Alumna makes history in western New York
Trini Ross, '88, sworn in as U.S. Attorney

Guertin/Hite Scholarship endowed by Margaret “Peg” (Guertin) Hite, '64

Theatre alumna Jennifer Cody returns in residency to choreograph ‘The Wild Party’

Dream job in White House becomes reality for '19 graduate

Unexpected paths lead graduates to FBI careers
COVER STORY
Alumna makes history in western New York
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Admissions will continue to host daily information sessions starting in late January and running through early May. Following all health and safety protocols, Admissions is also welcoming registered Group Visits for High School and Community Based Programs throughout the spring. In late February to April, Admissions will host off-campus accepted student receptions spread across the state, as well as two on-campus Go Big BLUE Accepted Student Days.

For details and registration, please visit: https://www.fredonia.edu/admissions-aid/visit-tour

Alumni and Campus Events Calendar

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

MARCH
Fredonia Career Development Office’s Employer Showcase
A month-long series of employer showcase events hosted by the Career Development Office. For more information, contact CDO Director Tracy Collingwood at collingw@fredonia.edu or call (716) 673-3327.

APRIL
Buffalo Area Teacher Recruitment Day
Tuesday, April 5
11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Virtual event hosted via CareerEco RSViP
Job fair for K-12 careers
https://tred.org
For more information, contact CDO Director Tracy Collingwood at collingw@fredonia.edu or call (716) 673-3327.

Deadline for Children/Grandchildren of Alumni Scholarship applications to Office of Alumni Affairs
Friday, April 8, 5 p.m.
Application and instructions may be found at: https://www.fredonia.edu/alumni/alumni-association-scholarships

MAY
Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 286 Central Ave.

Commencement
Saturday, May 21
By invitation only

JULY
Alumni Golf Tournament
Friday, July 15
Shorewood Country Club
4958 E. Shorewood Drive
Dunkirk, NY 14048

AUGUST
Alumni Board Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 11, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 286 Central Ave.

First Day of Classes of the Fall Semester
Monday, Aug. 22

OCTOBER
Friday–Saturday, Oct. 14–16
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 14–16
Schedule of Events will be available in June at: https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni

Family Weekend
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 21–23
Campus

NOVEMBER
Annual Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 10, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 286 Central Ave.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

During the nearly two years that I have been at the State University of New York at Fredonia, I have learned just how deeply connected our alumni are to the university. Their every interaction, conversation, and message demonstrate their continued interest, commitment, and support. For this, I am truly grateful and enjoy every opportunity to connect with alumni.

I am certain that you are concerned about the impact that the global pandemic continues to have on your alma mater. Yes, these have been very challenging times. But, I would like you to know that even in such circumstances, we have maintained a high level of academic excellence and provided specialized educational opportunities to students. There are simply not enough words to thank our faculty and staff for their creativity, commitment and extraordinarily hard work in ensuring the fulfillment of our mission. Additionally, our students have demonstrated exemplary resilience and have stayed the course with regard to their academic goals. These are among the many reasons that I am very happy to be here at SUNY Fredonia at such an unprecedented time in higher education.

As you know, students need to be supported in order to succeed and complete their degree programs. There are increasing numbers of Fredonia students who are first-generation college students or are not from financially endowed backgrounds. Despite financial aid programs such as the Excelsior Scholarship offered by New York State, students tend to require additional financial support to pursue and complete their studies. Hence, each and every dollar that we are able to provide helps to ensure that our students can attain their educational goals at Fredonia. This is why I am grateful for the nearly $5 million in foundation and state-funded scholarships, grants, and other financial supports that have been awarded this year. This has only been possible because of the generosity of alumni and other supporters. Please know that I greatly appreciate the contributions you have made and continue to make to create opportunities for our students. Thank you.

As always, whenever your travels take you to western New York, I hope you will come visit us here on campus. It will be our pleasure to welcome you back home.

Very truly yours,

Dr. K. Stephen H. Kolison Jr., Ph.D.
President
The day after George Floyd was killed, a young son of Trini Ross, an alumna of the State University of New York at Fredonia, told his mother that she should become a United States Attorney because he believed she would take steps to make sure what he saw would never happen again.

“When I asked him why he thought I could do that, he told me because of over the 23 years that he grew up with me being a prosecutor, he saw me try to practice what I preached, and that was ensuring that justice was done no matter the personal circumstances of a defendant or a victim,” Ms. Ross explained.

“He saw what I did as a prosecutor, and he believed that I could use that experience to become a United States Attorney and to make positive changes.”

Ross indicated the murder of Mr. Floyd that sparked outrage and social justice movements throughout the United States and the world struck her in a very personal way that was unique. An older son is a New York State trooper who was assigned to ensure that the protests remain peaceful, while a younger son wanted to participate in the marches to express the outrage at what he had seen.

That was a defining moment Ms. Ross shared at her ceremonial investiture, as the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, held in November at her alma mater, Hutchinson Central Technical High School. It was a homecoming of sorts in Buffalo for Ross, who went on to earn a B.A. in Sociology at Fredonia in 1988.

**President Biden selects Ross**

It also marked a historic first. Ross is the first African American female to become the top federal prosecutor for the 17 counties that comprise the Western District.
She was one of eight nominees of President Joe Biden to serve as a U.S. Attorney across the country.

“SUNY Fredonia is incredibly proud of Trini Ross,” said SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. “Her journey to this nomination is a shining example of how SUNY Fredonia prepares students for success. We look forward to seeing Ms. Ross fill this important role in the western New York community,” President Kolison added.

“As a product of local public schools — from Hutch-Tech, to Fredonia, to U.B. Law — Trini Ross rose to become one of the most respected attorneys in Buffalo. I was proud to recommend her for this position, knowing that she will continue her commitment to the highest standards of legal professionalism as the newest United States Attorney,” U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer said.

“Even before high school and college, I learned the importance of caring about community, society and my country from my parents, Edward and Ramona, and my uncle, George K. Arthur,” Ross said. “I’m standing here today because of that very strong family support,” she told her audience.

Early life lessons made an unforgettable impression on Ross and became the driving force behind her commitment to a life of public and community service.

“Unlike other people of color and women when I was growing up, who were protesting and challenging our systems of law and justice, I thought another way to bring about change was to become part of the establishment, to help make those rules, then I could have a voice and then I could assist in making rules that were fair for everyone.

“I want to ensure justice for all who encountered the criminal justice system, including the defendants, the victims and their families,” Ross pledged.

“I wanted to bring my perspective as a Black woman, with Black family members, as a person who grew up with modest means, a member of a diverse community, into the criminal justice system,” Ross said.

She realized that dream upon becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney in 1995.

Ross formerly served as the Director of Investigations, in the Legal Division, with the National Science Foundation’s Office of Inspector General for three years. She led a group of attorneys that investigated allegations of fraud, waste and abuse of money and programs administered by the National Science Foundation.

“I am very proud of her accomplishments and pleased to have been able to make some small contribution to them,” Sinden said.

Sinden chaired the Department of Sociology during Ross’ years at Fredonia and also supervised her internship with a court in Erie County, N.Y.

Ross pointed to two strong factors that led her to Fredonia. “The cost of attending SUNY Fredonia was very attractive,” Ross said. “Also, the financial aid I was able to receive allowed me to earn my degree without incurring student loans.” Her choice of Fredonia was further reinforced by Sociology professors who increased her level of curiosity in the study of that discipline.

Highlights of her Fredonia years included being part of the Black Student Union, and seeing how students of color were bonded by their shared experiences at Fredonia, as well as receiving the Outstanding Student Award from the Department of Sociology as a senior.

After receiving her Fredonia degree, Ross earned a M.A. from Rutgers University and J.D., cum laude, from the University at Buffalo School of Law.

