Steve Brannan and Sylvia Moseley Receive Awards as Outstanding Faculty and Staff Retirees at the President’s Annual Banquet

Each year at the annual Presidents Luncheon for PSU retirees, RAPS honors faculty and staff retirees of Portland State University for their post-retirement accomplishments in the following areas: service to the community, service to the university, professional accomplishments, and service to RAPS. This year, on March 31, Steve Brannan, Professor Emeritus, Special Education Program, Graduate School of Education (GSE), received the “Outstanding Retired Faculty Award,” and Sylvia Moseley received the “Outstanding Retired Staff Member Award.”

Brannan’s community service has been impressive. He has served as Vice-President of Programs for the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp Board that cooperates with PSU in a program he founded to provide training experiences for university students. He is President of the Board for Clearing, a major northwest environmental education magazine. As President of the Board at the Oregon Yacht Club moorage, he directed a $50,000 matching environmental grant with the City of Portland to revegetate the moorage’s uplands area with native species.

Brannan has also continued to serve the University. Until 1996, he continued as PSU Coordinator for the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp Program Training Program. As faculty mentor and member of the Friends of GSE Committee, he helped to raise funds for student scholarships and was a reviewer for student admissions to the Special Education Program. He has also maintained his scholarly and professional activities. Between 1993 and 2000, he procured $885,000 in grants and directed first two nationwide research studies on the growth of youth with disabilities in outdoor education and camping programs. He is lead author for eight scholarly research articles and was lead presenter on his research at eight national conferences in his field. He is the lead author and editor of recent book Including Youth with Disabilities in Outdoor Programs: Best Practices, Outcomes, and Resources. Finally, he has served RAPS as Vice-President and President (1999-2001) and coordinated the move of RAPS into Simon Benson House. He led efforts to expand RAPS membership to include PSU retired staff and directed a drive to obtain major revisions of RAPS bylaws. He procured annual funding from the President’s Office for a part-time graduate student to serve as RAPS Office Manager; and spearheaded discussions with President Bernstein to pursue closer communications between the administration and RAPS.

see Moseley page 2
In June 1962, Sylvia Moseley started her thirty-year career at PSU when she became the first Secretary of the PSU Department of Business Administration, which then was in the School of Social Science. She was secretary to all the faculty and to the Assistant Dean, Hugh Hinds. The Dean, Don Parker, his own Secretary. Eventually there were seven or eight full-time secretaries/administrative assistants. Sylvia Moseley moved up the ladder to become the Dean’s Executive Assistant.

In February 1980, she became the Program Executive of the School of Health and Physical Education. Her title was Facility Manager, HPE Building.

Sylvia has served PSU in a number of voluntary activities. That is perhaps why, in 1992, PSU President Judith Ramaley promoted her to “Honorary Professor Emeritus”. She is the only staff/non-faculty member to ever receive this high honor. She has been particularly active in supporting athletic events at PSU. She was an inaugural member of the committee that started the PSU Women’s Golf Classic Tournament and continued on the committee for six years. She hosted volleyball & basketball teams attending special tournaments at PSU. She was Co-Chair of the “Ladies Only Champagne Brunch Football Clinic” and Basketball Clinic. She was inducted into PSU Softball Hall of Fame in 1999. She has been a member, PSU Athletics Hall of Fame Selection Committee for past several years, and a member of the Viking Club Board of Directors/Viking Backers Advisory Council since 1998. She served as liaison between Viking Backers Advisory Council and men’s basketball team from 2002 until this year, and she has been the Chair of the Service Committee, Viking Backers Advisory Council since 2001. For the past two years, she has served as “greeter” for men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball and soccer games for the past two years. And she has even baked cookies and brownies for the teams for the past eight or nine years!

She has been active also on REPPS/RAPS, having been member-at-Large, REPPS/RAPS Board of Directors, since 2001. She was Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, REPPS/RAPS Board in the years 2001-03.

She has also been an active volunteer for the larger community. She worked for “Beach Cleanup” & “Portland City Cleanup” for SOLV (Save Oregon Litter & Vandalism) for a couple of years. She helped the LPGA Championship at Pumpkin Ridge, 1996, by stuffing packets & goodies bags and she has been Marshal & Assistant Hole Captain for LPGA Safeway Classic at Columbia Edgewater for last nine years. She has worked phone banks at OPB Public Broadcasting station telethon. She worked in VIP Room & Hospitality Room for Doernbecher Children’s Hospital Telethon. She is currently a member of the Transportation Committee for JELD-WEN Champions Tour event at The Reserve, 2003 & 2004. All of this activity led the selection committee to choose her as the Outstanding PSU retired staff member for 2004.

