



The Magazine for Fredonia Alumni and Friends

# Statement

Fall 2024

## Relishing those 'neon lights' on Broadway

Genevieve Ellis, '19, joins cast of 'Les Misérables' tour

Fredonia alumnus finds career avenues in art

No reason to retire:  
Music History alumnus still at the forefront of regenerative medical research



 **FREDONIA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

★★★★★  
"GOLDEN DREAM OF A PRODUCTION"  
DAILY TELEGRAPH



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## Admissions Update

The Office of Admissions will continue to host daily information sessions starting in late August and running through early December. It will also offer two Open Houses, where students will have the opportunity to ask questions of Fredonia's academic departments, as well as student support offices.

- **Saturday, Oct. 26 - Fall Open House**
- **Monday, Nov. 11 - Winter Open House**

Admissions will also continue to welcome registered Group Visits for High School and Community Based Programs throughout the fall.

For details and registration, please visit:  
[www.fredonia.edu/visit](http://www.fredonia.edu/visit)

## 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>

To make reservations or register for events, go to [www.fredonia.edu/alumni](http://www.fredonia.edu/alumni)

### AUGUST

**First Day of Classes**  
Monday, Aug. 26

### SEPTEMBER

**Family and Friends Weekend**  
Friday–Sunday, Sept. 27–29  
For more information and to register, go to:  
[fredonia.edu/familyweekend](http://fredonia.edu/familyweekend)

**Family Tree Legacy Breakfast**  
Saturday, Sept. 28  
9 a.m.  
Horizon Room, Williams Center

\$10/person  
To register and pay, go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yb2kbc4u>

### OCTOBER

**Fall Break**  
Thursday–Friday, Oct. 10–11

**Chautauqua County Alumni Event**  
Thursday, Oct. 17  
5:30–7:30 p.m.  
21 Brix Winery, 6654 West Main Rd, Portland, NY 14769  
\$15/person



**Homecoming Weekend**  
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 18–20  
Campus  
For more information go to  
[www.fredonia.edu/alumni](http://www.fredonia.edu/alumni)

**Scholars Breakfast**  
Saturday, Oct. 19  
9:30 a.m.  
By invitation only  
**Class of 1974 50-Year Reunion Luncheon**  
Saturday, Oct. 19  
12:30 p.m.  
Horizon Room, Williams Center  
\$25/person

**Class of 1984 40-Year Reunion Reception**  
Saturday, Oct. 19  
4:00 p.m.  
Main Lounge, Alumni Residence Hall  
\$15/person

### NOVEMBER

**Alumni Board of Directors Annual Meeting**  
Thursday, Nov. 14  
4 p.m.  
Alumni House, Campus

**Veterans Day Ceremony**  
Friday, Nov. 8  
3:30 p.m.  
Multipurpose Room, Williams Center

**November Break**  
Monday–Friday, Nov. 25–29

### DECEMBER

**Last Day of Classes**  
Friday, Dec. 13

**Final Exams**  
Exams will be completed on  
Friday, Dec. 20

### JANUARY

**First Day of Classes of the Spring Semester**  
Wednesday, Jan. 22

### APRIL

**Day Of Giving**  
Wednesday, April 2



Dr. Greg Gibbs,  
Fredonia Alumni  
Association President

Dr. Stephen H. Kolison Jr.,  
Fredonia President

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to connect with you again in this latest edition of the *Statement*. I hope life has been kind to you since we last connected, and that your summer has been active and rewarding.

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. We have a robust schedule of events, which appears in this edition, and there is still time to make your plans.

We are so proud of the current students and staff and alumni featured in this edition of the *Statement*, and we hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we love sharing their stories.

As we embark on the start of another academic year with the Fall '24 semester, I extend a warm invitation for you to return to campus and experience the vibrant campus atmosphere for yourself. In addition to the special events mentioned above, we also have captivating musical and theater performances, fall outdoor athletics, and — just as you remember — the picturesque scenes of beautiful fall colors that will soon envelop our expansive 256-acre campus.

Very truly yours,

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

# Statement

THE MAGAZINE FOR FREDONIA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOLUME 53, NO. 1, FALL 2024

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*Published semiannually by the Marketing and Communications Office at the State University of New York at Fredonia, G111 Gregory Hall, Fredonia, NY 14063, (716) 673-3323. The Statement is emailed to alumni, faculty and staff, and friends of the university. Articles may be reprinted without permission.*



# FREDONIA

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





## Buffalo firm to sponsor live stream of Jazz Studies ensembles

by Roger Coda

Paramax Corporation, an investment bank based in Buffalo, NY, has signed on to become the sponsor of all live stream performances of student ensembles in the highly acclaimed Jazz Studies program at SUNY Fredonia.

At the Diamond sponsorship level, the Paramax logo and verbal message are set to appear at the beginning and the end of all live streamed events of the DownBeat Magazine award-winning Jazz Flextet, as well as of the Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, Faculty Jazz Collective and other jazz combo performances in the School of Music during the 2024–2025 academic year.

Paramax has advised on more than 400 closed transactions for a wide range of public and privately held companies around the world, generally ranging from \$10 million to \$1 billion in enterprise value. The company is led by Russell D'Alba, president and managing director, and Timothy Minneci, executive vice president and managing director.

"We are pleased that Paramax will be our inaugural live stream sponsor for

Jazz. After all, Russ is an accomplished jazz musician as well as president of the company. We're grateful and look forward to others joining in," said Fredonia College Foundation Director of Development June Miller-Spann.

Live stream performances in the School of Music have been seen by up to 2,000 viewers. Both live as well as archived performances are widely watched throughout the U.S. and in eight foreign countries on three continents, Ms. Miller-Spann noted.

More than 300 events are live streamed in the School of Music every year. Featured in these events are more than 450 undergraduate and graduate students and approximately 50 faculty members.

"For nearly 75 years, jazz has held a storied and meaningful place in Fredonia's musical history. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Russ D'Alba and Paramax Corporation in sharing our students' and faculty members' exceptional work far beyond Fredonia," said School of Music Dean David Stringham.

The School of Music has four additional

live stream sponsorship opportunities at the Diamond level. They are the Wind Band series (Concert Band, Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony), Orchestra series (Chamber Orchestra, Sinfonia and Symphony Orchestra), Choral series (Camerata, Chamber Choir, College Choir and University Choir) and Student Chamber Music series (brass, string and woodwind chamber).

A Platinum sponsorship level is also available for specific events — single-instrument ensemble performances (African drumming, bassoon, clarinet, flute, percussion and trombone choir); choral performances with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra; faculty presentations (recitals, lectures and master classes); student presentations and guest presentations.

A Gold sponsorship for all live stream events recognizes sponsors in a scrolling list of names at the end of more than 300 live stream events.

To become a live stream sponsor, please contact Ms. Miller-Spann at [June.Miller-Spann@fredonia.edu](mailto:June.Miller-Spann@fredonia.edu).

## Jazz Flextet wins DownBeat Magazine's celebrated Student Music Award

The already high standing of SUNY Fredonia's Jazz Studies program in DownBeat Magazine Student Music Awards competition has reached a crescendo with the Jazz Flextet winning the outright Student Music Award in the Undergraduate Pop/Rock/Blues Group.

The 2024 award comes on the heels of the ensemble winning consecutive

Outstanding Performance Awards — in 2023 and 2022 — in the undergraduate division of the Large Jazz Ensemble and Rock/Pop/Blues Group categories, respectively.

"This differs from past years in that we won the category outright this year, as opposed to receiving the Outstanding Performance Award," explained Associate

Professor Nick Weiser, head of Jazz Studies.

"That's the biggest distinction, not just being recognized in a category, but actually winning the category. This is the outright winner in the Pop/Rock/Blues category," Dr. Weiser said. Outstanding Performance Awards, while indeed worthy of merit, are analogous to honorable mention in the category.





# Relishing those ‘neon lights’ on Broadway

**Genevieve Ellis, '19, joins cast of 'Les Misérables' tour**

by Roger Coda

It is not unheard of for SUNY Fredonia alumni to perform on Broadway, but it's unlikely they've had to overcome potential career-ending challenges like those Genevieve Ellis faced on the path that's led her to the North American Broadway tour of "Les Misérables."

Leading up to her senior year at Fredonia, Ms. Ellis had sought out numerous opportunities that would prepare herself to pursue a career in musical theatre. She had even defied the axiom — first-year students don't get cast — by being selected to perform in the Walter Gloor Mainstage Series production of "Cabaret." A string of leading roles followed in future Mainstage productions, including "Spring Awakening," "Noises Off" and "Pirates of Penzance," as well as parts in numerous other plays.

"She can do a lot of things: she is a leading woman who is a great dramatic actress with a beautiful voice. But she also excels at comedy; in 'Noises Off,' she had a comedic role and was extremely funny," said Department of Theatre and Dance Professor Jessica Hillman-McCord. "She was cast frequently in our Mainstage season [and delivered] a lot of standout performances."

## Vocal surgery derails auditions

But Ellis encountered a major roadblock during the 2019 spring semester that might have easily dissuaded other aspiring performers whose commitment to the theatre wasn't quite as unyielding as hers.

Diagnosis of a cyst on her vocal cords forced the Musical Theatre major to cancel her senior recital and shelve a



string of anticipated auditions that were to follow Commencement.

"Any sort of vocal lesion can be daunting, however a vocal cyst, unlike many other vocal lesions, almost always has to be surgically removed. It will not go away on its own," Ellis recalled. "I knew that it would be serious, but I also knew, at the same time, that regardless of what was happening with my singing voice, I still wanted to pursue theatre in some fashion, whether that just meant [performing in] straight plays or pursuing more of a film or television route.

"I knew that I still wanted to be part of it somehow," Ellis said.

An alternate plan, enrolling in graduate school to become a voice teacher, was briefly considered. That way, Ellis figured, she could help other students in similar situations, so they wouldn't go through what she went through. "I still wanted to be involved, regardless of what that looked like," Ellis said.

Vocal cord surgery could have easily been career-ending, Dr. Hillman-McCord noted, "but she took the hard but

[pursue] another option, but [singing] was the only thing that I wanted to do," Ellis explained. "Once I got over it, going over it in my mind, I decided that this is what I wanted to do...I never focused on anything else."

Ellis subsequently enrolled in an online voice pedagogy course to enhance understanding of her voice and how it works. "I learned a lot about my voice that helped in my recovery and [placed] me where I am now." Hillman-McCord recalls Ellis as being a very healthy singer as a student, but she had advanced her technique to an entirely new level.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the entire theatre industry along with much of the country as well. Making matters even worse, long-haul COVID-19 sidelined Ellis for 18 months, beginning in March 2020. Ellis said she was Chautauqua County's third confirmed case of COVID-19.

"I was more worried about lung capacity, being able to perform eight shows a week sustainably," Ellis said, adding that she would become so winded

cast in Second Generation Theatre and TOY (Theatre of Youth) productions.

Though lacking actual professional credits or an Actors' Equity Association card, Ellis nonetheless sought audition opportunities through online *playbill.com*.

"I was extremely lucky and saw the posts on PLAYBILL for 'Les Miz' the day it was posted," Ellis said in an interview in the student newspaper *The Leader*. "'Les Miz' was a show that I have wanted to do since I was a child so I knew that I had to submit for it."

"To this day, I still have moments where I pinch myself," Ellis continued in the newspaper interview, "...There were a lot of things. One, I didn't think I'd be able to book it because I was non-Equity. Two, at one point I didn't think I would ever be able to sing again. And now here I am singing a song that I have wanted to sing since I was 8 and being able to do what I want to do."

## Returning to campus

Hillman-McCord arranged to have Ellis return to campus in April to share her



rewarding road and managed to come back from the injury better than ever." A lot of people would have given up when facing that sort of a roadblock, but she was really impressive at getting through it, she added.

Surgery and a three-month pause in all singing didn't derail her theatre dreams. "I was always focused on this, and every doctor told me to go into something else,

going up a single flight of stairs.

But symptoms retreated and Ellis began regaining her stamina, and no longer takes it for granted. "I hated cardio [exercising] before, but now I go on hikes all the time," Ellis said.

Ellis initially landed the role of "Cinderella" in the Erie (PA) Playhouse production of "Into the Woods" in 2021. Upon relocating to Buffalo, NY, she was



inspiring theatre journey with students. At that time, the tour was preparing to head to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, for 10-week run encompassing almost 90 performances at the Prince of Wales Theatre.

"I know that a lot of [students] saw her in 'Les Miz' and she has a large following on social media, so a lot of them knew her from that," Hillman-McCord said. "They are inspired by someone from our program



who has success at this level; it makes them realize that it's possible."

Ellis described meeting students as a cool experience. "I thoroughly enjoyed being able to offer insight that I could not think I would be giving at this point [in my career]."

"They asked questions and I was very open about my vocal surgery," Ellis added. "There were students [at the session] that had been struggling with vocal complications. That was something I wished had been talked about more, that I (would have had) access to" as a student.

