Righting a wrong:
Alumnus works to close door on housing discrimination in Buffalo

New electron microscope raises science research to whole new level

Alumna driving to be the best on and off the course

Arenz named New York State Teacher of the Year; alumna one of four Finalists
Alumni and Campus Events Calendar

Some of these events may be subject to change. It is also anticipated that events will be added as the year progresses.

Please check the following link for updates: https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni

MARCH

Career Development Job and Internship Expo
Wednesday, March 6, 1–4 p.m.
Williams Center, Campus
For more information: www.fredonia.edu/cdo

APRIL

Teacher Recruitment Day
Tuesday, April 11, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Niagara Falls (NY) Convention Center
For more information: www.fredonia.edu/cdo

SCHOOL BEATS | SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Arenz named New York State Teacher of the Year; alumna one of four Finalists

MAY

Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 4 p.m.
Williams Center Room 204ABC

SEPTMBER

Family Weekend
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 27-29
Campus

AUGUST

Alumni Board Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 8, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 280 Central Ave.

NOVEMBER

Annual Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 1, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 280 Central Ave.
Thanksgiving Break
Monday–Friday, Nov. 26–29
No classes

OCTOBER

Fall Break
Thursday–Friday, Oct. 19–20
No classes
Class of 1974 50-Year Reunion
Friday–Saturday, Oct. 18–19
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend
Class of 1984 40-Year Reunion
Friday–Saturday, Oct. 18–19
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

DECEMBER

Last Day of Classes
Friday, Dec. 13
Final Exams
Exams will be completed by Friday, Dec. 20

www.fredonia.edu/visit

Admissions Update
Admissions will continue to host daily information sessions starting in late January and continuing through early May. On President’s Day, Feb. 19, Admissions will offer an Academic Majors Fair for all prospective students interested in learning about what programs we have to offer. Admissions will welcome registered Group Visits for High School and Community Based Programs throughout the spring. In late February through April, Admissions will host off-campus accepted student receptions spread across the state, as well as an on-campus Go Big BLUE Accepted Student Day. For details and registration, please visit: www.fredonia.edu/visit
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to connect with you again in this latest edition of the Statement.

Much has been happening at Fredonia since your last visit, so I encourage you to plan a fall trip for our annual Homecoming weekend, Oct. 18 to 20. A robust schedule of events awaits, and there is still time to make your plans. SUNY Fredonia is excited for the total solar eclipse on April 8. The campus is in the narrow path of totality. It will be a day of observance on campus, complete with various activities. Please refer to fredonia.edu/eclipse, which will be continually updated. We hope you can join us!

Along with special events, we are busy building upon the strong foundation of academic success for which Fredonia is known. This semester, we launched the new Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's degree program. Fredonia has received authorization from the SUNY Board of Trustees to confer Master of Business Administration degrees. Our proposal for an MBA in Accounting will now move forward, awaiting SUNY approval. The intent to offer this program has been submitted to SUNY for sharing with other SUNY institutions.

I hope life has been kind to you and that 2024 is off to a great start for you. As we embark on the Spring '24 semester, I extend a warm invitation for you to return just as you remember — the picturesque campus in full spring bloom. Performances, spring outdoor athletics, and throughout the Northeast. This roadmap will frame Fredonia's path forward and challenges and real-time updates, we can't wait to share what's in store and see the collective impact of your generosity on Fredonia's future!

Be sure to watch your inbox and Fredonia's social media channels this spring as we approach Fredonia's Day of Giving on April 3. When Blue Devils come together, they change lives!

Very truly yours,

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

Save the date for Fredonia's Annual Day of Giving — April 3!

Each year we are amazed by the support of our alumni and friends on our annual Day of Giving. Last spring, alumni, friends, staff and students came together and broke the record for the largest amount collectively donated online in a single day to benefit SUNY Fredonia's students! Athletics teams challenged alumni and parents to beat out the other teams, with Men's Soccer and Ice Hockey unlocking bonus gifts for the highest number of donors and the most money raised, respectively. Alumni gave generously to the programs and departments that made a difference in their time at Fredonia, and students stopped by our "Appreciation Station" to learn about the impact of philanthropy on campus as well as to write notes of gratitude to be sent to donors.

This year, we have even bigger and better things planned for the Day of Giving! With more competitions, challenges and real-time updates, we can't wait to share what's in store and see the collective impact of your generosity on Fredonia's future!
Righting a wrong: Alumnus works to close door on housing discrimination in Buffalo

by Roger Coda

At SUNY Fredonia, Coughlin found a “sense of community and space to learn and to explore what I was interested in, and also a supportive environment where I could get the help and assistance and encouragement from teachers and staff that I needed,” he said.

“I think it gave me a chance to be able to do things independently, especially extra-curricular activities, such as the History Club, that gave me a chance to work and build trust, one-on-one, with our club members, and organize events,” Coughlin, who grew up in the village of Kenmore, NY, said of his years at SUNY Fredonia, “but also engage in how history is not only important (but) how it impacts the present.”

Coughlin received the history department’s Outstanding History Paper Award in 2016 and the Outstanding History Student Award in 2016. Erie County (NY) passed a strong fair housing law backed by HOME while Coughlin was a legislative aide for Erie County Legislator April N.M. Baskin in 2018. “Understanding the legislation’s positive impact allowed me to understand and respect the tremendous work that HOME has been doing to right housing discrimination and ensure opportunity for all,” he said.

Professors provide direction

Coughlin credits Department of History Professor Markus Vink and Professor Emeritus A. Jacqueline Professor Alexander Caviedes, Coughlin developed a greater interest not only in how a democracy functions in the United States, but also in how democracies operate in other countries and then comparing and contrasting them with how a democracy operates in the United States.

Ongoing interest in politics and social justice reflected in Coughlin’s already-impressive resume also includes fieldwork organizing for a Congressional candidate and managing a campaign for a candidate seeking a seat on the Erie County (NY) Legislature. Before joining HOME, Coughlin was a direct support professional with Community Services For Every1, a Buffalo organization that provides support and education for developmentally disabled adults and adolescents.

Coughlin’s passion for examining social injustices in the context of history reached a zenith in graduate school. He earned an M.A. in History, graduating summa cum laude again, at the State University at Buffalo in 2023. His master’s thesis, “City of Distant Neighbors: The Proliferation and Entrenchment of Residential Segregation in Buffalo, NY (1934-1961),” was more than well-received. It was awarded UB’s “Best History Master’s Thesis.”

“The obvious play on Buffalo’s “City of Good Neighbors” slogan, with the insertion of “Distant,” brings attention to the essence of what segregation is and what it means to the community, Coughlin explained.

“It’s also calling into question, have we truly been a city of truly good neighborhoods that provide the same opportunity and quality of life for all Buffalo residents?” Coughlin asked.

