

# Spotlight on Student Affairs

Portland State University  
2007 January Student Affairs Newsletter  
[www.pdx.edu/studentaffairs](http://www.pdx.edu/studentaffairs)

## *What's Inside*

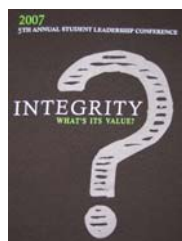
**5TH ANNUAL STUDENT  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE**

**HELP FOR STUDENTS  
WHO ARE STRUGGLING**

**WHAT MATTERS IN  
COLLEGE?**

**AMBASSADORS SEEK  
NOMINATIONS**

**BOOK REVIEW:  
INTEGRITY by  
STEPHEN L. CARTER**



## **5th Annual Student Leadership Development Conference, *Integrity: What's Its Value?***

Friday, January 26 marked the 5th Annual Student Leadership Development Conference, bringing students together to reflect on leadership in the context of the Conference theme, learn from each other, and seek inspiration for their work.

Over 200 students participated and 20 interest sessions were offered by faculty, staff and students. The keynote was provided by the Honorable Adrienne Nelson, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge. The program is a collaborative effort coordinated by staff from Community-University Partnerships for Learning, University Studies, Campus Recreation, New Student Programs, Office of Student Affairs, Residence Life, Women's Resource Center, and Student Activities and Leadership Programs. The conference was open to all students and student paraprofessionals in these departments and leaders of student organizations are strongly encouraged to attend and reap the benefits of engaging with faculty, staff, and other student leaders from across campus.

*Next issue:*  
Week of February 19, 2007

*For your comments about  
this newsletter email to  
Ebru Korbek-Erdogmus at  
[ebruk@pdx.edu](mailto:ebruk@pdx.edu)*

## SPOTLIGHT: FYI

### Help for Students Who Are Struggling

At the conclusion of fall term, 667 students were placed on academic warning (PSU cumulative GPA fell below a 2.00). For sixty-six percent of these students fall term was their first term at PSU.

In the fall of 2000, the Faculty Senate approved a motion brought by the Scholastic Standards Committee to extend the academic standing policy from two terms (probation, disqualification) to three terms (warning, probation, dismissal). This change gave students an additional term of enrollment prior to academic dismissal and included an intervention provided by the Undergraduate Advising and Support Center (UASC formerly the IASC).

To address these concerns, the UASC offers a one-hour Academic Standing workshop that is required of all students on academic warning. The goals for students attending the workshop are three-fold: 1) to understand PSU's academic standing policy, 2) to learn strategies for raising their GPA and 3) to discover campus resources to assist in dealing with academic/personal challenges.

Students are also encouraged to meet with a UASC adviser or their major adviser individually for long-term academic planning. The Academic Standing workshop is mandatory and a registration hold is placed on students' accounts until they attend one of the numerous workshops offered throughout the term and during the academic break.

Additionally, the Academic Support Program, a component within the UASC, offers study skills support, mentoring, advising and referral for students who are academically struggling, as well as a 2-credit "College Success" course designed to serve this population.

*Liane Gough*  
*Chair, Scholastic Standards Committee*  
*Co-Coordinator, Academic Support Program*  
UASC 425 SMSU  
[www.pdx.edu/uasc](http://www.pdx.edu/uasc)

## SPOTLIGHT: PEOPLE



*Provost Koch presenting the workshop: "Leadership: It's all About the Organization" at the 5th Annual Student Leadership Conference, 1/26/2007.*



*Students engaged in a discussion at the 5th Annual Student Leadership Conference, 1/26/2007.*

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

### **OUR MISSION:**

- To provide programs that facilitate and enhance student learning through intentionally connecting parts of student experience into a meaningful whole through collaborative partnerships with faculty and other institutional agents by bridging organizational boundaries.
- To enrich and complement student learning by providing opportunities for involvement in meaningful activities within the University community and the larger urban community.
- To provide services that facilitate student transition to the University and remove barriers to student success

## SPOTLIGHT: RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT

### What Matters in College?

Many of us who work in higher education wonder how the work we do actually affects our students' lives. This question is also often on the minds of our students, their parents, legislators, administrators and faculty who are deeply invested in questions related to the quality of undergraduate education. No one author has been more prolific in answering this question than Alexander Astin, founding director of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program through which he administers surveys nationwide to entering college students.

