PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Last night I had the occasion to see a former student as I was doing volunteer work at the Oregon Food Bank. She said that she remembered me better than most of her instructors because I actually forced her to think and learn.

As I later reflected on our conversation, I was reminded of the influence on me of one of the great figures of the Renaissance – Moses Maimonides, often just referred to as Maimonides. He was a philosopher, rabbi, and physician. His profound contributions to both Judaism and Western thought left neither quite the same. One statement attributed to him guided me throughout my professional career: “I have learned much from my teachers, more from my colleagues, but most of all from my pupils.” As retirees, we learn from many sources: other people, conventional media, and new technology-driven vehicles. The important thing is to continue learning in order to keep our minds sharp.

RAPS has an important role in keeping the matter between our ears active. On September 21, we had the opportunity to have a guided tour of the Japanese Gardens in Washington Park. Not only did I learn the history of the gardens, but also I discovered new ways of pruning bushes and took advantage of several breathtaking views to do some reflection.

On Thursday, October 19 at 1:00pm, we will commence our speaker programs. Dr. Basil Dmytryshyn will discuss his life’s journey from Russia to PSU. My many trips to Russia (from 1989-1998) have taught me to appreciate greatly our life in the United States. Basil’s story should increase that feeling in you.

I look forward to your participation in RAPS programs and activities this year. Take advantage of what we have to offer and in doing so sharpen your mind.

Bruce Stern

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Basil Dmytryshyn “From Poland to Portland”

October 19, Thursday 1:00 pm, 236 SMC
RAPS ACTIVITIES

RAPS BOOK CLUB

At our last gathering on September 19th, seven RAPS members, including new member Sally Jacobsen, took part in a lively discussion of Small Island by Andrea Levy. Several commented on the author’s vivid character descriptions, and we liked the way each chapter was written from a specific character’s point of view. Thanks to a list of discussion questions obtained from www.picadorUSA.com, as well as contributions from all participants, it was a stimulating and delightful afternoon.

Please join us next month for a discussion of The Color of Water by James McBride. The book group will meet at 1:30pm on October 17th, hosted by Prue Douglas at Terwilliger Plaza. Please contact her at 503-299-4928 to let her know that you plan to attend and for directions. The book is a memoir and is described on the book jacket as follows:

As a boy in Brooklyn’s Red Hook projects, James McBride knew his mother was different. But when he asked about it, she’d simply say, “I’m light-skinned.” Later he wondered if he was different, too, and asked his mother if he was black or white. “You’re a human being,” she snapped. “Educate yourself or you’ll be a nobody!” And when James asked what color God was, she said, “God is the color of water” . . .

As an adult, McBride finally persuaded his mother to tell her story—the story of a rabbi’s daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a Baptist church, and put twelve children through college. The Color of Water is James McBride’s tribute to his remarkable, eccentric, determined mother—and an eloquent exploration of what family really means.

The book selected for November is Lost in Translation by Eva Hoffman. Happy Reading!

Mary Brannan and Maxine Thomas

RAPS BRIDGE GROUP

The next meeting of the RAPS Bridge Group will be at 1:30pm on Tuesday, October 10th, at the home of Mike and Marge Fiasca. If you would like to play, please call or e-mail Mike no later than Friday, October 6th at 503-675-8171 or mfasca@aol.com. For answers to any other questions about the Bridge Group, please call or e-mail Colin Dunkeld at 503-292-0838 or colipat@easystreet.com.

Colin Dunkeld

RAPS HIKERS

Four RAPS hikers traveled to Fort Clatsop on September 22nd, where we hiked on the fairly new trail from Fort Clatsop to Sunset Beach. The section we hiked was graveled and dry. A new viewpoint about 1.5 miles from the fort gives a window view of the ocean through the forest.

At lunch we discussed future hikes. Some suggested having fewer sack lunches on the trail and more lunches at popular restaurants. Hike location permitting, we will have lunch and social conversations at a restaurant. Unless it is near a holiday, hikes will continue be on the fourth Friday with meeting times at 9:00am on distant hikes and 9:30am on local hikes. Hikes will be planned that are not strenuous and less than five or six miles.

October 27th hike:
Lower McCleay trail. Meet at 9:30am at the parking lot a few hundred yards east of the Audubon Society on Cornell Road. We will hike down the Wildwood trail to the McCleay trail and follow this trail down Balch Creek Canyon to the park headquarters. We will car-shuttle back to the starting point. This is all downhill for several hundred feet of elevation with most of the steep part at the beginning of the hike. Robert Pearson will coordinate this hike as Larry Sawyer will be in Phoenix. Contact him at 503-293-1771 or pearson_r@comcast.net.

