

FALL 2013

PCC

COMMUNITIES

College News
Community Ed Schedule
Portland Community College

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Learn to make healthy Japanese meals with Community Ed's latest cooking class

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PCC WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Jeremy Brown settles into job as college's 6th president

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Enroll now!
Classes starting
September – December

Community Ed's
class schedule inside

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Portland
Community
College



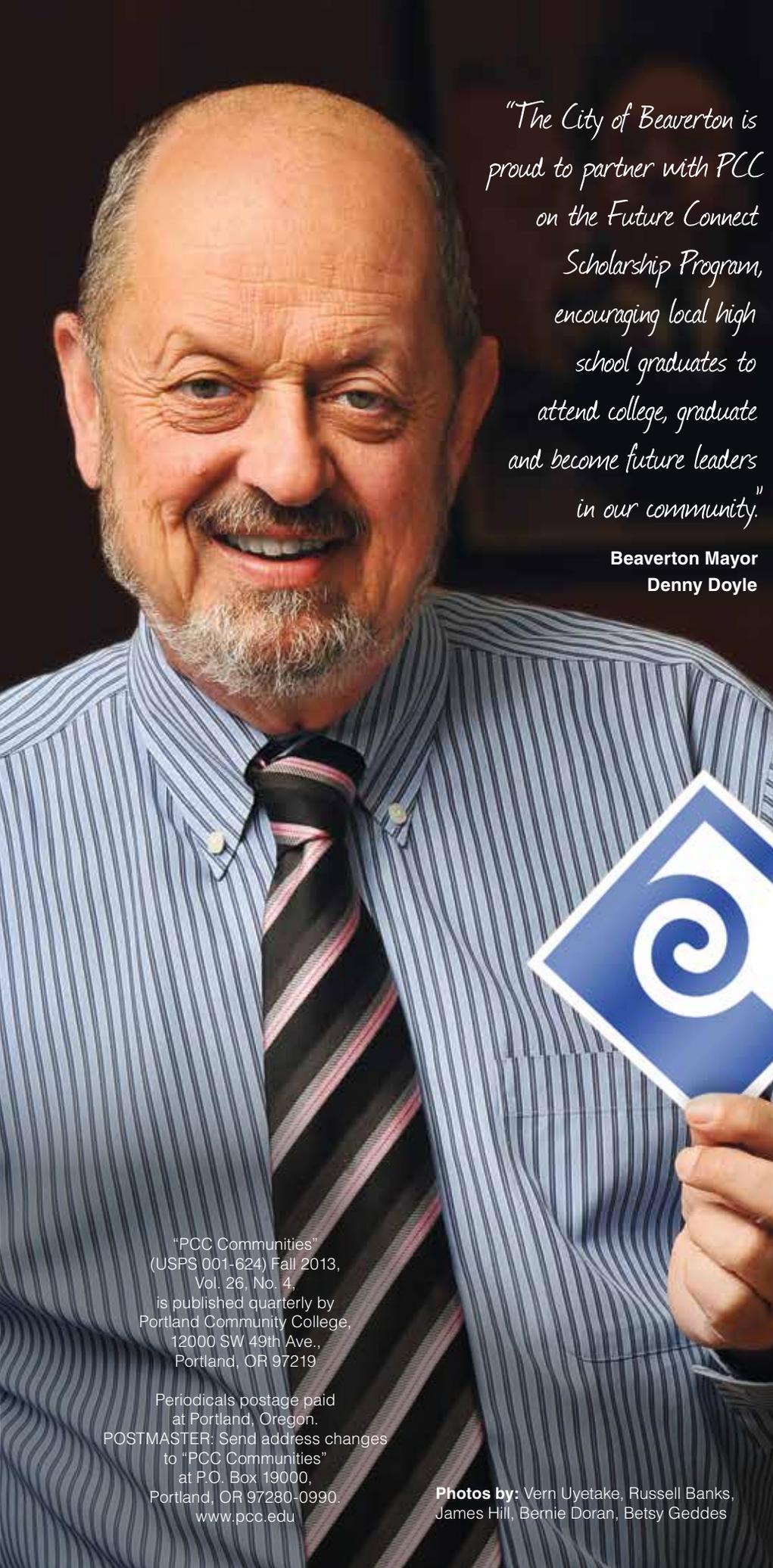
I am a **doctor** because of PCC

Ben Jones didn't have direction or a high school diploma when he enrolled at PCC but a science class inspired him to start on a new path toward becoming a physician. Ben graduated from OHSU School of Medicine and is now a resident in emergency medicine.

Read more at opportunity.pcc.edu



**Portland
Community
College**



"The City of Beaverton is proud to partner with PCC on the Future Connect Scholarship Program, encouraging local high school graduates to attend college, graduate and become future leaders in our community."

**Beaverton Mayor
Denny Doyle**

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College welcomes Jeremy Brown with a whirlwind tour of its reputable acad

A NEW LEA



Talk about making the most of your first day on the job.

On Monday, July 1, new Portland Community College President Jeremy Brown climbed into one of PCC's eco-friendly Bio Diesel shuttles and embarked on a tour of the college district. In total, Brown's "Tour de PCC" brought him to 10 locations — the Sylvania, Rock Creek, Cascade and Southeast campuses and the Newberg, Hillsboro, Willow Creek, Portland Metro, Downtown and CLIMB centers. It was a way for the new PCC leader to get a feel for the college and the diversity of areas it serves.

