

kaleidoscope

WINTER 2007

a publication & non-credit schedule of Portland Community College



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PRESTON PULLIAMS



Portland Community College is the community's college. Our mission is to make higher education accessible to all residents of our district, and often we work with other agencies and businesses in our community to achieve that goal. I'm delighted to tell you about several new partnerships we've recently fostered.

This fall 25 students enrolled in the first class of ThinkBIG Northwest, a new professional-technical program started between PCC and five Caterpillar dealerships in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. PCC is one of only 10 colleges across the country taking part in this educational opportunity with Caterpillar, the heavy equipment company, to train future service technicians. The students will earn starting salaries of \$40,000 when they graduate. This is an excellent example of how PCC is partnering with business and industry to ensure the workforce is well trained.

I'm also proud to announce that Columbia County students can now ride a dedicated shuttle from Columbia County to the Rock Creek Campus. Transportation has long been a challenge for students coming from Scappoose, St. Helens and Vernonia. PCC listened to these concerns and, thanks to an excellent working relationship with Columbia County leaders, PCC and the county are partnering to provide the shuttle service. It's great to see Columbia County students taking advantage of all that PCC offers.

The Southeast Center is yet another example of a community partnership and one where you – a resident of the college district – played an enormous role. Thanks to the bond measure passed by voters in November 2000, our two-building center at SE 82nd Avenue and Division Street became a reality.

Cascade Campus President Algje Gatewood never seems to tire of creating new partnerships in the neighborhoods that surround his school. He's a campus leader who is quick to move off the grounds to build bridges with community groups. He's dedicated to offering Portland residents educational programs where they can earn a degree and obtain well-paid jobs.

Don't forget to read through the Community Education Schedule, which lists thousands of classes that begin at the start of the new year. What better way to start 2007 than with a course you've always wanted to take. And as always remember to stay connected to the college district by visiting www.pcc.edu.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Preston Pulliams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Preston Pulliams
District President



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Una Kim survived her first few years in the U.S. through drawing. After painting for more than 25 years and winning awards she finally calls herself an artist.

Mastering the English Language

PCC offers a variety of classes for non-native English speakers. Everyone is welcome – from newcomers to the English language to professionals hoping to improve their writing skills

In her native country of Nepal, Jasudha Ranabhat ran through hospital corridors as she helped patients. She loved her work but her fiancé, who had been living in Portland for nine years, wanted her to be closer, so she left behind Kathmandu and nursing.

She arrived in the U.S. in June speaking little English and knew that if she wanted to practice nursing in America she would need to learn the language. She turned to Portland Community College and by September she was enrolled in English language classes at the Sylvania Campus.

“I’m so grateful to all the teachers here. They are helpful and cooperative,” said Ranabhat, 23. “I also like the tutoring center. After classes you can usually find me in the tutoring center or the lab.”

And she has plenty of company. During the 2005-2006 academic year about 12,600 students were enrolled in English language classes throughout the college district.

PCC recently revamped its language program by combining ESL (English as a Second Language) and ENNL (English for Non-Native Learners) classes. The new program is called ESOL – English for Speakers of Other Languages -- and college officials hope that by combining the two departments there will be a seamless transfer for all students.

There are eight levels within the ESOL program—Level 1 the most basic and Level 8 the most advanced. Students focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening. The beginning levels serve students with minimal or no English skills and includes

about nine hours of classes each week. There is also a focus on academic and career planning. Many adult refugees, immigrants and permanent residents take these classes before moving onto the advanced levels.

The more advanced levels serve people who have had some English instruction, including professional

personnel working or training in the U.S., international students and international visitors. Classtime amounts to about 12 hours a week. Classes in the most advanced levels are transferable to a four-year university.

