What Soil Produces the Best Oregon Pinot Noir
Scott Burns will tell us at the next Potluck February 26
6:00 pm in the Cascade Room Smith Center

Scott Burns will be the next speaker in our series of pot-luck lectures. The first lecture in the series, in which Grant Farr lectured on the Middle East, filled the Cascade room. The consensus is that the evening was a success—great lecture, great food, and a welcome opportunity for the promotion of RAPS collegiality and solidarity. The capacity of the Cascade room is limited to 60 people, so if you wish to attend the potluck dinner please contact Troy at 725-3447 or e-mail her raps@pdx.edu as soon as possible.

Scott Burns is one of PSU’s outstanding academics. Scott is a sixth-generation Oregonian, having grown up in Beaverton. He is currently a Professor of Geology. By any measure, Scott's CV reveals a truly outstanding range of accomplishments for an academic career. What follows, though extensive, does not do justice to his overall contributions. He has received outstanding teacher awards and 23 graduate students completed their degrees under his direction. He has 65 publications, including a book: Environmental, Groundwater and Engineering Ecology (1998). He has received 25 research grants, and has served as president of a number of professional associations, for.

example as president of the Geological Society of America, president of the Ferdinand Society, and president of the Viking Backers (our athletic booster organization). He has been very active in the PSU Senate and faculty governance, a member of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate, and founder and chair of the Outstanding Teacher Award Program for CLAS. As a result of his many accomplishments, Scott was awarded the distinguished Faculty Award by the Alumni Association.

More relevant to his talk to us, Scott's first published paper was on the making of wine with students in the laboratory. He has been working on the relationship among geology, soils and wines for over 30 years. In Oregon, one of his truly noble research interests is to determine the best soil for the growing of pinot noir grapes. Personally, I can hardly wait to attend the evening, especially the sampling part.

Maxine Thomas and the RAPS Board offer their best wishes, and they hope to see you at the potluck dinner. How can an evening get much better?

- Richard Brinkman
Dear RAPS Members,
How did you do? My "research" is continuing so with your help perhaps we'll have ALL of the answers by next month. If you can provide information regarding the people who initiated the formation of our organization, please write a letter to the editor, John Cooper.

-How many REPPS/RAPS presidents have there been? (Still searching for a definitive answer.)
-How many "objectives" are there in the RAPS brochure? Seven

-Who were the faculty members who initiated the formation of the organization? I don't know. Please write in to the Hooter Editor, John Cooper and we'll publish the information you provide in the next issue.

-What year did the membership vote to include staff in the membership, changing from REPPS to RAPS? The membership voted to include staff in 2001 and REPPS was changed to RAPS in 2002.

-How do you access the RAPS website? On the "search" line, type www.raps.pdx.edu

-How many links are there on the RAPS website? Once you've typed the above and are at the RAPS website, "click" on "links" and you will find twenty different "links" of sites of potential interest to members.

-Who took the pictures of the board members shown on the website? Larry Sawyer, RAPS secretary and photographer. You may also look at pictures Larry took at the Awards luncheon, the Alpenrose Dairy, hiking and other RAPS activities.


-Who is on the Awards Committee? Steve Brannan (Chair), Gordon Solie, and Brent Schauer. (Please send them the name of a staff member and/or faculty member wjp, you would like to nominate for the 2004 award.)

-How do you find out more information about the "Special Activities" (discussion group, hiking group, writing group, book group and bridge group)? You may go to the website and click on "Calendar", check the Hooter for dates, times and places or call a friend already participating in one or more of the activities.

-Whom do you contact if you want to volunteer a few hours a week at the Simon Benson House? Mary Coniglio at 503-725-5073 or coniglio@pdx.edu

-Who is the Office Manager? Troy Montserrat-Gonzales. See the January Hooter for more about Troy--or call her at 725-3447.

Call for Nominations
The election committee is looking for candidates interested in holding office in our Association. Currently the positions of President-elect, Treasurer and a Member-at-large will be open for the next academic year. There will also be an occasional need for special committee assignments at the request of the President. If you are interested in any of these positions serving your colleagues and the university, please call the RAPS office at 503-725-3447 or e-mail us at raps@pdx.edu. You can also call the Election Committee chair, Robert Vogelsang at 503-292-5955

Calendar of coming events

Bridge—February 10 (see story on p. 3)

Book Club — no meeting (see story on p. 3)

“What soil produces the best Oregon Pinot Noir” — Scott Burns, February 26 in the Cascade Room Smith Center (see story on the front page)

RAPS Board Meeting — February 12, at 12:15 in the Simon Benson House
RAPS BOOK CLUB by Mary Gordon-Brannan

The RAPS Book Club met on Tuesday, January 20 at Richard and June Brinkman’s home to talk about Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich. We found the book to be enlightening. Although Barbara Ehrenreich has a doctorate in Biology, she has lower socioeconomic roots. The book was a treatise on the extreme difficulty of earning enough money to live on on a low-income wage. It is a very complex issue, but the bottom line is that it’s a critical problem in our society that needs to be addressed more effectively.