In reality, Ellis noted, vocal complications are quite common among performers. "They asked questions that I was very happy to answer, assure

***"We are proud of the training our students get and their success shows when they are cast in Broadway, off-Broadway, national tours, commercials, etc."***

— SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Paul Mockovak

students struggling, that it's very normal" to experience vocal afflictions. She also shared what it was like being on the road with a traveling show and essentially living out of hotels for long stretches of time.

"It's a very, very tough business, but when you see people and recent grads go out and do it, you realize that even though it's hard, success is possible," Hillman-McCord reflected. "She's a great example, she worked really hard, cares deeply about her work and she stays humble. She made sure to get everything out of her education," Hillman-McCord added, and that helped set Ellis up for success.

Ellis was drawn to performing at a very young age.

"When I was very little, probably 3 or 4, I always loved Disney movies. I would dress up as a favorite character in a movie and reenact scenes and force my family to watch them," Ellis recounted.

Little did Ellis' parents know then that their young daughter would develop such an all-encompassing passion for live theatre that would ultimately elevate her

to a Broadway touring production.

Ellis had her "aha" moment – when she acknowledged her future was going to be in theatre – a few short years later. "I saw the touring production of 'Wicked' in Southern California; I must have been 8 years old. It was the moment that I saw that tour that I knew that this is what I

faculty, who remember her as an exceptionally talented performer even as an undergraduate.

"She had a lot of natural ability and was clearly already very strong even before she came to Fredonia," said Hillman-McCord, who was at Ellis' Bachelor of Fine Arts audition for the



wanted to do. I wanted to be doing what they're doing for as long as I can."

Ellis is a member of the "Les Miz" ensemble and an understudy for the character of "Fantine," a role she'd stepped in to fill some 40 times in almost 700 shows through early June. After beginning rehearsals in August 2022, "Les Miz" opened that October in Cleveland, OH, and has confirmed dates through 2025.

### Talented from the start

That she's in the midst of a Broadway tour comes as no surprise to Department of Theatre and Dance

Musical Theatre program. "We like to think we helped polish that ability and helped her get ready for the business, but the foundations were clearly already there."

Even so, Ellis – whose only notable role then was the lead in "Little Women" in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District – had no formal theatre training or experience when she arrived on campus. The Ellis family had relocated from California to the Mayville, NY, area during Ellis' senior year in high school.

"It was a huge culture shock coming from California, with a [senior] class of 900 to a class of 63," she recalled. She





knew little of SUNY Fredonia — aside from its proximity to Mayville — but its strong B.F.A. programs quickly resonated.

"I'm pretty much a homebody, and [SUNY Fredonia] was 45 minutes away from my family, and had really great music and theatre departments, so I was drawn to that. It was close, a great school

a course Mockovak teaches, Ellis remembers doing monologues and song books. Students would put together a 10-to-15-minute sequence and be given the responsibility of making it their own, and "Mr. Paul would guide us through, offering suggestions. It was a very cool class," Ellis recalls. It was fun to be able



Ellis in the SUNY Fredonia production of "Noises Off."

to go to and I was very happy," Ellis said.

SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Paul Mockovak remembers Ellis' work onstage as very clear, engaging, honest and with great resonance. "I can honestly say I was always aware of Genevieve's talent and also aware of her continued growth and depth. Clearly, she took her craft seriously, but also with joy, to go deeper, better," he said.

"We are proud of the training our students get and their success shows when they are cast in Broadway, off-Broadway, national tours, commercials, etc.," Professor Mockovak said. "As with all things the ability 'to do' is only part of the process as producers, directors, casting agents may have a different vision or need. I find that even if not right for 'this role at this time' many of our graduates are remembered and utilized."

In THEA 382: Musical Theatre Styles,

to watch fellow students and work with them in a collaborative experience, she added.

Hillman-McCord quickly became one of Ellis' favorite professors in the department, so she became one of her teaching assistants, a role she also described as being very cool, in her senior year. "I tried to be the person that I needed as a freshman, I tried to be as encouraging as possible," Ellis said.

"We have had multiple graduates on Broadway and national tours like this, including people with multiple Broadway shows like Jen Cody, Evan Harrington, Alex Grayson, etc.," Hillman-McCord said. "It is, of course, very difficult and the odds are against pretty much everyone in this field. That's why we take pride in how many of our graduates manage it," she said.

"We're proud Gen is another great case of that."





## Alumnus finds career avenues in art

by Doug Osborne-Coy

When he launched Brooklyn Custom Helmets as a full-fledged business in 2020, Michael Myers proved a point he learned years earlier in a classroom at SUNY Fredonia.

Mr. Myers, a 2006 graduate who earned a Visual Arts degree in Drawing and Painting, recalled a sculpture class with Professor Robert A. Booth in which he received some sage advice.

Mr. Booth, now a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, told Myers about a former student who was making a career of painting murals on yachts in Florida.

"He said something that always stayed with me — and that was that there are so many avenues to go down with art," Myers said.

In 2020, Myers found an avenue that led to the formation of his own business creating customized artwork on sport helmets — namely Brooklyn Custom Helmets.

"It was just a thought in the back of my head a few years ago," Myers said, of the genesis of his business.

As a hockey fan growing up in Buffalo, NY, Myers followed the Buffalo Sabres and, in particular, the team's star goalies like Dominik Hašek and Ryan Miller.

"I was always drawn to their helmets and the artwork on them," said Myers, who is a goalie himself, playing recreationally at local ice rinks.

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut the world down in 2020, Myers took the opportunity to start painting artwork on some of the goalie helmets he had around his apartment. The first helmets featured superhero themes, including characters Captain America and Superman.

"I placed one on Facebook Marketplace and it sold in about two hours," he recalled.



Myers in his studio.

"It was a lightbulb moment."

Some four years later, Brooklyn Custom Helmets is a full-time business with its own studio space in New York City. While the primary product is hockey goalie helmets, Myers also paints custom football, motorcycle and snowboarding helmets.

He said the creation of a custom helmet begins by talking with a client to get their ideas and by looking at colors and themes tied to the team for which they play. Myers then sketches ideas on his iPad and creates a design that is sent to the client for review.

Once the concept is approved, Myers said there is generally a five-week work window that is dependent on design and intricacy. The design is painted on the helmet using an airbrush and is finished with a high-impact clearcoat to provide as much protection as possible, given the fact hockey is a contact sport.

"It's always a learning process," Myers said. "With every helmet, I learn and take that knowledge to the next one."

Myers' time at Fredonia was also about the learning process. He came to college as a Liberal Arts major and briefly changed his major to Communication. When he took an art class, his path changed for the final time. He became a Drawing and



Painting major in his junior year.

"I wanted to be a painter," Myers said.

At the same time, he had an affinity for sculpture and took many of Booth's classes.

"I learned a lot from Bob Booth," Myers said. "I could watch the sculpture demonstrations he did all day long."

Myers speaks fondly of his time at Fredonia, recalling the sense of community he felt and the friends he made working in the art studios in the Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center.

"We helped and encouraged each other," he said. "It wasn't competitive, but we inspired one another."

As a musician playing guitar and percussion, Myers recalled the "great energy" that was created by the close proximity of the art, music and theatre program spaces at Fredonia.

"I always loved Fredonia," he said.

After earning his degree in 2006, Myers headed to New York City and went to work at Christie's, the renowned art auction house located, ironically enough, in Rockefeller Plaza.

"That got me in front of a lot of different art on a regular basis," he said. "I came to recognize and enjoy the styles of particular artists. There was a big wow factor and it opened my eyes to the fact there is no right or wrong in art."

In addition to custom helmets, Myers also creates fine art which he sells through his website [michaelmyersart.com](http://michaelmyersart.com). He describes his art as contemporary in the abstract style, some of which originates from single line drawings and some of which features themes based on sharks or Stegosaurus.

"I get to put art on people's walls — or on their heads," Myers said.

Asked if he had a favorite among his many Brooklyn Custom Helmets works, Myers cited the very first one he created — the Captain America helmet.

"It opened my eyes to the fact that this could be turned into a business," he said.

With a steady flow of new clients and many return customers, Brooklyn Custom Helmets has proven to be a very viable avenue for Myers.

"Many of the kids I've done work for are progressing up the ranks," Myers said. "If one of them makes it to 'the show,' as they say of the NHL (National Hockey League), it would be great to see one of my helmets on TV one day."



"Self Portrait with Scales," oil on canvas, 42" x 50"



"Yellow Stego," acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 23" x 36"



"Purple and Blue Shark Study," oil on canvas, 9" x 12"







## Homecoming 2024 schedule Friday, Oct. 18 — Sunday, Oct. 20

PLEASE NOTE: The following schedule may be subject to change. Please continue to check the Alumni website for updates at [fredonia.edu/alumni](http://fredonia.edu/alumni) and to make reservations.

### Friday, Oct. 18

#### Bookstore Open

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
University Commons

#### Credit Union

Open 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Williams Center, Room G139  
Alumni receive a free gift.

#### Art Gallery Exhibit

10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
"Tradition Interrupted" explores the methods used by artists to conflate contemporary ideas with traditional art and craft, in a range of media, from rugs and quilts to metal and ceramic. Participating artists are: Anila Quayyum Agha, Faig Ahmed, Camille Eskell, Mounir Fatmi, Ana Gómez, Shirin Hosseinvaud, Dinh Q. Le, Steven Young Lee, Jaydan Moore, Ramekon O'Arwisters, Jason Seife and Masami Teraoka. The exhibition is organized by Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA. The Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery, Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center  
Free

#### Golden Alumni Buffet Luncheon

Noon  
Horizon Room, lower level of Williams Center (formerly known as the Campus Center) For all graduates of 1974 and before. Reservations recommended \$25/person

#### Business Club Reunion for all alumni from the 1970s forward

4:00–8:00 p.m.  
Coughlin's Pub, 47 W. Main St., Fredonia  
Sponsored by the current Business Club. Come share

your photos, stories and memorabilia! For more information, contact *Linda.Hall@fredonia.edu* or *Susan.McNamara@fredonia.edu*

#### Homecoming Reception/ Awards Recognition

5:00 p.m.  
Williams Center. Celebrating the Classes of 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979 and 1984. Recognition of alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recipients. Reservations recommended \$15/person

#### Public Open Skate

7:00–8:30 p.m.  
Steele Hall Ice Rink  
Admission: Adults \$5, children \$4, Fredonia students free with ID. Skate Rentals: \$4 for all.

#### Student Pep Rally

7:00 p.m.  
Steele Hall Fieldhouse  
Crowning of Homecoming Royalty  
Free

#### Jazz Concert Featuring the Fredonia Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Flextet

Conducted by Dr. Nick Weiser  
8:00 p.m.  
Juliet J. Rosch Recital Hall  
Free

#### Student BonFYre

8:00 p.m.  
Parking lot behind Steele Hall  
Sponsored in part by the First Year Student Engagement Committee.  
Free

### Saturday, Oct. 19

#### Women's Lacrosse Alumni Game

9:00 a.m.  
University Stadium (turf field)  
Free

#### Scholars/Donors Brunch

9:30 a.m.–Noon  
Multipurpose Room, Williams Center  
By invitation only

#### Art Gallery Exhibit

10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
"Tradition Interrupted" (see Friday listing for details)  
The Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery  
Free

#### Men's Alumni Soccer Game

10:00–11:30 a.m.  
For more information, contact *Patrick.Gondek@fredonia.edu*

#### Alumni Softball Game

11:00 a.m.  
Softball Field  
Sponsored by FSU Softball Team  
For more information, contact *Anthony.Cicarelllo@fredonia.edu*

#### Campus Tour

11:00 a.m.  
Meet at Information Booth, Williams Center  
Free

#### Bookstore Open

11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
University Commons

#### Community Open Swim

Noon–2:00 p.m.  
Steele Hall Natatorium  
\$3/person

#### Class of 1974 Buffet Luncheon

12:30 p.m.  
Horizon Room, lower level of Williams Center  
Class photo will be taken

at this time  
Reservations recommended \$25/person

#### Men's Soccer Game vs. Potsdam

1:00 p.m.  
University Stadium.

#### Women's Volleyball vs. Buffalo State University

1:00 p.m.  
Dods Hall Gymnasium

#### All Alumni Get Together

2:00–4:00 p.m.  
Beer tent, food will be available for purchase.  
Dods Grove

#### Union Board of Governors (UBG) 1977–1984 meetup

2:00–4:00 p.m.  
Stop by the UBG table at the All Alumni Get Together. Hosted by former execs Mora Killeen, Marjorie Maloney Plaister, Nancy Caffo, Debbie Cohen and Dave Plafker. Bring memorabilia if you still have it! Email *Marjorie.Plaister@fredonia.edu* if you plan to join them (optional), or to share a fun memory!

#### Dedication of Tree in Memory of Christopher Storer, '98

2:00 p.m.  
Memory Garden; located on Ring Road just past the double-tiered parking lot.

#### Public Open Skate

2:00–4:00 p.m.  
Steele Hall Ice Rink  
Admission: Adults \$5, children \$4, Fredonia students free with ID. Skate Rentals: \$4 for all.

