

COLLEGE OF

Urban and Public Affairs

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Spring 2006 Newsletter

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City commissioner's office invites MURP students to dig in

by Merry MacKinnon, merrymackinnon@yahoo.com

As interim chief of staff to a Portland city commissioner, Brendan Finn often sees imaginative proposals consigned to the limbo of unbudgeted good ideas. So, to avoid the shelving of promising proposals, Finn looks for opportunities to involve Portland State University in public projects in the areas which he oversees—environment, sustainable development, and urban planning.

Last year, Finn, who works for Commissioner Dan Saltzman, found just such an opportunity, and invited PSU on a mission to expand urban agriculture. Having earned a Master of Urban and Regional Planning at Portland State University, Finn says, "I'm a proud MURP, and I'm aware that there is a world-class planning program right up the street from City Hall."

The idea for the urban agriculture project started with one city-owned corner lot, vacant except for a small pump station, and surrounded by single-family houses. With neighborhood support, in 2004 the Bureau of Parks and Recreation converted the unoccupied land into a community garden. Within Saltzman's office, Bureau of Parks and Recreation runs Portland's 30 community gardens, which have a waiting list of 400 households.

After Parks installed a watering system at the inner southeast Portland pump-station property, citizens began growing vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers on their assigned plots. Meanwhile, Saltzman realized that Portland probably owned hundreds of properties



Applauded at a recent Portland City Council meeting for their groundbreaking "Diggable City" planning project, MURP students surround Commissioner Dan Saltzman at City Hall. Pictured are Teak Wall (MURP), Saltzman's interim chief of staff Brendan Finn, Heather Kaplinger (MURP), Commissioner Saltzman, PSU professor Deborah Howe, Paul Rosenbloom (MURP), Amanda Rhoads (MURP), and Kevin Balmer (MURP). Completing the award-winning student planning project team are James Gill, Joe Mille, and Melissa Peterson (not shown). Photo credit: Merry MacKinnon

with similar possibilities for urban agriculture. "A light went off," recounts Finn.

That's when Finn started making phone calls to PSU's Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning and thus began what Finn calls an "amazing" effort by PSU graduate students and city staff (with Finn as project manager) to survey publicly owned land for its food production potential.

Finn coordinated with Paul Rosenbloom, a graduate student in PSU's Urban and Regional Planning Program. Rosenbloom recruited seven other students, all enrolled in a two-quarter

Letter from the dean

College of Urban and Public Affairs

School of Community Health

Carlos Crespo, Director
Center for Public Health Studies
Institute on Aging

Mark O. Hatfield

School of Government

Ronald Tammen, Director
Division of Criminology
and Criminal Justice
Division of Political Science
Division of Public Administration
Criminal Justice Policy Research
Institute

Executive Leadership Institute
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
Center for Population Research
and Census
Institute of Portland
Metropolitan Studies
Center for Transportation Studies



There is a continuing stream of great news about our College of Urban and Public Affairs. At every turn there are CUPA faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends doing something extraordinary.

Our Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, directed by Ethan Seltzer, in collaboration with the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, was just awarded a very substantial federal University Transportation Center. The center, housed in the Toulan School, is distinguished by its focus on the application of land use planning and intelligent traffic systems to this issue that is so central to livability and economic development in our region. And it's not just about the usual motorized vehicles; it's about walking and bicycling as well.

The Hatfield School of Government, directed by Ron Tammen, is taking the issue of globalization seriously. It has programs with China, Vietnam, Japan, and Mexico, and is working on new initiatives in Botswana, Chile, and the Ukraine. HSOG also holds the only endowed chair in Contemporary Turkish Studies in the United States. The Hatfield School's NEW Leadership™ Oregon program for women in civic leadership and Oregon Solutions program are examples of leading edge academic and public service initiatives.

National Education for Women's Leadership™ Oregon is an intensive six-day residential leadership training program specifically designed to introduce Oregon's college women to opportunities for civic leadership. The Oregon Solutions Program brings together

local groups to solve local problems using sustainable methods. It promotes collaborative efforts among government agencies, commercial business, and nonprofit organizations in support of Oregon's economy, environment, and communities. Oregon Solutions has projects under way around the state.

