Eager to listen, learn

New Fredonia President Dr. Stephen H. Kolison Jr.
sets collaborative tone

Student Emergency Relief Fund provides support

Pursuing her passion and goals, meeting a need and making a difference

Alumnus thrives as creative force on PBS digital design teams

A 59-year Fredonia friendship: A navy blue Fredonia blazer
Outstanding Achievement Award to Finn and Taylor; Career Development Office to host ‘Network on the Go’ event in October.
Fredonian to Fredonian; Dunkirk woman sews, gives protective face masks to students.

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Admissions Update
Fredonia is dedicated to the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors. The Office of Admissions is offering several virtual options to prospective students and their families in lieu of traditional visits. For the most up-to-date information on our virtual events, and the status of in-person tours, please check www.fredonia.edu/admissions-aid/visit-tour or call the Office of Admissions at (716) 673-3251.

Art Exhibits
Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery
Main level, Rockefeller Arts Center

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<th>OCTOBER</th>
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<td>Friedonia Marxonia</td>
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<td>Annual Marx Brothers Festival</td>
<td>&quot;Ultimate Metallic Suit&quot; 2017, published by Shark’s Ink</td>
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<td>Author and performer Noah Diamond will present his illustrated lecture, &quot;Home Again: The Marx Brothers and New York City,&quot; directed by Amanda Skak, as an online event on Oct. 2</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER</td>
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<td>Annual Alumni Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday, Nov. 12 4 p.m. (to be conducted online)</td>
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Virtual Homecoming
Oct. 15–17
See fredonia.edu/alumni for details.

Last Days of Instruction for the Semester
Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 4

Final Exams
Exams will be completed by Friday, Dec. 11

William Kentridge: “Universal Archives”
Aug. 18 through Oct. 11

Teresa Booth Brown: “The Neo-Quietism Project”
Oct. 16 through Nov. 20

There will be no group tours or receptions during the fall semester. For more information, contact Gallery Director Barbara Räcker at (716) 673-4897 or email barbara.racker@fredonia.edu.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones doing well and in great spirits, notwithstanding the COVID-19 era in which we find ourselves. As you may know, I arrived on campus on August 17, and I am excited to be a part of SUNY Fredonia as your 14th President. My family and I are happy to call this institution our home. Over the next several months, I hope to get to meet and to know many of you. Indeed, it is a high honor to join you in partnership and efforts aimed at the advancement of SUNY Fredonia.

As indicated to the campus community upon my appointment, I believe that a university meter for public higher education institutions must include inspiring and preparing students to be skilled, connected, creative, entrepreneurial, innovative, and responsible professionals and global citizens. In addition, public institutions must be engaged with the communities in which they are located. In other words, it is not enough for public institutions to be located in a community. They must be of, and for, the communities in which they are located, and be strong socioeconomic anchors for those communities. I find SUNY Fredonia to be all of these things.

This is why I am thrilled beyond expression to be appointed by the SUNY Board of Trustees as Fredonia’s President. My first message to students was to tell them that regardless of their background and the challenges we face, they need to embrace Fredonia and take full advantage of all that it has to offer. It is their university. I pledged to work hard every day to ensure that they are successful in their endeavors. Throughout the search process, I have been so impressed with the talents of the faculty and staff, the beauty of the physical campus, and — most importantly — the remarkable student body. Fredonia’s six-year graduation rate remains above the national average for schools of its size. I look forward to working with the campus community to continue to build on that strong foundation.

It is my hope that the Fredonia family is very proud of the way the campus has responded to COVID-19 Along with continuing learning through distance education, several current students and alumni have been on the frontlines of the pandemic. Several stories in this edition of The Statement highlight that work. Also, I am grateful for the leadership of my predecessor, Interim President Dennis Hefner, and for the extraordinary efforts by our faculty and staff for the continuation of instruction and operations, and the making of preparations for the new school year. Thank you.

As I began my first year at Fredonia, I am looking forward to meeting you — alumni and friends of the university — as life returns to normalcy from the constraints imposed on all of us by COVID-19. I wish you the very best. Stay well. Very truly yours.

Stephen H. Kolison Jr., Ph.D. President SUNY Fredonia

Nurturing Innovation: The Campaign for Fredonia

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Stephen H. Kolison Jr., Ph.D. President SUNY Fredonia
Interim President Hefner indicated he was pleased to see Kolison chosen. “His experience with public and private universities, his extensive grant record, his intimate knowledge of higher education systems and strong academic background give him the knowledge and experience necessary to assume this important leadership position during these very challenging times,” said Hefner, who was Fredonia’s president from 1997 to 2012.

Frank Pagano, chair of the Fredonia College Council and the Presidential Search Committee, said Kolison brings a wealth of experience to this position and is well prepared for this role. “I look forward to working with Dr. Kolison as we begin a new chapter in Fredonia’s history.”

Kolison explained, resulting in the pool of traditional college-age students falling about 15 percent. These forces make budget deficits even more difficult to address.

