

Portland Teachers Program  
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**LISTEN. LEARN. SERVE.**

*Spring 2011*

## The 2011 Graduates

**“Our differences should be honored instead of disowned.”** Gina Bluebird

While this is the smallest graduating class PTP has had in many years, and the first in many years that has no men, it consists of five strong, outstanding women who are guaranteed to help students in their classrooms meet the highest standards for critical thinking and independence. Here, they speak for themselves:



Stars: Yolanda McKinney, Robbie Davis, Michelle Lloyd, Maalaea Gustafson & Gina Bluebird

“I truly enjoy teaching and helping students learn. I believe in their infinite potential to learn and grow as individuals. My students are my priority and I have high expectations for all of them. I don’t expect perfection, but I do insist on hard work and their best effort. I will go above and beyond to help every student achieve their goals. I realize that teaching is not static; each classroom is different, as is each individual student, and therefore, different approaches are needed to meet their various needs. I can accomplish this with immense enthusiasm, caring and dedication, and with striving to create a positive learning environment for my students.

Powwows are a big part of who I am. When I dance I feel immense pride in being a Native American woman and I feel a joy that comes from within. There is a spirit on the dance floor and a spirit in the drum that comes though and fills one’s heart.”

**Gina Bluebird, Elementary**

**IN THIS**

*Issue*

- 2011 Graduates
- Black Panther Leader
- Jerry Colonna
- Special Education

- PTP Small Communities
- Alumni Challenge
- News Bytes
- Mentoring

## “The more I learn, the more I plan to share. Greed has no place in education.”

2 -Sarah Shelton

### 2011 Graduates Continued from Page 1

“Education is not only a right, it is a gift and an opportunity. Not providing an adequate education to our youth is a disservice and should be against the law. I see education as a means of creating a better life. I hope to show students that we have options in life. I will teach them that through education, determination, ambition and self-discipline, they can prosper and be whatever they want to be. I want them to know that their options are limitless. It is important to teach our students that although we all share similarities,

we are also different in many ways. Our differences should be honored instead of disowned. When we accept each others’ differences and teach with an open mind, our classrooms can evolve into beautiful communities.

PTP has made a world of difference to me! Without it, I’m unsure of where I would be. It has changed my life dramatically; it has made me love the person I am. I have been taught to embrace those that are different from me, instead of judging them.”

**Robbie Davis, Special Education**

“Education as it stands now is in a complete state of disarray. There are far too many individuals making decisions about education who are not in touch with teaching, learning and student needs. It saddens me to know that the people being hurt are the ones who need us the most, the students. Without teaching, learning and experiencing, children grow into lives they aren’t prepared for. Everyday I go into the classroom my hope and goal is that I will uplift and inspire the lives of all my students. Each day I teach, I seek out moments in which I can positively impact the life of a child.

I view myself as a life-long learner, one who is determined to meet the needs of each student while also guiding them on their own learning paths to discovery.

PTP has had a tremendous impact on me becoming a teacher . . . it has provided me with the wisdom, confidence and tools to enter the workforce as a well-rounded, educated teacher. Without the accountability that I am held to as a PTP student I don’t know if would have had the personal drive to get through the tough times during school. I am honored and owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to PTP for allowing me this life long experience.”

**Maalaea Gustafson, Elementary**

“I aspire to be a teacher who listens without casting judgment. I will strive to understand my students and learn from them. Knowing that every student doesn’t learn the same way, it is especially important to me to find out how my students learn best and adjust my teaching accordingly. I will be effective in my teaching by setting high expectations of students and myself, by being a good listener and by being a positive teacher-leader inside and outside of the classroom. I’ll strive to create and teach a non-biased curriculum that represents the diverse cultures of the students, not only in my classroom or the school, but also in the world. Coming from a place of love and respect, I know I will succeed.

PTP has taught me what course work cannot; it has made me a better person, which will hopefully translate into being a better teacher. PTP has taught me that teaching is not only a choice, but the best way for me to use my talents and gifts, and that one person does have the ability to make a difference.”

**Michelle Lloyd, Elementary**

“Teaching is the foundation for everything else in society, and great teachers make society a better place by raising the next generation of leaders. How we teach and who we are will help shape society. I hope to inspire my students to learn something new everyday and to achieve their best. I also hope to bring cultural competence into the classroom so that all children feel welcomed, valued and accepted for who they are and what they can contribute. Not only has PTP provided me with the financial means to achieve my goal of becoming a teacher, it has provided me with a sense of self and cultural competence.”