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**RAPS Activities**

**RAPS BOOK CLUB**

We discussed *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines at the April Book Club meeting. We felt the book was well written, portraying the relationship between African Americans and Caucasians in Louisiana before World War II. The author is an fifth generation African American who grew up and worked on a plantation in Louisiana until he turned 15 and moved to California. He called upon his experiences in writing this book.

The May Book Club meeting will be held at Marjorie Terdál’s home on Tuesday, May 18 at 1:30. Call Marjorie at 503-628-2252 or e-mail her at terdalm@pdx.edu for directions and to RSVP. The selection for May is *The Last Report of the Miracles of Little No Horse* written by Louise Erdrick. It was a National Book Award finalist. It was described as follows:

The latest in Louise Erdrich’s chronicles of the Chippewa (Ojibwe) and Michif people of central North Dakota, *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* is a beautiful, brilliant book that recapitulates the story of the Kashpaws and Nanapushs, the Morrisseys and Lamartines, while moving to center stage a minor character who becomes, by the book’s end, central to the history of the place and people. Focusing on religion and how it touches the lives of the town of Little No Horse, Erdrich weaves new patterns into the fabric of her wonderfully imagined, magic tapestry. The focus of the story is the priest, Father Damien Modeste, a minor figure in earlier books. In the first few pages, Erdrich reveals that the priest is a woman: Agnes Vogel néée DeWitt, former Sister Cecilia of a convent in Wisconsin, widow of Berndt Vogel, lover of Chopin. (source: www.dancingbadger.com/nohorse.html)

The group will decide at the May meeting on the summer schedule for the Book Club.

Mary Gordon-Brannan

**Bridge Club**

The May bridge group will meet on Tuesday May 11th at 1:30 at the home of LaRay Barna, 7210 S.W. 86th Ave. Call LaRay at 503 768-4160 or e-mail barnal@pdx.edu to confirm your attendance and for directions.

**Hiking Club**

We will hike on Sunday, May 9th on the Weldon Wagon Road in Washington. Barbara Robinson, a native plant expert, will be on the hike along with local hike leader Dee Robertson. The hike is with the Friends of the Columbia Gorge and is listed as good for wildflower viewing.

In order to meet the rest of the hikers at 9:45am in Husum, WA., we will need to leave Portland by 800am. We will meet for carpooling on the Broadway side of Neuberger Hall. Parking is free in the parking structures on Sundays.

Bring a lunch and not just a snack. We will not be back in Portland until late afternoon Call Marge Terdál (503-244-5714 email terdalm@pdx.edu) or Larry Sawyer (503-646-8782 e-mail PSU23312@pdx.edu) if you plan to come. We don’t want to leave without you.

Larry Sawyer

**RAPS MEMBERS ARE ONCE AGAIN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FERDINAND SOCIETY’S WILLAMETTE RIVER TRIP**

**Date:** Thursday, June 10  
**Where:** Sternwheeler Portland Rose  
OMSI parking lot 1945 SE Water Ave  
**Boarding time:** 6:30 pm at the OMSI dock (next to the submarine)  
**Boat leaves:** 7:00pm (sharp!)  
**Boat returns:** 9:30  
**Cruise:** up the Willamette to Lake Oswego and return to the harbor to view the Rose Festival ships  
**Dinner Menu:** No-host bar  
BBQ brisket and BBQ chicken, potatoes, macaroni salad, green salad, corn muffins, homemade dessert bars  
**Cost:** $38.00 for a single; $75.00 for a couple

You may bring guests; we have the whole boat! Send check made out to “Ferdinand Society,” to Scott Burns, Dept. of Geology, PSU Box 751, Portland, OR 97202; You can also call Scott for a reservation at 503-725-3389 (feel free to leave a message) or email him at burnss@pdx.edu
W.T. “Bill” Lemman and Stephen Epler’s granddaughter to receive degrees

Bill Lemman, Vanport alum, former PSU Business Manager, and Executive Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the Oregon University System, will receive an honorary doctorate from Portland State University at commencement on June 12, 2004. Commencement will be held at the Rose Garden at 3:00 p.m. Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, a close colleague of the late Martin Luther King, will be the keynote speaker.

Lemman, a RAPS member, has had a strong affiliation with Portland State from its inception. As a Vanport student, he had close relationships with many faculty, including founder Stephen E. Epler. Because Vanport was not able to grant degrees, Lemman completed his education at University of Oregon, where he earned a degree in Business Administration in 1949. He returned to Vanport in 1950 as assistant business manager and acting registrar and, like a typical Vanport employee, did a little bit of everything. After a brief stay in Corvallis, Bill returned to Portland State College in 1959 as Business Manager.

Bill’s vision as the chief fiscal officer for Portland State included the foresight to bring housing to campus, where it has previously not been allowed. His creative approach and long-range planning skills assured the success of several opportunities for growth of the campus.