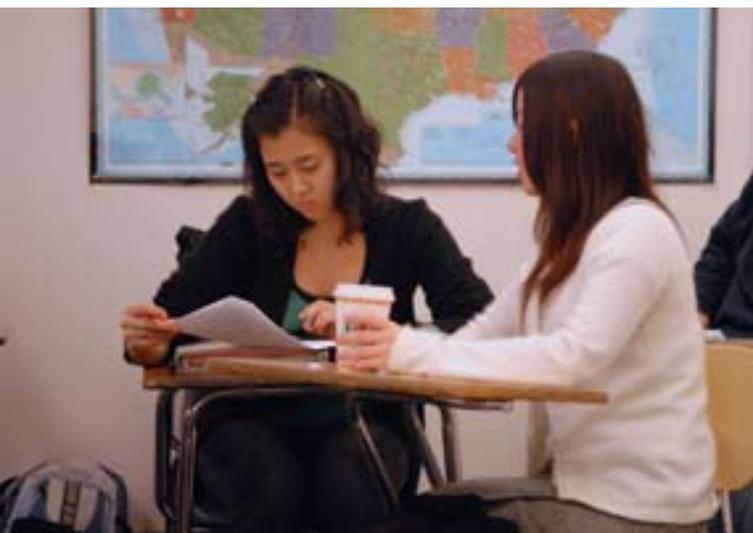
Students are placed into a level depending on their scores from an introductory placement test. A student who has limited experience with the English language could complete the entire program in about four years. Often, however, students do not take the classes continuously for various work-related or family-related reasons.

“We try to personalize the program as much as possible. There is tutoring and instructors are available for students in need of help,” said John Sparks, an ESOL instructor who’s been teaching at PCC for 17 years. “We try to catch the students who may be floundering. We’re well practiced in this profession.”

Sparks speaks about former students who started in his classes knowing very little English and went on to earn bachelor’s and doctorate degrees in the sciences.

In the 1980s a majority of students in the English language classes at Sylvania were Vietnamese. Today, Vietnamese students still flock to the classes where they are joined by immigrants from Mexico, Japan, Korea, China, Russia and the Philippines.

For more information about the program visit <http://www.pcc.edu/prepare/esol/>.



A Second Chance Career Takes Off

Richard Lucero is the perfect example that life begins at 50. After spending two decades working as a technician at a printing press, Lucero found his job duties replaced by a machine. As he searched for other careers he thought about his days as a medic in the U.S. Army when he was in his 20s. Perhaps a career in medicine or nursing helping others was the way to go? He started taking courses at the Rock Creek Campus in 2003 and a year later began the commute from his home in Forest Grove to the Sylvania Campus. He finished up nursing classes in June. When he's not working at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center Lucero, 54, indulges in his favorite hobbies: photography, paragliding and playing grandpa to his four grandchildren.

Q. Why did you choose PCC?

A. My daughter, Andrea Rogers, is a graduate from the PCC Nursing School Class of 2001 and recommended it to me. Now she and I are both registered nurses employed by Legacy Health System.

Q. What classes did you take?

A. I took all the prerequisites for nursing the first year and I was fortunate to be picked for the program the following year. There were 918 applicants and I was one of 90 chosen by lottery.

Q. What instructors do you recall?

A. This is a tough one, because so many kind teachers were so influential in my nursing career. I will never forget Linda Eby, Colleen Caraher, Doris Rink, Juanita Joy, Peggy Sherer and Priscilla Loanzon. While all the nursing faculty taught me skills it was these faculty members who taught me principles. And without principles, the magic does not work. By magic I'm referring to foresight ... the ability to envision the ongoing impact on a human soul set in motion by an act of kindness.

Q. What was your favorite part of the campus?

A. My favorite part had to be the Bookstore. You can really get a feel for a campus by visiting the bookstore.

Q. Do you keep in contact with any friends you met through PCC?

A. Absolutely! Those of us who hung out together keep in touch.

Q. What is your best memory of PCC?

A. My fondest memory was being with the graduating class when we all found out we passed the final of our last class and everyone was euphoric. It was sweet agony. Sweet that we all made it, agony that we were all going our separate ways.



POSITIVE PRESENCE

The Southeast Center changes the landscape on SE 82nd Avenue & Division Street and many believe it will spur continued redevelopment along the busy corridors

Just a few years ago the Southeast Center was a dark, almost windowless building that once housed an Albertson's grocery store and a home improvement shop.