The School of Community Health under new director, Carlos Crespo, is one of 12 schools and graduate programs of public health taking on the challenge of becoming engaged institutions focused on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. This initiative is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Another project seeks to implement health-promoting neighborhood interventions to increase social capital, encourage walking and bicycling, and revitalize communities.

Each of the schools is working hard to generate additional financial support for its students. The Toulan School just announced a new endowed scholarship in memory of Ernie Bonner, legendary Portland planner. In the Hatfield School the Ron Cease Endowed Scholarship continues to grow and benefit our students. And the School of Community Health is working to build its general scholarship fund. Our continuing ability to attract the best quality students as we compete with top universities around the country depends on providing strong scholarship support. If you are interested in supporting this part of our mission please contact Trish Hamilton, our director for external affairs, at 503-725-5209. Also, if you have any questions about the many exciting activities going on here at the college, please feel free to give me a call at 503-725-4043.



Lawrence Wallack, Dean

Center for Transportation Studies receives national designation

Last July, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) announced that Portland State University's Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) has been designated as a national transportation center, one of 10 in the nation, and that it will receive a total of \$16 million in federal funding through 2009 for transportation research, education, and outreach programs. The CTS at Portland State University is in partnership with the University of Oregon (UO), Oregon State University (OSU), and the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT).

"I am pleased to secure funding for such a worthy project," said DeFazio, who explained that Portland State University will lead the UO, OSU, and OIT in a unique partnership to conduct research on transportation and transit systems.

"This is an affirmation of the research done by PSU faculty in both the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science and the College of Urban and Public Affairs," said PSU President Daniel O. Bernstine.

Established in 1966, the center strives to stimulate and conduct multidisciplinary research on transportation issues, facilitating the dissemination of information and encouraging the implementation of research results. In 2003, Professor Robert L. Bertini, serving in both the Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, was appointed CTS director. "Our work will be multimodal, urban/rural, statewide and multidisciplinary—so far we have identified nearly 100 faculty in 27 departments at our four institutions who are interested in transportation research. We look forward to continuing our strong community partnerships with transportation agencies and industry, and to fueling the workforce with more

transportation graduates who will become leaders of tomorrow," says Bertini.

Approximately 25 graduate courses specializing in transportation subjects are taught with more than 50 degrees awarded since 1998. PSU currently offers eight graduate programs with transportation specializations:

- Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- Master of Science, Master of Engineering, and Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering
- Master of Urban Studies and Ph.D. in urban studies
- Dual master's degree in urban and regional planning and civil and environmental engineering
- Graduate Certificate in Transportation

The 10 national centers are the University of Alaska; Marshall University (on behalf of a consortium of West Virginia colleges and universities); University of Minnesota; University of Missouri-Rolla; Northwestern University; Oklahoma Transportation Center; Portland State University (in partnership with UO, OSU, and OIT); University of Vermont; Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University; and the University of Wisconsin.

There are 42 other centers, not nationally designated, authorized for lower amounts of money, including the University of California, Davis; the University of Idaho; Iowa State University; MIT; Penn State University; Texas A&M University; and the University of Washington.

The CTS administration and faculty wish to acknowledge the support of many public and private partners for being designated a national center along with \$16 million in federal funding. For additional information, please link to the Web site for the CTS at www.cts.pdx.edu.

"Their research will be critical to federal, state, and local officials in planning and enhancing our transportation systems and in turn improving our national economy,"

**Congressman
Peter DeFazio**

New director appointed to the School of Community Health

Following a national search, Portland State President Daniel O. Bernstine has appointed Carlos Crespo as director of the School of Community Health in the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

Crespo is a former associate professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo and at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. “Dr. Crespo is a nationally respected scholar whose leadership will enhance the growing reputation of the School of Community Health,” said Dean Lawrence Wallack.

Prior to joining PSU, Crespo taught at various colleges on the East Coast, including the State University of New York and American University. He also worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the National Center for Health Statistics and as a public health analyst for the Office of Prevention, Education and Control of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health. Crespo received his Dr.P.H. from Loma Linda University.

Dr. Crespo states, “It was very attractive to join a university whose mission involves a constant connection with the

community. I have the opportunity to work with a diverse group of top scholars to address community health issues that serve our region and beyond.”