“The are things that we have to deal with in the months or years ahead,” Kolison said. “We are serious competition from other schools. In our neighborhood, a 100-mile radius, you have five other public schools that we have to compete with for students, and then if you look at where our students come from: about 95 percent of our students come from the state of New York.” Kolison noted. Very few are from other states or are international students. “I want to be clear about these. These are challenges I am aware of in pursuing this opportunity. I came because I believe that the campus and the SUNY System will support me addressing these challenges. And, together, we will address all of these challenges and move ahead to many opportunities because we are SUNY Fredonia.”

“What’s going to be heavy on my mind is going to be launching the fall semester under this COVID cloud that we have to deal with.” — President Stephen H. Kolison Jr.
Shared governance, working closely with Faculty Senate and major stake- 
holders, was also a priority at UIndy that Kolison is carrying with him to Fredonia. Kolison said he was fortunate to work with an effective team — the Provost’s Council — that was visionary, cohesive, diverse, and committed to advancing UIndy.

Kolison points to a strong faculty and staff, great students, world class academic programs and a beautiful campus, as Fredonia assets. “These are all incredible strengths to have, that make an institution a place of destination. There’s a lot going on for Fredonia that makes it actually a very strong institution.”

At UIndy, Kolison, during his three years, planned 10 new degree programs, secured overwhelming faculty support to establish three types of faculty tracks and planned, launched and completed the development of an intellectual life vision and an academic master plan for the university. Before joining UIndy, Kolison spent nearly nine years in University of Waterloo’s System Administration, as Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, Educational Innovation and Governance. Kolison was responsible for academic program planning and array management of the system that serves approximately 170,000 students across 13 universities.

At Tennessee State University, Kolison was responsible for providing direction of a comprehensive research program related to agricultural and environmental sciences. During his 10 years there, he was the Founding Dean and Research Director of the Agricultural and Environmental Research, and Director and Research Director of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program.

Kolison also taught for eight years in the field of Forestry/Forest Economics and was a research scientist at Tuskegee University. He began his career in higher education as a teaching assistant at the University of Liberia, his alma mater.

Kolison has a Ph.D. in Forest Economics and an M.S. in Forest Economics and Marketing, both from Iowa State University of Science and Technology.

Father ‘inspired me tremendously’

The father of Stephen H. Kolison Jr. (Stephen H. Kolison Sr.) passed away nearly 10 years ago, but the legacy that he left his children growing up in Liberia clearly nurtured the career trajectory of Fredonia’s new president.

With a high school diploma, the elder Kolison became a teacher at schools (elementary and junior high schools) operated by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, which published about a million-acre rubber plantation in Liberia, for the children of its workers. Kolison said his father realized that in order “to do even better,” he needed to obtain a higher education, so as a non-traditional student, he enrolled in the University of Liberia to earn an undergraduate degree.

The younger Kolison was in the second grade when his father went back to school. “I still remember how he would take breaks from reading. And every time we were on sit by him and he would take breaks from reading. And every time we were on campus including the library, the registrar office and the cafeteria. Think about that for a moment. Think about that in terms of what universities could do for first-generation students who lack such advantages.”

“My father was a first-generation college student who did very well,” Kolison said. His father also received a scholarship from Firestone and enrolled at the University of Akron in Alliance. “He knew where most things were on the campus including the library, the registrar office and the cafeteria. Think about that for a moment. Think about that in terms of what universities could do for first-generation students who lack such advantages.”

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“While I was working on my doctorate, civil war broke out in Liberia. It was a devastating civil war that pretty much destroyed Liberia; it threw the country back by more than 50 years,” said Kolison, who was at Iowa State University at the time. “There was the destruction of thousands of lives. I was getting very close to finishing my dissertation when this was going on, so I realized very quickly that I was going to be a man without a home to go back to.” Kolison remembered.

Life in Liberia was so catastrophic, Kolison recalled, that he didn’t know where his family members or friends were or if they were safe or still alive. “Imagine trying to process all that while trying to complete a doctorate degree. But I was very fortunate, America gave me a home and also gave me a career.” Kolison was initially hired by Tuskegee University to its faculty and to lead its forestry program. “Let me add this to you. America did not give me only a great education, home, and career. When I need to be loved in a very special way, America gave me a wonderful wife called Valerie, a native of Alabama.”

Kolison’s father was an educator, a farmer, and a public servant elected to help revitalize Liberia’s new constitution in 1984, and Kolison proudly says his father’s signature is on that document. “My father was my hero and my best friend. He inspired me tremendously as I grew up.”

That inspiration helped the younger Kolison overcome an early setback in elementary school: he failed the second grade and had to repeat it.

“It was a very difficult, hard time,” recalls kolison, who had a form of dyslexia, so he had difficulty recognizing and telling the differences between certain letters and numbers. “It was very challenging for me. My second grade teacher pretty much gave up on me; I still remember it like it was yesterday.” He did not amount to anything and did not hesitate to predict that openly so that all my classmates heard his prediction about me. I felt ashamed often in class.”

