Welcome to the inaugural issue of kaleidoscope, the new quarterly publication of Portland Community College, and the non-credit class guide for Summer 2006.

This magazine is our way of keeping in contact with you and telling you about the quality programs offered through our three comprehensive campuses — Cascade in North Portland, Rock Creek in Western Washington County and Sylvania in Southwest Portland — along with five centers specializing in job training and community education classes located at more than 200 sites.

PCC is the largest institution of higher education in Oregon and during its 45-year history tens of thousands of students have graduated and found their way into the workforce or moved onto four-year universities. While our numbers are impressive – about 90,000 students enroll in classes each year – we realize there are still many folks in our five county district who don’t know enough about this gem in their backyard. We want to change that.

Within these pages you’ll learn about the college’s outstanding students, exemplary faculty, dedicated staff members and top-notch programs. Take a look at Page 9 and read about Leah Gibson, a student leader who lobbied in Washington D.C. about education funding. Flip to Page 11 and you’ll see Allen Jones, a music instructor who spent years on the road in a rock band but who found that his true calling is teaching. And don’t forget to read about and see in pictures the $60 million worth of new buildings and renovations at the Cascade Campus where your support in passing a bond measure six years ago helped make those improvements possible.

We’d love to hear what you think about this new magazine so email us at kaleidoscope@pcc.edu, fax us at (503) 452-9581 or send a note to kaleidoscope, PCC, P.O. Box 19000, Portland, OR 97280-0990. Remember to visit www.pcc.edu to keep updated on everything from classes and faculty members to cultural events and business partnerships.

Thanks for taking the time to read kaleidoscope.

Sincerely yours,

Preston Pulliams
District President
Potter’s School Days
Portland Mayor Tom Potter earned his associates degree from PCC in 1973. The former police chief looks back at his time in class.

Meet the President
Don’t be surprised to find Preston Pulliams sitting next to you in class. By day he oversees the college district; on weekends & evenings he’s a student.

Cascade Blooms
After spending nearly $60 million from a voter-approved bond measure, the Cascade Campus shows off its true beauty.

School by Day, Intel by Night
Students in the Microelectronics Technology Program keep a rigorous schedule as they attend classes and hold paid internships with the chip maker.

South Dakota Bound
Ready to study indigenous people & learn about her ancestors, Associated Students President Leah Gibson heads to Black Hills State University.

A New Home
Katherine Persson is a long way from home but she’s quickly settled into her new spot as Rock Creek President.

Music to His Ears
After playing guitar and base and touring with bands for years, Allen Jones finds the thing he enjoys most is teaching music.

Basketball & Books
One of PCC newest students, a transplant from California, finds the weather bearable as long as he can shoot hoops and study.

Weekend Classes
The Sylvania campus rarely quiets on weekends and in the evenings as working students find the best time to earn a degree is after 5 p.m.

Artist Among Us
Instructor Mark Smith wows his students & draws rave reviews for his art displayed around Portland, including the Port of Portland building.
Potter’s School Days

Long before he oversaw the Portland Police Department and decades before holding the job of Mayor, Tom Potter spent many days at PCC.

Q. What years did you attend Portland Community College?
A. 1970-73

Q. What was your major?
A. Criminal Justice

Q. Do any faculty members stand out in your mind? If so, what are their names and why do you remember them?
A. The psychology instructor. It was the first time I heard of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs – I use it ALL of the time!

Q. Why did you choose to attend Portland Community College?
A. It was the most affordable and it had a very good Criminal Justice program.

Q. When you entered college where you preparing for a career in law enforcement?
A. I was already a police officer.

Q. Back then did you ever think you would work in public service?
A. Yes, see above.

Q. Did you ever dream that some day you would be elected Portland Mayor?
A. No, it was the furthest thing from my mind.
Don’t be surprised to see Preston Pulliams sitting next to you in class.

By day he oversees the Portland Community College District, the state’s largest institution of higher learning with more than 90,000 students and 3,500 employees, but after hours he takes a seat in a classroom.

During his two years at the helm, he’s taken everything from photography to Asian cooking. He’s the perfect example of a professional who enrolls in classes at PCC for both knowledge and enjoyment.

