

# The HOOTER



## Retirement Association of Portland State May 2003

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## President's luncheon draws 90

An important step in the epoch-year of the change-over from REPPS to RAPS took place at the President's Luncheon for PSU Retirees on April 22. Ninety retirees and guests were present in the Smith Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

The existing budget cuts and the

uncertainty about future funding were reflected in a rather austere menu of submarine-type sandwiches and small plastic containers of each potato salad and fruit salad. A large paper-wrapped cookie topped off the contrast to the lunches of the past.

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## RAPS Outstanding Retiree Awards

Presentations by Charlie White,  
Co-chair, RAPS Awards Committee

### Marjorie Kirrie

Marjorie Kirrie, professor emeritus of English, received the 2003 Outstanding Retired Faculty Award at the Annual President's Luncheon for Retired Faculty and Staff on April 22.

Kirrie continued her pursuit of grammatical correctness right to the luncheon saying, "Words don't have sex. People have sex. Words have gender, and an adjective takes the gender of the noun it modifies. Professors can be female, but the word professor is masculine, and therefore, it takes a masculine adjective. So the proper way to address me is Professor Emeritus Marjorie Kirrie."

Kirrie is not sure when she began teaching at this institution — "1950? Perhaps it was 1949." She taught nights at the Portland Extension Center as well as being a home

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### Eleanor Rigdon

Eleanor Rigdon came to what would eventually be Portland State University in 1950. She was hired to work in the Registrar's Office by the institution's founder, Dr. Stephan E. Epler.

Epler sensed her great potential as a hard worker and great innovator. She quickly became indispensable in the office and was instrumental in shortening the lines of students at registration, which often stretched three blocks long.

The Registrar's Office was but a first step for Rigdon who stepped up to help out wherever needed. Halfway through the winter term, she volunteered to help out in the Duplicating Department.

Rigdon continued working and taking classes, six credits per term, until she completed her bachelor's degree in 1965 and her master's in 1978.

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# Haystack summer program enters 34th year

Portland State University's Haystack Summer Program in the Arts 34<sup>th</sup> annual creative arts workshops will be held in Cannon Beach, Oregon, July 11–August 8, 2003. Nationally-recognized writers, musicians, artists and horticulturists will engage in writing and music classes, concerts, readings, lectures and visual arts workshops.

Weeklong and weekend classes include writing, visual arts and music workshops, a Children's Book Conference and a week of inspiration for the gardeners. Readings, concerts, lectures, panel discussions and other special evening events throughout the month complete the program.

## Writing Classes, July 11– August 8, 2003

This year's distinguished instructors include Jack Bedell, David Biespiel, Cole Burrell, Annie Callan, John Daniel, Michele Glazer, Susan Goldman Rubin, Lucy Hardiman, Pamela Jayapal, Karen Karob, Janice Kennedy, Eric Kimmel, Whitney Otto, Sandra Scofield, Barbara Sjöholm, Tom Spanbauer and Ann Whitford Paul.

Classes in poetry, dangerous writing, short story, memoir, nonfiction, children's books and horticultural

writing are planned. Each author schedules a reading on Wednesday nights at the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce.

## Visual Arts Workshops, July 11– August 8, 2003

Weeklong art classes include *Pastels: The Portable Medium* with Charlien Fitzpatrick, *Playing with Paint* with Max Grover, and *Drawing and Painting from the Landscape* with Michael Southern. Marla Frazee and Elsa Warnick are back to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Northwest Children's Book Conference providing individual portfolio critiques and information for children's book illustrators. Weekend classes include *Plateau Basketry Twining Techniques* with Pat Courtney Gold and *Japanese and Western Bookbinding* taught by Heather Whitlow.

## Music Workshops, July 11– August 8, 2003

Michael Berkson explores the complex connection between singing and acting during his weekend offering, *Acting for the Musical Theatre*. Rodney Eichenberger returns to teach the *Choral Conducting Workshop* whose 85 voices come together in a lively concert at the end of the week on August 8, 2003. Mary Kadderly, a local singer and songwriter, teaches a weekend vocal workshop, a songwriting workshop and gives a jazz concert on July 12, 2003. Chris Knab and David Nevue share invaluable information about *Music Marketing in a Digital Age*, and

## Lucille Walker dies at 82

Lucille S. Walker, longtime PSU staff member, died March 27, 2003 of age-related causes at the age of 82. Ms. Walker was the widow of William G. Walker who was one of the first students to enroll at Vanport College. Mr. Walker died in 1993. Their son, William S. Walker, has two degrees from Portland State.

