October programs of interest to RAPS

PSU Weekend Friday-Sunday, Oct. 12-14

Billed as a celebration of lifelong learning, PSU Weekend is sponsored by the PSU Alumni Association. This year’s keynoter is Lara Logan, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for CBS News, who speaks Friday evening.

PSU Weekend also includes the popular Saturday Seminars and Sunday tours. Registration for the (free) Saturday Seminars is requested by Oct. 8. Walk-ins are welcome but seating is limited. Register online at www.pdx.edu/alumni or call the Office of Alumni Engagement, 503-725-4948.

Meet the Provost Thursday, Oct. 18

RAPS’s October program features Sona Andrews, PSU’s new Provost, who will share her opinions and ideas for PSU’s future. Andrews was Provost at Boise State University before joining the Oregon University System in 2010 as vice chancellor for academic strategies. The meeting begins in 296 SMSU at 12:30 pm, with Provost Andrews joining the group at 1:00 pm.
President’s Message

Since its inception nearly 50 years ago, PSU’s retirement association has existed as an entity outside the university’s formal organizational structure. This is about to change, as the RAPS Board recently approved an agreement with the Office of Academic Affairs that gives RAPS inclusion in the organizational network of the University. This is an important step as it provides formal status to the RAPS organization. Both Roy Koch, our previous Provost, and current Provost Sona Andrews provided invaluable leadership during the development of this agreement.

At the same time the agreement was taking shape, the RAPS Board took the momentous step of approving a proposal to offer emeritus status to staff and non-tenure track professionals. The proposal is being delivered to Provost Andrews with the reasoning that staff and academic professionals comprise a critical element of the university and have earned this recognition and accompanying privileges through long and loyal service.

In other news, a RAPS representative is exploring with Torre Chisholm, PSU’s Athletic Director, the possibility of RAPS members providing tutoring to student athletes in exchange for free admission to athletic events. We will keep you posted.

Gratitude is due the members of the RAPS Office Manager Search Committee (Clarence Hein, Sue Poulsen, Joan Shireman and Robert Vogelsang) who spent hours reviewing resumes and conducting interviews. Their efforts ended with the hiring of Sonia Singh, who is proving to be a great asset to our organization. Great job, folks!

We also thank Paul Mortimer, Assistant Dean for External Relations, CLAS, for escorting a group of RAPS members Sept. 20 through the recently renovated PSU Science Research & Teaching Center, previously known as Science Building II. The cost to modernize the building exceeded $40 million but it would have cost more than $200 million to build an entirely new structure.

The tour included stops at the Intel Environmental Science Teaching Laboratory and the Center for Life in Extreme Environments, in which professors and students research life in undersea volcanoes, hot spring, and arctic climes. RAPS members also saw new polymer-based technology research being conducted in the PGE Foundation Renewable Energy Lab and visited the Osgood and ODS health anatomy and physiology teaching labs, where expensive snorkel hoods for dissection are operated by undergraduate students. The tour was both interesting and informative.

I hope you will join me for next month’s RAPS Program, when we meet new Provost Sona Andrews. Details are on page 1.

--Dave Krug

RAPS Club Reports

Book Club reads Pulitzer Prize winner

The RAPS Book Club meets at 1:30 pm Tuesday, Oct. 30. (Note that this is the fifth Tuesday, not our typical third Tuesday). We will be hosted by Dez Roberts at 1610 SW 84th Ave in Portland. Contact her at dezrob@comcast.net or 503-292-6095 to RSVP and for directions.

We will discuss Swerve: How the World Became Modern by Stephan Greenblatt, who won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction. The book is described as follows:

One of the world’s most celebrated scholars, Stephen Greenblatt has crafted both an innovative work of history and a thrilling story of discovery, in which one manuscript, plucked from a thousand years of neglect, changed the course of human thought and made possible the world as we know it.

Nearly six hundred years ago, a short, genial, cannily alert man in his late thirties took a very old manuscript off a library shelf, saw with excitement what he had discovered, and ordered that it be copied. That book was the last surviving manuscript of an ancient Roman philosophical epic, On the Nature of Things, by Lucretius — a beautiful poem of the most dangerous ideas: that the universe functioned without the aid of gods, that religious fear was damaging to human life, and that matter was made up of very small particles in eternal motion, colliding and swerving in new directions.

The copying and translation of this ancient book — the greatest discovery of the greatest book-hunter of his age — fueled the Renaissance, inspiring artists such as Botticelli and thinkers such as Giordano Bruno; shaped the thought of Galileo and Freud, Darwin and Einstein; and had a revolutionary

cont. on page 4
V
anport Extension Center opened in June 1946 in response to the unprecedented demand for higher education following the end of World War II. Nationally, some 15 million veterans received generous scholarships; by 1947, 1.1 million students were enrolled.

Vanport was authorized to offer freshman and sophomore-level courses extended from the five state institutions of higher learning. Nearly all the veterans applying to Vanport were interested in three areas: engineering, business administration, and liberal arts. In 1946 Oregon State College was the only school authorized to offer engineering.

The Birth of Engineering. The need for some form of departmental organization at Vanport soon became evident, and several departments were organized. The newly created Engineering Department was composed of Eugene Guldemann (head), James Coombs, Carleton Fanger and Ralph Greiling. The average teaching load for full-time faculty in the fall of 1947 was 16.1 credit hours, and the average class size was 38 students.

