Sunday Brunch Dec. 16
RAPSters to Make Merry at the MAC

RAPS members celebrate the season with a holiday brunch Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The brunch replaces the annual holiday dinner of previous years.

This year’s event begins at 11:30 am with an open mimosa bar and live entertainment, followed by brunch at 12:15 pm.

Menu selections include fresh juices, fresh fruit, MAC’s famous cinnamon rolls, assorted breakfast breads, granola, scrambled eggs, blintzes with cherry sauce, smoked bacon, and roasted red potatoes. The cost is $22 per person.

Attendees will have an opportunity to meet Michelle Wilson, the current RAPS scholarship recipient (see story on page 2) and participate in a silent auction to help raise funds for the scholarship. In addition, holiday gifts will be raffled off – no purchase of raffle tickets required!

A flyer with additional information was mailed in late November, with RSVP to Office Manager Sonia Singh (503-725-3447) requested by Dec. 10.

January Program Features Communication Prof

Jeffrey Robinson, PSU Professor of Communication, is the featured speaker at the first RAPS program meeting of 2013 – Thursday, Jan. 17.

One of Dr. Robinson’s academic specialties is health communication, which examines how and why face-to-face communication (doctor-patient communication, for example) affects aspects of healthcare and health promotion. His research in doctor-patient communication in cancer settings has been funded by the National Cancer Institute. His presentation to RAPS will focus on physician interaction with women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Because of his teaching schedule, Dr. Robinson’s talk starts at 2:15 pm. The meeting begins at 1:30 pm – note the later than usual starting time – in 338 Smith Memorial Student Union.
President’s Message

The Nov. 15 RAPS Board retreat provided several standing committees the opportunity to engage the entire Board in problem solving and developing ideas to move forward on a number of ongoing issues. It was a productive and informative meeting.

Larry Sawyer presented to the Board a report on his road trip to Charlotte, NC where he attended the 10th anniversary conference of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). Larry drove the entire distance, camping in state parks along the way and photographing America’s natural beauty. He showed us two beautiful photos he took in the Tetons.

We are fairly confident that PSU, the youngest university in our state system, can boast of the oldest continuing retirement association. It was in the spring of 1963 that Emeritus Professors Channing Briggs and John Allen surveyed emeriti faculty and created a formal organization that they called the “Professors Club.” Over the years this group subsequently became ERFOPS (Emeritus and Retired Faculty of Portland State) and REPPS (Retired and Emeriti Professors of Portland State). The name was changed to RAPS (Retirement Association of Portland State) when retired staff members were invited to join.

To commemorate and honor this half century of history, the RAPS Board is officially recognizing April 1963 as RAPS’s founding month. Formal recognition will be made at the annual President’s Luncheon April 18.

Michelle Wilson Named Second RAPS Scholarship Recipient

Michelle Wilson, a senior majoring in Social Work, has been awarded the RAPS scholarship for 2012-13. She is the second student to receive the RAPS scholarship, following first-time recipient Melissa Cannon in 2011-12.

Michelle is beginning her second year at Portland State after completing an associate degree and a certificate program in gerontology at Clackamas Community College. The certificate program included an internship with Elders in Action, a Portland-based advocate agency.

As a part of her social work program at PSU, Michelle is completing a full-year internship with Clackamas County Aging and Disability Services in the Oregon Project Independence program. There she works as an advocate, assisting older folks in being independent and retaining control of their own lives.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree, Michelle hopes to become employed in case management, helping to solve the most common problems facing older people in the community. “After gaining practical experience,” she wrote in her application, “it is my dream to work on policy change and reform at some level for the issues that persist for this particular population.” Michelle clearly has a focus on the aging population.

The purpose of the RAPS scholarship is to aid students who have an interest in some aspect of gerontology. Requirements include upper division or graduate standing, evidence of high academic achievement, and demonstrated financial need. With a GPA of 3.92, a major in Social Work, and practical experience in working with an aging population, Michelle is well qualified to receive the RAPS scholarship award.

You can contribute to the RAPS scholarship fund to help support other deserving students in the future by sending a check to the RAPS Office payable to the PSU Foundation, RAPS Scholarship Fund. Credit cards are also accepted. Your contribution is 100% tax deductible.

Thanks, Scholarship Donors!

RAPS gratefully thanks the following scholarship donors whose names were not included in the list of 2012 donors printed in the last RAPS Sheet:

June and Richard Brinkman
Bitsy and Arthur Emlen
Mary and Dave Krug
A History of Holiday Giving

At the most recent “Celebrate the Season” Open House (Dec. 4), the PSU community gathered in the ballroom to reconnect with friends around campus and exchange good wishes. Staff and faculty also brought canned food and nonperishable food items for the Sunshine Division and gifts to support PSU students who are raising children while pursuing higher education.