“PCC is a wonderful place for lifelong learning,” Pulliams said. “We have excellent instructors, we’re conveniently located and we’re a bargain.”

Following a national search, Pulliams arrived at PCC in May 2004, becoming the college’s fifth president. He left the East Coast where he served as Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges for the State University of New York to head PCC. The chance to lead a reputable college district excited him and the city, with its cultural offerings of music and art, thrilled him.

“I just love Portland because of its vitality and it also offers a great quality of life,” he said.

His busy weeks take him to meetings across the district, which covers more than 1,500 square miles. Yet one of his favorite parts of the job is walking across the campuses and chatting with students about their classes and interests.

“I enjoy what I do and this is a great community to be associated with,” he said. “The students, faculty, staff and community are all so wonderful.”

Pulliams is the oldest of six children and while his parents had no formal schooling beyond the fifth grade he knew education was one of their top priorities.

“My father worked three or four jobs just to help pay for school,” Pulliams recalled.

A community college graduate, Pulliams earned an associates degree from Muskegon Community College in Michigan. He went on to receive a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University, a master’s degree from Western Michigan University and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Michigan.

During his 34-year tenure in higher education, Pulliams served as president of Orange County Community College in Middleton, New York and at the Highland Lakes Campus of the Oakland Community College District in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. In addition, he was vice president for student affairs at Community College of Philadelphia and also served as dean of student services at Muskegon Community College.

While he puts in 60+ hour work weeks, come weekends Pulliams can be found on the golf course or tennis court or exploring the Northwest outside of Portland, camera in hand, with his wife, Joan.
If you haven’t stopped by the Portland Community College Cascade Campus since the last time you took classes or graduated then it’s time you visited.

What you’ll find is a strikingly different look to the 35-year-old campus with seven completely new or renovated buildings. Students, faculty, staff and local supporters take pride in the massive construction project that many predict will be a catalyst for further improvements to the urban neighborhood in Northeast Portland.

CASCADE BLOOMS

Thanks to district voters’ approval of a bond measure six years ago, the Cascade Campus emerges and takes on a new community role.
“People see the college as part of community development and the economic engine that drives this area,” Scott Huff, Dean of Instruction, said of the campus that is more than one-third larger than its former size with an additional 3.5 acres of land.

District voters overwhelmingly approved a $144 million bond measure for Portland Community College in 2000. Within the bond proposal Cascade Campus received $60 million to be spent on new buildings and renovations of existing structures.

What emerged is a campus no longer filled with Quonset huts and outdated classrooms but one with state-of-the-art facilities and labs and its crown jewel on the corner of North Killingsworth Street and North Albina Avenue, the Daniel F. Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building.

“People want to be a part of this campus because this site is the hub of the community,” said Cascade President Algie Gatewood. “Since we are located literally across the street from Jefferson High School, we are a resource for high school students to expand their education and opportunities.”

Highlights from the seven new or renovated buildings include:

- The Technology Education Building, housing classrooms, administrative offices, a computer room that seats more than 100 students and a half dozen labs for students studying in trade and industry programs such as facilities maintenance, HVAC and electrical.

- The two-story Physical Education Building, bringing together recreational fitness classes, an aerobics room, a free weight training room and a regulation sized basketball court, home of the PCC Panthers.

- The Daniel F. Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building, named after the former president who oversaw operations from 1986-2001. The 42,200-square-foot structure boasts a 250-seat auditorium, classrooms for multimedia, art and professional music students, the bookstore and faculty offices.
The Public Services Education Building, with a constant bustle of activity, is the place to be for students taking classes in criminal justice, paralegal, emergency telecommunicator (9-1-1), fire protection technology and emergency medical technician programs.

Terrell Hall, was extensively remodeled and updated. It now houses many general education courses, the Student Learning Center and the soon-to-be opened Art Gallery.

The Rev. Jackson Hall was renovated and a new wing of the building added. It is the gathering spot for Allied Health programs, including medical assisting, medical laboratory technology, ophthalmic medical technology, health information management and alcohol and drug counseling.

The Student Center received some basic renovations and continues to house the information center, library, cafeteria, the Associated Students’ offices and classrooms.