The November hike will be on the 17th because of the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no December hike because of the holidays.

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RAPS ACTIVITIES - continued

HIKERS continued from page 2

Hikes planned include Wahkeena Falls (not all the way to the top), Catherine Creek, a section of the Banks to Vernonia linear park with lunch in Vernonia, and Sauvie/Oak Island. In case of weather or other problems, alternate short hikes in Hoyt Arboretum and sections of the Springwater trail will be substituted. More details of these hikes will follow as scheduled.

Larry Sawyer

IMAGES FROM THE RAPS VISIT TO THE JAPANESE GARDEN

The RAPS excursion to the Japanese Garden in Washingto Park brought out many RAPS members.

The Lower Pond

The Flat Garden

RAPS PROGRAM

October Program

The first regular program of the year will be on October 19, Thursday, at 1:00 pm in SMC 236. Our featured speaker is Basil Dmytryshyn, Professor Emeritus of History. He will talk about his journey from Poland to Portland, from prison to PSU. Light refreshments will be served.

Basil was born in Poland to Ukrainian parents. At the end of World War II, he was a member of the Slovak anti-German resistance. Later he spent a few months in a Soviet prison from which he escaped. He came to the U.S. in 1947, becoming a citizen in 1951. He received his B.A. in 1950 and M.A. in 1951 from the University of Arkansas and his Ph.D. in 1955 from the University of California, Berkeley.

He has published twenty books and written many articles and reviews. He was a Fellow at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington D.C. and recognized with an honorary foreign membership in the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Center for North American Studies and Russian-American Relations. He has become an internationally recognized scholar of Russian history.

September Events

Japanese Garden Tour

Early on the afternoon of September 21, our members assembled outside the main gate of the Japanese Garden, in Washington Park above the Rose Test Gardens, in anticipation of improving weather. In the event, the sky was overcast but there were only a very few raindrops. Twenty-seven members and guests participated. Tour guides took us in two groups through the Garden. The Japanese Garden Society of Oregon established the garden on the former site of the city zoo. This Garden is one the most authentic in the United States. It reflects the tradition of Shinto, Buddhist and Taoist philosophies.

Viking Football

Three dozen RAPS members enjoyed the Vikings football home-opener on September 9th at PGE
OUR TRAVELING RETIREES -
BARBARA WIEGEL CONTINUES HER
SOUTH AMERICAN TRAVELS

My next excursion after the Amazon and the Galapagos (described in the September RAPS Sheet) was a trip at the end of April to Chile and Argentina. We flew overnight from Miami to Santiago, Chile, arriving early in the morning. We stayed in Santiago for four days, and, while we were there, we visited a small family-owned winery. I participated in an optional trip to Valparaiso, which is a very beautiful city by the ocean. We then flew to Puerto Montt and stayed in a small city called Puerto Varas which sits on one of the beautiful lakes in this region.

The next adventure took us on buses and boats, for 12 hours, wending our way around beautiful lakes and through the Andes Mountains. We stopped for lunch at a small inn in Peulla alongside the lake and in the midst of many volcanoes. We arrived in Bariloche in the late evening. Bariloche sits on one of the many lakes in the area; it reminds me a lot of Oregon with its mountains and lakes.

The next day we traveled to a Patagonian sheep ranch, where they showed how to shear sheep, and where they cooked a lamb over an open pit for our lunch. This area is where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid made their real-life last stand. In the Bariloche area there are many large salmon farms. We also visited a small local market where they sold many kinds of fish, including smoked or fresh salmon.

After leaving Bariloche, we flew to Buenos Aires where we stayed four nights. While there, we toured the city, had a Tango lesson, and went to a Tango show and dinner. While in Buenos Aires, some of our group ventured to Colonia, Uruguay, while the rest of us stayed in town and visited one of the largest crafts markets that I’ve seen.

Our hotel was centrally located and near shopping. We ate our fill of Argentine beef—prices were unbelievably low, a steak and French fries or salad costing less than $3. Wine was also inexpensive and quite good. In the restaurants you could purchase two bottles of wine for $10 — one to drink there and one to take along with you.

My next adventure is the Copper Canyon, in Mexico, in January. More about that later.

