FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

In this edition of the PSU Family newsletter, you will meet Dick Slottée, who recently came on board as the Director of Student Legal Services. Dick brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience, having worked as a lawyer helping folks in the Portland community with legal issues as Director of the Lewis and Clark Law Clinic for the past 30 years.

This newsletter also spotlights Ellie Franklin, who transferred to PSU before her sophomore year. She has been involved in several leadership roles here on campus, including serving as a PSU Student Ambassador and also as a Student Coordinator in the Orientation Program. Ellie just returned to campus from a trip studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland and is scheduled to graduate this spring.

We have also highlighted some great new PSU initiatives, such as ORcycle for bicycle enthusiasts, The Fearless Selfie competition, the 2015 Campus Conservation Nationals competition, and many other interesting updates about campus life at PSU. If you have suggestions or article ideas, please email these to family@pdx.edu. Further, if you can’t find information you’re looking for or if you’d like to schedule a meeting with the friendly, knowledgeable staff in our office, you can reach us by calling 503-725-4422 or emailing askdosl@pdx.edu. We are always happy to assist you and your student with their educational goals. Thank you for your interest and commitment to partnering with us in supporting your student’s success at PSU.

All the best,

Michele Toppe, Dean of Student Life

PSU APP WORKS TOWARDS SAFER RIDES

PSU is located at the center of the #1 bicycle city in the US! However, transportation planners do not currently have sufficient data regarding Oregon’s cycling population and their routes. Seeking to improve the services provided to Oregon’s bicycling community, the Transportation, Technology & People Lab (TTP) at PSU recently unveiled ORcycle—a smartphone app that collects route, infrastructure and safety data for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Once riders download ORcycle, they can record bicycle trips, access maps, and provide information regarding route safety, crashes, and bicycle infrastructure. Data collected from the app will be used by transportation planners to improve designs of bicycle facilities throughout the region. ORcycle can now be downloaded from GooglePlay and iTunes.
Resource Spotlight
Safe campus Module and Sexual assault awareness Month

The safety of our students is of the utmost importance at PSU. This year, PSU created an online resource module—Creating a Safe Campus: Preventing Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Sexual Assault. The module helps students to learn how to maintain a safe and respectful campus as well as information on support services and how to report incidents. More information may be found here.

The Women’s Resource Center is gearing up for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) 2015 in April. This year the national campaign is focused on campus sexual violence prevention, and the theme is Safer Campuses. Brighter Futures. Prevent Sexual Violence. Everyone has a role to play in creating safer campuses. It’s time to act to create learning environments where all are engaged. For more information about the national movement to support a community focus on sexual violence, visit the National Sexual Violence Resource Center SAAM 2015 pages (in English) (in Spanish).

Our hope each year is to facilitate workshops, lectures, movie screenings, and events that ultimately lead to positive cultural changes towards ending sexual violence. This year we have workshops and events featuring the following topics: trauma-informed self care, male ally-ship, sexual assault protection orders, violence against Native women, consent in the Queer community, survivors with disabilities, sexual assault and administrative response on college campuses, and many more.

Each year the WRC also facilitates Take Back the Night, an evening devoted to raising awareness and building community around ending sexual violence. This year’s theme is Ending Violence Against Queer and Trans Communities. This year will feature the popular slam poetry duo Sister Outsider Poetry and Jackie Sandmeyer from the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force. As always we will be doing Take Back the Night's signature events including a march to “take back the night” and a Survivor Speak Out where survivors can share their stories in a safe space. Take Back the Night will be on April 23rd, 5:30pm-8pm, Native American Student and Community Center.

There are many ways to become involved with SAAM and Take Back the Night. Please contact Virginia Martin at vmartin@pdx.edu for information.
Ellie Franklin ('15) transferred to Portland State her sophomore year, and has since thrived in her studies and extra-curricular activities. Ellie is a PSU Student Ambassador and serves as the Student Coordinator of Orientation Programs. She is pursuing a degree in Social Science and a minor in Women's Studies. Ellie recently returned to campus after spending fall term studying abroad in Ireland.

Where are you from, and why did you choose to attend PSU?
I was born and raised in Portland, on the East side. I decided to transfer to PSU after my first year attending college out-of-state to be closer to home and closer to the city that I love. My older sister was attending PSU at the time and having a great experience so I decided to try it out myself. Looking back now I think it was the best decision for me, and I am so proud to be graduating from this university.

You recently studied abroad in Ireland - sounds amazing! How was the trip?
Studying abroad was a life-changing experience for me. I attended Dublin City University in Dublin, Ireland during Fall term and loved every second of it. My program took me on trips all over Ireland - from the beautiful landscapes of the West to the historically significant North. It also gave me access to traveling throughout Europe - I visited Scotland, Switzerland, and Croatia! I definitely recommend that students try to travel internationally while in college. It is an important time for personal growth and global learning.

