

FALL 2014

# PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITIES

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Building a better prosthetic hand  
in PCC's MakerSpace

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PCC writing instructor named  
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sniffs out sustainable  
solutions

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LISA CHANG

Hula/Tahitian Dance Instructor

# Aloha to Hula

New Community Ed  
dance classes  
shake things up

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Portland  
Community  
College

PCC CommunityEd  
Classes starting Sep. – Dec.  
Find them inside:  
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*"Although we're a 55-year-old company, we're all about preparing for the future. That's why NW Natural is a partner with PCC's Future Connect program. It offers students a path to success and prepares tomorrow's workforce. We're proud to be associated with PCC—an organization that understands how best to serve its local community."*

**President/CEO of  
NW Natural  
Gregg Kantor**

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PCC's longtime partnership with NW Natural has allowed hundreds of first-generation, low-income students the opportunity to attend college. Thanks to NW Natural's generous donations to the PCC Foundation, Future Connect is flourishing and PCC's first-of-its-kind program is now used as a model throughout the state.



**Portland  
Community  
College**



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Swan Island Trades Center — Open House**  
PCC's trades programs have a new home on Swan Island! Friends and supporters are invited to an open house and to tour the new facility.  
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 3–6 PM
- ◆ **SE Campus Grand Opening Celebration**  
Join PCC and our neighbors in the SE at a historic celebration of our newest campus. Family-friendly entertainment, food, and lots of fun.  
Saturday, Oct. 18, 12–4 PM.
- ◆ **Cascade Hall and Student Union Opening**  
Coming this winter, join PCC and the community in celebrating the addition of the Campus's new academic building and student union.  
January 2015
- ◆ **25th Annual Cascade Festival of African Films**  
Mark your calendars for the 2015 Festival of African Films on the Cascade campus.  
Feb. 6 — March 7, 2015

## In Memoriam

Janice M. Scroggins, a renowned Grammy award-winning musician and a piano accompanist for PCC's music programs for many years, passed away on May 27 at the age of 58.

Born in Idabel, Okla., Scroggins began playing piano at the age of three. Since moving to Portland in 1979, she was a pillar of Portland's local blues, jazz and gospel scene and widely considered one of the city's most "in-demand" pianists. She was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame last year.

Janice will be missed by our faculty, staff and students.



Photo: John Rudoff

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## Back to Class

Now's the time to think about classes you want to take in September. What's your dream job and which classes will get you closer to it? How about classes that will help you advance your current career? And for high school graduates, what majors interest you? Swing through the PCC website and find classes and programs that will enlighten and inspire you. Fall term classes begin on Monday, Sept. 22.  
**For information about registration, call 971-722-8888 or visit [www.pcc.edu](http://www.pcc.edu)**

## Shared on Social Media

- ◆ First graduate in my family. WE DID IT MOM!!! #PCCGraduation  
—Twitter user and student @BecomingAnae
- ◆ @PortlandCC handing out coffee during dead week? And in the library? I love you guys ♥♥♥♥  
—Twitter user and student @Brianilla
- ◆ Almost done with my first year of college! Where has the time flown!? I really have enjoyed the professors @PortlandCC.  
—Twitter user and student @TeamTanTan
- ◆ I just want to say thank you to the nurses at South West Hospital and to my college Portland Community College for sending Dr. Chris Chairsell to do a private ceremony for my Graduation.

As many of you know my mother is very sick and seeing as there was no way for her to attend the graduation ceremony in June, our family has been pushing for this moment as of three days ago. It means a lot to me, my family and my mom that she got to experience, even just a little bit of my graduating college.

—Facebook user and student Jesse Rainey, who requested a graduation ceremony in his mom's hospital room.

Share your thoughts and photos with us on Twitter @PortlandCC.

Stay connected with PCC digitally at:



[pcc.edu](http://pcc.edu)



[facebook.com/portlandcc](https://facebook.com/portlandcc)



[twitter.com/portlandcc](https://twitter.com/portlandcc)



[youtube.com/pccvideos](https://youtube.com/pccvideos)



[linkedin.com/portlandcommunitycollege](https://linkedin.com/portlandcommunitycollege)

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# A GRO

The learning garden at the PCC Rock Creek Campus is making waves of grain with their progressive and well-planned raised beds, orchard, fruit-bearing bushes and vegetables-a-plenty. So much so, that they are supplying the needs of the campus cafeteria all while offsetting the costs of food for the college and helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



A nutrient-rich environment for education, the learning garden also offers hands-on experience for students of organic gardening, permaculture, science, health education, landscape technology, building construction technology, art, ecology, health and nutrition.

