Student research focuses on improving creek restoration efforts

Geosciences 60th Reunion
Homecoming Highlights

Kolison shares his vision at investiture

14th president describes Fredonia as a 'well of learning, discovery and success'

Student research focuses on improving creek restoration efforts
Kolison shares his vision at Investiture
14th president describes Fredonia as a ‘well of learning, discovery and success’
Admissions Update

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 Schools and Community-Based Programs throughout the spring.

In late February through April, Admissions will host off-campus accepted student receptions spread across the state, as well as 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: Some of these events may be subject to change. It is also anticipated that events will be added as the year progresses. Please check the following link for updates: https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni

MARCH

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

Spring Break
Monday–Friday, March 12–17

Teacher Recruitment Day
Monday, March 20, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Niagara Falls Convention Center
For more information: www.fredonia.edu/cdo

Senior Expo
Wednesday, March 22, 4–5:30 p.m.
University Commons, Campus

MAY

Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 4 p.m.
Alumni House

Commencement
Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.
and 3 p.m.
Steele Hall

AUGUST

Alumni Board Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 10, 4 p.m.
Alumni House

OCTOBER

Fall Break
Thursday and Friday, Oct. 5 and 6

Class of 1973 50-Year Reunion
Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20 and 21
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Class of 1993 Reunion
Saturday, Oct. 21
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Residence Life Reunion
Saturday, Oct. 21
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Family Weekend
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 27–29
Campus

Homecoming Weekend
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 20–22
Schedule of Events will be available in June at: https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni

Geosciences 60th Anniversary
Saturday, Oct. 21
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 20–22
Schedule of Events will be available in June at: https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni

Geosciences 60th Anniversary
Saturday, Oct. 21
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend
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 2023 is off to a great start for you.

It was a tremendous privilege and experience to have my investiture last fall after it was delayed by COVID-19. It was a successful and enjoyable occasion. The theme of the investiture centered around student access and persistence. Many people used the occasion to donate to the Bicentennial Fund to Enhance Access and Persistence. The event itself was funded totally by supporters of the university. I am grateful for their generosity. I am also very thankful for all the support we received for holding the event. It remains my highest honor and privilege to serve as president of SUNY Fredonia.

If you are a first-time reader of the Statement, welcome. We take great pride in the accomplishments of our students, past and present, and we celebrate them throughout this magazine. If you are familiar with the Statement, welcome back to another edition showcasing the wonderful things about SUNY Fredonia students, faculty, staff and alumni. These pages are filled with stories that will bring you smiles and pride. For example, students from the Department of Communication have received international acclaim for a short film produced as part of a capstone project. The School of Music is pleased to bring back an award-winning opera performer and 2011 Fredonia graduate to work with students during the 2022–23 academic year. Also, decorated student-athlete alumni were recently inducted into the Blue Devil Athletic Hall of Fame along with a legendary coach and athletic director.

With the Spring 2023 semester underway, I invite you to come back to campus and see all the exciting things happening. It could be to take in a musical or theatre production, an outdoor athletic event, or to enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds of our beautiful 256-acre campus as spring blooms. I hope you can find time to come by, and I look forward to seeing you.

Very truly yours,

Dr. K.
Stephen H. Kolison Jr., Ph.D.
President
Student film receives BEA, Cannes Short Film Festival awards

“The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker,” a film produced by a team of mostly Communication: Video Production students during the Spring 2022 semester, continues to rack up awards even after many in its creative team have received their B.A. degrees.

So far, the film — whose storyline involves a host of a monster-themed college radio show who gets herself and her friends wrapped up in an investigation after the mysterious disappearance of two of their classmates — has won Best Short Feature: Festival Director’s Award at the Cannes Short Film Festival and an Award of Excellence from the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). It also picked up Best Student Film honors at the Dreamz Catcher International Film Festival in India.

“The plan to make this massive movie started because a small group of talented and driven students wanted to go above and beyond,” DiCarlo said. “That team grew and grew as more friends and family lent a hand.” Nearly 50 students — many wearing multiple hats — were involved in the production.

Seven of the nine members of the core team are ’22 graduates majoring in Communication: Video Production. They, with their respective positions in the film, include: DiCarlo and Anderson, director/writer; Sam Mackintosh-Smith, editor/camera assistant; Jay Gleason and Alec Wright, director of photography; Kai Guilds, audio director/public relations; and Nicolas Dohre, producer/gaffer.

The eighth and ninth members of the team are current seniors Skyla Cedeno, costume design/camera assistant; and Ryan Champlin, producer/assistant director. Both are Communication: Video Production majors.

The film was the capstone project for seniors enrolled in COMM 464: Fiction II, taught by Department of Communication Associate Professor Roslin Smith.

The Cannes Short Film Festival was created about a decade ago as a showcase opportunity for young emerging talent and a celebration of the best of international indie short filmmaking. It is not part of the widely known International Festival de Cannes.

“The Cryptid Cast vs. the Goopy Ganker” was one six recipients in the Broadcast Education Association’s Award of Excellence in the Film & Video Narrative Competition, beating out 146 other student entries.

There was a lot to like about this film, noted a BEA judge, who singled out the “tremendous effort” put into the entire production. “It was obviously a very well thought out and executed project that took a lot of hard work,” the judge wrote.

The film has become an official selection at five other film festivals around the world, including from New York City, Chicago, Moldova and Japan. There were also two screenings at Dunkirk Multiplex in May.

Students were able to finance the film through a successful GoFundMe campaign and several campus events such as Rockin’ The Commons and the Lend-A-Paw Dog Walk that raised over $2,500 to cover production expenses.
Kolison shares his vision at Investiture

14th president describes Fredonia as a ‘well of learning, discovery and success’
In his inauguration speech as the 14th President of the State University of New York at Fredonia, Dr. Stephen H. Kolison Jr. emphasized the importance of relevance as the university approaches its 200th anniversary amid especially challenging times in higher education.

“Sustaining and enhancing one’s relevance, in my opinion, is a key to success in this new era,” President Kolison said at his investiture that was held in King Concert Hall in September 2022 after being delayed two years by the COVID-19 pandemic. “Relevance, in my view, has to do with whether one is doing it in alignment with what society needs or wants,” he said.

“This fall and early into the spring, we will work on our strategic plan and academic master plan. I cannot think of a better time than now to do this given that we are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted everything,” Dr. Kolison said. “These plans will be about our future, the place that we intend to secure for Fredonia in this rapidly changing higher education landscape and world.”

Kolison drew a parallel between SUNY Fredonia and a childhood memory traveling with his parents to their farm located in rural Liberia. He recalled his memory of a school teacher who lived in the area who shared his water well generously with his neighbors. He described him as a compassionate school teacher and his kindness in sharing the water in his well that brought people together and furnished much-needed water for drinking, cooking and bathing.

“This compassionate school teacher helped to improve the quality of life for families in the area,” he said. “Here at SUNY Fredonia we have a well. I call it a well of learning, discovery and success. We know what drinking from this well does for students who are able to attend or have access to it. It transforms lives. It inspires them to become skilled, connected, creative and responsible global citizens. They go out into the world and help change it for the better.”

“What excites me about this place? What gets me up every morning and inspires me to come to this campus and work hard?” Kolison asked. “It is the students that we educate at this well. “We educate students from diverse social and economic backgrounds,” Kolison continued, referring to about 40 percent of students coming from financially challenged backgrounds and 20 percent who are first-generation college students.

These numbers, Kolison believes, represent an opportunity for SUNY Fredonia — not a challenge. “What happens to students after successfully drinking from this well? Think about how barriers to social mobility are removed after drinking at this well. Think about it in terms of how this country can sustain its status as a super advanced country by educating more people whether they are financially challenged or not,” he said.

