Explore Portland’s Architectural History at October 20 Meeting

The RAPS monthly meeting for October features an illustrated talk on “Portland’s Great Boom and the Shaping of our Historic Streetcar Neighborhoods” given by Robert Mercer (immediate left) and Jim Heuer (far left in photo). Robert and Jim arrived at their shared passion for architectural history via different paths: Jim through his interest in railroad history and photography and Robert through his focus on Portland history and lore. Their shared passion turned into serious research on Portland’s architectural history after they purchased a 1905 Craftsman Style house in the Irvington neighborhood about 20 years ago and launched what became a multi-year project to inventory and assess the work of its architect, a previously little known talent named Emil Schacht. After cataloging some 300 commissions by Schacht, they turned to other early 20th century architects, presenting lectures on their findings at Portland’s Architectural Heritage Center.

The two are self-taught in architectural history and concepts, but their knowledge is so extensive that many people think they were formally trained as architects. In actuality they followed other paths. Jim is an executive of a software company and Robert is Assistant Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at PSU. An alumnus of PSU, Robert says he developed a love of local history, architecture, and research through helping Charlie White plan local walking tours and studying with E. Kimbark MacColl. In addition to giving talks and leading walking tours, Robert and Jim are active in their community in related ways, supporting the designation of the Irvington Neighborhood as a National Register Historic District and tracking the historic trends that help shape Portland’s inner city neighborhoods.

The meeting begins at noon on Thursday, October 20 in Room 294 SMSU with a light lunch; Robert and Jim’s presentation will begin at 1:00 pm.
President’s Message

With the advent of fall, our thoughts inevitably move to the traditions that come with the season . . . Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the various celebrations, both religious and secular, that mark the holiday season. A longstanding tradition in RAPS is the December holiday gathering. I trust you are planning to join the festivities at this year’s Holiday Brunch, to be held at the Multnomah Athletic Club on Sunday, Dec. 11, beginning at 11:30 am. Our thanks go once again to Claudine Fisher, who has worked with Chef Philippe Boulot to plan a sumptuous repast. Look for details in the next issue of the RAPS Sheet.

Even as RAPS values tradition, it embraces change. In July Sue Poulsen and I embarked on our first year as Co-Presidents under the new leadership model voted by RAPS members last year, and I’m pleased to report it is working extremely well. We have a terrific Board to work with and a very efficient and responsive Office Manager in Adam Jones. We’re off to a great start.

I’m very much looking forward to Robert Mercer and Jim Heuer’s presentation Thursday, Oct. 20, about the shaping of Portland’s historic streetcar neighborhoods. Most of us know Robert from his role at PSU as Assistant Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, but for the last 15 years or so Robert and Jim have been studying the evolution of early 20th century Portland architecture. They have become local experts, much in demand for talks and walking tours of Portland historic neighborhoods. We can expect to hear their opinions on the alarming trend of demolition and redevelopment in some of Portland’s grand old neighborhoods. See you there.

--Dawn White

RAPS Scholarship Contributions

Scholarship contributions were received by the PSU Foundation from the following individuals between February 1, 2016 and September 30, 2016:

Barbara Alberty
Priscilla M. Blumel
Eileen M. Brennan
Steven Brenner
Ronald Cease
Arthur C. Emlen
James Hugon
Carol Lawrence
Peter Leineweber
Brian Lewis

Robert Lockerby
Anne-Grethe Morris
Lawrence Sawyer
Brent Schauer
Robert Tufts
Robert Walker
Dawn White
Anonymous Donors

Priscilla Blumel - In memory of Richard Brinkman
Carol Gerity - In remembrance of Richard Brinkman

We also received donations from the Robert W. Vogelsang Memorial Wine Raffle and from the wine tour led by Scott Burns in May.
The RAPS Book Group. On September 20 the RAPS book group met at the home of Joan Shireman and discussed *Astoria, Astor and Jefferson’s Lost Pacific Empire: A Tale of Ambition and Survival on the Early American Frontier* by Peter Stark. We had a fascinating discussion, first of geography (illustrated with many tales of the travel and work experiences of members) and then of leadership when directions and consequences are completely unknown.

Our October meeting will be on October 18 at 1:30 at the home of Steve and Eileen Brennan. We will be discussing David McCullough’s *The Wright Brothers*. Amazon.com describes the book as an “enjoyable, fast-paced tale” (*The Economist*), in which the author “shows as never before how two Ohio boys from a remarkable family taught the world to fly” (*The Washington Post*) and “captures the marvel of what the Wrights accomplished” (*The Wall Street Journal*). Eileen’s address is 5945 SW 152nd Ave in Beaverton. Telephone her at 503-646-6297 or e-mail her at brennane@pdx.edu to let her know whether you can be there.

The book group meets the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30. New members are always welcome.

--Joan Shireman

The RAPS Bridge Group meets in the afternoon on the first Tuesday of each month. We begin play at 12:15 pm. We try to finish up by 4:00 pm. We meet in Smith Memorial Student Union, usually on the second floor, but sometimes on the third floor.

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming months, bridge dates, and times:
- Tuesday, October 4, 2016; 12:15 pm in SMSU 236
- Tuesday, November 1, 2016; 12:15 pm in SMSU 236
- Tuesday, December 6, 2016; 12:15 pm in SMSU 236

I will send out the reminder email notice closer to each date we play.

The RAPS bridge group members are very friendly and are always looking for new players. If you wish to join us, please contact Steve Brennan, 503-646-6297. My email address is the.steve.brennan@gmail.com.