Elaine Cole, the sustainability coordinator at the Rock Creek Campus, saw tremendous opportunity to grow the Learning Garden into a regional model of sustainable land use, education, and community outreach while enabling faculty, classes, and the entire PCC Community College network to collaborate in a deep and rich student learning environment. And she was right. After securing additional funding, Cole hired sustainability expert Nora Lindsey and wrote a grant enabling Jeff Mailes from AmeriCorps to join the team and serve as the Learning Garden educator, managing student engagement.

The garden has come into full bloom with the help of these two professionals. "We are now realizing its full potential to everyone's satisfaction and pride," noted Cole.



The Learning Garden produced 3,500 pounds of food for Rock Creek and Sylvania Campus

food services in 2013. This high yield is partly due to Lindsey's efforts as Sustainability Assistant (and the college's resident farming pro). She has transformed the three and half acres of available land into a well-managed farm with the help of students, faculty and staff who see a shared vision of sustainability and residential farming.

Learning Garden Educator Jeff Mailes puts students to work in the garden.

# SOWING MINDS GARDEN

Rock Creek Campus gardeners help feed staff, students

Story by Jim Beriault



University graduate Karen Cox launched a therapeutic garden in the very spot the Learning Garden exists today. Over time, numerous programs, from organic to sustainable gardening, have sprouted up, organized and implemented by dedicated faculty members who saw potential for the land, and probably never dreamed of what the garden is today. Education is a vital part of the garden, and Mailes is tasked with creating and managing the volunteer programs for the garden.

While many organizations are involved, Mailes is the glue to keeping the operation running smoothly. He is an expert at running educational programs, serving community members and community-based learning programs, and meeting high school class requirements. His efforts tie together class work in health and nutrition, environmental studies, landscape architecture classes, biology

partnerships, and the faculty and staff at other colleges and universities.

Beyond the tidy rows of growing vegetables, there's also art blooming in the gardens. Whimsical and imaginative art

displays of metal art flank the sides of the garden, including repurposed tools (made into sculptures) and metal-woven materials in the shape of a giant bird nest and crawling insects. The sculptures truly bring the garden full circle in its mission of "Sowing

### Ongoing Needs for the Garden

- A storage building for tools, tiller and other farm implements
- A covered area for classes to gather during rainy periods
- A central composting area
- A produce washing facility

Seeds, Growing Minds and Cultivating Community."

"We encourage the community to reach out to us. If you have an idea, a donation, or would like to get involved, please contact me, and let's get our hands dirty — together!" said Lindsey. ♦

"I'm amazed how engaged the students are — they are constantly assessing the production, growth, potential problems and providing solutions. I learn as much from them as they do from me," Lindsey said. "Perhaps it's in our genetic makeup to want to till the ground, get our hands dirty and take pride in growing food for others, but the Learning Garden has no shortage of students wanting to be involved."

The Learning Garden put down its roots almost eight years ago when Portland State

To tour the garden or lend a hand, visit [pcc.edu/about/sustainability/on-campus/rock-creek/learning-garden](http://pcc.edu/about/sustainability/on-campus/rock-creek/learning-garden)

To watch a video and learn more about the garden, visit [pcc.edu/about/sustainability/on-campus/rock-creek/loop](http://pcc.edu/about/sustainability/on-campus/rock-creek/loop)

## WHAT'S IN THE LEARNING GARDEN THIS YEAR?





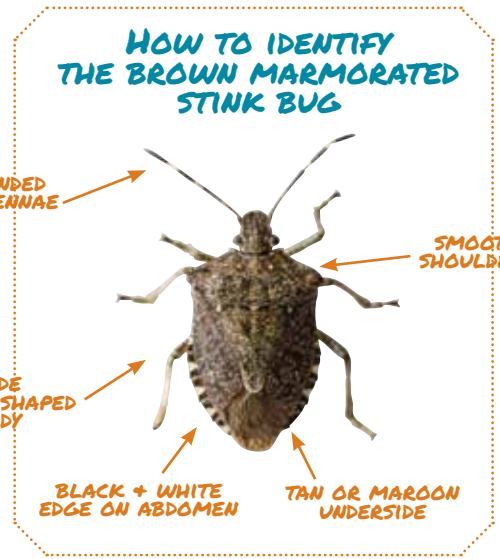
# THE SMELL OF SUCCESS

Alum Chris Hedstrom researches innovative ways to combat invasive stink bugs in Oregon

Story by Rebecca Olson



Hedstrom attempts to shake stink bugs from a tree into his net.



