As the sun begins to set on Jeld-Wen Field, the Portland Timbers take on the Colorado Rapids at the August 31, 2012 match. Photo by Craig Mitchelldye. See related story on pages 10-12.
Adam Ristick  
**Senior. President. Visionary.**

President Adam Ristick desires to set up the platform of leadership this year, bringing new meaning to what ASWPC does and what they represent. “I serve as a median between Dr. Cook and the student body,” Ristick said. He explained how it is his job to be a bridge connecting the administration and the students. In his eyes ASWPC needs to be proactive, coming to the students to see what they need and how ASWPC can support them. Ristick wishes to redefine heart filled service in this school. The question “How can we affect people’s lives?” is only one of many. Ristick wants to be there for the students and allow for opportunities for students to be involved in all aspects of the school. “Any institutional change takes years of consistency,” Ristick said. This year ASWPC intends to “build the foundation that makes room for growth and allows change.” At the end of the day, he hopes that students will benefit from their work even after he leaves. He believes the ASWPC can “set the bar” for future service and student involvement.

Simeon Jacob 
**Junior. Vice President. Listener.**

Vice President Simeon Jacob has specific goals in mind for how ASWPC can make a positive change in the campus community and beyond. The most important thing for him is accessibility. ASWPC needs to be proactive, relational, and transparent. The kind of change ASWPC is trying to implement isn’t meant to be locked in some strange room up at A.F. Gray. It needs to be open to the community as a whole. Jacob wants ASWPC to come to the students, not the other way around. “We want to be the ones initiating the relationships, coming to people and working with them,” Jacob said. “Being proactive and not reactive.” Jacob intends to achieve this through frequent open forums to hear student concerns. He hopes to expand them from once a semester to once a month. Jacob said that he wants to create “spaces for concerns to be known before problems arise,” particularly referring to problems dealing with safety and outdated rules. These concerns should be taken seriously, involving students, staff and faculty in safety forums.

Chelsea Sorenson 
**Senior. Director of Communications. Voice.**

ASWPC is here to push boundaries and develop positive change. For Chelsea Sorenson, Director of Communications, the best way to achieve that is by keeping the student body informed. “I am changing the way that I communicate. This year we have The Shield and our Facebook page,” Sorenson said. ASWPC has been active on Facebook and can be found at facebook.com/ASWPC. They have also implemented The Shield, a blog meant to replace campus wide emails for event announcements and other widely distributed information. It is available on the myWP portal or at blogs.warnerpacific.edu/theshield. Sorenson explained how all forms of announcements are being made available to the student body through digital and print media as well as chapel announcements. By the end of the year she hopes to have new a new issue of the Potty Mouth consistently each week. She also hopes to involve the community by making known service opportunities and campus activities.

Not pictured: Jose Estrada, ASWPC Secretary. Photos courtesy of Taylor Kautz.
Rachel Plyler, the Student Chaplain, wants to see authentic community on campus. She is working to create space for people on campus to be both known and loved and for stories to be told. Developing safe places for these things to happen through the new community groups is her goal this year. She also wants to create “unified purpose” across groups. She intends for ASWPC to be available, present, and intentional, leading by example. She hopes that, “As a student body and community, we learn how to love ourselves and each other better.”

It is not uncommon for a government (whether of a small school or a large nation) to seek change. What is less common, however, is a government concerned about paving the way for future leaders. This year’s ASWPC (Associated Students of Warner Pacific College) officers fall under that category: people who are looking toward the future and trying to lay groundwork for years to come. From uniting the Portland schools to creating a strong student senate, the projects planned by ASWPC in 2012-2013 will be cornerstones of years to come.

Taylor Kautz
Junior. Treasurer. Veteran.

Treasurer Taylor Kautz is the only returning member from last year’s ASWPC. She is the guiding force in the room during their meetings. “It’s fun having the experience,” Kautz said. “I get to lead the leaders.” For her, ASWPC is exciting this year because the new officers bring new strengths, passionate drive, and different dynamics to the table. “They all have a ‘go for it’ attitude and passion,” Kautz said. This year she wants to bring intentionality to the government. She does not want to see half-hearted work. She wants to see the officers of ASWPC being particular and present to the few but strong goals for this year.

