

NYS Ranger School Alumni Association, Inc.

REUNION NEWSLETTER 2020

Greetings from the Alumni President— Christi Barber '10

Greetings fellow alumni. I hope the arrival of this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe. Welcome to the Special Reunion Edition of the Newsletter!

We are planning a big Reunion for next year and will be recognizing this years' 50-year class as well as next years. As we are not able to recognize this years' 50th class, I would like to give a big shout out to them.

I would also like to recognize the Class of 2020 on a unique experience for the end of their school year given the Covid situation. For those of you who are unaware of their circumstances, they voted unanimously to stick it out on campus, skipping spring break and taking classes on Saturdays to graduate on April 17th. I had an opportunity to work with this class during the Ethics Workshop that was held prior to the shut down and I was impressed with the level of engagement they demonstrated and believe that they are an excellent example of the dedication and competency of a Ranger School Grad.

While I am on the topic of recognizing people, I would like to congratulate Doc on his retirement and share a little Doc story from my time at the RS. I was the only woman on the hockey team, and I am not the most proficient skater that has been on the ice, but I had a blast. During the Alumni game, some of the alumni had their kids playing that were in a hockey league and as such, they had quite the advantage of us rookies. But we played hard. At one point in the game I was skating hard at one of the Alumni and got checked by a gentleman who was at least twice my size and no penalty was called. A little later one of my teammates checked one of the kids playing with their dad and a penalty was given. Subsequently, Doc shouted, "If they can hit the girl, we can hit the kids!!" It was the first and only time I saw the mild-mannered Doc get his dander up, and it gives me chuckles to this day.

On the topic of the Director position, Dr. Mariann Johnston, professor at the Ranger School since 2008, has accepted the position. She is the first woman to be the Director of the school and having been one of her former students, I know that she will do an absolutely fabulous job in this capacity, as she was an outstanding professor. Congratulations Mariann!

The last, and certainly not the least, person I would like to recognize is Gail Simmons who has been our long-time office manager and face of the Alumni Association. While Gail has retired, she will be staying on in the capacity of Reunion Liaison and helping out with Reunions in the future. If anyone wants to keep in touch with Gail, she can be reached through her personal email: gailsimmons1249@gmail.com

One last item to note is that my email address has changed, I can now be reached via email at: rsaapres10@gmail.com

As always, remember when you are doing all that Amazon shopping for home delivery of items to use Amazon Smile so a portion of your purchase can go to the Alumni Association. It does not work on the Amazon app, but you can add items to your cart in the app then go to the website to complete your order and we will get the donation. Stay well, stay healthy and stay in touch.

Dr. Bridgen Retires—Gregory M. Vaverchak '02

On June 19th, a small group of friends and family gathered, masked and socially distant, outside of *The Landing* (the Ranger School dining hall) for a retirement celebration for Mike Bridgen. Stories and well wishes were exchanged in appreciation for all that he had done in his tenure as a Ranger School faculty member.

Since then I had the opportunity to sit down with Mike and reflect on his 28.5-year Ranger School career. The following is a glimpse into that meeting.

“When I left graduate school, the last thing I wanted to do was work for a university. I wanted to do something practical, and working for industry (Westvaco) was a great opportunity for me. Teaching was not a consideration until I started job hunting in 1991, looking at all options. Rita and I had three criteria for a new job: it should be in a small community, in a college setting, and not in the south. I think by then (1991) I had become tired of doing research full time.”

Fortunately, the job posting for a Ranger School teaching position met the criteria and was attractive enough to consider. *“I remember driving onto campus with Dick Miller, who had collected me at the Syracuse Airport for my interview. I remember seeing the old-fashioned street lights, the ivy crawling up the side of the School, the Director’s Cottage, and the Duplex, the Flow and forests everywhere, and thinking ‘what a fantastic place.’ I remember having meals with one of the students, Joe Hess’92. Talking to him, more than anything, assured me that I would enjoy teaching as a career.”*

“Despite the fact that I had to stay four days in order to get cheaper flight tickets (there was a recession in 1991), my first impression was very positive.” The school made the decision to hire their first PhD and Mike started on January 2nd of 1992.

