



**SPRING 2018**

Alumni & Friends of the College,

Campus is bursting with life this spring! We have many wonderful events coming up this term, and faculty and students that continue to be innovative, engaged, and successful. Whether they are winning awards for their excellent teaching or research, developing new apps, heading an underwater expedition, or creating a better spacesuit (see articles below!), our members of our College are continually on the cutting-edge.

To stay up-to-date on [news](#) and [events](#), please visit our [website](#). If you have thoughts about the College or want to share updates, please reach out to us at [clas@pdx.edu](mailto:clas@pdx.edu). We always love to hear from our alumni!

*Karen Marrongelle*

Karen Marrongelle, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
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#### Events

**April 12: CLAS Faculty Brown Bag Research Series with Dr. Niles Lehman: "The Origins of Life on the Earth."** Smith Memorial Student Union 296, 12-1 pm.

**April 12: Portland Review 2018 Issue Launch Party.** Literary Arts, 7-9 pm.

**April 13: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Research Symposium.** Smith Memorial Student Union 327, 9 am-4 pm.

**April 16: "The Limits of Whiteness: Iranian Americans and the Everyday Politics of Race" with Neda**

#### Viking Pavilion Grand Opening & TechFestNW

On April 5-6, PSU and our newly-opened [Viking Pavilion](#) on the South Park Blocks played host to 2018's [TechFestNW](#). There was also a grand opening celebration and student section reveal on April 9. We're excited to see the opportunities these beautiful new facilities will afford our campus!



**Maghbouleh.** Smith Memorial Student Union 238, 12-2 pm.

**April 17: PSU Alumni Reception in Bangkok.** Arnoma Grand Bangkok Hotel, Thailand.

**April 20–22: Queer Students of Color Conference.** PSU, various times and locations.

**April 21: Write to Publish Conference.** This conference, hosted by the English Department's Ooligan Press, will be held this year at George C. Hoffmann Hall, from 9 am-6 pm.

**April 25: Judaic Studies Sara Glasgow Cogan Memorial Lecture: "Resisting Tyranny: Lessons from the European 20th Century."** Smith Memorial Student Union 355, 7-9 pm.

**May 10: CLAS Faculty Research Series Brown Bag with Dr. Dara Shifrer.** Smith Memorial Student Union 294, 12-1 pm.

**May 10: 6th Annual Walk of the Heroines Lecture with WGSS: "Labor of Care: Filipina Migrants and Transnational Families in the Global Digital Age."** Smith Memorial Student Union 327, 7-8:30 pm.

**May 11: 2018 Mark Gurevitch Memorial Lecture: "Optical Atomic Clocks" with David Wineland.** Hoffman Hall, 5 pm.

## News

**Panayot Vassilevski**, Mathematics & Statistics, has been named a Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Fellow and will be inducted in the 2018 Class of Fellows.

**Cassio de Oliveira**, World Languages & Literatures, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend to complete a chapter of his manuscript *Writing*

## Professor Cameron Smith's DIY Spacesuit

Anthropology professor [Cameron Smith](#) is taking space travel into his own hands.

He has spent his spare time and money working towards creating a spacesuit that is much more affordable than NASA's \$70,000 version. Soon, he'll pilot a hot air balloon 50,000 feet into the air to test out the suit he's designed.

Dr. Smith is dedicated to keeping his plans freely available online. We are extremely proud of his work and excited to see the results! For more information, look to this [article from Discover Magazine](#) or this [interview with BBC](#), and follow the project on their [Twitter account](#)!



## Three Professors Win Research Excellence Awards

PSU's [Office of Research & Strategic Partnerships](#) chooses recipients each year for its [Research Excellence Awards](#). These awards serve to "acknowledge research faculty contributions to their field, originality of thought, and career productivity."