Describe the process of arranging your study abroad travel.
To plan studying abroad I first researched programs that are offered through PSU using the Study Abroad website. Once I narrowed my choices, I met with Rachel Goff in the Education Abroad office. All my applications were done online and once admitted I worked with the Financial Aid office to secure loans and get my balance paid while I was gone. Matt Sagayaga was very helpful in answering all of my financial aid questions. After being accepted into my program, I booked my flights, packed my bags, and off I flew!

What advice would you share with families who are supporting their students, especially as we enter the spring months?
Spring term can feel like a race to the end. Whether students are eager to finish classes and return home, or continuing to work hard through the term. It can present some challenges. I like to encourage students to enjoy the nice weather now that we finally get to see the sun! Studying in the Park Blocks, the Portland Waterfront, or next to the windows of the Library, students can always find a place to soak up knowledge and vitamin D. The spring can be a good time to solidify summer plans: there are tons of job and internship opportunities around campus and Portland, as well as summer classes.

Many families may be planning trips to visit their students in Portland within the next few months. What does the Perfect Portland Itinerary include?
Portland is known for many of its quirky characteristics, but it is also known for its fantastic food! I would make sure your Portland trip includes tons of eating; brunch at Jam on Hawthorne or Mother’s Bistro, lunch at Tasty & Alder, Cheryl’s on 12th, Little Big Burger, or Sizzle Pie, and a dinner feast at Bamboo Sushi, Baan Thai, or the Bollywood Theater. To feed your appetite for fun, check out Powell’s City of Books, The Portland Art Museum, a hike at Multnomah Falls, a bike ride on the waterfront, the Chinese Gardens, and the Pearl District. If you can pack all of these activities into one weekend trip, then you are my hero. But any number of these will make for an exciting Portland adventure!
SHARE YOUR FEARLESS SELFIE AND WIN
Have you noticed the Fearless Portland State profiles on campus and online? We are proud to share the stories of our alumni who are transforming humanity for the better and our faculty who are sharing their knowledge and making discoveries. But we are most proud of our students—the firsts in the family to go to college, the parents working full-time jobs, the valedictorians who could go anywhere, the returning veterans, the transfers from community college, and the determined from around the world. PSU students are the innovators, artists, leaders, thinkers and changemakers of our future.

What makes you fearless? Share your story by taking a selfie at fearlesspsu.com, sharing it on Instagram and tagging it #FearlessPSU. Just for fun, there are some cool prizes involved like a camera and an Apple TV so don’t miss out on winning!

MULTICULTURAL CENTER
Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month

APIA Leadership Training 101!
This one day training focuses on self-awareness, team-building, and direct action organizing.

Saturday, April 25th, 2015
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Multicultural Center, SMSU 228
Register Here

Challenging Institutional Racism and Coalition Building in the API Community
Simon Tam will discuss his band’s experience with institutional racism with the US Trademark Office. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Thursday, May 14th, 2015
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Multicultural Center, SMSU 228

Multicultural Graduation 2015
Join the Cultural Centers and our campus partners for the 2015 Multicultural Graduation! All graduating PSU students are invited to participate. Register before April 10th.

Friday, June 12th, 2015
Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom
Register Here
Campus Spotlight
EcoReps call on fellow students to reduce energy and water use on campus

The average U.S. American consumes four to five times more energy than the global average. That might not come as a surprise—we all love our iPhones, laptops, stereos, microwaves, coffee makers, hot showers...the list could go on and on.

But take a minute to think about that number. The U.S. only makes up five percent of the world's population, but we consume 20 percent of the world's energy. And most of that energy is produced from non-renewable resources like coal and oil that contribute to pollution and global climate change.

Beginning on February 16, students in Portland State residence halls will tackle this issue by participating in Campus Conservation Nationals, the largest electricity and water reduction competition in the world for colleges and universities.

The PSU EcoReps, a group of students who promote sustainability in campus residence halls, are organizing the competition and will be hosting four free events for students, including a candlelight dinner, a trivia night, and a light bulb swap.

This is PSU's fourth year participating in the challenge. Last year, PSU ranked among the top ten schools in the U.S. for electricity reduction during the competition, preventing nearly 42,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere and saving the University an estimated $6,446 in utility costs.

Check out PSU’s official building dashboard to keep track of each residence hall's progress throughout the competition. For the first time, all 10 of PSU’s residence halls will be participating, providing the opportunity for PSU to make our biggest impact ever.

