

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Fall 2024

► My Corner

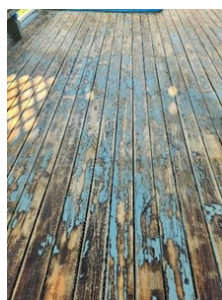
"There is no place like home."
L. Frank Baum

By Barbara Mallette



I admit that I am a frequent user of Google's search function; the site is much too handy! The How-To Videos have made some somewhat complex tasks easy for novice Do-It-Yourselfers. But I learned a valuable lesson about Google searches this summer. What you see is not always what happens. I power washed our deck in June, as I have done every year. Each year

a little of the solid stain applied the previous year loosens and peels off. To my surprise, this year large areas of solid stain were loosened and began to peel. So, I examined our options. And I Googled how to remove solid stain from wood decking. Benjamin Moore offered two videos that made stain removal seem easy. All we had to do was apply their *Remove* product, lightly scrub with a stiff brush, and rinse with a hose or power washer. I should mention that any non-wood surfaces had to be covered with plastic, which meant that the siding, metal frames around the doors and windows, and light fixtures had to be covered in plastic. The back of our house looked like a shrink-wrapped present as we prepared to complete this "simple" task. A single *Remove* application did take off some of the stain but the result was an eyesore. A second application of *Remove* resulted in the removal of more solid stain but enough stain remained that a more aggressive approach was needed. If we wanted to seal the deck, all stain had to be removed. How was this even possible? We rented a deck sander and sanded the entire deck twice, with two different sandpaper grit levels. Then we rented a belt sander to attack some of the boards that weren't level and the tops of the benches. Yes, we learned that an older deck does settle and our brutal southern exposure results in some twisting, warping and fraying boards. But we were (really, I was) determined to complete our mission. To finalize the job and restore the wood to near-new condition, we used palm sanders and paint scrapers as a last attempt to ensure all old stain was removed.



We couldn't believe how good the old wood looked. Could it be we sanded off all of the weathered tops? Could three weeks of daily attacks on the deck paid off? Only two more steps left ..., I could envision having happy hour on the deck with book and wine glass in hand. Once again, Benjamin Moore videos were tapped. We had to use Benjamin Moore's *Brightener* to neutralize the wood, removing tannin and rust stains.

When rinsed off and dried, the deck looked lighter, almost younger. The wood had to dry thoroughly, at least 48 hours, before we could seal it. Because the wood was dry and thirsty for a sealant and protectant, almost 5 gallons of *F & P* sealant was needed to complete the job.

In the midst of this gruesome task, I wondered how long we could last. The temperatures were brutal. Work had to be completed mornings and early evenings or we would be victims of heat stroke. But the deck is finished and we can once again enjoy our late afternoons relaxing there. Folks are amazed that we did the work ourselves; we are amazed that we lived through the process. When asked for my advice about redoing their decks or installing a deck, I reply all too quickly "We are done with decks." And "Use a composite material" even though I have committed to wood decking. I hate to admit that we will have to seal the deck again next year because of how fast the wood absorbed the sealant and probably every 3 years.



"The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary."
Vidal Sassoon

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

► Additional Information

- ◆ Fredonia has many activities that may interest you. Check out the variety of events that are offered this semester and beyond: <https://events.fredonia.edu>.
- ◆ **RESERVE YOUR PLACE:** Fall Emeritus Luncheon, College Lodge, **October 16th**. We are returning to the College Lodge as you requested. Fingers crossed for a beautiful fall day! The reservation form appears in this newsletter. Send your check to Cathe Kilpatrick by October 7th.
- ◆ **FREE CONCERT:** The United States Navy Commodores will perform on our campus in King Concert Hall on Monday, October 21st. Although the event is free, you must obtain tickets in advance. <https://events.fredonia.edu/event/us-navy-jazz-band-commodores>

► Update Your Contact Information

- ◆ Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? If so, please let us know so we can update your file. You may email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3456.
- ◆ Please email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu to receive the newsletter via email—it would help to reduce mailing costs.

► Appointment of Dr. Tracy Stenger



Dr. Tracy Stenger has been appointed to the role of Vice President for Student Affairs at SUNY Fredonia. Dr. Stenger has been serving in this role on an interim basis since November 2021.

