

The Magazine for Fredonia Alumni and Friends

Statement

Spring 2024

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close door on housing
discrimination
in Buffalo

New electron microscope
raises science research to
whole new level

Alumna driving to be the best
on and off the course

Arenz named New York State
Teacher of the Year;
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Admissions Update

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

Alumni and Campus Events Calendar

Some of these events may be subject to change. It is also anticipated that events will be added as the year progresses. Please check the following link for updates: <https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni>

MARCH

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

Spring Break
Monday–Friday, March 11–15

Senior Expo
Wednesday, March 20, 4–5:30 p.m.
University Commons, Campus

APRIL

Teacher Recruitment Day
Tuesday, April 16, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Niagara Falls (NY)
Convention Center
For more information: www.fredonia.edu/cdo

MAY

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

Commencement
Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
By invitation only

AUGUST

Alumni Board Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 8, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 286 Central Ave.

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

Fall Break
Thursday–Friday, Oct. 10–11
No classes

Class of 1974 50-Year Reunion
Friday–Saturday, Oct. 18–19
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Class of 1984 40-Year Reunion
Friday–Saturday, Oct. 18–19
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend
Friday–Sunday, Oct. 18–20
Schedule of Events will be available in June at: <https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni>

NOVEMBER

Annual Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 14, 4 p.m.
Alumni House
286 Central Ave.

Thanksgiving Break
Monday–Friday, Nov. 25–29
No classes

DECEMBER

Last Day of Classes
Friday, Dec. 13

Final Exams
Exams will be completed by Friday, Dec. 20





Dr. Greg Gibbs,
Fredonia Alumni
Association President

Dr. Stephen H. Kolison Jr.,
Fredonia President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to connect with you again in this latest edition of the *Statement*. I hope life has been kind to you and that 2024 is off to a great start for you.

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

Along with special events, we are busy building upon the strong foundation of academic success for which Fredonia is known. This semester, we launched the new Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's degree program. Fredonia has received authorization from the SUNY Board of Trustees to confer Master of Business Administration degrees. Our proposal for an MBA in Accounting will now move forward, anticipating the first MBA degree offering in Fall 2024. We have also developed a RN to B.S. program, awaiting SUNY approval. The intent to offer this program has been submitted to SUNY for sharing with other SUNY institutions.

Strategically adding programs like these is one of the three pillars I introduced to the campus in December 2023 as I presented a Roadmap to Financial Stability. I encourage you to read my entire presentation and a comprehensive list of questions and answers at fredonia.edu/rfs. Working closely with our partners at SUNY, we are addressing the challenges of changing demographics and the higher education landscape in New York and throughout the Northeast. This roadmap will frame Fredonia's path forward and maintain its standing as one of the best public universities in the Northeast.

Our alumni tell the Fredonia story in their words and actions. Thank you! We are so proud of the individuals featured in this edition of the *Statement*, and we hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we love sharing their stories.

As we embark on the Spring '24 semester, I extend a warm invitation for you to return to campus and experience the vibrant campus atmosphere for yourself. In addition to the special events mentioned above, we also have captivating musical and theater performances, spring outdoor athletics, and — just as you remember — the picturesque scenes and sounds of our expansive 256-acre campus in full spring bloom.

Very truly yours,

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

Statement

THE MAGAZINE FOR FREDONIA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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

Each year we're amazed by the support of our alumni and friends on our annual Day of Giving. Last spring, alumni, friends, staff and students came together and broke the record for the largest amount collectively donated online in a single day to benefit SUNY Fredonia's students!

Athletics teams challenged alumni and parents to beat out the other teams, with Men's Soccer and Ice Hockey unlocking bonus gifts for the highest number of donors and the most money raised, respectively. Alumni gave generously to the programs and departments that made a difference in their time at Fredonia, and students stopped by our "Appreciation Station" to learn about the impact of philanthropy on campus as well as to write notes of gratitude to be sent to donors.

This year, we have even bigger and better things planned for the Day of Giving! With more competitions, challenges and real-time updates, we can't wait to share what's in store and see the collective impact of your generosity on Fredonia's future!

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



Righting a wrong:

Alumnus works to close door on housing discrimination in Buffalo by Roger Coda

“Being able to work with our clients, one-on-one, to build a sense of trust — also on an individual level — to remedy and repair the injustice brought about in Buffalo by segregation.”

That’s how SUNY Fredonia graduate James Coughlin outlines his mission as a fair housing specialist with HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal), a civil rights organization in Buffalo, NY, that promotes the value of diversity and works to ensure all people have an equal opportunity to live in housing and communities of their choice in Western New York. He joined HOME in October 2023.

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

That historical perspective can be traced back to SUNY Fredonia, where Coughlin graduated, summa cum laude, with a B.A. and majors in History, Adolescence Education: Social Studies, and Political Science, in 2016. He was a member and president of the History Club and gained valuable experience during a summer internship with U.S. Sen. Charles E. Schumer, learning the day-to-day rigors of working in his office and seeing how the federal government impacts the Buffalo region.

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

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

Coughlin received the history department’s Outstanding History Paper Award in 2015 and the Outstanding History Student Award in 2016.

Erie County [NY] passed a strong fair housing law backed by HOME while Coughlin was a legislative aide for Erie County Legislator April N.M. Baskin in 2018. “Understanding the legislation’s

Swansinger for giving him “a sense of not necessarily what to think, but to understand, and also how to research how to ask the right questions in my research, and also how to better communicate with my writing and research and scholarship.”

Through former Department of Politics and International Affairs Assistant Professor Alexander Caviedes, Coughlin developed a greater interest not only in how a democracy functions in the United States, but also in how democracies operate in other countries and then comparing and contrasting them with how a democracy operates in the United States.

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

Segregation in Buffalo, NY (1934–1961),” was more than well-received. It was awarded UB’s “Best History Master’s Thesis.”

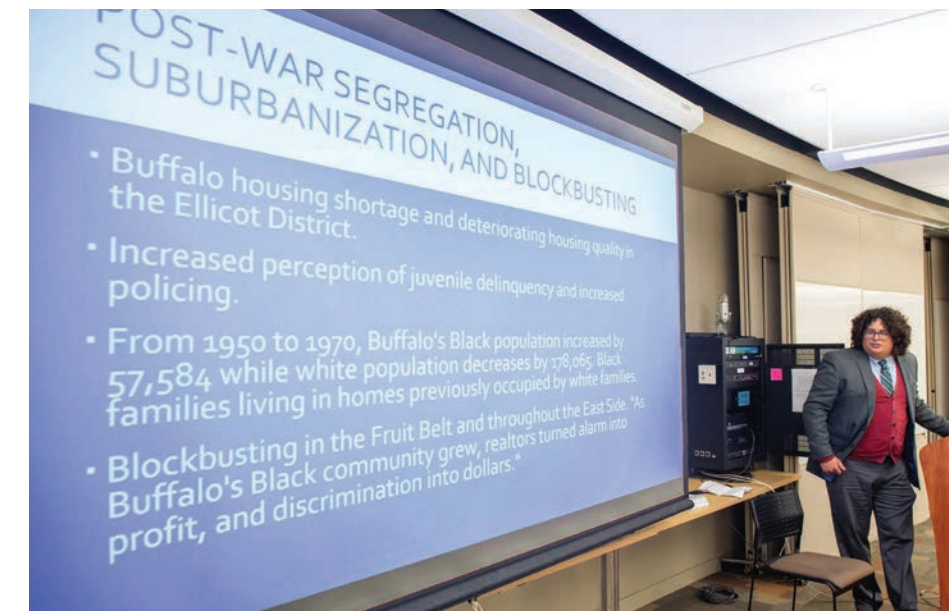
The obvious play on Buffalo’s “City of Good Neighbors” slogan, with the insertion of “Distant,” brings attention to the essence of what segregation is and what it means to the community, Coughlin explained.

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

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

Policies drove segregation

Residential segregation in Buffalo was proliferated on the city’s east side through a combination of segregationist,



positive impact allowed me to understand and respect the tremendous work that HOME has been doing to right housing discrimination and ensure opportunity for all,” he said.

Professors provide direction

Coughlin credits Department of History Professor Markus Vink and Professor Emeritus A. Jacqueline

developmentally disabled adults and adolescents.

Coughlin’s passion for examining social injustices in the context of history reached a zenith in graduate school. He earned an M.A. in History, graduating summa cum laude again, at the State University at Buffalo in 2023. His master’s thesis, “City of Distant Neighbors: The Proliferation and Entrenchment of Residential

exclusionary government policies, white fears over property values attached to home ownership and private real estate speculation, according to Coughlin’s thesis. A regional housing shortage, coupled with deteriorating housing conditions in segregated, redlined neighborhoods, disproportionately impacted Buffalo’s growing Black population in the 1940s and 1950s.