His main area of research involves the epidemiology of physical activity in the prevention of chronic diseases and minority health issues. He has over 60 publications, has co-authored five textbooks, and been a contributing author to more than 10 government publications. In 1997 he received the Secretary of Health Award for Distinguished Service and in 2003 became a Minority Health Scholar at the National Institutes of Health.

The School of Community Health offers a B.A./B.S. in health studies in four concentrations along with a minor in community health. Other programs include an M.A./M.S. in physical activity/exercise and mind body health, a Master of Science in physical activity and risk reduction, and a Master of Public Health in health promotion, which is offered as a part of the Oregon M.P.H. program. The school also participates in the Public Administration and Policy as well as the Urban Studies doctoral programs, focusing on training in community health and gerontology. The Institute on Aging operates within the School of Community Health and is a multidisciplinary unit that conducts research, provides training, and offers service to the community on the broad issues of adult development and aging.

Gelmon to chair international conference

Hatfield School of Government faculty member, Sherril Gelmon, will be the faculty chair of the 6th Annual International Service-Learning Research Conference in Portland this October. The conference, hosted each year by a different university, presents the most recent breakthroughs in service-learning research at all educational levels (K-12 education, teacher education, and higher education). New research, methodological and theoretical advances, and agendas for studying various aspects of service-learning are presented.

This year’s theme is “From Passion to Objectivity: International and Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Service-Learning Research.” It highlights several perspectives that have been touched upon in previous conferences—the passion and commitment to social change that drives many in service-learning research; the demands for rigorous and objective methods to substantiate findings; the desire to promote international dialogue related to service-learning and engagement research; and the opportunity to stimulate further cross-disciplinary collaborations.

Contact slrsrch@pdx.edu for more information on the conference.



New scholarship established in memory of Ernie Bonner

The Ernie Bonner Equity Planning Endowed Scholarship has been created in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning. It was established from a gift by Ernie's wife, Lynn, and the Bonner family in honor of the late Ernie Bonner, director of the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and long-time civic activist.

The fund will provide scholarships for students pursuing a Master of Urban and Regional Planning or a Ph.D. in urban studies who have a stated interest in equity planning and/or the use of planning to advance conditions of social equity in our society.

"Ernie's hope for planning and policy-making was always that public policy would increase equity and fairness in society," said Lynn. "He often wrote that planning should provide 'more choices for those who have fewest'; that is the essence of equity planning. The family feels that this scholarship will keep Ernie's concept of equity planning alive in coming generations of planners. We also appreciated the pleasure and privilege of working with the faculty and staff of the College of Urban and Public Affairs."

This is a very significant donation to the Toulan School, and represents an important new opportunity for current and prospective students. "I am extremely proud that the Bonner family has chosen the Toulan School to be the home for the Ernie Bonner Scholarship," said Ethan Seltzer, director of the Toulan School. "Ernie's work was innovative and very important, two traits that I hope we can embody always in the work we do here."

The scholarship was announced at a reception at the College of Urban and Public Affairs with guest speaker Norman Krumholtz, a professor in the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Krumholtz worked with Bonner in Cleveland, where Krumholz served as planning director from 1969–1979. Ernie Bonner was the first person he hired, and he remained a life-long friend. The

Cleveland Policy Plan that Krumholtz and Bonner wrote was recently declared a "Planning Landmark" by the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Lynn Bonner and Norman Krumholtz

Before announcing the scholarship fund, Lynn visited the PSU Library to view the digitized collection of her husband's urban planning papers, which she donated to the library in 2005. The Ernie Bonner collection includes notes, clippings, and reports concerning housing, waterfront development, the downtown Park Blocks, the east bank of the Willamette River, city hall, Portland Development Commission projects, and other documents relevant to Portland planning policies and history.

Ernie Bonner came to Portland in 1973 and left as the city's planning chief in 1978. He served as a METRO councilor, as president of Sunlight Energy Systems, as a distributor of solar equipment, and then as energy conservation manager for the Bonneville Power Administration. More recently, he served on the Portland Planning Commission. Prior to Portland, Bonner was chief planner for Cleveland, overseeing the creation of that city's comprehensive plan. Bonner died in 2004, at the age of 71, after a long battle with cancer.

Double the impact of your gift!