If you like feasting on fresh Oregon produce like blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and pears, you're not alone. So does the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, a particularly nasty invasive arthropod that's threatening our state's most delectable crops.

"It's not just our berries—beans, hazelnuts, hops—you name it, they'll eat it," said Hedstrom, a PCC alum and insect field technician with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Researchers like Hedstrom are exploring effective and sustainable solutions to stop the stinker before it takes a bite out of our state's economy. One of the major solutions they're working on sounds like the plot of a sci-fi movie: releasing tiny parasitoid wasps to deposit their wasp babies inside the eggs of invasive stink bugs.

Pegging enemy insects against one another might sound dramatic, but it's actually a tried and true method for controlling invasive pests. That is, at least after all of the potential consequences have been closely studied.

"We would never release a pest control agent into the environment until we understand what kind of an impact it's going to make," Hedstrom said.

Hedstrom has been researching the wasp's potential impact on native non-invasive species of stink bugs for the past three years as part of a national study with the US Department of Agriculture. By collecting native stink bugs and cultivating them in the lab, he's testing whether or not the wasp could damage the eggs of non-harmful native stink bugs.

Before he became an insect researcher, Hedstrom had a career as an artist and animator. After deciding he didn't want to make art for a living, he took a job in a grocery store and tried to figure out his next steps.

"My girlfriend at the time suggested maybe I should go back to school for wildlife biology or entomology, since I loved taking photos of insects so much. I figured I had nothing to lose, so I signed up for general biology at PCC," Hedstrom said, who enrolled in 2006.

After earning enough general science and math courses at the Cascade Campus to transfer to OSU in 2008, Hedstrom completed his undergraduate studies in pest biology and management before being accepted into OSU's Master's of Horticulture Program with an emphasis on entomology.

"It only took around 7 years from the time I enrolled in PCC to get my master's degree. That's less time than I was working at my last job," he said. "Changing careers was a lot easier than I thought it would be."

Studying invasive pests in Oregon is serious work, but the fun of his job as a professional insect collector isn't lost on Hedstrom.

"I've always liked kicking over logs and seeing what's under there. So it's cool that in my job today, I'm basically a professional log-kicker-over," he said. "That wouldn't have happened without PCC." ♦



To view photos of Oregon's native stink bugs, visit [horticulture.oregonstate.edu/content/native-stink-bugs-and-identification-resources](http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/content/native-stink-bugs-and-identification-resources)



# HAND MADE

Jordan Nickerson builds a better prosthetic hand at PCC's MakerSpace

Story by James Hill

Portland Community College student Jordan Nickerson is giving himself a hand. Literally.

The 23-year-old first-year computer science major, who was born without much of his left hand, is fabricating his own prosthetic limb that has moving fingers to better grip objects. With a screwdriver and lots of patience, Nickerson has sculpted several versions of the hand, which he hopes to perfect for production to sell to the world as a cheaper

alternative to cumbersome and expensive prosthetics. The model can grasp objects and is made of carbon

fiber, ABS and biodegradable corn plastics, Velcro, duct tape and a mouse pad — all at a cost of about \$40.

"I have always had a fascination with prosthetics, for obvious reasons since I don't have a hand," said Nickerson, a native of Kelso, Wash. "It's connected by two hinges and I put my arm in the socket and I flex my wrist and the fingers close. All five fingers close at once to make a fist, but with a little bit of tensioning you can make it where the thumb and the index finger touch first so if you wanted to pick up something small, you can."

Most of the materials he used to put the hand together were made by the army of 3D printers in PCC's MakerSpace—a creative lab located at the Sylvania Campus. MakerSpace, coordinated by engineering faculty Gregg Meyer, is an interdisciplinary innovation studio dedicated to the art and science of making things. Nickerson fits the prototypical student Meyer is looking to energize.

"Jordan is parlaying his 'disability' into a new business venture using the MakerSpace to design and fabricate 3D printed prosthetic hands; ones that work and fit better than similar devices costing 100 times as much," Meyer said. "Now that's a win-win-win endeavor no matter how you look at it."

When the hand is refined enough Nickerson plans to market it as the centerpiece of a business plan to print custom prosthetics on 3D printers. The estimated cost to the customer would be \$300 and if people buy one he'll donate another to an impoverished child in need.

