



Jazz students Chance Hayden and Matt Tabor are the first recipients of a new scholarship funded by Brad and Janet Mersereau.

Beyond grades

WHEN PIANIST AND COMPOSER Brad Mersereau '73 successfully lobbied for permission to study jazz at Portland State, he was almost literally in a class by himself. "There were about five music majors then—total—and I was the only one doing jazz." Now PSU has a skyrocketing Jazz Studies Program. "It's only logical and appropriate," Mersereau says. His tone is serious and measured, but his eyes twinkle with enthusiasm.

Brad and his wife Janet (pictured at the top of this page) are big fans of Professor Darrell Grant, who has moved with lightning speed since arriving at Portland State in

1997. "When you look at everything Darrell's done to launch the jazz program, it's amazing." The new William Bradford Mersereau, Jr. Endowed Scholarship in Jazz Studies testifies to Brad and Janet's belief in the program's future. The scholarship will support seniors in Jazz Studies who "are clear and intentional and know exactly what they want—and how they'll give back."

The Mersereaus are thrilled with the first two scholarship recipients, Matt Tabor and Chance Hayden. "They're so good, it's beyond grades," Brad recalls commenting to Darrell Grant. "That's the point," Grant answered.