"What a fun way to launch my first day at PCC," Brown said. "Over the course of nearly 10 hours I had the good fortune of visiting PCC's many campuses and centers and chatting with a variety of administrators, faculty, staff and students."

From exploring the sustainable features of PCC buildings to riding a MAX train for the first time to competing in a raucous basketball shooting competition to simply shaking hands and chatting with people, Brown experienced the college at its finest.

"As a result of the tour, I have an even greater appreciation of all you do that makes PCC a special place," he said. "It meant a lot to me that you took time out from your busy days to welcome me to the PCC fold."

Campus leaders were enthusiastic to show off the unique features of their sites, as well as challenge Brown with a few athletic and artistic surprises.

At the Rock Creek Campus, Brown was asked to operate one of the Dealer Service Technology (ThinkBIG) Program's large Caterpillar excavators out in the shop courtyard of Building 2.

"The visit showed Dr. Brown has a great sense of humor and is also very open and versatile," said Birgitte Ryslinge, interim Rock Creek president who also oversees the Hillsboro Center.

"At Rock Creek, he handled a giant excavator and an ice cream scoop with equal dexterity, and didn't mind being asked to do either of those things. Many commented afterwards that they found him to be down to earth and interested in learning about them. From my campus president perspective, it was



academic programs and workforce training centers

By Kate Chester and James Hill

LEADER FOR PCC

wonderful to observe Dr. Brown having such positive and well informed conversations with a range of stakeholders that included a city councilor from Hillsboro, PCC Board members, students, faculty and staff.”

Brown’s Background

A native of Manchester, England, Brown previously served as president of Dowling College on Long Island and of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, part of the state’s public university system. At Dowling, Brown helped support an increase in applications, retention, annual giving and a variety of new academic programs. During his four-year watch at Edinboro, the university saw record-high enrollment, retention and annual giving. Brown’s tenure there also included oversight of more than \$200 million in new construction projects.

Prior to these roles, Brown was the provost and vice president for academic affairs at the State University of New York in Canton from 2003 to 2007. In addition to four-year degrees, SUNY Canton offers two-year degrees in a variety of technical education disciplines — dental hygiene, veterinary science technology and criminal justice, among others. This experience enabled

Brown to understand the importance of workforce development, career technical education and the institution’s role in preparing students to transfer.

“From a very personal standpoint, I understand the power of higher education and the doors to opportunity that can open because of it,” said Brown.

“At the age of 13, my father dropped out of school so that he could help support his family financially. My mother returned to college to be trained as a special education teacher. However, both my parents recognized the value of education and pushed us to excel academically. Being raised in England, I was incredibly lucky to have been selected to attend university on a full scholarship.”

An academic by training, Brown earned both his bachelor of science degree and his doctorate in physics from the University of Birmingham, England. His doctoral work in experimental nuclear physics was conducted at the University of Birmingham and the University of California-Berkeley. He spent two years at Indiana University pursuing physics research, followed by a

faculty position in the physics department at Princeton University.

“The PCC board of directors is confident Dr. Brown will build on the success PCC has achieved under Dr. Pulliams’ leadership and lead the college to even greater success through the challenges and opportunities ahead,” said Denise Frisbee, board of directors chair. “Dr. Brown is a collaborative leader skilled at creating strong internal and external relationships; a polished communicator who is insightful and inclusive; a quick learner talented at navigating new environments with new players; and an innovator who will look for opportunities to strengthen PCC, even when budgets are tight.”

Brown is looking forward to starting the new school year and getting to know the students and community members PCC serves. However, if you talk with PCC’s new leader, be sure to call him by the right name.

“I’m a low-key person,” Brown said. “Just say, ‘Hi, Jeremy.’ I’ve been called a lot of names in the past, but ‘Jeremy’ is the one I prefer. I’m looking forward to many great years ahead of us.” ■

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Alum, accomplished CPA and financial wizard says it's the students who inspire her work for the PCC Foundation

By Christina Holmes



Financial aficionado Cheryl Burgermeister keeps her eyes firmly on the dollars and cents in her spreadsheet, but her heart remains with PCC students.

As a longtime PCC Foundation board member, Burgermeister has the reputation of a wise investor whose experience sitting on several well-respected mutual fund boards benefits the college.

"Obviously I'm a huge believer in PCC. The faculty is phenomenal and students have a strong desire to better their lives," said Burgermeister. "For many students this is the best place for them. It is much more affordable, and there are so many options available at PCC. There is a wide range of professional-technical programs and classes leading to a four-year degree."

Her own personal story is one of tragedy and success.

A trip to the Washington coast when she was a 5-year-old turned unthinkable when a car crash killed her mom, leaving five young children to be cared for by her father. Six years later another blow came to the family as he died.

The kids became wards of the court and placed in foster homes. Burgermeister and her younger sister were placed in the same home with caring parents. A loving aunt and a generous family friend served as her role models.

Throughout her childhood she stayed focused on school and teenage jobs. As a young girl she picked berries in fields, earning money each summer for school clothes. She got good grades but college was rarely talked about.