Local government's response was to pursue segregated public housing construction and deleterious urban renewal policies, Coughlin discovered, rather than investing money to refurbish existing dwellings or construct new, single-family homes for Buffalo's burgeoning African American population.

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

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

— James Coughlin, '16

led a home's lending risk to the neighborhood's racial demographics.

Other primary sources were archived issues of *The Buffalo Evening News* and *Buffalo Criterion*, a Black newspaper published beginning in 1940.

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

M.S. thesis stays relevant

What's remarkable about Coughlin's master's thesis is its shelf-life; it's not gathering dust. Coughlin self-published the research as a zine — a non-commercial print-work — with Burning Books, an independent bookstore, where it's on sale, as well as at four other Buffalo-area bookstores. So far, over 200 copies have

been sold, and sales continue to grow each week.

Coughlin has presented talks on his "City of Distant Neighbors" research many times, including at the Phi Alpha Theta Conference at LeMoyne University and Milton Plesur Conference at the State University at Buffalo, and at four talks



he organized in different neighborhoods throughout Buffalo. These presentations on Buffalo housing segregation have been "tremendously received," Coughlin noted.

"What I'm also happy to see is the sustained interest and enthusiasm for my research, and what I often say to folks is that it's not merely my research studies. It's our shared history that I'm organizing and documenting, and also our history to discuss and to understand and to guide us to create a better Buffalo for all," Coughlin explained.

The SUNY Fredonia History Club brought Coughlin back to campus in

October 2023 to give the presentation in the Williams Center. Department of History Professor Mary Beth Sievens, who introduced Coughlin at the talk, said Coughlin's master's thesis has established him as an expert on residential discrimination and the fight for equitable residential policies and programs.

Reading names of Buffalonians killed in the 2022 Tops mass shooting and asking for a moment of silence in their honor was how Coughlin began his campus presentation.

"He explained that this shooting led him to question why there was so much segregation in what was supposed to be the 'City of Good Neighbors,'" Dr. Sievens said. "He hoped that by researching and writing on this issue he could contribute to the creation of a fairer, more equitable city," she added.

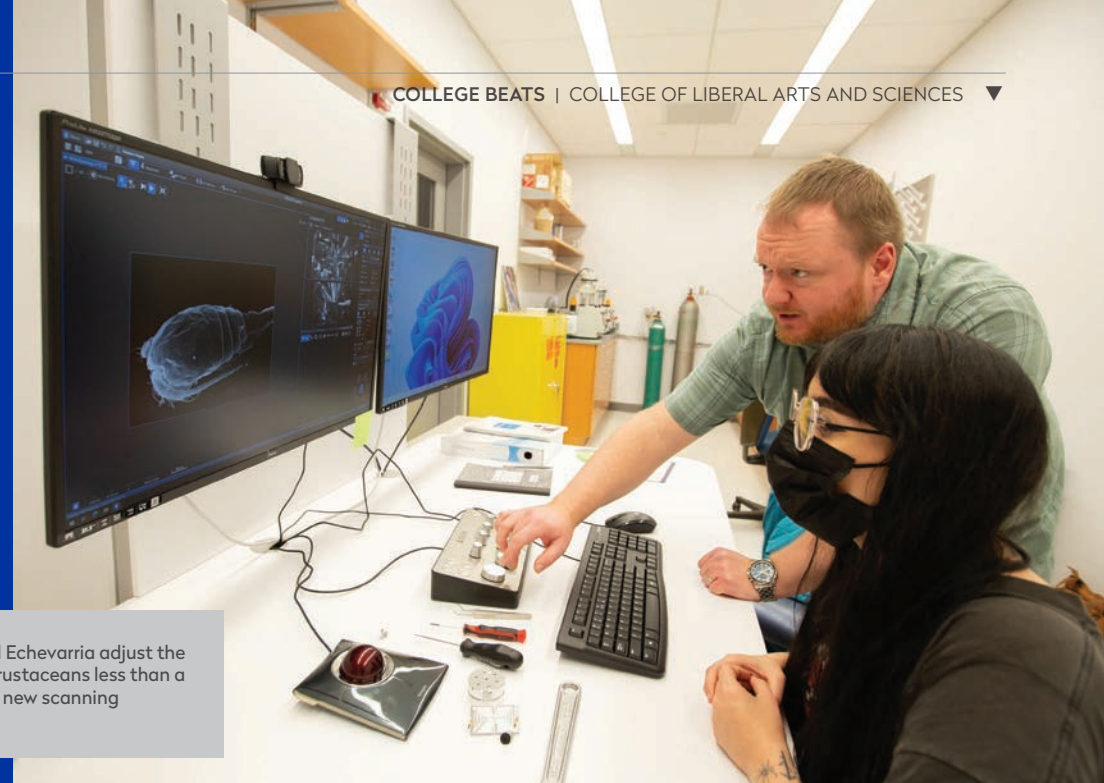
"I feel like when folks are discriminated against with housing, or when they are denied access to opportunity, that increases the inequity that creates generational poverty and creates hardships on people solely based on where they live in Buffalo, and the neighborhoods they live in are very consequential to the resources, support and opportunity and the health they have throughout their lifetimes and their quality of life," he said.

Coughlin doesn't view his job at HOME so much as a mission, but rather a responsibility "to use my knowledge, my understanding and my skills to help empower individuals, but also to listen to them, help them seek justice and help to heal and repair inequities in Buffalo and the Western New York region."

New electron microscope raises science research to whole new level

by Roger Coda

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



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

They're superlatives used by Geology and Environmental Sciences major Rachel Echevarria to describe her experience with the new Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) in the Science Complex.

Ms. Echevarria won't be the only student praising the SEM and its capabilities in the semesters to come.

That's because students enrolled in several science fields and faculty who teach them in Houghton Hall and the Science Center can utilize the SEM — equipped with an Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDS) detector — that significantly expands their research opportunities. They're able to image extremely tiny objects and determine their chemical composition.

Several faculty will incorporate the SEM/EDS system use into upper-level courses, such as mineralogy, petrology and paleontology in the Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences, as well as biology and chemistry courses taught in their respective departments.

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

Dr. Hegna is uniquely qualified to guide faculty and student in learning how to use

the SEM. He brings over 10 years of experience operating SEM/EDS systems and training students as a research mentor to SUNY Fredonia. He also served as the principal investigator, working with a grant team comprised of six faculty members, in the successful application process leading to a National Science Foundation grant of over \$335,000 to SUNY Fredonia to cover all purchase and installation expenses.

Knowing how to use an SEM/EDS will foster analytical skills, technical experience in instrument operation and data evaluation that will better prepare students for careers in science.

Echevarria is a prime example of how SUNY Fredonia students will benefit.

Being able to view specimens — even

Student access is what sets SUNY Fredonia apart from other universities that have SEM/EDS systems. "This equipment will be able to be used by students; it's not going to be walled off and used (only) by professors, or have a fee associated with it that students would have to pay," Hegna commented.

Amid the approximate 145,000 square feet of usable space in the Fredonia Science Complex, the SEM was appropriately installed in Room 140 that's located in the connector that links Houghton to the Science Center.

Use of an SEM/EDS system is applicable to many different fields, Hegna said. "If students have the skills to run that, that's another line on their resume;

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

— Rachel Echevarria, from Fredonia

relatively small ones — at such a high resolution that reveals so much detail is a key advantage or strength of the SEM/EDS system, Echevarria said. "The images are spectacular because you get to see such small details that you normally aren't able to with the naked eye. It really captivated me and made me want to continue learning more."

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

another skillset that employers may be looking for," he said.

Echevarria, a senior who hails from Fredonia, plans to earn a master's degree and then work for the State Department of Environmental Conservation or other state or federal agency in the conservation field.

Music Education alumnus brings his Beatbox House troupe to campus for 'one-of-a-kind' performance

by Roger Coda

Students had a front-row seat to experience Beatbox — a growing musical style phenomenon that pushes the boundaries of sounds that can be produced by the human voice — courtesy of '12 alumnus Chris Celiz, who brought members of his Beatbox House — a collective of world champion Beatboxers — to campus.

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

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

"It's similar, but what we are exploring is how to create different sounds using extended techniques . . . replicating a lot of sounds that we hear, which is what Winslow does," Celiz said. "I think, for us, we're just doing the same thing; we're creating music just in the 2023 fashion, hearing things that are happening in popular music (today) and replicating

them with our voices. We are continuing that tradition."

