

Ranger School Alumni Association

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FALL—WINTER 2018-2019

From the RSAA President:

Hello Fellow Alumni!

The Board has been working towards updating our contract with SUNY and come into compliance with the New York Nonprofit Revitalization Act. We have retained the firm of Hancock Estabrook, LLP to help us with this process and are conducting a search for a financial auditor. At the October Board Meeting, we went over a first draft to update the By-laws and worked on creating a new policy for internal controls. These documents are still in the beginning stages and we will be sharing updates with the membership as we move further along. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (tanskiae@gmail.com).

Because of increasing operating expenses, repairs needed for the Alumni House, and expenses associated with updating our contract, there will be a slight increase to our dues. Moving forward the first year will still be at no cost, years 2-4 will be \$25, and years 5-49 will be \$50 annually. 50th plus years will still be considered lifetime members at no cost. We are hoping to roll out our new online payment system in time for 2019 membership.

We are currently looking for submissions for the 2019 Alumni News! If you have any articles, memories, photos, artwork, maps, anything, please send it in! We accept submissions at any time. If it doesn't make it in time for this year's news, it will be included in the next. Please forward submissions to Gail (rsaagail@esf.edu) or myself (tanskiae@gmail.com).

As we move into the holiday season don't forget, when making purchases from Amazon, don't forget about the RSAA! Every time you make a qualifying purchase from Amazon Smile, they will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the RSAA. There are a few steps you need to take for this to happen. When making purchases from Amazon access the site by going to smile.amazon.com and sign in using your Amazon account username and password. Search for New York State Ranger School Alumni Assn Inc. and select it in the results window. You can then shop the site as usual. In order for the Association to receive your donation you must sign in, and make your purchases from, smile.amazon.com.

Wishing you all as happy and healthy holiday season!
-- Ariane Tanski '09



Photo credit: Kristin Rehder

From the Ranger School Director:

Hello everyone,

As I write this report, it's past mid-October. There's a chill in the air, we've already experienced a few light snow flurries, and all of the students are engaged in a variety of class exercises.

As you may have heard, the College received a new interim president back in July. Dr. David Amberg had served as vice president for research at Upstate Medical University before joining ESF, but he has been working hard to learn about ESF. He visited the Ranger School twice over the summer. An atmosphere of increased confidence and restoration seems to have settled on the College community.

The latest construction activities are coming to an end. The Ranger School campus looks slightly different, having new entrances and an improved physical plant facility, but the most significant improvements were made in infrastructure, replacing the storm and sanitary sewers, and increasing building security for student safety. Over \$2 million of State University Construction Funds were invested into the School with this project.

During the summer, we also added a new faculty member. Dr. Vanessa Rojas, recently graduated from Indiana State University, will be the primary instructor in remote sensing and GIS, as well as wild-life courses. Dr. Rojas is an expert in bats, and we are excited to have her join the faculty.

Jamie Savage has taken a sabbatical leave for the fall 2018 semester. His position was filled by Mr. Paul Jones, a Ranger School alumnus from the Class of 1978. Paul also had considerable prior teaching experience, and his transition into the School as a teacher has been almost seamless.

Well, the woodsmen's team has had a couple competitions, the hockey club has begun skating, and we all seem resolved that winter is just around the corner. I believe we are ready for it.

— Michael Bridgen



Happy Holidays!

From the Treasurer:

Greetings and Salutations:

The season of white is upon us. Time to stoke the fires, prepare the hot chocolate, and hold those near-and dear-close. Hope the holidays are rewarding and those to come being looked forward to. I am especially planning for Ground Hog Day.

Financially the RSAA is holding its own. We are able to meet our obligations and still pay Gail for her services (*for which Bob is very grateful*). The Alumni House and Campground are generating enough revenue to cover expenses. The Reunion is covering cost also. The Office Manager continues to be a major expense that is well worth it.

However, due to the requirements being pushed from SUNY in Albany, several major costly reviews and audits are being demanded as part of a new alumni contract. Our first attempt, submitted last fall, was rejected after eight months. A list of issues was given us for resolution. Many come from regulations found in the new Charitable Control Act passed from Albany over the winter. The ESF Alumni Assoc. was also required to resubmit their contract for similar problems.

