President’s Message

The RAPS Board did not hold its usual meeting on January 13th for a variety of reasons. One reason was that I had hoped to meet with the Executive Council of the AAUP for some time. This seemed a good time to do just that. Jill Shellan, our RAPS Office Manager, and I attended a meeting of the AAUP’s Executive Council on the January 13th. The meetings of the AAUP are also held on Thursdays and at twelve o’clock, a time and day that unfortunately conflicts with our scheduled RAPS Board Meetings.

One of my objectives as President of RAPS is to communicate with other groups on the PSU campus that share our goals. That is why Pat Squire, Director of the PSU Alumni Relations Office, as chair of a joint committee of RAPS and Alumni relations, participates in meetings of the RAPS Board. This establishes a base for collaboration with the PSU alumni. Another organization with similar interests is the PSU Chapter of the AAUP. I feel that it is important to know what is going on with the AAUP in their contract negotiations, as well as to be more aware of what is going on in Salem. Given the headlines in the Oregonian (January 26th) concerning the ongoing crisis in PERS, it is in our interest to keep posted on the latest on the PERS issue. The next step will be for me to arrange a meeting with Sy Adler, the current President of the AAUP, and Julia Gretchell to work out an agenda to be covered in future meetings with the AAUP and RAPS Board.

Another organization with which RAPS might wish to connect is the PSU Advocates, which is currently chaired by Alumna Angela Wykoff (PSU Magazine, Winter 2005, p. 19). I will place this issue, a potential collaboration with PSU Advocates, on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting (February 10th) and seek the advice of the RAPS Board. Again, given that PSU now has grown to 24,000 students and 100,000 alumni there is much to gain by becoming more familiar with what the PSU Advocates are planning. As Angela Wykoff states, “Advocates support the University before the Oregon Legislature. Since we are independent from the University, we are free to pursue issues that PSU, as part of the Oregon University System, cannot.”

Finally, I wish to make two more points: Maxine Thomas, Mary Gordon-Brannan and I are also working on the upcoming President’s Luncheon, scheduled for April 20th, and much has as yet to be done in preparation. Lastly, Mary Gordon-Brannan’s latest program, was terrific—just in case you missed the event, it should be covered in this edition of the RAPS Sheet.

Richard Brinkman
GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

On January 20, Pat Glimes, User Trainer; Nora Harrison, Puppy Raiser; and Sheila Shulleeta gave to RAPS members three perspectives on the program, Guide Dogs for the Blind. Pat Glimes, a senior licensed instructor on the Oregon campus for Guide Dogs for the Blind, presented an overview of the Guide Dog program. He has been affiliated with the program for 9 years. He was assisted by Tiffany Fox and Cobina, a female black Labrador, who is ready to be partnered with a person who is visually impaired. Guide Dogs for the Blind is a nonprofit charitable organization that operates solely on private donations. It was founded in 1942, originally to serve World War II veterans who were blinded. There are two training facilities, one in San Rafael, CA and the other in Boring, OR. Both facilities include administration buildings, student dormitories, kennel complexes, and veterinary clinics. There are two main components to each facility -- the guide dog breeding and training area and the student training arena. The school serves persons with visual impairments from the US and Canada.

Pat explained that the process begins with breeding puppies who may eventually become guide dogs. They have breeding stock dogs who are selected for their excellent temperament, intelligence, and health. Traditionally, these are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, and Lab/Golden crosses. They are also now using some Standard Poodles (for persons who are allergic to dogs). When the dogs are 8 to 9 weeks old, they are placed in homes of youth and adult puppy raisers to experience life in a family and to learn basic obedience and social skills. When the puppies are 14 to 18 months, they return to the school for formal training for guide work. On the average, guide dogs work until they are about 9 years of age, and then they are retired. Their partner (person with the visual impairment) has the first option to keep or place the dog as a pet. The second option is for the puppy raiser to keep or place the dog. If neither of these options is viable, the dog is placed in a loving adoptive home.

