



WINTER 2018

Alumni & Friends of the College,

As we make our way through the Winter term, we continue to celebrate the wonderful work our faculty, staff, and students are doing. CLAS professors are winning awards and grants, students and departments are engaging in events and conferences, and PSU has once again been named one of the [most innovative universities in the nation by US News & World Report](#).

I am immensely proud of these accomplishments and excited to see where the new year will bring us. 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. We always love to hear from our alumni!

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Events

Everybody Reads 2018 PSU- Hosted Events:

**March 2: Story Sharing About
Migration with the Freshman
Inquiry Course on
Immigration, Migration &
Belonging.** Cramer Hall 225, 4
pm.

**March 13: "How Technology
Shapes Beliefs and Polarizes
Society: A Roundtable".** US
Bank Room at the Central
Library, 6-7:45 pm.

**March 13: *Stuck in the
Doorway* Documentary Film
Screening.** Smith Memorial
Student Union 329, 5-7 pm.

Niles Lehman Named 2018 Outstanding Oregon Scientist

Niles Lehman (pictured below), a professor of Chemistry at PSU, has been selected as the 2018 Outstanding Oregon Scientist by the Oregon Academy of Sciences. As the 2018 Awardee Professor Lehman will be delivering the Keynote Address next year at the OAS Annual Meeting on February 23, 2019 at Linfield College.

Professor Lehman is being recognized for his groundbreaking research in molecular evolution and the possible origins of life.

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

Maghbooleh. Smith Memorial Student Union 238, 12-2 pm.

Other Events:

March 8: Ladies' Lab

Night. Meet the women doing research in PSU's biology, chemistry, geology, and physics labs. This event is open to everyone and will be in the 2nd floor lobby of the Science Research and Teaching Center building, 5-9 pm.

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.

News

Tom Fisher, English faculty, published a book of poems, *Sorsere*, with The Cultural Society.

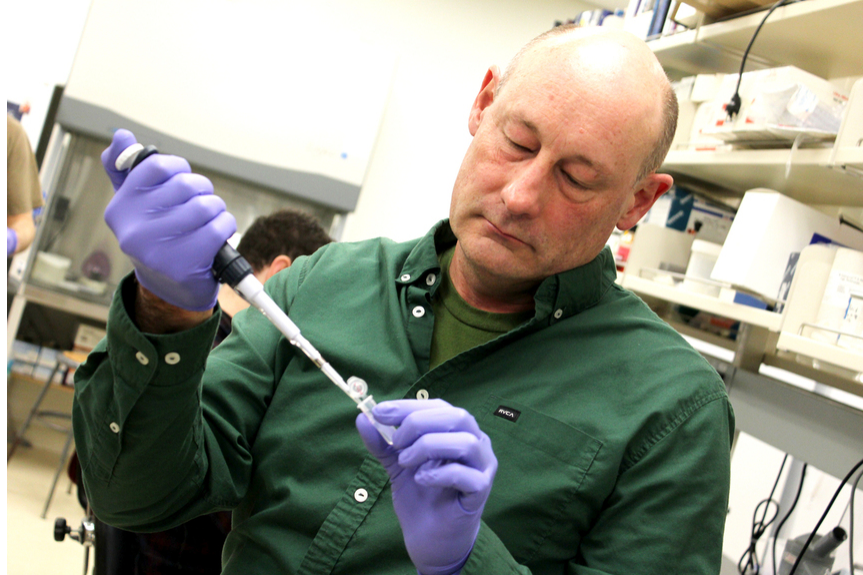
Shirley A. Jackson, Black Studies faculty, has been selected to serve on the Oregon Department of Education's Ethnic Studies Advisory Group.

Alex Sager, Philosophy faculty, published a monograph, *Toward a Cosmopolitan Ethics of Mobility: The Migrant's-Eye View of the World*, with Palgrave Macmillan.

Tina Burdsall, Sociology faculty, is now on the American Association of University Professors Negotiating Team.

