



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

FALL 2025

Message from the Vice President

Friends, Colleagues, and Partners of the University of Portland,

As the Fall 2025 semester comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the countless ways our students are being uplifted, supported, and inspired by the collective efforts of the University of Portland community. The work of Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence (SAIE) does not happen in isolation; it is enriched every day by the dedication, partnership, and shared mission of colleagues, alumni, families, and friends who believe deeply in the transformative power of the UP experience.

This semester, our SAIE team has been working with renewed energy to enliven student life, ensuring that every Pilot has opportunities to connect, belong, and flourish. From the very first moments of welcoming new students through Summer WAVE and Orientation to the signature events, traditions, retreats, immersions, and wellness initiatives that have shaped the rhythm of the semester, our staff has been tireless in their commitment to creating a campus where every student feels at home. These early experiences matter; they help students form friendships, discover resources, and anchor themselves in the community long before academic challenges or life transitions arise.

What has been most heartening to witness, however, is the breadth of collaboration across campus. Faculty who integrate co-curricular learning into their courses; staff who bridge academic, social, and spiritual support; Athletics, Campus Ministry, the Moreau Center, Residence Life, Student Activities, and countless others who help students explore identity, purpose, leadership, and

service—all of these partnerships strengthen our shared commitment to educate the whole person. Together, we are cultivating a university environment where students can bring their full selves, explore emerging passions, and develop the confidence, courage, and curiosity needed for lives of meaning.

This semester has reminded us that belonging is not something students merely stumble into; it is something we intentionally create. Through identity-affirming spaces, celebrations of culture and heritage, peer leadership opportunities, proactive wellness and prevention strategies, and compassionate support during moments of difficulty, our teams across campus are ensuring that students feel seen, valued, and connected. These efforts reflect our Catholic, Holy Cross mission and our dedication to inclusive excellence, shaping a campus where dignity, justice, and community are more than aspirations; they are lived realities.

We are especially grateful for the many external partners: local organizations, donors, alumni, and families; whose investments of time, expertise, and resources make this work possible. Your belief in our students and your trust in our mission help us create the conditions in which they can thrive. You remind us that educating the whole person has always been a shared responsibility, rooted in relationships and strengthened by collective care.

As we enter this season of gratitude and the joy of the holidays, I hope you will join me in celebrating the extraordinary students who animate this campus and the remarkable UP community who walks alongside them. Each act of service, each gesture of care, each partnership forged in hope contributes to a University of Portland experience that leaves a lasting imprint on students' lives.

This edition of our newsletter shines a bright light on the thoughtful planning, signature programs, meaningful initiatives, and wide array of services and resources that have shaped the student experience throughout the fall semester; each a testament to our community's shared commitment to helping every Pilot belong and thrive.

My blessing for you in this holiday season is this:

May your days ahead be filled with peace, warmth, and renewal.

May the people and places you cherish remind you of your own belovedness.

May the joy you have helped cultivate in our students return to you generously.

And may the spirit of this season inspire you toward hope and possibility in the year to come.

With deep gratitude,



Alvin A. Sturdivant, Ed.D.

UPDATES

Office of Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence

- **SAIE Strategic Planning Process Launch**

This fall, the Division of Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence formally launched a multi-semester strategic planning process that will guide our work through the next five years. Grounded in the University's mission, the 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, and the needs and aspirations of today's students, this process invites staff, students, faculty, and partners to help shape a bold and future-focused vision for the student experience at UP. Through listening sessions, data review, environmental scanning, and collaborative goal-setting, the division is identifying opportunities to strengthen belonging, enhance wellbeing, foster student leadership, and prepare for shifting demographic and financial realities. This work will culminate in a clear roadmap that aligns priorities, resources, and partnerships; ensuring SAIE continues to serve as a catalyst for transformative student learning and thriving.