Barbara Wiegele

RAPS PROGRAMS -continued from page 3

Park. Like last year, the opponent we hosted was the Northern Colorado Bears, but this year it was a Big Sky conference game. It was an easy victory; the halftime score was 31-0, with a final tally of 45-3. PSU’s Vikings are off to a strong start with two conference wins, a closely fought but lost game with Montana, and a win over a Division I-A team. Our thanks go Teri Mariani, Interim Athletic Director, and the AD staff for providing complimentary tickets again this year.

Future events:

For November, our speaker will be Robert Donnelly, Ph.D. from PSU, currently teaching at Gonzaga University. He will address Portland’s corrupt period, “his dissertation was all about slot machines and crooked cops and dominating teamsters….” [C. White]. Please mark November 16, Thursday, 1:00 pm.

December Calendar: Our annual Holiday lunch party, December 21, Thursday, at the MAC.

Bob Tufts

LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR

This RAPS Sheet will probably appear somewhat later than usual. I try to get it out in time to give plenty of notice for upcoming activities. My effort has recently been made harder because the printer is now requiring more turn-around time. This month the problem has been compounded by a lot of activity in the Cooper household (daughter’s wedding, house guests, closing the purchase of some beach property), so I must apologize for the lateness of this issue.

As you know, I have asked to be replaced as editor at the end of the year. Let me encourage anyone who is considering applying for the job. Editing made me learn a new set of skills, and that turned out to be fun as well, of course, as a way of keeping my brain from rusting. It also gave me a chance to meet those extraordinary colleagues whom I have written up as “active retirees.” Even if you are only tentatively considering volunteering, please contact Mary Brannan or me.

John Cooper
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Mary Ricks, a former Vice President and President of RAPS, has had two distinct intellectual careers before and since her retirement in 1997. With a BA in English from Whitman, she worked her way up from Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Affairs to Director of Institutional Research and Planning, in which capacity she produced all those annual statistical portraits of PSU that were essential for planning the course of the University. A planner and statistician at the Chancellor’s Office remarked that, whenever they were puzzled about how to handle a particular statistical problem, they would see how Mary handled it, since she always did it correctly.

While working full-time for PSU, she also continued her education, earning a Master’s Degree in Educational Anthropology and then a Ph.D. in Systems Science: Anthropology, both from PSU. It was, she says, the training in statistics that she received while working for her M. A. that enabled her to prepare those annual portraits of the University. Her graduate education, however, also led to her second career as a working archaeologist.

She began taking Anthropology courses in 1969, at the encouragement of two anthropologists in her husband’s family. After completing six undergraduate anthropology courses, she entered the graduate program in Anthropology. She has worked each summer since 1974 as a volunteer for the Bureau of Land Management. For her Ph.D. dissertation, she did a statistical analysis of 117 rock art sites in the Warner Valley in Lake County, Oregon, producing photographs, drawings, and narrative on the art. That interest in native rock art continues to this day. Some of you may have seen the report on her work on the OPBS program, “Oregon Field Guide.”

Anthropologists working in the Great Basin generally assumed that rock art was part of religious or magical rites performed by shamans in secret places, or part of vision quest ceremonies performed in private. Data from the Warner Valley sites have shown that rock art there was likely to have been a part of everyday life of Native Americans in that region. It is generally found in locations where groups of people gathered in the winter on the shores of lowland lakes and streams, and in the summer where plant resources such as roots, berries and fruits were gathered and processed for consumption and storage. Rock art is found in areas that were in full view of campsites, homes, and other activity areas. In the Warner Valley rock art has been found sealed by a layer of primary volcanic ashfall from Mount Mazama (now Crater Lake). This provides a minimum date for this rock art of more than 7,000 years, so that it is some of the oldest rock art in North America.

Mary has a long list of publications in refereed journals, on both higher education and anthropology. She has also made presentations at scholarly archaeological conferences. Her photographs of Native American rock art have been exhibited at museums, including the High Desert Museum near Bend, and they are permanently on exhibit at the Lake County Museum. She has taken classes in watercolor painting in order to record better the rock art that she studies. She and Bill Cannon are co-authors of a chapter in a book that will appear in two months, “Contexts in the Analysis of Rock Art: Settlement and Rock Art in the Warner Valley, Oregon,” in Integrating Rock Art and Archaeology: Essays from the Northern Great Basin and Adjacent Areas on Rock Art’s Past and Present Cultural Contexts (University of Nevada Press).

Mary is concerned not only with the study of rock art but also its preservation. Much of it is protected by its remoteness in the high desert. At the same time, she insists that the meaning of this art is still obscure. There is evidence of population change in the area about 1500 years ago and perhaps again about 7000 years ago. She is properly skeptical about the many mutually contradictory hypotheses advanced to “read” the art.