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

"We just make music; we don't use any instruments — that's an easier version of how to describe it. We're kind of like a rock band, but we (create music) with our mouths." — Chris Celiz, '12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At Fredonia, Celiz, studied clarinet and saxophone all four years, played in the Fredonia Jazz Ensemble and Weapons of Jazz Destruction, along with the College Symphony Orchestra, sang in the University Chorus and was a member of the a cappella group "Much More Chill." He counts among his favorite

teachers Reese, who he remembers as being very passionate and insightful; Emeritus Lecturer Bruce Johnstone, who taught him how to emote, and Associate Professor Andrew Seigel, who taught "a lot about life through our lessons with him."

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

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

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

Celiz and Beatbox House were gentlemen-artists through and through, Sharon added. "Their focus was on



Chris performing.

making a real connection with people and the best music they were capable of. You couldn't be prouder of an alumnus, and could ask for a better example for our current students."

➔ www.beatboxhouse.com/music



Performers (from left) Neil "NaPom" Meadows, Amit Bhowmick, Gene Shinozaki and Chris Celiz.

Alumna

driving to
be the best
on and off
the course



by Jeff Woodard

Rochester, NY, was the center of the golfing world in May 2023. A SUNY Fredonia alumna was front and center.

Victoria "Tori" (Gray) Schiro, '15, is in her second year as CEO/Executive Director of the Western New York section of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA). The Western New York PGA, one of 41 sections nationwide, has 275 PGA professionals. Ms. Schiro and her colleagues work to recruit new golfers and retain those already playing in her territory, which encompasses Buffalo, Rochester, and some of Western Pennsylvania.

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

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

That kind of environment brought

Schiro to the SUNY Fredonia campus as a student. "I took one step on campus and said, 'I'm coming here,'" she recalled. "It has such a feeling of home. I love walking around the village."

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

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

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

The doors swung wide open when she interned for the WNY PGA as an Event and Operations Coordinator. "I attended a junior golf event bright and early in the morning," Schiro recalled. "I was out on

a golf cart watching the most beautiful sunrise and thought, 'This could be my office.' That's when I knew a career in golf was in my future." After spending a couple of years as an officer for a local bank, the person who oversaw her internship asked her to return to the office as Assistant Executive Director. She was promoted to her current position in January 2023.

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

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

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

"It was hectic, but it was great," Schiro said. "I'm a busybody. It is welcomed chaos."



Tori Schiro with (from left) WNYPGA President Mike D'Agostino, WNYPGA Vice President Bob King, 2023 PGA Champion Brooks Koepka and WNYPGA Honorary President Jake Northrup.



WELLNESS
CENTER

Sports Fall Roundup



Katie Sellers (7) - All Region

The women's soccer team picked up a nice collection of awards in the fall. Junior Katie Sellers was named First

Team All-SUNYAC and Second Team All-Region after racking up nine goals and two assists. Midfielder Gabby Irwin was named SUNYAC Freshman of the Year after scoring four goals and collecting a conference-leading eight assists. Senior Jordan Barrett was also named Second Team All-SUNYAC

Brian Taylor led the men's soccer team with seven goals and five assists, and Kaleb Steward had six scores.

The top runner for the men's cross country team at the SUNYAC Meet



was Sembel Koshi (17th in a 26:21). Kyle Campbell turned in the best time at the Regional meet (55th, 26:02).

The women's cross country team was paced by Arden Brown at the conference meet (25.13) and Niagara Regional (26.08).

The volleyball team was led by Kylie O'Brien with 201 kills, and fellow first-year player Sasha Zayatz had 42 aces.

Interns vital in promoting athletics

The job of the Sports Information Office is to promote the athletic team accomplishments and do so in a positive light. Getting the word out through the department website and social media can be a big challenge with so many different channels to work through.

The department relies on student workers, oftentimes serving the department through internships. During the fall, they made a huge impact.

Alex Needham, a junior Communication-Video Production major, has taken on the task of creating videos for the department. He, along with Justin

who has also contributed with his photography, is also a Resident Assistant and works for the I.T. department on campus.

Kayla Welsh, a Sport Management major, has been a familiar name to the student-athletes as well. The fourth-year student began taking photos at home sporting events, and eventually her work was used by many teams as well as the department. She has completed multiple internships with different teams in addition to being at home events for every sport. Her work has been used extensively on the Blue Devil's website,

of her work in hopes of continuing her photography after graduation.

Amber Louis, a Sport Management major, has overseen the creation of the department's social media graphics. Ms. Louis created the graphics and prepared them with her creative abilities. Nearly 300 unique graphics were posted during the fall semester.

Other interns included Sport Management majors Kyle Tedford and Tyler Curtis. They have attended nearly every home event during the fall semester and have covered nearly every aspect of gameday staffing and overseeing



Intern Kayla Welsh



Media Day photos by Kayla Welsh.



Intern Justin Carrinton shooting Katie Sellers.



Intern Alex Nedham shooting video.

Carrington, a Communication-Audio Production/Video Production major who is doing his internship with the men's basketball team, has helped create videos that have totaled nearly 100,000 views. Needham has also worked with various teams in the department in creating recruiting videos as well as documenting what it's like to be a student-athlete at Fredonia State. Needham himself is a member of the baseball team. Carrington,

on social media, and at the end-of-the year banquet. She shares all her work with the student athletes and coaches, too, and has even taken road trips with some teams.

Welsh has also brought some creativity to the department's Media Day. She was the impetus behind adding some lighting and special effects to create some very unique shots. Along the way, Welsh has also been able to create quite a portfolio

the webcasts.

"Our interns have done a great job this semester" said Sports Information Director Matt Palisin. "It's great to have college students to help us keep up with what is popular, create our own unique ideas, and be able to use their own creativity to create an identity for our department. They have all taken a lot of pride in their work and been very positive in promoting our department."

Renovations kick locker room up a notch

By Matthew Palisin, Sports Information Director



Women's Soccer Coach Chris Case has been involved with the soccer programs at Fredonia State since he started as a player in the fall of 1997. Entering his 22nd year as the women's head coach, he wanted to create a little more pride in the program, and give his players a better experience.

After seeing what the men's basketball team had done in overhauling its locker room and looking to alumni for help, Case followed suit and has created one of the most modern spaces on campus. Already with one of the nicest soccer stadiums in the state, Case wanted to add to his players' experience.

Through contributions from alumni sponsoring lockers and the team's own fundraising efforts, Case was able to add the following:

- ▶ Brand new wooden lockers. Each locker has its own custom nameplate with graphics and outlet to charge the players' devices.
- ▶ LED lights above and below the lockers.
- ▶ A Media Wall with the school's logo and a 4x6 mirror suitable for creating social media posts.
- ▶ A kitchenette with a Keurig, and recovery station with three Thera Guns.
- ▶ Custom logos on the walls, a 60-inch TV, and new carpeting.
- ▶ Cleat dryer/heater for rainy days and warming cleats before practice on cold days.

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

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

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

Future plans include adding furniture, a nutrition station, and more signage with a 3-D backlit Fredonia State logo.

Junior Gracie Auer was really impressed with the effort and attention to detail. "One of my favorite things is the alumni plaques in the back of the lockers with quotes from alumni and their positive messages," said Auer. "It's cool to see how players years ago can give you advice from their experiences."

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

Auer echoed Case's sentiment that the locker room is now a place that players would want to hang out, mentioning how players would show up earlier before



Gracie Auer



practices and games and hang out as a team.

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

Winter fun!



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



A 1961 version of Hanging of the Greens at Gregory Hall.



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

Social media snaps

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

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



State University of New York at Fredonia
43,325 followers • @FredoniaU


SUNY Fredonia's Computer Science Club led local students in a dynamic 'Hour of Code' event. Guided by our talented club members, the session introduced Python Programming to nearly three dozen students from Northern Chautauqua Catholic School and Silver Creek High School.

Kudos to our aspiring coders and the Computer Science Club for fostering a love for coding and technology!
• Learn more: <https://buff.ly/47cle3c>

What is the 'Hour of Code' movement?

- Global coding event, held December 4-10 in 2023.
- Over 400 partners, 20,000 educators, and 58,000 volunteers support the event.
- The movement spans 180+ countries.
- 1,734,996,543 hours served.
- 107,571 registered events in 2023.
- Reaches students in over 45 languages.
- Over 100 million participants engaged.
- Females comprise 50% of the learners.

#HourOfCode #CodingFuture #SUNYFredonia #ComputerScienceClub



40 2 shares



Fredonia • @FredoniaU • 12/13/23 4:27 PM ...

Santa was spotted bringing good cheer and lots of luck to campus during finals week!
#sunyfredonia #santaoncampus #finalsweek



119 2 comments, 5 shares



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zach and his students are ready to have some ukulele fun.

a certificate in therapeutic and crisis intervention for schools.