- **SAIE Departmental Self-Study Process**

In tandem with strategic planning, each department within SAIE has begun an in-depth self-study process designed to examine the effectiveness, impact, and long-term sustainability of our programs and services. Using industry standards, SWOT analysis, cost-benefit/impact assessment, and mission alignment tools, departments are exploring strengths, identifying areas for growth, and uncovering opportunities to better serve students in an evolving landscape. This reflective process is both a mirror and a map; helping teams understand the story of their current work while illuminating future possibilities. The results will inform divisional planning, foster better cross-campus collaboration, and ensure that our efforts remain student-centered, data-informed, and grounded in inclusive excellence.

- **Inclusive Excellence Advisory Council Launch**

This semester also marks the inaugural launch of the Inclusive Excellence Advisory Council (IEAC), a cross-campus body charged with advising

University leadership on emerging DEIJB/A priorities and supporting efforts that strengthen campus climate, equity, belonging, and wellbeing. Comprised of faculty, staff, and student representatives from across the University, the IEAC serves as a vital consultative partner; reviewing policies and practices, offering feedback on institutional initiatives, and advancing a shared vision of inclusive excellence rooted in our Catholic, Holy Cross mission. The council's work will help ensure that equity-minded decision-making is woven into the fabric of the University and that every member of our community is supported in contributing fully to the life of UP.

Campus Ministry

- Campus Ministry facilitated the university's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit to begin the academic year and entrust the work of our campus to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Tim Weed, C.S.C. presided, Fr. John Donato, C.S.C. preached, and the Chapel of Christ the Teacher was packed with students, faculty, and staff for prayer in community.
- In collaboration with our Office of Residence Life, students from each residence hall came together for an overnight retreat at Camp Collins—focusing on physical, spiritual, and mental wellness. Retreatants stayed in cabins on the property and enjoyed the beautiful nature of the camp. With games, art projects, skits, and times for prayer and reflection woven throughout, the retreat fostered connection which kept the students invested and engaged in the experience.





- Our [Fish Christian Fellowship community](#) and Koi Bible Study joined forces for a festive praise and worship night in the St. André Bessette, C.S.C. Chapel in Haggerty and Tyson Halls. The evening featured music led by the worship team, with snacks and fellowship following the music. Students had a great time! *(Photo above, at left)*
- In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Campus Ministry provided our annual blessing of the pets. Fr. Tyler Kreipke, C.S.C. blessed pets from students, faculty, and staff. Year after year, this celebration remains a campus-wide favorite. *(Photo above, at right)*

Follow [Campus Ministry on Instragram](#) >

Campus Safety and Emergency Management

- The Campus Safety team participated in the Haggerty and Tyson residence hall events and joint tabling with Students Against Sexual Assault (SASA) to discuss safe partying practices and guide students through the process of registering parties responsibly. The collaboration fostered awareness, accountability, and community care.
- On November 17th, the Campus Safety and Emergency Management team is fully staffed in-house patrol officer team—welcomed Lorenzo Clara, as our new Associate Director of Patrol Operations. This full staff strengthens our commitment to safety and security across the campus community.

Follow [Campus Safety on Instagram](#) >

Care Team

- A grateful appreciation to UP staff [Charles Bedell](#) and [Meg Farra](#) for leading our first annual StockUP food drive. From the generous

contributions received from our UP community, [StockUP](#) pantry collected 800 lbs of food and hygiene items to support our students.



- StockUP and Bon Appétit Catering at UP partnered to support students staying local in Portland during the Thanksgiving holiday. This collaboration reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring students have access to a nourishing meal and supportive resource throughout the holiday season.

More info on the [Care Team](#) >

Center for Gender and Sexuality (CGS)

- During OUTober 2025, CGS hosted 9 events engaging 233 students, staff, and faculty. Events included awareness day celebrations for lesbian, bisexual, intersex, and asexual identities; along with tabling events for National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and LGBTQAI+ Spirit Day focused on anti-bullying resources. On October 10, CGS held a one-year anniversary reception for National Coming Out Day with our UP community. [Related article](#) on *The Beacon* >
- In November 2025, CGS hosted Transgender Awareness Month with a variety of programs: Trans Parents Day—a panel discussion featuring UP staff and faculty parents of trans children; Trans Awareness Week in the Clark Library showcasing books by and about trans people; a Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil; and "Trans Youth Health Care Best Practices" with Simone Wright, RN (UP SONHI alum, and a pediatric oncology nurse at OHSU) sharing her experience for the care of trans youth in the medical field. *(Photo below, at right)*
- On December 1, CGS will host a tabling event for [World AIDS Day](#)—to promote the global movement to unite people in the fight against HIV and

AIDS.

