



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Potsdam

Spring

SOARING!

the Newsletter of

SOAR

lifelong learning in the North Country



2010

Farewell from the Chair...

a note from René-Paul Forier, Chair, SOAR Board of Directors



This is a farewell, because it is my time to go.

People have been asking me all my life if I had any regret when I stopped doing something. It started when, after presenting my dissertation for my PhD and receiving that great honor, I decided not to pursue an academic career. Instead I went into manufacturing where

most of the leaders come from different engineering backgrounds. The questioning came again when I left the research department for the production environment. And in January 1988 when I left Belgium and France (*mon pays natal*) to come to the USA, people questioned my decision. Yet another period of questioning came when I decided to take an early retirement from a high position in management. I got even more questions when I decided to become a citizen of the United States of America, having no obligation to do so and even without receiving any special advantages from this new change.

Each of these times, to this question of regret, I had the same answer: "I HAVE NO REGRET." I have never been overwhelmed by the tasks ahead, nor afraid of the possible consequences of my decisions. I have always been willing to take on the responsibilities of any new task if it were necessary, and to fulfill the task by any means available.

I enjoy guiding and giving my small input to any organization: my company, Rotary, SOAR and other groups. I fully support the process of delegation: let other people take the lead. If I was absolutely necessary for the process of making everything work well, I would do a very poor job indeed. Luckily all along my trip through life, I have had very dedicated and extremely competent people who have helped me accomplish what would have been impossible for me to accomplish on my own.

SOAR -- with all its leaders and the collective leadership of the Board of Directors, with its numerous and generous volunteers, with its members actively participating in its classes, with its special gift of learning from so many exceptional presenters, with its strong support

from its host university (SUNY Potsdam) and its college liaison (Nancy Hess), and with the superb work of its own Administration Assistant (Pat Harrington) -- SOAR has given me (and I dare say all of us) a lot of satisfaction.

I have decided not to stay on the Board of Directors because your new leader needs to have a totally free hand to take us SOARING into the future. So, don't ask me if I have any regrets. I am not sad and I am not happy. I know I just have turned another corner in my life and that I soon will face another challenge. (We always have new challenges in life, don't we?)

I wish that you all may stay faithful to SOAR and grow in spirit with it. Thank you so much for everything that you have given me. *Merci beaucoup pour tout!*

Yours, with a smile when I SOAR,

René-Paul Forier

Chair, SOAR Board of Directors

NOMINATING and AWARDS COMMITTEE

*Announcing the Nominees for
Officers and Other Members of the
SOAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

The Nominations and Awards Committee is pleased to offer the following recommendations for nominees for one-year terms on the SOAR Board of Directors to be voted upon at the membership luncheon on May 27, 2010.

OFFICERS

Chair: Ed Russell
Vice Chair: Don Potter
Secretary: Dorothy Howe
Treasurer: Otis Van Horne

**Annual meeting
of the membership
May 27, 2010
at the spring luncheon**

OTHER MEMBERS

Jim Barry Neil Johnson Fran Van Horne
Joyce Chambers Ruth Kreuzer Donna Webster
Betty Graham Mindy Loucks
Linda Helmase Sharon Regan

Betty Graham, Chair, Nominating & Awards Committee

PRELIMINARY LIST OF FALL 2010 SOAR COURSES

As changes and new information about the fall courses become available, they will be posted on the SOAR web site: <http://www2.potsdam.edu/soar>. The SOAR fall semester runs from **September 13 - November 19, 2010**.
(The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of proposed class sessions)(* = unconfirmed as of 04/27/10)

NOTE: Due to liability issues, SOAR holds all its courses in public places and on public lands

Advanced Contract Bridge (*activity*) – Pat Anderson (6)
 Ken Ken (*activity*) – Jim Barry (1) (*offered twice*)
 *Current Short Stories – Linda Batt (3)
 Plants: SUNY Canton Arboretum (*lectures/tour*)
 – Tony Beane (2)
 Hospice Caregiver Program – Jennifer Brailsford (3)
 Women’s Place – Ina Brockriede (2)
 Robotics Workshop – Jim Carroll (4)
 Current Events – John Casserly (8)
 Emergency First Aid and CPR – Sheila Cerwonka (1)
 The Birdwoman of Pierrepont: Bird Carvings by Hazel
 Tyrrell – Varick Chittenden (1)
 Romeo and Juliet: Page and Stage – Mark Coleman (4)
 Arab World: Reality and Myths – Gisele El Khoury (1)
 Mah Jongg (*activity*) – Brenda Francey & Kay Russell (4)
 Knit This and That (*activity*) – Alma Garner (4)
 Tunes-R-Us – Clive and Sandra Henery (4)
 Climate Change – Anun Husinec (2-4)
 Trees of the North Country (*lectures/field trip*) – Glenn Johnson (4)
 *Fort Drum – Neil Johnson (Coordinator) (1)
 Old Order Amish – Karen Johnson-Weiner (2)
 New York State Geology – Bill Kirchgasser (5)
 Vicarious Voyagers VII – Ruth Kreuzer (Coordinator):
 Ireland (Jim Barry); Mexico (Al & Ginny Schwartz);
 Chile (Anne & Steve Hopkins); Galapagos (Mary Jo
 Whalen) (4)
 Historical Archaeology of Adirondacks – Hadley
 Kruczek-Aaron (2-4)
 Vintage Antique Jewelry and Coins – Robert LaBarge (2)
 Advanced Watercolor Workshop (*activity*) – Leon LeBeau (5)
 Basic Drawing (*activity*) – Leon LeBeau (5)
 Visiting Montreal (*lecture*) – Penny LeBeau (1)
 Lifelines: Writing Your Way In (*activity*) – Victoria Levitt (6)
 Writing Biography: Pleasures and Pitfalls – Richard &
 Janis Londraville (1)