"If you can afford to buy an Xbox you can afford to buy this hand," Nickerson said. "When I was a kid, the basic prosthetics were just hooks and they cost around \$2,000 to \$5,000. And you have to completely manipulate your body to use it. It's super complicated, really annoying and obnoxious to use."

"With this one, it works with your natural body movement," he added. "It works on your wrist motion. Since it's 3D printed it's extremely lightweight and customizable to that person. Eventually we want to try to reach everyone in the world."

PCC's MakerSpace is made possible because of the support from campus administration, faculty and the Intel Corporation.

"Having a multitude of resources at the fingertips of students, that's exciting," said Janet Rash, Intel's Northwest Region Community Engagement Manager. ♦

To watch a video about Jordan's process, visit [news.pcc.edu/2014/07/jordan-nickerson](http://news.pcc.edu/2014/07/jordan-nickerson).



# ALOHA TO HULA

Tahitian and Hawaiian Hula Dance Classes New to PCC This Year



Visions of Hawaii and Tahiti may conjure up images of warm sandy beaches and fragrant flowers, but the rich cultural traditions of the islands really come alive in the dance studio at PCC.

Hawaiian Hula and Tahitian dance are newcomers to Community Ed — each started earlier this year — but instructor Lisa Chang is a well-heeled veteran who’s been dancing for 26 years.

She’s thrilled to teach classes to all dance levels. No previous experience is required and you don’t need to bring a grass skirt.

“What I like to teach in my hula classes is that everyone is family and we encourage people to make friends,” said Chang, whose weekly dance classes take place at PCC’s Willow Creek Center. “We start each class by having everyone introduce themselves and the students repeat their name. I like to make those connections in class.”

Chang, who is Japanese, grew up in Hillsboro. It wasn’t until she went to OSU as a freshman that she got involved with a Hawaiian Club and became interested in hula. After college, Chang began taking classes at a well-known hula school in Santa Clara.

When she eventually moved back to Portland, members of a local Hawaiian cultural

group asked her if she would teach hula. She began offering a few classes out of her garage and found new students through word of mouth.

“I know teaching is where I belong,” said Chang, who travels to Hawaii at least once a year for continual training.

As her business grew, Chang needed advice on how to grow and manage it efficiently so she turned to the Small Business Development Center through PCC. It was there that a counselor suggested she also teach classes through PCC. Her first Community Ed classes were offered in January 2014.

This fall Chang will teach hula and Tahitian dance—two dances that complement each other, she says. Men and women of all fitness levels are welcome.

She describes hula as soft and calm. Chang plays the *ipu heka* for her students, a Hawaiian instrument made out of a double gourd drum.

Tahitian is a faster and more rigorous dance set to the beat of a *to’ere* drum. Most of the dance steps involve the waist and legs while the shoulders stay still.

“If someone is looking for a good workout then Tahitian dance would be ideal,” she said. ♦

## A STITCH IN TIME



If the reality show Project Runway both amazes and intimidates you, then make a promise to yourself to learn how to sew this fall.

Community Ed offers a slew of

fun and interesting classes for all levels — from introductory sewing to advanced pattern making and apparel construction.

Sewing instructor Sara Moskowitz took her first sewing class through Community Ed at the age of 29 and during the next few years took every course available. One of her pattern-making instructors suggested she apply for an internship with a premier pattern maker in New York, and Moskowitz was soon creating patterns for New York Fashion Week designers.

Moskovitz now teaches sewing and pattern making through Community Ed, stepping in after beloved instructor Jean Kennedy passed away suddenly last spring.

“Jean encouraged me to make and sew anything and everything. She provided me with constant support,” Moskowitz said, who now hopes to do the same for her students.

Students in the beginning sewing classes learn how to read a commercial pattern, sew a jersey top and bottom, and alter clothes. These classes will give you the confidence you need to create a brand new outfit — or just hem your jeans.

For information about Community Ed’s sewing classes turn to pages 27–28 or visit [pcc.edu/communityed](http://pcc.edu/communityed).

Are you ready to hula? Turn to pages 11–12 to read more about Hawaiian Hula and Tahitian dance classes and other courses or visit [pcc.edu/communityed](http://pcc.edu/communityed)



# CASCADE CAMPUS WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Story by Abraham Proctor



**K**arin Edwards left Three Rivers Community College in Connecticut, where she served as chief student affairs officer, to take the helm at the PCC Cascade Campus. PCC Communities caught up with the new campus president as she started her new job in July.