“In fact, government backed and implemented housing and urban renewal policies legitimizing Buffalo’s residential segregation. Private real estate practices and the prerogatives of white Buffalonians made it a reality,” Coughlin wrote in his thesis.

Policies drove segregation

Residential segregation in Buffalo was proliferated on the city’s east side through a combination of segregationist, exclusionary government policies, white fears over property values attached to home ownership and private real estate speculation, according to Coughlin’s thesis. A regional housing shortage, coupled with deteriorating housing conditions in segregated, redlined neighbor- hoods, disproportionately impacted Buffalo’s growing Black population in the 1940s and 1950s.
Local government’s response was to pursue segregated public housing construction and deliberate on renewal policies. Coughlin discovered, rather than investing money to refurbish existing dwellings or construct new, single-family homes for Buffalo’s burgeoning African American population.

Coughlin tapped into multiple sources for information: Buffalo History Museum, where he examined documents compiled by mid-20th century developers and architects; local and government publications that included a survey of dislocated households conducted by the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority and the “redlining” map created by the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation in Buffalo that rated its 60th anniversary in 2023.

“It’s not just a job, but a chance to address the history and its consequences with one person at a time and also to work with a dedicated staff that has the same mission and is receptive to my perspective as an historian at HOME.”

— James Coughlin, ’16

Tied a home’s lending risk to the neighborhood’s racial demographics.

Other primary sources were archived issues of The Buffalo Evening News and Buffalo Criterion, a Black newspaper published beginning in 1840.

Since joining HOME in August, Coughlin has worked one-on-one with clients who believe they have experienced housing discrimination, and he documents and educates clients on their rights and the fair housing laws. “I feel like working at HOME is a great intersection of research with understanding the impact of systemic racism, as well as education and advocacy for others.” HOME commemorated its 60th anniversary in 2023.

M.S. thesis stays relevant

What’s remarkable about Coughlin’s master’s thesis is its shelf life; it’s not gathering dust. Coughlin self-published the research as a fictitious—non-commercial print work—with Buffalo Books, an independent bookstore, where it’s on sale, as well as at four other Buffalo-area bookstores. So far, over 200 copies have been sold, and sales continue to grow each week.

Coughlin has presented talks on his “City of Distant Neighbors” research many times, including at the Phi Alpha Theta Conference at LeMoyne University and Milton Pielure Conference at the State University at Buffalo, and at four talks in October 2023 to give the presentation in the Williams Center. Department of History Professor Mary Beth Sievers, who introduced Coughlin at the talk, said Coughlin’s master’s thesis has established him as an expert on residential discrimination and the fight for equitable residential policies and programs.

What do “highly advantageous,” “intriguing” and “so much detail” have in common?

They’re superlatives used by Geology and Environmental Sciences Associate Professor Rachel Echevarria to describe her experience with the new Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) at SUNY Fredonia. Ms. Echevarria wasn’t the only student praising the SEM and its capabilities in the semesters to come.

That’s because students enrolled in several science fields and faculty who teach them in Houghton Hall and the Science Center will share the SEM—equipped with an Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDS) detector—that significantly expands their research opportunities. They’re able to image extremely tiny objects and determine their chemical composition. Several faculty will incorporate the SEM/EDS system use into upper-level courses, such as mineralogy, petrology and paleontology in the Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences. As well as biology and chemistry courses taught in their respective departments.

With this machine we will have the ability to do energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy, which is an analysis that lets us visualize the composition we can see what elements are making up different parts of an object,” explained Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences Associate Professor Thomas Hegna.

Dr. Thomas Hegna and senior Rachel Echevarria adjust the focus on images of tiny freshwater crustaceans less than a millimeter in size on SUNY Fredonia’s new scanning electron microscope.

Echevarria gained hands-on experience using the SEM by working with Hegna in his lab in an independent research project during the fall semester.

“The images are spectacular because you get to see such small details that you normally aren’t able to with the naked eye. It really captivated me and made me want to continue learning more.”

—Rachel Echevarria, from Fredonia
The sounds that Celiz and his crew were making didn’t even seem real, remarked Department of Theatre and Dance Professor Ted Sharon. “I kept looking over at the board operator to see if he was pumping effects through their mics. You don’t believe it until you see it happening, blink a few times, and then double check the impossible sounds your ears are hearing,” added Mr. Sharon, who is also the incubator’s entrepreneur-in-residence and presided over the question-and-answer session.

Celiz believes majoring in Music Education at Fredonia helped to facilitate the creation of Beatbox House and, combined with striving to bring out the best of his students when he taught music to students in kindergarten through eighth grade in New York City for five years, mirrors his philosophy of life.

“Practicing and studying at Fredonia really helped with curating a space that was safe enough for everyone to express themselves, that’s the best way that Fredonia helped with that. It definitely played a part in helping to make that happen,” Celiz said.

At Fredonia, Celiz, studied clarinet and saxophone all four years, played in the Fredonia Jazz Ensemble and Weapons of Jazz Destruction, along with the College Symphony Orchestra, sang in the University Chorus and was a member of a cappella group “Much More Chill.” He counts among his favorite teachers Reese, who he remembers as being very passionate and insightful; Emeritus Lecturer Bruce J. O’hstone, who taught him how to emote, and Associate Professor Andrew Seigel, who taught, “a lot about life through our lessons with him.”

Celiz left teaching in 2019 to pursue a career as a full-time teaching artist and performer. Beatbox House has performed all over the world through American Music Abroad, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, and has entered numerous competitions in Asia, Europe and both North and South America.

“I never thought this was going to be my career after graduation, that Beatbox House was something that I would do, but it’s a thing that I love to do,” Celiz said. “That’s kind of carried me in life. I’m just open to see what the rest of life has to offer.”

“The students were thrilled with the four of them—they stayed and talked with them in small groups as if they were old friends long after the night was officially over,” Sharon remarked. “But, that’s Fredonia—it’s a special place. There is a welded link between students and alumni that holds them together in friendship and appreciation even when they haven’t met before. It’s a connection that naturally crosses over the years and without compulsion.”

Celiz and Beatbox House were gentlemen-artists through and through, Sharon added. “Their focus was on making a real connection with people and the best music they were capable of. You couldn’t be prouder of an alumnus, and could ask for a better example for our current students.”

Students had a front-row seat to experience Beatbox—a growing musical style phenomenon that pushes the boundaries of sounds that can be produced by the human voice—courtesy of ‘21 alumnus Chris Celiz, who brought members of his Beatbox House—a collective of world champion Beatboxers—to campus.

“We just make music; we don’t use any instruments—that’s an easier version of how to describe it,” Mr. Celiz said in describing Beatbox. “We’re kind of like a rock band, but we (create music) with our mouths.”

“If you have a hard time wrapping your arms around Beatbox, think of actor/comedian Michael Winslow, known as ‘The Man of 10,000 Sound Effects,’ from ‘Police Academy’ movies, Beatbox, which evolved from hip-hop music, recreates rhythmic, percussive sounds through the mouth, especially when accompanied by rhymes or rapping.

