affairs Director for ASPSU. In this position I advocate for students and work with faculty, staff, and administrators to help make PSU a better academic environment. I am also the president of the Arab Persian Student Organization (APSO) where we get together to educate the Portland State community about the Arab and Persian cultures by hosting different events and include delicious ethnic food. Further, I am a member of the PSU Model United Nations — a competitive team representing PSU in conferences around the U.S.

Q: How do you balance the demands of all of these activities with the demands of your academics? Are there any campus resources you utilize?
One of my biggest resources is the library! I spend a lot of time in the library due to the resources they offer and the space which provides a great study place. At first, balancing everything was a lot of work! However I was able to get organized in order to balance all my responsibilities. This last term was, in my opinion, the most demanding term. In addition to being President of APSO and Academic Affairs Director for ASPSU, I was interning at the Federal Probations Office. To help make sure I was planning and getting the grades I needed, I used PSU’s advising and tutoring services, which I strongly recommend for all students to use.

Q: What are your plans for the future?
Since the fourth grade my dream has been to join the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Today I am still chasing this dream and, to help achieve this, plan to join the United States Navy after graduating from PSU. Despite being born in Mexico and having the privilege to stay connected to my roots as a Mexican, I am very proud of being an American, especially an Oregonian. Serving in the Navy and joining the FBI is the least I can do to give back to the U.S.

Q: What advice would you like to share with families who are supporting new students?
One of the reasons why my father sacrificed much for us to move to the U.S. was for his children to get the education which he could not receive. Perhaps the advice I would give to families of students is that even a small amount of encouragement can change a student’s college life. For families that have first generation college students, I think it is even more crucial to give as much support and encouragement as possible.

Q: What is your favorite Fall/Winter activity in Portland?
My favorite activity is driving my Chevy truck in all terrains! But as for within city limits, I enjoy running, jogging, and playing soccer whenever possible.
Employee Spotlight: CeCe Ridder
Portland State University is pleased to welcome Dr. CeCe Ridder as the new Executive Director for Diversity and Multicultural Student Services (DMSS). Despite settling into her new position as well as her new city, CeCe found some time to chat with us about how she ended up in Portland and the services provided by DMSS.

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

Before moving to the great state of Oregon and working at PSU, I was the Director of Student Life at The University of Texas at Austin. I worked specifically with 4,400 business majors teaching leadership, advising student organizations and producing special events. Prior to that position, I was the Diversity Recruiter for business majors and worked closely with Admissions by traveling the state of Texas.

Q: How did you end up at PSU?

My husband and I came to Portland on vacation last July to get away from the heat. We just absolutely fell in love with Oregon and decided to take a chance at finding a position on campus. By a twist of fate, the Executive Director of Diversity and Multicultural Student Services job was open and it couldn’t be a better fit.

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

Seeing students’ growth and development is one of the most fulfilling parts of the job. We have many types of students who come through our doors for a variety of reasons. It is our job to assess their needs and plug them into advising, scholarships, programs and activities. The staff here is so talented; I am already amazed at the array of knowledge that they have, both for on-campus and off-campus resources for students.

Q: What advice would you give students and families of PSU students or individuals thinking about attending PSU?

The resources of DMSS are vast. We have pre-college programs all the way to activities, advising and resources students utilize through graduation. Once a student is connected with our office, we have so much to offer. Our students are like family to us, and we strive to help create a well-rounded academic and co-curricular experience for them. Our website is about to be revamped, so I would encourage prospective students to surf through the “prospective student” part of our website. It describes the programs that we have, including scholarship programs which require applications. The Cultural Centers are a strong piece of our office, offering ways for students to plug into cultural activities, meet other students and to learn. Whatever the student is looking for, we can help them find it on campus!

Money Matters:
Financial Aid Deadlines Are Approaching Soon!

Students applying for financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA form) should turn in their paperwork as soon as possible so they can receive priority consideration for financial aid awards. Parents can learn about how they can help their student with financial aid by visiting the Parents’ Page on the Financial Aid website. The FAFSA code for PSU is 003216. Students should fill out the application at fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA application is an online-only document. Students cannot get a paper FAFSA from Financial Aid.

Scholarship applications are due February 1, 2013. All scholarship applications are available in an online database that students can access on the scholarship website. Requirements for individual scholarships vary, so encourage your student to read carefully before he or she submits in order to make sure he or she is applying for the correct scholarship opportunities. Questions about financial aid? The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is always happy to answer questions at any stage of the aid process. You or your student can reach the office by calling 503.725.3461 (toll-free: (800) 547.8887) or e-mailing questions to askfa@pdx.edu.

University Housing & Residence:
Welcome to Winter Term 2013!