More CGS programming on Engage >



Health, Counseling, and Wellness

- The Primary Care team hosted a collaborative clinic with the School of Nursing and Health Innovations (SONHI) to support sophomore students in meeting compliance requirements for clinicals. The team also administered over 360 flu and COVID vaccinations across campus, promoting health and safety within the UP community.
- The Counseling team launched a new internship training program in partnership with Lewis & Clark's Graduate School of Education and Counseling—welcoming Emma Highland (our first Mental Health Counselor Intern) providing direct mental health services to our students, expanding the team's capacity to support campus mental health.
- This fall semester, Wellness Promotion hosted over 30 events in collaboration with the Learning Commons, Residence Life, EspressoUP, ASUP, and the School of Education. With an average of 50 student interactions per event, engagement was strong—reflecting a vibrant commitment to students' well-being.
- Over 650 students were trained in Green Dot bystander intervention and consent best practices.
- In October, our UP community recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). Students, faculty, and staff across campus wore purple to raise awareness of dating violence, safer party practices, and learned how to support survivors.



More [Wellness Promotion programming on Engage](#) >

Moreau Center for Service and Justice (MCSJ)

- Over fall break, 11 students traveled to Yakima Valley for an immersion experience focused on migrant worker and Indigenous peoples' issues. Guided by [Erin Savoia](#) (MCSJ's Immersions Program Manager) and student leaders Emma and Niall, they planned an immersion at 10 organizations including Yakama Nation Farms, Heritage University, Nuestra Casa, Yakama Nation Fishery, Radio KDNA, and more—working to honor and uplift their communities. [Related article](#) on *The Beacon* >



- In response to increased ICE activity in North Portland, MCSJ partnered with [Catholic Charities of Oregon's Immigration Legal Services](#) to host a [Know Your Rights training](#) for students, staff, and faculty. Co-hosted with the [Office of International Education, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) (OIEDI), a resource fair followed with 15 organizations (includes Ecumenical Ministries [Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees](#), The Mexican Consulate, [Catholic Charities of Oregon Refugee Services](#)), and UP campus partners ([Care Team](#), [Career Education Center](#) and CGS) to provide support and resources for the UP campus community.

Residence Life

- In Fall 2025, we welcomed 75 more juniors living on campus than the year before. Last year, we reimagined the UP housing model to be more sequential and developmental—creating a pathway designed specifically for upper-division students. With dedicated housing, tailored programming, exclusive meal plans, and rates crafted just for them, our upper-division students enjoy the flexibility, autonomy, independence, and age-appropriate experiences.

Related article on The Beacon - [Shipstad Hall](#) >

- After Fall Break, Lund Family Hall hosted an annual tradition—their Full Moon Ceremony community celebration that embraces their Wolfpack community identity and offers an opportunity for seniors and other hall leaders to share meaningful stories about their experiences in the hall. The fun evening closed on a sweet note, with everyone gathered around the patio for s'mores under the moonlight.



- On November 6th, the Office of Residence Life proudly hosted the StarRez Pacific Northwest Regional Connect conference at UP. StarRez users from across Oregon and Washington gathered on campus for a full day of learning, collaboration, and discovery—exploring how different institutions leverage the software to enhance student housing. [William Atkinson](#), our Residence Life's Associate Director for Housing Operations, delivered a dynamic presentation showcasing how UP has harnessed StarRez to modernize key processes like move-in, room keys, housing applications, renter's insurance, and more. He also joined a panel with colleagues from Portland State University and Gonzaga University to discuss emerging trends in college housing and the future of student living. This milestone builds on UP's 2024 initiative, when Residence Life

partnered with Summer Camps and Conferences to implement StarRez. The collaboration has transformed operations, enabling both offices to work seamlessly with vital campus partners—including Campus Safety, Facilities Services, and Accessible Education Services—creating a stronger, more connected student experience.



