

COLLEGE OF
Urban and Public Affairs

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Fall 2006 Newsletter

What's Inside

- International Efforts Growing
- Students Win Real Estate Challenge
- Elizabeth Kutza Remembered
- Sharpe and Strachan Establish Endowed Scholarship
- Oregon Solutions Leverages Resources
- A Partnership with Future Generations

Service-learning project improves lives of elderly Nicaraguans

In 2004, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Merck Institute on Aging and Health published a report recommending immediate action to mitigate worsening health conditions and increasing disability among older adults in Latin America and the Caribbean. Just prior to this, Martha Pelaez, PAHO regional adviser on aging and health, and Keren Brown Wilson, adjunct CUPA faculty member, had set the wheels in motion for a program aimed at understanding the needs and improving the quality of older adult lives in Nicaragua.

Many organizations have come together to accomplish the report's goals, including the Jessie F. Richardson Foundation (JFR), PSU, PAHO, the Ministries of Family and of Health in Nicaragua, University of Managua, Forward Edge International, along with Nicaraguan elders and their caregivers in *hogares para los ancianos* (homes for older adults), members of the University of the Third Age, and most recently, Engineers Without Borders.

The PSU program gives students a short-term travel abroad experience as they participate in an interdisciplinary service-learning program. Service learning is a deliberate, mutually beneficial connection between academic learning and community needs. As Wilson notes, "The Nicaragua Service Learning experience is an excellent example of how the



Students, faculty, and residents putting in a raised-bed garden in Masaya.

University can enhance its reputation as an institution with the ability to give students invaluable academic insight into global issues and the opportunity to work on solutions first hand."

Now entering its fourth year, the program consists of the two-week service-learning experience in Nicaragua as well as campus coursework led by Wilson; Margaret Neal, director of the Institute on Aging in the college's School of Community Health; and Marvin Kaiser, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Extreme poverty and a severe lack of government and community services are issues that students and faculty members have encountered in Nicaragua, many for the first time. Rather than providing short-term solutions, the program works to develop systems of

Letter from the dean

International efforts growing

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Mark O. Hatfield
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Institute for Nonprofit Management
Institute for Tribal Government
National Policy Consensus Center

Nohad A. Toulan School of
Urban Studies and Planning
Ethan Seltzer, Director
Center for Urban Studies
Population Research Center
Institute for Portland
Metropolitan Studies
Center for Transportation Studies



Portland State University's motto is "Let Knowledge Serve the City," and more and more this includes cities around the world, not just Portland. A few days ago I greeted a delegation of 30 professionals from the Bureau of Construction

visiting from the People's Republic of China. These people came from many provinces in China to learn about land use planning and sustainability. The training, a cooperative effort by the Hatfield School of Government, the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, and the International Sustainable Development Foundation, provides a week-long experience for the Chinese visitors.

Our list of international efforts is long. Birol Yesilida, a Hatfield School political science professor, was in Cyprus to work on the World Values Survey, the largest public opinion survey in the world. Margaret Neal led a delegation of students to Nicaragua to work on issues of aging and assisted living in that country.

A few weeks ago Ethan Seltzer, Toulan School director; Nohad Toulan, our emeritus founding dean; and I met with a delegation from Doha, Qatar, to discuss educational exchanges that will help them address emerging planning issues. The meeting was arranged by our good friend Nawzad Othman, principal of OTAK.

Meanwhile, the School of Community Health is working to establish a collaborating center with the World Health Organization (WHO) linking up with the Pan American Health Organization. Jan Semenza, professor of Community Health, is currently on leave working with WHO in Sweden to develop a European version of our US Centers for Disease Control.

Our students had a great year. Three students received prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship awards. Students from our Real Estate Certificate and the Master

of Urban and Regional Planning programs won the third annual Pacific Northwest Real Estate Challenge. Also, several of our students won PSU-wide awards for their community involvement efforts.

Fund raising for scholarships is making good progress. We started two new endowed scholarships in the Toulan School last year—the Ernie Bonner Equity Planning Endowed Scholarship and the Sumner Sharpe and Margaret Strachan Endowed Scholarship—and we continue to build on our other endowed funds.

