



As we begin the spring semester, I am reminded of all the New Year's resolutions that we optimistically set for ourselves each year. . . and the ways those best of intentions can fall aside as we fall into familiar routines. So although I sent no President's Letters in December, I am starting fresh this week with this brief update for the campus and community.

Please know that the *Campus Report* is a much fuller publication, with news about events and faculty, staff, and student accomplishments. It is available from the SUNY Fredonia homepage and is sent electronically as well.

With best wishes for a great start to the semester,

Nigeria S. Howard



Stephen Schillo Begins as Vice President for Finance and Administration

On Tuesday, January 22, Mr. Stephen Schillo began as Vice President for Finance and Administration at SUNY Fredonia. Arriving from Duquesne University (Pittsburgh), he brings years of experience in finance and administration to his new role here, including positions at Carnegie Mellon University, Gannon University, and the City of Pittsburgh. It's been a busy week, and he has jumped in with enthusiasm and good ideas. I welcome him to the Cabinet and look forward to working with him in the years ahead!

Terry Brown Selected as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Over the break, I was pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Terry Brown as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, beginning on July 1, 2013. Dr. Brown has spent 24 years in the University of Wisconsin system, including serving as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She is presently part of the University of Wisconsin's System Administration, serving in its Office of Academic and Student Affairs to lead integrated academic, budget and facilities planning.



She holds bachelor and master's degrees in English from Virginia Tech University, and earned her doctorate, also in English, from the University of Florida. She has 20 publications to her credit, has given dozens of presentations at conferences in the U.S. and abroad, and has secured funding through more than 20 grants.

Water Main Break in Andrews Complex

When you walk across campus, you're probably not aware of the maze of service pipes and conduits that bring water, gas, and electricity in and manage the sewage systems. But when an old pipe breaks, as occurred on Sunday afternoon, we all notice. The forty-year old iron pipe was fourteen feet under the Andrews Complex, so finding and repairing the problem was much more complicated than ducking under a kitchen sink.

As the residents of Hemingway, Hendrix, Igoe, and Schulz Halls know, excavating crews worked through the night on Sunday to explore an underground solution, then determined that going through the building in the lower level was a better option. As residents adjusted to drinking bottled water, using porta-potties, and taking showers in adjacent halls, plumbing contractors ordered the needed parts and began installation. As you can see from these photographs provided by Liz Lee (Professor, Visual Arts and New Media), the resulting design is complex and perhaps somewhat artistic. Once the water flow is



established and samples tested, the complex will once again have the features we usually take for granted: safe drinking water, showers, and flush toilets in all 125 bathrooms.

As this situation is resolved, I am thankful for the hard work of Steve Siragusa, Bob Lawson, Rich Newton, Gary Bice, Karen Porpiglia, Steve Schillo, Mike Barone, Dave Herman, and everyone else who worked to find and repair the leak, clean the effects inside and out, and assist the 600 students who were affected by this unfortunately timed water main break. I especially appreciate the patience and good humor of those students and the faculty and staff who assisted.

Karen Porpiglia Recognized with First *Heart of Fredonia* Award



For more than two years, Karen Porpiglia served effectively as the Interim Vice President for Administration, continuing in some of her former responsibilities as she added new roles in leading facilities, human resources, the Faculty Student Association, and other areas. For her efforts, I was pleased to present her with the first Heart of Fredonia Award at the all-campus meeting on Friday, January 25. As I noted in my remarks, "it was a difficult time for our campus, as we faced the impact of several rounds of budget cuts, the elimination of 41 positions across campus, waves of uncertain policies and impacts at the state level, a presidential transition, and the complex processes of several

major construction and renovation processes at once. Karen has played a crucial role in keeping us financially sound and moving us forward on so many initiatives. Her wisdom, insights, patience, hard work, humor, institutional memory, and energy have made a tremendous difference to the university. . . [For her] generosity of spirit, commitment to integrity, and respect for others, [Karen has] represented the heart of Fredonia.” She was presented with a certificate and Fredonia-blue glass heart paperweight, designed by Elsa Peretti for Tiffany & Co. to remind her of the esteem her colleagues and I have for her good heart and good work in these 26 months.

State Budget and Implications for SUNY and SUNY Fredonia

Governor Cuomo has released the 2013-2014 Executive Budget, and all state agencies—including SUNY—are determining its impact on their operations. The budget includes All Funds appropriations of \$7.9 billion for the State University of New York, an increase of 0.4% from enacted 2012-2013 levels. General Fund support for state-operated campuses (such as Fredonia) remains flat, with some adjustments for other kinds of institutions. This reflects the “maintenance of effort” provision sought in previous budget years and supports the third phase of the five-year rational tuition policy; this means that, as planned, annual tuition at all state-operated campuses will increase by \$300 next fall.

Unfortunately, there are no new capital allocations for the state-operated campuses. Therefore, some of the construction plans in our Facilities Master Plan will have to be on hold for now. The good news, however, is that all prior-year allocations for capital construction are authorized. This means that projects underway—such as the Science Center and addition to the Rockefeller Arts Center—are going forward with funding as planned.

International Student Welcome Ceremony

In what is likely to become a tradition each semester, the campus held a welcome ceremony for new international students on Tuesday, January 22. Faculty and staff joined International Ambassadors on the night before, assisting students as they arrived by bus from the airport (during a lake-effect storm). A well-organized crew helped load bags into the right vans and take students to their residence halls and to their first meal on campus.

Although the weather was cold, the welcome was warm when many faculty, staff, and students came to Rosch Recital Hall on Tuesday to greet the 63 new students from Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia. Students introduced themselves and received a SUNY Fredonia pin from Interim Provost Kevin Kearns. They also listened to remarks by Ted Schwalbe, Coordinator of International Learning, and Daniela Peterka-Benton, who talked with them about her own experiences as an international student and her hopes for their success at Fredonia. Thank you to everyone who was involved, particularly the presenters and planners for these events: Mary Sasso, Andrew Platt, Patty Herkey, and Janet Reid.

Return to Maytum Hall

That headline sounds like science fiction—or just plain fiction—but over the winter break, it was true! After three and a half years of relocated offices across campus, many staff returned to a renovated Maytum Hall. The building has new ventilation systems and plumbing, as well as windows and redesigned spaces. If you haven’t visited your colleagues in Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Financial Aid, Institutional Research, Accounting, Administration, Human Resources, and other areas yet, plan to

stop over in Maytum to say hello and see the views. All are glad to be out of the trailers and cubbies where they were “temporarily located.”

Thank you to all involved for your patience and good cleaning/moving efforts and for the extra assistance provided by Kevin Cloos, Bob Lawson, ITS Staff, and many others.

Update on Searches

- **Founding Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts.** The committee continues to meet to screen candidates and arrange for campus interviews. Candidates will come to Fredonia soon, with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2013.
- **Assistant Director, Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment and Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness.** The search committee, chaired by Adrienne McCormick, is pleased to announce that Michael Cettin has been hired and will start in February. The next President’s Letter will provide more information about this new colleague.
- **Chief Diversity Officer.** Co-chairs Roger Byrne and Jen Costa asked that this position be classified as Management/Confidential, and this was approved. The search committee will be posting this position soon.

In the Next Letter

These are some topics I expect to address in the February 12 letter:

- Reports from visits with directors and department chairs across campus
- Updates on searches

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