But the youngster, encouraged by family and other teachers, didn’t give up. Kolison became valedictorian of his high school class and enrolled in the University of Liberia to earn a B.S. in General Forestry. He became vice president of a club; he gave public talks at meetings and in a very special way, America gave me a home, and career. When I need to be loved

“Don’t give up. Work hard, and one day you will be very happy that you didn’t give up. You tried. Much of Kolison’s aspiration to be a college president is rooted in his desire to help students succeed. I know what the value of higher education is; I saw what happened to my dad and my family.”

Kolison also holds his mother in very high esteem. A lack of formal education is the one thing that would have been a really, really, big nuclear deal for them,” he said.”

“I was very fortunate to have had wonderful parents who inspired me.”

Away from academia, Kolison’s expertise in kitchen has yielded some recognition from friends, colleagues and family members, including a blue ribbon that a spinach recipe won in VA hospital.

Kolison and his wife, Valerie, endoring the use of protective masks.

Kolison also taught for eight years in the field of Forestry/Forest Economics and was a research scientist at Tuskegee University. He began his career in higher education as a teaching assistant at the University of Liberia, his alma mater. Kolison has Ph.D. in Forest Economics and an M.S. in Forest Economics and Marketing, both from Iowa State University of Science and Technology.

and a B.S. in General Forestry from the University of Liberia. He holds four post-doctoral certificates from Harvard University. Throughout his career in higher education, Dr. Kolison has been the principal investigator on grants totaling in the millions of dollars.
Outstanding Achievement Award to Finn and Taylor; Career Development Office to host ‘Network on the Go’ event in October

Two alumni will be honored this year with Outstanding Achievement Awards from the Fredonia Alumni Association — William Finn, ‘83, (Business Administration), who is currently President of both Hospice of the Western Reserve and Western Reserve Care Solutions, and the Honorable William Kemsey Taylor, 97, (Political Science and English) former Class President, Lanford Presidential Prize recipient, and currently a New York State Supreme Court Judge. The honorees will be recognized at a date yet to be determined.

The Career Development Office is excited to announce a virtual collaborative event scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. “Network on the Go” will connect employers/organizations with Fredonia alumni and students seeking internships (year-round), and part-time and full-time job opportunities. In addition, alumni employers are invited to establish professional interaction opportunities with students from their first-year through senior year, and beyond. Free employer registration is available online at https://fredonia.joinhandshake.com/

Fredonia to Dunkerton; Dunkirk woman sews, gives protective face masks to students

Thanks to a former Fredonia student, students living on campus for the rest of the spring semester had cloth face masks to wear so they could do their part to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The colorful, all-cotton masks were made by Cheryl Gawronski, who attended Fredonia more than a half-century ago. She is part of Community Sourced PPE, Operation Sewing Squad, a Facebook group whose members wash material, cut fabric, sew masks and distribute them where they’re needed in Western New York. Working remotely, these volunteers make and distribute some 33,000 face masks in 36 days to law enforcement agencies, local governments, hospitals, the New York State Department of Health and home nursing agencies, among others. “We noticed that students were not wearing masks like they should be wearing, and I knew Cheryl was making them for other groups,” explained Jill Zappie, an office assistant in Residence Life. “I reached out to her, and she made 100 for us in a matter of three days!”

“I am so thankful to Cheryl for her kind gesture,” said Kathy Forster, director of Residence Life. “I knew that the on-campus students and the staff that the students interact with on a daily basis appreciate the thoughtfulness. Those thoughts were echoed by Zappie. ‘The residence directors were very excited about them, are very thankful,’ she said.

Pursuing her passion and goals, meeting a need and making a difference

For Kayla Purcell, a junior Medical Technology major at Fredonia, the faces of COVID-19 victims don’t live just on television newscasts or in newspapers. They were a part of her life as a patient care technician (PCT) and member of medical teams treating COVID-19 patients at Rochester (N.Y.) General Hospital.

“I am seeing patients, but I consider myself to be someone supporting the doctors, nurses and PAs who are really on the front lines managing the treatment of these patients,” Purcell noted. “I love it, the people I work for, the patients. I love learning something new every single day!”

Purcell was assigned to 4800, the medical specialty unit where Rochester General’s 528-bed tertiary care hospital treats COVID-19 patients.

With a career goal of becoming a physician assistant, Purcell had planned to work the summer as a PCT at Rochester General to get a head-start on the 1,000 hours of direct patient care that most graduate schools require of applicants in their PA programs, but was summoned earlier by the hospital. She began PCT training in the third week of April, working 20 hours a week, while continuing her Fredonia course work online, as all students were doing. During the summer, Purcell was on duty 32 hours a week. She plans to serve one or two weekends a month during the 2020-2021 school year, working around class and athletic schedules, and then return and work full-time next summer.

“My floor is the only floor currently with COVID patients, so we have the most protective gear as of now in the hospital. We have to wear scrubs given to us every day that we cannot wear out of the hospital,” Purcell added. “If we enter a COVID-19 patient’s room we need to wear full PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), including gowns, face masks and face shields, and follow the procedures for putting them on.”

