

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

# Emeritus News

Winter 2024

## ► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette



What a glorious fall we've experienced in western New York State this year! The hillsides have been awashed with brilliant colors that have just started to mute. The warm temperatures have drawn us and others outside to tackle garden and yard preparations for the winter months and to just enjoy what we view as the last of

summer-like weather. Returning from a three-week jaunt to Southeast Asia has spurred us into overdrive to complete our usual fall chores. Leaves have started to drop and will continue to do so into mid to late November. The oak and Bradford pear trees seem to be stubborn holdouts. Yet we plug along, blowing leaves every few days into piles to then bag for garden use. Accumulating leaves has never been easier.



With the recent frosts, we are putting our vegetable gardens to rest. We still enjoy small amounts of broccoli and plenty of parsley, arugula, and kale. The garlic is planted for next year's crop. To prepare for the possibility of deep snow, perennials have been cut back and added to our brush piles that serve as refuge for some woodland creatures. I am sure that we have at least one more mowing before we store machines for the winter. Sometimes I wonder what folks who don't have yards and gardens to tend do all day.

*"Listen... With faint dry sound, like steps of passing ghosts, the leaves, frost-crisp 'd, break from the trees and fall."*  
Adelaide Crapsey

Soon, we will inventory our supply of snow shovels and eco-friendly deicer as well as winterize the car. I welcome this seasonal transition. October ends with masked creatures and air-filled Halloween lawn decorations. And it's time to enjoy the warmth and aroma of baked foods and simmering soups. Spending time in the kitchen cooking and baking continues to be a real joy. Baking squash yesterday purchased from a local Amish farm will be the focus of vegetarian lasagna tomorrow. The act of preparing vegetables and fruits from our area renews my love of and commitment to eating fresh foods. Starbucks may tease us with pumpkin lattes and pumpkin chai teas. However, pumpkin waffles hot off the grill puts Starbucks to shame as does a batch of pumpkin cranberry cookies. Perhaps it's the memories of sweets from our plunder on Halloween as kids, dessert smorgasbords at Thanksgiving, and the variety of yummy holiday cookies that trigger the desire to become one with my stove at this point in the year. All I can confirm is that the yen for home made soups and baked goods consumes a great deal of my attention. Home made goods are delightful yet I will still purchase some Portage Pies this November! Here's to more fall weather!



*"Baking is about transformation. Turning flour into cakes, eggs into custard, and ideas into something real."*  
Barbara Kafka

**NOTE:** Some folks have shared that they miss the reservation form needed for our lunches and other events in past newsletters. If there is a reservation needed, advance notice will be included in a textbox such as this at the end of my column.

Please email Dawn Hunt at [dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu](mailto:dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu) or call 716-673-3456 if you are interested in receiving the Emeritus newsletter by email.



PRESIDENT STEPHEN H. KOLISON, JR.  
cordially invites you to attend a

# HOLIDAY GATHERING

on Thursday, December 19  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Williams Center  
Multipurpose Room

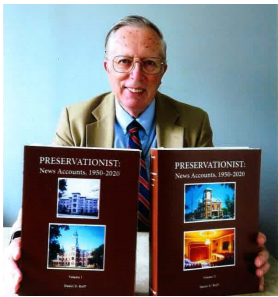
We hope you can stop by to visit with President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.,  
enjoy some holiday refreshments, and mingle with  
colleagues, students, and emeriti.

Please email [dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu](mailto:dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu) or  
call 716-673-3456 if you plan to attend.

## Additional Information

- ◆ The University offers so many activities some of which will interest you. Check out the variety of events that are offered this semester and beyond: <https://events.fredonia.edu>.
- ◆ Take advantage of the musical and dance performances scheduled for November, as well as sports events. And don't miss the holiday concert featuring Phat Cat Swinger performing "A Not So Silent Night" at 7:30 p.m. on December 11<sup>th</sup> in King Concert Hall. All of these are listed on the events page of the University website.

