

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**COMMUNITIES**

SPRING 2023



# Growing New Skills

Alumni take what they learned  
at PCC to teach a new generation of  
students and enthusiasts. See page 2



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## Spotlights

# Women's Soccer Places First

The PCC women's soccer team finished in first place in the NWAC Southern Region for the first time in school history with an 8-2 record. The team hosted a home playoff match at the Rock Creek Campus and lost 7-0 to Clark College. Nevertheless, the season was a huge success with the Panthers winning their first-ever season conference title. ♦



## Gala Set for April 29

**Save the date!** The Portland Community College annual gala will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the Hilton Portland Downtown. For information on sponsorships, ticket sales or general event inquiries, visit [pcc.edu/festivalofdreams](https://pcc.edu/festivalofdreams). ♦

## Dr. Bennings Selected as Aspen Fellow

PCC President Dr. Adrien Bennings has been selected as one of 26 leaders for the 2022-23 class of the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship, part of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. This program supports community college presidents in the early years of their tenure as they work to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success. ♦





Jolie Donohue

Rosie Romaine

Rod Smith

## Coming Full Circle

Alumni apply lessons learned at PCC in their Community Ed courses

They were once students, and now they are cornerstone faculty for Portland Community College's Community Education Program. Today, Jolie Donohue, Rosie Romaine and Rod Smith teach a wide range of popular non-credit classes focused on health, landscaping and growing food.

The three instructors show how their community college journeys have come full circle.

Donohue is the learning garden coordinator for PCC's Southeast and Cascade campuses and a Community Ed faculty. She is the author of "Gardening Goddess' Guide to Edible Gardening in Portland," which is based on her 13 years of teaching.

She made a midlife career change thanks to PCC after being laid off twice during a downturn in the economy. Donohue would soon find PCC's certificate pro-

gram in therapeutic horticulture within the Gerontology Program.

"It was easy to get into and earn a certificate and then jump into paid work," Donohue said. "My journey with PCC was life-changing. It's such an important part of my story."

Romaine, owner of landmark Cuban restaurant Pambiche, got into natural foods after experiencing an autoimmune illness. She embarked on a rigorous program of study with PCC's Functional Nutrition Program.

She now teaches the course "Spice Up Your Life" (page 24), an exploration of the health benefits of using fresh herbs and spices in everyday meals.

"We learned there is no one right way to eat – other than keeping your food whole," she said. "It varies person to person based

on many factors, but there is no one diet. So, I teach adapting recipes. Not everyone has to love kale."

Since 1994, Smith has taught classes for beginning to intermediate gardeners on water use and irrigation, pruning and soil building, and many other landscaping topics. His most popular courses are "Fruits and Vegetables" and "Landscape Design" (page 29).

Smith has decades of professional nursery experience with a particular affinity for Japanese maple trees. He grew up on an Iowa farm where he worked in an orchard and has continuously been involved with the gardening or agriculture industries ever since.

"A while back, computers caught my eye," Smith said. "I took several PCC computer programming classes – and then picked my shovel right back up. Once the gardening bug bites, people tend to stay with it." ♦



# What if you did college your way?

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# Pathway to Top Cybersecurity Jobs

The college's respected cybersecurity degree has earned ABET accreditation

The United States faces a shortfall in the cybersecurity workforce. To help combat this trend, the Portland Community College Computer Information Systems (CIS) Program's cybersecurity associate degree has received an important accreditation.

The degree has been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields that are leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies, and anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public.

ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization. It currently accredits 4,361 programs at 850 colleges and universities in 41 countries and regions.

"This is a big deal," said Cara Tang, cybersecurity faculty at the college. "PCC is only the third community college in the world to receive ABET accreditation for a cybersecurity associate degree program."

Information technology is a vital component of modern life. With training in sophisticated technical tools and information security, the college's CIS Program

gives students a competitive edge in this essential and dynamic field. Dovetailing this work is the CIS cybersecurity associate degree, which has been offered for three years.

Thanks to its Cybersecurity Fundamentals certificate and strong cybersecurity practices, PCC has been designated a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, located within the National Security Agency, tapped PCC to co-lead with Towson University a \$2.2 million, two-year grant for a cybersecurity task force.

