Opening Doors

Changing Lives

Inspiring Progress
University Archivist Cris Paschild has been a part of the Library team since 2008. As both the University Archivist and the Head of Special Collections, Paschild has worked tirelessly to ensure PSU’s legacy is preserved and honored. In keeping with PSU’s motto, “Let knowledge serve the city,” she has helped build an archive that is accessible and interesting for students, faculty, and the greater Portland community. With 30,000 students in attendance at its downtown campus and many graduates who enter the workforce here, Portland State University is an integral part of the City of Portland. The University Archives, under Cris Paschild’s direction, aims to represent PSU’s legacy as a diverse urban center for learning and research. Professor Emeritus Charlie White, a dedicated advocate for the Archives, says that Cris is part of the reason he began donating to the University Archives. “Cris is a very fine archivist and is devoted to her work. She has the Portland State spirit of service,” he adds.

One highlight within the University Archives is the Center for the Moving Image Collection (CMIC), in honor of PSU professors Andries Deinum and Tom Taylor. The CMIC holds over 30 student films as well as the Tom Taylor Collection, a gift to the Library from his children, of Taylor’s papers, videos, and films. Recent use of the CMIC includes graduate research on student activism in the 1970s, a course focused on curating digital exhibits featuring CMIC documents and films, and a master’s thesis of oral histories on CMIC and the Portland film community. Cris has been an advocate for CMI’s records at the University Library and has successfully fundraised to ensure the collection is preserved. In 2010, she secured funding from the Library of Congress’s National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) to preserve two CMI films, *The Seventh Day* and *Albina Mural Project*.

To help grow the CMIC and other collections within the University Archives, Cris looks to alumni and community members who share her passion and asks for an investment in this critical part of PSU and Oregon’s history.
From its start in 1946 as the Vanport Extension Center primarily supporting returning veterans through its evolution into the diverse urban university of today, Portland State University has a unique and important history. It is critical to preserve this record for future generations to better understand the lives of so many impacted by the only urban public university in Oregon. The University Archives makes our history accessible by collecting PSU’s stories and preserving them as a record of innovative research, student life through the decades, and city partnerships for the past 70 years.

A rich resource for students, faculty, staff, and the community, the Archives includes documents, correspondence, publications, program materials, photographs, films, and items from administrative departments, academic units, student organizations, and faculty and staff. The Portland State University Archives is dedicated to collecting, organizing, preserving, and providing access to the historical records of the University. The University Archives embraces a spirit of engagement by encouraging interaction with materials and incorporation into faculty and student research. We can do all this because of support from alumni, faculty, staff and community members, but we are at a turning point and need your investment to help us do more.
Four Areas to Impact the University Archives

Expanding the Online Digital Photo Gallery

The University Archives hopes to digitize the tens of thousands of photographs and negatives within the collection, a lengthy process that requires dedicated staff time and Library resources. In 2013, the University Archives will publicly debut its Digital Gallery, featuring a series of historic images that have been digitized and annotated. This initial selection, however, represents only a small percentage of the photograph holdings of the archives. The Library seeks to continue to digitize, describe, and make this important and very popular facet of the University Archives available online to students, faculty, researchers, and the community.

Creating Access to Digital Publications

Along with a digital archive of PSU’s history in photographs, the University Archives seeks to digitize publications produced by the University. This includes yearbooks, course schedules, bulletins, and student publications. As with the University Archives’ collection of photographs, the many University publications within the collection can only be viewed by appointment at Millar Library. Providing digital access to visitors of the University Library’s website means research, studies, and general curiosity don’t have to be limited to a set time and physical location. With an archive of decades-spanning records, the University Archives’ electronic publications seek to celebrate PSU’s history by bringing it into the digital era.
Preparing Our History for Effective Research and Learning

In order to make the University Archives more accessible to students, faculty, and the community, time and effort must be spent arranging and describing Portland State University records. This can include researching departments, offices, programs, and campus events to place records in their correct historical context; identifying and labeling folders of documents, sometimes by the hundreds; and creating inventories and finding aids that once online will allow researchers from around the world to across the Park Blocks know what we have available in their field of interest. All of these steps are critical to creating and maintaining stable, organized historical resources that can stand the test of time.