## Newsbit—Preservationist PR - by: Dan Reiff



Though I was trained as an art historian, my main professional-and personal-interest has been in architecture, "the inescapable art." When I began teaching at Baylor University in 1964 there was little "high art" for me to study, but there were lots of historic buildings—including the University's two oldest... in possible danger of demolition! I talked to local groups, and wrote two articles about them, in those nascent years of the "historic preservation" movement. So with further experience in the late 1960s in preservation survey work in Georgetown, DC, I saw plenty to do when I came to Fredonia in 1970. Much of my career in Fredonia was focused on architectural surveys and preservation—talking to any group (and there were many) who also found this a worthwhile topic. I also kept copies of any local articles that dealt with me and my professional work, and also historic preservation—and thanks to vivid local interest over three decades, there were a lot! Recently The Jacobs Press in Auburn—a historically-rich city where I now live—published all these clippings. This collection is of special interest for Fredonia because in this record of our local "preservation saga" all the essential "legion of friends, colleagues, and co-conspirators" whom I worked with are also documented: dozens and dozens of Fredonians who were part of this movement. While saving the Village Hall, and restoring the Opera House, may be the most famous examples, over a 34-year period of local preservation efforts, there were scores of other local, and regional, issues covered. The collection is entitled: *Preservationist: News Accounts, 1950-2020*. It is in two volumes (1,344 pages) with an Introduction, Tables of Contents, and lots of illustrations, many in color. Copies will be available at both Reed Library, and Barker Library—a useful historical document of an important local movement.

## 2024 SEFA Campaign has begun!

Our local United Way processes our SEFA donations, ensuring that all of our funds stay local. The two United Ways of Chautauqua County recently merged, which means that they are now more administratively efficient, with increased capacity for innovation and community impact. They have both a Dunkirk and Jamestown office and are committed to helping SUNY Fredonia employees and students strengthen their community connections and community service. To learn more about their impact, you can watch their video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7zTfx7LGZc>.

Please send checks made payable to Chautauqua County SEFA, and send to United Way, 626 Central Avenue, Dunkirk, NY 14048. In the memo section, please note FREDONIA SEFA Campaign and attach a note designating which organization you would like your funds to go to if you have a preference.

SEFA 2024 Donor List

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mvrayw-O9frTgNguoHGylDUKuJGhhJo/view?usp=sharing>

## Update Your Contact Information

- Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? If so, please let us know so we can update the Emeritus database which is used for the quarterly newsletter and informational mailings. If you could help to reduce mailing costs by receiving the newsletter by email, please let us know. You may email [dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu](mailto:dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu) or call 716-673-3456.



## Emeritus Spotlight—Dr. Barbara Mallette

*"We are like books. Most people see our cover, the minority read only the introduction, many people believe the critics. Few will know our content."*

Emile Zola

By Barbara Mallette



What feels like a lifetime ago, I was born and raised in the Rochester, NY area. I was the middle child for 13 years, before daughter number four was born. While there were just the three girls, we were often dressed in identical dresses, outfits, with my older sister Patty wearing a different color of the same dress/outfit. Now I wonder why this was the practice, as we were not twins. In fact, we often thought that the three of us didn't share similar features – different eye color, different hair color, and different personalities.

My mother came from a large Italian family in Rochester; she had 10 siblings, two of who died as children. Her father spoke little English and never mastered writing in English. My father was a middle child and the only son of parents who lived in Northern New York State, just a few miles from the Quebec border. Both his parents were French; probably with French Canadian roots. His mother died after giving birth to his younger sister. All too soon after that, his father passed away. Because no one relative could take all three Mallette children, my father and his older sister were cared for by an aunt while the younger sister went to live with a different aunt. To this day, I remained surprised that the children were split up, as they were quite young. But the economics of raising young children in farm country in addition to one's own family was a great concern.