For those of you who missed our fifth annual Urban Pioneer Dinner, it was a great night. Over 800 people saw NECA/IBEW Local 48, Williams and Dame Development, and Mike Lindberg accept their awards. This event raised twice as much for scholarships as in past years. We've made headway, but there is so much more to accomplish. I hope you will consider financial support of the college and its programs.

We start this year with two new faculty: John Gliebe in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning and Melody Ellis Valdini in the Division of Political Science in the Hatfield School of Government. I invite you read about them in this newsletter. Finally, and very sadly, Professor Elizabeth Kutza died in June. Beth was a wonderful individual and an accomplished scholar in the field of gerontology. She was loved and respected, and dedicated herself to our college and the Institute on Aging for almost 20 years. She is greatly missed, but her many contributions will be lasting.



Lawrence Wallack, Dean
College of Urban and Public Affairs

Students win real estate challenge

The “Bob Filley Cup,” displayed with renderings on the second floor of the Urban Center, illustrates the great potential in Portland State University’s Center for Real Estate. Last spring, seven graduate students, guided by adjunct professor Will Macht, won the award in the 2006 National Association of Industrial & Office Properties (NAIOP) Pacific Northwest Real Estate Challenge. With thoughtful planning, PSU’s students defeated teams from University of Washington, Washington State University, and University of British Columbia.

Their challenge was to propose development solutions for a two-block site in Seattle’s Elliott Bay, assuming the Alaskan Way Viaduct is replaced by an underground tunnel.

The process began in January as a winter term workshop culminating in a formal 60-minute presentation to NAIOP members, university representatives, and a nine-member judging panel of industry leaders on March 29. The team formulated an in-depth development plan and produced a 50-page book describing their project, dubbed the Elliott Bay Lofts. In two and a half months, students became intimately involved in a concentrated development process. Student Brad Lawliss, now working for Gerding Edlen Development, noted, “It is amazing how much the Elliott Bay Lofts prepared me to do this work.”

The learning experience was enhanced, as many are, with mentors. NAIOP provided all participating students with contacts in Seattle as well as their local chapter professionals. Real estate professionals, who have worked with Macht—president of his own development firm—stepped forward to work with his students. John Carroll, a prominent Portland developer, guided students on a hard hat tour of his latest recognizable project, the Elliott Tower.

While a group of industry coaches supplied support and inspiration, the students began with diverse skills. The winning team included six students in the Graduate Certificate Program in Real Estate Development: Nic Fetter, Erik Floberg, Anil Krishnamurthy,



Left to right: Erik Floberg, Brad Lawliss, Brian Nelson, Nic Fetter, Loriel Stutzman, and faculty members Gerry Mildner and Will Macht celebrate the team’s win.

Brad Lawliss, Brian Nelson, and Loriel Stutzman, as well as one student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program, Nicole Wolters.

The NAIOP workshop course tests teamwork skills. While Floberg and Krishnamurthy took charge in the market analysis, Lawliss constructed an elaborate economic model. Fetter met with construction contractors, returning to the group with cost estimates. After detailed investigation of impediments for the building envelope, Nelson drafted architectural plans. Wolters integrated green building innovations. Finally, the proposal was enhanced with Stutzman’s graphics and presentation preparation.

The student’s winning Elliott Bay Lofts design consisted of 285 middle-income urban lofts for echo boomers and single baby boomers above restaurant and retail space. By re-using an existing parking garage with an innovative strategy of long-term leasing, the team increased density, doubled the value of the parking structure in a transit-friendly way and produced the first LEED Gold-rated residential high-rise.

The annual NAIOP project is one of two Capstone development workshops available in the Center for Real Estate. Immersing the team in urban development decision making, the projects are intended to mirror real life, while pushing the envelope of the possible for the development community.

CRE Conference highlights real estate trends

On May 31, over 400 real estate developers, students, nationally-renowned economists, and interested community members came together to collectively consider, “The National Economy and Portland’s Future Skyline.” This was the theme of the PSU Center for Real Estate’s (CRE) sold out, first annual conference. The event highlighted the CRE’s regional role as an innovative industry resource.

Moderated by CRE Director Gerard Mildner, panelists Joe Cortright, vice president/economist, Impresa; Mark Edlen, Gerding/Edlen Development Company LLC; and Stephen Van Dusen, managing director, Eastdil Secured, offered insight on the regional market forces driving real estate. Keynote speaker Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist for Wells Fargo, also illustrated the national picture.

