

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Summer 2023

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette



*"Half time goes by, suddenly you're wise
Another blink of an eye, 67 is gone
The sun is getting high
We're moving on."
Five for Fighting*

Change is on the way. Spring promises to herald warmer temperatures, sunshine, and the emergence of perennial bulbs. Crocuses have come and gone. Daffodils continue to bloom; their yellow heads bobbing in the breeze. One of my favorite parts of the arrival of spring is the emergence of tulips and lilac buds itching to bloom. Nothing compares to the aromas of lilacs, especially if you grew up in the Rochester area.



The To Do List for outdoor work becomes a priority as does household spring cleaning. Some folks tell me that no one spring cleans anymore but this practice must be ingrained into my being from childhood. Washing walls, cupboards, baseboards, and window sills can be mundane tasks; putting music on to sing and dance my way through these chores is helpful. I argue that the walls, woodwork, and windows seem to shine after spring cleaning. And with clean windows, the sunshine coming into each room seems to make them sparkle. My need for light is met.

*"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want."
Andy Warhol*

I come from a large extended family, as my mother was one of eleven children. Most of the remaining cousins and their families live in the greater Rochester area. As a result, extended family gatherings can be quite large (and loud!). One of my nephews and his wife live outside Tampa. They talk about how they would never go back North because of the cold, gray days of Western New York. Another nephew and his partner as well as two of his children are counting the days until they can move out of New York to Florida. I am perplexed by their attitudes. No matter that our temps have dropped 40 or more degrees in a 24-hour period or that the dampness these past few days seems to seep into my joints, WNY has a lure that just doesn't quit. I try to identify the source of this attraction but only come away with the intense feeling that this area truly feels like home.

*"Life is really nothing more than a journey back home."
Robin S. Sharma*

Some of you have made your way to Fredonia from some distance, or even another country. You worked at the university, made friends there, and established yourselves in the community. Much too soon, retirement may have brought a move to another area or may have resulted in your staying within WNY. Is it access to the lakes, hills, parks, trails, and urban experiences that keeps you tethered here? Could it be the unmistakable scent that permeates the area during grape harvests that acts like a siren holding you here? Does the resilience of folks who choose to stay leave you breathless? Regardless of the source of the attraction and the length of our stay, let's enjoy the area as it greens. Happy spring!

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

► Additional Information

- ◆ Norma Braude contributed funds again to help defray the cost of mailing our newsletter to colleagues. **Thank you, Norma, for supporting our efforts to remain in touch with former colleagues.**
- ◆ At the June luncheon, we will discuss future Emeritus activities. There have been some suggestions made about luncheons and other events that can bring folks together.
- ◆ With Fredonia's Bicentennial being held in 2026, the Emeritus Group should consider how we want to be part of the celebrations that will be planned.
- ◆ The Emeritus Scholarship Fund continues to grow with approximately \$2,500 awarded in scholarships through the Fredonia College Foundation. If you want to contribute, the form appears [here](#) or you can access it on the Fredonia College Foundation website, <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/fredonia-college-foundation>.

► Commencement

SUNY Fredonia is holding its 196th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 20, 2023. There will be two sessions for the commencement: a morning session at 10:00 AM and an afternoon session at 3:00 PM.

If you are interested in volunteering for the day or part of the day, please contact Scott Saunders immediately in the Registrar's Office, Scott.Saunders@fredonia.edu or 716-673-3171.

Guest speaker for the morning Commencement Ceremony will be The Honorable James A. W. McLeod, former Buffalo City Court Judge and SUNY Fredonia alum, class of 1971. Guest speaker for the afternoon ceremony will be The Honorable Lynne T. Ruda, class of 2007, Mayor of the Village of Lancaster and Director of Economic Development.

► Save the Date

- ◆ **Homecoming Weekend!**
October 20-22, 2023
For event details, please check out the following website: <https://events.fredonia.edu/homecoming>

► Emeritus Group June Luncheon

**Fredonia College Lodge,
Brocton, NY
Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

Please reserve Wednesday, June 21st for our next Emeritus Luncheon at the College Lodge in Brocton, NY.

