

## Ranger School Alumni Association

257 Ranger School Rd. Wanakena NY 13690  
(315) 848-2566 ext. 112 Email: rsaagail@esf.edu



# FALL—WINTER 2019-2020

Greetings Alumni!

I am pleased and honored to be serving as the newest President of our incredibly special Alumni Association. I have stepped into this role at a time of transition and need for strong leadership for our organization and I hope that I can serve you in a positive way to bring all things to fruition so that we may continue to be the amazing Alumni Association that we already are.

Since our Annual Meeting in August where we successfully passed the Amended and Restated By-Laws, the board has passed four additional documents that will bring things closer to getting the contract process completed; those documents include; The Whistleblower Policy, Internal Controls Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy and Restated Articles of Incorporation. We are also preparing the necessary paperwork for an audit which is one of the requirements for our Contract with SUNY. This has been a bit of a trial by fire experience for me but with the support of fellow board members and by main campus, I have learned much already and feel confident that we will be in a much stronger position by the end of the year. You can view the documents that were passed and connect to board members through our website:

<https://www.esf.edu/rangerschool/alumni/>

More information and features (like online dues pay!) will be made available in the summer newsletter as we continue to develop this site.

As always, we are looking for submissions for the Alumni News. Please forward any submissions you have to Gail (rsaagail@esf.edu ) or to Ariane (tanskiae@gmail.com).

And in the words of my predecessor from last year's winter newsletter: "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." This means when you checkout from Amazon's mobile app or the main website, the purchases don't count. I encourage you to please do what I've begun to do, add the items to your cart but when it's time to check out login through smile.amazon.com; the items will still be in your cart, check out there so we receive the donation.

Happy Holidays and Cheers!

Christi Barber, 2010

Greetings everyone!

It has been an honor to serve as the RSAA President over the past two years. With all the changes going on, the time was often challenging, yet it was also a very rewarding experience.

I want to thank the RSAA Board of Directors. It was only through their time, talent, and dedication that we were able to move forward with the many challenges presented to us. I have full confidence that Christi Barber will do an excellent job as the new RSAA President and that she has a strong Board to help her continue to grow the organization.

I also want to thank the SUNY ESF and Ranger School administrations for their continued help and support. Without their guidance, the RSAA wouldn't be where it is today.

The Ranger School holds a special place in the hearts of all of us. It is more than just a school. It is the excellent education provided by our amazing faculty and staff. It is the beautiful campus and surrounding Dubuar Forest. It is the wonderful and welcoming community of Wanakena. It is the history and culture shared and fostered throughout the years. It is the sense of family created by the experiences we have all shared.

So last, *but definitely not least*, I want to thank you, our membership. You are the lifeblood of our organization. Without you, we have no purpose. Thank you for your support and dedication in helping to keep the Ranger School spirit alive and well.

Again, I thank you for the privilege of being the RSAA President and for your continued help and support of the RSAA! My sincerest thanks to you all. Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!

Ariane Tanski '09

Past-President RSAA

**From the Ranger School Director:**

Ranger School is doing well. The Class of 2020 is a group of hard-working, dedicated, focused individuals, who are also doing their best to enjoy their time together. We have 54 students, a good-sized class, including the largest percentage of female students (33%) in the history of the School. In addition to their arduous studies, members of the class have engaged in the woodsmen’s team, hockey, made various hiking trips into the Adirondac ks, conducted community service in Wanakena, celebrated Halloween in style, and endured an “etiquette dinner” with various members of the professions. I am confident that the Class of 2020 will help to maintain a great reputation for the School, and will be welcome members of the Alumni Association.

One significant change this year was the hiring of Mr. Jeremy Thompson as the new land surveying professor. Jeremy is a Ranger School graduate from the Class of 1997, and been an active surveyor for the past twenty years. This attached photo shows Jeremy and his family attending the welcoming barbeque in August 2019.



Winter did seem to come early this year. Brutally cold temperatures in early November led to the freeze-over of the Oswegatchie Flow. Students have already experienced many day-long field labs in ankle-deep snow, but they have been excited, taken it in stride, and standing up to the challenge.

Other changes are on the horizon. I have announced my retirement, currently set for June 24, 2020. A process has started to identify the new Director. The College has also initiated a search to appoint a new College President.

Thanks to each of you who continue to support the School The Ranger School continues to provide the highest quality technical education for those seeking careers in outdoor professions. I invite you to recommend the School to others who may be considering such careers.  
— Michael Bridgen, Director

**From the Alumni Properties Manager:**

Dear members,

I want to thank you all for your generosity. We needed a new dock and I asked for donations towards a new floating dock system. Many of you generously donated. I would like to thank the following people: Rob Snyder '97, Will Benzel '97 Brad Rosenthal '97, Mike Aimonetti '69, Dave Schmidt '97, Brian Murray '97, The Class of 1979, Purzycki '97, Artic Refrigeration out of Batavia (Mager '74), Rob Collins' 94, and Terry Lasher '97. If I forgot anyone I apologize. I do want to thank Steve Whalen '71 for helping me install the dock on a warm June day.