In his seminal work, *What Matters in College?*, Astin collected longitudinal data on 24,847 students at 309 different institutions and determined the influences of institutional characteristics on the students' college experience. The results of this study measured 82 outcome variables, including measures of academic achievement, retention, career choice, self-concept, patterns of behavior, self-reported growth in skills, and perceptions of and satisfaction with the college experience.

Resoundingly, Astin's research confirmed that: The quality of the college experience is strongly affected by student-faculty interactions and that as important as the student-faculty relationship may be, "...the student's peer group is the single most potent source of influence on growth and development during the undergraduate years" [p. 398]. Frequency of student-student interactions (including discussing course content with other students, working on group projects, tutoring other students, and participating in intramural sports) correlates with improvement in GPA, graduating with honors, analytical and problem-solving skills, leadership ability, public speaking skills, interpersonal skills, preparation for graduate and professional school, and general knowledge, and correlates negatively with feeling depressed [p. 385].

#### Reference:

A.W. Astin, *What Matters in College: Four Critical Years Revisited*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 1997

*Michele Toppe, Assistant Dean of Students*

***“A common thing that I have experienced through being an involved student is that there is always something to learn. I have learned so much about others and myself through this involvement...I came to choose PSU for its diversity and location. I knew that coming to PSU would give me exposure to cultures and people that otherwise I would not have met.”***

***Student Ambassador***

### Student Ambassador Program Seeks Nominees

We invite you to nominate outstanding students for the 2007-08 Student Ambassador Program. The Student Ambassadors are a group of academically dedicated and civically engaged students who reflect the University's diverse student population and promote recognition of PSU and its role in the Oregon State System of Higher Education. Student Ambassadors are selected on the basis of their *academic excellence; strong written and communication skills; commitment to problem solving; their ability to be a positive, productive team member and demonstration of strong leadership skills.*

Student Ambassadors serve as representatives of the University and student body with visiting speakers, educators and dignitaries, conduct campus tours, act as liaisons between students, faculty and administrators, and serve as greeters and participants at official functions and VIP events.

To nominate a student to apply to become an Ambassador, please send names of nominees with PSU ID number and support for your nominee to:

stamb@pdx.edu

Ambassadors, OSA, 433 SMSU via campus mail

(503)725-5344 via fax

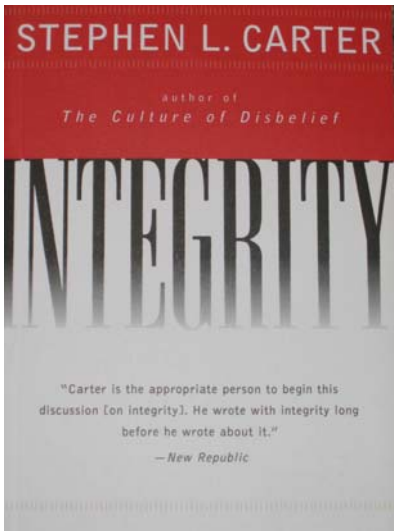
For questions call (503)725-8240

## SPOTLIGHT: BOOK REVIEW

### Integrity

Stephen L. Carter

New York, NY: BasicBooks, 1996, 277 pages,  
\$24.00



"We care more about winning than about playing by the rules," writes Stephen L. Carter. This affects everything from the media and education to politics and personal life. "Integrity is the crucial element of good citizenship. It's more important to know if someone has integrity than to know whether I agree or disagree with him. If you lack integrity, nothing else you say you believe matters."

*Integrity* has been selected as the common reading which will provide the thematic focus for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Leadership Conference that took place on Friday, January 26.

In *Integrity*, Carter explains why integrity is first in importance among the elements of good character, as well as why it is so hard to attain. This text was selected to be the common reading for this year's Conference because Carter asks the reader to consider the juxtaposition of the concept of integrity with some experiences that are central to students' lives. Chapters cover such topics as academic dishonesty, honesty versus integrity, integrity and the media, and the role of integrity in demonstrations of civil disobedience.

Copies of the book will be available for participants at the seminar and selected chapters are on electronic reserve at the Millar Library.