Like many retirees, she and her husband travel, recently visiting Southeast Asia. They have just returned from Munich to visit their son who lives there and to meet their newest granddaughter. We are impressed by any academic who continues to produce scholarly work in retirement, but Doctor Ricks’s continued contribution to two quite disparate fields, Native American archaeology and research in higher education, is truly remarkable.
In 2004, President Bernstine endorsed the RAPS proposal to create “A Culture of Tradition” at Portland State that would promote the preservation and celebration of the University’s history. To this end, Geoff Wexler from the Oregon Historical Society studied the status of such efforts on campus and produced two reports in 2005: *A Report on the Current Status of Historical Documentation* and *A Guide for Campus Offices and Academic Departments*. His report noted that “historical documentation at PSU is fragmentary and lacking in coordination” and archival practices need to be expanded to establish a culture of tradition that will “assist Portland State University in honoring its heritage and shaping its future.”

Even though funds to implement the report’s recommendations have not as yet been realized, the RAPS Board decided to move ahead on historical preservation. PSU is making history every day but, with no systematic approach to preserving it, many records important to the university are lost or damaged. The RAPS and PSU History Preservation Committees therefore collaborated with the administration on a plan to use retired PSU faculty and staff to help the university preserve its history.

On May 1, 2006, Provost Roy Koch sent a request to all Academic Deans and their Associates to “join with me in providing leadership in initiating a History Preservation Project in the academic units,” adding “I look forward to your assistance and leadership in implementing this valuable project in your academic units.” All Deans were asked to meet with a RAPS representative and include as far as possible the chairs and directors of each academic unit. The Provost also asked that at least one current faculty member be identified to serve as the Historical Coordinator for each unit and as a liaison to RAPS.

Since the Spring of 2006, RAPS representatives Steve Brannan, Mary Gordon-Brannan, Roger Moseley, Gordon Solie, and Bruce Stern have held meetings on the Project with various of the academic deans and their historical coordinators. Meetings have been held with Dean Marvin Kaiser (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Nancy Koroloff, Historical Coordinator (School of Social Work), Dean Scott Dawson (School of Business Administration), Dean Robert Dryden (Masheeh College of Engineering and Computer Science), Dean Barbara Sestak (School of Fine and Performing Arts), Dean Larry Wallack (School of Urban and Public Affairs), and Dean Randy Hitz (Graduate School of Education). A similar meeting was also held with Helen Spalding, University Librarian, and her Archives Committee.

Overall, the Academic Deans and the Library’s Archives Team have offered strong support for the Project, recognizing this as an opportunity to involve faculty and staff. Several administrators have organized a Dean’s Committee on the Project, involving other key faculty and staff from their units. The meetings have revealed that some noteworthy historical preservation efforts are already underway. The School of Social Work has made great strides, with Nancy Koroloff serving as historical coordinator; the Graduate School of Education is considering moving from an ad hoc History Preservation/Celebration committee to a standing committee with emeriti and current faculty and staff members; the School of Fine and Performing Arts, with RAPS emeritus Professor Gordon Solie’s assistance, has made extensive contact with retired and current faculty in the Music Department; and the Library Archival Committee has developed an action plan to include the preservation of electronic information of historical significance.

To sum up, the RAPS sponsored History Preservation Project is off to a good start. The success of this Project is greatly strengthened by the efforts of retired and current faculty and staff to preserve and celebrate the history of PSU. RAPS needs assistance from its members, so please contact the RAPS Office or Committee members if you are interested in participating or have suggestions or information that might contribute to the Project’s success.

Steve Brannan
Bernard V. ("Barney") Burke, Emeritus Professor of History, born August 13, 1924, in Springfield, Massachusetts, died in Portland on June 7, 2006. After earning BA (1951), MA (1955) and PhD (1966) degrees in history at the University of Washington, Dr. Burke joined the history department faculty in 1967, at a time of University-wide rapid enrollment growth and program expansion. Almost immediately, he gained a reputation as a stimulating professor whose challenging classes were characterized by depth and substance.

During the decade prior to retirement in 1993, Professor Burke headed the history department as it added faculty whose specialties supported diversification of curricular offerings. While teaching a full course load, Barney pursued his longtime research interests in United States diplomatic history which led to his publishing a major book, *Ambassador Frederic Sackett and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic, 1930-1933* (Cambridge University Press) in both paper and hardback. Barney never lost sight of his lifelong scholarly objectives.

