
Bob began working in the Folsom Library in 2001 as the Administrative Librarian. With the departure of the previous director, Loretta Ebert, in 2005, he was appointed Acting Director before his promotion to Director in 2009. Under his leadership, the Folsom and Architecture Libraries expanded their collections by exchanging materials with other libraries through ConnectNY and RapidIli consortia, GetItNow copyright service, and by escalating their digital collections. Bob maintains that his “most major accomplishment is providing Rensselaer’s students, researchers, and faculty with the materials they need despite ever-decreasing budget and staff.”

John Kolb, Vice President for Information Services and Technology and Chief Information Officer, offered high praise for Bob’s tenure. “Bob also has an untiring work ethic. I could always count on him to complete assignments before his DotCIO counterparts. In our weekly staff meetings, Bob was very candid when sharing opinions. We certainly will miss his lively remarks around the conference room table every week. In spite of how Bob felt about certain topics, he would always adopt an approach that best represented Rensselaer. In short, you could say, whatever Bob did, he was professional and the results were superb. As much as we will miss Bob, I am very happy that he will be taking this long-deserved step into the next chapter in his life.”

Bob earned his Master’s degree in Library and Information Science in 1973, concentrating in College and University Library Management. His Bachelor’s degree is in German Literature, which he received from SUNY Plattsburgh. He also has an Associate in Applied Science degree in Aircraft Electronics from the Academy of Aeronautics. Before coming to Rensselaer, Bob worked for 22 years for the IBM Corporation in Systems Test, Cost Engineering and Market Development. He

(continued on page 6)
Three Additional Rensselaer Libraries Staff Retire

Jeanne Keefe, the only remaining librarian in the Architecture Library located in the Greene Building, retired effective July 10th.

After graduating from Russell Sage College with a B.A. in Museum Curatorial/Art History, Jeanne came to Rensselaer in 1980 to work as an assistant archivist on the Armenian Architecture Archives Project under the supervision of Dr. V. L. Parsegian, the retired Dean of the School of Engineering. In 1984, she moved to the Greene Building as the Slide Curator, and later Visual Resources Curator, in the Architecture Library. In 1988, she received an M.S. in Science, Technology and Society from RPI and in 1998 an M.L.I.S. from the University at Albany. Shortly thereafter, she became the Visual Resources Librarian in Rensselaer’s School of Architecture Library. In 2009, Jeanne became the Media and Digital Resources Librarian and in 2013 the Architecture Library’s Librarian, the position from which she retired after almost 35 years! As she puts it, Jeanne is proud to proclaim, “I’ve spent more than half my life at RPI!”

In announcing her pending retirement, former director Bob Mayo stated that “Jeanne had long been the ‘go to’ expert on anything film-, PowerPoint- or PhotoShop-related. Her work in digitizing Armenian Architecture is recognized around the world. Years of School of Architecture students, faculty and administration have relied on her expertise and readiness to lend a hand – always delivered with a smile.”

In retirement, Jeanne said she plans to “travel, travel, travel, and I plan on moving my silversmithing studio up out of the basement into the light of a remodeled space where I can both create and teach.” Jeanne has long enjoyed an avocation of creating jewelry in silver. “I received my PMC (precious metal clay) Certification from Rio Grande last August so that I can teach, and I plan to hold small classes in my new studio space. I have been fortunate enough to have traveled extensively through England, Ireland, Turkey, Morocco and Mauritania and briefly visited many other countries too numerous to mention. Always with camera in hand.” Happy trails, Jeanne! You will be missed.

Colette Holmes, Instruction Librarian, retired effective on May 31st. She earned a B.A. in Mathematics from her home state’s Rhode Island College where she was a member of Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Mathematics Honor Society. She taught high school mathematics in Rhode Island for a few years before earning an M.L.S. in Library Science from the University at Albany. She joined the Rensselaer Libraries in 1980, where she served Rensselaer in many capacities, including Engineering Librarian, Management Librarian, and Instruction Librarian. Colette provided bibliographic instruction to assist both faculty and students with several engineering and management classes. One impressive achievement (continued on page 3)
was Colette’s procurement of a grant for establishing Folsom Library’s personal computer lab back in the 1990s. Despite all this, Colette might disagree and say that her greatest achievement here was meeting her future husband, RPI mathematics Professor Mark Holmes, with whom she has two adult children.

Former director Bob Mayo stated, “While a void will be left with her departure from Rensselaer, please join me in wishing our friend and colleague, Colette, an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement.” So here’s to Colette: You’ve worked hard all these years and deserve the very best in retirement. You’ll now have time to do all the things you’ve always wanted to do—enjoy more time with your family, do a lot of leisure reading, and catch up on some of your favorite PBS Masterpiece programs. We’ll miss you, Colette!

