Comprehensive Campaign goal smashed

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Academic success in the State of COVID

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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 11, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Virtual event hosted via CareerEco
Job fair for K-12 careers
https://www.bdt.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
458 E. Shorewood Drive
Dunkirk, NY 14048

Alumni Board Meeting
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 22–24
Family Weekend
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend
Friday–Saturday, Oct. 15–17
Classes of 1970 and 1971 50-Year Reunion
Alumni House, Campus

AUGUST
Alumni Golf Tournament
Friday, July 16
Shorewood Country Club
458 E. Shorewood Drive
Dunkirk, NY 14048

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

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.

Statement
THE MAGAZINE FOR FREDONIA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Cover STORY
Comprehensive Campaign goal smashed

Nurturing INNOVATION
THE CAMPAIGN FOR FREDONIA

5
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 stories 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 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. Stephen H. Kolson, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Access to Quality Education

**Goal: $10 Million**

$10,343,254

"Students were the main beneficiaries of donor's generosity," Falkone 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 $305,000. 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.

Learning from Experience

**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," Gosssett 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, Gosssett explained.

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 closely 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 Theatre 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.

"With new technology that our students need to know. They are going to be dealing with projects; they’re going to have to deal with designing 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 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 unrestricted funds for scholarships to first-time/first-year students and emerging initiative or address a significant or unanticipated need. Donors also support other funds 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 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.

Goal: $2 Million | $2,237,902

Business students’ market research guides rebranding of Fredonia restaurant

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 Brewer’s Ale House in Fredonia. For their senior capstone, five students in BUAD 499: Strategic Management gathered marketing research to guide 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.

Mr. Boehnke, who earned an M.S. in Accounting at the University at Buffalo and works at a large accounting firm in Williamsburg, 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.”

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.

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 Thobado noted 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: Simulation experience provides real-world test of new student services building

The new Fredonia Student Services Center, which opened last fall, offers a variety of resources that enhance student success. A simulation experience provided students with a valuable test run of the building.

Students in a class at the College of Education and College of Business to come together in a test run of an interactive simulation experience designed to prepare staff to work in the new Fredonia Student Services Center.

Interim Dean of the College of Education Anna Thobado noted the simulation experience included 12 role-plays to test the student Center’s ability to provide a first-rate experience to students.

Student Services, which is now housed in Fredonia’s College of Education, was created in 2012 to provide one-stop service for both students and the campus community. The time, energy and resources they have provided has been heartwarming and the impact will be far reaching,” Gossett said.

President Stephen K. Kolios 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 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 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.

Goal: $2 Million | $1,445,939

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“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,” Kolios 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.

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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 truly amazed how resilient they are,” School of Music Interim Director Daniel Haza 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 Haza 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 Verno Hoff 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. Huf 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

“A choir is meeting as a whole group except for ‘outsiders,’ ” Huf reported. Amphitheatre was used alternately by Hoff’s Chamber Choir and Adjunct Lecturer Brent Weber’s Fredonia Camerata.

Hoff 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 all singing together,” he remarked. Camerata rehearsals in the amphitheatre, as well as in Mason Hall, went 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/rehearsing 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 Karen 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.

Alumni become guest speakers

Professor Christian Bernard brought several guest teachers to MUED 344 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, Fredonia 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 Bernard’s class was held.

Eleven students in Bernard’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 10th student. “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 HEPA filter devices in his office and placed social-distancing marks so he installed a HEPA filter device in his office and placed social-distancing marks due to the larger spaces between singers, but a nice blend is coming into the mix. “The students are so excited to be making music again; they hadn’t since March.”

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.

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 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 — 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 Wilbraham, a prominent leader in the field and member of the New Jersey Symphony, served as a role model and 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.

“This is how you prepare for an audition! It’s an exciting opportunity to be here on campus,” Wilbraham said. “I see their smiling faces behind their surgical ClearMasks every day.”

A mild September allowed Distinguished Teaching Professor Julie Newell to place MUS 213: Opera Seminar I in person, as her amphitheatre 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.”
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 (NYSP CLS). 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 NYSP CLS. 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 for 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 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, including Fredonia—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 lectures, 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 lectures, 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.

“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—state, county and federal labs. She also created a professional directory that included their contact information 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.” — Lori Ana Valentín, Ph.D.

Eleven students enrolled in the internship program, 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...”
Rhema Williams completes a still-life drawing in ARTS 205: Foundations of Drawing II.

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.

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

Lecturer Patricia Noel (far right) guides students in her class, ENGL 212: Introduction to Ecology and Evolution Lab. In the library of morphological adaptations of flowers and behavior of pollinators on the campus woodlot.

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.

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.

Academic success in the State of COVID

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

Distinguished Teaching Professor Julie Newell’s MUS 213: Opera Seminar (shown here in the woodlot near the clock tower) engages in an exercise to boost creativity in character development.

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Lecturer Patricia Noel (far right) guides students in her class, ENGL 212: Introduction to Ecology and Evolution Lab. In the library of morphological adaptations of flowers and behavior of pollinators on the campus woodlot.

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Lecturer Patricia Noel (far right) guides students in her class, ENGL 212: Introduction to Ecology and Evolution Lab. In the library of morphological adaptations of flowers and behavior of pollinators on the campus woodlot.

