FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

In this edition of the PSU Family Newsletter, you will meet Dr. John Fraire, who recently joined the Enrollment Management & Student Affairs (EMSA) staff as Vice President of EMSA from WSU Pullman. Also featured is student Kalera Stratton, a senior member of the Urban Honors program. Additionally, you will find information about PSU’s $1.4 billion urban footprint, the new Viking Pavilion scheduled to break ground in the beginning of 2016, and information regarding a variety of commencement ceremonies.

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

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Commencement Ceremonies

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2015! We hope that all of you with graduating students will attend the main commencement ceremony on June 14, 2015. Tickets and additional information may be found on the Commencement website.

There are also several other graduation celebrations taking place across the PSU campus. The below ceremonies are open to any student. Additionally, a full list of graduation ceremonies may be found on this Commencement Ceremonies document.

Family Friendly Commencement: Sunday, June 7, noon – 6:00 p.m., Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom. Hosted by the Resource Center for Students with Children.

Lavendar Graduation: Wednesday, June 10, 6:00 p.m., Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom. Hosted by the Queer Resource Center.

Multicultural Graduation 2015: Friday, June 12, 6:00 p.m., Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom. Hosted by Diversity and Multicultural Student Services.
We are pleased to introduce you to Dr. John Fraire, the new Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs at Portland State University!

Please tell us a bit about yourself.
I am a second-generation Mexican American, and a first-generation college student. I am also the very first person ever in my entire family to earn a PhD. I was born in Gary, Indiana and raised in a large Mexican-American household. I am also a third-generation steel worker. My father worked in the mills for over 40 years, and all my siblings and I, including my sister, have worked in the mills as well. I like to think of myself as an urban Chicano.

What were you doing before coming to PSU?
I have worked over 35 years in higher education, most recently seven and a half years as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. I have worked at a variety of institutions: a large land grant, research state institution (WSU); small, academic public (Truman State University in Missouri), regional state school (Western Michigan University), urban university (Brooklyn College/City University of New York), urban community college (Harold Washington College/City Colleges of Chicago), urban private university (Pace University/Manhattan), and elite Ivy League (Harvard). I am also a playwright, and an historian specializing in Midwest Chicano history.

How did you end up at PSU?
I was brought to WSU by the President to establish an enrollment management operation, and he then also asked me to stabilize the student affairs operation there. I had planned to stay at WSU for at least five years, but ending up staying over seven years. Since I had successfully completed my task there, (both enrollment management and student affairs now are solid operations at WSU) I wanted to return to living and working in a more urban environment, and always had my eye on Portland State University. I liked that it was a respected, urban university, had a more mature and older student population, and had strong commitment to access and social justice. So I was very excited when I saw the job opening here at PSU, and applied immediately.

What is the most fulfilling aspect of the work you do for PSU, especially as it relates to students?
I like helping people get an education, especially individuals from under-served communities, and first generation college students.

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?
It is a smart decision to attend PSU. It is also important to remember that financing a college education is an investment that often requires short term sacrifice; and there is no sounder investment than attending PSU.

Do you have a PSU event you are looking forward to attending this spring/summer?
I am looking forward to many cultural events that occur during graduation in the summer, and the many events that occur during the first week of classes in the fall.

What do you love to do in your spare time?
I like to read history books (I have an intra disciplinary PhD in history and humanities). I love to cook fancy dinners for my wife, watch TV and sports, and exercise.
MONEY MATTERS
Federal Education Loan Exit Counseling

Congratulations from the Portland State University Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships to the graduating class of 2015!

If you have borrowed federal student loans, the Financial Aid Office is here to assist you with your required Federal Education Loan Exit Counseling session and to answer any questions you may have about managing your federal student loan portfolio as you depart from school.

This counseling session can be completed online and is designed to help you understand your rights and responsibilities as a student loan borrower. Additionally, it provides useful tips and information to help you manage repayment of your student loans. You also have the option of meeting with a financial aid counselor to complete an in-person exit counseling session.

If you need assistance, please contact our office:
By phone: (503) 725-3461 | By email: askfa@pdx.edu
By appointment | drop in appointments are available Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 1:40 p.m. To schedule a drop in appointment, please visit the Financial Aid counter in the lobby of Neuberger Hall.

Are you ready to begin?

Complete your exit counseling session online at studentloans.gov. You will be redirected to the U.S. Department of Education’s Federal Student Loan site.

We wish you the very best in your post-graduate endeavors!

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE
University Success Program

University Success is an in-hall, after hours academic support space in Suite 207 of Ondine Residence Hall. We offer free academic resources to all residents and the space is staff by student Learning Community Assistants and office assistants. Free services include: a quiet study space, drop-in academic and career advising as well as the “Let’s Talk” counseling service, computer work-stations, free printing, scanning, one-on-one writing support, hot cocoa and tea, and so much more. Our hours are Monday – Thursday, 2:00 – 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Research Spotlight
PSU's $1.4 Billion Urban Footprint

When I first arrived at Portland State University six years ago, I immediately recognized three primary strengths—a solid partnership with the city and region; a go-to resource for economic development and employers; and a deep commitment to sustainability. Since then, I have made it PSU’s mission to enhance and expand on those strengths.