Black Fly Control with BTI – Andrea Malik (1)
 Beginning Tai-Chi (*activity*) – Pam March (10)
 Advanced Tai-Chi (*activity*) – Pam March (10)
 Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD (*lecture*) – Deborah
 Masselle (1)
 The Norse: Viking Weapons – Samuel McBroom (1)
 Mushrooms and Mosses of the North Country (*field trip*)
 – Karl McKnight (1) (*offered twice*)
 Forensics – Anthony Molinero (3)
 Crew Rowing (*activity*) – Dick Mooers & Ron Johnson (3)
 Lincoln: The War Years (Part 1) – Terry Niles (3)
 Dead Sea Scrolls – Daniel O’Connor (5)
 Earth and Climate – Aileen O’Donoghue (4)
 Building with Potsdam Red Sandstone (*lecture & tour*)
 – Susan Omohundro & John Bridges (2)
 Kang Duk Won Karate (*demo*) – Frank Palumbo (1)
 Card-Making (*activity*) – Linda Trerise Reece (1)
 Democracy and the First Amendment – Christopher
 Robinson (1)
 *Woodstoves and Fireplaces: Safety Tips – Joe Shaw (1)
 Cryptography through the Ages – Christino Tamon (3)
 Carve Your Own “Frig” or Shelf Mouse (*activity*)
 – Jack Taylor (4)
 Japanese Calligraphy – Michiko Taylor (2)
 Math: Everything You Didn’t Learn in H.S.– Ray Toland (4)
 *Private Detective – Don Tracy (1)
 Tiffany Windows: Trinity Episcopal (*lecture & tour*)
 – Betsy Travis (1)
 Stained Glass (*activity*) – George Trejos (2)
 Our Town Histories – Barbara Trerise (Coordinator):
 Hammond (Donna Demick); Hopkinton (Dale Burnett);
 South Colton “Sunday Rock” (Sally Thomas); The
 “Floating Islands” at Higley (Vivian & Clark Trerise) (4)
 Lab Extraction of DNA – Jan Trybula (2)
 1918 Flu Epidemic – Fran Van Horne (1)
 Pre and Post Election Analysis – Robert Wells (2)
 Music Boxes and Music Machines (*lecture/demonstration*)
 – Radmila Zuman (1)



GOT AN IDEA?

The Curriculum Committee is busy finalizing the fall 2010 SOAR courses AND already working on the spring 2011 curriculum. If you want to volunteer to teach a course, or have course suggestions, call Jim Barry at 386-4732 or e-mail him at jimbarry2@verizon.net

DO YOU KNOW?

<i>the spring 2010 stats are...</i>	<i>you should...</i>
323 SOAR members	- cancel your registration if you can't attend a particular course
47 course offerings	- attend classes regularly
~67 presenters/coordinators/guest speakers	- wear your name tag
46 ambassadors	- display your parking pass
~23 locations (<i>courses/events</i>)	- use the SOAR web site
~158 class sessions & events	- volunteer

COMMITTEE NEWS

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE

Recognition

Another successful semester is ending for SOAR and it's time to give recognition and thanks to our classroom Ambassadors. **Forty-six members served this spring:**

Judy Chittenden, Elsie Dominy, Donna Wright, Charles Dominy, Sally Murray, Jackie Cutler, Judith Sickles, Cynthia Hennessey, Susan Hagerty, Shirley Peterson, Barbara Trerise, Sherry Theobald, Esther Katz, Otis Van Horne, Ann Groome, Anne Hopkins, Char Frysinger, Louise Clemens, Carol McRobbie, Pat Gengo, Barbara Tiel, Joyce Chambers, Gail Bissonette, Ron Johnson, Lynn Ekfelt, David Lockwood, Claire Begeal, Ed Russell, Nancy Blodgett, Trish Lewis, Marilyn Ross, Jim Barry, Shi Krieg, Joan Kepes, Sharon Ryan, Pat Dominie, Steve Hopkins, Catherine Dalton, Judy Coleman, Walter Theobald, Natalia Stahl, Gary Staples, Gayle Boak, Bob Regan, Sharon Regan, Jeanine Reed-Watson.

