

The Magazine for Fredonia Alumni and Friends

Statement

SPRING 2021

Comprehensive
Campaign goal smashed

Alumna and
Keeper of the Dream scholar
pioneers virtual internship

Academic success
in the State of COVID

 **FREDONIA**
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Nurturing
INNOVATION 

THE CAMPAIGN FOR FREDONIA

Thank you!



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Comprehensive Campaign goal smashed

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INNOVATION
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BACK COVER

Art Exhibits

Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery, main level, Rockefeller Arts Center

Hours: Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.



"Maajeida," 2020 by Laylah Amatullah Barryn

"Dos Mundos: (Re)constructing Narratives"
Through Feb. 28

Features 36 photographs and 12 artists that center stories at the fringe of public attention. Participating artists: Cinthya Santos Briones, Danny Peralta, Damarys Alvarez, Aaron Turner, Antonio Pulgarin, Tau Battice, Laylah Amatullah Barryn, Erika Morillo, Daesha Harris, Roger Richardson, Yu-Chen Chiu and Anthony Hamboussi.

"Living with Art: Selections from the Frederic P. 'Nick' Norton Collection"
March 5 through April 11

The exhibition features an eclectic mix of Eastern and Western art—from traditional masks to modern furniture and contemporary photographs—that Nick Norton lives with and has cherished for many decades.

Senior Show I
April 16 through 22

Senior Show II
April 30 through May 6

There will be no group tours or receptions during the spring semester. For more information, contact Gallery Director Barbara Racker at (716) 673-4897 or barbara.racker@fredonia.edu.

Admissions Update

SUNY Fredonia has continued to offer both virtual and in-person visits among the ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

All visitors coming to campus are required to fill out a health questionnaire and all visits are limited to a total of 12 people, to keep our students and visitors safe.

Any visitor unable to attend an in-person visit has the opportunity to schedule a one-on-one virtual appointment to receive the personal attention that is the specialty of our admissions office. Please visit fredonia.edu/visit for the most up-to-date information.



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Alumni and Campus Events Calendar

Please note: It is anticipated that Zoom events and, eventually, in-person events, will be added as the year progresses. In-person events scheduled are subject to change pending health and safety regulations. Please check the following link for updates: <https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni>

MARCH

Fredonia CDO's Virtual Employer Showcase
Monday–Friday, March 1–5

A week-long career and internship networking expo hosted by the Career Development Office

APRIL

Deadline for Children/Grandchildren of Alumni Scholarship applications to Office of Alumni Affairs
Friday, April 2, 5 p.m.

Application and instructions may be found at: <https://www.fredonia.edu/alumni/alumni-association-scholarships>

Buffalo Area Teacher Recruitment Day

Monday, April 12, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Virtual event hosted via CareerEco

Job fair for K-12 careers

<https://www.trd.org>

MAY

Alumni Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 4 p.m.

Alumni House, Campus

Commencement

Date and details to be determined.

JULY

Alumni Golf Tournament

Friday, July 16

Shorewood Country Club

4958 E. Shorewood Drive

Dunkirk, NY 14048

AUGUST

Alumni Board Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 12, 4 p.m.

Alumni House, Campus

OCTOBER

Classes of 1970 and 1971 50-Year Reunion

Friday–Saturday, Oct. 15–17

In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend

Friday–Sunday, Oct. 15–17

Campus

Schedule of Events will be available in June at:

<https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni>

Family Weekend

Friday–Sunday, Oct. 22–24

Campus

Scholars Breakfast (By invitation only)

Saturday, Oct. 23

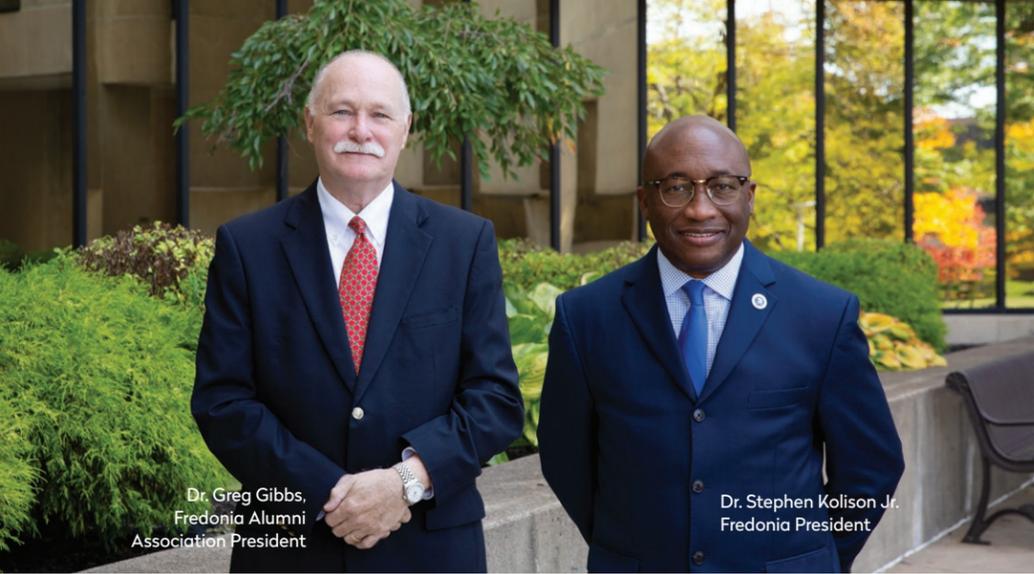
Campus

NOVEMBER

Annual Alumni Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 11, 4 p.m.

Alumni House, Campus



Dr. Greg Gibbs,
Fredonia Alumni
Association President

Dr. Stephen Kolison Jr.,
Fredonia President

Statement

THE MAGAZINE FOR FREDONIA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I begin my second semester as President of this exceptional university, I am filled with so much pride for how Fredonians past and present have responded to the pandemic.

From the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester, the entire Big Blue Family — students, faculty, and staff — took the situation seriously, held each other accountable and enthusiastically supported each other. Everyone adhered to the new social norms of mask-wearing and physical distancing. More than 10,000 surveillance tests were conducted over the course of the semester, and classes and many campus activities continued without interruption.

I am not only proud of how the campus functioned, I am also overjoyed with the outpouring of support by alumni and friends who contributed to the Fredonia Student Emergency Relief Fund established through the Fredonia College Foundation. Funds raised enabled students to overcome technology needs that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

The relief fund is only one part of the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign in SUNY Fredonia's history. With this issue of the *Statement*, we're pleased to announce the successful completion of the campaign, which finished well above its \$20 million goal, with a total of \$24,520,307. In this magazine, we are excited to share examples of how the campaign will help future generations of Fredonia students and faculty.

This issue also includes stories about how learning and creativity continued on campus in the fall semester, how current students are helping a local business get off the ground in the middle of the pandemic, and how a Fredonia alumna is working with the Super Bowl 2020 champions.

We missed having our alumni on campus last fall when Homecoming activities were moved online. We look forward to welcoming you back on campus during the 2021–22 academic year. In the meantime, please stay in touch with everything going on at Fredonia by connecting with our Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram accounts.

Very truly yours,

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



Comprehensive campaign goal smashed

By Roger Coda

“What an incredible journey this has been!”

That’s the exclamation point Interim Vice President for University Advancement and Fredonia College Foundation Executive Director Betty Gossett places on “Nurturing Innovation: The Campaign for Fredonia.” The fund drive for the State University of New York at Fredonia was an unparalleled success, raising over \$24.5 million — exceeding its goal by more than 20 percent.

“When we launched, we knew this would be our most ambitious, comprehensive campaign in Fredonia’s history. We experienced an amazing outpouring of support throughout the campaign,” Ms. Gossett reflected. She attributes its outcome to the dedication of alumni, friends of the university, local businesses and organizations and an enthusiastic and committed team, all who want to see SUNY Fredonia and its students thrive.

Campaign co-chairs Dennis Costello and Joseph Falcone described the \$20 million goal as quite ambitious, “and it was not clear that we could make it,” Mr. Costello, ’72, recalled. “We were quite pleased that we not only met the goal, but exceeded it.”

Costello was awestruck by the reaction of the Fredonia community at large and what he described as the unbelievable effort that Gossett and her staff put into the campaign amid the campus’ leadership change and coronavirus pandemic. “They just kept at it, and the support we saw was just amazing,” Costello said.

52,850 individual gifts were made to the campaign. As part of that number, 21,451 individual gifts were made by 3,628 alumni and 21,264 individual gifts were made by 385 faculty and staff. Noteworthy was the large number of donors who gave more than once. “It’s very impressive that they were so supportive of Fredonia over a long period of time,” Costello said.

The campaign’s success gave Mr. Falcone, ’74, a heightened appreciation for the school, its students and staff, as well as donors. Falcone acknowledged the groundwork — developing priorities and identifying needs — prepared by current and former campus leadership that helped to steer the direction of the campaign and provide the case for support.

This was the university’s fourth capital campaign, and clearly its most fruitful.

The first, “Extending Our Horizons: The Campaign for Fredonia,” raised just over \$5.5 million in 1995. “Traditions and Transitions: The Anniversary Campaign” netted more than \$10.6 million in 2004, while “Doors to Success” achieved \$16.7 million in 2011. Each time, campaign goals were surpassed but never more than this one.

When the Nurturing Innovation books were closed on Dec. 31, gifts had soared to \$24,520,307.

“Several donors and their impact became newsworthy but it was those combined with the thousands of more modest donations cumulatively that made the difference and made the campaign so successful,” Gossett said.

The campaign’s conclusion comes at a critical time for Fredonia. State support has been stagnant while operational costs climb due to unfunded mandates. This results in more college costs being shifted to families.

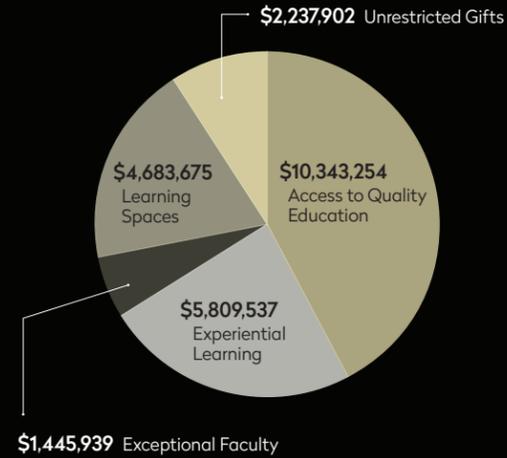
The number of endowed funds grew by 132, or 31.5 percent, during the campaign. The increased giving to the endowment combined with strong investment returns enabled the foundation to double its annual endowment spending distribution.

“Endowment gifts and gifts established through planned giving represent a crucial source of funding for ongoing support and establish a lasting legacy that will benefit our university far into the future,” Gossett said.

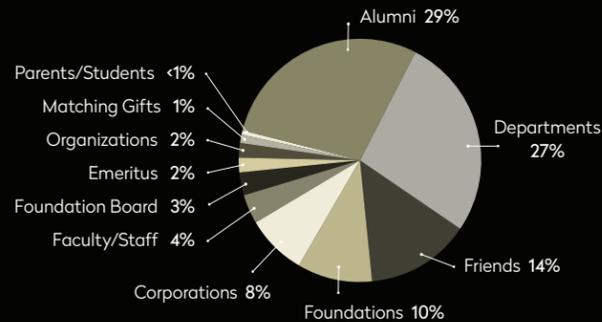




Campaign Priorities



Gift Amount by Donor Type



Alumni.....	\$5,284,573	Foundation Board.....	\$527,830
Departments.....	\$4,860,671	Emeritus.....	\$364,119
Friends.....	\$2,549,687	Organizations.....	\$279,555
Foundations.....	\$1,902,264	Matching Gifts.....	\$141,490
Corporations.....	\$1,375,430	Parents/Students.....	\$71,679
Faculty/Staff.....	\$758,302		

Gift Amount by Donation



Campaign total: \$24,520,307

Access to Quality Education

Goal: \$10 Million ➔ **\$10,343,254**

“Students were the main beneficiaries of donors’ generosity,” Falcone explained, largely through scholarships and academic support that comprise Access to Quality Education, one of five campaign priorities. Its \$10 million goal was exceeded by nearly \$350,000. Scholarships are increasingly vital to help make higher education more accessible to students coming from families with limited incomes and limited access to high quality education before they arrive at Fredonia, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Andy Karafa explained.

