A Valentine's Day love story—with a twist
4th #FREDlanthropy Day of Giving set for April 7

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A Valentine’s Day love story — with a twist

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Help recruit the next generation of Fredonians!
Alumni and Campus Events Calendar

For alumni event registration and payment, go to fredonia.edu/alumni

MARCH
Florida Alumni Event
Please watch the alumni website for details.
San Diego, Calif., Alumni Event
Please watch the alumni website for details.

APRIL
FREDlanthropy Day of Giving
Tuesday, April 7
www.fredlanthropy.com
Men of Color Conference
Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Williams Center Multipurpose Room, Campus
Sponsored by Center for Intercultural Affairs
For more information and to register: Kim.Miller@fredonia.edu

MAY
Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 4 p.m.
Alumni House
Commencement
Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Steele Hall Arena
Ticket required

JUNE
Rochester (N.Y.) Area Alumni Event
Please watch alumni website for details.
Black Tie & Bourbon Experience
Saturday, June 6
Campaign Fundraising Dinner
Please watch foundation website for details.

JULY
Alumni Golf Tournament
Friday, July 17
Shorewood Country Club
4958 E. Shorewood Drive
Dunkirk, NY 14048
Texas Alumni Event
Please watch alumni website for details.

AUGUST
Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 13, 4 p.m.
Alumni House
First Day of Classes
Monday, Aug. 24

OCTOBER
Class of 1970 50-Year Reunion
Friday-Saturday, Oct. 16-17
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend
Friday – Sunday, Oct. 16-18
Schedule of Events will be available in June on the alumni website

Family Weekend
Friday – Sunday, Oct. 23-25
Campus

Scholars Breakfast
(by invitation only)
Saturday, Oct. 24
Steele Hall Arena

NOVEMBER
Annual Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 12, 4 p.m.
Alumni House
Dear Alumni and Friends,

SUNY Fredonia continues to rank highly in the four major rankings released each fall. U.S. News and World Report placed us 13th in the North among public regional universities for quality and 15th for social mobility. Money Magazine named Fredonia one of the top colleges in the country for quality and affordability, while we again made Kiplinger’s Best College Values list. Princeton Review awarded us two honors with a “Best Northeast College” for quality and one of the best “Green Colleges” in the nation.

Good news was also received on the construction front. The final funds needed to complete the Houghton Hall renovation were secured this fall along with funding commitments for full renovation (design, construction, equipment) of our two largest classroom buildings. Fenton Hall design begins in Spring 2021, while Thompson Hall design begins in 2022-23. The additional dollars associated with funding commitments for full renovation (design, construction, equipment) of our two largest classroom buildings. Fenton Hall design begins in Spring 2021, while Thompson Hall design begins in 2022-23. The additional dollars associated with these three projects exceed $50 million.

The search for SUNY Fredonia’s 14th President is well underway. A broadly-representative committee of 16 people, led by College Council Chair Frank Pagano and including Alumni Board Chair Greg Gibbs, is working with search consultant Storbeck/Pimentel to prepare an advertisement and other supporting materials. This national search is scheduled to conclude before Summer 2020.

With the presidential search moving forward, this should be my last letter for the Statement. It has been my pleasure to assist this exceptional campus during this time of transition. This fall the faculty and staff went “above and beyond” in their efforts to improve enrollment and strengthen budgets. Students are actively engaged outside of class, as demonstrated by more than 500 students volunteering to participate in the community Fall Sweep — a new record for this annual event! The most talked about musical event of the year was the fall gala concert to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rockefeller Arts Center. This phenomenal concert featured performances by 15 of our most talented alumni, who returned to campus to share their talent with a most appreciative audience.

You should be very proud of your alma mater. I certainly am!

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Hefner, Ph.D.
Interim President

Fredonia Alumni Association President Greg Gibbs (left) and Interim President Dennis L. Hefner
4th #FREDlanthropy Day of Giving set for April 7

2019 FREDlanthropy Day saw the largest amount of online donations in a single day in the university’s history! Now let’s beat that total.

We challenged donors to show their “FRED to the power of you” and encourage their FRED networks to join them in giving to FREDlanthropy Day. Alumni also shared and encouraged giving on their social media accounts. Overall, there were over 100,000 impressions on social media relating to #FREDlanthropy.

Save the date for FREDlanthropy Day 2020 on April 7 — join your fellow Fredonians in increasing your impact that day.
A Valentine’s Day love story — with a twist

Phyllis (Geer) Murphy Robinson, ’56, and Dr. Chet Robinson spoke to students, their family members and Fredonia College Foundation benefactors at the annual Scholars Breakfast held on Family Weekend. It’s a love story, as well as a story that shows their love for Fredonia...

**PHYLLIS —**

Betty [Gossett], we are delighted you invited us to share our story.

Music education is my passion and music a joy that I frequently share —

A couple of summers ago we were in New York and boarded a subway headed for Times Square. As we entered the crowded car, a really large man, seated, with a keyboard on his knees, made room for me. Looking at the keyboard Chet asked if I could play a tune. “Sure” he said, flipping the on-switch. I struck up ‘You Are My Sunshine’ — the whole car joined in. At Times Square we exited to applause and a car filled with smiles. That is the power of music.

I grew up 80 miles east of here. My parents owned a country store in rural Genesee County.

In third grade I took up the flute, mostly because the family had a well-worn wooden flute that my sister played in the high school band. That band director,
A Fredonia graduate, started me on my lifelong love of the flute.

A university education was never a part of my parents’ plan for their kids. However, my flute coach convinced my parents that I should go to college. Fredonia was the logical choice because of its strong music program, but more importantly, because it was close and in the early 1950s tuition was free and room and board $255 per semester; that should make today’s parents smile. I thrived at Fredonia and developed my technical skills and confidence.

I graduated in 1956 with my degree in Music Education confident that I was ready to modernize school music curriculums and change students’ lives.

After graduation my husband and I settled in Corfu [N.Y.] where I taught music in the public school and gave flute and piano lessons.

In 1968 the family relocated to Avoca [N.Y.] where I taught music in the public school and gave private lessons. I volunteered my music skills in church and community events. It was a rich, rewarding and very satisfying life.

After retirement we moved to Collegeville, Pennsylvania, to be closer to our children. Retirement allowed me to expand my volunteering. Three mornings a week I provide music therapy at skilled nursing and memory care facilities.

My husband of 60 years died on Christmas Day 2014. One of his final requests was that I attend the newly formed New England Adult Music Camp, north of Augusta, Maine. We were aware of the camp because our older daughter, a Fredonia graduate, was on the youth camp faculty.

In August of 2015 I was off to camp, ready for a week of total music emersion, unaware of the new adventures that were waiting. At camp I met Chet and our lives were changed.

❤️ CHET —

Good morning — I’m that Chet, Chet Robinson and pleased to be part of the Fredonia family.

I was born in New York, grew up in New England, but for most of my adult life I have been a Texan.

In 2012, my wife, Kathryn, had exhausted the treatment options for her uterine cancer. She became concerned that I would be a lonely, grumpy, despondent old widower. To minimize that possibility, she bought me a flute and told me to learn to play it.

Kathryn died in the spring of 2014; following her directions I started flute lessons. In early Spring 2015 I decided that the intensity of an adult music camp would be helpful. Exploring online I found that the New England Music Camp had recently opened a week-long adult session. Even though I was a novice I applied and was accepted.

In mid-August I put my Camry on the road heading for Sidney, Maine — just me, my flute and my thoughts — I’m 84, my wife of 63 years is gone — she’s sending me to music camp — now what?