Brian Bonner, Ernie's brother, has generously pledged to match donations to the Ernie Bonner Equity Planning Endowed Scholarship up to a total of \$50,000. Brian said, "Our parents taught us that we are responsible for our community as well as for ourselves...that we have an obligation to not merely be a taker but to be a giver, to make a difference. It was a given that Ashley and I would contribute, but we both grew up in families with lots of brothers and knew how sibling challenges work. I was constantly in a friendly competition with Ernie. We thought it would be a lot more fun to see how much we could raise if we engaged the extended family in a 'make a difference' contest. And, since our grandfather for whom Ernie was named, Ernest E. Bonner, had lived in Portland this would be a great way for our family to honor both of them. So Ashley and I upped the ante and offered to match contributions one for one. It was time to start talking about some real money and how all the Bonners can make a difference!"

To contribute to this scholarship fund or for more information, please contact Trish Hamilton at thamilton@pdx.edu or 503-725-5209.

Community food matters

Partner study using community food organizations

Working with faculty in the 2004–2005 school year, Community Food Matters (CFM) assisted eight faculty in Urban Studies and Planning and Community Health to incorporate food system issues into their curriculum and place students in service learning situations related to sustainable community food systems. Over 770 students in 18 courses were reached, with over 160 participating in community-based service learning projects. The work continues this year. Students have worked with such organizations as the Oregon Food Bank, Eastbank Farmers Market, Hollywood Farmers Market, and Community Health Partnership. They have piloted a community-based film and dialogue series and contributed to food system assessment research. CFM maintains a listserv, open to the community, where information related to regional food system issues can be shared. You can sign up for this listserv on the Community Food Matters Web site, www.communityfoodmatters.org.

What's for dinner and why does it matter? Such are the questions at the heart of a new initiative in the College of Urban and Public Affairs. Planners, policy makers, and community health workers are discovering how food systems impact community well-being, and the pivotal roles these professions play in shaping sustainable community food systems.

Community Food Matters is a service learning and service scholarship initiative that meets community needs while training the next generation of food system leaders. Born in 2002 of the need to provide a collaborative, systemic approach to regional food system issues, Community Food Matters' mission is to improve economic, environmental, and human health in rural and urban communities through the development of sustainable food systems. Its objectives are to (1) convene real and virtual spaces for networking and learning about food system issues, (2) collect and share information about regional food system issues, (3) help catalyze responses to identified gaps and opportunities.

The seed for Community Food Matters (CFM) was first planted in June 2001 when a mini-grant from the Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning enabled the convening of key food system stakeholders to consider the merits of a collaborative, systemic approach to regional food system issues. The reply was unanimously positive: while the Portland metropolitan region was clearly a leader on many food system issues, indicators such as hunger and food security, farmland loss, and environmental stewardship demonstrated that we are far from achieving a truly sustainable food system. An advisory team including representatives from food access, food production, community and economic development, and education was assembled to define the mission, objectives, and structure for moving the effort forward.

In 2004, Professors Leslie McBride (School of Community Health) and Barry Messer (Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning)

partnered with Janet Hammer (doctoral candidate and director CFM) to secure funding as part of the Oregon Civic Solutions: Statewide Partnerships for Public Service grant funded through the Center for Academic Excellence by Learn and Serve America and Oregon Campus Compact. With this funding, the team has produced spectacular results serving faculty, students, and the community at large.

Seeking a home from which to meet its mission, in 2005 CFM moved to PSU as an emerging initiative of the School of Community Health and the Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning. A team of community-based advisers is maintained.

In meeting the objective of collecting and sharing information on the health of the region's food system, major work is under way to launch a regional food system assessment. Food System Assessments include information on economic, environmental, and social dimensions of the food system; indicators may address such things as food access, farm viability, diet-related health outcomes, food-based economic development, and environmental stewardship in food production and distribution. Such assessment can help identify gaps and opportunities and be used by governmental, non-governmental, and private sector organizations to develop programs and policies that promote a more sustainable food system in this region.

Recent work with key food system leaders identified an emerging need for planners, community developers, public health professionals, and policy workers with multi-disciplinary training that allows them to "see across the system." CFM-PSU stands ready to meet that challenge.