“I think you will agree with me that we should enhance access and persistence and success at this well. So, in our planning for the future — the future where our relevance is in alignment with what society needs and demands — I believe we should aspire to enhance access to, and persistence at this well of learning, discovery and success for all our students, especially students from challenged financial backgrounds and first-generation (college) students.”

Kolison’s inauguration theme, “Emphasizing Student Access to and Persistence at the Well of Knowledge, Discovery and Success,” was reflected by numerous speakers.

“The pandemic may have delayed this investiture ceremony, but it has not damped our excitement or anticipation for this moment.”

— Fredonia College Council Chair Frank Pagano

According to Trustee Eunice Lewin of the SUNY Board of Trustees and chair of its Student Life Committee, Kolison has embraced his role at Fredonia with grace — during a time of upheaval and uncertainty — and “the belief that each and every student, regardless of where they come from, belongs within these walls,” Ms. Lewin said in a greeting on behalf of the board of trustees.

“His conviction that access to higher education is the cornerstone of creating and striving for a better future — a brighter, safer, more diverse, more collaborative and more understanding future for us all — has made his (time) here so far one of success, positivity and growth, and it is a sentiment that echoes in my whole heart,” said Lewin, who formally installed Kolison as SUNY Fredonia President.

Lewin, a Cuban immigrant and a first-generation college graduate, noted it was a privilege to be part of Kolison’s appointment process. “I am grateful for his reassurance that the students of Fredonia are being encouraged every day not to give up, that they have every opportunity for success open to them and we are here to guide them there,” Lewin said.

Fredonia College Council Chair Frank Pagano said Kolison was inspired by his father — a successful teacher who went back to school to earn a master’s degree — to make it his mission to make higher education accessible to all.

“So, Dr. Kolison, all these years later, your father will continue to have an impact, as students here at SUNY Fredonia will benefit from your leadership,” Mr. Pagano said.

Research compiled by Kolison while seeking the presidency was one of many qualities that made him clearly stand out among candidates, according to Pagano. “He had a distinguished record of serving in faculty and leadership roles. His passion for helping students achieve the dream of higher education is unmatched. We are working with someone who truly cares,” Pagano added.

“The pandemic may have delayed this investiture ceremony, but it has not dampened our excitement or anticipation for this moment,” Pagano remarked.

Haitian immigrant and SUNY Fredonia undergraduate France Charles, who excelled at school at an early age, focused her remarks on the importance of higher education as the first member of her family to receive a college degree. She described overcoming hardships and setting her sights on a post-secondary education, “as I knew that it would be one of the first steps to having a better life.”

Ms. Charles’ announcement that she officially became a U.S. citizen on June 8 was rewarded with hearty applause.

“My story is proof that a higher education is not as simple as a paper degree; it is for myself and many others,
a motivation for life and hope for a better and brighter future," said Charles, a junior Economics and Marketing major.

Keynote speaker Donato Tramuto outlined a bond he shares with Kolison. As a child, Kolison struggled with dyslexia, was ridiculed and was told by his second-grade teacher that he “would not amount to anything and should simply stop trying,” Mr. Tramuto said. Overcoming adversities with courage and tenacity propelled Kolison to become valedictorian of his senior class and, ultimately, led to a Ph.D. and accession in higher education administration.

Tramuto, an American healthcare executive, global health activist, author and former CEO of Tivity Health, revealed that he endured several surgeries to cure an ear infection that had robbed him of his hearing. An inability to pronounce his R’s and W’s when hearing was restored led some to believe that Tramuto had a learning disability but, working with a speech pathologist at SUNY Fredonia, Tramuto taught himself to speak clearly. Even so, colleges — except SUNY Fredonia — dismissed the Dunkirk native as disabled and with low academic potential. But Tramuto wasn’t deterred, and graduated summa cum laude and embarked on an immensely successful career.

Tramuto urged the audience to look no further than Kolison for a leader to emulate. “Dr. Kolison is taking action...he is doing something by furthering access to higher education for all people, regardless of background. He is a man of action. He is an action hero. He is a compassionate leader.”

Joseph Falcone, a SUNY Fredonia graduate and chair of the Fredonia College Foundation Board of Directors, said it was a delight to partner with Kolison to establish the Bicentennial Fund.

“We will focus on his vision to celebrate 200 years of student achievement and enhance student access and persistence at Fredonia,” Mr. Falcone pledged. The fund’s goal is to increase enrollment and retention of students.

Daniel Heitzenrater, president and CEO of the nearly 900-member Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce, heralded the university’s role in the area, providing the promise of a better life through knowledge and skills that launch careers. “The college educates our future workforce while also helping prepare the community-minded citizens of tomorrow,” Mr. Heitzenrater, a SUNY Fredonia graduate, said.

Professor of Music Composition and Interim Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance Rob Deemer praised Kolison for reaching out and keeping the campus informed while opportunities for interaction were severely limited during the pandemic.

As everyone was confined to their homes or in socially-distanced offices during Kolison’s first two semesters at Fredonia, Dr. Deemer explained, “the opportunity for our campus community to interact with you was limited, but every week you reached out to us — keeping us informed and making sure we knew that while we couldn’t interact in person, there was someone who was thoughtfully guiding the campus through those historic days.”

One of the first traits Student Association President Ilene Thompson, a junior, observed in Kolison was an eagerness to connect with students, having seen him at Activities Night, home volleyball games and Willie C’s. “Dr. Kolison’s presence on campus is reassuring that he is in community with us and that he is committed to the well-being of not only the institution, but to every single person that makes up that very institution,” Ms. Thompson said.

Esther Kolison, an RN and nurse manager with Stanford Healthcare, congratulated her brother — the eldest son of 17 siblings — on his accomplishments. “We know that you will be a wonderful president because you care about people. You are kind, thoughtful, treat people with empathy, dignity, integrity and grace,” she said. “You are visionary, you work hard, you love students, you are a true believer in the power of higher education, you are a determined person and you are not afraid to tackle difficult situations.”

Fredonia Alumni Association President Greg Gibbs extended congratulations to Kolison on behalf of more than 50,000 alumni connected to each other through the university. “We appreciate your recognition of the strategic role our loyal alumni may play in the task of bringing Fredonia to the next levels of achievement," Dr. Gibbs said.

New York State Senate congratulations were extended by Sen. George Borrello, who remarked there is great confidence in Kolison’s ability to lead SUNY Fredonia in exciting new directions. “You’ve already confronted what I hope is the most daunting challenge in your tenure by taking on the role of President in August 2020, in the middle of the pandemic,” Sen. Borrello remarked.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Tracy Stenger presided over the ceremony. Student and faculty music ensembles performing at the investiture and reception included: the Fredonia African Drumming Ensemble; Fredonia Chamber Choir, directed by Associate Professor Vernon Huff; Fredonia Wind Ensemble, directed by Lecturer Donna Dolson; and Faculty/Student Jazz Quartet (Vincent Heller, Matt Incontro, Sam Guzzo and Sam Schaeffer). School of Music faculty Dr. Nick Weiser, Kieran Hanlon and Eliot Scozzaro performed “Dance,” composed in honor of Kolison by Deemer as a gift from the Fredonia College Foundation.

Nathan Kropp, former director of the Fredonia Newman Center, gave the invocation. The Rev. Wheigar J. Bright, brother-in-law of Kolison, gave the benediction.
“This fall and early into the spring, we will work on our strategic plan and academic master plan. I cannot think of a better time than now ...”