WOW!!! Phyllis was waiting and my life made a quantum change. Our paths first crossed at the Sunday evening mixer.

The next morning the flute group gathered — 18 ladies, all experienced flutists, and me. I was way outside of my comfort zone. The others made me feel welcome though my beginner skills were woefully inadequate. Part of that morning was spent discussing the intricacies of trill keys — way over my head. After class as we were leaving, by chance, I asked Phyllis “Would you show me your trill key?” That’s all it took.

We lunched together. That evening I sought her out at happy hour; we sat together at supper. The next morning at breakfast, Phyllis had saved me a chair. By the end of the week we were “an item” and the point of much camp gossip. It was obvious that ours was a whole lot more than a summer romance.
Our seven kids were pleased that we had found each other but thoughts of marriage took more seasoning. By fall 2017 all agreed that marriage was a good idea — we started making plans. It was soon obvious that the normal wedding process — engagement ring, big wedding, extravagant honeymoon — were hardly appropriate for two octogenarians. Rather, we would commemorate our commitment by establishing a Fredonia scholarship to encourage music education.

We contacted Ms. June Miller-Spann and our plans for the Phyllis Geer Murphy ’56 scholarship took off.

We are proud of the 2018 recipient, Marilia Andrade, and this year’s recipient, Aleecea Denton. Both will impact lives with their planned music education career.

**PHYLLIS –**

We feel blessed that we’ve found each other. We revel in the mystery — How and why did our very different orbits intersect in rural Maine?

In 1952 it was a leap of faith and a major sacrifice for my parents to send me to Fredonia. My university music education allowed me to enrich lives and now, with Chet’s assistance, to comfort residents in skilled nursing and memory care facilities. Through the Phyllis Geer Murphy ’56 scholarship Chet and I are elated that my parents’ gift will be a continuing part of the Fredonia outreach.

June — Thank you for allowing us to share our story. We wish these scholarship recipients continued success in their life’s endeavors. In conclusion, I encourage each of you here to explore outside your comfort zones and step through new doors of opportunity that open. That’s what we did! May the joys of music bless your lives as it has ours.

Phyllis and Chet at camp.

Phyllis (bottom row, fourth from the right) in Concert Band, 1955.

The Robinsons and family at the wedding.

The Robinsons with scholarship recipient Aleecea Denton (center) and her parents, Amy and Daniel Denton.
Education major ‘goes the distance’ to land teaching job

“I knew from before I even started my first class at Fredonia that I would need to be completely dedicated to my work and take every opportunity available to make myself more marketable when it came time to start the job search.”

That strategy — extra classes plus an M.S. degree and certifications that come with it — was a winner for Jessica Ruber. You know you’re a coveted teacher candidate in Western New York when 21 school districts want to talk to you.

Such over-the-top interest by schools at teacher recruitment events “is unheard of,” remarked Tracy Collingwood, director of Fredonia’s Career Development Office. Last spring, Ms. Ruber attended Buffalo Area Teacher Recruitment Days — actually comprised of two job fairs (Erie/Niagara and the nationwide USA) — and Central New York Teacher Recruitment Days.

Both major events helped Ruber, now a fourth grade teacher in the Lancaster (N.Y.) Central School District, get her name out to districts she had never visited. Interview skills were also sharpened. (Ruber’s initial screening was with Karen Marchioli, Lancaster’s director of elementary education and a Fredonia alumna.)

Shining in the interview rounds
School districts have a process of interviewing and screening, where they bring some candidates back for a second interview. Ms. Collingwood explained, “and Jessica made the second rounds for all those interviews.”

Not a surprise to Collingwood.
“She did really well; most candidates don’t get that many interviews,” she said. “That’s a credit to how good she is, how professional she is and how adept she is as a teacher. She’s organized, has the analytical skills to help students really learn and can articulate that as well.”

Ruber earned a B.S. in Childhood Inclusive Education in 2017 and an M.S. in Literacy Education Birth-Grade 12 in 2019. She had student-teacher assignments in three school districts and acquired five teacher certifications. At Fredonia, she participated in nearly 20 professional development workshops and seminars, gained international teaching experience in Belize and the United Kingdom, coached undergraduate students in the Career Development Office and served in the Campus and Community Children’s Center.

“Our job is to provide opportunities for students to grow, and she’s somebody who took advantage of every opportunity and excelled,” Collingwood said.

Early classroom placements key
A passionate reader, Ruber always wanted to become a teacher, and says her career choice was confirmed by early field experiences that began in her first year at Fredonia. “It is one thing to be a student and decide you want to be a teacher after watching past teachers, but it is a completely different thing to actually step into the role. These experiences basically did just that.”

Not all colleges toured by Ruber offered early field placements, she said, “and that was incredibly important to me.”
Mural by Fredonia painting/drawing students honors steel plant workers

Spurred by the initial success of three large murals they painted a year ago at Dunkirk Specialty Steel, Erin Ruffino and Alisia Glasier, two Visual Arts and New Media students at Fredonia, returned to the Dunkirk metals producer last summer to undertake a more ambitious project.

Ms. Ruffino, who received a B.F.A. in Drawing and Painting in 2019, and Ms. Glasier, a junior B.F.A. student with the same major, became interested in the history of the plant as an industrial backbone of Dunkirk and the broader Chautauqua County region during a visit to the Dunkirk Historical Society.

They developed a design concept inspired by the hardworking spirit of the steel plant workers and created two complementary murals that feature portraits of five long-time employees, each framed by actual cranes used at the Brigham Road plant. The mural on the left side of the wall at the plant entrance depicts John Taddio, who began working at Dunkirk Specialty Steel on July 24, 1966; William Cody, who started May 3, 1977; and Hiram “Doug” Hunt, whose first day on the job was May 23, 1977.

On the right side of the same hallway is a mural featuring Michael Dimmer, who was hired March 27, 1978; and Joseph Dowdy, who started on April 4, 1977. The overhead crane on the second wall is operated by Mr. Dimmer in the steel pickling room. A stencil design with strong black outlines and large areas of flat color convey continuity across the portraits.

“It makes me feel like I’m leaving a legacy behind. I do appreciate the girls’ hard work.”
— William Cody, longtime worker at Dunkirk Specialty Steel

The murals were intended to not only honor these five men but everyone who works at Dunkirk Specialty Steel. As employees report for their shifts, Ruffino and Glasier hope these larger-than-life portraits foster a sense of pride in the workplace and respect for the many years of service employees have given to Dunkirk Specialty Steel.

Joshua Warren and Shane Ferguson, health and safety managers at Dunkirk Specialty Steel who supervised the mural project, collected statements about the murals from employees.

“Fantastic Job. It’s a good gesture,” was Mr. Hunt’s response when asked how he felt about the murals and what they mean to him.

“It makes me feel like I’m leaving a legacy behind. I do appreciate the girls’ hard work. Hopefully, it means something to the future of our company and future employees,” added Mr. Dowdy.

Another employee with nine years of service called the murals a good idea. “I feel that the murals are good for morale first thing in the morning when we come through the turnstile,” said the worker, who asked not to be identified.

Sarah Conley, a recent hire, praised the students’ work as “A wonderful job; it’s great for our history. If the girls come back next year, I have some excellent ideas for more murals.”

Ruffino and Glasier, who formed 716 Murals as a mural painting business in 2018, also created a landscape mural, inspired by Point Gratiot and Washington Parks in Dunkirk, for the dementia unit at the Chautauqua Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. “We worked with the client to produce a calming and welcoming scene with flora and fauna,” Ruffino said.
Alumni take lead roles in Buffalo opera

It wouldn’t have been out of place if lead singers and a few crew members in the Buffalo Opera Unlimited’s production of “Cinderella” wore Fredonia t-shirts during rehearsals.

