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Classes starting  
September - December

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Community Education non-credit class schedule

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# New Goals

We're all about that.

*My big challenge in taking those first few classes was discipline. PCC taught me how to be more organized and use the resources available on campus.*

*Joseph*

*Computer Information  
Systems Major*

*Future Database Administrator*



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**your future.**

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Welcome to the fall issue of PCC Communities.

It's always rewarding to hear that the public thinks highly of your institution. And that's exactly what we found when we commissioned a public survey earlier this year.

According to the results: Most people in the Portland metro area perceive Portland Community College as a high-quality educational institution.

We had an outside agency conduct a similar survey in 2005. We were thankful to find that many of the factors are trending upward for us.

For instance, when asked to rate the operation and performance of PCC, 65 percent of the people in 2005 said "pretty good" or "excellent." By 2009, 68 percent said the same thing.

When asked if PCC students have the skills to compete in today's economy, 74 percent said "yes" in 2005, while 81 percent said "yes" this year.

Asked if PCC gives good-to-excellent return on the tax dollars it receives, 45 percent said "yes" in 2005, while 53 percent said "yes" today.

But here's one that really amazed us. Asked if "you have ever taken a course at PCC," 52 percent of the people said "yes." That's an amazing penetration, which no other regional institution of higher education can match.

Portland Community College is one of the 20 largest community colleges in the nation and by far the largest in Oregon. In fact, based on enrollment, we are larger than the seven schools in the Oregon University System combined. Approximately half of the juniors and seniors in the university system came through community colleges, and they do every bit as well as students who spent all four years in those institutions, but with substantially lower debt.

It's good to know that the community thinks highly of PCC. It's one of the reasons we love this place!

Sincerely,

Preston Pulliams  
District President

# PCC Alumna Michelle Turner

By Christina Holmes

It took three tries to get into PCC's wildly popular and highly regarded Dental Hygiene Program but Michelle Turner's persistence and patience paid off.

Turner, who graduated from Beaverton High School in 1984, spent many years as a dental assistant in offices across the Portland area. By the late 1990s, she put her long-held dreams to become a dental hygienist to the test. She applied and applied and applied again before she ultimately got her acceptance letter.

"The first time I was rejected and the second time I was waitlisted," Turner said. "I just kept taking more classes and did what I needed to get better grades."

Turner now gives back to her alma mater as part of a PCC team working with Medical Teams International, which takes

dental hygienists and hygiene students to Romania and Honduras to provide dental care for children. During the weeklong trip in April to Honduras, Turner – who was on her third trip – and the other team members placed silver amalgam fillings and sealants and cleaned and treated infected teeth on 255 youths between the ages of 5 and 12.

When she's not working or volunteering, Turner takes to the outdoors as she kayaks, paddles, hikes and backpacks. She and her husband of 20 years, Jeff Turner, live in Southwest Portland.

## Q} Why did you choose PCC?

A} When I first went back to school, I wanted to take evening and weekend classes so I could continue working full time as a dental assistant. PCC offered a large variety of science classes at different times and locations.

## Q} What years did you attend?

A} I started taking my prerequisites for the Dental Hygiene program in 1999, earned my associate degree in applied sciences in 2002 and graduated from the Dental Hygiene program in 2007. I enjoyed going back to school as an older (more mature) adult and I was a much better student the second time around.

## Q} Are there faculty members you remember?

A} Anne Jackson was the program director at that time and she helped guide me with class selection and the application process. I also remember clinic instructors Nancy Kurtz and Monica Monsantofils, who possess good nature, an abundance of patience and some of the best clinical instrumentation skills to learn from. Josette

Beach, the current director, and I continue to have contact as well with the volunteer dental trips to Romania and Honduras.

## Q} Do you stay in touch with friends you met at PCC?

A} The hygiene class of 2007 is very close and we still get together for summer barbeques, Christmas parties, baby showers and weddings. We all went through so much together and we're pretty much like family now.

## Q} Tell us about your job.

A} As a licensed dental hygienist I take dental radiographs, place sealants and apply fluoride, prescribe antimicrobial mouth rinses and fluoride, take alginate impressions, apply temporary soft relines to dentures, polish silver amalgam fillings, administer nitrous oxide, give local anesthetic, diagnose and treat periodontal disease, place periodontal dressings and do routine cleanings.

## Q} What do you like best about your job?

A} I love what I do from the minute I sit the patient in my chair, finding out about changes in his or her health, medications, addressing stress levels, to cleaning teeth and seeing unhealthy red gums turn pink and healthy. Maybe I'll even get a patient who's never flossed to start flossing a few times a week!