#### Residence Life Reunion

3:00–4:00 p.m.  
The Blue Lounge, first floor Williams Center  
For all former Resident Assistants and Directors.  
Free



**Choral Showcase Concert**

4:00 p.m.  
Rosch Recital Hall, Mason Hall  
Featuring the Chamber,  
College and Camerata Choirs.  
Free

**Class of 1984 Reunion Reception**

4:00–6:00 p.m.  
Alumni Residence Hall Main Lounge  
Cash beer and wine bar.  
\$15/person

**Sweetheart Soiree**

4:00–6:00 p.m.  
Atrium Lobby (Lake Shore Gateway) of Robert W. Marvel Theatre, Rockefeller Arts Center  
One complimentary glass of champagne and cake for all who met their spouse or significant other at SUNY Fredonia.

Reservations recommended  
Free

**Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner and Ceremony**

5:00 p.m.  
Multipurpose Room, Williams Center  
Reservations recommended  
\$65/person  
Contact [Athletics@fredonia.edu](mailto:Athletics@fredonia.edu) for more information.

**College Symphony Orchestra**

8:00 p.m.  
Harry A. King Concert Hall  
Conducted by Dr. Emily Schaad  
Free

**Sunday, Oct. 20****Art Gallery Exhibit “Tradition Interrupted”**

Noon–4:00 p.m.  
(see Friday listing for details)  
The Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery  
Free

**Public Open Skate**

7:30–9:00 p.m.  
Steele Hall Ice Rink  
Admission: Adults \$5, children \$4, Fredonia students free with ID. Skate Rentals: \$4 for all.

**Homecoming 2024 highlights**

You are cordially invited to contact former roommates and other close friends and return to SUNY Fredonia — where the fun began!

We are pleased to recognize three alumni with the Outstanding Achievement Award, including **Richard Nunemaker, '64**, (Music Education) — noted symphony musician, concert soloist, recording artist, educator and author; **Lynda (Perkins) Nunemaker, '64**, (Music Education) — former Managing Director of the Foundation for Houston Big Brothers and Sisters; and **Tamara Daniels, '01**, (Political Science) — attorney and former counsel to the Charlotte Hornets and founder of Sixth Man Sports and Entertainment in Charlotte, NC. The honorees will receive their awards at the Homecoming Reception, scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18, in the Williams Center (formerly known as the Campus Center).

Other Friday highlights include the Golden Alumni Buffet Lunch for all alumni from 1974 and before, and a special free exhibit in the Marion Art Gallery, “Tradition

Interrupted,” which explores the methods used by artists to conflate contemporary ideas with traditional art and craft, in a range of media, from rugs and quilts to metal and ceramic. Gallery times are listed in the Homecoming schedule. The School of Business is planning a get-together later in the day, and alumni should contact [Linda.Hall@fredonia.edu](mailto:Linda.Hall@fredonia.edu) for more information. A free student Jazz Concert is planned for 8 p.m. in Juliet J. Rosch Recital Hall.

On Saturday, the Classes of 1974 and 1984 will hold their respective reunions. Be sure to check out the annual outdoor All Alumni Get Together which will include a mini-Union Board of Governors (UBG) Reunion. Later, enjoy the talents of our gifted students at the Choir Showcase, under the direction of Dr. Vernon Huff, scheduled for 4 p.m. in Juliet J. Rosch Recital Hall. And, because it's Sweetest Day, plan to attend the fourth annual Sweetheart Soiree, slated for the Atrium (Lake Shore Gateway) area of Robert W. Marvel Theatre in Rockefeller Arts Center. If you met your spouse or significant

other at Fredonia, join us for some anniversary cake and champagne. The Sweetheart Soiree is free but please register in advance.

The Department of Athletics will induct five members into its Hall of Fame on Saturday evening. Both the volleyball team and the men's soccer team will have home contests that day and there will be alumni soccer, lacrosse and softball games, as well. The Teams of Distinction are the 1984 and 1985 Men's Track and Field Teams, and the 2008 Women's Volleyball Team. For additional information and to make dinner reservations for the Hall of Fame induction, go to [Athletics@fredonia.edu](mailto:Athletics@fredonia.edu)

Finally, round out Saturday's events by enjoying a free College Symphony Orchestra Concert, conducted by Dr. Emily Schaad, showcasing our tremendously talented students, in Harry A. King Concert Hall at 8 p.m.



Lynda (Perkins) Nunemaker, '64, and Richard Nunemaker, '64



Tamara Daniels, '01

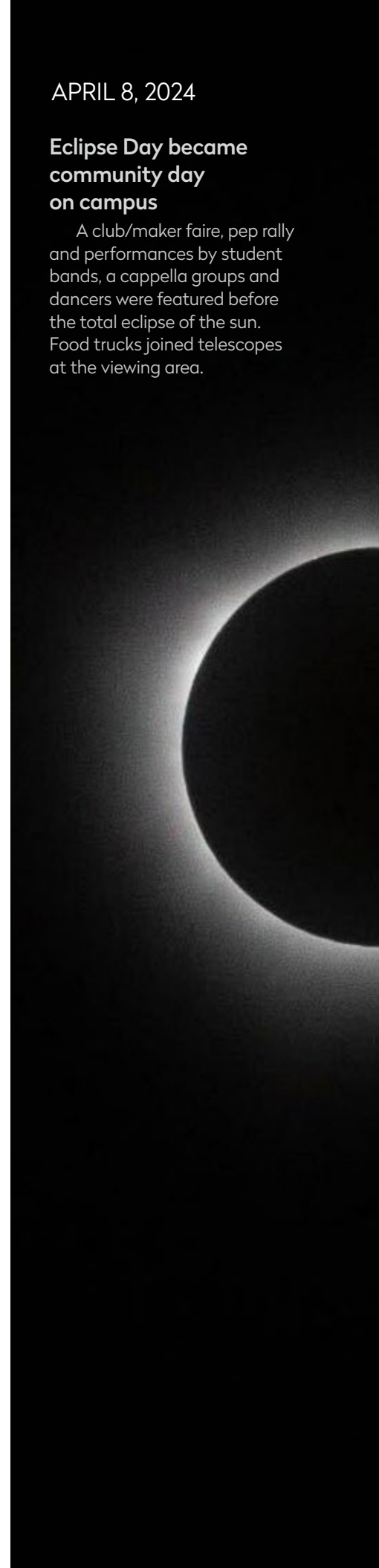




APRIL 8, 2024

## Eclipse Day became community day on campus

A club/maker faire, pep rally and performances by student bands, a cappella groups and dancers were featured before the total eclipse of the sun. Food trucks joined telescopes at the viewing area.







Support was provided by the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities and the Phyllis W. and Lawrence A. Patrie Endowment for the Sciences, both through the Fredonia College Foundation.

Organizers estimate a crowd of up to 1,500 students and community members witnessed the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Photos by Roger Coda and Lori Deemer





## Freddys Awards Banquet spotlights student-athletes

by Matthew Palisin, Sports Information Director



Cara Pellechia and Christian Pagano

The annual athletics' awards banquet held in May recognized a number of student-athletes and contributors to the department. Sophomore Cara Pellechia (Rochester, NY/Hilton) and junior Christian Pagano (Lancaster, NY/Depew) were named the Female and Male Athletes of the Year at the annual Freddys Awards Banquet.

Pellechia, now a four-time SUNYAC Champion in the pole vault, won the Outdoor title in May after claiming the Indoor title in February. She also finished seventh in the 100m dash at the SUNYAC Meet. Additionally, she set the Fredonia

State Outdoor record in the pole vault, clearing 3.63m at the Westminster Meet on April 13.

Pagano, who played shortstop and outfield, was the top hitter for the Blue Devil Baseball Team all season. He finished the year ranked among the season leaders in Fredonia State history. He is second in runs scored (33), fifth in home runs (6), fifth in total bases (76), eighth in hits (48), and eighth in RBI (31) while leading the team in each category. He batted a team-leading .372 and ranked third in the SUNYAC in home runs and ninth in batting average.

The Track and Field team also claimed the Male Rookie of the Year Award with Jordan Lockett (Dunkirk, NY/Dunkirk) taking home the hardware. Lockett was the second fastest first-year student in the SUNYAC in both the 60m and 200m in Indoor track. He ran the first leg in the record-breaking 4x200m relay at regionals (indoor) this year. For Outdoor, Lockett was the second fastest first-year student in the SUNYAC in the 100m dash, and the fastest first-year student in the 200m. He was also part of the 4x100m relay team that broke the Outdoor school record and finished second in the conference.

The Female Rookie of the Year Award went to midfielder Gabby Irwin (Clarence Center, NY/Clarence) of Women's Soccer. Irwin was also tabbed the SUNYAC Rookie of the Year and Second Team All-Conference. She scored four times and

had eight assists, ranking second on the team with 16 points. She led the SUNYAC in assists.

The Female and Male Student Athletes of the Year were Holly Rohrbach (Avon, NY/Avon Central) from Cross Country/Track and Field, and DeAndre Hayes (Durham, NC/Mount Zion Christian Academy) from Basketball. They had the highest GPAs of any graduating seniors.

Longtime Assistant Women's Basketball Coach Rich Norton was recognized with the Kozzie Award. Norton has also assisted in a bevy of department activities over the years and been a fixture at many home events for all sports. Assistant Men's Basketball Coach and Assistant Sports Information Director Vinny Shiolen was recognized for going above and beyond with the Athletic Director's Award.

Sandra Haight Awards went to students Renee Park (SAAC Rep./Intramurals Employee/Athletic Trainer's Intern), Kayla Welsh (Photographer), Matt Wojcik (SAAC/Gameday Operations), and Jason Winston (Videographer Intern). The award is given to seniors who have provided service to the department.

Team awards included Spirit (Women's Soccer); Community Service (Women's Soccer); Academic (Women's Basketball); and Athletic (Softball). The Blue Devil Cup, which incorporates all those features, was won by the Women's Basketball Team.

➔ [fredoniabluedevils.com](https://fredoniabluedevils.com)



Women's Basketball Team



Women's Volleyball Team



# It's on track: replacing old track and field facility

by Roger Coda

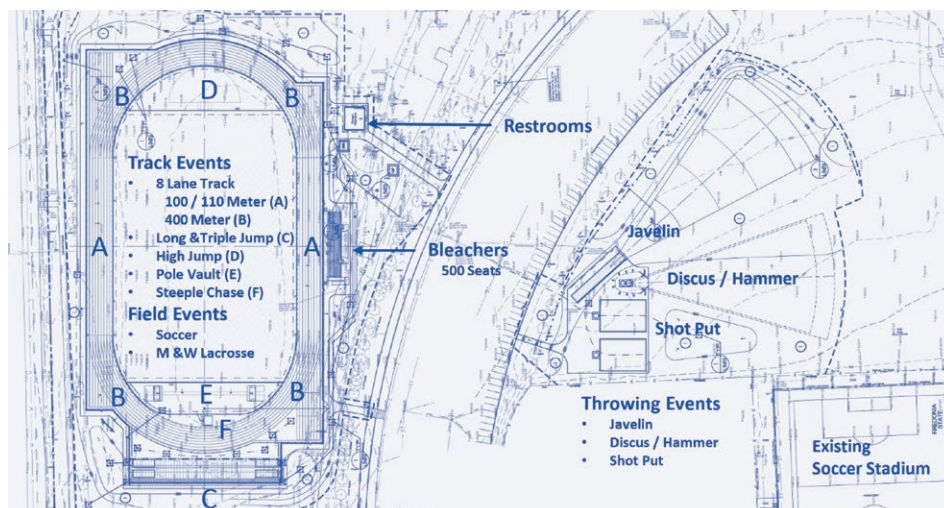
Student track and field athletes can rejoice.

SUNY Fredonia's aging track and field facility along Ring Road is scheduled to be replaced with an athletic complex featuring a new all-weather running surface, synthetic turf field, bleacher seating for 500 spectators, upgraded restrooms, a press box, new electronic scoreboard and equipment storage building.

Throwing events — javelin, discus/hammer and shot put — will be relocated across Ring Road, northwest of the soccer stadium in an area that runs parallel to the Ring Road parking lot.

The current running track facility that was part of the 1970s master campus plan is considered unsuitable for competition, according to Director of Facilities Planning Markus Kessler, so it's not currently used by student-athletes in any sport.

It's been almost two decades since SUNY Fredonia hosted a track meet,



and lacrosse matches.

Long and triple jumps will be held in parallel lanes located between the running track and edge of the stadium fencing. The high jump will be inside the running track oval, at the opposite end

construction budget, Kessler said.

"This will provide positive exposure to our campus and our athletic programs. There are few campuses with two turf facilities," reported Head Track and Field Coach Tom Wilson. "It will also bring some recognition to one of the biggest athletic programs on our campus."

The last track meet held on campus was in 2008, Coach Wilson added.

Bids are scheduled to be opened this fall, with construction anticipated to start late spring or early summer of 2025, followed by completion the fall of 2026. The replacement facility, which will stand out among athletic facilities at many other schools, has a projected construction cost, including contingency, of \$9.8 million. Total costs that include design, engineering, construction and equipment are budgeted at \$13.1 million.

It is the second phase of an overall improvement in outdoor athletic facilities. Work on the first phase, a new turf field in the existing soccer stadium, began in the summer.