It didn’t take Mike long to hit the ground running. He had to of course, it was halfway through the academic year. *“The students in ‘1992 were tolerant of my teaching and recognized my inexperience (they liked trying to lose me in the snow-covered forest during labs). It did take about three years to get sufficient lesson materials together to feel very comfortable with my lectures and labs.* Throughout that time, he credits Chris Westbrook, Kevin O’Neill and Dick Miller with very positive advice and counsel and Kathie Nevil and Mary Hooven with support.

Mike accomplished a great number of things in Wanakena serving as a role model to those around him. He affected the lives of 1388 student, three of which were graduate students which he funded and supervised and one which he chaired as an ESF honor student. He participated in every Camp Alleghany trip since he started, through its last year in 2007, and taught or supervised every summer bridge program from 2007 to 2017. The SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching was bestowed on him in 2003.

When asked what he felt were his greatest accomplishments or what he was most proud of, he listed the following: *“establishing the Ranger School hockey club, creating the Ranger School archive library and collection, doubling the size of the Arboretum, adding the universal access trail to the Arboretum, establishing the 1999/2000 white*



(Continued on page 3)

Dr. Bridgen Retires— Continued from page 2

pine shelterwood stand, establishing the 2009/10 red pine seed tree stand, the Newton Falls Mine tailings restoration project”

But he ultimately emphasized *“I am very proud that so many Ranger School graduates eventually return to work at Ranger School. Ranger School really is the best forest/outdoor technology school in North America, including Canada (sorry Sam). It was a privilege for me to work there, to be part of the School’s history, and to have known so many wonderful students and staff members. I will miss the regular engagement with the faculty and staff at the school and I will also miss the positive, optimistic, forward-looking attitudes of the students.”*

To finish out his career, Mike became the Director in 2013 following Chris Westbrook’s reign. Having not been able to predict a pandemic and retire “normally” he was forced to lead his final class through such uncertainty and even now begins his retirement with many unknowns. *“I don’t have any major plans for retirement right now. Rita and I are doing a little remodeling and settling into our new western New York home. I continue to cheer on the Penguins in their artificial crowd-noise playoff games waiting for the opportunity to get back on the ice myself. I do look forward to staying involved with the alumni association and its members. Currently I am working with the New York Forest Rangers to produce an exhibit of Ranger School alumni who went on to serve under their employ.*

I concluded our conversation by offering Mike the opportunity to add anything he would like. *“We lost our youngest daughter, Laura, in 1992. I have to credit Rita, my older daughter, Sarah, the faculty and students of the Class of 1993, for helping me through that very difficult time. I have often wondered, and still do, how different our lives would have been had I taken another job instead of Ranger School.”*

Though we will never know what would have been, we are so grateful for all you have done and your continued dedication to the Ranger School. We wish you and Rita a very long and fulfilling retirement.

Alumni Properties — Mike Bushey ‘94— Property Manager

First, I want to thank all of you who have stayed at the alumni campground this year and left or sent donations for your stay. We really appreciate it during these hard-financial times. Your donations help maintain our wonderful campground.

Second, we hope you continue to use our campground in a safe and responsible manner. Here are some reminders to ensure everyone who utilizes the campground enjoys it.

The campground is a carry in, carry out facility. Please leave your campsite cleaner than you found it.

Quiet time is from 10 pm to 8 am.

Please keep your dogs on a leash at all times.

Please clean up after your dog.

Place your food and your trash in your vehicle at night to prevent the trash pandas (raccoons) and bears from ruining your camping experience.

There are canoes, paddles, and life vests in the alumni garage for you to use. Please make sure to put all equipment back after use.