## Q} Any advice for today's college students?

A} Follow your passion. It took me several years before I finally got accepted into the program. Keep working toward your goal, even if it feels like you're never going to get there. If you're passionate about what you want, you'll make it. ■

For more information on the program, go online to [www.pcc.edu/dental-hygiene](http://www.pcc.edu/dental-hygiene).



PCC alumni serve every sector of the local labor force – from medical offices to classrooms, construction sites to boardrooms. In many ways it's our alums who...

# Keep Portland

By Christina Holmes

PCC alums do not sit idle.

They fight fires, help sick people, bring services to the needy, manage finances, build houses, repair cars and run large corporations. They got their start – or restart – at PCC.

They work in both the private and public sectors, for government agencies and mom-and-pop businesses. They're also entrepreneurs who launch their own companies.

It's these people, some out front at a service counter, and others behind the scenes, who keep the Portland metropolitan area humming along. Not all of them are famous or frequently recognized but in this feature we salute our alumni and spotlight a handful of graduates who keep Portland working.



**The Nurse and Patient Advocate**  
*Carole Romm*

**Attended PCC:** 1980-82  
Earned an Associate's Degree in Nursing.

**Job title:** Public Affairs Director for Central City Concern, a non-profit that provides services to the homeless. She previously worked as a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Oregon Health & Science University and Emanuel Hospital.

**What she now does:** She's responsible for public outreach, communications, media relations and fundraising for Central City Concern. She also works on health policy in a voluntary role at the state level as a co-chair of the Medicaid Advisory Committee (a governor-appointed commission); she sits on the Mental Health and Addictions subcommittee of the Health Services Commission and she's participated in Oregon's health reform efforts as a member of the Eligibility and Enrollment subcommittee of the Oregon Health Fund Board.

"I enrolled at PCC because I wanted to become a nurse. I had a baccalaureate already and I had a 3-year-old daughter. I wanted the quickest and cheapest route to my goal. It was a quality program."



**The Educator**  
*Natasha Butler*

**Attended PCC:** 1991-94. Completed general education requirements and transferred to Portland State University where

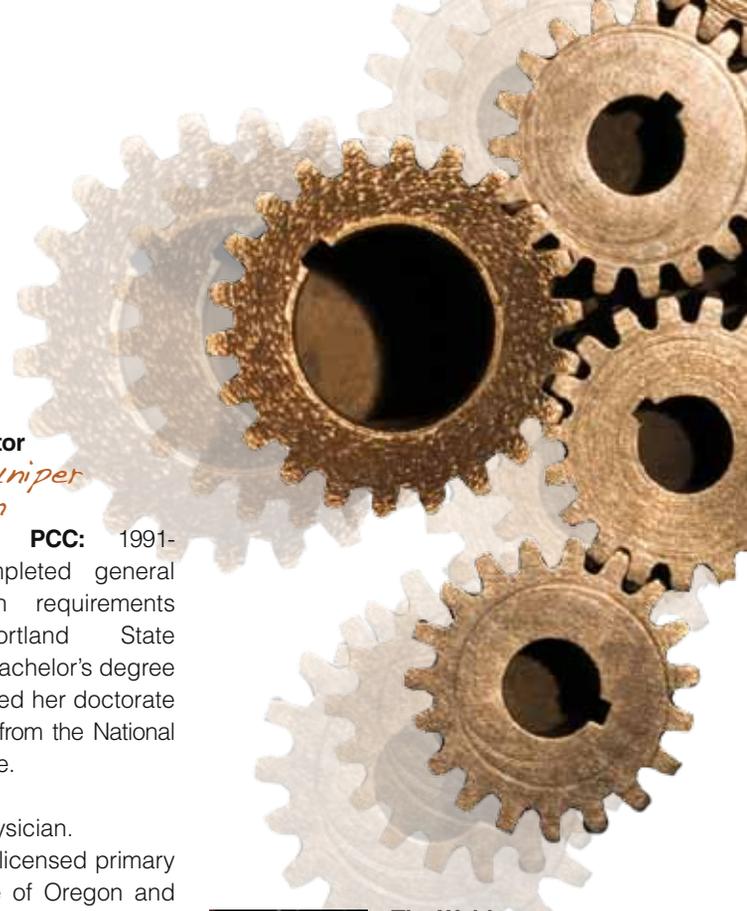
she received a bachelor's degree in speech communication and a master's degree in education.

**Job title:** Director of Education for De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland. Previously she was a middle school teacher with Portland Public Schools and a principal for a PPS charter middle school.

**What she does now:** Oversees the day-to-day operations of a private, faith-based high school that meets the needs of economically challenged families. What she loves about her job is being instrumental in changing the lives of young people who need support and opportunities to achieve a college education and change the current conditions of their family by breaking the cycle of poverty.