While a tremendous amount of work has changed the entire look and feel of the site, the construction isn’t over. On the horizon, the modular trailers will be removed from the area near the Student Services Building and renovations are under way at a building near the campus and recently purchased by PCC for new Department of Public Safety offices.
A longstanding partnership between Portland Community College and Intel has given more than 160 students the knowledge and experience needed to land good paying jobs in the semiconductor field.

The Microelectronics Technology Program started 10 years ago as Intel leaders looked toward future growth in the chip making field and realized a large number of employees would be needed to fill jobs. The company turned to PCC for solutions on how best to prepare computer chip workers who need competence in math, science and chemistry.

What came about was a solid partnership where instructors at the Rock Creek Campus teach the microelectronics technology students and Intel offers on-the-job training in its wafer factories through paid internships. It’s a win-win situation and an excellent example of how companies and PCC can respond to global challenges and market conditions.

“The program is a great way to get a degree in one of the fastest growing global industries. The best part for me was the customized curriculum and class schedule,” said former student Mark Alayan, now employed by Intel as a self-sustaining technician. “It was ideal since what you were learning at school had a direct bearing on what you were doing at work. Once students graduate they are perfect candidates for hiring since they already have extensive work experience in a manufacturing fab environment.”

The program works this way. Students interested in microelectronics enroll in classes at the Rock Creek Campus. It’s a rigorous class load of math, statistics, science, chemistry and physics along with hands-on work in the lab that trains technicians how to handle chips used in cell phones, computers and military equipment. It takes about two years to finish the program and earn an associates degree.

Once students complete the first quarter and maintain a 2.5 grade point average, they are eligible to interview with Intel supervisors for a 20-hour a week paid internship. Along with the pay comes full medical benefits and Intel covers the costs of tuition and books. Each year about 25 students graduate from the program. Of those who have interned with Intel, about 98 percent land a full-time job with the chip maker with a starting salary of $40,000 and ample opportunity for overtime.

After years at the CAPITAL Center, the program moved in 2005 to the Rock Creek Campus. The spacious labs are loaded with spectroscopes, oxide etchers, plasma trainers and Varian vacuum trainers. Students perform a multitude of tasks such as taking silicone from its raw state and fashioning it into a wafer.

Three full-time faculty members, Dorina Cornea-Hasegan, Shelton Fu and Eric Kirchner, and part-time faculty member and technician Robert Beadle, guide students through the program.

For more information about the Microelectronics Technology Program, visit the web site at http://www.pcc.edu/mt, call 503-614-7255 or stop by the Rock Creek campus at 17705 N.W. Springville Road, Building 7, Room 202.
Later this summer Cascade Campus Associated Students President Leah Gibson will pack her belongings and embark on a journey that will bring her closer to her Native American roots.

But if not for Portland Community College and some life changing events she would never be headed for Black Hills State University in South Dakota.

“I’m so happy because PCC taught me what I need for this portion of my life,” said Gibson, who started her studies through the Gateway to College program and will be the student speaker at graduation on June 7. “Part of me is sad that my time here will end but my three years here have been full.”

It was at the Cascade Campus where she met a woman who introduced her to traditional Native American ceremonies. She quickly got involved with the United Tribes Club and felt a personal calling.

Adopted when she was 1, Gibson had searched for her birth parents and learned that she is half Lakota Sioux and half Persian.

Her work in the tribal union snowballed and she soon found herself attending Associated Students meetings. Soon after she served as director of diversity programs and director of legislative affairs. Last year she was selected as Cascade Campus Student Body president by faculty advisers and students.

One thing she helped arrange this year is a place for coeds to hang out between classes. A basement room in the Student Center is now a spot for students who want to play pool or kick back on the couch and study.

“Seeing all the work I have done makes me very happy,” said Gibson, 20. “I love seeing other people enjoy activities that I helped create.”

“Our world will clearly be a much better place as a result of her efforts.”

While she’s clearly focused on her future Gibson wasn’t always in control of her life. She dropped out of high school, became addicted to drugs and alcohol and moved out of her parents’ home by the time she was 14. In 2002 she started in the Gateway to College program, finishing up high school classes while also earning college credit.