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 in the class in S204.

Distinguished Teaching Professor Albert Bay reviews progress of a student drawing of Canadaway Creek.

Lecturer Patricia Noel (far right) guides students in her class, ENGL 212: Introduction to Ecology and Evolution Lab. In the library of morphological adaptations of flowers and behavior of pollinators on the campus woodlot.

Megan Troyano, Paige Rzepka, and Emilie Pitts in ENED 530: Topics in Teaching Language, gather in a small group outside Fenton Hall.

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.

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Theatre and Dance overcomes pandemic challenges to bring ‘Macbeth’ to the stage

by Doug Osborne-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, Theatre and Dance overcomes pandemic challenges to bring ‘Macbeth’ to the stage. 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. “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 cinema. 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 (Macduff), Lauren Teller (Lady Macbeth), Jong-Rhee (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, 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.”

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

Photographic memories...
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 as 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 (NY) High School — I fond my 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 1960 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… 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 bleed 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.”

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 1956). 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. 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 NYSSCTFA 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 years 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 Danell-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 Paza, 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 be a time 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 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

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 Lendzian was stage director. Megan Kuhnle, 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-one 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. Lendzian. 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 administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

Those interested in supporting the Hillman Operas can give online or contact the Fredonia College Foundation at (716) 673-3231.
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 inventory. In addition to assisting in the treatment and rehab of the players.

Trainees endure long days

Yokopovich reported to the Bills seven days a week, promptly attending 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 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 intellectualism of (athletic training) jobs... It’s great, impressive what she has accomplished.” — Audrey Yokopovich

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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.

By Dr. Jonathan Titus, Department of Biology

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, Pauline, assumed the presidency. Following retirement, he served as President of the Conew (E.C.) Chamber of Commerce for two years, and as a member of its board of directors for three years. He also is a volunteer mentor with SCORE, and in 2018 wrote the book, “Sally’s World: A Bawdying Tale,” and is working on a second book.

Carolyn Christie-Boyden, ’65, (elem. ed.) and her husband, Anthony, continued to perform in Southern Tier New York venues. She portrayed the

**2010s**

Sonja LaBarbera, ’95, ’96, and

Anne Miller, ’84, ’92, (photo by William Kramer)


Douglas Fronczek, ’73 (music ed., school bldg. lead., school dist. lead) was awarded National Merit Finalist in 2009 by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards at ACV Auctions, Inc., in Buffalo, N.Y. He also reports that the pandemic has delayed his third NYC Marathon. 

Jeff Hammond, ’87, (applied piano/ music theory) and Lori Brigantino, ’91, (theatre) are founders of the Broadway dance company, Searchlight. An actress, singer, dancer, and choreographer, she has worked on more than 30 years of service, as well as co-founder and board president of the Educators’ Institute for Business and the Arts.

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

Jaron Ostrowski, ’10, (mus. theatre) was a guest actor on the Nov. 17, 2020 episode of “The Masked Singer” on FOX. He has performed in a number of Disney shows and toured with “Les Misérables.”
She currently serves as the head of Technical/Design and as the program's Technical Director.

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

Christopher R. Ault, '03 (speech-language pathology) was named to the 2020 Distinguished Service to Education award by the College Personnel Association of New York State.

Lynne (Bon) Ruda, '07, '09 (music therapy) is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Fredonia School of Music virtual summer music camp for youngsters and holds a fellowship, connected to The Center for Community Alternatives.

Residence Director of Kilzling 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 (journalism) has been named a Digital Producer at WIVB-TV News 4 Buffalo (N.Y.).

Submit Class Notes at Fredonia.edu/alumni or send to the Alumni Affairs Office, Alumni House.
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 ClassNotes@fredonia.edu.

Deaths* Thelma Brynolfson, Class of 1938 Helen (Markiel) Bryner, Class of 1938 Alnota M. (Hartigan) Koch, Class of 1945

Alumni


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

Dr. Sanford J. Zeman, Dean, 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 Confucian 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; MGO Management, Career Development; 1999–2016

Susan Hugh Murphy, Employee Assistance Program Coordinator, 2010–2020.


Julie (Schiacht) Schrants, Faculty Student Association; Carmelita (Dubose) Thompson, 78, Counselor, Admissions; 1979–1981.

Director, Educational Development Program; 1981–1986

Seth Wolnik, Director, Educational Development; 2013–2020.

Esther Anne 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 1966 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 Armine M. Pickhardt at Commencement in 1966, and Mrs. Lanford attended many Celebrations. Over the years to congratulate each honoree.

Correction We incorrectly identified William Finni, 83, in the Fall 2020 issue of the Statedman. Mr. Finni, named as a recipient of the Fredonia Alumni Association’s Outstanding Achievement Award, is currently President of both Hospices of the Western Reserve and Western Reserve Care Solutions. We regret the error.

A copy of the foundation’s most recently filed financial report is available from the Fredonia College Foundation.

Statement of Financial Condition 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 users 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 workplace 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.


Developing skill competencies for today’s job market is not enough to rely on your educational credentials alone in the job market. Employers typically make hiring and promotion 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.

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. Login today at https://fredonia.jan unhandsbrace.com/register to create your account and complete your profile so that you can put your best self forward to employers.

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

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

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