President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. noted in his announcement, “Dr. Stenger comes with a deep institutional knowledge of SUNY Fredonia and has excelled in various roles over the course of her 25-year career, including Assistant Director and Director of the Counseling Center. Her international experience is extensive, including teaching in Malaysia and Japan. She has held adjunct instructional appointments at Canisius College, University at Buffalo, and Genesee Community College.”

He added, “I have found her commitment to this university to be exceptional. In the more than two years that she has served as Interim Vice President, she has demonstrated reliability and the desire to make a positive difference in her work.”

Dr. Stenger earned a Ph.D. in Counselor Education from the State University at Buffalo, a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from SUNY Fredonia.

Stenger’s appointment was effective July 1.

► Emeritus Group October Luncheon



Emeritus Group October Luncheon The College Lodge, Brocton, NY Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Please reserve **Wednesday, October 16th** for our next Emeriti Luncheon at the College Lodge in Brocton, NY. We will meet and mingle over fruit juice punch at 11:30 a.m.— lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

- ◆ Rolls and Butter
- ◆ Fresh Fruit Salad
- ◆ Mixed Green Salad
- ◆ Seasonal Grilled Vegetables (featuring zucchini, yellow squash, red peppers and red onions)
- ◆ Scalloped Potatoes
- ◆ Stuffed Shells w/Marinara Sauce – vegetarian
- ◆ Sliced Roasted Pork Loin Finished with Rosemary Demi-Glace
- ◆ Apple Pie and Vanilla Ice Cream
- ◆ Coffee/Decaf/Tea/Iced Water

Please send your reservations and checks payable to Emeritus Group for \$25.00 per person to cover the lunch and College Lodge fees by October 7th to:

Cathe Kilpatrick
491 Chestnut Street
Fredonia, NY 14063

Please note that Barbara and Doug are out of town until 10/12. Cathe will be collecting reservations and informing FSA of our “headcount.”

We look forward to seeing you all.
—Barbara, Doug, and Cathe

Detach here and mail to Cathe.

Name (s) _____

Number attending _____

Enclosed is a check (payable to Emeritus Group) for \$ _____
(by **October 7th** please)

NOTE: If you are attending the luncheon but forget to mail your check in a timely fashion, email Cathe (catherine.kilpatrick@fredonia.edu) to confirm a reservation for you and additional person(s). You can pay for your lunch(es) at the door.

► Newsbit—Tom Loughlin Receives Acting Nomination

SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor *Emeritus* Tom Loughlin received a nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play from the 2024 Artie Awards Committee for his performance as Gregory Solomon in the Irish Classical Theatre Company production of *The Price* by Arthur Miller. Conceived in 1991 by *Artvoice* Theatre Editor Anthony Chase, the Arties are the Buffalo theatre community's version of Broadway's Tony Awards.

This is Tom's 4th Artie nomination in his 35 years acting in Buffalo theatres. He won the Outstanding Supporting Actor category in 2014 playing Polonius in Shakespeare in Delaware Park's production of *Hamlet*, and in 2022 he was honored with a Career Achievement Award for his body of work as an actor as well as a lifelong theatre educator. He joined the SUNY Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance in 1988 and was promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2010. He chaired the department from 2010-2016 and retired after 29 years in 2017. He currently produces and hosts the 1891 Fredonia Opera House podcast *Notes from the Aisle Seat*, which appears every other Wednesday during the opera house season.

Set in New York City in 1968, *The Price* tells the story of two estranged brothers who meet unexpectedly after 30 years in the attic of their boyhood home to sell their parents' furniture. Loughlin played the role of the 89-year-old Russian-Jewish immigrant furniture dealer Solomon, who comes to potentially buy the estate's goods. The play was Arthur Miller's last Broadway success, running for 429 performances. The Irish Classical Theatre Company's production ran from April 19-May 12, 2024, and, while Tom eventually did not win the category, the production itself was nominated in 8 categories and won 3, including Outstanding Production of a Play, and Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress for the two lead performers. The production was also cited by Buffalo Spree Magazine as Best Production of a Play for the 2024 season.

Tom's performance garnered very positive reviews. Anthony Chase, Buffalo's chief theatre critic and host of WBFO's Theatre Talk, called Tom's acting "a perfect performance from one of Buffalo's most venerable actors." Buffalo Rising website called the performance "letter perfect," while Broadway World Buffalo wrote "Loughlin is wonderfully blustery and aged, finding all the humor." "I'm pretty honored just to have been nominated," Tom said. "It's not too often you get to be a part of a show so well done and well received by the public and the theatre community. Buffalo is a great theatre town, and I'm thrilled to have been a member of its theatrical community for over 35 years."

