



Spring 2020 Newsletter

Ranger School Alumni Association

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From the President

Greetings fellow alumni, I hope the arrival of this newsletter finds everyone healthy and staying as sane as possible during these unprecedented and very trying times. The board has been forced to make some very difficult decisions in recent months, including, but not limited to the cancellation of the reunion. On a personal level, it would have been my tenth. We will be putting out a special edition reunion newsletter in late summer. Please be sure to read the included Covid-19 Response letter that is included with this newsletter for more detailed information.

I have been asked by main campus to advise Alumni that they are engaging in an oral history project and Ranger School Alumni will be included in this as well. If you are contacted by an individual identifying themselves as being from or with PCI, these are the professional team that the College has engaged with to verify alumni contact information, conduct the interviews and facilitate the project. Further inquiries can be directed to The Alumni Affairs Office on Main Campus. The office number is: 315-470-6632, although the office is presently unmanned, you can leave a message for a return call. They can also be contacted via email at: alumni@esf.edu

There has been a lot of activity by the board since the winter newsletter, so be sure to read my fellow board members write-ups as well for the skinny on the various happenings and updates.

Christi Barber, RSAA President, Class of 2010

Interested in seeing your fellow Alumni?

The cancellation 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, I'd be happy to put together a Zoom meeting(s) for you. Whether it's 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 me know if you're interested, and we can work together to set something up! Contact Ariane Tanski at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com.

Trees, Alumni, and COVID-19

As I get ready for another day in our world affected by COVID-19 I reflect on the fact that some things have gone unchanged, like trees and much of the natural world, and some things have changed immensely. I find some sanctuary in being able to walk in the forest, but the changes caused by this pandemic seem to follow me there too. As a growth of virtual meetings has occurred in response to us not being able to meet in person one can now conduct meetings at home, in the office, or perhaps while still in the woods while working. While this virtual world is very convenient, it is somewhat less personal and lacks true human contact. But, this approach to conducting business does seem to be a necessity for now.

With that said, the effects of COVID-19 have rippled through the educational world leading the RSAA board to cancel our annual meeting and restrict the opening of the alumni house and camp-ground until it is determined to be appropriate to open. These actions come with several burdens for the association: most notable is that the donations given for the use of the alumni house and campgrounds cover the maintenance, upkeep and taxes of the

property. As many of you are aware last year the board of directors took on several major and necessary repairs to the house and the property. We had hoped to continue this momentum this year with some necessary upgrades to the kitchen. At this time, it is uncertain if any upgrades will occur as we will need to be certain that the minimal expenses of ownership are met first (taxes and insurance).

Due to the cancellation of the annual meeting and as a move to reduce costs the board of directors decided to produce the Alumni News in a digital format for distribution, with a limited number of hard copies available. We are receiving a growing number of requests for hard copies of the Alumni News. This publication is produced in units of 100. In an attempt to meet the needs of our fellow alumni we are preparing to have a limited number of the annual Alumni News books printed, we are still assessing how many to print and what the cost is associated with this. We need to hear from the alumni who need a hard copy instead of a digital copy soon. I should state that moving the publication to a digital copy is only being done for the 2020 addition and in a response to how COVID-19 is affecting our association.

We are still working on how to handle recognizing classes and award recipients, as we normally would at our annual meeting. At this time, we are going to do the best we can to continue with recognition of classes and award recipients, with the exception that we will have to mail recipients of awards their plaques. We will officially recognize all classes and award recipients from 2020 at the 2021 annual meeting. There will be some extra cost and effort for the board of directors in handling our recognitions and awards this way, but we feel that it is important to do this and carry on our traditions as well as we can.

To maintain the financial stability of the association we are asking for donations to help maintain our organization through this time. We are adding a Donation Button to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/RSAAinc>) for anyone who wishes to make a donation, in addition anyone who wishes to mail in donations can still do so. It is worth noting that the Class of 74 has started the fund drive by donating \$250.00 towards covering these costs.

Best Regards,
Chris Tcimpidis, CF & AWB
Vice Chair, RSAA

We Need Your Help!

This year has been difficult for everyone in many ways. We hope that you are all staying safe and healthy! The RSAA is doing everything possible to sustain basic operations. While there is some uncertainty going forward, we are confident that the RSAA can survive this! However, we need your help to do that. With the cancellation of Reunion and the Alumni House and Campground being closed (at least for the near future), we are in need of funds to cover those losses. We ask that, if you are able, to please consider donating to our general operating fund. Monies donated to this fund will allow the Board to use them wherever they are needed most. There are a few different ways to donate to the RSAA.