"PCC created the foundation for my success. A community college setting was ideal for me because I needed a smaller and intimate environment with personalized attention to help shape me. My priorities were not in the right order and I needed to mature. PCC helped me to develop into a good student at a pace that did not make me feel inadequate or out of place since I didn't seriously pursue college right after high school. The instruction was sound and challenging and I had very competent instructors who were passionate about their discipline."

# Storking



## The Accountant

*Vera Zaharova*

**Attended PCC:** 2001-04. Earned her GED through the Gateway to College program and earned an Associate's Degree of General Studies. Transferred to PSU.

**Job title:** Accountant for the city of Portland.

**Job duties:** Processing accounts payable, accounts receivable, planning, analyzing and reviewing accounting information and preparing various financial reports to management. She's also the purchasing card (business credit card) administrator for 150 employees.

"I always thought that education was important. Coming to the United States from Moldova with zero English, I was immediately looking for a college where I could learn English and pursue my degree. I chose PCC because of its convenient location, relatively inexpensive cost and, most importantly, variety of classes with flexible schedules. I was working full time when I attended PCC."



## The Auto Repair

*Hung (Lee)*

*Nguyen*

**Attended PCC:** Early 1990s. Earned an Associate's of Applied Science Degree.

**Job title:** Founder and Owner of Canyon Auto Repair Inc., a full-service auto shop in Beaverton. Born in Vietnam, Nguyen selected PCC for his education because of its excellent instructors, high-quality programs and affordable fees.

**Best part of his job:** Directing and developing new business.

**Family Connections:** "My brother, sister and brothers-in-law attended PCC and they all have very good jobs at Intel."



## The Doctor

*Dr. Juniper*

*Martin*

**Attended PCC:** 1991-93. Completed general education requirements for Portland State

University. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology and later received her doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine from the National College of natural medicine.

**Job title:** Naturopathic physician.

**What she does:** She is a licensed primary care provider in the state of Oregon and has training in such areas as nutrition, botanicals and homeopathy. "My goal is to provide holistic care for my patients so they can live their best lives."

**Why she attended PCC:** "I was 18 and had just moved to Portland from California where my family lived, and where I attended high school. I wasn't sure what I wanted to major in. I had been involved in theater for years, but wasn't convinced that was my calling. I had a friend attending PCC, and after looking through his catalog decided it was an accessible, affordable way for me to take a variety of classes to help me decide what I liked and didn't like, while at the same time working towards a degree."



## The Executive

*Brent Macey*

**Attended PCC:** 1975-77. Transferred to OSU and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting.

**Job title:** Director of Internal Audit for Schnitzer Steel Industries in Portland. He started his accounting career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he stayed for 23 years, the last 10 as a partner.

**The right mix:** "The curriculum at PCC is similar to a state university, particularly for the first two years of college. Every credit I earned at PCC transferred directly to OSU."



## The Welder

*Mike Rasmussen*

**Attended PCC:** 1966-68.

**Job title:** Full-time Instructor at the Swan Island Training Center, a partnership between Vigor Industrial and PCC to train welders.

**Previous jobs:** After taking welding classes at PCC, he worked at Gunderson/FMC as a tack welder and soon progressed to a journeyman welder. He then worked at the Boilermakers Training School and later at the shipyard, fabrication shops and machine shops, all as a welder or supervisor.

**What he now does:** "Teaching is my dream job. There is nothing else I would rather do than help students learn a new trade or upgrade skills for the future. My enjoyment comes from their success and I'm at a point in my life that I want to give back." ■



Get connected with other PCC alums through MySpace at [www.myspace.com/pccalumni](http://www.myspace.com/pccalumni) and search for "Portland Community College Alumni" on Facebook and LinkedIn. Contact Jennifer Sonntag at (503) 977-4607 or [jennifer.sonntag@pcc.edu](mailto:jennifer.sonntag@pcc.edu) for more information on alumni events and programming.

# Newberg and Dundee, Here We Come

PCC is making its presence known in Yamhill County's wine country



Newberg Mayor Bob Andrews has been a key supporter of PCC's move to Yamhill County.

**By** Kate Chester

With the passage of Portland Community College's \$374 million bond measure last November, Oregon's Chehalem Valley – fertile wine country that surrounds the communities of Newberg and Dundee – was tapped by the PCC Board of Directors as the location for a new educational center.

The region is growing in terms of its population – now close to 25,000 – and the Sylvania Campus of PCC has seen a continued upward trend of Newberg High School graduates enrolling in courses. Yet the trek to the Sylvania Campus – approximately 20 miles along traffic-congested Highway 99W – can be brutal.

"Newberg and Dundee – along with Sherwood, just up the road – fall within PCC's district and specifically, Sylvania's service area," said Linda Gerber, president of the Sylvania Campus. "We have a responsibility to serve our constituents as best we possibly can. In light of growth trends we're seeing and the increase in traffic between our campus and these communities, the Newberg-Dundee area was a natural choice for an educational center build-out, one of the college's first bond projects."