Students who are visually impaired apply to Guide Dogs for training. They are interviewed by a staff member in their home or place of employment. Those who qualify become resident students for 28 days. Early in their training, they are paired with a dog based on the student’s individual needs and the characteristics of the dog. Alumni returning for successor dogs (after their first dog has retired) may complete a shortened training in 2-4 weeks.

Nora Harrison expanded on the role of puppy trainers. She has been a volunteer puppy raiser for approximately 8 years and has raised 5 puppies. She has written a book entitled Dear Kilroy published in 2003, which explores the magical relationship between people and dogs. It is beautifully written as demonstrated by an excerpt that Nora read to us. All the proceeds of the book sales go to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Nora pursued her longtime desire to become involved with guide dogs and volunteered to become a puppy raiser. She was hooked and has never regretted it. Her role is to socialize the puppies, providing them with as many experiences in as many situations as possible. They go with her wherever she goes, even on plane flights and when calling on her clients in Fortune 500 companies. The relationships she has developed with the puppies she has raised has been rewarding for her. One of the hardest parts of being a puppy raiser is taking the puppy back to Guide Dogs for placement, but this is offset by her knowledge that the visually impaired partner needs the dog more than she does.

Sheila Shulleeta provided the perspective of a person who is visually impaired who has a guide dog. Sheila has been partnered with Jazzy, a female Lab/Golden cross for 3 years. She shared with us that her visual impairment is a result of Type I diabetes which was diagnosed when she was a young girl. She has had multiple laser surgeries and now has only a 8% visual field. She described how, as her vision worsened, she bumped into objects and people when maneuvering in her environment and moved around cautiously. She was cane trained by the Commission for the Blind which helped her navigate better in her environment but was not totally comfortable using this procedure. She felt that people moved away from her and didn’t know how to respond to her when she entered a room with a cane. She then took the 28-day training at Guide Dogs on the Boring campus. Before starting the training, she couldn’t imagine spending that much time in training. What all was there to learn? She soon found out. She is continued on p. 3

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Guide Dogs continued from page 2
particularly pleased that Guide Dogs provides support after graduation when graduates are home with their dogs. An instructor does a home/employment visit at least once per year and will come almost on a moment’s notice if needed. They provide telephone consultation as well. Guide Dogs also provides veterinary advice and services as well as some reimbursement for veterinary expenses. Sheila (as well as her husband Joe) are thrilled to have Jazzy in their home. Jazzy has allowed Sheila to be more independent. You are likely to see her anywhere that public transportation takes her!

This was a heartwarming, informative presentation. We appreciate the three presenters as well as for talking with us about Guide Dogs for the Blind and for Jazzy and Cobina showing us how calm and loving guide dogs are.

Mary Gordon-Brannan

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: RIVER RENAISSANCE

The Willamette River shapes Portland’s growth and success, our culture, and our sense of place. It is the historic center of our city and the lifeblood of the region’s commerce. The river is home to native stocks of salmon, vibrant waterfront neighborhoods, and thriving business districts. It serves as a vital transportation route and a recreational destination, and it connects us with upstream neighbors, dozens of tributary streams, the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean.

Barbara Hart, Community Affairs Manager for Portland’s River Renaissance and Public Involvement Coordinator for the Bureau of Planning, will describe the River Renaissance plan. River Renaissance is a citywide initiative to reclaim the Willamette River as Portland’s centerpiece. The initiative promotes a bold vision that celebrates the river as our chief environmental, economic and social asset. River Renaissance engages the public, enhances community partnerships, maximizes city investments, and creates innovative urban solutions.

At the heart of this comprehensive approach is a commitment to improve the economic ecological, and social aspects of the Willamette River simultaneously. River Renaissance coordinates the river-related efforts of eight city bureaus and is powered by strong community partnerships. The River Renaissance Strategy, adopted by the Portland City Council in December, 2004, establishes policy guidance, progress measures, and a set of actions for the city’s river-related activities.

This event will be held on Thursday, February 17 from 1:00-3:00 in SMC 296-298. Refreshments will be available at 1:00 and the formal program will begin at 1:30. Come to socialize with your colleagues and learn about reclaiming the river that flows through the center of Portland, the Willamette River.