Tom spent this past summer directing and performing in the Lakeshore Center for the Arts' Juicebox Organic Festival in Westfield, as well as participating in a staged reading of *Mediumship Unveiled: Mae, The Medium, and the Skeptics* at Lily Dale for their 2024 Woman's Day Event. With no more projects on the immediate horizon, Tom and his wife Ann Marie (Director of Field Experiences *Emerita*) plan to take the opportunity do a little more traveling this fall than usual.

► A Big Blue Welcome to SUNY Fredonia!



► Emeritus Spotlight—Dick and Ellie Reddy

By Dick Reddy and Barbara Mallette

Like so many children who were born in the early 1940s, while my mother was there at my birth (nothing unusual there!), my father was on an all-expense paid visit to Western Europe helping to invade it as an officer in the 7th Armored Division. He survived that tour, including the Battle of the Bulge, returning home to see me for the first time in Chicago, where my mother had been born and lived.

My father was born in Massachusetts and had strong family ties there. He had graduated from Syracuse with majors in journalism and in sociology; his dream job was to be the editor of a small-town newspaper (his great grandfather was both a highly successful physician and the night editor for one of Boston's newspapers). That editing job never happened. He did investigate if he could be an assistant/associate with an editor to whom he was very close in northern Vermont. The need for a salary squashed his hopes for the Vermont position. By this point in time, in addition to me, the first child, there were two more children added to the Reddy family.



While I lived in various places in the Chicago area, including attending kindergarten, my father found an opportunity to promote New England tourism with the New England Council, the Chamber of Commerce for the six New England states. His office was in Boston so we moved to Dedham, Massachusetts, just south of Boston's border. Dedham has two claims to fame. The Fairbanks house, the oldest frame house in America, is located there as is the Dedham Court House, where the Sacco-Vanzetti trial was held. The link to Dedham proved life changing. My father was offered a job to "sell space" (ads) for *Holiday Magazine*, then a part of Curtis Publishing, which also published *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Ladies Home Journal*. A benefit of that job was that we received a lot of magazines for free, often two weeks before these magazines hit the newsstands. Growing up, I was a big fan of magazines such as *Arizona Highways* and *Architectural Digest* along with *Colliers* and the three newsmagazines (*Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report*). Taking the *Holiday Magazine* position meant moving to Kirkwood, Missouri, just west of St. Louis. We had a home one house away from Alternate Route 66 before the Interstate system was in place. As a result, we heard a lot of truck traffic, especially on summer nights when our windows were open to accommodate our huge attic fan that attempted to make temperatures at least semi-tolerable. I finished 7th and 8th grade in Kirkwood as well as freshman year of high school.

The ability to sell seemed to be in my father's blood. He took a job doing advertising work for the Brown Paper Company whose Nibroc paper towels and dispensers were well known at the time. The company's offices were on Causeway Street in Boston, adjacent to the North Station and the Boston Garden. My family moved to Framingham, west of Boston, where I attended Framingham High School for my sophomore and junior years. In addition to academics, I was on their state championship science team, was regularly doing promotions for the prom, was involved in theatre productions, and was the likely stage manager for the senior play. I was a member of several church choirs and was elected to serve as the president of the Deanery CYO. But I never became the state manager, as my father assumed a job (and subsequently several different jobs) in advertising in New York City. Because the first job wouldn't begin until the beginning of the next calendar year, my father dreamed up a solution. The family would move to Westport, Connecticut; I would commute from Framingham throughout the fall term so I would complete my senior year at Staples High School in Westport. You can imagine the challenge of enrolling in three high schools in three different states. The coursework at each was quite different; I had a rude introduction to the "new math" in a senior level math course at Staples where my classmates had been exposed to the "new math" for years. While I wanted to enroll elsewhere for college, my father preferred Fairfield University, as Fairfield was a neighboring town. I honored my father's wishes by attending Fairfield for two years where I very much enjoyed participating in the Glee Club and where I was one of the 8 in their smaller novelty group. After my initial two years, I was off to Boston College living in a variety of locations in Massachusetts (Lenox, Weston, Brookline, Newton Center--up Heartbreak Hill to the BC campus-- and Brighton).