**Yolanda McKinney, Elementary**

## Fall Term Colloquium: David Hilliard



**Director Deborah Cochrane with Wiley Barnett, David Hilliard & Geoffrey Brooks**

David Hilliard, former Chief of Staff for the Black Panther Party, was a guest speaker at the October colloquium. Using slides, Mr. Hilliard gave students a chance to better understand the history of the BPP. He stressed that the BPP movement was about empowering *all* people, not just Black people. They operated on the principle that you must teach youth *how* to think, not *what* to think. The work in the movement was out in the community, not in an office. “We served the people, body and soul,” he said, as he explained their wholistic approach to building community ---health care, education, jobs, housing and food.

**"...if our thoughts are intelligently organized and structured they will create a life of intentional design. More fundamental than any other worldly discipline is the mastery of your own mind." -Ramman Turner**

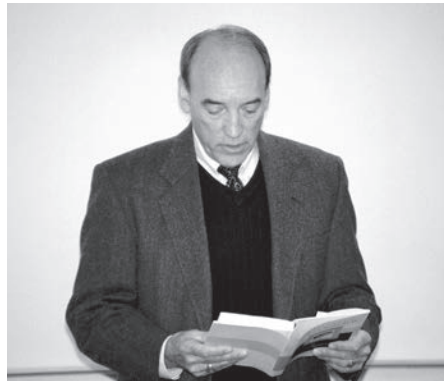
## Master Teachers Share Their Wisdom

Thirty four alumni---master PTP teachers and administrators---showed up for the winter term colloquium on January 22nd. They provided workshops to small groups of PTP emerging teachers on everything from *Teaching Writing and Classroom Management*, to *How to Make a Lesson Plan, Middle School Math and Language Arts, High School Classroom Management* and *What Principals Look for and Expect*.

It was perhaps, one of the best PTP gatherings ever. Seeing nearly 100 teachers, administrators and future teachers together, learning from each other, networking and uplifting each other was a powerful sight. PTP was also joined that day by Conrad Hurdle, the principal of Ockley Green, Middle School, who collaborated with master PTP teacher Daphne Bussey to do a workshop on "Professionalism."

PTP thanks the experienced teachers and administrators who facilitated workshops: Thu Truong, Lucy Cervantes Campbell, Lionel Clegg, Adrianna Moyola, Sofia Melendez, Shalonda McGhee, Francesca Alvarez, Tracey Briggs, Cathy Parker, Luis Lopez, Silvia Lewis, Ameritia Cavil, Alodie Lopez, Meriba Asencio, Tina Dang, Daphne Bussey, Andre Washington, Aaron Monteith, Shay James, Natasha Butler, Celina Garrido-Meyers, Monica Estrada, Sarah Gonzalez, Esteban Ortiz Lopez, Richard Cha, Candice Vickers, Yolanda Flores, Twanda Jones, AND those wonderful and talented alumni educators who came by and helped out: Curtis Wilson, Mario Interian, Jalia Campbell, Lindel Stone, Margarita Portillo, Antoinia Griffin, Aaron Moreno and Antonio Gibson-Rivers. We also thank Ockley Green Principal, Conrad Hurdle.

## The Amazing Jerome Colonna



Superintendent of Beaverton School District, Jerome Colonna, honored PTP students by accepting an invitation to speak with seminar students in January about "leadership as service." He started out by telling us that "YOU CAN'T LEAD IF YOU DON'T READ" and provided us with an eclectic and fascinating list of recommended books for leaders. He also shared a list of his guiding principals, explaining that he had adopted one for each of his 18 years as a superintendent. Those principles truly reflected the man that we saw before us, a man of integrity, courage and compassion.

Mr. Colonna announced that he will be retiring in June, and although we are happy for him, he will be deeply missed. There are so few leaders like Jerry Colonna in the world today---who put others first and who model honest hard work, humbleness, commitment to diversity and inclusion, listening, learning and serving in all that they do. We were inspired by his words, but even more by his actions over the past years. We hope he will stay connected to PTP students!

*"We need more light about each other. Light creates understanding, understanding creates love, love creates patience, and patience creates unity." -Malcom X*

## Special Education Presentation

"Everybody can learn," speaker Eleanor Bailey told PTP students, "it just takes time." PTP students were privileged to hear Eleanor Bailey and her father speak about special education in March. Eleanor is a graduate of Grant High School and the PSU transition program. She is currently staff to the NW Down Syndrome Association and the first person with Down Syndrome Syndrome to be invited to present at the Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities in Hawaii. She is a strong advocate for inclusion and self determination.



