

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Winter 2025



My Corner

by Barbara Mallette

"People can lose their lives in libraries. They ought to be warned." Saul Bellow

For pleasure, I tend to read mysteries, often reading all of an author's series. Thomas Perry died in October of this year. I devoured his Jane Whitefield series some years ago. Perry's works are absorbing and I can consume them relatively quickly. Born in Tonawanda, NY, his books' WNY references continue to spark my interest. As a result, and in tribute to him, I am working my way through his books from his first book to his last work. But sometimes I am pushed out of my comfort zone with mysteries and have to read other works.



I am a member of the Cassadaga Library Book Club where I get exposed to a variety of genres, as one member reads hardly any fiction unless it's historical fiction. In October, I worked my way through Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, truly a classic. In our discussion of this work, we all were surprised that the "creature" never had a name, and that Frankenstein was the creator. This month we moved beyond the Halloween theme to a story about a woman who walked the entire Appalachian Trail alone (three times!), *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman who Saved the Appalachian Trail*. Ben Montgomery, the author, retells Emma Gatewood's story; he even hiked the leg of the trail to Mt. Katahdin to understand more fully what Mrs. Gatewood experienced. "We took a short break by the mountaintop spring and I watched it slowly trickle downhill. A thought struck me: Climbing a mountain, climbing this mountain, means following a river against the flow through the valley, then a stream up on the mountain's flank, past waterfalls, and, eventually, to this little spring. It means walking against the hydrological cycle, against the order of things, to the source of life. To youth. To birth." (P. 193). I wondered if being a senior is walking against the hydrological cycle. Somedays it feels as we are moving "against the grain." But at least we are still moving.

When Emma Gatewood was interviewed one time, her reply touched me "Some people think it's crazy," she told one reporter. "But I find a restfulness--something that satisfies my type of nature. The woods make me feel more contented."

"What make you do all this?" a reporter asked.

"The forest is a quiet place and nature is beautiful. I don't want to sit and rock. I want to do something." (pp. 214-215).

With cooler temperatures and the time change, we all may have more time to enjoy whatever genre of books satisfies our literacy thirst. Here's to a restful but joyous holiday season to all!



Scholars Spotlight

by Barbara Mallette

Typically, I interview one of our emeritus colleagues for the "Emeritus Spotlight" section of our *Emeritus Newsletter*.

But when I had the chance to interact with three students at the Scholars Breakfast sponsored by the Fredonia College Foundation, I knew they had to be featured. First, let me say that getting to meet these student recipients of scholarships that Doug and I created was life changing. All three students were genuinely grateful for any financial support as they achieve their academic and professional goals. They were articulate in expressing their choice of

majors and where they are headed. Not only did their poise impress us but also their involvement in University activities outside of dedication to their studies. Meet Zack, Camryn, and Marissa.

Zachary Dean is a graduate student in the College of Education, Health Sciences, and Human Services Curriculum and Instruction in Inclusive Education Program. He is a local young man from the Fredonia area. Zachary was home-schooled and decided to pursue higher education locally. He attended Jamestown Community College, graduating with an Associate's Degree and a 4.0 GPA. Attending SUNY Fredonia seemed logical to him. He pursued a double major in history and Adolescence Social Studies. Rather than seek a teaching position immediately, Zachary wanted to enroll in a Master's Degree Program. Because of his family ties to the area, remaining at Fredonia for graduate work seemed natural. Zachary is very active both on campus and in the community. He serves as the graduate representative for the Student Association and is a board member and treasurer of the Faculty Student Association. Somehow, he finds the time to serve on the University Judicial Board. Additionally, Zachary is on the Chautauqua County Planning Board where he is learning firsthand planning, zoning, and capital projects. Zachary works on campus for the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), A New York State Education Department supported program which aids eligible students who are enrolled in STEM-related majors.



Camryn Hauptman comes from Corning, where she attended elementary, middle, and high school. She initially took interest in SUNY Fredonia for the smaller campus size and opportunity to get to know professors, as well as less financially burdening tuition. Camryn worked at Camp Cory in Penn Yan on the shores of Keuka Lake where she was a senior counselor. Now at SUNY Fredonia, Camryn is a senior enrolled in the Childhood Inclusive Education Program with a concentration in the social sciences, and minor in history. She is also a part of the campus TV station

club, where she helps to run things behind the scenes. Camryn is a part of the Council for Exceptional Children club on campus, where discussions focus on the best practices when working with children with special needs. She also works at the daycare on SUNY Fredonia's campus and enjoys working with a wide variety of age groups. Outside of education classes, Camryn has taken some pottery classes as a creative outlet. She loves to travel and was fortunate to have traveled to Iceland and hopes to travel more in the future. When time permits, Camryn likes to read and hang out with the wonderful friends made here at Fredonia.