Mary Gordon-Brannan
RAPS ACTIVITIES

RAPS BOOK CLUB

At our last gathering on January 18, we discussed *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. After reading the book, we understand why it has received accolades from book reviewers. Marjorie Terdal stated that this is the best book she has read in quite some time. The characters are wonderfully developed. The story is about friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul, Afghanistan. Amir is the son of a prominent, wealthy man, while Hassan is the son of Amir’s father’s servant, who is a member of a shunned ethnic minority, the Hassaras. The novel covers the period from the final days of the monarchy in Afghanistan to the present. The boys live and play side by side until, as a young teenager, Amir and his father move to the US while Hassan and his father remain in Afghanistan. It is a story about the friendship between two boys of different social classes and about the relationship between fathers and sons all against a backdrop of the Afghan culture. It is a powerful, heartfelt story that we highly recommend. As one reviewer put it, “Brilliant, startling plot twists make this book memorable both as a political chronicle and a deeply personal tale about how childhood choices affect our adult lives” (Publishers Weekly).

The February meeting of the RAPS Book Club where we will discuss *The Rule of Four* will be on Tuesday, February 15 at the home of Prue Douglas at 1:30. She lives at Terwilliger Plaza, 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd in Portland. Call Prue at 503-299-4928 for directions and to RSVP. Hope to see you there.

The book selected for February is *The Rule of Four* by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason. The novel follows two Princeton students as they try to decode the riddles posed in a 15th century philosophical mystery. The inside flap describes the book as follows:

> An ivy league murder, a mysterious coded manuscript, and the secrets of a Renaissance prince collide memorably in THE RULE OF FOUR -- a brilliant work of fiction that weaves together suspense and scholarship, high art and unimaginable treachery. It’s Easter at Princeton. Seniors are scrambling to finish their theses. And two students, Tom Sullivan and Paul Harris, are a hair’s breadth from solving the mysteries of the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili—a renowned text attributed to an Italian nobleman, a work that has baffled scholars since its publication in 1499. For Tom, their research has been a link to his family’s past -- and an obstacle to the woman he loves. For Paul, it has become an obsession, the very reason for living. But as their deadline looms, research has stalled -- until a long-lost diary surfaces with a vital clue. And when a fellow researcher is murdered just hours later, Tom and Paul realize that they are not the first to glimpse the Hypnerotomachia’s secrets. Suddenly the stakes are raised, and as the two friends sift through the codes and riddles at the heart of the text, they are beginning to see the manuscript in a new light—not simply as a story of faith, eroticism and pedantry, but as a bizarre, coded mathematical maze. And as they come closer and closer to deciphering the final puzzle of a book that has shattered careers, friendships and families, they know that their own lives are in mortal danger. Because at least one person has been killed for knowing too much. And they know even more. From the streets of fifteenth-century Rome to the rarified realm of the Ivy League, from a shocking 500 year-old murder scene to the drama of a young man’s coming of age, THE RULE OF FOUR takes us on an entertaining, illuminating tour of history—as it builds to a pinnacle of nearly unbearable suspense.

In order to plan ahead, we selected “A Fine Balance” by Rohinton Mistry for the March meeting which will be held on March 15 at the home of Shirley Morrell.

Mary Gordon Brannan

RAPS BRIDGE GROUP

The February meeting will be on Tuesday 8th Feb. at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Colin and Pat Dunkeld 7610 SW Miner Way, Portland.

PLEASE CALL 503 292 0838 or E-MAIL colindun@easystreet.com in good time so that we know how many are coming. Miner Way is two blocks long between SW Canyon Drive and SW 78th Ave. - just west of Raleigh Park.

Colin Dunkeld
PLEASE NOMINATE A DESERVING COLLEAGUE for the “RAPS Outstanding Retired Faculty and Staff Awards”

Continuing its annual tradition, RAPS will honor a PSU faculty and a staff retiree this year for their post-retirement achievements. The President’s Luncheon is for all PSU faculty and staff retirees and will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 at University Place, Portland State’s educational conference center.