“It’s similar, but what we are exploring is how to create different sounds using extended techniques … replicating a lot of sounds that we hear, which is what Winslow does,” Celiz said. “Think, for us, we’re just doing the same thing; we’re creating music just in the 2023 fashion, hearing things that are happening in popular music (today) and replicating them with our voices. We are continuing that tradition.”

Celiz and three Beatbox House colleagues—there are five core members altogether, each from a different part of the country—dazzled an audience of students, faculty and community members in the Blue Lounge at the start of the fall semester. That day also marked the beginning of Beatbox House’s week-long October residency at Chautauqua Institution.

“We just make music; we don’t use any instruments—that’s an easier version of how to describe it. We’re kind of like a rock band, but we (create music) with our mouths.” — Chris Celiz, ’21

Their campus appearance was co-sponsored by the Fredonia Technology Incubator as part of its Arts and Business Series, along with the School of Music and Fredonia Alumni Association.

“In this event, we were able to feature the work of a successful alum and have students interacting with a group of amazing musicians from diverse backgrounds—culturally and experientially—with whom students could see themselves represented,” explained School of Music Professor Jill Reese. In so many ways, the performers helped the audience to explore the intersections of identity, diversity and inclusion through their music.

“Beyond sharing a mind-blowing performance, they also engaged the audience of students and professors (and music teachers and residents from Chautauqua County) in considering the ‘possibilities’ represented by their stories as artists, entrepreneurs, community educators, and citizens of the world,” added Dr. Reese, who teaches Music Education.

Each artist is a soloist, educator and musician, and their ability to work together and bring a communal vibe unlike any other gives the audience “a one-of-a-kind experience,” Reese explained. “It leaves them with a new possibility of what human beings are capable of and inspires people to take action on what’s truly possible for themselves,” Reese added.

www.beatboxhouse.com/music

www.fredonia.edu/alumni
Rochester, NY, was the center of the golfing world in May 2023. A SUNY Fredonia alumna was front and center. Victoria “Tori” (Gray) Schiro, ’15, is in her second year as CEO/Executive Director of the Western New York section of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA). The Western New York PGA, one of 41 sections nationwide, has 275 PGA professionals.

Ms. Schiro and her colleagues work to recruit new golfers and retain those already playing in her territory, which encompasses Buffalo, Rochester, and some of Western Pennsylvania.

“We’re a small section, but we get things done,” said Schiro. “We only have three or four in our office, and we’re on the road around New York four days a week. Our list of events is very extensive.”

Schiro is one of only six female section leaders across the country. Even more unique, her section is the only one with an all-female staff. “It’s my personal mission to get young women into golf,” said Schiro. “Golf wasn’t available to me growing up. I didn’t even think it was an option. Now, it’s my goal to create a welcoming environment.”

That kind of environment brought Schiro to the SUNY Fredonia campus as a student. “I took one step on campus and said, ‘I’m coming here,” she recalled. “It has such a feeling of home. I love walking around the village.”

Born and raised in Buffalo, NY, Schiro earned a bachelor’s degree in Communication with a minor in Sport Management at SUNY Fredonia, and later earned her master’s degree at Canisius College.

“I was really engaged in all areas of campus (at Fredonia),” Schiro said. “I was part of the Dance Team, I was in the PRSSA [Public Relations Student Society of America], I worked in the Admissions office.”

Schiro said her professors in the Department of Communication taught her to expand her horizons in all facets of life. “They helped me shape this path and opened my eyes for a career in sports,” she said. “Also, having extra classes for my minor opened a whole new door.”

The doors swung wide open when she interned for the WNY PGA as an Event and Operations Coordinator. “I attended a junior golf event bright and early in the morning,” Schiro recalled. “I was out on a golf cart watching the most beautiful sunrise and thought, ‘This could be my office.’ That’s when I knew a career in golf was in my future.” After spending a couple of years as an officer for a local bank, the person who oversaw her internship asked her to return to the office as Assistant Executive Director. She was promoted to her current position in January 2023.

Four months later, Schiro and the WNY section of the PGA were the epicenter of the golfing world when they hosted the PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, one of four annual “major” championships in professional golf.

“It was amazing,” Schiro said. “It was a great collaboration between the PGA and the people at Oak Hill.” Schiro said. “It was a truly successful championship with some incredible golf played.”

By the way, not only is Schiro a newly-appointed director, she has another new title: Mom. She and her husband, Anthony, ’15, have two daughters under 2, and the whole family came with her to Rochester for championship weekend.

“It was hectic, but it was great,” Schiro said. “I’m a busybody. It is welcomed chaos.”
Interns vital in promoting athletics

The job of the Sports Information Office is to create that impression and accomplish its goals and do so in a positive light. Getting the word out through the department’s website and social media can be a big challenge, so many different channels to work through. The department relies on student workers, often students on the soccer team. Oftentimes serving the department through internships. During the fall, they made a big impact.

Alex Needham, a junior Communication Video Production major, has taken on the task of creating videos for the department. He, along with J’latin Welsh, has also contributed with his photography, is also a Resident Assistant and works for the I.T. department on campus. Kayla Welsh, a Sport Management major, has been a familiar name to the student-athletes as well. The fourth-year student began taking photos at home sporting events and, eventually, her work was used by many teams as well as the department. She has completed multiple internships with different teams in addition to being at home events for every sport. Her work has been used extensively on the Blue Devil’s website, of her work in hopes of continuing her photography after graduation.

Amber Louis, a Sport Management major, has overseen the creation of the department’s social media graphics. Ms. Louis created the graphics and prepared them with her creative abilities. Nearly 300 unique graphics were posted during the fall semester. Other interns included Sport Management majors, Sydney Tedford and Tyler Curtis. They have attended nearly every home event during the fall semester and have covered nearly every aspect of gameday staff and overseeing production/Video Production major, has been a familiar name to the students as well. The fourth-year student began taking photos at home sporting events and, eventually, her work was used by many teams as well as the department. She has completed multiple internships with different teams in addition to being at home events for every sport. Her work has been used extensively on the Blue Devil’s website, of her work in hopes of continuing her photography after graduation.

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Fredonia State Blue Devils

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Carrington, a Communication-Audio Production Video Production major who is doing his internship with the men’s basketball team, has helped create videos that have totaled nearly 300,000 views. Needham has also worked with various teams in the department in creating reciting videos as well as documenting what’s like to be a student-athlete at Fredonia State. Needham himself is a member of the baseball team. Carrington, on social media, and at the end of the year banquet. She shares all her work with the student athletes and coaches, too, and has even taken road trips with some teams. Welsh has also brought some creativity to the department’s Media Day. She was the impetus behind adding some lighting and special effects to create some very unique shots. Along the way, Welsh has also been able to create quite a portfolio of their work in hopes of continuing her photography after graduation.