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

School of Music Dean David Stringham also commented on Arenz' honor, "It's heartening for the School of Music community to see an alumnus receiving an award like this — but it's also not surprising. Mr. Arenz has been described by his colleagues as someone who demonstrates 'dedication, commitment, competence, and love.' He is deeply engaged with his students, developing their musicianship in contexts from concert band to popular music, addressing their nonmusical needs by providing clothing and personal care items in his classroom 'Community Closet,' and leaning into what his former principal described as 'difficult conversations' that examine how teachers might engage with inequities in public education. Mr. Arenz shared that his educational philosophy is that 'if you see yourself in your learning, you're going to learn.' Since Mason Hall opened in 1941, our faculty and staff have empowered students to be these kinds

of educators, who facilitate students creating, performing, responding, and connecting in, around, and through music in ways they find relevant and meaningful. We are honored to count Zachary Arenz as part of our School of Music alumni network and congratulate him on this recognition."

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

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



ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER/THEATRE AND DANCE EVENTS

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

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

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA "HAVING GUESTS FOR DINNER"

Sunday, Feb. 18, 3 p.m.
Rosch Recital Hall
Tickets: \$20 general public, free for students in advance (\$5 at the door)
A world premiere chamber opera composed by Nick Bentz.

"EDGES"

Feb. 23, 24, 29 and March 1, 2, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 25, 2 p.m.
Alice E. Bartlett Theatre
Tickets: \$25 general public advance (\$30 at the door), \$10 students advance (\$15 at the door)
A contemporary song-cycle about young adults at the metaphorical edge of their lives which is described as a "charming, witty and honest examination of adulthood that explores what happens when we are teetering on the edges of our lives." The songs cover such universal issues as love, commitment, identity and meaning.
The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

FREDONIA DANCE ENSEMBLE

March 22, 23, 7:30 p.m.; March 23, 2 p.m.
Robert W. Marvel Theatre
Tickets: \$20 general public advance (\$25 at the door), \$5 students advance (\$10 at the door)
A variety of dance styles will be featured as Fredonia's talented Dance majors perform works choreographed by Dance faculty and guest artists.
The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PROGRESSIVE MUSICIANS CONCERTO WINNERS

Thursday, March 28, 3 p.m.
Harry A. King Concert Hall
Tickets: \$20 general public, free for students in advance (\$5 at the door)



Jazz Ensemble with Dr. Nick Weiser at Commencement Eve Pops

The winners of the WNYCO and Progressive Musicians concerto competition will be featured in the special concert event.

"THE CRUCIBLE"

April 26, 27 and May 2, 7:30 p.m.; May 4, 2 p.m.
Robert W. Marvel Theatre
Tickets: \$20 general public advance (\$25 at the door), \$5 students advance (\$10 at the door)
"The Crucible" is a drama that tells the story of a young farmer, his wife, and a young servant-girl who maliciously causes the wife's arrest for witchcraft in 17th century Salem, MA. A monstrous course of bigotry and deceit terrifyingly unfolds.
The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

"ABIGAIL 1702/A TWICE-TOLD TALE"

April 27, 28, 2 p.m.; May 3, 4, 7:30 p.m.
Robert W. Marvel Theatre
Tickets: \$20 general public advance (\$25 at the door), \$5 students advance (\$10 at the door)
The play picks up where "The Crucible" left off. Set 10 years after the witch trials, main character Abigail Williams, the accuser who sent 20 people to their doom, lives under an assumed name, striving to atone for her sins. When a handsome stranger arrives, Abigail takes him in, and long-dormant passions awaken within her. However, the Devil also comes looking for Abigail — demanding her soul.
The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: MASTERWORKS

Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m.
Harry A. King Concert Hall
Tickets: \$20 general public, free for students in advance (\$5 at the door)
The Western New York Chamber Orchestra joins the Fredonia Chamber Choir, College Choir and

written about famous American cities, states and places. Join the 17-piece Fredonia Jazz Orchestra and a group of Fredonia's best student vocalists, all under the direction of Dr. Nick Weiser, on a musical tour of America that spans from north to south and from sea to shining sea.
DFT Communications Pops Series

ART EXHIBITS

CATHY AND JESSE MARION ART GALLERY

Gallery hours Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Free.

"IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?" DRAWINGS BY LAYLAH ALI

Tuesday, Jan. 23, through Sunday, April 14
"IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?" will excerpt from different periods of Laylah Ali's career, presenting drawings from the 1990s to 2023. Included in the exhibit will be selections from her earliest drawing series, "Self-Portraits with Nat Turner's Vision (1993-1994)." Though the drawings range in format, they share a continuing theme in Ali's oeuvre, her ongoing interest in "the

Camerata for Haydn's acclaimed "Saint Cecilia Mass."

COMMENCEMENT EVE POPS: BIG BAND MUSICAL TOUR OF AMERICA

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Harry A. King Concert Hall
Tickets: \$35, 30, 25 and 20 general public; \$20, \$15, \$10 and \$5 students
From Glenn Miller's "St. Louis Blues" and Tony Bennett's "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" to Nat King Cole's "Route 66" and Gladys Night's "Midnight Train to Georgia," hundreds of songs have been



"Untitled," by Laylah Ali.

amalgam of race, power, gendering, ambition, human frailty, murky politics, and the other complex combinations that we so often treat as separate entities."
Reception: Friday, Jan. 26, 6 to 9 p.m.

SPRING SENIOR SHOW

Friday, April 19, through Thursday, May 9
The student exhibition will feature artwork in a variety of mediums by graduating students in the Department of Visual Arts and New Media.
Reception: Friday, April 19, 6 to 9 p.m.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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

All events are free unless otherwise noted; all events are subject to change.

ENSEMBLE/RECITAL PERFORMANCES

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

HARRY A. KING CONCERT HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 27
Fredonia Wind Ensemble (LS)

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 AND TUESDAY, APRIL 23
Fredonia Wind Symphony (LS)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 AND THURSDAY, APRIL 25
Concert Band (LS)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 AND SATURDAY, MAY 4
Fredonia College Symphony (LS)

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
Fredonia Camerata and University Chorus (LS)

JULIET J. ROSCH RECITAL HALL

MONDAY, FEB. 12; MONDAY, MARCH 4 AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27; MONDAY, APRIL 22
Student Composers (LS)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21
Fredonia Jazz Showcase (LS)

SUNDAY, FEB. 25, 2 P.M.
Guest Artist Recital: Gianluca Farina, trumpet

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
Fredonia Guitar Studio Theme Concert (LS)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 4:30 P.M.
The Music of Donald Bohlen "90th Birthday Celebration" (LS)

MONDAY, MARCH 25
Woodwind Chamber Ensembles (LS)

TUESDAY, MARCH 26
Brass Chamber Ensembles and Brass Choir (LS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
Fredonia Clarinet Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 4
Fredonia Flute and Bassoon Ensembles (LS)

TUESDAY, APRIL 9
Fredonia Trombone Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 11
Fredonia Chamber Made Guitar (LS)

FRIDAY, APRIL 12
Fredonia World Music for Mallet Instruments (LS)

MONDAY, APRIL 15
Fredonia Percussion Ensemble (LS)

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
Fredonia Guitar Quartets and Ensemble (LS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
Fredonia African Drumming Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 18
Fredonia String Chamber Ensembles (LS)

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 4 P.M.
Fredonia Chamber Choir and College Choir (LS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24
Fredonia Chamber Orchestra (LS)

MONDAY, APRIL 29
Fredonia Saxophone Quartets and Ensemble (LS)

TUESDAY, APRIL 30
Fredonia New Jazz Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, MAY 2
Fredonia Jazz Orchestra (LS)

DIERS RECITAL HALL

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 7 P.M.
Music Therapy Showcase

SPECIAL EVENTS
(Some require tickets/registration, see the School of music website at www.fredonia.edu/music)

FREDONIA BASS FEST

Sunday, Feb. 25
Mason Hall
Professional players, college students, high school students, teachers, and adult learners are welcome for a day of performances and classes presented by Associate Professor Kieran Hanlon and world-class guests Kristin Korb and Dominik Wagner. New this year will be a unique Pre-Professional Intensive designed specifically for high school-aged bassists who are interested in learning more about possible career paths in music. Event support has been provided by the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities through the Fredonia College Foundation. For details and registration, go online at www.fredonia.edu/bass-fest

FREDONIA CHORAL FESTIVAL

Lecture: Friday, Feb. 23, noon
Concert: Saturday, Feb. 24, 4 p.m.
Juliet J. Rosch Recital Hall
The annual Fredonia Choral Festival highlights the university's choral ensembles and brings a world-renowned conductor to campus, culminating in a final concert. The clinician is Dr. Stephen Gusukuma of Furman University. The concert is a ticketed event. For more information go www.fredonia.edu/tickets. The event is funded in part by the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities through the Fredonia College Foundation.