Enclosed is an Award solicitation flyer for reference, plus a nomination form for RAPS members to complete and return for a retiree(s) they would like to recommend. Eligible for the awards are all PSU faculty and staff retirees from Portland State University. Both members and non-members of RAPS will be considered. Nominations for these post-retirement awards will be made on the basis of each individual’s service to the community, university, RAPS, and his/her professional/career achievements.

The deadline for the RAPS Office to receive nominations for honoring our retired PSU colleagues is Monday, March 21, 2005. PLEASE select a nominee(s) and return your completed form by the deadline to RAPS, Portland State University, PO Box 751, Portland, OR, 97207-0751. Please contact the RAPS Office (Phone: 503-725-3447; email: raps@pdx.edu) for further information or if you need to receive another award form. Jill Shellan, the RAPS Office Manager, will be pleased to assist you.

There are many deserving candidates, but we need your help in identifying them. Please assist the RAPS Awards Committee and submit your nomination(s) soon!

Steve Brannan, Chair

√ MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Be sure not to miss the following events sponsored by RAPS and the luncheon hosted by President Bernstine. You will be given more detailed information as we get closer in time to the event.

Thursday, February 17, 1:00 pm – River Renaissance presented by Barbara Hart (see page 2 of this issue).

Thursday, March 17, 6:00 pm – RAPS Potluck followed by Africa Aids Response! Presented by Maria Kosmetatos.

Wednesday, April 20, noon – President’s Luncheon for Retired Faculty and Staff.

Thursday, May 19, 1:00 pm – Walk of Heroines along with a RAPS Ice Cream Social.

Mary Gordon Brannan

Welcome to New RAPS Member
Robert Tufts, former University Registrar

Found

Jill Shellan, our Office Manager, still has an unclaimed small black clutch (handbag) that was left at the RAPS Holiday Dinner that no one has claimed.

To claim it, please contact Jill at 503-725-3447 or come by the Simon Benson House during the office hours, Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Our Traveling Retirees - A Family Odyssey to Thailand

Thailand is among the most desirable travel destinations. The Thai, who are very friendly, even in Bangkok, a city of twelve million, welcome tourists. One might suppose that such a trip would be costly; in fact it is a bargain in today's travel market. Where else can you go for an all-inclusive trip at a cost of a bit over one hundred dollars a day, including air-fare?

The inspiration to celebrate a family occasion by touring with the family came to us from Dave Willis, whom most of you will remember and whose family cruised to Alaska in recognition of the Willises' fiftieth wedding anniversary. Our Thailand excursion celebrated Mike's eightieth birthday. Our three children and one of their spouses shared this sixteen-day adventure with us over the holidays. We arrived in Bangkok after a seventeen-hour flight where we were met by Lucky, the tour guide assigned to us by Overseas Adventure Travel. We cannot overstate her professionalism and attention to detail.

The next day, we visited a floral market, where many of us were introduced to the fabled lotus. In a fruit market, Lucky had us sample durian, a delicacy which has been described by some as like eating ice cream in an outhouse. Many hotels bar it from inside their buildings because of its strong, permeating odor. Later that day, we attended a Thai cooking demonstration at a local home. Dishes, which our hostess prepared, became our lunch. To get there, we had boarded an express long-tail boat which took us along Klongs or canals through residential areas.

The following day we left Bangkok driving north. Our first stop was at the Floating Market, where hundreds of skiffs were loaded with all manner of produce for sale, including silks, souvenirs and much more. Our lodgings that night were on the River Kwai in a lush jungle setting. The next day we visited the site where thousands of Allied POWs, ill and starving, gave their lives to construct the infamous railroad built to carry Japanese war materiel through Southeast Asia. The day after we visited Wat Chantaram (wats are Buddhist Temples) one of many we were to visit on our journey. In the afternoon, Lucky divided us into two competing groups and sent us with a shopping list and a fixed number of Bahts (Thai currency) to a local market. The list was written in the Thai language and she deviously added a note instructing the sales people to offer no help or directions. The object of the game was to complete the shopping in the least amount of time at the lowest cost. It was hilarious.