She graduated from Franklin High School and by 18 Burgermeister was out of the house, working at Providence Hospital, first

transporting patients to different floors and then in the admitting department. She lived for a time in the hospital's nursing quarters.

It was at Providence that she reconnected with her long lost kindergarten friend Mary Savage, who told her about the newly-established Radiologic Technology Program at PCC, where she was an active student. Seeing a future in health care, Burgermeister enrolled and within three years graduated with a degree.

"Instructor Norine Dietrich was the most wonderful woman I've ever met. She was smart and kind and she took us under her wings," Burgermeister recalls.

She was quickly promoted up the hospital ranks and by the time she was 27 she was chief technologist of the radiology department of Providence Hospital. If she was to grow in the industry she needed more business skills so she took classes at PSU and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. She soon realized that numbers resonated with her more than radiology.

From there she became a CPA and worked for KPMG, the audit, tax and advisory firm, and later an investment management company. Her career took off and she relished auditing the books for different companies. During a 20-year stretch she served as a CPA, chief financial officer and vice president at several firms.

"All of Cheryl's successes are due solely to her hard work and determination," Savage said. "She is truly a self-made person."

By 2000 her still close friend Savage asked her to join the foundation board where she was a member. Remembering the solid education she received decades earlier, Burgermeister gladly obliged.

"Seeking a higher education degree is one of the best things someone can do," she said. "The degree I received allowed me to thrive in the health care field and it gave me the confidence to pursue other goals." ■

Are you a PCC alum? We'd love to hear your story! Email alumni@pcc.edu. To learn more about the PCC Foundation, visit www.pcc.edu/foundation.

DRILLS, HAMMERS, SAWS, AND CAMERAS

Photo students document construction at Southeast Center, giving them the perfect training ground for unique pictures

By Christina Holmes

Bernie Doran's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity came as he donned a hard hat and safety glasses and walked the construction zone at Southeast Center.

With unlimited access and the camera close to his eye, he took hundreds of photos of crews erecting new campus buildings.

"I've always been interested in watching a building go from a two dimensional drawing to a three dimensional structure. In my previous career as an architect I was more connected to that transition," said Doran, who's taken a half dozen photography classes at PCC over the years. "Now as a photographer I'm still fascinated by the process. I saw this class as a chance to create a portfolio of architecture and construction images."

Doran was part of a pilot course offered through PCC Community Education where students get up close and personal with the massive construction projects taking place at SE Center. The construction is a direct result of the 2008 voter-approved bond-funded capital improvement program.

Thanks to a collaboration between Community Ed, the Bond Program and O'Neill Walsh Community Builders, students walked the construction site for about two months and took photos of giant beams, concrete slabs and scaffolding.

It's one of the many ways the bond program is integrated into academic classes. Last spring about two dozen students in a Trades Preparation class toured the Cascade Campus and learned about the different contracting jobs available. In January Building Construction Technology students at the Rock Creek Campus got hands-on experience as they made an exterior mock-up of a new building which allowed the construction team to work-through several of the more intricate details of the project before moving on to the actual work.

In an educational twist, several members of the Sylvania construction team have completed software engineering classes at the college to hone their skills in Building Information Modeling.

By all accounts, the photo class is a success and another section will be offered during Fall 2013 at the SE Center.

"I was most pleased with the photos that conveyed the action, but also liked the photos of the gear such as a workman's belt hanging on a hook," said Marty Crisp, a retired school administrator from Tigard who got her first camera 50 years ago.

"I'm more literal than artistic. I took a few abstract shots but prefer the photos that tell the story. I also enjoyed the interaction with some of the workers. Most of them were very friendly, enjoying the chance to show off their skills and pose for us."

Instructor Ellen Regal said every student came to class with a considerable amount of talent.

"I've never had such a group of enthusiastic students. They were like kids in a candy shop," she said.

The Bond Program and SE Center will work with students to display their work in the new buildings.

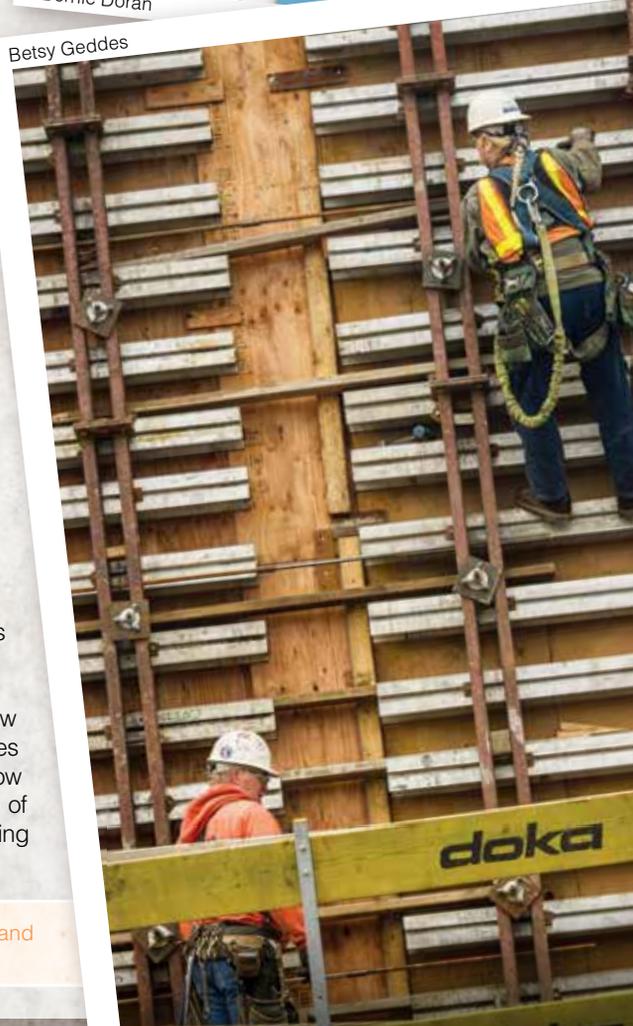
Doran said he liked the open discussions during class times.