Jose Estrada
Sophomore. Secretary. Unifier.

“We are going to shock the system in order to achieve the change Warner Pacific needs,” said Secretary Jose Estrada. He sees this year as a chance to “produce enough momentum to set the standard.” One of his biggest goals is uniting the schools in Portland. He has a desire to create interconnectivity between colleges across Portland. From Portland State University to Portland Community College, Estrada is hoping to develop connections with student governments all over the city. Not only does he want to build friendships with our neighboring schools but he wants to provide chances to create partnerships and possibilities for schools to help each other out. Contact Jose at jestrada@warnerpacific.edu.

Rachael Plyler
Senior. Student Chaplain. Example.

Rachael Plyler, the Student Chaplain, wants to see authentic community on campus. She is working to create space for people on campus to be both known and loved and for stories to be told. Developing safe places for these things to happen through the new community groups is her goal this year. She also wants to create “unified purpose” across groups. She intends for ASWPC to be available, present, and intentional, leading by example. She hopes that, “As a student body and community, we learn how to love ourselves and each other better.”
Early this semester, *Knight Times* reporters sat down with five faculty and staff to chat about their memories of A. F. Gray Hall. We recorded the reminiscences of Sue Kopp, Director of Library Services; Dr. Connie Philpips, Professor of Humanities; Donna Johnson, Director of Health and Wellness; Bart Valentine, Math Professor and Chair of the Natural Sciences and Health Department; and Dr. Arthur Kelly, Senior Adjunct Professor of Humanities. They described a building interior filled with shag carpets donated by hotels, old-style switchboards and an infirmary, a décor of green and orange paint, and a "dungeon" cafeteria in the basement.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Warner Pacific College. The legacy of founding President Albert Frederick Gray still lives, the most tangible of which is A. F. Gray Hall, now used as the college administrative building. There is much that we can learn from such a man. According to his biography, Gray served as president until 1957 and taught as many as 20 different subjects, ranging from music and homiletics to logic and Greek, until he retired in 1960. The A. F. Gray administration building, shaped by numerous changes, and serving many functions in its lifetime, seems a fitting dedication to Gray. "The history of this building is the history of the college," Arthur Kelly said.

How it all began

Warner Pacific College had its beginnings in Spokane, Washington in 1937. Albert F. Gray, H. A. Schlatter, and other members on the Northwest Ministerial Assembly decided to start a college to train young ministers. According to Gray’s biography, *Time and Tides on the Western Shore*, the then Pacific Bible College outgrew the two-story building in Spokane going from 21 to 45 students in the first two years. The newly incorporated Board of Trustees for the college decided that a new location was to be sought out and Portland—being the central most part of the Northwest—became the new home for Pacific Bible College.

In 1940, the college made a small down payment of $2,000 towards the $14,000 cost of the 1.88 acres of land and the sanatorium that was once on campus. By 1943, the entire mortgage was paid off, and the school was debt free. In the next few years, college officials continued the wartime practice of “Victory Marches” to raise money, and were able to purchase additional property between 66th Avenue and 69th Avenue from Mt. Tabor Park to Division Street.

Formerly known as Pearl Lewis Hall

The building now known as A. F. Gray was built between 1946 and 1947. However, it was then named after Pearl Lewis, who had become a faculty member when the school opened in Portland. Its first use was as a dorm, accommodating 84 women and one matron. “The building was originally designed to be brick—if you look at the old photos, the windows are all lined with brick—but they couldn’t afford to finish it, so they added the brick front later,” said Donna Johnson, who arrived on campus as a student in 1965. “The front of this building used to look like the back does today. I remember when they added bricks to the front,” she said. Kelly explained that when the college acquired Tabor Terrace Apartments, the exterior was finished and the building renamed in honor of the first president. “Then the Pearl Lewis name got moved over to name a part of Tabor Terrace,” he said.

An infirmary on campus

“This building was my first dorm experience,” Johnson said. “I lived on the first floor, in the very last dorm room on the right. Next to my room—where that long area is that holds many offices—was the campus health center.”

