

Retiree Initiative Planning Group (RIPG) Annual Report 2021-2022

The retiree community at Skidmore thrived this year. Retirees were able to gather in person on a few occasions, as COVID-19 protocols relaxed, but we also continued our Zoom programs, which are attractive to those who live far from campus or find the campus difficult to navigate.

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. Amy Ballesteros from the Office of Communications kept t

- Cruise: Lake George (12-10-21)
- Talk and Q & A: President
- Lecture: Penny Jolly, “The Future of Work” (Zoom, 12-10-21)
- Interview: New Yorker Magazine: Susan Kress (Zoom, 2-1-22)
- Lecture: Mehmet Odekunle, “The Future of Work” (Zoom, 2-1-22)
- Financial Planning Webinar: “Financial Planning Review” (Zoom, 3-16-22)
- One-on-One Financial Planning

In Spring 2022, Pola Baytelman received a faculty grant to support her music project, “In Search of My Jewish Roots,” and Penny Jolly received a faculty grant to support her curation of an exhibit at the Hyde Museum, “Growing Up in a Renaissance Palazzo.”

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/retirees/grants). 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:

A. IT Issues

A number of issues relating to IT emerged this year, especially after the implementation of Okta. RIPG formed an IT Subcommittee (Mike West, Ken Hapeman, and Sue Rosenberg) to advocate on behalf of retirees.

- Many retirees were concerned that the designation “@retired” was now part of every retiree’s email address, a disadvantage for those wishing to remain professionally active. Thanks to the work of the subcommittee, that designation has now been removed.
- Retirees are now also able to purchase an Office 365 license for \$30 through the Skidmore web site.
- Access to the Retiree Directory (closed to retirees for most of the year) was recently restored.
- There is still work to be done in securing access to certain college data bases and in gaining media services support for retiree events.

B. Campus Planning

Retirees

7. Resources:

- Free access for retirees to the college's Encore Program continued this year.
- RIPG added close to 40 items of interest to retirees to our library collection this year. To take a look at what is available, visit [Retiree Library Home - Retiree Library Collection - LibGuides at Skidmore College](#)

8. National Visibility:

The website of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) [AROHE - Home](#) features the story of Skidmore's Retiree Library Collection as well as many other best practices either initiated or adopted by RIPG—such as our staff grant program, our continuing project to interview retirees (Retiree Oral History Project), our In Memoriam project, our field trips, etc. This year, Susan Kress was co-chair of the Program Committee for AROHE's first virtual national conference, and Skidmore was featured in a webinar outlining the advantages for retiree organizations of writing an annual report. RIPG members Sharon Arpey, Janet Casey, Ann Henderson, Susan Kress, and Mike West participated in AROHE events. If anyone wishes to receive membership benefits (free for all Skidmore retirees), with full access to the website and regular news bulletins, please let Susan Kress know at skress@skidmore.edu

Summary:

In all, 158 Skidmore people and their guests (64) took advantage of RIPG-sponsored events and activities during 2021-2022,

Acknowledgements:

We are very grateful indeed to Janet Casey (Academic Affairs Liaison) and Laura Goodwin (HR Liaison), who attend our meetings and champion retirees in numerous ways.

We also thank the following people. Without their support we could not sustain our programs and carry out our mission:

Amy Ballesteros (Web Manager)

Jen Barthelmas (Budget)

Bonnie Bertrand (Food Services)

Megan Bove (Surrey Coordinator)

Jim Calhoun (HR Liaison for Finances)

Dung-Lan Chen (Retiree Library)

Faculty Development Committee (FDC oversees Emeritus Grant Awards)

Patty Folts (Financial Reports)

Bri Herman (Former HR Liaison for Finances)

Marcia McConnell (Accounts Payable)

Jesse O'Connell (Assistant Director, MDOCS)

Michelle Osgood (IT)