## **Q. WHY WERE YOU INSPIRED TO APPLY FOR THE JOB?**

**A.** I was drawn to PCC's Cascade Campus because of its location in North Portland, where many different ethnic and racial cultures are represented in the surrounding neighborhoods. I will advocate for the needs of Cascade so that we can effectively meet those of the diverse communities we serve. I was also drawn to Cascade because it provides educational services to a broad spectrum of students — from toddlers in Head Start, to adult education,

to career and technical training, as well as community and personal development courses. This campus represents a comprehensive community college.

## **Q. YOU HAVE A STRONG BACKGROUND IN STUDENT SERVICES. TELL US HOW STUDENT SERVICES IMPACTS STUDENT SUCCESS.**

**A.** I wholeheartedly endorse the student-centered mission that guides PCC. I've had the opportunity to foster the academic and personal development of students, both in and out of the classroom, by serving as a counselor and instructor. Research suggests that many community college students stop out or drop out of college due to personal, financial or family issues rather than academic issues. Student service professionals are trained to help students navigate and overcome these barriers to their success. Through appropriate assessments, advising and connecting students to the right resources, student services play a key role in promoting student success.

## **Q. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS PCC AND CASCADE'S GREATEST STRENGTHS?**

**A.** PCC and the Cascade Campus have strong leadership teams. They're comprised of competent, committed and creative thinkers. I hope my experience and perspective will further strengthen the teams. The college is highly regarded by community constituents and stakeholders for the good work that it has produced. I will uphold this standard of excellence in all the work that is done at Cascade. PCC enjoys strong college/community relations with the public school system, other institutions of higher education, business and industry, community-based organizations and governmental agencies. I will work to strengthen these relationships with new ideas and new perspectives.

## **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE FIRST YEAR?**

**A.** I want to learn as much as possible about the community to determine where opportunities and/or gaps in programs, services and resources may exist. Simultaneously, I will learn as much as possible about the faculty and staff to determine what resources exist on campus and the college's capacity to meet community needs. Additionally, I will build on existing partnerships with external constituents and cultivate new ones. By example, I will foster a positive campus climate where open, respectful communication is encouraged, collegiality and civility are expected, personal and professional achievements are recognized and diversity is celebrated. Finally, I will support PCC in the implementation of our strategic plan.

## **Q. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MOST?**

**A.** Both personally and professionally, moving to Portland, leaving family and friends behind, and serving as a campus president is a big transition for me. I'm looking forward to meeting new people, establishing new relationships and making new friends. I look forward to learning about other cultures and exploring the West Coast. Most importantly, I look forward to making a difference in the lives of the students we serve.

## **Q. PORTLANDERS PRIDE THEMSELVES ON THEIR ECCENTRICITY. ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO LIFE IN AMERICA'S WEIRDEST CITY?**