The PCC cybersecurity degree has seen increasing enrollment – in 2019-20, the program had 34 students and awarded 24 degrees, but in 2021-22, it had 189 students and awarded 41 degrees.

Cybersecurity is part of a robust CIS Program that prepares students for careers in computer networking and information software. It offers associate degrees in not only cybersecurity but also programming and databases, network administration, and web development and design. In total, the CIS Program provides opportunities to earn 12 different certificates.

And, the cybersecurity sector has high growth and good salaries.

"We are extremely excited to receive this accreditation since it is an external validation of the high-quality cybersecurity program we have at PCC," Tang said. "ABET is considered the 'gold standard' in technical program accreditation, and having this status for our program makes it more attractive to students and parents, to employers looking to hire our graduates, as well as to four-year transfer partners." ♦



Cybersecurity instructor Cara Tang

## Discover Cybersecurity

In the Computer Information Systems Program, students can earn both short-term certificates and degrees that lead directly to employment or that will transfer to a university. For more information about PCC's cybersecurity degree, visit [pcc.edu/cybersecurity-education](https://pcc.edu/cybersecurity-education).

# A Life Well Lived

## Remembering the life of instructor, historian and friend James S. Harrison



Last fall, Portland Community College lost a revered member of its family. James S. Harrison, a longtime history instructor at the Cascade Campus, died from complications of an acute stroke.

Harrison retired from his full-time faculty duties at PCC in 2016 but continued to teach part time up until the pandemic. He took pride in studying history and sharing that knowledge with students, empowering them to think critically about history.

“It’s the students,” Harrison said in a 2007 interview about why teaching was so addictive. “The main thing is that they want to learn something and will ask questions. When they do that, they discover a lot of things that were told to them in school were only half the story. I want to open their minds. My goal is to have them think critically and think of what they can do to make the world a better place.”

Harrison was an avid fan of Frederick Douglass, a former slave and abolitionist whose strength he admired, sharing his story in the classroom. Many people know Douglass as a former slave who became an American abolitionist, editor, orator, author, statesman and reformer. But many don’t know he was also a social justice activist who not only stood up against slavery, but traveled to Europe to discuss the mistreatment of the Irish, while also tirelessly advocating for women’s rights.

“He tried to see humanity as the most important issue,” Harrison said. “He’s my main hero.”

Each year, Harrison shared historical passages through email with his colleagues as part of Black History Month. He loved to focus on lesser known facts and hidden gems about Black historical figures. For example, Harrison wrote about people like Jo-Ann Robinson, an English professor from Alabama who helped organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott leading up to Dr. Martin Luther King’s most heralded speeches and marches.

“I focus on topics that didn’t make it into the history books,” he explained. “They are events that history has glossed over because, in the past, textbook editors didn’t want anything controversial in the books.”

Harrison was regularly invited by local churches, hospitals, businesses and other organizations to present on history and racism. And in his later years, Harrison focused his energy on telling the story of Vanport, for which he was featured in an Oregon Public Broadcasting special. The city was home to a large Black community that was displaced in 1948 by a massive flood, forcing thousands to move into Portland and eventually petition the city government for equity rights.

Harrison’s own history was similarly fascinating. He was born in South Carolina and moved with his mother and brother to Harlem when he was 7. They were

part of the great migration of African-Americans from the South that populated large sections of the industrial North.

