



Instead of a letter earlier this month, I had opportunities to meet directly with several groups, in addition to the University Senate and the Second Friday group. The President's Book Dialogue on October 16 brought a small but diverse group of faculty, professional staff, community members, students, and administrators together to discuss Simon Sinek's *Start with Why*. After a lively discussion about how organizations work and what gives a sense of focus and purpose, we took a few moments to discuss the work of the Mission Statement Review Team and to talk about the draft mission statement that they are developing. I was glad for this chance to hear others' ideas about Fredonia and what we do here, as this was an important part of the conversations we are having with prospective students and their families at this year's Open Houses and other recruitment activities.

I also had a chance to visit with students in this semester's Pizza with the President, held in Alumni Hall on October 16. I was impressed with the students' questions and ideas about technology and learning, about general education, and about diversity. They described their favorite places on campus and the classes they find most engaging and challenging.

I hope that Advising Week is going well. Although it's challenging to have faculty meet with so many students and guide them not only in course selection but career preparation and college/life issues, this is one of the hallmarks of Fredonia's attention to students, and I'm grateful to the faculty who do this so well.

With best wishes,

Nigeria S. Stovatt



NY SUNY 2020 Proposal: A Shared Vision for Western New York



On October 15, Interim Provost Kevin Kearns submitted a proposal for the next round of NY SUNY 2020 funding. The \$14.24 million proposal was developed in collaboration across campus and with the City of Dunkirk, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and a number of educational institutions in the region. As the Executive Summary explains, this proposal for Lake Erie economic, educational, and research development "is centered upon the construction of a Science and Education Center that combines a hands-on, interactive aquatic sciences museum with research labs and a Research Vessel to study Lake Erie and its tributaries." The City of

Dunkirk has offered an impressive parcel of waterfront property should this proposal be funded. I am grateful to Kevin Kearns and all who worked with him on this exciting project—which, if funded, could lead to the creation of more than 350 jobs in the region and have significant economic impact and benefits for education and research. We expect to hear from SUNY about whether we have been funded before the end of the year.

Houghton Hall Project

Plans continue for the renovation of Houghton that will begin once some offices from that building move into the new Science Center in 2014. A campus team evaluated Requests for Qualifications for the project, working with the State University Construction Fund to narrow the field of firms for interviews in Albany. Markus Kessler, Karen Porpiglia, and Holly Lawson will be traveling to Albany for those interviews and recommending the firm to oversee the design for this project.

NAST Accreditation Site Visit

This week, the Department of Theatre and Dance is hosting an accreditation team from the National Association of Schools of Theatre. As Department Chair Tom Loughlin explains, “NAST is the national accrediting body for all programs in theatre and theatre arts nationwide. Our department first sought accreditation in 1998, and received its first 5-year accreditation. In 2002, the department received its 10-year renewal. This is our third time through the accrediting process, and once again we are seeking Final Plan Approval for all our degree programs in theatre for another 10-year period.” Programs under review for accreditation are the B.A. in Theatre Arts, the B.F.A. in Acting, the B.F.A. in Musical Theatre, and the B.F.A. in Theatrical Production and Design. The visiting team will be meeting with faculty and students from the Department of Theatre and Dance, touring facilities, visiting classes and production areas, examining student records and learning outcomes documents, and seeing the sold-out production of *Chicago*.



Art for the Science Center

Part of the budget for the construction of the Science Center includes funding for artwork to enhance the building and show the wonder of science through visual art. A committee led by Holly Lawson, Betty Gossett, and Markus Kessler is now working on details related to this project.

Nanjing Normal University

This week, SUNY Fredonia had visitors from China who were here to discuss future collaborations. Thanks to the work of Ted Schwalbe, Linda Dorsten, Mary Sasso, and Lan Cheng, a delegation from Nanjing Normal University – Zhongbei College toured the campus, met with academic leaders, and enjoyed a lunch at the President’s House. Mr. Haiming Yao, Dean of NNUZC, and I signed a letter of intent to explore possibilities for exchanges between our institutions. Also in attendance and very helpful in our discussions were Xiaoning Chen and Xiao Zhang. This



conversation is an important step in a long process of finding a partner institution in China, and I look forward to our next step. [The photo above shows, from left to right, Chris Givner, Lijuan Wang (Director of the Finance Department, NNUZC), Haiming Yao, Yuncho Lv (Director of Student Affairs, NNUZC), Ginny Horvath, John Kijinski, Kevin Kearns, and Xin Wang (Director of International Cooperation, NNUZC).]

SEFA Campaign

The State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) is now actively working toward reaching the goals of having 100% of SUNY Fredonia employees participate and raising \$45,000 for charities in our state and region. Committee Chairs Kathy Dyckes and Megan Mackowiak are working with their committee and leaders from across campus to encourage each person to donate in this annual appeal. Donors can designate the agencies where they want to direct their funds, and the official state-wide brochure lists many, many options: http://www.sefanys.org/files/2012/2012_SEFA_Campaign.pdf. Contributions may be a single check or payroll deduction. In this time of unemployment for many and challenges for families, schools, and social agencies, I hope that members of the SUNY Fredonia community will each share even a small amount with others. This year's theme is "State Employees offer their hands and hearts by supporting charities through SEFA," and I know we can make a difference!

Update on Searches

- **Director, Center for Multicultural Affairs.** A candidate has accepted this position, and the contract is pending. An announcement about the hire and the starting date will be forthcoming.
- **Vice President for Finance and Administration.** Three candidates recently participated in two-day interviews on campus, and the committee is completing final reference checks and finalizing its summaries of strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. The President will make the selection, with a start date to be determined.
- **Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.** The search committee has been reviewing applications and nominations and conducting telephone interviews for this position. The plan is to bring candidates to campus before the end of the semester so that the selection can be made in December or January.
- **Founding Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts.** This position has been posted, and the committee will begin meeting soon. The plan is to bring candidates to campus at the beginning of the spring semester, with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2013.
- **Chief Diversity Officer.** The jointly appointed search committee will be meeting soon to begin its work for this position.

In the Next Letter

These are some topics I expect to address in the November 6 letter:

- Reports from visits with directors and department chairs across campus
- Updates on news from SUNY (Budget Allocation Model, Shared Services)
- Visits from international delegations
- Updates on searches

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