Women’s Coach Chris Case has been involved with the soccer programs at Fredonia State since he started as a player in the fall of 1997. Entering his 22nd year as the women’s head coach, he wanted to create a little more pride in the program, and give his players a better experience. After seeing what the men’s basketball team had done in overthrowing its locker room and looking to alumni for help, Case followed suit and has created one of the most modern spaces on campus. Already with one of the nicest soccer stadiums in the state, Case wanted to add to his players’ experience. Through contributions from alumni sponsoring lockers and the team’s own fundraising efforts, Case was able to add the following:

- Brand new wooden lockers. Each locker has its own custom nameplate with graphics and outlet to charge the players’ devices.
- LED lights above and below the lockers.
- A Media Wall with the school’s logo and a 46’ 4k monitor suitable for creating social media posts.
- A kitchenette with a Keurig, and recovery station with three Thera Guns.
- Custom logos on the walls, a 60-inch TV, and new carpeting.
- Cleat dryer heater for rainy days and warming cleats before practice on cold days.

The old locker room was, well, pedestrian. "We wanted to create a point of pride and excitement the players would see every day,” said Case. "It is also a spot that will be used to impress recruits.

The feedback from the team has been nothing but positive. The players spend more time in their locker room to gather and socialize, aiding in team building and camaraderie. They even added a Wii to the locker room and hosted a Wii Bowling tournament this fall.

Opportunities have also taken notice. “Several coaches had made positive comments to me after seeing posts on social media and have been blown away,” said Case.

Future plans include adding furniture, a nutrition station, and more signage with jerseys, sponsors plaques, and alumni plaques in the back of the lockers, with quotes from alumni and their positive messages,” said Auer. “It’s cool to see how players years ago can give you advice from their experiences.”

Another hugely popular item is the clean dryer. It has a timer so it will turn on before practice, so Auer’s cleats ‘would be warm for morning practice.”

Auer echoed Case’s sentiment that the locker room is now a place that players would want to hang out, mentioning how players would show up earlier before practices and games and hang out as a team.

There is still an opportunity to sponsor a locker and support the team. For more information, contact Coach Case at Christopher.Case@fredonia.edu or Ashley Dates in the Office of Development at adates@fredonia.edu.
Winter fun!

A formal “winter ball” helps to brighten the cold and dark days.

Yes, there were lots of skiing shenanigans on the area slopes.

Social media snaps
Stay connected with fellow alumni using any of our social media platforms:

- FACEBOOK @fredoniaalumni
- X (TWITTER) @fredoniaalumni
- INSTAGRAM @fredoniaalumni
- YOUTUBE @fredoniaU
- LINKEDIN @fredoniaU

A State University of New York at Fredonia 43,325 followers +1 (fredoniaalumni)

SUNY Fredonia’s Computer Science Club and local students in a dynamic Virtual of Code event. Guided by our talented club members, students from Northern Chautauqua Catholic School and Silver Creek High School joined in, networking and coding with the club. Visit our virtual sessions link and see more.

Kudos to our coding pals and the Computer Science Club for hosting a fun virtual event for students and educators! Learn more, https://bild.jv/2/k3.

What is the Hour of Code Movement?
Global coding event, held December 4-10 in 2023.
• Over 400 partners, 35,000 educators, and 50,000 volunteers support the event.
• Over 1 million registered, 180 countries.
• Over 1.05 million events worldwide.
• 35,000 registered events in 2023.
• Reaches students in over 133 languages.
• Over 10 million participants engaged.
• Females complete 50% of the learners.

#hourofcode #CodetoChange #SUNYFredonia
#ComputerScienceClub

SUNY Fredonia alumnus Zachary “Zach” Arenz, ’10, ’12, who teaches music at Rochester (NY) Flower City School 54, was named the 2024 New York State Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Arenz earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Music Education at Fredonia and was a member of the bassoon studio with Professor Laura Koepke.

The university has an additional point of pride—another one of the four Finalists for the award was Fredonia alumna Ellen (Connelly) Foley, ’84, who earned her Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, and a Master of Science in Education in 1987 with a concentration in Reading. She teaches in the Fredonia Central School District’s Wheelock Early Childhood Center.

Ms. Foley noted, “I am a proud Fredonia State graduate and feel that it prepared me well for my Early Childhood teaching career. I am pleased to represent Fredonia State as a finalist for the New York State Teacher of the Year.”

New York State Education Department Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young J r. stated in the formal award announcement, “World-class educators like Mr. Arenz and each of our finalists, exemplify the role our teachers play as ambassadors for excellence and equality in education, shaping future generations for a brighter, fairer, and more inclusive world for all.” Arenz was described by New York State Education Department Commissioner Betty Rosa as “the embodiment of a dedicated and inspirational teacher.”

In the news release from the New York State Education Department, it was noted that prior to joining the staff at Flower City School 54, Arenz taught classroom music in Sweden to students in grades seven to nine and mentored students in grade nine to prepare for high school and career opportunities by creating academic and social goals. In addition, Arenz holds a certificate in therapeutic and crisis intervention for schools.

Along with his traditional music classes, Arenz also teaches small ensembles and instrumental lessons and has developed a music enrichment program and techniques for students who are experiencing grief.

School of Music Dean David Stringham also commented on Arenz’ honor. “It’s heartening for the School of Music community to see an alumnus receiving an award like this—but it’s also not surprising. Mr. Arenz has been described by his colleagues as someone who demonstrates dedication, commitment, competence, and love.”

He is deeply engaged with his students, developing their musicianship in contexts from concert band to popular music, addressing their nonmusical needs by providing clothing and personal care items in his classroom ‘Community Closet,’ and learning into what his former principal described as difficult conversations that examine how teachers might engage with inequities in public education. Mr. Arenz shared that his educational philosophy is that “if you see yourself in your learning, you’re going to learn.” Since Mason Hall opened in 2014, our faculty and staff have empowered students to be these kinds of educators, who facilitate students creating, performing, responding, and connecting in, around, and through music in ways they find relevant and meaningful.

We are honored to count Zachary Arenz as part of our School of Music alumni network and congratulate him on this recognition.”

One of his teachers in the Fredonia School of Music, Dr. Christian Bernhardt, noted, “I have enjoyed following Zach on social media for the past decade, and seeing him annually at our Winter NYSSMA [New York State School Music Association] Conference. In a recent undergraduate class, I shared the video from Zach’s Teacher of the Year Award, and now have many current Fredonia Music Education majors wanting to observe and work with Zach and his students.”

The Teacher of the Year Program is administered by the New York State Education Department and sponsored by NYSSMA [New York State School Music Association] and other teacher organizations. The program is run in conjunction with the National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers.
Events and Performances

ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER/ THEATRE AND DANCE EVENTS

Events in the DFT Communications Pops Series, the Kaleidoscope Family Series, the Walter Gloor Classics Series and the Western New York Chamber Orchestra Classics Series are supported in part by the season-wide donations of Lake Shore Savings through the Fredonia College Foundation.