Nearly 40 percent of Fredonia students are eligible for Pell Grants, which means their family household income is below \$40,000. Scholarships and support to promising first-year students are provided by the highly regarded Keeper of the Dream Scholarship and Leadership Program that relies on longstanding support from the foundation. What makes the program unique is its blend of scholarship and leadership activities. Graduation rates of KOD students—known as scholars—exceed the university’s graduation percentages.

A very generous donation is allowing Fredonia to build a system of retention and follow-up with students that otherwise would not have been possible. “This approach will be more proactive, identifying students before they get on (academic) probation, focusing on helping students develop learning skills, time and stress management, etc.,” explained Interim Associate Provost for Curriculum, Assessment, and Academic Support Carmen S. Rivera. “The ultimate goal is the success of all of our students,” Dr. Rivera said.

Last spring, the Student Emergency Relief Fund was created through the foundation with support from faculty, staff, alumni and friends to help students cover unexpected expenses related to the pandemic and pivot to distance learning. Over \$108,000 has been released to 642 students.

Individual grants up to \$500 were given to meet technology needs, purchase supplies to complete coursework online, address food insecurity and cover other basic needs. Additional money will be distributed to students in the spring for those with hardships.



Campaign Priorities continued >>

Learning from Experience

Dr. Karafa indicated it’s critical for Fredonia, as a state regional institution, “to open as many doors as possible for students. One of the things that we do exceedingly well is provide high quality, high impact experiences for our students, in ways such as hands-on research, work in studios and service learning opportunities, which provide support to our community.”

Fredonia’s commitment to career readiness and enhancing community outcomes is realized through experiential learning, which provides students an opportunity to advance their learning and accelerate career development. Funds dedicated to experiential learning help students in all fields of study to connect classroom knowledge and skills to public service and professional experiences.

The campaign realized just over \$5.8 million, comfortably above its \$4 million goal, for Learning from Experience to support faculty-student research collaborations, service learning, internships and entrepreneurial activities. Experiential learning opportunities are numerous: internships, clinical placements, field study, research, practicums, service learning, community service, civic engagement, capstones and creative works, study abroad and travel/exchange programs and entrepreneurship.



Learning Spaces

Goal: \$2 Million ➔ **\$4,683,675**

Learning Spaces represents a strategic investment to ensure Fredonia graduates are exposed to and trained on routine and emerging technologies and spaces that accommodate current instruction methods. This campaign goal clearly resonated with donors, who gave just over \$4.6 million—more than double the \$2 million goal.

Opportunities to designate a space—perhaps a location close to a donor’s passion or profession, or place with sentimental value—were embraced, with over \$852,000 raised through designation of 30 named spaces. The renovated Rockefeller Arts Center and its new Studio Complex accounted for 17 named spaces, which include rehearsal and performance spaces, offices and common areas. Named spaces were also added to the Science Center and more recently, the renovated Houghton Hall.

Job prospects for Theatre Design and Production students have been enhanced by the purchase of two projectors and state-of-the-art software with a \$75,000 matching challenge grant from a regional foundation. “It gives us more options; we can create digitally what we can’t necessarily create in real life,” Department of Theater and Dance Professor Todd Proffitt said of the high-end equipment.

The backdrop of the sweeping California landscape seen by the Joad family in Fredonia’s 2019 production of “The Grapes of Wrath” was made more vivid by the new equipment. The flexibility of the equipment also enhances opera and dance ensembles since the environment created “can be anything our designers can imagine,” Proffitt added.

“It’s the new technology that our students need to know. They are going to be dealing with projectors; they’re going to have to deal with designing

Goal: \$4 Million

➔ **\$5,809,537**

More than a link between classrooms and workplace, experiential learning is a vital conductor allowing for the infusion of knowledge and skill development contributing to real-life needs in the community, said Tracy Collingwood, director of Engagement and Career Development. “Students consistently tell us that their experiential education assignments have a positive impact on their career readiness competencies and this bears out in terms of employer feedback that we receive,” Ms. Collingwood said.

Future teachers benefit from an Innovation in Education Fund that supports a specially designed internship program which includes year-long internships that contain three classroom placements in a school district.

“Additional support allows students unique learning experiences here on campus. Visiting artists and speakers have the ability to meet with our students to talk about creative work or share experience and expertise in a variety of areas,” Gossett said.

Funds have also provided accessibility to educators, writers, workshops and nationally recognized diversity speakers with a goal of educating and providing experiences that grow a campus climate of acceptance and understanding, Gossett explained.



content because, more and more, places want to have that modern look, want to have that modern feel,” Proffitt said.

Areas outside of the classroom were designed as learning spaces as well. Donations created a nature and physical fitness trail in the wooded lot off Ring Road for the campus and community to enjoy. Support for the observatory will provide the opportunity to teach and learn the wonders of the night sky.

Exceptional Faculty

The Exceptional Faculty priority that recognized that investing in the faculty who teach students is essential netted nearly \$1.5 million toward its \$2 million goal. “Among funds received to support faculty in all fields, a number of endowments were established to support faculty who mentor students beyond the traditional classroom, offering research fellowships, stipends and support for creative and experiential opportunities,” Gossett said. Campaigns also support innovation that enhances



Goal: \$2 Million

\$1,445,939

a student’s education in unexpected ways, such as an award that brings together faculty and students from two “seemingly” opposing disciplines — the arts and natural sciences — in projects that show how these areas can complement one another, Dr. Karafa explained.

Support for a faculty member or graduate student to pursue a unique creative experience is provided by donor support for the visual and performing arts as well.

Unrestricted Gifts

Donors supporting the Unrestricted Gifts category provide flexibility so funds can be quickly directed to achieve a strategic goal, support an emerging initiative or address a significant or unanticipated need. Donors exceeded the \$2 million goal by over \$200,000.

The Honors Program annually receives \$100,000 from the foundation unrestricted funds for scholarships to first-time/first-year students and transfer students. An Honors scholarship and other stacked awards make college more accessible for students who rely on them to help purchase books, pay fees and remove financial barriers that otherwise might stand between them and a college education, said Honors Program Director Natalie Gerber.

Students currently in the Honors Program, representing more than 50 different majors, receive a unique learning experience through Honors

Goal: \$2 Million

\$2,237,902

seminars, rigorous Honors courses, unique learning experiences and extracurricular activities.

The Professional Development Center is a prime example of a resource, supported by unrestricted funds through the foundation, that coordinates and provides educational opportunities and training for faculty and staff, meeting a need identified by the university.

The PDC provides financial support for projects that enhance student learning using high-impact teaching practices. Funding is used to help faculty participate in professional development experiences, attend conferences and helps them with teaching practices, and also provides faculty with much needed equipment that can be used to enhance instruction in the classroom, explained Dawn Eckenrode, PDC director.



President Stephen K. Kolison Jr., who joined Fredonia during the last five months of the campaign, described its success as “exciting beyond expression.” Resources obtained through the campaign will help the university achieve goals in the areas of quality education accessibility and enhancing or strengthening learning spaces, experiential learning and faculty scholarship, President Kolison said.

“I want to express thanks and appreciation to all the donors, my predecessors Dr. Virginia Horvath and Dr. Dennis Hefner, the campaign

co-chairs Dennis Costello and Joseph Falcone, Ms. Betty Gossett, the members of the foundation board and staff, the College Council, the President’s Cabinet, the faculty, staff and students for their roles in this campaign,” Kolison said. “I am grateful to everyone who made this a successful endeavor,” he added.

“Fredonia has benefited from loyal volunteers, past and present staff and the campus community. The time, energy and resources they have provided has been heartwarming and the impact will be far reaching,” Gossett said.



Fredonia launches Child Advocacy Studies certificate program

A new Advanced Certificate in Child Advocacy Studies (CAST), designed to better prepare educators and other professionals to respond to child maltreatment, has been approved for Fredonia.

Child Advocacy Studies is uniquely housed in Fredonia’s College of Education to better serve educators who, as front-line professionals, are the most frequent source of reports of suspected maltreatment of children. Child Advocacy Studies programs at other schools are typically found in social work, psychology or another academic department.

Interim Dean of the College of Education Anna Thibodeau indicated the 12-month program addresses an unmet need in the educational system.

College of Education faculty members Drs. Laura Geraci and Carrie Fitzgerald developed the 16-credit, five-course program over a three-year period. They say it addresses a chronic need, expressed by professionals, for training

that goes beyond what’s traditionally offered in a limited child abuse course taken by teacher candidates.

“We both taught the child abuse one-credit course and felt we never had enough time. The students were very engaged, but they wanted more information. They really want to know how to deal with children who experience trauma,” Dr. Fitzgerald explained.

Approval of the Fredonia CAST program, part of the Open SUNY online degree curriculum, coincides with recent passage in New York of Erin’s Law, Dr. Geraci said. Erin’s Law requires public schools to teach practical and age-appropriate instruction in preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation to students.

The mission of Child Advocacy Studies is to educate professionals who respond to child maltreatment to provide ethically, culturally sensitive services, to demonstrate interdisciplinary collaboration and to manage cases competently.



Fredonia anticipates enrolling its first students in Child Advocacy Studies this summer. Admission requirements include a master’s degree or current enrollment in a master’s program.

Business students’ market research guides rebranding of Fredonia restaurant

the transition of the former Wing City Grille and the new vision of owner Andrew Carlson.

“They surveyed over 100 people and identified the strengths of Wing City to which to build upon for the next project as well as market tested several of the potential new names/brand,” said School of Business Associate Professor Susan McNamara.

Scott Boehnke, Alexis Terruli, Kathryn Rowan, Andrew Masiello and Jakob Hudson compiled a PESTEL (Political, Economic, Socio-Cultural, Technological, Environmental and Legal) analysis that outlined factors for Mr. Carlson to consider.

Mr. Boehnke, who earned an M.S. in Accounting at the University at Buffalo and works at a large accounting firm in Williamsville, N.Y., said it’s important to understand what the target market wants in a restaurant so patrons will try it and return.

“It’s a win-win,” McNamara says of this and other community outreach projects — usually around 10 every semester — that students undertake to assist local businesses, non-profits, manufacturers, retailers and startups.

Students gain experience applying what they’ve learned at Fredonia and putting it into action in the real world; their clients gain valuable knowledge, insight and perspectives to take their business or organization to the next level, McNamara said.

“The Carlsons gained the creativity and research ability provided by the students at no cost,” McNamara said. “The students were able to apply concepts that have been learned in a classroom to a real client. The experience for the students offered a great learning lab as well as helped build their resumes with applied experience.”



They didn’t wait tables or prepare its signature flatbreads in the kitchen, but School of Business students gave valuable assistance in development of the new Buddy Brewster’s Ale House in Fredonia.

For their senior capstone, five students in BUAD 499: Strategic Management gathered marketing research to guide

Musicians persevere during COVID-19 pandemic



The sights, and sounds, too, were alive and well in the School of Music in a fall semester impacted, as higher education has been everywhere, by COVID-19 restrictions.

Choral ensembles were heard rehearsing in the amphitheatre, with students wearing facial masks and spaced at least six feet apart. One-on-one lessons were relocated to full-size classrooms that became available when academic courses went online. More guest speakers than ever before addressed vital topics and trends in virtual formats.

"I'm really amazed how resilient they are," School of Music Interim Director Daniel Ihasz said of students. "They want to be here; they are doing all that we ask them to do." He's likewise impressed at how well faculty adapted to changes brought on by the pandemic.

That's in no small part due to the comprehensive re-opening strategy developed by the School of Music. "We did a lot of research in the summer; we came up with a plan that fit in with SUNY's re-opening plan, that followed CDC guidelines," Professor Ihasz explained. A key component was moving academic courses from classrooms to remote status, so many private lessons could continue in the classrooms that allow for social distancing.

Versatility and innovation can easily

describe the School of Music's approach to meeting students' needs through a combination of in-person instruction, online classes and hybrid formats.

Director of Choral Studies Vernon Huff reconfigured his 36-member Chamber Choir into four manageable small groups. "Let's turn this into a positive thing. It gives us the opportunity to work in smaller ensembles," he said. As a result, Dr. Huff finds he's turned into more of a coach than a conductor.