Early in 2009, Gerber invited Newberg and Dundee community leaders to serve as volunteer advisory committee members for the college, as plans for an educational center took shape.

**"The foundation  
has been laid.  
Let's continue  
to build on it."**

- Bob Andrews,  
Mayor of Newberg

"We've wanted their input and feedback to help guide us as we make decisions about everything from architects, to sustainable building design, to educational course offerings, to workforce training opportunities with local companies," Gerber said. "For this to be a success, it's critical to enlist the help of partners who have as much vested in this educational center as PCC does."

The advisory committee meets with PCC representatives monthly and features a broad cross-section of the community – elected officials from the cities of Newberg and Dundee, along with representatives from the Chehalem Cultural Center, the Chehalem

Parks and Recreation District, the chamber of commerce, the public library and school district, and private industry leaders like Climax Portable Machine Tools and A-Dec.

With the committee's support, PCC has hosted a wide array of public meetings to hear about the region's educational and industry needs directly from the community. A town hall took place in early May to brainstorm sustainable design ideas for the educational center and site, and a survey is being developed for release to the community this fall, to determine what educational courses would fit best.

The college will begin offering credit courses in the area in fall 2010 and has enlisted the help of the advisory committee to secure a temporary location for the launch. Meanwhile, PCC is researching available property on which to build a permanent facility of approximately 12,000 square feet, with room to grow to meet future community educational needs.

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For more information on the Yamhill County project, please contact [kate.chester@pcc.edu](mailto:kate.chester@pcc.edu)

# PCC TOBACCO FREE



The students, staff, and administration of Portland Community College have come together to make all campuses and centers tobacco-free, and to ensure a safe and healthy educational environment.

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**Oregon Tobacco Quit Line, en Español: (877) 2-NO-FUME**



# Pardon me, Stanford, *I'm going to Reed*

Mary Emily O'Hara turned her life around at PCC

By James G. Hill

Portland Community College's Mary Emily O'Hara is one of 23 transfer students from around the world to be accepted to Stanford University this year. But O'Hara will not be going there this fall and instead will be enrolling at Reed College.

This spring O'Hara, 33, completed an improbable "pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps" 180-degree turn in her life. A high school drop out, the North Portland resident moved to the area from Harlem. After taking a Web design class at PCC to see what college was all about in 2005, she was comfortable enough with the school to get her GED in 2006 and immediately enroll in transfer classes.

She recently completed her education at PCC, earning enough credits in art history and general transfer areas to satisfy enrollment requirements at her targeted universities. And what universities they are. For example, O'Hara targeted Stanford and Reed, which have an annual tuition and costs of \$50,000 per year but their financial aid packages cover everything. So her tireless work and dedication to studying at all hours yielded acceptance letters from not only those two institutions, but also Mills College, University of San Francisco and University of Texas, to name some.

"I never expected to get into Stanford," O'Hara said. "Their admission rate is 2 percent of the annual applicants. It was a total long shot. I knew this would be the only time in my life I would be applying to an undergraduate college and I might as well apply to one of the

big ones to see what happened. If I didn't I would kick myself for not even trying."

As for Reed, it was always her first choice: "I really liked the campus and the vibe there," she added. "It wasn't the easiest school to get into so I made a list of backups. I always knew that if I was going to transfer to shoot for the best schools I could apply to."

After deciding on Reed College and a day before her enrollment deposit was due, O'Hara got an e-mail from Stanford announcing she was one of the few lucky ones to be accepted. With a chance to go to the prestigious high-profile university she leaped into action. She called and was granted an extension by Reed to get her deposit in the following week. O'Hara then hopped into her 1988 Honda and drove down to Palo Alto, Calif., over that subsequent weekend to visit Stanford. Even though her car didn't survive the trip, her resolve to attend Reed did.

Born in Chicago, raised by a counter-culture free spirit mother, O'Hara didn't have money growing up and moved around a lot. She attended 10 different schools as a kid, and by time she was 15, O'Hara dropped out.

O'Hara, who is openly gay and fervently off beat, left New York due to financial constraints and traveled across the country looking for a cheaper town and found Portland by chance. Once here, it was time to settle and find her way in life, finding small and interesting jobs to start, including freelance writing with Willamette Week.

"It took me a long time to learn how to undo the chaotic circumstances that I grew up with and become a more

**Continued  
on Page 70**





# PCC Foundation Responds to Need

When the economy is down, the need for financial aid intensifies – applications are up 23 percent

By Eloise Holland

In uncertain economic times, more and more Oregonians see a PCC education as the path toward stability. According to Portland Community College's summer enrollment report, the college has seen its eighth consecutive term of growth, increasing total headcount by 8.85 percent and full-time equivalent enrollment by 23.1 percent year over year.