Five of the seven principal singing roles in Gioacchino Rossini’s operatic version of the classic Cinderella story were filled by Fredonia graduates, including one who’s also an adjunct instructor in the School of Music. Another sang in the chorus.

SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Tom Loughlin was the stage director.

Fredonia continues to be well represented in Western New York’s thriving performing arts scene.

“It’s not unusual to have a Fredonia graduate in our productions, but we surprisingly have six singers in this production,” said Tim Kennedy, Buffalo Opera Unlimited founder/artistic director. Professor Emeritus Loughlin, a cornerstone of Fredonia theatre for three decades, was excited to work with these alumni in a professional setting. “Their talent and training is unmistakable, and I had no doubt the production would be one that would showcase the level of talent produced by the School of Music.”

Many singers are recent graduates, so they didn’t have direct experience working with Loughlin, who retired in 2017, but they’re familiar with the directing style he and Department of Theatre and Dance faculty share.


Collin McCrea (2019, Mus.B., Music Performance) was in the chorus. Also in a lead role was former Fredonia student Danielle Di Stefano, as Chlorinda.

Key supporting roles were filled by Sai Ceng, stage manager (2017, M.M., Music Performance), and EunJoo Jeon, rehearsal accompanist (2017, M.M., Music Performance).

“These are young professionals starting their careers in Buffalo, Loughlin noted, pursuing opportunities in a city that he considers to be one of the most under-rated cities in the performing arts scene in the United States.

Fredonia graduates in the production, as well as their predecessors who appeared in past Buffalo Opera Unlimited productions, display professional attitudes at auditions, Kennedy said.

“I find most of the Fredonia talent have healthy attitudes, which is very important to continue to grow in this profession. Obviously, they need much more experience at this stage. I refer to them as ‘babies’ because their instruments need time to mature,” Kennedy explained.

Loughlin wasn’t involved in auditions and was “pleasantly surprised” to find so many Fredonia grads in the cast. He had worked with one alum, Ms. Jeon, an accompanist on “Pirates of Penzance,” Loughlin’s last production at Fredonia.

Several graduates worked together in many shows at Fredonia, so they know each other well. “That familiarity has been a very positive thing because they can guide each other during off-times, if they need to run through a piece, a duet or trio,” Loughlin explained.

Two successful performances of “Cinderella,” which was sung in English and included a 27-member pit orchestra, were presented in November at SUNY Buffalo State’s Rockwell Hall.

Since its founding 34 years ago, Buffalo Opera Unlimited has been dedicated to producing professional opera and other musical forms with an emphasis on regional artists.
Computer Science grad ‘lands’ job with aerospace firm in Maryland

“Ever since I was young, I’ve always been intrigued by solving puzzles and building structures that involved intense concentration.”

What guided Vincent Eberhart as a youngster still applies to the newly minted Fredonia graduate now working as a software engineer with Collins Aerospace in Annapolis, Md. Performing software development for ground-to-air applications while updating and improving legacy systems are his primary duties for the company, which provides airline customers with safe and smart solutions through technology.

Computer science students typically begin their careers as software engineers soon after graduation from Fredonia. Computer Information Systems Professor Junaid Zubairi remembers Mr. Eberhart, who earned a B.S. in Computer Science in 2019, as a bright and hardworking student, “and I think this helped him secure the job even before his degree was issued.”

Eberhart’s classroom education was enhanced by a six-month internship with global facilities management firm Sodexo, where he gained valuable experience as a software engineer. That “real world situation,” Eberhart remembers, made solving a problem somewhat intimidating, but, as time went by, “things started to come together one-by-one and I became confident in a professional atmosphere.”

“My internship experience has helped me greatly in assembling all my knowledge and applying it to provide solutions.” — Vincent Eberhart

Deploying his own software on a production server used by the whole company was the highlight of the Sodexo internship. “The internship experience has helped me greatly in assembling all my knowledge and applying it to provide solutions.”

Eberhart also worked for Moog, Inc., as a software specialist during the spring semester of his senior year before joining Collins Aerospace in August 2019.

For Eberhart, the study of computer science combined his fascination with resolving puzzles and building structures into “something that opened up even more possibilities.”

Eberhart learned through friends of Fredonia being a very accepting and enjoyable place. “As soon as I arrived I noticed the friendly vibe it gave off. It wasn’t too big or too small. It was very easy to make friends and there were many clubs for all types of interests.”

Every computer science course at Fredonia was “like a tool added to my tool belt,” Eberhart said. “The tools that I’ve acquired, along with the motivation and insight from professors, have allowed me to feel confident in tackling any challenge or situation that comes my way.”
Help ensure Fredonia’s future students have opportunities to achieve success.

TO MAKE A GIFT OR FIND MORE INFORMATION:
visit fredonia.edu/nurture | call (716) 673-3321 | email foundation@fredonia.edu

Your gift changes their lives.

fredonia.edu/nurture
Fredonia in the fall remains as beautiful as you remember...
IMANI WINDS
Friday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m.
Rosch Recital Hall
Tickets: $25 (students $10)
GRAMMY-nominated woodwind quintet performs its fusion of European, African and Latin American music.

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
“L’HISTOIRE”
Sunday, Feb. 16, 4 p.m.
King Concert Hall
Tickets: $20 (students $10)
In collaboration with the Chautauqua Youth Ballet, Stravinsky’s masterpiece “L’Histoire du Soldat.”

“SILENT SKY”
Feb. 28, 29, and March 5, 6 and 7, 7:30 p.m.; March 1, 2 p.m.
Bartlett Theatre
Tickets: $25 (students $12)
The story of 19th century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt as she explores a woman’s place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries. A Walter Gloor Mainstage Series event.

JOSHUA KANE PERFORMS “BORDER OF THE MIND” — THE PSYCHIC SHOW FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Friday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.
Bartlett Theatre
Tickets: $20 (students $10)
Discover your inner superhero in an amazing interactive performance. Reception: April 17, 6 p.m.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
JOSHUA KANE PERFORMS “SALUTE TO THE BIG APPLE” Friday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.
King Concert Hall
Tickets: $35, $30, $25, $20 (students $25, $20, $15, $10)
Fredonia’s talented student singers and dancers, backed up by the Fredonia Jazz Orchestra. A DFT Communications Pops Series Event.

ART EXHIBITS
CATHY AND JESSE MARION ART GALLERY, ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Free

“CONTRASTS IN CLAY:” SUSAN BEINER AND KWOK-PONG TSO
Jan. 28 to March 8
MASON HALL ROOM 1080

EMILY MAE SMITH EXHIBITION
March 13 to April 12
Reception: March 13, 6 p.m.

SPRING SENIOR SHOW I
April 17 to 23
Reception: April 17, 6 p.m.

SPRING SENIOR SHOW II
May 1 to 7
Reception: May 1, 6 p.m.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
*indicates event will be live streamed (fredonia.edu/music/live)

FACULTY RECITALS
Free, open the public and at 8 p.m. in the Julius J. Rosch Recital Hall unless otherwise noted.