Now it’s time to take stock. How have we done? What kind of impact have we had on the urban region we serve? Are we making the kind of progress I promised?

A new report from our Office of Strategic Partnerships on PSU’s role in economic development in the Portland region puts numbers to the programs and fleshes out the initiatives and partnerships we have undertaken. Highlights include:

• $150 million in private venture capital and government grants generated by PSU’s Business Accelerator.
• 650 companies supported by our Business Outreach Program.
• 92 percent of New Seasons waste diverted or recycled instead of landfilled after help from PSU’s Community and Environmental Services.
• PSU has 33 issued patents; seven start-up companies based on PSU intellectual property; 62 active intellectual property license agreements; and 82 active intellectual property projects.

Also read about GlobeSherpa, the hard-charging tech company that grew out of a student project and now makes ticketless apps for a number of urban transit systems. Or about how PSU’s faculty have reached out to industry to align programs and degrees to meet the needs of a changing workforce. PSU even helped a Portland cupcake baker rebrand and grow his food cart business.

As Portland and its neighbors ponder the region’s economic future, and as the Oregon Legislature gathers in Salem to move the state forward, this report is a timely assessment—and reminder—of how Portland State’s faculty, staff and students are making a difference.

Wim Wiewel

President of Portland State University
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Kalera Stratton

Kalera Stratton is a current PSU senior and member of PSU’s Urban Honors College community. As part of the Urban Honors College curriculum, Kalera and a group of fellow students recently took part in a research project that took them to Borneo.

Where are you from originally, and why did you choose to attend PSU?
I’m from Portland originally, and I chose to attend PSU partly because of its partnership with OHSU; I felt that although there are other schools with excellent Biology programs in Portland, the close relationship of PSU with OHSU would not only allow me access to the state-of-the-art South Waterfront learning facilities, but also give me more exposure to OHSU’s researchers as well as helping to make me a better candidate for acceptance to graduate school there. My main consideration, however, is that PSU is a research university, and it was important to me to have the opportunity to do hands-on research in a lab under the guidance of an experienced researcher in my Senior year.

You recently traveled with the PSU Honors College to Borneo—sounds amazing! What was the purpose/goal of the trip?
The purpose of the trip was multifold; we were there to look at multiple facets of life in a developing region, including aspects such as day-to-day survival and sustainable living in a traditional tribal village, where we helped with the construction of a microhydro power station under partnership with an organization called Green Empowerment. We also visited a genetics laboratory which is seeking to identify and index unknown zoonotic viruses before they make the jump to human populations, and a heritage language school that seeks to teach children their native language, as many languages there are in danger of being erased by the growing need for villagers to be able to speak Malaysian, English, and other languages of larger political entities. Because our group was drawn from many academic disciplines, it was an opportunity for us to each create our own focus of research, and examine those facets of the ecology or culture that were most compelling to us. We were also the first visiting group representing the establishment of a sister city relationship between Portland and Kota Kinabalu.

What was your biggest takeaway from your time in Borneo? Either in terms of what you learned about the culture, the people, maybe yourself or the other students your worked with....
This may sound cliché but my takeaway was that it is urgent for us, as a society and as a species, to learn to understand the intrinsic value of biological and cultural diversity before we lose them. Jungles are not only beautiful, and are not only vital carbon sinks, but they are reservoirs of unknown genetic material that is probably very important for our global health in ways that are yet unknown, as well as cultural material which is less tangible, yet I suspect no less important. Yet they are being razed for palm oil plantations, and that biodiversity is being lost bit by bit. They are being flooded in megadam projects. We have placed a certain value on development as an end in itself, and the value is represented with money, which is used to buy resources. The result is an ever-increasing cycle of development, displacement, poverty, disease, and for animals and cultures, often extinction. Yet what is our solution for this cycle? More development, so that the displaced/impoverished people can work and earn money. I think it is obvious that the ultimate ending place for this cycle is pretty grim for everyone involved.

What is your favorite aspect of being part of the Honors College community?
It is the community itself! I love having so much support in my endeavors, and knowing that if I have a problem or a frustration or a project or an aspiration I can go to my advisors there, or to my peers, and they will support me. I love the Honors Commons, which is often my island of serenity on the bustling campus. I love the opportunity, both to go on amazing trips like Borneo, and to build my own Senior thesis project and do original research, gaining me not only hands-on experience that will be applicable to my future career, but which is also resume-building and enhances my credibility in my field. I also have to mention that I feel it has helped to give me the flexibility to tailor my educational experience to my needs and interests, which is a powerful opportunity that I can’t overstate! Honors has really underscored for me the importance of being brave enough to reach out for what I want from my education.
CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

Viking Pavilion

Portland State University is undertaking one of the largest renovation projects in its history—the Viking Pavilion and Academic Center. This renovation will transform the current building into a lively campus landmark for academics, the arts and athletics.

