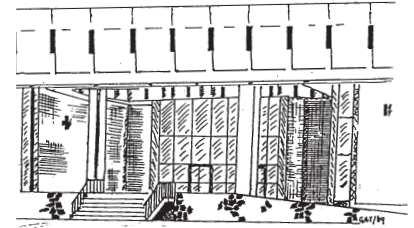
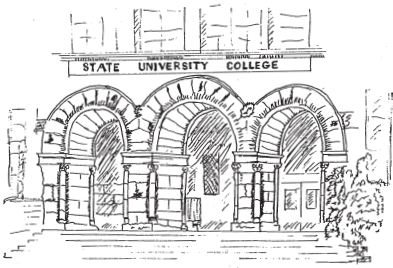


RETIRED FACULTY, PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 32

2019

NEW RETIREES

Congratulations to the following faculty and professionals of SUNY Oneonta who retired from August 2018 to September 2019: **Christine Barnes** from Chemistry and Biochemistry, **Jerome Blechman** from Earth and Atmosphere, **Carol Dean** from Secondary Education, **Deirdre Dibble** and **David Stanley** from SICAS, **Mary Ann Dowdell** from Human Ecology, **Jane Henry** from OEAFE, **Annemarie Hosnedl** from Student Learning Center, **Cynthia Lassonde** from Elementary Education and Reading, **Kamala Mahanta** from Physics/Astronomy, **James McDermott** from English, **Lori Mongillo** from Accounting, **Barbara Sanders** from the Health Center, **Lisa Wenck** from Employee Services/HR, and **Chi Cung David Yen** from Management, Marketing and Information Systems. We hope you will participate in our Retired Faculty, Professionals and Administrators Association (RFPAA).

PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2019-2020

(Details and reservation instructions, if needed, will be made available prior to event)

- * Spring Luncheon and Program
- * Annual Meeting and Election of Officers Luncheon

RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRESIDENT MORRIS

On Thursday, May 30th, a reception arranged by **President Dick Burr** and hosted by the new SUNY Oneonta **President Barbara Jean Morris** was held for retired faculty, professionals and administrators. The reception was held at the Welcome Center from 4–6 PM and provided the opportunity to meet and get to know the new president.



President Morris

SUMMER TEA

President Dick Burr and **Vice President Loraine Tyler** planned a summer tea which was held at the Welcome Center for faculty, professional and administrative retirees and spouses on July 17 from 2–4 PM. **Karen Brown**, Executive Director of Admissions, presented the program informing us of her duties and on the “Class Profile for 2018–2019”. Undergraduate enrollment was 5,828 (60% female and 40% male) with 3,530 living on campus. The student to faculty ratio was 17:1 and average class size was 24. The total cost for instate students’ tuition, room and board, and fees was \$21,625 and for out of state students was \$31,405. More than 90% of SUNY Oneonta students received financial assistance. Over \$7.5 million in institutional and foundation scholarships were awarded for 2017–2018 and there was nearly \$7,000 less debt per graduate than the national average. The freshman class enrollment was 1,340 and 13,500 applications were received. First generation students totaled 33.7%; the multicultural population was 29.4%; and eleven states were represented in the student population. The high school GPA mean was 90.6; the SAT Mean was 1135 and the ACT Mean was 23. There were over 150 clubs and organizations, over 1000 study abroad opportunities and 21 NCAA Division III teams.



Karen Brown

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers was held after the presentation at the summer tea. The following slate of officers was offered by **Bill Benedict** and approved by those present: President - **Nelson DuBois**, Vice President - **Loraine Tyler**, Secretary - **Bill Benedict**, and Board Directors - **Vincent Foti** and **Jane Miller**. Continuing Directors are **Arleen Benedict**, **Alison Black**, and **Muriel Beattie**. Thank you to **Dick Burr** for serving faithfully as President for several years and to **J. Taylor Hollist** for serving as a Director and Vice President also for several years.

FALL 2019 LUNCHEON AND TOUR

On October 10th thirty-four retirees, spouses and guests attended our annual fall luncheon put on by **Oscar Oberkircher** and students from his Restaurant and Catering class and coordinated by Secretary **Bill Benedict**. The theme was "Sumptin' Cornys Going On" with the menu including, among other items, corn chowder, black bean and corn salad, and corn fritters. The servers were dressed in country western attire; corn stalks were incorporated with the room decorations; corn colored napkins were used; and background country western music was playing softly. The students definitely had fun planning and decorating for the luncheon.