The donation for staying at the campground is \$15 per night per site. There is a donation slot on the side of the garage.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for the campground, feel free to email me at mrbushey@yahoo.com. I hope you all continue to stay healthy and enjoy the outdoors.

News from The Director—Dr. Mariann T. Johnston

Greetings to all of our Alumni! It is the strangest feeling to sit here in the Director's Office on this Friday morning, when you all would normally be arriving for a weekend of good food, good fun, and catching up with friends old and new. I will miss seeing alumni and their families, the business meeting (truth!), and the Saturday evening banquet and auction. I hope everyone makes the best of this weekend, safe and home with family.

Most of you probably know that I took on the role of Ranger School Director, effective in late June, when Dr. Mike Bridgen retired and moved to the Finger Lakes region to be closer to family. While "Doc" is readily available to answer questions and provide support as needed, there's no question that there is a significant learning curve involved with this transition. And of course, as if that wasn't enough, we are working towards opening our next academic year in the midst of a pandemic, the likes of which our country hasn't seen since perhaps the Spanish Flu of 1918. Much of my time has, therefore, been dedicated to preparing reopening plans designed to keep our students, staff and faculty as safe as possible as we commence classes in this environment.

Every Ranger School Alumnus knows that what we do at the Ranger School cannot effectively be done remotely. In line with Ranger School tradition, we kept our students on campus in Spring 2020 and graduated in person, one of the only colleges in the country to do so. We are using those lessons learned to guide our decisions moving forward into the new academic year. We have three students on campus now, who are from 'restricted' states under the NYS travel advisory. They are quarantining on-campus so that they may join the rest of the RS Class of 2021 on August 16. Once the rest of our students arrive, we will be in a group lock-down scenario for the first 14 days, to ensure as best we can that all are healthy. After that we may relax into a less restrictive environment, but will still follow the science, which for now means face coverings, social distancing, and reduced density during class activities. Student travel and campus visitors will be restricted. We'll also accelerate the schedule, holding classes on Labor Day, Columbus Day, and at least a couple of Saturdays. We plan to finish the in-person experience on November 24, with a few final assignments completed remotely after Thanksgiving. Discussions have not really commenced regarding planning for the Spring semester, but we intend to bring students back in mid-January, and make it to graduation in some fashion.

Personnel adjustments continue as well. Following the departure of Doc Bridgen, I am pleased to announce that Mr. Sam Gildiner has arrived to join our faculty. Sam attended the Maritime Ranger School in Nova Scotia, and believes strongly in the value of technical education. He will be teaching the Natural Resources Measurements course this fall, while Jamie Savage takes on Dendrology. Sam has already been out getting to know local forests and forestry professionals, and has already met several RS alumni in the process. He will likely be taking on Silviculture, Wildland Fire-fighting and Ecology, and the Soils component of our Water and Soils class next spring. Be sure to say hi if you encounter him out and about! I am also pleased to welcome Mr. Nathan Tyler (RS'18) as a Graduate Teaching Assistant who will be helping out at the Ranger School during the upcoming Fall semester as part of his Master's degree program.

The changes don't end there! You may already be aware that our dedicated RSAA Office Manager, Mrs. Gail Simmons, recently retired. Gail has been a tremendous part of student life since well before I arrived at the Ranger School in 2008. Her kind and caring availability to students, providing stamps, cashing checks, or even just offering a shoulder to lean on has been a staple here. Alumni visiting the school regularly enjoyed checking in and visiting with Gail. Her daily presence on campus is greatly missed. We all wish Gail all the best on her retirement, and look forward to seeing her at future RSAA reunions. Thank you Gail, for all that you have done for the Ranger School and the RSAA.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for the support you have shown to the Ranger School and our students over the years. It really does mean a lot to the students to know they have the support of alumni, from moral support (even though it was harder when you went here), to financial support (thank you scholarship funds!) to employment opportunities. I look forward to continuing a strong and productive relationship with the Ranger School Alumni Association. Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and stay safe!

