

Message from the Co-Chairs

This is the first 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. We spoke with Janet and Bill about their roles in and visions for the College at Oneonta's most recent drive for academic excellence.

What motivated you to take this leadership role in establishing the *Fund for Science and Technology*, and why is this important to you?

Janet: As an alumna of the College and as a person who has had an exciting career in the field of science and technology, I was honored to be asked to co-chair *Visions↔Solutions...The Fund for Science and Technology*. As a student, the College provided me with an education that went well beyond the confines of my major. My exposure in college to the humanities, psychology, and international affairs served me well as I entered the business world of the 1970s. I think everyone will agree that today's students will be entering a much different world than that of the '70s—especially as it relates to science and technology. That is why the success of *The Fund for Science and Technology* is so important.

Bill: Janet is absolutely right. As a college, we have an obligation to do whatever it takes to best prepare our students for success in the future. Today that means giving our students a firm understanding of scientific principles and exposure to the growing applications of technology in our world. As the Chair of the Biology Department, I know that *Visions↔Solutions...The Fund for Science and Technology* will allow the College to build upon the strength of our science programs and to increase our offerings in science and technology to all of our students. Through this initiative, we will prepare not only students with majors in science and technology, but students from all disciplines, for success.

Why do you think the *Fund for Science and Technology* is so important at this time?

Janet: Simply put, there has never been a more appropriate time for the College to invest in these academic disciplines. As alumni and as donors, we have an obligation to ensure that the College and its students are prepared to take leading roles in a world in which science and technology play an ever-increasing role in so many daily applications, both personal and professional.

Bill: We need to act now to provide Oneonta's students with the experiences they will need for success in the future. Through capital investments from *Visions↔Solutions...The Fund for Science and Technology*, our students will have access to greatly improved scientific facilities, enhanced science and technology programs, and expanded opportunities for participation in student/faculty research.

Is there anything you would like to share before the next issue of *Reflections*?

Janet: As someone who attended the College at Oneonta, I know first-hand the high-quality educational experience that the College offers. Today we have a real opportunity to make sure that Oneonta's students are even more prepared for the changing world they will encounter upon graduation. Bill and I would like to thank each of you for your past support and your dedication to the College. I know that we can count on you as we move forward in our efforts to raise private funds for this very important initiative.

Bill: You will hear more from both Janet and me in the coming months—as we introduce the *Fund for Science and Technology*. We will be encouraging alumni to join us in this noble purpose to create outstanding educational opportunities to best prepare our students for life and work in the 21st century.



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.



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 its Advancement Committee.

Alumni Participation

What does it mean?

Alumni participation is the critical ratio—reflected as a percentage—used by publications like *US News & World Report* to measure alumni satisfaction when ranking colleges and universities. The figure is calculated by dividing the number of alumni donors by the number of alumni of record with current addresses. All gifts from Oneonta alumni, regardless of size, are critical to the continuing growth of the College's alumni participation rate.