Money for both project phases will be provided by the SUNY Construction Fund.

***"This will provide positive exposure to our campus and our athletic programs. There are few campuses with two turf facilities."***

— Head Track and Field Coach Tom Wilson

though community members have continued to walk on the track since it provides an easy reference for distance, with four laps equaling one mile. The scoreboard was designed for soccer, not to post individual track and field results.

The new eight-lane track will be clearly marked for multiple speed events, such as 100/110- and 400-meter runs, and accommodate 1600- and 3200-meter runs. The 100/110-meter races will be conducted on the two elongated sides, or straightaways, of the track. The steeple case will also be held on the eight-lane track.

The new turf field inside the running track will have line markings for soccer

of the long/triple jump areas. The pole vault will be placed inside the running track oval, at the other end of the stadium opposite from the high jump. New fencing around the track and walkways are included.

One goal of the project is to also include stadium lighting that will make it feasible to schedule athletic events later in the day, thus potentially attracting more students who would otherwise be attending classes earlier in the afternoon. Due to the firm budget of this project, the stadium lighting will be bid as an add alternate to the project, in hopes the lighting costs come within the

## Lacrosse field turf replacement

Once the spring semester ended, the project of putting in brand new turf at the lacrosse field began. The field's main function is to play host to lacrosse games and practices. However, it is also

utilized for the annual Soccer Classic, early-season practices for spring sports, intramurals, and has seen many community events.

"The replacement of our turf field is the first step of many that will take Fredonia to the next level," said Head Lacrosse Coach Tori Poffenberger.

"Having an upgraded field means we get the best environment possible to play on. Anyone that comes to campus will see an all-new design on the field that represents the pride we have in our athletics programs and our goals for the near future."



# Then

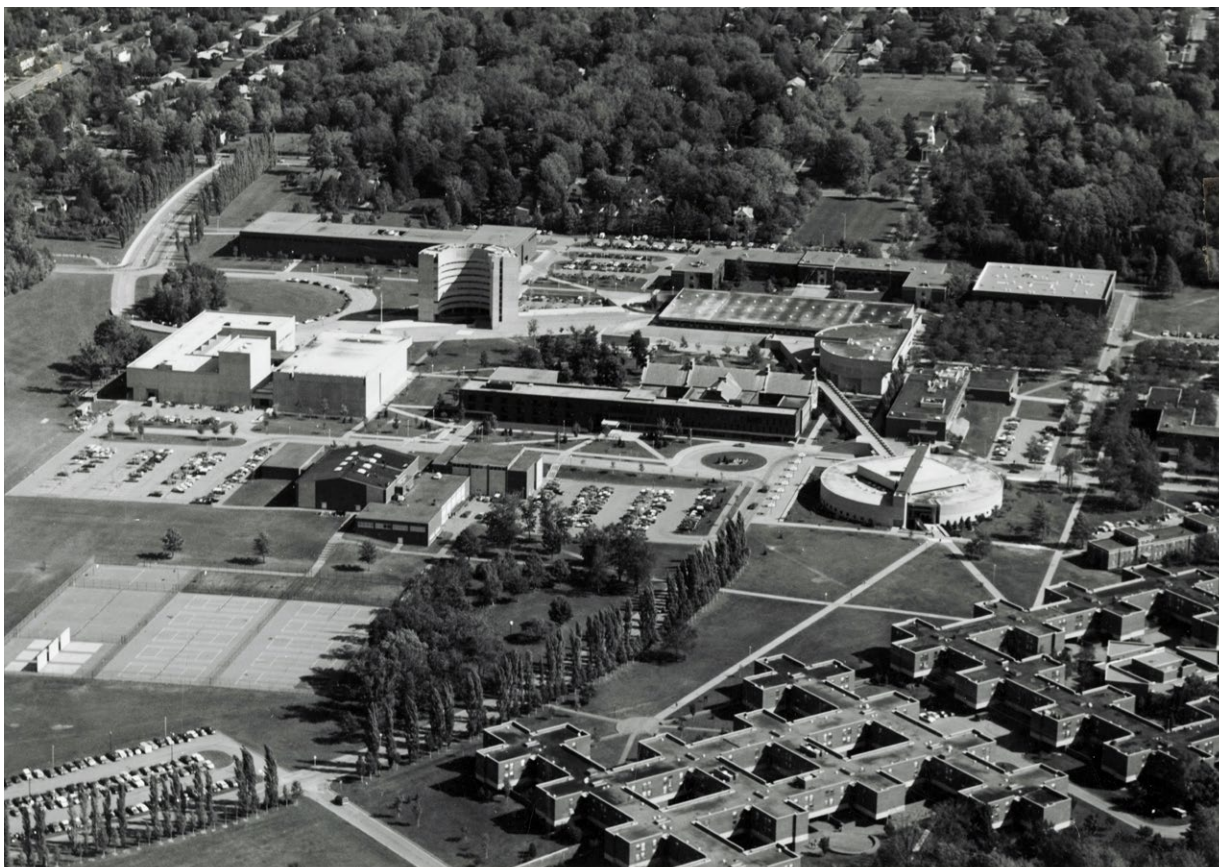
Campus aerial  
1970



# Now







**Then**

Campus aerial  
1975



**Now**



# Events and Performances

## ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER/THEATRE AND DANCE EVENTS

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

Event tickets are available at the Fredonia Ticket Office in the Williams Center, online at [www.fredonia.edu/tickets](http://www.fredonia.edu/tickets) or by phone at (716) 673-3501.

### THE DOO WOP PROJECT "A NEW DOO"

Saturday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Harry A. King Concert Hall  
Prices: \$39, \$34, \$29 and \$24.  
Love the classic sounds of Frankie Valli, The Drifters, The Del Vikings? Ever wonder what Adele, Jason Mraz, and Garth Brooks would sound like if they had lived in the Doo Wop era? Meet this group of talented, charismatic and engaging Broadway stars who trace the evolution of Doo Wop from those classic sounds of five guys singing tight harmonies on a street corner or in the subway to the biggest hits being played on media today.  
DFT Communications Pops Series

### WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

"The All American"  
Sunday, Sept. 22, 3 p.m.  
Harry A. King Concert Hall  
General Public \$20; Students free in advance, \$5 at door  
The Fredonia Chamber Choir, prepared by Director of Choral Studies Vernon Huff, and tenor soloist Brent Weber, are featured.

### PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY (PAC) PRESENTS "FAIRVIEW"

Friday, Sept. 27 and Saturday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m.  
Alice E. Bartlett Theatre  
General Public: \$5, Students: \$3  
At the Frasier household, preparations for Grandma's birthday party are underway. Beverly is holding on to her sanity by a thread to make sure this party is perfect, but her sister can't be bothered to help, her husband doesn't seem to listen, her brother is MIA, her daughter is a teenager, and maybe nothing is what it seems in the first place.

### ORCHESIS FALL SHOWCASE

Friday, Oct. 4, and Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 6, 2 p.m.  
Alice E. Bartlett Theatre  
General Public: \$10, Students: \$5  
Fredonia students choreograph and perform pieces in a variety of styles in this annual showcase.

### UNITED STATE NAVY BAND COMMODORES

Monday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Harry A. King Concert Hall  
Free, but tickets are required  
The Commodores, the navy's premier jazz ensemble, will perform in a concert featuring vocalist Kristine Hsia, a 2010 SUNY Fredonia graduate. Their concerts are described as "an eclectic mix of traditional big band music, exciting jazz vocal arrangements and fresh new instrumental music" written specifically for the Commodores of today.

### "LEGALLY BLONDE"

Friday, Oct. 25, Saturday, Oct. 26 and Thursday, Oct. 31, and Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 27, 2 p.m.  
Robert W. Marvel Theatre  
General Public: \$30 (\$25 in advance), Students: \$15 (\$10 in advance)  
The upbeat celebration of self-discovery and female empowerment is based on the 2001 smash hit film. A high-energy, all singing and dancing musical adaptation has delighted audiences since its hugely successful Broadway run in 2007. It follows heroine Elle Woods as she takes on Harvard Law School and discovers she's capable of "So Much Better" than she had realized.  
Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

### MERRINS FALL CHAMBER CONCERT

Thursday, Nov. 7, Friday, Nov. 8, and Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
James and Marcia Merrins Dance Theatre  
General Public: \$15, Students: \$10  
Fredonia's talented students perform dance pieces in a variety of styles.

### "COSI FAN TUTTE" BY W.A. MOZART, THE HILLMAN OPERA

Thursday, Nov. 14 and Friday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m.  
Robert W. Marvel Theatre  
General Public: \$25, Students: \$10  
The razor-sharp comedy in an enchanting production by Director Paul Mockovak features lavish sets by Hyla Stellhorn, stunning Rococo costumes by Jessica Lustig, and Dr. Emily Schaad conducting a fantastic cast, chorus, and orchestra composed entirely of Fredonia School of Music students.



U.S. Navy Band Commadorees with Kristine Hsia



Merrins Fall Chamber Concert



Phat Cat Swinger: "A Not So Silent Night"





**"THE BOOK WOMEN"**

Thursday, Dec. 5, Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, 2 p.m.  
Alice E. Bartlett Theatre  
General Public: \$25 (\$20 in advance), Students: \$10 (\$5 in advance)  
In the midst of the Great Depression, in a community crushed by the collapse of coal, and isolated by the very mountains they call home, a group of determined librarians takes to their horses to reach the people of Eastern Kentucky.  
Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

**PHAT CAT SWINGER: "A NOT SO SILENT NIGHT"**

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Harry A. King Concert Hall  
Prices: \$39, \$34, \$29 and \$24.  
"Hollywood's Hottest Little Big Band" promises a rollicking blend of jazz and rockabilly. "A Not So Silent Night" is the 11-piece band's one-of-a-kind holiday experience. Featuring Christmas classics and all-original arrangements from the Cats' Christmas album, "From: All of Us, To: All of You," plus a whole new bag of unreleased songs, only heard exclusively at this show!  
DFT Communications Pops Series

**ART EXHIBITS**

**CATHY AND JESSE MARION ART GALLERY**  
Gallery hours: Sunday, Tuesday through Thursday, noon to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.

**"TRADITION INTERRUPTED"**

Tuesday, Sept. 3, through Friday, Nov. 22  
Public Reception: Sept. 6, 6 to 9 p.m. Free  
"Tradition Interrupted" explores the methods used by artists to conflate contemporary ideas with traditional art and craft in a range of media from rugs and quilts to metal and ceramic. The exhibition was organized by Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA. Participating artists are from countries around the world and include Anila Quayyum Agha, Faig Ahmed, Camille Eskell, Mounir Fatmi, Ana Gomez, Shirin Hosseinvand, Dinh Q. Le, Steven Young Lee, Jaydan Moore, Ramekon O'Arwisters, Jason Seife and Masami Teraoka.



"Taskmaster Fez" by Camille Eskell

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

All events are livestreamed unless noted (No LS) at the link found at [www.fredonia.edu/music/live](http://www.fredonia.edu/music/live)

All events are free and all events are subject to change.

**ENSEMBLE/RECITAL PERFORMANCES**

Open to the public and all are at 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

**HARRY A. KING CONCERT HALL**

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 24**  
Fredonia Wind Symphony

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 AND WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13**  
Fredonia Concert Band

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 AND WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20**  
Fredonia Wind Ensemble

**SATURDAY, OCT. 5 (ALL DAY)**  
High School Choral Festival (No LS)

**SATURDAY, OCT. 19**  
Fredonia College Symphony

**TUESDAY, NOV. 19**  
Fredonia Wind Symphony and Sinfonia

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4**  
Fredonia University Chorus

**JULIET J. ROSCH RECITAL HALL**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25**  
Fredonia Jazz Showcase

**MONDAY, SEPT. 30, NOON**  
Fredonia Fall String Festival

**MONDAY, OCT. 7 AND MONDAY, OCT. 28**  
Fredonia Student Composers

**MONDAY, OCT. 14**  
Fredonia Brass Chamber Ensembles and Brass Choir

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16**  
Fredonia Trombone Choir

**FRIDAY, OCT. 18**  
Fredonia Student Jazz

**SATURDAY, OCT. 19, 4 P.M.**  
Fredonia Choral Showcase

**TUESDAY, OCT. 29**  
Fredonia Clarinet Ensemble

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30 AND THURSDAY, DEC. 5**

Fredonia Jazz Orchestra

**FRIDAY, NOV. 1**  
Fredonia Free Improvisation

**SUNDAY, NOV. 3, 4 P.M.**  
Fredonia Flute Ensemble and Bassoon Ensemble

**SUNDAY, NOV. 3**  
Fredonia Chamber Made Guitar

**MONDAY, NOV. 4**  
Fredonia Percussion Ensemble

**TUESDAY, NOV. 5**  
Fredonia Woodwind Chamber Ensembles

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6**  
Fredonia African Drumming Ensembles

**THURSDAY, NOV. 7**  
Fredonia String Chamber Ensembles

**FRIDAY, NOV. 8**  
Fredonia World Mallet Ensembles

**MONDAY, NOV. 11**  
Fredonia Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble

**TUESDAY, NOV. 12**  
Fredonia Guitar Ensembles and Quartets

**THURSDAY, NOV. 14**  
Fredonia Saxophone Ensemble and Quartets

**THURSDAY, NOV. 21**  
Fredonia Jazz Flextet

**TUESDAY, DEC. 3**  
Fredonia Chamber Orchestra

**SPECIAL EVENTS****SOREL VISITING ARTIST RESIDENCY: DR. JENNIFER HIGDON**

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Dr. Jennifer Higdon will be in residence with the Fredonia School of Music twice during the 2024-2025 academic year as the third Claudette Sorel Visiting Artist at SUNY Fredonia.