Ms. Walker worked as a secretary at Vanport and then PSC until 1965. She returned to PSU in 1973 and held various positions in International Education and Academic Affairs until her retirement in 1982. She later worked as a temporary administrative assistant with Academic Affairs on several occasions. Her last official job with PSU was as administrative secretary on the Presidential Search Committee from September 1989 to January 1990.

She is survived by her two sons, William S. Walker and Richard G. Walker, both of Portland. A memorial service was scheduled for April 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the St. Barnabas Church in southwest Portland. Donations may be made to the Friends of the Library, care of the PSU Foundation.

**Please note also . . . Marian Elizabeth Jean Francis** died February 10 at the age of 71. A memorial service was held on April 26 at the Cliffside Cemetery in Sandy. She was a Binding Supervisor in the Library Technical Department in the Branford P. Millar Library.

She was born in Aberdeen, Washington, on October 23, 1931. She graduated from Juneau (AK) high school in 1949 and married Eugene N. Francis. They divorced later.

Mrs. Francis worked in the PSU library for 30 years.

She is survived by three children, Betty Smith, Linda Mueller and Arthur "Bud" Francis; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a brother, Bob Tanner; sisters, Jackie Luce and Joyce Wilson; and several aunts and cousins.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Myathenia Gravis Foundation.

## with varied offerings

Hal Lee and Dave Storrs present *Explorations in Rhythm*, a percussion class.

### **The Complete Garden, July 14– 20, 2003**

What is a good garden and how do you express it? Haystack provides a week of inspiration for serious and recreational gardeners. Cole Burrell and Lucy Hardiman teach a four-day writing class which is followed by a day of gardening fundamentals with Beth Holland. The weekend holds a workshop in garden photography with Allan Mandell, a garden design class, *Artful Planting: Designing with Color Texture and Form*, and the accumulated knowledge of various designers, artists, writers and gardening enthusiasts presented in a panel format on Sunday afternoon.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Northwest Children's Book Conference, July 21– 25, 2003**

The Children's Book Conference features an award-winning group of professional writers, illustrators and editors, masters of their craft who generously share their expertise. A limited number of 20-minute individual critiques of manuscripts and portfolios are available for an additional fee. Focus on the craft of writing for children and young people. This year's faculty includes Wendy Lamb, Marla Frazee, Susan Goldman Rubin, Eric A. Kimmel, Elsa Warnick, Ann Whitford Paul and Linda Zuckerman, director.

For more information on these or other workshops in Cannon Beach this summer, contact Elizabeth Snyder, director, Portland State University Haystack Summer Program in the Arts at (800) 547-8887, ext 4186, or (503)725-4186, or email [snydere@pdx.edu](mailto:snydere@pdx.edu), or visit the Web site at [www.haystack.pdx.edu](http://www.haystack.pdx.edu). University credit is available.

## **Luncheon . . . From Page 1**

After introductory remarks by President Dan Bernstine, Gary Withers, vice president of University relations, provided a survey of the progress and growth of the University.

The growth in enrollment has been remarkable. PSU now has the largest enrollment in the state system, and it is projected to reach a near-term total of 35,000.

The projected growth of the physical is no less remarkable with three major additions in planning.

## *Feldesman tracks PERS bills through legislature*

Marc R. Feldesman, professor emeritus of anthropology, took up the task of tracing PERS and PERS-related bills through the legislature in response to persistent questions from friends and colleagues. His research is being conveyed both thru a listserv that is addressed almost daily and a Web site where documents from legislative hearings and parties addressing the legislature may be found.

The scope of this work is reflected in the 13 PERS-related House Bills that had been introduced by January 20. Some of these bills would change the provisions for PERS retirees, some for PERS members still working, and some for future hires.

The effect of any of these bills or yet-to-be submitted bills on current retirees was somewhat clarified by Gov. Ted Kulongoski at a press conference on Jan. 23 in which he outlined his principles for PERS reform. He said in part, "However, we cannot balance our books on the backs of our retirees. I want to be clear on this point: We will not reach into retirees' accounts."