Outside singing was allowed, with social distancing and masks. Inside ensemble singing was limited to 10 people, spaced 12 feet apart, with masks, for 30 minutes at a time.

Amphitheatre hosts rehearsals

"No choir is meeting as a whole group except for outside," Huff reported. The amphitheatre was used alternately by Huff's Chamber Choir and Adjunct Lecturer Brent Weber's Fredonia Camerata.

Huff followed a hybrid teaching model for his fall classes: online and an A/B model. For example, six students singing in one Mason Hall room are joined via Zoom with 12 other students, who could easily be in their residence hall rooms. "We're all singing together," he remarked.

Camerata rehearsals in the amphitheatre, as well as in Mason Hall, went

well, Mr. Weber reported. "The general consensus is that we are just happy to be back, making music and in a safe environment. Sound is definitely different due to the larger spaces between singers, but a nice blend is coming into the mix."

Excitement among students is obvious, Huff said. "The students are so excited to be making music again; they hadn't since March."

Alumni become guest speakers

Professor Christian Bernhard brought several guest teachers into MUED 394: Secondary School Instrumental Rehearsal Techniques through Zoom. "It's a lot easier with them on Zoom to share their experiences in high school teaching," Dr. Bernhard said. "That's the silver lining in this pandemic."

Guest teachers who are also alumni have been from Gowanda, Frewsburg and as far away as Albany, N.Y. "We can't go out and visit high schools, so the teachers are coming to us," Bernhard said. An interactive Zoom teaching session with Fredonia High School band director Andy Bennett, also an alumnus, and his students and Bernhard's class was held.

Eleven students in Bernhard's instrumental rehearsal techniques class met in-person, one day a week in a large Mason Rehearsal Hall room, and were joined remotely by a 12th student

via Zoom. They all met on Zoom two other days of the week. During online days, students—representing brass, woodwind and percussion—were paired in one-on-one teaching/critiquing sessions where they played their instruments.

"The reaction by students, I think, has been very positive," Bernhard said. They understand these are challenging times and they support one another.

Assistant Professor Richard Webb employed a hybrid model for MUED 251: Psychology and Sociology of Music Education. The full class met on Zoom two days a week and was divided into smaller groups on Friday. The small groups became "experts" in a new topic each week. Weather-permitting, the groups convened outside.

The cavernous King Concert Hall easily accommodated Assistant Professor Kieran Hanlon's MUS 400: String Area Recital Seminar, so all 15 students performed together. On some days, all students assembled there, while individual sections gathered on other days.

people in a room for one hour, no matter the size of the room, and then the room needs to be cleared for an hour," Dr. Holcomb explained.

"We immediately decided to make lemonade out of lemons," said Holcomb. Ingredients in her lemonade recipe included presentations by leaders in the music world, Fredonia graduates working professionally in the field, Fredonia faculty who focus on specific areas and mock auditions.

Students learned about gender discrimination from Abbie Conant, a Juilliard-trained trombonist who waged an epic court battle—which she ultimately won—after being denied the trombone principal position in the Munich Philharmonic. Virtual discussions provided opportunities to talk about the #MeToo Movement, social justice issues and Black Lives Matter, and explore prejudice within the music world.

Chris Wilhelm, a prominent leader in the field and member of the New Jersey Symphony, served as a role model and

Individual lessons on track

COVID-19 restrictions had little impact on Professor Barry Kilpatrick's teaching schedule, which is all face-to-face instruction. He utilized Diers Recital Hall for MUED 260: Brass Pedagogy and Room 1001, a tiered rehearsal space, for two classes, MUED 161: Beginning Trombone and MUED 261: Advanced Trombone, and his office for 10 one-on-one lessons.

"The mechanics of doing these courses and lessons haven't really changed much. But teaching a class in Diers, with everyone masked, has made for an amazing change—it's totally silent in the room before the class begins," Mr. Kilpatrick explained. "In the past, with unmasked students sitting near each other in a classroom, I would have to force them to stop their chatter when the class began," he said.

"Now I can only wish they would break the weird silence!"

With no live performances, Director of Orchestras and Opera David Rudge divided the College Symphony Orchestra (CSO) curriculum into four parts: a study of major orchestra masterworks; Performance Anxiety: The Mind/Body Connection, a mini-course which includes a number of awareness modalities such as tai chi, chi gong, yoga and meditation; a Sound Recording Technology project of "Dánzon No. 2," by Mexican composer Arturo Márquez; and "ZoomWorks," a series of works being written by Fredonia composition faculty for groups of CSO musicians.

Dr. Rudge said the Chamber Orchestra's curriculum is now one of "audition preparation." Students learn the standard excerpts that are requested for orchestra auditions and perform them over Zoom.

A mild September allowed Distinguished Teaching Professor Julie Newell to place MUS 213: Opera Seminar I students in the amphitheatre or near the clock tower. Outside gatherings and use of surgical ClearMasks were major changes Voice area faculty made so in-person instruction, one-on-one lessons and ensemble rehearsals could continue.

"I'm amazed by their maturity, their resilience, their optimism. They communicate every time I see them how much they value their education and the opportunity to be here on campus," Newell said. "I see their smiling faces behind their ClearMasks every day."

"The general consensus is that we are just happy to be back, making music and in a safe environment. Sound is definitely different due to the larger spaces between singers, but a nice blend is coming into the mix."

— Adjunct Lecturer Brent Weber

Much of Mr. Hanlon's teaching schedule consists of one-on-one lessons, so he installed a HEPA filter device in his office and placed social-distancing marks on the floor so private lessons continued with adjustments.

Students are on board

"They are seeing the big picture, and because of that, they are not getting too hung up on the fact they have to wear uncomfortable masks," Hanlon said. Because students followed guidelines, the School of Music continued in-person activities with adjustments.

Greater use of guest speakers who examined social issues that students may encounter as professionals has been a key benefit of the virtual teaching format followed by Director of Bands Paula Holcomb.

"With an ensemble band, in order to be safe, we made the decision to go entirely remote. COVID-19 is just so dangerous with aerosols. We can only have nine



explained how to be successful as a band director in public schools.

Nine accomplished alumni from around the country reviewed virtual mock auditions that paired two students in separate practice rooms; one performed while the other evaluated, and then the roles were reversed.

Alumna and Keeper of the Dream scholar pioneers virtual internship in forensics

“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.”

That proverbial wisdom could easily apply to Fredonia graduate Lori Ana Valentín, a forensic scientist with the New York State Police Crime Laboratory System (NYSPLS). She serves in the agency’s Albany-based Forensic Investigation Center and runs its internship program that was upended—much like the rest of higher education—due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Forensic Investigation Center usually hosts one or two interns every year, but was apprehensive about conducting in-person internships this past summer due to coronavirus health concerns.

Instead, Dr. Valentín developed what’s believed to be the first virtual forensic internship ever offered by the NYSPLS. In it, students learned how evidence in criminal cases is collected, processed and analyzed. The six-week experience provided an orientation into the crime laboratory system, going beyond an introductory course by exposing students to organizational structure, administrative oversight, evidence processing and analysis in a large forensic science laboratory.

Outside of her work in the lab, Valentín mentors students one-on-one across the country. One of her mentees on an internship at a forensic lab in another state was incredibly disappointed when her internship was postponed until the summer after she graduates, Valentín explained, due to COVID-19.

That inspired Valentín to explore the possibility of a virtual internship at her facility.

Valentín has a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry and M.S. in Chemistry, both from Binghamton University, and a B.S. in Biochemistry from Fredonia. She also was a Keeper of the Dream Scholar during her undergraduate years.

And she knows how to make great lemonade.

Valentín crafted a dramatically different internship that was far more comprehensive than previous lab



Dr. Lori Ana Valentín works with a student at the Forensics Investigation Center’s first outreach to Rise High, a local organization in Schenectady, N.Y., that delivers outreach to under-sourced students about the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines.

internships that usually involve shadowing and some aspect of hands-on work. The pivot to a virtual format enabled the Forensic Investigation Center to significantly increase the number of students and bring more experts on board.

Nineteen students—all science majors who aspire to become forensic scientists—were drawn from around the world to the internship, though most were from New York state academic institutions.

Valentín handled all aspects of the internship, from creating the syllabus to booking lectures.

“I modified the format to include a series of guest lecturers, each focusing on

a different topic. I wanted to ensure that it offered more than an introductory course, so I made sure that we explored topics that aren’t addressed in texts—such as our evidence intake process, chain of custody, expert testimony and accreditation,” Valentín explained.

The internship utilized Blackboard, Outlook and Zoom to disseminate, instruct and discuss course content that included PowerPoint lecture material, experimental protocols, videos, readings, mock data and assessment material. Student attendance at weekly live PowerPoint lectures was mandatory.

Participation was an integral part of

the internship. Students were required to submit three questions, which could encompass technical/scientific areas, career navigation and satisfaction and academic backgrounds, for each guest lecturer before the lecture.

Valentín believes networking is one of the biggest benefits of an internship, so it was important for the students to “meet” as many professionals as possible.

“The students were happy to have the experience after so many had internships and co-ops that were cancelled, and they were excited to learn about so many forensic topics from renowned experts in the field.”

— Lori Ana Valentín, Ph.D.

The virtual format broadened that scope, so Valentín was able to bring in forensic experts across the country from county, state and federal labs. She also created a professional directory that included their contact information, area of expertise and professional affiliations for the students to retain as a resource.

The internship experience was well received, Valentín said.

“The students were happy to have the experience after so many had internships and co-ops that were cancelled, and they were excited to learn about so many forensic topics from renowned experts in the field,” Valentín said. “We also had a couple of virtual social hours outside of lecture time which we all enjoyed.”

Eleven students enrolled in the internship for academic credit, while another eight students—including Fredonia student Prince Aziz Hunt—audited the course.

Valentín became involved with the Forensics Investigation Center’s internship program a year ago. In this role, she works directly with the intern, designing a project and coordinating with the school to ensure that the program meets the requirements needed for credit. An intern would be typically assigned to a specific laboratory section, such as DNA, and work

on a special project with the section.

“I’ve always been involved in outreach, as far back as Fredonia, in tutoring, mentorship and leadership development, so it’s become a part of my role here,” Valentín explained. She enjoys working with students and regularly gives lectures at the State University of New York at Albany. “It was a perfect fit for me to become involved in coordinating the



Dr. Valentín, with George P. Beach II, New York State Police superintendent, at her promotional ceremony at the New York State Police Crime Forensic Investigation Center in 2018.

internship program,” she said.

Valentín belongs to the American Chemical Society and is a member of the Education Committee of the Eastern New York Section of the ACS, where she



develops STEM educational programming for under-resourced students and professional development programs for students and early-career professionals. Valentín is also chair of ACS’s Younger Chemists Committee and is on the executive committee for the Women Chemists Committee.

In response to COVID-19 last summer, she founded the Eastern U.S. YCC Partnership which delivers virtual professional development nationally to younger chemists.

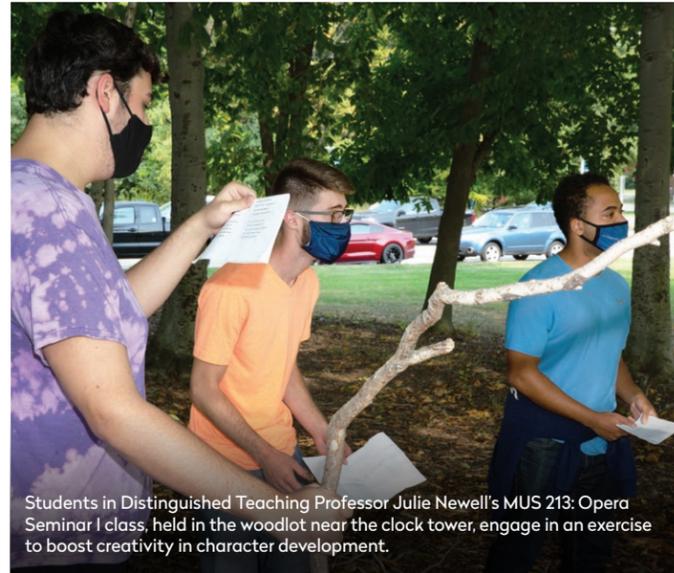
At Fredonia, Valentín completed a semester-long internship with INX International Ink Co. and conducted analytical research in all four of her years in the lab of Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Professor Michael Milligan. Much of that work was devoted to the Great Lakes Fish Monitoring Program.