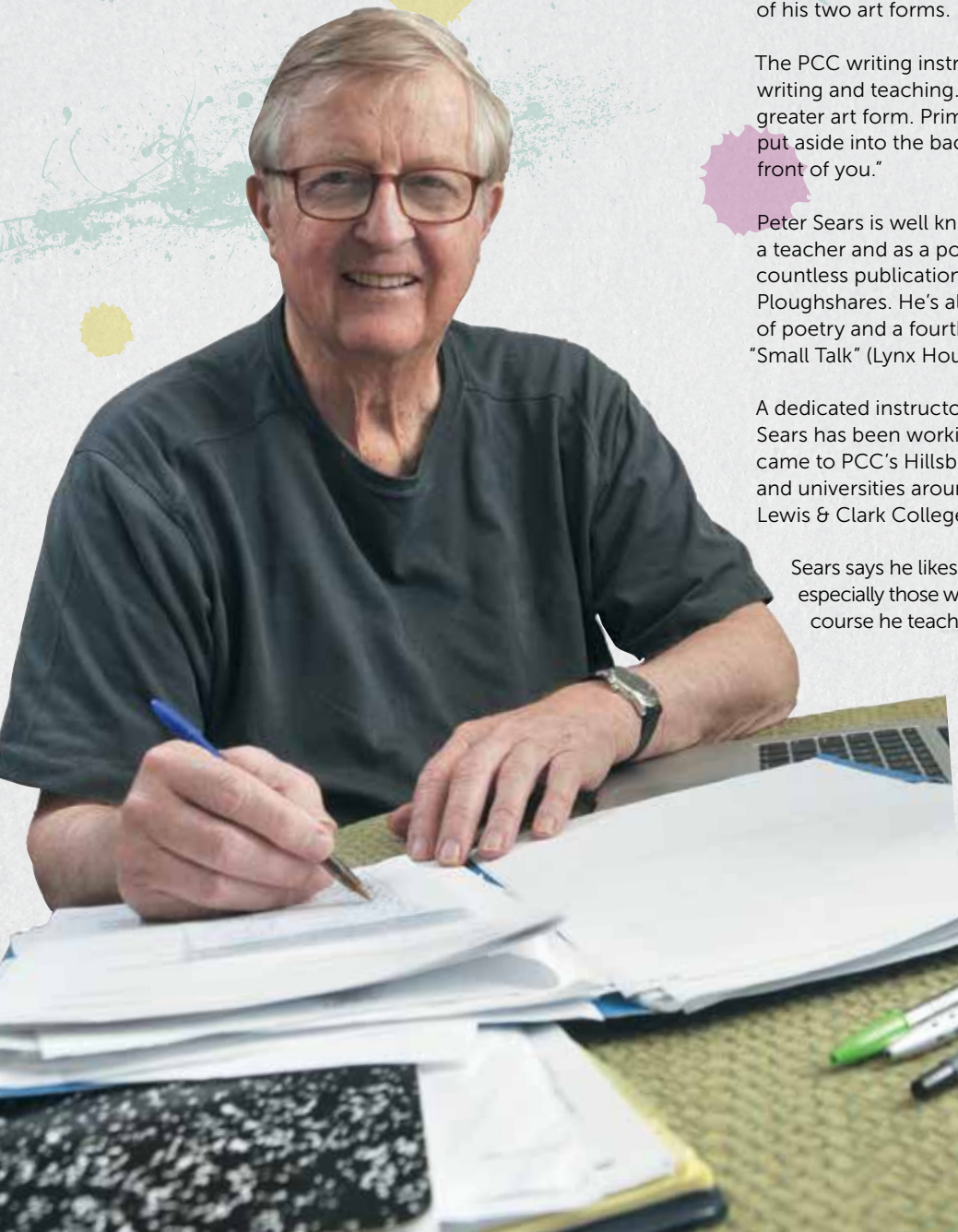
**A.** I had not thought of Portland as weird; however, I did see a man walking a goat down Lombard Street! I'm looking forward to sharing my Portland experience with family and friends on the East Coast and maybe watching an episode or two of Portlandia to help ground me. ♦

Read more news about Cascade, including the opening in September of the new administration building, Cascade Hall, at [pcc.edu](http://pcc.edu).

# EXPANDING VOICE

## OREGON'S POET LAUREATE IS PCC'S OWN PETER SEARS

Story by Rebecca Olson



For those of us who don't use the word "villanelle" in our daily lives, writing a poem might seem like a difficult undertaking. But for Oregon Poet Laureate Peter Sears, poetry is actually the easier of his two art forms.

The PCC writing instructor says he is involved in two art forms: writing and teaching. "I think in many ways that teaching is the greater art form. Primarily because it's so hard. A poem you can put aside into the background, but students — they're right there in front of you."

Peter Sears is well known in Oregon's literary scene as both a teacher and as a poet. His words have graced the pages of countless publications like *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *Ploughshares*. He's also the author of three full-length collections of poetry and a fourth collection of new and selected poems titled "Small Talk" (Lynx House Press, 2014).

A dedicated instructor and former high school basketball coach, Sears has been working with students "for 300 years." Before he came to PCC's Hillsboro Center, he taught writing at high schools and universities around the world, and locally at Reed College, Lewis & Clark College, and Pacific University.

Sears says he likes the challenge of working with young people, especially those who don't realize the introductory college writing course he teaches is about to become their favorite class.

"Many students come to class with a lot of other stuff on their minds, and I want to make this the best course they've ever had," he said. "Writing a villanelle is easy compared to that."

In the classroom, Sears works one-on-one with his students to develop and strengthen their critical essays. While he challenges his students to push themselves, he keeps it fun and doesn't skip on the punchy sarcasm.

"I like to say, hey, if you don't look out, you're going to become an intellectual. And then what would your friends think of you?"

In addition to his life as a teacher, Sears is a major player in the state's literary community and founder of the Oregon Literary Coalition. Given his commitment to advancing poetry in the state of Oregon and his prowess as a writer, it's no surprise that he was named Oregon's seventh Poet Laureate by Gov. Kitzhaber earlier this year.

During his two-year term as Poet Laureate, Sears is committed to fostering the art of poetry and encouraging literacy and learning across the state of Oregon. He's looking to use his position to attract new readers and highlight the creative work of writers from diverse communities across the state.

