

WINTER

2012

PIERCE



View

A Magazine for Friends and Alumni of the Colleges



BOOTS TO BOOKS

Serving students who have served

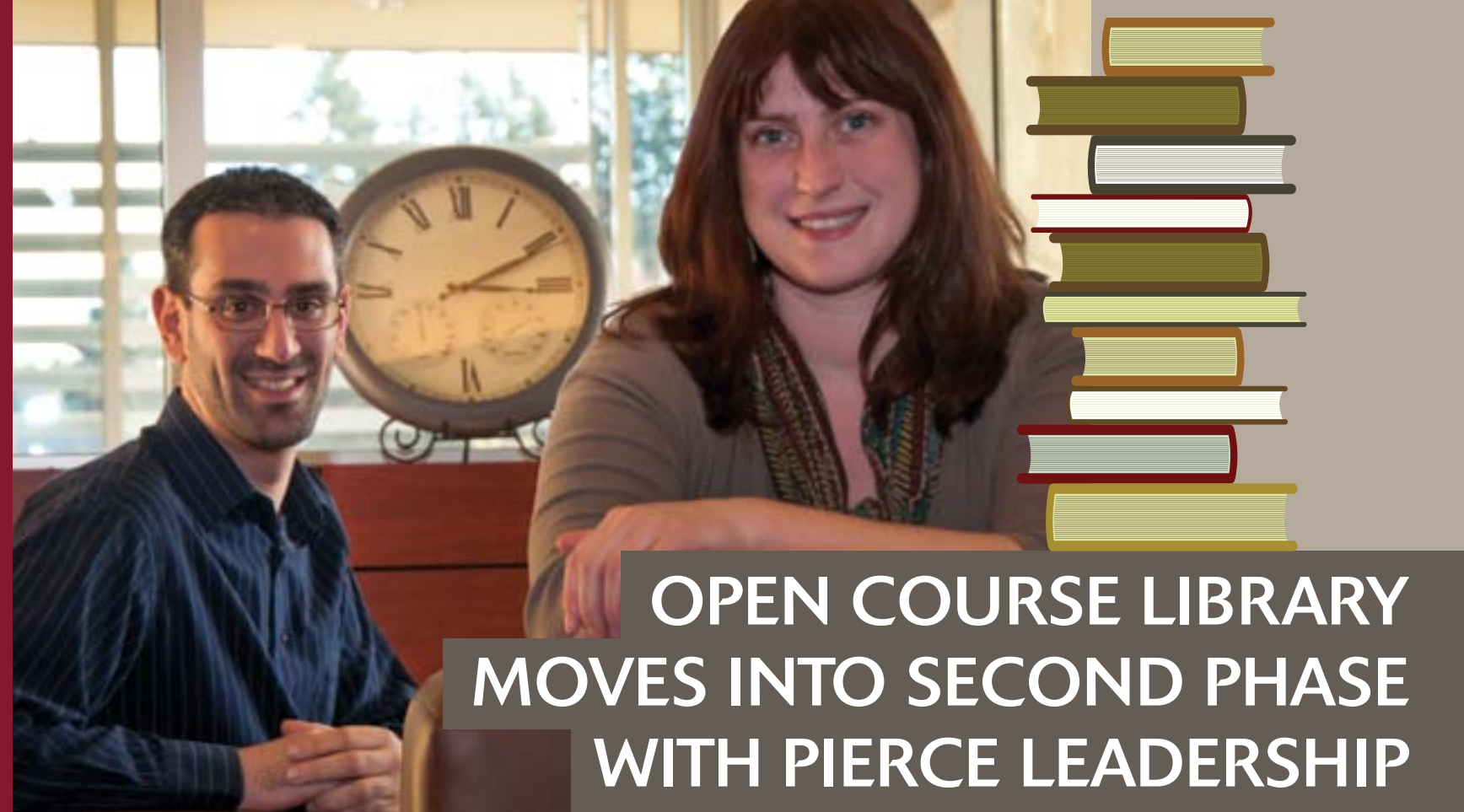
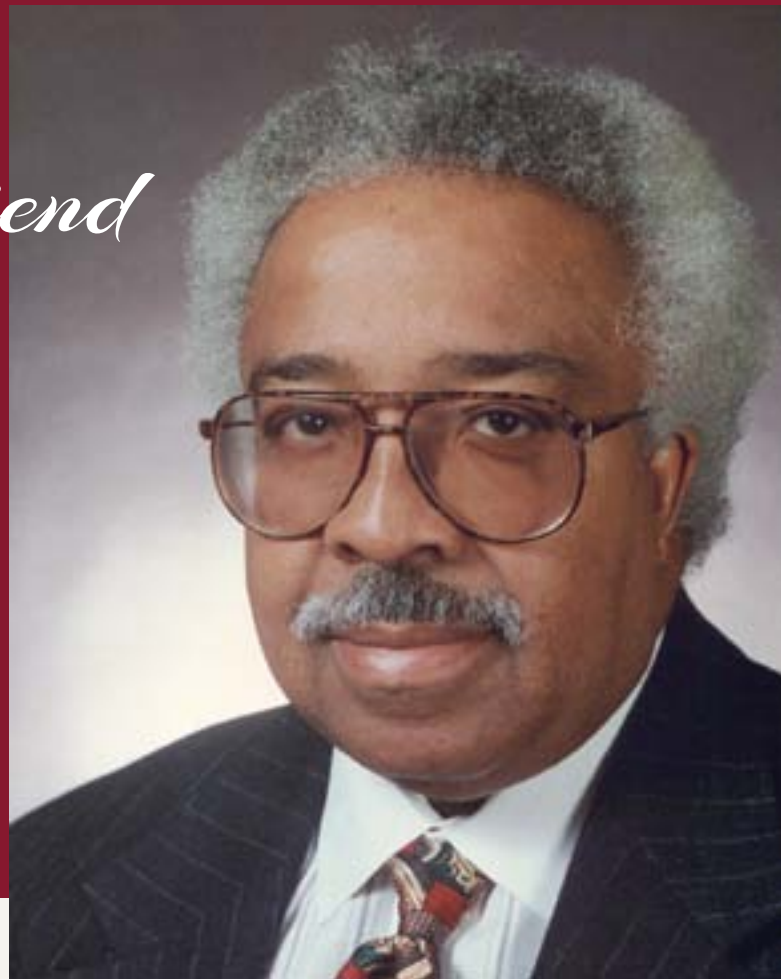
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Jim Dawson