“It was actually an infirmary,” said Kelly. “I remember one of my roommates had mono and I think he was in there for about six weeks because it was so contagious.”

“Yes, they had beds and when people were sick—if they were sick enough—they stayed in the infirmary,” Johnson said, “Everybody wasn’t immunized for everything back then like they are nowadays. Students would catch all types of things. I never went there—at that point I didn’t even know I was going to be a nurse,” said Johnson.

The Norma Jean Lounge

What Egtvedt Hall and Tabor Grind is for students today, A. F. Gray used to be for students in previous years. “Thinking about this building, one of my favorite parts about it was the lounge, which is now Christensen Conference Room,” said Johnson. “There was a big baby grand piano in there and couches. It was just a place where you could relax. At that time, when I went there, most everybody went to local churches on Sunday and they would all come back about the same time and wait together in the lounge for the cafeteria to open. While we were waiting there would be some student who would sit down at the piano and play and we would all sing. I remember many gatherings in that lounge.”

“It was the only place on campus where men and women were allowed to be together, kind of unsupervised—even though the house
mother lived right next door,” Kelly said. Both Kelly and Johnson agreed that “lots of love began there” in the Norma Jean Lounge.

A. F. Gray also housed an old-style switchboard. Kelly explained that it used to occupy the space of the first floor office to the left of the stairs. “It wasn’t a closed area, it was an open area. Now there is a wall with a door, but it used to be an open area, like a service window, that people could talk to each other through. And it was a real switchboard—in fact, it was the last surviving true switchboard in Portland, but I don’t remember what year it was,” said Kelly. Bart Valentine said that he remembers the switchboard staffed by work study students in the 1970’s.

“My mom actually worked that switchboard,” Johnson said. “It was the switchboard for the whole school. That was the place to go if anyone wanted information—the hub of the college.”

Kelly explained that the interior of A. F. Gray Hall was renovated in the late 1960’s so that it could replace the old administration building, “A big white house—the giant sanitarium. It was an old mental hospital before the college bought the property,” said Kelly. Johnson was a student during this time. “It was while I was at Warner as a student that they started transforming the way things were and started moving things out of the first floor here,” Johnson said. “Before I graduated they had offices here and they had made what is now CCR (Christensen Conference Room) into the administration offices. They were getting ready to tear down the Old Main where the [Schlatter] chapel is now.”

**Then and Now**

In the last 65 years many little renovations have made the building into what it is today. “Actually the building has gone through extreme makeovers to try to get it updated,” said Connie Phillips, “There are only a minimal amount of things you can do to the exterior, as your pictures reveal.” The pictures Phillips refer to are from the past Warner Pacific College yearbooks. Every yearbook from 1947 to 2012 can be found on the main floor of the Otto F. Linn library. “The extreme makeover that I remember is going from the 1970’s green and orange to some 1990’s pastel blues. They even colored the banisters light blue,” said Phillips. “There was an attempt to make the inside of the building updated—but even those updates were a decade behind.” Kelly explained that the decade time lag in design was a result of old carpet donated by hotels. The building would take its new color palette from the decade old carpet.

“Even as I look around right now there is a constant remodeling going on inside of the building,” said Phillips. “Every year there is something going on inside to make the building more functional—but no more extreme makeovers, thank goodness.”

Many classes are now held in the basement of A. F. Gray Hall. Two computer labs also call the basement home. But not too long ago the basement was used as the cafeteria. “Where the computer room is now is where the kitchen was back then. We are sitting where the dining area used to be,” said Kelly. “Yes, in the dungeon—‘the cave’ we used to call it—with all the resonance which that term is supposed to have. You need to have an educational system in Plato’s cave, right?” said Phillips.

The cafeteria moved to Egtvedt Hall in 2009, when that building underwent major renovation. Sue Kopp said, “It was a summer project and they worked really hard to get that done in time for the upcoming school year. A number of our student satisfaction surveys showed how out of date everything was and so to build something that really looked nice was really important for the campus. It gave everybody a morale boost to see that something like this could actually happen.” Continued on page 6.
The future of A. F. Gray Hall

Warner Pacific’s Campus Master Plan has been posted online since July 20, 2012 at http://issuu.com/warner_pacific_college/docs/masterplanpublic. There, everyone may observe the many changes that are planned for the campus.