The February gathering of the Book Club is canceled. Daughter of Persia by Sattarch Farman Farmaian, the book, selected for February, will be discussed in March. "A captivating and enlightening memoir. Farman Farmaian weaves her personal story into the larger fabric of Iranian history. [and] offers a lesson about the value of personal freedom and what happens to a nation when its people are denied the right to direct their own destiny. This is a book Americans should read" (Plain Dealer, Cleveland). The March Book Club gathering will be held on Tuesday, March 17 at 1:30 at LaRay Barna’s home. Call LaRay at 503-768-4160 or e-mail at barnal@pdx.edu for directions and to RSVP.

Brain Teaser

We are told that exercising the brain improves its function, so here is a problem for you to use to flex your brain.

There is a room with three lights in it, each operated by its own individual switch. The three switches are together outside the room at a place from which it is impossible to see if the room is illuminated or not. Your task, should you choose to accept it, is to determine which switch operates which light. You are allowed only one visit to the room.

The solution will be in the next issue. Solving the problem will entitle you to a smug smile.

Bridge Session Scheduled for February 10

The January bridge session was canceled because of the snow. The February session will be held on Tuesday, February 10 at WILLAMETTE VIEW, 12705 S.E. River Road. Willamette View is just south and uphill from downtown Milwaukie. To RSVP and ask for directions, phone Irene Place, the coordinator, at 503-652-6528, or e-mail her at irene@wvresident.org.

Willamette View has a large campus with many buildings. Look for the tallest building set back from the road with a drive-through portico. The receptionist there will guide you to the COURT BUILDING FAMILY ROOM, where the bridge group will be meeting. Play starts promptly at 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in hearing a little about Willamette View's campus and offerings, come 15 minutes early for a short presentation prior to the start of play.

MAP OF WILLAMETTE VIEW

Use the above map to locate the receptionist and the COURT building on the Willamette View campus in Milwaukie. Contrary to usual practice, north is at the bottom of the map.
Letter From Your New Editor

When I volunteered to edit your newsletter, I have to admit it was without a full understanding of what I was getting into. An editor can be someone who simply checks copy to eliminate writing problems, pouncing on the occasional dangling modifier or vague pronoun reference -- just the sort of task to which an old Professor of English is accustomed. It turned out that I was going to have to fill the shoes of someone who did much more than that. I would be responsible for the whole appearance of the paper, including formatting the text and even placing photographs and graphics, while using an unfamiliar software publishing program -- on a PC yet, and I a devoted MAC person. I had moments of serious confusion in preparing this issue. 

So if this issue appears reasonably on time and in a reasonably proper format, I will be thankful, especially to my predecessor, Jerry Penk, who has offered invaluable guidance and even was willing to extend his service through one more edition for my sake, and to Troy Montserrat-Gonzales, our fine office manager. They, every bit as much as I, will be responsible for getting out this first product of my editorship. Any fault will be "an ill-favored thing but mine own." (You were expecting occasional quotations from Shakespeare, weren't you?)

I hope that this newsletter will continue to keep all retired faculty and staff linked to the PSU community that was an important part of our lives for so many years. Most of us are happy to be retired, but our interest in each other, the University, and the intellectual life that it fostered did not suddenly stop with retirement. Please consider yourself not just a reader but also a potential contributor to The Hooter. I even invite your criticism, especially of a constructive sort. We can all improve.

John Cooper

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! NOMINATE A DESERVING COLLEAGUE for “RAPS Outstanding Retired Faculty and Staff Awards”

March 1, 2004 is the deadline for the RAPS Office to receive nominations for honoring a retired PSU faculty member and a retired PSU staff member. As in the past, RAPS will honor the retired PSU faculty and staff colleagues at the President’s Luncheon, which will be held this year on March 31st in the Ballroom on the third floor of the Smith Memorial Student Union Building.

Eligible for the awards are all faculty and staff retirees from PSU. Nominations for these honorary awards should be made on the basis of each individual’s post-retirement service to the community, university, and RAPPS, and his/her professional achievements.

The Award Solicitation flyers and Application forms have been mailed out previously to all RAPPS members, so PLEASE select one or more nominees and return your completed form by the deadline to RAPPS, Portland State University, PO Box 751, Portland, OR, 97207-0751. Please contact the RAPPS Office (Phone: 503-725-3447; email: raps@pdx.edu) for further information or another award form. Also, additional information on the RAPPS Awards is available in the November (brown color) and December (orange color), 2004 issues of the HOOTER.

The President’s Office will send luncheon invitations to all retirees early in March.