"We offered a lot of good services to students but it just didn't feel like a college," said Nan Poppe, President of PCC's Extended Learning Campus which includes the Southeast Center.

Fast forward to today and the nine-acre Southeast Center, less than a mile from the old place (now the Fu-Bonn shopping center), boasts two bright, airy buildings with plenty of windows, skylights and open spaces. It's a standout – and many people do stop and stare -- along the streets filled with active manufacturing and service-related businesses that have tired looking facades.

"The center has brought a welcoming feel to the area," said Craig Kolins, Dean of Instruction and Student Development.

When voters approved the \$144 million bond measure in 2000 for Portland Community College, the Southeast Center received about \$21 million and work immediately began on the two new structures, Mt. Tabor and Mt. Scott halls. When it



opened in January 2003 it was the first construction project completed following the bond measure.

For decades the Southeast Center has offered a variety of credit and non-credit classes but with the current site there are a lot of new “firsts”: a ceramics room, art studio, dance studio, dark room and fitness center. The foyer in Mt. Tabor is a comfortable gathering spot for students who pull up a chair to study or talk with friends. For meetings that involve several hundred faculty and college personnel the furniture can be rearranged and the area is transformed into a great hall.

Also at the center there is a tutoring lab with individual private rooms as well as a computer lab.

“Students love the fact they can go to college in their neighborhood.”

“Students love the fact they can go to college in their neighborhood,” said Poppe. “Since we opened the doors the response has been overwhelming.”

The nearly 4,300 students who take classes at the Southeast Center each term enroll in everything from college transfer classes to vocational and technical classes in computer science and aviation science to continuing education and community education courses. Workforce development, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Volunteer Literacy and GED (General Educational Development) classes and the high school alternative program, Gateway to College, are also available. Peak hours at the center are mornings, evenings and Saturdays. And classrooms don’t sit empty on Sundays either. A local school uses the space to teach Vietnamese students their native language.

A Trip Abroad Stirs Changes in PCC Faculty Member



Literature instructor Bryan Hull was one of a number of PCC faculty members who recently travel abroad through the Council on International Educational Exchange. One goal of these short-term intensive seminars is to help faculty members integrate a global perspective into their curriculum. This is Hull's first-person account of his time in Turkey.

Whenever I leave the US, I expect to come back utterly transformed. This transformation sometimes happens slowly and subtly, almost without my knowledge. Other times, it's overwhelming and sudden. This past June as I traveled to Turkey, I felt as if I would be changed again by my trip.

The academic lectures in Ankara, the nation's capital, were clear, non-preentious and packed with information. Our afternoons were spent visiting non-profits, where I glimpsed the country's thriving democracy. We sat at long tables drinking tea in glass cups, nibbling on sweets, and listening as the room filled with women or men, or both, arguing about human rights,

secularism, the European Union, Islam and the validity of the country's law forbidding women to wear head scarves at public schools or in government jobs. These activists argued respectfully, but with passion. The rooms were always a bit hot.

Crossing congested streets in Ankara, I looked for the unspoken traffic rules. I watched as cars came to a sudden, seemingly patient stop when a young man stepped off the sidewalk into the road. While cars were certainly dominant here, pedestrians held a certain power that they lacked in the US.

The middle part of the trip was in the country, visiting religious sites. There, in my journal, I sketched cave paintings and Islamic architecture. In Konya, where Rumi, the famous Sufi poet was buried, I felt at peace, completely happy. The day we went to visit his tomb I sat on the floor, with hundreds of pilgrims and tourists passing in front of me, and I sobbed. I wondered if I needed to come all the way to Konya to know just how deeply I buried my sadness at home. Sadness about my life, about my country: the isolation, the aggressiveness, the insensitivity. To comfort me, a Turkish man and his grandson, touched my knee.

The final part of the trip was flashy and cosmopolitan. We toured the big, old famous mosques and palaces of Istanbul. At the end of my trip at I headed to the airport in my taxi, passing all the mosques I now recognized, illuminated by floodlights, as countless birds swirled in and out of the darkness.