— President Stephen H. Kolison Jr.
Alumnus and Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals winner Kyle van Schoonhoven returns as a Williams Visiting Professor

The Williams Visiting Professorship is supported through an endowment established with the Fredonia College Foundation. The residency is in two parts, a month during the fall semester and a return in the spring.

A highlight of Mr. van Schoonhoven’s fall semester visit was a guest artist recital, where he performed excerpts from Richard Wagner’s “Die Walküre” with soprano Sarah Cambidge.

When asked to reflect on his experience working with students, van Schoonhoven noted, “As a person, who was thrown head first into opera and the classical music world, back in 2006, it was surreal to retrace my steps at Fredonia, while helping the next generation find their footing in a field I love, and respect, so much. “It was humbling to work with several professors who taught me, while reinforcing many of the concepts they introduced me to many years ago, to their current students. Kind of a ‘Twilight Zone’ moment there. I’m looking forward to working with more students in the coming semester, they are all pretty inspiring,” he said.
EV charging stations now available on campus

Recharging an electric vehicle’s battery at SUNY Fredonia has become a reality at parking lots adjacent to Gregory, Fenton and Dods halls.

The three charging stations — each with dual ports — are fully operational and can be utilized seven days a week, 24 hours a day by members of the campus community, as well as the general public. They are Level 2 stations that use 208-24 volts at 30 amps. Two parking spaces reserved solely for active electric vehicle charging have been established at all three locations.

Dedicated charging spaces are identified by signage and stencils on the pavement of the reserved parking spaces.

The charging cost is $0.30 per kWh. The driving range delivered by Level 2 charging stations can be up to 25 miles for each hour, though that can vary with the type of car and the battery.

To use a charging station, motorists are to download an app that will show if the units are available or are currently charging another vehicle.

Installation of the ChargePoint stations in November 2022 went better than expected, Director of Facilities Services Kevin Cloos noted, as existing conduit in the ground was utilized, so excavation costs were much lower.

The charging stations are a joint project of the Faculty Student Association (FSA) and Facilities Services.

Incubator seeks alumni partners

The Fredonia Technology Incubator is developing an alumni network of founders, entrepreneurs, economic development personnel and investors to formally involve alumni as mentors, speakers, supporters and internship hosts at the incubator.

The incubator, an economic development and community engagement program established by SUNY Fredonia in 2009, is a significant economic driver in the region and state.

A rural, mixed-use business incubator focusing on arts, food-related, and technology-based start-ups, it provides entrepreneurs access to work-ready space, and paths to funding, as well as highly qualified mentors. It also offers clients the ability to obtain business consulting, mentoring and training, tax incentives, legal and accounting services, assistance with business formation, networking opportunities, access to faculty and student interns. The incubator, located in Dunkirk, is a collaborative hub for entrepreneurship, economic development, and community engagement.

Overall, the incubator has facilitated the success of businesses startups, created jobs and established a one-stop economic development center through partnerships with leading economic development agencies including Chautauqua County’s planning and economic development entities.

The incubator has helped recruit students to SUNY Fredonia and retain local college graduates through educational programs, internships and the jobs it creates. The incubator is also a significant applied learning center for Fredonia students with its makerspace — the Innovation Design Studio, the Summer Entrepreneurial Fellowship Program, a well-established internship program, and an annual student business competition.

The incubator has been a place for the development of innovative courses such as Professional Sales, Music Video Production and Podcasting.
Student research focuses on improving creek restoration efforts

Compiling research leading to better watershed management in Chautauqua and Erie (N.Y.) counties is the central focus of three Geology students engaging in hands-on field- and lab-based experiences at SUNY Fredonia. Elizabeth Wightman, Abigail Nordwall and Brett Boyer — all seniors majoring in Geology and enrolled in GEO 410: Directed Study — Independent Study and Research — are learning various aspects of stream management and monitoring in Dewittville Creek in Chautauqua County, and Spooner Creek in Erie County.

“Students are learning how to do various stream measurements, lab analysis and interpretation,” said Geology and Environmental Sciences Assistant Professor Matthew Purtill, who teaches the upper-level course. “It’s a unique experience for the student where they get to generate ‘real’ data that will ultimately help various communities make decisions to improve water quality and stream health.”

The field portion of the class involves recording various water parameters, such as flow, velocity and chemistry, as well as composition of the creek banks.

“A major benefit from this course is being able to collect field data that is similar to what companies in this line of work do,” said Mr. Boyer, of Randolph. “It’s a huge benefit to get valuable hours in the field and spending time using...
It was more than just work; we had to problem-solve in the moment, figure out logistics firsthand, and were given the freedom to do so.”

– Abigail Nordwall

equipment that will likely be used at a future job.’

Gaining skills in using tools and learning skills needed to work in the field is a major benefit of this research, confirmed Ms. Wightman, of Campbell. “Between learning how to properly handle equipment to recording data. I feel prepared to graduate and get a job in the field. In addition to the experience outside, my lab skills have also improved immensely,” she said.

“This course provided the chance to learn how to work on a team and what it will be like when we begin our careers,” said Wightman, who is also majoring in Earth Science.

Simply getting outside and applying skills learned in the classroom was a “massive eye-opener” to future career opportunities and goals for Ms. Nordwall, of Jamestown.

“It was more than just work; we had to problem-solve in the moment, figure out logistics firsthand, and were given the freedom to do so,” Nordwall explained. “Working with my peers and Dr. Purtill solidified that this is something that I would want to do in the future. It was an educational and realistic experience that took us out of the classroom and into the real world.”

Central to the research is how erosion can be related to the cloudy appearance of water and its actual flow volume. Dr. Purtill explained. What is the potential for the streams to erode their banks is the question students are seeking to answer.

Working in conjunction with the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District, students are continuing in a multi-year study that’s monitoring the effectiveness of a major stream bank restoration project undertaken to control erosion in Dewittville Creek. Significant stream migration and

It was more than just work; we had to problem-solve in the moment, figure out logistics firsthand, and were given the freedom to do so.”

– Abigail Nordwall
Kyle Campbell (North Tonawanda, N.Y./Niagara Falls) finished 30th overall and earned All-Region honors at the NCAA Division III Regional Championships hosted by the University of Rochester. As a team, the Devils took 11th place in the 24-team region. Campbell's time of 26:33.4 was 23 seconds faster than the next Blue Devil, Patrick Klinger (Niagara Falls, N.Y./Niagara Falls) who finished in 50th place in 26:56.5. Josh Walters (Randolph/Randolph) and Ted Tomasello (East Aurora, N.Y./Iroquois) finished 70th and 71st, respectively. Sembel Koshi (Buffalo, N.Y./Hutch Tech) was the fifth Devil to earn points, finishing 80th out of 166 runners.

Two weeks earlier, the Devils had finished fourth in the SUNY AC Meet, led by Koshi who was 15th overall, finishing the 8k race in 26:27.8. Four other Devils finished in the Top 30. A total of 103 runners from 10 conference schools competed.

After finishing seventh in the SUNYAC Meet, the women's cross country team was 18th of 24 teams in the Regional Meet. Sophomore Alexandra Battaglia (Spencerport, N.Y./Spencerport) was the top Fredonia State runner at both meets, finishing 21st at SUNYACs (25:03.2), and 41st (24:16.5) at the regionals. A total of 166 runners competed.

Other finishers at the regional meet were Vanessa Ryhal (Cameron, N.Y./Addison) in 93rd place; Elizabeth Gloss (Kings Ferry, N.Y./South Cayuga) in 102nd; Erin Cool (Grand Island, N.Y./Grand Island) in 125th; and Kristin Kelemen (Bemus Point/Maple Grove) in 130th. Kelemen won the Elite 20 Award for the highest GPA of any athlete competing in the SUNYAC Meet. She had also won the award last year.