Dr. Valentín delivers a lecture at Skidmore College.

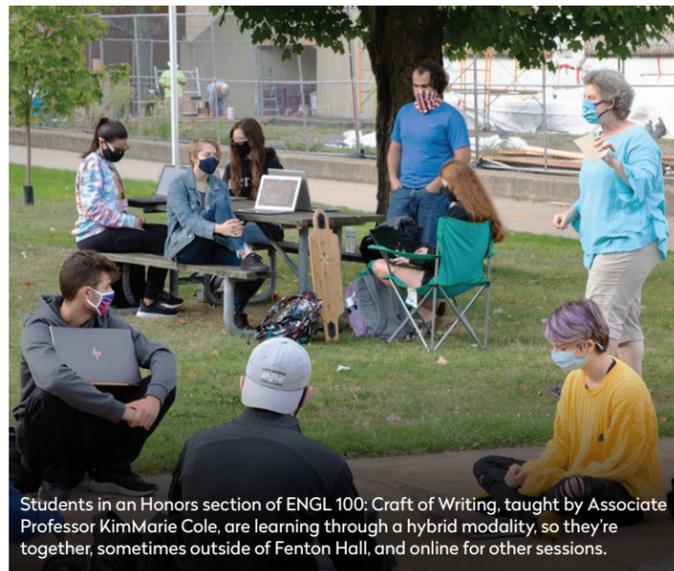
Academic success in the State of COVID



The Fredonia Camarata.



Students in Distinguished Teaching Professor Julie Newell's MUS 213: Opera Seminar I class, held in the woodlot near the clock tower, engage in an exercise to boost creativity in character development.



Students in an Honors section of ENGL 100: Craft of Writing, taught by Associate Professor KimMarie Cole, are learning through a hybrid modality, so they're together, sometimes outside of Fenton Hall, and online for other sessions.



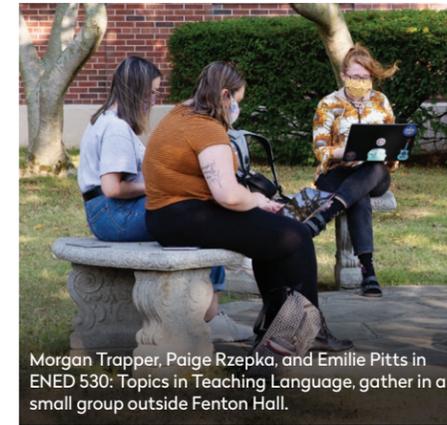
Rhema Williams completes a still-life drawing in ARTS 205: Foundations of Drawing II.



Lecturer Patricia Noel (far right) guides students in her class, BIOL 132: Introduction to Ecology and Evolution Lab, in the study of morphological adaptations of flowers and behavior of pollinators in the campus woodlot.



Distinguished Professor Alberto Rey reviews progress of a student drawing of Canadaway Creek.



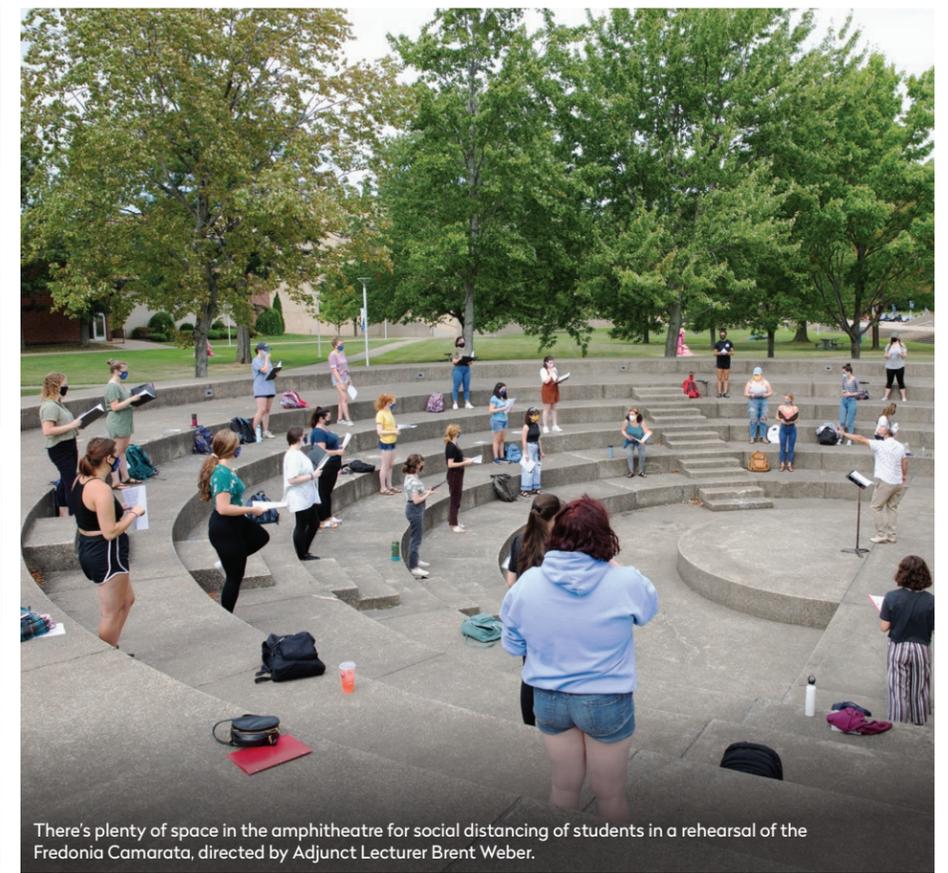
Morgan Trapper, Paige Rzepka, and Emille Pitts in ENED 530: Topics in Teaching Language, gather in a small group outside Fenton Hall.



Gabrielle Cartwright outlines the benefits of membership in the Fredonia chapter of the American Marketing Association in a marketing class taught by Associate Professor Shazad Mohammed.



A student team in BUAD 499: Strategic Management, taught by Associate Professor Susan McNamara, reviews key points in their restaurant marketing analysis in the Williams Center outer lobby before delivering their presentation to the class in S204.



There's plenty of space in the amphitheatre for social distancing of students in a rehearsal of the Fredonia Camarata, directed by Adjunct Lecturer Brent Weber.



Outside is where you'll find students enrolled in BIOL 132: Introduction to Ecology and Evolution Lab, taught by Lecturer Patricia Noel and Professor Jonathan Titus.



Noah Alles in ENED 530: Topics in Teaching Language, studies outside Fenton Hall.



(photo by Franklin Krzyzewski)

Theatre and Dance overcomes pandemic challenges to bring 'Macbeth' to the stage

by Doug Osbourne-Coy,
Rockefeller Arts Center

William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" has been staged an infinite number of times since its creation more than 400 years ago. Despite such history, the Department of Theatre and Dance at Fredonia found itself on new ground with its Fall 2020 production.

With COVID-19 precautions and restrictions in place, faculty, staff and students were finding new ways to work.

"Clearly, the element of the pandemic and the limitations we had to work within were the greatest challenges," Director Paul Mockovak said.

Mockovak, a professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, admitted it wasn't always easy.

"There were many times early on when we would lament not being unable to do this 'the way it could have been done' in Bartlett Theatre," he said. "But by the time we were winding up, we had this amazing story with moments at Three Man Hill, the amphitheater, in the woods on the trails and other campus locations utilizing the fantastic architecture and sculpture. At that point, I was thinking this is something we can be proud of."

When the pandemic took hold in early 2020, it became apparent there would be no live performance for this production. However, Mockovak noted "theatre people are problem solvers."

"Back in March, I contacted my

assistant director, [current student] Jay Gleason, who was also the videographer," Mockovak said. "We set out to capture as much of 'Macbeth' as we could in a video format to put together, in essence, a film. That said, making a film and shooting a video of a staged production are two different things. I like to call this a hybrid telling of the story with scenes shot outdoors as well as indoors on stage."

Mockovak praised students in all areas of the production for meeting challenges along the way.

"We had an all-student design team that did a great job of bringing my concept to life," Mockovak said. "The internal scenes shot on the Marvel stage have some spectacular moments. And their designs were brought to life by our student artisans and craftsmen who built the pieces."

The director also cited the "first-rate work by our student actors."

"It was an honor to work with them," Mockovak said. "I tip my hat to them all, but must give a nod to Donovan Gale (Macbeth), Lauren Teller (Lady Macbeth) Jong Rheu (Macduff) and Merrick Allen (Banquo)."

Finally, with "Macbeth" being known for its fight scenes, Mockovak said there was the challenge of creating socially-distanced combat.

"My solution was to contact our very

talented fight choreographer Emmett Wickersham [a Fredonia graduate]," the director said. "He came through beautifully with unarmed combat sequences that make sense, yet no one lays a hand on anyone. Fight captain Merrick Allen did a superb job in setting the choreography. The combat is fantastic. The final duel between Macbeth and Macduff exceeded my expectations."

Mockovak has been teaching at Fredonia for 22 years. In that time, he estimates he has directed more than 60 productions. He called on all that experience in guiding this production.

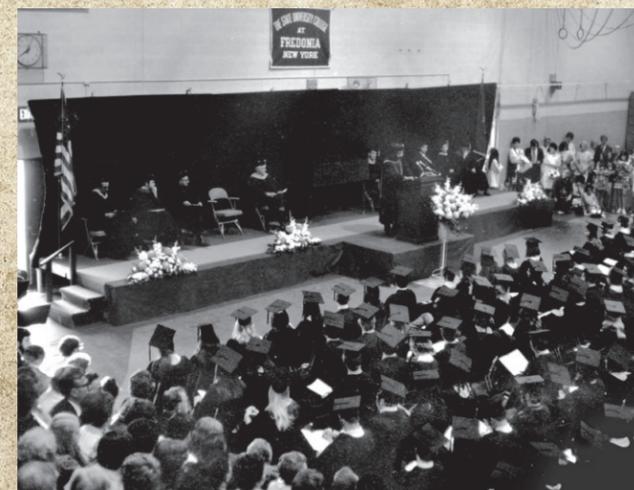
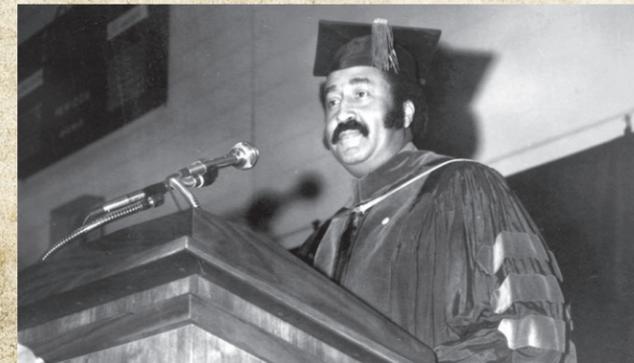
"My many students, friends and colleagues know my phrase of many years is 'cleansing breath, hakuna matata.' Patience, breathing, encouragement," he said. "It's easy to get overwhelmed but step back, realign, and re-center, and almost all of the time a solution will surface."

With the challenge of bringing "Macbeth" to life successfully met, Mockovak hopes the 50-plus students involved will take pride in what was achieved.

"I am hoping they will have a sense of deep accomplishment for creating art and pursuing their passion for their craft," the director said. "At the end of the day, I want us all to say, no matter what, we did the best we could."

Photographic memories...

Looking back at 50 years at Fredonia in 1971. The Commencement speaker was Dr. John L.S. Holloman Jr., a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees and a noted physician and activist. The ceremony was held in the Dods Hall gym.



Social media snaps

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Fredonia
Nov 20, 2020 • @FredoniaU

Congratulations, Big Blue Family! We did it! You remained #FREDstrong, took care of each other, and kept your focus on your academic success this fall. After the break, we finish the semester with distance learning. Read President Kolison's message → <https://bit.ly/334XmjT>

139 12 shares

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These are uncertain times, but we're certainly happy to have you back! #FREDstrong

11 5 1941

Dr. Phillips was 'instrumental' to track and field success

Tributes to Fredonia State Hall of Fame coach and administrator Dr. Everett "Doc" J. Phillips poured in Sept. 18 after former student-athletes and colleagues learned of his death earlier in the day.

