PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The RAPS Board met on December ninth. What follows is a brief summary of the issues discussed and the actions that were taken. We welcome any suggestions from you, the members of RAPS, concerning matters that you feel should be included in the agenda for discussion and action by the RAPS Board.

The major issue discussed and acted upon at the December meeting was the establishment of a working relationship between RAPS and the PSU Office of Alumni Relations, of which Pat Squire is currently the Director. A committee of three was formed to nurture and further clarify this newly formed relationship. Pat Squire will serve as Chair, and the committee will also include Mary Coniglio, currently the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, and me. A working relationship should benefit both organizations in achieving their mutual goals and interests.

The Board also discussed and made plans for the upcoming President’s Luncheon which is currently scheduled for April 20th. The Board also planned for the annual RAPS dinner that was to be held at the Multnomah Athletic Club. This event was well-organized by Mary Brannan our current President Elect, and was well-attended and well-received. (See the story and pictures on pages 4 and 5)

The Board was also privileged to have Ken Brown, the General Manager of the PSU Bookstore, attend the meeting and give a presentation dealing with the history and functions of the PSU Bookstore. Last year Ken Brown cooperated with the RAPS Lecture Series by offering gift certificates to our guest lecturers for purchases at the PSU Bookstore. I have invited Jill Shellan, our Office Manager, to write on Ken Brown’s visit and presentation. What follows, then, is Jill’s report, to which I want to add my own observation that the fee of one dollar to join the Bookstore Co-op is a real bargain.

Richard Brinkman

THE BEST KEPT SECRET ON CAMPUS!

Ken Brown tells the RAPS Board about PSU Bookstore co-op membership

We were delighted to have Ken Brown, Director of the PSU Bookstore come speak to the RAPS Board on December 9th, 2004. He was very personable and informative as he told the history of the Bookstore and his vision for its future.

Ken began with a basic history of the PSU Bookstore. The Bookstore, continued on page 2
is the second oldest organization on campus, after the Vanguard. It was incorporated in 1947, when PSU was still named Vanport and was mainly an extension college for veterans. Initially patterned after the Harvard and University of Oregon co-ops, it did not sell books, but only miscellaneous personal and school supplies.

The bookstore has remained a self-supporting co-op. For one dollar, PSU faculty, staff (including retired), and students can join. Oregon law requires an exchange of remuneration, but you receive your membership fee back by receiving a dollar-off coupon to use on your next purchase. Members are eligible for an annual rebate of between five and ten percent of the amount they spend there during the fiscal year (August –July). Last year the rebate for members was approximately 8%. To receive your rebate, you must submit your receipts in September. Members also receive a 10% discount on all general book purchases (non-textbooks) and an invitation to a special member-only sale at which selected merchandise is highly discounted.

The PSU Bookstore was established to serve the PSU community. It is governed by board of its constituents. Currently, the Board of Directors comprises 4 faculty, 5 students and 2 alumni. Deeply involved with the life of the University, the Bookstore sponsors campus events like PSU weekend, the Kellogg awards, and lectures by visiting authors.

The Bookstore continues to improve the atmosphere for its customers. One recent addition to the store was the photo history project, the black & white photographs by the Bookstore stairs. This project was initiated to preserve PSU history’s by selecting a photograph that would represent the events taking place during each decade. Ken mentioned that many customers have identified themselves in the photographs. The bookstore is planning a reading area for students and faculty on the third floor.

This week I joined the Bookstore co-op and I encourage you all to do the same. It was a quick and painless process. They provide you with a membership card to receive your discounts and an envelope to collect your receipts for the annual rebate. Getting a rebate on the merchandise I buy anyway seemed like a deal to me!