Best wishes, Mariann (aka Dr.J)



News from the Treasurer—Bruce Williams, '76—Acting Treasurer

Well, another big storm has passed, and everyone has survived. However, change is all around but there are still many duties to be performed. The RSAA is still hanging on amidst all the chaos and confusion. And by the way Gail has retired. Many thanks, best wishes, and deep gratitude for the many years of dedicated service that were provided.

As you read in other sections of this newsletter, we are in the process of finding a new Office Manager and a Treasurer. Scott Wilkinson ('02) will be the Interim Treasurer until a regular is found. I will be continuing on the BOD as a Member at Large, to assist with the transfer of records and procedural knowledge. Currently Finance Comm. is in the process of getting financial signatories registered with the bank. Also working to set up a new accounting format to coordinate with and meet SUNY requirements. The audit being performed has taken some extra time to sort out several unresolved issues dealing with account reconciliations and record keeping. The Alumni Office has been relocated within the School building and access hours severely restricted. Other than that, nothing much is going on.

It is sad and frustrating to have the Reunion canceled this year, but the virus has conspired against us. After some hard work by the BOD, the Alumni House and Campgrounds were opened in mid-July. This will provide income to offset taxes and insurance cost.

Your response to the request for additional donations has been outstanding. This will help to cover the extra cost required for Accountant assistance, Lawyer referrals, and office upgrades. Please keep up the support and be patient as the BOD works to reorient our procedures in the office and coverage of all the Alumni needs.

Miss seeing you all. Remember "To Keep In Touch".

Search for a New Administrative Aide for the Alumni Association—Mike Rozeski '90 Search Committee Chair

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring everyone up to date on some important matters regarding the RSAA and how it will operate moving forward. As mentioned previously, after many years of being the point of contact and heart and soul of the RSAA as the Office SManager, Gail Simmons has retired. This leaves us with a very big set of shoes to fill. While I know we can never replace Gail, we will be conducting a search to fill the vacancy. We will miss Gail and appreciate everything she has done for the association.

Moving forward, a committee named the Office Manager Search Committee has been formed with myself serving as the lead. I will be meeting with several other alumni over the next few months to review the position description and requirements. We need to recognize that the next person may need to work remotely and we are trying to define the parameters of our needs so we can clearly address them.

For the rest of 2020, Bob Brower (RS '78) has stepped up and will be acting as our Temporary Office Manager. I would like to say thank you to Bob for stepping in in the Associations time of need. The Ranger School has always had an awesome pool of dedicated persons willing to step up at different times!

So, with that being said, as most companies find, the best place to promote or hire is often from within. After we have more of an idea of the job requirements we will put out an internal "Help Wanted" ad to the alumni to see if there are any persons interested in the newly defined position. After we have more of the kinks straightened out, we will provide you with some contact information to reach out to.

Thank you for your time. Stay safe and sane out there and stay in touch!

Enjoy the day!

Finance Committee Report— Chris Tcimpidis '93, RSAA Vice -President

Dear Ranger School Alumni Association:

It has certainly been an interesting (I use this term loosely) and challenging year, and that is only in consideration of COVID-19 and the social issues we have been seeing. I hope that all of you have maintained your health through this and found fortune (wellbeing) during these times.

As the Vice President it is also my charge to oversee the financial committee. So, this brings the issues related to the audit into my camp. Unfortunately, this has been a tremendous task to say the least. But we are working on completing the tasks associated with the audit. The largest of tasks associated with this was bringing our accounting practices up to current day standards, updating our software, entering our data into the new software and fixing errors that related to current accounting standards. In do all of this we retained an accountant to serve as our consultant and aid us through these murky waters. While it has been a slow process, made even slower by COVID-19, we have made great progress and I expect all of our accounts to be in our new software shortly.