**Michael Bailey and daughter, Eleanor Bailey**  
Michael Bailey is President-Elect of the National Disability Rights Network in Washington, DC. He has spoken in 32 states in the past two years, participated in numerous acts of civil disobedience and is a regular consultant to the President's Domestic Policy Council. He is currently President of Disability Rights Oregon. His book *Special Education: A Parent's Guide to a Child's Success* is now in its fifth printing, and he has a new book coming out in October.

Special Education continued Page 4

**"It's a group effort to change the world and I will encourage all to take part in it."  
-Jayme Causey**

4

## Portland Teachers Program Family Gathering



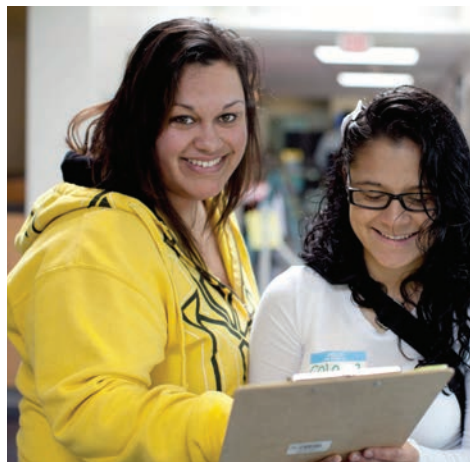
Special Education Continued from Page 3

Eleanor gave an enlightening slide presentation of her experiences in Portland Public Schools, and Michael provided insights as a parent of a child with a disability, as well as an overview of the political landscape regarding disability rights. "Label jars, not people," he told students.

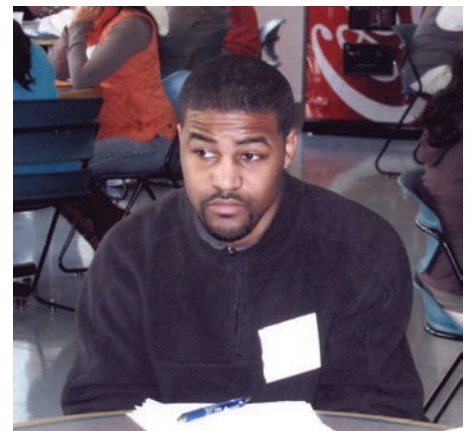
PTP students were inspired by Eleanor's determination to achieve whatever she set her mind to do. They especially appreciated her definition of an IEP (Individual Education Plan): "It's a bunch of people sitting around talking about me."

**"I am a Mexican woman who dearly holds to my roots . . .**

I am a woman with a purpose in life who understands that through service I show my gratitude towards life. I am a woman who wants one day to walk into my classroom and not only teach, but learn too." -Blanca Strode



Beautiful PTP Faces: Ashley Echang & Celene Vargas



Ronnie Perry thinking about math or women?

**“Small communities help us come together and share stories about ourselves; it is good to be in a powerful community where we can rely on one another.” - Isidro Interian 5**

## Small Communities

This year, every student in PTP was assigned to a small community of approximately seven students. Each person had to participate in monthly meetings, and time was to be spent checking in with one another about school and life in general. Goals of this new requirement included:

- Creating space for everyone to have a voice and to get to know each other better.
- Sharing valuable information about school as well as managing life challenges.
- Discussing community action, engagement and change.
- Providing opportunities to practice active listening, respecting different view points and getting along with others.

Over time, the hope is that PTP Small Communities (SC's) will have a positive impact on retention and graduation, and better prepare emerging teacher-leaders to be collaborative team players who are actively engaged in their school communities. SC facilitators (and co-facilitators) will be nominated by students for the 2011-12 year, but were assigned by the PTP Director this year, and included: Mercedes Miller, Andre Hawkins, Jason Correa, Ronnie Perry, Celene Vargas, Chris Riser, Ashley Echang, Gerald Bolden, Yessica Mercado and Chris Wade.

Each community came up with guidelines for their group, and each community did different things. One group volunteered at the MLK Day Celebration, another studied together for the CBEST, and yet another had pot lucks and spent time really getting to know one another.