The residency is made possible through a grant from the Sorel Organization through the Fredonia College Foundation. The Sorel Organization has awarded the Fredonia School of Music a three-year grant to welcome artists of international distinction to campus for a variety of open-to-



Dr. Jennifer Higdon

the-public interactive events with students and faculty.

Dr. Higdon will first visit Fredonia Sept. 12 to 14 and will participate in rehearsals, a composition master class, and a lecture on her work. In addition, she will be a member of a public roundtable at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, in Rosch Recital Hall and two concerts featuring her chamber music — the first on Friday, Sept. 13, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Buffalo, NY, and the second in Rosch Recital Hall at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14.

During the 2025 Spring semester, Dr. Higdon will return to campus March 6 to 8 and the School of Music will present numerous events including a second chamber concert. The residency will culminate with a performance by the Fredonia College Symphony Orchestra on March 8.

**NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION (NYSSMA) WINTER CONFERENCE**

Dec. 5-7, Rochester (NY) Convention Center

The Fredonia Trombone Choir with Jonathan Lombardo, director, will perform by invitation at the conference on Friday, Dec. 6, at noon. There will also be a gathering for SUNY Fredonia alumni at a date and time to be announced.

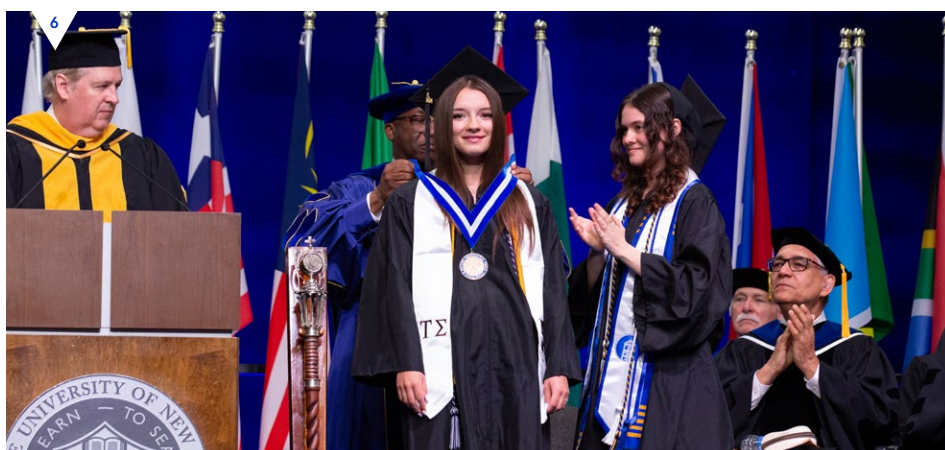
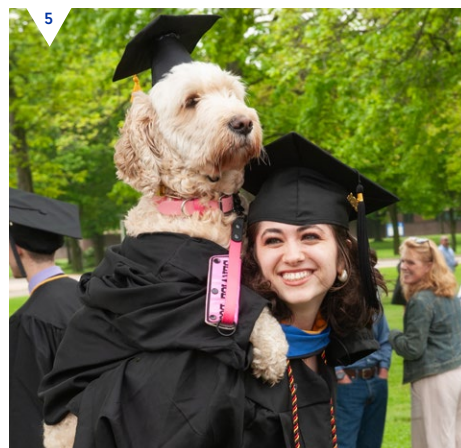
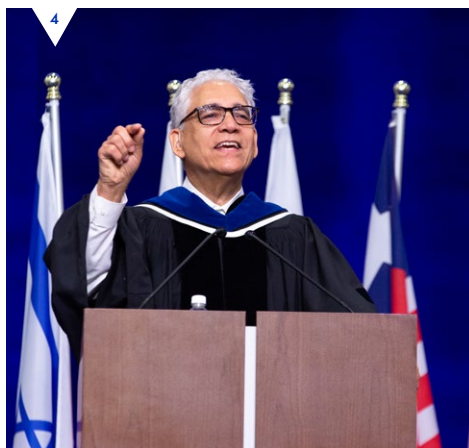
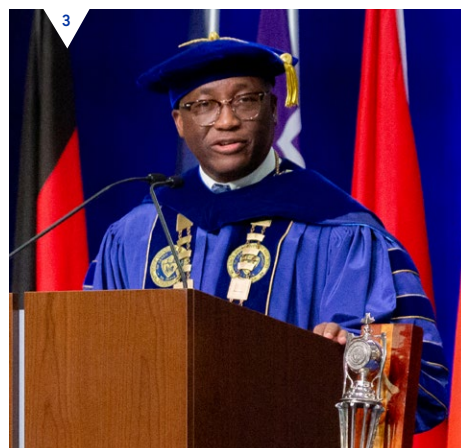
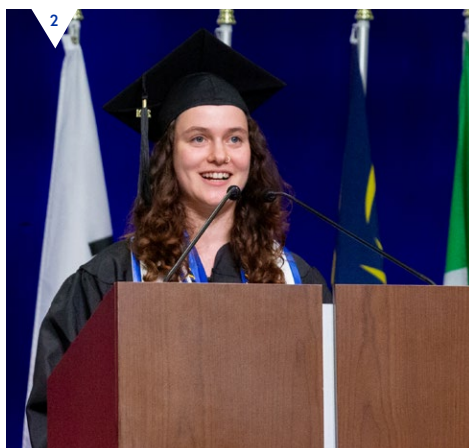
**HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT**

Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m.  
King Concert Hall  
A beloved seasonal tradition for the community. Enjoy traditional seasonal tunes and newer classics with the Fredonia Choirs. Again, this year, the concert will be broadcast on WNED-TV, so audience members are encouraged to wear their seasonal finest.

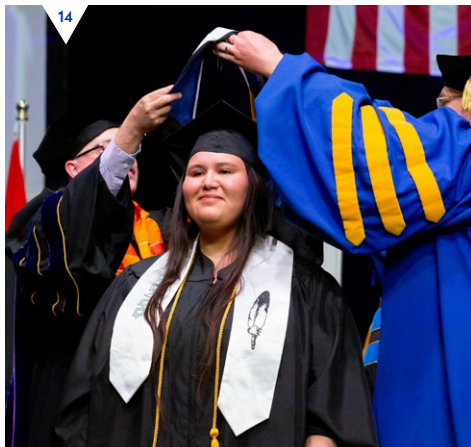


# Commencement 2024 celebration

- 1 Drs. Michael Dunham and Sue McNamara served as Faculty Marshals, leading their colleagues into Steele Hall for the morning ceremony.
- 2 Senior Class President EJ Jacobs shared a special message with the graduates, reminding them that Steele Hall was the place instrumental in their journey through the pandemic and in which they successfully completed their college career.
- 3 President Stephen J. Kolison Jr. offered his Charge to the Graduates, urging them to care for the welfare of others.
- 4 Reginal Spiller, '74, the keynote speaker for the morning ceremony, encouraged the graduates to take risks, course correct, and be kind and empathetic, noting, "What you sow so will you reap. Being able to see, feel and understand the position of others is a key to being successful and happy with your life. It allows you to connect in a way that could save your life."
- 5 Madison G. Evans shared her special day with "Sunny," her 3-year-old Goldendoodle.
- 6 Provost David Starrett (at lectern), President Kolison and Class President Jacobs presented the Lanford Presidential Prize to graduating senior Patience Glatt of Jamestown, NY.
- 7 Sport Management major and Blue Devils soccer midfielder Andres Martinez and family share Commencement joy.
- 8 A newly-minted graduate with a celebratory fist bump.
- 9 Student Marshals led their classmates into Steele Hall for the afternoon ceremony.
- 10 Ready to graduate!
- 11 Mace Bearer Barry Kilpatrick, who retired this year as Assistant Director/Professor in the School of Music, led the processional party into Steele Hall during the afternoon ceremony.
- 12 Tim Zulawski, '98, the afternoon keynote speaker, reflected on the keys to a successful career and life, including accountability. "You and only you are responsible for what happens next in your life," he said. "You must be prepared to put in the work necessary to achieve it. Success rarely comes easy, and it often requires sacrifices, late nights, trade-offs in life as well as multiple setbacks along the way. Embrace the journey, and know that failure will occur and that's okay."
- 13 Student Association President Stephen Wright and President Kolison share a special greeting during the parade of graduates.
- 14 Amy Williams receives her hood as the recipient of a M.A. in English Adolescence Education. The summa cum laude graduate also earned a B.A. in the same field as a multi-award degree recipient. She offered the Closing Reflection during the afternoon ceremony.
- 15 Chelsea Karim, who received her M.M. in Music Education, is honored by her proud family, who make sure people knew who "their graduate" was.
- 16 Dr. Paula Holcomb conducts the Commencement Wind Ensemble during the afternoon ceremony.









# No reason to retire

## Music History alumnus still at the forefront of regenerative medical research

by Roger Coda



"Supporting gene and cell therapy research to meet medical needs is still overpoweringly gratifying."

Even today, that's what inspires, alumnus Vito Imbasciani, Ph.D., M.D., to continue working at a very high level in the medical research — as he inches closer to his 80th birthday.

Dr. Imbasciani still relishes opportunities to work with professionals in urology, with college presidents and poet laureates, to travel nationally and internationally, and to meet and collaborate with other scientists. It's still a very exciting time to be in research, he's decided. "We're starting to have real cures now, novel cures using gene manipulation and other novel-cell therapy," he said.

Clearly no reason to retire anytime soon, the 1969 SUNY Fredonia graduate concludes.

"I've been at the top of organizations, and people ask me to do things, and it's hard to say no," he said, referring to former California Gov. Jerry Brown, who asked Imbasciani to join his cabinet as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "I'm grateful to have these abilities, many of which were developed at Fredonia," Imbasciani reflects.

Imbasciani is board chair of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), an agency that invests in stem cell and regenerative medicine research and treatments. That 2023 appointment to a six-year term followed his eight years as Secretary of Veterans

Affairs for the state of California. Major achievements during his Veterans Affairs tenure include combining eight independent California veterans homes into one unified system, establishing programs for veterans in state prisons and supporting 58 county veteran service offices.

No doubt those 27 years as a surgeon in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, that included 14 years as the State Surgeon for the California Army National Guard, figured prominently into the decision by then-Gov. Brown to appoint Imbasciani to the California Veterans Affairs post.



Dr. Imbasciani performing surgery in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Even immersed in such high-profile leadership positions, Imbasciani continues to practice as a urologic surgeon, a career that spans three decades.

All impressive accomplishments for certain, but they're not the only ones compiled by this alumnus whose higher education journey began by earning a B.A. in Music History — not Biology or other science. Imbasciani firmly believes his undergraduate education at SUNY Fredonia created opportunities leading to advanced degrees he would earn and prestigious positions he would hold.

The valedictorian of the former St. Patrick's High School in Newburgh, NY, wanted to go away to college — but not too far away — from his home. "Fredonia was about as far away from Newburgh without leaving the state," he recalled. The university also had a great reputation for its music program, he said, and Imbasciani wanted to become a music teacher.

"I wasn't running away from home, just far enough away that my parents don't just accidentally drop by," he jokes.

Dr. A. Cutler Silliman, who taught American and world music history at SUNY Fredonia, had a profound influence on Imbasciani.

"He saw a talent in me that would take me beyond the classroom. Thanks to him, I made the switch from a (Mus.B.) degree in Music Education to a B.A. degree (in Music History), and that added requirements for language, history and



other electives that most music majors don't take," Imbasciani remembered. "But it was sufficient to meet requirements of grad schools, thanks to him. I wanted to be like him, and wanted to get a Ph.D. in Music History."

Imbasciani recently purchased, on behalf of the Class of 1969, a memorial brick dedicated to Silliman, on the Scholarship Walkway near the Williams Center. It was installed in August.

Imbasciani's courses at SUNY Fredonia enabled him to pursue a Ph.D. in Musicology at Cornell University and teaching positions at various colleges in Vermont. "That enhanced my application to the University of Vermont Medical School (Class of '85) and a surgical

my exposure to language and history and other humanities courses at Fredonia they found to be very, very attractive and gave me a scholarship."

As a Fulbright Scholar, Imbasciani spent a year in Rome, Italy, in 1973, to complete his Ph.D. dissertation.

Service in the U.S. Army Medical Corps included four wartime employments that exposed Imbasciani to battlefield medicine and post-acute care. He accepted a presidential commission as an officer in the medical corps in honor of his family's tradition of military service.

Music was also a strong family tradition. Imbasciani's paternal grandfather played trumpet with John Philips Sousa's marching band for 45 years, and gave

speaks seven languages.

