Welcome and Congratulations!
We welcome the following new retirees to the Retired Faculty, Professional and Administrators Association: William Lawrence Armstrong from Chemistry, Robert Barstow from Music, Donna Chase from College Advancement, Deborah Farro-Lynd and Dennis Higgins from Mathematics, Computer Science & Statistics, Patrick Meanor from English, Jeanne Miller and Steven Perry from Student Development, and Peter Shea from Budget. We wish you happiness and good health in your retirement.

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

- June 10, 2016 – Annual Meeting and Luncheon with President Kleniewski’s Campus Update
  – College Camp, 12 noon

Renaming of Science Discovery Center
On March 26, 2015 in the Otsego Grill of Morris Hall, the Division of College Advancement and the School of Natural and Mathematical Sciences hosted a dedication ceremony and celebration to rename the Science Discovery Center as The A.J. Read Science Discovery Center. Albert Read, a retired faculty member, was happy to be able to witness the renaming of the Center with the comment, “I’m grateful for the recognition but grateful to hear it wasn’t being renamed The A.J. Read Memorial Center.” He also added, “…quite a few people I recall working with have done as much or more.” Al was the founding force in establishing the Center twenty-five years ago and his philanthropic contributions to the college have helped endow the center’s operation and fund the new A.J. Read Scholarship for Science and Science Education Students.

Cary Brush Memorial
On December 12, 2014 a memorial service for Dr. Cary Brush, which was held in Craven Lounge, was well attended by SUNY retirees, present faculty and staff, and community friends and neighbors of Dr. Brush. Comments honoring and remembering Dr. Brush were given by President Kleniewski, Vincent Foti, Alan Donovan, David Brenner, Ernest Goodman, William Simons, and Francis O’Mara. Music was also part of the service with “You Raise Me Up” sung by student Eliza Shillieto. Guitarists Mark Pawkett and Russell Somer provided music during the reception.
An Added Tribute to Dr. Carey Brush

The following are some thoughts and readings compiled by Dr. H. Laverne Thomas, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, which were intended to be read by him at Dr. Carey Brush’s memorial service. Because of an inadvertent error, the following was not included in the ceremony. Dr. Thomas’ well-written thoughts, added to the excerpts he chose to include, should be shared with those who knew Dr. Brush as they are appropriate for the remembrance and capture the essence of his character.”

—Vincent Foti

“I invite you to join in time of quiet reflection, contemplation, or meditation on our memories of Cary as I share with you some thoughts and readings. Mysteries of space and time, of the finite and the infinite, of the awesome power, energy and extent of the universe; of our seeming insignificance in the face of the universe; of our real significance on a human scale among those we care for and care about…

Hear these words on life and death:
‘Farewell - Rabindranath Tagore
I have got my leave. Bid me farewell, my brothers!
I bow to you all and take my departure.
Here I give back the keys of my door
—and I give up all claims to my house.
I only ask for last kind words from you.
We were neighbors for long,
but I received more than I could give.
Now the day has dawned
and the lamp that lit my dark corner is out.
A summons has come and I am ready for my journey.’

And exempted from an unknown author:
‘Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end…
So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?
What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not what you got, but what you gave.
What will matter is not your success, but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.
What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others.
What will matter is not your competence, but your character.
What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you’re gone.
What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.’

We remember and give thanks for the life of Carey Brush, a life that mattered.

SO BE IT, AMEN”

—H. Laverne Thomas

Vince Foti speaking at the Carey Brush Memorial
Photo credit: Ian Austin, Hometown Oneonta

Joe Fodero reading a plaque commemorating the life of Carey Brush.
Photo credit: Ian Austin, Hometown Oneonta
Carey W. Brush Memorial
December 12, 2014

Thanks to Jim Kevlin, editor of Hometown Oneonta, for use of photos by Ian Austin
2015 College Camp Luncheon & Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, June 3, RFPAA Vice President, Taylor Hollist, organized a buffet luncheon at the college camp which was attended by twenty-seven retirees. President Nancy Kleniewski gave us an update on the state of the college after the luncheon.

She reported on new academic areas that have been implemented or are proposed. For the undergraduates there is a Biochemistry program available and a Health and Fitness program proposed. On the graduate level, the Cooperstown Graduate Program will offer a Science Museum major, in addition to the present History Museum major. In Education there are plans for an online program in Literacy as well as English as a Second Language.

As to admissions there will be about 6,000 students admitted which is a small rise in number from before. Hillside Commons private living facility is in competition with the college housing and there are some empty beds in the dorms. The college is refreshing the halls and adding entertainment centers. In Higgins Hall those over twenty-one will be able to have alcohol on a trial basis.

The new Vice President for Student Development is Frank Chambers from Compton State, which historically is an African American college. Our Provost Maria Thompson by coincidence is leaving for Compton State. This is a challenging time for leadership with Paul Adamo being the only holdover from the Donovan administration. Under new positions the college hired a Chief Diversity Officer, Terence Mitchell, who will be a member of the cabinet and will be overseeing multi-cultural, LGBT, and foreign student transfers. A Chief Enrollment Officer has also been hired. The college can not rely only on undergraduates because the number of eighteen-year-old students has been in decline since 2009. The plan is to attract and add more graduate, transfer, and full-time foreign students.

These changes are being made also because the state will not be giving the college any more money and the administration does not want to shrink staff. The New Strategy Plan is all about students. The plan is to graduate them in four years or near with limited debt. They will no longer be able to receive aid after they have 122 credits and a major. Eighty percent of our students receive financial aid.

The President ended her talk by giving us the opportunity to request her to bring anyone else from her management team to also speak next year. She then opened the floor to questions.