a leader and a friend

The Pierce College community lost a leader, advocate and friend on Jan. 4 with the passing of former trustee Jim Dawson.

Dawson was a trustee from 1996 to 2005 and devoted the better part of his life to improving the chances of success for all people through education. Jim will be most remembered for his stories about life. He freely shared his own inspirational story of a young, black man who left the Air Force, and decided to drive from Pennsylvania to California but got derailed in Chicago when his car broke down. He had to choose between investing what little money he had into his car, or enrolling in the local community college to get started. Jim chose college, worked hard, transferred to the university and was later admitted to Harvard's Business School and went from there to a successful career in finance and a strong involvement and commitment to community service.



OPEN COURSE LIBRARY MOVES INTO SECOND PHASE WITH PIERCE LEADERSHIP

The Pierce College Board of Trustees approved the following resolution at its meeting on January 11.

Remembering Trustee James P. Dawson

WHEREAS, James P. Dawson graciously served as a trustee of Pierce College from 1996 to 2005, serving twice as chair, and setting a new and high standard for community involvement and leadership of all trustees, and;

WHEREAS, Jim also served as president of the Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges in 2001, during which time he expanded opportunities for board members' development, including creating a trustee training program that increased trustees' understanding of their role as advocates and leaders, and;

WHEREAS, Jim was honored as the Trustee of the Year in 2001, in recognition of his ongoing dedication to community and technical college students across the state of Washington, and;

WHEREAS, Jim spent countless hours attending state and national meetings to promote community and technical colleges, including building partnerships with K-12 and universities, and;

WHEREAS, Jim devoted the better part of his life to being an advocate, role model and mentor to advance the mission of education at all levels and improve communities through the philosophy of equity and inclusion, and;

WHEREAS, Jim led the way in promoting international education programs in both Asia and Europe, fostering sister-college relationships, and faculty and student exchanges, and;

WHEREAS, Jim facilitated efforts by Pierce College, the Tacoma Urban League, the Boys and Girls Club and other partners to successfully secure a federal GEAR UP grant, which provided higher education opportunities for 7th graders who traditionally would not attend college, and;

WHEREAS, Jim consistently exhibited tireless devotion to the two-year college system's mission, always putting the needs of students first, and;

WHEREAS, Jim led his life by example, serving as a role model for people of color and constantly striving for a more equitable society. He continually created opportunities for the underserved and underrepresented in our community, state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pierce College is forever grateful for Jim Dawson's ceaseless devotion to the college and the entire community and technical college system, and for his unending belief that higher education is the best path for individuals to realize a life of knowledge, success and fulfillment.