Jill Shellan

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Our Active Retirees - Professor Rudi Nussbaum

Rudi Nussbaum, Professor Emeritus of Physics and Environmental Sciences, has continued to do research with important social, medical, and even political implications. His career as an academic physicist evolved through three significant stages. It began with his graduate work in nuclear physics at the University of Amsterdam, where he earned his Ph.D. He came to PSU from the University of California Davis in the late 1950s, and found that facilities for nuclear research did not exist here at that time, so his research changed to leading-edge solid-state physics. This work, done in cooperation with Don Howard, led to contacts and cooperation with scientists around the world. Professor Nussbaum, during this same period, also engaged in faculty governance by serving as a Senator and as President of AAUP.

A third stage began in the mid-1970s when students questioned him about the controversy concerning the construction of the Trojan Nuclear Power plant and its possible implications for human health. He felt that he had to study the scientific literature in order to address his students’ questions, and so began the work that has occupied him ever since.

Since retirement, Professor Nussbaum has focussed his attention on radioactive releases from the Hanford Nuclear facilities and their possible effects on the health of persons living in the area. He learned that “downwinders,” as concerned residents around the Hanford facilities call themselves, noticed that their health had seriously deteriorated after the nuclear weapons plants had started to operate. They also felt that their concerns had not been taken seriously by government agencies or by health professionals. They were told, in effect, that there was no scientific evidence supporting their suspicions, and that they should seek psychiatric help. Frustrated, they approached scientists and physicians of “Physicians for Social Responsibility” asking them to check for evidence of persistent harm. With no governmental and little private support, Professor Nussbaum, his wife, Laureen, and a small group of volunteers, including downwinders and professionals, including medical professionals, undertook the necessary research.

Jill Shellan
At our last gathering on December 21, we discussed *The Teeth of the Tiger* by Tom Clancy. The book was recommended by Gary Perlstein a national expert on terrorism who spoke to the RAPS group in November. The novel features three young men, two of whom are fraternal twins, who “are recruited to a privately funded vigilante organization, Hendley Associates, that aims to strike at America’s enemies -- particularly, terrorists -- when the Feds can’t or won’t. The narrative divides into two parts. The first concerns the training of the three, with young Ryan basically pushing his way into the organization, while Dominic is signed on after taking the law into his own hands by shooting a child killer, and Brian after demonstrating smarts during combat in Afghanistan. Their grappling with the moral and logistical demands of their new jobs alternate with a villains’ plot, as Islamic terrorists cut a deal with Colombian drug smugglers, sneak into the U.S. and move toward their killing-field objectives, four shopping malls in mid-America. The plot strands tie up in a terrifically exciting sequence, the novel’s highlight, as Dom and Brian, by chance shopping at one mall, take down four of the terrorists. But the terrorists kill scores of innocents, so the rest of the novel details American vengeance-the teeth of the tiger-as the twins fly to Europe, followed by Jack, to take out several of the terrorists’ handlers” (Publishers Weekly, retrieved 12/19/04).

We found the book not to be a particularly good piece of literature so far as character development and dialogue are concerned. However, the topic of terrorism was of interest. The book certainly stimulated discussion of such topics as to how the world is dealing with terrorism, why terrorism occurs, how the US is attempting to protect its residents from terrorism, and the effectiveness of these strategies.

The book selected for January is *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. It is a “Book Sense 76 Pick” and was selected as Best Book of the Year by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Additionally, it has been praised by several newspapers across the country. The inside flap describes the book as follows:

> Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present, *The Kite Runner* is the unforgettable, beautifully told story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Raised in the same household and sharing the same wet nurse, Amir and Hassan nonetheless grow up in different worlds: Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while Hassan, the son of Amir’s father’s servant, is a Hazara, member of a shunned ethnic minority. Their intertwined lives, and their fates, reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. When the Soviets invade and Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California, Amir thinks that he has escaped his past. And yet he cannot leave the memory of Hassan behind him. *The Kite Runner* is a novel about friendship, betrayal, and the price of loyalty. It is about the bonds between fathers and sons, and the power of their lies. Written against a history that has not been told in fiction before, *The Kite Runner* describes the rich culture and beauty of a land in the process of being destroyed. But with the devastation, Khaled Hosseini also gives us hope: through the novel’s faith in the power of reading and storytelling, and in the possibilities he shows for redemption.