My parents come from very different backgrounds. My mother was a city kid, who smoked cigarettes at a young age (13) and hung out with her sisters and friends when she was working at home or outside the home. My father was a country boy who worked on a relative's farm before and after school and had to walk a long way to school. But both of my parents knew the challenges of feeding families in the 1920s and 1930s. And both of them possessed remarkable work ethics. Mom spent one day as a freshman and decided even before the end of that first day in high school that she had "enough of this sh--." She walked out and secured a job at Conti Packing. Eventually, my mother worked for General Motors, Rochester Products Division. There she worked on the line, mostly carburetors, for over 25 years. Her legacy as a determined and dedicated worker on line is embodied in having the first robot at Rochester Products named after her. My father continued to work on the farm and complete schooling in Brushton, NY until he enlisted in the US Air Force. His first plane rides included being assigned to the base in the Philippines during the second World War. My father's older sister settled in the Rochester area so seeking employment there after his discharge seemed a logical move. Somehow during his finding employment, he met my mother. No one ever talked about their courtship but I do know that all of my mother's siblings loved my father. He apprenticed as a carpenter, refining his skills as a housebuilder and restorer. His love of carpentry was well known among friends and family. I remember having to counsel my father against climbing up on the church roof again in his 70s.

I attended the local public school in the Rochester City School District for two years, walking with sister Patty the six or so blocks to School #25. One time, I slipped on the ice outside of the barbershop on the way to school. This may have been the first of many emergency room visits as a child. I returned to school brandishing a bandage on my chin to protect the stitches.



My parents bought a lot in Chili, a west suburb of Rochester. On weekends, the family would pile into the car and head to the property to build our next house. My mother usually made a roaster of baked chicken, potatoes, and carrots to feed us hungry workers. Moving to Chili meant a change in schools. My father was a devoted Catholic; enrolling his three daughters in Catholic school appealed to him. Off the three of us went to Holy Ghost School, run by the parish and Notre Dame Sisters. I remember working hard in elementary school and being the second-best speller in our class; Gigi Laglia always won our spelling bees. My desire to become a teacher emerged somewhere around fourth grade after discarding the notion of becoming a nun. I graduated after completing eighth grade. Looking at our options for high school, I cannot remember what drew me to St. Agnes High School, an all-female Catholic High School located outside of Genesee Valley Park. Patty was a student there and a partial scholarship sealed the deal. Even the two

bus rides to get to the school didn't dampen my spirits. I thrived on the academic and extra-curriculars available there. In summer of my junior year, I traveled to Europe with two classmates and a group of students from Illinois. The wonder of seeing famous landmarks in Italy, Switzerland, France, and England left an indelible mark on my soul, planting a seed for love of travel. I have fond memories of my classmates, teachers, and studies. I loved school! To this day, members of my high school class get together at the holidays.

I applied to a number of public and private colleges. Buffalo State and New Paltz were top choices that offered elementary and special education programs. Buffalo State was geographically closer, making visits home to family and friends possible. Funds were tight; I had a work study position that offset student loads. After completing one year, I knew that I had to transfer to a community college where tuition was more affordable. Although I met many new friends at Monroe Community College, I found many courses easier than those at Buffalo State. My goal was to earn credits that would count for the teacher preparation program. I knew I was headed back to Buffalo at some point. But first, a small detour...I had to move with friends to Boston for seven months. Living arrangements were questionable; I learned that working as a chamber maid and an account receivable clerk didn't excite me. Having applied for readmission to Buffalo State, I looked forward with relish to college life. Somehow four of my friends decided to move to Buffalo too; we found an apartment across from the University at Buffalo Main Street campus above a pizza place. For years, I hated Rod Stewart's *Maggie Mae*, as it seemed to play nonstop on the pizza joint's jukebox. With my focus on studies and required teaching practica, I managed to graduate in three semesters with some summer school courses.

## **Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Dr. Barbara Mallette**

I was thrilled to be a certified teacher who would be job searching in August. A cross-country trip westward with my then husband and return trip via Route 1 in Canada momentarily quenched my thirst for discovery. Future travel would have to wait until I was working. Fortunately, I secured a long-term substitute position in Rochester with elementary students with developmental disabilities. The position became permanent; I was moved with my class to another Rochester school. In both instances, my classes were housed in the regular school building, with my students integrated for physical education and lunch. When a federal law enforced mainstreaming, my students gradually were incorporated into other classes. I still remember having to justify inclusion to some folks, especially when my students started to be older than some of the regular education students in the building. I am lucky to have lived long enough to see full inclusion of students with disabilities in regular education classes; this progress was welcomed with open arms.