SOREL VISITING ARTIST RESIDENCY: DR. VALERIE COLEMAN

Wednesday, April 24, and Thursday, April 25
The internationally renowned composer returns to campus for the second installment of her 2023-2024 Sorel Visiting Artist residency. She will be on campus to work with SUNY Fredonia students and interact with the community through performances of her music, panel discussions, workshops and more. Events are free and open to the public with support from The Sorel Organization, Inc., through the Fredonia College Foundation.

FREDONIA HARP DAY

Sunday, April 28
Mason Hall
Specifically designed for harpists of all ages and all levels. The no-stress day includes harp ensemble rehearsals and performance, a special guest recital by an American

Harp Society National Competition winner, lunch (included), 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'd like. Ensemble repertoire will be sent when registration is received. Registration is online at www.fredonia.edu/music/harp-day



Kristin Korb



Dominik Wagner, (photo by Maria Frodl)



Valerie Coleman, (photo by Matthew Murphy)

FREDONIA SCHOOL OF MUSIC ANNUAL CONCERTO COMPETITION (LS)

Sunday, April 28, 1 p.m.
Harry A. King Concert Hall

FREDONIA SCHOOL OF MUSIC CONVOCATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Friday, May 10, 3 p.m.
Juliet J. Rosch Recital Hall

Homecoming 2023 celebration

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



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



3 Evie (Miller) Weinstein, '73; Duke Weinstein, '72; and Rose (Cummings) Metzler, '73, back to campus to celebrate being Golden Alumni. Evie was MC at the 50-year reunion luncheon.



4 Colin Plaister, '72, and former SUNY Fredonia staffer, meets with senior Exercise Science major Hayley Stang, recipient of the Colin and Marjorie Maloney Plaister Scholarship, at the Scholars/Donors Brunch.



5 Members of the Class of '74 "and '73½."



6 What's a pep rally without the Blue Devil cheerleaders!!



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



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



9 A new tradition—a Residence Life staff reunion—was held during Homecoming. Attendees included (left to right) Kim Mead-Colegrove, Jennifer Ruhland, '94; Bob Mead-Colegrove, '91, and Ann Marie (Dimitri) Freeland, '90.



10 Old friends gather at the geology department 60th reunion including (from left) August "Augie" Flotteron, '75; Geology Professor Emeritus Jack Berkley, Education Professor Emeritus Mira Berkley, Dr. David "Duck," '73, and Nurit Mittlefehldt.



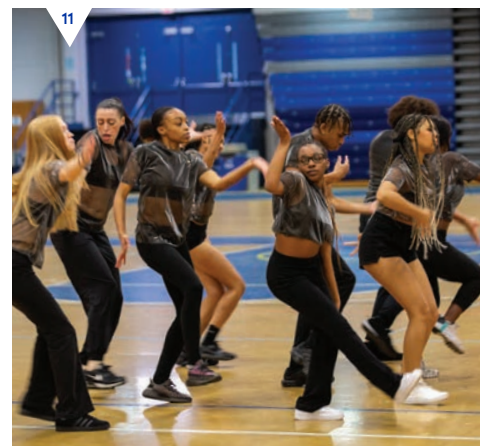
11 Members of "EnFusion" dance perform at the pep rally.



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



13 Environmental Sciences major Tayvia Wright (center) demonstrates a stream table, which is used to model depositional processes, in the Houghton Hall lab to geology alumni Nate Burnside, '97, and Mia Painter, '97.





Your FRED Stories

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



August J. Bloomquist, '06

Major: Communication - Digital Film Production

Where are you now? I'm employed as a Technical Broadcast Director for Warner Bros. Discovery Sports in Atlanta, GA, since October 2022. I'm part of a team of six individuals responsible for the live visual presentation of NBA TV and Turner Sports (NBA on TNT, NHL on TNT, MLB on TBS) on a regular basis. Previously, I spent 16 years living in Connecticut working for NBC Sports (2018–2022) and ESPN (2006–2018) in a similar capacity.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Getting hands-on experience in the classroom and with WNYF-TV helped develop my love of broadcasting, but spending nights in Steele Hall covering Blue Devils hockey pushed me over the top into the career path I have now.



Fasha Antonio '19

Major: Communication - Public Relations

Where are you now? I work within New York State Parks and Recreation, in a program called "Ladders to the Outdoors." We provide free field trips for underserved youth in the WNY region. I currently work at Buffalo Harbor State Park, but I can work at any state park I choose for the day, which is very fun. In this job, I do outreach, set up field trips, connect with community organizations and schools, table at events, go on field trips with the groups, and much more. I absolutely love my current job and can see myself making a career out of it.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Fredonia prepared me for my life after college in numerous ways. An internship is a good example of how I became prepared. During my time at Fredonia, studying communications, I became interested and passionate about underserved populations, so I got an internship at the International Institute of Buffalo.

That internship has translated across all aspects of my personal and professional life. Fredonia and my professors in the Communication department helped guide me towards my passion of helping underserved communities and opened a world of possibilities for me through experiential learning. I am forever grateful for my experiences and opportunities I was given at Fredonia.



Douglas Fronczek, '73

Major: Music Education

Where are you now? After 37 years of teaching junior high students (choral music primarily) I have been serving as organist/choir director at St. Paul's UCC in Wendelville, NY, since 2010. The congregation is small but the choir is mighty!

How did Fredonia prepare you? The performance requirements (piano) along with the music education experiences fully prepared me for a career in music education that I would repeat if given the opportunity! I truly cherish my four years at SUNY Fredonia, 1969–1973.

1930s

Paula (Hamilton) Griffith, '36, (music ed.) from Saratoga Springs, NY, celebrated her 109th birthday in July 2023.

1950s

Patricia Miller, '50, (music ed.) has five great-grandchildren. "All healthy, smart and fun."

Edward McClenathan, '56, (elem. ed.) introduced Allyson Shepard Bailey at the D.R. Barker Library in Fredonia at a book signing for "The Fair Chambered Corridor," a compilation of Fredonia historical research by her father, the late SUNY Fredonia Professor Emeritus Douglas Shepard.

Dr. Ted Berg, '66, (elem. ed.) of Santa Fe, NM, reports that after earning his doctorate, has enjoyed a fulfilling career in a variety of positions in higher education. He has been joined by his seven children in post-graduate activities, and would love to hear from classmates.

Joseph J. Scherrer Jr., '68, (math.) is happily retired from physics teaching after 38 years of fun! Now crafting beautiful objects in wood.

Albina Wood, '68, (elem. ed.) enjoys spending time with her four grandchildren, and cooking, reading and doing volunteer work since leaving teaching.

Rebecca Bennett, '69, (English) celebrated 51 years of marriage in 2023.

Paul Fein, '69, (geology) and his wife, Barbara, since his retirement in 2002 from teaching Earth Science in Brentwood, NY, have been travelling extensively, especially focusing on places of scenery with geologic interest. They recently went to the Devil's Causeway in Northern Ireland, making that the 56th place outside of the U.S. they have visited. They've also visited 48 U.S. states.

1970s

Deborah Madar, '71, (English sec. ed.) gave a presentation on her latest book, "A Deeper Dive," at the Shorewood Book Club meeting in September 2023.

Barbara Byrnes-Lenarcic, '73, (psych.) lives in Jamestown, CO,

a mountain town of 250 residents west of Boulder. She is a Docent at the Denver Art Museum, a volunteer naturalist in Boulder County, and an usher during summers at the Colorado Music Festival. She adds, "1973 mates are in my thoughts."

Candace Carberry, '73, (elem. ed.) as a 20-year ovarian cancer survivor, has been teaching State University of Buffalo medical students about the disease, its symptoms and risk factors for 17 years. This followed her 33 years as an elementary teacher.

James Pace, '75, (music ed.) was recently ordained a Deacon in the Anglican Church. He performs regularly with numerous Western New York musical ensembles and is retired as orchestra director and music department chair at Lake



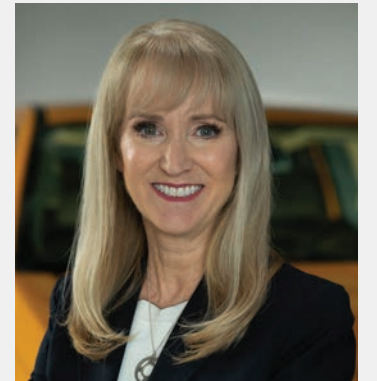
Paul, '69, and Barbara Fein



James Pace, '75



Brian De Lorenzo, '84



Dianne (Carson) Craig, '85 (photo by Lincoln).