Dr. Phillips passed away at his home, leaving behind a legacy of success spanning three decades at Fredonia State. He was 90 years old.

Among those offering their tributes was Jim Ulrich, Fredonia State's Hall of Fame men's track and field coach. Together the two men produced 36 SUNYAC track and field championships, plus several state titles, fueled by a parade of All America student-athletes.

"Doc Phillips hired me in 1974 to be the head track and field coach at Fredonia State," Mr. Ulrich wrote after learning of his colleague's passing. "Being a young coach — just three years' experience as track & field coach at Lockport (N.Y.) High School — I found his knowledge and experience in the sport to be invaluable in my development. Having him as an assistant coach and mentor to all our middle distance and distance runners until his retirement was



instrumental in the unmatched number of championships we had."

Historic run of championships

Their coaching partnership began when Dr. Phillips moved from head coach of men's track and field — a post he held from 1972 to 1974 — to assistant coach upon the hiring of Mr. Ulrich. The two men worked together until Dr. Phillips retired in 1994. During that span, Fredonia State was in the midst of 20 straight SUNYAC outdoor track and field championships — the longest championship streak by any team in SUNYAC history and among the longest championship streaks in NCAA Division III. The Blue Devils also won 16 SUNYAC indoor titles during the era.

Dr. Neil Moore, Fredonia State Class of 1980 and Hall of Fame distance runner, was a member of some of the earliest championship teams: "Dr. Phillips was a great friend and mentor," Dr. Moore wrote. "He had a profound impact on my life and the lives of countless others. The valuable life lessons that we learned from Doc are evident in each of us and I know that he was proud of his entire Fredonia family. He will be greatly missed."

Current Blue Devil head coach Tom Wilson, also an alum of the program, said Dr. Phillips always had a positive message. "When I first met Doc, he mentioned several times about being persistent," Mr. Wilson wrote. "I think his first lecture to me was about finding a way, working outside of your comfort zone, and finishing everything you start..."



Steele Hall main entrance



I will miss seeing him walk around the complex he built for this university. Even at his age, he could not help himself when walking around the fieldhouse to stop and correct one of my athletes. That always made me smile!"

Others offering tributes were two men who succeeded Dr. Phillips in the athletic director's chair.

Director of Athletics Emeritus and former men's basketball coach Greg Prechtl remembered his longtime colleague as a hard worker who was deeply loyal to Fredonia State Athletics.

"Everett was an exceptional coach," Mr. Prechtl wrote. "His accomplishments in track and field and cross country at Fredonia will never be duplicated. He led the Athletic Department through arguably its most successful period.... This is truly the end of an era."

Current Athletic Director Jerry Fisk got to know Dr. Phillips as the Fredonia State icon that he was. "Doc Phillips was a giant in the history of Fredonia State Athletics," Mr. Fisk wrote. "I quickly learned in my first meeting with Doc that he bled blue and loved not only Blue Devil Athletics, but our university.... He is a foundational member of our story and will forever be a tremendous Blue Devil Hall of Fame member."



Steele Hall fieldhouse



Dr. Everett Phillips (second from left with arm around his wife Shirley) and Jim Ulrich and his wife Linda, to the right of Doc and Mrs. Phillips, take part in the 2016 dedication of the Phillips-Ulrich Community Trail on the Fredonia State campus.



Phillips-Ulrich Community Trail.

Rochester Hall of Fame inductee

Dr. Phillips was a 1953 graduate of Springfield College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Education (he later earned his master's degree from Springfield in 1964). Named University of Rochester head coach of indoor track and field in 1960, he soon had his teams winning New York State track and field titles — five straight from 1963 to 1968. He was voted 1966 NCAA Coach of the Year in his sport and was inducted into the Rochester Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

While at Rochester, he decided to pursue his doctorate in Physical Education Administration at the University of Oregon, where he worked alongside legendary coach Bill Bowerman. Dr. Phillips returned to U of R and started the university's cross country program in 1969.

He was hired as chairman of the Fredonia State Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Dance Department on Aug. 27, 1970, and was named men's cross country head coach the following year. He inherited a program that had been last in the SUNYAC yet became competitive immediately. The Blue Devils won their first of six straight SUNYAC titles in 1978, then added titles

in 1988 and 1992. Fredonia State also won New York State Collegiate Track & Field Association titles in 1978, 1979, and 1981. The 1981 team — which was voted into the Hall of Fame this past April as a Fredonia State Team of Distinction — swept the SUNYAC and NYSCT&FA titles, finished second at the NCAA regional meet, and third at the national meet.

Dr. Phillips also coached women's cross country from 1992 to 1994 and returned as interim coach for one season in the early 2000s.

Oversaw Steele Hall construction

In addition to his administrative and coaching duties, Dr. Phillips taught numerous physical education activity and coaching certification classes. He also served four years as president of the New York State Track & Field Association. Perhaps his most tangible legacy was completion of the Steele Hall Fieldhouse, a project he oversaw from start to finish. He was inducted into the Fredonia State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

Former student-athletes have made significant financial donations over the year to support The Phillips Cross Country and Track & Field Endowment and in 2016 the Phillips-Ulrich Community

Trail was completed on campus through generous financial support by many alumni.

Fredonia State men's hockey coach Jeff Meredith, the department's longest tenured coach, was hired by Dr. Phillips and remained a friend over the years. Dr. Phillips was at fixture at Blue Devil hockey games right up to the most recent season.

"He loved Fredonia so much," Coach Meredith wrote. "He cared about the student-athletes and he cared about the coaches. His alumni tree is the largest ever. He had people all around the world whom he touched. He had a great career."

Dr. Phillips is survived by his wife, Shirley, and four children: Everett Phillips Jr., Karen Phillips, Brett (Jen) Christy and Brian (Diana) Christy. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Tristan Phillips, Hannah Christy and Alex Christy. Dr. Phillips was predeceased by his son, Mark, and his first wife, Mary, who is also a member of the Fredonia State Athletics Hall of Fame for her contributions to the Athletic Department.

In tribute to Dr. Phillips, a memorial parade of vehicles traveled through campus to the Phillips-Ulrich Community Trail. Current athletes lined the route on Ring Road.



Now is the time... Fredonia is the place

By Jennifer Darrell-Sterbak, Community Relations Associate, School of Music

While many campuses around the state and across the U.S. were forced to move fully remote this fall, or close campus entirely, the Fredonia School of Music developed, implemented, and enforced an effective plan that allowed students and faculty to continue doing what we love most...learning and making music, together. Everyone stepped up and took care of one another, proving (once again), that Fredonia is an amazing place to be.

Now, as we enter a new year, and as our new normal continues to shift and evolve, the Fredonia School of Music continues planning for the future and being inspired by our students.

"We have spent a good deal of time over the past several months listening to and supporting our current music students," commented Daniel Ihasz, interim director for the School of Music. "Many students are, understandably, anxious or unsure about what career opportunities will be available to them when they graduate. And, there are many students in high school right now feeling the same way...wondering if it will be possible to make a career in music when

they get out into the world with a music degree in hand."

Now, perhaps more than ever, our message at Fredonia is clear. Music is essential. It is critical to our society's well-being. "When we begin to emerge from this pandemic," said Professor Ihasz, "the pent-up demand for live music performances will bring back audiences in droves. We have an opportunity now to prepare students for those moments."

At Fredonia, we believe Now Is The Time for students to dig into music study, to practice more than ever, to apply themselves to becoming excellent at their craft, and dare to dream what the next chapter of music performance, education, therapy, entrepreneurship, advocacy, composition and sound recording will look like.

As we watch symphony orchestras, opera companies, music start-ups (the list goes on) turn off their lights and close their doors, we are heartbroken, but we also know this is temporary. We will come out of this challenging time and, when we do, we are going to need a generation of young people equipped and empowered to roll up their sleeves and get to work

rebuilding what we have lost.

It will not be an easy road, but we will get through this.

"Performers need to be ready to rise and meet that need," said Dr. Anne Kissel, head of Collaborative Piano. "We will need new ensembles, new companies, new presenters who are prepared to make art in new ways and serve new audiences. It will take time and it will take financial support, but there is going to come a time when we see artistic rebirth happening in all kinds of ways and in all kinds of places."

Fredonia is training the next generation of music professionals, and our graduates are poised to take the lead in reimagining and reshaping how music connects us.

"The world needs music now more than ever," said Dr. Kissel. "When concert halls and theaters reopen their doors, there will be a huge demand for seats. I'll be there. Won't you?"

To view the School of Music's latest recruitment video, created by the School of Music and videographer Jim Gibbons, and featuring Fredonia alumni, go to <http://www.fredonia.edu/music-2020-video> or use the QR code to view the piece.

Hillman Opera 'Beatrice and Benedict' released on YouTube



Scan QR code
for a direct link.

The Hillman Opera, produced each year by the Fredonia School of Music in conjunction with the Hillman Memorial Music Association, broke new ground this year with a unique production in an online format.

The production of "Beatrice and Benedict" was available starting Nov. 27 on the School of Music's YouTube channel, noted opera producer and Fredonia alumnus Dr. Robert Strauss of the School of Music.

The goal was to provide students with a challenging and rewarding experience, along with entertaining its online audience.

The Hillman Opera, presented nearly annually since 1956 and usually during the fall, is considered special due to the fact that the majority of the major roles are performed by undergraduate students and supplemented some years with faculty and alumni, unlike operas performed by music programs at other colleges, which often include master's and doctoral students. The Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance typically provides experiences for students in stage design, costuming, lighting and direction.

The work, by Hector Berlioz, was performed for the first time as a Hillman Opera, sung in an English translation by Amanda Holden, and due to COVID-19

restrictions was not performed with an orchestra, but instead accompanied by School of Music pianist and voice faculty member Shinobu Takagi. Dr. David Rudge served as music director, and Department of Theatre and Dance faculty member Daniel Lenzian was stage director. Megan Kuhnel, a student in the Department of Theatre and Dance, served as stage manager. Graduate student Adina Martin was chorus master.

There was a cast of 16 singers including Vocal Performance, Music Education, Music Therapy, Applied Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts Musical Theatre majors, and the chorus was a one-on-a-part group of singers. The major roles were double-cast and smaller, single cast. Non-singing roles were performed by chorus members. The role of Beatrice was sung by Katie Cymerman and Grace Mingoea, and Benedict, by Tyler Huk and Robert Kleinertz.

Each of the major cast members were brought into the university's recording studio to create an audio track — with not more than three people at a time in the studio. Anything larger than a duet necessitated cast members recording "karaoke-style" to a pre-recorded track of their castmates. Also necessary was allowing extra time in the recording studio for its air to "refresh." Fredonia Sound

Recording Technology students edited the audio tracks.

For the video shoots for musical "numbers," each cast member came in one at a time to lip sync to the rough edits of the audio, filmed by Mr. Lenzian. The dialogue was filmed on Zoom, and the entire production was put together and edited by Strauss.

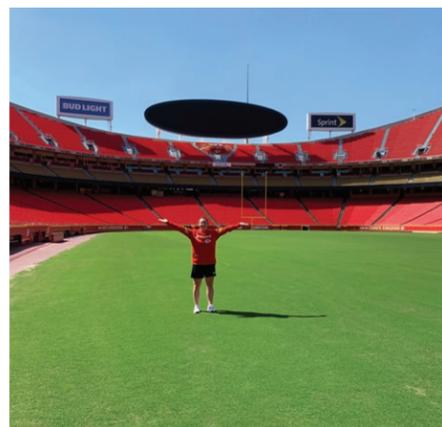
The list of Hillman Operas over the years is impressive in its scope and depth, with not too many repeats over 60-plus years, ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan romps like "The Pirates of Penzance" and the holiday favorite, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," to Benjamin Britten's challenging "Albert Herring."

The opera received a grant to support the production from the Oliver G. and Sarah Sloan Bauman Fund for the Arts administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

The Hillman Memorial Music Association also provides vital support for the opera through the Fredonia College Foundation, as well as student scholarships. Gugino and Ryel Financial was again the event sponsor.

Those interested in supporting the Hillman Operas can give online or contact the Fredonia College Foundation at (716) 673-3321.





