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RAPS Sheet, February 2015

Retirement Association of Portland State

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Retirement Association of Portland State

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Winter Term Office hours: Wednesday
and Friday, noon to 4pm, Thursday 9am-
5pm.

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Linda Benson to Discuss China's Muslim Challenge



On Thursday, February 19, 2015 Linda Benson, Professor Emerita of History at Oakland University in Michigan, will present her recent research on the Muslim challenge faced by China. Since 1949, China's government has sought to instill a sense of national unity among its minority populations. After 65 years, however, the Muslim Uighurs of the Xinjiang region remain wary, and recent years have seen an escalation in violent incidents pitting Han Chinese against the increasingly discontented Uighurs. Dr. Benson's presentation provides a brief account of the Uighur people, an overview of Chinese minority policy, and the on-going challenge to Beijing from its oil-rich but restive Xinjiang region.

An historian whose work focuses on modern China and Inner Asia, Dr. Benson received her M. Phil. from the University of Hong Kong and her Ph.D. from the University of Leeds, U.K. She is the author of *The Ili Rebellion: The Moslem Challenge to Chinese Authority in Xinjiang, 1944-1949*; *China's Last Nomads*; and *China Since 1949*, the third edition of which will appear in 2016. A long standing member of the Association for Asian Studies, she is a research associate with the University of Michigan's Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. The meeting will be in Room 333, Smith Memorial Student Union. A light lunch will be available at noon. Dr. Benson will speak at 1:00pm.

President's Message



Economist Tom Potiowsky's presentation on the Oregon economy was a huge success at our January membership meeting. He presented facts about Oregon's economy that pointed to a better financial picture in 2015. I, for one, am banking on that.

The future of RAPS is important and RAPS will thrive as new retirees join us to continue enjoying the fellowship they have experienced at PSU. We have diverse ways to be active within RAPS. Interest groups, including the Book Group, the Bridge Group, and the Hiking Group all welcome new members. Our committees, Social and Friendship, Scholarship, Awards, and History Preservation/Pictorial History Book are always looking for new members and new ideas. Our monthly membership meetings offer wide-ranging topics and interesting speakers. My aim as President is to make sure all faculty and staff retirees have an opportunity to stay involved in the life they have had at PSU. Retirement is a dynamic new stage in our lives, and we should enjoy it to the fullest.

--Priscilla Blumel

Please Save these Dates for Spring Events!

Thursday April 16, 2015 is the date of the President's annual luncheon for retired faculty and staff. The luncheon will be at noon at University Place, and will include lunch, a brief address from President Wiewel, and the presentation of the 2015 RAPS Awards (see the nomination form in this issue.) You should receive an invitation from the President's Office. If you do not, please call the RAPS Office (503-725-3447).

Sunday, May 3, 2015 from 2:00 until 5:00 pm a RAPS wine tasting will take place at Storyteller Wines in the Johns Landing area. This will benefit the RAPS Scholarship Fund. The March RAPS Sheet will include more details about both events.

--Eileen Brennan

RAPS Scholarship Fund

Gifts to the RAPS Scholarship Fund between December 15, 2014 and January 15 2015 were made by the following:

Barbara Alberty
and
The Robert W. Vogelsang Memorial Wine Raffle.

RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION OF PORTLAND STATE

RAPS AWARDS



The Awards Committee of RAPS is in the process of identifying and selecting candidates for the **OUTSTANDING RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS**. The RAPS Awards will be presented at the President's Luncheon for PSU faculty and staff retirees on April 16, 2015 at University Place, Portland State's educational conference center. Nominations for the awards are being solicited from RAPS members. A completed nomination form with documentation on the nominee should be submitted to the committee by Monday, March 6, 2015 (see reverse of this page.)

All Portland State University faculty and staff retirees are eligible for the award. Both members and non-members of RAPS will be considered.

Selection of the award recipients will be based on their noteworthy achievements since retirement *in at least three of the four following areas*:

- a) Service to the community
- b) Service to the university
- c) Professional/career achievements
- d) Service to RAPS

Again, these achievements **MUST BE POST-RETIREMENT**.

Award nominations will be reviewed by the RAPS Award Committee:

Chik Erzurumlu, Chair

Brian Lewis, Past Chair

Claudine Fisher

Douglas Swanson

Please take the time to think about your colleagues and their many achievements. You are in the best position to know and appreciate a colleague's accomplishments since retirement. Please forward your nomination SOON while you still have the thought in mind!