"When I was a practicing architect I saw the value of Continuing Education classes as a requirement to retain a license. Now as a photographer, I use PCC as one of my personal ways of gaining 'continuing education,'" he said. ■



Bernie Doran

Betsy Geddes



For more information about the class, turn to page 15 or visit www.pcc.edu/communityed and select Creative Arts. To learn more about the Bond Program, visit bond.pcc.edu

Instructor Andrea Obana in the kitchen preparing vegetables for a Japanese cooking class.

Take a Community Ed class and create quick entrées that go beyond sushi and tofu

By Christina Holmes

ON THE MENU

With the flurry of ideas on how to make back to school routines easier on your kids, consider this thought: enter the fall season with tasty and healthy Japanese meals for school lunches and dinners.

Don't care for tofu or sushi? No worries. This class brings in fresh vegetables, fish and meat to get the taste buds going.

Community Ed is teaming up with Japanese native Andrea Obana for "Japanese Cooking for American Kitchens," one of the newest classes added to PCC's bevy of lifestyle courses. It's sure to have cooks raising their chopsticks in delight.

A natural born foodie who took cooking lessons in Japan, Obana's idea to start a cooking school came by way of her two young sons. Every day she packed a bento box for their lunches at the Japanese immersion school in Southeast Portland where they attend. Soon enough their bento boxes became the desires of many youngsters and before long Obana had a lineup of moms wanting lessons on how to create bento boxes their children will eat.

As Obana explains, her bentos are boxes (or containers) filled with a selection of

different foods, most of them bite-sized so it's easy for kids to pick up and eat. The emphasis is on small, balanced portions and a wide selection of food — carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits and proteins.

"You learn so much about another culture by looking at the food," she said. "Many people feel a bit apprehensive about Japanese cooking. They think it is inaccessible, fussy, technically challenging and uses mysterious ingredients or tools that are difficult to find. I would like to change that perception and introduce people to real Japanese cooking that can be made simply and deliciously."

A sampling of a class might include eggplant soup, seared bonito, chilled pork (shabu shabu), braised kabocha pumpkin and a salad with sesame seed dressing. With global attention on the obesity epidemic and the number of overweight Americans steadily climbing, Obana's take on nutritious Japanese cooking is a welcome addition.

"Meals should be pleasing to the palette and the eye with different colors and textures — something crunchy, something smooth and something creamy," she said. "There is a belief that you should stop eating when the stomach is 80 percent full."

Living in Japan until she was a teenager, Obana moved to the U.S. with her family, attending middle and high school and later college in California. She pursued careers in corporate marketing, advertising and travel consulting. In 2004 she moved back to Japan near the small coastal town outside of Kobe where she was raised. She taught English and took cooking classes.

"It was so fun to expand my repertoire of recipes and learn specific Japanese techniques," she said.

In the Community Ed classes, students get both hands on instruction and background on Japanese customs. All the students help prepare the meal and then sit together and eat. She says the plethora of farmer's markets and Portland's emphasis on local and organic produce and beef make this an ideal place to blend traditional Japanese cooking with ingredients indigenous to the Pacific Northwest.

"Japanese cooking is not an all-day event. The food is cooked quickly and shouldn't take more than 30 minutes to an hour to prepare. The essence of the food and ingredients should be fresh and lightly pressed," she said. ■

To learn more about the Japanese cooking class and others, turn to page 21 or visit www.pcc.edu/communityed and select "Home and Garden."

PCC Programs

Degree programs and credit classes

PCC is also your one-stop resource for the following credit programs. Go to www.pcc.edu to learn more.

Transfer Degrees

Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer
Associate of Science
Associate of Science,
Oregon Transfer, Business

Other Degrees and Areas of Study

Oregon Transfer Module
General Studies
High School Completion
English for Speakers of
Other Languages (ESOL)
Adult Education (ABE and
GED classes) (Non-credit)

Career and Technical Education Degrees and Certificates

Alcohol and Drug Counselor*
Apprenticeship
Architectural Design and Drafting
Auto Body Painting
Auto Collision Repair Technology
Automotive Service Technology
Aviation Maintenance Technology
Aviation Science Technology
Biology and Management of Zoo Animals*
Bioscience Technology*
Building Construction Technology