The women's soccer team saw three players earn All-SUNYAC Honors. Junior Brianna Grazen (Lancaster, N.Y./Lancaster) was Second Team, leading the Devils in scoring with three goals and five assists (11 points). Seniors Jordan Barrett (Wyoming, N.Y./Pavilion) and Izzy Audette (Ballston Spa, N.Y./Ballston Spa) were named to the Third Team. It was the third time Audette was named All-Conference. The team also honored 10 players on Senior Day.

The men's soccer team was led by youth. Sophomore Kaleb Steward (Kennedy/N.Y., Randolph) led the team with six goals and four assists for 16 points, and freshman Chance LaCroix (Allegany/Allegany-Limestone) had three goals and two assists for eight points. The team finished one point out of a SUNYAC playoff berth. They finished on a high note, winning three of the final five matches, scoring three or more goals in each victory.

The women's volleyball finished one spot out of a SUNYAC post-season berth. The team was led by senior setter Kourtney Krchniak (Lockport, N.Y./Lockport), a three-year starter, with 598 assists and a team-high 49 service aces. She would finish her career with 2,220 assists, ranking fifth on the team's all-time list. Sophomore Gabrielle Sordetto (Buffalo, N.Y./Kenmore East) led the Devils with 199 kills, and classmate Erin Callahan (Clarence Center, N.Y./Clarence) added 166 kills.

Caitlyn Snyder (Utica, N.Y./Notre Dame) and Sierra Allen (Binghamton, N.Y./Chenango Forks) both won three times to lead the women's tennis team. Snyder took two individual matches and a doubles match, while Allen claimed all three victories in singles.
On Oct. 8, 2022, the Fredonia State Athletic Department inducted five individuals and three Teams of Distinction into its Athletic Hall of Fame.

Among those inducted was Greg Prechtl, who has been involved with the athletic department over 50 years. Sarah Hite-Moore, Jordan Basile, Matt Borchard and Walter Hubbard were also inducted. The 1981 cross country team, the 1992–93 men’s basketball team, and the 1985 and ’86 men’s soccer teams were also recognized.

The passing of a pair of Fredonia State legends was also recognized. Dr. Everett “Doc” Phillips, a longtime track coach, and Dr. Patrick Damore, a former coach in several sports who eventually moved on to become the commissioner of the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC), were honored with a tribute. Damore would be the longest serving commissioner in NCAA Division III history.

A banner recognizing the 20 track and field championships won was also unveiled by the current track and field/cross country coaches, Tom Wilson and his assistant Mike Kelley. The banner will be hung in Steele Hall.

For the Teams of Distinction, former athletes Don Brenner and Jim Siekmann spoke on behalf of the ‘81 cross country team. Former Soccer Head Coach Nelson Cupello and former player Jeff Hammond spoke of both the ’85 and ’86 seasons. For the 1992–93 men’s basketball squad, Pat Swick and Ryan Smock spoke of the only men’s basketball team to make the NCAA Division III Tournament. The squad was coached by Mr. Prechtl. Sarah Hite-Moore was introduced by her aunt, Penny Hite, who also served as her coach while at Fredonia State.

Mr. Basile was presented by his former coach and current Sports Information Director Matt Palisin. Basile officially took over the baseball program from Palisin last season.

Teammate Bryon Thoin and current Head Coach PJ Gondek introduced Mr. Borchard. Prechtl was presented by one of his former players, assistant coach, former SUNY Fredonia staffer and long-time friend, Dan Tramuta. Tramuta served in many capacities at Fredonia State during his long and distinguished career and was a colleague of Prechtl’s for over four decades.

Mr. Hubbard was unable to attend. He played under Prechtl and was part of the ’92–’93 team that was also recognized.

The 25th Induction ceremony was emceed by Director of Marketing Jeff Woodard. Originally slated for 2020, the ceremony was rescheduled for 2022.

Fredonia State Blue Devils

Athletic Hall of Fame
by Matt Palisin

Inductees (left to right) Greg Prechtl, Jordan Basile, Sarah Hite-Moore and Matt Borchard.
Fredonia State Blue Devils visual identity evolves

2022
A “refresh” of the trademarked Fredonia Blue Devil logo was completed in 2022. With a streamlined pitchfork and reduced yellow flames with cleaner lines — the refreshed logo now appears with straight text instead of curved. Minimal shadows and highlights provide easier reproduction for athletic facilities, uniforms and athletic gear.

2007
The first officially trademarked Blue Devil logo was developed and adopted for Fredonia State Athletics.

1989-90
A modernized version of the Blue Devil was used for Fredonia State Hockey.

1986
Illustration appeared in a brochure in 1986.

1952
Illustration appeared in The Leader, 1952

1948-1960s
The first Blue Devil mark adopted for uniforms appeared in 1948 and was used to celebrate Blue Devil spirit into the 1960s.

Cheerleaders shown wearing uniforms with a Blue Devil emblem, 1948.

Cheerleaders shown wearing Blue Devil clad uniforms, 1952.
Stay involved with the Big Blue Family

Wherever your adventures have taken you, you can stay connected with the Big Blue Family in many ways. Whether you connect with current students, come back to campus to reminisce, or stay up-to-date on campus through the virtual tour and regular news updates, you can keep in touch with Fredonia!

Stay Connected

Update your info
Keep in touch by updating your email and physical addresses, phone number, etc. We have an electronic form set up for this purpose.

Send us a Class Note
Send us life news and updates including marriages, births, awards, accomplishments, and job announcements, and tell us how your Fredonia experience helped you fulfill your dreams. We have an electronic form set up for this purpose.

Virtual Tour
Virtually and in person, we welcome you to visit the beautiful Fredonia campus. To take a virtual tour by visiting the link on our Fredonia Alumni webpage.

Give Back
The Fredonia College Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation that accepts and manages financial gifts that enable new scholarships and programs. To find out more about giving to Fredonia please visit: https://www.fredonia.edu/alumni/giving-fredonia

Alumni Events Calendar
Follow our Alumni Events calendar to learn about Homecoming, reunions and more at https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni

Reruit New Students
Alumni recruiters can give back and be part of the Big Blue Family by encouraging students to attend Fredonia. Working with prospective students is a fun and rewarding experience. For prospective students, a Fredonia graduate is a powerful voice of experience.

By becoming a volunteer, you can remain connected with your beloved Fredonia, enhance the value of your degree by attracting qualified students, and relive positive memories by sharing your story with future students. By connecting with students and other recruiters, you can also expand your professional and social network.

Virtual Tour
Virtually and in person, we welcome you to visit the beautiful Fredonia campus. To take a virtual tour by visiting the link on our Fredonia Alumni webpage.

Jim Ranney, '88, and his son, 2019 Fredonia graduate Joshua Ranney, look at “their” brick in the Fredonia Scholarship Walkway adjacent to the Williams Center, which now has over 200 personalized bricks purchased by alumni and friends of Fredonia.
Events and Performances

ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER/ THEATRE AND DANCE EVENTS

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CLASSICS: BEETHOVEN
Sunday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m.
King Concert Hall
General Public: $20; Student/Child: free
Conductor and Artistic Director Glen Cortese leads the orchestra in Ludwig Von Beethoven’s “Coriolan Overture.”

