



Retirement Association of Portland State Summer 2004

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Death Without Denial, Grief Without Apology: Barbara Roberts's talk to RAPS.

While Oregon provided a typical blustery, cold and rainy day on the outside, Governor Barbara Roberts provided enough warmth and compassion on the inside, in the Vanport Room, to more than compensate for the weather. For those of you who were not able to attend, her book—*Death Without Denial, Grief Without Apology*—which provided the basis for her lecture, is well worth the read and a great buy at \$12.00. It is the story of her living through the final illness of her husband, Frank Roberts. Many of our RAPS membership remember Frank Roberts, who taught and held administrative positions at PSU. He was one of the original faculty members at Portland State serving from its inception as the Vanport Extension Center in 1946 until his retirement from PSU in 1982. As a teacher and administrator, he played a key role in transforming Portland State from an extension center to a model urban university. He also served for more than two decades in the Oregon Legislature. There he sought diligently to assist the underprivileged and the disabled, championed the rights of women and minorities and led support for education. He was also the leader for the Death with Dignity Act which was approved by voters in 1994, became operational in 1998, and was recently upheld by a court decision. As is most appropriate, a Frank L. Roberts Community Service Scholarship has been established at PSU in his honor.

The book concerns itself mainly with how both Barbara and Frank Roberts dealt with his battle against cancer, and it tells how tough a battle that battle really was. Governor Roberts eloquently and with controlled, though at times with obvious, emotion, offered insights and told how they both learned to cope with the disease. Frank Roberts was diagnosed with lung cancer and given a prognosis of a one-year life expectancy. Frank's tragedy was compounded when his cancer was treated with a radiation therapy that left him confined to a wheel chair. His suffering was further compounded by a stroke that deprived him of his speech. This was especially poignant for a man who spoke with such authority and with such a strong and melodious voice, and whose academic expertise had been in the very area of speech and communications

As Governor Roberts told their story, one became aware of the intelligence and understanding through which they were able to cope with this ordeal. We can all learn from the Roberts's experience how to deal with death and dying without denial. Dying and death are
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something that ultimately we all must face. Death is as much a part of life and living as life itself.

That Barbara and Frank Roberts were able to deal with the trauma while at the same time to lead such stressful political careers is almost unimaginable. This is especially so in that Frank Roberts passed away October 31, 1993 during Governor Roberts's term of office, 1991-1995. It was not until after a period of two years of grief that Governor Roberts was finally released from her depression and sorrow and her life returned to normal. She has now retired from her association with the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University but still has maintained connections with it. In 1998 she joined the Hatfield School of Government at PSU and holds the position of Associate Director of Leadership Development.

PSU is now the largest university in the State of Oregon, and the sixth largest graduate school on the west coast, and we may all take pride in the contributions that we, as staff and faculty, have made to it. But it would be very hard to find a contribution greater than that of Frank and Barbara Roberts—two great Oregonians— for whom we may all be justly proud and to whom offer our deepest respect and gratitude.

Richard Brinkman

The RAPS Annual Summer Picnic will be held on Wednesday, August 18 from 3:30pm to 6:00pm in WILLAMETTE PARK. Please call the RAPS Office Manager Jill Shellan at 503-725-3447 to tell here what you will bring -- salad, hot dish, or dessert.

The Dahls will bring a turkey, coffee, plates, and flatware. You should provide your own drinks.

Members will be getting a flyer in the mail as a reminder.

RAPS - OSURA Planning Session

On June 14, 2004, Immediate Past-president, Maxine Thomas, hosted a luncheon meeting at her home where RAPS officers and board members met with three members of the **Oregon State University Retirement Association**. The guests were Vice Provost Emeritus George Keller, Emerita Professor Jean Peters, Emeritus Professor Bill Brennan, all of whom have been active in developing an OSU retirees' organization. Those representing PSU included: RAPS President Richard Brinkman, Past Presidents Maxine Thomas, Robert Vogelsang, and Vic Dahl, Larry Sawyer, Secretary, and, Beryl Dahl, Social Co-chairperson.

The meeting served as an opportunity for participants to become acquainted and learn about their respective retirement interests and objectives, and they exchanged information about their organizations' range of activities. Both institutions' evolving retirees groups have short histories but there have been many accomplishments. The discussion ultimately focused on sharing organizational ideas with the view to sponsoring future gatherings of retiree groups from state and private higher education institutions.

The guests offered some worthwhile insights. For example, the OSU president holds honorary membership which serves to enhance the officer's linkage to retiree interests. OSURA has provided volunteer assistance to new students on the campus and has conducted a well-attended workshop for faculty members anticipating retirement. RAPS apparently has taken a unique line of departure by inviting staff members to membership. There was some discussion of what would be the most appropriate objectives of retiree organizations and the extent to which there could be meaningful interaction with faculty governance.

The group decided, therefore, that it would be useful to take advantage of the momentum arising from previous inter-institutional meetings held in association with the University of Washington, and take steps to determine the level of interest in retiree organizations at other campuses. To that end, President Brinkman agreed to send out a letter of inquiry to ascertain whether other Oregon universities and colleges would be willing to participate in a state-wide gathering.

Vic Dahl with contributions by Maxine Thomas and Larry Sawyer.