First of all, our Certificate of Incorporation had to be reviewed and upgraded. In this regard the RSAA Board of Directors authorized the retention of law firm Hancock Estabrook, LLC; at a base cost of \$2500. This is the same firm that ESF used, so they are familiar with the formats and issues. They will review our Certificate of Incorporation, make suggestions for the upgrade of that document, and any corresponding changes necessary to our Constitution and By-Laws. There will also be several policy statements needed to cover the handling of funds, most of which we do but had never formally written down. Audits of our financial records will also be required. I had been putting this off as long as possible due to the cost. It will have to be done yearly in house which I estimate will cost \$1000 and we will need to start off with a five year audit which will cost \$5-6000. These cannot be avoided. I am so looking forward to this, NOT. That's a \$7500 hit right up front (of which the \$2500 expense was paid in this fiscal year). Another required expense will be BOD insurance, which we have been trying to find for several years already. This may cost \$1-2000.

Needless to say this will severely stress our finances and the Treasurer. 2019 is going to be a difficult year. But the RSAA can get thru it and be stronger and have greater insights into the corrupt outside world. With your continued support, and as always, generous gifts we will persevere.

Remember our goal is "To Keep In Touch" . Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming years. Lord be willing and the river don't rise.

Sincerely, Bruce E. Williams '76; RSAA Treasurer.

From the 2nd Vice-President:

Dear Alumni,

Thank you for another year of support with our Alumni properties. Multiple people have used both the Alumni House and the campground over this past season. It is great to see them being used. Please remember, if you use the campground, we ask for a \$15 per night donation which can be deposited in the donation slot on the side of the Alumni garage.

We do ask that you please remove all trash after you use our campground. Right before Alumni weekend I had to remove a bag of cans and trash from the lean-to and from an adjoining site. Also, please leave picnic tables on their sites so other people who come to camp may use them. Thank you.

We are looking forward to an ambitious work weekend next April 26, 27, and 28. We are going to fix, maybe even remodel the upstairs bathroom of the Alumni House. Also we are looking to run new electric lines up to the Alumni garage and maybe even a few of the closer campsites. We will be repairing the Alumni dock as well. As always there will be plenty of painting, wood cutting, and campsite preparations to do. All are welcome as we have a Saturday lunch and Saturday evening bar-b-que provided.

If there is anything else you would like to see done for the Alumni House or campground, please feel free to contact me at mrbushey@yahoo.com. If you would like to be on the Alumni Properties committee, we are always looking for volunteers. Thank you for your continued support and remember, donations for the Alumni properties are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Mike Bushey '94 RSAA 2nd VP

Don't forget, Ranger School Alumni Association clothing is for sale at the Pine Cone Grill Trading Post. There are hats, t-shirts, patches, and hoodies for sale. If you have an idea for a clothing item you would like to see for sale, feel free to email me at mrbushey@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Mike Bushey
Chair of the
RSAA clothing committee



Please help us save \$\$\$

Please keep us notified of your current address, and if you have a different seasonal address. If not deliverable, or is not current, we pay to have your mail returned. (At .59 each.)



BLUE OX NEWS



The Ranger School's Blue Ox Woodsmen Team of 2017 had a great year. We sponsored a Men's and a Jack & Jill team and they attended six events throughout New York State and ended in New Hampshire for the 72nd Annual Northeast Conclave. The highlight was at Paul Smiths when Ed Hoyt (son of Gould Hoyt) gave the team the original hand carved Blue Ox to the group. Gould Hoyt was one of the organizers on the Paul Smiths end of the original Blue Ox Meet between Paul Smiths and the Ranger School. The pine carving actually has the blue stain fungi present. The 2017 group had tremendous family support, the strongest I have ever seen. I look forward to seeing everyone next semester.



On Thursday October 4th, the Ranger School was presented with a unique opportunity; one that could not be passed up. In the morning hours, a local DOT employee was traveling to work when they struck and killed a mature sow black bear. After consulting with the DEC, the DOT realized that the Ranger School "may want it." Of course wildlife techniques class was just around the corner, so some meat for camera traps would always be welcome.

Upon delivery, it was discovered that all of the injuries were internal and that there had been no damage done to the animals hide. It was a perfect candidate for taxidermy. So the decision was made to have it mounted. The bear was taken to a local taxidermist so measurements could be made to ensure a properly sized form. Afterwards, the bear returned to the school so the students could have the hands on experience of skinning the animal.

Following dinner, the majority of the students joined our newest faculty member, Dr. Rojas, and I for the project. An incision was made from the base of the neck down the spine to approximately ten inches above the tail. From here, the body was pulled from the skin much like a hand from a latex glove. A couple hours later, the skin was carefully folded and placed in a chest freezer until it could be delivered back to the taxidermist. The remaining meat was also frozen, to be used during lab. The only remains were the spine and the entrails. These were placed in the woods in front of camera traps. Frequent visitors were coyotes and fishers.