We will meet and mingle over fruit juice punch at 11:30 a.m.— lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

Fresh Fruit Salad, Mixed Green Salad
Steamed Green and Yellow Beans with Baby Carrots
Penne Pasta Primavera with Alfredo Sauce
Greek Chicken
Pound Cake with Strawberries & Whipped Cream
Coffee/Decaf/Tea/Iced Water

Please send your reservations and checks payable to Emeritus Group for \$23.00 per person to cover the lunch and College Lodge fee by June 10th 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 June 10th please)

► A message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.

As you know, pursuing the university designation required consultations with various stakeholders including the College Council, members of University Senate, UUP, and CSEA. The support from all of these groups was very positive. After a final consultation with the SUNY Office of General Counsel, I submitted the formal request to Chancellor King and have received approval for the official university designating effective April 1, 2023. The New York State Education Department and Middle States Commission on Higher Education have been notified, and we are taking steps to ensure that all other accrediting bodies are notified appropriately.

What does this mean? Achieving and maintaining this designation requires a commitment to graduate education. We must continue to build on our capacity to develop and offer graduate programs that are in high demand by students and that are sustainable. This designation will also help us in our efforts to recruit international students. In many countries, institutions of higher education with college designations are perceived to be less comprehensive than institutions with university designation. Such a perception can impact the enrollment decisions of students and parents in those countries. Let me note that our current combined international students and out-of-state students population constitutes only 6% of our entire student population. This is too low for an institution of our capacity, and we need to perform better in attracting both international and out-of-state students.

Thanks to the previous branding exercise, the new designation will not change the name that we currently use, "State University of New York at Fredonia". Our current official/legal name, "State University of New York **College** at Fredonia" will now be replaced legally by the name "State University of New York at Fredonia" in all state and federal transactions. There will be no need to change our logo, letterhead, or other branding materials. Also, there is no direct financial cost associated with this change.

I want to thank the President's Cabinet, College Council, the University Senate, UUP, CSEA, and all the governance leaders for their support in achieving this.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Ph.D.
President

Recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

This award is the highest among the student awards in SUNY and acknowledges the outstanding achievements that students have demonstrated by integrating the SUNY standards of excellence in academics, leadership, campus involvement, community service, and the arts.



Logan Wilson

Logan is majoring in Biology with a minor in Music. He is highly engaged in many campus activities, including mentoring freshmen biology majors, participating in undergraduate research, and serving as a student ambassador. After graduating this May, Logan will pursue a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Recently, Logan participated in a study abroad program in Honduras, where he assisted medical professionals to deliver health care in rural villages. In addition to his engagement on our campus, Logan is a volunteer at the Lakeshore Humane Society.

Madison Miller

Madison is a double major in Biology and Environmental Sciences with a double minor in Chemistry and Geographic Information Systems. She is a Resident Assistant and holds several leadership positions with student organizations including her participation on Community Policing and other safety programs, and her volunteer work of pulling invasive plant species and participating in the annual Fall Sweep. After graduating with her Bachelor's degree, Madison plans to pursue a Master's degree to continue building on her undergraduate research experience.



Recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Student Excellence

This award recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic excellence and strength in overcoming significant personal obstacles throughout their lives. It is named in memory of Norman R. McConney, Jr. (1946-2016), a graduate of the University at Albany and former Assistant Dean for Special Programs at SUNY. McConney, alongside former Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve, helped create the EOP as a statewide program that has served over 75,000 New Yorkers from underprivileged backgrounds.



Emma Goetz

Emma is a senior majoring in Computer Information Systems. She has also undertaken undergraduate research projects such as the investigation of the impacts of video games on hand-eye coordination and time management, and research on how user experience can guide website design. Emma is a recipient of the Ralph Wilson scholarship award and was recently inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon. She serves as a teaching assistant and a tutor and is an active member in the E-sports Club. She remains engaged with Dunkirk High School, where she attended, to enhance student success.

► Lanford Presidential Prize



Alyssa M. Bump, a senior from Cuba, N.Y., has been selected to receive the 2023 Lanford Presidential Prize from the Oscar and Esther Lanford Endowment of the Fredonia College Foundation.

