RAPS wasn’t always RAPS, or even anything close. The forerunner, dubbed the Professors Club, was formed in the early 1960s by a group of senior academics. Professor Channing Briggs was the engine behind early efforts to develop a formal association of retired PSU faculty, and Professor John Elliot Allen did substantial groundwork to help form the association, which was originally named the Emeriti and Retired Faculty of Portland State (ERFOPS). By 1985, the name was changed to Retired & Emeriti Professors of Portland State (REPPS), and in 2001 to Retired Association of Portland State (RAPS), reflecting the inclusion of retired staff members.

Past Tense features glimpses into Portland State’s past. To submit a story (or an idea for one), email the RAPS History Preservation Committee at raps@pdx.edu. Word count should not exceed 100.
Educated at Harvard University, Willard B. Spalding came to the Portland State Extension Center in 1952 to lead Teacher Education after serving as superintendent of Portland Public Schools. By 1955 he was chair of the Education Division, overseeing the Education and Physical Education departments. With campus-wide faculty support, Spalding led the fight at the state level for Portland State to obtain certification and bachelor’s and master’s degree status in teacher education. His efforts opened the doors for parallel degrees in other academic areas at Portland State. Spalding was an outstanding teacher, administrator, and leader. These were Willard Spalding’s special gifts to the School of Education, Portland State University, and Oregon.

—Steve Brannan

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The School of Health and Human Performance’s origins begin with Vancouver Extension Center. In 1955, the Department of Health and Physical Education became part of the Division of Education. In 1966, the new Health and Physical Education Building opened, and in 1977 the department gained school status under Dean Lee Ragsdale. After Ragsdale’s retirement, Dean Jack Schendel continued to expand the school, and its name was changed in 1990 to the School of Health and Human Performance. In 1992 budget cuts forced closure of the school. The HPE building is now the Peter W. Stott Center. The school’s retired faculty and staff have developed a historical display that will honor this great school.

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