The Honorable Patrick H. NeMoyer, who is an Associate Justice, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, was among those speaking at the investiture, and reflected, with pride, that he had the wisdom to hire Ross as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Ross’ persistence acclaimed

“Some people may ask why I chose her,” Associate Justice NeMoyer reflected. “Education, intelligence, experience, common sense and compassion were traits Ross clearly exhibited, he said, though they were not the only ones. “Bill Bradley, who was a tremendous basketball player and a good U.S. senator, said ambition helps us set lofty goals,” NeMoyer said, but persistence is the vehicle that accomplishes that, and Ross has demonstrated persistence throughout her life, he said.

Zachary McArdle, former board chair of Buffalo City Swim Racers, a non-profit that provides free swim lessons to at-risk youth throughout the city of Buffalo, served on the board alongside Ross for five years and also spoke at the ceremony.

“We all knew that we were lucky to have Trini; she could have been on any board in town, but she stuck with us, and we desperately needed her. At the time,
our only employees were part-time swim instructors and a part-time executive director, so it was very much a working board,” Mr. McArdle said.

Ross, who joined the board at its infancy, was instrumental in constructing the legal framework that allowed the organization to achieve growth targets, McArdle said, and the budget grew five-fold during her tenure.

McArdle said Ross was a regular financial donor and was always on speed dial for the executive director.

“The most valuable contribution Trini made was how she advocated for us and helped recruit diverse talent to the board,” he said.

The SUNY Fredonia Jazz Collective, comprised of School of Music faculty Dr. Nick Weiser, Elliot Scozzaro, Kieran Hanlon and John Bacon, performed at the ceremony.

Ross said she was “wowed” by the support she received from the community to become the United States Attorney. She also noted the large contingent of judges, elected officials, colleagues and associates — including a large contingent from the U.S. Attorney General’s Office — and friends who attended her investiture.

She views such strong show of support from the community as a mandate to be inclusive, ensuring all voices are heard; to be strong; to make the hard decisions for the right reasons, without fear or favor; to be innovative; and to be proactive and try to protect and prevent crime and hurt from within communities, thereby keeping people outside of the criminal justice system.

Ross concluded her remarks by challenging Hutch-Tech students attending the ceremony. “I am here on the stage as an alum; if I can do this, you can do this. And you can do more, and I expect you to do more.”
Guertin/Hite Scholarship
endowed by Margaret “Peg” (Guertin) Hite, ’64

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support to upper level SUNY Fredonia students majoring in the sciences, with preference given to those students who graduated from area high schools in Chautauqua County. Students must be majoring in Geology, Biology, Biochemistry, Physics, or a combination of these programs (with priority given in that order). Students should be either an incoming junior or incoming senior. The student(s) receiving scholarships from the fund must be enrolled full-time at Fredonia, and must be in good academic standing, ambitious and show promise.

In the Donor’s words...

I entered Fredonia in the fall of 1960, jammed into a dorm room in Alumini Hall with two other girls — new dorms and Cranston were under construction. I was an Elementary Ed major, very unsure of myself. Come January 1963, I joined the Junior Semester in Antwerp group, and still retain a connection with my Belgian family and the fellow Fredonians. Graduation in June 1964 brought me a teaching position and confidence! My sister Susan Guertin Chandler, found Fredonia too, spending a semester in Antwerp, graduating in 1971 and teaching for 33 years at Southwestern.

But why the Sciences major scholarship??? My five children, under no coercion from me, also attended Fredonia: Thomas Hite, ’93, Geology major; married Brenda Lloyd, ’95 (also a Geology major); Laura Hite Scheid, ’95, Geology major; Elizabeth Hite Burgeson, ’98, Earth Science/Biology Education major; Kristopher Hite, Ph.D., ’05, Biochemistry major, and Kathleen Hite Sard, B.S., M.S., ’09, ’11, Biology major, married to Nicholas Sard, Ph.D., ’09, ’11, Biology major. Fredonia was a great foundation for my kids, who have gone on to obtain higher degrees at other institutions and all have super employment now. Fredonia awarded them scholarships and the Guertin/Hite scholarship is a “pay it forward” scholarship to repay all the financial aid given to my kids and also myself. Thank you, Fredonia. We are all proud graduates.

— Peg (Guertin) Hite, ’64
FREDlanthropy Day
April 27, 2022

- Our biggest single day of philanthropy for Fredonia each year
- Show your support for future Fredonians
- Save the date and share the event with others
- Bolster Fredonia programs and scholarships
- Watch for information in your email and on Fredonia’s social media accounts

2021 FREDlanthropy Day Facts

- $26,193 total donation amount
- 143 gifts (134 online gifts, 9 gifts by mail)
- Most common gift amount: $100
- Largest single gift amount: $1,200

Donor Points of Pride

- 42 Faculty/Staff/Emeriti
- 8 Foundation Board
- 5 Alumni Board
- 9 New donors
- 14 Lapsed donors (5+ years)
- Past FREDlanthropy Day efforts have supported the student emergency fund, campus and department priority needs, scholarships and student research.
Theatre alumna Jennifer Cody returns in residency to choreograph ‘The Wild Party’
Jennifer Cody, who went on to become a veteran of Broadway, film and television after earning a B.F.A. in Acting at Fredonia, returned to campus as choreographer of “The Wild Party,” the opening show of the 2021-2022 Walter Gloor Mainstage Season.

During a three-week residency, Ms. Cody worked with students in rehearsal to create all the dancing in the production. She was in the original cast of “The Wild Party,” playing the role of Mae, and appears on the cast album, so she has a special connection with the show.

Cody also worked with students in classes, offering multiple workshops, mock auditions and question-and-answer sessions to provide an invaluable experience.

Department of Theatre and Dance Professor Jessica Hillman-McCord, who directed “The Wild Party,” was thrilled to be able to bring in Cody to work with performers on this production. “It’s an incredible opportunity for our students to be able to work closely with such a successful industry professional,” Dr. Hillman-McCord said.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for our students to be able to work closely with such a successful industry professional.”
— Dr. Jessica Hillman-McCord

Immediately upon graduating from Fredonia, Cody joined a touring production of “Gypsy.” She then began her stage career on Broadway as a replacement in “Cats” in the role of Rumpleteazer. She was also seen in Broadway productions of “Grease,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Seussical,” “Urinetown,” “Taboo,” “The Pajama Game” and “Shrek,” among others.

Cody is also known for voicing Charlotte in the 2009 Disney animated feature film, “The Princess and the Frog.” That role earned her an Annie Award for Voice Acting in a Feature Production. Other Disney credits include “Gravity Falls” and “Phineas and Ferb,” among many.

Cody also serves as second vice president for the Actors Equity Association (AEA).

In 2019, Cody performed at the Rockefeller Arts Center’s 50th anniversary celebration. What the professional world is really like,” said Brandin X. Smalls, a junior from Ilion, N.Y. “With the experience we get from SUNY Fredonia and the real-life glance from Jen into the professional world, I think her being here really helps us be prepared for future performances.”

Lauren A. Teller, a senior from Marilla, N.Y., admired the flexibility that Cody has in her choreography. “She allows collaboration with the actors and making a final product with a learning experience that is like no other,” Ms. Teller said.

How receptive Cody is to collaboration and making everyone happy while also “producing and showing the best versions of ourselves” is what Alissa Rojas, a senior from East Meadow, N.Y., cherished in Cody.

Cody considers “The Wild Party” to be a big show, with many moving parts that she didn’t fully appreciate as a cast member.

“It’s really cool to challenge students a bit and wonder if they can do it, and then they come back the next day with it learned and knowing they’ve spent time on it. I said to my husband ‘I think I’m making a difference!’ And that’s exciting! I’m giving whatever I’ve gotten from my years of school back to Fredonia and I love it,” Cody said.

Cody’s residency was been made possible by the generosity of the Williams Visiting Professorship Endowment through the Fredonia College Foundation.

Six performances of “The Wild Party” were given in late October in Marvel Theatre to in-person audiences.