At Fairfield, I thought I wanted to major in American History. But by the time I got to Boston College (BC), sociology was getting a lot of positive press. I thought I'd check out sociology as a major without having taken a single course! Surprisingly, sociology proved to be an excellent choice. At BC, I added a second major in philosophy, graduating summa cum laude. To my good fortune, BC was just starting a Ph.D. program in sociology; I was one of the very first to be admitted to this new program. And even more fortuitous, I was awarded a fairly generous National Science Foundation Award which paid for my tuition along with a modest stipend. In my doctoral program, I started to assume leadership roles and was the first graduate student to serve on BC's faculty senate.

I should backtrack here for a moment. My friends and a group of Ellie's friends regularly met for lunch in BC's cafeteria in McElroy Commons. As we were getting together at the start of our junior year, Ellie mentioned that she lived in Dedham and that her home was in its Oakdale section. This fact absolutely surprised me because, after we moved away, I had never encountered anyone who had lived in Dedham, let alone attended the same schools as I and my siblings had attended. In fact, it turned out that Ellie had been in the same second grade class as my younger brother. One street separated our homes there; we could even see each other's houses. While the story of my relationship with Ellie is much more than lunches at the cafeteria, these proved to be the start of our friendship and marriage, which has lasted 54 years.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Dick and Ellie Reddy *continued*

Ellie was born in Boston in 1946. She lived in the same home in Dedham until we married. Ellie was very active in her high school years in Dedham. She was in the All-State Orchestra (violin) as well as All-State Chorus and played in local school and community orchestras. Ellie was the student conductor of her high school orchestra in addition to having a part in the senior play, and being on the yearbook committee. She also became an excellent pianist. Ellie pursued a special education major at BC, graduating magna cum laude. When we married in 1969, she had been assigned to a "trainable" class in the Foxborough School System. We moved to a very small apartment there, with me commuting to BC for my sociology work and Ellie commuting to get her first master's degree, in special education, there.

Although I was still working on my dissertation that focused on factors associated with individual participation in formal voluntary associations, I entered the job market in spring of 1971. Ellie and I expected to spend our lives with me working at a college somewhere near Boston. We dreamed of having a garrison colonial house with a white picket fence in front. These dreams didn't come to fruition. I applied to a number of colleges in the Boston area, but expanded my search to the then growing SUNY system. My first SUNY interview was at Fredonia. The department was searching for someone to teach statistics, one of several courses I had taught at BC. I was offered a position at Fredonia and gladly accepted it. Like all of the SUNY's "normal schools," Fredonia was in transition from being a normal school to becoming more fully a liberal arts school. And so, the need for a sociology major!

When I arrived, there was a parking lot where Thompson Hall now stands. "Tin Man Hill" was created when they were excavating Thompson's basement. I recall watching the iron work being erected for Thompson Hall. Many departments were scattered across the campus; a number of departments were quite literally housed in homes along the west side of Central Avenue. While the department offices were in Rockefeller overlooking the quad, my office and most of the other faculty members had offices on the second floor of Fenton Hall in the northeast corner.

Ellie was fortunate to secure her first New York job as a special education teacher in Dunkirk's School #7. The position was quite a culture shock for Ellie and for the staff at the school. All of the other teachers there had graduated from Fredonia. The vast majority of them had lived in Dunkirk their entire lives and largely knew everything about one another. Ellie, though, was an outsider – a totally unknown entity. Over the years, Ellie continued to teach special education classes in Fredonia and for BOCES. But she increasingly understood a job that was less physically demanding was needed. She decided to get a second master's degree, this time in Library Science with a specialty in school library media science at the University of Buffalo (UB). Although I helped with the driving (all the classes were at night), Ellie was a star pupil in that program and eventually even taught a number of graduate courses for the program.