Conference dialogue reinforced the CRE’s significance. Questions regarding housing demand, the creative class, and the urban condo market remain on the forefront. The conference demonstrated that the center not only provides a well-prepared real estate workforce, but cultivates scholarly resources needed in envisioning Portland’s future skyline.

In Memoriam

Training series targets China

With nearly one-quarter of the world's population and one-fifth of its total landmass, the way in which China develops in the coming decades will affect areas far beyond the country's borders. In light of its rapid urbanization, the Ministry of Construction, which sets guidelines for China's urban planning and development, is facing the formidable task of designing a nationwide sustainable urban planning system that balances economic vitality, environmental quality, and livability.

The China-U.S. Sustainable Urban Planning and Design Training Program was conceived in 2002 among the International Sustainable Development Foundation, the U.S. Secretariat of the China-U.S. Center for Sustainable Development, and the Administrative Center for Rural and Urban Planning of China's Ministry of Construction. This year three trainings sessions will be held.

The PSU program curriculum combines the expertise of faculty, with the practical experience of government and business leaders. Local site visits complement lectures.

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities please contact Trish Hamilton, director of development and external relations at 503-725-5209 or thamilton@pdx.edu.

Elizabeth Ann Kutza, a professor for nearly 20 years in the College of Urban and Public Affairs and former director of its Institute on Aging, died June 9, 2006, in her Portland home. She was 61, and had been battling cancer for seven years.

The author and editor of dozens of books and articles exploring such topics as social welfare and health care policy for the elderly as well as the implications of the aging baby boom generation, Dr. Kutza was widely sought after as a consultant for congressional and cabinet-level offices. An expert on social and public policy issues affecting the elderly, she served on numerous state and federal task forces formed to study and implement policies that would help government serve the growing population of aging citizens.

Over the last several decades, Dr. Kutza had been commissioned by U.S. Senate and House of Representative committees to prepare papers on aging and health policy. These included "The Impact of Technology on Aging in America" for the congressional Office of Technology Assessment; "Age as a Criterion for Focusing Public Programs" for the Congressional Federal Council on Aging; and "Passed Over by Progress: Women at the Bottom" for the House Select Committee on Aging, Women in Midlife: Security and Fulfillment.

Nohad Toulan, founding and emeritus dean of the PSU College of Urban and Public Affairs, with whom Dr. Kutza had worked during her career at PSU, said, "What she has done for the Institute on Aging and the Adult Learning Center is truly remarkable. It is a major loss for the college, the University, and

all of us who knew her." Her colleagues and students describe her as being an outstanding mentor, teacher and guide who provided intellectual challenge and compassionate direction as well as being deeply committed to helping her students achieve.

Margaret Neal, current director of PSU's Institute on Aging said, "After initially experiencing awe and fear, her students grew to love and respect her; the awe never leaves." Another colleague, Sherril B. Gelmon, a professor of public health in PSU's Hatfield School of Government, said, "Much of what I do today as a senior faculty member, particularly working with doctoral students, has been shaped by learning from Beth and her graciousness and dignity." One of Dr. Kutza's graduate students, Brenda Sulick of Portland, said of her, "She took the time to get to know her students and understood when you needed a little push to move forward, and when you needed support."

Dr. Kutza received numerous awards and grants, including being a regional finalist in the White House Fellowship Program, receiving a Health Policy Fellowship Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a National Fellowship Award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and a Woman of Achievement Award from the Portland YWCA.

Dr. Kutza received a bachelor of science degree in psychology and sociology from Loyola University in 1966. She received a master of social work degree from Boston University in 1969 and a doctorate in policy analysis from the school of social service administration at University of Chicago. From 1976 through 1987, she taught at University of Chicago before moving to Portland and becoming director of the Institute on Aging in 1987.

The family suggests that remembrances be contributions in her honor to Portland's Walk of the Heroines, care of the PSU Foundation, 1600 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 850, Portland, OR 97201.



Dr. Elizabeth Kutza

Sharpe and Strachan establish endowed scholarship

Sumner Sharpe and Margaret Strachan are people who have devoted their careers to making a difference, and they are still doing just that.