In the process of conducting all these updates, Bruce Williams, our treasurer, fulfilled his promise (threat) to retire for the treasures position. While Bruce has served us well and been an irreplaceable asset to the association his lack of love for technology and the required changes were more than he wished to deal with. And I do not blame him, all of these changes require much technology in order for all the required parties to do their part on our behalf. We thank Bruce for his years of service as the treasurer. Bruce remains as a Member-at-Large on the board.

With that said, Scott Wilkinson, a current board member, has stepped up as the acting treasurer until 2021. We are actively looking for a person to become our treasurer after Scott vacates his temporary position. Once the setup of the new software is complete, I see this as a nuts and bolts position, that is that the treasurer should be responsible for payments and record keeping. We will continue the relationship with our accountant/consultant to ensure that we are current with our legal obligation related to our accounting. This will reduce the responsibility of the treasure greatly, while increase our competence.

Of course, all these changes have occurred during the retirement of Gail, our office manager. Wow, talking about ushering change at a high speed! Gail will be deeply missed as our beloved face of the association, our backbone, and our base for much of the institutional knowledge. We wish her the best in her retirement.

In summary: it has definitely been a crazy, unpredictable year. The audit is has not yet been completed, but major steps have been taken to ensure that we can successfully complete it. During these efforts much has changed within the association, but we are confident in saying that all the changes are for the best as change is difficult but required for the continued success and operations of the association.

I should also mention that in the middle of all of this I have accepted a new job. I plan on remaining active in my position and the association as long as it is feasible. My family and I will be relocating to Juneau, Alaska where my new job as the forester for Alaska, NRCS is located. I will be reporting to my first day on the job August 31, 2020. My first tasks have already been assigned.

I wish the best to all my fellow alumni in these trying times. I know that you are all doing as Ranger School graduate would do, find the best in the rain and make growth possible despite the storm.

Gail Simmons, Long Time RSAA Office Manager Retires

Words from Gail

Dear Alumni “Family” and friends:

As I sit leisurely drinking my morning coffee, reflecting on my wonderful career in the alumni office, I struggle to put it in words.

Over the years, I have watched young men and women arrive as students, their minds absorbing the Ranger School experience and knowledge, maturing and ready to step out to apply it in their chosen fields. I have also watched many men and women as faculty, technician staff and as alumni sharing their knowledge and insight to nurture these young minds.

In my role, first in foodservice, the bookstore and the alumni office, many of you have adopted me, and got to know our family too. These friendships have resulted into the cherished memories I will carry with me as Bob and I settle into our new lifestyle as “retired seniors”.

Thank you all for the wonderful memories, the friendships and the trust that you have gifted me.

Hope to see you at future reunions, and please remember the RSAA motto:

“To Keep in Touch”

With love and appreciation,

gail



Congratulations Gail from The Board of Directors—Mike Bushey '94

For those of you who have not heard, our wonderful Office Manager, Gail, has retired after countless years of dedicated service to our Alumni Association. Often and fondly called Mama Gail by many alumni, she spent many hours over her career in her office offering a sympathetic ear to Ranger School students who just needed someone to talk to. Gail's knowledge of all the alumni will be hard to replace.

Gail started her career at the Ranger School as a food service worker during the 1977-78 school year. She then switched over and ran the school book store from 1978- 1989. Finally, she took over as the RSAA office manager in the fall of 1989, a position she has held for 31 years! To put this total in perspective, Gail has been at the Ranger School to see 42 years' worth of Alumni pass through to graduation.

Of course, we also need to give Gail a great big applause to the countless hours and days of planning she put into making each one of our Reunions run as smoothly as possible. From ordering tents and chairs to finding great caterers, Gail's ability to organize and keep track of everything was priceless and the RSAA Board could not have asked for a better person to put it all together. That is why the RSAA Board has created a special position just for Gail as Reunion Liaison. Who better to greet our alumni with a big smile and even bigger heart than our Gail?

Although we have had to cancel the Reunion this summer, rest assured that we will be celebrating Gail at our next Reunion. On behalf of the Alumni Association, the RSAA Board wishes Gail the best, happiest, and longest retirement possible.