With that growth has come a challenge – increased need for financial aid.

"More students are out of work, have no or limited income and need help in continuing to pay tuition," said PCC Foundation Board President Betty Duvall. "People who had no plan to return to college have been laid off or lost jobs and need to retrain to find new employment. With no income, how can they afford to feed their families, pay rent or house payment and pay for tuition?"

More students with fewer dollars have created a surge in financial aid requests. Spring term, PCC's Financial Aid department reported experiencing the largest increase in financial aid requests ever with applications up by 23 percent compared to the same time last year.

Similarly, the PCC Foundation received more applications for the fall semester than ever

before. More than 1,000 students started the new online scholarship application process, compared to the 400 who completed applications last year.

"The total number of fall applications – more than doubled," said Scholarship Coordinator Erin Riley.

Among the Foundation's supporters is the Oregon Lottery. According to Chuck Baumann, lottery spokesman, that backing should come as no surprise: the Lottery's support of higher education goes back years. Since 1989, more than \$45 million in Lottery funds have gone directly to Oregon's public colleges and universities.

Fortunately, as a result of last year's challenge grant issued to community colleges by the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation – which matched scholarship donations to the PCC Foundation – donations have increased significantly. The PCC Foundation has more scholarship funding available and is planning to award more than 500 scholarships to students this year, up from the 351 scholarships they awarded in 2008-09.

Rachelle Thompson, a 26-year-old single mother of three, is one of the students who will receive a Miller scholarship this year. After going back to school to make a better life

for herself and her kids, Thompson struggled with the cost of raising three children on her own.

"I want to be part of something bigger than myself, to be able to help people, and to comfort them," said Thompson, who realized she wanted to be a nurse when she was in the hospital after the birth of her third child. She added, "Once I went back to school, I realized I needed help."

It was Thompson's strong sense of purpose that made the difference in her scholarship application. "The two community volunteers who read and scored Rachelle's application were moved by her determination to change her own life and her children's lives through education," said Riley.

"The scholarship will take the stress off my shoulders. I won't have to worry so much," said Thompson.

"This is an important step in showing my children that education is important."

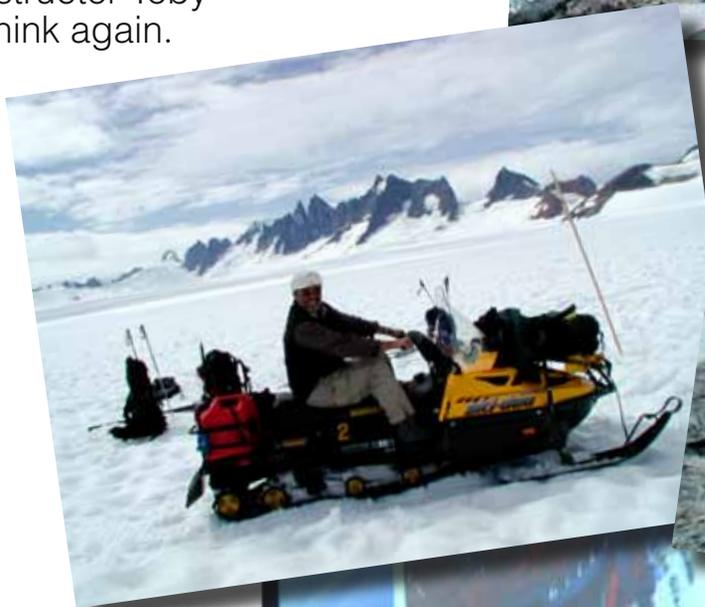
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For more student success stories, go online to [www.pcc.edu/foundation](http://www.pcc.edu/foundation).

# Out to Save the Planet

Think you know a lot about science instructor Toby Dittrich? Think again.



**By** Kate Chester

Teacher, scientific inventor, Alaskan wilderness explorer – at first glance, Toby Dittrich's lengthy biography is exciting. And exhausting. He's had quite a ride and clearly loves life – even more so since battling, and winning, a fight against cancer in 2005.

And personal adversity hasn't held Dittrich back; in fact, it may have had the opposite effect, spurring him to continue leading annual summer excavation treks with students to the Juneau icefield and launching new courses at Portland Community College, like the one focused on global climate change being unveiled this fall.

"I truly believe that any challenge can be successfully met with confidence, a plan and action," said Dittrich, a physics instructor at PCC Sylvania for the past 20 years. And with that as his mantra, he goes about his day-to-day business – while continuing to tinker on the "how to's" of building a power plant on Mars, just one of the many inventions he hopes to create.

