From the Desk of the Dean

This final edition of the 2013–14 Family Newsletter is not only about celebrating an end to a great academic year, but it is also about celebrating the new and the future. For those of you with students graduating in June, I’d like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to both your student and to you. I encourage you to celebrate both the incredible achievement of receiving a degree as well as their future endeavors—for which I wish them the greatest success.

For those of you with students returning in the Fall, this edition celebrates the new opportunities or services available to your students in the next academic year. You’ll read about the Student Health and Counseling remodel and expanded services, advice on summer employment or internships, the new PSU mobile app, and the brand new state-of-the-art Collaborative Life Sciences Building opening in Fall 2014. Other articles include:

• Staff Spotlight Yoko Honda, an International Student Life Advisor;
• Student Spotlight Krystine McCants;
• PSU’s 7th Annual Sustainability Celebration

If you have suggestions or article ideas, please email these to family@pdx.edu. Your comments and feedback will provide us with direction for future PSU Family articles and contribute towards our ultimate goal for this newsletter -- to be an opportunity for a dialogue between members of the PSU extended community. Further, the Office of the Dean of Student Life staff are available to assist your students. You can reach us by calling 503.725.4422 or emailing AskDosl@pdx.edu.

Sincerely,

Michele Toppe, Dean of Student Life

Housing and Residence Life

Updates Spring 2014

Spring Move-Out is quickly approaching! Students need to move out either 24 hours after their last final or by noon on Saturday, June 14th. Students can complete either a Walk-through or Express check-out. More information about move-out will be sent to students’ pdx.edu email accounts!

Live with us in the Summer! If students are interested in living in Housing for summer, they need to submit a contract right away. 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 2014-2015 Academic year? It is not too late to sign a Housing Contract for 2014-2015! Current Residents need to contact our Housing Office either by email (housing@pdx.edu) or in person (Broadway 210) to fill out a contract for 2014-2015. Hurry, space is limited and filling up fast!

Commemeration

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

Commemeration this year falls on Sunday, June 15 at the Moda Center. 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.

If you have any questions regarding commencement, please feel free to contact Nicholas Running, Coordinator of Commencement, at: commencement@pdx.edu.

Campus Spotlight

SHAC Remodel and Expanded Services

The Center for Student Health & Counseling (SHAC) just finished a long planned remodel that expands services for PSU students and give them more opportunities to be involved in health and wellness around campus. The remodel expanded the medical and counseling clinical space; added more dental operatories, along with creating a beautiful new waiting area; built a new testing space that will be able to accommodate more students; and created a Health Promotion suite with a “Mind Spa.” The “Mind Spa” is a room that starting Fall 2014 students can reserve for a period of time to go and relax and learn relaxation techniques/skills they can apply elsewhere. The Mind Spa also gives SHAC more space to restart the Peer Health Educator Team program. This fall, 4-6 students on the Peer Health Educator Team will help promote information about health and wellness to their peers.

The remodel coincides with SHAC’s 10th anniversary as a multidisciplinary center of health and wellness for students. Prior to 2003, Medical Services and Counseling and Testing Services were separate areas. Merging the departments allows SHAC to offer a more holistic approach to health. Any PSU student taking five credits has access to SHAC’s medical, counseling, and dental services (regardless of their insurance plan), and all students can utilize the testing center. SHAC encourages students to first seek services at SHAC. There is no copay or cost to see a nurse, provider, or counselor (there are some fees for certain services), and the dental clinic fees are 30-50% lower than other clinics. Visit pdx.edu/shac for more information.
**Money Matters**

**PSU Parents: Help Us Help Your Students!**

Is your student looking for summer employment or internships? Summer jobs allow your student(s) to get additional experience, develop new skills and abilities, network in the community, and pay for college expenses. PSU has a database of on-and off-campus, part-time and full-time, work-study, and regular-wage employment. Along with employment, it offers information about paid and unpaid internships! If your student is looking for summer employment direct them towards:  

pdx.edu/careers/jobs-databasecareerconnect

Parents, does your employer offer internships or summer jobs? PSU Advising & Career Services (ACS) office would like to share these opportunities with students looking for summer engagement!

Internships serve as experiential and real-world learning opportunities for students and provide them with a chance to “try on” careers which may align with their major. Internships also help students develop and strengthen transferable skills that all employers look for, such as written and verbal communication, critical thinking and problem solving, teamwork and collaboration, and proficiency with computer software programs. Internships also help students become better prepared for the workforce post-graduation.