Photo Credit: Vicki Grayland vickigrayland.com

Hatfield School leads canal restoration in Vietnam

Since embarking on economic reform and opening its doors to international markets, Vietnam has experienced rapid urbanization and industrialization. This growth outpaced the extension of environmental controls for Vietnam's population of over 80 million. In response, the U.S. Asian Environmental Partnership requested the Hatfield School's assistance. Since 2004 an alliance of the College of Urban and Public Affairs (CUPA), Portland State University (PSU) and commu-



Tan Hoa - Lo Gom Canal in District 11 of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

nity environmental members have collaborated with Vietnamese partners in restoring a highly-polluted canal in Ho Chi Minh City.

Two Hatfield School units, the National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) and the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) modified our home-grown "Oregon Solutions" approach for this purpose. The Oregon Solutions approach integrates and leverages public, private, and non-profit resources in a collaborative process to support economic development, environmental protection, and community well-being. This approach addresses the growing need for multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approaches in restoring and sustaining the health of ecological systems. In Vietnam, the approach is referred to as "community-based environmental management (CBEM)."

Over the last two years, many CUPA faculty and Portland community volunteers traveled to Vietnam to share Oregon's environmental management best practice solutions. CUPA hosted more than 30 community, university, and government workers from Vietnam who are interested in learning about Oregon's environmental successes first hand. The results are both encouraging and promising.

Vietnamese officials embraced the CBEM approach in several of their urban communities. In Vietnam, more than 500 community, nonprofit, and business organizations attended workshops and special events involved in restoring the Tan Hoa-Lo Gom Canal. With CUPA's and Portland's assistance, several Vietnamese urban schools, along with the Dam Sen amusement park, initiated recycling campaigns. Communities also initiated local clean up and tree planting events. Concurrently, the Hatfield School developed a practical CBEM Toolkit and provided training on the Toolkit for Vietnamese community organizers. At CUPA, many faculty and students have had an opportunity to learn about environmental issues in another country and bring that knowledge back into the classroom.

Vietnam, in cooperation with PSU, continues to seek additional opportunities—including relevant knowledge and experience from the United States and other countries—to improve its urban and industrial environmental management. Recently, CUPA was honored to welcome a Fulbright scholar, Phung Thuy Phuong, from the Vietnam National University, College of Natural Sciences, Ho Chi Minh City, to study community-based environmental management. Phung is currently researching the application of environmental management in Oregon to determine how it can be best adapted for the Vietnamese context. This is truly a "natural" fit that aligns with CUPA's on-going community-based governance research, teaching, and global outreach.

"The college's community-based environmental management canal reconstruction project facilitates mutual learning among students, faculty, and community organizations both in the Portland region and in South East Asia."

Marcus Ingle
Professor of Public Administration,
Executive Leadership Institute, Global Initiatives Program

New faculty appointments

"One of the most gratifying things about being dean is welcoming new faculty. PSU attracts exceptional people because of its community-focused mission. Our new assistant professors are remarkably sophisticated—they are not just looking for a job, they are looking for a way to make a difference. And that is something we offer here."

**Lawrence Wallack,
Dean**



Vivek Shandas was appointed to the Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning last September following a national search. He graduated with a Ph.D. in urban design and planning

in 2005 from the University of Washington. His teaching and research interests include environmental policy, geographic information systems, natural resource management, participatory planning, and urban ecology.

"PSU's commitment to civic engagement and interdisciplinary scholarship provides a springboard for my interest in applied research and education," says Shandas. "This opportunity to serve couldn't have come at a better time or place. I look forward to learning more about how PSU's faculty and students can collaborate across campus to meet regional priorities."

The broad objective of his research is to address three questions: (1) what is known about the effects of human activities on ecological integrity? (2) how do changes in ecosystems affect human preferences and decisions? and (3) how can institutions guide the growth of human settlements and its effects? Current projects include developing spatially explicit tools for environmental planners, integrating human preferences and biophysical conditions into watershed planning policies, assessing public outreach strategies by planning agencies, and evaluating the effectiveness of critical area ordinances in growth management planning. He has worked as a middle-school teacher in Oregon and as a health and environmental policy analyst for the New York state governor's office.