Here’s what you need to know about University Housing to help your student during Winter:

Room Transfers
Room Transfer Requests for Winter Term are ongoing through March 1, 2013. Now is the time when residents may submit a transfer request to move to a different room or building. Students will need to schedule a meeting with their Area Coordinator or Resident Director at the University Housing and Residence Life Student Services Office in Broadway Building, Suite 210. These requests are taken on a first come first serve basis, based on availability.

Academic Support
The University Success center is open to assist your student’s academic needs, from a quiet study lounge with computer work stations to drop-in tutoring. Your student can take advantage of this resource by visiting the second floor of the Ondine Building. For more information, visit their website at www.pdx.edu/usuccess/.

2013-2014 Contract
Now is the time to start discussing where your student will live for 2013-2014! Current on-campus students have top preference when it comes to selecting housing for next year. The Room Renewal process will begin in April 2013 and continue through May. Students should research their options before filling out their contract. Virtual tours of all the buildings are available online at www.pdx.edu/housing/buildings. Students should also plan on attending Housing’s Open House event on April 6th. This event allows students to tour every housing option on campus to better help them choose where to live next academic year.

Need A Tour?
We offer tours of show rooms in Broadway and Ondine. Housing Tours take place Monday through Friday starting in the Housing and Residence Life Student Services Office at 1:30pm.

Campus Spotlight:
Author, philosopher and activist Cornel West to kick off week-long MLK celebration

Each year, Portland State University celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through a series of events, lectures and a day of service in the community. This year’s keynote event on Tuesday, January 15, is a sold-out lecture by Dr. Cornel West, one of America’s best-known intellectuals on race, class and politics.

West is a professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary, and professor emeritus at Princeton University. He has written 20 books and edited 13, including “Race Matters” and “Democracy Matters,” and his memoir “Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud.” West is also an activist, actor and critic. He is the co-host along with Travis Smiley of the PRI radio show “Smiley & West.” The two recently co-authored the book “The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto.”

Also, don’t miss a special exhibit at PSU’s Millar Library, which started in September and will finish at the end of January. It’s “Say We Are Here,” a collection of materials from the family of Verdell and Otto Rutherford, leading members of the African American community in Portland for much of the 20th Century.

For the full lineup of events taking place throughout the week of January 14, see pdx.edu/insidepsu/mlk-tribute-week.
This high/lowbrow mashup is a fast-paced, stylized adventure that shows us the roots of clowning, Moliere and farce from a here-and-now point of view.

Lincoln Performance Hall
Preview: Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Performs: Friday, March 1 & Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday March 2 at 2:00 p.m.; Wednesday, March 6 — Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Second Season: Play Reading Series — in the Lincoln Hall Studio Theatre
FREE and open to the Public

Limoneade Tous les Jours
by Charles Mee, directed by Lorraine Bahr
January 17 — 19, 7:30 p.m.

Comedy of Sorrows
directed by Tracy Cameron Francis
January 25, 7:30 p.m.

The Ugly One
by Marius von Meyenburg, directed by Katerina Bohadlová
Early February, TBD

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)

Get Involved!
Enhance Your Student Experience!

Winter term is one of the best times for your student to consider getting involved on campus. From student clubs to summer internships to on-campus jobs, many departments and organizations are offering wonderful opportunities. For example, becoming a PSU Orientation Leader (OL) is an exceptional way for your student to join a small, unique community while also earning a competitive summer wage. The deadline for students to apply for 2013 OL positions is February 1 and applications are available online at www.pdx.edu/orientation/orientationleader.

In addition to Orientation Leader positions, there are numerous other involvement opportunities available for your student. These opportunities include positions as Resident Assistants, Learning Community Assistants, Student Ambassadors, and Peer Mentors. Encourage your student to check out the following websites for more information about involvement opportunities:

- www.pdx.edu/salp
- www.pdx.edu/housing/employment
- http://www.pdx.edu/dos/student-ambassadors
- http://www.mentors.unst.pdx.edu/content/application-peer-mentor-positions

The Department of Theatre and Film and the School of Fine & Performing Arts present:

**The Servant of Two Masters**
By Carlo Goldoni; Adapted by Oded Gross & Tracy Young; Literal Translation by Beatrice Basso; Music & Additional Lyrics by Paul James Prendergast. Direction: Jessica Wallenfels, Guest Director. Scenic & Lighting Design: Daniel Meeker. Costume Design: Margaret Chapman. This incredibly silly play is a raucous, modernist take on an ancient theatrical style, Commedia dell’Arte, featuring ridiculous characters pursuing love and singing the occasional song. All the familiar favorites are here: the chintzy father, the boorish doctor, the mixed-up lovers and of course, one sexy servant.