In the top photo, Audrey Yokopovich hands out water bottles to Kansas City players during a practice. In the middle photo, she's positioned next to the Bills logo in the ADPRO Sports Training Center at 1 Bills Drive. In photo at bottom left, Ms. Yokopovich is in the end zone at Bills Stadium when Kansas City played there. In the photo in bottom right, she's in Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Chiefs.

Just two years removed from earning a B.S. degree in Exercise Science at Fredonia, Audrey Yokopovich began the 2020–2021 NFL season with a realistic opportunity to pick up a Super Bowl ring.

Really! Ms. Yokopovich is a seasonal athletic training intern with the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, who fulfilled the expectation to return to the Super Bowl by defeating the Buffalo Bills in the AFC championship game.

“That would be the ultimate,” Department of Biology Associate Professor Todd Backes, who founded Fredonia’s Exercise Science program, said of an athletic trainer hooking up with a very, very good NFL team. “You ask students now, what level of athletic training would be the ultimate, and professional sports is their choice.”

Yokopovich paid her dues to reach this height. After graduating from Fredonia in 2018, the Webster, N.Y., native immediately began working towards a master’s degree in Athletic Training at Daemen College. She was also a student athletic trainer at Daemen and Erie Community College. Students complete clinical rotations every semester for two years at Daemen, which has an affiliation with the Buffalo Bills,

“There are a finite number of (athletic training) jobs... It’s great, impressive what she has accomplished.”

— Dr. Todd Backes

which put her on track to become an athletic training student intern for the Bills in the 2019–2020 season.

Pursuing a master’s, serving a full-time internship with the Bills and also working part-time as a waitress made this a very challenging time in Yokopovich’s life. But it was definitely worth it. She praised the Bills staff as “the best.” Yokopovich quickly gained their trust in her abilities, so she worked in many areas. She was in charge of athletic room maintenance, field set-up, practice and game day sideline duties and

Reaching the Super Bowl a dream of Exercise Science graduate

inventory, in addition to assisting in the treatment and rehab of the players.

Trainers endure long days

Yokopovich reported to the Bills seven days a week, promptly after classes on weekdays, and was stationed on the sidelines during home games. “I loved every second of that student internship with the Bills. That experience is the sole reason I am in Kansas City right now and I am grateful to the staff for teaching me so much while I was there,” she said. “I worked my tail off for them and made connections with the staff that will last a lifetime.”

That very successful experience earned Yokopovich a strong recommendation from the Bills, when the Chiefs, seeking a seasonal athletic training intern, reached out to Buffalo for candidates.

She joined Kansas City in June 2020, and will serve through the 2021–2022 season.

Seasonal athletic training interns in the NFL work year-round, must be wholly committed and willing to make sacrifices. They’re on the sidelines at practices and games, both home and away. It’s their goal to get the players healthy and ready for the next game, Yokopovich said, so that means they’re the first ones to arrive in the athletic training room in the morning and the last ones to leave.

“Once the players come in, we assist with their rehab programs and treatment. During practices and games, we are in charge of their hydration and are there for any minor injuries that may happen on the field. Their health and safety is our main concern, so we are always available to the players throughout the day.”

Yokopovich knows many athletic trainers who love the high school and clinical setting, and she recognizes the professional level isn’t for everybody. “For me, however, this is a dream.”

She’s always wanted to work with the highest caliber athletes.

“The players are incredible, we have so much fun in the training room and on the field, but come game time they only have one thing in mind—winning. Everyone here has the expectation of being a

champion again and I hope to be a part of the process this season.”

Yokopovich wasn’t with the team during its Super Bowl run, “but I can see just how motivated the players and coaches are to get another ring...And I want one, too.”

Her Bills’ tenure taught Yokopovich the culture and business of the NFL, so adapting to a new team wasn’t too difficult. “The hardest adjustment was making new relationships and rapport

Dr. Backes and other professors always wanted students to be successful in the classroom.

From Mike “Koz” Kozlowski, her equipment room boss at Fredonia, Yokopovich learned patience when she was frustrated with practice or her coaches, and to always put a smile on her face. “He always listened to my complaining and had advice ready to give.”

She remembers Backes as “a breath of fresh air.” He accommodated

“The players are incredible, we have so much fun in the training room and on the field, but come game time they only have one thing in mind—winning. Everyone here has the expectation of being a champion again and I hope to be a part of the process this season.”

— Audrey Yokopovich

with the players and staff,” Yokopovich said. She’s also become a Certified Athletic Trainer, and with that comes many more responsibilities than she had in Buffalo.

Athletics, an integral part of her life since she began playing soccer at the age of 4, followed by lacrosse in third grade, attracted Yokopovich to Fredonia. She couldn’t choose between her two loves—soccer and lacrosse—and Fredonia gave her the opportunity to play both sports.

“There was no way I could’ve chosen between the two sports when my college search began,” she recalled.

Excelling in soccer, lacrosse

Yokopovich shined in both sports, attaining All-SUNYAC honors four times, twice in each sport. An ACL injury ended her Blue Devil career in the first lacrosse game of her senior year, and that affirmed her decision to become an athletic trainer.

“The experiences I went through with that injury and the timing of it all, steered what became my passion for helping athletes and getting them back on the field or court physically and mentally,” Yokopovich said.

Academics was an added Fredonia bonus. Exercise Science wasn’t the easiest major, but Yokopovich indicated

student-athletes when they had to travel and miss a lecture, Yokopovich recalled, and was a big help to her in the graduate school application process and Yokopovich’s steadfast pursuit of an athletic training career.

Yokopovich heralded strength and conditioning coach Ryan Maloney as “the best,” saying he was always positive and pushed her to be better. “He had high expectations for me and always called me out when I wasn’t reaching my full potential. Looking back and now experiencing more in life, that was the best thing any coach has done for me.”

Backes remembers Yokopovich being highly driven to the athletic training profession. He teaches an introductory career course, and “she had pretty much made up her mind that was what she was going to do.” Yokopovich is Fredonia’s first Exercise Science student to enroll in Daemen’s MSAT program, Backes said.

“There are a finite number of (athletic training) jobs,” Backes said. “It’s great, impressive what she has accomplished.”

Yokopovich is preparing a video presentation that explores her own career path and life lessons learned along the way for Backes to show to students in his classes.

A challenge met: the College Lodge Forest and the Western New York Land Conservancy

By Dr. Jonathan Titus, Department of Biology

The Western New York Land Conservancy had an agreement in place to purchase 168 acres of the College Lodge Forest from the Faculty Student Association (FSA), provided it could raise \$790,000 by Dec. 31, 2020.

The land conservancy reported in January that it, “with help from the Friends of the College Lodge Forest, raised \$790,000 to purchase the land and sustain it through the group’s Stewardship Fund. A \$200,000 challenge gift was met by a Dec. 31 deadline.” The purchase price

to the Faculty Student Association was \$314,000 with the remaining \$476,000 being held by the WNYLC for costs related to stewardship.

The College Lodge Forest is a community gathering place and one of the most beautiful natural areas remaining in Western New York. The property was purchased in 1939 by SUNY Fredonia students, with their own funds, for the main objective of promoting healthy outdoor activities and nature study. Generations of Fredonia alumni

have hiked its trails and participated in nature studies on the property.

Since then, the land has been a prized learning laboratory for thousands of teachers, researchers, and students from around the globe. At least 144 species of birds, 15 species of reptiles and amphibians, 15 species of mammals, and more than 500 species of plants—including eight orchid species and four plant species considered very rare in New York State—exist on the property. It boasts a network of hiking trails, a pristine wetland and

old-growth forest. Old-growth forests are rare in Western New York, and the College Lodge Forest is one of the best-preserved patches in the region. Interestingly, the land sits on a continental divide: on one side, rainwater drains toward Lake Erie and the Atlantic Ocean, while on the other side, it drains toward the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, the College Lodge Forest’s unique position on the Portage Escarpment above the Lake Erie plain places it in an important bird migratory corridor.

FSA has owned the property and operated the historic lodge on the site since 1969. The cost of maintaining the land and all of the buildings is high, so the FSA decided to sell the forest to the WNY Land Conservancy. By purchasing 168 acres from FSA, the Land Conservancy will protect the forest and utilize modern land management techniques especially in regards to non-native invasive species control. The Land Conservancy will also improve the trail system by installing signage and educational materials. FSA will be able to invest funds from the sale into the stewardship of visitor facilities on the portion of the property it retains. FSA will continue to own and operate the lodge and the surrounding 33 acres.

Myself, a SUNY Fredonia Department of Biology Professor, and my wife, Priscilla, the WNY Land Conservancy’s staff ecologist, have been actively engaged in the campaign to protect the forest. The College Lodge forest is an irreplaceable natural resource. The old growth forest is unique and the marsh is one of the most pristine in the region. It is critical that the lands are permanently protected and properly managed.

The 168-acres of forest that the land conservancy is purchasing includes miles of hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country ski trails. Once the sale is completed, the Land Conservancy will maintain it as a publicly accessible nature preserve that will continue to benefit Fredonia students, faculty and staff, as well as the Fredonia-Dunkirk community and the entire region.

To learn more about the College Lodge Forest and the WNY Land Conservancy efforts, visit online at <https://www.wnylc.org/college-lodge-forest>. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort.



An aerial view of autumn colors in the large freshwater marsh at the College Lodge. (photo by Jude Merchant)



Vivid late afternoon reflections on the surface of the marsh. (photo by Jude Merchant)



Snow covered hemlock boughs. (photo by Priscilla Titus)



Hepatica is one of many spring ephemerals that only thrive in undisturbed forest communities. (Jon Titus)



A group of hikers hears Dr. Jon Titus talk about his old growth monitoring plots in the hemlock forest. (photo by Priscilla Titus)

1950s

Raymond Binis, '51, (elem. ed.) was President of his company, ECM, Inc., for 44 years. He later became Chairman of the Board and his wife, Paula Youngs, assumed the presidency. Following retirement, he served as President of the Conway (S.C.) Chamber of Commerce for two years, and as a member of its board of directors for three years. He is also a volunteer mentor with SCORE, and in 2018 wrote the book, "Sally's World, A Bewildering Tailspin," and is working on a second book.

1960s

Carolyn Christy-Boyden, '65, (elem. ed.) reports that she continued to perform in Southern Tier New York venues. She portrayed the

their first English as a Second Language textbook, "Now We're Talking," published by Blue Sage Learning for College Level Students.

Rebecca (Gifford) Bennett, '69, (English) has been traveling, gardening, hiking and biking in retirement.

1970s

Doug Seamans, '70, (English) completed a 1,000-mile personal outdoor-only walking challenge during the spring of 2020. He taught English for 38 years at Randolph Central School.

Janet (Sibley) Evert, '71, (math./sec. ed.) retired from the Math Department at Erie (N.Y.) Community College south after 34 years. She was the recipient of

beautiful grandchildren round out a very busy "retired life!"

James Gormley, '73, (pol. sci.) an attorney at Barclay Damon's Buffalo, N.Y., office, was listed in the 2021 edition of Best Lawyers in America[®].

Karon Cogdill, '74, (theatre) was featured in a Sept. 9 article in *The Atlantic*, "Teaching Theatre Through Four Decades of Social Change." She has taught theatre at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, Texas, for over 40 years, and has directed its theatre conservatory since 2008. She plans to retire at the end of the academic year.

Ron Destro, '76, (theatre) is the author of the new book, "The Shakespeare Masterclasses." He is also the founder of the drama

for the Baltimore (Md.) Symphony Orchestra.

Valerie (Booth) Nixon, '78, (bus. admin.) was named to the board of directors of the Educational Foundation of Alfred, Inc., a private foundation representing faculty, staff and friends of Alfred State College. She is an Executive Vice President Emeritus at Alfred State with more than 30 years of service, and a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

1980s

Jim Gould, '80, (English/sec. ed.) was named Director of Corporate Affairs at Franklin Energy and AM Conservation Group. He previously was a senior partner with Brimstone Consulting Group.

in Vienna, Va. The article can be viewed online at <https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/choral-reckoning-imperfect-history-of-the-united-states>

Simone Fancher, '85, (sociology) is the owner of The Cheesy Chick Cafe & Food Trucks. She was named by Buffalo Business First as a 2020 Women of Influence honoree in the Family Business category.