One huge project is the construction of a new academic and administration building south of the library, where there is currently an overflow parking lot. The A.F. Gray Hall building would be torn down to make way for brand new dormitories.

Kopp said that faculty and administrative offices will be moved to the new building that will be built near the library, “Then they may deconstruct A. F. Gray due to its seismic issues. It’s the least stable building on campus.”

Knight Times reporters verified this information in an interview with Steve Stenberg, Vice President of Operations. Stenberg acknowledged that the college intends to build new administrative offices south of the library and more residence halls for students. However, A. F. Gray Hall will not be demolished until enough capital from fundraising has been secured. Stenberg estimates that in a ten year window A. F. Gray Hall will be gone.

In ten years, A. F. Gray Hall may be bulldozed, but the memories are concrete. And Dr. Gray’s legacy will continue.

Fall Arts: Upcoming Events

All in the Timing by David Ives
November 8-18th (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8:00pm. Sunday at 2:00pm) in McGuire Theatre.

This fall, the drama department presents four one act selections from David Ives’ All in the Timing directed by Kelsey Davisson and Amy Vaught. Fall in love with the universal language, find out what happens when three monkeys try to write Hamlet, step into the mind of Philip Glass, and discover how Trotsky really died. It’s all in All in the Timing.

Performances are November 8th-18th in McGuire Theatre. Show times are 8pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2pm on Sunday. Tickets may be purchased for $5.00 in the bookstore. Contact Marketing Assistant Shawna Downes (sdownes@warnerpacific.edu) with any questions.

Exposure: A Student Art Show
October 26th at 8:00pm in McGuire Theatre. Sponsored by Et cetera.

Et cetera, the creative arts club, invites you to join us for an exciting evening of music, skits, photography, dance, paintings, drawings, mazes, reading, and maybe even extreme yodeling! Exposure is a student art show featuring art from over 35 students at Warner Pacific College. Come support our campus artists and see their expressive works exposed.

Admission is free. The show will take place in McGuire Theatre and Egtvedt 203 on Friday, October 26th at 8:00pm. Refreshments will be provided. Bring your friends, but perhaps not your children. If you have questions, contact Zechariah Dirdak (zdir dak@warnerpacific.edu) or Esther Landers (elanders@warnerpacific.edu).
Students seeking to become nurses, medical doctors, or physical therapists are on track to enter the highly competitive and extremely complex world of health professionals. For these students, Dr. Elizabeth DuPriest is their guide.

"Health is truly an interdisciplinary issue," said DuPriest as we sat down for an interview together. "The study of health and disease involves many different fields and perspectives within the medical and scientific community. One has to consider genetics, diet, injury, medical history, immunology, prenatal development, sociology, and there's mental health as well. Our bodies are constructed out of multiple, highly complex systems, which behave differently at different times and in different conditions." DuPriest's dream course would be "The Developmental Origins of Health and Disease." This class would be an overview of some of the recent research in the issue of health.

Last summer, Dr. DuPriest received the Life Sciences Grant from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. The Murdock grant provides private funding for scientists to conduct personal research. She used this funding for a research project on an area of molecular biology she found particularly curious.

"We already know that a low protein diet in a pregnant mother causes the children to be born small, and after birth to have a dramatic growth spurt," said DuPriest. "I wanted to see if this rapid growth was caused by growth hormone." She used specific markers to find cell types which had abnormal function and to determine whether those cells had increased division speed. Specifically she is studying the fat tissues of micro-swine, a small pig breed.

"The preliminary results are interesting," said DuPriest. She still has more data to collect and analyze, but the data does not seem to be what she initially expected. She says this is good news, because unexpected results are the fuel of science. "It presents a new challenge, a new piece of the puzzle that we've never seen before." If DuPriest gets an extension into summer 2014, she would like to conduct further tests concerning insulin. This is an application that could save lives in the diabetic community, and she is very hopeful. Right now, it's just a hunch, but she feels it is a hunch worth pursuing.