“The Wild Party”
Dream job in White House becomes reality for ’19 graduate

Like many recent Fredonia graduates, Rebekah Denz works an eight-hour shift at an office job.

Unlike many graduates, Ms. Denz works for the Executive Office of the President. Denz works in the White House Office of Records Management in a large French Second Empire building, called the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The office is located west of the West Wing of the White House in Washington D.C.

The White House Office of Records Management consists of 17 records managers who retain physical documents from the sitting president’s administration. Records such as notes, memos, letters, birthday cards and any other physical document that records the “day-to-day processes and deliberations” of the administration are organized, digitized, and indexed by the records analysts and specialists. The office also offers services to White House staff such as reviewing outgoing correspondence, tracking incoming and outgoing mail and guidance regarding electronic records, according to Denz. As soon as a president’s term is over, all the records obtained by the Office of Records Management during that administration are sent to the National Archives and Records Administration for permanent keeping and all will eventually be accessible to the public in a Presidential Library. In short, “it’s about saving history for others,” Denz said.

How did a 2019 graduate find herself working for the White House? By “crazy circumstances” and by establishing connections.

Denz grew up in West Seneca, a suburb of Buffalo, N.Y., and decided to attend Fredonia after hearing positive things about the university from friends and relatives. “I went and visited the school and talked to professors and felt like this is where I need to be,” Denz said. Majoring in History and minoring in Museum Studies, Denz made the most of her time at Fredonia by serving as president of the History Club, a member of the Honor’s Program leadership team and a student member of the Convocation Committee.

She was a teaching assistant for Dr. John Staples’ history class, “From the Archives to the Web: Creating the On-Line Biographical Dictionary of Chautauqua.” Denz also worked as a peer tutor in the Learning Center and as a student worker at the Reed Library circulation desk and in the library’s Special Collections and Archives.

“Being involved in those kinds of organizations on campus really inspired me to listen to other people and to learn from others because we all learn differently,” Denz said. Especially with peer tutoring, Denz learned that “some people just need to physically be with history instead of being in a lecture hall, and I think that really drove me to get into records management and archiving.”

Such abilities to look at the world through different perspectives have continued to benefit her.

In 2016, Denz interned with the Chautauqua Institution, compiling information on activities for the International Order of King’s Daughters and Sons.
The following year, Denz landed a highly competitive internship with the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Md., near Washington, D.C. There, she assisted in processing records of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Army Inspector General.

“I think the biggest thing I learned from my internships was to ask questions and to ask for advice,” Denz said. Nicknamed the “head intern” at the National Archives, Denz’s enthusiasm and positivity gave her advisors a lasting impression — which would later help land her her dream job.

A few months after graduating in the spring of 2019, Denz worked at the Buffalo Central Library as a Library Page, but found the entry level position to be “not as challenging as I had hoped, so I began looking for opportunities outside of the public library.” In October of the same year, Denz began working as a Document Custodian Reviewer for M&T Bank in the Larkin Building in Buffalo. “M&T was a fun job, but not my dream job,” Denz said.

In August of 2020, “I got an email from my former supervisor at the National Archives saying, ‘Hey, my friend at the White House Office of Records Management is looking to hire someone and I think you’d be a good candidate. Would you like to apply?’ So, I said ‘sure’ and I applied. They got back to me really quickly and asked, ‘Okay, when can you come? Can you come next week?’ So, I hopped in my car and went all the way down to D.C. for a day,” Denz said.

Many applicants did not want to interview in-person as there were concerns about travel during the pandemic. But “going down and being in-person and really showing my interest in the job” helped Denz stand out as a serious candidate. Despite the unique circumstances brought about by the pandemic, Denz made it to and through the interview, thinking “if I can get through the interview, I can do anything now.”

In October of 2020, Denz found herself moving to the District in the midst of a pandemic and starting her “dream job.” The transition was “at first scary, but I think Fredonia really helped me a lot. Living on campus, taught me how to be independent,” Denz said.

Denz came into the Records Management office at an “exceptional” time as the presidential administrations were transitioning from President Donald Trump to President Joe Biden. All the records from Trump’s staff had to be organized and sent over to the National Archives by Jan. 20, 2021. “Presidential transitions require a lot of manpower. At one point, I had to do a 36-hour shift to help meet the deadline,” Denz said.

While most weeks at the office are not as stressful like they are during a presidential transition, they are always “interesting” according to Denz. Records are collected not only from the President, but also their vice president and the hundreds of employees that make up their staff. Additionally, correspondence sent into the White House must also be retained. As a result, Denz and her colleagues need to read and create general descriptions and metadata to make thousands of records easily accessible for the sitting administration and future archivists. “You have to be very open minded about everything and you have to listen to everyone too,” Denz said. She finds it “eye-opening” and “humbling” to read about the concerns of Americans. “I think the White House really does value the public and what they have to say,” Denz said, adding “In this day and age, we like to boil everything down in an easy black and white answer because we want the answer right away. I think what government has taught me is the answer takes time, so it is important to have patience.”

When it comes to archiving and record keeping, Denz loves “all of it.” “It’s the first step in writing history” and the idea of “taking care of information so that we can learn from it in the future” truly excites her. “I just love getting materials that I can organize and finds the different ways staff members give her documents — a box of unorganized papers, a series of already organized folders — to be fascinating. The work is never stagnant: “ archiving never really ends, it’s always changing.”

Thinking back on her incredible journey, Denz said “I think I should highlight that this didn’t happen overnight. It happened because a lot of people had faith in me.” She recalls all the supportive professors and advisors she has had throughout her Fredonia experience and how their interconnectedness created “one big Fredonia community.” She advises current students to “take every opportunity available to them” and to “follow your dreams and don’t give up because everyone has a hurdle.” Additionally, she encourages alumni to “continue sharing their successes with current students.”

“One thing is certain for Denz: “I couldn’t be where I am without my experiences at Fredonia.”
Fall Wrap-up/Spring Preview

WOMEN’S SOCCER – Juniors Izzy Audette and Gabby Alston headlined a successful season for Fredonia State Women’s Soccer. Audette and Alston were named United Soccer Coaches All-Region Selections following a trip to the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Semifinals. Audette, a second-team selection, anchored the Blue Devil defense while adding two goals and one assist. Alston was named a third-team selection after leading the team with seven goals. The pair also received all-conference honors alongside teammates Bri Grazen and Sabrina Suriani. Audette and Alston earned first and second-team honors, respectively. Grazen, an athletic freshman, scored four goals and four assists to be named to the third team. Suriani was also named to the third team after a standout season for Fredonia. The Manlius native averaged a .842 save percentage and 1.07 goals against after starting all 20 games for the Devils. Overall, the team went 10-6-2 in the regular season to earn the fifth seed in the conference tournament. The quarterfinal matchup was a trip to fourth-seeded New Paltz which resulted in a penalty kick shootout. Talia deFay scored the game-winning penalty kick to advance the Blue Devils to the SUNYAC Semis. Traveling to top-seeded Geneseo, the season came to a close after a narrow 3-2 loss.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL – Three Blue Devils were named SUNYAC All-Conference following a successful season. Christie Ackendorf earned second-team honors after recording 180 kills and a .185 hitting percentage. The senior added 54 total blocks. Selena Brown and Emily Jones were both named to the third team. Brown finished the season with 106 kills, a .245 hitting percentage and a team-high 88 blocks. The junior’s defensive efforts amassed to 1.01 blocks per set, which was good for second in the conference. Jones rounded out the honors after accumulating a team-high 262 kills as well as a .129 hitting percentage, 31 service aces, and 26 blocks. The trio led the team to an overall record of 12-12 while going 6-3 in conference play. The conference record earned the team the fourth seed in the SUNYAC tournament. Hosting New Paltz, Women’s Volleyball’s season came to a close after a loss to the fifth seed.