The award, which recognizes a member of the graduating class who has exhibited balanced achievement and exemplifies Fredonia ideals, was generously created and endowed by the late President Emeritus Oscar E. Lanford and Mrs. Lanford. The prize will be presented to Ms. Bump at Commencement on May 20.

Ms. Bump will receive concurrent degrees at Commencement including a Bachelor of Arts in Communication-Journalism and Bachelor of Science in Communication-Public Relations, with a minor in English. To date, she has maintained a Grade Point Average of 3.9 out of 4.0. She was also a teaching assistant in two Department of Communication courses in 2022.

A member of the President's Student Cabinet since 2022, Bump has also served the university community as a President's Ambassador. She has been the Editor in Chief of The Leader student newspaper, and is its Design and Chief Copy editor, as well as former Life and Arts Editor. As Editor in Chief, Bump has earned accolades for her editorial and leadership skills, with one group of faculty/staff noting in its nomination document, "The past years have brought controversial stories to The Leader, which she has handled with the sensitivity and maturity of a professional."

Regarding the impact of her varied and wide-ranging activities on campus, it was noted, "She engages at a level rarely seen in an undergraduate student, and she does so with professionalism, integrity and self-awareness. She empathizes with peers as well as campus personnel at all levels. She is a realist and yet works with fantastic energy to make an impact."

Bump has earned Dean's List standing throughout her university career, has been named to the Lambda Pi Eta honors society in Communication, and is a participant in the Honors Program. She is the recipient of the Anne Bernstein Memorial Award, the Arthur R. Maytum Scholarship, and the Richard and Pamela Ryan Scholarship, all established through the Fredonia College Foundation. She was also named to the Alma Mater Society, and was the 2022 recipient of its Marc Cohen Award.

During the summer of 2022, Bump was an Intern Reporter for the Chautauqua Daily, the newspaper of Chautauqua Institution, producing over 50 articles over eight weeks. The summer of 2021, she served as an Intern Reporter with The Journal of Americana Music, a publication of the Sportsmen's Americana Music Foundation.

Informational Website

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

► Newsbit

Daniel Reiff Authors New Book

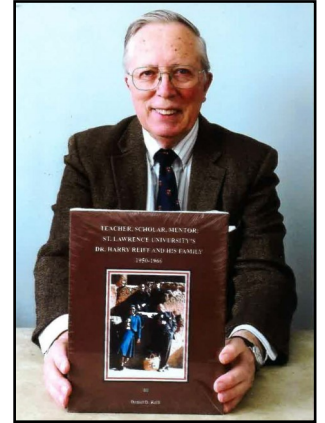
Daniel D. Reiff, SUNY Fredonia Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, has recently published a biography of his father, who was an influential educator and public servant; it is entitled *Teacher, Scholar, Mentor: St. Lawrence University's Dr. Harry Reiff and His Family, 1950-1966*. The 522 page book, with extensive footnotes and appendices and over 300 illustrations (in black and white and color), is the third in the memoir's series; volume I (covering 1899-1930) and volume II (1930-50) came out in 2013 and 2015 respectively.

"My father's story is typical of what is possible in America," said Professor Reiff. "Raised in Brooklyn, he was sent to work (illegally) at age 13 in 1912; but thanks to his dedication, his 'hopes and dreams', and a lot of hard work, he finally wound up with three degrees from Harvard University. A decade later, as an expert in international law, he worked for the State Department (1943-46) on their delegations both to write the United Nations Charter (San Francisco Conference, 1945), and to set up the UN itself (London Conference, 1945-46)."

This current volume covers other distinctive achievements: founding the first International Model UN in America at St. Lawrence; a Fulbright lectureship in Cairo (1953-54); and a USIS lecture tour for 4 months in Korea and Japan in 1960-pivotal years for both those countries. It also reviews the international travel he and his wife took, in Mexico and throughout Europe, in his retirement years (1967-2000). Thanks to voluminous diaries, personal letters, numerous family photos, and extensive other records, these events are documented in vivid detail, as is his distinguished and influential 38-year teaching career.