Ed Pixley, Fran Bliven, Nancy Heldman, Marjorie and Frank O'Mara



Jeri Anne Jerminario, Kathy Paranya, Will Settle, Mary Ann Dowdell



Kitchen Crew



Oscar Oberkircher and Nelson DuBois



Hostess and Servers

After the luncheon ten attendees ventured up to the Martin-Mullen Art Gallery in the Fine Arts Building to see the “The Land On Which We Gather” exhibit. The exhibit featured over forty art pieces created by living New York State Native Americans and was gathered and mounted by **Tim Sheesley**, Gallery Director. His gallery intern, **Alexandria Cimmino**, a senior Digital and Studio Art major, conducted our tour of the exhibit, and hopes to earn a Masters in Museum Studies. The exhibit consisted of varied art media including beadwork, watercolor, oil and acrylic paintings, sculpture, mixed media sculpture, masks, a video and stills from the video. This exhibition was sponsored by **Jean Parish**, an honorary faculty member, and was presented in celebration of the inauguration of **President Dr. Barbara Jean Morris**.



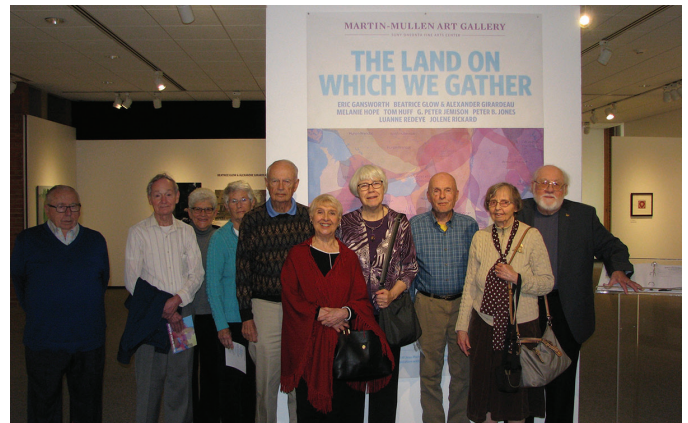
Tour group led by Alexandria

NEWS FROM COLLEAGUES

Paul Baumann (Oneonta)

“The last two years have been interesting and challenging. **Barb** and I have a second home in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Southern Colorado where we spend our summers and early falls. Oneonta remains our primary home. On June 27, 2018 we received a reversed 911 call telling us to evacuate our home because a forest fire was on its way. Our home is on a dirt road 8.5 miles from a paved highway. By the time we were 6 miles down the dirt road we could see the fire coming over the ridge. We spent the next 13 days in a hotel waiting to find out the status of our home. Due to the outstanding efforts of some unknown firefighters our home survived with minor exterior damage but 134 of our neighbors and friends totally lost their homes. Over 1800 firefighters fought the fire and before the fire was fully contained more than 108,000 acres were burnt, the third largest forest fire in the history of Colorado. Our home was repaired and we spent the remaining summer and fall in it.

This year, 2019, we have been dealing with black mud slides. The forest floor is covered with thick black ash from the burnt trees. With little vegetation on the forest floor a rapid winter snow melt down and some heavy summer rainstorms the ash has been washing down the mountain slopes creating mud slides. These slides coat the roads and the open flat land with slippery muck. Fortunately new vegetation has been able to grow back in many areas to help control this situation. Unfortunately, this black muck has polluted and changed the courses of streams. This year our efforts have been centered on controlling the flow of water. Who knows what next year will bring? We still have a great number of burnt trees that need to be removed. Does anyone have a good chainsaw and would be willing to work at 9,000 feet in elevation?



Frank O'Mara, Will Settle, Marjorie O'Mara, Gail and Nelson DuBois, Nancy Heldman, Katherine Paranya, Paul Conway, Arleen and Bill Benedict

We hope that everyone else is enjoying their retirement years. We are!”

Edith Davidson (Oneonta)

“I am enjoying my 95th year—‘doing’ literature, of course. Carolyn Wolf-Gould and I have been ‘doing it’ together for over 15+ years now, every Tuesday afternoon 1:30–3:00 PM. We started out with the Bible, then did all the plays of Shakespeare, the Greek epics, and the Aeneid. Right now, we’re in the middle of Dante, translated by Pinsky, on audio. Today we did Canto XXX (the end of Inferno) today. On to Purgatorio next week.

I am also typing up some of the many long amazing auto trips that **Loren** and I took.

1. Our 1962 (camping) trip from Turkey (where Loren and I had taught for three years), up through Europe to England before returning to the U.S. with my mother (70), and the 3 children we had at that time Tina (8yrs), Eva (2yrs), and Scott (8 mo. Old at the beginning of the trip).