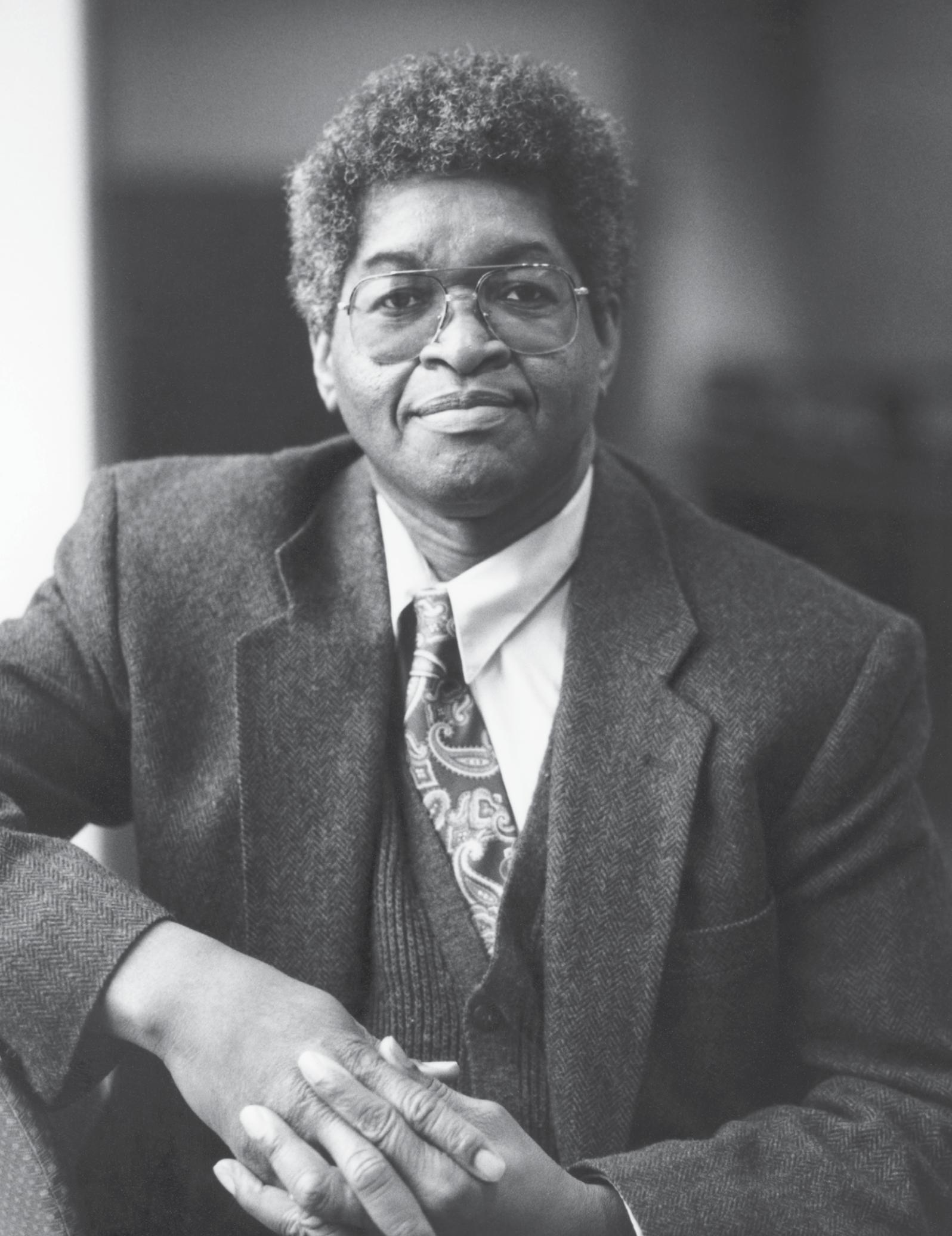
“I went to segregated schools in Harlem,” Harrison recalled. “The difference was that all of the teachers in South Carolina were Black, while all of the teachers in Harlem were white.”

A decade of living in New York City exposed him to America as a multicultural society and opened his mind to a wider world. Harrison graduated from Hunter College in 1967 and volunteered for the Peace Corps where he was stationed in Sierra Leone, West Africa, for two years.

Harrison taught and counseled in New York colleges and schools for many years following his return from Africa. After he became established there, Harrison wanted to move on and see the country, so he took a road trip that eventually landed in Portland.

He taught social sciences at three Portland Public Schools for 18 years and even served as the principal of a Catholic grade school. In 1993, Harrison was hired as a history instructor at PCC’s Cascade Campus where he became a well-known and respected authority on local African-American history.

“I was looking for another challenge,” Harrison said. “I found PCC as a challenge worth taking. It’s the longest I have been at any one place.” ♦





Portland Community College mails *Communities* to most district residents to let them know about upcoming Community Ed classes and share what's happening at the college. The magazine is printed and mailed four times a year for about 32¢ per copy. It can be recycled. **Because the magazine is addressed to "Residential Customer," PCC cannot remove individuals from the mailing list.**



**PCC Community Ed**

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

Never swung a club? Struggling but hopeful?

Choose from 10 beginner and intermediate golf classes this spring taught at five different courses!

Get started on page 47.