Many of our Ambassadors have served multiple times. Despite the extra time and effort, they find the job "rewarding," "gratifying," and even "fun." We are appealing to our new members to take a turn at Ambassador duties. Call Pat in the SOAR office (267-2690) and ask to have your name put on the Ambassador list. Remember, the continued success of SOAR depends on volunteerism.

Claire Begeal, Chair, Ambassador Committee

SOAR Web Site Update *coming this fall:* **"SOAR North Country"**

A new SOAR web site will be launched by fall. The web (url) address is: soarnorthcountry.org This professionally constructed sleek new site is currently in its testing stage. The site is being custom made to serve SOAR's specific needs. You will still find current announcements and documents, along with information on events, courses, presenters, and locations. The new site will add to that mix an online calendar, separate pages for each course and each instructor - both with photo galleries, plus room for course links and additional information as needed.

One major feature we don't have now is **online editing**, which means the site can be managed from **any** computer connected to the Internet. All the editing and management tools are online at our new site; they are not resident on just one home computer. This online data management system will still be supervised by our SOAR web manager, but as it grows, more people can be involved in data input. As each semester passes, the web site should become easier to use and manage.

Ruth Kreuzer, SOAR web site manager

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Thank you to the members who helped with registration this semester. Pat Harrington was especially patient re-teaching me things that I tried to learn last semester.

Mary Nocerino once again worked with me to input all course information into the computer Access program. Jean Theobald graciously agreed to cover for me while I was away in March.

After members received their spring packets, the registration team worked diligently, completing 266 registrations, and mailing notification letters to all enrollees and sending name tags with parking permits to new members. They also ran daily reports that listed the number of class members and the courses that were closed; they also maintained the wait lists.

Many thanks to the following very capable registration team members: Jean Theobald, Marion Blauvelt, Jackie Cutler, Carol Coskran, Catherine Dalton, Pat Dishaw, Dorothy Mein, Mary Nocerino, Shirley Norton, and Rita Rinke.

We welcome 16 new members to SOAR this spring. Our most recent count indicated 323 active SOAR members.

Thanks to all our members who volunteer to help, our program is able to function efficiently.

Mindy Loucks, Chair, Registration Committee



*Also retiring from the Board this year -
Claire Begeal, Chair of the Ambassador Committee*

SOAR SPRING LUNCHEON

Thatcher Hall - SUNY Potsdam

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

11:30 - 2:30

(buffet table opens at noon)



REGISTRATION FOR LUNCHEON:

Please phone the SOAR office or fill out, cut out and return the reservation form below on or before Wednesday May 19

Forms are also available on the SOAR web site

<http://www2.potsdam.edu/soar>

Name(s): _____

attending: _____ (at \$12 each) Enclosed: \$ _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

**SOAR SPRING 2010
LUNCHEON FORM**

Make your reservation by May 19. Phone 315-267-2690 or mail this form, with your check made payable to: PACES 235, to:
SOAR, 389 Van Housen Ext., SUNY Potsdam,
44 Pierrepont Ave., Potsdam, NY 13676

The work of outreach and publicity goes beyond putting articles and ads in a newspaper. The best publicity for SOAR is word-of-mouth . . .

SO SPREAD THE WORD!

Ruth Kreuzer, Chair, Outreach and Publicity

WANTED!

SOAR volunteers with some tech experience who are willing to assist our presenters with their SOAR classroom tech needs. Training available.

Contact Ruth Kreuzer - rkreuzer@stlawu.edu

LUNCHEON NOTES

THANK YOU, George Arnold of PACES Dining Services, for once again sponsoring the SOAR luncheon which helps keep the price at a very affordable \$12 (for SOAR members and guests).

PARK IN LOT #9: Use the large lot # 9 (on the Bishop Hall side of Crane); let the "SOAR shuttle" whisk you to the luncheon site.

HAVE TO CANCEL? NOTIFY SOAR: If you sign up for the luncheon and later find you are unable to attend, please notify the SOAR office (315-267-2690) at least one week prior to the luncheon. Otherwise, SOAR will be charged for the reservation.

DIRECTIONS TO ELEVATOR: Once inside Thatcher Hall, go past the right side of the food service counter to the second door on the right (signed: "Wheel Chair Access"). Take the elevator to the second floor, pass through into the main dining room to the registration table.

"GIFTS/DONATIONS"

Would you like to say "thanks" or help fund a special SOAR project?

Tax deductible gifts/donations can be made to SOAR!

Make checks to:

**Potsdam College Foundation, Inc.
Account # 3308.40.0**

(Note on the check that the gift/donation is for SOAR and specify if it is to be restricted for a particular event or purpose, or unrestricted)

Mail to:

**Lisa Murphy, College Advancement Office,
Raymond 610, SUNY Potsdam,
44 Pierrepont Avenue,
Potsdam, New York 13676**

A tax deductible receipt will be mailed to you