WOMEN’S TENNIS – The women’s tennis schedule changed to a split season, partially in the fall and mostly in the spring, to align more closely with the NCAA Women’s Tennis Championship. The women’s tennis team went 0-3 in the fall, including a narrow 4-5 loss to Oswego. The team will begin the spring portion of the schedule in April.

MEN’S SOCCER – The season saw 10 seniors honored and strong wins over non-conference opponents. One of the team’s best wins came on Sept. 14 when the Blue Devils rallied from a three-goal deficit at halftime. Travelling to Medaille, the team scored four goals in a 20 minute span to rewrite the outcome. The largest margin of victory came two games later with a 5-0 triumph of Alfred. The team was led by Kevin Loftus and Kaleb Steward who had five and four goals, respectively. William Richardson earned the majority of minutes in goal over 12 games and 11 starts. The keeper averaged 1.57 goals against and a .768 save percentage. Finishing 6-11, the Blue Devils picked up a conference win at Potsdam while narrowly missing out on six one-goal games.

CROSS COUNTRY – Kyle Campbell was named Third-Team All-Conference after a 15th place finish in the SUNYAC Championship. The senior finished the 8K with an overall time of 28:11.3. The senior was also the top Blue Devils’ finisher in the NCAA Division III Niagara Regional, recording an overall time of 27:04.9. The team competed in six meets throughout the fall with its best finish coming in the SUNYAC Championship where it finished fifth. Kristin Kelemen headlined for the women’s team after being named the Elite 20 Award winner following the SUNYAC Championship meet. Kelemen’s GPA was the highest of all female runners at the meet, earning her the honors. Alexandra Battaglia stood out throughout the season, finishing first on the team several times. Two of those finishes came in the SUNYAC Championship and the NCAA Division III Niagara Regional with times of 28:14.7 and 25:37.8, respectively.

WINTER SPORTS – Winter sports have concluded competition for the fall semester. Women’s basketball is off to a strong start, holding a 7-4 overall record and a 2-2 conference record. The team’s conference victories have come against Geneseo and Oswego, marking the first win over Geneseo in Coach Sarah Cartmill’s tenure. Men’s basketball began its new regime under Coach Sean Smiley and has faced strong competition all season. The team was able to experience national exposure on Nov. 22 when it faced Canisius College on the road, which aired on ESPN3. Men’s hockey is off to a 4-6-1 start with a 2-4-0 mark in conference play. The team’s best showing came on Nov. 19 in a scoring frenzy that led to a 6-1 victory over Potsdam. The Blue Devils honored their late teammate, Tanner Kahlau, in a memorial game on Nov. 22. The team went 7-4 overall and has faced strong competition all season. The team can be watched during the winter season.
When pop star Billy Joel performed at Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., in August, it was not without a shoutout about performing at Fredonia. His last appearance on campus was in Dods Hall on Dec. 5, 1974, and tickets were $2 (reportedly less for students). The concert promoted Joel’s “Streetlight Serenade” album, noted Jack Reilly, formerly of Dunkirk, who was at the concert. Alumna Patty Hammond, ’85, ’90, recalls sitting in the bottom row of bleachers, and said, “We went to so many concerts like that — intimate and often featuring acts that hadn’t quite hit the big time yet. There were so many more concerts back then and tickets were amazingly cheap. SUNY Fredonia brought a lot of great acts here.” Alumnus Bill Glover was a first-year student living in Disney Hall in 1974 and remembers Joel playing for “over three hours, with three encores; his connection with the crowd was electric. When it was over, he headed downtown and closed the bars with us. His (then two) released albums could be heard from dormitory windows every single night through May 1975 and even beyond. At least for me and my fellow Freds, that was the night Billy Joel became a superstar.” Bill also noted that while the tickets read Rockefeller Arts Center, the concert was “relegated to Dods Hall, aka, the old gym. All the better, I guess, he [Joel] rocked that building so much the [relatively new King] concert hall may not have survived.”

Billy Joel, we loved you just the way you were…in 1974

Scan this QR code to hear Billy Joel’s Fredonia shoutout during the 2021 concert.
## Events and Performances

### COMEDY & VENTRILOQUISM: A FAMILY SHOW WITH LYNN TREFZGER
Friday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.  
Marvel Theatre  
Tickets: $15 (Student/Child: $10)  
For over 30 years, Lynn Trefzger has given life to a trunk full of comical characters and created a show of non-stop laughter. Audiences will be treated to Lynn’s vocal illusion talents when they meet a drunken but lovable camel, a cantankerous old man, and a feisty little girl, and may even see some audience members who are brought up to the stage for the action! Lynn’s show is spontaneously funny, no two shows are alike! The Kaleidoscope Family Series

### WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CLASSICS III “LE VIN HERBÈ” (“THE LOVE POTION”)  
Sunday, March 27, 4 p.m.  
King Concert Hall  
Tickets: $20  
(Semistaged in English, WNYCO presents the opera by Frank Martin (1890-1974), one of the foremost Swiss composers of the 20th century. “Le vin herbé,” first performed in 1942, is based on the novel, “The Romance of Tristan Isolde” by Joseph Bedier. The featured soloists will be from the Fredonia School of Music.  

### “PIPELINE”  
April 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m.; April 10, 2 p.m.  
Presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
By Dominique Morisseau  
Marvel Theatre, Reserved Seating  
Tickets: $25  
(Student/Child: $12)  
Yao Kahill, Guest Director  
Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher, is committed to her students but desperate to give her only son, Omari, opportunities they’ll never have. When a controversial incident at his upscale private school threatens to get him expelled, Nya must confront his rage and her own choices as a parent. But will she be able to reach him before a world beyond her control pulls him away?  
The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

### ART EXHIBITS
CATHY AND JESSE MARION  
ART GALLERY  
Gallery Hours: Monday, closed; Tuesday–Thursday, noon to 4 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.  
FREDONIA SHOWCASE  
Tuesday, Jan. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 13  
Juried by Department of Visual Arts and New Media faculty, the student exhibition will feature artwork in a variety of mediums by currently enrolled Fredonia art majors, first-year students to seniors.  
Reception: Friday, Jan. 28, 6 to 9 p.m.
“PERSISTENT ITERATIONS”
Tuesday, Feb. 22 through Sunday, April 10
Familiar, constant, and even conventional, the tropes of figuration and landscape nonetheless persist through time and outside of fashion to maintain their quietly dominant positions, even in the most contemporary of art approaches. Springboards from the familiar to the strange or even occasionally markers of deviation, these genres repeatedly demonstrate that well-used is not well-worn. Each of the artists in “Persistent Iterations” utilizes either figuration or landscape as a point of departure to serve their own iconoclastic visual languages. Curated by John Massier, who is Visual Arts Curator at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, the exhibition features works by artists currently residing in the Buffalo, N.Y., area. Among the artists are: Bruce Adams, Kyle Butler, A.J. Fries, Pam Glick, George Afezdi Hughes, Richard Huntington, Joan Linder, Margaret Schrecongost, virocade and Rebecca Wing.
Reception: Friday, Feb. 25, 6 to 9 p.m.

“FREDONIA HARP DAY”
Sunday, May 8, 1 p.m. (LS)
King Concert Hall
There will be a master class with the composer special guest, Nadina Mackie Jackson, bassoon.
Mr. Thomas

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
(LS) indicates live streaming of event (subject to change) through the link found at www.fredonia.edu/music
All events are free unless otherwise noted.