2. A trip from Chile (where Loren had taught for a year and a half), up along the western coast of South America in 1976, through to Mexico and then up to Pittsburgh (where Loren taught at Duquesne) and back across to Oneonta, where, of course, I taught at SUCO.
3. A tourist trip by train, bus, and air across China and up to Tibet, and down the Yangtze River with my son Scott. If Scott hadn't come, I would have taken the trip alone and perhaps not survived, as we had 2 life-threatening incidents where Scott was needed to defend me (and himself) from being harmed. Thus we were able to have wonderful trip.

To mention only one situation—in the 2nd trip, the one from Chile up through South America: when we reached the border of Chile we drove high up onto the 'Alti Plano' in the Andes. In my guide book, I had read that there was 'a road of sorts up across the mountains to Bolivia', and we were told that the Toyotas and the oil trucks come down that trip every day. However, while going up, we did not see a single truck or car. And as evening came on, our car got stuck on a very empty plain, where no people or houses or vehicles or people could be seen. Loren set off toward where we knew there was a little town quite far from where we were. It was very dark, and I could see absolutely nothing. While we waited for him to come back, however, the children and I saw a long display of a light over to the left in the night sky, not very far up off the plain. I took it for a UFO, as I couldn't think of any other explanation. It certainly wasn't an airplane—much too large for that, and it didn't seem to be moving like a vehicle, but was just hanging there, not going away. If it was moving, it certainly wasn't fast, nor jiggling, like the headlights on a car. It certainly was a UFO (its true meaning) above us in the night sky, lasting quite a time. When Loren finally got back, it was still there, and he, too, saw it. Then we fell asleep.

When we woke up, we saw that there was nothing there—no mountains, no houses, trees—just the plain stretched out as far as we could see...only the road that took a left turn near the horizon toward the little town that Loren had paced through, unable even to have seen anyone, with whom—had there been something—he couldn't have spoken with, as he didn't know either the language spoken there, nor Spanish; however, he hoped that would have expressed the need and pointed the way. But he met nor saw anyone.

When I got back home to the U.S., I looked up "UFO over Peru" and found an article online, that other people had also seen them."

P. Jay Fleisher (Oneonta)

"Retirement - everyone does it to fit their own style. For some it's a complete change of pace through projects we never had time for before. Such as the Chemistry professor who became a first rate photographer, the philosopher who now runs a soup kitchen or the Journalism prof who now writes poetry. Be what it may, it should be rewarding, gratifying and enjoyable. As the Late Life Planner told a group of retired CEO's, 'if there was anything you ever wanted to do, what are you waiting for?' For me, retirement has been the best sabbatical leave I've ever had, and I don't have to summarize for the Dean. I would hope that everyone takes into retirement a fresh start on something they have always wanted to do now that they are free from the formal structured life that academia demands—8 AM classes, committee meeting, grading exams, etc., etc. Let's face it, although we all had the best possible job (being paid to learn), there should be something for everyone at the end of their particular rainbow. Make it happen and make it look easy."

Richard Johnson (Oneonta)

"A change of address for **Harriet** and me. We are at The Plains now... at 163 Heritage Circle, Apt. 100. Oneonta, NY 13820-2692. Have a good autumn."

John Kotz (Kiawah Island, South Carolina)

"Jack and **Katie Kotz** are still living on Kiawah Island, South Carolina where they are busy in community affairs and Jack spends a great deal of time photographing the abundant wildlife and beautiful landscape. In August they came to Oneonta and Cooperstown to visit friends and the opera and then spent time in the Adirondacks. In March they were on a National Geographic photo expedition cruise in the Baja and in October took a cruise from Malta to Athens. In September Jack also attended his 60th college reunion at Washington and Lee University (while also avoiding a hurricane). As noted we came to Oneonta in mid-August and enjoyed seeing old friends. Of course we found that everyone has aged but us. We spent time with the **Donovan's, Bruce Knauer, Joe and Pam Tausta, and Jay Fleisher**. We also thought the campus looked wonderful. Katie and I had time to wander around a bit and see the remodeled chem/physics building as well as the other new buildings."

Ashok Malhotra (Oneonta)

"Celebration of Gandhi's Birthday on October 2: Gandhi is famous for his non-violent way to solve the major human problems including political, social and personal. He was also a practical idealist, who believed and practiced certain maxims such as 'Let your life be your Message'

and 'Be the Change you want to see in other people.' He offered simple and practical solutions to some of the major global problems.