“I liked the Gateway program because there were restrictions and requirements yet I was free to make choices and I was treated like an adult,” said Gibson, who graduates with an Oregon Arts Transfer Degree. “I met with my adviser and I always knew what to expect.”

She’s now clean and sober and back in her parents’ Parkrose home. She’s proud of the personal and professional goals she’s reached and ready to earn a bachelor’s degree in Lakota Studies and journalism and hopefully get in touch with her Native American ancestors.
Katherine Persson

New Home on the Range

It only took a couple of minutes but Katherine Persson was certain she found her new home.

Last October as she drove onto the Rock Creek Campus for her first interview she looked around at the open acres, the farmland, the buildings and the people and she said to herself, “This is it.”

A Texas native who spent nearly 30 years outside Houston in the North Harris Montgomery Community College District, Persson had decided it was time to move on. She saw the opening for the presidency at Rock Creek and almost immediately colleagues encouraged her to apply.

“I was ready for a big, big change and I was ready for a new adventure,” said Persson, who left the district as vice president of educational programs and services at Kingwood College. “Besides being located in one of the most beautiful areas of the country, both Rock Creek and the district have an excellent reputation. In fact, what attracted me most to the position is the challenge and opportunity to work in a progressive multi-campus system.”

Persson is the daughter of two teachers – her mother taught public school and her father was a college professor. She earned a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Texas and began her own teaching career as an adjunct professor in biology.

A total of 47 new lambs made their debut this spring as 24 ewes gave birth in February and March. While each ewe typically produces twins, a couple of the moms had triplets. And they aren’t alone. A dozen cows are now birthing their offspring. If you’re on the Rock Creek Campus stop by the farm and check out the horses, dogs, cats, rabbits and llama cared for by students in the Veterinary Technology Program and Terry Lookabill, the farm coordinator.

In addition to her professional work, she was an elected school board member for the Splendora Independent School District, resigning her seat in January after 16 years of service. She also was active on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for Montgomery County and the Leadership North Houston Board of Directors.

Her husband, a high school government and economics teacher, will join her in Beaverton once the academic year ends. Her three adult children remain in Texas but there are plenty of trips planned for visits to the Pacific Northwest.

“Besides being located in one of the most beautiful areas of the country, both Rock Creek and the district have an excellent reputation. In fact, what attracted me most to the position is the challenge and opportunity to work in a progressive multi-campus system.”

- Katherine Persson

She is now president of the Beaverton campus that serves 8,200 students a quarter. When she started the job in January she vowed to meet with every single faculty and staff member – all 400 of them – and talk about their jobs and the campus in general. So far she’s sat down face-to-face with about 30 people.

“I’m trying to get a good read on the campus and learn about its strengths and challenges,” she said, adding that she sees potential for growth in professional and technical programs such as landscape design, the construction trades, veterinary technology and environmental science.

After teaching biology for nearly a decade, she shifted her focus to administrative duties on the advice of a former campus president. During her time in the district, she served as an associate dean and vice president.
Allen Jones arrived at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus in 1983 as a student and never left.

After playing guitar and singing in rock ‘n’ roll bands in the 1970s, he enrolled in music classes to study his craft and learn about theory, recording and composing.

By the time he graduated two years later he was asked to step in as a part-time instructor. Since then he’s become a full-time instructor, program adviser and main promoter of what is now the Professional Music Program.

“I learned a lot about teaching from the great instructors that I had as a student,” said Jones, who remembers Eric Funk, a math instructor, as one of the first faculty members he met.

Jones has seen the program blossom over the years as changes were made to better prepare students for the music industry. Today, a one-year certificate is offered in music performance and music writing. Graduates pursue jobs as composers, engineers and producers, instrumental musicians and private music teachers.

Jones is looking ahead to future students. In January he brought the Grammy in the Schools program – run by the Grammy Foundation – to Cascade Campus where 210 high school students from Oregon and Southwest Washington heard from local professionals on everything from song writing and radio airtime to recording and setting up a new band.

“The recording academy is reaching out to high school students to draw in kids who have an interest in music and the Cascade Campus seemed like a natural place to do this,” said Jones. “The students had a real world, up close glimpse of the music industry and they also got to see our new facility, the Daniel F. Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building.”

