PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Although she has been on the job since June, I want to take this opportunity to introduce Darshana Patel, who is the RAPS Office Manager for 2005-2006. Darshana is our graduate assistant who is pursuing her Master’s degree in Counselor Education in the School of Education. She comes to us with much experience in a similar position. I know you will find her to be friendly, helpful, competent, well-organized, and professional. Her office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Drop in to meet her and to say “hi.” She is the conduit between the Board and the membership.

Considerable progress was made on the History Preservation project this summer with the assistance of a graduate assistant from the Department of History who was jointly supported by RAPS and the School of Education. Also, the University hired a consultant, Geoffrey Wexler, to assess PSU’s archives and recording processes. Wexler is an archivist at the Oregon Historical Society. He generated two documents: A Report on the Current Status of Historical Documentation and Preserving and Celebrating the History of Portland State University: A Guide for Campus Offices and Academic Departments. These reports were presented to President Bernstine, Provost Roy Koch, the University ad hoc History Preservation Committee, and RAPS. The RAPS Office has copies of these two documents which are available for your perusal. You will be hearing more about this project in the upcoming months. We anticipate that many of you will become involved in this ongoing project of preserving and celebrating PSU history.

At our first Board meeting, we began to form our standing and ad hoc committees for the year and are looking for volunteers to serve on them. Standing committees include Awards (Maxine Thomas, Chair), Elections (Richard Brinkman, Chair), Membership (Mary Brannan, Chair), Programs (Bruce Stern, Chair), Publicity (Bruce Stern, Chair), and Social (Vic and Beryl Dahl, Co-Chairs). The current ad hoc committees include History Preservation chaired by Steve Brannan, Regional Retirement Associations chaired by Bob Vogelsang, and By-Laws Revision chaired by Richard Brinkman. We are looking for volunteers to serve on these committees.

The Board has begun to set goals for this year, some of which continue from year to year. Preliminary goals include:

- Increase RAPS membership, including both retired faculty and staff

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RAPS ACTIVITIES

RAPS Hikers

On Friday, August 25th, seven hiked the lower half of the Canyon Trail in Silver Falls State Park. Mr. Lam, a PSU visiting scholar from China, joined us as a guest of the Terdals. All enjoyed the pleasant weather and the many waterfalls. Fall hikes were planned and are listed below.

On Friday, September 23rd we hiked on the Washougal Dike. Marjorie Terdal describes that hike in a separate piece on this page.

Our next scheduled hike is Friday, October 28th. We will travel to BLM land near Welches to hike two short adjacent trails. They are the Wildwood Wetland Trail and the Cascade Streamwatch Trail. Both are along the Salmon River. The three-quarter-mile-long Wildwood Wetland Trail has boardwalk, paved, and gravel sections allowing observation of wetland activities without getting your feet wet or muddy. The three-quarter mile long Cascade Streamwatch Trail is an interpretive trail focusing on salmon habitat. It includes a building with an underwater observation window. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Gateway parking lot to carpool to the site.

On Friday, November 25th, we will hike in Lacamas Park outside of Camas, Washington. The hike will be 3.4 miles long with a 200 foot elevation gain. The trail will pass by Round Lake and Lacamas Creek. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Safeway parking lot next to the old Waddles restaurant at Jantzen Beach and carpool from there. You can also meet us at the parking lot in the park at 9:30 a.m.

Because of the holidays, there will be no December hike. In January we will hike some of the small loop trails in the Tualatin Hills Nature Park and Interpretive Center. Meet at the interpretive center at the park entrance off of Millikan Blvd. at 9:30 a.m. The address is 15655 SW Millikan Blvd.

Please confirm your participation to Larry Sawyer by the Thursday before the hike. (503-771-1616 or larry_sawyer@comcast.net)

Larry Sawyer

RAPS Bridge Club

The next meeting of the RAPS Bridge Group will be at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday Oct 11th at the home of Joan Shireman. If you plan to come, please call her as soon as possible to let her know you would like to come, to make sure there is room, and to get directions if needed. Her phone number is 503 698 9951.

New members are always welcome. If you have questions or need more information about the group, please call Colin Dunkeld at 503-292-0838.