Bill’s expertise and collegial approach to faculty labor negotiations came to the attention of the Chancellor’s Office, and he left PSU in 1974 to become vice chancellor of administration, finance, labor and other personnel issues. Over a 15-year period in that office, Bill assumed other duties, including interim chancellor and interim president of Oregon Institute of Technology.

In retirement, Bill has kept busy with PSU. He is an emeritus member of the Alumni Board, a founding member of the Friends of the Library, has hosted several Vanport reunions, and recently chaired the event dedicating the new Stephen E. Epler Hall, in honor of his mentor at Vanport. And now, he will finally have a degree from his beloved alma mater!

Juli Gezi, daughter of Charlotte and Kal Gezi and granddaughter of Stephen E. Epler, will also earn a degree at commencement in June. Juli will graduate with honors from the Department of Communication, and has been accepted to the master’s program in the department. The Epler and Gezi families will be in Portland for the commencement festivities.

Pat Squire  Director of Alumni Relations

It Turns Out Even Old Dogs Earn New Spots

Not much has changed since you were gone: The cats less sullen, gardens more refulgent--the old verities of spring. We are still economizing by turning back the dogs, who even now earn new spots.

There are still some puzzles between the heaves of storm, certain intermittencies. Like the owlish opacity of goats swiveling their necks and eating everything in sight, sweeping low, regurgitating all the rest.

Our accountant will verify this publicly.

Margot, you’ll be glad to know, runs for a whole year on half a lemon. Primavera!

P.S. I’ll meet you at the station. Say Zen.

Thomas Buell, Professor Emeritus of English

Dean Kaiser address RAPS - story on the next page
Dean Kaiser Addresses RAPS on ‘The New World of Aging”

Introduced by RAPS President-Elect Richard Brinkman as another “Leonardo da Vinci” because of his excellence in the diverse areas of scholarship, administration, and teaching, Marvin Kaiser, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences spoke at the RAPS Pot Luck Dinner on the evening of April 29.

Drawing on his experience working in a nursing home and years of scholarly research, Kaiser challenged the traditional view of old age as a time of leisurely retirement. He pointed first to the radical demographic change that has occurred in the developed world but that will be global by 2045, namely that there will be more persons over 65 than under 16. This reverses all previous human history, partly because of declining birth rates but also because “people are not living longer but more people are living long.” Moreover, an overwhelming percentage of those over 65 are free of serious disability.

He alluded to a number of studies that show how it is possible for the elderly to live well. A successful old age has three components:

1. The avoidance of disease. Since most disease has behavioral causes, such as smoking, lack of exercise, and generally poor health habits, we have a great deal of influence on our own health.

2. High cognitive and physical health. Again, these are strongly influenced by behavior.

3. An engagement in life. That means have close, intimate relationships and being engaged in productive activity.

He cited three longitudinal studies that were begun in the 1920s. One involved a group of nuns who willed their brains for post-mortem study, the second, a group of Harvard students, and the third, a group of inner-city Irish-Americans. These studies showed that the principal predictors of longevity were first, the age at death of parents, secondly, healthy adaptive behavior, that is, the ability to deal positively with problems, and finally years of education. One discovery from the study of nuns showed that nuns who had the same plaques and tangles in their brain as sufferers of Alzheimer’s disease but who remained intellectually active did not suffer the symptoms of Alzheimer’s.

Rather than age as a time of leisure, Kaiser argued that it should be a time of “generative activity,” that is, activity that takes care of the next generation. He pointed to the serious needs faced by the young in our society. 80,000 children in Oregon, for example, have no caring adult in their lives. The lesson seems to be that, by benefiting the next generation of adults, the elderly can benefit themselves. It is difficult to summarize in a page or two the numbers, references, and alternative approaches to the problems of aging and retirement that Dean Kaiser offered in his lecture. His lecture was stimulating and worthwhile. The issues which were raised should be addressed by the RAPS Board in the forthcoming year 2004-05

Please note in your calendar: Barbara Roberts will discuss “Death Without Denial, Grief Without Apology,” on May 27, at the Vanport Room SMSU, at 3 p.m. open to RAPS membership, PSU alumni and faculty and staff. (Note the time has been changed from 5 to 3 p.m.).

Letter continued

For those who cherish the present name: OK. For those who don’t: maybe we could live with it and make the publication so informative, so illuminating, so refreshing, so wise? That we give it a life that will enhance its name far beyond our petty objections?

Colin Dunkeld

On the Melancholy of Scholars

How many poor scholars have lost their wits, or become dizzards, neglecting all worldly affairs and their own health, esse and bene esse [being and well being], to gain knowledge for which, after all their pains, in this world’s esteem they are accounted ridiculous and silly fools, idiots, asses, and (as oft they are) rejected, condemned, derided, doting, and mad!

The Anatomy of Melancholy, Robert Burton (1577-1640)