John F. Aceti, '58, (elem. ed.) has published his eighth book, an autobiography, at 92, "From Nothing to Something — Success Plus Achievement Defeats Adversity," published by Amazon. John and his wife, Carol, live in Kerrville, TX.

Robert G. Willover, '58, (music ed.) at 87, is still performing as an organist.

1960s

Steven Rosenbaum, '63, (elem. ed.) lives in Scottsdale, AZ, with his wife of 58 years, Ellen. He is a retired guidance counselor with the New York City Board of Education.

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



50-Year anniversary Class of 1973: (front row, left to right): JoAnn (D'Angelo) Catalano, Anne Ross, Kathleen (Alexander) Crolli, Patricia (Hunt) Albaugh, Deward Houck and Susan Mara; (second row, left to right): Holly Hewitt, Laurel Rivers, Nancy (Geitner) Dallaire, Elizabeth Curtin-O'Brien, Margo (Fitzgerald) Slaughter, Joseph Straight, Irene (Reynolds) Guerriero, Elaine (Gancasz) Gawrys and Rhea (Godemann) Webb; (back row, left to right): Rosemary (Cummings) Metzler, Geoffry Wildridge, Evelyn (Miller) Weinstein, Colin Plaister, Scott Bowden, Susan Makai, Michael Marletta, Walter Gordinier and Wayne Weimer.

Shore Central Senior High in Angola, NY. Jim has also been reelected as president of Local 92, Buffalo Musicians' Association, and serves as the West Seneca, NY, town historian.

JoAnn (DiNiro) Marsh, '76, (elem. ed.) of Westfield, NY, retired from teaching after 33 years. After several years as an assistant, became Infant/Toddler certified with Montessori teacher training at CMTE in New Rochelle, NY, under the direction of Virginia Varga. After 15 years in Ithaca, NY, she and her husband moved back to Western New York and she started two Montessori Toddler programs in Erie, PA. JoAnn received the Spartan Award for service and dedication and also the Pennsylvania Child Care Association award for teacher of the year in 2010.

Continued ►



1970s Jazz Reunion participants included: (front row) Craig Fattey; (seated in second row, left to right): Tom Ellison, Gary Keller, Paul Stencel, Glenn Heckinger and Don Carducci; (standing, left to right): Dave Long, Tony Caramia, Patti Dunham, John Cooley, Will Sprague, Dave Pratt, Charlie LeCount, Niles Dening, Jayd Mollnar, Bob King, George Kane and Dave Cohen.

Dr. Deborah (Anders) Silverman, '76, '79, (music ed., English) is the author of the forthcoming 7th edition of the PR textbook "Strategic Planning for Public Relations." It is anticipated for release in March by Routledge. She took over for her late SUNY Buffalo State University faculty colleague Ron Smith, who died in 2020 just weeks before the current edition was published. New

Pisarski, '13, (English, philosophy) and his wife, Maria Espindola, in Mexico City.

Diane (Exler) Rudnick, '79, (bus. admin) retired from the federal government as a Senior Accountant for the U.S. Department of Defense. She and her husband live in Falls Church, VA.

ment with more travel and time with friends, family and a toddler grandson.

Brian De Lorenzo, '84, (mus. theatre) is an award-winning singer, recording artist, actor, and songwriter equally at home in nightclubs, concert halls, and theatres. He has traveled from Alaska to England and from the Mediterranean to

of Fame. He has been a lacrosse coach in the Williamsville school district for 38 years, currently coach at Williamsville East.

Verne Keller, '84, (bus. admin.) was promoted to commercial district manager in Florida by Truly Nolan Pest Control.

Scott Martelle, '84, (pol. sci.) had a new book released at the end of November 2023, with an audio version by Tantor Media, "1932: FDR, Hoover, and the Dawn of a New America." The book received a positive review, "starred," from Kirkus Reviews.

Patrick Patterson, '84, (music ed.) was inducted into the New York State Field Band Conference Hall of Fame. While at SUNY Fredonia he conducted the Fredonia Jazz Ensemble, and returned to the university at Homecoming in

and final retirement" from law enforcement. He previously retired as a lieutenant with the Town of Greenburgh (NY) Police Department.

Simone Fancher, '85, (sociology) was named the 2023 Women Owned Small Business Person of the Year from the Small Business Administration's Buffalo (NY) office. She operates The Cheesy Chick restaurant and food truck.

Arthur Germain, '86, (commun.) Recently authored a new book on brand storytelling called "The Art of Brandtelling: Brand Storytelling for Business Success." It is a how-to guide for building and sharing a unique brand story to strengthen customer relationships and increase business profitability. The book is available in paperback and Kindle via Amazon or eBook Bundle.

VirTra, a global provider of judgmental use of force training simulators and firearms training simulators for law enforcement, military, educational and commercial markets.

Catherine (Gawinski) D'Agostino, '91, '93, (English) released a mystery novel, "Braided Lies: A Thousand Islands Castle Mystery," through Iron Pelican Publications.

Sherise Jones, CPA, '91, (account.) is a member of the Union Power Cooperative Board of Directors, representing District V. Currently, she is also Managing Partner at Worth Tax Advisors and owner of Jones CPA PLLC.

Conio Loretto, '92, (mus. therapy) contributed a chapter to the book, "Portraits of Everyday Practice in Music Therapy," (Routledge, 2023) and co-edited a collection of music therapy songs titled, "Songs



Simone Fancher, '85



Arthur Germain, '86



Catherine (Gawinski) D'Agostino, '91, '93



Glenn Lankowski, '93



Dr. Amy (Diegelman) Parente, '95, and Gannon University President Walter Iwanenko at his inauguration



Charlie Post, '98 (photo by Benjo Arwas)

to the 7th edition is a completely revamped Communication Tactics section (particularly social media); a 10th step in the planning process, Research (the new step #2); "What would you do?" Ethics Minutes in each chapter; and recent PR cases focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Jan Pisarski-Carmer, '79, (account.) reports the birth of her first grandchild, Juan Mateo, to **Matthew**

1980s

Vincent Saeva, '80, (soc. stds. sec. ed.) and **Anne (Maliwauki) Saeva, '81**, (bus. admin.) are happy to announce the birth of their grandson, born to Kyle and **Elizabeth (Saeva) Gostely, '12** (commun.-pub. rel.).

Margaret (Miles) Fahs, '83, (speech and hear. hand.) enjoyed her summer 2023 beginning of retire-

Mexico to sing for appreciative audiences. He lives in Boston, MA, with his husband of 22 years, John Amodeo, a landscape architect. In November 2022, Brian premiered a song — "Things Will Get Better" — which he wrote during the COVID-19 lockdown, which was released as a single on May 19, 2023.

Ed Greenway, '84, (elem. ed.) was inducted into the Western New York Chapter of the Lacrosse Hall

October 2023 as a part of the Jazz Reunion ensemble.

Dianne (Carson) Craig, '85, (math.) was elected to the Toro Company Board of Directors. She also is currently president of Lincoln, the luxury vehicle division of Ford Motor Company.

James Duckham, '85, (pol. sci.) retired as the Chief of Police at Ball State University. It is Jim's "second

Janice Best Scott, '88, (sociology) is the Director of Education Service with a Community Action Agency in Oswego (NY) County, a blend of her interests in education and sociology.

Daniel Clark Smith, '89, (music ed.) performed in the role of a Reporter in the Metropolitan Opera's production of "X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X."

1990s

Alison Kisner, FNP-C, '90, (biology) joined the Beaver River Health Center staff in October 2023. The center is in Beaver Falls, NY. Alison earned her Master of Science, Family Nurse Practitioner credentials from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY.

Tony Cianflone, '91, (econ.) was named Vice President of Sales at

of Discovery for Music Therapy," released by Jessica Kingsley Publishers. Conio has led the music therapy program at The Center for Discovery in Sullivan County, NY, for the past 26 years, and has been an adjunct professor in the Music Therapy program at SUNY New Paltz for the past nine years.

Glenn Lankowski, '93, (bus. admin.) just finished his 101st marathon.

Bradley Petrella, '93, (sound rec. tech.) is currently employed as Manager, Post Production Engineering, at NFL Films.

Dr. Amy (Diegelman) Parente, '95, (chem.) from Erie, PA, represented SUNY Fredonia and President Stephen H. Kolison Jr., at the inauguration of Dr. Walter Iwanenko as the eighth President of Gannon University in Erie.

Shirley (Miller) Erbsmehl, '58, created a special gift to the university to celebrate SUNY Fredonia's bicentennial in 2026. A beautiful handcrafted quilt was presented to President Stephen H. Kolison Jr.