FEB. 27, 28 AND 29*
Faculty Recital: Schubert Song Cycle

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25*
Faculty Recital: Schubertiade 2020

ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES
Free, open to the public, and all at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Conductors/Directors include Barry Crawford, Donna Dolson, Drs. Paula Holcomb and Vernon Huff, Laura Koeppke, Dr. Katherine Levy, Jonathan Lombardo, Dr. Adam Luebke, Cody Mott, Tiffany Nicely, Dr. Carrie Pawelski, James Piorkowski, Drs. David Rudge and Andrew Seigel, Raymond Stewart, and Drs. Wildy Zumwalt, Nick Weiser and Kay Stonefelt.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
Fredonia Brass Chamber Ensembles and Brass Choir

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8*
Fredonia Saxophone Ensemble and Quartets (Zumwalt)

THURSDAY, APRIL 9*
Fredonia Clarinet Ensemble

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15*
Fredonia Jazz Orchestra (Weiser)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 4 P.M.*
Fredonia Chamber Choir and Fredonia College Choir

MONDAY, APRIL 20
Fredonia Chamber Made Guitar (Piorkowski)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21*
Fredonia Guitar Ensemble and Quartets (Piorkowski)

MONDAY, APRIL 27*
Fredonia New Jazz Ensemble (Weiser)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29*
Fredonia String Chamber Ensembles

THURSDAY, APRIL 30*
Fredonia Improv Collective (Rudge)

MASON HALL ROOM 1080
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6
Fredonia Improv Collective (Rudge)

SPECIAL EVENTS
FREDONIA BASSFEST
Sunday, Feb. 16 (all day)
Mason Hall
Visit: fredonia.edu/music/community/bassfest

10TH INTERCOLLEGIATE CHORAL FESTIVAL
Saturday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m.
King Concert Hall
Tickets: General $6
(students free with ID)

FREDONIA HARP DAY
Sunday, April 26 (all day)
Mason Hall
Visit: fredonia.edu/music/community/Fredonia-harp-day

ANNUAL CONCERTO COMPETITION
Sunday, May 3, 1 p.m.*
King Concert Hall

FOR TICKETS, CONTACT THE TICKET OFFICE AT (716) 673-3501 (1-866-441-4928), OR IN PERSON. FOR A FULL LIST OF CAMPUS EVENTS, VISIT DEPARTMENT WEBSITES AT FREDONIA.EDU
Photographic memories...

Fredonians love their sports...even in the 1920s!
The Normals represented the Fredonia Normal School.

Social media snaps

Stay connected with fellow alumni using any of our social media platforms:

- FACEBOOK @fredoniaalumni
- TWITTER @fredoniaalumni
- INSTAGRAM @fredoniaalumni
- YOUTUBE @fredoniau
- LINKEDIN @fredoniau

Fredonia is at Williams Center.
October 23 • @FredoniaU

Getting into the spirit of the season! #pumpkin decorating #SUNYFredonia #fredonia
@ Williams Center

You look great this morning, Fredonia! Happy Wednesday. #FREDinfall #SUNYfredonia #Fredonia #wnyphotography

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561 likes
FALL 2019 RECAP

Fredonia State junior women’s soccer player Lauren Cullinan (above) was recognized for her play and classroom success following the 2019 fall season.

Cullinan’s first award came Nov. 7 when she was named Academic All-District by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Her second recognition came Nov. 11 when State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNY AC) coaches voted Cullinan First Team All-Conference – the third straight season she has made the all-conference team. Then, on Dec. 2, Cullinan was selected All-East Second Team by the United Soccer Coaches. She is the first Blue Devil to receive regional recognition since Katie Kleine in 2014.

Cullinan has been a starter on defense all three seasons at Fredonia State and has served as team co-captain the past two seasons. Academically, she is double major in Biology and Psychology with a 3.81 grade-point average.

Other fall highlights by Blue Devil players and teams:

CROSS COUNTRY – The men’s team closed out the season with a respectable 19th of 42 teams gathered for the NCAA Atlantic Regional on Nov. 16 at St. Lawrence University. Sophomore Kyle Campbell lowered his freshman 8-kilometer time by two minutes to come home as the Blue Devils’ No. 1 finisher. It was the first meet all season the team was not led by senior Aidan Pollard, including a 25th-place finish at the SUNYAC meet....The women did not compete at regional, instead closing the season at SUNYACs on Nov. 2, where Elena Davis, a sophomore, was the team’s top finisher for the fourth time in six meets.

MEN’S SOCCER – The stellar collegiate career of goalkeeper Ty Bentham (below) drew to a close, yet not before he put his name among the best to play the position at Fredonia State. He will graduate third in saves, fourth in both wins and shutouts, and tied for first in ties....While the Blue Devils missed the post-season, they closed out the year in style at home with golden goals in the final two games, by senior Matt Belardi vs. Oswego on Oct. 25, and by junior Jackson Retzer vs. Cortland on Oct. 26....Retzer led the team in scoring with 15 points (7 + 1). Three of his goals were game-winners. Sophomore midfielder Matt Cullen was second in scoring with 11 points (3 + 5).

WOMEN’S TENNIS – Anna Chiacchia (above) made First Team All-SUNYAC Singles after completing her senior season with a 10-4 mark. Her 37 career singles wins are No. 2 all-time, one short of the school record. She also recorded 32 doubles wins, tied with junior Sarah Bunk, who paired with sophomore Mikayla Johnson for a 7-1 doubles record at the No. 2 slot. They were recognized by conference coaches as Second Team All-SUNYAC Doubles. Bunk was also 6-0 with other doubles partners for a school-record 13-1 mark. The previous school record for doubles wins in a season was 10, accomplished seven times.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL – When the Blue Devils made the SUNYAC Tournament in 2003, thus began a string of 16 straight post-season appearances. That streak came to an end in 2019. On the bright side: This year’s team had no seniors, so underclassmen got all the playing time and experience. Category leaders were sophomore Emma Booth (total kills), freshman Kourtney Krchniak (assists and service aces), freshman Sierra Keim (digs) and sophomore Emily Jones (blocks). Jones filled the stat boxes in several categories and had the team’s best overall numbers against regionally ranked opponents. Krchniak was second in assists and fourth in aces among all SUNYAC players.

FALL 2019 RECAP
When bad timing leads to good opportunities

When he couldn’t join the Blue Devils in uniform, Bryan Hodgson joined them on the bench, and launched a successful career.

When the Alabama men’s basketball team took the court this fall, there was some “Fredonia Blue” running through the Crimson Tide.

Big things are expected going forward, thanks to a new coaching staff that includes Assistant Coach Bryan Hodgson. It may be his first year as an assistant coach at a major collegiate program, but Mr. Hodgson’s climb through the coaching ranks started a decade ago in Fredonia’s Steele Hall.

What’s unusual in Hodgson’s story is his coaching career began while he was still a college student.

Hodgson played basketball while attending Jamestown High School, and did the same at Jamestown Community College (JCC). He transferred to SUNY Fredonia just before the start of classes his junior year and intended to continue his hardwood career here, but his timing was a little off.

“I walked into (then head coach) Kevin Moore’s office and was going to join the team, but I was too late in the recruitment and roster cycle,” Hodgson said. “He told me, ‘If you want to be a part of the team, I’ll bring you on as a student-assistant, you can help me and I’ll help you learn about coaching a little bit.’”

“Being the same age as the players made it challenging, because I had to separate that coach/player relationship,” Hodgson said. “Even though I was one of their peers, when it came to practices and games, they had to view me as a coach. That experience really helped me down the road. It helped me make clear to all my players that I love you to death, but I’m not your friend, I’m your coach.”

Hodgson graduated from Fredonia in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sport Management. He then returned to JCC as an assistant coach for three years, followed by two years at Midland (Texas) Community College. While at Midland, Hodgson made a connection with Nate Oats who, at that time, was an assistant coach at the University at Buffalo. After the 2014-15 season, Oats became UB’s head coach and he brought Hodgson on board as an assistant.

UB made two NCAA tournament appearances in three years before Oats accepted the Alabama head coaching job, and Hodgson followed him south.