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CLASSICS: MASTERWORKS
Sunday, May 7, 4 p.m.
King Concert Hall
General Public: $20; Student/Child: free
The Western New York Chamber Orchestra joins the Fredonia Chamber Choir, College Choir and Camerata for Mozart’s “Ave Verum Corpus Requiem” and the world premiere of Conductor Glen Cortese’s “Regina Coeli.”

FREDONIA DANCE ENSEMBLE
Friday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.
Continues March 25 and 2 and 7:30 p.m.; March 4 and 5, 2 p.m.
Marvel Theatre, General Seating
General Public: $20 advance/$25 door; Student/Child: $5 advance/$10 door
Step into the world of mime with this special Department of Theatre and Dance interactive production designed for children. The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

“ROMEO AND JULIET”
Thursday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.
Continues April 28 and 29, 7:30 p.m.; April 29 and 30, 2 p.m.
Marvel Theatre, Reserved Seating
General Public: $20 advance/$25 door; Student/Child: $5 advance/$10 door
Experience Shakespeare’s timeless tale of ill-fated young lovers in an engaging production. The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

“LEAR” BY YOUNG JEAN LEE
Presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
Thursday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.
Continues May 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m.
Marvel Theatre, Reserved Seating
General Public: $20 advance/$25 door; Student/Child: $5 advance/$10 door
Described as “a collision” between Shakespeare’s “King Lear,” “Sesame Street,” and playwright Young Jean Lee’s own take on the dealing with a father’s mortality, “Lear” focuses not on the aging Lear and Gloucester, but rather on their adult children who turned their backs on their father’s suffering, in this absurdist tragedy. The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

COMMENCEMENT EVE POPS: THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
King Concert Hall, Reserved Seating
Level I: $35; Level II: $30; Level III: $25; Level IV: $20
Webber dropped out of school to compose musicals and pop songs and had his first success with “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Three years later, he achieved fame with his rock opera “Jesus Christ Superstar.” Now Rockefeller Arts Center’s Commencement Eve Pops, a tradition dating back 30-plus years, pays tribute to the works of Lloyd Webber. Some of Fredonia’s very best student vocalists join with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra and the Fredonia Chamber Choir for selections from “Phantom of the Opera,” “Evita,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Cats,” “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” “Sunset Boulevard” and more. The DFT Communications Pops Series

ART EXHIBITS

CATHY AND JESSE MARION ART GALLERY
Gallery Hours: Closed Monday, Tuesday to Thursday, noon to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS AND NEW MEDIA FACULTY EXHIBITION
Tuesday, Jan. 24 through Sunday, Feb. 19
Artwork in a variety of two and three-dimensional mediums by current faculty in Fredonia’s Department of Visual Arts and New Media will be featured.
Reception: Friday, Jan. 27, 6 to 9 p.m.

MIS/COMMUNICATION: THE POWER OF LANGUAGE IN CONTEMPORARY ART
Tuesday, Feb. 28 through Sunday, April 16
Curated by Amy Kahng, the exhibition examines a variety of communication issues such as the global predominance of English; the colonial violence of European languages in the global south; and the societal tendency to censure other languages, dialects and linguistic practices. Participating artists consider spoken and written language as defined by national or cultural linguistic traditions like Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese; indigenous languages like Bété, Cherokee, and Marra; as well as non-verbal and non-standard communication like American Sign Language, performative body language, “academic speak,” and Artificial Intelligence voice recognition programs.
Reception: Friday, March 3, 6 to 9 p.m.

SENIOR SHOW
Friday, April 21 through Sunday, May 7
The student exhibition will feature artwork in a variety of mediums by graduating seniors in the Department of Visual Arts and New Media.
Reception: Friday, April 21, 6 to 9 p.m.
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

(WS) indicates live streaming of event (subject to change) through the link found at www.fredonia.edu/music/live

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

ENSEMBLE/RECITAL PERFORMANCES

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

KING CONCERT HALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
Fredonia Percussion Ensemble (WS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
Fredonia Guitar Quartets and Ensemble (WS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
Fredonia Trombone Choir (WS)

MONDAY, APRIL 24
Fredonia Chamber Orchestra (WS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
Fredonia African Drumming Ensemble (WS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
Fredonia Chamber Choir and Fredonia College Choir (WS)

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
String Chamber Ensembles (WS)

TUESDAY, MAY 2
Fredonia World Mallets Ensemble (WS)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
Fredonia New Jazz Orchestra (WS)

THURSDAY, MAY 4
Fredonia Saxophone Quartets and Ensemble (WS)

DIERS RECITAL HALL

SUNDAY, MARCH 5
Fredonia Jazz Combos (WS)

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 7 P.M.
Music Therapy Showcase

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 5 P.M.
Viola Studio Recital (Studio of Associate Professor David Rose)

SUNDAY, MAY 7
Fredonia Jazz Combos (WS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

(Some require tickets/fees/registration, see the School of Music website at fredonia.edu/music)

FREDONIA OBOE DAY
Sunday, March 5
Mason Hall
Open to high school students. Led by Dr. Sarah Hamilton, students will spend the day in workshops, master classes, reed making classes, performance groups and more. Register online: www.fredonia.edu/music/community/oboe-day

WILLIAMS VISITING PROFESSOR/SCHOOL OF MUSIC ALUMNUS KYLIE VAN SCHONHOVEN RESIDENCY
From March 27 to April 14
for classes, workshops, and master classes with students.
Check the university online Events Calendar for more details closer to the event.

THE MAGIC FLUTE WITH THE BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND FREDONIA ALUMNI

Saturday, April 22, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 23, 2:30 p.m.
Kleinhaus Music Hall, Buffalo, N.Y.
The Buffalo Philharmonic and SUNY Fredonia’s Hillman Opera program join to celebrate Mozart’s beautiful fairy tale opera in a semi-staged performance of the cherished, lighthearted masterpiece. SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Julie Newell is producer, Professor Paul Mockovak is stage director, Dr. Adam Luebke is chorus master, and Voice faculty member James Harrison will perform the role of Sarastro. Alumni performing include Mary Hangle, John Tiranno, Lucia (Helgren) Flowers, Margaret Eighmey; Stephanie Foley Davis, Amanda Bottoms, Jordan Pitts and Katherine Jaslyn. See more at www.bpo.org.

FREDONIA SCHOOL OF MUSIC ANNUAL CONCERTO COMPETITION (WS)
Sunday, April 30, 1 p.m.
King Concert Hall

FREDONIA HARP DAY
Sunday, May 7
Mason Hall
Specifically designed for harpists of all ages and all levels. The no-stress day includes harp ensemble rehearsals and performances, a special guest recital by an American Harp Society National Competition winner, lunch, a t-shirt, and a chance to meet and mingle with other harpists. Participants can play as many or as few of the pieces as they like; harp ensemble repertoire will be sent when registration is received. Register online: www.fredonia.edu/music/community/fredonia-harp-day

FREDONIA SCHOOL OF MUSIC CONVOCATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY (WS)
Friday, May 12, 3 p.m.
Rosh Recital Hall
# Homecoming Highlights

1. The ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated Houghton Hall, which completes the Fredonia Science Complex, was attended by students, faculty/staff, emeriti and alumni.

2. Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recipients (far left) Sean Kirst, ’81, (English) and Cecelia Howe Fordham, ’59, (Speech and Drama) with President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. (second from left) and Fredonia Alumni Association President Greg Gibbs, ’71.

3. Members of the Class of 1992 enjoy being together at the Homecoming tent on a gorgeous fall day.

4. President Kolison offers remarks at the Scholars Brunch, conducted by the Fredonia College Foundation to honor over 100 benefactors and scholarship recipients, held in Cranston Marché.