The January meeting of the RAPS Book Club at which *The Kite Runner* will be discussed will be on Tuesday, January 18 at the home of Marge Terdal at 1:30. Her address is 997 SW Westwood Drive in Portland. Call Marge at 503-244-5714 or e-mail her at terdalm@pdx.edu for directions and to RSVP. Hope to see you there.

Mary Gordon-Brannan

The RAPS Bridge Group has met regularly on the second Tuesday of each month for over a year. We usually meet from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sometimes there is only one table, more often two, and twice we have had three. We usually take turns from one home to another. We are an informal group - usually (but not always) more interested in the conversation than the score.

We welcome new members. If you are a bit “rusty” come along. You’ll make us feel good. If you are a hot shot, come along. Maybe you can nudge us to a higher level. We listen to everyone and believe some. If you

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BRIDGE CLUB  continued from p.3
are somewhere in between, come along. You’ll fit right in.

Our next meeting is at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Irene Place, Willamette Manor, 12705 S.E. River Road. We meet in the Court Family Room. You can phone Irene at 503-652-6528 or e-mail at irene@wvresident.org. It is essential that, if you plan to come, you let the host know at least a few days ahead of time so that you can confirm directions and know how many are coming and so that the host will know how many to expect.

If you have other questions, you can reach me at 503-292-0838 or e-mail at colindun@easystreet.com.

Colin Dunkeld

RAPS ACTIVITIES  Continued

JANUARY PROGRAM: GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Guide Dogs for the Blind is a nonprofit, charitable organization with a mission to provide guide dogs and training in their use to persons who are visually impaired throughout the United States and Canada. The dogs and services are free. They strive to promote the human/animal bond. Guide Dogs for the Blind provides two training facilities, one in San Rafael, California and the other in Boring, Oregon. The organization also has puppy raisers throughout the Western states as part of the animal training and selection process. This exceptional program has provided more than 8,500 dogs to people with vision loss since 1942.

Come learn about this wonderful program. Meet Pat Glimes, a trainer on the Boring campus; Nora Harrison, a puppy raiser from Roseburg; and Sheila Shulleeta, a local user of a guide dog. A special guest will be Jazzy, a black Labrador/Irish setter who will demonstrate some of her skills. Pat Glimes will provide an overview of the Guide Dogs for the Blind program. Nora Harrison will talk about how future guide dogs are raised as puppies. Sheila Shulleeta will tell her story as to how she came to be a user of a guide dog and how Jazzy, her guide dog, has changed and enhanced her independence in the home and community. There will be plenty of time to interact with our presenters.

This event will be held on Thursday, January 20 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 enjoy a stimulating human interest story.

Mary Gordon Brannan

2nd ANNUAL RAPS HOLIDAY DINNER: 2004

Sixty-six persons, RAPS members, spouses, and friends, attended the festive holiday dinner at the Multnomah Athletic Club (MAC) on Thursday, December 16. The MAC was beautifully decorated with Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias, a sleigh, wrapped packages, and other holiday displays. The attendees were also festively attired. It was truly a special evening to celebrate the season with friends and colleagues. We enjoyed appetizer canapés served to us butler-style while we gathered and socialized in the dining room. These were followed by a delicious dinner (chicken piccata or pork tenderloin) and a most scrumptious dessert (chocolate Bavarian).

Following dinner, we were entertained by our own Eric Kimmel (Professor Emeritus) who is a master story teller and internationally acclaimed writer of children’s books. Eric has stated that his first love is sharing stories from different countries and cultures. He did not disappoint us. He read four or five selections, beginning with the classic and upbeat “Twas the Night Before Christmas.” By way of contrast, he read a portion of “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. Other selections included a Hanukkah story that appeared in a recent award-winning book that he edited, and a delightful poem that he read with a “country” dialect. Eric made the stories come alive!