Since landing at Sylvania, Dittrich, 62, has served as a faculty member on the annual summer "Juneau Icefield Research Program," a long-term study of the icefield's glacier system first launched in 1946. Each summer, from late June to late August, Dittrich helps guide approximately 25 students from all over the world in their research; this year, Dittrich and Scott McGee, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will lead the ice-field program.

"The program measures snowfall mass balance, to get the density of the snow, and it's likely the world's longest continuum record of mass balance measurements of a glacial system anywhere in the world," Dittrich said. "By measuring snowfall mass balance and comparing it to data from years past, summer participants get the opportunity to learn the effects of climate change on the icefield."

The main glacierized area of study lies in the Tongass National Forest and the Atlin Provincial Wilderness Park in the Alaska-Canada boundary range between Juneau, Alaska and Atlin, British Columbia. There are 13 main stations and 17 smaller camps in the field, with a wide range of field and laboratory

equipment for geophysical, glaciological, surveying and botanical teaching and research.

The raw beauty of the Alaskan wilderness laced with international scientific research attracted attention from the New York Times, whose feature appeared in fall 2008 and included photos of Dittrich at work.

But the ice-field program isn't a cakewalk – in fact, it's hard-core. Participants travel on the icefield using cross-country skis. Communication between camps and with the Juneau and Atlin bases is by radio; helicopters and charter aircraft are used for supply transportation, with oversnow vehicles handling ground transport. Yet it's this hands-on learning for students that gets them through the rough patches.

"The students are engaged and they become inspired. The program gives them confidence and leadership skills. As a teacher, it doesn't get much better than seeing this transformation occur." – Toby Dittrich

Steve Wilson, 26, agrees. After a break in school, Wilson enrolled at the Sylvania Campus and took physics from Dittrich in the winter term of 2005. That summer Wilson participated in the ice-field program and was immediately hooked on the geology, geophysics, glaciology and ecology involved. All of which led to his current position as the organization's field operations manager.

"Toby makes science fun – his enthusiasm rings loud and clear, both in the classroom and on the icefield," Wilson said. While Wilson didn't participate in this year's trek – he was beginning graduate school at Portland State University, studying geology – he is grateful for Dittrich's guidance.

"When I first started at PCC, I hadn't taken science in a long time," Wilson said. "Toby's class got me excited about the field, about the opportunities and what is possible."

Dittrich hopes to recreate that same kind of impact in the classroom this fall, when he launches a Community Education course he's developed, "Global Climate Change," sponsored in part by the Oregon NASA Space Grant at Oregon State University.

The 10-week, online course is geared toward the layperson, with a focus on understanding the impact of global climate change and its ripple effect. Each week will feature a one-hour presentation by prominent global climate experts from around the country, including Al Gore, Nobel laureate and former United States Vice President; Dan Schrag, director, Harvard University Center for World Ecology; Ben Santer of Lawrence Livermore Labs at the University of California at Berkeley; and Bette Otto-Bleisner, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research Climate Modeling Division, Boulder, Colo., among others.

"We have a moral responsibility to take stock of our actions and try to create the change needed to reverse global climate trends under way," Dittrich said. "I'm hoping this class will encourage more people to think along these lines."

A native of Seattle, Dittrich was first introduced to the world of science by his father, a physics teacher at Western Washington University. He followed in his father's footsteps, pursuing an undergraduate degree in physics and math at that same university. He continued his studies at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics at the University of Colorado, with a brief leave of absence to serve in the United States Navy as an acoustic physicist at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

It was while in graduate school in 1969 that Dittrich first saw a brochure about the ice-field program. He had just completed his first year of school, and with funding from the National Science Foundation, Dittrich joined the program as one of several student researchers. He's been involved ever since.

**Continued on Page 70**



For more information or to register for the fall term of "Global Climate Change," visit [www.pcc.edu/gcc](http://www.pcc.edu/gcc). Cost is \$25.

## Newberg and Dundee, Here we Come Continued from Page 8

"PCC's presence here will provide the potential for a timely response to workforce needs, through education, for the community – an opportunity that Newberg and Dundee haven't had before," said Bob Andrews, mayor of Newberg and a member of PCC's advisory committee.

PCC has worked closely with the Newberg School District for nearly four years. Existing dual credit options – which allow high school students to earn college credit by taking identified high school courses – have been expanded. In the works are new programs linking PCC to the high school and local industry players through internships for college credit. The welding program at Newberg High School is an example of one PCC hopes to capitalize on and develop further, filling a pipeline that is dry yet needed by local employers.

### By the numbers:

- Number of Newberg High students receiving dual credits from PCC in 2008: **110**
- Number of college-level credits they earned: **1,148**
- Total dollars saved by the parents for these free college credits: **\$74,214**

"Working with PCC has enabled us to intentionally develop a focused K-14 experience," said Paula Radich, superintendent of the Newberg Public School District and another member of PCC's advisory committee. "The opportunity is now here for students to have access to, and complete, their first two years of college locally."