Leni Zumas, English faculty, has been awarded a Professional Development Grant from the Regional Arts & Culture Council to fund a book tour for *Red Clocks*.

Andrew Mashburn & Karlyn Adams-Wiggins, Psychology



PSU Announces the Transfers Finish Free Program

The new [Transfers Finish Free](#) program was announced recently, stating that it will cover standard tuition and mandatory fees for full-time transfers who are Oregon residents and meet the academic, financial aid, and eligibility requirements.

This comes on the heels of the success of PSU's other tuition initiative, [Four Years Free](#), which covers tuition and fees for incoming freshman. These initiatives have made it easier for low-income students to attend PSU and have resulted in increased enrollment in the university. Read more in [this article from PSU Media and Public Relations](#).

William Comer Awarded Prize for Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy

William Comer, professor of Russian and Director of the Russian Flagship Partnership Program in the World Languages and Literatures Department, has been awarded the [AATSEEL](#) Prize for the Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy for his elementary-level Russian textbook. He received the award at the AATSEEL conference on February 2, 2018.



Susan Kirtley Nominated for Comics Industry People of the Year

Susan Kirtley, associate professor in the Comic Studies program, was nominated as one of the [2017 Comics Industry's People of the Year](#). Though the honor was awarded to Emil Ferris, Professor Kirtley was noted for her dedication to creating "a strong academic presence for comics at the university" and her work with local comics creators and publishers.

Elise Granek Awarded an Oregon Sea Grant

Elise Granek (pictured below left), associate professor of Environmental Science and Management, has been awarded a \$213,000 grant from the OSU-based [Oregon Sea Grant](#) to study whether different forest

faculty, received a \$120,000 grant from Portland Public Schools for a project titled "Portland Public Schools Kindergarten Transition Study."

Gerardo Lafferriere, Mathematics & Statistics faculty, received a \$20,000 Small Starts grant from [NITC](#) for the project "A Decentralized Network Consensus Control Approach for Urban Traffic Signal Optimization."

Jeremy Spoon, Anthropology faculty, received a contract from the [DOE](#) and [Desert Research Institute](#) to facilitate a tribal revegetation project in a low-level nuclear waste area on the Nevada National Security Site.

Kerth O'Brien, Psychology, is a newly-welcomed member of the [Diversity Scholars Network](#).

Erin Shortlidge, Biology, received a \$996K grant from the National Science Foundation for her proposal "Reducing Transfer Shock: Developing Community, CUREs, and Collaborations to Support Urban STEM Transfer Students."

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management practices are associated with contaminants in downstream shellfish. Her research project is titled "Linkages Between Forestry Practices and Oregon's Estuarine Health."



PSU Helping to Create a Nationwide Research Center for Brain-Inspired Computing

PSU and seven other universities are forming a nationwide research center for brain-inspired computing, which will explore technologies to enable computers to do tasks that, as of now, are uniquely human.

PSU will receive \$1.4 million of the total \$27 million five-year grant, and engineering faculty Christof Teuscher and Dan Hammerstrom will head PSU's portion of the center.

Announcing *Portland Review's* 2018 Issue

[Portland Review](#) is pleased to announce the 2018 issue. The new volume features writing by Dani Burlison, Christopher Coake, William Virgil Davis, Susan DeFreitas, Christine Kitano, Sueyeun Juliette Lee, Eugene Lim, Molly Patterson, Anna Joy Springer, Jenny Forrester, Jacob White, an interview with Dani Shapiro, and art by Anni Wilson. To preorder your copy of the 2018 issue, please visit their [subscribe](#) page.



Remembering Ursula K. Le Guin

Last month, Portland and the literary community as a whole lost a great role model in [Ursula K. Le Guin](#).

Le Guin's husband, Charles, taught History at PSU for many years. She will be sorely missed by the university and all those who came in contact with her.

Le Guin is best known for her science-

fiction and fantasy books, including the Earthsea series, and she was also published as part of the [Memories Flow in Our Veins](#) anthology by PSU's Ooligan Press.



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