

Portland Teachers Program
Portland Community College
705 N Killingsworth
Portland, OR 97217
971.722.5444
www.pcc.edu/ptp

LISTEN. LEARN. SERVE.

Spring 2012

"Competent teachers of color are not only understanding of differences but accepting, helping students celebrate who they are."

-Daisy Martinez

IN THIS
Issue

- 2012 Graduates
- Guest Speakers
- Spring Term Colloquium
- PTP Gathering 2011-12
- Service Project: Scott School
- Chavez Leadership Conference
- News Bytes
- Thanks and Appreciation

The 2012 Graduates

"To speak a true word is to transform the world." Paulo Freire

The 2012 graduates faced many challenges, lots of stress and more than a few seemingly impossible hurdles during their teacher education program, but they each showed incredible determination and grit. Each of these future teachers will provide their students with a positive role model for overcoming all barriers to success. They care about achievement for all students, and they promise to work for social justice in our education system. On the following pages are thoughts from some of them about teaching.



Back: Andre Hawkins & Ramman Turner; Front: Sharde Dennis, Ashley Echang, Daisy Martinez & Ani Ponz

"PTP has changed my life. I've learned that there is so much more I have to learn about my own culture and others' cultures. PTP is a community where I can be proud of who I am and not be looked at badly." -Victor Morales

Guest Speakers

Bob Tom

An honored elder from the Siletz and Grand Ronde tribes, Bob Tom, was a guest speaker in January. Bob uses stories and humor to engage students in a deeper understanding of indigenous culture, history and worldview, and he challenges students to be deeply reflective as future educators. He admits that he grew up the youngest in a family of 13, and was the "most spoiled."

He gave students some history about his parents' tribes and how they were forced to relocate to their current locations. "I give thanks to those older people who carried the children," Bob said. "We need to know about our ancestors to help us be grounded. When we know who we are and where we come from, we can survive anything." As a child, Bob was told by his elders that "everyone is good at something. When you find out what that is, you have to perfect it and serve the people with it."

Bob asked students to consider their "cultural presence," which comes from your family and all the people you meet and observe. "You are not just you," he told us, "you are not your own creation." He also encouraged students to learn to be inter-dependent. Mainstream culture promotes independence, but "in our Indian world we believe in inter-dependence. You help people and you depend on others to help you."

Dr. Verenice Gutierrez

Dr. Gutierrez, the Principal at Scott K-8 School, was a guest speaker in February and she spoke with passion, seriousness, focus and an appropriate dash of humor. She shared a little bit about her life, growing up in poverty and a neighborhood famous for its gang activity where all of her girlfriends got pregnant in high school. A younger sister with learning disabilities motivated her to get her Master's degree in Special Education and she fell in love with it. Dr. G. also gave an overview of her philosophy of education and what issues she sees facing all students, as well as Latino students in particular.

Everyone needs to be held accountable for the success of students, she pointed out---teachers and parents. Her father worked 18 hours a day but he still had time for Verenice, so she feels confident in telling parents that there are no excuses---not poverty, illiteracy, language barriers or anything else; parents must make their child's education a priority. She has no tolerance for educators who don't make kids their priority, and she feels that every second that kids are in the school building should be an instructional second. Dr. G. is a fearless educator who left everyone feeling ready for the battle before us, and with a sense of hope that we can provide equity and excellence for all children.

Dr. Randy Depry

The new Chair of the Special Education Department at Portland State University, Dr. Randy Depry, was a guest speaker at a CT (Critical Thinking) Session in March. He gave an engaging overview of special education that included why it is important and who it serves. He also talked about some of the responsibilities SPED teachers have, such as coordinating individualized education plans, teaching and supporting students with disabilities, conducting assessments, working with families and with multi-disciplinary teams of professionals. PTP students were also provided with a look at the SPED programs available at PSU. Teachers with strong training in special education have many more tools to work with in their classrooms. Dr. Depry invited PTP students to visit him if they were interested in knowing more about SPED.

Liz Rogers

A longtime favorite with PTP students, Liz Rogers is a member of the APA Compass Collective that produces a monthly Asian and Pacific American public affairs radio program for KBOO. Liz works with PTP future teachers to enhance their perspective regarding Asian Pacific Islander populations. She always reminds us that she is not an expert on Asian culture, that we must agree to disagree and that we must respect other peoples' experiences ("Let them feel what they feel," she

Guest Speakers continued Page 4



Master Educators: Bob Thom, Dr. Verenice Gutierrez, Dr. Randy Depry, Liz Rogers & Shay James

Portland Teachers Program 2011-12



Service Project: Scott School

PTP students gathered at Harvey Scott School one Saturday in January to put their philosophy (**Listen, Learn and Serve**) into action. Principal Verence Guttierrez and Vice Principal Celina Garrido (a PTP alumna) made a long "to do" list for students. Working in teams, students cleaned and organized the gym and its storage areas, scrubbed hallways, painted the cafeteria and fixed the laminator. Some teams worked in classrooms with dedicated teachers (including PTP teachers Luci Campbell, Gina

Bluebird and Francesca Alvarez) who were willing to come in on a Saturday; they cleaned desks, organized books and completed other projects.