Event tickets are available at the Fredonia Ticket Office in the Williamar Center, online at fredonia.edu/tickets or by phone at (716) 673-3501.

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA “HAVING GUESTS FOR DINNER”

Sunday, Feb. 11, 3 p.m.

Rosch Recital Hall

Tickets: $20 general public; free for students in advance ($5 at the door)

A world premier chamber opera composed by Nick Bents.

“EDGES”

Feb. 23, 24, 26 and March 1, 7:30 p.m.

Alice E. Bartlett Theatre

Tickets: $25 general public, advance ($10 at the door); $30 students in advance ($20 at the door)

The play picks up where “The Crucible” left off. Set 10 years after the witch trials, main character Abigail Williams, the accuser who sent 20 people to their death in 1692, lives under an assumed name, hiding to alone for her sins. When a handsome stranger arrives, Abigail takes him in, and long-romantic passions awaken within her. The show also explores “the other side” of the Salem witch hunt and the events that led up to it. Written and directed by Frederick Douglass Copelin.

FREDONIA DANCE ENSEMBLE

March 22, 23, 7:30 p.m.; March 23, 2 p.m.

Robert W. Marvel Theatre

Tickets: $20 general public, advance ($10 at the door); $30 students, advanced ($15 at the door)

A contemporary song-cycle about a young adult’s journey on the edge of their lives which is described as a “burning, witty and honest examination of adulthood that explores what happens when we are at an age where we are supposed to be ready to move on.”

ABIGAIL 1702/A TWICE-TOLD TALE

April 21, 27, 2 p.m.; April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Robert W. Marvel Theatre

Tickets: $20 general public, advance ($10 at the door); $30 students, advance ($15 at the door)

The play is set in 1702, when the first immigrants arrived in America. Abigail Williams, the accuser who sent 20 people to their death in 1692, lives under an assumed name, hiding to alone for her sins. When a handsome stranger arrives, Abigail takes him in, and long-romantic passions awaken within her. The show also explores “the other side” of the Salem witch hunt and the events that led up to it. Written and directed by Frederick Douglass Copelin.

TIMES TO READ

Feb. 23, 24, 26 and March 1, 7:30 p.m.

Alice E. Bartlett Theatre

Tickets: $20 general public, advanced ($10 at the door); $30 students in advance ($15 at the door)

A contemporary song-cycle about a young adult’s journey on the edge of their lives which is described as a “burning, witty and honest examination of adulthood that explores what happens when we are at an age where we are supposed to be ready to move on.”

SPECIAL EVENTS

(Special events may include registration, see the School of Music website at fredonia.edu/Music)

FREDONIA BASS FEST

Saturday, Feb. 25

Mason Hall

Professional players, college students, high school students, teachers and advanced students are welcome to perform, giving a day of performances. Registration is required. Contact the Fredonia B. J. Stachek for information.

FREDONIA CHORAL FESTIVAL

Frida Y, March 1, 7 p.m.

Fredonia Chamber Choir and University Chorus (LS)

Tickets: $20 general public, advance ($10 at the door)

The annual Fredonia Choral Festival highlights the university’s choral ensembles and brings in a world-class guest conductor to campus, serving as a capstone to the fall choral season. The clinician is Dr. Stephen Gusukuma of Furman University. The concert is a ticketed event, and a link to purchase tickets can be found on fredonia.edu/tickets. Tickets are $20 for adults and $5 for students; the event is funded in part by the Camahan-Jackson Fund for the Humanities and through the Fredonia College Foundation.

SOREL VISITING ARTIST RESIDENCY: DR. VALERIE COLEMAN

Wednesday, April 24, and Thursday, April 25

Frida Y, March 1, 7 p.m.

The internationally renowned composer returns to campus for the second installment of her 2023-2024 Sorel Visiting Artist residency. She will be on campus to work with SUNY Fredonia students and present three new works through performances of her music, panel discussions, workshops and more. Events are free and open to the public with support from The Sorel Organization, Inc., through the Fredonia College Foundation.

FREDONIA HARP DAY

Sunday, April 28

Mason Hall

Specifically designed for harpists of all ages and all levels. The no-host day includes harp ensemble rehearsals and performance, a special guest recital by an American Harp Society National Competion Winner, as well as the chance to meet and mingle with other harpists. Participants can play as many or as few of the pieces as they’d like. Ensemble repertoire will be sent when registration is received. Registration is online at fredonia.edu/music/harp-day.
Homecoming 2023 celebration

1. Fredonia Alumni Association President Greg Gibbs and SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison (center, from left) with Fredonia Alumni Association Outstanding Achievement Award recipients Reginald Spiller, '74 (far left) and Kevin Kruger, '94, (far right) who represented SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Thomas Regelski, '62.

2. Members of the Class of '93 having fun at the Dods grove gathering.

3. Evie (Miller) Weinstein, ’73, Duke Weinstein, ’72, and Rose Cumming-Matulek, ’71, back to campus to celebrate being Golden Alumni. Evie was MC at the 50-year reunion luncheon.

4. Colin Plaister, ’72, and former SUNY Fredonia staffer, meets with senior Exercise Science major Hayley Stang, recipient of the Colin and Mayrije Maloney Plaister Scholarship, at the Scholar Donors Brunch.

5. Members of the Class of ’74 and ’73½.

6. What’s a pep rally without the Blue Devil cheerleaders?

7. SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Richard “Dick” Gilman welcomes alumni to the geology department reunion.

8. Members of “Much More Chill” entertain at the pep rally in Steele Hall.


10. Old friends gather at the geology department 60th reunion including (from left) August “Augie” Flotteron, ’75; Geology Professor Emeritus Jack Berkley; Education Professor Emeritus Mira Berkley; Dr. David “Duck” ’73; and Kari Mittelfeldt.

11. Members of “EnFusion” dance perform at the pep rally.

12. Jeniffer Russo (left), a Cornell University viticulture extension specialist in the Lake Erie grape region who earned a B.S. in Biology in 2005, with SUNY Fredonia graduates Deborah Elswinger Bruner, ’85, and Mark Bruner, ’82, following the career presentation she gave as the Department of Biology guest speaker.

13. Environmental Sciences major Tayvia Wright (center) demonstrates a stream table, which is used to model depositional processes, in the Houghton Hall lab to geology alumni Nate Burnside, ’97, and Mia Painter, ’97.
Fasha Antonio ’19
Major: Communication - Public Relations

Where are you now? I work within New York State Parks and Recreation, in a program called “Ladders to the Outdoors.” We provide free field trips for underserved youth in the WNY region. I currently work at Buffalo Harbor State Park, but I can work at any state park I choose for the day, which is very fun. In June, we do special events, table at events, go on field trips with the groups, and much more.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Getting hands-on experience in the classroom and with WNYFF-TV helped develop my love of broadcasting, as well as my desire to be in front of a camera. My professors in the Communication department helped guide me towards my passion of helping underserved communities and opened a world of possibilities for me through experiential learning. I am grateful for my experiences and opportunities I was given at Fredonia.

