

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Fall 2023

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette

"The trouble is, you cannot grow just one zucchini. Minutes after you plant a single seed, hundreds of zucchini will barge out of the ground and sprawl around the garden, menacing the other vegetables. At night, you will be able to hear the ground quake as more and more zucchinis erupt."

Dave Barry



Did it seem to you that September arrived early this year? I was just getting used to August and another month popped up! The University is back in session and traffic has picked up locally. I used to gauge my gardening season by what academic duties arose. As finals were due in the spring semester, we were planning and preparing for our vegetable gardens. While summer courses were underway, we were trying to stay ahead of the green beans and zucchini. And it seemed every year when the fall semester began and life at the University was hectic, just about all of the tomatoes ripened at once. Vegetable maturity followed its own schedule. Now that we are retired, I am discovering that the vegetables still follow their own peculiar ripening schedules. We pick beans on a sunny hot day, wash, steam and freeze one or two quarts. Two days later, after clouds and some rain, the

beans seem to have swollen to new dimensions. Don't get me started about the zucchini. Doug was right; I didn't thin the zucchini plants! Now one needs to be a geocacher to find reasonably sized zucchini among the tangle of leaves. And...you guessed it, two days later monster zucchini appeared in obvious places. At that point, we have zucchini in just about every dish: omelets, pizza, stir fries, frittatas, breaded & fried, cookies, breads, and salads. Even though beans and zucchinis are prolific and dealing with their bounties can be challenging, the eventual presence of blight saddens even the hearty gardener. As the summer wraps up, these plants just look tired and seem to want to rest.

"There is nothing that is comparable to it, as satisfactory or as thrilling as gathering vegetables one has grown."
Alice B. Toklas

Doug was gifted a felt wool bird house designed for a small bird that he hung in our lilac bushes. For months we have heard the trill and chitter of house wrens and have watched with great delight two house wrens entering the bird house to feed their brood of hatched chicks. Their constant flights into and out of the nest leaves us wondering how many chicks they are feeding. We try to be optimistic that we might observe the chicks fledging. But are realistic that they will emerge when the time is right, even if we aren't on the deck with our breaths held.



This summer has been productive but we have had to say farewell to some kind and creative folks who have passed. Their passing is a reminder that we are sharing this "earth walk" for what seems like a short time. As we head into the fall months and beyond, let's commit to staying connected with our colleagues in some small way, be it an email, posted note, or phone call. Better yet, try to attend one of the Emeritus Group events to see folks in person! May the fall colors of September bring you joy.

"In the cookie of life, friends are the chocolate chips."
Salman Rushdie

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

- At our June luncheon, we discussed future Emeritus activities. The group decided to continue luncheons in the spring and the fall, with the College Lodge the preferred venue. Attendees hoped that the Lanford House remodeling would be finished this fall so that a holiday gathering could be held there. The suggestion for hosting a happy hour was discussed. If someone is interesting in taking the lead on a happy hour, contact Barbara, Cathe, or Sandy.
- As mentioned at our June luncheon, Norma Braude contacted the President's Office and volunteered to pay \$100 per issue to defray postage costs for the newsletters mailed to colleagues. Norma's generosity ensures that folks will continue to receive the printed version of the newsletter. Again, we thank Norma for keeping emeritus faculty and staff informed of university events.
- Fredonia's bicentennial will be here in just a short time (2026). Attendees at the June luncheon suggested that the Emeritus Group consider an event with student alumni to celebrate this special occasion. Barbara contacted Patty Feraldi (Alumni Affairs) about the planning involved. Patty thought a joint event with alumni was a great idea; we will move forward on this matter after Homecoming 2023 festivities have been completed.
- Homecoming is planned for October 20th through October 22nd. Please consult Fredonia's Events Page for events that pique your interest: <https://events.fredonia.edu/event/homecoming-weekend-oct-2023>
- Check out the Rockefeller Arts Center upcoming events: <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/rockefeller-arts-center>

► 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.

► Emeritus Group October Luncheon



Emeritus Group October Luncheon The College Lodge, Brocton, NY Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Please reserve **Wednesday, October 18th** 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 \$23.60 per person to cover the lunch and College Lodge fee by October 8th to:

Barbara Mallette
PO Box 328
Cassadaga, NY 14718

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

Detach here and mail to Barbara.