5. The “Much More Chill” a cappella group performs during the pep rally held in the Steele Hall arena.

6. Student Association President Illene Thompson offers remarks at the Houghton Hall ribbon-cutting and dedication.

7. Joining in the ribbon-cutting for the Gestwicki Conference Room in Houghton Hall are (from left) Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences Andy Karafa, Project Shepherd and Professor Emeritus Holly Lawson, President Kolison; and Thomas, ’70, and Andrea (Beatty) Gestwicki, ’74, representing their family.

8. Alumnus Dennis Costello, ’72, shares his wisdom with current students in the Fredonia Science Center.

9. Homecoming royalty Makayla Barone (left) and Kasi Williams celebrate in Steele Hall.


11. Joey Molland (far right) from the former rock group, Badfinger, performs with SUNY Fredonia Music Industry program coordinator Armand Petri, ’81, on drums, and Paul Davie on keyboard.

12. Members of the EnFusion dance group entertain during the Steele Hall pep rally.

13. The Gilman Petrology Lab in Houghton Hall, endowed through the Fredonia College Foundation by Dr. Anne B. Lutz, ’67, and John H. Barnes, ’68, is dedicated, with Professor Emeritus Richard Gilman (fourth from right) in attendance.

14. Saturday’s festivities culminated with a performance by the Fredonia College Symphony, with featured artists and School of Music faculty members Drs. Natasha Famy and Eliran Avni, in King Concert Hall. A composition written by Avner Dorman for piano and cello was premiered. The piece was dedicated to the School of Music and the Class of 1966 by alumnus Christian Granger.
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 us to consider featuring? Go to www.fredonia.edu/my-story and tell us your story.

“Bill Filipiak, ’88 (second from right)
Major: Communication

Where are you now? In March 2022, I was promoted to Director of Production for Opry Entertainment Group in Nashville, Tenn. I oversee production for Opry, Ryman, Ole Red and WSM radio as well as production of television series development for shows that air on Circle TV and other networks. I’ve been a producer/director here since 2018 and continue to produce programming/content in my new role.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Without question, my time devoted to WCVF radio paved the way for my career. But SUNY Fredonia in general provided me hands-on experience as a freshman. That’s something a lot of larger schools don’t provide. And of course, my mentor Dan Berggren, was instrumental in preparing me for life after college and how to approach the world professionally. Being in a college band, reggae Sundays outside the Campus Center, 10-cent wings at Rooney’s...so many great memories!”

“Lauren Carnahan, ’05
Majors: Social Studies, Adolescence Education and History

Where are you now? I’m living in the Albany, N.Y., area and working for the New York State Education Department in the Office of State Assessment. My current title — Assistant in Instructional Services: Social Studies 7-12. This involves working on the N.Y.S. Social Studies Regents exams.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Fredonia prepared me to meet new people, work hard, and also go above and beyond what my initial goals were in life.”
Tom Tette, ’91
Major: Accounting

Where are you now? Managing Partner of Allied Financial Partners with offices across Western New York.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Professors and students always encouraged a “never give up” attitude.

Elizabeth George, ’21
Majors: Public Relations and Art History

Where are you now? I am currently working as a Perlu Digital Outreach Specialist for Terakeet in Syracuse, N.Y. My duties have consisted of aiding the planning and execution of influencer marketing campaigns through research, outreach, and teamwork. I’ve even had the privilege of helping to optimize Perlu.com’s layout and influencer marketing strategies, and have also curated content for their blog and social media channels. As an added bonus, I also help to create content on the side for A to Z Sports Nashville, a media company that covers the Tennessee Titans.

How did Fredonia prepare you? My SUNY Fredonia education provided a strong foundation for me to flourish in the career world. Double majoring was extremely hard considering all of the other responsibilities I had on my plate, but it allowed me to develop into a strong, well-rounded person. The critical thinking and writing skills that I picked up from my rigorous art history classes have continued to serve me daily. Not to mention, I picked up quite a bit of communication skills and industry knowledge from my upbeat Public Relations courses too.

All in all, I am very thankful for SUNY Fredonia, as it has allowed me to become the person I am today. Not only did this school set the stage for me to get hired right after graduation, but it also has provided me with strength, priceless memories, and above all, wonderful friendships that will last a lifetime.
1950s
Edward McClanathan, ’56, (elem. ed.) is currently working on ATO (Adjusted Traditional Orthography), his phonetic alphabet for teaching reading. Ed noted that Professor Emeritus Richard Shell was responsible for computerizing the symbols, and that it has been tested in a local school district. Those interested in hearing more can reach him through the Fredonia Alumni Office.

John “Jack” Carpenter, ’57, (music ed.) has been retired for 27 years from teaching and school administration in Indiana. He and his wife, Joyce, are still active in their rental property business and were married 60 years in June 2022.

Dr. Stephen “Steve” Lazar, ’59, (speech) spent 43 years as Dean at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, and 13 Years as Executive Dean of the Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University in Israel (American Medical Program). He lives in New York City and travels to Israel every few weeks, adding, “Still working! Still in contact with my Antwerp ‘family’ every week since 1962! Still in contact with Fredonia friends!” He has also been married to Dr. Marlene Lazar for over 51 years.

1960s
Dr. Eugene Alexander, ’64, (elem. ed.) is fully retired and lives in Merrick, N.Y., and Phoenix, Ariz., with his wife of 56 years, Sandy. They have two grown daughters and four grandchildren.

Rebecca (Gifford) Bennett, ’69, (English) in retirement is enjoying time to travel, including visiting her daughter in Paris.

1970s
Carol “Stash” Stanley, ’71, (theatre) inventor of the LaceLocker, offered a YouDoShoe campaign on her Etsy site. She lives in Charlottesville, Va., and is a member of the Fredonia Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Marilyn Barnes Pecoraro-O’Connell, ’72, (math. sec. ed.) is celebrating 25 years since opening Wild Birds Unlimited in Blasdell, N.Y. Her daughter, Danielle Pecoraro, who joined her as a co-owner in 2005, now runs the day-to-day operations while Marilyn spends seven months of the year in Naples, Fla., with her husband of 26 years, Tom O’Connell, and the rest of the time in Silver Creek.

Chris (Wilber) Howard, ’73, (speech and hear. hand.) has had a career as a speech pathologist, is very active in community theatre, and is in the process of creating a documentary about local activists after founding Surefooted Films, a not-for-profit company.

SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus Robert J. Spitzer, ’75.

1980s
Sean Kirst ’81, (English) a columnist with The Buffalo News, received two awards — a first place for Sports Writing and second place in the Columns category — from the Journalists Association of New York. His columns, according to the judge, focus on “detailed portraits of ordinary people emboldened by extraordinary circumstances.” The awards were announced at JANY’s annual banquet in October 2022.

The Rev. Mark Swanson, ’83, (history) is the new pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Jamestown.

Deneen Hernandez, ’86, (pol. sci.) was selected as the American Indian Science and Engineering Society’s (AISES) 2022 Professional of the Year.

Bro. Peter Veitch, OSB, ’86, (art) taught art for 32 years and retired in October 2021, after which he traveled to Poznan, Poland, to profess solemn vows in the Benedictines of Holy Wisdom, affiliated with the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. He has been given the religious name of Claudio, after Blessed Claudio Granzotto, a Franciscan friar and artist.

Ron Wachenheim, ’87, (bus. admin./finance) celebrated his 35th anniversary working for New York State government in September 2022, in five different New York State agencies including the Office of General Services (OGS), Department of Corrections and Community Services (Corcraft),...
Attorney General’s Office, Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS); and currently, with the Department of Financial Services (DFS). He has been in the contracts and procurement/purchasing field his entire career, and progressed from being a trainee at OGS to Director of Contracts while at OASAS, and is currently a Contracts Manager at DFS.