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

KING CONCERT HALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
Fredonia Camerata and University Chorus (LS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 6:30 P.M.
New Horizons Band

ROSCH RECITAL HALL
MONDAY, FEB. 7
Fredonia Faculty Showcase (LS)
TUESDAY, FEB. 22 AND THURSDAY, APRIL 28
Fredonia Jazz Orchestra (LS)
MONDAY, MARCH 7; MONDAY, APRIL 4, AND FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Fredonia Student Composers (LS)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
Fredonia Trombone Choir (LS)

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
Fredonia Brass Chamber Ensembles

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
Fredonia Woodwind Chamber Ensembles (LS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
Fredonia Clarinet Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7
Fredonia String Chamber Ensembles (LS)

MONDAY, APRIL 11
Fredonia Percussion Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14
Fredonia World Mallets (LS)

TUESDAY, APRIL 19
Fredonia Chamber Made Guitar (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
Fredonia Guitar Ensemble and Quartets

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
Fredonia Flute Ensemble (LS)

TUESDAY, MAY 3
Fredonia Chamber Orchestra (LS)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4
Fredonia New Jazz Orchestra (LS)

THURSDAY, MAY 5
Fredonia Chamber Choir and College Choir (LS)

FRIDAY, MAY 6
Fredonia Saxophone Ensemble and Quartets (LS)

MONDAY, MAY 9
Fredonia Improv Collective

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
Fredonia African Drumming Ensemble (LS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

FREDONIA BASS FEST AND HIGH SCHOOL DOUBLE BASS COMPETITION
Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022
Mason Hall
There will be two guests joining Assistant Professor Kieran Hanlon, multifaceted bassists Dennis Whitaker and Lloyd Goldstein. The day includes performances, classes, and discussions focusing on how to build a successful career and create balance in a changing world. Sponsors include the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities through the Fredonia College Foundation, and the Fredonia Bass Society.

For details and registration, go online: https://www.fredonia.edu/bass-fest

FREDONIA CHORAL FESTIVAL
Lecture: Friday, Feb. 18, 12:40 p.m.
Ticketed Concert: Saturday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m. (LS)
Rosch Recital Hall
The annual choral festival features the Chamber Choir, College Choir, and Camerata. For concert tickets, go to https://www.fredonia.edu/about/ticket-office or call (716) 673-3501. A grant for the event has been awarded by the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities through the Fredonia College Foundation.

WORLD PREMIERE BY THE FREDONIA WIND ENSEMBLE: NEW WORK BY AUGUSTA READ THOMAS

Ms. Thomas
Saturday, April 30, 8 p.m. (LS)
King Concert Hall
Dr. Paula Holcomb conducts the world premiere of a new work by Augusta Read Thomas featuring the Fredonia Wind Ensemble, with special guest, Nadina Mackie Jackson, bassoon. There will be a master class with the composer on April 29 at 4 p.m. in Rosch Recital Hall.

FREDONIA HARP DAY
Sunday, May 1
Mason Hall
A day of harp performances and workshops for all ages and all levels. For details and registration: https://www.fredonia.edu/harp-day

WORLD PREMIERE WITH THE FREDONIA COLLEGE SYMPHONY: DR. NATASHA FARNY, CELLO, AND ELIRAN AVNI, PIANO
Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m. (LS)
King Concert Hall
A one-of-a-kind new work by award-winning composer Avner Dorman written for the Ektasis Duo, under the direction of Dr. David Rudge. Made possible by a generous donation from Christian Granger and the Fredonia College Foundation, and consortium members Sewanee Symphony Orchestra and Gettysburg College Orchestra, the double concerto for cello and piano and flexible ensemble (formal title to be announced) is one of the few double concertos specifically written for cello and piano.

FREDONIA CONCERTO COMPETITION
Sunday, May 8, 1 p.m. (LS)
King Concert Hall

www.fredonia.edu/alumni
Working at the FBI probably doesn’t come to mind among college seniors, but that’s where SUNY Fredonia graduates Deneen Hernandez and Lisa (Mapes) Matsumoto — who, as students, planned more traditional employment routes — landed.

Their undergraduate degrees — Ms. Hernandez, ‘86, majored in Political Science and Ms. Matsumoto, ‘90, had majors in English and Human Communications — don’t suggest a path to the nation’s top law enforcement agency.

So how did the pair — who compiled over 30 years of service with the bureau — happen to connect with the FBI?

A “comedy of errors,” muses Hernandez, a Forensic examiner with the FBI since 2003.

Maybe it was “happenstance,” suggests Matsumoto, who was a Unit Chief in the Office of the General Counsel when she decided to leave in 2018 after 14 years of service.

Becoming an FBI Forensic examiner was a logical career move for Hernandez. She had been a Forensic examiner/inspector for the National Indian Gaming Commission in Washington, D.C., since 1999, conducting forensic examinations on suspected gambling devices and monitoring Class II and III tribal gaming operations to ensure compliance with regulations.

Hernandez always loved animals, so she initially wanted to become a veterinarian.

“I really didn’t have firm direction until after my internship with The Washington Center in the fall of 1985,” said Hernandez, then a junior at Fredonia. Fantastic is how she describes her internship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Judicial Services Branch in Washington, D.C.

“After that experience, I wanted to do something in federal service. I loved Washington and have the fondest memories being there as a poor college intern. Loved it.”

At the FBI, Hernandez examines suspected sports bookmaking, prostitution, gambling and loansharking records and constructs reports and provides testimony to examination results. She also examines suspected gambling devices to ascertain if they possess the necessary characteristics to determine if they are gambling devices/slot machines.

Career goals and areas of study changed for Matsumoto. She initially wanted to work in social services for the elderly, but enjoyed writing and literature so much that she pursued majors in English and Human Communications.

Classes taught by SUNY Distinguished Teaching Emeriti Professors Patrick Courts and Malcolm “Mac” Nelson and English Emeriti Professors Minda Rae Amiran and John Ramsey steered Matsumoto towards English, and she considers herself “most fortunate” to have had SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Ted Steinberg as a professor.

Not only did Dr. Steinberg like Matsumoto’s creativity in a paper she feared was too “outside of the box,” he was the first professor to tell Matsumoto she really was a good writer. “That encouragement not only gave me confidence in college, but it stuck with me all these years,” Matsumoto said.

Matsumoto, a native of the Ithaca, N.Y., area who graduated from a small high school, came out of her shell at Fredonia.

“I was a shy and insecure teen. Getting away from home, finding friends and being able to grow intellectually created a more confident and more creative me,” recalled Matsumoto, the first member of her family to earn a four-year degree. Being a Resident Assistant for two years was an immense financial help and also helped her build confidence and management and leadership abilities.

She loved her time at Fredonia and opportunities in and outside of the classroom, and particularly appreciated how the Honors Program was academically challenging while also providing a wonderful circle of friends.

Matsumoto went on to earn a M.A. in Student Personnel Administration in
Higher Education at Columbia University’s Teachers College and worked in that field before changing gears, at age 29, by enrolling in law school at American University with the goal of becoming a criminal justice prosecutor. It was as a law clerk for a judge in the Washington, D.C., Superior Court, that a friend, who was with the FBI, suggested that she apply for the Office of the General Counsel.

A long shot at best, Matsumoto thought. “I had honestly never considered it and, frankly felt insecure about applying,” Matsumoto recalls. “In the back of my mind, I felt that the fabled FBI would not be interested in me, a country girl from upstate New York.”

Matsumoto began her FBI career in Washington, D.C., as Assistant General Counsel in 2004 in the National Security Law Branch. She provided legal support and advice to FBI Special Agents on aspects of several of the FBI’s most complex and important national security investigations of that time. She also served in assignments to the Department of Justice Office of Intelligence and District of Columbia United States Attorney’s Office. While at the FBI, she traveled to countries throughout the world to assist with FBI coordination and support to the U.S. military and foreign nations on counterterrorism matters. She also provided training to military personnel and foreign law enforcement officials on national security policy.

In 2011, Matsumoto became Unit Chief of the Investigative Law Unit, supervising the group of FBI attorneys primarily responsible for advising on criminal investigative matters for the FBI. She also served as Acting Section Chief of the Operational Law Section. In 2018, Matsumoto resigned her position in order to assist her family with some health challenges.

Hernandez, whose mother, Bonnie, also has a Political Science degree from Fredonia, remembers Department of Political Science Professor Emeritus Julius Paul as a “challenging, yet engaging professor,” and she loved his Constitutional Law class. “It really made you think.”

