



All you need to do is check the bulletin boards, kiosks, hallways, and library to know that the academic year is hurling toward May. Every day, the number of campus events is remarkable—the breathtaking performance of soprano Dawn Upshaw, lacrosse, faculty and student recitals, a moving production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, baseball, senior exhibitions, academic conferences, guest artists and lecturers, Earth Week activities, Relay for Life, track, Out of the Darkness Walk, softball, Multicultural Weekend, accepted student reception and Admissions visits, the Rosa Parks Scholarship Ceremony, Masterworks Concert, FredFest, Hall Olympics, visiting artist programs, Turkish Student Association dinner, Leadership Awards Ceremony, Distinguished Service Award Dinner, and many department award and recognition ceremonies.

Attending these or the many other events featured each day is a great reminder to me of the strength of the Fredonia community: its people. When I hear students telling about what they are doing and learning and see the support that faculty and staff generously provide, I am amazed and proud. If the end of the semester leaves you exhausted and discouraged, I recommend these events to inspire you:

- Take a little while on May 2 to attend the **Student Research and Creativity Exposition** (Williams Center, 1:00 – 6:00 P.M.). You can hear more than 400 students tell about academic, creative, and experiential work this year. Dr. Michelle Bernatz, Assistant Professor in Visual Arts and New Media, will give the keynote address at 4:00.
- Attend the **Retirement Recognition Dinner** on May 10 (5:15 – 8:00 P.M., Williams Center). A collaborative effort among the Office of the President, UUP, CSEA, Council 82, and PEF, this dinner is a great chance to celebrate the accomplishments and service of your colleagues. The cost of the dinner is \$20 per person. **REGISTER ONLINE BY CLICKING HERE**, or employees may also register by sending a check for \$20 per person payable to SUNY Fredonia IFR #900880.71 and their dinner choice (chicken, steak, or vegetarian) to the Student Accounts office, Third Floor Maytum Hall. *Reservations are required by Friday, May 3.*
- Make plans to attend one or both **Commencement** ceremonies on May 18. You can celebrate with students and their families and hear the keynote address by Congressional Representative Brian Higgins. Volunteers are also welcome to help set up, welcome and direct guests, and assist during the ceremonies.

I hope to see you at some of the many events that will close this academic year!

With best wishes,

Virginia S. Stovatt



Dr. Ralph Blasting Appointed Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts



After a national search, Dr. Ralph Blasting has been appointed the Founding Dean of the new College of Visual and Performing Arts. This new division includes Rockefeller Arts Center, the School of Music, the Department of Theatre and Dance, and the Department of Visual Arts and New Media. Dr. Terry Brown, who will begin as Provost in July, worked with the search committee to interview candidates and select the first dean.

Dr. Blasting has served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Siena College (Albany, NY) since 2004. Previously he was a faculty member and chair in the Department of Theatre Arts at Towson University (Baltimore). He earned a B.F.A. in scenic design/technical theatre from Wayne State University (Michigan), an M.A. in theatre history from the University of Michigan, and a doctorate in Drama Studies from the University of Toronto.

The new college will be established when Dr. Blasting begins at Fredonia on July 1, 2013. The current College of Arts and Sciences will be renamed the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as the remaining 16 departments form the core of the liberal education at the foundation of all Fredonia undergraduate degrees.

Ralph offers this comment about his transition to this campus and community: “Fredonia has been incredibly welcoming so far. When I posted the new job on my Facebook, I found that one of my former students from Baltimore now lives in Dunkirk and wants to introduce me to her local network. My wife Laurie and I will be coming to look for housing in May, and the President has graciously invited us to attend the graduation ceremonies. We are looking forward to exploring Chautauqua County and western New York. We were “locavores” before that word was invented, and we like finding, cooking, and enjoying good foods. A great day for us also includes a hike in the woods, if I don’t stop too often to look for birds.

Although we have a lot to learn about the region, it's not entirely foreign to us. All of Laurie's immediate family is in southern Ontario, and I have brothers in Buffalo and in Erie, PA. I even have a niece majoring in music at Fredonia. We're excited about joining the community, both on and off campus, so the challenge now is the move itself. Our daughter Hannah got married and moved to Arizona in January, so it's just us and the three cats. Still, so many books that we don't want to part with. . . .”

I’m glad to welcome Dr. Blasting to SUNY Fredonia and to the Fredonia community and look forward to his leadership of the new College of Visual and Performing Arts.

President’s Awards for Excellence Luncheon

Thank you to the record-setting number of people—more than 320!—who were part of Tuesday’s President’s Awards for Excellence luncheon and ceremony. Congratulations first to these retirees who were recognized: **Patty Anderson, Clara Beier, Barbara Brinson, Jane Jackson, Judith Leone, Susan Lord, Terry Mosher, Laurel Rivers, Diane Snyder, and Wayne Yunghans.**

Finalists for the President's Awards for Excellence are **Tammy Bankoski, Denise Maze, Paul Mockovak, Ted Lee, and Timothy Overbeck**. The four recipients of the President's Awards for Excellence are **Joe Baxter, Darlene Burchett, Patty Feraldi, and Keary Howard**.