As a result of these deployments, Imbasciani received the Meritorious Service Award, the Combat Medic Badge, the Army Commendation Medal (four times) and the California Order of Merit. Campaign ribbons include Operation Desert Storm; the Liberation of Kuwait; and the Global War against Terrorism (both expeditionary and service).

Imbasciani fondly reflects on a life devoted to service. "It's done in the spirit of payback; the country has been very good to my immigrant family and my Italian grandparents. Yale made me a good surgeon; the army made me a good war surgeon," he reflected.

"I think if a country is going to send its

*"I applied as a senior to Cornell; they accepted me, based on my music education at Fredonia, my piano ability. All my exposure to language and history and other humanities courses at Fredonia they found to be very, very attractive and gave me a scholarship."*

— Vito Imbasciani, Ph.D., M.D.



Dr. Imbasciani at the piano. (Photo by Christina Smith of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM))

residency at Yale University," Imbasciani noted. At Vermont, Imbasciani assisted in laboratory studies in neurodegenerative diseases.

He earned a M.A. at Cornell and held teaching positions at the University of Florida, Middlebury College and Cornell.

"I applied as a senior to Cornell; they accepted me, based on my music education at Fredonia, my piano ability," Imbasciani said. Cornell offered a Ph.D. in Musicology that Imbasciani sought. "All

the young Imbasciani, then 8 years old, a clarinet in hopes that he would someday march along with him.

"I've been to over 100 countries in my life — four of them with a gun in my hand," Imbasciani said, while with the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He was deployed several times to combat zones in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Bahrain. As soon as he finished his residency in 1991, Imbasciani was immediately deployed to Saudi Arabia in Operation Desert Storm. He also



(Photo by California Institute for Regenerative Medicine)

very best young men and women (into harm's way), they deserve the very best medical care."

Imbasciani, who lives in the Hollywood Hills near Los Angeles, CA, flies to work every week to San Francisco, when he's not traveling nationally. "I still practice surgery a few days a month; weekends are reserved for music. I just got involved with a cellist and am starting to learn chamber music repertoire for cello and piano, so we meet on Sundays."



## 1950s

**Edward McClenathan, '56**, (speech, elem. ed.) presented his Phonetic Alphabet for Teaching Reading and Spelling, and made a presentation, "Adjusted Traditional Orthography," at the International Business Analytics Conference held at SUNY Fredonia in May. His son, **Todd, '81**, (sound rec. tech.) designed the PowerPoint for the presentation, and continues to pursue his music and writing interests in Western New York.

## 1960s

**Carolyn Miller, '69**, (English) was honored for Service to Allegany County with a resolution passed by the by the Allegany County Board of Legislators. She had worked as an employee of the Public

**Diane Andrasik, '72, '77**, (English) wrote the book, "Dunkirk, Then and Now: Three Critical Streets," for the Dunkirk Historical Museum, outlining the development of those streets historically. It is available from the museum or by ordering online at [www.dunkirkhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.dunkirkhistoricalmuseum.org)

**William Giannone, '72**, (music ed.) gave a classical flute recital at the Long Beach (NY) public library in October 2023, playing works by Blavet, Debussy, Griffes, Handel, Honegger and Messiaen.

**Dr. Michael Marletta, '73**, (chem.) was inducted into the 2024 Class of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering's College of Fellows, "for fundamental discoveries and gas sensing that have led to commercial application in oxygen delivery." The honor is among the highest professional

**Wayne Blumrick, '77**, (music ed.) is the leader of The Easy Street Big Band based in the Buffalo, NY, area. Eight members of the band are SUNY Fredonia graduates and range from the Class of 1977 to the Class of 2015. The group was named Favorite Big Band in the 2023 Buffalo Jazz Poll.

**Amy Syd Israeloff Babcock, '78**, (theatre) announced the release of her YouTube lyric video "Zeronimo Rabbit's Number Songs for Kids!" She describes it as great for kids ages 2 and up and assists educators in celebrating zero day — singing about all the numbers up to 100 with zeros in them. She has been teaching piano for over 30 years and is a songwriter who has released two CDs and multiple videos on YouTube, as well as an independently published children's book, "Tessa and the Tease."

**Rev. Patrick Fleming, '78**, (special stds.) was inducted into the Cardinal O'Hara High School Hall of Fame in April. Prior to his retirement this year, he was Regional Chaplain for Operation Heal Our Patriots, a Samaritan's Purse project, for 11 years.

**Kathy Patricia Caton, '79**, (music ed.) is the current elementary music education teacher for the Columbia, CT, schools, Director of Music at Hazardville United Methodist Church in Enfield, CT; keyboardist for Silk City Jazz and author of her second book, "The Redemption of the Lion of Manhattan — Uncle Richard 'Boss' Croker-Irish immigrant to Tammany Boss," available on Amazon.

**Joyce (Taberski) Maguda, '79**, (English) after a 32-year career with the Buffalo and Erie County



Dr. Michael Marletta, '73



Don Damick, '74, and Santa (Infurna) Abraham, '97



Amy Syd Israeloff Babcock, '78



Darren L. Martin, '83

Defender's Office, as a secretary for the court system, and for 19 years as Chief Clerk for the Family and Surrogate Courts. She also was a member of the Scio Bicentennial Committee.

**Phil Zimmer, '69**, (history) volunteers and assists refugees as part of the New Neighbors Coalition in Jamestown, NY.

## 1970s

**David Breese, '70**, (speech path. and aud.) retired in 2009 after working for 10 years in clinical positions, then 25 additional years in various administrative/supervisory positions, all with the New York State Office for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in Delaware and Otsego counties. He and his family lived in Walton, NY (Delaware County), for over 30 years, and in May 2023 relocated to North Dartmouth, MA.

distinctions accorded to medical and biological engineers.

**Gregg Davis, '74**, (music ed.) spent 40 years at Hamburg (NY) Central School District before retiring in 2012. He taught 23 years in elementary and middle school and retired as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

**Don Damick, '74**, (music ed.) and **Santa (Infurna) Abraham, '97**, (comm.) serve on the Geneva (NY) Salvation Army Advisory Board. Don serves as Chair, and Santa, Vice Chair.

**David M. Berkey, '75**, (econ.) is President and CEO of David M. Berkey & Associates, providing management consulting services to private and public sector organizations.

**Banjo Jack Bowden, '76**, (music-applied) appeared at the 30th Old-Time Music, Ozarks Heritage Festival in June.



SUNY Fredonia alumni members of the Easy Street Big Band including (front row) **Jeff Glaub, '09**, and **Tim Martin, '06**; (middle row) **Larry Scaglione, '78**, and **Wayne Blumrick, '77**; (back row) **Dave Blumrick, '15**; **Mike Bossert, '13**; **Mike Sciortino, '00**, and **John Kresse, '12**. The band was formed in 2003, but after the retirement of the original band leaders, Wayne and Scaglione took over the leadership role in 2014.



Public Library System, is currently secretary for the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association. In 2003, she published a children's book, "Mister Turkey's Song," available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

## 1980s

**Linda (Ritchie) Unger, '80**, (English) is Director of Communications and Community Manager for French Fluency, writing emails, sales pages and blog posts, editing video, and managing the group French learning program.

**Thomas R. Erdmann, '81**, (music perf., music ed.) recently retired after a 42-year career as a college music professor. His last position was 34 years at Elon University, NC, where he was Director of the

**Brett Cohen, '84**, (elem. ed.) is a Golf Performance Coach and can be contacted at [www.golffitness-charlotte.com](http://www.golffitness-charlotte.com)

**William J. Schiele, '84**, (bus. admin.) is a top seller in luxury jewelry for Bloomingdale's.

**Theodore G. Andreades, '85**, (bus. admin.) was named Senior Vice President and Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering Officer at Metropolitan Commercial Bank based in New York City.

**Daniel Cherry, '85**, (elem. ed.) is the new Front of House Coordinator at the Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center at SUNY Fredonia. He previously worked in New Hampshire as an elementary educator, Technology Director and school Principal, and also at the New Hampshire Department



## Students keep winning on 'Day of Giving'

SUNY Fredonia is pleased to announce it surpassed its donor goals during its annual "Day of Giving" on April 3. Alumni, parents, faculty and staff, students, and friends of the university made gifts to the areas of campus most meaningful to them. In total, 603 donors contributed over \$68,000 to support the student experience at Fredonia.

### Students are giving thanks.

➔ <https://youtube/VNWtYB45S4w>

Fredonia donors supported six main university designations. Fifty-five donors contributed over \$10,000 to support the "areas of greatest need." The unrestricted fund provides the flexibility to meet the continually evolving needs of the Big Blue community. Each of Fredonia's four schools/colleges received gifts. Donations to the School of Music enable Fredonia to attract and retain future generations of talented musicians and music educators. Gifts made to the College of Education, Health Sciences and Human Services support priority needs including upgraded technology and equipment. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences uses designated gifts for scholarships that recruit and retain talented students and make the dream of higher education a reality. Donations to the School of Business expose students to the latest technology, global and cultural components of business, and provide them with experiential learning and practical internship opportunities. Competition among Fredonia's athletics programs led to a grand total of over \$38,000 to support the student-athlete experience.

"On behalf of the Fredonia College Foundation, I express my sincere thanks to our alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends who made our annual 'Day of Giving' an overwhelming success," said Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the Fredonia College Foundation Karen Rohr. "When Blue Devils come together, they change lives. Your gift, when combined with those of others, makes an impactful contribution to our community and the student experience. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 'Day of Giving,' and if you have not had an opportunity to make a gift, it's not too late."

➔ To make a donation, visit: [fredonia.edu/dayofgiving](http://fredonia.edu/dayofgiving).



Daniel Cherry, '85



Dr. Rachel M. Harris, '85  
(photo courtesy of St. Bonaventure University)

Orchestra and taught upper-level music theory courses. He has had 295 peer-reviewed articles published in a wide variety of music journals, guest conducted throughout the East Coast, and served for a time as Phyllis Diller's pianist and as a trumpeter with the Barnum and Bailey Circus, as well as Principal Trumpet with the Illinois Symphony and Second Trumpet in the Vermont Symphony. He and his wife, Jennifer, moved to Lubbock, TX, and have a 5-year-old son, James.

**Darren L. Martin, '83**, (commun.) is in his 40th year of broadcast digital and event sales in Virginia Beach. Currently, in his 23rd year at Entercom/Audacy, and also invested 17 years in Buffalo, NY, at Viacom, CBS now Town Square Media.

**Doug Kaltenbach, '83, '91**, (visual arts/special stds.) was inducted into the 2024 class of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame.

of Education, managing and developing training for principals and superintendents around leadership, change and technology. While in New Hampshire, he was heavily involved with community and summer stock theatre, performing at the New London Barn Playhouse and Newport Opera House. He has two adult children with his wife, Anne. His favorite Fredonia memories are performing with the Fredonia Chamber Singers, and participating in the Fredonia-Hamburg Teacher Education Center program.

**Dr. Rachel M. Harris, '85**, (music perf.) was named Executive Director of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University. Prior to joining the staff at the Quick Center, she was a freelance opera director/producer based in Baton Rouge, LA.

Continued ►



**Take Note:**

We are always looking for announcements of marriages and children—and photos!

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**Mike Kaupa, '86**, (music-applied) was a soloist in 2022 with the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble and has frequently performed with faculty at the Eastman School of Music. In February 2023, Mike was a guest soloist for the annual video recording of the Big Band CSMN [Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Navarra] in Pamplona, Spain. He also gave a jazz trumpet master class in Pamplona, as well as at the Musikene School in San Sebastian, Spain. For the past three years he has been part of SUNY Fredonia's Day of Jazz for high school students. In summer 2023 he was on the faculty of the Fredonia

**1990s**

**Allen Paul Booker, '90**, (English) was appointed to the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation Board of Trustees. He is the Founder and College Access Counselor at Booker College Planning of Niagara Falls, NY.

**Charlene (Zahm) Dodd, '91**, (bus. admin.) works in HR—Benefits at MassMutual in Springfield, MA.

**Marcus Harrigan, '92**, (chem.) is a Staff Scientist at Northrup Grumman and lives in Frostburg, MD.

**Paul Preston '92**, (acting) is celebrating 24 years as a working actor in Los Angeles. Currently, that involves hosting duties for live concerts at the Starlight Bowl in Burbank as well as special events for the city of Beverly Hills. He has been a writer and voice actor for Rock & Roll Radio Theater and recently

Picture program for middle and high school.

**Catherine Shannon, '94**, (psych.) joined Rochester Institute of Technology as the new Executive Director of the RIT and Rochester Regional Health Alliance. Prior to this, she was Director of Practice Management and Urgent Care at the University of Rochester Thompson Health.

**Colleen Batcheler, '95**, (pol. sci.) was appointed Senior Vice President, External Affairs and General Counsel, at Hormel Foods Corp.

**Daniel McManus, '96**, (rec. gene tech.) was promoted to Therapy Supervisor with Oswego (NY) Health. He started there as a Mental Health Clinician in 2019, and has also been an adjunct professor at SUNY Oswego.