My own life has been guided by Gandhi's two books on 'My Experiments with Truth' and 'Translation of the Bhagavad Gita' as well as his numerous speeches. I adopted Gandhi's belief that Illiteracy was one of the ten major problems facing humanity. However, it could be solved in our life time. He offered the practical formula of 'Each One Teach One.' When each literate teaches an illiterate one, we can solve the problem of illiteracy globally. To guide my personal and professional life, I adopted the Gandhian formula of 'Each One Teach One' and applied it to solve the problem of illiteracy in India. With a population of 1.2 billion, India has 800 million literate and 400 million illiterate people. If each literate taught an illiterate, it could bring 100% literacy in India during our lifetime. Guided by the Gandhi's practical formula, we set up the Ninash Foundation (www.ninash.org), a 501 (c)(3) charity to promote literacy among the female and minority children in India. Since 1996, with the help of 300 US students and faculty, we have raised funds and built seven schools educating more than 1800 underprivileged children in four remote villages of India. Because of our success, we believe that this Gandhian model can be adopted to wipe out illiteracy globally during our life time."

FROM THE ONEONTA DAILY STAR

Jerome, Erin. "Cooperstown nursing home salutes veterans". The Daily Star. Nov. 10 & 11, 2018 front page A1 & A2. "**Betty and Ernest Goodman**, 90 and 95, met when they were serving in the British Army in the same war. Betty said that Ernest had nearly lost his arm, and the two met at a concert honoring brave soldiers. She also saw battle and served at the same time as her father. ... The couple has been married 70 years; Betty credited the longevity with sharing what you have through good and bad times."

MORE NEWS ABOUT COLLEAGUES

Several members have acted as facilitators for classes and/or served on standing committees for CCAL (Center for Continuing Adult Learning) this year including **Steve Berman, Frances Bliven, Elaine Downing, Dorothy Scott Fielder, Douglas Fielder, Shirley Fioravanti, P. Jay Fleisher, Michele Gardner, Steve Gilbert, Patricia Gourlay, Marilyn Helterline, Ernest Mahlke, Heide Seaman Mahlke, Jane Miller, Spike Paranaya, Harry Pence, Bill Pietraface, Marjorie Pietraface, Janet Potter, and Sue Smith.**

CELEBRATIONS

Nancy Cannon and **Bill Simons** were married on July 14, 2019 in Lynn, Massachusetts, at Red Rock Park, a rocky outcrop on the Atlantic Ocean. They explored the Thousand Islands and Ontario following their nuptials.

Ron and **Joanne Feldstein** celebrated their 50th anniversary. They were married on July 12 near Buffalo. A celebration at the Oneonta Country Club was planned.

Loraine and **Rich Tyler** also celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 4th with a special Mass at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Oneonta. A trip to Australia and New Zealand is planned for February.

OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website at oneonta.edu/rfpa to find our association's calendar of events, executive board listed, constitution and newsletter.

UPDATING THE DIRECTORY AND MEMBERSHIP LIST

The directory and mailing list for our organization's membership will be continuously updated as **Christina Miller** is notified of changes. If you need to have your principle address, telephone number or email address updated or removed from the membership list, please notify Christina Miller, President's Office, SUNY Oneonta, 108 Ravine Parkway, Oneonta, NY 13820, or Christina.Miller@oneonta.edu or, 607.436.2748.

THANK YOU!

The Board would like to thank the many people who help our organization to function. First of all, we want to thank **President Barbara Jean Morris** and **Colleen Brannan**, Chief of Staff, for their support; **Christina Miller**, Secretary in the President's Office, for keeping our membership list up-to-date and seeing that our notices and newsletters are made available; and **Jennifer Smith** and **Ian Lascell** from the Office of Communication and Marketing for seeing that the newsletter is formatted and on the website. We appreciate their help in making our organization possible.

IN MEMORIUM

Donald Axtell - Physical Education - December 10, 2019

Nicholas Barberio - Education - October 22, 2018

David Denny - Education - August 6, 2019

Graham Duncan - English - February 6, 2019

Catherine Gallagher - Education - May 31, 2019

Donald Hill - Anthropology - December 30, 2018

Kenneth Kellerhouse - Education - September 22, 2019

Carl Meacham - Political Science - September 2, 2018

Kathryn Pixley - Writing Center - January 9, 2019

Roger Sullivan - Admissions Director - January 4, 2019

Albert Read - Physics - June 29, 2019

Florence White - Home Economics - March 30, 2019

FAMILY MEMBERS

Maria Devlin - October 19, 2019

Barbara Means - January 13, 2019

Note: As we have no official or systematic way to obtain information about the death of retirees and their families, the list above may be incomplete. If you know of any recently deceased, please notify Christina Miller (address in "Updating the Directory" article).

RETIRED FACULTY, PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION 2019-2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: **Nelson Du Bois**

Secretary: **William Benedict**

Directors: **Muriel Beattie, Arleen Benedict, Alison Black**

Vice President: **Loraine Tyler**

Newsletter Editor: **Arleen Benedict**