Seeking life outside an urban setting, we purchased land in Allegany County and proceeded to build a log cabin. Living without running water and electricity was challenging. In the winter, we could only be away for the day, as wood heat kept our place from freezing. Simultaneously, I worked on my Master's Degree in Reading (now Literacy) at the University at Buffalo and substitute taught for Allegany BOCES. I secured a teaching position at BOCES in its preschool program for youngsters with disabilities. The program was housed in the local Grange Hall in Belmont. Given my previous teaching experience and knowledge of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), I was promoted to be the Director of this program that was funded with county funds and Appalachian

Regional Commission Grants. This position required me to complete intake evaluations on all referrals as well as represent the program at local school district Committees on Special Education meetings. I loved my BOCES position and felt as if the hills of Allegany County fulfilled a need. I was grounded and content but my spouse was not happy. We grew apart. I wanted to return to my studies for another degree and was encouraged wholeheartedly by the BOCES Special Education Director. A separation was initiated followed by divorce. Taking a leave of absence from my teaching position, I examined options for doctoral programs. I discovered that I just couldn't afford Boston College or Syracuse University. A visit to Kent, Ohio convinced me that the University's Special Education Programs was ideal. Student loans and the promise of assistantships made this move feasible. And my new beau was willing to join me in this adventure to the Midwest.

We bought a house in Kent so that our family of dogs and cats could move with us. Kent was absolutely wonderful – we had our own place, college courses were demanding but enjoyable, my assistantship in their preschool program help defray tuition costs as did the teaching assistantship, and we were developing a circle of friends at the university. My partner was hired to manage the health food part of the Survival Center. We had access to healthy foods and credible information about diets, which became the foundation for how we eat to this day. We were married by my minister father-in-law at my in-laws' house and prepared the food served to wedding guests. Life was good – we were eating well, staying physically active, enjoying access to Kent's activities (particularly its \$1 movies on campus), and conducting cooking classes at the Survival Center. My dissertation topic had been approved; I had begun to videotape youngsters with



severe physical disabilities as the first part of my data collection. However, our world was about to change significantly! We received a telephone call about a possible baby adoption in Allegany County and dropped everything to meet with the young woman and her family. Three weeks later, we were returning to Allegany County to pick up our son from the hospital. Most couples have nine months or more to prepare for a new baby. We had three weeks...you can imagine the chaos that such little preparation caused. This little fellow was active and didn't sleep through the night for many, many months. Being tired was just routine until the day we fed him a concoction of watered-down rice cereal and goat's milk. Having more in his belly seemed to satisfy him for at least 6 or 7 hours at night so we could once again experience uninterrupted sleep. As video taping was wrapping up and data analysis began, I received a telephone call from my good friend Dennis Perez who relayed that Fredonia was searching for someone with special education expertise. The beloved Larry Maheady left Fredonia for Michigan State;

his position was open and the search so far had not yielded a viable candidate. Even though I was still working on my doctorate, I applied, was interviewed, and secured the position at Fredonia. The pressure was on for us to secure housing, pack, move, and be ready to begin a new position. With the help of the Perez family, we located a house for rent in Cassadaga that would accommodate us, our baby, and pets. We were fortunate to be able to purchase the house at a later date when its owners decided to stay in Colorado.



To say I grew up professionally at Fredonia is an understatement. I worked with dedicated faculty and students. Under the mentorship of Greg Harper and the return of Larry Maheady to our programs, I was fortunate to be involved in research in area schools throughout my time at the university. My husband, Doug, was able to complete a Master's Degree in Special Education at Buffalo State and secure a position in Silver Creek. Our little guy continued to flourish as he moved through preschool, elementary, middle and high school. With the international exchange programs sponsored by Fredonia, I and at times, my family, were able to host Welsh and British students as well as accompany Fredonia students to Wales and England many times. We still maintain contact with the some of the English tutors who spent time at Fredonia.