When I asked about her favorite part of teaching, DuPriest responded "I love helping students 'get it'. It's the epiphany." She said that her favorite class that she has taught so far was, surprisingly, Biochemistry. DuPriest had the chance to teach Biochemistry last spring, and she was originally worried because she was not that familiar with the field. Because she didn't know it very well, she was learning as she was teaching it, and the students who took it said that it was their favorite class with her.

Her field of specialty is the study of the interaction of genes and the environment. While DNA is the language that builds life, scientists have discovered many cases where environment can have dramatic influences on how that information is expressed. For instance, crocodile gender is determined by the temperature of the eggs. At warmer or cooler temperatures a special enzyme breaks apart, and the entire batch of eggs is set to be female.

One of her heroes is Gregor Mendel, who created the first rules of genetics. "Mendel was not a biologist," DuPriest said. "He was a statistician. The only reason he conducted his experiments was to have data to play around with. I feel kind of like that. I just want data to play around with in Excel." While this was statement was lighthearted, I could see by the flare in her eyes that she really meant it. She reveled in the puzzle.

Despite her climb into the limelight, DuPriest is not immune to accidents. She confided in me that in the course of her research, she accidentally melted a calculator with acetonitrile. In another instance, biological fluid from a pig was squirted in her eye. "Not fun," she told me, shaking her head as she was flashing back to the scene. "But science requires getting a little dirty."
The 2011-2012 track and field season ended with success from the Knights athletes. The team competed at Klamath Falls, Oregon in the May 11-12 Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships (CCC), advancing seven athletes to NAIA Nationals Championships, which took place in Marion, Indiana on May 24-26.

During the three-day event in Klamath Falls, competition was tough at John F. Moehl Stadium on the campus of Oregon Tech, but the Knights ended up setting nine school records. On the women’s side, Danielle Esquerra added points with the javelin throw and Deb McCloud in the high jump. Also, Erin Adams and Christi Avery both added points in two events at the CCC Championships to help the ladies finish out the three-day competition in sixth place with a total of 57 points.

On the men’s side, Hunter Leonard tossed the javelin and set a season best 175-05. Nathan Stecker and Johnnie Clark each added points when clearing 14-05.75 on the pole vault. The running events added a few more team points with the help of Garrett South, Elton Cody, Treavone Bowie and the Knights 4 x 400 relay team. The men wrapped up the CCC Championship event in fifth place with a total of 60.5 points.

The 2012 track and field season wrapped up at Indiana Wesleyan University on May 24-26 where seven Warner Pacific track athletes competed at the National level during the championships.

Coach Lee was very pleased with his team’s performance at the CCC competition, and he felt that it was very rewarding for his staff to see the athletes improving over the course of the season. An accomplishment on the woman’s side was freshmen Tiffanie Nyssen, who took part in the pole vault in National Championships. Even though she was eliminated first round, she gained experience competing at that level and has three more years to go. On the men’s side in Indiana, the 4 x 100 relay team, which consisted of Ka’imi Scott, Elton Cody, Alija Sacirovic, Micah Chase, and Connor Hart went as far as the Semi-Finals. Team leader Garrett South also took part in Nationals, competing in the 110 hurdles and making it all the way to the Semi-Finals as well.

For the 2012-2013 track and field season, Coach Lee feels his team is young but talented. Coach Lee said that it’s a very tight race for the athletes this year and competition is fierce, so the competitors must bring their A game if they want to be racing...
Captains Garrett South, Hunter Leonard, Ka’imi Scott, and Nathan Stecker represent the men’s side because of their leadership qualities of learning, improving, communicating with coaches and teammates, and winning. Captains for the women’s side are Erin Adams and Christi Avery, who also hold the leadership qualities the men do.

Senior captain Erin Adams believes Nationals is a must every year. She feels the Knights have what it takes this year because of new additions to the team and the solid foundation that was built last year. Erin says, “If I do my best, then I will push those around me to do the same.”

