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Student Legal Services at Portland State University has added a new service for students, an Immigration Clinic.

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President Wiewel has made it a university priority to recruit and retain more Latin@ students.

From the desk of Jackie Balzer
Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Last week at the western regional student affairs conference, I gathered with nearly 600 of my professional colleagues at Portland’s Marriott hotel to share ideas and discuss best practices as we collectively strive to be the best at serving our students. One of the keynote speakers was my former supervisor and mentor, Larry Roper, who spoke on the topic of leadership during challenging times. The heart of Dr. Roper’s address, surprisingly, had nothing to do with budget crises or increasing enrollments (although both were mentioned). Rather, Dr. Roper spoke of how we use our power and privilege, and the relationship climates on our campuses in how we treat others and in how we treat our students. In other words, what role are we, as educators, playing in the setting of positive examples for each other and for our students? As student affairs professionals it is our role to model our core values of community, civility and respect for our students.

In the coming weeks with the hustle and bustle of the winter season and as our students are writing papers and studying for final exams, let us set the tone of our campus by being role models for a positive, hopeful and productive campus climate. I look forward to seeing you at the divisional meeting in January!
This past summer, 16 Upward Bound students completed either a 50- or 100-hour internship with various community agencies and businesses. Two students helped provide recreational activities for disadvantaged youth at YWCA LearnLinks. Two other students assisted a social worker at Human Solutions, a childcare and social service agency in SE Portland. One student worked at Oregon Metro, assisting an administrator on an environmental literacy project. Another student interned at Urchin Redesign and Hail Mary, two small clothing businesses in NE Portland. Other students completed internships at Walgreens, Pacific Dental, Impact Northwest, and Bienestar de la Familia. Another student completed two internships this summer, one at Synergy Legal, a court reporting company, and the other an unpaid internship with the City of Portland. Two students also interned at OHSU observing a medical physicist and a radiation oncologist, charting patient rounds and summarizing clinical research. Two others worked with a new internet radio station, Cascade Community Radio, visiting local radio stations, updating social networking websites, and even recording and broadcasting live concerts in Portland.

In addition to these 16 interns, 6 more senior interns served as team leaders for their younger peers at our Upward Bound ocean camp in June. Ten other students held summer technology and research positions for us this summer: 2 in photography, 2 in video production, 2 in desktop publishing, one developed our Facebook page for both current students and alumni, another served as a math assistant to rising 9th graders, and two others researched and produced a scholarship list for our web site.

In total, students earned over $18,000 in internship dollars funded by our U.S. Department of Education Upward Bound grant. The internships provided our students with application and interviewing skills as well as experience in the Portland workforce.

If you are interested in hiring an Upward Bound intern on campus or if you know someone in the community who could employ a summer intern, contact Phillip Dirks at dirksr@pdx.edu. Planning for 2011 will begin in January.
WRC and CAPS Collaborate

This fall staff from the WRC and CAPS have joined forces to offer a new service to students who are struggling with their academic success and/or personal well-being. The two departments began a new support group, entitled “Becoming Safely Embodied: A Skills-Based Approach to Working with Trauma.” Using a curriculum developed by staff at an east-coast trauma treatment center, the group focuses on using mindfulness-based practices to support the development of coping skills for students who are struggling with the after-effects of interpersonal violence. This curriculum has never been used before on a college campus. The group implemented an assessment plan and intends to evaluate the outcomes of the group once it has concluded. If you or your students are interested in participating in any future groups, or for more information, please contact Jessica Amo at jamo@pdx.edu.

PSU Career Center
Awarded and Certified!
by Cheryl Hollatz-Wisely, Career Counselor

PSU’s Career Center has been awarded and certified by the national OUT for Work Career Center Certification Program!

This OUT for Work program works with Career Centers across the U.S. to gauge the level and the amount of resources that centers are providing to LGBTQ students. The Career Center was awarded a Silver Ranking in the Career Certification Program. To have gotten a “Gold” ranking, we would have to have programs related to LGBTQ support issues (the QRC and CAPS do that at PSU) as well as peer-support programs (again, that would come through the QRC on our campus). Visit http://tinyurl.com/2b7kq9q to see the list of nationally certified programs as of September 2010.