Mrs. Erbsmehl, who earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at SUNY Fredonia in 1958 and a master's degree in education from the State University at Buffalo in 1970, was an elementary teacher at Lancaster (NY) Central School for 31 years. Following her retirement, she supervised SUNY Fredonia student teachers for several years. She also served on the Fredonia College Council for several years, appointed by then-Gov. George Pataki.

Active in the community, Mrs. Erbsmehl has served on the boards of the Fredonia Alumni Association, 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center, and the former WCA Home. She also served as president from 1996 to 1998 of the Dunkirk-Fredonia chapter of the American Association of University Women. She recently completed nearly 15 years of teaching driver safety for AARP.

Her husband, Charles, is a retired piano technician. They have one daughter, Barbara (Erbsmehl) Faxlanger, a SUNY Fredonia graduate who became a teacher, and two grandchildren, Andrew and Emily Keddie.

Mr. and Mrs. Erbsmehl have established scholarship funds through the Fredonia College Foundation — the Charles R. and Shirley Miller Erbsmehl Award for a graduating senior who has excelled in childhood education and has shown special talent for working with children, and the Charles R. and Shirley Miller Erbsmehl Music Scholarship for a first-time, full-time music student in piano or euphonium. In addition, they recently established a third foundation scholarship in Shirley's name for a Lancaster Central School graduate.

Thank you, Shirley, for such a wonderful birthday gift to the university!

Take Note:

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

📍 www.fredonia.edu/my-story

Dr. Jeff Quamo, '97, '04, (music perf.) was named the new Director of the Scottsdale (AZ) Concert Band. He is also band director and chair of the Performing Arts Department at Mesa High School.

Randy Merrill, '97, (sound rec. tech.) was nominated for four 2024 GRAMMYS in the category of Record of the Year as mastering engineer for "Vampire" by Olivia Rodrigo, and for "Anti-Hero" by Taylor Swift. Also, for Album of the Year, he was nominated as mastering engineer for Rodrigo's "Cuts" and for Swift's "Midnights."



Neil Carroll, '04

2023. He has taught in the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District for 25 years and was named the 2023 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for New York State by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers.

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

Lisa Titus, '98, (English) had her book of poetry, "First Time, Every Time," named as a finalist in the



Jennifer Levesque, LMHC, '04

2000s

Shirine Babb, '01, (mus. theatre) joined the Broadway cast of "A Beautiful Noise," in the role of the Doctor, in September 2023.

Shanda (Ortel) DuClon, '02, (music ed.) has been named Superintendent of the Pine Valley Central School District. She previously was assistant superintendent at the Depew (NY) Union Free School District.

Kate Martelle, '03, (theatre arts) won the 2023 New York International Film Awards prize for Best Dance Choreography and Honorable Mention for Best Ensemble for her film, "You Are Not Alone." She is owner and director of the Martelle Dance Academy in Wellsville, NY. The film was also an Official Selection for the Cannes World Film Festival.

Brian Usifer, '03, (music perf.) provided music supervision, arrangements and orchestrations



Robert "Bobby" Miller, '07

Clinical Director of Programs at Recovery Options Made Easy. She earned her Master of Arts degree in Mental Health Counseling in 2006, and is licensed in Mental Health Counseling.

Sara Ries Dziekonski, '05, (English) was the runner-up in the 2024 Press 5 Award for Poetry. She earned her M.F.A. from Chatham University.

Sara Schoch, '05, (mus. theatre) directed the University of West Florida Department of Theatre production of "The Marvelous Wonderettes" in October 2023, where she is an Assistant Professor.

Ian Pope, '06, (bus. admin.-market.) was hired by St. Louis' McCarthy Holdings, Inc., as Director of Sustainability. He earned his MBA with a focus on sustainability from Wilmington University, completed GRI Certified Training and is a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Green Associate.



Stephine Hunt, '17

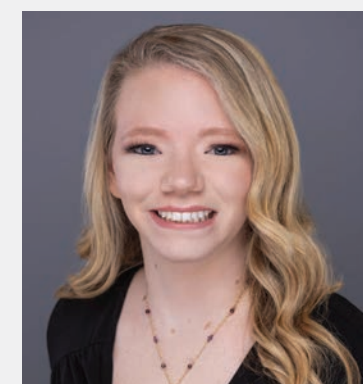
Robert "Bobby" Miller, '07, (bus. admin.-market.) was named CEO of Future Technologies (FTI), Inc. Before coming to FTI, he was most recently President, Defense Missions and Support, at EverWatch.

Courtney Mealy, '09, (vis. arts/draw.-paint. and sculpture) was named Director of Arts Programming at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (PA), where she had been serving as interim director.

2010s

Matthew LaPorte, '10, (sport mgmt.) was named Athletic Director at Mohawk High School in New Castle, PA.

Brandon Stiffler, '10, (comp. sci.) was named Software Product Manager at Beckhoff Automation USA, where he previously was an Application Engineer.



Emily M. Fackelman, '19

Wagner's "Tannhäuser" in November 2023 at the Metropolitan Opera.

Mary Evelyn Hangle, '12, (music ed.) received a 2023 Career Development Grant from the William Matheus Sullivan Foundation.

Stephanie Patterson, '12, (music ed.) works for Fox Products in Indiana, a maker of double reed instruments.

Kyle Sackett, '12, (music ed.) performed on "Carols After a Plague" with the group, The Crossing, which was nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY in the category of Best Choral Performance. He is choral director at Thomas Webster High School in Webster, NY.

Matt Marco, '15, (music perf.) is Artistic Director at Buffalo Opera Unlimited.

Lauren Orlowski, '15, (comm.-public rel.) was named Director of Alumni Engagement and Constituent Relations at Canisius University in Buffalo, NY.

Michael J. Hawk, '16, (music perf.) was named a Resident Artist at Seattle (WA) Opera.

Stephine Hunt, '17, (English) has started a new position as Manager of Literary Arts at Chautauqua Institution. She is an adjunct lecturer in the SUNY Fredonia Department of English, a Ph.D. candidate in the American Studies program at the State University at Buffalo and

U.S. Army National Guard Spc. Margaret (Mariotti) Suarez, '19, (music perf.) was named 2023 National Guard Army Bands Soldier of the Year. She is a flutist with the Anacostia Winds and 257th Army Band called, "The Band of the Nation's Capital."

2020s

Cameron Forster, '21, (acting) has been hired as an Entertainment Host and understudy for Hook Hand on the Disney Magic cruise ship.

Lauren Henning, '21, (music perf., music ed.) was named Second Bassoon in the Wheeling (VA) Symphony Orchestra.



Nicholas Calidonna, '14, (back row with bow tie, bus. admin.-market.) and Heather Boyczuk, '13, (in gown to the left of Nicholas, biology) married on May 6, 2023, at the Atrium at Rich's in Buffalo, NY. (Meccay Photography)

Evan Harrington, '98, (mus. theatre) was a performer on "Sondheim Unplugged (The NY Sessions), Vol 3," which has been nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY in the category of Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album.

Joe Perry, '98, (elem. ed./earth sci.) was one of 15 teachers selected to participate in the Lake Ontario Shipboard Science Workshop, hosted by New York Sea Grant, in July



Mark (Hodges) Stahlka, '90

Brick Road Poetry Contest. The book was released through Brick Road Poetry Press on Christmas day. She was the 2020-21 Poet Laureate of Sullivan County (NY) and her poems have been published in journals nationwide.

Mark (Hodges) Stahlka, '90, (bus. admin.) next to the locker he "named" through a campaign run by the men's basketball program. Mark is President with the Stahlka Agency in Western New York. While at SUNY Fredonia, Mark played Point Guard from 1987 to 1990 under Head Coach Greg Prechtl. Currently, he continues to be involved in basketball as Assistant Varsity Coach and Junior Varsity Coach of boys basketball at Nichols School in Buffalo, NY. SUNY Fredonia basketball Head Coach Sean Smiley noted an extensive renovation of the locker room was completed in 2022, including new lockers, refurbishing of the bathroom area, painting, lighting accents and a collage of "action photos" of basketball alumni. A new Blue Devil logo rug was added. Friends of the basketball program can "Own a Locker" including a named plaque with a \$500 gift to the Fredonia College Foundation, and individuals can also "Share a Locker" with a \$250 gift. For more information about the program, contact Coach Smiley at sean.smiley@fredonia.edu or Associate Director of Development Ashley Dates at dates@fredonia.edu.

for "The Heart of Rock and Roll," a musical based on the songs of Huey Lewis and the News, which opens on Broadway in late March at the James Earl Jones Theatre.

Neil Carroll, '04, (media arts) was appointed videographer in the Office of Marketing and Communications at SUNY Fredonia.