Business Administration
Accounting
Management
Marketing
Retail Management
Civil Engineering Technology*
Computer Aided Design and Drafting
Computer Applications and Office Systems
Computer Information Systems
Criminal Justice
Culinary Assistant
Dealer Service Technology*
Dental Assisting*
Dental Hygiene*
Dental Laboratory Technology*
Diesel Service Technology
Dietary Manager
Early Education and Family Studies
Electronic Engineering Technology*
Emergency Management*
Emergency Medical Services*
Emergency Telecommunicator/911
Dispatcher*
Facilities Maintenance Technology
Fire Protection Technology*
Fitness Technology*
Geographic Information Systems

Gerontology
Graphic Design
Health Information Management*
Interior Design
Landscape Technology
Library Media
Machine Manufacturing Technology
Management and Supervisory Development
Mechanical Engineering Technology*
Medical Assisting*
Medical Imaging*
Radiography
MRI Technologist
Computed Tomography/CT Registry Prep
Medical Laboratory Technology*
Microelectronic Technology*
Multimedia
Nursing*
Occupational Skills Training
Ophthalmic Medical Technology*
Paraeducator
Paralegal*
Professional Music
Real Estate
Sign Language Interpretation*
Veterinary Technology*
Welding Technology

**Program has special enrollment requirements.*

Ken Madden Elected to PCC Board



Ken Madden was elected to the PCC Board of Directors to represent Zone 5 (Beaverton and West Portland) in May. He replaces David Squire, who served in the position for six years. Madden is well

known to the college as he's served on the PCC Foundation Board for 10 years.

Madden is the owner of Madden Industrial Craftsman and Madden Fabrication in Beaverton where he has overall responsibility for supporting the sales and recruiting efforts of all locations. He has extensive experience in the temporary services industry and has served as the vice president of sales and marketing for Madden Industrial since its inception in 1988. Madden holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Oregon State University. He is a member of the Oregon Workforce Investment Board and was recently elected chair of the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce.

The PCC Board of Directors consists of seven members elected by zones to four-year terms. The board governs the college, with responsibilities that include selecting

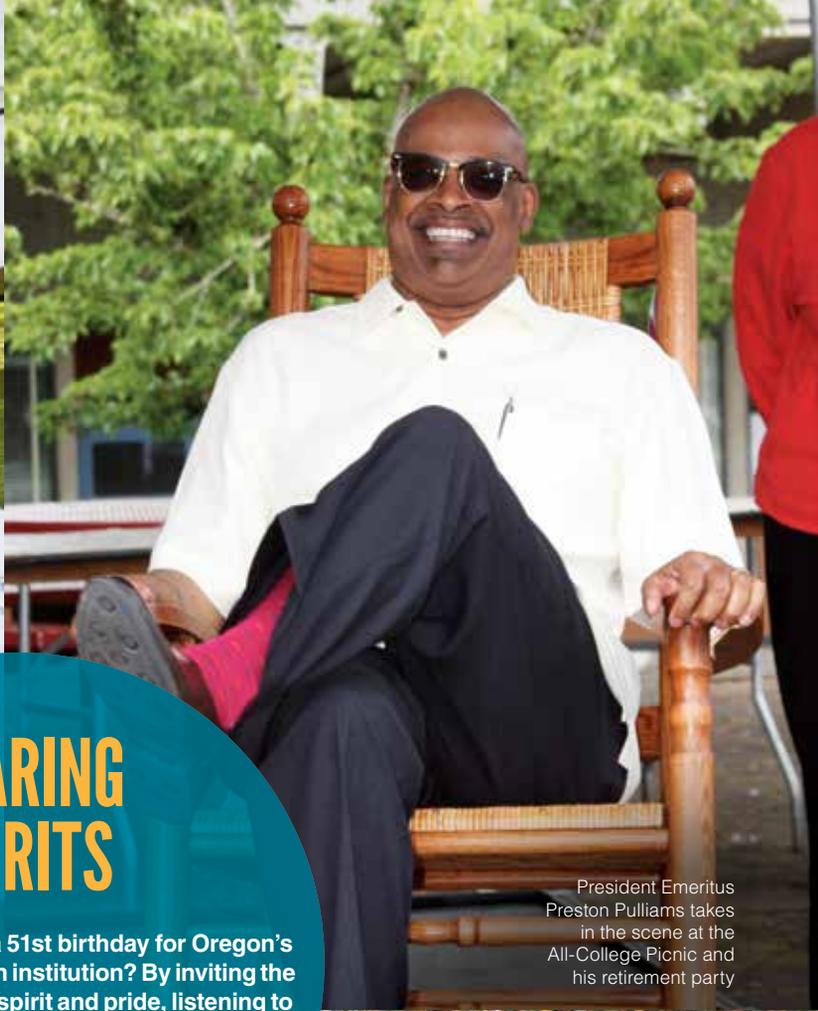
the president, approving the hiring of other staff and faculty, approving the college budget and establishing policies.

Calendar of Events

September

The Fall College In-Service 2013 is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 16. All campuses and the Southeast Center will be closed for district meetings until 2 p.m.

Fall term classes begin on Monday, September 23. For registration information, call 971-722-8888 (select option 2) or visit www.pcc.edu/registration.