On the weekend of October 19th, we shut down the alumni house and the campground. We also were able to pull in the floating dock system. Since it is modular, it was easy to take a part and haul in so it does not get damaged by the ice. I want to thank all that helped with winterizing our alumni property.

Finally I want to invite everyone to our annual Spring Work Weekend April 24-26, 2020. It is a fun time opening up the Alumni house and campground. We have lots of projects to work on. It is a fun family event capped off with a barbecue on Saturday night. Anyone interested in attending please feel free to contact me at [mrbushey@yahoo.com](mailto:mrbushey@yahoo.com).

As always, thank you for your support.

Mike Bushey '94  
Alumni Properties Manager

**From the New Surveying Instructor:**

As you may know, a few years back NYSAPLS organized a Young Professionals Committee. One of the responsibilities of that committee is to help provide exposure for current surveying students to and with prospective employers. One of the ways they do this is by organizing a “Young Professionals & Alumni Social” at the annual surveying conference. This year the conference will be at Turning Stone Resort and Casino and will run from Wednesday 1/22/2020 to Friday 1/24/2020. The “Young Professionals & Alumni Social” is planned for Thursday (1/23/2020) evening from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. Unfortunately I don’t have the specifics as to which room the event will take place in, however there will most likely be signs posted throughout the venue guiding folks. This is in place of the individual mini-reunions that each school use to do at Conference. Please let me know if there is anything else you need. Thanks for all you do for all of us!

Jeremy Thompson, PLS RS'97  
Instructor of Surveying

**From the Treasurer:**

*"Baby It's Cold Outside"*. I cannot remember who wrote it but I think Rosemary Clooney sang it. Well, that is what has happened with the weather now. Anyway, here we are again preparing for the holidays and winter, not necessarily in that order.

Update on the Audit. The BOD is in the continuing process of soliciting bids from CPA's for this task. Main Campus is assisting in trying to decipher our records to facilitate what is needed for the Audit and to see what is missing or misplaced.

Your Treasurer is struggling to move monies to and fro, legally and per your donation directions, to cover our expenses and obligations. SUNY and Albany are always presenting us with new and exciting expenditure opportunities.

At the last BOD meeting a discussion occurred regarding dues and payment thereof. Some of our members (37 this year) have been waiting to pay yearly dues at Reunion. The new policies and guidelines require that the dues be remitted at the beginning of the year to be considered an Active Member. This is important in that only Active Members will receive any special communications and only Active Members are eligible to vote or to be considered for BOD positions. This being the issue it was decided to implement a January 31<sup>st</sup> date for yearly dues receipt to be current. Dues received after that date would still make you an Active Member however if a special mailing goes out prior to the receipt of your dues it may not be sent to you. So please remit in a timely manner. Clear as mud, aye.

With all this being stated thank you for your continuing generosity, which always amazes me. Thank you for your insights, guidance, and patience. Most of all thank you for your friendship and support. Hope your Thanksgiving was fulfilling, and your Christmas and holidays blessed, your New Year happy, and your Ground Hogs Day fruitful.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce E. Williams '76 RSAA Treasurer



**Please help us save \$\$\$**

Please keep us notified of your current address, and if you have a different seasonal address, the dates that you are there.

If not deliverable, or is not current, we have to pay for your mail returned. (@ \$.61 each.)

**From the Secretary:**

It's good to be back. Old faces, new faces, all faces that love the Ranger School as much as I do. I've been away for the better part of a decade. The Ranger School has given me much: lifetime friends, wife, daughter, in-laws and out-laws, a couple different careers, but most of all knowledge and strength.

Since my tenure as RSAA President, there have been good people at the helm, guiding and steering this association. Each one leaving their mark and doing good work. It seems as though we're still fighting some of the same fights. Changes are inevitable, they are upon us. We change with them or die. It is good to see new people, the next generation stepping up to help steer the association...we need them to help embrace the needed changes to make the RSAA stronger. I came back to the RSAA because I am thankful for what I have been given, for what I have learned, for what the forest has given me, and continues to give me. I will do my part in guiding and steering this association into the future, and am thankful for another opportunity to be a part of the RSAA board. — Bob Diehl, Class of 1997