She also embraced SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Ray Bellotti’s lectures. “I learned so much from him about the great philosophers and their beliefs of people and the world,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez attributes living in rural New York — known for challenging winter weather — for giving her tenacity. “Cold, snow, ice and a college schedule you must be on time for. This small example showed me that I needed to be prepared for class, plan out my time to fit work, classes, studying and driving to Fredonia in my schedule. Basically, no goofing around. I’m still like this. Prepare. Prepare.”

Hernandez is also an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College and Jamestown Community College.

Highlights of Matsumoto’s career include traveling to Iraq with senior FBI executive management, to the Philippines to advise on implementation of their new national security law, and to Spain and Thailand to conduct training for law enforcement officers. In addition to a variety of FBI awards and recognition for outstanding service and leadership, she received the Attorney General’s Distinguished Service Award in October 2012 for her assistance with the Ahmed Warsame investigation. In her position as Unit Chief, she also received the Director’s Medal of Excellence in 2016 and two Director’s Citations for Special Achievement for exceptional leadership in 2014 and 2015.

Matsumoto was part of a FBI/Department of Justice team that traveled to Uganda in 2010 to investigate the killing and wounding of U.S. citizens in a terrorist attack. She helped coordinate FBI assistance in the investigation with the lead Ugandan prosecutor, Joan Kagezi. Matsumoto was greatly saddened to learn that, in the midst of the bombing trial some years later, Ms. Kagezi was shot to death in her car, in front of her own children.

“This will be with me for the rest of my life,” Matsumoto said. Professionals in the United States feel somewhat secure, but the threat of terrorism to those who are fighting it around the world is very real, she said.

“Not every day there was fantastic, but throughout my career at the FBI, I truly loved my job,” she said. “I had more responsibility than I ever imagined, and was able to serve the public and have a true impact on preserving and protecting the nation,” Matsumoto said.

“Not bad for the shy and insecure country girl from upstate New York,” she remarked.

Hernandez and Matsumoto returned to campus in October to share their career paths to the FBI to students at a Writers@Work residency.
Enjoying a casual conversation at the Alumni Awards Dinner are (from left): Dianne Kricheldorf, '54; Marilyn (Eddy) Blue, '55; and Joan Bell Larson, '60.

Ed Evans, ’77, a member of Fredonia Radio Systems staff, meets with current Leader staffers Alyssa Bump, editor in chief (second from right), and Jules Hoepting, managing editor (far right), at the open house held at the newspaper offices in the Williams Center.

Alumni who returned to campus at Homecoming to participate in a biology panel discussion were (front, second from right): Dr. Mark Dudek of Dunkirk Animal Hospital and (from left): Matt Salvati, a fourth-year medical school student at Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine; Mam Deng, a fourth-year medical school student at Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo; and Dr. David DiPalma, who works at a Rochester dental office.

There are plenty of smiles to go around at the alumni get together tent among (from left): Pierre Vavoules, ’78; Dennis McGrath, ’79; Jeanne Palmer, ’79; Jim Moore, ’79; and Dave Reiman, ’80.

Among those attending the Alumni Awards Dinner were (from left): Clifton Turner, ’84; a member of the Fredonia College Foundation Board of Directors and a past Outstanding Achievement Award recipient; Laurie Tramuta, ’82; and Michael Burgio, also a member of the Class of 1984.

Carol (Cameron) Larson, ’70, enjoying the moment at the Alumni Awards Dinner.

William “Bill” Finn, president of Hospice of the Western Reserve and Western Reserve Care Solutions, accepting the Outstanding Achievement Award.

The Honorable William “Bill” Taylor, New York State Supreme Court Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial District, accepting the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Starbucks© provides a comfortable atmosphere for alumni to gather Saturday morning, while waiting for the rain to subside.

President Stephen H. Kolison Jr., with Outstanding Achievement Award recipients William “Bill” Finn (left) and the Honorable William “Bill” Taylor, outside of the Williams Center before the Alumni Awards dinner.

Melanie Gregg-McGovern, ’96, and Kevin McGovern, ’92, (center) meet with Brandon Martinez (left), assistant to the production director and music director at Fredonia Radio Systems, and Alex Erwin, staff representative, at the Saturday open house held at Fredonia Radio Systems.
Your FRED Stories

Every Fredonia graduate has a story. In each edition of the Statement, we will showcase where Fredonia alumni are now and how their Fredonia experience helped them get there. Have a story you want to share? Go to www.fredonia.edu/my-story and tell us your story.

Sharon Hansen, ’95
Major: Psychology

Where are you now? After working in higher education for over 25 years, I recently made a career transition. I now work for Isaacson, Miller, a retained executive search firm specializing in recruiting exceptional leaders for mission-driven organizations. I am grateful to be able to apply what I learned in my work in career services and college administration in a way that is meaningful to me and impactful to the world. I always told students that the journey of career development spans a lifetime, and I am a proof of that.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Much of what I experienced at Fredonia have prepared me for my career. My studies in Psychology provided an excellent foundation for my work both in higher education and in my current career. Additionally, I was well prepared for graduate school. My work as an RA (Resident Assistant) for two years (Alumni Hall and Schulz Hall) were what sparked my interest in higher ed as a field and in obtaining a master’s degree in College Student Development.

Benjamin Soto, ’16
Major: Business Administration: Management

Where are you now? I’m a Product Manager with Google in Boston, Mass. I work in Google’s Cloud Platform space to drive new technology products from conception to launch by connecting the technical and business worlds. I break down complex problems into steps that drive product development at Google.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Fredonia’s School of Business, Enactus program, and the EDP program, gave me the foundational mindset required to push my career to the next level. They helped me develop a sense of learning which continuously allows me to grow, even after academia. They helped me develop a sense of curiosity which keeps me interested in exploring the unknowns. They helped me develop a sense of ambition and social responsibility which helps me aspire to make the world a better place.
Alexander (Smith) Svensen, ’07
Majors: Music Education and Music Performance

Where are you now? Based in southern Connecticut, I enjoy a career as a classical, jazz, and pop double bassist and electric bassist throughout New England and the northeastern United States. I am the principal bassist of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, assistant principal bassist of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (Mass.), and am in the bass section of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. I also maintain a busy freelance career across the New England and the northeastern United States.

How did Fredonia prepare you? The theory, performance, and private study work I did at Fredonia laid the ground work to launch my professional performing career. The performance opportunities at SUNY Fredonia were amazing and world-broadening. The orchestral programming by [Dr.] David Rudge was creative, invigorating, challenging, and incredibly diverse. Some of the musical moments made on the stage at King Concert Hall will be cherished for the rest of my life.

Rachel Slowey, ’03
Major: Business Administration: Marketing

Where are you now? After serving as Class President of the SUNY Fredonia Class of 2003 and Vice President of SUNY Fredonia’s Dance Team, I moved to Tampa, Fla., shortly after graduation. Today, I am Vice President of Business Development at The Fountain Group, an award-winning, national diverse supplier in contingent workforce. I was fortunate to be named to the Tampa Bay Business Journal’s List of “40 Under 40,” an outstanding award among the business community.

How did Fredonia prepare you? I learned early on that outside of the excellent academic programs, it was important to be involved as a leader on campus. Those combined experiences at Fredonia helped prepare me for the business world, where I worked my way up in my business career through connections and personal commitments throughout the community.
1950s
Edward McClennen, ’56, (early childhood ed.) has published two new books: “Holidays and Hoopla” for elementary children, and “The Verity Scanner,” a sci-fi adventure that assists in developing critical thinking skills in high school and college students.

1960s

John David “Jack” Martindale, ’64, ’74, (music ed.) had his memoir published by Amazon, “Luck God & Destiny,” including a section describing his days at Fredonia. Jack recently retired from his “retirement music career” as concertmaster of The Advocate Brass Band, the Signature Jazz Orchestra, Soundz of Dixieland Band, and as featured soloist with the Indiana University Southwest Orchestra and Band. He and his wife, Jennie, live in Lake Forest Village Senior Luxury Living Community in Louisville, Ky.