Mary Gordon Brannan
Our Traveling Retirees - East Berlin in 1955 and 2003

In December, 1955, I was a PFC in the Army, stationed in Germany. On a three-day pass, I took a U.S.O. tour to Berlin, that involved an overnight sleeper train. One sign that we were in the depths of the cold war was the blanket on the train window as required by the Soviets so that we would not see whatever it was that they did not want us to see. I was disappointed that I was not questioned or even wakened by the Soviet border guards at Helmsted. I wanted to relive the scenes from all those international intrigue films that I had seen in which grim looking men would demand, “Where are your papers?” Instead, I slept until we reached the station in west Berlin, where Glenn Miller music was being broadcast over the P.A. system. It was only ten years after the big war, and that music and the general prosperity of West Berlin that I soon saw made me feel proud to wear the same uniform as all those men who had a little while earlier helped defeat Nazism and bring freedom and sanity to Europe.

Our group took a tour on a U.S. Army bus to East Berlin. Even though we were limited by the Soviets as to what we could see, the contrast between East and West Berlin was quite literally like night and day. In the east, the mounds of gray rubble left over from the war were in sharp contrast with the bright lights of the rebuilt West. The gloom of the east city was increased by the lowering sky of the December afternoon. While the highlight of the tour was the huge Soviet cemetery where were buried thousands of Soviet soldiers killed in the battle for the city, it was what I saw through the window of the moving bus that most interested me. There were huge political slogans posted on the sides of buildings. One asserted, “The best hope for peace is the friendship of the German and Soviet peoples.” We passed the Ostbahnhof, the big dimly-lit baroque East Station that seemed appropriately somber for the west end of a system that went all the way to Siberia. Apart from huge Soviet memorials, the only new building was in the Stalin Allee, a building for consumer goods labeled HO for Handels Organisation, or “trade organization.” West Berliners said that HO stood for “Hungrig Ost,” or “hungry east.”

We had been told not to take pictures either of bomb
EAST BERLIN continued
damage or of the Volkspolizei, the People’s Police. Near the end of the tour, the bus sped down Unter den Linden, the street that had been the Champs-Elysee or Fifth Avenue of pre-war Berlin. It was now lined on both sides with the remains of destroyed buildings. I decided that I had to take a picture to show the effects wrought by the war. As I put my eye to the viewfinder of my camera, I saw, neatly framed and in front of rubble, a member of the Volkspolizei looking at me as I was violating both rules at once! I was very tense until we got past the check point at the Brandenburg Gate and safety.

Fast forward to 2003. Terry and I stayed at the luxurious Berlin Hilton in East Berlin. The former worker’s paradise was now a showplace of western consumerism, of which our hotel was an example. There were high fashion stores, showrooms displaying expensive cars, and Coca-Cola advertised everywhere. The highlight of our visit was surely the Pergamon museum, so-called because it has a huge Hellenistic altar that was removed from Pergamon in what is now Turkey. The structure is so large that it fills a hall more than fifty feet high. Besides the altar, the museum has an incredible collection of antiquities brought back by nineteenth-century German archaeologists, among them the enormous ornamental Ishtar gate to Babylon. This and other museums are in East Berlin, are now available to western tourists, and by themselves make a visit to Berlin worthwhile.

Our visit occurred just before President Bush started his war in Iraq. On the now built-up Unter den Linden, I saw evidence of an anti-war demonstration, including, as in 1955, a sign in support of international friendship. This one expressed “Solidarity with the American peace movement.” Berlin is a much happier place now than in 1955, but I no longer had the feeling of pride, even perhaps with a trace of moral superiority, that I had had as an American soldier in 1955.

John Cooper

As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of demand.
Josh Billings