The day started out with the usual pot luck and coming together to break bread and socialize. This was topped by some inspiring words from Dr. Guttierrez about putting kids first, and then everyone was off to their jobs. Several PTP alumni dropped by to visit and some stayed to help make origami cranes to help meet the PTP goal of making 1000 cranes for peace. It was good to see Thu Troung, Richard Cha, Tina Dang, Sarah Gonzalez, Jalia Campbell, Maalaea Gustafson

and others who stopped by. Students left with a sense of accomplishment, energized by how much they were able to get done in a short time (the power of community!), and wanting to know where they could go next.

PTP student Mars Sails was dubbed the "paint bandit" that day, leaving her handprint on several folks, and the director was seen leaving with primary colors all over her pants. Other students went home with the memory of seeing and overcoming some oversized dust bunnies in dark corners.

Nationally, people of color represent 45% of the student population, while only 17% of teachers are people of color. (National Center for Education Statistics, 2010).

7

News Bytes Continued from Page 6

■ PTP visited several schools this year, including Wilson High School, Westview and Merlo. Student teams included Celene Vargas, Ronnie Perry, Jason Correa and Mayra Barraza. The director and a student team also gave a presentation to the students in the Multicultural Center at PCC Sylvania

A BIG PTP THANKS TO:

■ PTP alumni **Takiyah Williams** (1993) for providing a student teaching placement for future teacher Ashley Echang; **Anibal Rivera** (2000) at Franklin for taking **Andre Hawkins** as a student teacher; **Luci Cervantes Campbell** (2002) for providing office and special project supplies throughout the year. **Tracy Briggs** (2006), **Lionel Clegg** (1999), **Lindell Stone** (2004), **Aaron Moreno** (2006), **Richard Cha** (2009), **Cathy Parker** (2004) and others who took practicum students or allowed PTP students to visit/volunteer in their classrooms. And finally, to the PTP alumni who did interviews with PTP students.

■ **Beth Fitzgerald**, Multimedia Program, for the beautiful work she does to preserve PTP memories; **Penny Thompson**, Cascade Learning Center, for providing input on writing issues; helping our ESL students with grammar; finding math tutors and generally supporting the PTP program; and **Torie Scott**, Reference Librarian at the Cascade Campus, who created a DYNAMIC web page for PTP students with the recommended reading list and all kinds of links to important resources regarding diversity, teaching and education; and **Michelle Samuel** for artwork and support.

■ PTP student Ronnie Perry for all those hours he volunteered in the

office helping with everything from recruitment to planning the spring colloquium and to Maria Hernandez, who also volunteered many hours spring term. To Field Day planners: Alex Buckner, Chelsea Fuller, Yessica Mercado, Maria Hernandez, Dyklecia Plazola, Alejandra Nava, Jason Correa, Celene Vargas and Ronnie Perry. Eric Ruiz, who represented PTP at a Latino Parent Night in Beaverton and Alejandra Nava, who has been helping students enhance their writing skills. Chris Riser, Jason Correa and Yessica Hardin, who have been working on the student PTP web page.

Appreciation to our Donors:

■ Jennifer Lopez Nutter, PTP alumna, donated \$1500 to sponsor the 2012 Celebration of Students reception for PTP students, their families and our community leaders. Without her, the reception would not have happened this year!



■ PASTINI's RESTAURANT once again donated \$50 gift certificates to our hungry graduates. PLEASE---support this fabulous restaurant and thank them for supporting teachers!

■ Mrs. Nathan and the Nathan Family have been supporters for so many years and their very generous annual donation helps many future teachers.

■ Jeanne Miller gives us grocery bags, fruit and candy through out the year that nurture our hungry students. She also purchases and puts together

gift bags for the graduates as well as seeking donations to honor the graduates each year.

■ Geof and Donna Brooks contribute to the gift bags for our graduates, and also provide their love and support for what we do in PTP.

■ Narce Rodriguez, Beth Fitzgerald, George Pernsteiner, Dalton Miller-Jones, Maisie Gholson, Macarree Trayhnam, Chris Poole-Jones, Robert Mercer, Mike (Jeanne's BF), Kim Neves, Bob Everhart, May Pulliam, Melissa Saas & Deborah Cochrane

■ Alumni donors in 2011: Candice Vickers, Margarita Portillo, Luci Campbell; Thu Truong, Hoi Tran, Monica Estrada, Tina Dang, Esteban Ortiz Lopez, Lindell Stone, Lionel Clegg, Hung Trinh, Curtis Wilson, Sholanda McGhee, Tina Bruce, Alodie Lopez, Cathy Parker, Aaron Moreno, Yolanda Flores, Silvia Lewis, Aniscia McAdams, Selene Hall, Khalil Edwards, Leesa Ferguson, Rosina Hardy, Adriana Moyola, Heather Kelly & Maalaea Gustafson.

"Part of truly honing the genius of our children would be consciously to organize institutions and instruction inside and outside of school buildings that expose the children to their intellectual legacy; clarify their position in a racialized society; ritually express expectations for hard work and academic, social, physical, and moral excellence; and create alternative reasons for success other than 'getting a good job'--for your community, for your ancestors, for your descendants."
-Lisa Delpit