Senior captain Garrett South feels the same way about the Knights up and coming season. He feels they have some good fresh talent as well as seasoned veterans who are highly competitive. As a whole, the Knights are putting in the work to make their spring competition season a success. Garrett says, “I think that big things are going to happen this year and it will be directly correlated to how we train this semester.”

The Knights have some newcomers this year who are ready to make an impact on the team. For the men’s side Josh Reznick, Chris Milan, and Brian Howelton all have bright futures for the Knights. For the women’s side Anna Demchuk, Kristen Wood, Makayla Sanders also are ready to be standout athletes for the Knights. With these newcomers and returners, Coach Lee feels that his Knights will double their representation at Nationals. He also feels that they should place at least one spot better in conference as a group.

The Knights are conducting their practices this season on the newly built tracks over at Franklin High School and Marshall High School. Coach Lee said, “The standard is to always to finish in the top four at the Conference Championships and practices is where it starts.” Coach Lee believes that his athletes this year have depth and he can’t wait to see the results at the end of this year.

The indoor season has already taken off for the Knights, but not all the athletes compete during this season. Some just practice to get better and stay healthy for the outdoor season and some go all year. The whole team comes back together to compete during the outdoor season, which begins mid-year.

For updates on this year’s season visit wpcknights.com
The Rose City has supported many minor league teams, like the Portland Winterhawks hockey team, the now non-existent Portland Lumberjax of the professional lacrosse league, and the Portland Beavers triple A baseball team. As a minor league team, the Portland Timbers soccer team couldn’t quite carve out a niche like the other teams had.

In recent history, the Portland Trail Blazers had been the only top tier professional franchise in the city, but this all changed in 2009 when the Portland Timbers made the jump from the United Soccer League to Major League Soccer. Portland immediately embraced the team, led by funky-named, gritty players such as Jack Jewsbury, Salvador Zizzo, Darlington Nagbe and Mamadou Danso.

In its first year of MLS play, the team finished with a record of 11 wins, 9 draws and 14 losses. Even though the team finished with a record of under .500, the Timbers easily surpassed all expectations. Although it seemed as if the 2011 season would be a solid beginning to a promising franchise, the Timbers seemed to have hit a wall this season. The team currently sits at 7 wins, 16 losses and 9 draws, a far cry from what the Portland faithful were hoping for. Nonetheless, the city has vowed to support the team through the thick and thin.

Even though the Timbers have finally secured a place in the MLS, the standing of the team was in constant disarray after its official debut in 1975. While a mainstay in the North American Soccer League, the team reached the championship in its inaugural season, but fell to the Tampa Bay Rowdies 3-1. The team reached the playoffs in 1978 and 1981 during its time in the NASL. Following the 1982 season, the Timbers entered a dark period of time in which the franchise disbanded due to financial struggles. In 1985, however, the newly formed team under the same name was very influential in creating the Western Soccer Alliance. The Timbers were one of four original teams, the others being FC Seattle, the San Jose Earthquakes and the Edmonton Brickmen. In 1990, the league merged with the American Soccer League, which would eventually become the second tier of professional soccer leagues, as Major League Soccer would form in 1996.

During the team’s glory days, the team was led by Brent Goulet, who played for Warner Pacific and during the Knights offseason lent his skills to the hometown Timbers. He led the Timbers in scoring during their time in the Western Soccer Alliance in 1986. Goulet would eventually go on to become a key member of the US Olympic team during their trials in Seoul, South Korea in 1988. He scored six goals in six games and was honored as the US Soccer Athlete of the Year.

The Timbers have managed to become a rather worthy opponent at home, compiling a 9-3-5 record at Jeld-Wen Field. The team has the Timber Army to thanks for this. At home games, the Timbers Army takes over the majority of the north side of the field. In the team’s first road game as a part of the MLS, the Army sent over 400 of its members to Denver to watch the Timbers take on the Colorado Rapids. This set a record for a Rapids game of an away support crowd.