In retirement, Professor Burke taught one course each term and maintained his high reputation with students, who invariably gave him a standing ovation at its conclusion. Over the years, Barney had taught steadily even while he suffered through illnesses and survived cancer. On June 1 he met his regular class but fell ill and returned home during the break. He died on June 7, at age 81.

Professor Burke had followed a circuitous route to arrive at PSU. While living with his parents in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1942 at age 17 he joined the Navy. He served in the Pacific theatre on an aircraft carrier. He met his first spouse, Genevieve ("Chris") Christie, in California while she also served in the Navy. After marrying and returning to civilian life, the couple settled Seattle and began a family that eventually included five children. With the aid of the GI Bill, Barney enrolled in the University of Washington, supporting a growing family by working as a taxicab driver, newspaper worker, and teacher.

At Portland State, Barney soon became well known throughout the campus through involvement in important committee work and co-curricular activities. He chaired the Publications Board as it resolved several sensitive issues. As president of the AAUP, chapter he played a large role leading to the faculty’s vote to accept collective bargaining and selecting that organization as its agent. As a deeply committed sports enthusiast, he regularly attended athletic events of both men’s and women’s teams. In 1995 he co-chaired a special committee that recommended joining the Big Sky Conference, an action subsequently consummated by presidential action. Under his departmental chairmanship, the history scholarly honorary, Phi Alpha Theta, received support needed to reinvigorate its programs. Barney leaves a legacy of significant contributions to the history department and to the institution as a whole.


The *Oregonian* published an extensive biographic obituary ("That’s History, with a standing O") on June 18, 2006, and it is available at the Vanguard website.

Victor C. Dahl

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ERRETT EVERETT HUMMEL

Professor of Education, Errett Hummel, born March 17, 1913, in Marion, Indiana, died September 3, 2006, at his home in Roseburg. Professor Hummel graduated from Pacific University (BA 1933) and completed graduate education programs emphasizing school finance and services (MA 1938 and D.Ed 1951) at the University of
Oregon, which provided the foundation for his work in public school and university administration. After naval service during World War II, Errett finished his doctoral studies and resumed his educational administration career. He retired as Emeritus Professor of Education at PSU in 1976.

In 1950 Dean John F. Cramer of the Portland State Extension Center recruited Errett to be his administrative aide at the institution that evolved into this University. Early on, he assigned Dr. Hummel to draft a reorganization plan for developing a four-year, degree-granting college to meet the Portland metropolitan region’s burgeoning post-war higher education needs. As a returning veteran with extensive public school experience, Errett possessed special insights for carrying out this process.

In 1955 Cramer became president of the newly launched higher education enterprise, Portland State College, and retained Hummel as his primary administrative assistant. Errett then coordinated a senior faculty committee’s work drafting the institution’s initial faculty governance document. Dr. Cramer resigned his office in 1958 and, during the ensuing seven-month interim, three senior academicians—Dr. Hummel; John M. Swarthout, Dean of Faculty; and, John H. Stehn, Professor of Music—shared responsibilities for directing the institution during the presidential search and selection process. Their collaborative work, which concluded when Branford P. Millar, assumed the presidency in January, 1959, ensured a smooth transition into a new administration.

Errett continued as Professor of Education, overseeing instruction in administrative services. Throughout his professional service, he taught classes, attracting a wide student following, and he guided many educators into highly productive careers. Numerous professional honors and publications graced his career. State agencies often utilized his services as an educational consultant. In every respect, Professor Hummel played a significant role in the genesis of what has become Oregon’s largest higher educational institution.

On September 27, 2000, longtime retired colleagues—Alma Bingham, Ulrich Hardt, Maxine Thomas, and Barbara Wiegele—recorded an interview in which Errett provided a retrospective account of his experiences. Those personal recollections and commentary depict significant stages of PSU’s historical development. Arrangements to view the recorded interview may be made through the RAPS office.

Apart from his professional life, Errett energetically engaged in many community outreach undertakings, served as an officer in several church organizations, and participated in Masonic Lodge functions. He enjoyed gardening, fishing and many other outdoor activities with family and friends. Survivors include his beloved wife, Bonnie Hummel of Roseburg; daughter, Susan Kay Lester; son, Errett Hummel Jr.; nine grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Errett was preceded in death by wives Madeline Gallagher Hummel and Betty Anne Thompson Hummel.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mercy Hospice, Roseburg, Oregon.

Victor C. Dahl, with assistance from Steve A. Brannan and Barbara J. Wiegele