The RAPS Hikers’ scheduled hike Oct. 12 starting at Wallace Park in Nob Hill and passing through Kings Heights and the Pittock Mansion (pictured above) was called off due to heavy rain. The Hikers will try another Portland-area walk in November. See RAPS Club Reports/Hikers on page 4. Image from Wikipedia.

New Format for Holiday Gathering

The RAPS holiday party will be celebrated as a Sunday brunch Dec. 16 at the Multnomah Athletic Club, with mimosas and music at 11:30 am and brunch served at 12:15 pm.

According to President-elect Susan Poulsen, the change from an evening to a mid-day event is in response to concerns about driving at night and finding adequate parking. The cost will also be lower.

Mark your calendars for this fun event. Registration materials will be forthcoming.

RAPS member Charlie White chats with PSU Weekend keynoter Lara Logan, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for CBS News, at a reception at the Benson House Oct. 12. White was one of many RAPS members attending the reception and participating in other PSU Weekend activities sponsored by Alumni Services.
President’s Message

A typical November RAPS event schedule has the Board meeting on the second Thursday of the month, with a general membership event scheduled for the third Thursday. This November varies from that schedule in order to accommodate a RAPS Board Retreat. Several RAPS standing committees are engaged in work that requires full Board involvement. We anticipate that a retreat setting will provide the time and opportunity to accomplish this work.

Enclosed with this RAPS Sheet is a member survey developed by President-elect Susan Poulsen. The survey is a simple one-page list of questions asking for your input as to what events you would like to see offered this year and in the future. We hope that you will take this opportunity to share your ideas as we strive to develop interesting and entertaining events.

--Dave Krug

Welcome, new RAPSters!

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

Sarah Andrews-Collier, Theater Arts
Jacqueline Arante, English
Martha Balshem, Sociology
Clifford Barnett, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Avis Bertoli, Facilities
Harold Briggs, Social Work
Sherry Cady, Geology
Craig Carr, Political Science
Charles Colbert, Art
Mary Daly, Fine and Performing Arts
Don Dickinson, Business Administration
Thomas Dolan, Communication
Grant Farr, Liberal Arts and Sciences/Sociology
Lynette Feder, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Kathleen Fishler, Business Affairs
Beverly Fuller, Business Administration
Keith Garlid, Biology
Elizabeth Harrison, Distance Learning
Sharon Hasenjaeger, Hatfield School of Government
Bill Helsley, Research and Strategic Partnerships
Stanley Hillman, Biology
Marvin Kaiser, Sociology/Liberal Arts and Sciences
Adrienne Karinen, Extended Studies
Masha Kennell, Child Development Center
Veda Kindle, Admissions, Records, Financial Aid
Roy Koch, Academic Affairs
William Lang, History
Lolita Lawson, Child Development Center
William Layman, Facilities
Betty Lewis, Hatfield School of Government
Pauline Livingston, Disability Services
Elizabeth McNeff, Regional Research Institute
Jeff Millard, Business Administration
Karen Noordhoff, Education
Wanda Packard, Business Affairs
William Pfeiffer, Business Administration
William Prows, Extended Studies
Charlotte Schell, Communication
Donna Sessions, Career Center
Stan Sitnick, Conflict Resolution
Jo-Ann Sowers, Social Work
Paula Stanovich, Education
Trygve Steen, Environmental Science
Dan Streeter, Mathematics
Kwok-Wai Tam, Mathematics
Teresa Taylor, International Studies
David Thompson, World Languages and Literatures
Jim Tuggle, Information Services
Paul Van Halen, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Carl Wamser, Chemistry
Sandra Wiscarson, Education
Marilyn Workman, Student Health and Counseling
Elizabeth Wosley-George, Education
“Can PSU help?”

Special Education Leadership in Autism Research

Through the 1960s, Oregon college students majoring in special education were primarily being prepared to teach children with mildly delayed mental development, academic delays, severe developmental delays, and visual/hearing impairments. There were no programs readying them to work with the unique challenges that children with autism bring to the classroom. As late as 1974, Oregon children with autism were unable to find support or services targeted to meet their special needs.

In the early 1970s the PSU Special Education Department implemented an on-campus practicum clinic program that operated two evenings a week, enabling graduate students to work in a supervised setting with children experiencing academic problems in the school. In 1972 David Krug joined the department to provide greater emphasis on behavioral disorders, precision teaching, and research.