Wendy Corsi Staub's, '86, (English) new book, "The Butcher's Daughter," the third book in her Foundling's trilogy, was released for sale in August 2020.

Jeff Hammond, '87, (elem. ed.) coaches boys soccer at Fayetteville-Manlius (N.Y.) High School and had his 500th career win in October 2020.

Fair," "42nd Street" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie." She lives in Andover, Vt., and is the creator of the Little Yellow House Studio.

Linda (Grisanti) Marszalek, '88, (speech and hear. hand.) is co-Founder and Head of School at the REACH Academy Charter School in Buffalo, N.Y. She was named by Buffalo Business First as a 2020 Women of Influence honoree in the Innovation category.

Charles Callari, '89, (bus. admin.) has been named General Manager of the Bainbridge (Ga.) *Post-Searchlight*.

Jeffrey DeAngelo, '89, (psych.) is the Director of Student Services in the Waverly (N.Y.) Central School District. He oversees the district's special education, social/emotional learning and homeless youth/foster

John D'Agostino, '92, (English), who is Editor of *The Post-Journal* in Jamestown, *Observer* in Dunkirk and *Times Observer* in Warren, Pa., received first place for Page Design/Presentation from the New York News Publishers Association in its 2019 contest for Newspaper Continuing Excellence for newspapers under 10,000 circulation.

Dr. Thomas J. Quatroche, '92, (bus. admin.) was the recipient of a 2020 C-Level Executive Award, hosted by Buffalo Business First.

Dr. Jeanne Gunther, '93, (elem. ed./early child.) is an Associate Professor of Education and Program Chair of Early Childhood Education at Francis Marion University in South Carolina. She was profiled in the university's "The Patriot News" student newspaper.

business manager for a Broadway touring contracting agency. He also reports that the pandemic has delayed his third NYC Marathon.

Work by **Mary Beth Fiorentino, '94**, (graphic design) was selected for the "Made in NY" annual juried exhibition at the Schweinfurth Art Center in Auburn, N.Y. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in metal from SUNY New Paltz and has taught metalsmithing and design at Cazenovia College and PrattMMP College of Art and Design.

Rachel Curtin, '95, '00, '12, '17, (music ed., school bldg. lead., school district lead.) was named Secondary Principal at Chautauqua Lake Central School in July 2020. Prior to this, she was Elementary Principal at Albion (N.Y.) Central School District for seven years.

Sonja LaBarbera, MSOL, MS CCC/SLP, '95, '96, (speech and hearing hand., speech-language path.) was recognized with a 2020 "Women who Mean Business" Award by the New Haven Biz. She is President and CEO of Gaylord Specialty Healthcare in Wallingford, Conn.

Dr. Casey T. Jakubowski, '98, (soc. stds./history) who is serving as Department Chair of Liberal Arts and General Studies at Hudson Valley Community College, was named the recipient of the 2020 Eminence in Mentorship Award from the College Student Personnel Association of New York State.

Greg Borowski, '97, (commun.) was promoted to Vice President, Product Solutions at ACV Auctions, Inc., in Buffalo, N.Y.

Andrew Beiter, '98, (elem. ed./curr. and instr.) is one of five inductees into Class of 2020 of the National Teachers Hall of Fame, and will be inducted in June. He teaches eighth grade social studies at Springville (N.Y.) Middle School, and is also the co-founder and Executive Director of the Academy for Human Rights as well as co-founder and board president of the Educators' Institute for Human Rights.

Joe McCarthy, '98, (bus. admin.) works for Culligan in the household sales department.

Jason Ostrowski, '98, (mus. theatre) was a guest actor on the Nov. 17, 2020, episode of "FBI: Most Wanted" on CBS. He has performed in a number of Disney shows and toured with "Les Miserables."

Continued ►



Douglas Fronczek, '73 (photo by William Kramer)



Dr. Laurie P. Scott, '77



Linda (Edelman) Moxley, '78



Anne Miller, '84, '92 (photo by Emily Miller Benoit)



Richard Keeler, '91 (photo by Tycen Klemmer)



Catherine (Gawinski) D'Agostino, '91, '93



Sonja LaBarbera, '95, '96

Narrator and Helene in a staged reading of Ibsen's "A Doll's House" in Greene; read Chekhov's short story "Misery" at the Broome County Library; played Sen. Knight in a staged reading of Larry Gelbart's "Mastertgate," and was Miss Shields in "A Christmas Story" for the third time at TCP in Owego, N.Y.

During the current health crisis, **Martin Zavadil, '65**, (music ed.) gathered together a trumpet quintet to perform at outdoor church services and small outdoor concert settings.

Dr. Eugene Alexander, '66, (elem. ed.) is working on his third book, and has been married to Sandy for 53 years.

Dr. Neil C. Griffen, '67, (physics) a spiritual medium, is the author of the new book, "From Science to Spirituality," released by ReadersMagnet.

Jill Nagrodsky, '68, (elem. ed.) and her teammates/co-authors wrote

the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Carol "Stash" Stanley, '71, (theatre arts) has been named one of the first inductees into the Bishop Ludden High School Hall of Fame in Syracuse, N.Y. She will be recognized in the summer.

Douglas Fronczek, '73, (music ed.) was recently inducted into the North Tonawanda (N.Y.) Arts Hall of Fame. He retired in 2019 as a choral teacher in the Sweet Home School District in Amherst, N.Y., and is currently serving as organist and choir director at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Pendleton, N.Y. Doug and his wife, Margo, recently celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary. Their travels include Eastern Europe, where they taught English in Poland, cruises of the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Alaskan waters and a two-week land/water adventure in China. Douglas adds that four healthy and

school, the Oxford Shakespeare Company, with locations in New York and London.

Robert S. Bardach, '77, (sociology) was recently appointed as Executive Director of Jewish Home Assisted Living in River Vale, N.J.

Dr. Christopher K. Mirabelli, '77, (biology) was named to the board of directors of Aro Biotherapeutics.

Dr. Laurie P. Scott, '77, (music ed.) was named in Spring 2020 by the *Alcalde*, the alumni magazine of the University of Texas at Austin, as one of the "Texas Ten" - 10 professors named by alumni for inspiring students and having a lasting impact on their lives.

Linda (Edelman) Moxley, '78, (music ed.) has been named the first Executive Director of the Sarasota (Fla.) Concert Association. She formerly was Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Pam Krna Barry, '82, (chem.) continues to work at Acorda Therapeutics as Director of Quality GCP, and noted the company's Parkinson's Disease drug, Inbrija, was approved in the U.S. and European Union. She noted, "Was proud of that, and so happy to help all those patients." In her free time, she enjoys bird watching, hiking and walking at the New York Botanical Gardens, and spending time at her house in Nags Head, N.C.

Dr. Mary Louise (Cookson) Stahl, '83, '84, (elem. ed.) earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership in 2016 and has been an adjunct instructor in Fredonia's College of Education.

Anne Miller, '84, '92, (applied piano/music history, piano performance) of Ashburn, Va., and her students were featured in an article in the Smithsonian *Folklife* digital magazine. She is choral director at Oakcrest School, a private school

Dr. Mark Anthony Neal's, '87, '93, (English) article, "Patti LaBelle, the Doyenne of Philadelphia Soul," appeared in the Nov. 30, 2020 issue of the *New York Times Style Magazine*.

Patricia (Tomasello) Sachse, '87, (special stds.) is retired after a 32-year career of teaching students with special needs. She continues to teach virtually and looks forward to traveling and pursuing her love of art.

Susan Haefner, '88, (mus. theatre) joined with **Lisa Brigantino, '86**, (music theory) and **Lori Brigantino, '87**, (special studies) to create a virtual living room concert on Okemo Valley's (Vt.) YouTube Channel. An actress, singer, dancer, director, choreographer, producer and teacher, she has appeared many times at the Weston (Vt.) playhouse and Northern Stage in White River Junction, as well as on Broadway in productions of "State

care services and supports, and has been serving students and families in public education for 27 years.

1990s

Catherine (Gawinski) D'Agostino, '91, '93, (English) placed as a semifinalist in the Big Apple Film Festival and Screenplay competition for her work, "Say Something Funny." She has been an English teacher for 28 years, currently at Dunkirk High School.

Richard Keeler, '91, (art/graphic design) was recently promoted to Vice President, Experience Design, of First Command Financial Services.

Michelle (LaMattina) Mullen, '91, (elem. ed.) is serving as First Vice President for the Wisconsin State Reading Association, and was conference chair for the virtual conference of the association.

Sarah Lyn Eaton, '99, (theatre) was one of six writers accepted via blind submission into KNOW Theatre's 2020 Playwrights and Artists Festival in Binghamton, N.Y., with her one-act, "Have You Ever Heard a Goldfinch Sing?" She also has a story due for publishing in *parABnormal Magazine* (Dec. 2020); a supernatural story based on an event that happened when she lived on White Street during college.

2000s

Anne Carncross, '01, (theatre design) was promoted to full Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Mitch Alger, '05, (interdis. stds./legal studies, psychology) was named Deputy Commissioner of the Steuben County (N.Y.) Finance Office.

Christopher Kensy, '06, (math/middle child. cert.) was named the 2019–20 Amherst (N.Y.) Bee Coach of the Year and the ECIC II Coach of the Year.

Ryan Gerace, '07, (bus. admin./mgmt.) was named as Regional Manager for Quicklee's Convenience Stores. He will oversee several stores in the Rochester, N.Y., area.

Lynne (Bona) Ruda, '07, '09, (music ed.) was named a New York State 2020 Woman of Distinction, and a

Catherine Konieczny, '11, (earth science) is Director of Science at Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Preserve in Hamburg, N.Y.

Kevan McDonald, '11, (bus. admin./market.) received a certificate of completion from Penn State University's two-year golf course turfgrass management program in March 2020, and is an assistant in training at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Ga.

Gillian (Cotter) Riesen, '11, (music ed., music perf.) and her husband, John Riesen, joined with several arts organizations to create a Christmas album of classics, "Christmas at Home."

Native American Studies program at the university.

Amy Simon, '12, (sport mgmt.) was named to the SUNYAC All-Decade Team in Women's Lacrosse. She works for Aerotek as an account manager of its engineering division for Western New York.

U.S. Army Capt. **Philip Tappan, '12**, (music ed.) recently took command of the U.S. Army School of Music at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Va. Prior to arriving at Little Creek, he held the Associate Bandmaster position at The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" on Fort Myer, Washington D.C.

Katie Kleine, '15, (English) was named to the SUNYAC All-Decade Team in Women's Lacrosse. She lives in Manhattan and is a sales-team manager for Bankers Healthcare Group.

Shane Sullivan, '15, (music therapy) is Music Therapy and Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator at the Waveny Care Center in New Canaan, Conn. He was profiled in an article in the *New Canaan Advertiser* in September 2020.

Marissa Cussins, '16, (social work, sociology) was named to the SUNYAC All-Decade Team in Women's Lacrosse. She is a residential manager for Southern

Residence Director of Kasling Hall, was named the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the College Student Personnel Association of New York State.

Patrick Ryan, '20, (commun./journalism) has been named a Digital Producer at WIVB-TV News 4 Buffalo (N.Y.).

Submit Class Notes at fredonia.edu/classnote or send to the Alumni Affairs Office, Alumni House.



Sarah Hameline, '04



Spencer D. Morgan, CFRE '08



Byron Abt, '11 (Furman University photo)



Catherine Konieczny, '11



Jesse Rubinstein, '11



Alyssa Stephens, '19 (photo by Kyle Licht)



Lynne (Bona) Ruda, '07, '09, with New York State Senator Patrick M. Gallivan.

She currently serves as the head of Technical/Design and as the program's Technical Director.

Natalie White, '01, (commun. disorders and sci.) with colleague Hector Miguel started The Queer SLP podcast, which discusses LGBTQ+ issues in the field of speech-language pathology.

Christopher R. Ault, '03, (media arts) graduated from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., with a Master of Science degree in Systems Engineering in May 2020.

U.S. Navy Musician 1st Class **Vincent Moody, '03**, (music ed.) participated as an instructor in the Fredonia School of Music virtual summer music camp for youngsters in 2020.

Sarah Hameline, '04, (music therapy) is a Clinical Assistant Professor in music therapy at the Arizona State University School of Music, Dance and Theatre in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

finalist for the 2021 Music Educator Award awarded by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum.