Douglass Fronczek, ’73
Major: Music Education

Where are you now? After 37 years of teaching junior high students (choral music primarily), I have been serving as organist/choir director at St. Paul’s UCC in Wendelville, NY, since 2010. The congregation is small (choral music primarily). I have been serving as organist/choir director at St. Paul’s UCC in Wendelville, NY, since 2010. The congregation is small: 25 members. I enjoy spending time with my four grandchildren, playing organ at a United Methodist church in Gainesville, GA, and spending time with my four grandchildren. I cherish my four years at SUNY Fredonia, 1969-1973.

1959s
Paula (Hamilton) Griffith, ’66, (music ed.) has farmed great-grandchildren, “fun, healthy, smart and fun.”

Edward McClanathan, ’56, (elem. ed.) introduced Alyson Shepard Bailey at the D.R. Barker Library in Fredonia at a book signing for “The Fair Chambered Cotice”, a compilation of Fredonia historical research by her father, the late SUNY Fredonia Professor Emeritus Douglas Shepard.

1960s
Steven Rosenbaum, ’63, (elem. ed.) lives in Scottsdale, AZ, with his wife of 56 years, Ellen. He is a retired guidance counselor with the New York City Board of Education.

Jean C. Kuehn, ’65, (music ed.) retired after 50 years of private piano teaching, and is presently playing organ at a United Methodist church in Gainesville, GA.

1970s
Deborah Madsen, ’71, (english sec.) gave a presentation on her latest book, “A Deeper Dive,” at the Shorewood Book Club meeting in September 2023. Barbara Bynum-Lenarcic, ’73, (gymnastics coach) lives in Amherst, CO, and a mountain town of 250 residents west of Boulder. She is a Docent at the Denver Art Museum, a volunteer naturalist in Boulder County, and an usher during summers at the Colorado Music Festival. She adds, “1973 males are in my thoughts.”

1980s
Dr. Ted Berg, ’86, (elem.) of Santa Fe, NM, reports that after earning his doctorate, he enjoyed a fulfilling career in a variety of positions in higher education. He has been joined by his seven children in post-graduate activities, and would love to hear from classmates.

Joseph J. Schemer, ’86, (math.) is happily retired from physics teaching after 38 years of fun! Now crafting beautiful objects in wood.

Albina Wood, ’86, (elem. ed.) enjoys spending time with her four-grandchildren, and cooking, reading and doing volunteer work since leaving teaching.

Rebecca Bennett, ’86, (English) celebrated 52 years of marriage in 2023.

1990s
Paul Fein, ’90, (geology) and his wife, Barbara, since his retirement in 2002 from teaching Earth Science in Brentwood, NY, have been travelling extensively, especially focusing on places of scenery with geologic interest. They recently went to the Devil’s Causeway in Northern Ireland, making that the 50th place outside of the U.S. they have visited. They’ve also visited 48 U.S. states.

John F. Arcoti, ’90, (elem.) has published his eighth book, an autobiography, at 92, “From Nothing to Something—Success Plus Achievement Debunked Adversity,” published by Amazon. He and his wife, Carol, live in Kennel, TX.

Robert G. Willover, ’90, (music ed.) at 87 is still performing as an organist.

50-Year anniversary Class of 1973:
(front row, left to right): JoAnn (DiNiro) Marsh, ’76, (elem. ed.) is retired as orchestra director and music department chair at Lake Shore Central Senior High in Angola, NY. She has also been reelected as president of Local 10, Buffalo Musicians Association, and serves as the West Seneca, NY, town historian.

John (DNV) March, ’76, (elem. ed.) of Westfield, NY, retired from teaching after 33 years. After several years as an assistant, he began infant/Toddler certification with Montessori teacher training at CMTE in New Rochelle, NY, under the direction of Virginia Varga. After 31 years in Ithaca, NY, she and her husband moved back to Western New York and she started two Montessori Toddler programs in Erie, PA. John received the Spartan Award for service and dedication and also the Pennsylvania Child Care Association award for teacher of the year. Dr. Ted Berg, ’86, (elem.) of Santa Fe, NM, reports that after earning his doctorate, he enjoyed a fulfilling career in a variety of positions in higher education. He has been joined by his seven children in post-graduate activities, and would love to hear from classmates.

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Dr. Deborah (Annder) Silverman, ’76, ’79 (music ed., English ed.) is the author of the forthcoming 7th edition of the PR textbook, "Strategic Planning for Public Relations." It is anticipated for release in March by Routledge. She took over for her late SUNY Buffalo State University faculty colleague Ron Smith, who died in 2000. Just weeks before the current edition was published, New Mexico City.

1900s
Vincent Saeve, ’80, (loc. stds. sec.) ed. and Anne (Malwauki) Saeve, ’81, (bus. admin.) are happy to announce the birth of their grandson, born to Kyle and Elizabeth (Saeve) Gastell, ’82 (commun.-pub. ret.).

Margaret (Miles) Fahs, ’83, (speech and hearing) enjoyed her summer 2023 beginning of retirement with more travel and time with friends, family and a toddler grandson. Brian De Lorenzo, ’84, (mus. theater) is an award-winning singer, recording artist, actor, and singer-songwriter equally at home in nightclubs, concert halls, and theatres. He has traveled from Alaska to England and from the Mediterranean to Mexico to sing for appreciative audiences. He lives in Boston, MA, with his 22-year-old son, John Ar madole, a landscape architect. In November 2022, Brian premiered a song, “Things Will Get Better”—which he wrote during the COVID-19 lockdown, which was released as a single on May 30, 2023.

Ed Greenway, ’84, (alum.) ed. was inducted into the New York State Field Board Conference Hall of Fame. While at SUNY Fredonia he conducted the Fredonia JAZZ Ensemble and returned to the university at Homecoming in October 2023 as a part of the JAZZ Ensemble reunion.

Dianna (Cameron) Craig, ’85, (math) was elected to the Toro Company Board of Directors. She is currently president of Lincoln, the luxury vehicle division of Ford Motor Company.

James Duckham, ’85, (pol. sci.) retired as a police officer in New York City for the Lacrosse Hall of Fame. He has been a lacrosse coach in the Williamsville school district for 38 years, currently coach at Williamsville East.

Verne Keller, ’84, (bus. admin.) was named to the Women Owned Small Business Person of the Year from the Small Business Administration of Buffalo (NY) office. She operates The Cheesy Chick restaurant and food truck.