In true Ranger School fashion, a seemingly random event developed into an educational and equally memorable experience. The next time you visit the school, there very well may be a new face to greet you.

Gregory M. Vaverchak '02, Assistant Professor

The school has two teams again this year for the 2018 season (a Men's and a Jack & Jill). The group has attended three meets so far this semester at Paul Smiths College, ESF's home meet in Tully, New York and they finished the fall semester at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, New York. Looking ahead to next semester the team has four potential meets in Morrisville, Alfred, Finger Lakes Community College and the 73rd Annual Northeast Conclave will be hosted by Cobleskill. Check the Alumni Association's web page for dates as they become available.
~Robert T. Fleming'96

STUDENT LOGGING Twenty four forest technology students participated in the student logging exercise during October. Student logging was moved into the fall semester several years ago, to avoid working in soils soaking with spring snow melt. Greg Vaverchak, RS'02, supervises this course with the assistance of Rob Fleming, RS'96, and several forest property staff members.



Forest technology students Jarrett Yuchnitz, Matt Bush, and Jacob Jensen assist in thinning a stand of red pine, Norway spruce, and Scotch pine just south of Cathedral Rock.

From the Archives: Sky Pilots in the North Woods

Kathy Smith Greenwald '79

One of our favorite stops on Route 3 between Watertown and Wanakena is Yvonne's "Natural Basket Shop" in the hamlet of Natural Bridge. Yvonne has four sheds full of old enamelware, coffee grinders, maple syrup tins, quilts, weathered duck decoys, logging tools, and her beautiful hand-woven baskets. My husband and I have bought several treasures from her over the years, including graduation photos from the Ranger School classes of 1958 and 1960, a stuffed bear head and steel bear trap, old buck saw, and an interesting book, *Lumberjack Sky Pilot*, written in 1965 by Reverend Frank A. Reed.

Frank Reed explains how the term "lumberjack sky pilot" was coined when a preacher named Frank Higgins visited his first logging camp near Barnum, Minnesota in 1895. Higgins gave an impromptu sermon about "the consequences of sin and the way to escape." One of the loggers asked him what his life goal was and he responded, "To pilot men to the skies!" As word spread and ministry in logging camps grew, visiting preachers became known as "sky pilots." Reed's descriptions of other sky pilots' missionary work, as well as his own beginning in 1917, provide insights about life in Adirondack logging camps in the early 1900s.

There is a link between Frank Reed and the Ranger School. In the acknowledgments section of *Lumberjack Sky Pilot*, he lists the names of the following Wanakena residents and Ranger School faculty members: Paul Akey, Herbert Keith, Professor James F. Dubuar, Professor Phillip Haddock, and Professor Lucian Plumley. Some of Reed's writings appeared in the Alumni News. The 1949 issue included his speech given at the RSAA Reunion on August 5, 1949, to dedicate a bronze plaque in memory of J. Otto Hamele:

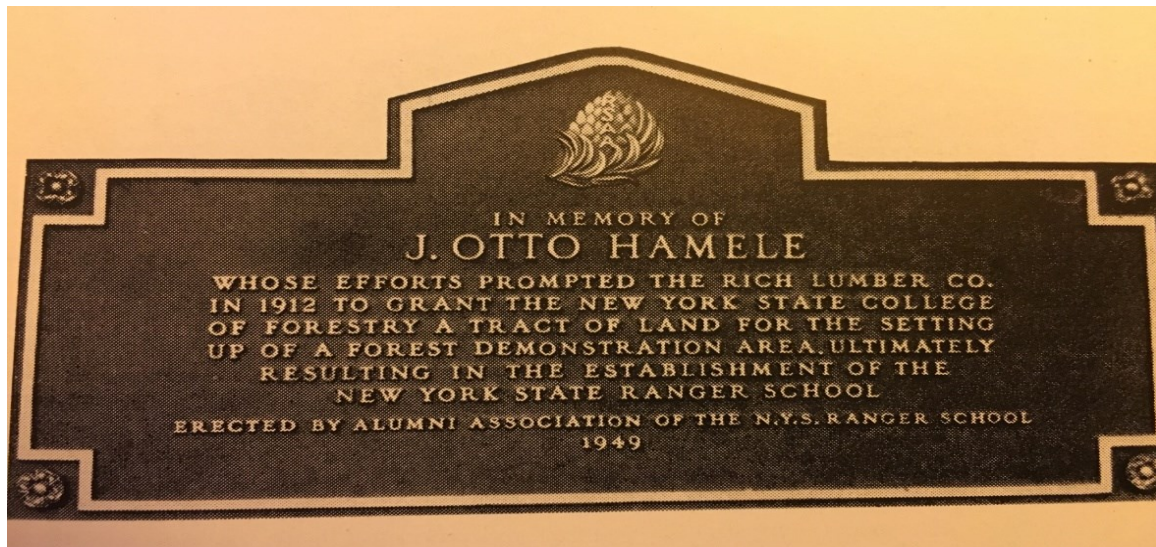
"Some years ago, Otto Hamele wrote a short history of the Wanakena area for the Lumber Camp News. He began with a picture of virgin forest in his early days in the woods. A great reverence for the forest was evident in this description.