Monetary donations can be made via PayPal at:

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

(You do NOT have to have a PayPal account to donate through this link.)

If you prefer to mail in a paper check, they can be made out to "RSAA" and mailed to RSAA, PO Box 48, Wanakena, NY 13695.

We also have RSAA items available for purchase at:

<https://www.spreadshirt.com/user/Ranger+School+Alumni+Association>

These items include shirts, sweatshirts, baby clothes, hats, bags, mugs, phone cases, even socks! Please take a look and see what catches your eye!

If you are unable to donate at this time, there are many other ways you can support us! Please consider becoming a Board member or joining one of the committees! If this is something you are interested in, please let us know at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com

In these uncertain times, we are reminded of how interconnected we all are. Thank you for being part of our community. Without you, and your support, none of it is possible.

Stay safe and well,

Ranger School Alumni Association, Board of Directors



Alumni News

We are currently looking for submissions for the 2020 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 Ariane Tanski at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com

In order to help keep our operating costs down, we have decided to offer a digital edition of this year's Alumni News. We will still be printing a small number of copies for the Archives and for those who specifically request one prior to publishing. We ask that you only request a printed copy if you are unable to access a digital edition. If you feel strongly about having a printed copy mailed to you, please contact Ariane Tanski by July 17, via email at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com.

Change: The only constant in life

How things have changed over the last three months. Many of the changes affecting RSAA are being covered in other articles but they are different. As for the Treasurer the major change has been that I felt that it was time to let someone else take over and get fresh eyes and ideas in this position. As of March 31, 2020 I have moved into the Acting Treasurer mode, until an Interim Treasurer can be appointed and eventually an actual Treasurer can be elected. As the Acting Treasurer I will continue to pay bills and maintain records of receipts and expenditures. When an Interim Treasurer is appointed I will assist with the transfer of records, files, and data. During this time the finances are being set up in a new Accounting Program, as per SUNY request. Also procedural changes will be instituted to meet policy updates made under the new RSAA contract with SUNY.

It has been an honor serving as your Treasurer for the last seven and a half years, but technology and the accounting needs have forced me to make this decision. It was also mentioned that SUNY was uneasy regarding my abilities and procedures. I will remain on the BOD as a Member at Large, to assist with the transition to an Interim, and then elected Treasurer, and to work with the Finance Committee.

Hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy. Keep up the support and your always generous giving of time and funds. Hope to see you all again soon.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Williams '76; Acting Treasurer

Dear fellow alumni,

I hope you and your families are healthy during this unprecedented pandemic. I know many of you are chomping at the bit to come up to Wanakena for some rest and relaxation. Aren't we all? At this time, the Ranger School Alumni Association Board of Directors have decided to keep the Alumni House and the Alumni Campground closed until further notice. Each month we will meet (thank the internet gods for Zoom) and determine if it is safe to reopen the campground and Alumni house. We ask until then to please do not go up there. We want everyone to be safe and healthy during this pandemic. If you have reservations for the Alumni house, you will be contacted shortly by a board member to discuss either a rescheduling or a refund. Hopefully we can reopen for part of the season. Keep watching our Facebook page for updates.

Unfortunately, during this closure, we still have to pay insurance and taxes on the property. Since there is no income at the moment from users or the house or campground, we are asking our members who do use them to please consider sending in a general donation so we can cover any expenses, including taxes and insurance. There are a few ways to do this, please see the memo about donations on page 2. In a normal year, the proceeds from the Alumni house and campground would cover some of these costs. But this year is anything but normal. We thank you in advance for anything you can donate to us. Hopefully soon we will be able to camp together in our favorite place on Earth.

Stay healthy and safe. If you have any questions feel free to email me at mrbushey@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Mike Bushey, '94

RSAA Properties Manager & Board Member

How was Ranger School affected by the Spanish Influenza?



The Class of 1918 only had ten students. Thirty-eight year old Director Seward D. Smith had to send one student home due to influenza. That student was Mr. Donald T. Mason, who later

recovered, married in 1921, and became a life insurance underwriter.