Bobbie Harris, Library Associate, retired effective June 15th. She joined Rensselaer over 28 years ago and has served all areas of library Public Services: Photocopy, Circulation, Interlibrary Loan and Collection Management. Former director Bob Mayo acknowledged that “Bobbie’s professionalism and always-friendly demeanor will be missed.”

Bobbie began her Rensselaer career in Technical Services performing data entry. After a year, she began to do some book binding and other work as lead operator of Folsom Library’s thriving photocopy center until it closed some years ago. Since the closing of the copy center, Bobbie was assigned to interlibrary loan and, on occasion, helped out at the now defunct reference desk. She worked behind the Service Desk for the remaining four years of her career.

Bobbie’s plans for retirement include spending three or four months in sunny Florida every winter; devoting more time to her daughters, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren; learning to play golf; and taking lots of trips with five of her girlfriends. She already has two lined up for this year—Rehoboth Beach in the summer and Cape Cod in the fall. Enjoy, Bobbie!

Rensselaer’s Information Leadership Recognized

The Rensselaer Libraries is one of seven departments that falls under the direction of the Division of the Chief Information Officer. It is with pride that we acknowledge that our Chief Information Officer, John E. Kolb, who’s also a director on the Friends Board, was instrumental in having Rensselaer named as one of the winners of the 2015 InformationWeek Elite 100! This is a prestigious honor bestowed annually on those organizations and their CIOs who are judged to be the most innovative U.S.-based users of business technology in several industries. Some of these industries include: manufacturing, government, higher education, information technology, healthcare and medical, banking and finance, media and entertainment, consulting and engineering, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, and retail. Congratulations, John! Your staff has always known that you’re a remarkable leader committed to making it possible for us to provide information services, technology, resources, and strategies to support education and research at Rensselaer, but now thousands of others know it, too!
Lunch & Learn Programs

The Rensselaer Retirees Forum and Friends continue to collaborate to provide a diverse program of Lunch & Learn talks. Here’s what attendees were treated to recently:

Last September, Judith Barnes ‘71, ‘84 recounted her many years of experience as a consultant working with people in a wide range of fields, including technology, fashion retail and manufacturing, finance, automotive, business and industry, education, arts, and healthcare.

There was no October program.

November’s program was a book review of Thomas Piketty’s *Capital in the 21st Century*, presented by retired Rensselaer economics professor Paul Hohenberg.

December’s talk was “Where Family and Friends Gathered in Song: The History of the Fox Hollow Folk Festival,” delivered by Rensselaer County and Troy City Historian Kathryn Sheehan.

Division of the Chief Information Officer Senior Systems Programmer Mike Sofka explained “How to Ensure Your Email is Trapped as Spam” in February.

March’s program, “My Bibliomania: 30 years of Art and Source Material,” had artist and School of Architecture faculty member Michael Oatman talk about his use of archives and libraries for material for his art projects.

In April, Jenna Peterson Riley, Educator/Assistant Curator at the Schenectady County Historical Society, came to campus to describe “The Mysteries of the Mabee Farm: Uncovering the Story of a 300 Year Old Farmstead,” property that’s located in Schenectady County.

May’s offering, “The Hudson-Mohawk Region: Silicon Valley of the Nineteenth Century,” was presented by Michael Barrett, Executive Director of Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway.

Lunch & Learn is held the second Friday of every month (with the exception of January, June, July and August) at noon in Folsom’s Fischbach Room. Everyone is welcome. You can either bring a bagged lunch or purchase food and beverages in the Library Café. Dessert is provided. If you have any suggestions for potential speakers, please contact Adrienne Birchler (bircha@rpi.edu or 518-276-8329). We are always looking for prospective presenters.

McKinney Writing Contest

Barbara Lewis, Past Chair of the Friends Board and one of the faculty members in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in charge of the annual McKinney Writing Contest, said that this year’s ceremony and guest author Alice McDermott’s reading from one of her recent works was a huge success. “Alice McDermott was maybe the best reader we've had. She was also fantastic in the Q&A session.” Barbara also reported that every seat in the auditorium in the Biotech Center was filled and there were about 40 to 50 people standing or sitting on the stairs. She added, “This year there were about 210 entries, total, from students, and the short fiction category for undergraduates received so many great submissions that the judges decided to give honorable mentions AND awarded ties for third and first place. We were also able to purchase RPI pens to give to the honorable mentions with certificates.” Barbara appreciates the $250 the Friends contribute yearly to the competition.

McDermott is a prolific novelist who wrote *Charming Billy* (1998), which was awarded the National Book Award and the American Book Award; *That Night* (1987), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize; *At Weddings and Wakes* (1992), a *New York Times* bestseller and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; *Child of My Heart* (2002), which was nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award; and *After This* (2006), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Her most recent book is *Someone* (2013).
The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Folsom Library has announced that the Second Carl A. Westerdahl Forum will take place on the evening of Wednesday, September 30th, in the Russell Sage Dining Hall. The topic is “Aerospace and Rensselaer: Then, Now and Tomorrow.” The keynote speaker will be Professor Lester Gerhardt, who will focus on Rensselaer’s role in the early years of aeronautical engineering and Rensselaer engineers’ involvement in many phases of development of aircraft used in World War II and later. He will also talk about former Rensselaer president George M. Low and his contributions to the American space program and graduates of the Institute who were involved in the technical aspects of the program as well as those who became astronauts.