Faculty members Emily Wood (library) and David Lippman (math) have been selected to contribute to the second phase of the state's Open Course Library project, which seeks to make low-cost educational materials openly accessible to students. Both contributed to Phase 1 of the project, which was rolled out to students in October.

For Phase 2, Lippman will write a textbook for Math 107 (Math in Society). Wood will continue her work as an instructional designer, working with faculty to develop holistic instructional programs.

In Phase 1 of the project, Lippman co-wrote (with Melonie

Rasmussen) a pre-calculus textbook. He had previously prepared the initial version of an open math textbook, which was the foundation of his proposal for the Open Course Library. He has since been an advocate of open source course materials and is considered a resource on the subject for local and regional faculty members.

For her part in Phase 1, Wood provided instructional design support for algebra, pre-calculus, library science, geology and biology classes.

"Specifically, I helped faculty course designers revise course outcomes, integrate assessments

into their courses, and design effective learning activities in order to meet established instructional design best practices," she explained.

She will do similar work for classes in Phase 2.

The state's Open Course Library is an effort by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to create low-cost textbooks and other course materials for students all over the world. In October, the state officially rolled out materials for 42 of the state's highest-enrolled community college courses. An additional 39 courses (Phase 2) will be finished by 2013. The

project is funded with \$750,000 in state money and a matching grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

All materials in the Open Course Library (textbooks, syllabi, activities, readings and assessments) are \$30 or less per course for hard copies. If all community college faculty members adopted open-source texts, it is estimated students could save as much as \$41 million a year. By helping ensure all students have access to comprehensive and affordable educational offerings, the Open Course Library aligns with Pierce College's mission and institutional outcomes.

Fuchs Foundation grant boosts Pierce College scholarships

The Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation has awarded the Pierce College Foundation \$55,000 in support of scholarships for Pierce College students. Of that, \$45,000 will be used for the 2012-2013 school year; an additional one-time-only grant of \$10,000 will be awarded now.

The Fuchs Foundation is a prominent supporter of scholarships at Pierce College, having given \$730,000 over the past 17 years. The generous support from the Fuchs Foundation has helped hundreds of students over the years,

and now the need is even greater, said Suzy Ames, executive director of the Pierce College Foundation.

"Tuition keeps rising at an unprecedented rate. Many of our students are living on the margin," explained Ames. "This grant from the Fuchs Foundation will literally keep some students from dropping out. It will keep the hope of education and job training alive for Pierce College students."

For more information on scholarships at Pierce, visit www.pierce.ctc.edu/dist/scholarships.

PIERCE *View*

WINTER 2012

PierceView is a triannual publication produced collaboratively by the Pierce College District and the Pierce College Foundation for friends and alumni.

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SERVING STUDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED

SPEAKER GIVES FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF LIFE AS A VETERAN STUDENT



Students, faculty and staff were mesmerized by the compelling stories of a combat soldier serving in Iraq for a year and his challenges adjusting to college life. In November, SSG Kyle Hausmann-Stokes (US Army Ret.) spoke on the Fort Steilacoom and Puyallup campuses about his first-hand experiences with post-traumatic stress syndrome and his interactions with fellow students who have never served in the military.



SSG Kyle Hausmann-Stokes (crouching, top, and above) served in Iraq on a year-long tour, which helped shape his film-making career documenting soldiers' experiences.

Pierce College Mental Health Counselor Deborah Bransford was instrumental in bringing this powerful speaker to both colleges. She hoped his talk would provide her fellow co-workers with tools to better support veterans on campus, and give students a new perspective on their peers.

Hausmann-Stokes launched his presentation with a powerful first-hand film he produced shortly after entering film school at the University of Southern California. While his fellow students made films about typical teenage life, Hausmann-Stokes made a gritty film about a student dealing with war flashbacks and financial troubles.

Pierce College supporter Joan Shalikashvili, widow of retired Joint Chief of Staff Gen. John Shalikashvili, had the opportunity to meet Hausmann-Stokes on the Fort Steilacoom campus.

"It was remarkable to observe the mutual admiration of these two individuals who have such respect for the military and the role of our service men and women," said Suzy Ames, vice president of advancement and executive director of the Pierce College Foundation. "I was in awe thinking of the contributions and sacrifices these two individuals have made for our country."

Shalikashvili expressed a desire for national leaders, possibly even First Lady Michelle Obama, to see this video with the hopes it could lead to greater support for active duty and retired military personnel as they adjust to life after combat. The following week, she handed

the DVD to current Joint Chief of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey in Washington, D.C. Shalikashvili hopes the video will make an impact in the nation's capital.

