



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*.

You recently met with some of today's students. What were your impressions?

Janet: Yes, late last fall I was back in Oneonta and had the opportunity to meet with a number of current students, including some very deserving scholarship recipients. We spoke about their educational experiences and opportunities available to them at the College, and we spoke about their dreams and aspirations for the future and how the scholarships they are receiving are helping them achieve their educational goals.

I must tell you, I could not be more impressed with the caliber of students that we have attending SUNY Oneonta today. They have already accomplished a great deal, and they are learning with and utilizing the many forms of technology at the College. These students recognize how competitive the world that they will face upon graduation will be.

Bill: My colleagues in the Biology Department, and campuswide, can attest to the fact that today's students are among the brightest and most eager to learn that we have ever had in our classrooms. As Janet alluded to, our students are avid users of the many technologies available to them today. While they do indeed have greater exposure to technology than the generations that came before them, we have a responsibility to help them relate and apply these technologies to the knowledge and experiences they have inside and outside the classroom here.

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Why are investments in The Fund so important?

Janet: As co-chairs of *The Fund for Science and Technology*, we feel strongly about our efforts to assure that SUNY Oneonta remains a vibrant public college, one that continues to attract talented, motivated, and capable students and prepares them to be leaders in the world. The competition to attract and retain top students and faculty is becoming more and more intense as colleges, universities, and employers recognize that science-literate individuals will be an important aspect of any successes in the years to come.

To ensure that SUNY Oneonta—and our students—remain in a position to excel, charitable investments in *The Fund for Science and Technology* are essential. This is why we are asking alumni and friends to join us to provide the resources neces-

sary to expand scholarship opportunities in science and technology and to build on and develop the strength of our science and technology programs—to benefit not only science and technology majors, but all of our students.

Bill: Yes, while *Visions↔Solutions* is the first fund-raising initiative in SUNY Oneonta's history to focus on specific disciplines, its ultimate impact will be felt by all of our students. And I agree completely; it is no exaggeration to say that regardless of occupation, to succeed in the world of tomorrow, SUNY Oneonta must prepare our students to be smart, science-literate thinkers.

In addition to providing greater opportunities for scholarships, *The Fund for Science and Technology* will allow us to more fully integrate science and technology as part of a liberal arts education.

Please make your gift to *Visions↔Solutions: The Fund for Science and Technology* by visiting www.oneontaalumni.com/giving

Alumna Receives Steady Income, Assists Students With Gift



When Marylin Ripperger Searby '51 thinks of the College at Oneonta, she remembers fondly Freshman Camp, Mr. Budd, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Delaney, and her

sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha. She also has a deep feeling of gratitude toward the College for her successful teaching career on Long Island and her fulfilling retirement in North Carolina with her husband, Arthur.

This fondness and gratitude are why Marylin established a charitable gift annuity with the College at Oneonta Foundation. As a result of her gift, she receives fixed, guaranteed payments for her lifetime and an income tax deduction in the year she made the gift. Because of her desire to help our students who have financial need, Marylin directed that the funds remaining in her annuity after her passing go to the College at Oneonta Foundation Scholarship fund.

Marylin feels wonderful about her gift. "Throughout my life, I have so often thought how well things are going, both during my teaching career and now in retirement. All this is because of the College at Oneonta and the wonderful education I received there. My charitable gift annuity was a way for me to pay back."

For more information on charitable gift annuities, please contact Ellen M. Blaisdell, Director of Gift Planning, at (607) 436-2781 or via e-mail to blaisdem@oneonta.edu, or visit our gift planning website at www.oneonta.edu/giftplanning.

Do you feel the message is resonating?

Janet: Have no doubt: The strong support we have had to date for *The Fund for Science and Technology* is proof that our graduates and friends recognize the need to make a substantial investment in science and technology to keep SUNY Oneonta strong. I offer my sincere thanks to each of you who has already shown your support of *The Fund* through your gifts. As alumni we have a unique opportunity to build a bright future for our College by making charitable investments in science and technology today.

Bill: As many of our graduates know, SUNY Oneonta has been rising steadily in the ranks of top-tier colleges and universities for many years. Today our College is nationally recognized for the

quality and value of the education we make available to our students. It is no coincidence that SUNY Oneonta's rise in stature and reputation has occurred during a period in which our College has received broad-based financial support from our alumni and friends. I feel that our graduates can be very proud of the positive impact that their past gifts have had on their College.

Today, to ensure that SUNY Oneonta continues to rise—and even more importantly continues to provide a full and rich educational experience, one that prepares our students for future success—we ask you to join us in making a gift to *The Fund for Science and Technology*. Your gift is an investment not only in our College but in the students of today and tomorrow.



Janet Perna '70 is a retired General Manager of Information Management Solutions—IBM Software Group and currently serves on the Board of Directors of

The College at Oneonta Foundation, Deltek Inc., Acresto Software, and Georgian Partners. She resides in Stamford, CT. and Incline Village, NV.



Bill Pietrafaccia is a Professor and Chair of the Biology Department at SUNY Oneonta. He is Past President of the College at Oneonta Foundation Board of Directors.