Jennifer Levesque, LMHC, '04, (psych.) was promoted to Senior

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

Ericka Alm, '07, (soc. stds. adol. ed.) was named Principal of Washington Middle School in Jamestown, NY. She most recently was a Principal in the Warren (PA) County School District.

David "Mac" McMahill, '11, (comm-video prod.) and his wife, Danielle, who live in London, England, were interviewed in October 2023 by WHAM Channel 13, Rochester, NY, the week the Buffalo Bills played the Jacksonville Jaguars. The interview centered around the NFL's reach into the UK. The 1 p.m. game time was a welcome change for the Bills Mafia members, who are more accustomed to rising before the sun to catch the Bills' games on television. David, formerly of Livonia, NY, is an SR Manager of Digital Broadcast Coordination for Endeavor Streaming, a multi-national digital video broadcasting and technology company based in New York City.

Tenor **Kyle van Schoonhoven, '11,** (music perf.) made his role debut as Walther von der Vogelweide in

Stephanie Doche, '14, (music perf., music ed.) made her Pittsburgh (PA) Opera debut in the role of Rosina in "The Barber of Seville" in October 2023. It's a role she performed with Florida Grand Opera and Gulfshore Opera earlier in the year.

Alex Joseph Grayson, '14, (mus. theatre) was nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY in the category of Best Musical Theatre Album for his performance in the lead role of Jim Conley in the Broadway show "Parade."

Samantha (Didrichsen) Gaudio, '15, (early child. ed.) was just accepted to present a research poster at AERA 2024 in Philadelphia, titled, "Striving for Equitable Assessment Opportunities: Preschool Teacher Feedback on a Gamified Self-regulation Task."

has worked with the Chautauqua Literary & Scientific Circle through Chautauqua's literary arts program since 2017. She has a M.A. in English from SUNY Fredonia and a B.A. in English from Alfred University.

Nick Harper, '18, (interdis. stds.) has been named goaltending coach for the women's ice hockey program at Syracuse University.

Emily M. Fackelman, '19, (social work) was named Social Worker/Elder Care Advocate at Futterman, Lanza & Pasculli, LLP. She was previously a Social Worker at White Oaks Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, and earned her M.S.W., Advanced Standing 1, from SUNY Stony Brook University.

Jenna Rutowski, '21, (sound rec. tech.) an audio engineer with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, assisted SUNY Fredonia faculty member Bernd Gottinger with the recording of "Scriabin: Symphony No. 2: The Poem of Ecstasy," conducted by JoAnn Falletta and performed by the BPO, which was nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY in the category of Best Orchestral Performance.

Marine Cpl. Dylan Schiffhauer, '22, (music ed.) has been named to the Parris Island Marine Band from the Naval School of Music. He was recruited out of RSS Southtowns, RS Buffalo, in the 1st Marine Corps District.

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

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

- Allie (Nelson) Withers, '46
- Lois (Schlottman) Edmonds, '49
- Charlotte (Hulse) Meyer, '49
- Donald R. Gerres, '50
- J. David Abt, '52
- Robert W. MacCallum, '52
- Rosamond (Gillespie) Burns, '53
- Catherine (Lagana) Rizzo, '53
- Dr. James Lyke, '54
- Dr. Stefan Paul Krchniak, '54
- Helene Katz, '56
- Janis M. Anderson, '57
- Richard "Dick" Geise, '58
- Sandra "Sandy" B. Brown, '61
- Carol J. (Esch) Crowell, '61
- Aileen Elizabeth (Ames) Ayers, '62
- Noreen (Schafer) Melendez Stewart, '63, '72
- Richard "Dick" Dudzic, '65
- Rose Marie Olivia Gates, '65
- Douglas Ahlstedt, '67
- Anthony J. Bifaro Jr., '67
- Louis D. Carvalho, '67
- John S. Abrams, '70
- William "Billy" R. Horch, '70
- Joy C. (Nielsen) Rea, '70
- Joan L. (Tederous) Cain, '71
- Blanche E. Adamski, '72
- Roberta Keller Fetzner, '72
- Janet R. (Hart) McKissock, '72

- Carmen J. Mesina, '72
- Elisabeth (Bancroft) Pratt, '72
- Leora (Byrnes) Yanda, '72
- Rev. Daniel K. Anderson, '73
- James H. Bogdan, '74
- Mary Ellen (Rupple) Bushey, '74
- Sandra "Sandy" M. (Felshaw) Roberts, '75
- Lois (Dildine) George, '75
- Kevin M. Grupa, '77
- Phyllis Ann (Keyes) Howell, '77
- Frank L. Steffen Jr., '77
- Shelley L. (Swanson) Sandquist, '79
- Janet E. (Simpson) Gooch, '80
- Diane M. Cochran, '83
- James "Jim" J. Findlay, '83
- Mary Jo Birecree, '84
- Dr. Tracy L. Culver, '85
- Amy L. Lehman, '88
- Marnie K. Kozielski, '90, '95
- June (Weatherly) Pumford, '90
- Ken Spafford, '94
- Pattra (Wirojatana) Mattox, 2000
- Matthew W. Winger, '03
- Amanda (Burtner) Spiller, '12

FACULTY/EMERITI

- Dr. John Arnold; Associate Professor, Department of History, 2002–2022
- Dr. Frederick "Fred" Byham, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, 1964–1995
- Dr. Bruce Chilton, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, 1967–1995
- William "Bill" E. Leslie, '68; Junior Varsity Soccer Coach; Lecturer/Instructor/Assistant Professor/Adjunct, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, 1970–2008

- Dr. Richard A. Leva, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Adjunct, Department of Psychology, 1972–1999
- Dr. Donald F. McFarland, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Education, 1965–1996
- Dr. Regina Reed, Instructor/Associate Professor, Department of English, 1969–1994
- Dr. Thomas Rywick, Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Professor/Chair, Department of Psychology; Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; 1970–2005
- Dr. Kenneth G. Wood, Associate Professor/Professor, Department of Biology, 1965–1987

STAFF/RETIRED STAFF

- Roger A. Colvenback, Custodial Services/Facilities Services, 1973–2002
- Donna (Parker) Danielsen, '57, '65; Adjunct/Student Teacher Supervisor, Director of Field Experiences, 1969–1998

- Cathleen Ann (Ciambor) Higgs, Cleaner/Maintenance Assistant, 1999–2011
- Valeria "Valerie" F. (Wawro) Pawlak, Cleaner, 1986–1996
- John O. Metzger, Technical Specialist, Instructional Resources Center (IRC), 1983–1992
- Gertrude "Trudy" (Fiebelkorn) Sajdak, '88; Typist/Secretary 2, Office of the Dean of Liberal Studies, 1972–1996
- Miriam "Cis" E. Speziale, Account Clerk, Faculty Student Association, 1980–2010

COLLEGE COUNCIL

- Joseph Clayton Johnson, Member, 1995–2000, 2013–2023

Births

A daughter, Saoirse, to Kathleen and August Bloomquist, '06 (commun.-digital film prod.).



Efforts in sustainability usher in end of an era

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

While the format may change—we still want to hear from you, whether it be with information for Class Notes, or your personal stories of SUNY Fredonia experiences. We continue to share your enthusiasm and your connections to the place we love, which has been the foundation of so many careers and families.

As we shift to digital means of sharing news, **it is more important than ever that alumni update their email addresses at www.fredonia.edu/alumni.**

Thank you for your continued loyalty and readership—it means everything to us.

CAREER CORNER

by CHRISTOPHER LAGROW
Interim Director of Engagement and Career Development



How to navigate the salary and benefits question



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

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

Know your value
Before negotiating, always do some research on salaries. Look into industry averages for your position, and adjust for the cost of living in your geographic location. Then, set a realistic salary range that takes into account all of these factors. If asked for your salary requirements, it's better to provide a range ("upper '70s") than a hard number or minimum ("at least \$75,000"), and to aim a little higher than what you will (hopefully) settle for.

Benefits are on the table too
There's more than money to discuss! You can inquire about benefits such as health insurance, student loan repayment, vacation/sick time, remote/hybrid work,

tuition for further education, and flex time. Instead of more money, perhaps they'll let you work remotely once or twice a week or work more flexible hours. There's never a guarantee that an organization can or will meet your requests, but it's fair to ask. If you ask for reasonable and defensible changes, keep your tone positive, and are a strong candidate, you just may convince them to improve that offer. The Career Development Office can help you navigate this, so please reach out to us if you'd like to discuss your specific situation. Call (716) 673-3327, email careers@fredonia.edu, or use the FREDNetwork at www.fredonia.edu/cdo to set up an appointment. Good luck!



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We're just as proud as we can be...

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

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

(photo by Stephanie Pflugsten)