Along that path to Tuscaloosa, Hodgson always applied the lessons learned while he was an assistant coach and a Sport Management major at Fredonia. “The Sport Management program at Fredonia is big-time,” Hodgson said. “I found when I got into the business of athletics and coaching, the academics came full circle. Classes that I took at Fredonia like Event Management, Marketing, Risk Management; I have used knowledge gained from all those classes at some point in my career.”

Hodgson keeps in touch with Fredonia alumni to this day. “I hosted several Fredonia alums here in Alabama before the season started, and we still talk about the school and the program,” Hodgson said. “I’ve had a lot of people help me along the way, and the people at Fredonia were definitely critical to my success.”
Homecoming 2019 highlights

1. Medical Technology/Biomedical Research Technology track alumna Dr. Deborah Good, ’87, presents a talk in the Kelly Family Auditorium in the Science Center to kick off Homecoming Weekend.

2. Alumni with a Fredonia scrapbook documenting spring break fun in Daytona Beach.

3. Local resident, woodworker and former Blue Devil tennis coach Wally Latimer demonstrates his craft at the Mini Maker Faire held on Saturday.

4. Recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award, presented by the Fredonia Alumni Association: (from left) Dr. Thomas J. Quatroche Jr., ’92; Dr. Deborah J. Good, ’87; and Brian M. Usifer, ’03, with Interim President Dennis L. Hefner.

5. Dr. Thomas J. Quatroche Jr. accepting his award.

6. Alumni with t-shirts commemorating “The 102 Bunch” from the Class of 1989 made their way to Homecoming.

7. Music Industry program faculty and alumni play Dexys Midnight Runners’ “Come On Eileen” in response to a fundraising challenge from alumnus Lance Durban, ’70, to benefit the program through the Fredonia College Foundation. Participants, included (from left) sound recording faculty member and alumnus John Caruso, ’81; program Co-coordinator Armand John Petri; alumna Mary Ramsey, lead vocalist for the 10,000 Maniacs; Joe Rozler, ’81; and program faculty member Dr. Stuart Shapiro.

8. The ever-popular Dods Hall grove gathering brings out members of the 40-year reunion Class of 1979 and friends, including (from left) Jan (Ehmke) Pisarski-Carmer, Cathy Young, Michael “Murph” Mongovan, Luke Bauerline, Dick Young and Jack Lapin.

9. Members of the Class of 1989 gather at a reception in the Williams Center.

10. More Dods grove fun with alumni and friends including (from left) Joe Marino, Ashley Dame, Angela Ferro, Laura Rutecki, Lisa (Myers) Newell and Patrick Newell.

11. Fredonia College Foundation board member Clifton Turner, ’84, (center) with Interim President Dennis L. Hefner and Jan Hefner at the awards banquet.
The Writers@Work program welcomed back Emily Barber, ’16, and Lauren Orlowski, ’15 (pictured), in September 2019. They shared tips for promoting unique skill sets to potential employers, and focused on the personal and professional value of being active in the local community. The two presented a public talk, a writing workshop, and discussed careers and career planning with humanities students.

Interim President Dennis L. Hefner (left), Marty Merkley, representing the Kay Hardesty Logan Foundation, and Rockefeller Arts Center Director Jefferson Westwood (right) at the ribbon-cutting for the center’s Green Room named for Mrs. Hardesty Logan. The naming recognized support from her foundation to the art center’s 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund as part of the Fredonia College Foundation’s Nurturing Innovation campaign.

A ceremony to welcome international students was held in August 2019 in Rosch Recital Hall. Countries represented included China, South Korea, India, Japan, Malaysia, Turkey, Nepal and France. Business Administration and Music were among the more popular majors of the students.

Activist and advocate Cameron Kasky (right), the 2019-2020 Maytum Convocation Lecturer and Williams Visiting Professor, with Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Cedric Howard, at Mr. Kasky’s presentation, “Be the Change: Tools for a Movement,” in September 2019. The first in an annual series of events, Kasky’s presentation highlighted the Convocation theme “Be the Change.”
To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rockefeller Arts Center, 15 talented alumni returned to campus for a showcase of popular jazz standards and show tunes with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra and Big Band directed by Dr. Nick Weiser. The show’s finale included the cast singing Jerry Herman’s “The Best of Times,” from the show “La Cage aux Folles.”

Fredonia hosted a “SUNY’s Got Your Back” event in October 2019 to stock 1,000 comfort bags with personal hygiene products for victims and survivors of violence. Over 115 students, faculty and staff members registered as volunteers. The stocked bags were delivered to the Salvation Army Anew Center, Chautauqua County’s domestic violence and sexual assault program, and other domestic violence shelters.

The Hillman Opera production of Jules Massenet’s “Cendrillon” continued the tradition of presenting a grand event on a grand scale at Fredonia — almost 140 students and faculty were involved in the event. The opera was presented by the School of Music in collaboration with the Department of Theatre and Dance and received support from the Oliver G. and Sarah Sloan Bauman Fund for the Arts.

Fredonia won the 2019 Castleton University Invitational with a double-overtime win Nov. 30, 2019, over Nazareth at Spartan Arena. The game ended tied 5-5 after regulation and a five-minute five-on-five overtime. Playing a second three-on-three overtime in as many days, Blue Devil junior right wing Victor Tracy banged home a rebound midway through the extra session to give the Blue Devils the hockey tournament title.
Floor-to-ceiling glass walls will, no doubt, raise the profile of the Willard F. Stanley Museum upon its relocation to the renovated Houghton Hall.

“We wanted it to have glass walls so people will know that it’s out there,” explained Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Associate Professor Holly Lawson, who serves as project shepherd of the Houghton overhaul. The museum will be placed in the center of the second floor that will house the Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

Built in 1968, Houghton has undergone extensive renovation in the last two years and is scheduled to open in the Fall 2021 semester as the new home of the departments of Physics, Geology and Environmental Sciences, and Computer and Information Sciences. The museum’s square footage will remain about the same.

Price tag of the project’s first two phases — demolition/abatement and interior fit-out or development of interior spaces — stands at $22.5 million. Two additional phases will relocate the animal colony to the basement and develop additional classroom spaces in the basement and second floor.

The museum, which opened in Jewett Hall in 1971, has grown into a showcase of over 3,000 specimens, including about 400 preserved birds and mammals, over 1,000 mollusks and other marine species, 300-plus jarred species of fishes and amphibians and a fantastic collection of close to 1,000 bird eggs.

It was named after Dr. Stanley, a beloved Biology professor who began his long career at Fredonia in 1935. He served as Chairman of Sciences, Chairman of Biology and Professor of Biology until his retirement in 1971 and was the original collector of many of the museum specimens.

SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Kevin Fox remembers Stanley as a great teacher and naturalist with extensive knowledge of Western New York flora and fauna. Dr. Fox described the museum as “a really fine collection of specimens, particularly local birds, which is really kind of unique. It also has a very good mammal collection.”

Stanley also conducted student tours of the museum, Fox noted, which was a very effective way to introduce area students to the Fredonia science program. “I think the new facility will enable us to attract more students,” he said.

Students enrolled in a museum practicum/internship course have an integral role in the museum’s relocation, compiling inventories and packing up items for temporary storage. “Our goal is to get a nice database of all our registered museum specimens and prepare them

“Our goal is to get a nice database of all our registered museum specimens and prepare them to move to the renovated Houghton,”

— Department of Biology Professor Bill Brown
Alumni donations sought for museum

Former students of Dr. Willard F. Stanley can honor their cherished Biology professor – and enhance the museum that bears his name and will be moved to the renovated Houghton Hall – by making a donation to the new Stanley Museum Fund.