At home, I started first reading Rumi. Then, I dived into a 400-page page history of modern Turkey. I longed for the loud speaker calls to prayer, especially the earliest call, which had on several occasions gently tore at the fabric of my dream world. I wondered about geography of a country that sits on the edge of Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. A country too western for some Islamic countries, too Muslim for some Europeans, sometimes oppressive and reactionary to political dissent, flexible and open to outsiders and change. I read, and thought and slowly I began to make connections and ask questions.

In two of my writing classes this term, we focused on the Middle East. Under my scrutiny, the students chose their research topics, after in-class discussions on the Kurds, Afghanistan, Hezbollah, and suicide bombers. When the Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded in October to Orhan Pamuk, a Turk who writes about the conflicts between secularism and religion in Turkey, I listened to media reports where skeptical and lukewarm Turks responded to journalists. The knowledge that I've acquired in recent months will allow me to push my students to think and read critically in new ways about the Middle East and Islam. This would have been impossible before my trip. As I grow, my students potentially grow as well.

This is certainly the start of my journey. From here, I will slowly let the Turks invade my courses and my life. They are, after all, known for being brave warriors.



Southern Charm in the Pacific Northwest

As President of PCC's Cascade Campus, one of Algie Gatewood's top priorities is increasing the attendance and retention of young male students of color. It's a familiar challenge for many colleges and universities nationwide as black males earn only one-third of all degrees obtained by African Americans.

Gatewood, who has dedicated his nearly 35-year career to public education, has personal experience on the topic. As a 16-year-old growing up in a small town in North Carolina the young Gatewood had few things on his mind: making money and owning a car – a '59 Ford to be exact. College was not in his plan.

But his working class parents wouldn't hear of it. They had high hopes for their five children and instilled in them a perseverance to succeed. The kids didn't disappoint as they went on to careers in law, medicine, business, art and education.

Now Gatewood is going after male students of color, showing them that the way to well-paying jobs is by staying in school. And he wants all students to know that with the availability of financial aid, lack of money should not be a hindrance.

"I would have never gone to college without financial aid," he adds.

As a teenager Gatewood earned money by putting in hours cleaning floors at a nursing home, picking peaches in orchards and working in a cotton mill. Once he started college Gatewood knew there was a better life ahead. He completed his bachelor's degree in less than four years.

Early in his career he spent a year as the assistant to a college president and that's where he got the bug. He wanted a presidency of his own. He worked for 25 years in community college administration and seven years in university administration. Along the way he earned a master's degree and a doctorate in education. As he worked and went to school, he also helped raise three children, ran an automotive repair shop and sold real estate.

In 2004 he left North Carolina to take over the reins at Cascade, home to about 16,000 students, which was going through \$60 million in construction projects.

"People here are friendly, morale is high and there is diversity," said Gatewood.

He loves to walk the grounds and chat with students and staff alike. He's known as personable and approachable.

"He's accessible and if you need to meet with him, he makes time for you," said

Deborah Cochrane, director of the Portland Teachers Program at PCC. "He isn't afraid of any kind of work and he doesn't view anything as beneath him. He's done a lot of jobs in his life, and so I think he respects, values and listens to everyone."

Peter Maphumulo believes Gatewood has created a clear vision for Cascade.

"He wants this campus to provide the best opportunities to this community, by developing educational programs that provide living wage jobs as well as providing a pathway for earning baccalaureate degrees for North Portland citizens," said Maphumulo, Liberal Arts and Mathematics Division Dean. "He worked very hard to introduce the Middle and Early College Program and he formed a partnership with the Native American Youth Association to expose Native American students to college by bringing them to the campus."

After putting in 60- to 70-hour work weeks on campus, Gatewood retreats to his home in rural Washington County ("I'm a country boy at heart," he says) and to his wife, Rosalyn. In his spare time he golfs and hopes to ship his cars, several of them BMWs, to Oregon so he can overhaul them.