[Robert Strongin](#) (top photo), Professor of Organic Chemistry, has won the Senior Faculty Research Excellence Award. [His research](#) has focused on the effects of electronic cigarettes as well as on cancer diagnosis and treatment. [Dara Shifrer](#) (middle photo), Assistant Professor of Sociology, has won the Junior Faculty Research Excellence Award. She researches how sociology applies to teaching methods and students with neurological disabilities. And [Melissa Lucash](#) (bottom photo), Research Assistant Professor of Geography, has won the Research Faculty Research Excellence Award. She is the Co-Director of the [Global Environmental Change Laboratory](#) and her projects have studied climate change, forest ecology, biogeochemistry, and landscape modeling.



*Rogues: Collective and Individual Identity-Formation in the Soviet Picaresque, 1921-1938.*

**Chang-Yu Hong**, Geography, received a \$1,000 travel grant award to attend the East-West Center International Conference.

**Deborah Lutterschmidt**, Biology, has received a four-year, \$700,000 National Science Foundation grant for the project "Understanding How Glucocorticoids Interact with Neuromodulators to Facilitate Life-History Transitions."

**Andrés Holz**, Geography, is the Co-PI for a \$50K grant from the National Geographic Society for the project "Documenting and monitoring climate change effects at the edge of the world: Isla Hornos and the world's southernmost tree" and is also the PI on the NSF-funded Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Research: *Altered Disturbance Regimes and Novel Ecosystems: Understanding and Managing Ecosystem State Change at the Forest-Peatland Ecotone*.

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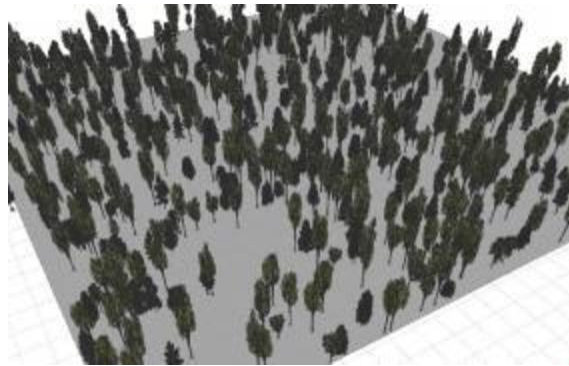
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## Biology Professor Leads Underwater Volcanic Expedition

[Anna-Louise Reysenbach](#), Biology faculty (pictured above), is the chief scientist on an expedition exploring Brothers volcano, an underwater caldera off the northern coast of New Zealand.

Read more [here](#), and follow the expedition on [their website!](#)



## PSU Researcher Helps Develop Forest Simulation App

Geography researcher [Melissa Lucash](#) is working to create an app that will show what forests will look like in the future, after the effects of climate change and other factors that will happen in the course of a forest's lifetime.

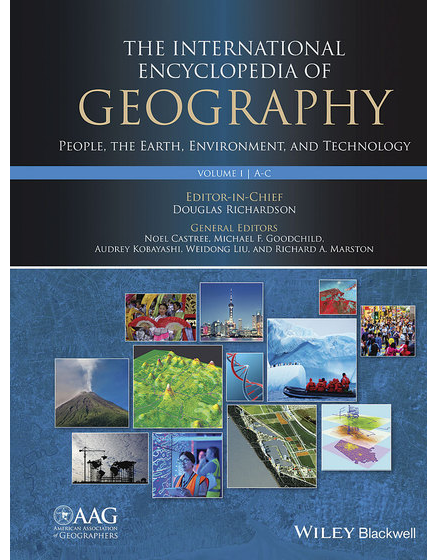
The project is funded by a five-year, \$1.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems program and is a collaborative effort between faculty and students from Penn State University, Portland State, North Carolina State University and the College of Menominee Nation.

Read more [here!](#)

## Geography Encyclopedia Wins Prestigious Award

["The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology,"](#) a 15-volume work of which Geography professor [Heejun Chang](#) was a co-author, has been awarded a prestigious CHOICE award for Outstanding Academic Title 2017 from the [Association of College and Research Libraries](#). Professor Chang was the author of two articles in the

encyclopedia on water and climate change and water conservation.



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