U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York Trini E. Ross, ‘88, (sociology) was named Lawyer of the Year by the Bar Association of Erie County (N.Y.).

New York State Sen. Sean M. Ryan, ‘88, (elem. ed.) was elected a seat in the re-drawn 61st New York State Senate District. He previously served the 60th Senate District since 2020, and served in the New York State Assembly from 2011 to 2020.

1990s

Patricia (Shea) Juliano, ’91, (psych.) was named 2022 Nurse of the Year at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. She lives in Bradenton, Fla.

Samuel Haynes, ’91, ’94, (English) has been appointed Associate Vice President of Student Affairs at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colo. He previously served as Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students at Bethel College, Drew University and Scripps College.

Dave Wedekindt, ’94, (bus. admin.) was promoted to Vice President at Artpark in Lewiston, N.Y., where he has worked since 2018. He was also recently elected as President of the board of directors for Arts Services of WNY.

Dr. Tracy Feiertag, ’95, (psych.) is a nationally ranked darts player — reported in August 2022.

50-year anniversary class photos from Homecoming

Class of 1970 (left to right) front row: Susan (Hacker) Blish, Virginia (Nilan) Schumacher and Deborah (Clark) Dugan; back row: Lance Durban, Michael Kern, William Cain, Robert Vandemark, David Wiens, Charles Rice and Ronald Tyrrell.

Class of 1971 (left to right) front row: Janet (Sibley) Evert, Michaeleene Comerford, Marcia Hohenstein Tyrrell, Toby (Shakin) Vandemark, Linda (Ferry) Prechtl, Joyce Conicardo and Anna Marie (Jones) Rice; back row: Linda Quaranto, Mary (Cronin) Feathery, Dianne (Thompson) Morissette, Walter Levy, Fred Guerriero, Michael Wilson, Greg Gibbs, Mark Constantino, Edward Finger, Wayne “Lizard” Spitz, Bernard Payne, Robert Dando, James McLeod, William Marks, Kathleen Piersons, Cynthia (Darling) Finger and Anne Schepp.

Class of 1972 (left to right) front row: Vonnie (Taylor) Benitz, Carol (Catryle) Tarshin, Kathleen (Bills) Spitz, Cheryl Freed, Esther McMillan, Nancy Lesko and Susan (Padley) Cecere; back row: Kathy (Mueller) Fox, William Giannone, Gary Crow-Willard, Guy Devitt, Larry Bernhard, George Monroe, Randy Cronk, Burton Perry, Joel Gonzales, Christopher Willoughby, Vincent Bonafede, Dennis Costello and Cheryl (Keyes) Brinkman.
Gregory M. Hennessey, ‘86

Friends from the classes of 1988 and 1989 at La Shawn Banks, ‘98,
Academy and GRAMMY Museum.

award presented by the Recording School, was named a Finalist for

plays the role of Headmaster Marrow. He also was in the

company’s national premiere of “The Wheel.”

Casey Jakubowski, ’98, (soc. studies sec. ed., history) is co-

author of the new book, “Crushing it From the Start, 50 Tips for New

Teachers.” He has donated copies of his three books to Reed Library

and the College of Education.

Charlie Post, ’98, (sound rec. tech., music-applied) was nominated

for a 2023 GRAMMY, along with Shawn Murphy and Gary Rydstrom, as engineers on “Bates: Philharmonia Fantastique — The Making Of The Orchestra,” by Edwin Outwater and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, for Best Engineered Album, Classical.

Mary Elizabeth Smith, ’98, (elem. ed/soc. stds.) was named Director of Children’s Programs at the

Specialist for the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program.

2010s

Mary Holland-Bavis, ’10, (pol. sci.) from Ithaca, N.Y., represented SUNY Fredonia at the inauguration of Ithaca College’s 10th president, Dr. La Jerne Terry Cornish, in October 2022.


Wade Weatherlow, ’10, (bus. admin./mgmt.) is President at the Jamestown Community College Foundation.

Dr. Carrie Pawelski, ’11, (music perf.) was named a quarterfinalist for the 2023 Music Educator of the Year.

Randy Merrill, ’91, ’94

was promoted to Executive Director of Vinecroft Retirement Community in Clarence Center, N.Y., a Heritage Ministries independent living community.

Vaughn Faison, ’15, (music-applied) is a member of the a cappella group, Kings Return, which earned a 2023 GRAMMY nomination for its arranger, Matt Cusson, for the tune, “How Deep is Your Love,” in the category of Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella.

Michael Hawk, ’16, (music perf.) received a 2022 Emerging Artist Award from Opera Index in October 2022.

Casey Swartz, ’16, (interdis. stds./ exer. sci.) was named Head Coach of SUNY Corning Community College’s men’s and women’s cross country teams.

Take Note:
We are always looking for announcements of marriages and children—and photos!
② www.fredonia.edu/my-story

to be sixth in the U.S. She is also

Deputy Assistant Director at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., and

Director of Cancer Initiatives for the Northwell Westchester Region.

Gregory Borowski, ’97, (commun.) completed his second semester as an adjunct at the State University at Buffalo teaching a Product Management class to MIS students in the School of Business. He is also coming up on five years at ACV Auctions Inc in Buffalo, N.Y., where he is Vice President of Product Management.

Stacy Kraus McDonald, ’97, (pol. sci.) represented SUNY Fredonia

at the inauguration of Temple University’s 12th president, Dr. Jason Wingard, in September 2022.

Randy Merrill, ’97, (sound rec. tech.) was mastering engineer for six 2023 GRAMMY-nominated entries including Adele’s “Easy on Me” and Harry Styles’ “As It Was,” for Record of the Year.

Brian Walsh, ’97, (bus. admin.) was promoted to Vice President/ Director, Assistant Treasurer, at ESL Federal Credit Union.

Phil Aguglia, ‘98, (music ed.) who teaches at Kenmore East High School, was named a Finalist for the 2023 Music Educator of the Year award presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum.

La Shawn Banks, ’98, (mus. theatre) was in the Steppenwolf Theatre Company production of “Choir Boy,”

Francis Center in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

2000s

Marcy (Bates) Fitzpatrick, ’02, (theatre/prod. design) spent the summer as the Wardrobe Supervisor for Chautauqua Theatre Company at Chautauqua Institution. She enjoyed collaborating with many Fredonia students, alumni, faculty and staff, noting, “It was refreshing to be surrounded by Fredonians and trade stories.” She is currently a freelance wardrobe supervisor and dresser located in Youngstown, Ohio.

Jennifer Phillips Russo, ’05, (biology) was the keynote speaker at Urban Rural Day in Westfield, with a presentation on the Spotted Lanternfly invasive species. She is Cornell’s Viticulture Extension award presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum. She is band director at Jefferson Middle School in Jamestown and has been an adjunct faculty member in the Fredonia School of Music.

Maxwell C. Radley, ’13, (econ., pol. sci.) became an Associate in the Business Services and Economic Development & Public Incentives practice groups at Hurwitz Fine P.C.

Amanda Lynn Bottoms, ’14, (music perf.) was a second-year Santa Fe Opera apprentice during the summer of 2022 and covered the role of Carmen. She will perform in an upcoming Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra production of “The Magic Flute” and the Akron (Ohio) Symphony performance of Mahler’s Symphony No. 3.
The 1970s Reunion Jazz Ensemble played at Homecoming, including alumni (left to right), front row: Russ Carere, Rich Nunemaker, Paul Stencel, Patti Dunham, John Hasselback, Don Carducci, Don Knecht and Dave Long; back row: Dave Cohen, John Maguda, Dave Pratt, John Cooley, Will Sprague, Charlie LeCount, Niles Dening, Bob King, Jayd Mollnar and Craig Fattey.