Assistant Archivist Position

With the addition of the digital gallery, digital publications, and records processing projects, the University Archives will need to employ one full-time assistant archivist to ensure these programs are successful. Our University Archivist has built a solid foundation for the Archives in the last five years, and has made up for the many years when the University didn’t have a dedicated archivist. Now is the time to build a team to support the growing opportunities to better support our students, faculty, and community, while preserving our special history.
The University Archives has many supporters that understand the importance of preserving PSU’s legacy for future generations of Oregonians. Professor Emeritus Charlie White is a leader in that group. His career as a history professor began in 1952 at Portland State Extension Center, and over the next 55 years he taught many courses, served as History Department chair, Director of International Education, and Director of Summer Session. There is not a student that doesn’t remember Dr. White because of his passion for student success. He helped his students in the classroom, in the office, and taught them about life. Alumnus Michael Call reflects, “Dr. Charlie White saved me during a time when I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do. He helped guide my learning experience and taught me lessons that have been invaluable in my professional and personal life.” While Charlie sees the value in the University Archives, we see that he and so many others along the way have helped shape this great university. We are proud and honored to keep his story and so many others like his preserved in the University Archives.

Charlie remains active in PSU community life, as a donor and as a student. Since retirement he has started taking classes at PSU, including Constitutional Law and Canadian Literature. Charlie has seen the university evolve over the decades: observing the different legacies of university presidents, from Cramer to Millar to Wiewel, and watching the school grow from an extension center to the large and diverse university it is today.

Believing in the importance of preserving PSU’s unique history, Charlie and his wife Dawn began giving to the University Archives fund when it was first created. His favorite items on display are the diaries of Stephen Epler, the founder of PSU. Epler was a veteran and worked as a veterans’ advisor in the 1940s. He proposed that Portland make a public school available for veterans, thus starting the Vanport Extension Center. “Epler founded the school and he was the very essence of it,” explains Charlie, who can give a history lesson on almost any person involved in PSU’s storied history. Epler’s diaries are especially interesting because you can look into the beginning of PSU’s history through a personal recounting.

For the future, Charlie hopes the University Archives will play a significant role in University Library visitors’ experiences. “I hope the University Archives continues to be a place that students and faculty go to research all kinds of projects lauding the history of the University—and the history of Oregon.”

“Understanding the history of a place is important to contributing to it.”
Ways to Give

Make A Gift Today

Direct gifts have an immediate impact on the University Library. Gifts can be made online with a credit card through the PSU Foundation's secure website by visiting https://www.foundation.pdx.edu/publicgift/librarygift.jsp.

Or, send a check payable to the PSU Foundation:
Portland State University Library
Attention: Jennifer Wilkerson
Post Office Box 1151
Portland, OR 97207-1151

Create an Endowed Fund

An endowed fund creates a legacy that will forever support the growing needs of the Library and University Archives. Gifts of $25,000 or more will establish a fund that will help up to acquire, preserve, and make accessible library materials in any subject area of interest to the donor, including the University Archives. Endowments may be established with a single gift or with a pledge that will build a fund over several years (for example: $5,000 annual pledge payments over 5 years might make this an easier method to consider creating a new endowment).

Establish a Planned Gift

A charitable gift annuity has the benefits of paying you fixed income for the rest of your life. A portion of your income may be tax free and you may receive a charitable deduction for your gift. There can be up to two annuitant beneficiaries, and the Library is the future residual beneficiary.

A gift of your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred retirement plan is an excellent way to make a gift. If you are like most people, you probably will not use all of your retirement assets during your lifetime and this is a way to make an impact at the Library today.

A bequest is a charitable deduction for taxable estates that allows you to make a large gift at no immediate cost to you and is the easiest planned gift you can make. We have sample bequest language that you can use when working with your advisor.

You can give your life insurance policy to the PSU Foundation today and receive a potential charitable deduction. You can then make charitable contributions to the Foundation each year that the Foundation uses to pay the premiums. Or you can designate the PSU Foundation as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. You will continue to own and can make use of the policy during your lifetime. The policy will be included in your taxable estate when you pass away, but your estate may benefit from a charitable deduction for the value of the gift.
The University Archives provides a unique learning environment for our students and faculty. It also offers an in-depth look into the University’s rich history for scholars, historians, and interested community members. The University Library provides support for the entire campus with enriched learning, instruction, and research. Gifts to the University Archives Fund support the acquisition, processing, and preservation of documents significant to Portland State’s history.

We seek your support to develop and maintain the University Archives. We hope you will be our partner in this effort to maintain an asset to the University Library and Portland State's students and faculty.

Make a gift online today and make a difference for the future of the University Archives: http://library.pdx.edu/support.html.
For more information about supporting the University Archives, please contact:
Library Development
libdev@pdx.edu
503.725.4509