SOARING SPIRITS

How do you celebrate a 51st birthday for Oregon's largest higher education institution? By inviting the community to show its spirit and pride, listening to great music and eating cake. That's exactly how the college spent Founders' Week, which commemorates when the college's original charter was signed in 1960. Capping off the week was the All-College Picnic, which also served as a retirement party for longtime President Preston Pulliams.

The Concert and Chamber choirs perform at the Rock Creek Campus

President Emeritus Preston Pulliams takes in the scene at the All-College Picnic and his retirement party



PCC students, staff, faculty and supporters gather in Salem at the state Capitol Building to show their pride and advocate for the college.



PCC GOES TO SALEM

PCC Supporters Talk College Success with State Legislators

As the state legislature decided on the biennial budget for Oregon's 17 community colleges, hundreds of PCC supporters converged on the state Capitol Building in May to advocate for PCC as part of the college's Founders' Week. The first-ever PCC Day at the Capitol included proclamations on the college's behalf, academic and career technical program demonstrations, visits with elected leaders and legislators and the Diamond Alum Award Luncheon.



State Treasurer
Ted Wheeler speaks
to PCC supporters



Staff member Chelsea Ellertson
displays her fearless PCC shirt
during the rally at the Capitol Building



Gregg Meyer, a PCC civil and mechanical
engineering instructor, demonstrates
3-D modeling equipment students use in class.

PCC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In June the Oregon Legislature approved a \$450 million Community College Support Fund budget for 2013 – 15, up from \$395 million for the 2011 – 13 budget. While it's a step in the right direction toward economic recovery, it's still shy of the \$510 million needed to make crucial investments in workforce training and student success programs.

Research indicates that communities that invest in higher education are more likely to have a prosperous economy, in part because those with higher education are more able to support themselves financially. The majority of family wage jobs require education beyond high school. Community colleges provide that pathway for many students, with career technical training for such workforce jobs as nursing, machine manufacturing and welding. Additionally, community colleges also offer transfer programs that serve as the gateway to universities and four-year institutions for thousands of students.

With an eye toward future medical careers, PCC received \$8 million in matching resources to expand the Health Professions Technology Center at the Sylvania Campus. This will allow the college to upgrade and expand job ready training in its combined health professions program — dental hygiene, dental assisting, dental lab technology, radiography and nursing. PCC will match state dollars with funds from its 2008 voter-approved bond program.

The new center will expand the college's capacity to meet future industry demand for health professionals. With the addition of dedicated learning environments for weekend and evening programming, it's anticipated that program offerings could increase by 30 percent, pending clinical site availability and industry needs.

To stay updated on PCC's legislative activities and advocate for access to college success, visit opportunity.pcc.edu

★ *A Record-Breaking Gala* ★

Huge crowd gathers at annual event as supporters raise money for student scholarships while also bidding farewell to outgoing President Preston Pulliams

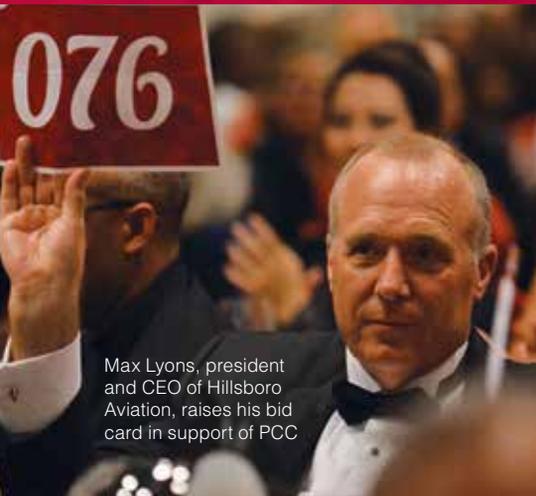
With the hits of Motown providing the soundtrack to the evening, more than 600 community members gathered at the Portland Marriott Hotel in May to pledge their financial support for PCC student scholarships and toast Preston Pulliams as he retires as president. Thanks to the outstanding generosity of guests and supporters, the second annual Evening for Opportunity gala benefit was a tremendous success as more than \$345,000 was raised on behalf of deserving students seeking to achieve their dreams through the power of a PCC education.



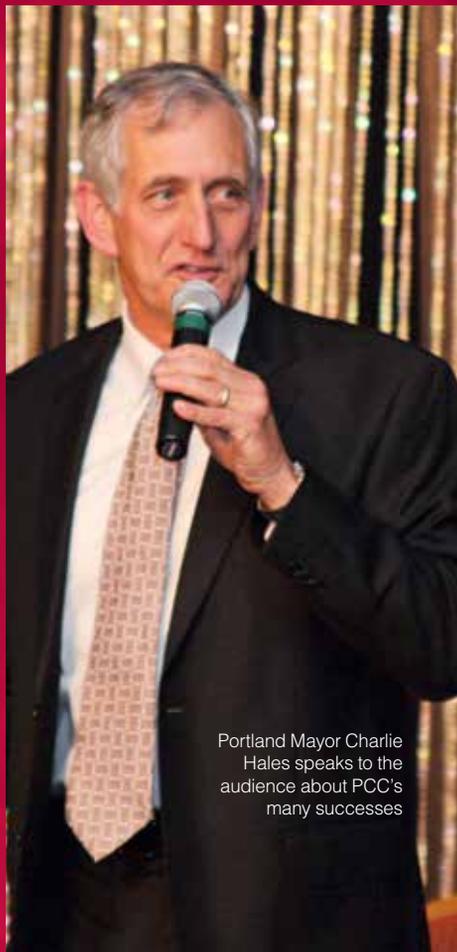
Ross Lienhart of Precision Castparts Corp. speaks to retiring President Preston Pulliams at the Evening of Opportunity gala benefit



Student Raquel Barajas shares with the crowd of 600 people her many accomplishments thanks to PCC.