"I'm calling this project 'Expanding Voices,'" he said. "We live in a global community of voices, and so I'd like to give writers and speakers of other languages the opportunity to read with me."

The premise is pretty solid. If you want to engage readers from diverse communities, invite writers from within those communities

to share the spotlight with you. The more voices that get out there, the better.

## LATE NAP

by Peter Sears

I take a long hot tub so that I can feel like a melon.  
I dry myself off and tingle like a coral reef.  
The lower sheet I pull tight. I puff the pillows,

lie on my back, stretch out my arms and legs.  
If I'm lucky a breeze sweeps in sweet as silk.

The sleep is calm, like a coin at the bottom  
of an old fortress wall that protrudes into the sea,  
and the coin is almost green from the slow sloshing.

In the sleep, nobody comes after me, I don't  
have to go anywhere, and I am immortal.

*From Small Talk, New and Selected Poems by Lynx House Press*

Sears has several of these "Expanding Voices" readings lined up for the coming year, partnering with bi- and multi-lingual writers, teachers, and librarians from across the state. The first one will take place on Oct. 4 at the Eastern Oregon Word Round-Up in Pendleton, where Sears will read with local Spanish teacher Amelia Ettinger.

"I'm more interested in reading with emerging writers. As Poet Laureate, I can help give their voice and their reading a little more oomph, and that's very exciting," Sears said.

To see a full list of the Oregon Poet Laureate's upcoming events, visit [oregonpoetlaureate.org](http://oregonpoetlaureate.org) ♦

## CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

PCC's annual literary magazine wins top national honor  
Story by James Hill

Alchemy, an annual literary magazine produced by PCC students for the past 41 years, has won a Gold Crown Award for college magazines by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The honor recognizes the 2012-13 Alchemy edition as one of the top college literary magazines in the country.

"The award is a compliment to the students working together and having such imagination in producing this edition of Alchemy last year," said Michael McDowell, writing instructor and faculty advisor for the magazine. "They came up with all of the ideas."

Alchemy, a magazine of student writing and art, is published annually as a class project by the students of advanced creative writing at the Sylvania Campus. The magazine also collaborates with creative writing, graphic design and art. A total of 1,236 digital, newspapers, magazines and yearbooks published during the 2012-2013 academic year were eligible for the Crown Awards Program.

The six student editors involved with the 2013 edition of Alchemy included Andrew Brown, Jordan Haddad, Ivy Knight, Danielle McAdams and Kaitlin McRee. They were in charge

of layout, graphic design, copy editing and making judgments on submissions.

"I was surprised," said Brown, who plans to transfer to Marylhurst University and study English Literature. "I wasn't expecting this at all. But it is satisfying. It's the most important and successful thing I've ever done."

Alchemy can be purchased for \$5 a copy through local bookstores PCC Sylvania Campus Bookstore, Powells Books on Burnside, and Annie Bloom's Books in Multnomah Village. ♦



Faculty advisor Michael McDowell (center), with student editors Jordan Haddad and Ivy Knight.

# MAJOR MOD AT PCC FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GALA

THANKS TO THE OUTSTANDING GENEROSITY OF OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS, THE PCC FOUNDATION WAS ABLE TO RAISE OVER \$300,000 TO CREATE LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS.



Fab floor to ceiling decorations set a mod mood at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront.



PCC Future Connect student Manny Romero shared the incredible story of how college came to be a part of his family.



Our glamorous guests took zippy pictures at the Mini Cooper photo booth!



Thanks to our platinum sponsors Max and Carol Lyons of Hillsboro Aviation.



