

Retiree Initiative Planning Group (RIPG) Annual Report 2022-2023

The retiree community at Skidmore had another successful year. Thanks to newly-retired Deb Fernandez, we added yoga to our roster of activities, while our featured speakers included Penny Jolly (on Zoom), Gordon Thompson (in person), two speakers from Saratoga Hospital (Angelo Calbone and Mallory Otto) as well as President Marc Conner and Carey Anne Zucca and Art Tracy from Advancement. There have been many transitions in Cabinet positions this year, and RIPG is making efforts to introduce Skidmore's new leaders to our retirees.

As always, our events and activities are guided by our mission of supporting the connection of retirees with one another and with the college.

1. Communications:

RIPG members sent out periodic emails to retirees to keep them informed of events and other matters pertaining to retirees. Idalia Sepulveda from the Office of Communications kept the retiree website updated. In fall 2022, Terry Diggory also issued a survey on behalf of RIPG to ascertain the kinds of programs retirees would welcome; to explore interest in a series of yoga sessions; to gauge interest in having a dedicated space for retirees on campus; and to find out who would like to offer presentations to retirees.

2. Events:

RIPG hosted or promoted a variety of events this year:

- Concert at SPAC (organizer, Sharon Arpey) to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra's performance of Beethoven's *Eroica* and other works (8-11-22)
- Retiree Fall Lunch (organizers, Terry Diggory + Laura Goodwin), with speakers Carey Anne Zucca (new VP for Advancement) and Art Tracy (Director of Gift Planning). The lunch was followed by tours of the new CIS building led by Paul Lundberg (Project Manager, Facilities Services) and Kara Cetto Bales (CIS Safety Officer) (10-3-22)
- Trip to NYC (organizer, Gove Effinger) to see *A Strange Loop* or *Death of a Salesman*—or to visit the city (11-2-22)
- Seminars related to Skidmore's main stage play, *Eurydice*, directed by Marie Glotzbach (September-December) as well as an invitation to the dress rehearsal (11-17-22)
- Yoga sessions with Deb Fernandez (Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023)
- Lecture by Penny Jolly, "The Visionary World of Hieronymus Bosch" (Zoom, 1-26-23)
- Reception (organizer, Terry Diggory) at the Skidmore College Social/Educational Events Center, "Celebrating the Age-friendly Health System," with speakers Angelo Calbone and Mallory Otto" (4-19-23)

3. Grants:

Grants this year were awarded as follows:

Fall 2022

Emeritus Grants

- John Anzalone (World Languages and Literatures)
Travel to support work on “Representation of the Colonial Other in Selected WWI Graphics”
- Kate Leavitt (Art)
Workshop at Penland School of Craft
- Gordon Thompson (Music)
Permissions for book, *Sixties British Pop, Outside In. Vol. One: Downtown, 1956-1965*

space for retirees. The Master Plan acknowledges requests from the Retiree Initiative Planning Group for dedicated retiree space, but we are disappointed to see that no such space has been designated either for Library first floor or for Colton House. While it is fair to say retirees have not expressed an urgent need for space on campus, we do believe that a modestly-sized gathering space as well as some dedicated study space would be a strong statement on the part of the college that retirees are recognized as part of the Skidmore community.

C. General Support for Retirees

On behalf of RIPG, Terry Diggory and Susan Kress consulted with Janet Casey, RIPG's liaison with Academic Affairs, as well as with the new Director of HR, Julie Delay. Both were very supportive of RIPG's need for some administrative support, and conversations are ongoing.

5. The Retiree Oral History Project (ROHP)

RIPG's Lynne Gelber, along with Sue Bender and Sandy Welter, continued to interview retirees this year and link those interviews to our website. Retiree interviews added (or in the process of being added) to the website this year include Sandy Welter, John Cunningham, Ruth Copans, Larry Ries, Lisa Aronson, Carolyn Anderson, Tom Denny, and Tim Brown. More than fifty interviews are now archived on our web site: [Skidmore Retiree Oral History Project · Skidmore Saratoga Memory Project](#). This year, the group discussed some ways of bringing these interviews to the attention of a wider audience, especially alums.

6. The Age-Friendly University Global Network

The mission and principles of this international network (as well as the list of colleges and universities that have already signed on) can be found at this link: <https://www.dcu.ie/agefriendly>. A RIPG committee (Sharon Arpey, Susan Kress, Paty Rubio, and Joanna Zangrando) has developed a proposal, still a work-in-progress (attached), that Skidmore might consider joining this network. The committee circulated the proposal to a wide group of Skidmore faculty, staff and administrators who might have interest in this project and held a preliminary meeting in June. Those attending were enthusiastic about the proposal and encouraged the committee

Jesse O'Connell (Assistant Director, MDOCS)
Michelle Osgood (IT)
Idalia Sepulveda (Web Manager)