Thank you to the Faculty Student Association for catering a lunch to such a large crowd, to Mike Lemieux and the Campus Life staff for hosting this event in the Williams Center, to Denise Szalkowski and Jayme Delcamp for handling arrangements and reservations, and to the Zusammen Quartet and Premium Blend for providing music for this event.

Chancellor's Award for Excellence

Dr. Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor, has recently confirmed the five Fredonia nominees for the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. Congratulations to **Robyn F. Reger** (Administration) for Excellence in Classified Service; **Daniel L. Ihasz** (School of Music) for Excellence in Teaching; **Jeanette McVicker** (English) for Excellence in Teaching; **Laurie A. Ensign** (Human Resources-Employee Benefits) for Excellence in Professional Service; and **Gregory Snow** (Information Technology Services) for Excellence in Professional Service. I will present them with their medallions as part of the Fall Semester All-Campus Meeting on Friday, August 23.

Senate Bylaws Ratification Vote

After considerable discussion over the past academic year, the University Senate has completed its work in revising the Senate Bylaws. The revised bylaws are now available for review on a special page of the University Senate website: [CLICK HERE](#) to access it. Ratification of the revised laws is achieved through a vote of all full- and part-time academic and professional staff. Here is an overview of the voting process, which begins tomorrow:

1) Senate Governance Officer Andrew Cullison will be running the bylaws ratification vote electronically. Look for an email from him soon.

- Voting Opens: start of day on Thursday, April 25th
- Voting Closes: end of day on Wednesday, May 1st

2) The vote will be divided into two parts: revisions that affect consultation and those that don't.

- The former need both ratification by the Voting Faculty and the President's signature to become official.
- The latter require the Senate Chairperson to notify the President that they have been ratified by the Voting Faculty.

3) All full-time and part-time academic and professional staff are eligible to vote to ratify the University Senate-approved revisions of the SUNY Fredonia Faculty and University Senate Bylaws.

- For the ratification vote to be official, at least one-quarter of the eligible voters must return electronic ballots.
- For each voting item to be approved, it must receive at least two-thirds of the number of returned ballots.

Faculty and professional staff who have questions about the documents or the ratification vote should contact Andrew Cullison (Andrew.Cullison@fredonia.edu) or Rob Deemer (Robert.Deemer@fredonia.edu).

Incubator Awarded NYS Grant

Thanks to the advocacy of State Senator Catharine Young, the recently approved New York State Budget includes a \$100,000 grant to the SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator for services and operations. The Incubator, led by Director Bob Fritzing, currently has 15 tenants, all in different stages of their respective life-cycles. Currently, the Incubator's tenant businesses have created 64 jobs in our region. Additionally, these businesses, since the Fall of 2011, have provided 29 credit-based internship opportunities for SUNY Fredonia students and numerous paid internships. Each semester there are between 10 and 20 credit-based internships available through Incubator tenants.



Ryan Wolf of Silicon Wolves Computing Society, an Incubator client

Since its inception, the Incubator has reviewed 129 business plans and has passed 25 applications into the program. There have also been four graduate businesses. Textivia—a graduate start-up that provides text-message marketing solutions for businesses—has relocated into a commercial location on Central Avenue in Dunkirk and is providing new jobs for this region and other locations. On April 9, the Incubator held a successful open house that featured presentations by seven of the current tenants.

Update on SUNY Budget

Although we continue to await the final figures in our state allocation and any adjustments to the 2013-2014 budget, Vice President Steve Schillo and the campus budget team are working to finalize the budget for the next fiscal year. As VP Schillo explained to the University Senate Planning and Budget Committee on April 22, we are anticipating a flat budget with some increased costs due to negotiated salary increases and other mandates. In addition, the budget office is preparing for the possibility of an additional cut to accommodate the SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Mindful of the deficit, the Cabinet continues to address the shortfall through saving from vacancies and careful attention to spending and commitments.

WNY College Connection Women's Leadership Institute



Congratulations to Jody Rzepka, Jan McVicker, and Tracy Collingwood (*pictured*) on their completion of the Women's Leadership Institute of the Western New York College Connection! This year-long program for women faculty, professionals, and administrators from WNY colleges and universities brings speakers, workshops, and mentoring/networking opportunities for those nominated by their institutions. The Fredonia participants were recognized at a closing dinner held at the University of Buffalo on April 10.

Planning for Enhanced Global Perspectives

This week, SUNY Fredonia welcomed Dr. Stephanie Doscher and Dr. Hilary Landorf to campus for the first of several visits to assist with implementing the Fredonia as a Global Community initiative in the strategic plan. These consultants from Florida International University will be assessing our current strengths in such programs as study abroad, internationalizing the curriculum, and providing a supportive and inclusive environment for international students. Ted Schwalbe (Coordinator of International Learning) and Mary Sasso (Director of the International Education Center) will be leading efforts to use the consultants' report in planning for enhanced global perspectives.

In the Next Letter

These are some topics I expect to address in the next letter:

- Commencement
- Updates on budget, searches, and hiring

Please send your ideas, questions, and comments to me at president.office@fredonia.edu.