Meanwhile, Hausmann-Stokes launched his most recent project in December. A robust Web site (www.maketheconnection.net) sponsored by the Department of Veteran Affairs includes many videos he produced to give a face to a wide variety of issues and challenges faced by military personnel and their families.



VETERAN STUDENTS SUPPORTED ON CAMPUS

Pierce College has always had a strong commitment to educating veterans. For the past year, the college has taken its commitment to the next level, thanks to a competitive federal grant. One of only 15 in the country, the Veterans Center of Excellence for Student Success at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom is currently serving more than 400 students who are transitioning from full-time soldiers to full-time students.

"The Center is a safe-haven for veterans on campus," said Vickie Bell, the program assistant for the Center. "They come here knowing they will be able to get the support they need, whether it's a quiet place to study or a chance to connect with fellow vets."

Bell, a veteran herself and the wife of a retired soldier, understands the challenges they face. She helps them navigate college life and gain the skills they need to become successful students. With the help of the federal grant, these students have access to resources such as a computer lab, a text book exchange, and emergency funding for transportation and childcare. The loaned books come in handy because some of the veteran students run into a gap between the start of the school quarter and the start of their GI Bill benefits.

The Center also raises awareness of the challenges veterans face amongst the faculty and staff on campus. The college strives to create a veteran-



friendly atmosphere beyond just the walls of the Center.

"We bring speakers onto campus and offer webinars to employees on topics such as post-traumatic stress syndrome and ways to provide quality instructional programs for veterans and their families," Bell said. "Our goal is to give all employees the tools they need to provide the highest level of service and education possible to veterans."

"They come here knowing they will be able to get the support they need, whether it's a quiet place to study or a chance to connect with fellow vets."
-Vickie Bell

Veteran students are also giving back. This past December, they led a campus-wide collection of Christmas stockings that

were filled by *Give 2 The Troops* organization and sent to soldiers serving in combat zones.

"It was really great to see veteran and non-veteran students working together on a significant project," Bell said.

The federal grant for the Center lasts three years. The College and the Pierce College Foundation are committed to keeping the Center running after the grant expires. Amongst other areas of support, the Foundation hopes to set up a larger emergency fund for veterans that will help them until their financial aid package kicks in, and an incentive program that rewards successful veteran students with tools such as laptop computers.

If you'd like to learn more about supporting the Veterans Center of Excellence for Student Success, please call Suzy Ames at (253) 864-3262.

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER



The Pierce College Foundation welcomes its newest board member, faculty member Judy DeJardin. Two slots on the Board are reserved for faculty members.

DeJardin is a faculty member in the Early Childhood Education department. She is taking Marty Lobdell's place as the Fort Steilacoom faculty representative. She has worked at the college since 1979 and became a full-time employee in 1989. DeJardin supported the Child Development Center Campaign for the Foundation by working with the Gates and Milgard foundations for large gifts. DeJardin started her first term in January.

CONNECTING COLLEGES WITH BUSINESSES

Local businesses seeking to galvanize their workers with new or expanded skills have a new resource in Pierce County.

In partnership with Tacoma Community College, Bates Technical College, and Clover Park Technical College, Pierce College now offers Invista Performance Solutions, a workforce training resource that provides customized, targeted worker training for businesses.

Invista pools the resources of all five Pierce County colleges with a larger network of schools across the country and Canada

TECH EXPERT PROVIDES INSIGHT



An audience of students, faculty, staff and community members were entertained, informed and intrigued during an evening with Dr. Moira Gunn, host of National Public Radio's *Tech Nation*.

During an up-close conversation with Pierce College Foundation supporters, Gunn offered a look into the ways students learn math concepts and theories and the reasons some thrive and others don't. During her presentation in the Pierce College Puyallup Performing Arts Theatre, she offered observations and trends on a wide variety of technological advancements. She provided insight on the future of gene therapy, possibilities in space exploration and the ways our daily lives are affected by technology.

The author of "Welcome to BioTech Nation: My Unexpected Odyssey into the Land of Small Molecules, Lean Genes, and Big Ideas" provided a layman's perspective on a wide variety of complicated scientific concepts and their impact on society.

Gunn was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Purdue University, from which she also received an honorary doctorate in science. Gunn currently serves on the advisory boards in mechanical engineering at both Purdue and Stanford universities.