Please mail your completed nomination form by **March 6, 2015** to

Retirement Association of Portland State (RAPS)

Koinonia House

Portland State University

PO Box 751

Portland, OR 97207-0751

OUTSTANDING RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

2015 NOMINATION FORM

The Retirement Association of Portland State (RAPS) invites nominations for the annual **Outstanding Retired Faculty and Staff Awards**, which will be presented at the PSU President's Annual Luncheon on Thursday, April 16, 2015. The luncheon will be at University Place. Both members and non-members of RAPS are eligible for awards.

The Outstanding Retired and Staff Faculty Awards recognize and honor faculty and staff retirees of Portland State ***who have excelled in at least three of the four following areas since retirement***: a) service to the community, b) service to the university, c) professional/career achievements, and d) service to RAPS.

Nominee; _____ Faculty__ Staff__

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Title/Position/Department _____

If known: Degree(s): _____ Year(s): _____

Please provide written information on the nominee's notable achievements **post-retirement** in the areas listed below (*at least three of the four below*). Please be brief and limit responses to no more than one typed page for each factor mentioned.

A) Service to the community:

B) Service to the university:

C) Professional/career achievements:

D) Service to RAPS:

Nominated by: _____

Phone #: _____ email _____

If you have questions, please call Carissa Ponting, RAPS Office Manager, at 503-725-3447 or rapsmail@pdx.edu. Thank you for your nomination.

Nominations must be submitted by Monday, March 6, 2015 to:

**Retirement Association of Portland State (RAPS)
Koinonia House
Portland State University
P. O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207-0751**

RAPS GROUP REPORTS

The RAPS Book Group met at the Terdals' new home in Terwilliger Plaza on January 20 to discuss *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony and Graham Spence. It was a day of sunshine and blue sky, and as we met we looked out at a stunning view of Mount Hood. The group liked the book; we thought we learned some amazing things about elephants, and about attempts to protect the wild animals of Africa. Two of our members, Marge Terdal and Maxine Thomas, had been in Africa – Maxine for two years in the Peace Corps – and both brought pictures and artifacts to share.

On February 17, the book group will discuss *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. This is the account of a teen-ager caught in the rebellion in Sierra Leone in the 1990s, of his experiences as a child fleeing violence, as a soldier, and in a UNICEF rehabilitation center. Amazon has chosen it as one of the best books of 2014. Their website states "This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them." The book group will meet at the home of Maxine Thomas, 6535 SW Canyon Court, Portland. Contact her at 503-291-1279 or ondangwa@yahoo.com to RSVP and for directions.

In March, the group will meet at the home of Felicia Wirtz and will discuss *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin, advertised by Amazon as "historical fiction at its best." Booklist's review states "Coplin's mesmerizing debut stands out with its depictions of uniquely Western personalities and a stark, gorgeously realized landscape that will settle deeply into readers' bones." It should be interesting to read and to discuss.

--Joan Shireman

The RAPS Bridge Group will meet (or has already met) on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. We meet regularly on the first Tuesday of each month. Given the timing of the monthly RAPS Sheet, let me inform you of a couple of upcoming bridge sessions: March 3, 2015 and April 7, 2015.

We gather in the conference room of Friendly House's Anderson Building. This building is on the north side of Savier Street, just around the corner from the main entrance of Friendly House at 26th and Thurman. Playing begins at 1pm and continues to about 4:30pm.

We are friendly and are always looking for new players. If you wish to join us, please contact Steve Brennan at 503-646-6297. My email address is the.steve.brennan@gmail.com.

--Steve Brennan

The RAPS Hiking Group walked, on January 9, from the Chart House almost to the summit of Council Crest before returning to the chart House via the Marquam Nature Park and Terwilliger Boulevard. The group comprised Tom Hard, Sherry and Steve Salomon, Marge and Leif Terdal, Karen Vogelsang, Cilla Dieterich, and Larry Sawyer. The walk totaled about four miles. We saw many very expensive houses on our ascent. At lunch we had a great view of East Portland and Ross Island from the Chart House windows.

The Friday, February 13 hike will be the Mount Tabor hike from the *Portland Stairs* book. It will be four miles, with 270 ascending stairs and 358 descending stairs. The trail includes Mount Tabor Park. Photos from the January hike are on Page 6 of this issue.

--Larry Sawyer

Photos from the Hiking Group



Mount Hood from Marquam Hill



The Hiking Group at Lunch

-Photos by Larry Sawyer