Lorraine Tyler asked how was the Five School Structure going. The answer was that it is working and is now complete. All of the five deans have now been hired for the schools of Education and Human Ecology, Economics and Business, Natural and Mathematical Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Social Sciences. The five new deans are from outside and will bring new ideas and challenges.

Paul Koehn asked what would be Dr. Brush’s memorial at the college. The answer was that according to SUNY policy the college has to receive a significant donation to name a building or room after someone. As to Dr. Carey Brush, there was a memorial service at the college, a scholarship started in his name, and his picture and a commemorative plaque placed in the Alden Room of Milne library.

Dick Burr asked how much was given on the Day of Giving. The answer was in the neighborhood of $125,000.00 and the 125th Year Campaign raised over $13.5 million in four years. The endowment value was $51.5 million, which is the most of all the SUNY schools. (According to the Fall 2015 Reflections it is now up to $52.4 Million.)

Lorraine Tyler then asked if the Welcome Center was still in the plans. The answer was that it is scheduled to be located behind Fine Arts on top of the hill or across the street in the present parking lot. The president added that more student services were planned for the Student Union by erecting a separate building for OAS offices and the bookstore behind the Union. Also the softball fields would be upgraded to parity with dugouts, bleachers and a toilet. Artificial turf was going to be installed at the soccer field and replaced on the field hockey field.
Tour of Fitzelle Hall
October 9, 2014
Photos by Doug Fielder and Arleen Benedict
Election of Officers
The following slate for the officers of the RFPAA Board comprising of Richard Burr for President, J. Taylor Hollist for Vice President, William Benedict for Secretary, and P. Jay Fleischer and Nelson DuBois for two year terms as Directors was approved at the annual meeting.

A Message from the Director of the Office of Alumni Engagement
Despite our name, the Office of Alumni Engagement doesn’t only offer programs to graduates of SUNY Oneonta. Our programs are geared toward anyone who has a connection to SUNY Oneonta—and your participation is a key component of the success of our events. Coming up this year:

- October 22: Fall Alumni Luncheon - Oneonta
- October 23: Backpacks to Briefcases Networking Reception—NYC
- December 1: The Battle on the Hill, Oneonta vs. Hartwick in basketball—Oneonta
- December 18: Dinner and The Nutcracker Ballet—Oneonta
- January 8: Alumni New Year Social—NYC
- January 30 - Battle of the Red Dragons, Oneonta vs. Cortland in basketball —Oneonta

For more information about these events or to view the most up-to-date event information, visit our website at oneontaalumni.com or contact our office at 436-2526. We’d love to see you!

—Laura Madelone Lincoln

2015 Fall Luncheon
Thirty retirees, spouses and guests enjoyed the Fall Luncheon on October 8, which was organized by Secretary William Benedict and Arleen Benedict. Neder Land and American dishes made up the delicious foods prepared by Oscar Oberkircher’s Restaurant and Catering Class. Tom Rathbone brought the diners up-to-date on the plans for improvements and construction on the college campus. Some of the retirees took the tour led by Tom of the third floor renovation above the library entrance. Large windows were installed around the overhang to let in warming light and an outstanding view. Electrical outlets were installed around the overhang where students were quietly and busily using all of the charging station study areas.

News From and About Colleagues
The Oneonta Rotary honored 50-year members David Brenner, Boyce Rogers and Laverne Thomas (all of Oneonta) on June 25, 2015.


In August, The Glimmerglass Opera Guild held a special dinner to celebrate Guild members who had served the opera for 25 years or more. Among the honorees were Fran Bliven (Oneonta) and SUNY Oneonta faculty wives Gwen Ermlich (Cooperstown) and Carol Robbins (Oneonta).

Peter Macris (Suffield, CT), a “founding father” of The Glimmerglass Opera Company, was on hand for the 40th Anniversary concert and dinner.

Recently, a Scholarship was created and named in honor of Lawrence T. Guzy (Oneonta). Over $30,000 was raised last year and was given to a deserving Psychology major.
Updating the Directory and Membership List

The directory and mailing list for our organization will be continuously updated as Christina Miller is notified of changes. If you would like to have your name, principle address, telephone number or email address changed 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. An Update Directory Information form is also available on the RFPA Association website at oneonta.edu/rfpa. This information will only be used by the SUNY Oneonta Retired Faculty, Professionals, & Administrators Association and SUNY support staff.

Thank You!

The Board would like to thank the many people who help make our organization function. First of all we want to thank President Nancy Kleniewski and Colleen Brannan, Assistant to the President, for their support; Christina Miller, Connie Cox and Chelsie Dalton from Community Relations in the President’s Office for keeping our membership list up-to-date and seeing that our notices and newsletters are made available; and Lorin Levins from the Office of Communications Design Studio for setting up the newsletter for distribution. We appreciate your help in making our organization possible.

In Memorium
Carol Blazina (Administration) - 6/2/15
Robert Carson (Economics & History) - 6/24/15
Margaret Cawley (Music) - 1/20/15
Martha Corry (Geography) - 5/29/15
Esther Elfenbein (Speech & Theater) - 8/2/15
James Georgeson (Community Relations) - 10/22/14
Daniel Larkin (History) - 10/1/15
Howard Lout Sr. (Administration) - 11/5/14
George Voris (Education) - 6/6/15

Families
Loren Davidson - 12/11/14
George Marcus - 1/15/15
Barbara Nichols - 2/15/15
Lois Will - 3/15/15

Colleagues
Nancy Burnett (Communication Arts) - 5/14/15
Orlando Legname (Music) - 12/5/14
Frances Parker Smythe (Home Economics) - 9/15/14

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, notify Christina Miller (address in “Updating the Directory” article).