A RESOURCE FOR OUR STUDENTS: The OUT for Work program has put together 88 articles, websites, and books covering the span of LGBTQ specific issues when entering and settling into the workplace. Some of the topics covered by OUT for Work’s Library materials include the “whys” and “hows” of being out in the job search and on the job as well as the details of domestic partner benefits and corporate non-discrimination policies.

To access and link to the LGBTQ Career Center Library, visit: http://outforwork.org/resources/career_center/library.asp

You are welcome to give this login information to your students directly and to share it with them! Username: library Password: outforwork
Student Ambassadors Move

The fall term welcomed eight new Student Ambassadors, increasing the ranks to sixteen. The year’s adventure started with a move into our new space in the Academic Recreation Center. Dubbed the Viking Information Center, our new office is in the heart of the Urban Plaza offering visitors and the community a place to go for information and directions. The center has thus far been of great service. On any given day one can see campus tours ending in our office and Ambassadors preparing to assist at events. As a place to meet others, sit and catch up or find ones way, our new home is becoming the place to be. Tours and helping the University is not the only commitment for a Student Ambassador. Academics is of the up most importance and, to that end, the center serves as a place that is used by the team to study in groups or catch up on reading and the writing of papers.

We are half way through the term and have had the honor to attend many campus events and give campus tours. We are always treated with respect, meeting new people, and participating in the culture of the University. This is an experience that makes one feel part of the whole and gives us an opportunity to contribute. From the grand reopening of Lincoln Hall to the Umbrella tours, Ambassadors have had the opportunity to help and meet many of the University’s students, faculty and staff. Being able to work with people that are making a difference in their fields and areas of interest is something that each one of us looks forward to.

The support for this program has been striking and there are many people that are owed a debt of gratitude. No matter if it is in passing or at an event we are always greeted warmly by the President of the University, the Provost, and the many Vice Presidents and Deans.

Please feel free to stop in to see our new digs. Our office is in suite 101 in the new rec center. We also can be reached via email at ambassadors@pdx.edu or by phone at 503.725.4280.
Student Legal Services at Portland State University has added a new service for students, an Immigration Clinic. This immigration clinic provides free and confidential consultation to eligible fee-paying students. The PSU Student Legal Services Immigration Clinic serves PSU students who are immigrants, or who have a spouse or parent who is an immigrant.

As anyone who has dealt with the complex and confusing immigration system in the United States knows, the process of obtaining and maintaining lawful immigration status can be challenging, even when things go relatively smoothly. Furthermore, it is easy to make mistakes with life-altering consequences. Anyone who is concerned about their own immigration status or the immigration status of their family member can benefit from a better understanding of the complicated immigration laws of the United States. Private consultations with an attorney may cost anywhere from $35 to more than $200. Student Legal Services hopes that by providing this service we can further our goal of helping students complete their academic endeavors by alleviating some of the legal obstacles they face.

If someone is a documented or an undocumented immigrant, the importance of understanding how the immigration laws of the United States effect them cannot be over-emphasized. Although immigrants placed in removal proceedings have a right to counsel, they do not have a right to have counsel appointed if they are unable to pay, as persons in the criminal justice system do. Even though the consequences of failing to consider the immigration consequences of one's conduct may include detention and permanent exile from the United States, an immigrant will not have counsel unless he or she is able to find and pay for private counsel, or find pro bono counsel. As a result, it is important to anticipate and prevent problems before they occur.

Consultations are with Sherilyn Holcombe Waxler, an attorney in Portland, Oregon, who practices exclusively in the area of immigration law. She has experience in a wide variety of immigration law matters including citizenship, family-based petitions, employment-based petitions, and removal proceedings. She is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

For more information: www.pdx.edu/sls
**PSU’s Empowerment Project**

The Women’s Resource Center provides a multitude of services including drop-in advising, resource referral, skill building, and scholarship research and assistance. Known as the Empowerment Project, these services are designed to help “non-traditional” students who have historically been underrepresented in higher education such as women of color, women veterans, student parents, first-generation and older women.