Max Lyons, president and CEO of Hillsboro Aviation, raises his bid card in support of PCC



Portland Mayor Charlie Hales speaks to the audience about PCC's many successes



Former State Sen. Margaret Carter and State Rep. Michael Dembrow celebrate

An Evening for Opportunity was successful because of the ongoing support of dozens of business and individual sponsors. We acknowledge the top sponsors for the evening:

DIAMOND SPONSOR

Hoffman Construction Company

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Yoshida Family, Max and Carol Lyons, Hillsboro Aviation

SILVER SPONSORS

Oregon Lottery, Northwest Natural

BRONZE SPONSORS

Vigor Industrial, Kaiser Permanente, US Bank, Intel, Portland State University

CRYSTAL SPONSORS

Preston & Joan Pulliams, Marion Levitan and Howard Werth, Lamar Transit Advertising, Oregon State University/OSU Foundation, OHSU, Miller Nash, Marriott Downtown Portland Waterfront

ONE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Graduation speaker Michelle Reers shares her story from a hard scrabble life to student leader and how she encourages others to stay in school By James Hill

Tigard resident Michelle Reers is going to be a scientist.

It's a statement she's repeated over and over and shared in front of thousands of friends, families, fellow graduates and even strangers during PCC's 51st Graduation Ceremony in June where she served as the student speaker.

She told her story of getting off drugs, earning two associate's degrees the past two years and her ability to inspire those around her to go to college and work toward their associate's degrees: people like her 20-year-old daughter, Alaura Unger, and her husband Cen Reers, an employee with the college's Facilities Management Services, to name a few.

"It was the proudest day of my life," she said. "That is, until next summer when my daughter gets her degree. That's my accomplishment; that's my greatest thing. My family's future is going to change and I helped set that future."

Graduating with a 3.84 grade-point average, Reers is headed to Oregon State University's Honors College to study botany so she can help save the environment.

"The whole reason I'm here now is so much less about me, and the things I've done, but about encouraging others," she added. "Last graduation, I had a gal thank me and tell me that it was because of me that she was graduating. That I was an inspiration to her. I was so glad."

Her honesty is refreshing and she revealed much in her speech at Memorial Coliseum.

"I broke free of meth and started trying to put my life back together, but employment was difficult and my future seemed limited at best," she said. "I was going to college. This time it wasn't to give myself an escape — it was to give myself an opportunity."

"Today, I'm graduating with more than my degree; I'm graduating as a new person. Because of PCC, my bleak

attitude about life and people has slowly changed over the past three years. I have met wonderful faculty, students, staff and administrators who showed me they care."

At 45, Reers earned her transfer degree this year after getting her associate's degree in general studies and an accounting certificate last year. She got a second chance at redemption through college. She tried attending a university back in 1986, but lasted a term and soon became pregnant with her first child. After ending a 10-year marriage to the father of her three children, bad friendships and poor workplace conditions were ruling her life.

"I just never felt I was the person everyone labeled me to be and I made the decision to get off meth for my children," Reers said. "I love my children and I didn't want to lose them. I made that choice to change my life and their lives."

When her sister earned an associate's degree a few years ago at PCC, it gave her even more reason to get back to school.

She earned two Miller Foundation scholarships through the PCC Foundation.

This year, nearly 690 students received scholarships, totaling \$825,000.

In her time at the college she's been named to President's and Dean's lists, received the Phi Theta Kappa's Dave Arter Achievement and Distinguished Member Regional awards and earned a spot to the 2013 Oregon Community College Association All Oregon Academic Team. She also served as president of the Sylvania PTK chapter Alpha Eta Iota, worked on the college's student senate and volunteered for numerous college programs.

"I have to remind her to breathe on occasion and have whiplash trying to follow her as she zooms between projects," said Cami Bishop, Sylvania's student leadership coordinator. "She teaches me something new each time we meet." ■

For information about student scholarships and the many ways that you can donate, visit www.pcc.edu/foundation or call 971-722-4382.



Vicki Porter



Rob Taylor



Marco Fusaro



mub FRACTAL

DIFFERENT SHADES.

In the Motown-inspired band Brownish Black, three members' path to the group took a detour through the navy and gold of PCC.

Brownish Black's mub FRACTAL (aka Peter Thatch) on bass, Vicki Porter on vocals, Stephanie Shea on tenor sax and Ethan Boardman on drums all met while taking classes in PCC's Professional Music Program at the Cascade Campus. Then already part of the band, FRACTAL recruited the others about two years ago to complete the eight-member ensemble that today can be found performing soul-bathed tunes at venues such as Mississippi Studios, Jimmy Maks, Alberta Rose Theatre and Doug Fir Lounge, to name a few.