**Jeff Mason, '95**, (commun.) works for Paychex in Indian Land, SC.

Conflict in the Hills," and a children's book.

**Michael P. Kelly, '98**, (elem. ed./math.) was named Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services at Williamsville (NY) Central Schools.

**Dr. Mark Newton, '99**, (elem. ed.) is an Assistant Professor at East Carolina University in the Mathematics, Science, and Instructional Technology Education department in Greenville, NC. He currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses for future and practicing science teachers. In the 2023-24 academic year, his research using virtual and augmented reality to teach about climate change was recognized nationally and internationally. In September 2023, his research team was awarded the EduCon-Athens Best Conference Presentation for its examination of perceived cognitive load while



Mike Kaupa, '86



Allen Paul Booker, '90



Paul Preston '92



Kevin Kruger, '94, '99

Summer Music Festival Band Camp. He is based in Rochester, NY, where he teaches part-time at The Harley School, the Eastman Community Music School and Finger Lakes Community College.

**Elizabeth "Beth" Tennant, '86**, (pol. sci.) is a Senior Account Executive selling cool technology to large transportation companies. She runs, bike, swims, skis, hikes and is "trying" pickleball.

**Lynn (Hartman) Hammond, '88**, (commun.) is Office Manager at Expressions Carpet & Flooring.

**Kevin McMahon, '89**, (account.) is Chief Compliance Officer and SVP of Internal Audit for the Calpine Corp of Houston, TX.

appeared in the 2022 Valérie Lemerrier film "Aline." He also founded and runs The Movie Guys' LA Film Locations Tour which gives guests private, customized tours of movie filming locations all over LA, and is the Co-Producer and Editor of "D23: Inside Disney," the official podcast of The Walt Disney Company.

**Lisa Kloc, '94, '99, '00**, (psych., speech and hear. hand., speech path.) was named Chief Executive Officer at Orlando (FL) Rehabilitation Hospital. Previously, she was a Director of Rehabilitation for acute and post-acute care services including acute, outpatient and inpatient rehabilitation in South Florida.

**Kevin Kruger, '94, '99**, (music ed) is Principal of Kenmore Junior/Senior High School in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda High School, working with the Ken-Ton Big

**Steve Keller, '97**, (commun.) was named Program Manager at Florida Tech's public radio station, WFIT 89.5.

**Jeffrey Mann, '97**, (biology) works for Worldwide Clinical Trials as the Director, Therapeutic Area Quality Lead providing Quality Management Oversight for the company's Oncology studies. He is currently in Rochester, NY.

**Evan Harrington, '98**, (musical theatre) and **Alex Joseph Grayson, '14**, (musical theatre) appeared in New York City Center Mainstage production of "Titanic, the Musical" in June.

**Dr. Casey Jakubowski, '98**, (soc. stds. adol. ed.) is the Founder of a consulting business in team dynamics/conflict management (Dragontamer.us), and has two books forthcoming, "Minerva's

participating in extended reality (AR and VR). A second paper was awarded the Implications of Research for Educational Practice at the 2024 Association for Science Teacher Education national conference. In Spring 2024, he was the recipient of the East Carolina University Scholar-Teacher Award for faculty who effectively integrate research into their teaching roles.

**2000s**

**Gregg Garfinkel, '00**, (interdis. stds.-legal stds.) is an Attorney with Denman & Lerner and lives in Ohio.

**Tammy Mangus, '00**, (English sec. ed.) was named Superintendent of Cassadaga (NY) Valley Central School.

**Bryan Winters, '00**, (bus. admin.) was selected as the lead Senior Director of Advancement at the



School of Medicine Columbia in Columbia, SC. Most recently, he was Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations for the Eastman Institute for Oral Health at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

**Dr. Brian Suttell, '02**, (soc. studs. adol. ed.) presented the Distinguished Lecture, "Campus to Counter: Civil Rights Activism" for the Martinsville-Henry County [VA] Historical Society. Brian is an Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Richard L. Smith Center for International Programs at Ferrum College in Virginia.

**Julia (Rosic) Brueckl, '03, '05**, (elem. ed./English., literacy) is the Director of Program for Read to Succeed Buffalo, supporting CARE Child Care, CARE Preschool, and Experience Corps programming. She has been with RTSB since 2008, employed as a literacy coach and literacy intervention specialist,

**Nicole (Lombardo) DeLaney, '05, '06**, (child. ed., literacy) is a literacy specialist and the Dean of Students at Spencer-Van Etten Elementary school.

**Ray Chenez, '06**, (music perf.) was featured in a June article in the *New York Times* about countertenors cast in roles at the Glyndebourne opera festival held during the summer. Ray performed the role of Nireno in a production of "Guilio Cesare."

**Andrew Bennett, '08**, (music ed., music perf.) was selected as a 2025 GRAMMY Music Educator Award quarterfinalist.

**Spencer Morgan, '08**, (history) was named Executive Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site in Buffalo, NY. He previously was Development Director for the Buffalo Zoo.



### Stenger named Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Tracy Stenger, '93, has been appointed Vice President for Student Affairs at SUNY Fredonia, effective July 1.

Dr. Stenger has been serving in this role on an interim basis since November 2021.

President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. noted in his announcement, "Dr. Stenger comes with a deep institutional knowledge of SUNY Fredonia and has excelled in various roles over the course of her 25-year career, including Assistant Director and Director of the Counseling Center. Her international experience is extensive, including teaching in Malaysia and Japan. She has held adjunct instructional appointments at Canisius University, the State University at Buffalo, and Genesee Community College."

He added, "I have found her commitment to this university to be exceptional. In the more than two years that she has served as Interim Vice President, she has demonstrated reliability and the desire to make a positive difference in her work."

Dr. Stenger earned a Ph.D. in Counselor Education from the State University at Buffalo, a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from SUNY Fredonia.

A member of the SUNY Fredonia professional staff since 1998, Stenger is the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service, and the inaugural Global Initiative Award established by the Office of International Education. In 2017 she earned an Erasmus+ program grant, sponsored by the European Commission, attending and presenting at a staff training program to share best counseling practices, at Anadolu University in Turkey.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Stenger led the Infection Control Management Team and Student Life Subcommittee which developed campus-wide support for students throughout the pandemic. She has also supervised Prevention, Advocacy and Wellness Services (PAWS) and the Student Health Center.



Colleen Batcheler, '95  
(photo courtesy of Hormel Foods Corp.)



Dr. Casey Jakubowski, '98

where she collaborated with teachers to enhance the language and literacy skills of students. Before working at RTSB, Julia was a prekindergarten teacher.

**Christina Olson, '03**, (commun.-comm. stds.) is an Associate Professor of creative writing at Georgia Southern University. Her third full-length collection of poetry, "The Anxiety Workbook," was released as part of the Pitt Poetry Series in 2023. Her writing has also appeared in *Scientific American*, *The Atlantic*, *Gastronomica*, *The Nation*, and *The Missouri Review*, among other magazines and journals.

**Dr. Justin Couchman, '05**, (philo.) was promoted to Professor of Psychology at Albright College in Reading, PA, where he has been on the faculty since 2013.

**Keith Nobles, '08**, (soc. stds. adol. ed., history) is Executive Director of the Professional Education Unit at SUNY Brockport.

**Kyle Pecora, '08**, (Spanish) was named Assistant Principal at Geneva (NY) Middle School. He previously was English as a New Language Coordinator and instructor in the Victor (NY) Central School District.

**Molly Anderson, '09, '17**, (curr. and instr., school build. leader.) and **Shane Lindstrom, '09**, (physics) were appointed to the Westfield (NY) Memorial Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. Molly is Elementary Principal at Westfield Academy and Central School, and Shane is a Senior Industrial Engineer at Cummins, Inc.

Continued ►



**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/my-story](http://www.fredonia.edu/my-story)

**Joshua F. Jacobs, '09**, (biology) is the first University Recognition Program Manager at the University of Rochester, serving over 36,000 employees for one of the biggest NY companies outside of NYC. He recently launched an online employee recognition platform, UR Stars, to help shift the university to a culture of appreciation and recognition.

State University, was named a finalist for the Joe B. Hall Award, presented annually to the top first-year head coach in NCAA Division I.

**Lily (Jarvis) Ianaconi, '10, '12**, (music ed.) was named one of the 2024 Yamaha "40 Under 40" honorees. She is a nine through 12th grade instrumental music instructor at Franklin Academy High School in Malone, NY. The award honors educators "who are making a difference in growing and strengthening music programs."

**Aaron Nichols, '10**, (physics, coop. engineer.) is a Principal Engineer in the Manufacturing Technology Group at the Howmet Aerospace Research Center in Whitehall, MI. The job includes conceiving, designing, and fabricating Industrial Equipment and Automation for the company's Investment Casting Facilities, both domestically and internationally.

**Carly Salzberg, '12**, (English) works as an Executive Assistant to a CEO at the Osher Marin JCC in San Rafael, CA.

**Alexandra Drake, '15**, (biology) is a Senior Analyst at the Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute and lives in Buffalo, NY.

Soprano **Mary Evelyn Hangle, '12**, (music ed.) was soloist in a production of Mozart's "Coronation Mass" at Carnegie Hall in May.

**Christopher Scarpine, '12**, (school bldg. leader.) was appointed Coordinator of Arts and Humanities by the Jamestown (NY) Public School Board of Education. Prior to this appointment, he had been Principal of Springville-Griffith Institute Elementary School for eight years.

**Keah Brown, '13**, (commun.-journalism) had a children's book published, "Sam's Super Seats."

schools, and community-based organizations to share information about the university's visual and performing arts programs.

**Daniella (DiBitetto) Minchak, '14**, (commun.-public rel.) is Director, Growth Solutions (Category Management Department in the CPG Industry) at KeHE Distributors.

**Jillian Hanesworth, '15**, (criminal justice) former poet laureate for the city of Buffalo, NY, was a co-recipient of the 2024 Dick Schaap Outstanding Writing Award with director/co-producer Augustus "Slim Gus" Clarke for their work on the short film, "Still Here: The Bond Between a Heartbroken City and Its Beloved Football Team," at the Sports Emmy Awards ceremony in May. Jillian recited her poetry on the film. She also was part of a trio of artists who created the Buffalo AKG Art Museum exhibit, "Before and After Again," which included visual art, poetry and prose to reflect on the May 14, 2022, tragedy at the Tops supermarket in Buffalo.

**Dr. Derron Hiltz, '15**, (psych.) is an Assistant Professor and School Counseling Program Coordinator at Niagara University. He is also the co-recipient of a grant from the New York State School Counselor Association to examine the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and student-to-student counselor ratios on student outcomes. He earned his M.S.Ed. in Counselor Education from Duquesne University and Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education from Syracuse University.

**Nolan Ahearn, '16**, (social work) is the social worker for Pediatric Nephrology at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY, working with children on dialysis, with/ waiting for a kidney transplant, and those with kidney disease, and their families. He noted, "I wouldn't be where I am now without the SW faculty, internship supervisors, mentors, and friends that Fredonia provided."

**Michael Hawk, '16**, (music perf.) performed the role of Silvio in Seattle Opera's Opening Night production of "Pagliacci," on Aug. 3 in McCaw Hall.

**Dianna Hawryluk, '16**, (commun.-audio and video prod.) has been anchoring the KGMI Morning News (AM 790/96.5 FM) in Bellingham, WA, since 2021.



Christina Olson, '03



Spencer Morgan, '08



Jillian Hanesworth, '15 with her Sports Emmy (photo by Malcolm "So Ez" Edwards).

**Paul Mihalko, '09, '11**, (school bldg. leader, school district leader.) was selected as the Secondary School Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State. He is the Career and Technical Education Principal for Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, based at its Hewes BOCES center in Ashville, NY.

**Aliza (Cincotta) Stoll, '09**, (music ed.) is the Junior High Orchestra Director in Baldwinsville NY. She just completed her 14th year in the district. She is married to Fredonia alumnus **Derek Stoll, '08**, (math.) they have four children, and "both cherish our memories at Fredonia."

**2010s**

**Bryan Hodgson, '10**, (sport mgmt.) basketball Head Coach at Arkansas

**Kyle van Schoonhoven, '11**, (music ed.) performed the role of Ulrich Eisslinger in "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg" in April and May at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

**Andrew R. Mark, '11**, (music perf.) has joined the Buffalo office of Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC. He earned his juris doctor degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law.

**Jean Bear Beltz, '12**, (public account.) has been working in the accounting industry for over 10 years, currently as a SR Team Lead Accountant for a \$3 billion freight company, partnered with UPS, where she handles the financial preparation and monthly accuracy of the company's financial records. She lives in the countryside, outside of Dallas, TX, is married and has a 1-year-old.

**Tyler Gold, '14**, (account.) is currently following his dream as a musician and owning his own business, adding, "It's a slow and steady race but the end goal is worth the time and effort!"

**Anthony Piacentini, '14**, (commun.-public rel.) works at the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce as the Membership Relations Manager.

**Elizabeth Root, '14**, (music ed., music perf.) graduated with a Master of Music in Flute Performance from Kent State University in 2017, and continued to work there until 2020 as an adjunct instructor and music recruitment coordinator. Currently, she works at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as its Arts Recruitment Coordinator, where she connects with prospective students,



**Ben Schrantz, '16**, (history) was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in June at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, NY.