Charlene Taylor was appointed to the Division of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government spring term 2005. Her Ph.D. work was done at the University of



Cincinnati. Her teaching and research interests include juvenile justice, offender assessment and treatment, and correctional program evaluation. The objective of her research is to bridge the gap between academic and practical criminal justice applications.

She has recently been appointed to the Governor's Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee. The committee addresses minority over-representation in the criminal justice system, risk factors, domestic violence, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, youth suicide, federal programs, and legislation. Charlene also works as a training consultant for various departments of corrections across the country.

Taylor states, "I grew up in Alaska and am glad to be back in the Northwest. PSU's motto, 'let knowledge serve the city,' appealed to my interest in giving back to the community. Through my consulting work, I have many opportunities to interact with the community at large. This work helps to bring research into practice."

Alumni making a difference

Jennifer Fayocavitz Porter is a 2003 graduate of the Urban and Regional Planning master's program. While at PSU, Porter was a research assistant with Professors Karen Gibson and Barry Messer, a student representative to the MURP Executive Committee, and a leader in the Planning Club. Completing the environment specialization during her course of study, Porter also enjoyed taking a breadth of transportation, land use, and community planning classes. For Planning Workshop, Porter's group wrote *Planning at the Roots*, an experiential learning project that examined how low-income communities and communities of color affect change in Portland outside of the neighborhood association structure. *Planning at the Roots* received the 2004 OAPA merit award for Student Achievement in Planning.

While at PSU, Porter began an internship at the City of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) to work on the city's commercial food composting program. Upon completion of the MURP degree, Porter began working full-time for OSD in a variety of capacities that have continually evolved. Currently, she is a conservation program specialist in research and program development. Her projects include reducing diesel emissions and increasing recycling in the city. In her work at OSD, Porter is active in planning for the annual conference of the Association of Oregon Recyclers, and she enjoys being OSD's representative to the Citywide Diversity Development Coordinating Committee. Porter also presently serves on the board of directors for the Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities Coalition, the Hollywood Farmers' Market, and the MURP Alumni Association.

From her roots in Pennsylvania, Porter came to Portland not expecting the opportunities that the city would offer. She daily finds inspiration in Portland's planning accomplishments and is continually impressed with both the details and the grand plan of this fine place. Porter married artist R. Scott Porter in June 2002, and they live in northeast Portland with their cat, Marty.

Noelle Dobson received her Master of Public Health from the School of Community Health in 2003 with a focus on health promotion, advocacy, and social change. Since graduation, Dobson's work has focused on addressing the social determinants of health, including the link between the built environment and health. She currently directs Portland's Active Living by Design (ALbD) and Healthy Eating by Design (HEbD) projects, which are funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Through these projects, Dobson works with residents, community organizations, and local agencies to address how community design impacts residents' opportunities for daily physical activity and access to healthy, affordable foods.

"People intuitively understand that their physical surroundings can make it easier or more difficult to get around on foot or by bike, or to access stores that sell healthy, affordable food," Dobson says. "By working with both community groups and local planning agencies, we can identify the greatest barriers to physical activity and good nutrition, and create communities where the healthy, active choice is the easy choice."

In the Lents neighborhood of southeast Portland, ALbD and HEbD Partners are working to improve local trails, parks, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks; promote walking and biking with students and residents; provide home gardens and gardening education to youth and families; and revitalize a former farmers market in the community. Partners are also working with city and county leaders to identify opportunities to amend local policy to better support food access in low-income communities.

Prior to her work with ALbD and HEbD, Dobson worked with the Multnomah County Health Department and North Portland community partners to lead a community-based assessment to identify environmental health concerns of affordable housing residents.

In 2002, Dobson and other Oregon MPH graduates started Upstream Public Health, a non-profit dedicated to policy and environ-

Share your news

We enjoy hearing from our graduates and would like to share your news with fellow alumni. Please contact Trish Hamilton at 503-725-5209 or thamilton@pdx.edu.

"The success of our alumni provide enormous gratification for our faculty and staff. Their success is our success."

Lawrence Wallack
Dean

Feature **continued**

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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.

graduate capstone workshop run by Deborah Howe, professor of urban studies and planning.