About half the patients on Purcell’s floor are COVID-19 patients, the other half are ventilator/respiratory patients other than COVID-19 so all team members must be extremely cautious going from patient to patient to patient. “I have always known I wanted to work in medicine, but this experience has really solidified the desire,” Purcell said. “I have been able to put myself out there and make connections that will help me down the road in my path to becoming a PA as well as learn how to put myself in the best position to get into a program from professionals who have done it themselves.”
Students in Department of Visual Arts and New Media Associate Professor Phil Hastings’ SFX for Experimental Video class demonstrating cloud tanks in Fall 2019.
Fredonia’s faculty and staff, along with members of the community, came together this spring to assist students during this turbulent time in their lives. A Student Emergency Relief Fund was created through the Fredonia College Foundation to help students faced with unexpected expenses related to the pandemic, and to help alleviate hardships related to moving to a digital education format. Individual grants of between $100 and $500 assisted with technology costs related to distance education, lab fees, software, Internet connections, food insecurity and other basic needs.

“It was heartwarming to see Fredonia’s faculty and staff, alumni, and friends come together to help students experiencing hardship due to the transition to distance education,” said Fredonia College Foundation Executive Director Betty Gossett.

In June, it was announced that the SUNY Impact Foundation would match dollar for dollar, up to $50,000, any additional gifts made by July 1 to Fredonia’s fund. The campus and community met that challenge. As of July 12, total funds raised reached $184,990 including the $50,000 in matching funds. To date, the foundation has received 423 requests, providing over $99,000 in assistance to students — who can continue to apply at fredonia.edu/relief-request.

The funds Yek received were used to pay a month’s worth of medical insurance, which ‘SUNY’ requires of all international students, as well as miscellaneous items, such as the telephone bill and course supplies, so he was able to focus all of his attention to the distance education transition.

“I was relieved more than anything,” Yek said upon learning that his application was accepted. “There were a couple things that I needed the money for urgently that I didn’t know where I would find the money for, so when I got the email I just let out a huge sigh of relief,” he said. Yek, who is from Malaysia, has three majors: Physics, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

She will continue to use the laptop in her studies as a Mathematics and Applied Mathematics major, with a concentration in Finance, during her remaining years at Fredonia.

The funds Vinace received were used to purchase a much-needed laptop. This helped her to be able to spread her learning throughout the day instead of having to consolidate it in between 5 p.m. and midnight on a shared laptop.

“Maddy used her allocation to help purchase a much-needed laptop. This helped her to be able to spread her learning throughout the day instead of having to consolidate it in between 5 p.m. and midnight on a shared laptop. Maddy said that she was able to continue trying to complete my work online, yet it was still overwhelming.”

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The 2020 Fredonia State spring sports season had just begun when the curtain fell.

Members of the Athletics department were in an emergency meeting on Friday, March 13, when word came down, via Twitter, that the NCAA was cancelling all championships—what remained of winter sports and all those in the spring—due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Conferences followed suit, including the SUNYAC, and sporting venues around the world fell silent.

The Department of Athletics found a couple of ways to bring some closure to the year. A social media campaign to recognize all senior student-athletes on spring teams was launched on the Fredonia State Athletics website (www.fredoniabluedevils.com). Planning also began to switch the annual awards gala known as The FREDDYS to an online format.

The FREDDYS was rolled out over the course of a week in early May. Here is a look at each of the awards categories:

### Athletics Hall of Fame

Five alumni, three teams added to Athletics Hall of Fame

The newest Fredonia State Athletics Hall of Fame induction class, the 25th in school history, consists of five alumni and three Teams of Distinction.

Greg Prechtl (69), the former men’s basketball coach and director of athletics, will be enshrined along with one of his former players, Walt Hubbard (93). The 1992-93 men’s basketball team, which Mr. Prechtl coached and Mr. Hubbard was a part of also will be entered as a Team of Distinction.

Jake Basiile (99) from baseball, Matt Barched (’06) from men’s soccer, and Sarah Hite-Moore (’05) from women’s track and field will also be enshrined individually. The 1981 men’s cross country title, and the 1985 and 1986 men’s soccer teams will be added to the Teams of Distinction list.

Here’s a brief look at the five individuals:

- **Greg Prechtl**: had a relationship at Fredonia State athletics that spanned 54 years. He was a member of the men’s basketball team, an Assistant Coach, later the Head Coach, and eventually Director of Athletics until his retirement in 2017. He received coaching awards for regular-season success and team sportsmanship, guided the Blue Devils to 1985 ECAC Upstate New York and the 1993 SUNYAC titles, and, as Director of Athletics, oversaw the construction of softball’s Blue Devil Field, the Steele Hall Natatorium, both phases of University Stadium, and the Blue Devil Fitness Center.

- **Walt Hubbard**: is tied for second-most in program history. His 42 wins and batted a conference-leading .420 during 2009, a season in which the Blue Devils won a program-record 26 games, including an appearance in the ECAC Upstate New York Tournament.