This past spring, Sharpe and Strachan started an endowed scholarship fund in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning. The purpose of the fund is to award scholarships to students who are at least 30 years old, who are pursuing careers as professional planners, and who have made the commitment to pursue a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree at PSU.

“We believe, based on our personal experiences, that people often need a hand-up, especially when they make decisions to pursue a new career direction and are older with personal and family obligations. Hopefully, this scholarship will help ease some of those burdens and make that person’s educational experience more rewarding and less worrisome,” said Sharpe.

Sharpe has been in planning practice since 1958. Last year, he returned to the Toulan School as planner-in-residence, while continuing his consulting practice as a senior consultant with the Portland office of Parametrix, Inc.

His career has included teaching planning in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer; working in city planning in Vancouver, Washington, as well as regional planning in Portland; directing a non-profit economic opportunity agency in Clark County, Washington; and managing his private consulting practice. He was a member of the Urban Studies and Planning faculty from 1968 to 1985, and during that time returned to University of Washington, where he earned a Ph.D. in urban planning.

Originally a geography major at Dartmouth, Sharpe decided to pursue a degree in planning after courses in sociology and economics peaked his interest. He went on to receive a master’s degree in city and regional planning at Cornell University, followed by post-graduate study at the London School of Economics.

Strachan served as a Portland city commissioner from 1981 to 1986. She was the first woman elected—not appointed—to that office in her first term. She was commissioner in charge of planning, transportation and housing. During her term of office the Pearl District



Dean Lawrence Wallack (left) meets with Sumner Sharpe and Margaret Strachan.

rezoning occurred, setting the stage for redevelopment; the Central City Plan was developed; new housing in the Park Blocks was initiated; and city-county agreements on transfer of social services and functions occurred.

After she received her undergraduate degree from Carroll College in Helena, Montana, Strachan taught in the Helena schools before coming to Portland in the early 1970s. Before becoming a city commissioner, she served as volunteer manager for Charles Jordan’s successful campaign for city council, coordinator for Neighbors West/Northwest, and a member of Commissioner Mike Lindberg’s staff. After leaving office, she served as executive director of Central City Concern.

The Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning hosted a reception this past spring to announce this scholarship endowment. Over 100 friends and colleagues attended to celebrate this gift and join in the fund raising effort.

“Sumner and Margaret are supporting the important contribution that older, returning students can make to the field of planning. It is precisely these students who frequently face the greatest challenges in returning to school. This scholarship will enable both the Toulan School and the field to benefit from these highly motivated and committed students.”

—Ethan Seltzer, director of the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning.

If you would like more information on the Sumner Sharpe and Margaret Strachan Endowed Scholarship Fund, or if you would like to contribute, please contact Trish Hamilton at 503-725-5209 or thamilton@pdx.edu.

Oregon Solutions leverages resources

Women leaders train next generation

NEW Leadership™ Oregon presented its third annual leadership training program for women college students June 22-27 in the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

Thirty women, representing 12 different Oregon colleges and universities, learned the skills required for civic service from Oregon's top women leaders. Speakers included business leader Julie Harrelson of Ruby Communications, non-profit executive Sue Hildick from the Chalkboard Project, former Portland Mayor Vera Katz, and veteran pollster Lisa Grove, among many others.

A highlight of the week's events was the annual trip to Salem, where students held a mock legislative session in Senate chambers on a bill related to Oregon's hunger problem. The group also enjoyed a keynote address from former governor and outgoing NEW Leadership™ Oregon Advisory Board Chair, Barbara Roberts.

Next year, the group will tackle the issue of women's advancement in the world of sports through a legislative project focused on Title IX. For more information on the program and how you can help, please visit www.newleadershiporegon.org.

Oregon Solutions (OS) integrates and leverages public, private, and civic resources for collaborative, community-based projects. Among the 30 projects established during its mere three-and-a-half-year existence, are a six-mile trail from the historic camp of Lewis and Clark Fort Clatsop to the sea, the Prairie City School renovation, and Willamette Falls Locks



"... this is what good governance is about," said Bill Bradbury, Oregon secretary of state, at the north Portland Diesel Emissions Reduction Project celebration (pictured above). "Creating the conditions for communities to thrive, business to grow, and the environment around us to be healthy."