The Open House is a longtime holiday tradition that has seen some changes. At least 30 years ago, PSU marked the holiday season with a tree-lighting ceremony held in the Park Blocks outside Smith Center.

Retiree Nancy Goldman remembers going to one of those tree-lighting ceremonies in the 1980s – in the rain. She suggested to Shirley Kasparek, Coordinator of Special Events, that the ceremony be moved inside and combined with singing carols and giving gifts to needy children.

“I had just read in the paper about a program to give gifts to foster children – warm coats, gloves, hats,” Nancy recalled. “It was one of those articles that tug at your heartstrings.”

Nancy contacted a foster care organization and got the ball rolling. I remember going downtown with Nancy at lunchtime to shop at Meier and Frank for children’s clothing. We had fun choosing items we hoped would surprise and delight kids of all ages.

“Eventually,” said Nancy, “it grew into a program in which PSU folks donated much more to the cause based on specific wishes from the kids. The PSU Chorus sang, and it was a great way for the PSU community to get together and celebrate.”

A few years ago, recognizing that many PSU students combine their schooling with jobs and parenting, the campus community began collecting gifts earmarked for needy student parents. “I think it’s a really nice idea,” said Nancy, “and I like giving to those close to the institution.”

In a bow to political correctness, the tree lighting ceremony was abolished almost a decade ago but the PSU tradition of gathering gifts for needy families is stronger than ever.

--Dawn White

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.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the RAPS Board!
RAPS Hikers enjoy a panoramic view of Portland from aboard the Portland Aerial Tram during the November RAPS outing. Photo by Larry Sawyer.

RAPS Hikers plan for 2013 over potluck

Current and future RAPS hikers are invited to the home of Larry and Diane Sawyer Monday, Dec. 10 for a potluck dinner and planning session for hikes in 2013. To confirm your participation and get directions, please contact Larry at larry_sawyer@comcast.net or 503-771-1616.

The RAPS Hikers took on Portland’s 4Ts – trail, tram, trolley and train – on their Nov. 9 hike. The 4T loop encompasses Council Crest, the Portland Zoo, the OHSU campus, the South Waterfront Business District along the Willamette River, and downtown Portland. The walking portion of the loop was about four miles long.

--Larry Sawyer

Book Club reads ‘The Submission’

The RAPS Book Club meets at 1:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 18 at the home of Linda Smeltzer, 3550 SW Bond #2201. Linda lives in the Mirabella in the South Waterfront district. Contact her at 503-680-6855 to RSVP and get parking information.

The Submission by Amy Waldman is the group’s selection for December. The book is described by Chris Schluep on the Amazon website as follows:

Amy Waldman has performed a rare and dangerous feat in writing an airtight, multi-viewed, highly readable post-9/11 novel. When a Muslim architect wins a blind contest to design a Ground Zero Memorial, a city of eleven million people takes notice. Waldman, a former bureau chief for the New York Times, explores a diversity of viewpoints around this fictional event, bringing in politicians, businessmen, journalists, activists, and normal people whose lives – whether by happenstance, choice, or even due to their country of origin – get caught up in the controversy. Incredibly, she manages to keep all the balls in the air without ever fumbling. The story is moving and keeps the pages turning, but there are also bigger themes at work: of individuals versus groups; about the purpose of art, commerce, government, and journalism in society; of how people respond to grief and terror. The result is honest, compelling, and breathtaking.

The book club’s selections for early 2013 are forthcoming.

--Mary Brannan

Welcome, new RAPS Members!

Retiring faculty and staff members receive a free first year membership. RAPS welcomes the following recent retirees:

Nova Bakke, Political Science
Beverly Briggs, Education
Bonnie Dalton, Social Work
Tasa Lehman, Education
Rita Robillard, Art
Patricia Scott, Academic Affairs
Ann Stephenson, Graduate Studies
In memoriam: Richard B. Halley, 1915 - 2012


A fourth-generation Oregonian, Dick Halley grew up on a ranch homesteaded by his pioneer forebears. His mother died when he was eight, and his grandfather reared him on the family ranch. Dick was educated at Eastern Oregon College (1934-35) and the University of Oregon, earning a bachelor's degree in economics in 1938 and a master's degree in economics in 1940.

In 1940 he married Elizabeth Anne (Libby) Jones, an elementary school teacher, and taught social science at La Grande High school (1940-42).