Paving their Way to a **BIG** Future

PCC builds on a partnership with Caterpillar to train service technicians as students split their time between the classroom and job sites

Portland Community College is one of 10 colleges in the United States and the only college in the Northwest taking part in a partnership with international heavy equipment operator Caterpillar that combines technical and academic education with paid on-the-job training.

ThinkBIG Northwest is a program started by Illinois-based Caterpillar as the demand for skilled service technicians rises with too few employees to fill the jobs. In September 25 students began classes at the Rock Creek Campus learning about the many types of Caterpillar equipment including agricultural, construction, forestry and earthmoving.

"I've always wanted to work on diesel trucks and machinery and there are a lot of jobs in this field," said Jon Campen, 21, a tow truck driver from Woodburn who is thrilled to be part of the first ThinkBIG class. "Plus, by the time I graduate I'll be debt free."

Chuck Hegdal from Fairbanks, Alaska has worked in a heavy equipment shop for several years and while he taught himself much of what he knows he's ready to learn the correct way of tearing down an engine and rebuilding it. He's already impressed with the instructors.

"Ish Rivas (a PCC Caterpillar service technician instructor) is an excellent teacher and he knows his stuff but he's still young enough to relate to us," said Hegdal, 22.

This is how the program works: Five Caterpillar dealers from Oregon, Washington,



Students in the ThinkBIG program are introduced during a celebration in September.

Idaho, Montana and Alaska, selected students for ThinkBIG. Some students have already worked on heavy machinery or diesel equipment while others are novices. The students spend 12 weeks in classes at the Rock Creek Campus where they develop a well-rounded knowledge of Caterpillar equipment and its high-tech systems. After the 12-week session they head to the individual dealerships where they work on the machinery for several months and earn a salary. Then they return to school for another 12 weeks. The program lasts two years after which time they earn an associate's degree in applied science and return to the dealership. As a full-time employee they will earn an annual salary and medical benefits. ThinkBIG graduates can expect to earn a starting salary of about \$40,000 before overtime.

During classes students will learn about engine fundamentals, machine hydraulics, fuel systems, electrical systems, transmissions and torque converters, undercarriage, final drives and more. In addition, they will take general education classes such as English, speech, mathematics and social science.

According to Caterpillar, results show that ThinkBIG graduates are performing at a level equivalent to what has taken six to seven years to accomplish through general education programs and on-the-job experience. Last spring, 780 ThinkBIG technicians graduated nationwide and next year 300 more are expected to graduate.

Sue Halton-Findlay of Halton Co., a Caterpillar dealership in Northeast Portland, is a



Halton Co., a Caterpillar dealership in Northeast Portland, has been a leading supporter of ThinkBIG Northwest. Helping to launch the program at Rock Creek are company officials (from left) Kathryn Halton Rebagliati, Pat Thomas and Sue Halton-Findlay. In January five ThinkBIG students will begin work at Halton. Pictured above is a PCC student working on Caterpillar equipment.

longtime supporter of the Diesel Technology program at Rock Creek. She's enthused about ThinkBIG on a number of levels.

"This is a win, win, win situation," said Halton-Findlay, a vice president of the 400-employee company. "PCC wins, the students win and the dealers win. To be able to learn and perform hands-on work is very exciting. This is a great transition between school and work."

Adds Kathryn Halton Rebagliati, Halton's Marketing Communications Manager: "This business deals with tangible, real products. This work can't be outsourced to another

country. Students who go into this line of work have a great career and not only is it secure but it's also portable so you can move to another part of the country and there will be jobs."

Students from outside Portland share housing, giving them an opportunity to bond inside and outside of class. And while they miss their family and friends back home they realize that after two years they'll be on the path to a successful job.

"This is a career opportunity. Most of us will pull a lot out of this program while in the classroom but there is so much more

that happens when we head back into the shop and work on the job," said Ryan Dollar, a former Marine from Boise, Idaho. "My dealership wants someone who is going to stick around for a while and that's exactly what I intend to do and hopefully someday I'll go into management."

For more information about the ThinkBIG program, visit ww.pcc.edu/thinkbig or call 503-614-7246.