The current center, The Peter Stott Center, is currently home to PSU’s athletic, health, and physical education programs. The Peter Stott Center Renovation and Viking Pavilion project will modernize spaces throughout the building, add a multipurpose arena, and attain a minimum LEED Gold certification. The project hopes to engage the South Park Blocks and draw the general student population to the building by creating a more transparent façade of windows facing the Park Blocks, developing eco-bleachers (think sit-able steps like in front of Millar Library or in the Urban Plaza), adding retail food service to the ground floor, and adding student study space. Additionally, the project will:

- Include a new 5,500-seat pavilion with modern fan amenities suitable for basketball, volleyball, academic symposiums, concerts, trade shows, dinners, graduations, etc.;
- Demonstrate PSU’s commitment to sustainability through energy-efficient design and construction;
- Provide 30,000 square feet for studying, tutoring, advising, and health and physical education classes.

The project is currently in the early design phase with construction anticipated to start in the beginning of 2016 and will be completed in Spring 2018. More information regarding this renovation may be found on the Viking Pavilion website.

REVAMPED BUSINESS MINOR PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES

The 28 credit Business Minor through the School of Business Administration (SBA) provides students with basic business skills that are essential for any career field. The recently revamped program offers students a solid preparation for later career success. Drawing on the School’s deep connections to the Portland-area business community, all courses in the Minor are taught by working professionals with an emphasis on real world applications. The seven course program complements all PSU majors and can be completed in one year. Now more than ever, it is essential that students graduate with a critical understanding of contemporary business concepts and decision making frameworks, in addition to refined, practical skills in leadership, communication, and finance.

Why I chose the Business Minor, Jesse Tranfo, Communications 2015

Although I am passionate about Communications, my interests don’t stop with my major. I also wanted an avenue that would allow me the freedom to choose from a wider set of career paths once I graduate, and give my resume a louder voice. The Business Minor has not only increased my job prospects, it is already paying off. I was recently asked to be treasurer for the Communication Honors Society specifically because I am a Business Minor. There are managers, owners, and executives in every field, and having the Business Minor on my resume puts me in a prime position to have one of those jobs right out of the gate.

Information about the Business Minor is available online at pdx.edu/sba/business-minor. Questions about the program can be directed by email to sbainfo@pdx.edu or by calling the SBA Undergraduate Programs Office at 503-725-3712.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The School of Theater and Film**

**Molière’s The Misanthrope**

- Preview: Thursday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m.
- Performs: Friday – Sunday; May 15 – 17, May 20 – 24
  (Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday – Saturday, May 27 – 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Lincoln Performance Hall
- Tickets available at the PSU Box Office [pdx.edu/boxoffice/home](http://pdx.edu/boxoffice/home) or 503-725-3307
- Advance tickets for PSU Students are $6!

**PSU Student Film + Video Show**

- Friday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- Fifth Avenue Cinema

**Choreography Dance Showcase**

June 9 – 10 at 7:30
- Lincoln Performance Hall

**Cultural Resource Center**

**Honor Day with Keynote Speaker Swil Kanim**

- June 5th, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Native American Student & Community Center
- Join us as we honor our 2015 PSU Native American, Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander graduates for this annual ceremony and dinner.

**Talking Circle**

- May 29th, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Native American Student & Community Center, Nimipuutimt Gathering Area
- A time of gathering, sharing, and listening. Open only to PSU students. Tea and cookies served.

**Smudge Ceremony**

- Weekdays, 9:00 a.m.
- Native American Student & Community Center
- This is a time of community building and prayer. All are welcome.

**Housing Updates, Reminders & Deadlines**

**Spring 2015 Move Out**

- Saturday June 13th, 8:00 a.m. – Noon
- On campus residents have until Noon on Saturday, June 13th to officially move out of their rooms. We encourage students who have completed finals to begin moving out of their rooms prior to June 13. If students need additional time to move out, they are encouraged to contact University Housing as soon as possible. Late check out fees will apply. Residents will receive notifications and more information regarding move-out, including walk-through information, as the term comes to an end.

**Looking for Summer Housing??**

- About 700 students live on campus during the summer. Current residents can live on campus without taking classes. Summer session housing is also available for students who are looking for temporary housing. Has your student secured housing for next year? Students who wish to live on campus next year are encouraged to submit housing contracts for 2015 – 2016 as soon as possible. Space is limited, so don’t delay!

**Refuel Your Brain (finals week)**

- Sunday – Thursday during Week 10 from 6:00 – 10 p.m. in Ondine
- University Success wants to help you prepare for a successful Spring Finals Week! Stop by to learn tips and tricks to help you study as well as free food, friends, animals, and board games to help give your brain a study break.