The following data from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) demonstrates the value of internships relative to employer recruiting practices:

- Recruiting new hires is the primary focus of internship programs by 77.6 percent of employers, and co-op programs by 62.6 percent of employers.
- Employers made full-time offers to 64.8 percent of their interns; 56.8 percent of their co-op students.
- 96.9 percent of responding employers plan to hire interns and/or co-op students in 2014.

If you would like to help students, please consider promoting your positions with us through our job and internship database, CareerConnect:

pdx.edu/careers/posting-jobs-internships

For additional information or to discuss your opportunities with us, please email Ann Mestrovich, Employer Relations Coordinator, ann.mestrovich@pdx.edu, or Jeanne Ellis, Internship Program Adviser, jmellis@pdx.edu.

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**Sustainability—It's What We Do**

On **May 29**, Portland State University will honor student and faculty sustainability achievements at the 7th Annual PSU Sustainability Celebration in the Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom. The event is free and open to the entire PSU community—including parents, alumni, and community members.

The Sustainability Celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the past year, share accomplishments with colleagues and peers, and connect with others around issues of sustainability. The event will feature a Sustainability Project Showcase, providing an opportunity for students and employees to display their work in a format of their choosing—from posters, videos, and photo collages, to artwork, installations, and info tables.

The program will feature remarks by Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, PSU President Wim Wiewel, and PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions Director Jennifer Allen. It will also include the Annual Sustainability Awards ceremony and a musical performance by PSU’s a cappella group, The Green Note.

Please join us in celebrating another great year for sustainability at PSU!  

**When:** Thursday, May 29, 4 to 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom, Portland State University  
**Cost:** Free. Refreshments will be served.

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**The School of Theatre and Film**

The School of Theatre and Film invites you to Naomi Wallace’s **The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek**.

**Direction:** Karin Magaldi  
**Scenic & Lighting Design:** Daniel Meeker  
**Costume Design:** Alison Heryer  
**Preview:** Thursday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m.  
**Performs:** Friday – Sunday; May 16 – 18, (Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m.) Wednesday – Sunday, May 21 – 25 (Wednesday – Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m.), and May 28 – 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Lincoln Hall 55 Theatre, LH 55  
Tickets available at the PSU Box Office  
pdx.edu/boxoffice/home or  
503-725-3307  
Advance tickets for PSU Students are $6!
Staff Spotlight

Yoko Honda
We are pleased to introduce you to Yoko Honda, International Student Life Advisor in the Office of International Affairs.

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

I was born and raised in Japan and came to the U.S. to study when I was 18 years old. I attended Shasta College in Redding, CA, where I earned an AA – Transfer degree. I transferred to PSU in 2007 and earned a BA in Social Science and MA in Postsecondary, Adult and Continuing Education. While I was an international student at PSU, I was heavily involved with the current office and worked pretty much every student position available in the office! After PSU, I worked as an office assistant, international admission specialist and international student advisor, respectively, at Portland Community College for 3 years.

How did you end up at PSU?

My husband has relatives in Portland. When we visited his uncle showed us around the campus and I completely fell in love! Portland has a comprehensive transportation system and lots of greenery which remind me of my hometown. I felt that I could fit in to the diverse student population at PSU, so I decided to transfer. When my position became available, I applied and was fortunate to receive the job. PSU and the Office of International Affairs have helped me become who I am as a person and as a professional. I’m very happy to work with my mentors and people whom I admire!

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

Part of my work is coordinating orientation for international students who are matriculated to the university with help from various departments. I see international students with different academic levels; transfer students who have been in the U.S. for a while and brand new students who arrived Portland a couple days ago. I see so many excited, but overwhelmed and anxious faces during orientation. And I can relate to that as a former international student. Some of them share their concerns and go through culture adjustment period. But after a term or two, I’m able to see them slowly but surely adjusting to the U.S. culture, language, and university systems. I truly enjoy helping them transition to become confident, successful PSU students.

How does your office work towards supporting student success and providing a unique college experience?

International Student and Scholar Services provides resources and support for international students and scholars who are pursuing their degrees and providing international academic exchange. There are 2100+ international students from over 70 countries and they face various academic, cultural and financial obstacles during their studies. We provide immigration advising to those students with F-1 and J-1 visas, orientation, workshops, mentoring program, scholarships and activities. Being an international student is very challenging. They have to meet their immigration requirements, and their families and friends are in their countries. We want to ensure that our students are oriented, properly advised and well supported at PSU.

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?

I strongly encourage you to get involved with any events on campus and leadership/volunteer programs. We understand that you have busy schedule, taking care of responsibilities other than school. We want you to take advantage of being students; Rec Center to stay healthy, our office to get connected with international students and much more! Another important tip is to find (a) mentor(s) to guide you through the university systems. I had many mentors during my studies at PSU, and they supported me tremendously.