He related an interesting story of the lumbering activities, a program in which he had had an active part. There was a note of sadness in this part of the account because the lumbering program had been carried on only in terms of the current generation, with little plan for the future of the forest.

Mr. Hamele then painted a vivid picture of the Ranger School and its growing plantations which had matured sufficiently for a limited cutting. The trees had furnished paper for a publication at Syracuse University.

We honor Otto Hamele today for his interest in the permanency of the forest and his vision and untiring efforts on behalf of the Ranger School. We honor him as a good neighbor and steadfast friend who took an interest in other people and contributed much to their welfare and happiness. We honor him as a man of Christian character, who always stood for the finest things in the community and contributed much for its improvement.

J. Otto Hamele, wise forester, patron saint of the Ranger School, good neighbor, steadfast friend, and fine Christian gentleman, we dedicate this Plaque, trusting that it may perpetuate the memory of his noble deeds and constructive services.



So the next time you're on campus, look for the J. Otto Hamele rock with bronze plaque and go see the Ranger School's archive collection in the Centennial Room.



WANAKENA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 73 WANAKENA, NY 13695
WANAKENAH@AOL.COM

October 30, 2018

Dear Ranger School Alumni,

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM THE WANAKENA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION!

The Wanakena Historical Association (WHA) will soon have a permanent place to display the historic wooden clock and Kermit E Remele Award of Meritorious Service bestowed to the WHA from the Ranger School Alumni, at the August alumni reunion banquet. We were honored and thrilled to receive this special gift and recognition by the alumni.

Again, Thank-You.

The Award & historic clock have been on display at Otto's Abode in 'downtown' Wanakena since late-August 2018 for the community to view and appreciate. We thank the Knickerbocker brothers [sons of G.C. Knickerbocker '48] for donating the clock to the Ranger School and to Hannah & Nolan for displaying these items at the Abode.

Currently WHA's collection of historic objects, photographs, and documents can be viewed by appointment only and is primarily located on the third floor of the home of Trustee & past-President, Bill Gleason. Additional items are stored by other Trustees/members. Further, the WHA is aware of historic objects that may be donated or loaned once there is a physical location for display and centralized storage.

This is the good news; Five equal partners (made up of groups of families and friends) are forming an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) each pledging \$25,000 for a total of \$125,000 to own, renovate and restore one of the original Rich Lumber Company houses at 21 Second Street to its original facade. Their dream and intent are to provide a location for a **Wanakena History Center** where the WHA can continue its mission to encourage greater knowledge of the history and to display and make available for study: artifacts, relics, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs, and other records and materials relating to the history of the State of New York and particularly of Wanakena and the surrounding area.

In the near future, the WHA will apply for grants and/or raise funds to furnish the space, obtain display cases and equipment, and provide storage for documents and photographs.

Visit the Wanakena Historical Association Facebook page or webpage www.wanakena.com/history-center to see images of the original 1902 home and its current façade.

- The total cost of rebuilding the footbridge stands at \$448,093.43
- The Town of Fine loaned us funds to cover ongoing costs: \$263,093.43.
- Funds raised by the WHA reimbursed the Town of Fine a total of \$185,673.99
- The outstanding grant money awarded was a whopping \$74,896.17
- After receipt of the Waterfront Revitalization Award, the WHA still owed the Town of Fine \$2,523.27
- This remaining amount has been generously pledged to be paid in full by Bernie & Valerie Carr!!!

Wanakena & the Fine Township are extremely appreciative of this last gift that ends over 4 years of planning and fund raising. The footbridge, as well as the Otto J Hamele historical walking tour has seen a significant uptick in visitors since the dedication of the new bridge July 4th 2017.