Much like Jones, Cascade Campus student Adam Nash Bird played the drums in bands for several years but never thought much about pursuing music as a career until he started taking classes at PCC. That’s where he found the music program and Jones.

“I had varied levels of experience with music,” said Nash Bird, who graduates in June and hopes to find work as an assistant engineer in a music studio. “Then I took the introduction class and I just fell in love with this awesome program. Allen is steering it very well.”

Each quarter students flock to the class titled Introduction to the History of Rock Music as Jones peppers his lectures with anecdotes of where he was and what he was doing when a certain song or band was popular. As a teenager in the 1960s he played at coffeehouses in New York City’s Greenwich Village. He moved to Portland in the early 1970s just as taverns and dinner houses began welcoming bands to perform.

Jones grew up with the constant sound of music. His mom was a piano teacher and his dad a jazz buff. While he enjoys almost all types of music, he’s partial to Southern rock ‘n’ roll, jazz, Cajun and Tex Mex. He’s now the guitarist and vocalist in a country band called Cross Country.
Shooting Hoops & Hitting the Books

There are two things that consume Leondrus Thornton’s life these days: books and basketball. And he wouldn’t have it any other way.

The 22-year-old from the Southern California town of Pasadena moved to the Northwest in September 2005 to enroll at Portland Community College and play basketball. During his first term his schedule was loaded with 14 credits and between practices, games, tournaments and studying he had little time for much else.

“I learned real quick how to juggle school and practice,” he said.

After graduating from high school in 2001, Thornton took a year off before attending University of Arizona in Tucson. Two years later he transferred to a small community college in Kansas. He played basketball at both places but neither town was the right fit.

Last summer he began learning more about the PCC Panthers basketball team and within a few months Thornton moved to Portland without even first visiting the city or the college. Fortunately, he likes the Pacific Northwest and is acclimating himself to the weather – a drastic change for the California native.

“He’s taken classes at all three PCC comprehensive campuses, giving him a quick geography lesson of the Portland metropolitan area.

While he expects to attend PCC for another year, he hopes to transfer to a four-year university such as Seattle Pacific University, Concordia University, Warner Pacific College or University of California, San Diego where he could continue playing basketball. His goal is to play professionally in an overseas league and his dream is making an Italian team.

Yet he’s not ignoring the academic side of college. He’s studying toward a business degree and plans to someday find a job in sports administration.

“Education is important to me because I know there are more opportunities available by just having a bachelor’s degree,” he said. “I would like to go into anything in the sports field: agent work in professional sports or doing sports administration for collegiate sports. I would also love to open a basketball gym where people could drop in for pick up games.”

SPORTS FAST FACT:

The PCC men’s basketball team tied the school record for the second most wins in the program’s history with 14 wins – just one win short of the best all-time record. First-year head coach Wayne Mendezona doubled the win total from last year, despite many injuries, no returning players from last year and other unexpected hurdles throughout the season. At one point, PCC was ranked #12 in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, its highest known NWAACC ranking ever.
Once the 9-to-5 work day is done and most busy professionals head home for dinner, many Portland Community College Sylvania Campus students are preparing for a night filled with lectures and labs.

On Saturdays – a typical day to run errands and finish up chores – students are putting in long hours, completing assignments and inching toward a degree or certificate.

About 20 percent of Sylvania Campus students take classes at night or on weekends, adjusting their schedules around work, child care concerns or other conflicts. In fact, there are six programs -- Gerontology, Machine Technology, Computer Information Systems, Computer Application Systems, Building Inspection and Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree – where students can earn a certificate or degree by only attending night, weekend and distance learning classes.

The college also offers night or weekend classes in 22 other disciplines, many fulfilling general education requirements.

“Many of the students who take night classes are working professionals and people who already have a bachelor’s degree and want to change or upgrade their skills,” said Barb VanAmerongen, Dean of Instruction.

This spring PCC will survey Sylvania Campus students currently taking evening and weekend classes about their college experience. Among the topics: a student’s motivation and commitment to finishing a degree during evenings and weekends and barriers that keep a student from attending classes.

“We want to find out how we’re best serving our night and weekend students because we want to keep them on the road to success,” said VanAmerongen. “With this survey we want to find out what we can improve and be more responsive to their needs.”