Preservation. As rewarding, perhaps, is the invisible process behind these projects, which is considered a national model of new community governance.

Born from the Oregon Sustainability Act of 2001, Oregon Solutions began within the executive branch of state government before relocating to the National Policy Consensus Center in PSU's Hatfield School of Government. The nonprofit mission of OS is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems by integrating businesses, governments, and nonprofit organizations.

How it works

OS projects are guided by 10 objectives signed into law during the 2001 legislative session. As outlined by these objectives, projects that best incorporate economic opportunities, support community, and address environmental

challenges are considered. Once designated by the governor as an official Oregon Solutions Project, he appoints a community convener. The creation of an Oregon Solutions team follows. This team sees the project through, from garnering resources to getting the project established as the community envisions it, on time and with integrity. Finally, the action plan is secured when OS Team members sign a Declaration of Cooperation.

Although projects are anchored on these elements of governance, each project tells its own story:

◆ North Portland Diesel Emissions Reduction

To address the unequal environmental health burden of diesel emissions in north Portland, an OS team consisting of community members, fleet operators, and regulators are collaborating to reduce emissions through fuel and equipment upgrade projects. Co-convened by Algie Gatewood, president of Portland Community College Cascade Campus, and Carl Talton, Portland Family of Funds, the project aligns with another OS project curbing diesel emissions at truck stops along the I-5 corridor.

◆ Oregon Sustainable Agricultural Resource Center

A Declaration of Cooperation signed in February 2006 shows Oregon's commitment to agricultural sustainability. The OS team, which includes Defenders of Wildlife, Oregon State University, and NORPAC, has responded to farmers' concerns on how to be sustainable. Led by governor-appointed convener, Thayne Dutson, dean of the college of agricultural sciences at Oregon State, OS has helped establish a resource center that makes information on certification, conservation biology, and best practices accessible to growers and the food industry. For more information about Oregon Solutions, visit www.orsolutions.org.

A partnership with future generations

The National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) in PSU's Hatfield School of Government is considering establishing a Center for Intergenerational Finance on campus.

Simply stated, intergenerational finance (IF) is a partnership with future generations made by investing in long-term benefits. By using scientifically proven tools like life-cycle assessment, well-designed collaborative governance and long-term revenue bonds, IF creates a profitable partnership with posterity.

"We already strive to provide a neutral forum for the resolution of problems that cross sectors and jurisdictions," explained Greg Wolf, NPCC director. A new Center for Intergenerational Finance will assist leaders with resources in implementing this new, complex economic tool.

Langdon Marsh, a fellow at the NPCC, said examples of IF already exist. The process becomes most clear in day-to-day stories in our community, including the following:

The Clean Water Services agency that provides sewage services in the Tualatin watershed recently adopted a program to offset the additional temperature one of its plants added to the watershed, contributing to a water quality violation. Instead of expensive technological fixes to its plant, the agency will pay upstream farmers to restore stream side habitats. This restoration will deliver cooler water to the system at a fraction of the cost with the added benefits of habitat protection, carbon absorption, and revenue for farmers.

An IF center would investigate ways to extend these and similar benefits, or "services," across regions and sectors, including energy, agriculture, manufacturing, information, transportation, health, and social services. The result is not a single solution to a single problem, but a researched-based, integrated bundle of projects, products, and services.

What exactly are these services? Ecological services, for example, are those benefits that people get from ecosystems. The recently published United Nations Millennium Ecosystem

Assessment, a five-year international scientific assessment of environmental change and human consequences, identifies approximately 60 of these services. In a forest ecosystem, this may include products (food, fuel, wood), natural benefits (climate, soil erosion control), or cultural benefits (recreational).

Beyond the forest exist many other services to incorporate into an IF framework, such as ecosystem services, energy services, wellness services, and educational services.

The key challenge lies in identifying the appropriate measures of success—noting that each service must fundamentally have a set of performance metrics. Drawing on the forest example, public-private partnerships may thrive on long-term returns bolstered by the amount of carbon sequestration, park acreage, or regional asthma rates.

To begin identifying key services, measures, and research needs, NPCC held a symposium in May 2006 that brought together top scientists, economists, life cycle assessment specialists, and other experts. Hank Patton, president of World Steward and principal creator of the IF concept, presented the core ideas as a first step in creating a national network around IF.