“Right now the museum has very little funding associated with it; just to have some specimens inspected every once in a while can be a challenge,” said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Andy Karafa. “Having a fund established that we can use to take better care of the specimens will go a long way.”

There are many heartfelt stories from alumni about Dr. Stanley, who taught Biology from 1935 to 1971 and became the first Fredonia faculty member to be designated Professor Emeritus by SUNY, Dean Karafa said. “He was and continues to be a very popular figure.”

Donations will be directed specifically to the care, preservation, storage, exhibition and interpretation of the specimens. Long-term goals of the fund may include educational programming, graduate student support and internships.

It’s an especially important time to make a donation as the museum transitions to Houghton. The museum fund is separate from the longstanding Willard F. Stanley Memorial Scholarship Fund established through the Fredonia College Foundation that supports student scholarships. That fund already receives great support from alumni, said Associate Director of Development Spencer Morgan.

“There is a large group of alums that have an affinity with Dr. Stanley and continue to give in his memory, specifically directing their gifts to the Dr. Willard F. Stanley Memorial Scholarship Fund,” Mr. Morgan noted.

With the Stanley Museum Fund, there’s a new way for alumni to honor their Biology teacher and support the museum, which was a lifelong dream of his. He became its curator upon retirement.

“Dr. Stanley’s specimen collection has helped educate generations of Fredonia’s students and is a part of our lasting institutional legacy,” Morgan said.

Donations designated for the Stanley Museum Fund can be sent to the Fredonia College Foundation, 272 Central Ave., Fredonia, NY, 14063 or placed online at www.fredonia.edu/give/form
1950s

Robert Willover, ‘58, (music ed.) is an organist in two Christian Science churches in Sanibel and Ft. Myers, Fla., and is a docent at Edison Ford Estates.

1960s

John R. Giacco, ‘60, (music ed.) is Principal Clarinet/Saxophone for the Gulf Coast Symphony in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Marcia Gallineaux-Hubert, ‘64, (elem. ed.) is a retired Committee on Special Education (CSE) chair for Bolivar-Richburg (N.Y.) Central Schools, and owner-director of Dance Arts in Olean, N.Y.

Lynette (Gratz) Lombard, ‘64, (elem. ed.) continues to perform, to teach, and to actively perform and instruct.

Robert MacNary Jr., ‘64, (music ed.) plays clarinet in the Denver (Colo.) Concert Band and a clarinet quartet which performs at assisted living facilities.

1970s

Nina Karbacka, ‘70, (music ed.) is a member of the Jamestown School Board of Education, was named President of the New York State Association of Small City School Districts for 2019-2020.

Robert Crabtree, ‘71, (elem. ed.) is a member of the North Syracuse (N.Y.) School Board and the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) School Board.

Dr. Michael P. Wilson, ‘71, ‘74, (earth sci./sec. ed., geology) was elected by the commissioners of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) as Secretary-Treasurer at its June 2019 meeting. Dr. Wilson was appointed by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo to ORSANCO in 2011 and reappointed in 2017. He is a licensed geologist with New York State, recently consulting about natural hazards at nuclear facilities in Vermont and New York.


Department of Environmental Conservation in April 2018 after 32 years of service.

Mary Jean (Schmitt) Kwiatkowski, ‘76, (math./sec. ed.) reported that her late husband, Patrick, ‘76, was inducted posthumously into the Canisius High School Sports Hall of Fame and received the John Barnes Award after coaching for 23 years at the school.

Elizabeth Cashin Petriprin, ‘76, ‘79, (English) will be a featured speaker at the Malverne High School 2020 Gala.

On a recent trip to Alaska, Marge (Karl) Geise, ‘65, (elem. ed.) ran into fellow alumnus Patrick Brett, ‘18, (music. theatre) who was performing in the “Music of Denali,” a musical comedy dinner show.

Jean C. Kuehn, ‘65, (elem. ed.) retired after 50 years of private piano instruction, and is playing organ at a Methodist church.

Marjorie Gaske, ‘67, (elem. ed.) is starting an online business.

“Adult Community Band Rehearsal Psychology and More.”

Monk Rowe, ‘72, (music ed.) was honored with the 2019 Oneida County (N.Y.) Living Legend Award for his accomplishments as a performer, composer and educator.

Dennis Shea, ‘72, (bus. admin.) is enjoying retirement in Sugarland, Texas.

Bill (geology) and Chris (Wardaszkaj) Thackaberry, ‘72, (math.) are retired, enjoy world travel and have six grandchildren. Chris volunteers at a local elementary school and Bill restores vintage motorcycles.

John Caligiuri, ‘73, (bus. admin.) is a science fiction writer and his latest novel in the Cocytus series, “Cocytus, Sanctuary in Hell,” has just been released.

Renee (Achkar) Roess, ‘74, (French/sec. ed.) is retired from Williamsville (N.Y.) schools where she taught French and Spanish. She plays viola with the Amherst and Williamsville (N.Y.) community symphony orchestras.

Dr. David Bristol, ‘75, (math./sec. ed.) worked for 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry; followed by 15 years as an independent statistical consultant, and is now retired. His work in drug development is ending with the close of his consulting company within the next year. After a professional life that spanned years at Bell Labs, AT&T, Johnson & Johnson and Apple (retail), James Collymore, ‘75, (psych.) recently retired and is getting back into photography and more voiceover work.

Raphael Ketani, ‘76, (geology) retired from the New York State Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., as Manager of Institutional Giving. She was also named Vice President of the board of trustees for the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, Mass.

Jeff Nelson, ‘85, (music perf., sound rec. technology) was featured on Dafnis Prieto’s CD “Back To The Sunset,” which won a GRAMMY award in 2019 for Best Latin Jazz Album.

Numa Saisselin, ‘85, (music ed.) is President of the historic Florida Theatre in Jacksonville. He received the Jacksonville Business Journal’s 2019 Ultimate

Valerie Nixon, ‘78, (bus. admin.) was named Executive Vice President Emeritus upon retirement from Alfred State College in June 2019.

Paul Speziale, ‘75, (psych.) is retired from full-time work, and is now a contracted part-time school psychologist.

1980s

Sean Kirst, ‘81, (English) will be a Grand Marshall at the Syracuse (N.Y.) 2020 St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Louis Coplin, ‘82, (interdis. stds.) was named Vice President for Student Affairs at Hudson Valley Community College. He also earned an M.A. in Social Policy from Empire State College.

Julie Newell, ‘82, (music perf.) has been invited to serve as Stage Director for Syracuse Opera’s production of “Candide” in February.

Howard Klayman, ‘85, (music ed.) has been appointed to the Board of Advisers at Cape Canaveral Space Launch Services.

Pamela Knisley, ‘85, (sociology) joined the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., as Manager of Institutional Giving. She was also named Vice President of the board of trustees for the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, Mass.
CEO award and was recently elected Chair of Downtown Vision, the city’s business improvement district.

Warren Bush, ‘86, ‘90, (elem. ed.) has been named the Head Coach of Women’s Bowling at Hilbert College in Hamburg, N.Y.

Mark Krystofík, ’86, (math.) has joined the Watt Family Innovation Center at Clemson University as Associate Director of Operations and Sustainability. He formerly worked at Rochester Institute of Technology’s Golsano Institute for Sustainability.


Ian Marks, ’87, (sound rec. technology) after working as a sound engineer and teaching at the University of Memphis, switched careers and became a pilot.

After contracting for six months, Bill Filipiak, ’88, (commun.) joined Opry Entertainment/Ryman Properties as a Staff Producer in February 2019. In his role, Bill is working with the Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium and Ole Red Restaurants.