Thomas C. England, ’66, (pol. sci.) has retired. He was the co-Founder and CEO of ME&A more than 35 years ago in Washington, D.C., and San Juan, Puerto Rico, to provide consulting services to U.S. federal, state, and municipal governments.

1970s
Alan DuBrow, ’71, (psych.) is Owner and Principal of a management consulting firm for the defense industry.

James Gormley, ’73, (pol. sci.) from Aversham, N.Y., an attorney at Barclay Damon’s Buffalo, N.Y. office, was named to the 2022 edition of “The Best Lawyers of America.” He is a specialist in corporate law and health care law.

Bill Cocca, ’74, ’94, (music ed., school admin./super) conducted the Buffalo Silver Band’s summer concerts in 2021. He is a veteran of 36 years of public school music education.

Sharon A. Green, ’74, (elem. ed.) recently retired after 39 years as an educator, 35 of those years in higher education, most recently at Niagara University.

Dr. Deborah (Anders) Silverman, APR, ’76, ’79, (English, music ed.) chaired a panel on “Assessment of Public Relations Programs” for the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Educators Academy’s virtual annual conference in October.

SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Robert Spitzer, ’75, (pol. sci) who teaches at SUNY Cortland, appeared in a new feature-length documentary, “The Price of Freedom,” with his thoughts on gun control legislation. The film had its world premiere on June 16 at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. The film premiered nationwide on July 7, with showings in over 350 theaters. It was produced by Flatbush Pictures and Tribeca Films and directed by Emmy award-winning American filmmaker Judd Milo Ehrlich.

1980s
Linda J. Harris, CPA, ’81, (account.) joined the accounting firm of Johnson, Mackowiak & Associates, LLP as a Partner.

David Studwell, ’81, (mus. theatre) appeared as Avrum in the national touring production of “The Band’s Visit” at Shea’s Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, N.Y., in November.

Betsy (Van Wagner) Wiesendanger, ’81, (bus. admin.) is the communications manager for the Chazen Institute for Global Business at Columbia Business School. She earned her M.S. in communications from Columbia University in 2015. Betsy has lived in the metro New York City area for the past 40 years.

Mark Smeadala, ’82, (bus. admin.) is Vice President for Intelligent Locations and Living in Naperville, Ill.

1990s
Pat Farrell, ’86, (bus. admin.) of Garden City Park, N.Y., represented SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. at the inauguration of SUNY Stony Brook’s sixth president, Dr. Maurie McInnis, in October.


Bryce Thompson, ’87, (elem. ed.) recently retired as Superintendent at the Attica (N.Y.) Central School District.

Heather Bennett, ’90, (English) self-published two novels and is the Marketing Coordinator for an engineering firm in Dallas, Texas.

Suzanne Benson, ’91, ’96, ’03, (English sec. ed., school admin./super) and Steven S. Swanson, ’94, ( econ.) were named to the Jamestown Community College Foundation Board of Directors.
Tom Tette, ’91, (account.) is Managing Partner of Allied Financial Partners with offices across Western New York.

Jack D’Agostino, ’92, (English) received the Person of the Year Award from the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce in October.

Matthew McPartlin, ’92, (theatre) is a Director of Benefits at Hessel Corporation, a global aerospace supplier and advanced composites manufacturer. His spouse of 26 years, Fredonia classmate Jennifer (Yates) McPartlin (theatre), teaches dance and acting in their local school district. The pair live in New Fairfield, Conn., with their two children, Connor and Amelia. Inspired by a reunion at the dedication of the Rockefeller Arts Center studio complex, they have been hosting their own version of the Performing Arts Company (PAC) picnic since 2017.

Lorie Mets-Herman, ’92, (speech and hear. hand.) spoke at the International Roofing Expo in Las Vegas in August. She is the Business Development/Marketing person for Vegas in August. She is the Business Development/Marketing person for both Continental Roofing Company, a global aerospace supplier and advanced composites manufacturer, and Brite Company, a manufacturer of composite wind blades. His spouse of 26 years, Fredonia classmate Jennifer (Yates) McPartlin (theatre), teaches dance and acting in their local school district. The pair live in New Fairfield, Conn., with their two children, Connor and Amelia. Inspired by a reunion at the dedication of the Rockefeller Arts Center studio complex, they have been hosting their own version of the Performing Arts Company (PAC) picnic since 2017.

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Justin Bruyer, ’04, (criminal justice) is the District Testing Coordinator for Wayne County (N.C.) Public Schools, responsible for ensuring the security, training, implementation, and validity of all state tests administered in the district’s K–12 schools.

Beth Kulczyk, ’04, ’07, (child. ed., curr. and instr.) teaches at an elementary school in Orchard Park, N.Y., and in the fall began her 18th year in education.

Dara (Zigrossi) Brands, ’05, (childhood ed.) has accepted a full-time Reading Teacher position at Meadow Hill Global Explorations Magnet School in Newburgh, N.Y.

Maria and Tom Tette, ’91

Lee Weinberg, ’07, (sound rec. tech.) started his own music studio in New York City, Feet 1st Studios. He is best known for the recording, mixing and mastering work he has done for 6ix9ine.

After graduating from SUNY Fredonia, Cliff Obrist, ’08, (sound rec. tech.) became Assistant Manager at Daddy’s Junky Music in Syracuse, N.Y., and then worked as an audio engineer at Outer Limits Studio in Buffalo, N.Y. For the past eight years he has worked for IBM as a computer repair technician. He currently lives in Jamestown with his wife and two boys.

Laura Dyte Shrader, ’98

Amanda Ornowski, CPA, ’08, (account., psych.) joined the firm of Lumsden McCormick Certified Public Accountants as a Tax Principal.

Ashley Wokelee, ’08, (childhood ed.) was recently hired in the Gowanda (N.Y.) Central School District as its new Director of Learning and Continual Improvement.

2010s

Zach Arezzi, ’10, ’12, (music ed.) was recognized as Educator of the Year for the 2020–2021 school year in the Rochester (N.Y.) City School District. As a music teacher at Flower City School No. 54, he is recognized for excellence and exceeding expectations in the service of RCSD students and staff.

Patrick A. Capella, CPA, ’10, (account.) joined Fust Charles Chambers LLP of DeWitt (N.Y.) as a Partner. Prior to joining the firm, he was a tax principal at Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP of Rochester, N.Y. He lives in Fairport, N.Y., and is a member of the Finance Committee at Irondequoit Country Club.

Matt Kepler, ’11, (soc. stds., adol. ed.) is a former Special Forces Green Beret, with two deployments to the Middle East, and currently is Project Manager of counter-UAS technology for a small defense company in Denver, Colo. He earned his Green Beret in 2014 and became a Special Forces Engineer with a focus on Middle Eastern studies and Arabic linguistics, and later earned a master’s degree in International Security from the University of Denver.

Kevan McDonald, ’11, (bus. admin./market.) is the Second Assistant to the Superintendent at The Country Club of Buffalo.

Donald “DJ” Schier, ’11, (commun./ public rel.) was named Dean of Students at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Kyle van Schoonhoven, ’11, (music ed.) covered the supporting role of Loud Stone in Matthew Aucoin’s “Eurydice” at the Metropolitan Opera in November. He is slated to perform the role of Don José in a 90-minute adaptation of Bizet’s “Carmen” titled, “The Tragedy of Carmen,” with Hawaii Opera Theatre in February.

Joshua Jansen, ’13, (theatre prod. and design) is Technical Director at The Atlanta Opera.

Katie Cooley, ’15, (comp. sci.), has been working at The Post-Journal in Jamestown for a couple of years as its Computer Layout and Production Specialist, composing papers daily in InDesign, and managing web aspects such as surveys and ads, as well as billing for commercial jobs.