PCC views its presence in Chehalem Valley through a permanent lens, and Sylvania administrators have made efforts to become involved in a variety of local organizations – the Chehalem Valley Strategic Planning group and the Community Coalition, among others. Becoming part of the fabric that makes up the Newberg and Dundee communities – a genuine partner – has been the long-term goal.

It's an effort that's been noticed. ■

## Excuse me, Stanford, I'm going to Reed Continued from Page 66

stable and settled person," she said. "Going back to school at PCC actually really helped me to do that by staying in one place, focusing on one goal and working toward it."

So, O'Hara knew how to use her \$12,000-per-year of grants, financial aid, loans and scholarships, including \$1,200 from the PCC Foundation, to the fullest and was able to live off of whatever funds were left after paying for school and books. In a time when more and more students are flooding PCC to retrain or complete their education, and with financial aid applications up by 20 percent year over year, it's clear that community colleges are the No. 1 choice for people of all ages.

"I think community colleges are a great place to start," she added. "In my experience of talking with many admissions officers at various prestigious universities more transfer students are accepted from community colleges than from four-year colleges. PCC is a great place to learn how to be a student."

As one of her art history instructors, Christine Weber said she was not surprised by O'Hara's ability. "She is proof of the caliber of student Portland Community College attracts and I can't wait to see what she has in store for the future," Weber said. ■

## PCC Foundation Responds to Need Continued from Page 67

### This Year's Challenge:

The Miller Foundation challenge has inspired donors within PCC and in the broader community to provide increased scholarship funds for students. Yet, due to PCC's skyrocketing enrollment and students' financial circumstances, many applicants for scholarships still will not receive an award this year. One third of full-time PCC students require some form of financial assistance.

In order to encourage community colleges to award even more scholarships, and to encourage donors to continue giving and ask new donors to give, as well, the Miller Foundation has raised the stakes for 2009-10.

Community colleges will qualify for the match by raising more scholarship dollars than they raised last year. After qualifying, the Miller Foundation will match only new and increased scholarship gifts. ■

## Out to Save the Planet Continued from Pages 69

That passion and dedication crosses over to the role of inventor for Dittrich, who currently has 33 patents pending. One of his most successful creations makes the leap from science to sports.

A self-described basketball maniac and amateur player, Dittrich dreamed of creating a vertically adjustable basketball goal structure, to "dunk" the ball at will. He built a prototype in his backyard using a welder, scrap metal pipes and a Volkswagen spring and shock absorber – and had so much fun playing on it that he thought developing a patent would be in his best interest.

Dittrich checked out "How to Become a Successful Inventor" at the library, wrote a basic patent application, ran it past an attorney and sent it in for approval. Five years later, Dittrich was issued the patent on the collapsible basketball rim, now considered the standard for use around the world.

"Toby is creative and upbeat in his attitude, and inspiring to our students – he's a gem," said Linda Gerber, president of the Sylvania Campus. "His mind works differently than most. He sees the potential, the possibility of 'what can be,' and then figures out how to get there."

Dittrich's positive approach is perhaps one of the strongest factors that enabled him to beat cancer – acute lymphocytic leukemia – in 2005, followed by three years of follow-up chemotherapy to ensure that the cancer was in remission.

"Every day, every month, that goes by since my cancer and treatment is what I consider 'bonus time,'" Dittrich said. "This time is a gift, and I need to use it efficiently."

"I'd like to develop patents that will create change in the world, as well as get students turned on so that they understand how they can become change agents," he said. "To students, I say: get involved, volunteer, participate in science competitions, pursue college-level scholarships and internships – start building that résumé early on, and you'll be surprised at where it can take you."

Like maybe to Mars, if Dittrich has any say about it, where he'd like to build and test that power plant in the not-so-distant future. ■