**Blue Ox News**



The Ranger School's Blue Ox Woodsmen Team (celebrating sixteen continuous years in Timbersports) had a great start to the 2019-2020 season. The school sponsored two teams this fall. A Men's team and the first official Women's team. The two teams attended meets at Finger Lakes Community College, The College of Environmental Science and Forestry's home meet in Tully, New York and ended the semester at Paul Smiths College. Looking ahead to next semester the group has perspective meets at Alfred, Cobleskill and again at Finger Lakes Community College. Spring Meet this year is being hosted by the University of New Hampshire. Due to the mileage and other logistics the group will more than likely not be attending. Check the Alumni Association's web page for spring semester dates as they become available. ~ Robert T. Fleming '96

## **ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO STUDENTS RS'2020**

Buholtz Scholarships were awarded to: Rebecca Ashby, Caitlyn Cherro, Nick Galante, Nicole Housden, Morgan Kish, Edwin McGrath, Nathaniel Reale, George Rincon, Daniel Sossover, Cody Ward, and Steven Young

Castagnozzi Scholarships were awarded to: Alex Almeter and Jarod Thiel

The Cooke Scholarship was awarded to Nafisa Tabassum

The Bentley Scholarship was awarded to Jessica Castellan

The Westbrook Scholarship was awarded to Steven Perez Gangi

The Butts Scholarship was awarded to Michael Pink

The Remele Scholarships were awarded to Christian Edmunds and Dominic Mei

The Dubuar Scholarships were awarded to Marshall Burggeman and Matthew Casterllo

Alex Hoyman received the Casanova Scholarship

Dylan Pettit received the Class of 1968 Scholarship

The Shemin Scholarship was awarded to Jonathan Lasselle

The Fecke Scholarship was awarded to Christina Krause

The Class of 1961 Scholarship was awarded to Shelby Hildebrandt

Steven Perez Gangi also received the Legacy Scholarship from the Ranger School Alumni Association

Dr. Michael R. Bridgen, Professor and Director  
SUNY ESF  
The Ranger School  
257 Ranger School Road  
Wanakena, NY 13695



SU Chancellor Kent Syverud

## **THE SU CHANCELLOR COMES TO TOWN**

On September 30, 2019, an historic event occurred at the Ranger School. Syracuse University Chancellor, Kent Syverud, and a group of SU administrators, visited the Ranger School and toured parts of the Dubuar Forest. It was historic as it may have been the first time the campus has been visited by an incumbent Chancellor.

Attending with Chancellor Syverud, were SU Vice Chancellor Mike Haynie, the Chancellor's Chief of Staff, Candace Campbell-Jackson, General Counsel Dan French, CFO Amir Rahnamay-Azar, and Deputy General counsel Gabe Nugent.

Members of ESF's administration included Interim President David Amberg, interim provost, David Newman, Kevin Hayden, College Counsel, Robert MacGregor, Director of Forest Properties, and Bruce Breitmeyer, Forest Property Manager.

The tour of the Dubuar Forest was led by Ranger School Director Michael Bridgen, and Facilities Director Craig Perrault. The visitors were shown the Arboretum, the fire tower on Cathedral Rock, the Reservoir, the 1915 Red Pine stand (also the boundary of the original 1800 acres donated by Rich Lumber Company), and other student projects. The SU administrators were especially interested in considering ways to work with ESF and the Ranger School to strengthen ties between the organizations.

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	1994 Kermit E. Remele '43	2008 Lee Berry '68
1981 Lucian Plumley '31	1995 Gordon T. Hughes '56	2009 Bruce Williams '76
1982 C. Eugene Farnsworth	1996 Richard W. Miller '53	2010 Gerald L. Kniskern '50
1983 J. Wayne Morrow '33	1997 Hal Bush '27	2011 Wayne G. Allen '79
1984 F.B. "Dinty" Moore '32	1998 John Peck '43	2012 Bob Simmons
1985 Orrin L. Latham	1999 Lawrence Rathman '72	2013 Jerry Holbrook '56
1986 Barry D. Nehr '60	2000 Gail Simmons	2014 Tom Hodges '53
1987 Arthur E. Kopp '31	2001 Thomas D. Martin '76	2015 Pete Zubal '59
1988 Michael Salato '29	2002 Chris Westbrook '73	2016 Lawrence R. Hawkins '55
1989 Daniel Castagnozzi '50	2003 Stephen Coulthart '53	2017 Michael R. Bridgen
1990 Mary Ann Remele '53	2004 Dick Thomas '54	2018 Arnold H. Lanckton '53
1991 David G. Anderson '50	2005 Ken Myers '52	2019 Mike Webb '74
1992 Francis M. LaDuc '47	2006 Lawrence Hill '50	
1993 James E. Coufal '57	2007 Charles Hartnett '51	

#### **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, the Wanakena Historical Assoc. and NYS DEC Forest Rangers.

#### **2020 ALUMNI NEWS BOOK**

This is the beginning of the 2020 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Ranger School Hockey**

“Could you imagine a Saturday night without Ranger School hockey? What a horrible thought.” – Doctor Bridgen, as a student threw his gear up into the van late this past skate.