Initial funding by the Lazar Foundation, enables the NPCC and World Steward to explore PSU as a prospective place to guide intergenerational finance. The Center for Intergenerational Finance could: continue development of performance metrics; develop models, case studies, and consensus processes; conduct outreach to a growing network of private and public leaders interested in participation; identify regions where regional utilities could be effectively established; and plan for the eventual scaling up of IF to national and international levels.

With an IF center at PSU, potential partnerships would begin in Oregon, but could reach out to other universities, communities, developing nations and, of course, generations.

Program features national historians

Staff of the Institute for Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) are administering the second-year of an approximately \$1 million grant for Portland Public Schools. The three-year Teaching American History (TAH) grant from the U.S. Department of Education was pursued and written by institute staff last year.

The program helps instructors at the middle- and high school-levels become more effective teachers of American history. The staff consists of PSU faculty Carl Abbott and Craig Wollner, who have, with David Peterson Del Mar of the PSU History Department, written a curriculum focused on 19th and 20th century topics as they relate to regional history. The program also includes lectures by well known historians, who provide national background in specific topic areas.

Meg Merrick of IMS Community Geography Project, and TAH program Coordinator Diane Besser train participants from Portland and Beaverton schools in GIS. Teachers participate in an intensive two-week summer institute, where they create a unit with curriculum guide and a fact-based drama to be performed in the classroom. The units are shared with teachers throughout the region for use in their classrooms.

New faculty appointments

Values survey to aid Cyprus

Birol Yesilada and his research team (Harry Anastasiou of PSU, Craig Webster and Nicos Peristianis of Cyprus) completed the first World Values Survey of Cyprus.

WVS is the largest public opinion study in the world—conducted in 99 countries every five years. The World Values Surveys were designed to provide a comprehensive measurement of all major areas of human concern, from religion and politics to economic and social life. Two dimensions dominate the picture: traditional/secular-rational and survival/self-expression values. These two dimensions explain more than 70 percent of the cross-national variance in a factor analysis of 10 indicators—and each of these dimensions is strongly correlated with scores of other important orientations.

By completing this survey in Cyprus, Yesilada's research team will provide valuable insight into similarities and differences of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Results should be of great value to diplomats and local officials as they continue their efforts to solve the island's problem of political and territorial division.

Preliminary findings of the survey will be made public during a press conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, September 14.

John P. Gliebe



has been appointed to the Nohad A. Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning beginning fall term. He graduated with a civil engineering Ph.D. specializing in transportation planning and sys-

tems analysis, from Northwestern University in 2004. His teaching and research interests include transportation system modeling, activity-based modeling, land use modeling and simulation, discrete choice models, multivariate statistical methods, and transportation and land use planning.

Gliebe has been a travel demand modeling consultant for Parsons Brinckerhoff/PB Consult, Inc., since 2000. Based in Portland for the past two years, he has worked closely with the travel modeling staff at Metro.

In addition to a transportation specialization, Gliebe earned a master's degree in regional planning from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1992, where he focused on land use and environmental planning. He also worked for several years in both the public and private sector on a variety of land use and transportation planning projects.

While Gliebe's research interests tend toward methodological innovations, his overarching goal is to produce better tools for immediate use in policy applications.

"Oregon is a national leader in integrated land use-transportation modeling, with an active research and development program," he said. "The opportunity to build an academic research program in modeling at a University Transportation Center, with a parallel commitment of state-level support for modeling research, was extremely attractive and instrumental in my decision to come to PSU."

Melody Ellis Valdini



has been appointed to the Division of Political Science in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government beginning fall 2006. Her Ph.D. is from University of California, San Diego. Valdini's teaching and

research interests include gender issues surrounding voter trends and candidates. She is also working on a paper addressing the issue of the under-representation of women and people of color in government. She has presented at a number of national conferences, including the American Political Science Association meetings in Washington, D.C.

Both of Valdini's parents are professors—her mother in English and her father in philosophy—so academia is in her blood. Valdini's family moved often while she was growing up. She was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and lived in Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, and finally moved to California during high school, where she had been ever since.

