



Retirement Association of Portland State

Portland State University
Post Office Box 751
Portland OR 97207-0751

Koinonia House, second floor
SW Montgomery at Broadway

Campus mail: RAPS
Web: www.pdx.edu/raps
Office hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:30 am to 5:30 pm

Officers

Clarence Hein
President

Joan Shireman
President-elect / Program Chair

Larry Sawyer
Past President / Membership Chair

Robert Lockerby
Secretary

Robert Vogelsang
Treasurer / Regional Retirement
Association Ad Hoc Committee Chair

Dawn White
Editor

Board Members-at-Large

Priscilla Blumel
Susan Jackson
Dawn White

Committees

Pat Squire
Alumni Association

Steve Brannan
History Preservation Committee Chair

Mary Brannan
Pictorial History Book Committee Chair

Beryl and Vic Dahl
Social/Friendship Committee Co-Chairs

Office Manager

Maya Burton
503/725-3447 / raps@pdx.edu

A change in tradition

April meeting format: afternoon tea

The April RAPS program -- traditionally a luncheon event combining the annual RAPS awards with a visit by PSU's President -- is now a midafternoon tea and dessert reception.

Billed as the "President's Annual Gathering for Retired Faculty & Staff" on invitations sent from President Wim Wiewel's office in mid-March, the event will be held Thursday, April 14 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the Columbia Falls Ballroom at University Place, 310 SW Lincoln. Parking is complimentary for RAPS members and their guests.



President Wim Wiewel

the University, professional and/or career achievements, and service to RAPS.

The President's Office requests RSVPs to the invitation by Thursday, April 7. Please call 503-725-4411.

Note that the gathering is one week earlier than usual. Most RAPS programs are held on the third Thursday of the month. Changes in date and format were initiated by the President's Office.

One thing about the April program hasn't changed: RAPS will recognize outstanding staff and faculty retirees in at least three of four categories: service to the community, service to the University, professional and/or career achievements, and service to RAPS.

Have you voted? Ballots for the RAPS 2011-12 elections are due at the RAPS Office by 5:00 pm Thursday, April 7. RAPS members are electing a President-Elect, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. Results will be announced April 14 at the President's tea and dessert reception.

Next up

Women in Middle East focus of May program

On Thursday, May 19 Terry Ann Rogers speaks on "Lobbying on Women's Issues in the Middle East in Yemen, Morocco and Lebanon." Her most recent work has been in the development of a women's legal rights initiative in India. Prior to that she managed programs concerning judicial reform, gender equity, legal aid, public advocacy, and human rights law reform in many Middle Eastern countries. The meeting begins at 1:30 pm in 228 Smith Memorial Union.

--Joan Shireman

President's Message



For many of us, the advent of spring turns our thoughts to transplanting, mowing, digging and planting. I've decided that if we could make moss a cash crop I'd spend my winters on the Riviera. Right now, it's the only green thing in the front yard.

However, for many young people, spring is decision time for higher education. Readers of the 2012 *Princeton Review* will find a new institution among the "best in the country" for undergraduate education: Portland State University. PSU becomes only the fifth Oregon institution to make this list, which is based in large part on student surveys. More than 122,000 students around the country participate and only 376 institutions make the list. The other Oregon schools include Lewis & Clark, Reed College, Willamette University and UO.

According to the Princeton Review, "Each one is an outstanding institution we highly recommend to college applicants and their parents. In our opinion, these are the cream of the crop institutions for undergraduates in America."

For me, this is more evidence of the ascendancy of Portland State, particularly over the past two decades. All this in spite of chronic budget shortages and past problems in launching new programs and expanding majors. I firmly believe that the future belongs to Portland State. Now if only I can do something about that moss.

--Clarence Hein

First RAPS scholarship to be awarded this fall

RAPS will award its first scholarship this fall to a full-time upper division undergraduate or graduate student studying in a field related to gerontology. The initial award will be \$1500, although RAPS hopes to increase that amount in future years and to offer additional awards.

Chaired by Robert Vogelsang, the Scholarship Committee includes Mary Brannan and Larry Sawyer. Dave Krug and Mike Fiasca served on the committee earlier.

Applicants will describe their interest in gerontology, how their course of study relates to gerontology, and their career aspirations. Fields of study include but are not limited to biology, psychology, education, social work, speech and hearing, communication, public health, and urban planning. Recipients will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement and financial need.

Many of RAPS's sister retirement associations already award scholarships, and some have raised sufficient funds to create an endowment. The Scholarship Committee's goal is to raise sufficient funds for an endowed scholarship while awarding annual scholarships. The minimum amount needed for an endowment is \$25,000.

RAPS members tour museum to see Portland art treasures

Twenty-two RAPS members gathered at the Portland Art Museum March 17 to view the special exhibit *Riches of a City: Portland Collects*. The exhibit features 237 objects—paintings, photography, sculpture, silver—all from private collections of Portland residents.

Our docent, Barbara Prowe, introduced us to the collection by reminding us that the local collectors were attracted to these art objects for a variety of reasons and that each of us should consider our own reasons for finding some appealing and some not. I found the very lifelike statue of a man sitting on a stool fascinating but could not imagine wanting that in my house!