Grace Gerrity, ’88, (commun.) was named Vice President of Marketing and Communications at Ivoclar Vivadent North America.

Britt Vatne, ’88, (bus. admin.) is President of Data Management at ALC in Princeton, N.J., and was honored by the Direct Marketing Association’s Brockport (N.Y.) branch as the Program Manager (Dean) of the School of Professional Studies for CSU-Global. He also serves as the Research Director for the American Leadership and Policy Foundation, as well as the Assistant Editor for the American Journal of Undergraduate Research. Tony lives with his wife, son, and daughter in Aurora, Colo.

which he started 20 years ago, and retired.

Michael Michalski, ’90, (bus. admin.) has been named Economic Development Coordinator for Chautauqua Opportunities for Development, Inc.

Iris (Figerol) Rosario, ’91, (pol. sci.) was a law firm partner at Gray Plant Mooty and left that position in May 2019 to join Choice Hotels in Rockville, Md., as franchise counsel.


Carolyn Stow, ’92, (psych.) a Reverend at Kidder Memorial United Methodist Church, recently was transferred to the United Methodist Church in Johnson City, N.Y. She has taught ministry and worked in human services for 30 years.

Christopher Schoepflin, ’93, (bus. admin.) was recently appointed Vice President of External Affairs and Strategic Development at Pegula Sports and Entertainment in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jeff Winden, ’94, (earth sci./sec. ed.) was inducted into the Churchville-Chili (N.Y.) Athletic Hall of Fame in December 2019.

Melissa Beadle-Wencek, ’95, (bus. admin.) is Community Office Assistant Manager at Canandaigua National Bank & Trust’s Brockport (N.Y.) branch office.

Dr. Anthony Contento, ’95, (recom. gene technology) was promoted to Assistant Provost at Colorado State University-Global. He has spent the past two years as the Program Manager (Dean) for the School of Professional Studies for CSU-Global. He also serves as the Research Director for the American Leadership and Policy Foundation, as well as the Assistant Editor for the American Journal of Undergraduate Research. Tony lives with his wife, son, and daughter in Aurora, Colo.

Members of the Class of 1969 met at Homecoming for their 50th reunion celebration, including: (front row, left to right) Robert Scharf, Patricia (Colella) Carey, Ann D’Amico Beer and Kathleen (Bull) Lell; (second row, left to right) Mary Lou Straway, Michelle (Stuart) Doran, Linda (Town) Parker, Karen (Brewster) Miller, Sharon (Coady) Daniels, Patricia “Toni” Colley and Carol Covert Byrne; (third row, left to right) Carolyn Miller, Nadia (Matijiw) Arico, Andrew Heymsfeld, Betty Lou (Jenning) Vrooman, Deborah (Grant) Rodrigues, David Powers and Paul Fein; (fourth row, left to right) John Eyre, Gregory Prechtl, Russell DiPalma, James Arthur Seward, James Dickinson, Morgan Scot Smith and JoAnn Kaufman; and (back row, left to right) Loren Adams, Wayne Judkins, Charles Wheeler, Kenneth Blish, Dawn (Leslie) Hutsebaut and Louis Goldsmith.

Fredonia alumni from the classes of ’94, ’95, and ’96, gathered in the Catskills for a mini-reunion.

Dallas K. Beal Legacy Society
Planned gifts play a critical role in the future success of Fredonia. Knowledge of your intentions allows the university to plan for the future. Have you identified the Fredonia College Foundation in your will and forgot to notify us? All you need to do is simply contact a team member at the Fredonia College Foundation. Please call (716) 673-3321 to request a membership form or email June Miller-Spann at spannjm@fredonia.edu. You may also want to visit us at plannedgiving.fredonia.edu to print a copy. Simply complete and return the Dallas K. Beal Legacy Society consent form to the Fredonia College Foundation, 272 Central Ave., Fredonia, NY 14063.

Thank you to those who have already told us about your plans. We are grateful for your support!
Award-winning composer Dr. Stephen Grieco, ’96, (music comp.) just released a new album, “Reflections.” He was the first Fredonia student to premiere a one-act opera, “The Monkey’s Paw” in Bartlett Theatre and was President of Ethos New Music Society. He is a full-time faculty member at Cabini University in Pennsylvania where he oversees the Music program.

Mark Odell, ’96, (econ.) and Colleen Meeder, ’97, (acct.) were named to the 2019 Westfield Memorial Hospital Foundation Board of Directors.

Greg Borowski, ’97, (commun.) has joined ACV Auctions, Inc. as Director of Product.

Keri (Sprandel) Fadden, ’98, (commun.) represented Interim President Dennis L. Hefner at the inauguration of Allegheny College’s 22nd president, Dr. Hilary L. Link, in October 2019.

Craig Harris, ’98, (commun.) was recently appointed to the position of Vice President for Development at Catholic Health in Buffalo, N.Y.

Robert Michel, ’98, (music ed.) was appointed Director of Personnel at the Clarence (N.Y.) School District.

Jason Enser, ’99, (commun.) was named Dean of Students at Vermont Tech. He formerly served as Dean for Student Affairs at SUNY Adirondack Community College and Associate Dean of Students at Clarkson University.

Kari (Simanowski) Hamelinck, ’99, (elem. ed./early child. ed.) was named Interim Assistant Principal at Newark (N.Y.) Middle School.

Marisa Wilkes, ’99, (commun.) earned her Certified Meeting Professionals designation.

2000s

John Dutko, ’00, (bus. admin.) is a Senior Vice President at SunTrust Bank.

Elizabeth Drag Lucas, ’02, (interdis. stds./American stds.) was named to the “40 Under 40” list in Buffalo’s Business First.

Dr. Dan Showalter III, ’02, (math.) was promoted to Lt. Col. In the U.S. Air Force. He is Director of the U.S. Air Force Academy Space Systems Research Center and an Assistant Professor of astronautics.

Dr. Jason Campbell-Foster, ’03, (English) was appointed Senior Associate Dean of Students at Boston University.

Todd Martin, ’03, (bus. admin./market.) is Chief Sales Officer for Nova Healthcare Administrators.

Dr. Kim Harvey, ’04, (math.) was named Vice President of Student Engagement at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y., and prior to that served as Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management at SUNY Geneseo. She earned her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Rochester.

Amanda Skilton-Long, ’04, (commun./public rel.) is a Licensed Insurance Broker with Bob White Insurance in Williamsville, N.Y.

Brian Fijjones, ’05, (sociology) represented Interim President Dennis L. Hefner at the inauguration of Hilbert College’s fourth president, Dr. Michael S. Brophy, in October 2019.

Dave McCann, ’05, (soc. stds./adol. ed.) was hired as Athletic Director at Ellicottville (N.Y.) Central School.

Betsy Stambach-Fuller, ’05, ’07, (music ed.) was named a quarterfinalist for the GRAMMY 2010s

Dr. Stephen Grieco, ’06, (music comp.) just released a new album, “Reflections.” He was the first Fredonia student to premiere a one-act opera, “The Monkey’s Paw” in Bartlett Theatre and was President of Ethos New Music Society. He is a full-time faculty member at Cabini University in Pennsylvania where he oversees the Music program.

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Betsy Stambach-Fuller, ’05, ’07, (music ed.) was named a quarterfinalist for the GRAMMY
musical theatre at the University of Mississippi. In the summer of 2019 he was music director of “Into the Woods” at the Texas Shakespeare Festival at Kilgore College.

Donald J. Schier, ’11, (commun./public rel.) represented Interim President Dennis L. Hefner at the inauguration of Villa Maria College’s fourth president, Dr. Matthew Giordano, in November 2019.

