

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News Fall 2025

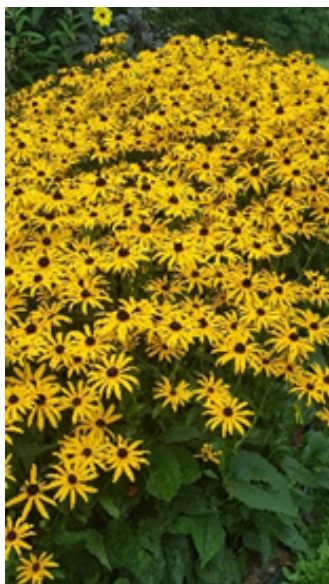
• My Corner - by Barbara Mallette

*"Hey time
Accepting of each other
Hold off on that buzzer
For just a little while"*
Steve Martin & Alison Brown

A pop up on one of my devices intrigued me. Jackson Browne playing guitar, Steve Martin and Alison Brown on banjo, on a song *Dear Time* penned by Steve Martin and Alison Brown. The backdrop is the renowned Troubadour in LA which saw the launching of Martin's and Browne's careers in the 1960s. The lyrics remind the listener that time continues with memories that are joyful or painful and one is grateful for this "gift of time." Reflecting on the passage of time is startling but rewarding. How the heck does time seem to move so quickly, especially in these senior years? Why are some memories so clear while others seem blurry, as if looking through the rain on the windowpane? But aren't memories that involved laughter be a highlight?

AARP harps on us to continue to learn in our senior years (well, AARP isn't really harping but suggesting to us [you know, harping!]). This summer I learned a great deal about management. I learned that a body in the 70s does speak to you. The aches and pains from mowing for 4 hours or tackling grape ivy in the hedge along our field talked to me. And somewhat admonished me for overdoing physical tasks. I learned that if my heartrate exceeded 105 or so on an 80° plus day that I needed to hydrate and seek shade. Resting in the shade or retreating to the basement was rejuvenating. I learned that baking loaves of zucchini bread on a hot day produced a kitchen that took a long time to cool down.

*"Dear time
You know I'm at your service
Thank you for the extra heartbeats
I'm not so sure I earned them"*
Steve Martin & Alison Brown



I learned that freezers only hold so many beans, blueberries, and zucchini bread. Shouldn't there be a smart freezer that expanded in the late summer months to accommodate the harvest? I learned that I like having my laptop available on my desk rather than on a TV tray in the living room. But now I need to get rid of some of the desk clutter to enhance my working space. I learned to ask for help when I just couldn't do all the work while Doug was recuperating. I learned that if I do something everyday, the To Do List doesn't seem as daunting. I learned (again) that I love where I live.

There's a crispness in the air. Already we've had temperatures in the 40s here in Cassadaga. One can feel summer slipping away as fall sneaks in. With the hot, dry weather of this summer, the planters are awash with blossoms. The colors of the zinnias, black-eye Susans, and marigolds are a welcomed sight and I am reluctant to dispose of them. But the mums are calling for a featured spot to showcase autumn in its finest. Another season beckons!

NOTE: You will find a reservation form for our October luncheon in this issue.

• Additonal Information

- Here we are at the beginning of another academic year. The University offers activities that may interest you. Check out the variety of events that are scheduled for this semester: <https://events.fredonia.edu>
- **"ATLAS: Historical Works and Recent Journeys of Alberto Rey"** opened in the Marion Art Gallery on September 5th and runs until November 21st. This exhibition features works from Aberto's five-month trek around the world. For details, consult Fredonia's website for more details:
<https://www.fredonia.edu/news/articles/art-gallery-host-exhibition-works-alberto-rey-starting-sept-5>

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.; and by appointment. Come support Alberto and the Art Gallery.



- **Jack Croxton** is co-hosting a podcast with a Fredonia alumnus, Chloe Kowalyk. They are conducting interviews with Fredonia alumni, asking them to talk about their careers and having them share their experiences while attending Fredonia. Jack is hoping that some of you can recommend alumni who would be good candidates for an interview. If so, please send him their names and contact information if possible. Or, you can have them contact him at Jack.Croxton@fredonia.edu to set something up.
- **Bicentennial- Trip Down Memory Lane**
Part of the Bicentennial Celebration is to include memories from alumni, faculty, staff, emeritus, and students. The Bicentennial Committee will post memories on the Bicentennial website and social media to allow connection to those emeritus faculty that may not be able to make a trip back to campus to celebrate this milestone. Use the link below to capture your favorite campus memories: <https://yourstory.fredonia.edu/node/add/story>

• Save the Date

October 24-26, 2025

SUNY Fredonia Homecoming 2025 - please check out the website for the latest activities.

November 7, 2025

Veterans Remembrance Ceremony, please visit the website for details.