Colin Dunkeld
On September 20, we discussed *Gilead,* by Marilynne Robinson, which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2005. *Gilead* is only Robinson’s second novel. Her highly acclaimed first novel, *Housekeeping,* was published twenty years earlier. The setting for this book is Gilead, Iowa in 1956. John Ames is a third generation minister in his mid-seventies who is facing death from heart disease. The book is the family history which John Ames writes for his son. He tells of his grandfather, also named John Ames, a fire and brimstone preacher who went to Kansas to fight for abolition and then to fight in the Union Army during the Civil War. His father, also John Ames, became a pacifist preacher. Ames relates how his father and he took a long journey to find his grandfather’s grave. He also describes his close relationship with a Presbyterian minister and his family who reside in Gilead. We found that the story of the Ames family history unfolded rather slowly. Most of us would recommend the book and advise the reader to persevere through the first third, after which the book became more engaging.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18th at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marge Terdal. E-mail her at terdlm@pdx.edu, or call her at 503-244-5714 to RSVP and for directions to her house at 997 SW Westwood Drive in Portland. For this discussion, we have selected a nonfiction best seller, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century* by Thomas L. Friedman. Friedman is the foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times* and has won the Pulitzer Prize three times for his work. He is the author of three bestselling books.

The following is the publisher’s description:

> When scholars come to write the history of the world twenty years from now, and they come to the chapter “Y2K to March 2004,” what will they say was the most crucial development? The attacks on the World Trade Center on 9/11 and the Iraq war? Or the convergence of technology and events that allowed India, China, and so many other countries to become part of the global supply chain for services and manufacturing, creating an explosion of wealth in the middle classes of the world’s two biggest nations, giving them a huge new stake in the success of globalization? And with this “flattening” of the globe, which requires us to run faster in order to stay in place, has the world gotten too small and too fast for human beings and their political systems to adjust in a stable manner?

In this brilliant new book, the award-winning New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman demystifies the brave new world for readers, allowing them to make sense of the often bewildering global scene unfolding before their eyes. With his inimitable ability to translate complex foreign policy and economic issues, Friedman explains how the flattening of the world happened at the dawn of the twenty-first century; what it means to countries, companies, communities, and individuals; and how governments and societies can, and must, adapt. *The World Is Flat* is the timely and essential update on globalization, its successes and discontents, powerfully illuminated by one of our most respected journalists.

The November selection is *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded, August 27, 1883* by Simon Winchester, who will be speaking at the Portland Arts & Lectures series this season. We will meet on November 15th at a place to be determined.

Mary Brannan

Welcome to New RAPS Members

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A Look Back at September Events

During September, RAPS had two events. The first was a September 15th tour of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park. The tour was led by a docent and provided insights into the many artifacts on the grounds, as well as historical perspectives on the holocaust and the memorial project itself. The ten brave souls who ventured out on this overcast day were shown a tasteful, peaceful memorial that pays tribute to those innocent millions whose lives were taken from them. The question that faces us even today is why has humanity not learned from this? The ongoing genocide in Darfur is but one current example.

The second event was a more light-hearted adventure. On September 24th, nearly three dozen RAPS members and guests attended the PSU vs. Northern Colorado football game at PGE Park. PSU was victorious 41-17 over the Bears. The game featured an incredible performance by PSU running back Joe Rubin, who scored 5 touchdowns and rushed for more than 350 yards. It was a beautiful evening to enjoy the game. Thanks go to Tom Burman, PSU’s athletic director, who provided these complimentary tickets for prime low-level, midfield seats.

October and Early November RAPS Events

Our first regular program of the academic year will take place Thursday, October 20th at 1:00 p.m. in SMC 338. Marc Feldesman will be our featured speaker and his presentation is entitled “The Long Arm of the Law.” This, of course, refers to how the recent PERS ruling will affect 37,000 retirees (try to visualize a long arm reaching into people’s pocketbooks). Marc is a Professor Emeritus and former chair of PSU’s Department of Anthropology. He is right on top of the PERS developments and will enlighten us on the impact of recent board actions – including actions and implications that the media seem to under-report. This is a program that you won’t want to miss. Feel free to bring a guest. Light refreshments will be served.

On Thursday, November 3rd, at 1:30 p.m. we will tour the Portland Art Museum’s exhibition entitled “Hesse: A Princely German Collection.” It includes over 400 pieces of Baroque furniture and silver, German paintings and portraits, a Russian dowry, German Art Nouveau, and classical antiques. We’ve been able to secure a group rate of $11 per person which includes audio headphones. Portland Art Museum members can enter free upon showing their museum membership card. All who plan to be at the 1:30 release time should RSVP to RAPS by October 20th and meet in front of the museum at 1:15 p.m. on the day of the event.

Our second program meeting will take place Thursday, November 17th at the PSU Bookstore. Ken Brown will host a reception, talk about the bookstore, and provide a tour of the store (including the back area which is closed to the public). Attendees will receive a discount on items purchased at the bookstore that day. More details will be provided in the next RAPS Sheet.
Art Emlen, Professor Emeritus of Social Work, retired from PSU in 1989, having been a member of the faculty since 1965. He came to PSU with a BA and MSW from UCLA, and a PhD in social work from Tulane. In the graduate Social Work program, he taught research methods and child welfare practice and policy, supervised many student research projects, and made substantial contributions to his own field of research, which was child welfare, with a focus first on the effects of foster care and then on the effect of child care on the work place. This research produced important publications and national recognition. It also had an effect on child welfare legislation. For sixteen years prior to retirement, Art was director of the Regional Research Institute for Human Services.