Spencer D. Morgan, '08, (history) who is an Associate Director of Development at Fredonia, has been awarded the Certified Fund Raising Executive designation, joining over 6,900 professionals from around the world who hold the CFRE International designation.

2010s

Rob Herrmann, '10, (bus. admin.) was named to the SUNYAC Baseball All-Decade Team, earning the nod as a catcher. Today, Rob lives in Colorado and runs his own photography business, Rob Herrmann Photography.

Byron Abt, '11, (commun./video prod.) is Director of Video Services at Furman University in South Carolina. He was formerly Director of Video Services at the University of South Carolina Upstate. He also works for ESPN as a professional freelance camera operator.

Jesse Rubinstein, '11, (comp. info. systems) was hired as an Information Technology Specialist at Lumsden & McCormick, LLP, CPA, in Buffalo, N.Y.

DJ Schier, '11, (commun./public rel.) now serving as Director of Student Affairs at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, N.Y., was named the winner of the 2020 Distinguished Service to the Profession Award presented by the College Personnel Association of New York State.

Megan Mietelski, '12, (child. inclusive ed./math.) was named to the SUNYAC All-Decade Team in Women's Lacrosse. She teaches reading to seventh and eighth graders in the Fairport (N.Y.) school district and coaches at Orangetheory Fitness.

Matthew Pagels, '12, (public account.) was elected in November 2020 as President of the Seneca Nation.

Dr. Marilyn Schindler, '12, (comp. info. sys.) completed her Ph.D. in American Studies at the University at Buffalo. She helped to create the

Katie Bartkowiak, '13, (sport mgmt.) was named to the SUNYAC Softball All-Decade Team. She lives in Nashville, Tenn., and owns her own business, K&K Weddings

Michael Buziak, '13, (account.) was named to the 30 Under 30 list by Business First of Buffalo. He is a Vice President and Senior Lead Auditor for Key Bank, N.A.

Stephanie Doche, '14, (music perf., music ed.) performed at the Memphis Air National Guard Base in Memphis, Tenn., on Sept. 12, 2020 with Opera Memphis. The 164th Airlift Wing was just one of many locations that the Opera Memphis held its Sing2Me program where they performed opera outdoors. She recently joined Florida Grand Opera as part of its 2020–21 Studio Artist Program.

Samantha (Gaudio) Didrichsen, '15, (early child. ed./biology) and her husband, Wesley, moved to Buffalo, N.Y., from the lower Hudson Valley in July. Samantha has accepted a position as an early autism teacher at The Summit Center.

Tier Environments for Living and is a residential rehabilitation aide for Aspire of Western New York.

Michael J. Hawk, '16, (music perf.) appeared in the LA Opera's streaming "Living Room Recital" with other artists for a program of music inspired by Shakespeare. In November 2020, he appeared as Ophèmon in LA Opera's virtual production of "The Anonymous Lover," by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges.

Sagar Das (formerly Puja Das), '18, (criminal justice, psych.) from Melville, N.Y., is in the Master of Public Administration program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and is president of the program's student association. They served as an intern in a legislative office last year and holds a fellowship, connected to The Center for Community Alternatives.

Alyssa Stephens, '19, (music ed.) a graduate student in the Master of Music in Music Education degree program at Fredonia with a concentration in Voice, and



Undergraduates named as Homecoming Queen and King

As is tradition at Fredonia, students selected the 2020 Homecoming King and Queen. Senior Patrice Townsend from Goshen, N.Y., was elected Homecoming Queen. She has dual majors in Political Science and Criminal Justice, played on the Blackhorse rugby team, and planned to graduate in December. Her future plans include attending law school. Junior Josue Petion from Brooklyn, N.Y., was named Homecoming King. He has dual majors in Communication: Video Production and Business Administration: Finance, and is a Resident Assistant in Chautauqua Hall. He also contributes to campus as a tour guide and a student ambassador.

Homecoming royalty runners-up were Mackenzie Brooks and Parker Dickinson.

Take Note:

We love it when the Fredonia family grows! We are always looking for announcements of marriages and children—and photos! We look forward to hearing from you at

📧 fredonia.edu/classnote

Births

A daughter, Betty Beatrice, to Michael J. and **Jenny (Capitano) Barr, '14** (commun./public rel.).

Deaths*

Alumni

Thelma Brynolfson, Class of 1938

Helen (Markiel) Bryner, Class of 1939

Maxine (Titus) Fitzgerald, Class of 1945

Thomas E. Baker, Class of 1951

Jeannine J. Fariel, Class of 1951

Annette M. (Hartigan) Koch, Class of 1952

Samuel Certo, Class of 1954

Richard J. Abram, Class of 1955

Stanley R. Sherman, Class of 1956

Sally (Eifler) Malone, Class of 1957

Nicholas P. Calanni, Class of 1958

Joseph S. Benenati, Class of 1961

John J. Dromazos, Class of 1961

Audrey M. (Smith) Crowe, Class of 1962

Dr. Nancy Gabrielsen, Class of 1962

Lester K. Greenwald, Class of 1962

Edward Griese, Class of 1962

Rev. Canon Dr. C. Wayne Freeberg, Class of 1963

Phillip Schneider, Class of 1964

B. Anthony Gray, Class of 1965

Carol A. (Moline) Gregoreski, Class of 1965

Christian Granger, Class of 1966

Priscilla A. "Pat" Mulè-Crabtree, Class of 1966

Dr. Michael J. Strada, Class of 1967

Leonard A. Muhs II, Class of 1968

Nancy E. (Vidal) Westerburg, Class of 1968

James F. Fischer, Class of 1970

Christopher Pendergast, Class of 1970

Mark P. Glowski, Class of 1971

Roger P. Shannon, Class of 1971

Wendell "Larry" Barr, Class of 1972

Sheri (Tyrrell) Brogdon, Class of 1972

Debbie Sherman Guayasamin, Class of 1972

Mary Ann M. (Brown) Rogers, Class of 1974

Jean (Eisenhart) Sewell, Class of 1974

Kevin W. Kuhlman, Class of 1977

Gary E. Parnell, Class of 1977

Jean (Elsen) Pascarella, Class of 1977

Peggy Baker Murphy, Class of 1978

Marcia Adair (Hube) Townsend, Class of 1978

Linda (Ardillo) Bradley, Class of 1979

Sueann Barnes, Class of 1980

Roberta A. Corcoran-Andrasik, Class of 1980

Alona M. (Nowak) Forbes, Class of 1980

Kathy L. (Carlson) Stoll, Class of 1982

Eric J. Amberge, Class of 1983

Dr. David C. Christian, Class of 1983

Onyekachi Asobie, Class of 1984

Barbara A. Ortolano, Class of 1984

Sandra (Vaticano) Antrim, Class of 1986

Jeanne M. Wohlfeil, Class of 1986

Janice Lynn Evans, Class of 1987

Marcia M. (Pickles) VanBrocklin, Class of 1987

Philip H. Bley Jr., Class of 1990

Evelyn K. (Guziec) Kuzdale, Class of 1990

Steven A. Miga, Class of 1991

Elaina Mary (Pelkey) Renfrew, Class of 2000

Gilbert W. Snyder III, Class of 2003

Lindsey M. Anderson, Class of 2008

Faculty/Emeriti

Dr. Everett J. "Doc" Phillips Jr., Chair, Department of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Dance/Cross Country Coach; 1970–1994

Dr. Jere A. Wysong, Professor, Department of Sociology/Director of Health Services Administration Program/Dean for Arts and Sciences; 1973–2002

Dr. Sanford J. Zeman, Dean of the Faculty for Arts, Education and Humanities, Associate Dean, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs; Acting Dean for Fine and Performing Arts, Acting Dean of Professional Studies, Dean for Teacher Education and Graduate Studies; Director of Continuing Education, Academic Director 3–1–3 Program, Administrative Director of the Fredonia–Antwerp (Belgium) Program, 1960–1988

Staff/Former Staff/Retired Staff

Barbara M. Daniels, Keyboard Specialist/Calculations Clerk/Office Assistant; M&O Management, Career Development; 1999–2016

Susan Hach Murphy, Employee Assistance Program Coordinator, 2013–2020

Roger Nelson, '71, Business Office, 1963–1970

Julia I. (Mucha) Schrantz, Faculty Student Association

Carmela (Dubose) Thompson, '78, Counselor, Admissions, 1979–1981; Director, Educational Development Program, 1981–1986

Seth Wolnik, Cleaner/Janitor, Facilities Services/Reed Library, 2017–2020

Students

Joseph Del Monaco

Andrew L. Erns

B. Tanner Kahlau

Correction

We incorrectly identified **William Finn, '83**, in the Fall 2020 issue of the *Statement*. Mr. Finn, named as a recipient of the Fredonia Alumni Association's Outstanding Achievement Award, is currently President of both Hospice of the Western Reserve and Western Reserve Care Solutions. We regret the error.

*Memorials may be directed to a scholarship established with the Fredonia College Foundation. See fredonia.edu/foundation.

A copy of the foundation's most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry of the New York State Office of the Attorney General at www.charitiesnys.com, (212) 416-8401, or by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or us at 272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY, 14063



2016 Lanford Presidential Prize recipient Julianne M. Foster with Mrs. Lanford.

Esther Arroe Lanford, widow of former SUNY Fredonia President Oscar Lanford, passed away Nov. 8. The couple established the Lanford Presidential Prize of the Fredonia College Foundation, which since 1996 has been the highest honor given to a graduating senior who exhibits academic achievement, balanced accomplishments and exemplifies Fredonia's ideals. Dr. Lanford awarded the first prize to Psychology major Aimee M. Pickhardt at Commencement in 1996, and Mrs. Lanford attended many Commencements over the years to congratulate each honoree.

CAREER CORNER

by **TRACY COLLINGWOOD, '94**
Director, Engagement and Career Development

Developing skill competencies for today's job market

It is not enough to rely on your educational credentials alone in the job market. Employers typically make hiring and promotional decisions based on soft skills and competencies that are needed most in the workplace. Over the last half-century, structural changes in the economy have caused demand for cognitive competencies to rise.

According to a recent report from "Workplace Basics: The Competencies Employers Want," by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the report shows which competencies are in high demand across all occupations, and details how the intensity with which workers use in-demand competencies can affect their earnings.

The five most in-demand competencies across the labor market are:

1. Communication
2. Teamwork
3. Sales and customer service
4. Leadership
5. Problem solving and complex thinking

These skills are associated with higher earnings. For example, earnings increase by about 20 percent when workers use their communication skills more intensively in the workplace. Problem-solving and complex thinking are not far behind, with 19 percent higher earnings on average reported.

Not only can a case be made for higher job satisfaction and workplace adaptability, but intensive use of these skills brings value across all industries and occupations. For career success, workers need a balanced mix of competencies that are generally valued across the workforce and competencies that have high value within specific occupational contexts.

If you are trying to get that job or promotion you have wanted, now is the time to make an appointment at the Career Development Office. Whether you are starting or negotiating career challenges and opportunities, the CDO can help you plan your next move. If you would like to make an appointment to discuss strategies to advance your career, contact the CDO at (716) 673-3327 or email careers@fredonia.edu.

You can also visit the CDO's website at www.fredonia.edu/cdo to schedule a virtual appointment.



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, *Workplace Basics: The Competencies Employers Want*, 2020. (<https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/competencies/>)



FREDNetwork - powered by Handshake

Search for job opportunities in the CDO's FREDNetwork powered by Handshake. The career management system intuitively connects you to relevant job opportunities based on your profile, interests, and search activity.

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Call (716) 673-3327 Email careers@fredonia.edu Web fredonia.edu/cdo

Help recruit the next generation of Fredonians!

You can make an important impact on your alma mater by engaging with future Blue Devils. By becoming a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter you can help recruit students wherever you are.

Working with prospective students is a fun and rewarding experience. One of the most powerful and impactful recruiting tools is the experience of successful alumni who are proud of their time at Fredonia and who want to share their stories.

When you are a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter, you take part in college fairs near you, helping to expand Fredonia's footprint in communities across the country. It allows you to remain connected with your beloved Fredonia campus, enhance the value of your degree by attracting qualified students and create opportunities for future Fredonians.

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