--Steve Brennan

The RAPS Hiking Group. On Tuesday, October 11, RAPS Hikers will explore the coast near Oswald State Park. Marge and Leif Terdal are hosting this hike, and lunch will be at their beach house. If you are interested in this hike, contact Marge at dbmt@pdx.edu and copy your response to Larry Sawyer at larry_sawyer@comcast.net or call 503-771-1616. The carpool spot will be at the Cedar Hills Shopping Center at 10180 SW Park Way, Portland, OR 97225 (near the junction of Highways 26 and 217). We will meet in front of the DMV office and leave at 8:30am (note the earlier time for departure). Unneeded cars will be parked on the street behind the DMV.

View the PDF of the hike on our webpage on the RAPS website. To go directly to the page, go to www.pdx.edu/raps/raps-hikers.

--Larry Sawyer
In Memoriam: Richard Brinkman, 1929-2016

Richard Louis Brinkman, Professor Emeritus of Economics, was born December 5, 1929 in Newark, NJ and died in Portland on April 11, 2016. He taught at PSU for 48 years. Professor Brinkman grew up in Newark and married his high school sweetheart, June. Both came from working class families but were encouraged by a high school teacher to pursue college degrees. Richard served two years in the U.S. Army and attended college on the G.I. Bill.

He began his studies at Rutgers University as a pre-med student but was inspired by a dynamic economics professor, Dr. Max Gideonse, to pursue economics instead. Richard completed his undergraduate degree in economics, then went on to earn a master’s degree in economics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He returned to Rutgers to pursue his doctorate in economics, which he completed in 1965. He was guided by and often referenced such economists and scholars as John Kenneth Galbraith, John Maynard Keynes, Thorstein Veblen, Gunnar Myrdal, Simon Kuznets, and Joseph Stiglitz.

Professor Brinkman’s areas of expertise in teaching and research were macro, institutional, and cultural economics. He joined the PSU faculty in 1961, retiring in 1998. Some of his signature courses at PSU were Family and Modern Growth, Sustainable Development, Cultural Economics, Family Values/Economic Decline, and Globalization Debate.

Dr. Brinkman’s first major book was Cultural Economics, published in 1981, and his last one was Corporate Pharaohs: A Vicious Circle of Globalization, written with June Brinkman and published in 2013. June, who earned a doctorate in sociology, and her husband co-authored several papers during their academic careers. Richard also co-authored other books and was the author of several articles published in the Journal of Economic Issues, the International Journal of Social Economics, and other scholarly publications. Professor Brinkman presented numerous papers and lectures nationally and abroad. He was a visiting scholar in China, and he and June taught in a study abroad program in Germany.

Richard enjoyed fishing, chess, listening to classical music, attending PSU athletic events, and engaging in lively conversations with his family over dinner. He and June were active in RAPS, and Richard served as President of RAPs during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Richard is survived by his wife of 61 years, one son, two daughters, and two grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held on campus in Lincoln Hall on Sunday, September 25. Copies of remembrances written by his family are available in the RAPS office on request. RAPS extends sincere condolences to the members of Professor Brinkman’s family.

-- Dawn White, Co-President of RAPS
In Memoriam: Ralph Scott Davis, Jr., 1920 – 2016

Ralph Scott Davis, age 96, passed away August 14, 2016. He was born in Portland, Oregon on January 21, 1920 to Ralph S. Davis Sr. and Marcia (Stokes) Davis. Ralph attended Jefferson High School during his senior year, where he excelled in three sports. He attended the University of Oregon, where he became the freshman football captain. His education was interrupted by World War II. He joined the United States Coast Guard and was stationed in the Pacific Northwest. While in the Coast Guard, he met his future bride, Betty Jane Whiting, who was also a member of the Coast Guard. After the war and marriage, they lived in Portland, where their son, Ralph Scott Davis III, was born. They moved to Corvallis, where Ralph played football for Oregon State. While there, their next son, Bryan Davis, was born.

After graduation, Ralph taught and coached at several high schools, including Sheridan, Newberg, and Jefferson. He originated and directed the Seaside Beach Run and Trail’s End Marathon. In recognition of his long service on behalf of track and field, he was appointed coordinator of the Track and Field officials for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. In 1954, Ralph began teaching at Portland State College (later University) where he coached football, track, and cross country. After he ended his coaching career in the late 1970s, he was a dedicated full-time classroom teacher until his retirement in 1981.

After the School of Health and Human Performance/Health and Physical Education was closed in 1992, Ralph arranged an annual Christmas luncheon for HPE’s retired faculty and staff at the Multnomah Athletic Club, of which he was a member. His membership in the MAC allowed him to continue to play competitive racquetball into his nineties. After Betty’s death, he met and married Vaunda Carter. They resided in Northwest Portland at the Vista St. Clair. Ralph is survived by Vaunda; children Ralph Scott Davis (Susie) and Bryan Davis (Madeline); stepdaughter Anne Weaver (Scott); and numerous grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

A celebration of Ralph’s life was held at the Multnomah Athletic Club on Sunday, August 28, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to Hospice at Good Samaritan Hospital. RAPS extends sincere condolences to the members of Ralph Davis’s family.

--John R. Cooper, Professor Emeritus of English

Coming Events

Thursday, Nov. 17 – “Hope in Hell: Operating in a Civil War Zone,” Dr. James Peck, retired vascular surgeon and volunteer physician with Doctors without Borders, will speak on his experiences in Liberia, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria.

Sunday, Dec. 11 – Annual RAPS Holiday Brunch at Multnomah Athletic Club.
RAPS Hard Hat Tour of Karl Miller Center with PSU alumnus Mark Fujii, Project Manager (in orange vest).

RAPS hikers crossing Newton Creek on the September Elk Meadows hike. —Photos by Larry Sawyer