The research paper by Samantha (Gaudio) Didrichsen, ’15, (early childhood ed.) from Buffalo, N.Y.
Hei Jing Jason Cheung, ’19, (comp. sci.) of Bellevue, Wash., has been hired by Microsoft as a Software Engineer.

Kaylei Russell, ’19, (public account.) is a CPA and a Senior Accountant at Brock Schechter & Polakoff in Buffalo, N.Y. working on a variety of assignments including cross border and domestic taxation, audits and attestation engagements.

Emily Sullivan, ’19, (bus. admin./ mgmt.) is a Career Services Advisor at Bryant & Stratton College and a MBA student at St. Bonaventure University.

It was announced in September that Dr. Jeffery Kelly, ’82, (chem.), who is the Lita Annenberg Hazen Professor of Chemistry at Scripps Research, has won the $3 million 2022 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. In a news release, Scripts noted that Dr. Kelly is being recognized for “work in demonstrating that nervous system and heart diseases can be caused by protein clumping-associated toxicity, and for inventing a medication to slow progression of such diseases.” The prize is recognized as one of the world’s most prestigious in science.

Dr. Thomas J. Quatroche Jr., ’92, (bus. admin./market.) who is President and CEO of Erie County (N.Y.) Medical Center, (left) was presented a plaque by SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. in appreciation of Dr. Quatroche’s service to the university as Commencement keynote speaker in 2020 and 2021. Dr. Quatroche’s talk was featured on videos produced by Fredonia’s Office of Marketing and Communications and the Commencement Committee for both ceremonies. Also attending the presentation was Fredonia Alumni Association President Greg Gibbs.

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

Deaths*

ALUMNI
Dorothea (Miller) Reilly, Class of 1941
Marion (Brumm) Carlson, Class of 1944
Elizabeth (Fox) Abram, Class of 1949
Robert E. Coon, Class of 1950
Marjorie A. (Pangborn) Brauer, Class of 1951
Marjorie (Anderson) Daniels, Class of 1952
Helen (Petitt) Snyder, Class of 1952
Dr. Mario D. Rabozzi, Class of 1953
Dr. William McPhee, Class of 1954
Richard “Dick” C. Ingraham, Class of 1955
Rev. Joseph A. Williams, Class of 1958
Dr. Jay William Erickson, Class of 1959
Dr. Michael D. Nascimben, Class of 1959
Mary Lou (LaMattina) Pawlak, Class of 1959
John P. Szczerbacki, Class of 1961
Lois A. (Wood) Sanderson, Class of 1962
Sandra L. Linderman, Class of 1966
Maureen (Osborne) Pagano, Class of 1966
Ronald L. VanOrd, Class of 1967
Patrick L. Bailey, Class of 1968
Jessica (Liebowitz) Biondi, Class of 1968
William “Bill” Bowen, Class of 1968
Harold E. Coons, Class of 1968
Joyce A. (Fisher) Walsh, Class of 1969
Gerald “Jerry” W. Mann Sr., Class of 1970
Kathleen Ann (Barnwell) Bechtel, Class of 1971
Mary Ellen (Schmatz) Nicholson, Class of 1971
Dale Spaulding, Class of 1971
James M. Barto, Class of 1972
John V. LaBardo, Class of 1972
Marion (Cengdon) Sticek, Class of 1973
Ruth S. (Morris) Theillemann, Class of 1974
David K. Moyer, Class of 1975
David Pistner, Class of 1975
Susan (Brooks) Horvath, Class of 1978
Jeffrey D. Garverick, Class of 1981
Melody Lynn (Swanson) Peterson, Class of 1981
Phillip J. Trusso, Class of 1983
Tristram “Scott” Barnard, Class of 1985
Dr. Donald W. Imm, Class of 1985
Shawn Stone, Class of 1985
Christopher S. Nowak, Class of 1988
Eric R. Wright, Class of 1992
Kenneth F. Sohmer, Class of 1995
Michael J. Onderko, Class of 1996
Andrew C. White, Class of 2008
Jonathan B. Kenneth, Class of 2009
Shirley M. (West) Ibach, Class of 2014

FACULTY/EMERITI
Paul D. Andrews, Student Counselor, Director of the Counseling Center, 1972–1999
Dr. Alan LaFlamme, Instructor/Assistant/Associate/Professor, Department of Sociocultural and Justice Sciences (Anthropology)/Commencement Mace Bearer, 1970–2021
Dr. Edwin D. Lawson, Professor, Department of Psychology, 1967–1989, 1990–1992
Barbara Ann Neth, Adjunct Faculty, Communication Disorders and Sciences, 2009–2020
Kenneth J. Plucinski, Assistant/Associate Professor, Accounting/School of Business, 1984–2011

STAFF/FORMER STAFF/RETIRED STAFF
Nancy L. Wagner, Director, Liberty Partnerships Program/SUNY Research Foundation, 1989–2021

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

Gift from alumni benefits future generations of Fredonia saxophonists

Dr. Michael D. Nascimben, ’59, a well-known Fredonia Music Education graduate, educator and performer, passed away in September. Prior to his passing, he and his wife, Sylvia (Cowe) Nascimben, ’67, gifted his personal music library of saxophone music to the Fredonia School of Music. At one time, Dr. Nascimben was Principal Saxophonist of the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point. His teaching experience spanned over 60 years and included teaching at all levels, from elementary to university. He also was a founding member of the West Point Saxophone Quartet, Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the DaCapo Saxophone Quartet, and performed with symphony orchestras including the Buffalo Philharmonic, Austin Symphony and the Meadowbrook Orchestra.

Dr. Wildy Zumwalt of the School of Music woodwind faculty noted the significance of the Nascimbens’ gift: “Fredonia alumnus Michael Nascimben was a wonderful saxophonist, arranger, and teacher. We are saddened by his passing and ever so grateful that he and his wife, Sylvia, chose to donate his collection of saxophone music to the Fredonia Saxophone Studio. Thanks to his generosity, students will have access to these scores for future study and performance.”
‘Meet the Professionals’ sessions pay dividends for alumni

When something works, you stick with it.

That phrase easily applies to SUNY Fredonia alumni who return to campus, often year after year, for “Meet the Professionals Night” to get acquainted with Accounting and Finance students who could be good fits for their employers.

Fourteen alumni represented eight of a record 26 organizations participating in-person in the fall semester’s “Meet the Professionals Night” to discuss internship and employment opportunities with juniors and seniors. The School of Business and Career Development Office sponsor the event to provide high-impact experiences to help students learn and practice career readiness skills.

And it works quite well for everyone!

“We have hired many Fredonia graduates and generally find the students to be well prepared to enter the business world,” said Andrew Reading, CPA, a partner at Dopkins & Company, LLP. “Additionally, Fredonia students have a strong work ethic,” noted the ‘07 graduate, who earned a B.S. in Accounting and Business Administration: Finance and Economics, in 2015. “It’s a great opportunity for soon-to-be graduates to network and find what they value in a company before going out into the work force.”

Smith enjoyed talking with students and admiring their excitement about the event. “Fredonia gives so many opportunities to get hands-on experience through their internships or organizations (Enactus, Business Club, etc.) that they are able to talk about in interviews, or when networking,” she said.

Many employers like to send alumni to this event, noted Career Development Office Associate Director Chris LaGrow. “Alumni can relate a little better to current students and make them feel a little more at ease. And students can learn a lot about what to expect in the workplace from these alumni.”

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.
What’s happening in your life and career? We are proud of Fredonia alumni and want to share their accomplishments. Tell us your success story at the link below so that we can share it with prospective Fredonia students and other alumni.

Visit [www.fredonia.edu/my-story](http://www.fredonia.edu/my-story) to share your story.

**Class Notes:**
If you want Fredonia to publish your update as a Class Note in the Statement alumni magazine, please check the **Include as a Class Note** box on the web form.