Ellie worked as a school library media specialist for BOCES, assuming the directorship of the BOCES Media Center, working out of the Fredonia site. When it became possible to retire from that position, Ellie did so. She retired on a Friday, scheduling an appointment the following Monday with the chair of Fredonia's Education Department to inquire about supervision of student teachers. But Ellie had skills that were needed in the program; she left that interview with essentially a full-time job, teaching courses in media literacy. Ellie taught education courses for 10 years: media literacy and technology, schools in American Society, and children's literature. Among her very special accomplishments was the founding of the Belize Program in 2006, an opportunity for Fredonia students (most of them from education or speech pathology and audiology [now Communication Disorders and Sciences]) to spend two weeks in the winter intersession, teaching in classrooms in Belize City. Participating students completed a Fall semester orientation and collected materials for the schools they would be visiting. The Belize Program proved to be an exceptional experience that was transformative for many of the participants. In addition to supervising the Fredonia students in Belize, Ellie also conducted workshops for teachers who came from other parts of Belize. Although the program was suspended during Covid, fortunately it had been resurrected.

Finishing my dissertation took longer than expected. The data analysis proved to be quite complex and challenging. Unlike Boston College, Fredonia's Computer Center was still quite primitive. Fredonia, along with several other SUNY schools had purchased computers from Burroughs whose computers and software were designed for business/banking uses. Fredonia's programmers tried to make the computers and software work in an academic setting. And even more challenging, the computer's core was quite small and initially wouldn't allow me to do the multiple regressions I needed. Jim McKenna in the Math Department solved the problem; he was able to partition the core so that my analyses could be completed. Still, in the punch card era, data entry was time consuming. In May 1974, I could breathe a sigh of relief. I completed degree requirements and earned a Ph.D. from BC.

I was a founding member and officer of The Association of Voluntary Action Scholars (AVAS) and served its journal, the *Journal of Voluntary Action Research* for a number of years in various editorial capacities. AVAS expanded a few years later and is now known as The Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA).

At Fredonia, I soon plunged into both campus governance and administrative work. The Sociology Department was on its second chair, Ed Ludwig, when I arrived. When Ed secured a single-semester sabbatical leave, I became acting chair. Subsequently, when Ed chose to step down as Chair, I assumed the Chairmanship, serving two three-year terms. The demands of being department chair challenged my completion of scholarly research and publication. But I was deeply committed to what has been called "the scholarship of teaching." I read extensively throughout the year on the issues associated with the courses I was teaching, incorporating whatever was new and important into each course. Ultimately, I taught a score of different courses for the Sociology Department.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Dick and Ellie Reddy *continued*

In governance, I started out chairing a Bylaws Revision Committee, as our bylaws reflected Fredonia as a normal school. This committee was productive. We had to grapple with a number of questions, including how to include faculty, professionals, and librarians in the bylaws revision. A stumbling block for us was where did the librarians belong. After much discussion and compromise, the librarians were included in the professionals category. Luckily, the new bylaws received both campus and SUNY approval.



In faculty governance, I regularly served in leadership roles for the Faculty Council/University Senate. I served at least twice in every executive committee position and, for a number of years, served as the parliamentarian. In addition, I can say with confidence that I served on virtually every governance committee, chairing most of them as well as serving on a number of campus search committees. Furthermore, I served as the Director of Fredonia's General Education Program and as the Director of the Office of Faculty Development. While in the faculty development position, I was elected and served a two-year term as a member of the Core Committee of The Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD), the international organization for those involved in faculty development work. My involvement with the United University Professions (UUP), both on campus

and statewide was extensive. I served as UUP Campus President for a number of years and as our campus newsletter editor. Keeping our membership informed about UUP locally and statewide was important to me; I distributed our newsletters across campus. With Tom Morrissey's help, we created and distributed the annual UUP calendars as well as a form so faculty members could post their office hours on their office doors. At the statewide level, I served on a number of committees and served a term as one of UUP's statewide officers, the Membership Development Officer. For some years every Spring, Tom Morrissey and I made many trips to Albany, leaving Fredonia on Monday evenings, lobbying with State legislators for the SUNY budget on Tuesday, and returning to Fredonia to teach on Wednesday.

Although I have many years of experience in governance and union activities, a few experiences are noteworthy. One afternoon as I looked beyond the campus and across the street toward the church, I noticed a number of students standing near the curb awaiting the bus that would take them to Buffalo. The weather was cold and damp; I encouraged President Beal to investigate making the wait more comfortable for our students. Dallas was able to get a shelter constructed for students. Subsequently, we've had shelters on campus.

One academic year, the SUNY Chancellor's Office notified all campuses that they were discontinuing that office's awards for excellence programs. I recommended to our campus president, Don MacPhee, that we institute an internal President's Award Program. Don did so, creating the first President's Award. When the Chancellor's Award Program was revived, the campus continued to maintain its own excellence program.