Keah Brown, ’13, (commun./journalism) appeared on the “Today Show” in November 2019 promoting her first book, “The Pretty One: On Life, Pop Culture, Disability and Other Reasons to Fall in Love with Me,” which was released in August 2019. She also was inducted as a Lockport (N.Y.) High School Distinguished Alumni.

Ed Croft, ’13, (music ed.) was the winner of the 2018 JazzBuffalo Poll for Best Acoustic Upright Bassist, Rising Star and the John Hunt Jazz Artist of the Year awards.

Cory Jackson, ’14, (biology) attended medical school at the University of Florida and is now in residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

Carl Lam, ’14, (music./audio-radio) has returned as a weekend fill-in meteorologist at WGRZ in Buffalo, N.Y. He earned his broadcast meteorology certificate from Mississippi State University in 2018 and continues to forecast for 680 News (CFTR-AM) in Toronto.

Samantha (Gaudio) Didrichsen, ’15, (early child. ed.) was hired by Volunteers of America-Greater New York to teach preschool special education at the Bronx Early Learning Center.

Andrea LoPiccolo, ’15, (commun./video prod.) has been hired as a graphic designer at FIFTEEN, a full-service marketing agency in Buffalo, N.Y. She is pursuing a B.F.A. in Graphic Design at SUNY Buffalo State and was the 2019 scholarship winner for the American Advertising Federation Buffalo’s Portfolio Review.

Eann Robinson, ’16, (bus. admin.) was recently appointed to the position of Assistant Director of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at Daemen College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Noah Maciejewski, ’18, (commun./audio-radio) took over midday hosting duties on weekdays at Kiss 98.5 (WKSE-FM).

Carolyn Sheridan, ’17, (biology) earned her master’s degree in Public Health from SUNY Albany in May 2019, and in the last months of school secured a position in the New York State Senate as a Policy Assistant for the Office of the Majority Counsel. After six months in that position, she was named a Health Policy Analyst for the Women’s Issues Standing Committee and continues to do support work for the Health, Mental Health, and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Standing committees.

Alex Behrens, ’18, (commun./video prod.) has been hired as a Video Editor at Crowley Webb in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jeffrey Kringer, ’18, (music./theatre) received outstanding reviews for his performance as Tony in the Milwaukee Repertory Theater’s production of “West Side Story” in September and October 2019.

Monica Manney, ’19, (commun./journalism) has joined Spectrum News Central New York as a multimedia journalist.

Past and present winners of the Tim Russert Media Career Award Award presented by the Buffalo Broadcasters Association include Fredonia alumni (left to right) Noah Maciejewski, 2017; Monica Manney, 2019; and Carl Lam, 2014. The three joined a Fredonia “mini-reunion” at this year’s award event.

Music Business alumni got together in October 2019 in Manhattan, including Jeff James, Steve Accardo, Michelle Cope, Dana Pizzi, Megan Stade, Kate Gratson, Gregory Kowal, Miranda Leone, John Greenan and Virginia Croft.

The Western New York Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals held its National Philanthropy Day celebration in November 2019. Alumni Jane (Schuster), ’74, and Joseph Falcone, ’74, were honored for their philanthropy, and were joined by Interim Vice President for University Advancement Betty (Catania) Gossett, ’76 (right).
Piano Practice Studio naming opportunity

The Fredonia College Foundation has initiated a naming opportunity program that provides donors with the ability to formally name a Piano Practice Studio in Mason Hall and purchase a new Boston 126 upright piano for the School of Music.

Since the start of the program in the spring of 2018, the School of Music has purchased nine new pianos thanks to the generosity of individual alumni and foundations. Named piano practice studios include Christian Granger, ’66; Dr. James Lyke, ’53, and Marry Whitcomb Lichtenstein, ’67. In addition, alumna Amy Bromeley McCune, ’81, purchased pianos for five studios. A gift of $15,000 will allow the purchase of a piano and provide a naming opportunity.

Recently, the Lucille and Jack Yellen Foundation of Buffalo, N.Y., secured a piano practice room naming. The Yellens were known for their many talents including dance, choreography and composition work with entertainment companies such as Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and 20th Century Fox. Jack is best remembered for writing the lyrics to the song “Happy Days Are Here Again,” which was used by Franklin Roosevelt as the theme song for his successful 1932 presidential campaign, and “Ain’t She Sweet,” a Tin Pan Alley standard.

If you would like to participate in the Piano Practice Studio naming opportunity program, please contact June Miller-Spann, director of Development at the Fredonia College Foundation, at (716) 673-3321 or email spannjm@fredonia.edu.

MEMORIALS

A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry of the New York State Office of Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or from the Charities Registry of the New York State Office of the Attorney General at www.charitiesnys.com, (212) 416-8401, or by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or us at 272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY, 14063.

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Fredonia’s Career Development Office is here to help you…

**Job Crafting: What is your ‘why’?**

What do you want out of work at this point in your life? Many people never give much thought to this question, particularly once their careers are in full swing. The daily stress of working lives, filled with competing demands and challenges, can be overwhelming.

**Career, Job or Calling**

People tend to fall into one of three categories: Some see their work as a career; others view it as just a job; and still others see it as a calling. Yet we know that happiness and success are highly correlated. It is common for people who consider work as their calling to exhibit higher productivity and performance, as well as a greater sense of satisfaction with their jobs.

The idea of job crafting, where you tweak certain aspects of your job to gain a greater sense of meaning and satisfaction, may help you find more fulfillment in your work.

**The Nuts and Bolts of Job Crafting**

**Task Crafting** — evaluate the tasks, processes and responsibilities in your work. What aspects do you most (or least) enjoy? Are there opportunities for you to engage in more (or less) of these tasks, expand your learning, retool or upskill, or even allocate your work?

**Relationship Crafting** — build and expand new relationships in your workplace. Talk to people you normally would not be required to interact with in your everyday tasks. This helps you expand your social job resources and gain valuable insight and knowledge. Developing collaborative partnerships and a network of contacts is essential in today’s global economy, often leading to innovation or unique ways of problem solving across disparate areas.

**Cognitive Crafting** — rethink the way you think about your work. Consider the how and what that make up your work, and how these align with your values. What is meaningful and matters to you in the work that you do?

Job crafting allows you to create new solutions for workplace success by visualizing the skills, resources, and knowledge needed to thrive, regardless of which category of people you fall into. The challenge is to be mindful of your ‘why’ and take time to reflect on what matters to you. This will help you stay on track and live with purpose.

Remember the Career Development Office (CDO) is here to assist you as long as you need. Whether you are beginning or negotiating career challenges and opportunities, the CDO can help you plan your next move. If you would like to make an appointment to discuss strategies to advance your career, contact the CDO at (716) 673-3327 or email careers@fredonia.edu. You can also visit the CDO’s website at www.fredonia.edu/cdo to schedule an appointment through FREDNetwork.
Help recruit the next generation of Fredonians!

You can make an important impact on your alma mater by engaging with future Blue Devils. By becoming a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter you can help recruit students wherever you are.

Working with prospective students is a fun and rewarding experience. One of the most powerful and impactful recruiting tools is the experience of successful alums who are proud of their time at Fredonia and who want to share their stories.

When you are a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter, you take part in college fairs near you, helping to expand Fredonia’s footprint in communities across the country. It allows you to remain connected with your beloved Fredonia campus, enhance the value of your degree by attracting qualified students, and create opportunities for future Fredonians.

To learn more about becoming a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter, and to sign up, go to fredonia.edu/recruiter today!