RAPS Members Join Ferdinand Society for Willamette River Cruise

On the evening of Thursday, June 10, members of RAPS joined members of the Ferdinand Society for the paddle-wheel cruise on the Willamette River. We were served a buffet dinner featuring marinated beef and barbecued chicken, while the boat went up river past the Waverly Golf club and then back down as far as the Rose Festival Fleet. The captain received permission to enter the secure area around the naval ships, but we were shadowed closely by two US Coast Guard ships mounted with 50 calibre machine guns, so we behaved ourselves.

Despite the cool weather and the heightened security, good food, good company, and the beautiful riverside made for an enjoyable evening.



Larry and Diane Sawyer passing under the Ross island Bridge



Scott Burns, John Cooper, and Tom Palme with part of the Rose Festival Fleet in the Background.

Our Active Retirees - Professor Barry Anderson

Barry Anderson retired as Professor of Psychology in 1999 and has remained intellectually very active. In addition to teaching courses on decision psychology and decision analysis, he has applied his expertise to a number of social problems. Before his retirement, he played an important role in systematizing the decision criteria for the Oregon Health Plan. He continues working in the health area as a consultant to the Advisory Committee for Genetic Privacy and Research and as a member of the state/county public health IRB. Before his retirement, he developed a dynamic computer model of the Multnomah County Criminal Justice System. He is now helping update that model, though budgetary limitations have temporarily ground the effort to a halt. On a less serious but perhaps more pleasant note, he has, together with a meteorologist, been consulting with an organization of hot-air balloonists on making fly/no-fly decisions. This work has already earned him and his daughter Delia a flight in a hot-air balloon.

He is still writing and publishing. He completed a book on personal decision making which several publishers have liked but, in the end, rejected on the grounds that there were too few courses being taught in the subject to constitute a profitable market. Together with Larry Steward, Professor Emeritus of Speech, he has just completed a book on conflict resolution. He has also completed a funded article with a former doctoral student on applying Rawls's principles to the management of fisheries.

He continues to exercise his interest in Sweden and the Swedish language. He has traveled to Sweden twice and will do so again this year, and he has joined a local Swedish conversation group, which includes a Swedish-born poet, minister, and two doctors.

If, as Dean Marvin Kaiser told RAPS this spring, the secret to maintaining physical, mental, and emotional health is continued intellectual activity and continuing contribution to society, then Barry Anderson should remain vigorous for years to come.

In Memoriam - Marvin Beeson

Marvin H. Beeson died at his home in Milwaukie, on June 3, 2004, at age 66. He was buried next to his wife, Georgette Ann Beeson, in the Island City Cemetery on June 11, after a memorial service attended by family and many Portland State Colleagues.

Marvin was born in 1937 and raised in La Grande, Oregon. He was graduated from La Grande High School in 1955. He attended Eastern Oregon College for two years and was graduated from the University of Oregon, with a BS and MS in geology in 1959 and 1962 respectively. He earned his PhD in Geology and Geochemistry at the University of California, San Diego, in 1969.

He taught at Reed College for two years before accepting a position in the Department of Geology at Portland State. He retired in 1998 and was promoted to Emeritus Professor of Geology. He served two separate terms as Chair of the department, but his chief interests were in teaching, advising graduate student research, and researching the geology of the Columbia River Basalts and the geology of the northern Willamette Valley. His research and that of his graduate students led to important breakthroughs in understanding the geology of Columbia River Basalt and the geologic history of northwestern Oregon, subjects of which he was considered the foremost expert on the basis of his published research. He was widely sought as a geologic consultant by government agencies and private companies. He continued his research and consulting until his untimely death.

Marvin married Glenda Lewis in 1965, and their daughter, Julie Ann, was born in 1970. He married Georgette Bleth in 1985. She preceded him in death on June 30, 2003. He is survived by his daughter, Julie Ann Cedillos, granddaughter Audriana Cedillos, sisters Velva Fulton, Christina Morgan, and Junella Johnson, brothers Melvin and Thomas Beeson, and many nieces and nephews. Remembrances should be made to the Mount Hood Kiwanis Camp.

A Word from you Editor

We were sorry to say good-bye to Troy Monserrat-Gonzales, who left us to pursue graduate studies in Anthropology at the University of Chicago, but we are delighted to welcome our new Office Manager, **Jill Shellan**. Jill has a degree in political science from the University of Oregon. She is currently enrolled in a Masters Program in Post-Secondary, Adult and Continuing Education Services. She would like to stay on at PSU as an advisor, though she is aware that plans may change. Meanwhile she lives in Lake Oswego with her husband, David. This summer she will be working in the RAPS office in the Benson House on Tuesdays and Thursdays from eight am to two in the afternoon. You should drop by to say hello to Jill and thank her for the good work that she is doing for us.

You will notice that I added a new item in this edition of the RAPS Sheet with the story on Barry Anderson. Many of our retired colleagues are remaining active intellectually and in the community. I would like to print stories on such colleagues. Please let me know of such colleagues so that their stories can appear in future issues. Do not be afraid to blow your own trum-

pet. No one else can know what you are doing as well as you do. So send information to me at cooperrohe@earthlink.net or to raps@pdx.edu, or by mail to the address in our masthead on page 1.

This is the last issue of the RAPS Sheet until the September issue. Have a good summer.

John Cooper

Bridge Club

The Bridge group will meet on Tuesday July 13 at 1:30 pm at the home of Mike and Marge Fiasca. Please let Mike and Marge know if you plan to come and they will give you an update on how many are coming and directions to their house. They can be reached at 503 675 8171 or at mmfiasca@aol.com.