After his retirement, Art created a company, Arthur Emlen and Associates Inc., to continue his research on issues of work, family, and dependent care. He and his colleagues, operating under a cooperative agreement with the University, conducted employee surveys for companies. They examined such issues as workers’ needs for dependent care and in general the relationship of family life and responsibilities on the job. They have surveyed more than 50,000 workers at 124 companies and agencies from more than thirteen states. This research has produced data that have been used by researchers at a number of universities and by employers and communities concerned with the needs of employees with dependents. Simultaneously Art worked with the State of Oregon and a Child Care Data Group to develop methods of estimating child care needs and supply. These data have been used to produce the child-care benchmarks of the Oregon Progress Board.

Art was called back from retirement by the University. It had received a grant from the United States Child Care Bureau to fund the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership. Art returned with a .25 FTE appointment to work as the principal investigator. His work has been focused primarily on understanding parents’ point of view in assessing the quality of child care. While other professionals in his field have generally dismissed the judgment of parents on this issue, Art has found parents to be both concerned and intelligent in their choices.

Art describes himself as “happily married these past 45 years to Charlene Hereford Gilmour of Georgia,” known as Bitsy. They met in California, where they both worked in child welfare. Art’s avocations are birding, hiking, and fly fishing, as well as reading history, spy novels, and financial news, and being a grandfather. He has given up sailing but taken up playing bridge. Art has three children and six grandchildren. In 1998, the Emlen family bought a secluded 32-acre farm in southwest Washington on Skamokawa Creek that flows into the lower Columbia. Here his son Andrew and his family live, and here the clan likes to gather. “Fafa,” as he is known to his grandchildren, likes to mow the meadow on an old 1966 David Brown 770 tractor. As he says, “When the salmon come up to spawn and enter the food chain, you can see them all whisper about where this vita is heading.”

Even though he is retired, Art exemplifies as well as any active Professor could the goal proclaimed by the University’s motto, namely to have knowledge serve the larger community.

A REQUEST FROM YOUR EDITOR

Two regular features of the RAPS Sheet are “Our Active Retirees” and “Our Traveling Retirees.” These are a way of keeping us in touch with colleagues now that we are no longer regularly on campus. In the past we have learned about Barbara Wiegele’s fascinating trip to Vietnam, for example, and Rudi Nussbaum’s work for victims of radiation at Hanford.

I depend on my fellow retirees to provide the news for these features. If you can tell me about colleagues who are engaged in interesting academic or social activities or if you have travel experiences to share, please contact the RAPS office or me directly at cooperrohe@earthlink.net.
In September, my wife and I visited Toronto. While Toronto would be an interesting city for anyone to visit, for me it had a special significance because I lived there for two years as a teenager in the late nineteen forties. I wanted to see the changes that I had read about.

When I lived there, Toronto was a pleasant, clean city with no significant slums. It had a deserved reputation as rather dull, a “graveyard with lights,” as a local comedian put it. Its life was significantly dominated by its Scottish Presbyterian population who took seriously the commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day. Movie theaters were closed on Sundays, with the ironical result that on Sunday evening there would be lines outside movie theaters late of people waiting for the midnight show. Taverns served only beer until 1948, when a controversial change in the law allowed the existence of cocktail bars. A favorite nickname for Toronto in the rest of Canada was “Toronto the Good.”

All that has changed. We saw explicit sex shops on Yonge street, the main downtown shopping street. But the new permissiveness is only part of a large demographic and cultural revolution. Immigration has radically changed the ethnic makeup of the population. There were always Chinese and Afro/Canadians in the predominantly white and British population and, of course, French Canadians. Now, however, there is a much larger Asian and Middle-Eastern/Canadian population. There are more Italians than in any city except Rome. I am sure that all of this change has produced some tensions, but, to my eye, it seems to have occurred without white flight. When I visited my old neighborhood, there were many Asian and Middle-Eastern faces, but they were mingled with many white faces. The city prides itself on its successful diversity, and the pride at least appears to be justified.