The Columbia River Flood of May 1948 was the game changer in the development of the school and its engineering programs. Although the flood destroyed the campus’s physical plant, it did not alter the determination of loyal students and staff to seek stability and permanence for their fledgling institution. The institution that students humorously characterized as “the college without a future” became “the college that would not die.”

Chancellor Paul Packer made no secret of his hope to close “the temporary center” as early as possible. High enrollments and enthusiastic students persuaded the State Board of Higher Education to continue the center for one more year. Accordingly, the 1948-49 academic year was hastily organized on the Oregon Shipyard campus. The move to PSU’s present location in 1952 marked the establishment of a permanent day/night Portland State Extension Center (PSEC).

The great event for this period was the legislative action in 1955 renaming Portland State Extension Center (PSEC) Portland State College (PSC). The idea was to establish PSC as the fourth regional teacher’s college. By 1958 most students were pursuing General Studies, the only degree authorized other than a B.S. in Teacher Education. This situation led to a faculty drive for degrees in nine majors, including a B.S. in Engineering Science.

Political considerations resulted in the engineering program request being altered to a B.S. in Applied Science to ensure the program was “distinct from engineering.” All

cont. on page 4
references to the word “engineering” were removed from the program. Major areas in engineering, i.e. civil-structural engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering, were modified to read as “emphasis areas” without the E-word.

In 1960, Harry J. White, a renowned scientist in air pollution and conservation at Research Cottrell Inc., was named to head the Applied Science program. Charter faculty members were Fanger, Hsu and White. The Applied Science program was restricted to upper division coursework and given departmental status separate from the Engineering Department, which continued to offer lower division engineering courses.

In 1962, in response to increasing demand for lower division engineering courses, Chik Erzurumlu and Tom Mackenzie were added to the Engineering Department. At this juncture, the feeder aspect of the lower division engineering pre-professional program proved to be unworkable as the new Applied Science program began to starve for upper division registrants. In 1964 the two departments were merged under the existing Applied Science title, without the inclusion of the E-word.

**The Breakthrough.** PSC became a University (PSU) in 1969, but with severe curricular constraints, particularly in graduate education. By 1969 it had become evident that professional accreditation of programs under Applied Science, i.e. Civil-Structural, Electrical, and Mechanical, could not be accomplished without program curricula entitled “engineering.”

As a result of the discontent expressed by students and the professional engineering community in the late 1960s and early 70s, the Portland Area Committee on Engineering Education (PACEE) and the student engineering clubs made a united appeal before PSU’s administration that reverberated all the way to the Chancellor’s Office.

With the full support of Joseph C. Blumel (then Vice President for Academic Affairs), the Chancellor appointed a blue ribbon team of consultants, headed by Stanford University’s Engineering Dean Fred Terman, to review the engineering education needs of the Portland metropolitan area, with special emphasis on PSU’s readiness to offer accreditation-eligible engineering programs.

The team’s 1973 report stated that engineering education was effective at PSU, it was serving a disadvantaged and place-bound student clientele, and it would be a disservice to the students and the Applied Science faculty to not appropriately identify the course offerings and the program as engineering. In a nutshell, the report said, “Let’s get on with it,” meaning a departmental name change and engineering program identifications.

The proposal received the approval of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE) and was sent for review to the Oregon Educational Coordinating Commission (OECC). Adding more drama to the E-word battle, the OECC staff recommended against the proposal. However, during the November 1973 meeting of the Commission, thanks to convincing testimony by Vice President Blumel, Portland’s industrial and professional engineering community and PSU students, the OECC rejected the recommendation of its staff, and approved the proposed name change: Department of Applied Science and **Engineering.**

A year later in 1974, without fanfare, the department’s name improved to Engineering and Applied Science when the Structural Engineering program received accreditation from ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. And the rest, as they say, is history.

--Chik Erzurumlu

---

**RAPS club reports . . . cont. from page 2**

influence on writers such as Montaigne and Shakespeare and even Thomas Jefferson.

Looking ahead to November, we will read Caleb’s Crossing by Geraldine Brooks.  --Mary Brannan

**Bridge Group fans the deck Oct. 9**

The RAPS Bridge Club meets at 1:00 pm Tuesday, Oct. 9 at Friendly House (corner of NW 26th and Thurman). For information about the group, please call Colin Dunkeld, 503-292-0838. Newcomers are always welcome.

If you would like to play, please call before noon Friday, Oct. 5. This gives us time to invite guests to join us if we need to make up a table.  --Colin Dunkeld

RAPS Hikers walk city streets, forest trails

**Friday, Oct. 12** the RAPS Hikers walk the #2 loop described in Laura Foster’s *Portland Hill Walks*, starting at Wallace Park in Nob Hill and passing through Kings Heights and the Pittock Mansion. Combining city streets and the Forest Park Wildwood Trail, the walk covers a distance of 4.75 miles with an elevation gain of 820 feet. Foster describes historical details seen along the walk.

Meet at the corner of NW 25th Ave and Raleigh Street at 9:30 am on the 12th. We will lunch at one of the many restaurants along 25th Ave. RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 11 to Diane Sawyer at diane_sawyer@comcast.net or 503-646-8782.

--Larry Sawyer

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.