**Alexandra Walsh, '16**, (commun.-public rel.) is working at Madison Square Garden in the Employee Relations Division. She added, "Minoring in Sport Management helped me make my dreams come true and break into the sports world!"

**Jefferson Dedrick, '17**, (history, social stds. adol. ed.) recently moved to the Buffalo, NY, area and was sworn in as the Commissioner of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for the Buffalo region. He is residing with his wife and 3-year-old son in Amherst, NY.

**Dan Siracuse, '17**, (bus. admin.-market.) was named Community Relations Coordinator at the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County.

**Arianna Alsop, '18**, (commun.-public rel.) is a Lecturer in the School of Communication and as Assistant Director of the Expressive Communication Center at Rochester Institute of Technology. She added, "The Fredonia Communication program did a great job preparing me for grad school and my career. I'm most thankful for the incredible professors in the department that invested in me and my future (a big part of why I wanted to teach college students myself)!"

**Emily (Buck) Patronik, '18**, (bus. admin.-finance, public account.) started her career working at Drescher & Malecki as a governmental auditor, then went to Catholic Medical Partners, a partner of Catholic Health. She just celebrated her one-year anniversary at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library as the Assistant Deputy Director—Controller, serving as the Controller for all 37 libraries in the system.

**Rachael Smith, '18**, (music comp.) teaches music theory at the University of Delaware and is finishing her doctoral degree at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

**Alexis Sorbello, '18**, (commun.-public rel.) is a Marketing and Development Coordinator for Helping Celebrate Abilities in Binghamton, NY, which serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all

ages to ensure they live their most fulfilling life. Her job is to raise funds to support programs and services.

**Hannah Apthorpe, '19**, (commun.-public rel.) started her first job in June 2019 at CGI Digital, a marketing agency in Rochester, NY, which went remote for COVID, and moved to North Carolina in the fall of 2021. She currently serves as Communications Coordinator for Arbor Acres Retirement Community in Winston-Salem, managing internal communications to residents, staff, and family members from the CEO and administration, and assisting the marketing department in external communications. She was recently voted in as a board member for the Sawtooth School for Visual Art in Winston-Salem, the "City of Arts and Innovation."

**Christina Colose, '19**, (bus. admin.-market.) is a Food Broker with Affinity Group in Houston TX.

**Claire Dennehy, '19**, (bus. admin.) is married to a SUNY Fredonia alumnus and lives in Washington, D.C., where she works for Live Nation Entertainment in booking.

**Doug Sweet, '19**, (bus. admin.) was hired as Administrative Office Coordinator for Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc.

## 2020s

**Yasmeen Marshall, '20**, (psych.) earned a Master of Arts degree in Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness from New York University. She is a Licensed Associate Counselor, providing counseling at Stellar Counseling Services in Montclair, NJ.

**Joseph Skibinski, '20**, (bus. admin.-market.) works in Sales for Paychex in Rochester, NY.

**Thomas Willson, '20**, (theatre prod. and design) is on his fourth national Broadway tour. Tom toured as a Flyman with "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Funny Girl" and as a Head Carpenter with "Hairspray" and "Mean Girls." His latest show, "Funny Girl," was at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, NY, in February.

**Brandon Cruz, '21**, (commun.-journalism) is a News Reporter for the U.S. Sun, reporting on national news and politics. He previously worked for the *Long Island Herald* where he helped start and establish the *Uniondale Herald*.



## Alumna Kendall named Enrollment VP

SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr., announced the appointment of Dr. Kathryn M. Kendall as Vice President for Enrollment Management and Services at SUNY Fredonia, effective Jan. 29.

Dr. Kendall is a SUNY Fredonia alumna, with over 20 years of experience in higher education specializing in enrollment management, including recruitment, admissions, and financial aid operations. She most recently served as Senior Assistant Dean for enrollment and online programs in the School of Social Work at the State University at Buffalo, a position she has held since 2016.

She earned her Ed.D. at the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester. Kendall received a Master of Social Work degree from the State University at Buffalo and an undergraduate degree in Psychology from SUNY Fredonia in 1990.

Offices reporting to Kendall are Admissions and Financial Aid. As Chief Enrollment Officer for the university, Kendall will represent Fredonia on SUNY System-wide enrollment initiatives.

**Robert Kleinertz, '21**, (music ed., music perf.) and **Meredith Zimmer, '14, '23**, (music ed.) were featured soloists in the Western New York Chamber Orchestra's performance of Rossini's "Stabat Mater," in May in King Concert Hall.

**Braden Scott, '24**, (commun.-public rel.) was accepted into the Master of Science in Public Relations Innovation, Strategy and Management program at The University of Southern California for the fall.

## MARRIAGES

**Anais Cantres '20**, (visual arts and new media: drawing/painting) to **D. Alejandro Garcia, '22** (music ed.).



## DEATHS

### ALUMNI

Beula M. (Kanistanaux) Einhouse, '38  
 Virginia H. Newman, '43  
 Maude Augusta Morley, '48  
 Pauline (Stout) Hardenburg, '49  
 Grace (Gestwicki) Hassett, '51  
 Joseph Kenneth Anzalone, '53  
 Frederick Emery Haag III, '53  
 Marjorie (Herget) Manning, '53  
 Robert E. Block, '54  
 Lucille M. McChesney, '54  
 Mary Lou (Rigoli) Scherer, '57  
 John F. Aceti, '58  
 Mary Ann Corsoro, '58  
 Jean (Bruss) Donselman Peters, '58  
 Jacquelyn "Jackie" Geiffert Maye, '69  
 Fred C. Myer, '60  
 Roger P. Thorpe, '60  
 Richard A. Mangino, '62  
 Dorothy (Kleber) Piepke, '62  
 Beverly "Bev" (Innocent) Wood, '65  
 Robert J. Molinari, '66  
 Robert "Bob" Palmer Taylor, '66  
 Claretta (Lafferty) Metzger, '67  
 Ellen "Lenni" (Snyder) Whitney, '67  
 John W. Murgatroyd, '68  
 David Harry Hernquist, '69  
 Richard "Dick" J. Pisani, '69  
 John H. Bellows, '70  
 Dr. Nancy N. Vacc, '71  
 Sandra L. (Piper) Christman, '72  
 Robert Eric "Eli" Eliasson, '72  
 Theodore J. Bland Jr., '73  
 Marilyn Ann (Phillips) Bona, '73  
 Carol Lynn (Johnson) Herbst, '73

Daniel R. Ryel, '73  
 Linda Jean (Wojcio) Shaut, '73  
 Stan Jozwiak, '74  
 Ann L. (Crise) Mulkin, '74  
 Carl A. Silvio, '74  
 Lois (Berggren) Hammond, '75  
 Barbara A. (deLeon) Zima, '74  
 Patricia (Zielenieski) Volk, '75  
 John Paul Cable, '78  
 Corey C. Jonas, '78  
 Sally A. (Younkin) Stauffer, '79  
 Hollis J. Wright, '80  
 Thomas P. McShane, '82  
 Susan (Kiefer) Woolard, '82  
 Eric Thom, '83  
 Jack E. Schwartz, '84  
 Lisa Jayne Obert Waite, '84  
 Catherine (Karalus) Reilly, '85  
 Duane A. Hill, '88  
 Cindy Lee Wagner, '88  
 Paul J. Siragusa, '90  
 Scott David Bennett, '93  
 Dr. Donna (Carlson) Jones, '95  
 Paula J. Troutman, '96  
 Gayle (Cooley) Hayes, '00  
 Deborah Jane (Johanson) Oram, '01  
 Ryan J. Callahan, '05  
 Alexander M. Coronado, '06  
 Kevin James Iuppa, '10  
 Nichole Whitehead Harlow, '10  
 Aiden Paul Perrilloux, '13

### FACULTY/EMERITI

**Timothy R. Allan**, Adjunct Instructor/Adjunct Lecturer, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, 1990–2013  
**Marilyn (Anderson) Barresi, '51**, Supervisor, Student Teaching, College of Education, 1967–2001  
**Dr. Mira Berkley**, Visiting Assistant Professor/Assistant Professor/Coordinator of the Early Childhood Program/Chair, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, 2000–2015  
**Dr. Frank A. Chimenti**, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics 1969–1982  
**Dr. Shannon Jonas**, Adjunct Lecturer, Department of English, 2018–2023  
**Dr. John S. Ramsey**, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Professor/Acting Chair and Chair, Department of English, 1970–2004  
**Dr. David Yeomans**, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Music, 1972–1980

### STAFF/RETIRED STAFF

**Alicia "Carol" DeChard**, Cook (22 years), Faculty Student Association  
**Linda M. John**, Senior Stenographer, Computing Services; Secretary 1 in several departments including Business Administration and School of Music, 1984–1999  
**James H. Kawski**, Cleaner, Maintenance and Operations, 1988–2000  
**Peter P. Komada Jr.**, Programmer, Lead Programmer, Senior Programmer/Analyst, Computing Services (ITS), 1980–2006  
**Elizabeth "Betty" J. Korzeniewski**, Cleaner, Maintenance and Operations, 1980–1991  
**Karl H. Lawson**, Cleaner/Janitor/ Groundswoker/Highway Equipment and Motor Vehicle Operator/Maintenance Assistant/General Mechanic, 1972–2001  
**Anthony "Tony" Siraguso**, Steam Fireman/Stationary Engineer/Plumber/Steamfitter/ Maintenance Supervisor/Assistant Director of Physical Plant/Facilities Program Coordinator/Director of Facilities, 1967–1996, Capital Facilities Master Planner 1996–2012  
**Irene Talarico, '77**, Residence Director/Assistant to the Director of Housing/Assistant Director of Housing/Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Coordinator (1983–1986); Office of Residence Life, 1978–1986  
**Patricia (Borowski) Michalske Walgate**, Typist/Senior Typist/Secretary 1/Secretary 2/ Instructional Support Specialist; Campus Center/Office of Campus Life, 1969–2001



# CAREER CORNER

by Christopher LaGrow  
Interim Director of Engagement and Career Development



You've heard about the Career Development Office's services to students

and alumni, like resume reviews, practice interviews, career choices, the

FREDNetwork/

Handshake job and internship posting system, and internship and job search assistance. But did you know the full extent of our campus recruitment program? Each year the CDO hosts and helps coordinate several recruitment events both on and off campus, and alumni are welcome to attend these events, either as an interested job seeker or as a representative of their employer!

Early in the fall semester, we host the award-winning Network on the Go, a mini job fair held during Activities Night. Participating employers enjoy this more casual event, which

draws hundreds of students. While we have limited space, this is a great opportunity for employers seeking interns or local part-time employees, or who just want to be on students' radar.

Career Development supports the annual Meet the Professionals Night, a School of Business event focusing on accounting and finance students. CPA firms, financial institutions, and other employers seeking those majors come to share their jobs and internships. Employers get a "Look Book," which includes the resumes of third, fourth and fifth-year students in those programs.

In mid-October is the Graduate School Fair, which brings more than 60 institutions representing hundreds of graduate programs to campus. With a large percentage of Fredonia alumni choosing to attend graduate school, the event enables students to learn about the application

process, program specifics, and graduate assistantship opportunities.

While students are off in January, they can attend the WNY Career & Internship Fair in Amherst, NY. The CDO helps coordinate the regional event, which routinely attracts 90+ employers from the region across many career fields.

Early March brings the Job & Internship Expo to the Williams Center. The 2024 expo drew a record 110 employers, broken up for the first time into six smaller industry clusters to make it easy for students to find them (we hope to add more clusters in 2025). We had 40 Fredonia graduates representing their organizations that day, and there's always room for more!

Finally, the CDO is part of the WNY Teacher Recruitment Day, a long-standing interview day for education candidates (including alumni) that brings together more than 120 districts each year from western New York, New York

State, and throughout the country.

In addition to these larger-scale events, the CDO hosts employers and/or alumni for more targeted career or recruitment presentations throughout the school year. We also collect resumes and host on-campus interviews for employers upon request, making applying and interviewing easier for students.

If your organization has jobs or internships available and you'd like to promote those opportunities to students and alumni, or if you're a graduate who just happens to be seeking a new job or career, you're encouraged to participate in one or more of the events and to utilize FREDNetwork powered by Handshake. Visit the CDO's website at [www.fredonia.edu/cdo](http://www.fredonia.edu/cdo) or contact us at [careers@fredonia.edu](mailto:careers@fredonia.edu) to learn more about how we can help you — or your organization!



**FRED  
NETWORK**  
POWERED BY **Handshake**

## 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](mailto:careers@fredonia.edu) Web [www.fredonia.edu/cdo](http://www.fredonia.edu/cdo)





## Hey, Fredonia Alumni!

We want to celebrate your successes, keep you in the loop on Fredonia happenings, and bring our amazing community even closer together. To do that, we need your current contact info!

Don't miss out—share your updates and stories with us and stay connected for the latest news, events, and reunions. Click the link below to update your info now! <https://buff.ly/3VEocv0>