Marissa Fiorella (the young woman wearing glasses) is a local student who hails from Jamestown where she attended public schools and Jamestown Community College. Now, Marissa is attending SUNY Fredonia as a Childhood Inclusive major in her junior year, Marissa looks forward to student teaching next year, hoping to be placed in Jamestown.

Marissa substitute teaches at [Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES](#) over her breaks. Outside of academics and subbing, Marissa loves to crochet, dance, and read. She is involved in the STEPS Program and the Teacher Education Club

Please consider contributing to the Foundation's Emeritus Appeal. Every little bit helps students such as Zack, Camryn, and Marissa become Fredonia degree candidates. Contributing is easy... a phone call (716-673-3321) or online [Give - Intellistack](#).

Holiday Open House

President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. invites you to a Holiday Open House.

Please RSVP by December 5 to help FSA with food counts.

RSVP

Thursday, December 11, 2025

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Williams Center, MPR

The musical performance will be by the Chamber Choir, conducted by Vernon Huff. The Chamber Choir has recently earned national recognition as placing for the "American Prize" for collegiate choral ensembles for multiple years in a row.

Non-perishable food and personal items will be collected at the entrance and donated to Freddy's Locker, the [Student Food Pantry](#).

Additional Information

- As the temperatures begin to drop, it's a great time to "chill" on campus by attending one of the many events by clicking on <https://events.fredonia.edu>.
 - "ATLAS: Historical Works and Recent Journeys of Alberto Rey" is still open in the Marion Art Gallery until November 21st.
 - Jack Croxton is and his podcast co-host Chloe Kowalyk are still recruiting Fredonia alumni for interviews that focus on their careers and Fredonia experiences. If you know of any alumni that would be willing to be interviewed, email Jack at Jack.Croxton@fredonia.edu.
 - **SAVE THE DATE:**
 - We will be hosting the next Emeritus Luncheon on **Wednesday, April 22nd** at the **White Inn**. The next issue of the newsletter will have details and a registration form.
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Fredonia Bicentennial 1826-2026

Fredonia will celebrate its Bicentennial in the 2026–2027 academic year—200 years of impact in education, community, and leadership. Join us in honoring this milestone under the theme "*Celebrating Two Centuries of Impact*" by sharing favorite campus memories and the moments that have made Fredonia meaningful to you and your student. Your story is part of our legacy: [Add Your Voice to Fredonia's History!](#)

Update Contact Information

- Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number?
If so, please let us know so we can update our file.
Email: Emeritus.Newsletter@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3321
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In Memoriam

Joanne Castellani, Lecturer, Instructor, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, 1975-1983

Dr. David Stringham, Dean of the College of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Dr. David Stringham joined SUNY Fredonia in May 2023 as the Dean of the School of Music. He was chosen for his exceptional communication skills, leadership in organizational change, and deep commitment to expanding student access and success through the excellent learning opportunities provided by the School of Music. Working collaboratively with colleagues across campus and in the community, he embraced every opportunity to build on Fredonia's rich legacy in music and music education.

Dean Stringham worked tirelessly to strengthen enrollment. He actively cultivated partnerships with prestigious institutions such as the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts and Rochester's School of the Arts. He also explored new recruitment pathways with large school districts across New York, expanding opportunities for students to benefit from Fredonia's programs.

His leadership brought meaningful organizational change, aligning the School's structure with the structure of colleges on campus. He successfully integrated the Department of Theatre and Dance and elevated the School's status to that of a College – the College of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

Dean Stringham was deeply committed to growth and innovation. He championed new academic programs, including the B.A. in Music Studies and the Mus.B. in Jazz Studies, currently in their review and approval stages. These programs were designed to attract a broader and more diverse population of music students – a manifestation of his commitment to access. Also, under his leadership, the then School of Music received full reaccreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), ensuring that the highest national standards are embedded in every aspect of the College's undergraduate and graduate programs.

He was a tireless advocate and fundraiser, building close relationships with donors, and demonstrating a strong ability to articulate the College's needs with clarity and passion. The approximately \$1.5 million in new gifts since 2023 is a testament to his ability to inspire support for the students and programs he so passionately served. These transformative outcomes of his leadership underscore his commitment, insight, and lasting impact on the university community – a remarkable legacy.

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