Resource Spotlight

PSU Mobile App

PSU is thrilled to announce the new PSU mobile app, available to the entire PSU community – including families of students. PSU’s mobile app was born from increasing demand from students, faculty and others to access PSU’s website over their phones and tablets. The app is designed for easy and functional mobile use, with icons that are the most popular sites such as a campus directory or course information. While the primary audience is students, providing access to information and resources students need, it also offers key elements that are important to the greater PSU community and those outside of the university, such as prospective students seeking information, families visiting their students, or community members who want to attend a sports event. In addition, the mobile app is a crucial tool for real-time communications of emergencies such as safety alerts or weather closures. Emergency alerts automatically display instantly on your device at the top of the screen. Selecting the emergency menu provides direct access to Campus Public Safety Office contacts that can be instantly accessed by touching the screen.

Included in the tabs is direct access to the PSU Library and full access to the PSU Directory to locate any faculty or staff member. You can then add any contact information to your own address book or place a call directly. There is a calendar of events which currently includes the Academic Calendar (such as the last day to add/drop classes), PSU Holidays, Campus Rec schedule and the Women’s Resource Center calendar of events. The app also offers full access to all Athletics schedules. Future features include additional campus-wide calendars, such as Student Life events, and the ability to look up courses in the course catalog.

Of particular interest to families may be the quick access to PSU’s Twitter and Facebook feeds, PSU’s videos and shared photos, and the News module. Via the News module, you can read about the latest happenings around campus and may share any news items via your own social channels as well. The Dining link, which displays available dining options on campus, and custom google map with PSU buildings will be helpful when you visit your student on campus.

It is important to understand that we are in the beginning stages of this app. We welcome feedback and offer a feedback link in the app. PSU’s mobile app was built for our students and for our PSU community – we value any feedback you are willing to provide and hope to hear how this app has helped you keep up to date on PSU events and news.

To download the PSU mobile app on your Apple or Android device, visit m.pdx.edu
Where are you from and why did you choose to study at PSU?

I’m originally from Ashland, OR and I chose to study at PSU when I left Real Estate in order to finish my undergraduate degree, which I completed in August, 2012. I am currently a graduate student studying Public Affairs and Policy and Economics. I did not follow a typical four-year course to a college degree. While pursuing my undergraduate degree, I attended three different Oregon universities. I entered college at the University of Oregon as a Theater Arts and Romance Languages major, and it wasn’t until later in my academic career that I realized my passion for education and the opportunities that it can provide to the least well-off and most vulnerable people. Growing up, I struggled with the structural inequalities I observed in my community, but I didn’t know how to develop the tools I needed to address them. I believe that conducting research into the barriers standing in the way of academic achievement for Oregon students, and finding the most effective ways to solve them are vitally necessary, particularly as we are encountering severe economic challenges throughout the state. It is in pursuit of this goal that I have designed my course of study at Portland State University.

Explain what you do in your role as the SFC Chair.

The Student Fee Committee is responsible for analyzing budgets and allocating student fees totaling just over $14.5 million. I meet regularly with students, faculty and members of the university administration to discuss the budget process, details of individual budgets, and rationale for decisions made by the committee. As Chair, I also assure overall operations of the Student Fee Committee, including processing budget requests, processing reserve requests, and implementing student fee guidelines. I evaluate and train members of the committee in viewpoint neutrality, the budget process, the online budgeting system, and monthly and quarterly reports used by fee-funded areas.

How do you balance the demands of the SFC, your work with SALP, and the demands of your two graduate programs? Are there any campus resources you utilize?

I make heavy use of Google calendars. I have also gotten very good at saying “no” to new projects when I have enough on my schedule. As it is, most of my time is split between homework, work for the Student Fee Committee, and hanging out with my son. I don’t spend a lot of time taking advantage of all of the wonderful things here in Portland, but as soon as I finish my Master’s program at the end of this term, that will be the first thing I do! Whenever I can fit it into my schedule, I love using the rec center’s cardio and weight rooms. The folks over there are all really helpful, and it’s a great way to unwind and energize.

What advice would you like to share with families who are supporting new students?

There are a lot of opportunities on campus to get involved, from Rec Clubs and Student Groups to positions with resource center, Orientation leaders, Peer Mentors, and so many more. These can help connect students to campus, offer networking systems, and help motivate students to succeed academically. I strongly suggest encouraging your student to take advantage of everything the campus has to offer. My other piece of advice is to have them meet with an academic advisor early and often, and to get to know their professors right away. It has been my experience that very few students at PSU go to their professors’ office hours, even though the professors I have met would love to be able to help their students succeed.