

Retiree Initiative Planning Group (RIPG) Annual Report 2023-2024 (10/1/24)

The retiree community at Skidmore had another successful year. A summary of key selected activities is provided in this report. Of particular interest are the many excellent events and speakers offered throughout the year, the process for the new College Strategic Plan and ensuring retiree voices are heard, the Age Friendly University Initiative, and the Regalia Project (recycling caps and gowns from retirees to new faculty).

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. T

Ongoing Yoga Facilitator Certification
Mary Beth O'Brien (Foreign Languages & Literature)
Jewish Avengers of the Holocaust in East German Films (1962-1972)
Deborah Fernandez (Dance)
Visual Art from Dances - Collage Works - Prints to Archives

Staff Grants:

Karen Brackett (Education)
Model Early Childhood Laboratory Schools Making a Difference in Diverse Academic Communities
Phil Glotzbach (President)
Honor Your Freedom - Winning Strategies to Succeed in Colleges
Karen Ernst
Ballston Spa Community Band

Faculty and Staff Joint Grant:

Barry Pritzker & Sue Bender (Advancement & Anthropology)
Jill Sweet Archival Project

Those interested in RIPG's grants program can find more information about faculty and staff grants at [Grants for Retirees \(skidmore.edu\)](https://www.skidmore.edu/grants-for-retirees) The Faculty Development Committee (FDC) makes decisions about faculty grants on behalf of RIPG. A committee chaired by Sue Rosenberg of RIPG, and including representatives of RIPG and HR, oversees staff applications.

4. Advocacy:

RIPG's IT Subcommittee continued to advocate on behalf of retirees. There is still work to be done in securing access to certain college data bases and in gaining Media Services support for retiree events. The exclusion of retirees from the Microsoft Office License was a policy we were unable to change, but it was noted that free versions of the similar software on Mac and Windows seem nearly as good for most users. The College did revise practices this year allowing retirees to print in the library.

This past year's data breach, which extended to UnitedHealthCare and other overlapping data bases, was reviewed, and given that these type of data breaches seem to be proliferating at all sorts of businesses, all are urged to closely manage privacy settings and reports with the major credit bureaus.

Concerns were expressed about the decision to limit retirement plans to TIAA only, but it was reported that Vanguard funds would still be available through the TIAA platform. It was noted communication on this key change is critical.

RIPG aims to stay abreast of the College's ongoing strategic planning process, to help get retirees' voices included.

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 include Philip Glotzbach, Tim Brown, Joan Berenguer, Ruth Andrea Levinson, and Deb Fernandez.

More than fifty interviews are now archived on our web site: [Skidmore Retiree Oral History Project](#) · [Skidmore Saratoga Memory Project](#). The group continues to discuss ways of bringing these interviews to the attention of a wider audience, especially alums. An article in a future *Scope Magazine* issue is in process.

6. The Age-

retirees), with full access to the website and regular news bulletins, please let Susan Kress know at skress@skidmore.edu

Patty Folts (Financial Reports)
Marcia Godden (Accounts Payable)
Carrie Imbrogno-