Following Dr. Gerhardt will be Jennifer Keyes ’02, Operations Research Analyst at NASA’s Langley Research Center, and Professor Prabhat Hajela, head of Rensselaer’s Department of Aeronautical Engineering. Both speakers will examine the post-Shuttle era, the significant changes we can look forward to in the aerospace industry, and Rensselaer graduates’ continued involvement in the program. Rensselaer graduates have been onboard for the excitement from the beginning, and our forum will speculate on the many opportunities and challenges aerospace practitioners face now, as well as ways Rensselaer can prepare the next generation of students for a rewarding career in the aerospace program.

A reception at 5:30 p.m. will precede the 6:00 p.m. presentation. After the forum, guests will be escorted to the George M. Low Gallery, which is located on the fourth floor of the Low Center for Industrial Innovation and is next door to the dining hall. Low, a 1948 graduate of Rensselaer, was director of the Apollo-manned spacecraft program in 1967 and eventual deputy administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He was also president of Rensselaer from 1976 to 1984.

The gallery is a permanent exhibit of NASA memorabilia and other items that honor the life of Low. It underwent a facelift when the Institute’s Delta Phi Fraternity Alumni generously provided the funds to renovate the gallery last year. The gallery includes items of personal and professional import, autographed pictures of astronauts, and Low’s Presidential Medal of Freedom, all of which were donated to the Institute by the Low family. More information on the forum and how to sign up to attend will be available later this summer.
also held positions at InfoEd International and the H.W. Wilson Company in New York City.

Now it’s time for Bob to chase those goals that had to be postponed due to lack of time. Here are some of his plans for retirement:

Get in shape

Enjoy the four seasons on Taconic Lake on the Rensselaer Plateau in the Town of Grafton

Travel to places like Ecuador and Panama during the cold, gray months of November and March

Brush up on colloquial German prior to traveling to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

Root for the SteepleCats, New England Collegiate Baseball league team in North Adams, Massachusetts

Enjoy amateur radio, communicating around the world via Morse code

Dust off the Martin acoustic guitar

Take frequent day trips across the Petersburgh Pass to The Clark, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and MASS MoCA

Enjoy the adventure that awaits you, Bob!
Board News
April saw the completion of Barbara Lewis’ two-year term as Chair of Friends of the Folsom Library Board of Directors. With the absence of a Chair Elect, Ruth Gallagher generously offered to preside over the Board for the next two years. This is her second turn as Chair.

Jean Purcell, Operations Coordinator in the Rensselaer Union, has stepped down. We thank her for her contributions during her six years of service on the Board.

Luckily, the Board was able to fill some empty seats when they unanimously voted the appointment of three new members. They are:

**Judith Barnes ‘71, ‘84**
Judy received both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Rensselaer. She is an entrepreneur, educator, speaker and writer with a four-decade national consultancy in communication, technical communication, marketing and advertising. As a result of deciding to become a consultant in 1971 – a very non-traditional choice back then – she has had the pleasure of working with people in a wide range of fields including technology, fashion retailing and manufacturing, finance, automotive, business and industry, education, arts and healthcare.

**Charles “Chuck” Boylen**
Chuck recently retired from his position as professor of biology at the Institute and as Associate Director of the Darrin Fresh Water Institute. Last year he spoke at a Lunch & Learn program, and we’re looking forward to his presenting once again this fall when he’ll tell us about his vintage medicine bottle collection, a portion of which he anticipates having on display in Folsom.

**Peter Pedone**
Associate Advancement Officer in Rensselaer’s Office of Alumni Relations, Peter has been with the Institute for nearly 28 years. He plans and administers alumni athletic programs, manages the Rensselaer Alumni Hall of Fame program, and works as a member of the team to plan Reunion & Homecoming. Additionally, Peter has been a valuable member of the Carl A. Westerdahl Forum since its inception two years ago.

**Photos of Ireland on Display**
If you get a chance, be sure to check out the striking photographs Jeanne Keefe, Rensselaer’s recently retired Architecture Librarian, has installed on the second floor of Folsom Library. “Iconic Ireland” is a display of jagged seascapes, charming thatched roofed cottages, and crumbling castles. Looking at the amazing shots Jeanne took compels one to want to explore the Emerald Isle not only for its splendor, but also for its history, traditions, and folklore.
SAVE THE DATE!

The Second Carl A. Westerdahl Forum
Wednesday, September 30, 2015
5:30 p.m. ~ Russell Sage Dining Hall