Planning proceeds for NRRA conference

Enhancing regional voices is an underlying theme of the Northwest Regional Retirement Association (NRRA) conference to be held in Portland Sept. 19-21. Hosted by RAPS and held at University Place, the conference aims to promote the sharing of ideas and best practices in revenue generation and coordination of organizational activities. Delegates from the western U.S. and Canada are expected.

President Wim Wiewel will provide a welcome, and Provost Sona Andrews and Anthropology Professor Ken Ames will give keynote speeches. Daily registration rates will be available to RAPS members interested in helping foster friendships and collegiality among sister retirement associations. Volunteers from the RAPS ranks are being sought to lead small groups to no-host dinners at selected ethnic restaurants Sept. 19 and 20 and help with tours of the campus and community Sept. 21. For more information, please contact the RAPS Office, 503-725-3447, or Robert Vogelsang at drvogie@yahoo.com.

♦ SAVE THE DATE ♦

RAPS’s annual summer picnic
the event that traditionally kicks off the year

Thursday, Aug. 15, 3 – 6 pm
Willamette Park
SW Macadam and Nevada

Look for a special mailing this summer
President’s Message

For many years OAA has staffed the RAPS Office by providing us with a full graduate assistantship plus a stipend. Budget exigencies affecting PSU have rippled down to RAPS. Beginning this next fiscal year, the RAPS Office will be staffed by a part-time hourly student employee. We on the Board are sorry to lose the GA position. On the plus side, cost savings from this change will allow the RAPS Office to be open and accessible to members 20 hours per week instead of 15.

We are pleased to welcome new Board member Chik Erzurumlu as Member-at-Large and current Board member Priscilla Blumel as President-elect. Mary Ricks will assume the editorship of the RAPS Sheet in the fall, following three years of a wonderful job by Editor Dawn White.

Following five years of outstanding work as Treasurer, President-elect, President and Past-President, Joan Shireman is leaving the Board. We all are very appreciative of Joan’s work on behalf of RAPS and wish to thank her for her very effective leadership.

Susan Poulson, incoming President, has performed exceptionally well this past year in her role as President-elect and Program Coordinator. I am very confident of the excellent leadership she will provide for RAPS in the coming year.

Interest appears high for a RAPS excursion to Ashland in 2014. Look for more details in upcoming issues of the RAPS Sheet regarding plays we will see and accommodations. And yes, there will still be plenty of time to join the group. Have a great summer!

–Dave Krug

Membership, Scholarship Committees provide updates

Membership: RAPS currently has 420 members. Of those memberships, 234 will expire at the end of June. Those people will by now have received a letter reminding them that their membership is expiring, along with information about renewing for another year or longer.

Close to 160 people received free memberships in 2012 -- a much greater number than usual because of difficulty RAPS had in 2011 and early 2012 in getting accurate information on new retirees. Thanks to our office manager Sonia Singh, we have done a much better job in the past 12 months of getting names of new retirees.

Those whose memberships are continuing for another year or even longer will also receive a letter from RAPS thanking them for being part of our organization. Of the 186 people whose memberships are not expiring at the end of June, 113 opted for lifetime membership.

We are grateful for the support of our members, and encourage more to take part in activities such as the hiking, book, and writing groups, and especially attending monthly meetings.

–Marge Terdal

Scholarship: The scholarship committee has had a busy and successful year, with a current account balance of more than $9500. We have received several contributions in honor of or in memory of family members and colleagues. Wine raffles and other sales have also helped. A $1500 scholarship will be awarded this fall.

Our goal is to reach $25,000 to endow the scholarship fund. Plans for the future include increasing the number of scholarships awarded each year and the amount.

Thanks, Scholarship Donors!

RAPS gratefully acknowledges the following recent scholarship donors:

Terril Doherty
Lisle Meloy
Cathleen Smith in honor of the RAPS Board
Robert Vogelsang in memory of Barbara Vogelsang

The RAPS Scholarship helps students who are pursuing studies in gerontology. To contribute, please send a check payable to the PSU Foundation-RAPS Scholarship to PSU-RAPS, PO Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751.

Contributions can also be made by credit card by calling the RAPS Office, 503-725-3447, or the PSU Foundation, 503-725-4911.
Launching Study Abroad at Portland State

It was 1960. I was in my eighth year at Portland State, teaching history and methods of teaching social science. I was asked to aid Lake Oswego High School in reviewing and modifying its social studies scope and sequence. I worked with Felix Calkins, one of the teachers who earlier had created American Heritage Association, an organization that facilitated taking high school students from the northwest to the East Coast to familiarize them with America’s history and government.