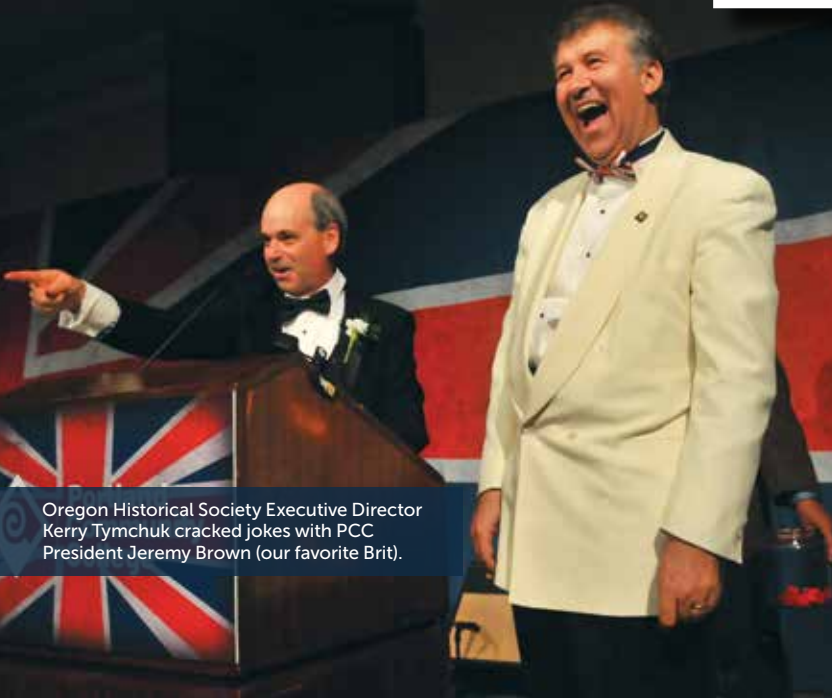
PCC Board Chair Denise Frisbee (far right) presents the PCC Patron Award to 2014 Honorees Ross Lienhart (center) and Sheila Edwards-Lienhart, and their family.



PCC students joined Seattle's best Beatles cover band, The Nowhere Men, as they made us Twist and Shout!



This year's British Invasion theme was a nod to the optimism and energy of the 1960s, when PCC was founded.



Oregon Historical Society Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk cracked jokes with PCC President Jeremy Brown (our favorite Brit).



Honorary Gala Chairs Junki and Linda Yoshida with PCC Director of Development Kim Kono (center).

# BEAVERTON HIGH STUDENTS THINK PCC FIRST

New program allows Beaverton students to earn college credit while still in high school

Story by James Hill



Early college students Merlon Lua, Manny Martinez and Shelley Catu-Cumez.

A partnership between PCC and the Beaverton School District is giving 250 area high school students a head start on college.

The two-year Beaverton Early College High School attracts students who don't seem to fit in with a traditional high school setting a chance to complete the last two years of high school while earning college credit full-time at PCC.

The students graduate and walk at their high school commencement where they remain enrolled and they also participate in PCC's graduation when they earn an associate's degree. In some cases, students have earned 70 or more hours of transferable college credits.

"It's part of the mission to serve," said Karen Sanders, division dean of business, applied technology, world languages and College Prep at the Rock Creek Campus. "I think the biggest piece is that it really facilitates the pipeline between high school and

college. This partnership really gets them exposed to college earlier so they're able to continue on to a four-year school."

Students attend PCC full time, taking regular college courses with college students. The participants, who have tuition covered by the Beaverton School District, confer with an Early College counselor to choose classes that meet high school graduation requirements and develop an academic plan. Staffs at the Rock Creek and Sylvania campuses provide support and guidance to students. Additionally, students take three courses — "College Success and Survival," "College Study Skills" and "Career and Life Planning."

"I know what I want to do," said 18-year-old Shelley Catu-Cumez, who escaped a tough situation at her Beaverton area high school to attend PCC and is now on her way to Western Oregon University to get her teaching credential. "I'm motivated to actually go and continue my career; something my parents never thought one

their daughters would do. Now I have a clear path to what university I want to go to and what career I want. It's great."

Students come from a myriad of backgrounds. In the last three years, 250 students attended PCC full time with almost half coming from poverty and 45 percent being first-generation college students. Thirty-four percent are bilingual and 33 percent are minority students. Of the students who complete the program, 98 percent earned a high school diploma with an average grade-point average of 3.0.

"I think the program is serving the students well," said Linda West, principal of the Early College High School at PCC. "Because of the dual credits they earn we're accelerating students who would be at risk."

High school students mix with college students and interact with a wide variety of people at PCC. West said the students feel empowered and have a voice. The environment also helps the students to grow and focus on what they want to do. Some transfer to prestigious four-year universities such as Santa Clara University, Penn State, University of California, Berkeley and Cornell University.

Marlon Lua, a junior from Sunset High School, is in the program. Lua admits he picked up some bad habits in high school and his academics suffered. Now, after entering the Early College High School, he's on track to transfer from PCC to Oregon State University where he hopes to earn a mechanical engineering degree.

"Being in class with mature adults has been helpful," Lua said. "There's more to life than what I was aware of. It has forced me to be a little bit more mature." ♦

See if the Beaverton Early College High School is right for you by visiting [pcc.edu/prepare/head-start/beaverton/](http://pcc.edu/prepare/head-start/beaverton/) or calling 971-722-7473.



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