

Student/Faculty Profiles

2009/10



People who dream

and inspire. Learn and lead. Meet some of the students and faculty that make up our foundation of success.





Lisa^{ZURK}

Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)

HOMETOWN: Needham, MA // **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Professor Lisa Zurk received the 2006 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) at the White House; she was a Fulbright scholar in 2000-2001 in Helsinki, Finland. She founded and currently directs the Northwest Electromagnetics and Acoustics Research Laboratory (NEAR-Lab) which focuses numerous research efforts and collaborations on the modeling and analysis of electromagnetic and acoustic wave phenomena for development of advanced signal processing techniques. She enjoys many outdoor activities in the Pacific Northwest, including hiking, biking, soccer and gardening. Professor Zurk earned a P.h.D. at U. of Washington. // **STORY:** I strive to include topics from my research in courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This provides a powerful connection for the student to real-life applications and creates a passion for further learning. My students emerge with unique experiences such as participation in sea tests for advanced sonar systems or collaboration with the medical community to develop electromagnetic imaging techniques. These activities promote cross-disciplinary technical capability as well as skills in collaborative teamwork. The result is Portland State students graduate with a unique capability to respond to challenges in the rapidly evolving technical community.



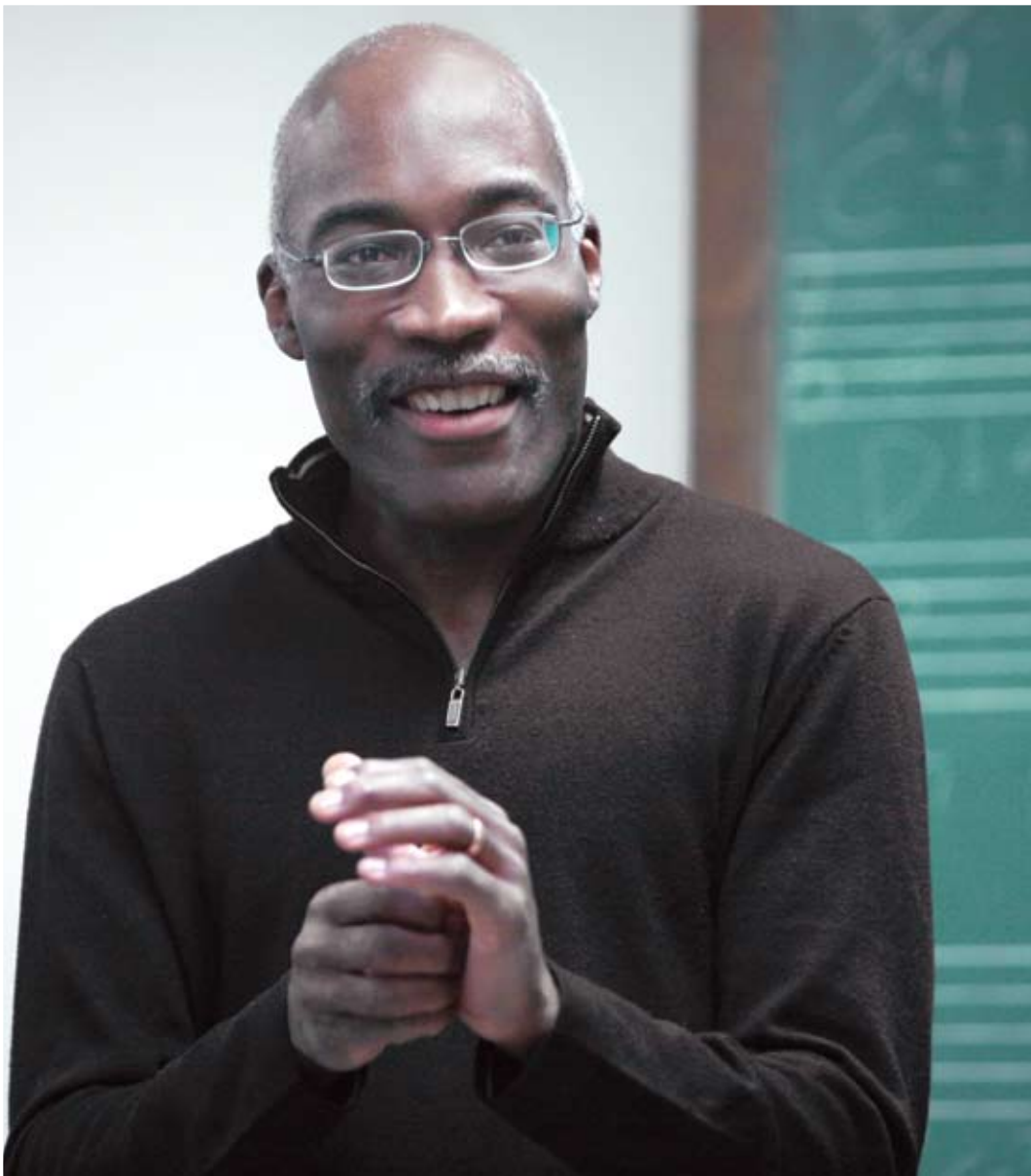
Josh

HOMETOWN: Portland, OR // **MAJOR:** Social Work // **MAJOR:** Communications // **AGE:** 20 // **STORY:** My name is Joshua Griggs and I will be the first in my family to graduate from college. As a Portland State student, I am having the time of my life. I am taking advantage of the many leadership opportunities like serving as an officer of the NAACP, SkillsUSA and being an Orientation Leader. Being involved and engaged on campus has enriched my college experience. I hope that there are many students like me who will join me on my college journey.