Though the Timbers are still trying to work out the kinks in the MLS, the team is much more than a team. It’s another professional franchise that represents the city of Portland. When teams come to visit Jeld-Wen Field, they know they’re going to have to deal with the Army, the cheers, the boos and the overwhelming feeling of being insignificant. The Timbers represent Portland and the city is more than happy to do the same for the team.

The Timber Army celebrates a goal against Real Salt Lake on March 31, 2012 at Jeld-Wen Field. Photo by Thomas Boyd Photography.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – KYLE BLIQUEZ
Soccer is considered around the globe as the world’s game. In my hometown of Portland, Oregon there is a huge love for soccer. The Portland Timbers are Portland’s top professional soccer team who play in the MLS. The MLS also brings in top players from all across the globe, to compete against the world’s elite. You may have heard of big international names such as David Beckham and Thierry Henry coming to play in the MLS. Portland has also recently acquired Kris Boyd, who is an international superstar from Scotland. While the MLS is attracting big name players, they are also bringing in much more revenue. This revenue goes towards expanding the league and building exquisite arenas. Portland just last year upgraded their stadium for the Portland Timbers, which is called Jeld-Wen Field.

Jeld-Wen Field was formerly PGE Park, which was before the Timbers moved up to the MLS from the USL (United Soccer League). Last year was Portland’s inaugural season in the MLS, which meant PGE needed a major face lift. The stadium went through a $31 million renovation in late 2010 and early 2011, and there were 5,000 seats added to the stadium for the demanding Timber fans. Since the recent renovation, a sellout crowd for Jeld-Wen field is now 18,627. The stadium was originally known as the Civic Stadium, but underwent its first major renovation in 2001 for $38.5 million. That renovation turned Civic stadium into PGE Park. The renovation added, and upgraded luxury suites and club seats. The structural soundness was improved, and a state-of-the-art sound system was included.

I have been to two Timbers games since the recent renovation, and one of those times I was able to enjoy MAC club seating. Part of the seating is attached to the backside of the club. It gives a great view for fans because the seating perfectly overlooks the field, and you can see the entire stadium. The other time I was front row at the Timber’s first MLS game and the stadium’s debut against the Chicago Fire on April 14th, 2011. My seat ended up being right in front of the goal, where all but one goal was scored. Portland ended up winning that game 4 to 2. The game was electrifying and the crowd was intense, even though it poured down rain the entire time. Only the upper level seats are covered, but the open stadium gives you a feeling that you are right in the action and a sense of connection to the players. If they get rained on you then you get rained on. If they get blinded by the sun, then you get blinded by the sun. It’s a feeling that you could never get in an indoor arena.

The fans that come to Jeld-Wen really love the Timbers, and tickets sell out fast. When first getting to the stadium, you are likely to see a line down the street and around the corner. Once you make it to the gate and your ticket is scanned, you enter into an atmosphere which is completely different than the outside world. You can sense the town pride from everyone covered in green and Timbers logos. The pro shops which sell the Timbers gear also get extreme lines along with the concession stands. People waiting tend to be antsy but happy because of where they are. While walking down the halls of the stadium you may have to fight through the crowd, but the faces have nothing but smiles.

It is easy to feed off of the excitement of other fans. The first time I took my seat at Jeld-Wen all I heard were chants from fans. The most dominant chant was “Let’s go PTFC!” PTFC stands for Portland Timbers Football Club. Those chants mainly came from the Timbers Army, the team’s fan club and is usually located behind one of the goals. They set the standard for the energy in the entire stadium, and make noise during the entire game. They also wave huge flags with the Timbers logo on them, throw streamers, and let off smoke bombs.

Before the game starts the teams warm up while the crowd settles. There are then introductions of both teams and the singing of the national anthem. Then right before the game starts fireworks explode into the sky, and the fans go wild. The smell of the fresh air, mixed with the firework smoke gives you an intense feeling of excitement. It then gets hard to sit in your seat because of all of the anticipation for the game to start.