The most obvious change from the Toronto I knew is architectural. Huge, boldly designed high-rise buildings fill the downtown. The largest free-standing structure in the world is the CN tower, a sort of Space Needle on steroids. The new baseball stadium is combined with a hotel, whose occupants can watch the game from their rooms. (A story that you will hear more than once if you visit Toronto concerns the honeymoon couple in the hotel who did not realize that the baseball fans and players were watching them consummate their marriage.) And of course there is a huge new hockey arena for the Toronto Maple Leafs. We visited Toronto’s fine museum and art museum, and these are being expanded. The smartly dressed crowds in Toronto’s downtown add to the impression of a city that is vital and successful.

Toronto’s vigorous growth has a political basis. When I lived there, Toronto, like most North American cities, had on its boundaries politically independent suburbs. In the fifties Toronto, or Ontario, I’m not sure which, established one metropolitan government for the entire urban region. Unlike the suburbs of most American cities, Toronto’s suburbs therefore did not drain away the more prosperous part of the populace and leave the inner city to the poor and with a diminished tax base. Also I think that Toronto has benefited from the narrow-minded French linguistic nationalism of Quebec that seems to have driven out Montreal’s formerly large anglophone population and with it a great deal of business. Montreal and Toronto were once rivals for the title of Canada’s premier city, but now Toronto has taken the lead in population and economic activity.

We enjoyed Toronto’s museums and sophisticated restaurants and its obvious energy and civic pride. It is not paradise. In an insensitive action typical of the 1960s, a huge expressway was built dividing most of the city from its only great natural asset, Lake Ontario. As we walked under it every day from our lakefront hotel, we would inevitably see homeless persons sleeping on the sidewalk. Still it is widely regarded as North America’s most successful city, and it is well worth a visit.

John Cooper
Emeritus Professor and founding member of the Department of Geology, Robert O. Van Atta, died in Portland on August 9, 2005. Complications from a stroke in 1990 had seriously limited his physical activities, but a deep religious commitment and strong character enabled him to lead a productive, cheerful, and intellectually satisfying life.

Born in Portland on August 12, 1923, Bob attended public schools in Eugene. During his formative years, outdoor activities—hunting, fishing, skiing, and mountain climbing—engendered a lifelong interest in science. He attended Wheaton College in Illinois before enlisting in the United States Army during World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater as an officer with the 10th Mountain Division’s ski troops. After returning to civilian life, Bob prepared for a lifetime teaching career by earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology (1949 and 1960) at the University of Oregon, followed by a PhD. (1971) at Oregon State University.

After teaching in a high school, he joined the newly-formed Portland State College’s Division of Science in 1956 and participated in developing an Earth Sciences curriculum that ultimately evolved into the Department of Geology. Dr. Van Atta was part of the pioneering cadre that worked tirelessly with minimal resources to lay the groundwork for one of PSU’s strongest academic programs. His interesting and lively classes consistently attracted large enrollments, and he advised many who pursued graduate studies and became educators. Colleagues throughout the University always highly valued him as a productive and likable faculty member.

Professor Van Atta served as a consultant and principal investigator for a wide range of projects sponsored by academic institutions, governmental agencies, and business organizations. In recognition of his notable investigative contributions, the University recently established the Van Atta Sedimentary Laboratory.

In addition to his academic career, Professor Van Atta worked diligently to promote the spiritual and material welfare of others. In 1956, Western Conservative Baptist Seminary conferred upon him a Bachelor of Divinity degree and awarded him an honorary Master of Christian Leadership. A strong religious commitment prompted him to serve his church as an elder, deacon, teacher and director of youth activities. He actively supported the Western Seminary and served as a member of its Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1990.

He is survived by Lucibel (Lucki), his wife of 58 years, and by their sons, Walt of Seattle and Steve of Bremerton; by daughter Susan Fleming and husband, Bruce, of Portland; and, by ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held August 24, 2005. Our organization’s membership cherishes his memory and extends heartfelt condolences to the family. Remembrances may be sent to the Bob Van Atta Memorial Fund at the Burlingame Baptist Church in Portland.

Victor C. Dahl
• Increase membership participation in RAPS activities
• Assist PSU in the preservation of its history
• Explore “new” ways of meeting members’ needs and interests with a focus on both retired faculty and staff
• Develop a more complete database of RAPS members and other retired faculty and staff
• Improve RAPS web page
• Revise by-laws.

We definitely need your input and help in making progress towards these goals.

Bruce Stern has developed a wonderful program of events for this year. It began with a touching, informative experience at the Oregon Holocaust Memorial led by a docent. He also arranged for free PSU football tickets on September 24th. The program continues in October with an update on PERS presented by Marc Feldsman (see the article in this issue of the RAPS Sheet).

We would love to hear from you. Let us know about your ideas and strategies for achieving our goals for the year. Also, let us know how you would like to be involved in our projects and committees or better yet, start your own project with the help of other RAPS members!

Mary Brannan