Arthur Germain, ’86, (pol. sci.) recently authored a new book titled "The Art of Branding: Brand Storytelling for Business Success." It’s a how-to guide for building and sharing a unique brand story to strengthen customer relationships and increase business profitability. The book is available in paperback and Kindle via Amazon or eBook Bundle.

Mrs. Ebsenfri, who earned her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education at SUNY Fredonia in 1958 and a master’s degree in education from the State University at Buffalo in 1970, was an elementary teacher at Lancaster NY Central School for 38 years. Following retirement, she supervised SUNY Fredonia student teachers for several years. She also served on the Fredonia College Council for several years, appointed by then-Gov. George Pataki.

Active in the community, Mrs. Ebsenfri has served on the boards of the Fredonia Alumni Association, 1989 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center, and the former WCA Home. She also served as president of the Union Power Cooperative Board of Directors, is a member of the Union Power Cooperative Board of Directors, representing District V. Currently, she is also Managing Partner at Worth Tax Advisors and owner of JCPA PLLC.

Cori Loretto, ’92, (mus. therapy) contributed a chapter to the book, “Portraits of Everyday Practice in Music Therapy.” (Routledge, 2023) and co-edited a collection of music therapy songs titled, “Songs of Discovery for Music Therapy,” released by Jessica Kingsley Publishers. Cori has led the music therapy program at The Center for Discovery in Sullivan County, NY, for the past 26 years, and has been an adjunct professor in the MSMT Therapy program at SUNY New Paltz for the past nine years.

Glenn Lankowski, ’93, (bus. admin.) is currently employed as Manager Post Production Engineering, atNFL Films.

Dr. Amy (Diegelman) Parente, ’95, (pol. sci.) is currently employed as Manager Post Production Engineering, at NFL Films.

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Shirley (Miller) Ebsenfri, ’58, created a special gift to the university to celebrate SUNY Fredonia’s bicentennial in 2028. A beautiful handcrafted quill was presented to President Stephen H. Kolson, J. F.
Brick Road Poetry Contest. The book was released through Brick Road Poetry Press on Christmas day. She was the 2020-21 Poet Laureate of Sullivan County (NY). Her poems have been published in journals nationwide.

Mark (Hodge) Stahlhak, ’90, (bus. admin) next to the locker he named “through a campaign run by the men’s basketball program. Mark is President with the Stahlhak Agency in Western New York. While at SUNY Fredonia, Mark played Point Guard from 1987 to 1990 under Head Coach Greg Peclit. Currently, he continues to be involved in basketball as Assistant Vanry Coach and I Junior Vanry Coach of boys basketball at Nichols School in Buffalo, NY. SUNY Fredonia basketball head coach Sean Smiley noted an extensive renovation of the locker room was completed in 2022, including new lockers, refurbishing of the bathroom areas, painting, lighting accents and a collage of "action photos" of basketball alumni. A new Blue Devil logo was added. Friends of the basketball program can "own a locker" including a named plaque with a $500 gift to the Fredonia College basketball program at the Darwin R. Barker Gymnasium (English) has been named to Second Team All-Region at SUNY Fredonia.


Wendy Corsi Staub, ’06, (English) returned to Fredonia to talk about her new book, "Winfaldf," in a program at the Darwin R. Barker Gymnasium.

Evren Harrington, ’18, (mus. theatre) was a performer on "Sondheim Unplugged" (The NY Sessions), Vol 3, which has been nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY in the category of Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album. Jeri Perry, ’08, (edn, ed finish) was one of 27 teachers selected to participate in the Lake Ontario Shipboard Science Workshop, host- ed by New York Sea Grant, in July 2023. He has taught in the Pateny- ra Academy Central School District for 25 years and was named the 2023 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for New York State by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers.

Charlie Post, ’98, (sound rec. tech, music-appled) was nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY as an engineer with David Frost in the category of Best Engineered Album-Classical, for "Contemporary American Composers," by Ricardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Another recording of his of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in his company. Postpro- ductions Audio, was featured on PBS Great Performances also. He was quoted in The New York Times for his perspective on spatial audio.

David "Mac" McMillahl, ’13, (comm-video prod.) and his wife, Danielle, who live in London, En- gland, were interviewed in October 2023 by WHAM Channel 11, Rochester, NY, the week the Buffalo Bills played the (Jacksonville) Jaguars. The interview centered around the NFL's reach into the UK. The 1 p.m. game time was a welcome change for football fans, who are more accustomed to rising to watch the Bills, in the category of Best Classical Album, for "The Barber of Seville" in October 2023, where he is an Assistant Professor. Ian Pope, ’06, (bus. admin., market.) was hired by St. Louis McCar- thy Holdings, Inc., as Director of Sustainability. He was named to the team with a focus on sustainability from the American University, completed GRI Certified Training and is a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Green Associate.

Emily M. Packefman, ’19, (sport mgmt.) has been named to Social Worker/Community Relations at Canisius University in Buffalo, NY.

Jennifer Levesque, LMHC, ’04, (act, painting, and sculpture) was named Principal of Washington County School in Buffalo, NY. SUNY Fredonia basketball head coach Sean Smiley noted an extensive renovation of the locker room was completed in 2022, including new lockers, refurbishing of the bathroom areas, painting, lighting accents and a collage of "action photos" of basketball alumni. A new Blue Devil logo was added. Friends of the basketball program can "own a locker" including a named plaque with a $500 gift to the Fredonia College basketball program at the Darwin R. Barker Gymnasium.

Tenor Kyle van Schoonhoven, ’13, (mus) performed his role debut as Walther von der Vogelweide in Wagners "Tannhauser" in November 2023 at the Metropolitan Opera. Mary Evelyn Hanley, ’12, (music ed.) received a 2023 Career Developmen- t Grant from the William Mathews Sullivan Foundation.

Stephanie Patterson, ’12, (mus ed.) works for Fox Products in Indiana, a maker of double reed instruments. She recently was named a Resident Artist at Seattle Opera.

Stephanie Doche, ’14, (mus, perf.) made her Pennsylvania Opera debut in the role of Rosina in "The Barber of Seville" in October 2023. It’s a role she performed with the Buffalo Grand Opera and Gulfshore Opera earlier in the year. Alex (grayson) Grayson, ’14, (mus. theatre) was named for a 2024 GRAMMY in the category of Best Musical Theatre Album for performances in the lead role of J. Conley in the Broadway show "Paradise." Samantha (dischings) Gaudio, ’11, (early child.) was just accepted to present a research poster at AERA 2024 in Philadelphia, titled, "Striving for Equitable Assessment Opportunity: Preschool Teacher Feedback on a Gamified Self-regu- lation Task."
**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 www.fredonia.edu/alumni.