Teaching was my first love. I couldn't seem to get enough of my students. When education courses included field practica, I was again thrilled to be in area classrooms. Being awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1999 remains one of the highlights of my time at Fredonia.



## Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Dr. Barbara Mallette



I learned quickly that presenting at conferences was an ideal way to disseminate the results of the research being done. Presenting at international conferences became a goal and one way to experience new countries while expanding networking efforts. My mentor made sure that I also learned about the benefits of writing and securing grants. Our Liberty Partnership Program grant was funded; this program is still going strong thirty-five years later. My commitment to international programs was further solidified when Marwan El Nasser and I were awarded a Fulbright-Hays: Group Project Abroad Program to Uzbekistan in 1999. Social Studies teachers from across the country learned first hand the effects of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Five years later, I worked with Najia Aarim-Heriot on another Fulbright-Hays Project to Morocco. For this project, I brought language and social studies teachers to Morocco to experience the infusion of European and African cultures in key Moroccan cities. Writing grants continued to be an important part of my professional life. I worked with other education faculty in obtaining a 2007 United States Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition grant Project *BRIDGE* (*Bringing Resources that Incorporate Development in General Education*). And I secured a second U.S. DOE Office of English Language Acquisition grant MAST<sup>2</sup>ER, (*Mathematics And Science Teacher Training in Educational Resources*) in 2011.

At Fredonia, I was involved with department, division, and campus-wide committees as well as serving on local literacy and early childhood boards and statewide professional associations. Service was easy to provide particularly when student groups were interested in teacher preparation, when administration was supportive, and when fellow faculty shared the load.

As you might be aware, I returned to teaching for one year before resuming retired life. Being master of my own time is one of the best aspects of retirement. I still haven't organized the many boxes of photographs stored in numerous places in our home or culled the four bins of Halloween related items in the attic. But I have plenty of time to garden, read, serve on two boards, cook, bake, sit on the deck, and just be glad that I am "still on this side of the grass." We travel as much as possible, seeking new places but returning to familiar ones too. Life is good.

*"In France, cooking is a serious art form and a national sport."*  
Julia Child

*"The cooking standards for Italian food are less demanding than for French. All you need are some fried mozzarella and five pastas, and you're in business."*  
Danny Meyer



## Emeritus Fall Luncheon—The College Lodge, SUNY Fredonia October 16, 2024



**Emeritus Fall Luncheon—The College Lodge, SUNY Fredonia  
October 16, 2024**





## In Memoriam of Campus Colleagues

Emeritus Distinguished Teaching Professor, Dr. Thomas A. Regelski passed away on October 12, 2024 at his home in Helsinki Finland.

Dr. Regelski joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1966 as an Instructor in the Music Department and retired in 2000 as Emeritus Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Music Education Department.

More information regarding Dr. Regelski's career can be found on the Wikipedia website:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_A.\\_Regelski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_A._Regelski)

Former SUNY Fredonia College Council Member, Ms. JoAnn A. Niebel passed away on November 1, 2024.

Ms. Niebel was first appointed to the College Council in 1997 and served as Chairperson from 1999-2009. She served on the SUNY Fredonia College Council until her term expired in September of 2023. Ms. Niebel also was a Lecturer/Adjunct Instructor for the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work at SUNY Fredonia from 2004-2014.

On behalf of SUNY Fredonia, I am grateful for her long-standing service and attendance at the College Council meetings and Commencement ceremonies, which meant a great deal to the university. The Niebels are great supporters to the university in several areas including Rockefeller Arts Center, Dr. John & Mrs. Joan Glenzer Endowment, and student relief fund. This generosity will not be forgotten.

Memorials may be made to the Sheridan Fire Department, PO Box 122, Sheridan, NY 14135; or to the Sheridan VFW Memorial Post #6390, 2556 Main Road, Silver Creek, NY 14136.

Condolences and/or memories can be posted here: <https://rilesandwoolleyfuneralhome.com/?p=3219>

For seven days, the flag located at Steele Hall was flown at half staff in her honor (November 6-12, 2024).

### Informational Website

Retired Public Employees Association –  
<https://rpea.org/> - Sign up for informational emails and RPEA newsletters.