Tonya L Jones (pictured right), is the WRC’s Empowerment Project Coordinator. Tonya originally hails from Hot Springs, Arkansas but was primarily raised in Portland, Oregon. She graduated from Grant High School and received her undergraduate degree in Women’s Studies from Portland State University. During her time at PSU she also earned a Certificate in Black Studies, organized events at the WRC such as the Women of Color Zine workshop and film series, and was involved in campus activities.

Tonya recently participated in the 10th Annual Portland Zine Symposium as a panel member at the “Create! Speak Out! Write!” workshop, and was later interviewed for the Multnomah County Library Zine Collection.

In addition to facilitating the Empowerment Project, Tonya also co-facilitates The Returning Women’s Workshop.

The workshop is aimed at supporting women students who are returning to school after having their education interrupted for a long period of time. The class addresses the concerns of a returning student (time management, test anxiety, public speaking etc.), campus tours, guest speakers, and a weekly assignment. The workshop is a four-credit class and is offered every fall and winter term.

AmeriCorps’s Retention Project sponsors Tonya’s position. AmeriCorps is a federal program that encourages leadership and volunteerism in the community. As a member of the Retention Project, Tonya will be creating a mentoring program for the Women’s Resource Center. She plans to start recruitment for mentors and mentees during winter term. The mentoring program will be called “Sister to Sister” and the values of the program based on using mentoring to encourage sisterhood, networking and community building. The mentoring program will be geared towards supporting the population of students of the Empowerment Project.

For further information about the Empowerment Project or if you are interested in participating in the mentoring program, please contact Tonya at 503.725.9788 or rwp@pdx.edu.

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**New Class Profile**

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<th>16,620 applications</th>
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<td>Domestic students come from 49 states</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Oregon</td>
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<td>2. Washington</td>
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<td>3. California</td>
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<td>4. Hawaii</td>
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<td>5. Colorado</td>
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<td>6. Alaska</td>
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<td>7. Idaho</td>
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| International students come from 57 countries |
| 1. Saudi Arabia |
| 2. Japan |
| 3. China |
| 4. Korea |
| 5. United Arab Emirates |
| 6. Vietnam |
| 7. Taiwan |

Average GPA for students matriculating from high school: 3.3

Average GPA for students transferring from another institution: 3.1

continued on 10
Adaptive Recreation

This past October, Campus Rec was thrilled to have Jen Armbruster join its team as the new Coordinator of Adaptive Rec and Community Outreach. Not only was Campus Rec fortunate to have a seasoned professional join its team, it also offered an opportunity to facilitate making existing activities more accessible and opened the door to implementing new and exciting adaptive programs. The commitment to offer greater member participation in Rec programs has always been the goal of Campus Rec and now Jen can bring the tools to get a broader population involved. Whether participants are interested in fitness, aquatics, and recreation or are competitive athletes, there are programs and opportunities for everyone. If you’ve ever wondered how to participate in a cycling class without using your legs, traveling through the lava tubes without your vision, playing wheelchair basketball, goalball or flag football, take some time to visit with Jen. If you’d like to adapt an existing program or discuss implementing a new one, Jen is available to discuss the needs of all members of the Rec Center and can be reached at 503.725.2927 or at j.armbruster@pdx.edu. A survey to assess current needs and obtain feedback as to what new programs or equipment members would like to see is coming soon. Please visit the website regularly for upcoming events, the survey and new program announcements at www.pdx.edu/recreation/accessibility.

A Familiar Face in a New Position

After a national search during Spring Term, the Diversity Alignment in Student Affairs selected and appointed a dynamo/a (!) – Melanie Dixon-Cardwell (pictured above) – to a new retention specialist position. Melanie will significantly increase the alignment’s capacity to provide comprehensive support services to students from first generation, low income, and multicultural backgrounds. In her new position as African American Student Services Coordinator, Melanie has plans to use knowledge gained from her graduate research on the low participation and graduation of African American males in college to increase access to and persistence of this population at Portland State. A graduate of Portland Community College, Portland State University, and the PSU Graduate School of Education, Melanie will use her networks to work closely with PPS, PCC, and community partners such as Self Enhancement Incorporated (SEI) and the Urban League, to create active and enduring pathways for these students to PSU. DMSS programs use best practices to build cultural communities that welcome students, include families, and provide professional and peer support for improved retention and student success. Contact Melanie in 425 SMSU, 503.725.9938, or mrd@pdx.edu.
President’s Initiative: Latin@ Student Success

President Wiewel has made it a university priority to recruit and retain more Latin@ students. Student Affairs is meeting this initiative in several ways: we have increased outreach to high schools and community colleges with high Latin@ populations; we have built relationships in the community to help students while in college such as maximizing scholarship opportunities; and we have provided a bilingual orientation to help educate families about what they can do to help their students be a successful Portland State University student.