The 1993 men’s basketball team, coached by Mr. Prechtl, posted on 18-10 record and won the SUNYAC championship by defeating host Binghamton. It also resulted in the program’s only appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The SUNYAC title was a culmination of the most successful stretch in program history which saw the Blue Devils win 40 games. Rome topped out at 18-10 in the team’s previous Hall of Fame member.
As the spring semester wound down, it became evident that the original in-person May 16 Commencement ceremonies at Fredonia's Steele Hall would be postponed. Along with this, there were strong feelings on the part of administrators and the Commencement Committee that, regardless, the day should be observed in a special way. The idea for a digital celebration was developed, and Department of Marketing and Communications Videographer Jim Gibbons set to the task.

Over a series of weeks in April, Mr. Gibbons recorded Interim President Dennis L. Hefner recognizing the bachelor’s, master’s and advanced certificate graduates and their families; seniors Jacklyn Wick and Danielle Zareski singing the national anthem; and opening and closing reflections from Avril M. King, Alyson J. Baumann, Brigham Pratt and Caroline Schettler. Class President Deoniss Jackson also addressed the graduates, congratulating them on the completion of their academic careers via distance education.

A recording of the Fredonia Chamber Choir singing, “The Welcome Table,” arranged specifically for the chamber choir and conducted by nationally-known composer, arranger and clinician, Stacey V. Gibbs, was included on the video.

Mr. Pratt was recognized as the recipient of the Lanford Presidential Prize. Also acknowledged were the late Stephanie Handschu, whose family will accept a posthumous degree in her honor, and Melanie Aronow, who passed away just prior to the beginning of her freshman year and would have been a member of the Class of 2020.

Graduates were encouraged to view the celebration with their families. In addition, they were invited to send photos to be featured, which were developed into slides with the student’s name, major and Latin honors, as appropriate. Graduates names were read by Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, Sponsored Research and Faculty Development Judith Horowitz and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Jack Croxton. After the first “viewing” on May 16 — additional photos were sent by graduates to be added — for a total of nearly 500 Fredonians on the final version released in June.

To view the video, go online to https://www.fredonia.edu/2020.
Chris Bishop traces his love of art to grade school when he began drawing cartoons and copying images out of newspapers. “Art has always been my thing and all I’ve ever cared about,” Mr. Bishop recalled. “My mom told me when I was little, the teacher would hand out coloring sheets and I would flip mine over to the blank side to draw my own picture. I remember studying and copying ‘Garfield’ in first grade which led to making up my own comic strips.”

It was a comic strip, “Convenience Store,” carried by the national magazine React, that became Bishop’s first paying art job while he was pursuing a B.F.A. at Fredonia. The three-panel gag strip depicted two convenience store clerks, one of whom said, “You’re not supposed to do that!” 

“I barely passed these classes, but they were the most fun,” Bishop said. “They were the early years of PBS Kids; Bishop was their fourth employee. “They were the early years of PBS Kids; Bishop was their fourth employee. “Today, Bishop is the mastermind behind Kart Kingdom, PBS Kids’ first-ever virtual world. In this game, children build their own karts and go on adventures that they create, which can unlock prizes and reveal secret worlds. “We want to have a social place where kids could get together and kind of learn things in that world.”

“Trying to get into the mindset of a kid and think how they would use an app or interface is a different way to think. I love trying to carve a concept or visual down to the most simple it can be while still working intuitively.”

Bishop credits three faculty members for having a profound influence on his growth as an artist. He remembers Emeritus Associate Professor Mary Lee Lunde, his advisor, as a phenomenal art instructor who taught Bishop how to navigate the system, find loopholes and get away with pushing the boundaries. “And you could just chat with her endlessly.”

Bishop is the mastermind behind Kart Kingdom, PBS Kids’ first-ever virtual world. 

Beverage containers featuring illustrations designed by Bishop for Crooked Crab Brewing Co.

**Alumnus thrives as creative force on PBS digital design teams**

“I love trying to carve a concept or visual down to the most simple it can be while still working intuitively.”

— Chris Bishop

Beverage containers featuring illustrations designed by Bishop for Crooked Crab Brewing Co.

Beverage containers featuring illustrations designed by Bishop for Crooked Crab Brewing Co.

**College life parody**

Bishop also served as The Leader staff. He began drawing comic strips, of course, and eventually became the Lampoon editor. His comic strip, “They Tell Me I’m Annoying,” made fun of college life, students, student government, Darwink and other aspects of the Fredonia experience.

“A lot of people loved it and a lot of people hated it. The newspaper staff and faculty advisor were very supportive no matter how many unhappy letters or phone calls we received about the comics. Some of my best memories of Fredonia are hanging out with the people from the newspaper.”

Bishop still does freelance illustration work, including beer can art for Crooked Crab Brewing Co.

**Alumni Profile**

Chris Bishop and his wife, Shannon, and their two sons, Leo, 3, and Connor, 9 months.

Crab, a brewery in Maryland. His website is populated by paintings (large scale pop art; illustrations; lampoons, logos, etc.; prints sold on INPRNT), Instagram (daily art and work in progress) along with PBS and PBS Kids digital and merchandise. Bishop and his wife, Shannon, who also works at PBS Kids, have two sons, Leo, and Connor.
William Taylor Cleary ’75, ’80
William Giannone, ’72

Street Gang,” was released by Marshall Seddon’s, ’71
ed.) retired in January 2014
100 List.