As you may know, there are health and safety regulations for fire drills on campus. One fall semester, the university police chose a nice fall day for that semester's fire drill. But, as you might expect, they had no sense of the campus academic calendar, choosing a day and a time when many students were taking midterms. NOT GOOD. I was able to convince the Campus President to make sure that fire drills occurred either well before or well after midterms were scheduled.

As for UUP, while there were any number of accomplishments that I was able to do to advise and protect our membership, one stands out. During the fall semester, I was teaching on the first floor of Thompson. Class had come to an end, but the aisles between the desks were crowded with backpacks and, of course, students trying to exit. It occurred to me that this was a major fire hazard. At the time UUP had a health and safety officer; I contacted him. While the rules for safe occupancy are fairly complex (they differ by the number of doors in the room and by the function of the room as a classroom or a lab), I was able to secure that information. Next, I measured the square footage of each classroom on our campus. Some classrooms were in compliance with safety codes, but the majority of classrooms were out of compliance. I published my results with our campus membership, with Vice President Hess, and with Registrar Nan Bowser. While the Course Offering Bulletin had already been produced, Nan was able to bring all the classrooms into compliance for the beginning of the Spring Semester.

Ellie and I have traveled extensively, mostly driving in the U.S. Early on, we drove from Fredonia to the West Coast, returning through Canada. The Rockies, including Rocky Mountain National Park and Jasper and Banff in Canada, were particularly breathtaking. This trip included our first and only experience of Arizona before we moved there, flying from Las Vegas to the Grand Canyon and back, spending only a few hours on the ground at the Canyon. Around the same time, we discovered Sanibel and Captiva Islands, barrier islands off the coast of Fort Myers, Florida. Ellie had enjoyed shelling as a child at her family's summer cottage on Cape Cod. I had noticed an article in the Times which talked about how good the shelling was on these islands. We loved our first trip to Southseas Plantation on Captiva and returned on several occasions, buying timeshares there and then at Tortuga Beach Club on Sanibel. Soon we were spending as much as six weeks there each summer for twenty years. These timeshare purchases only whetted our appetites for more, adding new timeshares in Williamsburg, Virginia, and Boston (at the Custom House) as well as the Ponds at Foxhollow in Lenox, Massachusetts. We also owned timeshares in Aruba.

Our move to Arizona required major changes in our timeshare use. We managed to trade our timeshares in the East for timeshare experiences in the West. Doing so allows us to stay regularly in the Phoenix area and Sedona in Arizona, and in Lake Tahoe and Escondido in California. Being out West has the advantage of easy access to National Parks including the Grand Canyon, Arches, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Canyonlands, Yosemite, Petrified Forest, Joshua Tree, Black Canyon of the Gunnison and, of course, our very nearby Saguaro National Park. We really enjoyed these parks, just as we enjoyed Acadia National Park, Great Smoky National Park, and Everglades National Park.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Dick and Ellie Reddy *continued*

Besides traveling to view natural phenomena, we are drawn to the art representative of our travels. Our collection, on display throughout our home, contains wonderful reminders of where we've been and what we've done. As we approached retirement, we made a number of changes/upgrades to our home in Fredonia, one we had built using a model in Florida that we actually had expected to build there. But three of Ellie's physicians, our GP, her orthopedic surgeon, and her orthopedic neurosurgeon recommended that we move because Ellie was becoming increasingly sensitive to drops in barometric pressure due to her severe arthritis. While most of us don't notice those changes in our bones, they are evident when it's windy, rainy, or snowy (i.e., Western New York State weather!). From my research with the National Weather Service, three locations experienced more steady barometric pressure: Hawaii, San Diego or Arizona. Hawaii was just too impractical and too expensive for us. San Diego would also be too expensive and the city was vulnerable to wildfires and earthquakes. So, Arizona became our default location even though we had had virtually no experience with the state.

We generated our list of needs and wants for a retirement home and where we'd prefer to live. Both the Phoenix and Tucson areas intrigued us; it quickly became clear that the Tucson area would be a better choice, being far more scenic and far less "big city." Ellie worked with a real estate agent, mostly online, and found three "active adult" communities to check out. She flew to Tucson, explored the three communities and homes in each. One stood out: The Highlands at Dove Mountain in Marana (just north and a bit west of Tucson itself). One Highlands home in particular attracted her due to its spectacular, unimpeded view of the Santa Catalina Mountain Range. Ellie made an offer, which was accepted.