2020 Or the RSAA Reunion that wasn't!

2020 is the first time in many, many years that alumni have not swarmed the campus on the first weekend in August to meet with old friends, colleagues, classmates, and instructors. But due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors made the tough decision to scrape the Reunion for this year. But we are still going to try to bring some of the reunion to you.

First off, congratulations to the Class of 1970 on achieving their 50th Reunion. We have sent 50 Year plaques to all the members of the class who sent in info sheets and we will honor them and the Class of 1971 at next years reunion! Tip of the hardhat to you all! Hats off to all the other classes celebrating their own milestones:

Class of 1950—Celebrating 70 Years

Class of 1955—Celebrating 65 Years

Class of 1960 – celebrating 60 years

Class of 1965 – celebrating 55 years

Class of 1970—celebrating 50 years

Class of 1975 – celebrating 45 years

Class of 1980 – Celebrating 40 years

Class of 1985 – Celebrating 35 years

Class of 1990 – Celebrating 30 years

Class of 1995 – Celebrating 25 years

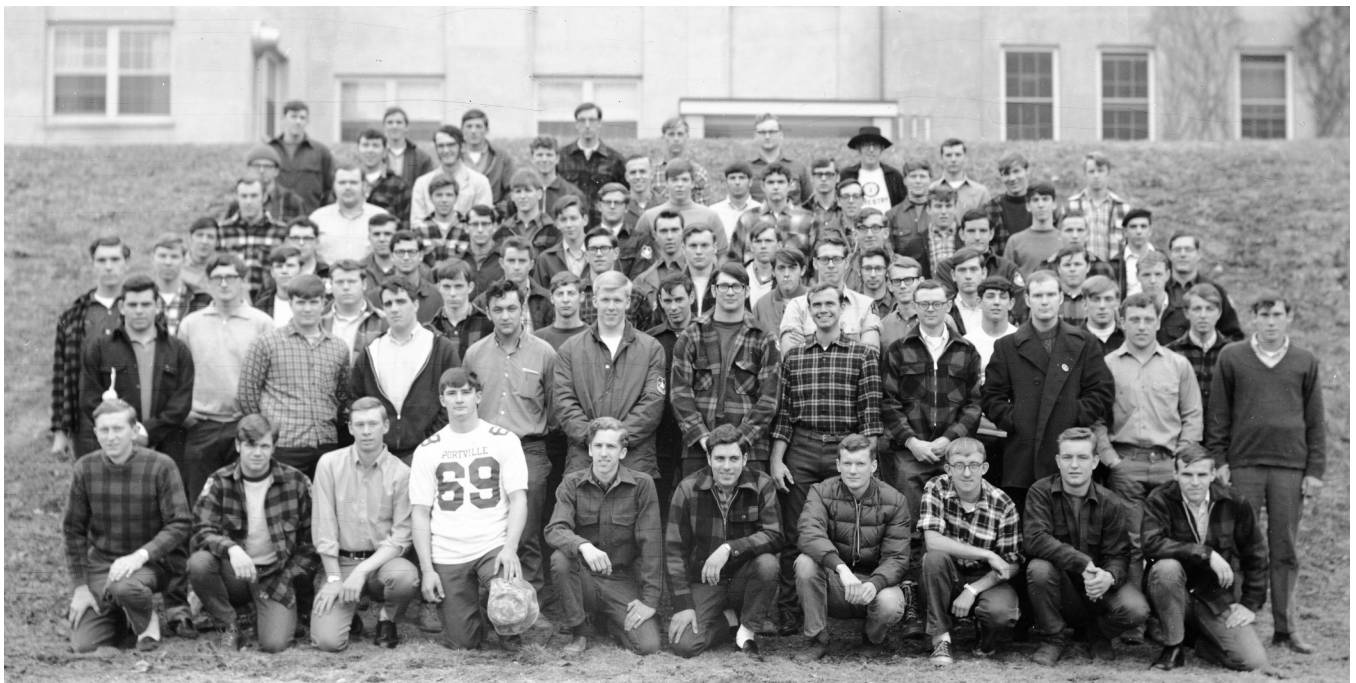
Class of 2000 – Celebrating 20 years

Class of 2005 – Celebrating 15 years

Class of 2010 – Celebrating 10 years

Class of 2015 – Celebrating 5 years

Class of 2020 – Celebrating their very first reunion and recent graduation!