She then guided us through the exhibit, pointing out several of the highlights and giving us time to inspect individual pieces more closely. She noted the various countries, times, and media represented in this collection. In one room a Chinese clay jar from the 25th century BCE is placed next to a very contemporary Chinese calligraphy from 2005 CE. Other rooms showcase 18th century oil paintings on one wall and black-and-white photography from the 20th century on another wall.

RAPS Sheet readers who missed this group tour are encouraged to see it before it closes in May.

--Marge Terdal

RAPS club reports



RAPS hikers relax in the home of Rudi and Laureen Nussbaum following their March 11 hike in Forest Park. The Nussbaums, who organized the hike, invited the group to lunch at their home in the West Hills overlooking Portland.

RAPS Hikers set sights on Silver Falls

The April RAPS Hike is set for Friday, April 8 at Silver Falls State Park near Silverton. With the heavy rainfall this spring, the falls should be especially beautiful—and the trails muddy. Silver Falls is Oregon’s largest state park and has 10 beautiful falls on the canyon trail. Bring your cameras, hiking boots, raingear, a sack lunch, and water.

We will meet at 8:30 am on the roof of Parking Structure 1 (across Broadway from Neuberger Hall) to form carpools.

Marge Terdal is leading this hike and needs to know who is going and who is able to drive. Call her at 503-244-5714 or email her at terdalm@pdx.edu. Marge will be out of town March 30 to April 6 but will check messages.

--Larry Sawyer

Book Club: 'The Other Wes Moore'

The RAPS Book Club will meet Tuesday, April 19 at 2:30 pm at the home of Maxine Thomas, located at 6535 SW Canyon Court in Portland. NOTE THE TIME CHANGE. Contact her at 503-291-1279 or ondangwa@yahoo.com to RSVP and for directions. We will discuss the Multnomah County Library Everybody Reads selection *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore. The book is described on the back cover as follows:

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life

sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

Looking ahead to May, we will read *The Leopard* by Giuseppe di Lampedusa, published in Italian in 1958 and translated into English in 1960.

--Mary Brannan

Bridge Group plays on second Tuesday

The RAPS Bridge Group meets at 1:00 pm Tuesday, April 12. For further information, including the venue, call Colin Dunkeld, 503-292-0838. Please call by Friday, April 8.

--Colin Dunkeld

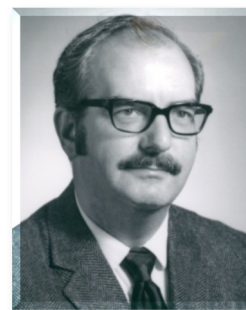
PAST TENSE

Name that PSU person

PAST TENSE usually focuses on a person, place or event in Portland State’s history. For a change of pace, this month’s offering features photos of four people with enduring ties to the institution. Which of these Portland State personalities do you recognize? Email the RAPS editor (whited@pdx.edu) with their names and positions. Those who correctly identify all four people will be recognized in the next RAPS Sheet.



#1



#2



#3



#4

PAST TENSE features glimpses into Portland State’s history. To submit a story (or an idea for one), email the RAPS History Preservation Committee at raps@pdx.edu.

Retiree spotlight: Tom Pfingsten plays trombone in three local bands

Tom Pfingsten has not run out of things to do since retiring as head of the Portland State Library about six years ago. He and his wife Ann make frequent trips to Bend to visit their daughter Catherine, son-in-law Scott, and twin grandchildren Gaby and Will, now 6½.

He also spends a fair amount of time rehearsing and performing with not one but three local bands: the Sunset Jam Jazz Band, the Providence Stage Band, and the Beaverton Community Band. The three groups give Tom plenty of opportunities to play big band, swing, traditional jazz and Dixieland music.



A smiling Tom Pfingsten waits for his cue while playing with the Beaverton Community Band at an outdoor performance last year.

Of the three bands, two have additional PSU connections. The Providence Stage Band, which has about two dozen members, is led by Larry Morrell, husband of PSU retiree Shirley Morrell.

The Beaverton Community Band, an all-volunteer group of 60-75 musicians, is directed by Elizabeth Zinger, who recently received a master's degree in music from PSU, where she studied with Ed Higgins, Director of the PSU Wind Symphony.

Tom began playing the trombone in junior high. He took private lessons in high school and was good enough to solo in his high school band. He attended the U.S. Navy School of Music and played with a Navy band in Japan for two years.

The trombone got shelved when Tom's professional life got underway. He picked up his horn again about 10 years ago, studying with Ron Babcock, professor of trombone, music theory and music education at PSU, and then got drawn into the local concert band scene.



The Sunset Traffic Jam jazz band at a performance in downtown Portland last summer. Trombonist Tom Pfingsten is second from right.

Upcoming concerts April 10 and May 1

RAPS members who would like to see their colleague play have a couple of chances coming up soon. The Beaverton Community Band presents its annual spring concert -- classical pieces, show tunes, marches -- on Sunday, April 10 at 3:00 pm. Location is Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, 11695 SW Parkway, at the corner of Cedar Hills Blvd just south of Highway 26. Admission is free but cash donations to the Oregon Food Bank are appreciated.

The Providence Stage Band presents a program of big band and jazz arrangements on Sunday, May 1 at 4:00 pm. Location is the Howard Horner Performing Arts Center, 1400 SE 130th Avenue, adjacent to David Douglas High School. Admission is free.