*(Portions of this information have been copied from <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/writers/writerdetails.asp?cid=842558&sz=y> and <http://tatumweb.com/internet/integrity-01.htm>)*

*Reviewed by Michele Toppe, Assistant Dean of Students*

## SPOTLIGHT: CALENDAR

**Party in the Park - Way North** February 8 from 11am-2 pm in SMSU100. A Resource Fair for student support services and student organizations, with band at noon and free dessert. For more information contact SALP, 119 SMSU, 5-4452, [leadership@pdx.edu](mailto:leadership@pdx.edu) or visit [web.pdx.edu/~salp](http://web.pdx.edu/~salp)

**Vagina Monologues** The PSU Women's Resource Center Presents: The Vagina Monologues 2007! Performances are February 16th, 17th, and 18th in the SMSU Ballroom. Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm. Tickets are \$12 general admission and \$9 for students, available at Ticketmaster and the PSU Box Office. Tickets will be sold at the performance. Show features a craft fair, information from local non-profit organizations and services, and a raffle show featuring items donated from local Portland businesses. Contact [psumonologues@gmail.com](mailto:psumonologues@gmail.com) for information.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations postponed** MLK 2007: Living the Legacy with Charles Johnson event that was to be held January 18 had been canceled due to bad weather conditions. The event has been postponed until a later date, which is yet to be determined. Contact Jon Joiner at 5-4560 for information.

**Divorce Orientations by Student Legal and Mediation Services** SLMS assists eligible students with Oregon and Washington dissolution proceedings. Students who are contemplating divorce can learn about the process and have general legal questions answered. You can refer students to the SLMS located at M340 SMSU or call 503-725-4556. The following are dates for upcoming Divorce Orientations: February 7 and 20, March 7 and 20.

All sessions start at 5:30pm and will be held at M340 SMSU.

# STUDENT AFFAIRS

*Provides programs and services that facilitate and enhance student learning.*

- **Admissions**  
105 Neuberger Hall ☎ 5-5525  
admissions@pdx.edu  
www.pdx.edu/admissions
- **Campus Recreation**  
102 Peter Stott Center ☎ 5-5127  
campusrec@pdx.edu  
www.campusrec.pdx.edu
- **Career Center**  
402 University Services Building ☎ 5-4613  
askcarc@pdx.edu  
www.pdx.edu/careers
- **Center for Student Health & Counseling**  
200 University Center Building ☎ 5-2800  
askshs@pdx.edu  
www.shac.pdx.edu
- **Disability Resource Center**  
435 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4005  
drc@pdx.edu  
www.pdx.edu/uasc/drc\_contact.html
- **Educational Equity Programs & Services**  
425 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4457  
eeps@pdx.edu  
www.eeps.pdx.edu
- **Educational Opportunity Program**  
458 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-3815  
www.eop.pdx.edu
- **Multicultural Center**  
288 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-5344  
multicul@pdx.edu  
culture.pdx.edu
- **Native American Student and Community Center**  
nasc@pdx.edu ☎ 5-9695  
nativecenter.pdx.edu
- **New Student Orientation**  
131 Neuberger Hall ☎ 5-5555  
orientation@pdx.edu  
www.pdx.edu/orientation
- **Office of Student Affairs/Dean of Students**  
433 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4422  
askosa@pdx.edu  
www.pdx.edu/dos
- **Office of Vice Provost for Student Affairs**  
349 Cramer Hall ☎ 5-5249
- **Registration & Records**  
104 Neuberger Hall ☎ 5-3438  
www.pdx.edu/registration
- **Residence Life**  
230 Broadway Building ☎ 5-2450  
reslife@pdx.edu
- **Skills Enhancement & Tutoring Center**  
425 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4457  
www.setc.pdx.edu
- **Student Ambassadors**  
433 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-8240  
stamb@pdx.edu  
www.ambassadors.pdx.edu
- **Student Activities & Leadership Programs**  
119 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4452  
leadership@pdx.edu  
web.pdx.edu/~salp
- **Student Conduct**  
433 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4422  
askosa@pdx.edu  
www.pdx.edu/dos/conduct.html
- **Student Legal & Mediation Services**  
M340 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4556  
slms@pdx.edu  
www.slms.pdx.edu
- **Undergraduate Advising & Support Center**  
425 Smith Memorial Student Union ☎ 5-4005  
askuasc@pdx.edu  
www.pdx.edu/uasc
- **Upward Bound & Educational Talent Search**  
5th Avenue Business Center FBC  
ETS ☎ 5-4458  
UB ☎ 5-4010  
www.ubets.pdx.edu
- **Women's Resource Center**  
Montgomery Hall Basement ☎ 5-5672  
wrc@pdx.edu  
www.wrc.pdx.edu