The Class of 1970—First Day



Some of the Class of 1970 with their 50th Reunion Plaques. Left to right: Gene Smith, Jim Page, Herb Brown and Jim Helmbrecht, who showed up in Wanakena for the Reunion and sent this comment “Nobody else was there!”

Reunion—Continued—Awards

The **Phillip J Haddock** award is presented by the Board of Directors each year. 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 the alumni in general.

The winner of this year's award is...

Debbie Caviness, Director of Alumni Relations at ESF

Her nomination included the following recommendation:

Debbie has been integral to helping us through the SUNY contract process. She has helped put us in contact with an excellent team to work through our legal and financial issues. She has offered needed guidance on how to navigate SUNY policies and procedures. Debbie has gone above and beyond what is expected of her position to help the RSAA. She truly cares about us, not only as an organization but as alumni and individuals, and wants us to succeed! Without her support and guidance, the RSAA would not be here today!

Debbie was sent her plaque and a congratulatory letter and will be honored, in person, at the 2021 Alumni Reunion.



The **Remele Award** is presented by the RSAA in honor of Kermit E Remele. Professor Remele, a 1943 graduate of the Ranger School and served on the Ranger School faculty for over 30 years. As an active member of the RSAA he served as editor of the Alumni News and held the office of Secretary for many years. 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 who have combined efforts have gone beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School.

The winner this year's award is...

The Clifton Fine Arena and Committee

Their nomination included the following recommendation:



Hockey is very important to the students and alum of the "Bridgen Era". The Clifton Fine Arena has provided countless students the opportunity to get into hockey, relieve stress, and experience part of Adirondack culture. Going along with Doc retiring, his legacy will live on in many ways, one of which being the hockey club. Many students bonded with Doc, and got life lessons, both practical, and some being outlandish and full of humor, and some even got tripped or pushed down by the passionate director in the Clifton Fine arena. The Clifton Fine arena has provided many opportunities, and gracious hours of enjoyment for so many Ranger School students and alum.

The Arena Committee was sent their plaque and award letter and will also be invited to be honored at the 2021 Alumni Reunion.

Search for new Treasurer and additional Board of Director Members— Lee Berry '68—Nominating Committee Chair

Hello Everyone

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer in spite of COVID -19. This would have been our Ranger School Alumni reunion week end.

To continue with the reunions in the coming years, the alumni association needs more volunteers. Currently we have a vacancy for the Treasures position. The perfect person would not only be a dedicated volunteer but should possess basic accounting knowledge and be at least familiar with Quickbook accounting software. Please contact us for details of the job description.

We are also in need of additional "members at large" on the RSAA Board of Directors.

If you would consider volunteering for any of these positions, please contact President Christi Barber or myself. We desperately need more help.

Thank you for your consideration of these positions.

Ranger School Class of 2020!

Congratulations the Class of 2020! The Ranger School is an experience like no other, and yours was unique in many additional ways as well! Not letting a little thing, like a global pandemic, get in the way of completing your education shows that, as a class, you have truly embraced the principals of hard work and perseverance that are so embodied by the Ranger School. Although we may not be related, but we do all share a special bond as Ranger School graduates. We are honored to welcome you all to the RSAA family and look forward to having a long and wonderful relationship with you all!



