

E d u c a t i o n

PSU Launches 15 New Graduate Certificates

In an effort to reach the growing number of working professionals who want to further their career development, Portland State University is offering 15 new graduate certificate programs beginning this fall.

The programs, administered by the PSU Office of Graduate Studies and Research, are tailored especially for professionals in engineering, environmental science and education, and are designed to help fill local industry hiring needs, said Bill Feyerherm, PSU vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies.

Graduate certificates will be offered in: engineering geology, lasers and opto-electronics, computer architecture and design, mathematics for middle school math teachers, hydrology, children and young adult literature, hydro-geology, digital design, image processing, digital signal processing, communications systems, design automation, analog and microwave circuit design, environmental geology, and integrated circuit test, verification and validation. The new programs join PSU's long standing graduate certificate program in gerontology.

The courses will be offered at PSU's main campus downtown beginning in September. For more general information, call the PSU Office of Graduate Studies and Research at 503-725-8410. Specific academic departments can provide additional details.

All interested applicants must have bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 in all undergraduate courses.

Applicants with cumulative undergraduate GPA between 2.50 and 2.74 may be under conditional admission only.

Let's Talk



How to Help Your Kids in Math and Science

When it comes to kids and school work, most parents really want to help. Trouble is, so often we just don't know what to do. Especially with complex subjects such as science and math (where, ahem, not all of us applied ourselves as well as we should have) it's not hard to feel uneasy about how we could be helpful.

Taking a practical approach, the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory's Mathematics and Science Education Center offers parents and others some tips about how they can support kids as they take on challenging subjects.

In pulling together materials for teachers to help families bolster math and science learning, center director Kit Peixotto and researcher Jennifer Stepanek came up with some pointers for parents.

For example, they say it's important that students recognize and appreciate how math and science skills are used in the real world. Noting that parents don't always think about how they are using mathematics and science in everyday activities—such as cooking, paying bills, preparing budgets, shopping, reading maps, fixing appliances, keeping score during sports events—they urge parents to include their children in these activities. It's especially important that parents make sure the kids realize they're doing math and science when they participate in these types of tasks.

One way parents can show their interest and help their children to think is by asking questions that stimulate learning. Here are some questioning techniques, gathered from the research literature:

- When your children ask a question, respond with: "That's a good question. What do you think?" or "How can we find out?"
- Show interest in and listen to your children's questions and activities.
- Discuss activities before, during, and after doing them. Encourage your children to explain what they

are doing and why as they go along.

- When you ask a question, give your child plenty of time to respond. Try not to ask questions with only yes-or-no answers.
- Encourage your children to make predictions, make comparisons, and draw conclusions.
- Share your curiosity with your children. Let them see you ask questions, make observations, and draw conclusions.
- Don't pretend that you know the answer, and don't feel badly about not knowing. Show your children how to go about finding an answer.
- Ask your children questions about their answers—even if they're not correct. Ask, "What made you think that?" or "How did you get that answer?" before you say that the answer is right or wrong.

To find other things you might do to help your kids with math and science, here are a few resources. *Helping Your Child Learn Science*, by N. Paulu and M. Martin, suggests activities for children ages three through 10; and *Helping Your Child Learn Math*, by N. Paulu, M. Martin and M. Scott, suggests activities for children ages five through 13. Both are free and published by the U.S. Department of Education (toll free: 1-877-433-7827). Electronic copies are on its Web site at www.ed.gov/pubs/parents.html. Another resource is *Exploring Everyday Math: Ideas for Students, Teachers, and Parents* by M. Apelman and J. King. If unavailable locally, Northwest parents and teachers may borrow it and other resources from the Laboratory's Mathematics and Science Education Center's collection. See its Web site at www.nwrel.org/mscsl, or call (503) 275-4999.

This column, by Karen Blaha, is provided as a public service by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, a nonprofit institution working with schools and communities in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

Mayor Vera Katz Unveils New Strategy

Standing before a backdrop of one of Portland's hundreds of chronic vandalism targets, Mayor Vera Katz unveiled her new anti-graffiti strategy at a news conference, along with representatives of the District Attorney's Office, the Office of Neighborhood Associations, and the Central Eastside Industrial Council (CEIC).

The strategy, which makes good on pledges Katz made during her State of the City and Budget addresses, moves forward the city's aggressive graffiti abatement efforts by focusing on three areas: Education, Eradication, and Enforcement. "We must raise awareness that graffiti does indeed degrade

urban life and deteriorate our environment—as surely as dirty air and water," said Katz.

"I want to emphasize what I said in my State of the City speech—that these are not budding young artists in search of a palette—they are vandals.

Graffiti is not art, it is a scar across the face of our beautiful city."

For several months, the Mayor's Office has been working with the Central Eastside Industrial Council, the Office of Neighborhood Associations Crime Prevention Coordinator, and the Deputy District Attorney for SE Precinct to strengthen the city's existing code on graffiti.

OSU License Plates Now Available

Benny Beaver will soon be hitting the road across Oregon.

The likeness of the Oregon State University mascot appears on an new specialty license plate now available from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

"We've worked with DMV for about five months to bring the new OSU group plates to life," said Bob Bruce, OSU executive director of communications and marketing.

"We think they'll be extremely popular among alumni, students, parents and Beaver fans through-

The family of
Leamon George,
express our
warmest thanks
for your kindness and
thoughtfulness
in our time of
need.

Portland Residents Named To Dean's List

Four Portland residents have recently been named to the dean's list at Boston University for the spring semester.

Students recognized for this honor include: Victor L. Nguyen, Benjamin Z. Olds, Nili A. Schiffman, and Charles W. Wende.

Boston University is the third largest independent university in the United States, with an enrollment of nearly 30,000 students in

its 15 schools and colleges.

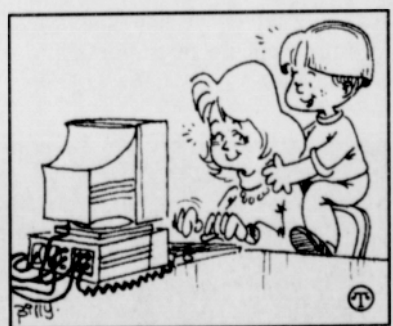
The University offers an exceptional grounding in the liberal arts, a broad range of programs in the arts, engineering, science and professional areas, and state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research.

Located in the heart of a city rich in cultural and intellectual attractions, the University is one of the nation's preeminent institutions of higher learning.

Pointers For Parents

Making Life More Fun

(NAPS)—Single parents can find a singular opportunity to get double benefits from belonging to one interesting organization.



Single parents and their children can get many of their needs met through one organization.

The thousands of members of Parents Without Partners can enjoy an (often rare) chance to socialize with other adults who share and understand some of the challenges and charms of single parenthood. They also get a great place to bring their children for outings and celebrations with other single-parent families.

The group also offers help in the form of educational activities, a newsletter, group insurance, purchasing discounts and scholarships.

To learn more, look in the phone book for the nearest chapter or see the Web site at <http://www.parentswithoutpartners.org>.

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