Once the game is kicked off the chants of “Let’s go PTFC!” from the fans get twice as loud. There are occasional vulgar chants, and you can hear fans from all over yelling at the players and the referees on the field. Some fans get too rowdy at the Timbers games, but Jeld-Wen has security surrounding the entire field to make sure nothing interferes. From what I’ve seen, the security is well poised. They stand with their backs to the field and stare into the crowd to make sure no one is doing anything they’re not supposed to. Even though the security can’t watch the game, you can tell most of them are in a good mood anyway because of the general feeling in the entire stadium.

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You may also hear the rumbling of a chain saw from your seat during the game from the Timbers mascot, Timber Jim. Timber Jim walks around with his hard hat on, suspenders, and his chain saw. He keeps a huge log on the side of the field to cut whenever the Timbers score. When the Timbers score a goal, Timber Jim revs up his chain saw and cuts a piece of the log. He holds it up and shows it off to all of the fans. He walks around the entire stadium, even throughout the stands, and the fans erupt when they see him. When he cuts the log after a goal you can hear the intensity of the chainsaw, and smell the fresh cut wood. Timber Jim raises the level of excitement in the stadium and makes the experience even more fun. He hyps up the crowd, and really pulls you into the game. At some points the game may slowdown, so Timber Jim may walk all around the field and crank up his chain saw and make relentless noise. It really wakes up a calm crowd quickly.

Jeld-Wen has definitely become one of Portland’s main attractions, and brings more revenue to the local economy. Portland has also gained a lot of national attention for having one of the most exciting and electrifying environments to play professional soccer. The fans really love the Timbers, and the atmosphere at Jeld-Wen is constantly compared to the top stadiums in England and Spain where soccer is played. That comparison alone brings more and more media attention and excited fans to games. That in turn will raise the level of play, and bring more international stars to the MLS and the Timbers.

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As an employee of the Portland Timbers since May 2012, I can tell you that it is not always perfect but there are so many benefits to working with our professional soccer team that make it totally worth it. I cannot count how many matches I have come back to my on-campus apartment and fell asleep within 15 minutes. The thrill of fans rubs off when you see and hear them cheer as the gates open, or watching the Timbers Army stand for the entire 90 minute match, plus the 90 minutes that the gates are open before kickoff. For Guest Service Coordinator, Scott Katzer, “The best part of my job is match day. It is stressful, it is anticipatory, and it is fun.”

Yet as exciting as that sounds, there are the parts of the job that are not as thrilling. “It is not always fun; It requires you to not watch the game sometimes, it requires you to be vigilant about checking tickets, looking at somebody’s pocket to make sure that is not a flask in there, and if you think it is always fun then you aren’t being focused and if you let something through there, it could be problematic,” according to Scott Katzer. Not only are the guest service attendants watching out for prohibited items but we are also trying to make your experience at Jeld-Wen Field the best we can. This is why the stadium does not allow reentry, smoking on the premises, and limits the amount of alcoholic drinks bought at one time. One of the biggest occurrences after the matches is intoxicated fans wanting to reenter the stadium to use the restroom. The employees working the gates are tired and are not allowed to leave until every fan is off the concourse and by allowing the reentry it can prolong our shift.

While many college students commute to regular jobs such as restaurant and retail based facilities, this job is strictly based on home matches, results from matches on the road, and special events. To add the sporadic nature of the job, employees may not work for a month if that’s how the schedule falls. Stressing the part time factor of employment is key in the hiring process, and many of the employees have at least one other job that is more consistent. The schedule works for some college students. Warner Pacific College senior Stephen Harris, who is also a Guest Service Attendant with the Portland Timbers, says he will enjoy the four month off season so that he can focus on academics, daughter Sophia, and Knights basketball.

As the Portland Timbers are wrapping up their second season in the MLS, the Guest Service Attendants have begun to count down the days to the final match on October 27 against the San Jose Earthquakes. While the off-season may only be four months long, it has been an adventurous season compiled of highs and lows during matches, new employees being added, and too many memories to count.

I am grateful to have been offered the opportunity to work for one of Portland’s professional athletic organizations and cannot wait to join my fellow employees and many new ones in February. Onward Rose City!

The Timbers Army displaying their passion for the team in a 0-0 match on May 5, 2012. Photo by Bradley York.

EMPLOYEE PERSPECTIVE – KATIE ENLOE