**The Ranger School Class of 2020 Graduation Ceremony! One of the few schools
IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY to have an in-person, yet virtual graduation.**

Campus Closure

The Ranger School's James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest will be closed to the public for an indefinite amount of time beginning Saturday, August 15, 2020. The Cranberry Lake 50 trail, which passes in front of the school, will remain open. This action is necessary to protect students and staff as they begin a new academic year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but it is a critical precaution as we work to ensure the health and success of the Class of 2021. Thank you for your cooperation.

Annual Meeting Cancelled due to Covid-19

The Annual Meeting will be held on August 7th 2021 under the tent and we will review the business from 2020 and 2021. The RSAA's lawyer provided the following recommendation : "While the law requires that an annual meeting is held for the benefit of the members of a not-for-profit corporation at least once a year, the NYS Attorney General has issued guidance explicitly allowing the cancellation or postponement of meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic.... The Board shall take steps to hold an annual meeting for 2021 that will review 2020 information as well."



Welcome to the Class of 2021!

As we are writing this newsletter, the Class of 2021 is entering campus. Three students from out-of-state were required to come to the School two weeks early to quarantine due to Covid Concerns. The Class currently has 56 students. They are broken down as follows—Forest Technology— 23; Natural Resource— 29; Surveying Program—4. The school has 11 women (20%) enrolled in class.

New Historic Marker in Wanakena—Wanakena Historical Society

"The Wanakena Historical Association has sponsored and installed a New York State historic marker in Wanakena at the corner of Second Street and Ranger School Road. The marker honors The Ranger School, which offers the oldest forest technology program in the United States. WHA thanks the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for its generous grant underwriting the cost of the marker. The marker was placed in time for the arrival of the 2020-21 Ranger School class at the start of their fall semester."

Installed by Paul Flynn, Wayne Allen, and Jerry Cibelli

Editor's Note—Picture and narrative are from a Facebook post by the WHA. Many thanks for getting this done.



DO YOU WANT A PRINTED COPY OF THE ALUMNI NEWS?

ALUMNI NEWS GOING DIGITAL THIS YEAR

In order to help keep our operating costs down, we have decided to publish this year's Alumni News in a digital version. We will still be printing a small number of copies for the Archives and for those alumni who specifically request one prior to publishing. If you feel strongly about having a printed copy mailed to you, please contact the RSAA by **September 18**, via email at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com or leave a voice mail on the answering machine at 315-848-2566 ext. 2112.

With all of the challenges this year has presented, the Alumni News will be a bit late. Look for it to arrive in October. We are always looking for submissions for the Alumni News! If you have any stories, 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 RSAA at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com.

Interested in Seeing your fellow Alumni? - Ariane Tanski '09

The cancelation of Reunion is a great disappointment for everyone. I know we all look forward to seeing each other every August. It won't be the same, but if anyone's interested in getting together virtually, we'd be happy to put together a Zoom Meeting for you. Whether it is by class year or a group of alumni friends, this could be a great way to keep in touch until we can be together in Wanakena again! Please let us know if you are interested, and we can work together to set something up! Contact the RSAA at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com.

Donations

We are pleased to see that during this tough time, Ranger School Alumni continue to step up and send us donations and we thank you! These donations help us to offset the costs of running the organization as well as assist in the upkeep and maintenance of the Alumni House and Campground. As you all know, the Board was forced to keep the House and Campground closed due to the Covid. While the property is now open, we faced additional costs for a thorough professional cleaning of the entire house before we allowed the first user.

We would like to encourage all Alumni to continue to support the organization in anyway you can. Donations, small and large are all greatly appreciated.

Some people have been asking about how to directly donate to the RSAA. Please use the link below:

<https://bit.ly/36w2CxH>

Thank you for your support and generosity.

RSAA Merchandise available On-Line

We have started an online store where you can buy RSAA merchandise. Everything from shirts and hoodies to water bottles and phone cases. Profits from the merchandise go to help keep the RSAA running.

We're still working on updating the design of the store but you can access it to buy stuff right now! Click on the link below. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.spreadshirt.com/shop/user/ranger+school+alumni+association/>