The most exciting program we have instituted is the GANAS program. GANAS stands for “Gaining Awareness and Networking for Academic Success.”

The GANAS program is a yearlong support and mentor program designed to help new Latin@ students transition to PSU from high school. Students enrolled in this program will become active members of the campus community and will acquire skills and tools that will lead to continuing success beyond the first year at PSU.

This program accepted 20 students this year. All enrolled students receive assistance to actively identify additional financial resources to support their education. Overall the GANAS program provides a variety of services intended to help students adjust to the college environment and achieve their academic goals.

The GANAS program incorporates current, successful PSU students to serve as mentors to new freshman students. Trained mentors in this program serve as role models to new students, empowering them to achieve academic success. As mentors help students build an on-campus community, they develop skills important to becoming future leaders.

If you have a Latin@ student who is transitioning from high school to college or is looking for additional support, please send them to our Latin@ Student Services Coordinator, Perla Pinedo. Perla can be reached at 503.725.9687 or via email at perlap@pdx.edu.
Dr. Dana Tasson (pictured above) has recently been appointed to the position of Executive Director of Student Health and Counseling at Portland State University. As Executive Director of Student Health and Counseling, Dr. Tasson will provide senior leadership for each of the units in SHAC including: Student Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, Dental Services, Testing Services, Health Promotion and SHAC Administration. Dr. Tasson will also work in partnership with Campus Recreation on the Healthy Campus Initiative and serve on the Senior Student Affairs Leadership Team.

Dr. Tasson has served as the clinical director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at PSU since 2005. Prior to his appointment as Clinical Director, Dr. Tasson served as a Staff Psychiatrist at PSU since 1997. Before coming to PSU, Dr. Tasson held positions in student health services at Reed College and Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Tasson received his M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School and completed his residency at OSHU. Dr. Tasson is active in the American College Health Association, American Psychiatric Association, and Oregon Psychiatric Association.

Marcy Hunt-Morse, Ph.D. (pictured below) is the new director of Counseling and Psychological Services at the Center for Student Health and Counseling. Dr. Hunt-Morse is returning to the northwest after working at Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio. She received her graduate degree in Psychology from the University of Oregon.

The charge of Counseling and Psychological Services is to meet the mental health needs of our students at Portland State University. “CAPS” as it is commonly referred, provides individual and group counseling, community outreach and programming around mental health issues.

If you have a student who you believe could benefit from these services, please have the student call for an appointment at 503.725.2800.
Emily Persico (pictured right) has recently moved from her position in Student Legal Services to a new role as Office Manager at the Women’s Resource Center. Emily brings with her years of experience with PSU. As many of our non-traditional students do, Emily started her studies at PSU as a mom with a six-month old child at home. She began volunteering at the WRC and became involved in campus issues. She focused her studies on social justice, and graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Women’s Studies.

After graduating Emily joined the SLS team and continued her involvement in campus. Emily has been serving on the President’s Commission for the Status of Women since 2005. Emily co-led the group’s project to assess the need for lactation stations on campus, and recently stepped into the role of Co-Chair of the Commission.

In addition to single parenting and working, Emily also continues to donate volunteer time to community agencies. Last year she completed the 60-hour volunteer training at the Portland Women’s Crisis Line and began taking on weekly shifts answering the crisis line. This fall she also began training and volunteering with VOA Home Free as a support-group facilitator.

This unique combination of non-traditional student experience, institutional knowledge, and interpersonal violence training place Emily in a unique position to fully support the mission of the WRC and serve as a resource to the students and volunteers at the center. Colleagues also report that Emily has already transformed the WRC with her ability to “Emilize” complex administrative tangles, her superior sense of personal style, sparkling footwear, and dance moves.