For more than 30
responsible for over 30,000 high
Ronald, ’61,
ed.) a former member of the
Vincent Aiosa, ’60

1960s
Vincent Aiessa, ’80, (music ed.) has
retired after teaching for 55
years, 31 at WFNY. Central School
and 24 in the music
education department at those
two.

Ronald, ’81, (music ed.) and
Catherine (Brown) Sutherland, ’77, (music ed.) completed their
33rd and final year in their
Chepessners for the New York State
School Music Association’s annual winter conference;
responsible for over 30,000 high
school musicians over the years.
Michael J. Tramuto, ’65, (islam.
ed.) former member of the Fedonia Blue Devils
basketball team, was inducted with the Class of 2000 into the
Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in February. For more than 30
years, he has been a chemical
dependency counselor.

Nina Karbaka, ’70, (music ed.)
was named to City & State
magazine’s Education Power 100 List.
Bennie D. Mitchell, ’70, (islam.
ed.) retired in January 2014
after 20 years of working at the
Campus (Po) campus of Buffalo
National Institute for Ewi, Inc. as an
Associate Director.
Marshall Seddon, ’71, (soc. stdev./
sec.) latest book, “The Slobber
Sheep Gorps,” was released by
NFB Publishing.

Theodore S. Buzek, ’79
Katherine Dignam, ’80

William Giannone, ’72
(‘music ed.) arranged J.B. Bach’s 15
Suitances, BWV 772-801 (Three-
part Inventions) for three flutes,
published by Rosebud Music
Publishing Co. and available at
Many of his students have
taught and mentors him that
has over twenty years,
including No. 73 to his flute professor at Fedonia.
Dr. Donald Hartman.

Mary Anna (Mark) Delfortito, ’77
(law) and her husband, retired in 2011 as a Speech/
Language Clinician with the West
Shore School District in South
Central Pennsylvania. She and
her husband are enjoying time spent
with children and grandchildren.

Anthony J. Joseph, ’73, (music ed.) was inducted into the
Owego (N.Y.) Music Hall of Fame in
October 2019 receiving an
Educator Award. Anthony and his
wife, Kathy, celebrated their 46th
wedding anniversary on Oct. 13,
2019. He retired from teaching in
2006: completing a 35-year
career but continues to lead his
own combo: The Anthony Joseph
Swingtet’ which specializes in
performing classic jazz standards and ballads.

Tanya Brownlowe Weiss, ’74
(english) represented former
President Virginia Horvath in
March 2020 at the 75th
Anniversary of Dr. Ima Becaro as President of
Meyrowitz University in
Arlington, Va., and Fedora in a
SUNY Day Washington, D.C. event.

Sherry Taylor Cleary ’75, ’80,
(early childhood ed.) was appointed
University Dean of Early
Childhood Initiatives at the City
University of New York.

Dr. Gerald Chesin, ’55

Brent P. Sheldon, ’82

Tanya Beshgetoor Weiss, ’74

Anthony J. Joseph, ’73
Sherry Taylor Cleary ’75, ’80

Brent P. Sheldon, ’82
(‘biology) is retired after a 32-year career with the Chautauqua
County Health Department’s Division of
Environmental Services.
He was recently re-elected to his
fifth term as a Jamestown City
Councilman and dedicated
Chairman of the Public Safety
Committee.

David Heid, ’83, (applied music/
piano) was recently named
Director of Duke Opera.
This year marks Daves’ 25th year
on the faculty at Duke University,
working in the piano and voice
areas.

Timothy ‘Tim’ H. Nobles, ’85,
(soc. stdev./sec.) ed.) was inducted with the Class of 2020 into the
Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in
February. He teaches at Pigeon
Valley Central School in South
Dakota.

Damon R. Miller, ’88, (comm.)
reports that after 30 years in
broadcast news he has changed
careers and is Assistant Director of
Wafly/Fedonete in Portland, Maine.

1990s
Paul Preston, ’92, (theatre art) is
the founder of ThekeyivieGuy.net and
in 2019 became President of
Member of ‘203 of Inside Disney a podcast of
the official fan club of the Walt
Disney Company. He also recently
booked roles in the film ‘La Vraie Vie’
and corporate videos for
LinkedIn and Lifescope.

Kyle Tarran, ’92, (pol. sci.) retired in
December 2019 from the U.S.
Marine Corps as a lieutenant colonel,
and works for Oracle Corp. in its
National Security
Committee.

Andrew Weber, ’92, (applied
music/piano) was appointed
Chief Executive Officer at
Healthcare Blue Book.
He was formerly President and CEO for
GoodwillHealthyConnect.

Melissa Lynas, ’95, (biology)
earned her master’s degree in
Public Health from Kaplan
University, and is the Health
Director for the Erie Co. (Pa.)
Department of Health.