December 11, 2025

Holiday Open House - Please join the campus to celebrate the holiday season. More details to follow.

• Update Contact Information

- Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? If so, please let us know so we can update the file. You may email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3456.
- Please help SUNY Fredonia demonstrate compliance with the SUNY Managed Print Initiative and email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu to receive the newsletter via email.

• Emeritus Group Luncheon



Emeritus Group Fall Luncheon
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
The College Lodge
8067 RTE 380
Brocton, NY



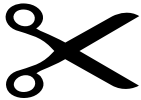
Please reserve Tuesday, October 21st for our next Emeriti Luncheon at The College Lodge in Brocton, NY. We will meet and mingle over fruit juice punch at 11:30 a.m. while enjoying the view. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

Rolls and Butter
Fresh Fruit Salad
Mixed Green Salad
Seasonal Grilled Vegetables (featuring zucchini, yellow squash, red peppers and red onions)
Scalloped Potatoes
Stuffed Shells w/Marinara Sauce – vegetarian
Sliced Roasted Pork Loin Finished with Rosemary Demi-Glace
Apple Pie and Vanilla Ice Cream
Coffee/Decaf/Tea/Iced Water

Please send your reservations and checks payable to Emeritus Group for \$25.00 per person to cover the lunch and College Lodge fees by October 11, 2025 to:

Barbara Mallette
PO Box 328
Cassadaga, NY 14718

We look forward to seeing you all.
—Barbara and Doug



Detach here and mail to Barbara. -----

Name(s) _____

Number attending _____

Enclosed is a check (payable to Emeritus Group) for \$ _____
(by October 11, 2025 please)

NOTE: If you are attending the luncheon but forget to mail your check in a timely fashion, email Barbara (barbara.mallette@fredonia.edu) to confirm a reservation for you and additional person(s). You can pay for your lunch(es) at the door.

• Emeritus Spotlight - Joan Burke by Barbara Mallette

"I'm not very good at praying, but what I experience when I'm writing a poem is close to prayer."
Denise Levertov

Few if any of us can claim that our home town was physically relocated when the town was officially closed. A small mining town in the Adirondacks, Tahawus, was home to National Lead that processed titanium mined from the mountains. Joan Burke recalls her early life in Tahawus before National Lead moved most of the town's buildings to the Newcomb area and buried any remaining buildings under mine debris (including the primary [K-3] Tahawus School). Joan's recount of these early days and the closure of Tahawus appeared in the December 2024 issue of *Adirondack Life*.



Joan has long-reaching roots in generations of farmers in the North Country; specifically, areas around St. Lawrence County. Her parents relocated to Tahawus in the mountains after Mr. Burke returned from World War II, was recruited by National Lead, and procured a newly built apartment. Mr. Burke's pipe fitting skills were valued at the mine. Once Joan entered kindergarten, Mrs. Burke was teaching third grade in the Tahawus School. Joan recalls the closeness of the families that lived in National Lead's apartments. She remembers having to learn to fight back after being beat up by an older child. Games with childhood friends, family picnics, a baby sister, and plentiful books – Life in the mountains seemed like a dream.

Then one early November day, Joan's world was shattered: her father was killed in an accident at National Lead. A brief sojourn to her grandmother's house helped the family grieve before returning to their apartment and life in the mountains. Joan speaks of surviving that school year through the keen insight of her second-grade teacher, Miss Babcock, who believed that reading could soothe the soul as well as fuel the spark for learning. Joan also found solace in the outdoors - biking, swimming, and skating. Joan didn't see herself as a stellar student; however, she was an avid reader, which provided the foundation for success in college.

After high school, Joan enrolled in the History Program at SUNY Oneonta, earning a BA there. Interestingly, she completed courses in English and completed an undergraduate major in English before being accepted into Oneonta's MA Program in English. With teacher certification in hand, Joan began teaching social studies and English courses in Stamford, New York, working up to supervision of student teachers for several local colleges. In her last five years at Stamford, Joan coordinated the school's Writing and Competency Programs, expertise that would follow her in other academic positions.



Joan fed her passion for reading and learning by pursuing a doctorate in English at the University of Maryland. College Park offered both academic and cultural stimulation for the young woman from the Adirondacks. Her teaching repertoire expanded through graduate assistantships at U. Maryland and an instructor position at Georgetown University. With doctorate in hand, Joan sought a tenure track position and was fortunate to learn about a position at Fredonia at a conference. A successful campus visit and interview resulted in Joan being hired in the Department of English in 1991.

At Fredonia, Joan demonstrated commitment to teaching, scholarship, and service. In 1996, she was awarded the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, further evidence of her prowess in the classroom. Joan was active in her department and on campus. She served on a number of campus-wide committees and chaired the Department of English. Perhaps her roles as Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Chairperson of the J Term Committee had the most significance for the University. Graduate programs flourished under Joan's tutelage. And twenty years later, J Term courses continue to bring students and tuition dollars to our campus.