A free event by PCC Community Education

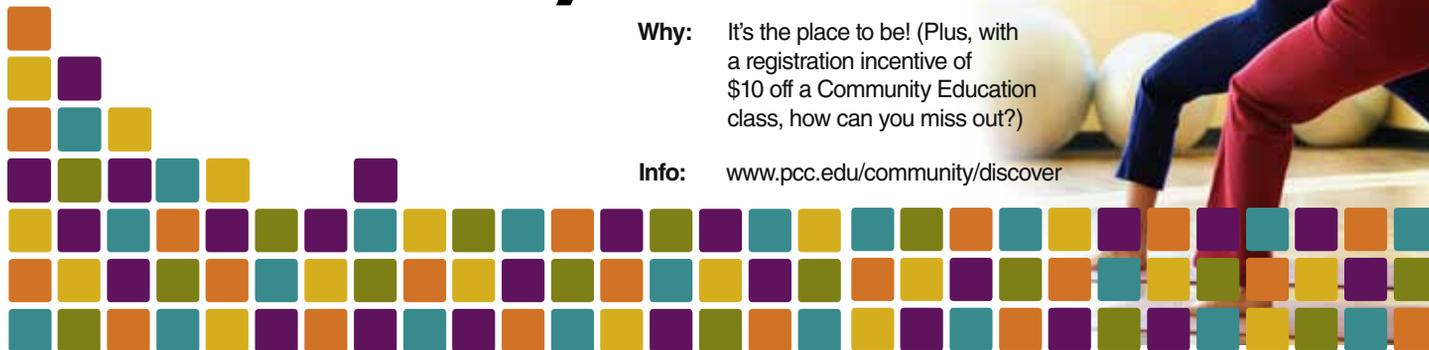
# discover Community Education day

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 19  
9 a.m. to noon

**Where:** PCC's Central Portland  
Workforce Training Center  
1626 SE Water  
Portland, OR 97214

**Why:** It's the place to be! (Plus, with  
a registration incentive of  
\$10 off a Community Education  
class, how can you miss out?)

**Info:** [www.pcc.edu/community/discover](http://www.pcc.edu/community/discover)



Want to try your hand at tai chi, pottery or belly dancing? Mark your calendar.

By Eloise Holland

For those of us who like to browse before we buy, Community Education has come up with a great way to sample their wares.

Building on the success of their established travel fair, Community Education is putting on Discover Community Education Day. The event takes place on September 19 from 9 a.m. to noon, at PCC's Central Portland Workforce Training Center.

"We want to provide a free event to build community with district residents and highlight the breadth of Community Education offerings," said Dawn Davis, Work and Life Balance program coordinator. "By providing snapshots or mini-classes, we hope to demonstrate the opportunities we provide for enriching lives through lifelong learning."

One such opportunity is Chinese brush painting, taught by artist Jean Choy. She began studying Chinese brush painting as a teen in Hong Kong and taught her first class at PCC 20 years ago, shortly after moving to the United States. She has been teaching classes regularly at the Southeast Center since 2004.

"A common question that I'm asked is 'Is there any difficulty for a foreigner to take up Chinese brush painting?' In my opinion, art is a universal language with no limit," said Choy, who welcomes beginners in her classes.

Instructors like Choy will be at Discover Community Education Day to share information and activities. Each of the five program areas – Creative Arts, Language and Culture, Recreation and Wellness, Home and Garden, and Work and Life Balance – will be represented.



Pictured: Tools of the trade for Chinese brush painter Jean Choy (see cover).

"Some of the 'minis' will be interactive, some will showcase student performance, some will be demonstration-based and some will have a lecture format," said Davis, who added that they also would provide registration assistance on-site. Those who sign up for a class at the event will receive \$10 off their tuition.

Popular instructors like Jennifer Anderson of the Career Planning series and John Patterson of Mr. Sun Solar will be on hand to talk with visitors, while new instructor Scott Howard of Earthen Hand Natural Building will do a demonstration with earthen plaster.

Tai chi, belly dancing, guitar and pot throwing are among other demonstrations visitors can expect to see.

At the same time, the 11th annual Community Education Travel Fair, featuring 13 different PCC-led travel tours, will take place on the third floor of the Central Portland Workforce Training Center.

Davis hopes that the event will not only bring in new students, but that current and past students will gain a new understanding of all Community Education has to offer.

"We have students that are very loyal and have taken classes in one area for years," said Davis. "Woodworking, language, art, just to name a few. But they have no idea that we offer classes to help you compost or write a better resumé." ■



To register for Discover  
Community Education Day, visit  
[www.pcc.edu/community/discover](http://www.pcc.edu/community/discover).

PCC mails this schedule of classes to households four times each year to inform you about what the college offers. It is printed and mailed for about 40 cents a copy and can be recycled with your newspapers. Because it is addressed "Residential Customer," we are not able to remove individuals from our distribution route. We view this schedule as our "report card" to the public and hope you find it informative.

# Project: YOU

with PCC Community Education

## My Project:

Name: Aman Kubrom

Occupation: Volunteer Coordinator

My Project: Make the world a better place. (But first, get into grad school!)

Class I Took: Online GRE Preparation

And Now: I plan to enter a master's program in public policy this year, and I hope to one day work abroad for the U.S. Foreign Service.

**Community**Education

## Make YOU the project!

If you can dream it, Community Education's hundreds of classes can help you achieve it. Go online to [pcc.edu/community](http://pcc.edu/community) and get started on your own Project:YOU this fall.