Housing & Residence Life

Here in University Housing & Residence Life we know that where students live makes a difference in their college experience and their academic performance. We also know that the transition to the upper division demands of college can be just as challenging as choosing where to attend college.

Realizing the struggles that students face, beginning next year University Housing is launching a Student Success program focused on sophomores and upper division populations. Modeled after our University Success program on the East Side which focuses on the freshman year transition from high school, our West Side University Success program will be staffed by professional supervising Residential Academic Mentors – Juniors and Seniors specifically chosen to serve as mentors, coaches, and guides to upper division students in housing.

To live on campus next year and take advantage of the new Student Success-West Side program, students are encouraged apply for University Housing by April 3rd.

University Success
- After-hours counseling at University Success Mondays/Thursdays 6-7 PM, drop-ins welcome!
- After-hours advising at University Success Tuesdays 5-7 PM, by appointment, email usuccess@pdx.edu
**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Dick Slottee**

We are pleased to introduce you to Dick Slottee, the new Director of Student Legal Services.

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

I graduated from law school at the University of Oregon in 1972. My first job was with the Legal Aid program in Portland, where we represented low income clients with a wide range of legal matters. After about five years, I joined Lewis and Clark Law School as a professor and Director of the Lewis and Clark Legal Clinic, the first teaching clinic for the Law School. The mission statement probably best sums up my work there: “(1) provide law students with practical skills training in a law office setting while under the full-time supervision of clinical faculty, (2) offer high quality legal services to the under-represented low income population, and (3) instill in students the sense of ethics and professionalism necessary to practice law, as well as the values and skills necessary to provide pro bono legal services to low income clients after graduation.” After more than 30 years, the Legal Clinic closed at the end of 2014.

*How did you end up at PSU?*

The opportunity to join PSU was an example of the perfect storm. For most of my career I had been working in downtown Portland for an educational institution whose goal was to help law students successfully transition to their post-graduation careers. An integral part of my work was helping to remove or minimize legal obstacles for those who could not afford legal assistance. For most of those clients, those legal issues focused on basic survival: adequate housing, continuation of government benefits, safety from abusers, and relief from financial stress. At almost the same time as the demise of the Legal Clinic, the opportunity to work at Student Legal Services arose – a job with remarkable similarities to my prior work.

*What is the most fulfilling aspect of the work you do for PSU?*

Basic legal rights, particularly the operation of the legal system, are a mystery to many people. Meaningful access to the legal system is often impossible for many low income individuals. My greatest satisfaction is assisting those who cannot otherwise afford legal assistance, helping them demystify the legal process and understand their options, and providing assistance in resolving legal problems, particularly where the problems are creating obstacles to a goal. That goal for my clients was often as basic as retaining habitable housing for another month, continuing benefits, relief from financial stress, or struggling through a family or relationship issue. Many college students are no different in that they have many of these same goals. However, students have additional goals: academic success, graduation, and hopefully a fulfilling career. It is satisfying to help students achieve these goals.

*What is the role of Student Legal Services?*

The role of Student Legal Services is to provide preventative legal education, counseling and advice, referrals, and representation as applicable and available – all to help students overcome legal issues which may interfere with their educational goals. Fortunately, SLS is only one part of a much larger mechanism, a system whose sole goal is to provide those necessary services to help students achieve success. While I have been at PSU for only a month, I am enjoying, and am even a little amazed, at how well all of the component parts work together as a team.

*What should we expect from SLS in the future?*

Like many programs at PSU, the resources at SLS are limited as compared to the size of the student population. We hope to continue to expand our preventative legal education to students through our periodic presentations, and increase the size of our referral list for certain types of legal issues that are beyond our resources to handle. Of course, SLS will continue to provide representation to PSU students as appropriate. Fortunately, SLS has a wonderful and dedicated staff who will continue to provide the best possible service to PSU and its students.
MONEY MATTERS
Adam Davidson, co-founder of Planet Money, a co-production of NPR and This American Life, will speak at Smith Memorial Student Union from 2:30 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 6.

In addition to his work with NPR, Davidson writes the regular “On Money” column for the New York Times Magazine. His work has won several major awards including the Peabody, DuPont-Columbia and the Polk. His radio documentary on the housing crisis, “The Giant Pool of Money,” which he co-reported and produced with Alex Blumberg, was named one of the top 10 works of journalism of the decade by the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University, which recognized it as the clearest and most entertaining explanation of the roots of the financial crisis in any medium.

The free event will be held in Smith Union rooms 296-298. It is sponsored by Financial Beginnings, PSU School of Business Administration, Beta Alpha Psi and Financial Management Association.