My name is Rudy Owens. I have a professional background in public health, international and public affairs, and communications. I am an accomplished and published photographer and documentarian. I also am a native son of Detroit.

I am reaching out to Portland-area universities who may be interested in hosting my hour-long presentation taking an up-close look at Detroit, one of the most distressed cities in the United States and formerly a powerful beacon of America’s industrial might.

This former great American city is now considered an urban and economic failure, a public health crisis area, the arson and murder capital of the USA (both borne out by data), and a symbol of America’s decline in the views of many people. Many Americans may have seen recent photos of Detroit—glossy photo books, web sites, and so-called “ruin porn” documentaries. The changes long underway are much deeper than the visible decline and are tied to larger national and international trends beyond Detroit’s ability alone to manage.

My presentation will include original photographs taken throughout the city in 2015, video footage in select areas, multimedia drawn from public sources, and photos drawing from Google Maps street view that document the city’s current state. For me, this is more than a story taking place in the Rust Belt, far from the West Coast. I maintain a strong attachment to my Midwest roots and still have relatives who live near the Motor City. This presentation is a compilation of work I have been publishing on my web site and blogs since April 2015.

This hour-long presentation would be suitable for graduate and undergraduate students as well as faculty from multiple disciplines—planning, finance, business administration, public health, health, political science, history, economics—who might be interested in a first-hand look and a visual perspective on those losing in the new economy. I can schedule a presentation any evening, after 7 p.m. on weeknights, or any time on Fridays.
For background, please visit my photo essays, videos, and commentary on Detroit published on my web site and blogs.

Photo Essays (Published on my Web Site):
- *Detroit, a wide angle view:* http://www.rudyowens.com/detroit-a-wide-angle-view/

Photo Essays, Video, and Commentary (Published on my Blogs):
- *Detroit Public Schools, abandoned and left to the scrappers:* http://whatbeautifullight.com/2015/10/02/detroit-public-schools-abandoned-and-left-to-the-scrappers/
- *And now the house is gone too:* http://whatbeautifullight.com/2015/10/16/and-now-the-house-is-gone-too/
- *And then there were the ruins ... 1989 and today:* http://whatbeautifullight.com/2015/05/03/and-then-there-were-the-ruins-1989-and-today/
- *God has left Detroit:* http://whatbeautifullight.com/2015/04/25/god-has-left-detroit/
- *Detroit Public Schools, abandoned and left to the scrappers:* http://whatbeautifullight.com/2015/10/02/detroit-public-schools-abandoned-and-left-to-the-scrappers/
- *Detroit is dying and does this country give a damn:* http://iwonderandwander.rudyfoto.com/2015/04/25/detroit-is-dying-and-does-this-country-give-a-darn/
- *So you want to know about the Motor City:* http://iwonderandwander.rudyfoto.com/2015/07/26/so-you-want-to-know-more-about-the-motor-city/
- *Detroit, my home town:* http://whatbeautifullight.com/2015/05/08/detroit-my-home-town/
- *The house on Stout Street:* http://whatbeautifullight.com/2016/01/28/the-house-on-stout-street/