Again, a large group has assembled to take the reins of the Ranger School hockey team. As usual, the team is skating Saturday nights in Canton with a move to Star Lake in January. The group is shaping up well and looks to be a tough team to beat this year. Please join us for the annual alumni game on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Tenity Ice Pavilion on Syracuse’s south campus. Whether you have equipment and want to play or you just want to spectate, a good time is had by all. Come and see who will hoist the famed Bridgen Cup.

Email me at [gmvaverc@esf.edu](mailto:gmvaverc@esf.edu) with questions.

-Greg Vaverchak '02



**HAROLD L. SPAULDING MEMORIAL ALUMNI HOUSE**

It was another successful year at the alumni house. The house was booked almost all season, especially busy from the time school is out in June through September. We thank all who help make the house so comfortable and well-maintained.

Don't forget the Spring cleanup April 25 & 26th. We have a good time and get a lot done!

If you are interested in the lottery for reservations for the 2020 season, you will find the form below.

Reservations for the Spaulding Alumni House **2020** season can be made beginning

Friday February 3 through Monday February 28 **in writing.**

**Donation Schedule: \$60.00/person/night \$80.00/family\*/night**

*\*Family is defined as immediate family only.*

*\*Extended families qualify as a group- groups of 4 or more get group rate*

**\$250/Group rate\*/night**

**Guidelines for Reservations**

Maximum 1 Weekend per stay Additional days may be added to any weekend for a maximum of 7 night stay

Arrival time is after noon on first night of stay Departure time is 11:00 AM following last night stay

1) Reservations for the lottery shall be made in writing using the bottom of this page. When making reservation requests please include a self- addressed stamped envelope for notification of lottery results.

**No E-mail or Phone Calls for Alumni House Lottery Reservations.**

2) Return reservation forms between February 1, 2020 and February 28, 2020. Lottery Drawing will be held on March 4, 2020. Reservation notifications will be mailed out between March 16 and March 20, 2020. You may contact the Alumni Office after March 30, 2020 for any remaining dates available.

**Reservation Types:**

**(WK)** Week Stay: check in on Friday at noon through checkout the following Friday at 11:00am

**(WD)** Weekend Stay: check in on Friday at noon through check out on Sunday at 11:00am

**(AD)** Additional day (s), if available

**(HD)** Holiday Weekend Stay: Check in at noon Friday through check out Tuesday at 11:00am

**During the week of the Monday, Aug. 3 - Sunday Aug. 9, 2020, the Alumni House is unavailable.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Are your dues paid? \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people staying? \_\_\_\_\_ Which rate? Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_

**1st. Choice**

Reservation type: WK ( ) WD ( ) HD ( ) AD ( )

Dates Requested: Arrive after noon: \_\_\_\_\_ Depart 11:00am \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd. Choice**

Reservation type: WK ( ) WD ( ) HD ( ) AD ( )

Dates Requested: Arrive after noon: \_\_\_\_\_ Depart 11:00am \_\_\_\_\_

**3rd. Choice**

Reservation type: WK ( ) WD ( ) HD ( ) AD ( )

Dates Requested: Arrive after noon: \_\_\_\_\_ Depart 11:00am \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form before February 28, 2020 to: RSAA, PO Box 48, Wanakena, NY 13695**

# 2020 CALENDAR

**Jan. 13** - Class of 2020, 2nd Semester begins

**Jan. 22 –24** – NYSAPLS Surveying Conference @ **Turning Stone in Verona, NY**

with Alumni Reception, Jan. 23, from 5:30 – 7 pm

**Jan. 23 – 24** NYSAF Conference @ **Doubletree Hotel, Carrier Circle, Syracuse**

with Alumni Reception Jan. 23, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**March 7** – Student vs. Alumni Hockey Tournament, @ **Tennity Ice Pavilion, Syracuse 2:30—4:30 pm**

**March 14- 22** - Spring break

**April 24** – RSAA spring meeting

**April 24-26**—Cleanup weekend at the Alumni House

**April 25** – Spring Open House for prospective students

**May 16** - Class of 2020 Graduation

**May 24 – June 19** – FNRM Summer Program

**August 7 & 8** – RSAA 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion

**August 16** – Class of 2021 arrives

## \* **Wanted** \*

### Your Best Doctor Bridgen Stories/Memories

With Doctor Bridgen retiring this summer, the alumni association would like to compile an assortment of stories and memories of your favorite Doc moments. This may be a story of a memorable lab as a student, a laughable interaction as an alum, or a quote or saying. Any and all submissions are welcome. Pictures would be great too. Submit a memory to be included in the collection **by April 1<sup>st</sup>** to the email:

[stories4bridgen@esf.edu](mailto:stories4bridgen@esf.edu)

*“Hey, did you hear the story about  
Oakie, Smokey and Doc?”*