Her main interest outside of political science is music; she was even a jazz/funk drummer in college. Even though Valdini doesn't have much time for drums anymore, she still likes to play. Her husband, Andy, is a professional viola and violin player and teacher.

"Our new faculty bring us new ideas, new energy, and new possibilities. We have two exceptional people joining us for the new year."

—Lawrence Wallack, Dean

Alumni feature

Alumni making a difference

Erin Wilson MURP '06

Erin Wilson is working full time at Parson's Brinckerhoff, where she interned the summer after her first year working on developing integrated transportation-land use models for Oregon and Ohio.



The recent graduate was a research assistant in the Intelligent Transportation Systems Lab with professors Robert Bertini and Christopher Monsere. Wilson was a student representative to the Admissions Committee and the M.U.R.P. Alumni Board, as well as a leader in the Planning Club, and the urban planning liaison to the Students in Transportation Planning and Engineering (STEP) group.

A Cornell graduate, Wilson arrived in Portland in spring 2002 and took a job as a program manager with the American Cancer Society. While working on a physical activity program, she came across a paper about the links between health and urban planning by Prof. Jennifer Dill. Realizing that the time was right to go back to school and pursue her interest in planning, Wilson met with Dill who eventually became her adviser. Wilson was looking for a school with a strong transportation program and found that PSU had great opportunities in that area.

Eric Brown MPH '97

Eric Brown is chief executive officer at American Red Cross Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services—a post he has held since January 2005.

Brown has more than 16 years of leadership in the blood-banking industry, focusing on regulatory compliance, quality assurance, customer management, strategic planning and managing manufacturing processes.

As a strong advocate for the public's involvement in issues of public health, Brown feels that there is no more tangible way for the

public to be involved in the health of the community than through donating blood or blood platelets.

"Maintaining a safe, reliable blood supply for the community is everyone's responsibility, and every effort made by the public to donate is critical and valuable," said Brown. He encourages anyone interested in donating to call 1-800-GIVELIFE to schedule an appointment, or visit www.nwblood.redcross.org for information on volunteering.

Brown also sits on the board of directors for the Oregon Donor Program, the American Association of Blood Banks, and the Oregon Public Health Association. In his spare time, he is a veteran member of the Red Cross Dragon Boat team, and enjoys hunting through estate sales and antique shops for vintage treasures for his home.

John Santa MPH '05

In February, John Santa became project director for the Attorney Generals Consumer and Prescriber Grants Program. The program provides grants designed to create and disseminate curriculum focused on improving appropriate prescribing.

"I would not be able to do this work if it were not for the information and experience I gained in the MPH program at PSU," he said.

Thirty grantees from many of the country's largest academic medical centers are pursuing grants in the program.

Santa is also a primary care clinical practitioner at Portland Veterans Administration, and he provides consulting services to the Department of Human Services Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Program and represents providers on the board of the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool.

Santa said he is pleased to find Portland State MPH graduates throughout the Oregon health industry and looks forward to working with other alumni to change an industry that so urgently needs reform.

Presidential fellows named

The Presidential Management Fellows Program recently made awards to students Amy Pearson and Sara Boario, from the Hatfield School of Government, and Michelle Abernathy, from the School of Community Health.

The fellowship is a leadership development program that gives students opportunities to work with and impact public policy. The rigorous two-year, paid program, includes 80-hours of training each year, developmental assignments, accelerated promotions, and opportunities to network between agencies.

Fellows are hired by agencies to work on domestic and international issues in public administration, technology, science, criminal justice, health, financial management, national security, and many other fields.

Feature continued

Continued from page 1

“The Nicaragua service-learning experience is an excellent example of how the University can enhance its reputation as an institution with the ability to give students invaluable academic insight into global issues and the opportunity to work on solutions first hand.”

—Keren Brown Wilson,
adjunct CUPA faculty

Help us practice sustainability

In an effort to promote sustainable practices and reduce costs, the college would like to communicate with alumni and friends electronically. Please send your email address to Trish Hamilton at thamilton@pdx.edu to help us in this effort. This information will not be shared with anyone outside of PSU.

Thanks to all of you who have sent in your email addresses.

support for the *hogares* (homes) that will enable the locals to sustain themselves.