The Class of 1919 had twelve students, and a new Director, thirty-seven year old Robert Craig, Jr. One of his students, Mr. Kurt Adam, withdrew from School due to influenza. He also recovered and returned to finish the program.

Although unrelated to influenza, one student in the Class of 1919 was shot and killed during a hunting accident on the Ranger School forest. He was Nelson F. Jonas of Great Bend, NY.

Mike Bridgen

Congratulation to the Class of 1970!! 50 YEARS!!**Class of 1970**

Row 1 (l to r): James Akey, Donald Bate, John Bauer, Jack Beers, James Boreman, David Brady, John Breckenridge, Herbert Brown, Bradley Brownell, Ralph Campbell.

Row 2: John Caputo, Thomas Conrad, William Duesselmann, Jr., Pierre Dupuis, Norman Eklund, John Engels, William Fleischhauer, Richard Freeman, William Garvey, Charles George, Jr., Robert Gilbertson, Jr.

Row 3: Richard Gorski, Paul Graber, Douglas Greene, Gary Greer, William Gross, W. Guanciale, D. Hamilton, Timothy Hannon, Russell Hardy, George Hart, James Helmbrect.

Row 4: Paul Hering, Jr, Fred Huebner, Hugh Irish, Robert Jones, John Jordan, James Joslin, James Keenan, Jonathan Koszuta, Gary Kravitz, Richard Kumpost, Richard Kyer.

Row 5: Donald Larabee, George Levitsky, Russell Lons, Emmett Martin, Roger Martois, Wayne Meyer, Richard Miller, Roy Miller, David Millholen, Donnie Monroe, Ronald Newell.

Row 6: Michael Nolan, George Nowicki, James Page, Ellis Percy, Charles Perlmutter, Steven Pfohl, Charles Reed, David Ryan, Carl Schupp, Randall Schwab, Robert Seidel.

Row 7: Frank Sepelak, Thomas Sheehan, Dana Smith, Garry Smith, Gene Smith, Clifford Sommer, James Thornby, Joseph Tuccio, Maurice Van Hall, Paul Vedo, Jr.

Row 8: Robert Venne, Gregory Von Arx, Roy Weller, Frederick Whalen, John Whitcomb, James Wingate, Glenn Woodard, David Young

We regret that we cannot properly honor you all at Reunion this year. However, we do not want this milestone to go unrecognized. We will be having a special "Reunion Edition" newsletter (coming out in August) and we would like to dedicate a large section of this to the Class of 1970. We ask that you please take some time to reminisce on your experience in Wanakena, and share some of those memories with us. Whether it's your recollection of the moment you arrived, a funny story about a classmate, lessons learned from your favorite professor, good or bad we want to hear them all! Additionally, 50 Year plaques will be mailed to you soon, and we ask that, when it arrives, you have someone take a photo of yourself with your plaque and send those in. Photographs and memories can be emailed to rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com or mailed to the school (RSAA, PO Box 48, Wanakena, NY 13695) We look forward to hearing from you!!



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Alumni Association Award Nominations

We are still accepting 2020 nominations for the Philip J. Haddock Award and the Kermit E. Remele Award. Please list your nomination name(s) and reasons for consideration and email them to rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com by July 17, 2020.

The Philip J. Haddock Award for Excellence

The Philip J. Haddock award is presented by the Board of Directors each year. It is voted on at the Spring meeting and presented during the reunion. Nominations are solicited in the winter newsletter. "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 actor a lower-keyed, but long term commitment to the School and/or the RSAA or for the alumni in general."

Past recipients:

- 2019—Michael H. Webb '74
- 2018—Arnie Lanckton '53
- 2017—Dr. Michael Bridgen
- 2016—Lawrence R. Hawkins, '55
- 2015—Peter Zupal, '59
- 2014—Thomas Hodges, '53
- 2013—Jerald Holbrook, '56

Kermit E. Remele Award of Meritorious Service

The award is presented by the RSAA in honor of Kermit E Remele. Professor Remele, a 1943 graduate of the Ranger School, 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 whose combined efforts have gone beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School.

Past recipients:

- 2019—The NYS Forest Rangers
- 2017—Star Lake Fire Department
- 2018—Wanakena Historical Association
- 2017—Star Lake Fire Department
- 2016—Clifton-Fine Hospital
- 2013—Ranger School Centennial Committee
- 2012—Administration of SUNY ESF
- 2011—St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division