His Dream of Patrolling the Streets

A PCC criminal justice instructor inspired Noe Orozco to train for a career in law enforcement

Noe Orozco walks down a crowded corridor at the Sylvania Campus, backpack slung over one shoulder. Dozens of other students pass him as they head toward different classes. Someone stops and asks him directions to a classroom.

“Sure. To the right. Classroom to the right,” Orozco instructs.

Maybe it’s a miracle that the 19-year-old is even here, giving another student directions. But to Orozco it’s just another way to help others as he pursues his dream of becoming a police officer.

Orozco grew up in Champoton Campeche, Mexico where he went to school but never spoke English. His parents, searching for a better life for Orozco and his five brothers, moved the family to Hillsboro in Portland 1996. In Mexico his father was an engineer and a popular school teacher.

Once enrolled in grade school, Orozco learned basic English. Then, unlike his brothers who dropped out of school to work, he enrolled at Glencoe High School in Hillsboro. He learned more sophisticated words and phrases. He learned to appreciate education and knew that it was the key to a stable life.

In 2002 tragedy struck his family as his father died from cancer. The family had little money to pay expenses and so Orozco left school to work with his brothers.

As he worked Orozco never forgot his dream of finishing school.

“My father,” he said, “is what kept me going. He told me to become an educated man because then I could do anything.”

A year later Orozco returned to high school. During that year his advisors talked to him about enrolling in college. He graduated in 2004 with straight A’s.

By September 2004 Orozco was at Rock Creek Campus studying landscape technology. One day a week the class spent five hours learning to install irrigation systems. This resembled Orozco’s past and he did not want it as part of his future.

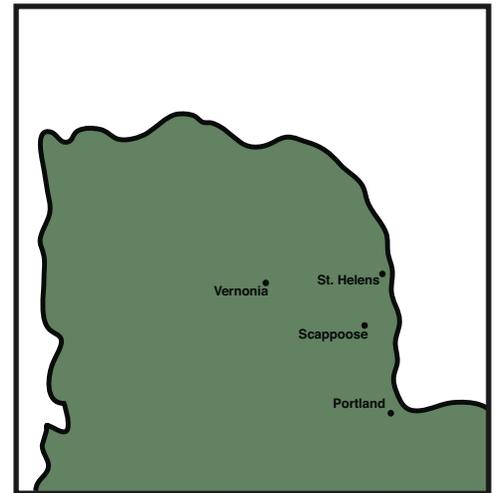
About the same time Orozco enrolled in criminal justice instructor Aaron Olson’s police science class. Olson encouraged students to help others.

“My greatest wish is to help my entire community,” said Orozco, “but specifically the Hispanic community.”

With two years left before finishing his criminal justice degree, Orozco looks toward the future.

“I would recommend PCC to anyone. The schedules are flexible and the classes are affordable,” he said.





Area served by the new Columbia County shuttle.

Roadblocks Removed

Thanks to a new partnership between Portland Community College and Columbia County, students from Columbia County are taking a new shuttle to classes at the Rock Creek Campus.

The \$20,000 contribution from PCC to support the shuttle paves the way toward an education for students who often mention that transportation challenges keep them from fully taking advantage of PCC services. The new shuttle, the Columbia Rider operated by Columbia County Transit, now picks up students at various points in Columbia County and transports them to the Rock Creek campus. The shuttle makes four round trips every Monday through Thursday and three round trips on Friday.

“For a long time Columbia County has struggled to support a meaningful transportation system and this is a dedicated service between the county and PCC,” said State Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose).

“My fervent hope is that it is well enough publicized and used and we can move toward somehow institutionalizing the service.”

PCC has long held a presence in Columbia County, which includes the towns of Scappoose, St. Helens and Vernonia. Credit and non-credit classes are offered at other community locations. Yet to complete a certificate or degree students still need to take classes at one of the PCC campuses. Each term about 300 to 400 students make the 30- to 40-mile trek to one of the campuses.