"There is also a special Fredonia connection," noted the author: "Both Harry and Lone Reiff were friends of Dallas and Kris Beal, having met them at the famous Pinebrook Conference on Chinese Art and Culture in June 1964, and later visited the Beals in Fredonia."

The volume is available from SLU's Brewer Bookstore. For more information, contact the author at reiff@fredonia.edu.



Museum Exhibitions

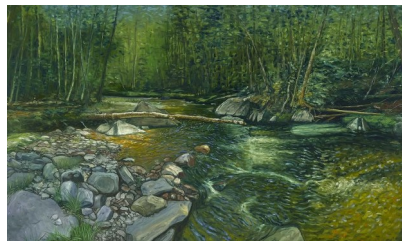
I am fortunate to announce that I have two solo museum exhibitions this month. The first is a site-specific exhibition about the Niagara River and will be presented at the Castellani Museum at Niagara University, NY on April 20 at 6-8 PM through February 25, 2024.

<https://castellaniartmuseum.org/exhibitions/biological-regionalism-niagara-river-western-new-york-by-alberto-rey>
<https://albertoreyniagarariver.weebly.com/>



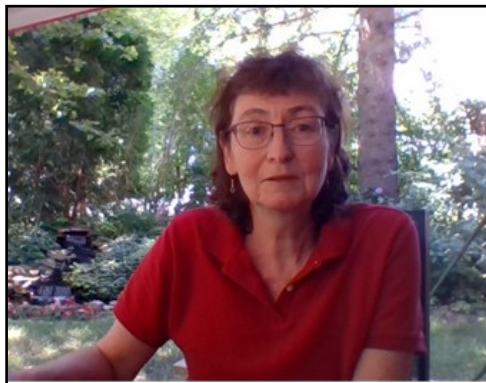
The second presentation is a two-part exhibition that includes a site-specific installation about the Battenkill River and a retrospective exhibition about my work from the past three decades. It will occur at the Wilson Museum at the Southern Vermont Center for the Arts in Manchester, Vermont on April 29 from 2-4 PM through June 25th.

<https://www.svac.org/class/alberto-rey/>
<https://battenkill.weebly.com/>



Kind regards,
Alberto Rey
Emeritus Distinguished Professor
reya@fredonia.edu

► Emeritus Spotlight — Dr. Holly Lawson



Holly Lawson is a Western New York State native and continues to live in the area. Raised in Snyder, Holly attended local public schools. Her father was a lawyer in the area; Holly discovered a side to him that was not evident within the household when she worked in her father's office and at a local restaurant. She recalls her father's clients adoring Mr. Lawson and raving about his helpfulness. Her mother, while trained as a social worker, commandeered the Lawson household, and managed Holly and her two sisters. Holly reminisced about the Lawson house, where her parents lived for 57 years. Having to part with the house after her mother's death was painful but fond memories of times there eased the heartache.

The sciences have always been a draw for Holly, particularly chemistry. When looking at college programs, the ceramics engineering program at Alfred University caught her eye. She could attend a topnotch school but participate in its SUNY Program. Holly was one of four women in the ceramics engineering program at the time. Holly remembers that Alfred, although quite rural, was a good match for her. In four years, Holly graduated with a degree in Glass Science. She thought her move into the world of work was the next step, with eyes on Kodak in Rochester. Unfortunately, as she was applying for a position in the early 1980s, Kodak reduced its workforce by thousands. Never put off by a challenge, Holly turned to Plan B and started classes at the University at Buffalo (UB), her father's alma mater. The chemistry courses whet Holly's science appetite; she wanted more. She applied and was accepted into the doctoral program in chemistry. The program was small, with about 100 students; as a result, students and faculty developed not only professional relationships but also social relationships. At UB, Holly was not the only female in the Chemistry Program; forty percent of these students were female who were working on their doctorate. Holly recalls the thrill of conducting research with her advisor, Dr. Jim D. Atwood. Having communication with and a full paper published in the American Chemical Society remains a highlight of Holly's doctoral work with oxidations by iridium dioxygen complexes.

