

**SUNY ONEONTA**

THE DIVISION OF COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT  
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**SUNY ONEONTA IMPACT**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DIVISION OF COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT AT SUNY ONEONTA

**GROW. THRIVE. LIVE.**

THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE AT ONEONTA FOUNDATION  
*Proven. Trustworthy. Award Winning.*



**FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL**



Over the last eight years, I have had the honor of serving on the College Foundation Board of Directors and during my last two years, as the Board President. Throughout that time, the changing social and economic challenges made me more aware of how charitable gifts and grants help to maintain access and affordability to a SUNY Oneonta education and enhance the academic status of the college.

Additionally, donors within the Red Dragon family have fueled the momentum on our historic \$25 million campaign, *Grow. Thrive. Live. The Future of SUNY Oneonta*. The campaign has raised \$22.1 million, or 88% of its goal. Achieving our campaign goal will continue to expand scholarship offerings and other financial resources such as the Student Emergency Fund for our priority: our students.

Because of your generous giving, the College at Oneonta Foundation is in a place of great momentum. I am proud to share that our endowment and net assets are still the largest among all SUNY comprehensive colleges, valued at \$82.4 million as of June 30, 2021. This represents an increase of \$17.6 million over the last two years. This giving and endowment growth translate into nearly \$4 million in annual financial support for students and the campus including scholarships, internships, experiential learning, faculty development, and research.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the Foundation Board of Directors and the Division of College Advancement as we pursue our goal of supporting affordable access to high quality academic experiences for our students and faculty. As my Presidential term ends, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our donors and urge you to continue your support of our college. You make me proud to be a member of the SUNY Oneonta family, and you inspire me to continue supporting our tradition of strength and community since 1889.

**Andrea J. Casper '75**



**GROW. THRIVE. LIVE.**

**THE FUTURE OF SUNY ONEONTA**



**CAMPAIGN GOAL**  
\$25,000,000

**TOTAL RAISED**  
AS OF 08/15/2021  
\$22,161,797  
**88% TO GOAL**

**CAMPAIGN DONORS**  
7,929

**NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDS**  
92

**AWARDED ANNUALLY IN SCHOLARSHIPS & CAMPUS PROGRAMS**  
\$3.7 million+



◀ Learn more about *Grow. Thrive. Live.*

[suny.oneonta.edu/GrowThriveLive](http://suny.oneonta.edu/GrowThriveLive)

**INSIDE**

- ▶ Charitable Gifts & Research Success
- ▶ From Loyal Donor to Legacy Donor
- ▶ The Power of Tribute Gifts
- ▶ Q&A with Sean Daly '11



## CHARITABLE GIFTS PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN STUDENT RESEARCH SUCCESS

The 2021 Student Research & Creative Activity (SRCA) Day was held as a virtual showcase from April 15-16. This year's event featured over 60 projects representing the work of 90 students and 49 faculty mentors. The opening keynote address was given by Jared Reynolds '12, founding member of RM Law Group LLC and member of the College at Oneonta Foundation Board of Directors. "SRCA Day spotlights the scholarly activities of our students, highlighting the impact of experiential learning opportunities," said Kathy Meeker, Director of Grants Development.

The faculty mentors who work with students on their SRCA Day projects

witness the benefits of these experiential learning opportunities firsthand. "Working with students is a learning experience for everyone, and it is always rewarding to see the growth in skills and confidence over the course of more than one semester," said Dr. Elizabeth Seale, Associate Professor of Sociology. Dr. Seale and her student mentee, Katie Bohart, completed a research project analyzing the relationship between a child's home environment and the likelihood of future violent criminality.

Dr. Erik Stengler (Cooperstown Graduate Program) worked alongside graduate student Kaitlyn Miller on her thesis, which explored the rise of misinformation

related to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Dr. Stengler, student/faculty research "allows me to create a rapport with the students that no other work with them can achieve." He continued, "this in turn allows me to be a better mentor to them during and after their time in the program."

Both of these projects were supported by the Student Grant Program for Research and Creative Activity, funded by the College at Oneonta Foundation Unrestricted Endowment and the Alumni Association.

## FROM LOYAL DONOR TO LEGACY DONOR

Barbara Anderson Holzcamp '63 has taught swimming lessons every summer since she took a lifeguarding instructor course from Miss Abbott and Miss Hammond as a freshman at SUNY Oneonta. As a retired Locust Valley second grade teacher, Barbara knows the importance of consistency and planning. For 40 years, Barbara has been making annual gifts to the College at Oneonta Foundation.