We cannot forget the many donors and volunteers that made this happen. The grassroots effort that rebuilt the footbridge could not have occurred without the hundreds of donations, large & small.

Thank you so very much for your continued support.

Allen Ditch
President, Wanakena Historical Association

From the Professor/Director/Archivist Michael R. Bridgen:

As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I, we may want to remember those Ranger School graduates who served in this great war. Forty four percent of graduates (33% of total enrolled students), from the classes of 1913 to 1917, served during these war years. Two died in France, including Theron Dalymple'14 (killed May 9, 1918), and Reginald Goldthorpe'16, who was killed by a train, December 20, 1918, while returning to the States. He is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. William Shemin'14, received the Medal of Honor, posthumously, from President Obama. The Ranger School graduates who served are listed below:

| <u>1913</u> | <u>1914</u> | <u>1915</u> | <u>1916</u> | <u>1917</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| John Aney | Harry Beresford | Carl Betz | Reginald Goldthorpe | Frank Bell |
| William Haselton | William Bowcott | Lyman Magill | George MacPherson | E. Keller |
| Allison Richards | Lloyd Bradfield | Hubert Orr | Joseph McCaffrey | Charles Sommers |
| James Sullivan | Theron Dalymple | Edward Rischman | Clyde Powell | |
| | Peter Dinehart | Eugene Saxe | J. Scott | |
| | Mark Hitchcock | Karl Sexton | Ward Stoltz | |
| | George Merrill | | Raymond Wheeler | |
| | Stanley Putnam | | | |
| | William Shemin | | | |

ETIQUETTE DINNER

The Ranger School's annual etiquette dinner was held early this year, on Thursday, October 18, 2018. Among the several invited guests were a number of Ranger School alumni, including Jeremy Thompson'97, Christopher Kostoss'97, Rodger Voss'97, Rob Daley'01, Tony Sparicino'11, Dave Corey'16 and Jenna Curcio'16. Everyone received a great meal, and the students got of glimpse of what to expect from their professional careers.



Lt. Christopher Kostoss (RS'97), Region 5 Supervisor Zone C of the NYS DEC Forest Rangers, enjoys dinner with several current students.



Some Ranger School teaching staff serving dinner. (l to r): Mike Webb, Samantha Rivera, Paul Jones (visiting instructor), Tim O'Mara, Vanessa Rojas (new faculty member) and Mariann Johnston.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

As we reported last winter, we have reached the amount to have the Class of '61 Scholarship endowed, and expected to award the first Class of 1961 Scholarship this year. This semester the first Class of 1961 Scholarship in the amount of \$1250 was awarded to Henry Ruebel of Petersburg, NY. We thank so many alumni, family and friends for their donations. (Many in memory of Tom Monroe '61)

Since no one in this year's class is a relative of a Ranger School graduate, a Legacy Scholarship was not awarded.

Please take a minute to fill in your nominations and reasons for choices for both these awards on the back of the information sheet.

Philip J. Haddock Award for Excellence

"The person selected does not have to be (or have been) an officer of the RSAA or a member of the Executive Committee, but neither should such persons be excluded. The person selected should be one who has made an outstanding contribution of some kind (not monetary). This contribution may be in the nature of a single, noteworthy act or a lower-keyed, but long-term commitment to the School and/or the RSAA or for alumni in general."

Previous P. J. HADDOCK AWARD WINNERS:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1980 Clyde Powell '16 | 1993 James E. Coufal '57 | 2006 Lawrence Hill '50 |
| 1981 Lucian Plumley '31 | 1994 Kermit E. Remele '43 | 2007 Charles Hartnett '51 |
| 1982 C. Eugene Farnsworth | 1995 Gordon T. Hughes '56 | 2008 Lee Berry '68 |
| 1983 J. Wayne Morrow '33 | 1996 Richard W. Miller '53 | 2009 Bruce Williams '76 |
| 1984 F.B. "Dinty" Moore '32 | 1997 Hal Bush '27 | 2010 Gerald L. Kniskern '50 |
| 1985 Orrin L. Latham | 1998 John Peck '43 | 2011 Wayne G. Allen '79 |
| 1986 Barry D. Nehr '60 | 1999 Lawrence Rathman '72 | 2012 Bob Simmons |
| 1987 Arthur E. Kopp '31 | 2000 Gail Simmons | 2013 Jerry Holbrook '56 |
| 1988 Michael Salato '29 | 2001 Thomas D. Martin '76 | 2014 Tom Hodges '53 |
| 1989 Daniel Castagnozzi '50 | 2002 Chris Westbrook '73 | 2015 Pete Zubal '59 |
| 1990 Mary Ann Remele '53 | 2003 Stephen Coulthart '53 | 2016 Lawrence R. Hawkins '55 |
| 1991 David G. Anderson '50 | 2004 Dick Thomas '54 | 2017 Michael R. Bridgen |
| 1992 Francis M. LaDuc '47 | 2005 Ken Myers '52 | 2018 Arnold H. Lanckton '53 |