A 59-year Fedonia friendship:
A navy blue Fedonia blazer
By Linda (Kauderer) Burke, ’64

I met Ellen (Hitchcock) Meister in September 1964 while living
in Hillman House freshman dorm; she was a friend of my
assigned roommate from Niagara Falls. Friendships how always
seemed to be important to me. It seems as a child when
we sang our song, “Make new
friends, but keep the old…one is silver and
the other gold.” I took
these words to heart, using
them as a theme throughout
my life.

Ellen and I continued our friendship through four years at
Fedonia, married, children
and grandchildren, even though
we never lived in the same
city. Of course, it helped that
her husbands thoroughly enjoyed
each other’s company. As the years
and then the decades flew by, we tried to meet
during dinner at least once a year.

This year was no exception, but it did have a surprising outcome.
A few weeks ago (Fall 2019), Ellen and Bob arrived at our home
dinner and an overnight. During cocktails, Ellen casually
mentioned they would be attending the 50th Anniversary Recognition of the Rockefeller (Arts) Center on the Fedonia campus over the upcoming weekend.

“Really?” I replied. “I clearly remember Nelson Rockefeller coming to
Fedonia every year and marching through campus like a king. That’s
when I would wear my Fedonia blazer and we would line the campus
to welcome him.”

“What?” said Ellen, her eyes flashing. “You had a Fedonia blazer?
I never had one. What did it look like?”

I started to laugh telling her I had just noticed it the other day of
the very back of our front closet and thinking at the time how odd that
must be. About 60 years old! I am not a savor so to see it there was
rather surprising. To the closet I went and brought it out, taking off
the protective plastic covering. Surprisingly enough it was in an
excellent condition, just missing one brass button. I was dismayed to say I
could get but one arm into it, however, Ellen who has maintained her
career weight, slipped it on easily. It fit perfectly!

Needless to say, we did decide she had to take the blazer and wear it
to the Rockefeller reception. She would need to find a brass button to
sew on but otherwise it was perfect. We chatted throughout the evening
thinking of her wearing the blazer with the Fedonia crest on the
costume and was proud announcing 1964 making our graduation
every year. ‘We’ll always know how old I am,’ she lamented.

Well, a few days later I received an email from Ellen including a photo
of her wearing the blazer. She had paired it with a white shirt, white
pants and several gold bracelets; she looked like a Ralph Lauren ad.

Her email said, “The blazer was the buzz of the evening. The college
president, the chairman of the board (College Council) and several
longtime professors were all interested in the 59 year-old blazer
with the 1964 crest. No one knew something like that existed.”

Now, if only I had saved my freshman blazer!
Abraham Ferraro, '16 (art), contributed an article titled “NOT The Red Button” at St. Bonaventure University's Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts. Dr. Casey T. Jakubowski, '18, (social stds./ed., hist.) was a panelist on a virtual presentation on rural education in March at the 2020 Local Government Lab at SUNY Rockafeller Urban Institute. Dr. Reilly presented on rural education reform in New York State. He is also the author of the book “Thinking About Teaching,” by Edutopia.

Dr. Shannon (Reedy) Coleman, '00, (music, theater) was hired as a Cruise Director for the cruise ship Carnival. He has a degree in music and performed with the Orlando Opera. Dr. Shannon (Reedy) Coleman, '02, (soc. stds./sec. ed., history) was a panelist on a virtual presentation on rural education in New York State. He is also the author of the book “Thinking About Teaching,” by Edutopia.

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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 careers@fredonia.edu.

MARRIAGES
Kristina Kitman, ’10 (history) to Michael Marlin.
Demetria Marmiante to Danielle Beckvermit, ’15 (music perf).

BIRTHS
A daughter, Callie, to Joe and Lianne (Chloros) Sherman, ’08 (bus admin).

DEATHS*
ALUMNI
Ruth (Munney) Rudolph, Class of 1942.
Ethisha “Lou” (Maxson) Warden, Class of 1948.
Mary (Pasich) Cogliano, Class of 1950.
Marion “Polly” (Hequembourg) MacFadden, 1950.
Joan Marguerite (Larson) Lebold, Class of 1950.
Jean Arbor, Class of 1950.
Barbara Kipkoech, Class of 1950.
Gary Dyrdak, Class of 1950.
Onjoge Allan Gumba, Class of 1950.
Joseph Maduris, Class of 1972.
Tom Robinson, Class of 1974.
Randell J. Johnson, Class of 1978.
Sharon Smith, Hickman, Class of 1979.
Richard M. Ives, Class of 1981.
Michael R. Wend, Class of 1981.
Paul P. Ostermeier, Class of 1984.
Brendo (Tzovoungas) Jimerson, Class of 1984.
David A. Thorpe, Class of 1986.
Daryl C. (DeForest) Sonder, Class of 1991.
Susan M. Swifts-Spencer, Class of 1993.
Michelle (Pisnay) Trombley, Class of 1995.
Mark F. Clarke, Class of 1997.
Kora Groca Hall, Class of 2017.

ACADEMY/EMERTI
Dr. Lee Broude, Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Academics, 1968–2004.

Dr. Marilyn Kuhl, Professor, Chair, Department of Philosophy, SUNY Faculty Exchange Scholar, 1965–1995.

