

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

# Emeritus News

Winter 2020

## ► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette



Recently, the *Buffalo News* reported on "COVID fatigue," a condition that doctors have identified as a result of COVID-19. Folks are tired of being isolated, being restricted from favorite social activities, having limited

access to relatives in nursing homes and restricted in travel, being cooped up at home, and having to wear a mask in public areas. A realistic assessment of the current situation doesn't hold any promise for immediate relief. Also, the prospect of late fall dreary days offers little reprieve from any despondency that surfaces.

How does one cope with all of this without going absolutely mad? Gilda Radner offered some keen advice: "...every time I got disappointed, I'd remember the Roseannadanna philosophy that says that you shouldn't cry over split milk 'cause if you spill some milk and instead of cleaning it up you just walk over it and start crying, they're gonna put you on lithium." Laughter seems to lighten even the grimmest moments.

Mrs. Peggy Card, Secretary to the Department (and then School of Education) for many years, and I used to kibitz in her office about a number of topics, many of which would ignite much laughter. One of the most memorable topics with Mrs. Card was "Who would you want to be stuck in an elevator with on

*"The worse cruelty that can be inflicted on a human being is isolation."*  
- Sukarno

*"National isolation breeds national neurosis."*  
- Hubert H. Humphrey

campus?" You must remember that the elevators in Thompson Hall had a reputation for operation failure. We'd present our list and rationale for inclusion, finding humor in the differences in our list of marooned colleagues.

Channel surfing the other evening brought Doug to *The Naked Gun 33 1/3*. To my surprise, he laughed heartedly at the jail break scene. Mindless humor can be a welcomed diversion, can't it? In addition, we find ourselves watching and rewatching episodes of Saturday Night Live to fulfill a laughter need and to offset views of baseball playoffs and football games (Doug claims that there is a certain purity in sports with just the players in the stadium!).

Our Emeritus Group probably won't meet before 2021. Your health and safety are our primary concerns. Please continue to reach out to members in our group, as an email, text, or telephone call can be significant to them.

May the transition of Presidential power progress without further incident (or is it too late?). With the holidays approaching, I wish you and yours joyous days in whatever manner befits you. Please stay safe.

*"...But I keep cruising, can't stop, won't stop grooving  
It's like I got this music in my mind saying it's gonna be alright..."*  
- Taylor Swift

*"Whatever you do, always give 100% unless  
you are donating blood."*  
- Bill Murray

Please email Dawn Hunt at [dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu](mailto:dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu) or call 716-673-3456 if you are interested in receiving the Emeritus newsletter by email.

## ► Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- **President's Award for Excellence Luncheon—April 21, 2021, noon, Williams Center Multipurpose Room**

Dr. Kolison will recognize both the 2020 and 2021 award recipients and retirees either virtually or in person, pending the restrictions in place on social gatherings at that time.

The President's office will let you know in the newsletter in early spring whether it will be virtual or in person. For now, (if you are planning to join us), please hold April 21 on your calendar.

- **Commencement**

An announcement about a virtual or in-person ceremony for both the graduating class of 2021 and 2020 will be made sometime after January 2021. By postponing a decision until the spring semester, we'll be able to make a better determination based on how things have progressed with a vaccine and slowing the spread of the virus. While we hope to honor this momentous occasion with you in person, your health and safety are our first priority.

## ► Things to Check Out while in Isolation

- Enjoy Rockefeller's archived performance clips via their Youtube channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/RockefellerArtsCntr/videos>
- Take advantage of the virtual events on campus such as guest speakers and musical performances by consulting Fredonia's events calendar.  
<https://events.fredonia.edu/>
- Access a host of activity suggestions from *Travel and Leisure*.  
<https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/fun-things-to-do-at-home-during-coronavirus-quarantine>
- Participate in an online class offered by *Perks at Work* (formerly SUNY Perks).  
[https://edu.perksatwork.com/landing2/?\\_ga=2.115306247.1222584603.1603322765-508054299.1595464411](https://edu.perksatwork.com/landing2/?_ga=2.115306247.1222584603.1603322765-508054299.1595464411)
- Try your hand at birdwatching (virtually) via web cams across the nation.  
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/west-texas-hummingbirds/>
- or our own Cornell Lab of Ornithology.  
<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>
- The College Lodge Forest: a Place of Natural Wonder and Beauty, take a virtual tour.  
[https://youtu.be/gpZUg2\\_cR80](https://youtu.be/gpZUg2_cR80)

### Informational Website

Retired Public Employees Association –  
<https://rpea.org/> - Sign up for informational emails and RPEA newsletters.

► *Season's Greetings from SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.*



Please enjoy the video.  
<https://vimeo.com/490797664>

► **Newsbit**

The Great Move...