Last spring PCC hired a consulting firm to conduct a telephone survey to gauge community members’ interest in college classes. In interviews with 405 residents, 59 percent said they were interested in classes. When asked about barriers that kept residents from attending classes, three out of five residents said transportation.

The support from PCC District President Preston Pulliams and Rock Creek Campus President Katherine Persson won praises from Johnson.

“There has been real leadership from PCC to make this a reality,” she said. “I’m delighted with their responsiveness. Now folks need to validate the service by using it.”

Students pay a small fare to ride the shuttle to the campus. The fares range between 75 cents to \$3 for a one-way trip depending on the location of the pick up or drop off.

While the shuttle brings students into the Portland metropolitan area, PCC also continues to provide classes in Columbia County. In recent months the Vernonia Community Learning Center opened and PCC is offering credit and non credit classes at the site.

“We will be utilizing local qualified faculty as much as possible to staff the course offerings,” said Kelly Marks, Columbia County coordinator. “We are discussing the possibility of bringing additional services, specifically admissions and testing for larger groups of potential students, to the community.”

For more information about the shuttle and times of operation, visit, [www. http://www.pcc.edu/resources/parking/shuttle](http://www.pcc.edu/resources/parking/shuttle) or call 1-888-462-6526.

Dental Hygienists tell Central American children to open wide

PCC students brave the elements to ensure that youngsters have a healthy smile

There was little running water, and they faced a shortage of clean drinking water. They had to deal with the sparse availability of toilets, showering with cockroaches and being awakened by roosters every morning.

Would they go back again? Of course, they say.

“They” are a small group of PCC dental hygiene students and faculty who all joined forces with Northwest Medical Teams for a trip to Central America last spring. Their mission was to help poor children get the dental care they needed. In total, the group served 257 kids, care worth about \$85,000. With the help of three Peace Corps transla-

tors, the students spent four and a half days working on the kids, many of whom have never seen a dentist.

“The reason we went was because people there don’t have access to dental care,” said student **Tasha Kendall**. “The village we went to didn’t have a dentist and the nearest one is a few hours away by car, and most people there don’t have cars. There was so much need, that we couldn’t do all that was needed and some we had to leave with their care half done.”

The group included students Kendall, **Cam Saki, April Cherney, Anna La, Harry Adams and Janie Strickland**. Past student **Cara Kao-Young**, Interim Director of the



Dental Programs Josette Beach and one volunteer dentist, David Hernandez, also went. The group also shipped to the village 20 bags of supplies, such as suction units and drills, and a portable dental chair.

The students felt so strongly about the Honduras trip that they plan to make it a yearly class event to check up on the children and provide more services. This was the third year in a row that dental hygiene students have gone abroad with Northwest Medical Teams to help poor youth and families. The last two trips were to Cambodia and to Romania.

PCC Scholarship Winners

PCC is proud of its award-winning students. The following highlights some of the outstanding students who recently received scholarships through the PCC Foundation.

Kenneth Hartson won the Gwnedolyn Brewer Scholarship, named for the former manager at Emanuel Hospital who helped establish the Medical Laboratory Technology Program at Cascade. Hartson, now in the Medical Laboratory Technology Program, expects to graduate next year and hopes to transfer to OHSU.

Gloria Rentie is the Jean Buck Scholarship recipient, named in honor of one of the original English instructors at PCC who also helped design and open the first tutoring center in 1987. Rentie’s passion is the construction industry and hopes to someday work as a construction site safety coordinator.

Marketing student **Sasha Quintana** won the Sue George Scholarship. After graduation she hopes to transfer to University of Washington where she plans to eventually pursue an MBA. Sue George was one of the first instructors hired when PCC was first founded in the early 1960s. She was a business instructor and later became chair of the business department.

Accounting student **Johnny Parson Jr.** received the PCC Foundation Scholarship, funded through faculty and staff contributions and grants from corporations and foundations. After graduating from PCC Parson plans to transfer to a four-year university.

PCC Foundation Scholarships

More than 200 PCC students were honored for their hard work and determination during the annual PCC Foundation Scholarship reception in October. The event brings together scholarship donors and scholarship recipients.