Chris Riser shared his opinion that the SC's "have been a tremendous benefit to me personally. It has given me the opportunity to go deeper in my relationships with my cohorts, to go deeper into the meaning and purpose

of education, and to find more pathways to meaningful action in the world. I'm excited to see it develop and evolve into a stronger, more cohesive component of PTP." First year student Jimmy Boland felt that the PTP SC's helped "break the barriers for me as a new student in PTP." Chelsea Fuller, a junior and first year PTP student, said that "having people at all different levels in school was great and our group was lucky to have two grad students, which allowed us to hear what they are going through in grad school." Daisy Martinez liked "the opportunity to learn from each other."



Engineering team: Mayra Barraza, Ericka Powe, Jessica Mercado, Chris Riser, Floricel Negrete, Jayme Causey, Andre Hawkins & Ramman Turner



A Few PTP Master Educators: Sofia Melendez, Alodie Lopez, Adrianna Moyola, Ameritia Cavil, Natasha Butler, Luis Lopez, Celina Garrido & Shay James

**“Even the tiniest interaction, be it a friendly remark or the extra few minutes a student needs to understand a question, can be the catalyst for them later in life, which will affect positive change in their views of the world.” -Tobias Witherspoon**

**“We cannot tell our students to be active in the community if we do not do it, or have never done it. We need to be what we teach.” -Florice Negrete**

## The Challenge



PTP students challenged alumni to a karaoke sing off for their spring term colloquium, but the only two alumni brave enough to meet that challenge were **Daphne Bussey and Tracey Briggs**, who performed a DY-NA-MITE, PTP-style version of “We are Family.” They rocked the house! And if not for the fact that they came up against professional spoken word performer Chris Riser doing an original piece for the first time, they would have taken first place. With the exception of Tracey and Daphne, what the students say about alumni just might be true: “you can’t saaaaannng,” and “you blow dust!” There is also a rumor that many alumni are just jealous because “back in the day,” Deborah didn’t allow colloquia to be used for fun.



PTP Beat Boxer: Jimmy Boland



PTP Sprinters: Isidro Interian & Anthony Lowery

## News Bytes

- Many PTP students seek and receive scholarships each year. Here are a few recent winners: Daisy Martinez, a PSU Chicano/Latino Studies Scholarship (\$1000); Chris Wade and Ronnie Perry, the Oregon NASA Space Grant Scholarship for pre-service teachers (\$3000 each); Isidro Interian, the PSU Ruben Sierra scholarship for \$5000!
- Gina Bluebird received the “Native American Student of the Year” 2011 award from the Oregon Indian Education Association in April.
- New to PTP this year: Mayra Barraza, Jimmy Boland, Paula Byrd, Chanell Hopson, Adrienne Howard, Carlos Laguardia, Victor Morales, Ramman Turner, Marlene Sails, Blanca Strode, Isidro Interian, Chelsea Fuller, Nneka Hall & Tobias Witherspoon.
- Accepted to the Graduate Teacher Education Program for 2011-2012: Gerald Bolden, Sharde Dennis, Ashley Echang, Daisy Martinez, Ani Ponz, Ramman Turner and Chris Riser. Jacqueline Alvarado and Mercedes Miller were accepted into the Graduate Special Education Program. (Chris and Mercedes will delay their start until next year).
- The PTP Director’s “Education & Social Justice” workshop has been facilitated this year by a rotating team of students including: Celene Vargas, Jason Correa, Juan Vasquez, Ashley Echang, Victor Morales & Isido Inderian. They have done workshops at a number of high schools, as well as the Cesar Chavez Leadership conference and the MeChA conference.
- PTP students Ronnie Perry and Celene Vargas continue to offer math tutoring in the PTP office four afternoons a week.

There is NO EXCUSE for anyone in PTP failing a math course!

- Accepted to University of Portland this year: Nichole Martin



PTP Buddies: Nichole Martin & Martonio Butler

## Visitors from California

A faculty member from California State University, East Bay, and a program manager from Oakland Unified School District heard about PTP, contacted the Director, and asked if they could visit to learn more about how PTP works. They were especially curious when they found out that PTP had been around for 21 years. Through an effort called “Teach Tomorrow,” they are trying to increase diversity in the Bay area teaching workforce.

The PTP Director arranged for them to visit with PTP graduate Shay James, who is now the principal at Franklin High School, and with Lionel Clegg, first grade veteran teacher at Woodlawn Elementary, as well as Cathy Parker, Aaron Moreno and Tracey Briggs. They were also guests at the winter term colloquium, where they met many PTP alumni and emerging PTP teachers. PTP is always glad to share what we have learned with others who are striving to bring equity, diversity and excellence to their schools. They said they had traveled around the country looking at programs to increase teacher diversity, and had never seen anything as extensive as PTP.

