
Message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., April 13, 2023

President's Office <President.Office@fredonia.edu>

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To: All Registered students <students@fredonia.edu>, Faculty/Staff group <facultystaff@fredonia.edu>



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 13, 2023

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Friends,

Happy Thursday! I hope your week has been good and you are enjoying the warmer temperatures.

With around five weeks left before Commencement and the end of the semester, I want to check in with you, and I hope everyone is staying well and energized so that you can make it to the finish line successfully.

I have a few things to share with you this evening.

Recognizing Outstanding Students

Meeting with SUNY Fredonia students is always an inspiring experience for me. In the last few weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting several exceptional students who have distinguished themselves in their academic journey. I want to share some brief information about each of them with you.

Recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

This award is the highest among the student awards in SUNY and acknowledges the outstanding achievements that students have demonstrated by integrating the SUNY standards of excellence in academics, leadership, campus involvement, community service, and the arts.



Logan Wilson

Logan is majoring in Biology with a minor in Music. He is highly engaged in many campus activities, including mentoring freshmen biology majors, participating in undergraduate research, and serving as a student ambassador. After graduating this May, Logan will pursue a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Recently, Logan participated in a study abroad program in Honduras, where he assisted medical professionals to deliver health care in rural villages. In addition to his engagement on our campus, Logan is a volunteer at the Lakeshore Humane Society.



Madison Miller

Madison is a double major in Biology and Environmental Sciences with a double minor in Chemistry and Geographic Information Systems. She is a Resident Assistant and holds several leadership positions with student organizations including her participation on Community Policing and other safety programs, and her volunteer work of pulling invasive plant species and participating in the annual Fall Sweep. After graduating with her Bachelor's degrees, Madison plans to pursue a Master's degree to continue building on her undergraduate research experience.

Recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for EOP Student Excellence

This award recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic excellence and strength in overcoming significant personal obstacles throughout their lives. It is named in memory of Norman R. McConney, Jr. (1946-2016), a graduate of the University at Albany and former Assistant Dean for Special Programs at SUNY. McConney, alongside former Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve, helped create the EOP as a statewide program that has served over 75,000 New Yorkers from underprivileged backgrounds.



Emma Goetz

Emma is a senior majoring in Computer Information Systems. She has also undertaken undergraduate research projects such as the investigation of the impacts of video games on hand-eye coordination and time management, and research on how user experience can guide website design. Emma is a recipient of the Ralph Wilson scholarship award and was recently inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon. She serves as a teaching assistant and a tutor and is an active member in the E-sports Club. She remains engaged with Dunkirk High School, where she attended, to enhance student success.

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding students.

Commencement Speakers

We will hold our 196th commencement exercise on Saturday, May 20, 2023. We will have two sessions for the commencement: A morning session at 10:00 AM and an afternoon session at 2:00 PM.

Our speaker for the morning Commencement Ceremony will be The Honorable James A. W. McLeod, former Buffalo City Court Judge and SUNY Fredonia alum, class of 1971. Our speaker for the afternoon session will be The Honorable Lynne T. Ruda, class of 2007, Mayor of the Village of Lancaster and Director of Economic Development.

I am delighted that these two SUNY Fredonia alumni and trailblazers will be returning to campus to inspire our graduates. We will record their speeches and make them available to all graduates. More information about our two speakers will be released soon.

Happy Landings

Among the professions or people I admire are airplane pilots. I often try to imagine the mental and resilience capacities it takes for a pilot, after a long flight, to land the plane safely on the runway and taxi to the gate where passengers can deboard, often with smiles on their faces. Imagine all the preparations that take place in the cabin and in the cockpit of the plane before the plane lands successfully. While there is generally excitement about the flight approaching its conclusion for everyone onboard, the pilot(s) and flight personnel must not become distracted by such a pre-celebration irrespective of how long, how enjoyable, or how difficult the flight was. Their attention must be directed to the necessary pre-landing tasks to ensure that the plane lands safely and to the gate. Success and smiles!

Students, you are approaching the conclusion of the school year. I can imagine some tiredness, as well as excitement. You are approaching the “runway” to land the “plane”. You are making all your “pre landing” checks - assignments; papers; artwork; compositions; labs; etc. You want to land this “plane” safely and successfully. So, don’t hesitate to seek help if you need help. If you need help, please click [here](#). Good luck with all your exams and safe landings!

Thank you for taking time to read this Update. I will be in touch.

Very truly yours,

Dr. K
Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Ph.D.
President and Professor

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