Next we headed east for historic Sukhothai, the birthplace of Siam later renamed Thailand. This site contains the largest collection of shrines, columns, wats and palaces in the country. It was just at this time that the horrific tsunami struck Southern Thailand. Fortunately for us, we were in the north, several hundred miles away. Later, two members of our group of six took the train south to the affected islands and beach area to offer assistance.

On Day Nine, we moved north to The Golden Triangle, where Laos, Thailand and Myanmar (formerly Burma) share borders. This region was notorious for its opium growing and resulting drug trafficking. The government's introducing more beneficial crops, and the recent upsurge in tourism have given the people better alternatives for their sustenance.

Still farther north, we crossed the border into Myanmar for a brief visit the next day. After a long period of isolation, it has only recently been open to tourism. Western values and culture are less evident here than in Thailand. Later in the day, we returned to Thailand and moved south.

Our three-day visit to Chiang Mai, “The Rose Of The North,” provided a number of diverse activities, an elephant trek being the most memorable. We rode in pairs on elephants for over an hour through rivers and over hilly, vegetated, terrain. Our elephant was a wily, obstinate fellow, who had to be bribed with sugar cane and bananas.

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we then floated down the Ping River on bamboo rafts to have a delicious Thai lunch in an enchanting, outdoor setting. Chiang Mai is a major cultural center and a favorite with visitors. Its medieval walls enclose over 300 wats, the most renowned of which is atop a mountain. It is called Wat Doi Suthep and is reached by bus followed by the choice of a cable-car ride or a climb of 290 steps. We visited on a religious holiday, when crowds of worshippers were paying respects to their ancestors and deities. Dinner that evening was at a riverside restaurant and later we visited a night bazaar to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells.

Chaing Mai is Thailand’s leading arts and crafts center. We viewed silversmiths at work, silk weaving and fabrication of Buddha statues, many of which are adorned with gold leaf. After breakfast the next day, we visited Wat Chedi Luang and had a discussion with a Buddhist monk. He provided insight into religious practices and demonstrated how monks meditate. The Mahamakut Buddhist University is located within the Wat premises and is partially supported by donations from Overseas Adventure Travel. That evening we visited another Thai home, had a tour of the house and later had dinner part of which was prepared in our view.

An overnight train ride from Chaing Mai to Bangkok the next day was nothing like the opulent Oriental Express. The sleeping accommodations were Spartan but adequate for a night of sleep. The rationale here was to give us some appreciation for lives of ordinary Thai people.

We arrived in Bangkok for a final day of touring and shopping. In the morning, we visited the Grand Palace of Thailand, a vast complex of exquisite wats and shrines all in gold and accented with blue. It is home to the famed Emerald Buddha.

Just when we were convinced that our senses had reached saturation, there was more to come. The farewell dinner aboard a converted rice barge was a true delight. We cruised on the Chao Phraya River and ate a sumptuous multi-course dinner. We were entertained by beautiful, graceful Thai dancers and the sight of lighted wats on the shore as we passed them.

We had much to contemplate and remember on our fifteen-hour flight home and long afterwards.

Mike and Marge Fiasca

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The only thing that interferes with my learning is my education.

Albert Einstein

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OUR ACTIVE RETIREES

Gertrude Rempfer

Gertrude Rempfer earned her PhD in Physics from the University of Washington in 1939. She retired as Professor of Physics and Environmental Sciences from Portland State University in 1979, having joined the faculty at PSC in 1959. Retirement in her case, however, has not meant any decrease in her commitment to her scientific work. On the contrary, she is still engaged in on-going research in improving the effectiveness of Photoelectron Microscopes.

Photoelectron microscopes work on a different principle from the more familiar transmission electron microscopes. Unlike the latter, photoelectron microscopes use the electrons emitted by the sample itself, which is energized by ultraviolet light. Photoelectron microscopes image surfaces, and they do not require the use of a thin slice of the sample. These characteristics make the photoelectron microscope particularly valuable for examining biological samples, which are often very fragile and, as in a cultured tissue cell, may have a thin surface membrane that differs greatly from what lies below. Photoelectron microscopes do often produce aberrations in the images, however, and Professor Rempfer’s work is aimed at eliminating those aberrations.