As our American heritage is intimately connected with western Europe, it occurred to Felix and me that expanding the east coast trips to Europe would be educationally sound and rewarding. Two years of planning followed, garnering support from the University of Washington and from Frank Brouillet, chair of the Washington State legislature’s education committee. The result was the formation of NICSA, the Northwest Interinstitutional Council on Study Abroad.

In 1962, under the aegis of NICSA, I accompanied a group of 64 students from Portland State, University of Washington, and Willamette as we bused across the country, spent two weeks on the East Coast, and flew on to Europe for a term in London. That was Portland State’s first official study abroad program.

As these students discovered, studying language and culture in situ is a life-changing experience. Immersing themselves in a new culture, interacting with locals, going on excursions to historical sites they have only read about at home—these are enriching experiences that give students new insights and perspectives on their own lives and culture. Watching this transformation occur is one of the most satisfying aspects of teaching on and leading study abroad programs.

In 1963 a large group journeyed to Europe, taking classes in London and Paris in the spring, and dividing into four groups during summer: language study in Barcelona, Cologne, and Paris, and European politics and history classes in Strasbourg.

Oregon State, Washington State, and Western Washington joined the Council in 1964, and 81 students spent spring and summer in Europe. Instead of the east coast portion of the program, the group took the train across Canada, with morning and afternoon classes held in the dome car. London and The Hague were the principal spring study sites, and all the language sites were continued.

From this modest beginning, study abroad opportunities at Portland State increased over the decades, first with the expansion of programs through regional organizations such as NICSA and increasingly through independent program providers. Today Portland State students have access to more than 130 sites on every continent except Antarctica. In addition, more than 80 sites abroad offer internship opportunities, giving students even greater access to local culture.

--Charlie White, Professor Emeritus of History

Students Rene Fritz and Rosemary Hinsvark (left and center) and Professor Charlie White (right) test their packing and porting skills in preparation for Portland State’s first study abroad program to Europe in 1962. Oregon Historical Society photo.

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.
**RAPS Club Reports**

**Book Club goes to ‘The Night Circus’**

The RAPS Book Club meets at 1:30 pm Tuesday, June 18 at the home of Mary Brannan, 6901 SE Oaks Park Way, Slip #13 in Portland. Contact her at 503-239-1077 or brannanmg@comcast.net to RSVP and to get directions.

We will discuss The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern, described on the back cover as follows:

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is **Le Cirque des Rêves**, and it is only open at night.

But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Despite the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone, from the performers to the patrons, hanging in the balance.

Looking forward to the rest of the summer, we will be discussing One Glorious Ambition: The Compassionate Crusade of Dorothea Dix by Jane Kirkpatrick, The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson, and The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris by David McCullough.

--Mary Brannan

**RAPS Hikers look forward to Tillamook Bay beach hike**

Seven hikers gathered May 10 at Henry Hagg Lake near Forest Grove for a four-mile hike. The weather was beautiful, and we were hiking in a forest canopy most of the time.

Wild iris, wild strawberry and many other small plants were in bloom. A trail biker told us researchers were in the area observing a rare small blue butterfly found only in this location.

On Friday, June 14 we will hike the Tillamook Bay Ocean Spit. This is hike #20 in Sullivan’s *100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon & Southwest Washington* (third edition). A beach trail and a bayside road trail combine to make a 4.2-mile loop through a sandy draw or an 8.4-mile loop to the jetty. Low tide is at 10:00 am. Meet at 8:00 am at the Cedar Hills Shopping Center DMV lot to carpool to the hiking site.

For additional information about the June hike, contact Larry Sawyer at larry_sawyer@comcast.net or 503-771-1616.

--Larry Sawyer

**Bridge Group convenes June 11**

The RAPS Bridge Club meets at 1:00 pm Tuesday, June 11 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. Please call before noon Friday, June 7. This gives us time to invite guests to join us if we need to make up a table.

--Colin Dunkeld

--Larry Sawyer

Larry Sawyer captured this photo of the creek inlet at Henry Hagg Lake during the RAPS Hikers outing May 10. To view this photo – and this issue – in color, go to http://pdx.edu/raps. Under “Quick Links” on the left side of the page, click on the link to the RAPS Sheet.