KERMIT E. REMELE AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This award is presented by the Ranger School Alumni Association in honor of Kermit E. Remele '43. One of his greatest strengths was his ability to mobilize and motivate people to work for the betterment of the Ranger School.

The intent of this award is therefore to recognize groups of people whose combined efforts have gone beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School. Previous recipients include:

The Surveying Friends Group, The Clifton-Fine Hospital, The Star Lake Fire Department and the Wanakena Historical Association.

2019 ALUMNI NEWS BOOK

This is the beginning of the 2019 ALUMNI NEWS. **Please feel free to contribute articles, stories, artwork, photos, poetry, news etc.** that are informative, entertaining and interesting to other alumni. These articles may not necessarily be the views or opinions of the RSAA Board of Directors, or the editor, but this is YOUR book.

The cost of publishing the book is over \$6000. Boosters are again available. This helps defray the costs of publishing and it is a good place to advertise. Wouldn't you or your company like to be included?

If interested fill out the order form below and send it back with your donation. Attach how you would like your ad listed and enclose the check payable to: "RSAA"

The rates are:

_____ Whole page @ \$75 _____ 1/2 page @\$40 _____ 1/4 page @ \$25 _____ one line listing @ \$15

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The 85th Annual Ranger School Reunion is Friday August 2nd & Saturday, August 3rd, 2019!

2019 CALENDAR



RS HOCKEY CLUB

Calling all hockey playing alumni: we need your help! The students have been successful in beating the alumni two years in a row. I invite you all to come and participate in the annual alumni game which is scheduled for March 3rd from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Tennity Ice Pavilion in Syracuse.

Email me if you have any questions or want to join in the friendly competition.

Gregory Vaverchak ('02),
RSHC Commissioner,
gmvaverc@esf.edu

- Jan. 13 - Class of 2019, 2nd Semester begins
- Jan. 28 –30 – NYSAPLS Surveying Conference along with Jan 29 –5:30- 7pm –Young Professionals & Alumni Social – Saratoga Springs, NY
- February 23 - RSAA winter meeting
- March 9 – Student vs. Alumni Hockey Tournament, 1–3 pm - Tennity Ice Pavilion, Syracuse.
- March 16- 24 - Spring break
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 26 – RSAA spring meeting
- April 26-28—Cleanup weekend at the Alumni House
- May 4 - Spring Open House at the Ranger School
- May 18 - Class of 2019 Graduation
- May 26 - June 21 FNRM Summer Program
- August 2 & 3 - RSAA Reunion
- August 18 – Class of 2020 arrives

WEBB'S RETIREMENT:

As many of you know I have been talking about retirement in 2019. It is official as I have provided the president of the college with a letter stating that I will retire as of the first of June, 2019. A search for my replacement is about to begin as I write this note. I have very much enjoyed my tenure as educator here at the Ranger School. It is quite literally my second career, something that I had no idea that I would end up doing or enjoying nearly so much. I hope that I leave this wonderful institution in better shape than when I started and that I have made a small difference in the lives of all the students, and not just survey students, that have passed through these doors since I began in August 2001. I have to thank my friend and former Director Chris Westbrook for initially hiring me to teach FTC 202 Introduction to Surveying. That position evolved into me becoming the land surveying "department" and a full time faculty member here at RS. A big thank you to another friend and colleague and current director, Dr. Michael Bridgen, and all the faculty and staff that I have had the pleasure to work with over the past almost 18 years. You have all made it a truly enjoyable experience. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize and thank my other half for putting up with my very early mornings and sometimes late night days. Hilda, I will get right on all those things around the homestead that are on YOUR list. Thank you my dear! Remember what the first professional surveyor I worked for told me back in the mid 1970s, "You have to know whether you are building a piano or the box to ship it in".



PS: Don't call me, I'll call you.:)

*** There Mr. Webb, you got the last word in!***