Dick was in the National Guard in the 1930s and began officer training in the Army in 1942. He was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division (1944-45), which fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Fortunately, Captain Halley emerged unscathed.

The Halleys settled in Portland in September 1946, and Dick joined the staff of the new Vanport Extension Center as economics instructor and counselor. Enrollment at the Center was over 95% veterans of World War II, many of whom came from families with little or no experience in collegiate level education. In addition to his teaching duties Dick was the Men's Adviser, guiding and counseling veterans. Advising students became a permanent part of his long Portland State career.

Like many contemporaries, Professor Halley immersed himself in his instructional career while resuming graduate studies. He completed a University of California summer session economics program in 1949 and later began graduate studies at Stanford University, completing PhD requirements in 1963.

Professor Halley founded PSU's Department of Economics, oversaw its development, and recruited a distinguished faculty to fulfill needs of the burgeoning institution with an international dimension. He was very active in PSU's community outreach, focusing on Oregon's economic problems.

In 1963 and 1967 the Portland Chamber of Commerce recruited Dick to offer courses to the business community on economic principles and policies. He acted as a panel leader for a 1974 Legislature-sponsored statewide economics seminar that featured an appearance by Milton Friedman.

In 1976 he managed a five-month long citizen review panel that reviewed the salary structure for Multnomah County elected officials. In 1976 he was selected as Executive Director of the Oregon Council on Economic Education, which coordinates related statewide activities through PSU's Center for Economic Education.

In 1964, as part of PSU’s federally-supported pioneer Middle East Studies Center, Professor Halley held an outreach appointment at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, helping to expand its graduate offerings. He also fulfilled significant roles at Portland State, including interim appointments as Academic Vice President (1974) and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research (1976).

The Halleys enjoyed a wide circle of campus friends and during retirement maintained contacts with longtime colleagues. In 1985 Dick became the first president of the Emeriti and Retired Faculty of Portland State, our organization's original name. He was a lifelong hunting and fishing devotee, a dedicated golfer, and a regular racquetball player until recent years.

Dick climbed mountains, including Kilimanjaro, until he was in his 70s, and he and Libby Anne traveled extensively. After Libby Anne died in 1992, Dick continued his international travels with friends and family. In 1997 he married Barbara Jordan, former Oregonian Travel Editor, and they too traveled widely.

Those of us who knew and worked with Richard Halley will always cherish his memory with fondness and gratitude for dedicated service that made a lasting, indelible impression upon our University.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his survivors: Barbara Jordan, his spouse; Rich and Betty Halley, his son and daughter-in-law; and Carson Halley, his grandson. The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Portland State University.

--Victor C. Dahl, History Professor Emeritus of History
Sawyer reports on AROHE conference in North Carolina


Held on the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill campus at the historic Carolina Inn, the conference was sponsored by a tri-campus coalition of retirement associations in the University of North Carolina System (UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and North Carolina Central University in Durham).

AROHE is an international network that supports retired faculty and staff as well as colleges and universities in the creation and development of campus-based retiree organizations. By sharing current research, innovative ideas and best practices, AROHE promotes connections between campuses and their retired faculty and staff. To learn more about AROHE, visit www.arohe.org.

My conference contributions included making audio recordings of most of the sessions and photo documentations of the sessions and activities. I am an outgoing AROHE Board member. RAPS Board member Brian Lewis has been nominated to serve on the AROHE Board for 2013-14. He is the only Board member candidate from the Pacific Northwest.

I elected to drive in order to pursue my hobby of landscape photography, which resulted in my being on the road for a month. I visited the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, Mammoth Caves, Shenandoah, Blue Ridge Parkway, Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, Wind Cave and the Tetons. The photography at some sites in the East was hampered by Hurricane Sandy.

A couple of photographs I took at Grand Teton National Park will be up for auction at the RAPS Holiday party Dec. 16 to benefit the RAPS Scholarship fund.

--Larry Sawyer

Is your membership current? Membership Committee update

RAPS now has 399 members, 77 of whom are new members who received a free one-year membership. The expiration date for each person’s RAPS membership will be printed on the mailing label that goes out with the RAPS Sheet and other mailings. This will help members keep better track of when their membership expires.

Those who have a free one-year membership or have renewed for a fixed term will find that their membership expires on June 30 of a given year. The RAPS office sends a renewal notice in May of that year, a second reminder in October, and a final notice in December.

Be sure to renew to keep your name from being removed from the membership list. Options for renewal include one year for $20, three years for $45, 10 years for $120, and lifetime for $200. Retirees over 85 enjoy free membership. To renew, contact Sonia Singh, RAPS Office Manager, at 503-725-3447.

--Marge Terdal