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**In Memoriam**

**ALUMNI**

Allie (Nelson) Withers, 46
Lois (Schottlman) Edmonds, 49
Charlotte (Hulse) Meyer, 59
Donald R. Gerres, 50
J. David Att, 52
Robert W. MacCallum, 52
Rosamond (ESpoe) Burns, 53
Catherine (Lagana) Rizzo, 53
Dr. Janis Lyke, 54
Dr. Stefan Paul Krchniak, 54
Helene Kats, 56
J. Ansley M. Anderson, 57
Richard "Dick" Geise, 58
Sandrita "Sandy" B. Brown, 59
Richard "Dick" Dudzic, 60
Noreen (Schafer) Melendez, 60
Aileen Elizabeth (Ames) Ayers, 62
Carol J. (Esch) Crowell, 61
Aileen Elizabeth (Ames) Ayers, 62
Noreen (Schaefer) Melendez, 62
Stewart, 63, 72
Richard "Dick" Dudzic, 65
Rose Marie Olivia Gates, 65
Douglas Ahlstedt, 67
Anthony J. Bifaro J. F., 67
Louis D. Carvalho, 67
John S. Abrams, 70
William "Billy" R. Horch, 70
Joy C. (Nielsen) Rea, 70
Joan L. (Tederous) Cain, 71
Blanche E. Adamiak, 72
Robert Keller Fetzner, 72
Janet R. (Hart) Kissock, 72
Carmen J. Minesa, 72
Elizabeth (Bancroft) Pratt, 72
Leora (Byrne) Yanda, 72
Rev. Daniel K. Anderson, 73
James H. Bogdan, 74
Mary Ellen (Rupple) Bushey, 74
Sandra "Sandy" M. (Felshaw) Roberts, 75
Lois (Dildine) George, 75
Kevin H. Rupa, 73
Phyllis Ann (Keyes) Heil, 77
Frank L. Steffen J., 77
Shelley L. Swanson (Sandquist, 77)
Jane E. (Eppstein) Gooch, 79
Diane M. Croxen, 83
James "Jim" jnr., Findlay, 83
Mary J. O'Brien, 84
Dr. Tracy L. Culver, 85
Amy L. Lehman, 88
Marnie K. Kuselios, 90, 95
Jane (Weatherly) Pumphord, 90
Ken Spafford, 94
Pattra (Winjatana) Mattel, 2000
Matthew W. Winger, 03
Amanda (Burtner) Spliter, 12
Dr. Richard A. Leva, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Adjunct, Department of Psychology, 1970–1999
Dr. Donald F. McFarland, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Education, 1965–1996
Dr. Regina Reed, Instructor/Associate Professor, Department of English, 1969–1989
Dr. Thomas Rywick, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Professor/Chair, Department of Psychology/Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 1970–2005
Dr. Kenneth G. Wood, Associate Professor/Professor, Department of Biology, 1965–1987

**Efforts in sustainability usher in end of an era**

This issue of the Fredonia Statement is the final in print form. After publishing 30 full color magazines, and issues in a tabloid format for decades, progress demands that we look toward more “green” and sustainable ways of communicating to alumni. This means utilizing digital methods to share news of your classmates and the university.

While the format may change—we still want to hear from you, whether it be with information for Class Notes, or your personal stories of SUNY Fredonia experiences. We continue to share your enthusiasm and your connections to the place we love, which has been the foundation of so many careers and families. As we shift to digital means of sharing news, it is more important than ever that alumni update their email addresses at www.fredonia.edu/alumni.

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**CAREER CORNER**

By CHRISTOPHER LAGROW

Associate Director of Engagement and Career Development

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**How to navigate the salary and benefits question**

Congratulations, you got the job offer! But your work isn’t done, though! You got the job you deserve, now you need to get the salary and benefits you deserve as well! You may be tempted to just take what is offered because it is (hopefully) a noticeable raise from what you were making. But do you know they want you on board, so why not see if you can get them to improve their offer? You will never have more leverage to request a higher salary than you have between receiving an offer and formally accepting it, so that’s the time to ask.

To request a higher salary, you need to be able to articulate why you should get what you are requesting. Your reasoning needs to be about what you’re bringing to the table for the company, not about what your financial needs are. Is your experience level at the high end for this role? Do you possess some unique skills or experiences that ought to make you more valuable? Perhaps their offer is at the low end of industry or position averages. These are all possible justifications to politely ask for a higher salary.

**Justify your request**

You should not be the first to bring up salary or you can give it. If you’re going to negotiate, you need to be able to articulate why you should get what you are requesting. Your reasoning needs to be about what you’re bringing to the table for the company, not about what your financial needs are. Is your experience level at the high end for this role? Do you possess some unique skills or experiences that ought to make you more valuable? Perhaps their offer is at the low end of industry or position averages. These are all possible justifications to politely ask for a higher salary.

You should not be the first to bring up salary or you can give it. If you’re going to negotiate, you need to be able to articulate what you are requesting. You need to be able to provide a range (“upper 70s”) than a hard number or minimum (“at least $75,000”), and to aim a little higher than what you will (hopefully) settle for.

**Benefits are on the table too**

There’s more than money to discuss! You can inquire about benefits such as health insurance, student loan repayment, vacation/sick time, remote/hybrid work, tuition for further education, and flex time. Instead of more pay, perhaps they’ll let you work remotely once or twice a week or more flexible hours.

There’s never a guarantee that an organization can or will meet your requests, but it’s fair to ask. If you ask for reasonable and defensible changes, keep your tone positive, and are a strong candidate, you just may convince them to improve that offer. The Career Development Office can help you navigate this, or please reach out to us if you’d like to discuss your specific situation.

Call (716) 673-3327, email careers@fredonia.edu, or visit the FREDNetwork at www.fredonia.edu/cdo to set up an appointment. Great luck!

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**CAREER CORNER**

by CHRISTOPHER LAGROW

Associate Director of Engagement and Career Development

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**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.joinhandshake.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 www.fredonia.edu/cdo
We’re just as proud as we can be…

Steve “Major” Giammaria, ’06, (sound rec. tech.) with his Emmy awards presented on Jan. 6 at the first of two 75th Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremonies. The kudos were for Outstanding Sound Editing for a Comedy or Drama Series (half-hour) and Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Comedy or Drama Series (half-hour), both for, “The Bear.” Steve has worked at Sound Lounge in New York City for 17 years—basically, since he graduated from SUNY Fredonia. He also teaches an online course to current SUNY Fredonia students, Audio Post Production, noting, “Teaching has been amazing. I love being able to offer a little window into a field that some of the students might not have even known existed. Besides being able to share knowledge with the next generation, teaching is a great way (selfishly) for ME to learn and stay sharp.”

He met his wife, Greta Boorn, ’06, (childhood ed./art) at the university, adding, “Fredonia was such a great experience. The professors were fantastic, especially the head of the Sound Recording Technology program, Professor Bernd Gottinger, and I learned how to fix things from Greg Snow, which has been a huge asset in my career.”

(photo by Stephanie Pfingsten)