Professor Rempfer’s work is currently funded by a National Science Foundation grant. Like most scientists, she is not working alone. The author of the grant proposal is Professor Rolf Koenenkamp of the PSU Department of Physics. She also employs graduate students in physics, and she is particularly grateful to have the services of the instrument technologist Marc Nisenfeld, whom she praises for his very precise work in pushing the resolution of the microscope to its limit. She is also grateful to PSU for providing her with the laboratory that she needs for her work. For years, she has collaborated with Professor Hayes Griffith of the University of Oregon, and they are now preparing some of that work for publication.

Professor Rempfer’s research, though esoteric to those of us not in her field, has implications that any of us would find exciting. In a recent article, co-authored with Erik Bodegum and for which she is the corresponding...
A NEW DETECTIVE IN PORTLAND - CRIME BOOK REVIEW

Katy King’s central character in her new and first novel, *City of Suspects*, is a female private investigator, Jane Lanier, who lives in Portland. Specifically, she lives in an apartment on NW Northrup Street and has an office in the Galleria downtown. In the first two pages, she mentions the Governor Hotel, the Marriott, Jake’s restaurant, the statue of Portlandia, and the MAX. This woman knows her Portland!

*City of Suspects* begins with a bang, quite literally. Jane has an appointment to meet an unknown client at her office at ten o’clock at night. When she arrives, she is attacked and finds the potential client sitting in her office chair, dead, with a gunshot wound in the back of his head.

After this beginning, events occur swiftly, as Jane hurtles around the city in a car that is constantly threatening to give up its last gasp -- to Sandy Boulevard, the Hollywood district, and Alameda. In this last area, she tracks down the wife of the dead man, only to find that her intended expression of sympathy is not wanted. “My husband was cheating on me,” the wife says. “He was a murderer, a drug dealer, a cheat, and a louse, and those were his good qualities.”

With this, Jane does not know if she wants to pursue the case. The promise of a large fee from the dead man’s mother, however, spurs her on. She soon finds herself entangled in a complex plot involving a twenty-year-old murder and a well-financed drug cartel.

The book moves at breakneck speed, as Jane tries to make sense of conflicting and even contradictory pieces of evidence. She finally faces an astonishing but apparently impossible solution. Could it be that the same man was murdered twice? The final tense pages provide the unusual answer.

Jane is a likable character, and the reader hopes to meet her again. She is appealingly human in acknowledging her weakness for food. She grabs fast food at several drive-ins as she drives around the city and once goes to her favorite spot, the Quality Pie Shop on NW 23rd Avenue (now, alas, closed). As she describes it, “The food was delicately flavored with grease, and the

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author, she proposed that a charged particle telescope, based on principles similar to those of the electron microscope and using technology currently available, could be used to reveal not just the past, which is what telescopes now do, but also the history of astronomical objects, such as stars, galaxies, and supernovae. In another article, of which she is also the corresponding author, she addresses the problem of color and shape distortions that have afflicted all lenses and telescopes since the seventeenth century. She reports on experiments that have shown ways of correcting such aberrations in electron microscopes.

She was in the news years ago when she was involved in lending an electron microscope to Chinese scientists. She spent a few interesting weeks in China in order to put the instrument into operation.

Professor Rempfer was slowed in her work for about four years, very much as a result of complications following an operation for a broken hip. Most of us remember learning of the death of her husband, the late and well-loved Robert Rempfer, Professor of Mathematics. Still, she has recovered well from these experiences and is her vigorous self again. She lives in the country, and, though she lost her last horse a couple of months ago, there are still horses on the property, belonging to the tenant of a house on her land. The property is surrounded by woods, and Gertrude Rempfer still chops and chainsaws the wood for her fireplaces that keep her house warm.

When the President of Harvard recently asked somewhat tentatively (and very foolishly) whether women might lack the innate ability to succeed in the sciences, someone should have told him about Gertrude Rempfer of Portland State.

John Cooper

service was surly on a good day. I loved it.” And we would love to have you back, Jane.

Jane’s creator, Katy King, is a Portland resident who has served on the Board of Governors of the City Club and works in government health relations.

Stanley Johnson