Melissa APPLEYARD

Professor in the Management of Innovation and Technology School of Business Administration **HOMETOWN:** Walnut Creek, California // **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Melissa Appleyard joined the faculty of Portland State University's School of Business Administration in 2003. She is one of the first Ames Professors in the Management of Innovation and Technology program. Her research focuses on how knowledge creation and diffusion catalyze economic growth and business longevity in technology-intensive industries. Over the past decade, in affiliation with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Competitive Semiconductor Manufacturing Center at U.C. Berkeley, she has concentrated on the global semiconductor industry's ability to achieve perpetual innovation in design, process integration, and manufacturing. Prof. Appleyard's work has been published in leading academic journals such as the *California Management Review*, *Industrial Relations*, the *Journal of Product Innovation Management*, and the *Strategic Management Journal*. She has worked with a variety of business organizations on research projects and has written or supervised over fifteen business cases for MBA and executive courses. She holds the B.A. in Economics/International Area Studies from UCLA and the Ph.D. in Economics from U.C. Berkeley. // **STORY:** Over the last four years, I have been active in implementing the Lab2Market program (funded by the National Science Foundation), which has educational programs and venture mentoring as its cornerstones. Lab2Market has enhanced the innovation system around the region by linking together entrepreneurial PSU students, staff, and faculty with private sector leaders including venture capitalists, attorneys, and economic development officials. The student projects coming out of these interactions have proven to be very exciting and have greatly assisted university-based startups in reaching the marketplace. This sort of engagement distinguishes PSU in terms of contributing to the economic vitality of the region.



Darrell^{GRANT}

Professor of Music HOMETOWN: Denver, Colorado // **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Professor Grant directs the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute. His current areas of research interest include: Music and the Brain, Jazz in Norway, and traditional Irish music. Besides teaching, performing, creating and directing music, Professor Grant is an avid tennis player. Professor Grant earned his M.M. from University of Miami. // **STORY:** The best thing about PSU is the University's commitment to community-based learning. It infuses everything I do, from starting a professional jazz venue on campus, to bringing the "Old Cats" of jazz into the classroom to perform with students. One of my best experiences teaching was creating a jazz education capstone in which our students designed and delivered a music education curriculum to 5th graders in North Portland. Not only was it a great learning experience, but several of the students in the class told me that it inspired them to become teachers.



Yoshini

HOMETOWN: Beaverton, OR // **MAJOR:** Graphic Design // **MINOR:** Communication // **AGE:** 21 // **STORY:** Being a student and working on campus at PSU has helped me discover what I'm passionate about in addition to providing me lifelong friendships. It's a great feeling to come everyday to a place that values diversity and goes out of its way to make a memorable student experience. Some of my favorite memories come from my time at PSU, everything from listening to live music in the south park blocks to hiking in the mountains with the Campus Recreation program. I'm grateful for the opportunities PSU has opened up for me and I look forward to making my mark on the community.



Randy^{BLAZAK}

Associate professor of Sociology HOMETOWN: Atlanta, Georgia // **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Professor Blazak's current research is on the development of a program for convicted hate offenders and members of prison hate groups that will reduce the likelihood they will re-offend once released from prison. Other research interests include: juvenile delinquency, hate crimes, theory, popular culture and youth subcultures, masculinity, racism and religion, prisons, and constructions of whiteness. // **STORY:** I did both my undergraduate and graduate work at Emory University, which is essentially inside a bubble in Atlanta. There is very little reason to ever leave that campus. PSU is the exact opposite. The campus IS the city. This setting gives me permission to break out of the classroom. One of my classes might meet on a street corner or a karaoke bar. For example, I love to take my students to the Portland Building to talk about post-modernism. I do the lecture right on the sidewalk and we always seem to pick up a few extra "students." Since the student body is so diverse, some of the best out-of-class ideas come from the students themselves. One of the best was the idea to hold a guerilla poetry reading in front of the downtown library to promote the creation of culture. It's never boring. I won't let it be!



Abdullah

HOMETOWN: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia // **MAJOR:** Accounting/Finance // **AGE:** 24 // **STORY:** The best aspect about PSU for me is the educators. They are smart and understanding. They have the best interest of the students in mind. All of my business professors are amazing. I not only enjoy their classes, I also try to meet them in their offices or sometimes get coffee together. We talk about school, life, and the business world. They are very friendly. The PSU staff is amazing too. As the Saudi Student Club President, I had the pleasure of meeting a lot of the University's deans and administrators and they are very approachable too. They talk to the students like we are equal, and make sure we are treated with respect. This, in return, encourages you to respect the school. PSU is a university to get an education you can be proud of. I know I will be when I graduate.



Julia

HOMETOWN: Phoenix, Arizona // **MAJOR:** International Studies // **MINOR:** Environmental Sustainability // **AGE:** 20 // **STORY:** I chose Portland State because of the diversity of the student body, the programs offered and the professors. The location of PSU in the city of Portland presents you with people from all different walks of life. The University interacts with the city and I really like that aspect. I also enjoy the availability of my professors and the administrators who seem to be invested in me and my education. While PSU is a large university it feels more like a big family to me.



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