Follow [Residence Life on Instagram](#) >

Student Activities

- The Office of Student Activities partnered with Residence Life, Campus Ministry, Athletics, University Relations, ASUP, Marketing and Communications, and University Events to launch an exciting new series of events—**DIVE IN!** Designed to increase the culture of overall student engagement especially on nights and weekends, DIVE IN! aims to build a vibrant campus culture filled with energy, excitement, school pride, and to increase social integration and a sense of belonging; while also positively impacting retention rates. We reimagined traditional events such as Pilots After Dark, All Aboard, and Homecoming and Family Weekend; and introduced bold new experiences such as [comedian JR De Guzman](#), magician Trigg Watson, Rose City Circus, and the unforgettable Golf Cart Parade. These events are transforming campus into a hub of connection, celebration, and community spirit.



- We proudly supported the launch of the new [UP Mobile App](#), powered by Modo Labs. This upgrade unlocked the Engage “event pass” feature—strengthening our event tracking practices. The app not only enhances the student experience but also helps us build a more connected and engaged campus community.

Follow [Student Activities on Instagram](#) >

NEW TO THE DIVISION OF SAIE

Campus Ministry

- Campus Minister, Faith Engagement - [Veronica Ramirez](#)
- Campus Minister, Liturgy & Faith Integration - [Br. James Walters, C.S.C.](#)

Campus Safety and Emergency Management

- Associate Director for Patrol Operations - Lorenzo Clara

- Dispatcher - [Victoria Gerber](#), Courtney Harper, Bonnie Manning, Meaghan Wallace
- Officer - Emmerson Arndt, Ian Brunn Embry, Gabe Pearson, [Alejandro Thomas](#)

Care Team

- MSW Intern - Amy Robison

Health, Counseling, and Wellness

- Mental Health Provider - [Carlee Hill](#)
- Mental Health Counselor Intern - Emma Highland

Moreau Center for Service and Justice

- Director - Claire McIlwain

Residence Life

- Office Manager - Elina Bedoya
- Fields and Schoenfeldt Halls: Assistant Hall Director - [Cherokee Trent](#)
- Haggerty and Tyson Halls: Hall Director - [Andy Demma](#); Assistant Hall Director - [Journey Scardino-Moore](#)
- Kenna Hall: Assistant Hall Director - Mariame Dolley
- Mehling Hall: Assistant Hall Director - [Symone Fiedler](#)
- Shipstad Hall: Hall Director - [Lupita Zamora-Resendiz](#); Assistant Hall Director - [Ariana Quinonez](#)
- Villa Maria Hall: Assistant Hall Director - Quin Cottrill

Student Activities

- Assistant Director for Student Media - Ed Langlois

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 21: [Holy Cross Wine and Cheese Social](#) for Faculty and Staff (3:30-5 PM, Dundon-Berchtold Hall Lounge)
- December 1: Presidents' Christmas Tree Lighting (4 PM)
- December 5: [Thirst Friday](#) Holiday Sip and Social for Faculty and Staff (4-6 PM, Dundon-Berchtold Hall Lounge)
- December 6: [Santa's Workshop](#) (2-5 PM, Bauccio Commons) [RSVP](#) >
- December 6: Advent Vespers Concert (8 PM, St. Mary's Cathedral) [Register](#) >

- December 10: SAIE Division Formation and Professional Development (8:30 AM, Bauccio Commons Board Room)
- December 15: UP Staff Christmas Gathering (3-5 PM, Bauccio Commons Dining Room)

Holidays: Thanksgiving Break (November 27-28, begins at 4 PM on 11/26);
Christmas Break (December 24 to January 2; offices open 1/5/2026)

HAVE AN EVENT OR STORY TO SHARE?

Email studentaffairs@up.edu



5000 N. Willamette Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97203
up.edu | 503.943.8532 | studentaffairs@up.edu