In 2004, nine graduate and undergraduate students and two faculty members traveled to Nicaragua to work in *hogares* for the elderly. In 2005 the program grew to 15 students and three faculty; in 2006, 18 students and five faculty members participated. The activities and outcomes of the program have been significant. The Life Enrichment Activity Program, consisting of training manuals focused on universal precautions, dementia, urinary incontinence, and physical activity, was used in Nicaragua to train caregivers of older adults.



Students and faculty leading physical exercises in Juigalpa.

During their time in Nicaragua, students and faculty identified water resources as an important unmet need, since lack of available potable water hampered the provision of sanitary services, as well as impacting livability in the *hogares*. Thus, in the second year of the program, professional engineers from Engineers Without Borders joined students and faculty to add a focus on water projects. Also, a nursery expert supervised the creation of a raised-bed garden and the planting of trees at a *hogar* to help protect the residents' sleeping quarters against the scorching sun. In addition, a meeting was convened with faculty from universities across Nicaragua to discuss curricular needs in gerontology. This was the first time representatives of different Nicaraguan universities had come together for

any purpose. Other activities involved identifying possible micro-enterprise opportunities for the *hogares* to promote economic stability and to develop stronger community support through the identification of assets and community resources. Students also participated in the opening of a pharmacy focused on older adult needs, which was started through a partnership between JFR Foundation and aging advocates in Managua.

This past winter and spring, the program involved the most diverse group of students yet. Students from the fields of public health, gerontology, public administration, biology, engineering, urban studies and planning, and community development participated.

Students and faculty divided into four teams. Two teams focused their efforts in Boaco. One group trained local elders as interviewers, who then conducted a needs assessment of Boacan elders. The second group concentrated its efforts on community development, which led to a public meeting with over 70 persons attending from various community service agencies concerned with the needs of local elders. In the third group, engineering students erected a new water tower to increase the water supply for the *hogar* in Jinotepe, and in the fourth group, engineering students designed and installed an irrigation system for an orchard at the *hogar* in Matagalpa. Another program outcome was a partnership in Boaco among a local advocacy group of elders, the community library, and the JFR Foundation, which culminated in a micro-enterprise store that will provide work opportunities and funding for older adults and the community at large.

This coming year, the program will continue to evolve, incorporating students in additional fields, such as architecture. It has become a truly interdisciplinary endeavor that has impacted the lives of both students and older adults in Nicaragua. Please contact Margaret Neal for more information at nealm@pdx.edu or 503-725-5145.

Alumni continued

Continued from page 9

Santa first returned to school in 1999 to pursue a master's degree at Oregon Health & Sciences University. He had run a successful clinical practice in internal medicine and worked in administrative positions in the health insurance and medical group sectors.

Santa transferred to PSU after accepting a position in the Gov. John Kitzhaber's administration as administrator of the Office of Oregon

Health Policy and Research. PSU's masters program provided exposure to current administrative and policy approaches that were relevant to the projects Santa managed.

He left state government in 2003, the same year he started the Drug Effectiveness Review Project at OHSU's Center for Evidence-Based Policy. He worked as the project's medical director.

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AGHE conference comes to Portland

The School of Community Health's Institute on Aging (IOA) welcomes the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) to Portland for its 33rd annual conference. Margaret Neal, IOA director, is the chair of local arrangements. She and her committee are busily preparing for the 2007 event that is expected to attract approximately 500 professionals.

Attendees will explore the theme, "Mentorship-The Dyad, Triad and Beyond." This theme honors relationships, both academic and personal, as an influence on quality of life. To begin, keynote speaker Gert Boyle, will elucidate the theme with stories from her 81 years of life experiences, including motherhood, author of *One Tough Mother*, and chairman of Columbia Sportswear Company.

The conference will be held March 1-4, 2007, at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower. Individuals interested in volunteering or learning more about the conference, can contact Margaret Neal at nealm@pdx.edu or 503-725-5145.

Registration information can be found at the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education's Web site, www.aghe.org.

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The Institute for Portland Metropolitan Studies is currently looking for sponsors for this innovative project. For more information or to become a sponsor visit our Web site at www.pdx.edu/ims/ or contact Sheila Martin, director of the Institute for Portland Metropolitan Studies at 503-725-5137 or sheilam@pdx.edu. The release of the 2007 Metropolitan Briefing Book will kick off a series of discussions about these issues.