# The Portland Teachers Program is a movement to bring equity and excellence to ALL children.

7



Using toilet paper rolls to build a roller coaster was a PTP “A” Team: (front) Chris Wade, Alexandra Nava & Victor Morales (back) Chelsea Fuller, Jacqueline Alvarado, Rashad Arnold, Alexis Daley & Robbie Davis

## Mentoring Project

With assistance from Portland Public Schools, PTP was able to start a small, limited mentorship program this year for first and second year PTP teachers. It involves two meetings with everyone, and then visits between new and veteran teachers. Bonnie Gray from PPS Human Resources and PTP Director Deborah Cochrane collaborated on putting the program together.

Master PTP teachers Lionel Clegg, Thu Truong, Tracey Briggs, Luis Lopez and Francesca Alvarez agreed to participate. We were also honored that non-PTP teachers Trevor Butenhoff from Franklin and Scot Fitzpatrick from Lincoln HS--- both outstanding educators---agreed to join in on this effort. First and second year PTP teachers who are participating include: Meriba Acenscio, 1st grade at Cesar Chavez, Yolanda Flores, Headstart at Sacajawea, Tina Dang, 3/4 blend at Ockley Green, Rosina Hardy, 4/5 blend at Ockley Green and Andre Washington, SPED at Ockley Green, Richard Cha, Math at Roosevelt HS, Leeza Ferguson,

3rd at Ockley Green, and Shalonda McGee, 1st at Rosa Parks. Informal feedback has been very positive.

## Thanks, Kudos and Love to:

- Mrs. Helle Nathan and the Nathan family for their continued and generous contributions to the PTP fund that helps students with test fees, textbooks and other necessities.
- Martin Gonzalez for his \$1000 donation to the PTP student fund.
- Jeanne Miller for the grocery bags that get students through the end of the month “too broke to even buy Raman Noodles” blues, as well as the candy and fruit that periodically show up on the office study table. In addition, Jeanne pounds the pavement for contributions to graduate gift bags.
- PASTINI’s restaurant for donating \$50 gift certificates to each of the 2011 graduates.
- PTP Alumni Donors for 2010: Shay James, Lucy Campbell, Margarita

Portillo, Hoi Tran, Thu Truong, Irene Montano, Esteban Ortiz Lopez, Lionel Clegg, Lindel Stone, Darryl Miles, Curtis Wilson, Thuy Nguyen, Hung Trinh, Adrianna Moyola, Anibal Rivera, Ray Tate, Rose Murdock, Felipe Laura, Luis Lopez, Daphne Bussey, Tracey Briggs, Silvia Lewis, Francisca Alvarez, Karanja Crews, Nicole Holden, Celina Garrido, Selene Hall & Cathy Parker.

- Other donors: Dalton Miller Jones, Bob Everhart (Former PSU GSE Dean), George Pernsteiner (Chancellor), Narce Rodriguez, Robert Mercer, Brian Greer, Jose Flores, May Pulliam, Maalaea Gustafson & Deborah Cochrane.

- Ashley Echange, Celene Vargas, Ronnie Perry, Jason Correa, Nichole Martin and Gerald Bolden for planning and facilitating a very successful, fun filled spring term colloquium with engineering challenges, games and karaoke laughter.

- Lucy Campbell and the Brooks family who donated items for the graduate gift bags this year.

- Ann Sweet, Wiley Barnett and Jerry Colonna for making time to teach PTP students this past year on internalized racism, developing a philosophy of education and leadership as service, respectively.

- Michelle Samuel for her graphic art work, patience, smile and kindness.

- Susan Wilson, Narce Rodriguez, Robert Mercer for outstanding advising, support, friendship and help with the selection process.

- Alumni who took on practicum students this past year: Tracey Briggs, Daphne Bussey, Lionel Clegg and Cathy Parker.

- Beth Fitzgerald for preserving the memories.

**“We do a great disservice to students when we allow them to continue in a homogenous setting because this is not a homogeneous world.”**

**Nikki Giovanni**

**Program Director**  
Deborah Cochrane  
**971.722.5444**

**Program Assistants:**  
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The Portland Teachers Program is a partnership among Portland Public Schools, Portland Community College, Portland State University, the University of Portland and Beaverton School District. It is committed to the development of an academically prepared, multicultural, multiethnic, culturally responsive teacher workforce that can ensure educational equity for all students. Our philosophy is: **Listen, Learn & Serve!**



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