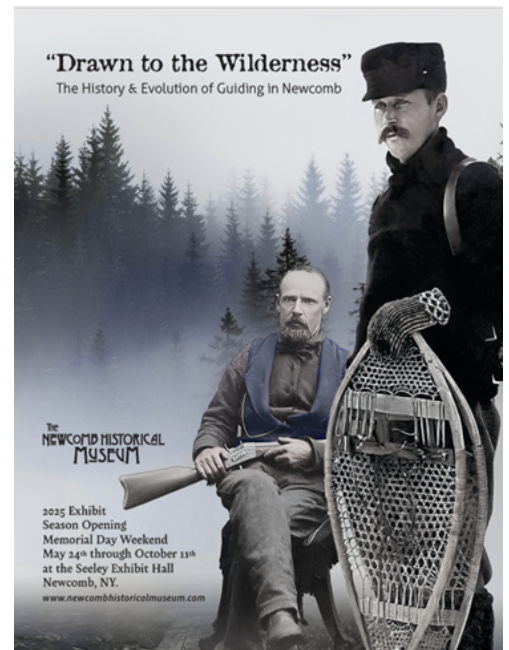
Anyone who visited Joan's office realized that she possessed a flair for decorating that made the Graduate Office Suite welcoming as well as classy. Upon retirement from Fredonia, Joan completed coursework at Sage College of Albany in Art and Interior Design. Using skills learned in this program, Joan became the Sole Proprietor of Burke Designs, offering her expertise in interior design as well as abstract artwork. She also provides valuable copy editing to clients.

• Emeritus Spotlight *continued* - Joan Burke

Joan's Fredonia colleagues aren't surprised to learn that she founded and is now the Director of the Newcomb Historical Museum. In this position, she draws on her solid academic background to write proposals for funding, plan and implement the annual budget, prepare documents for and meet with Museum Board of Directors, provide professional development for the small part-time staff members, and conduct presentations to school tour groups. The Newcomb Historical Museum also benefits from Joan's design ability as she coordinates all phases of exhibits and museum literature with a Graphic Designer. Joan is particularly excited about an exhibit that opened on Memorial Day Weekend this year, "Drawn to the Wilderness", which featured artifacts that tell the history and evolution of guiding in Newcomb.

Outside of museum responsibilities, Joan enjoys spending time with her husband, Bob Yandon. They enjoy the quiet life that Newcomb offers with access to the Adirondacks and with plenty of time to remember their time in the Fredonia area with fondness. Family is important; both Bob and Joan maintain contact with Joan's sister and Bob's daughters.

"There are two things that make a room timeless: a sense of history and a piece of the future."
Charlotte Moss



• Emeritus Newsbit



★ Congratulations to the Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences Professor Emeritus Gordon Baird who was elected as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

• In Memoriam

Dr. Charles L. Stoddart passed away on May 20, 2025.

Dr. Stoddart served as Faculty and Program Coordinator of the Educational Leadership Program in the College of Education from 2004 until his retirement as Associate Professor in 2017. He joined SUNY Fredonia following his 22-year tenure as Superintendent of the Orchard Park School District, and he earned the distinction of New York State Superintendent of the Year in 2001. Dr. Stoddart received additional accolades including Friend of Education from the Chautauqua County School Boards Association in 2017, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Erie County Music Educators Award for Excellence in Music Education in 2004, and Orchard Park Citizen of the Year in 1980. Revered by his students, many of whom currently serve as school leaders across our region, he is remembered for his wisdom, stories, sage advice, and lessons that still guide their professional practice.

Please visit F.E. Brown Sons Funeral Home website for suggested organizations to donate to in memory of Dr. Stoddart. <https://www.febrownsons.com/obituaries/>

Dr. William Foeller passed away on May 28, 2025.

Dr. Foeller joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1984 as Associate Professor of Economics. During his 20 plus years of service, he held many positions including Acting Chair of the Department of Economics, Chair of the Department of Economics, Professor of the Department of Economics, and Interim Dean for Natural and Social Sciences. Dr. Foeller retired in 2006 as an Emeritus Professor.

Please visit John J. Kaczor Funeral Home's website to share your condolences:
<https://www.kaczorfunerals.com/obituaries/William-Harry-Foeller?obId=42652961>

Mr. James "Jay" East passed away on July 1, 2025.

Mr. East joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1970 as an Instructor of Clarinet in the School of Music. He was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1976, Associate Professor in 1983, and Professor in 1997. After 38 years of service, Mr. East retired with Emeritus status.

To leave an online condolence, please visit the Larson Timko Funeral website:
<https://www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com/>