



The Fund for Science and Technology

Message from the Co-Chairs

This is the most recent in a series of conversations with Ms. Janet Perna '70 and Dr. William Pietraface, co-chairs of Visions ↔ Solutions: The Fund for Science and Technology.

What is new related to science and technology on campus?

Bill: I think it might be more appropriate to ask what is *not* new. The renovations to the Science Building I are complete, Milne Library's new Information Commons is up and running, and 10 new scholarships have already been established as a result of the Fund for Science and Technology. With these accomplishments to help us usher in a new academic year, my faculty colleagues and I are excited by the impact that the Fund for Science and Technology will have for our students.

Janet: The early progress we are experiencing through the Fund for Science and Technology speaks to how well our alumni understand the need to address opportunities related to science and technology at this time. I recently met with a number of our New York City area alumni to reflect on the overall progress that our College has experienced in recent years. From our conversations, it was clear that it is not only alumni who have noticed what an exceptional college Oneonta has become—prospective students, their families, teachers and counselors, and numerous national publications are now heralding the exceptional value of a public liberal arts education at Oneonta. As we continue to build the technological capacity of our campus and to enhance the ways our students think about the sciences, Oneonta's status as a leader in public higher education will only continue to rise.

So the Fund is taking shape?

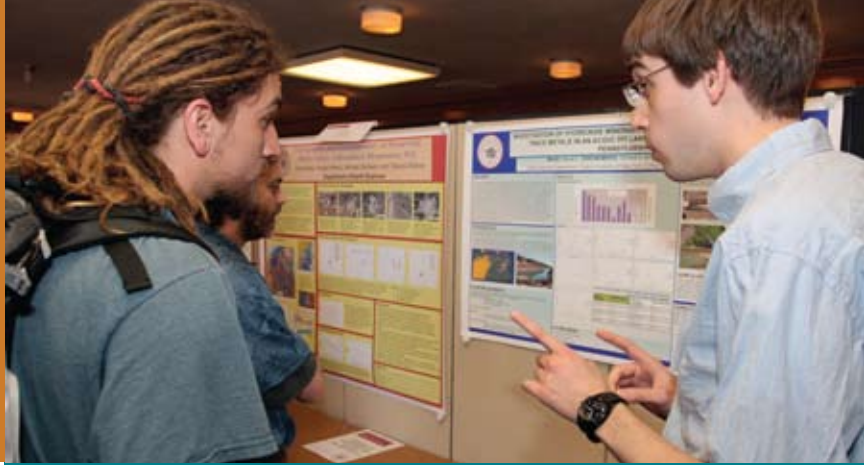
Bill: Absolutely. In the coming academic year, we will begin to see the impact of the Fund for Science and Technology. We will soon be expanding our work in the identification and acquisition of technologies to best support learning. Right now, there are many opportunities for people to help us to increase

the impact that the Fund will have in the future. Whether by contributing to a scholarship, supporting a designated science department fund, or through the major naming opportunities associated with the renovations to Science Building I, we can all play a role in this campaign's success.

Janet: From my perspective, one of the benefits of being an alumna of the College at Oneonta is that because our size—relative to other colleges and universities—and because of the personal relationships that our students and faculty are able to develop, Oneonta alumni know that the investments they make in our College have a real impact in the academic lives of students. As former students, we have seen the many important ways in which special contributions magnify the educational experience at Oneonta.

Are visitors to campus aware of the Fund for Science and Technology?

Bill: Alumni who have not been back to campus in several years are always amazed by how our College has transformed since they graduated. And yes, recently we have had many visitors to campus who have a growing awareness—and interest—in the changes underway at Oneonta. In fact, in his address during the College's 119th Commencement ceremony in May, SUNY Board of Trustees chairman Carl Hayden spoke to the ways in which technology plays a growing role in our lives. He said in part, "It is the paradox of technology that it makes us more connected—and interconnected—with people around the world, and yet has shown the effect of isolating us from our families, friends and neighbors." He went on to encourage students to remain active with family and friends and in their communities. I found these sentiments to be quite relevant to what we have set out to accomplish through the Fund for Science and Technology.



Students at Student Research Day discuss the results of their research.

Janet: I know just what Bill means. Although Oneonta's science and technology programming and capabilities will be elevated through this Fund, a primary reason for making these enhancements is to integrate fully an understanding of science and an exposure to technology into Oneonta's liberal arts education. In doing so, our students will be learning to use technology and scientific principles to supplement their academic, professional, and social pursuits as students—and later as leaders in their communities. I will be the first to say that technology should always be used as a tool to enhance and strengthen the relationships we have in our world, not to diminish them.

Bios:



Janet Perna '70 is the retired General Manager of Information Management Solutions—IBM Software Group and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Cognos Inc. and Delteck Inc. She resides in Stamford, CT, and Incline Village, NV.



Bill Pietraface is Professor and Chair of the Biology Department at the College at Oneonta. He is the Vice President of the College at Oneonta Foundation Board of Directors and Chair of the Advancement Committee.

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College Foundation Endowment Fuels Research

In the spring semester, Oneonta students and faculty presented projects in two research shows in March and April. Research, among both students and faculty, plays a growing role in the overall educational experience on college campuses across the country. For our faculty, it is one of the ways in which they distinguish themselves from their peers. For our students, research opportunities can translate to in-roads for graduate school and professional employment opportunities.



Professor Sven Anderson illustrates his digital painting techniques at the Faculty Research Show.

Funding for Oneonta's Faculty Research Show and Student Research Day—made possible through charitable gifts—comes in large part from the College at Oneonta Foundation's unrestricted endowment and is administered by the College's Grants Development Office.

The keynote speaker at the 2008 Student Research Day was Dr. Margie Clapper '80, the Director of Chemoprevention Research at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Clapper addressed a capacity crowd of student researchers, faculty, and community members for her talk, "Promising Strategies for the Prevention of Cancer," in the College's Morris Conference Center. In her opening comments, Dr. Clapper noted how the bonds she had developed with her professors at Oneonta—and the research experiences she had as a student here—were critical to her later success in both her doctoral studies and professional life. More than 500 students took part in Student Research Day as both presenters and attendees.

At the Faculty Research Show, Oneonta faculty members representing 29 academic departments and programs in collaborations with 17 outside institutions presented 62 programs, representing the work of 140 authors from the College at Oneonta and other universities.