The reception is inspirational for both students beginning their academic year and the many donors who made the awards possible. Two students, **Gentè Traylor**, a Cascade Campus student, and **Danny Turner**, also from Cascade, were featured speakers and related stories of how the scholarship awards are making their educational experiences possible.

For more information about giving to the PCC Foundation scholarship fund visit www.pcc.edu/giving or call 503-977-4382.



Art is what saved Una Kim when she moved to the United States from Korea as a teenager. Her English was poor and she basically threw herself into drawing.

“Art was my release,” said Kim, a PCC art instructor who teaches at the Cascade and Rock Creek campuses. “To me drawing was so easy.”

While she’s been painting for nearly three decades she never considered herself an artist until a few years ago.

“I didn’t call myself an artist until I was in my 30s,” she said. “You must have ownership over your art and I didn’t feel that ownership until I was much older.”

Kim moved with her family to the Los Angeles area when she was 16. She took art classes at a community college while still in high school.

“I was so happy and I was so intense because I was in my element,” she said. “I wanted more art, I wanted more of anything visual.”

She graduated with an art degree and honors from the University of Southern California. She applied to graduate school but was not immediately accepted. She was crushed.

She put the paintbrush down for a couple of years as she took time to figure out what she wanted out of life. She knew it involved art and hopefully someday teaching.

She finally applied to the prestigious Parsons School of Design (now named Parsons The New School for Design) in New

York City. She was given a full scholarship to attend and graduated with a master’s degree in fine art.

“My trying and trying got me places,” she said. “I gave everything 110 percent.”

After stints in Austin, Texas and Korea, Kim and her husband, Glen Perice, who teaches anthropology at PSU, and son moved to Portland. She’s been working at PCC for about five years and also teaches at PSU and Clackamas Community College. She teaches beginning and intermediate classes and is she’s impressed with her PCC students.

“The quality of work coming from some of my students is about the same as you would find at a four-year-university,” she said.

And teaching and creating art is only one part of her life. She also home schools her oldest child, now 13, and keeps busy with her twin 3-year-old daughters.

Calendar of Events:

A Look at What’s Ahead

JANUARY

Winter term classes begin on Monday, January 8. For registration information call 503-977-4933 or visit www.pcc.edu.

The Multicultural Center at the Sylvania Campus hosts PCC’s Eighth Annual Winter Powwow at noon on Saturday, Jan. 20. Native-American drum groups and dancers from around the region will meet in the HT Building gymnasium, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave. Native-American craft vendors will be on hand to sell their wares. For more information call 503-977-4112.

FEBRUARY

The Cascade Festival of African Films, the largest African film festival on the West Coast, will celebrate its 17th year during Black History Month. The festival will feature more than 20 films from the African continent. Held annually at the Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St., it is organized entirely by volunteers and is free and open to the public. For more information about this year’s program visit <http://www.africanfilmfestival.org/>.

MARCH

The Theater Arts program presents, “The Love of the Nightingale” at 7:30 p.m. on March 8-10 and March 16 & 17 and at 2 p.m. on March 18 in the Performing Arts Center at the Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave. The play is a contempo-

rary retelling of the ancient Greek myth of Philomele and her sister Procne. This vivid and evocative drama retells Ovid’s story with lush poetry and unforgettable imagery. For more information call 503-977-4949 or visit www.pcc.edu/theatre.

APRIL

Spring term classes begin on Monday, April 2. For information about registration call 503-977-4933 or visit www.pcc.edu

MAY

The Cascade Job Fair 2007 is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1 in the Cascade Campus gymnasium. More than 85 employers will be on hand. Admission is free. For more information visit <http://www.pcc.edu/resources/careers/fairs/cascade/>.

Opportunity

Jeff Guenther had his head in the clouds but his feet firmly planted on the ground when he pursued a job in aircraft maintenance. At PCC he completed the Aviation Maintenance Technology Program and the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program. Now he's studying at Oregon Institute of Technology.

"PCC teachers are very passionate about what they're doing and that rubs off."

Jeff Guenther
PCC Graduate
Current OIT student



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