"Chlorine is a deadly poison gas employed on European battlefields in World War I. Sodium is a corrosive metal which burns upon contact with water. Together they make a placid and unpoisonous material, table salt. Why each of these substances has the properties it does is a subject called Chemistry."
Carl Sagan

At UB, Holly met her future husband, Jerry Keister; they were married in her last semester. Holly was awarded a post-doctoral study at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. So, off to England went the newlyweds; fortunately, Jerry received a sabbatical from UB. Both Holly and Jerry were engaged in research in the UK but they managed to find time to travel the British Isles and a little of continental Europe. Returning to the States, Holly's priority was securing a position. Tom Janik graduated from UB also under the guidance of Dr. Atwood and collaborated with crystallography; he shared the call for applications for the chemistry position at Fredonia. A successful interview led to an Assistant Professorship at our university.

Holly Lawson was a familiar face on campus. She supervised thirty-five undergraduate student research projects, six graduate research projects, and two Science Center interns. Holly taught introductory chemistry courses, general chemistry courses and their labs, organic chemistry courses, and inorganic chemistry courses. In addition, she developed Essential Science courses to satisfy the science requirements for childhood education majors. Still, Holly found time to create a food chemistry course and an honors seminar as well as an independent study course. She broke from the lecture format and explored the use of peer learning and the Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning strategies (POGIL) in her general chemistry and introduction to chemistry courses. Her commitment to education and willingness to try innovative teaching methods was recognized in 2009 when Holly Received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"Every aspect of the world today—even political and international relations—is affected by chemistry."
Linus Pauling

► Emeritus Spotlight—*continued*

Excellence in teaching was but one aspect of Holly's remarkable tenure at Fredonia. Her service record is exemplary. Holly served as the Project Shephard for the Science Center and Houghton Hall Renovation (until her retirement in 2021). Both buildings continue to wow visitors on our campus. Numerous campus and departmental committees benefitted from Holly's leadership. She was involved directly in Middle States, NCATE, and the Planning and Budget Committee. Holly was a veteran member of the University's Human Subjects Review Committee and the Professional Education Council. Creating the MAT Program in Adolescence Science and the MSED in Natural Science are two service projects of which Holly is proud.



Holly's service extended beyond the campus. She served as Co-Principal Investigator on Project MAST²ER, *Mathematics and Science Teacher Training in Educational Resources*, a two million dollar grant from the United States Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition. In addition, Holly was the Co-Principal Investigator for the SUNY Fredonia Robert Noyce Scholarship Program through the National Science Foundation. Holly secured funding for classroom innovations as well specific chemistry studies. And she was the Fredonia point person for the Maker Faire that brought folks from the area to campus to experience creative endeavors of many talented artists and innovators. Holly's dedication to the campus, its programs, and students was recognized when she was awarded the Heart of Fredonia Award in 2014.

Retiring from her teaching position was a difficult decision for Holly. But the lure of having more time to be physically active, spending time with her husband who was also retiring, and her adult son and daughter was just too powerful. In retirement, Holly continues to be dedicated to service. She is a Meals on Wheels volunteer, making her clients fresh cookies to accompany the meal deliveries. She also is a docent for Graycliff, the summer estate in Derby designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful."
Marie Curie

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Ms. Karen Buchanan passed away on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Karen was hired as a full time cleaner for FSA in May of 2001 and served in this role for over 22 years.

Memorial contributions can be made in Karen's name to the American Cancer Society WNY, 101 John James Audubon Parkway, Buffalo, NY, 14228, and messages of sympathy can be sent through www.themorsefuneralhome.com.

Dr. Fawzi M. Yaqub passed away on Monday, April 24, 2023. Dr. Yaqub joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1987 in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences and retired as a Professor in 1998.

Arrangements will be made by the McGraw-Kowal Funeral Home. Memorial services in Fredonia, NY, and in Southern California will be arranged for later this year. Information about the services will be available at fawzi.yaqub.de.

Donations in Dr. Yaqub's memory can be made to the Mathematics Department at SUNY Fredonia (fredonia.edu/give), the American University of Beirut (giving.aub.edu.lb/aub), the Yaqub Family Charity (adallahhafez@gmail.com), Darwin R Barker Public Library (barkerlibrary.org), or the 1891 Fredonia Opera House (fredopera.org).