Dr. Myron Lunsford, Professor, Chair, Department of Physics, 1989–1997.


Dr. Irwin J. Schmoyer, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, 1970–1974.

STAFF/RETIRED STAFF
Phyllis L. Pilgrim, Faculty Student Association (food services).

NEW YORK CITY AND THE MARX BROTHERS: THE THEME OF FREDONIA MARXONIA 2020
The annual festival saluting the connection between New York City and the Marx Brothers will be held differently this year. Author and performer Noah Diamond will present his illustrated lecture “Home Again: The Marx Brothers and New York City,” directed by Amanda Sid, as an online event on Oct. 2 – Groucho Marx’s 130th birthday. Mr. Diamond was one of the organizers of New York City’s 2014 Marxfest, the creative force behind bringing the Marx Brothers’ 1924 musical “I’ll Say I’m ‘Is’ to the off-Broadway stage in 2016, and writer and performer of “400 Years in Manhattan,” an award-winning show at the 2019 United Solo Theatre Festival in New York City. He currently co-hosts The Marx Brothers Council Podcast. Mr. Diamond was guest speaker for Freedoma Marxonia 2017. Please watch for details about the time and specifics on how to access the event. Contact Cindy Yochym via email at Cynthia.Yochym@fredonia.edu for information.

Mr. Diamond’s presentation is supported by a grant from the Carnahan Jackson Humanities Fund of the Fredonia College Foundation. Freedoma Marxonia is supported by the foundation’s Hahn Family Freedoma Marxonia Fund.

THE CAREER CORNER
FREDONIA’S CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE... WORKING REMOTELY: AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECALIBRATE

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything we have known. People are rethinking their values and what is important to them. Thoughts concerning commuting, quality of life, satisfaction levels, and work life balance are rising to the forefront. There is no going back as U.S. workers are increasingly doing their jobs from home as a result of the crisis.

Telework, also referred to as telecommuting, includes working from home, mobile work, flexible work, and remote work. According to a recent Gallup poll, 60 percent of those employed in the U.S. indicate that they have worked from home during the pandemic. Digging deeper, data revealed that 60 percent of American workers would prefer to continue working remotely after the health crisis passes. Workers cite increased productivity, creativity, flex time, and agility in handling the unexpected. Employers who have found success point to benefits including increased employee productivity, happier and healthier employees, financial savings, eco-friendly outcomes, and employee loyalty.

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) reported that the demand for telework continues to rise, and recognized that telecommuting is the new reality for many U.S. employees. Further, a survey of U.S. companies completed in early May found that 55 percent of respondents think their industry can be effective with people working remotely. That optimism plays out strongest in technology driven fields such as software, media, and finance. On the flip-side, health care, manufacturing and retail work may not be as well-positioned for remote work, although there could be disruptions such as telemedicine and virtual doctors for less serious health issues.

If you are interested in exploring telework opportunities, search using the key word “remote” in traditional job search sites such as Monster, Indeed, and LinkedIn. LinkedIn is an online platform that allows you to search for remote work, although there could be disruptions such as telemedicine and virtual doctors for less serious health issues. On LinkedIn you can find remote job opportunities, or simply search through all the job listings in your field of interest.

ALUMNI – SEARCH FOR JOBS
Register for your personal alumni account by clicking on the Student/Alumni button. Once your account is set up, you can begin exploring thousands of opportunities that are tailored to your interests.

EMPLOYERS – HOST A REMOTE INTERNSHIP
If you have an idea for a remote internship working with your company or organization, you can create an employer account and post opportunities for students. Call us with your ideas and we can discuss these in more detail and help you get started.

Once your account is approved, you can begin posting jobs, registering for events, and more!

Remember the Career Development Office (CDO) is here to assist you as long as you need. Whether you are starting or negotiating career challenges and opportunities, the CDO can help you plan your next move. If you would like to make an appointment to discuss strategies to advance your career, contact the CDO at (716) 673-3327 or email careers@fredonia.edu. You can also visit the CDO’s website at www.fredonia.edu/cdo to schedule a virtual appointment.

FREDNetwork powered by Handshake
You can also search for remote opportunities in the Career Development Office’s FREDNetwork powered by Handshake, the leading career platform used by more than 250,000 employers and Fortune 500 companies. 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. Search for “remote” job opportunities, or simply search through all the job listings in your field of interest.

Call (716) 673-3327 Email careers@fredonia.edu
www.fredonia.edu/cdo
You can make an important impact on your alma mater by engaging with future Blue Devils. By becoming a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter you can help recruit students wherever you are.

Working with prospective students is a fun and rewarding experience. One of the most powerful and impactful recruiting tools is the experience of successful alumni who are proud of their time at Fredonia and who want to share their stories.

When you are a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter, you take part in college fairs near you, helping to expand Fredonia’s footprint in communities across the country. It allows you to remain connected with your beloved Fredonia campus, enhance the value of your degree by attracting qualified students, and create opportunities for future Fredonians.

To learn more about becoming a Fredonia Alumni Recruiter, and to sign up, go to fredonia.edu/recruiter today!