The photo looks like it might be a corner of the famous warehouse in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, but it is in fact a view in part of the finished basement in our new home in Auburn, NY, to which we moved in September 2020. Our younger son, Mike, (who teaches English and Film Studies at Ithaca High) had urged us for years to move to Auburn to be near him and his wife—and their two small children. We finally did so this past summer. A move at an advanced age, especially when one owns a vast number of books; historical family collections and archive materials (four generations of diaries, papers, albums, records, etc. going back to 1905 and before); scholarly materials for on-going projects is a major undertaking, but we managed it somehow, and have survived. The 396 boxes, six filing cases, and our furniture completely filled the moving van! But Auburn is a charming small city with lots of fine old buildings, and a main residential street of historic dwellings even grander than Central Avenue. We are getting to feel pretty much at home.

- Dan and Janet Reiff

► **Update Your Contact Information**

- Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? If so, please let us know so we can update the Emeritus database which is used for the quarterly newsletter and informational mailings. If you could help to reduce mailing costs by receiving the newsletter by email, please let us know. You may email [dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu](mailto:dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu) or call 716-673-3456.

## ► Emeritus Spotlight—Dr. Ruth Antosh

By Barbara Mallette

Born in the Toronto area and spending two years there, Ruth Antosh moved with her family to Wisconsin so that her father could complete his dissertation in German. Life in America continued when her father secured a position in Indiana; the family moved to Bloomington. Here, Ruth spent most of her developing years, attending public schools in Bloomington. She recalled her years at the laboratory school on the Indiana University (IU) campus, "We were somewhat 'guinea pigs,' as teachers tried out a variety of [teaching] methods, some of which were good, others not so good." The campus school was Ruth's introduction to internationalism, as many students and faculty came from other countries. Ruth added that the school was a training ground for many students, particularly those in teacher education. She felt fortunate to have had such an experience at a young age.



A friend of Ruth's sparked her interest in America while at the lab school and in becoming an American. As a result, when her parents became American citizens, Ruth chose to join her parents' petition as a 14-year-old minor. She has never regretted that decision. Summers were spent in a family cottage north of Toronto; time there developed Ruth's sense of Canadian ties as extended family members were also cottage residents.

*"I seek new perfumes, ampler blossoms, untried pleasures."*  
- Joris-Karl Huysmans, [Against Nature](#)

Ruth attended IU upon her graduation from the University High School. A French teacher in high school who was from Morocco taught her classes in predominantly French. Ruth performed well in these classes and found the move to a French major at IU an easy transition. She was fortunate to live in the dormitory so that she could truly strike out on her own. Even though she remained in the same city as her parents, she felt separated from them. While an undergraduate at IU, Ruth met her future husband, John, who was a graduate student in German. After 41 years of marriage, John passed away in 2012.

Love of the French language moved Ruth to pursue the subject at the graduate level. Graduate school in Madison at the University of Wisconsin was a new experience for Ruth. Historically, Madison has been a progressive city and area in its state. Ruth found herself at the university in the midst of the Vietnam War protests. Although the campus shut down and the National Guard was called in, graduate classes were still held. Ruth was able to complete her Master's Degree in French amid the chaos. But the turmoil concerned Ruth; she needed to move back to the family. As a result, she enrolled in the doctoral program at IU. In reviewing her academic career, Ruth expressed deep gratitude for the many dedicated and devoted teachers. They shaped her passion for French and French literature, a love that follows into her retirement.

*"All I've done all my life is disobey."*  
- Edith Piaf

Doctoral students are encouraged to seek positions in higher education upon completion of their degrees. Ruth followed this trajectory, moving from IU to Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. Teaching French at the university level was challenging but rewarding. After that time at Colgate, Ruth found herself job hunting. Fortunately, she had read some of Tom Goetz's work and his editorship for *19<sup>th</sup> Century French Studies*, a prestigious journal for Francophone enthusiasts. Ruth was able to secure an interview with Tom about an opening in French at Fredonia at a Modern Language conference. A second interview was conducted on campus with Tom and Andrée Penot, the French professor who was retiring. A favorable review resulted in Ruth's hiring in 1984. Her thirty-three years at Fredonia have been memorable. She has been blessed with wonderful colleagues and students. And Ruth was able to teach courses of interest to her. A friendship with the retired André Penot blossomed over the years, until Madame Penot's death last year.

## ► Emeritus Spotlight continued—Dr. Ruth Antosh

Fredonia was a great fit for Ruth. She was the faculty advisor for Pi Delta Phi, the National Honor Society in French. Many Fredonia students were inducted in the Rho Chapter of Pi Delta Phi. French teachers were immersed in French and Caribbean culture in a graduate course, *Francophone Children's Literature*, through Ruth's efforts. These teachers experience the French Caribbean directly. Because of the nature of French courses, Ruth developed many close relationships with her students. In fact, she maintains these relationships even though her students have graduated, moved away from Fredonia, and are pursuing professional and personal goals.



Ruth recognizes the impact that the Internet has on language teaching. Students can tap into French radio and television. And they can enjoy live chats with others who speak French. Folks can learn and/or hone their language skills at the click of an icon.

Retirement holds great promise for Ruth. She manages an annual trip abroad with her former college roommate. They have toured Greece and Istanbul. Her plans for return travel to France and Quebec have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. She wants to immerse herself in French again, as doing so in Fredonia is difficult. Because travel within New York State is open, Ruth recently enjoyed the Finger Lakes. For adventure, she would love to see some of French Africa. With acquaintances in Côte d'Ivoire, Ruth could achieve this goal.