Serving as a talent scout for the band, FRACTAL met Shea in a jazz improv class and soon they played together at jazz jams at other students' homes. When Brownish Black was in the market for a new tenor saxophone player, FRACTAL asked Shea to fill the role. After hearing the powerful voice of Porter in the program's band workshop course, he invited her to sing backup vocals

and help guide the band through its Detroit soul journey. Soon after, FRACTAL and singer/songwriter M.D. Sharbatz started writing songs for Porter. "I finally got the courage to ask Vicki to sing with us," FRACTAL remembered. "The original trio played in rock bands and didn't really know how to do (soul) necessarily. We're used to pretty straightforward stuff, but we envisioned maybe we could turn this into something Motown/Stax-inspired and that started when we added Vicki to the project. We didn't want to be a normal rock band and thought maybe we'd do something that's different."

It isn't unusual to have people form a band or part of one while going through the program. Allen Jones, head of the music program, said it attracts working musicians, budding songwriters and producers, all tapping resources and honing skills. The program offers technical courses in studio recording and production, instrumental instruction and performance-oriented courses plus seminars in music theory, music business and career options.

"We have a wide range of students," Jones said. "Some are seeking to add new skills or diversify within the business. Others are just getting started."

Shea is a good example of the typical student. Shea and her husband Rob Taylor (who is now Brownish Black's guitarist) played a lot while living in California before moving to Portland. She didn't have formal training but wanted to become a music teacher. She needed to find a program that fit in with her current full-time graphic design job. She settled on PCC.

"I just really decided I wanted to get much more serious about music," said Shea. "I wanted to go beyond being a hobbyist and actually see if I could do something with it. As a horn player the more knowledge I can get about chords the better. Immediately, I could take what I learned in class and apply it to whatever musical project I was doing. It's one thing to play by ear, you kind of know that certain notes go with certain sounds, but you get to see the breakdown of exactly why that is happening and actually what you can do to make it better."



Don Malkemus



M. D. Sharbatz



Ethan Boardman



Stephanie Shea

By James Hill

OF BROWNISH BLACK

“The program sounded really perfect because, like me, there’s a lot of nontraditional students there,” she added. “And, it’s not impossible to fit classes into a work schedule. It was such a great choice for me. I felt like I learned so much; a lot more than I ever expected to.”

Porter enrolled because she wanted to improve her music skills. She’s taken music classes on and off for years and is close to earning her certificate. Porter recalled that her favorite offering was the band performance course where students learned songs and performed them. “I was always into music,” said Porter, who returns occasionally to sing with band performance students. “When I found out about their program, I was like, ‘Alright, let’s try this.’ When I joined music theory class taught by Cliff Waits and Allen Jones, who at the time was running a show band, I was just hooked. It was work, but it was fun.”

FRACTAL is not only the bass player, but serves as Brownish Black’s informal music director, arranger, backup singer and co-songwriter.

At PCC, the Olympia, Wash., transplant took sound engineering and band performance classes that gave him his first taste of playing R&B/Soul music from the 1960s and 1970s, sparking interest in the Detroit Motown sound. Over time he assumed a leadership role and worked hard to earn his one-year certificate before transferring to the Sylvania Campus to earn credits in the campus’ music program.

FRACTAL has moved on to PSU’s Jazz Studies Program and plays bass with PCC’s staff/student jazz band, “The Suspects” (Allen Jones on guitar, instructor Cliff Waits on sax and three former students on drums, piano, and bass), in addition to his work with Brownish Black.

“I decided to go for it and right away I made connections at PCC and took my music knowledge to the next level,” said FRACTAL. “I was totally self taught, and PCC really helped me to get a few fundamentals. I also like how there are people from so many different places there. PCC is so much more of a community vibe. I’ve met more people there and have more of a stake in PCC than elsewhere. I like that.”

The alumni in Brownish Black are symbolic of why students turn to PCC to jump-start their careers. The program is great for performers who work solo or in small or medium sized groups. Producers and engineers work in recording and project studios. Writers and arrangers work on scores and soundtracks for studios, ad agencies, and film makers. There are many opportunities available that involve marketing and promotion of music groups, products, and services. ■

For more information about the Professional Music Program, visit www.pcc.edu/programs/music-pro.
For more information about Brownish Black, visit brownishblack.bandcamp.com.



**Portland
Community
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P.O. Box 19000 Portland, Oregon 97280-0990

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PCC mails this schedule of classes to households four times each year to let you know about upcoming Community Ed classes and share what's happening at PCC. It is printed and mailed for about 22 cents per copy and can be recycled. Because it is addressed "Residential Customer" we are not able to remove individuals from our distribution route. We hope you find it informative and enjoy the stories inside.

Project:

YOU

with PCC Community Ed

Our Project:

Name: Allison Brown

Occupation: Co-owner of Suburban Drapery Service, a blind and shade repair shop

My Project: Improve the German I learned when I spent a month in Germany as an exchange student.

Class I Took: My first German class at PCC was 10 years ago and I haven't stopped.

And Now: I Skype and speak with my German host family every weekend. And who knows? Maybe someday I'll work as a translator.

PCC CommunityEd

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If you can dream it, Community Ed's hundreds of classes can help you achieve it. Go online to pcc.edu/communityed and get started on your own Project:YOU this fall.