RAPS members enjoy a bountiful spread at the annual RAPS picnic Aug. 16 at Willamette Park. Pictured (left to right) are Gordon Solie, Chris Lewis, Art Emlen, Brian Lewis (behind Art), Dave Krug, Bitsy Emlen, and Mary Krug. Photo by Larry Sawyer.

Lineup of fall programs announced

President-elect Sue Poulsen has announced the RAPS programs for fall term. Meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of each month. Check the list below for times and places.

**Thursday, Sept. 20: Tour of Science Building II**

Paul Mortimer, Assistant Dean for External Relations in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will lead RAPSters through the recently renovated Science II building located at 1719 SW 10th Avenue. Meet in the main lobby of SB II at 1:00 pm.

**Thursday, Oct. 18: Meet Provost Andrews**

Sona Andrews, PSU’s new Provost, meets with RAPS members in 296 SMC. The meeting begins at 12:30 pm, with the Provost joining the group at 1:00 pm.

**November: no general meeting**

In a break from tradition, RAPS will not hold a general meeting in November, as the RAPS Board will be participating in a half-day work retreat Nov. 15.

**December: Holiday Party**

At press time, the date and location of the annual holiday party in December were still to be determined.
**President’s Message**

As you read this September RAPS Sheet, the summer Olympics, barbeques, trips to the beach, the annual RAPS picnic and the first PSU football game have faded into memories. In the meantime, Sonia Singh has become our new Office Manager and newly hired PSU Provost Sona Andrews has joined our PSU community.

A special thanks for a job well done is due our outgoing President, Joan Shireman. Joan often must have felt as if her RAPS position were a newly found full-time job, as she worked tirelessly through the transitioning of four office managers. As President-Elect last year, I had a front row seat, and I can attest that Joan fielded many difficult situations with grace and competence.

You will enjoy working with Sonia, who brings extensive office and managerial experience to her position as RAPS Office Manager. In a very short time she has proven to be capable, enthusiastic, and approachable.

Some members of our Board have had the opportunity to meet with new Provost Sona Andrews and found that she is an enthusiastic supporter of university retiree organizations. We look forward to having a close working relationship with her during this coming year.

Plans are underway for PSU’s hosting of the Northwest Regional Retirement Association conference in September 2013. Robert “Vogie” Vogelsang has been instrumental in this process, serving as Chair of the Regional Retirement Association Committee and attending regional meetings on RAPS’s behalf.

Susan Poulsen, our President-Elect and Program Coordinator, has already begun developing a full calendar of events for this year, and I look forward to the opportunity to meet and chat with you at each one.

--Dave Krug

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**Meet Sonia, Office Manager**

RAPS is delighted to welcome Sonia Singh as the new RAPS Office Manager. A graduate student in Geography, Sonia reports that she has survived her first year and is looking forward to tackling a new year in spatial analysis.

Sonia’s focus lies in urban geography, demographic movement in particular. This focus is close to her heart because she has moved quite a bit in her life. She grew up near New York City and Toronto, Canada.

After spending some time in South America, Sonia moved to Portland in 2005. She loves the closeness of the city and its proximity to nature. When not busy with school Sonia spends her time trying to keep healthy. She plans to run the Portland Half-Marathon in October.

Sonia’s office hours fall term are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Feel free to stop in during office hours to say hello!

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**RAPS Club Reports**

**Book Club reads Steve Jobs biography**

The RAPS Book Club meets at 1:30 pm Tuesday, Sept. 18 at the home of Eileen Brennan, 5945 SW 152nd Ave in Beaverton. Contact her at eileen@pdx.edu or 503-646-6297 to RSVP and for directions.

We will discuss Walter Isaacson’s book Steve Jobs, described as follows on the cover:

Based on more than forty interviews with Jobs conducted over two years—as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues—Walter Isaacson has written a riveting story of the roller-coaster life and searingly intense personality of a creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.

Looking ahead to October’s meeting, we will read The Swerve: How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt.

--Mary Brannan

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Gordon Dodds: the Savior of Portland State's History

As an historian, Gordon B. Dodds (1932-2003), Professor Emeritus of History, recognized the void in the literature about the school’s past, and he acted to remedy such neglect. A highly respected and prolific scholar in his field, Dodds convinced the PSU administration to take action. In the late 1980s he was appointed University Historian, with the assignment of preparing a history of PSU in time for the institution’s 50th anniversary, celebrating the period 1946-1996.

Although numerous persons assisted him in various aspects of the book’s development, producing the manuscript became a monumental task for Dodds. Pertinent records of historical significance – written, oral, images – were literally scattered across the campus in academic units and offices. In large part, this woeful situation occurred because Portland State did not have a full-time university archivist for archiving key records to support such an endeavor.

In addition to accessing primary materials, Gordon was faced with the challenge of identifying, reviewing and organizing the materials, interviewing individuals whose knowledge of Portland State’s history spanned five decades, and shaping the resulting jumble of information into a coherent package.