Ruth hopes to finish a biography on the French author and art critic, Joris-Karl Huysmans. Although he may not be well-known in American, Monsieur Huysmans is well recognized in France.

Friends might describe Ruth Antosh as loyal, supportive, and friendly. Although Ruth doesn't consider herself to be a great cook, she loves good food and wine, and misses the opportunity for both during the COVID restrictions. To honor Ruth, raise a glass, *santé*, and enjoy your meal, *bon appétit!*

*"You don't stop laughing because you grow older. You grow older because you stop laughing."*  
- Maurice Chevalier

## ► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

**Ms. Barbara M. Daniels** passed away on September 8, 2020. Ms. Daniels began her employment at the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1999 as a Keyboard Specialist 1 in M&O Management, and was subsequently promoted to Calculations Clerk II before her retirement in 2016 as Office Assistant 2 in Career Development.

A memorial of her life will be held at a later date.

Donations may be made to Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care, <https://chpc.care/donate/>

Messages of remembrance or condolence may be shared with Barbara's family at [www.masonfuneral.com](http://www.masonfuneral.com).

**Mrs. Esther Arroe Lanford** passed away on November 8, 2020. Mrs. Lanford was the widow of SUNY Fredonia President Emeritus Dr. Oscar Lanford, who served as Fredonia's ninth president from 1961-1971.

Mrs. Lanford remained an active member of the community, as well as a staunch supporter of and friend to the campus throughout her retirement years. The Lanford's generously created and endowed the Oscar and Esther Lanford Endowment of the Fredonia College Foundation. The prestigious award is presented annually at Commencement to a graduating member of the class who exhibits academic achievement, balanced accomplishments, and exemplifies Fredonia's ideals.

She will be missed dearly and remembered by all who knew her.

## ► In Memoriam of Campus Employees—Continued

**Mrs. Susan Hach Murphy** passed away on December 4, 2020. Mrs. Murphy served as SUNY Fredonia's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Coordinator for the last eight years.

Mrs. Murphy touched the lives of many employees on this campus. Whether it was to assist with a legal matter, addiction, relationship stress, caring for elderly parents, child care, health issues, or financial stress, she was there to provide her help, expertise, and guidance, and she did it with commitment and kindness. Her family remarks, "Sue was the ultimate giver. Helping and fostering all people. She lived the phrase, "We rise by lifting others." She was passionate in her work professionally, as a wife, and most importantly as a mother."

A celebration of life will be held and announced at a later date. In her memory, her family has established a college fund for her three boys (Ronan, Samuel and Jude Murphy) at GoFundMe.

Online condolences may be made at [https://larsontimkofuneralhome.com/adv\\_tunnel.php](https://larsontimkofuneralhome.com/adv_tunnel.php)

**Professor Everett J. "Doc" Phillips** passed away on September 18, 2020. Professor Phillips was a faculty member in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Dance at the State University of New York at Fredonia from 1970 until his retirement in 1994. During his tenure, Dr. Phillips served as department chair, men's cross country coach, and women's cross country coach. He guided athletic teams to numerous SUNYAC track and field championships during his coaching career. His influence touched the lives of many athletes, as is evident with the development of the Phillips-Ulrich Community Trail, spearheaded by an alumni group in 2016, to recognize his legacy on the Fredonia campus. In 2000, Dr. Phillips was inducted into the Fredonia State Athletics Hall of Fame.

Gifts may be made in memory of Dr. Phillips to the Phillips Cross Country and Track/Field Endowment at SUNY Fredonia. Donations can be made online at <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/fredonia-college-foundation/how-give-fund-or-scholarship> or by mail to the Fredonia College Foundation. If donating online, please specify "Phillips Endowment Fund" in the message box of the donation form. If donating by mail, please make your check payable to the Fredonia College Foundation and place "Phillips Endowment Fund" in the memo line.

Online condolences may be made at <https://larsontimkofuneralhome.com/home.html>.

**Mr. Seth Wolnik** passed away on November 27, 2020. Mr. Wolnik began his employment at the State University of New York at Fredonia in 2017 as a Cleaner and was subsequently promoted to Janitor in Reed Library.

The Fredonia family extends our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed, especially by his colleagues in Facilities Services and Reed Library.

A memorial fund has been established at Lakeshore Savings Bank, c/o Seth Wolnik Memorial Fund, 128 East Fourth Street, Dunkirk. Contributions can also be made in person at any local Lake Shore Savings Bank branch.

**Dean Emeritus Sanford Jack Zeman** passed away on September 25, 2020. Dr. Zeman held several administrative positions at the State University of New York at Fredonia from 1960 until his retirement in 1988 including Dean of Arts, Education, and Humanities, Dean of Faculty, Dean for Teacher Education and Graduate Studies, Dean for Professional Studies, Director of Continuing Education and Associate Dean of the College.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sanford and Lillian Zeman Educational Scholarship Fund, c/o Fredonia College Foundation, 272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY 14063.