After months of work, the students produced an inventory report, “The Diggable City: Making Urban Agriculture a Planning Priority.” The report was unanimously approved by City Council in June of 2005 and can be viewed at <http://diggablecity.org/>. The inventory lists 289 parcels of land currently under management either by Bureau of Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, Water Works, or the Portland Office of Transportation. Some sites are in floodplains, on slopes, paved over, or bound by railroad tracks or steep ravines. Others contain abandoned water tanks and, occasionally, homeless people. “The spread is all over the city,” says Rosenbloom.

While Howe modestly characterizes her role not as teacher but as consultant, last August two groups of her students won the Oregon American Planning Association (OAPA) Student Achievement Award for the projects they completed in her class. One award was given to the eight students who put together Diggable City. The PSU students’ project “brought dozens of people to the table, and spawned conversations among groups involved in food policy, gardening, urban agriculture, permaculture, and other innovative uses of urban lands,” explains the OAPA award brochure.

Since then, some students have remained involved, as demonstrated last February 1, when, with Rosenbloom’s and Amanda Rhoads’ participation, an advisory group presented City Council with a “Diggable City Follow-Up Report.” Three of the students (Kevin Balmer, Amanda Rhoads and Paul Rosenbloom) also produced a film, “Diggable City: Exploring the Potential for Urban Agriculture,” recently featured in front of a packed audience as part of the Pine Film Fest.

Cited as groundbreaking work, “Diggable City” and those MURP students present in City Council chambers that day received applause. Saltzman added that “Diggable City Report” is the most downloaded item on his Web site. Recommending policy analysis and further land assessment, the follow-up report also identifies three pilot projects, including one for an immigrant-run plant nursery, to be developed on Parks Bureau land in Northeast Portland. Portland City Council enthusiastically and unanimously approved the follow-up report.

Meanwhile, Finn anticipates more collaboration between City Hall and PSU. “I’m happy I could get my alma mater involved,” he says.

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mental approaches to promoting health. Dobson has been a leader in statewide efforts to advocate for improved nutrition in public schools by helping develop legislative proposals to improve the contents of vending machines, and serving on a statewide task force to develop recommendations for improving the school food environment.

Blair Larkins is a 2005 political science graduate of the Hatfield School of Government. In 2004 Blair participated in the inaugural program for NEW Leadership™ Oregon (National Education For Women's Leadership). This program educates and inspires college women to help develop career paths in politics and

civic leadership. During the program Larkins met Goli Ameri, who was running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 2004 elections. Larkins began working as an intern for Goli Ameri's campaign. Following graduation in June, Larkins moved to Washington, D.C., where she got a position as an intern for Representative Tom Feeney of Florida. Within one month, Larkins was hired to her current position as staff assistant for Congressman Greg Walden, who represents Oregon's Second Congressional District. Larkins enjoys Washington and plans to apply to George Washington University and pursue a master's degree in political management.

Fourth Annual College of Urban and Public Affairs Hoarding Ceremony

Friday, June 16th
Urban Center Plaza
3:00 PM

Come rain or shine! The college celebrates the graduation of our master's and doctoral students within the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

Each year this event gets bigger and better! Last year we had over 130 graduates participate and over 400 guests to celebrate our newest alumni. Call Rod Johnson, director of special events, for information: 503-725-4044.

Friends of the college

Many thanks to all the generous individual and corporate donors for their support of the college and its programs. Donors of over \$500 from July 2004 to January 2006 are listed.

AAA of Oregon/Idaho	Columbia River Inter-Tribal	Sue Hildick	NW Natural	Ethan Seltzer & Melanie Plaut
Carl Abbott & Margery Post-Abbott	Fish Commission	Hoffman Construction	Northwest Strategies, Inc.	Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., LLC
African American Chamber of Commerce	Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe	Penelope & Lester Hoodenpyle	OHSU Foundation	Specht Development, Inc.
Albina Community Bank	Marcia & James Curtis	Marcus & Diana Ingle	OppenheimerFunds	Spirit Mountain Community Fund
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**Budget and Personnel
Manager:** Victoria Gilbert
Editor: Trish Hamilton
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This newsletter is a publication of the College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University. We can be contacted at the Office of the Dean, College of Urban and Public Affairs, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751. Phone 503-725-4043, fax 503-725-5199. Email thamilton@pdx.edu. Comments from readers are welcome.

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