She was the first speaker in the 2011-12 Pierce Presents Artists and Speakers Series, presented by the Pierce College Puyallup Office of Student Life. The Pierce College Foundation contributed to Gunn's program.

to provide high quality, diverse training for business owners and managers. For example, businesses wishing to expand in a specific overseas market would be able to get targeted language training for its workers, or a business that's changing to a new accounting system would receive training for its workers in the new system.

"As the economy improves and businesses begin to grow and expand their workforce, access to high-quality, targeted training becomes especially important," explained Dr. Patrick Schmitt, president of Pierce College Puyallup. "Pierce College is pleased

to collaborate with the other Pierce County community and technical colleges to provide businesses the tools they need for economic recovery and continued success."

Invista is based on a model used successfully by Tacoma Community College's Corporate Education Department. In the last year, TCC Corporate Education completed \$1.7 million in training contracts with businesses in the region.

For more information on Invista and the new training opportunities available locally, call (253) 583-8861.

PIERCE COLLEGE CONTRIBUTES TO STATEWIDE DISABILITIES AWARENESS PROJECT

A new video aimed at raising awareness of the issues facing students with disabilities is now making a difference across the state, thanks to grant funding from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the work of Pierce College's Access and Disabilities Services Manager Susan McPhee.

McPhee is part of an 11-college universal design team charged with ensuring students of all abilities have unrestricted access to facilities, classrooms and learning environments. This year, the committee used its funding to produce a universal design video to build awareness of the challenges facing many students, and the strategies educators can use to help them succeed.

The video was produced by Seattle Central Community College's film program, featuring real Seattle Central students.

"The students portrayed themselves. Nothing was contrived. It was very heartfelt," said

McPhee. "We're really proud of how it turned out. Everyone did a beautiful job."

The specific issues raised in the video, including vision and hearing impairments, and learning challenges, were strategically selected to reflect the concerns and needs of actual students. The universal design committee conducted a student survey and used the results to plan the video.

McPhee added that additional funding has been secured to make the statements in the video audible for people with visual impairments.

The project, which aligns with Pierce College's mission to provide quality education to a diverse community of learners, reflects Pierce's commitment to providing a positive college environment that is accessible to all.

See the universal design video at www.youtube.com/user/SeattleCentralSCCC.

Save the dates



Athlete alumni honored

Join us as we celebrate the induction of the second class of the Raider Athletics Hall of Fame on April 28 in the Health Education Center at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom.

This year's banquet will recognize and honor the very best of Pierce College and Fort Steilacoom Community College. Event details and tickets will be available from the Raider Athletics office at (253) 964-6613.

For more than 40 years, Raider student-athletes have competed in seven sports throughout the Pacific Northwest. Help us celebrate the accomplishments of these great student-athletes, and share memories from our Raider past.

'12 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CELEBRATION

Join the Pierce College Foundation in honoring the 2012 Distinguished Alumni at 6 p.m. April 5 in the Health Education Center at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom.

The Distinguished Alumni celebration is one of the most inspiring events of the year. Recipients share their stories of triumph and adversity, highlighting the ways Pierce College has made a difference in their lives.

Tickets and event information are available from the Foundation office, (253) 864-3260 or foundation@pierce.ctc.edu. Guests are asked to RSVP by March 22. We hope to see you there!

facebook FINDING OUR ALUMNI FRIENDS

The new Pierce College Alumni Facebook page has arrived. Have you found us and liked us? Keep track of events on campus that are sure to bring our closest community members back for a visit. We'd love to hear what you've been up to since you left the halls of Fort Steilacoom Community College/Pierce College Fort Steilacoom/Pierce College Puyallup.

classnotes

PIERCE COLLEGE ALUMS:

Tell us what you're doing now. We'd like to hear from you!

Please include your name, graduating class year, telephone and e-mail address.

E-mail your news to phenson@pierce.ctc.edu or mail to:

CLASS NOTES,
c/o Paula Henson-Williams
Pierce College Puyallup
1601 39th Ave. SE
Puyallup WA 98374-2222

Leave a Legacy

Join our Legacy Society by naming **Pierce College Foundation** in your will. (253) 864-3262 www.pierce.ctc.edu/foundation

'11-12 PIERCE PUYALLUP *presents* ARTISTS AND SPEAKER SERIES



Brain Rules

WITH NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Dr. John Medina

7 p.m. April 26

*Book signing and
reception to follow*

\$5 general, \$2 Pierce students
Tickets: (253) 840-8416

An exclusive dinner with Dr. Medina prior to his public presentation is available for \$40. Please call (253) 864-3260 to reserve your seat.

Arts and Allied Health Theatre
Pierce College Puyallup, 1601 39th Ave. SE