Additionally, Barbara had included the college in her estate plans, making her a member of the Netzer Planned Giving Society.

Our 402 Netzer Planned Giving Society members are a group of our most loyal donors, empowering the college to attract the best students and faculty, launch new research initiatives, create innovative learning opportunities, enhance student life, and build a stronger educational community. Together, they represent over **8,675 years of combined annual contributions.**

Like many loyal donors, Barbara's desire to give back to SUNY Oneonta stems from her appreciation for the quality education she received and the opportunity to excel in a career where she could make a positive impact.

With her planned gift to the Unrestricted Endowment, Barbara wanted to pay it forward to the next generation of teachers by ensuring that Oneonta students continue to receive a meaningful education.

Barbara (right) and many of her friends (including Barrie Simpson '63, left), are proud members of the Netzer Planned Giving Society. To learn more about supporting the college's mission by naming the **State University College at Oneonta College Foundation Corporation** in your will or as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, please contact:

 **Jill S. Mirabito**  
Director of Gift Planning  
(607) 436-3107  
Jill.Mirabito@oneonta.edu

[www.oneonta.edu/giftplanning](http://www.oneonta.edu/giftplanning)

## THE POWER OF TRIBUTE GIFTS

Tribute gifts offer the opportunity to make a gift in honor or memory of a special person in your life while helping SUNY Oneonta continue to provide a transformative educational experience.

This past year, members of the Milne Library staff sought a way to recognize two of their retiring colleagues: Andrea Gerberg, Head of Bibliographic and Digital Services, and Brenda Sundal, Administrative Assistant. Twelve members of the Milne Library staff made gifts in honor of Andrea and Brenda's retirements to the Student Emergency Fund and the Jacqueline Nicholson & History Department Scholarship. Andrea asked that gifts be made to this scholarship out of a desire to support students studying history, while Brenda chose the Student Emergency Fund due to its role in helping students overcome the unforeseen financial challenges presented by COVID-19.

Michelle Hendley, Assistant Library Director and Coordinator of Instruction, believes that tribute gifts benefit students and inspire them to succeed. "I believe these gifts demonstrate to our students that there are many people who care about them, want them to be successful, and wish for them to have a positive college experience," said Michelle. "When our students see that there are others supporting them, it can be a source of motivation."

Visit [www.oneontaalumni.com/tribute](http://www.oneontaalumni.com/tribute) to make a gift in honor or memory of someone today.



## Q&A with SEAN DALY '11



MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE AT ONEONTA FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Distressed Debt Analyst  
Reorg Research

### HOW DO YOU FORESEE OUR CAMPAIGN, GROW. THRIVE. LIVE. THE FUTURE OF SUNY ONEONTA, IMPACTING OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE?

A subtle but key point in that sentence is "now and in the future." Not only are you supporting current students and the College's needs *today*, but, through prudent management and the Foundation's ability to take a long-term view on stewardship, you wind up supporting students on a practically perpetual basis. A gift today keeps on giving to students 10, 20, 30 years from now. I don't know whether that point is always at the front of donors' minds, but it's incredibly powerful when you zoom out and think about the long-term.

### HOW DID THE COLLEGE'S UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT EMERGE AS ONE OF YOUR PRIORITIES IN GIVING TO SUNY ONEONTA?

I think it's safe to say that anyone considering giving wants to make sure that their gift is put to good use; it's only natural for donors to try to do the work themselves and ask where this money would be best put to use. The Unrestricted Endowment takes off this pressure - by design, it is the bridge to get funds where they are needed most. As a donor, you're amplifying the number of areas where your gift can make an impact.

### AS A RESULT OF YOUR ANNUAL GIVING, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE 1889 SOCIETY, OUR LEADERSHIP SOCIETY RECOGNIZING DONORS WHO GIVE \$1,000 OR GREATER EACH YEAR. WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GIVE AT THIS LEVEL AND CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE 1889 SOCIETY?

I just put myself in the shoes of a student, and it's an easy call to give what I can.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM YOUR TIME AS A STUDENT AT SUNY ONEONTA?

Beyond fond memories of time spent with friends, I most frequently reflect on and am reminded of times where faculty or staff took the time to provide unexpected feedback or support in ways that changed my life. I'm forever indebted to that kindness and can only hope to "pay it forward" over time, in part by giving.