Keeping track of just the two most important bills, HB 2004 which addressed the mortality tables used by PERS and HB 2005 which addressed the membership of the PERS Board of directors, would have been work enough. But the other 11 bills, also required attention.

The 1,000 persons on the email list in early February has grown to 1,500 in May. Feldesman estimates there are four readers per copy.

Persons wishing to be added to the basic mailing list ([perslist@lists.pdx.edu](mailto:perslist@lists.pdx.edu)) should inform Feldesman at [owner-perslist@lists.pdx.edu](mailto:owner-perslist@lists.pdx.edu). Links to information from other sources is included at <http://web.pdx.edu~hlmf/pers.htm>.

Feldesman in summarizing his work to date said, "I'm certain of only two things: 1) continued uncertainty for PERS members and recent retirees, and 2) that the Legislature has no publicly announced "Plan B" if the more significant PERS bills are struck down by the Oregon Supreme Court"

The deadlines and frequency of publication of *The Hooter* made it impossible to follow the flow of the legislation. However, it may be possible to get Feldesman to write a review of the situation once (if ever) the legislature has adjourned.

# 2003 awardees share much from their PSU past

## Kirrie . . . From Page 1

teacher and a substitute teacher in the Portland Public Schools. That kind of busy schedule was typical for Kirrie as she completed her master's degree and joined the PSU faculty, retiring in 1985 after 27 years of service.

After Kirrie's retirement, a second career beckoned. She took an assignment to teach English in our Chinese sister school, Zhengzhou University. Zhengzhou is a railroad town in a poor province, and it is poor, smoky and, according to Kirrie, there is no more than twenty-seconds between steam train whistles day and night. None the less, Kirrie treasures her teaching of Shakespeare to Chinese students — and the new career it started.

This career — helping foreign students and foreigners in general — has a number of success stories.

In one case, she identified the problem nurses at the Shriner's Hospital were having with a young Iranian man. He didn't speak English, so he didn't understand their orders. This experience led her to volunteer for the Oregon Literacy program.

In this work, she has helped a Mexican boy who is blind and must transcribe written passages into Braille. She also helped an illiterate construction worker whose injury prevented him from heavy work to pass the written civil service test to become a flagger.

Kirrie loves to travel and has gone around the world on a freighter. Right now she is packing to leave for Vladivostok, Kamchatka, the Aleutians and the Alaska panhandle.

## From Page 1 . . . Rigdon

Rigdon retired from her secondary teaching position in 1985 and began to concentrate on two new careers. Both reflected long-time interests and represent activities she had pursued before retirement.

She started a golf tournament for senior women, and it has been a great success. For the past 20 years, her tournaments have offered senior women a chance to compete in a non-threatening environment. Rigdon devised a unique scoring system that takes the pressure off the golfers and minimizes the embarrassment of a flubbed hole.

Tournament day is regarded by the senior women as "a nice, attractive, congenial day". More than 200 women sign to play each year. Rigdon's knees have prevented her from playing for the past five years, but she continues to organize and supervise the tournament.

Rigdon's second post-retirement career is her continuing work at the PSU Mathematics Resource Laboratory. She still gives generously of her time and money in buying supplies and prizes, and many students have been able to graduate because of her help in getting them through math.

She has been working in the laboratory three or four days a week since 1985, and she has provided individual help to at least 13,500 students. She continues to be vital in the educating and retaining of students today.

A bystander at the presentation noted that her name was misspelled "Elanor" rather than "Eleanor" on her certificate. Another bystander said, "If Eleanor had been working in that print shop, that would never have happened."

## Got slides? Show set for June General Meeting

The June General Meeting will feature slides presented by... the members attending. RAPS President-Elect and Program Chair Maxine Thomas has titled this event "A Synergistic Slide Show." The meeting will be held at 1:00 pm, Thursday, June 19 in SMC 296/98.

Each member is asked to bring three of their favorite slides and to be prepared to talk about them — identify them, explain them, comment on them. Thomas says the slides might be of one's travels, one's garden, one's grandchildren or

whatever. Thomas cautions that the commentary should be limited to no more than two to four minutes. That may call for some real discipline.

Members who have photo prints and 35mm negatives may send them to RAPS Secretary Pro Tem Larry Sawyer (psu 23312@pdx.edu) who will convert them to projectionable format. Such materials should be sent to Sawyer not later than June 6 to insure time for the necessary computer work.

The next meeting will be the Annual Picnic.