2020s


Patrick Ryan, ’20, (commun./journalism) was promoted to News Reporter at WIVB-TV Ch. 4 in Buffalo, N.Y.

Deaths*

ALUMNI

Marion (Nixon) Crowe, Class of 1940
Caroline Margaret Wood, Class of 1948
Garrett Donald “Don” Rathgeber, Class of 1952

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

Janet (Lesch) Schmonsky, 
Class of 1977
Kathleen “Kathy” (Messer) Bell, 
Class of 1978
William F. Birk, Class of 1979
Jon R. Thomas, Class of 1979
William F. Duncanson IV, 
Class of 1980
Timothy W. Halas, Class of 1980
Thomas Peter Leonard, 
Class of 1981
Elizabeth “Beth” (Bestercy) LaFantano, Class of 1982
Henry “Hank” J. LoDestro, 
Class of 1982
Kimberley Ann (Jones) Grant, 
Class of 1984
Carol V. Sandt-Brick, Class of 1985
Judith Ellen (Williams) Schindler, 
Class of 1985
Alan L. Stewart, Class of 1987
Joanna (Federico) Cox, 
Class of 1994

Bruce Ferry, Class of 1996
Elizabeth M. (Schiedel) Littere, 
Class of 2002
Michele “Mickie” A. (Matecki) Muirhead, Class of 2003

FACULTY/EMERITI
Dr. Robert “Bob” Dean Klassen, 
Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance, 1984–1999; Professor, 1999–2020
Dr. Bruce Klonsky, Fellow, 
AASP; Professor, Department of Psychology, 1992–2022

STAFF/RETIRED STAFF
Gary Cady, Cleaner/Groundsman/ 
Senior Grounds Worker, 1975–2010
Ronald P. LaDolce Jr., Cleaner, 
2002–2015
William “Bill” M. Paige, Structural 
Trades, Facilities Services, 1982–2002
Gilbert “Gil” H. Seekings, Plant 
Utilities Engineer, Facilities Services/ 
HVAC, 1986–2010

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

Births
A daughter, Lucy, to Melissa and Adam Kane, ’90 (acting).

We really want to stay in touch with you!
Please send your updated email address to 
alumni.office@fredonia.edu

SUNY Fredonia greatly values and appreciates our Alumni community! However, due to recent changes imposed by Google that went into effect on July 1, 2022, the campus can no longer offer SUNY Fredonia Alumni fredonia.edu Gmail accounts or access to other Google Workspace apps.

Prior to July 1, 2022, Alumni were notified that they would have to transfer or move their files from their Fredonia Google Workspace Apps (e.g. FREDmail, Drive, etc.) to their personal apps before the July 1 deadline.

Google notified all of its customers that they would be changing their storage policies from unlimited data storage for all users to a limited domain-wide quota. In order to maintain and secure critical university business services, the university needs to pay for all Google Workspace account storage and pay for protecting the accounts with Duo Multi-Factor Authentication moving forward.

Students graduating from Fredonia at the end of the Spring 2022 semester or December 2021 semester have access to their fredonia.edu Google Workspace account (e.g. FREDmail and Drive, etc.) for two years after their graduation date.

Fredonia will continue to provide all Alumni access to their eServices account (User ID and Password) to access other appropriate SUNY Fredonia services as needed.

For more information regarding the Fredonia Google Workspace changes, please visit the Fredonia Google Workspace Storage FAQs online at https://tinyurl.com/epf2zeku

You can also provide us with your personal email address by logging into YourConnection at https://connect.fredonia.edu/yourconnection/ clicking on the Personal Information tab and taking the following steps:

- Click on the “View Email Addresses” tab
- Then, in the middle of the page click on the link “Update Alumni Email Address”
- Enter your personal email address
- Then, select “Update”

Attention Fredonia Class of 1993!
2023 marks 30 years since we graduated from SUNY Fredonia — can you believe it? With this in mind — it’s time for a reunion!

Please mark your calendar for Fredonia Homecoming on Oct. 20 to 21 and plan to reunite with fellow classmates and friends.

The ’93 Reunion Committee of Scott Mekus, Brett Warren, Jennifer (Kiltenbeck) McElwain, Adam Kamlet and Lori (Zebraski) Leyendecker along with the Fredonia Alumni Affairs Office, is excited to plan a weekend of fun events and lasting memories.

The committee is looking for contact information (phone and email addresses) and past photos of the SUNY Fredonia Class of 1993 members, so please share message and forward information to Brett Warren at brett.warren@excellus.com or Scott Mekus at (716) 720-0564.

For more information, join the class Facebook page at Fredonia ’93.

We’ll see you in the fall!!
Advice for job seekers from employers

The Career Development Office (CDO) works with employers in many different industries, and they often give us advice to share with students and alumni. Here are the top five suggestions from employers that will maximize your chances of getting an offer.

1. **Research the organization!**
   Employers want evidence that you have done your homework on them and are applying because you are a good match. Read the website, do an online search for news about the organization, and review any materials they share with you. Recruiters look favorably on who took some time with this step, but it’s more than just making a good impression. This will help you decide whether you think the organization is a good fit for you.

2. **Do practice interviews.**
   Practicing your answers and discussing strategies for presenting your experiences will improve your confidence and delivery at the interview. Practice answering the “behavioral” questions that assess soft skills, such as forming relationships, building trust, and strengthening teams. CDO practice interviews are tailored to the profession and will help with some of the toughest questions.

3. **Relate your experience and strengths to the job at hand.**
   In your cover letter, don’t just restate items from your resume. Instead, relate those experiences to aspects of the job. Do the same in your interview answers when the experiences you share can be paired to parts of the job description. The letter and the interview are not just about you — they’re about how you fit their open position!

4. **Know a weakness, and how to present it.**
   Only give one (unless asked), and always discuss how you have tried to address it. Don’t call it a weakness; refer to it as something you are “trying to improve.” Admitting a weakness shows humility and self-awareness, and showing how you’ve worked on it indicates a commitment to self-improvement. Don’t dodge this question!

5. **Know your strengths.**
   Questions like “Why should I hire you” or “What do you have to offer our organization” are actually asking about your strengths. Have three in mind, with a brief explanation or evidence to support them. Speak confidently about your strengths!

---

**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](https://fredonia.joinhandshake.com/register) to create your account and complete your profile so that you can put your best self forward to employers.

**Call** (716) 673-3327  **Email** careers@fredonia.edu  **Web** www.fredonia.edu/cdo
Thank you for making FREDlanthropy Day 2022 our best yet! With nearly 300 donors, our alumni and friends stepped up in a big way to help Fredonia. Your donations supported scholarships for deserving students, as well as the departments, programs and athletic teams you care about. While you may not have physically been on campus in a few years, your impact is still felt!

Our students celebrated FREDlanthropy by sharing some notes of gratitude. Prince Aziz said, “Fredonia was the first place I’ve felt like I had a home and that’s only been possible through your financial contributions and donations. Once again, thank you. I greatly appreciate it.” And Betty shared, “Thank you so much!! If it weren’t for your generosity, I wouldn’t be here.”

Be sure to save the date for FREDlanthropy Day 2023, on April 19, when we hope to inspire even more of our alumni and friends to further their impact by supporting future generations of Fredonians.