Tucson is a unique city, surrounded by sizable mountain ranges. It has very deep cultural roots, both native American and Mexican. Each Spring one of the largest gem and mineral shows in the world is featured in Tucson. Also in the Spring, there's a huge rodeo, including a massive parade. The event is so momentous that schools close so the students can attend. Tucson currently is the only city in the U.S. to have won a UNESCO City of Gastronomy Award, recognizing both its excellence in dining and its very rich cultural heritages.

On to Marana we headed. Over the years we have significantly upgraded that home with a new kitchen and with two new bathrooms, including recently a walk-in Jacuzzi-like tub. Much of our Fredonia furniture worked well, but very little of what we acquired while living in Fredonia was anything "Southwestern." We've gradually have made that transition.

Marana Arizona, just north of Tucson, is wonderful. We have a lovely home here with a truly spectacular view to the East of the Santa Catalina Mountains, including Mount Lemmon. We are nestled in the Tortolita Mountains on Dove Mountain. Although we don't golf, there are three excellent and highly scenic 18-hole golf courses along Dove Mountain Boulevard including our own at The Highlands (our home is just before the 12th tee), The Gallery, and the Golf Club at Dove Mountain (associated with the Ritz Carlton). Daily, we very much appreciate the many scenic views and the amazing flora and fauna in our area. And the weather is nearly ideal for us. Our area is one of the very sunniest in the U.S. While it is hot (a very dry heat) during the summer, it only very rarely freezes or snows. No need for warm coats, gloves, hats, snow brushes, snow shovels, snow blowers, snow tires, snow wiper blades, and so on. No need for antifreeze for windshield wipers. And at the end of January, we are already into Spring. With only a few days when the nighttime temperatures fall below freezing, I am able to wear shorts and polo shirts for much of our former winter months.

► Fredonia Street Piano Project II pianos have been placed in Fredonia and Dunkirk!

Each piano was named by the artist:

- ◆ "see yourself here" (Ibi Sonne Amhild), placed outside the west entrance to Mason Hall at SUNY Fredonia.
- ◆ "Four-Legged Family" (Mackenzie Sheldon), at Fredonia's Barker Commons
- ◆ "wandering koi pond" (Jazz Fiore, between the Dunkirk Pier and Boardwalk.

Buffalo-based Big L Windows & Doors, the primary sponsor of the Fredonia Street Piano Project through the Fredonia College Foundation, is also connected to SUNY Fredonia. The project receives additional support from the Fredonia School of Music, Department of Theatre and Dance, and Department of Visual Arts and New Media.

In case of inclement weather, there is a tarp folded up behind the piano.

The Fredonia Street Piano Project places artist-designed pianos in public spaces at SUNY Fredonia, the Village of Fredonia, and the City of Dunkirk for anyone and everyone to play in an open festival of art.



Artist: Ibi Sonne Amhild,
"see yourself here"



Artist: Jazz Fiore
"wandering koi pond"



Artist: Mackenzie Sheldon,
"Four-Legged Family"

Caption: Will Tappan and Graham Howes, piano technicians at SUNY Fredonia School of Music test out the newest additions.

Photos: Marc Levy

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. John Ramsey passed away on Monday, May 13, 2024.

Dr. Ramsey joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in September of 1970 as an Assistant Professor of English and was later promoted to Associate Professor in 1976; and Professor in 1981. Dr. Ramsey served as the Acting Chairperson in the Department of English from 1978-1979; and Chairperson from 1981-1985. He retired and was awarded the Emeritus rank in 2004.

A private service for the family will be held at a later date.

Dr. J. Brien Murphy passed away on Wednesday, August 28, 2024.

Dr. Murphy joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1957, as an Assistant Professor I and retired in 1993 as Associate Professor of Education. Dr. Murphy served on many committees as well as serving as the Chairperson for the Education Department and Director of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Murphy was a Fredonia College Foundation board member for over 30 years and a recipient of Foundation's Distinguished Award.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Fredonia College Foundation, Class of 1953 Scholarship Fund, 272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY (<https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/fredonia-college-foundation/>), Dunkirk Free Library (<https://www.dunkirklibrary.org/>), Aspire of WNY (<https://www.aspirewny.org/>).