Shortly after Dr. Krug became Director of the Clinic Program, a mother arrived at an evening clinic with her 10-year-old autistic son. When told the Portland State program was not yet equipped to work with her child, the mother challenged the department to set up a program that could help her son and others with autism. That parental encounter led Krug to establish a multi-year federally funded research classroom for children with autism. It was housed on campus in the Helen Gordon Day Care Center.

Krug recruited colleague Joel Arick to serve as the classroom teacher/researcher, along with a cadre of special education student assistants, and this became the first research-based project in Oregon to successfully teach children with autism in a classroom setting.

Over the years, PSU faculty members have led the state and the Northwest in developing services for children with autism. The early leadership provided by Krug and Arick (now emeritus professors) combined with the efforts of other PSU faculty have resulted in millions of dollars in state and federal funding directed toward the support of autism research and services. In 2005 the Autism Training and Research Center was established at PSU by Dr. Arick and is currently directed by Special Education Professor Helen Young.

Research and development efforts over the last four decades have produced a large cadre of skilled teachers, testing instruments, and specialized curricula. These efforts have been a direct response to that mother’s plea in 1972, “Can PSU help?” The answer: “Yes!”

Our university can be proud that such early work in autism by PSU professors formed a legacy that continues to guide special education practices today.

--Steve Brannan, Professor Emeritus, Special Education

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

Bridge Group cuts cards Nov. 13
The RAPS Bridge Club meets at 1:00 pm Tuesday, Nov. 13 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, Nov. 10. This gives us time to invite guests to join us if we need to make up a table.

—Colin Dunkeld

Book Club considers ‘Caleb’s Crossing’
The RAPS Book Club meeting will be held at 1:30 pm Tuesday, Nov. 20 at the home of Betsey Brown, 1300 NE 16th Ave, Apt 514 at Holladay Park Plaza in Portland. Contact her at aebport@hevanet.com or 503-280-2334 to RSVP and for directions.

We will discuss Caleb’s Crossing by Geraldine Brooks. The book is described on the back cover as follows:

Bethia Mayfield is a restless and curious young woman growing up in Martha’s Vineyard in the 1660s amid a small band of pioneering English Puritans. At age twelve, she meets Caleb, the young son of a chieftain, and the two forge a secret bond that draws each into the alien world of the other. Bethia’s father is a Calvinist minister who seeks to convert the native Wampanoag, and Caleb becomes a prize in the contest between old ways and new, eventually becoming the first Native American graduate of Harvard College.

Inspired by a true story and narrated by the irresistible Bethia, Caleb’s Crossing brilliantly captures the triumphs and turmoil of two brave, openhearted spirits who risk everything in a search for knowledge at a time of superstition and ignorance.

Looking ahead to December, we will read a book written by Mona Simpson, Steve Jobs’s sister.

—Mary Brannan

RAPS Hikers to experience Portland’s 4Ts
The RAPS Hiking Group takes on Portland’s 4Ts – trail, tram, trolley and train – on its next outing Friday, Nov. 9. Billed as “the ultimate Portland excursion,” the 4T is a loop that encompasses Council Crest, the Portland Zoo, the OHSU campus, the South Waterfront District along the Willamette River, and downtown Portland.

The walking portion of the loop is 3.95 to 4.5 miles depending on the route taken. The remainder of the loop calls for rides on the Portland Aerial Tram, the streetcar (trolley), and MAX light rail.

Meet at the Portland Zoo at 9:30 am. RSVP by Thursday, Nov. 8 to Larry Sawyer at 503-646-8782 or larry_sawyer@comcast.net.

—Larry Sawyer

Thanks, Scholarship Donors!
The RAPS scholarship committee is grateful for those who have donated to the RAPS Scholarship fund in 2012. Students selected to receive the scholarship are pursing studies related to gerontology.

Our thanks to these contributors:

Priscilla Blumel
Mary and Steve Brannan
John Cooper
Beryl and Vic Dahl
Brian Lewis
Robert Lockerby
Larry Sawyer
Joan Shireman
Robert Vogelsang
Dawn White

Note: We apologize to anyone who has donated but is not included on this list. If this is the case for you, please let us know so that you can be properly acknowledged in the next issue of the RAPS Sheet. Call Sonia Singh, our Office Manager, at 503-725-3447 or email raps@pdx.edu.