Aside from classes, a variety of student services also are available during evening hours and weekends, including admissions, advising, child care, the computer resource center, the library, financial aid and tutoring.

About two years ago David Wilson started taking classes in the gerontology program. He chose evenings classes because he needed to keep his accounting job at OHSU to continue paying the bills.

“I couldn’t afford to be without a job. My work also had a program that paid for some of my tuition and books,” said Wilson, who graduated last year and recently took a job at Marquis Care at Mt Tabor handling marketing and social activities for seniors.

“My work was flexible and allowed me to leave early so I could take late afternoon classes. I also took weekend classes but it was a small sacrifice,” he added.

While Wilson has worked with young children in the past he now loves his interaction with seniors and he’s thankful for the education he received at PCC.

“One of the things that I liked about the gerontology program was the people. The students all had a bond,” he said.

For more information about evening or weekend classes visit www.pcc.edu.

PCC CAMPUSES & CENTERS

Sylvania Campus
12000 S.W. 49th Avenue
Portland

Cascade Campus
705 N. Killingsworth Street
Portland

Rock Creek Campus
17705 N.W. Springville Road
Beaverton

Southeast Center
2305 S.E. 82nd Avenue
Portland

Hillsboro Education Center
102 S.W. Washington Street
Hillsboro

Also visit www.pcc.edu
ABOUT THE ARTIST: Painter and installation artist Mark Smith grew up in Monmouth, graduated from Western Oregon University and later earned a master’s degree from the prestigious The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York.

He worked in the corporate world, maintaining contemporary art collections for the CEOs of investment firms. On the flipside, he involved the community and painted murals on buildings in East Harlem, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

In 1998 he returned to Oregon and began teaching at PCC’s Sylvania Campus. Today, his studio watercolor classes draw a wide spectrum of students – from high school graduates to retired professionals.

ABOUT THE ART: Smith created the artwork displayed on the front cover. It’s a small view of the work titled “An Intimate City,” a 20-foot painting that resembles a colorful American patchwork quilt. The silhouettes are cut out of printed fabrics such as calico, plaid and polka dots, and include SUVs, helicopters, shoes, motorcycles, the Statue of Liberty and even the heads of legendary pianist Ray Charles and Pope John Paul II.

The artwork hangs in John R. Howard Hall on the Lewis & Clark College campus. His work can also be seen in the lobby of the Port of Portland building and the Elizabeth Leach Gallery. His pieces will also soon be featured in Providence Portland Medical Center’s cancer facility and at Nike’s Design Resource Center.

Fore! PCC Golf Challenge on September 14

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 14 for the PCC Foundation’s Third Annual Golf Challenge at Heron Lakes Golf Course.

The event partners with the Construction Industry and is the largest single fundraising event for the PCC Foundation. Contractors, sponsors and friends of PCC are invited for a day full of camaraderie, fellowship and fun that will raise more than $60,000.

Proceeds benefit student scholarships, program enhancements and special programs and equipment.

A portion of the proceeds will go toward the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund for the Construction Technology Program at the Rock Creek Campus. Scholarships allow students, who might not otherwise be able to attend PCC, an opportunity to earn a degree or certificate. In nearly 25 years, more than 4,000 scholarships have been awarded.

The cost for a round of golf is $250 a person. For $1,500 a company can sponsor a hole and field four players. Prizes are given for the putting contest, long drive, closest to the pin and straight drive. A 2006 Volvo S-80 Sedan is up for grabs courtesy of Jim Fisher Volvo for the person who sinks a hole in one.

Presenting sponsors are builders Walsh Construction, Emerick Construction, Howard S. Wright Construction and Skanska USA.

For more information, call 503-977-4382 or email mhazen@pcc.edu.

For more information about registration for classes at any campus or center, visit www.pcc.edu
“As working college students, we all know that work, classes and studying are difficult things to combine. Many college students are barely even finding the right amount of time for studying, let alone holding down a job. With the help of the PCC foundation scholarships awarded to me, a large burden has been lifted off my shoulders.

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for helping me make my dreams come true.”

Kathryn E. Fricia
Graduate, Fire Protection Program.
Combat Fire Fighter in Iraq
Wackenhut Security Services