Fortunately, Dodds’s passion, work ethic, and dedication enabled him to persevere. His groundbreaking book, The College that Would Not Die: The First Fifty Years of Portland State University 1946-1996, was published in 2000. The publication was marked with a book signing on campus, celebrating not only the book but the remarkable man who wrote it.

More than a decade has passed since its publication, and The College That Would Not Die is now firmly established as the landmark book on PSU’s history. In 1946, Stephen E. Epler founded Portland State University. In 2000, Gordon B. Dodds assured that the history initiated by its founder would be preserved and celebrated in perpetuity.

--Steve Brannan

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

RAPS club reports . . . cont. from page 2

RAPS Hikers to walk Tryon Creek trail
On Friday, Sept. 14, we will make a local hike in Tryon Creek State Park. Meet at the park information desk at 9:30 am. We will take one or more of the many loop trails in the park. Lunch at a local restaurant will be determined at the hike. Please confirm your participation to Larry Sawyer by Thursday, Sept. 13 at 503-771-1616 or larry.sawyer@comcast.net.

--Larry Sawyer

Bridge Group deals Sept. 11
The RAPS Bridge Group meets at 1:00 pm Tuesday, Sept. 11 at Friendly House (corner of NW 26th and Thurman). For information about the group, please call Colin Dunkeld, 503-292-0838. If you would like to play, please call before noon Friday, Sept. 7. This gives us time to invite guests to join us if we need to make up a table.

--Colin Dunkeld
Margaret J. Dobson, Health and Physical Education Professor and Executive Vice President Emerita, died of natural causes in Portland July 13, 2012. Born June 20, 1931 in Longview, WA to James Walter and Francis May (Howard) Dobson, Margaret moved with her family to Vancouver where she graduated from high school in 1949.

She subsequently enrolled as a freshman at Vanport Extension Center, launching a career connection with the Portland State higher education community that continued until her retirement in 1990.

While studying at Vanport, 18-year-old Margaret, known as “Mugsy,” joined Portland’s famed Erv Lind Florists fast pitch softball team, finishing in the 1950 national tournament with a record .615 batting average. As a five-time All American Team Member, she played on three World Champion teams. Sports Illustrated magazine designated her one of Oregon’s 50 Greatest Sports Figures of the 20th Century. Although Vanport did not field a softball team, in 1951 the school’s baseball coach invited Margaret to play third base, and she not only earned a letter but gained international recognition as a highly successful team member.

At the University of Oregon Professor Dobson earned B.S. (1954), M.S. (1959), and Ed.D. (1965) degrees. She supplemented doctoral studies with advanced level coursework at the University of Wisconsin. Prior to joining Portland State College’s health and physical education faculty in 1955, she taught for a school year at Lincoln High School. At PSU her dedication to sports and physical education undergirded the university’s training of public school educators for special education and physical fitness programs. In 1968 Dr. Dobson was advanced to full professor rank.

In 1971 Dr. Dobson and University of Oregon Professor and Coach Becky Sisley co-authored Softball for Girls, a book widely used for instructional purposes. Dr. Dobson was a gifted teacher and ably served as Assistant Dean of Health and Physical Education before being assigned to PSU’s central administration. During her PSU career Professor Dobson was one of the first two women in the Oregon State System of Higher Education to hold vice presidential positions with university-wide responsibilities.

As Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Dobson oversaw the institution’s instructional and research programs and as Executive Vice President she discharged significant academic management functions. At times she discharged duties within the President’s Office, notably preparing presentations for Board of Higher Education meetings and for collective bargaining negotiations.

Professor Dobson left a significant mark on this institution as it developed from an extension center into a major comprehensive university. Her productive outreach to the Portland metropolitan sports community has been recognized by her induction into the Amateur Softball Association of America Hall of Fame in 1964 and the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 1984. In 1976 PSU established an annual award in her name honoring the institution’s outstanding female athlete.

Surviving family members include her brother Ed Dobson; nieces Vikki Osbourne, Shelley Ferguson, Laurie Freeman, and Edie Dobson; nephew Steven Dobson; and their several children. In accordance with her wishes, a private memorial mass and burial were celebrated in Portland at St. John Fisher Catholic Church. Contributions in her memory may be made to the PSU Women’s Athletic Program or the Special Olympics.

An in-depth sports section article appeared in the Oregonian July 21 followed by an obituary on July 26; a guest book may be signed at www.oregonlive.com/obituaries. The Catholic Sentinel of Portland also published an obituary Aug. 13.

--Emeritus Professor of History Victor C. Dahl

PSU Weekend Oct. 12-14
Lara Logan keynote speaker

Lara Logan, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for CBS News and 60 Minutes Correspondent, will give the keynote address Friday, Oct. 12 as part of the Alumni Association’s PSU Weekend activities. Logan’s talk, which begins at 7:30 pm in Lincoln Hall, is preceded by an exclusive VIP sponsor reception at the Simon Benson House.

For a complete list of PSU Weekend activities and to register online, go to www.pdx.edu/alumni or call the Office of Alumni Engagement at 503-725-4948.