Name (s) _____

Number attending _____

Enclosed is a check (payable to Emeritus Group) for \$ _____ **(by October 8th please)**

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

► Newsbit

Dr. Richard Weist continues to write professionally. He sent the following information on his recent publications for inclusion in our Emeritus Newsletter

Weist, R. M. (2023). The acquisition of spatial and temporal systems and the expression of space-time metaphor. In E. Gerganov, H. Kyuchukov, M. Samko (Eds.) *LSLAB 04: Linguistics and Children's Language Development*. (28-55). Munich, Germany: Lincom. ISBN 9783969391006

Comment: My cross-linguistic research project involving Polish, Finnish, and English was designed to study the relationship between language and thought. More specifically, I have been investigating the possibility that the linguistic form of spatial and temporal systems of a child's language influences the child's conceptual development, i.e., a developmental "Whorfian Hypothesis." Within the syntactic structure of every language there is a system designed to express temporal and spatial relations, e.g., for time, past versus future tense in Polish and for space, suffixes specifying such relations as *into* versus *out of* in Finnish. These systems are coded differently in different languages and the infant-toddler must break the code. When the system is "child friendly" (i.e., transparent to the child's information processing system), the acquisition process is facilitated, opening a link to conceptual development; e.g., Polish temporal system and Finnish spatial system. In this 2023 chapter, I presented "the case that temporal and spatial systems are constructed on different linguistic platforms, and further, the acquisition process is relative, leading to the diversity of space-time metaphors and providing support for the Whorfian hypothesis."

Weist, R. M. (2023). Functional acquisition processes in child language: links to role and reference grammar. In D. Bentley, R. Mairal-Usón, W. Nakamura, R. D. Van Valin, Jr. (Eds.) *The Cambridge Handbook of Role and Reference Grammar*. (pp. 266 – 292). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9781316418086

Comment: We know that the human infant is genetically designed to process linguistic information. Given an ambient language environment, children acquire their exposure language when they are about two-years-old. These many diverse languages have universal properties, and linguistic theories attempt to capture these properties. Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) is one of these theories. My chapter examines the child language research and makes the argument that the data support acquisition patterns predictable within the RRG theoretical framework.

Weist, R. M. (2023). Semantic Theory versus Semantic "Lumping": Reply to Bertinetto et al. (2015) The acquisition of tense and aspect in morphology-sensitive framework: data from Italian and Austrian-German children. *Linguistics*, 61(1), 265-274. ISSN: 1613-396X

Comment: The authors of this 2015 article published in the journal *Linguistics* formulated a "straw-person argument". Their argument contained an incorrect understanding of prior research concerning the semantic structure of the lexicon in child language including my research which is found in the same journal, e.g., Weist, et al. (2009) Finiteness systems and lexical aspect in child Polish and English. *Linguistics*.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Steve Mayo

By Barbara Mallette



"Music enhances the education of our children by helping them to make connections and broadening the depth with which they think and feel. If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children's education."
Yo-Yo Ma

Steve Mayo was born in Dallas Texas; he always teased his mother that he was born in the wrong place, "must have been a mix-up at air freight." His mother didn't find Steve's comment funny. He completed his primary and secondary education in local schools before heading to Dallas where he enrolled in the Dallas Baptist University and completed an Associate's Degree in Music. The call of the classroom and lure of music were much too strong for Steve. As a result, he pursued music education at Oklahoma Baptist University, earning a Bachelor's Degree there. Steve secured a position at an elementary school in Garland Texas. At the same time, he served as a paid soloist at the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. As often the case for music teachers, additional preparation is sought to update their skills and to prepare them for more advanced programs. The Master's in Music Education (MME) in Denton Texas (University of North Texas) seemed an ideal match for Steve's pursuit of deeper knowledge in his field. A move to Kansas City, Kansas to fill a music teacher position at the Shawnee Mission Schools extended Steve's instructional skills. Steve and his wife spent three years in Kansas City. The desire to continue teaching music and music education fed Steve's passion and interest in music. With MME in hand, Steve set his sights on teaching at the college level. A move of over a thousand miles brought him to Greensboro, North Carolina when he was accepted in the University of North Carolina's doctoral program in music education. Here he pursued advanced music and music education courses as well as research in brain development in music education. Steve served as a graduate assistant who taught education majors how to teach music to children. To supplement his meager income, Steve also taught at several local colleges. Steve's first daughter was born during their time in NC.

► Emertisu Spotlight *continued*—Steve Mayo

Steve took advantage of the opportunity to teach music education courses at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Here he also supervised all the music student teachers within the state as well as in Iowa and Nebraska. As all of us know, with the terminal degree in hand, Steve sought a permanent teaching position at an institution of higher education. Fortunately for him, Fredonia was searching for a music educator. Fredonia's strong music program and commitment to music education attracted Steve. But the presence at Fredonia of one of the leading writers in brain development in music education (Tom Regelski) was Steve's deciding factor. In Fall 1998, Steve moved north of the Mason-Dixon Line to Fredonia when he joined the music faculty. The second Mayo daughter was born in Fredonia, a cause for celebration. Perhaps the numerous moves, the demands made on new professors, the closeness of a small community, or any number of factors, Steve was happier at Fredonia than his wife. The relationship didn't survive Steve's tenure at Fredonia.

In his 32 years at Fredonia, Steve has served in a number of positions. He chaired Music Education for many years, serving on the Professional Education Council when the University was undergoing initial accreditation for its teacher certification programs. In addition, Steve was promoted to the Associate Directorship of the School of Music where he continued to advocate for Fredonia's music and music education majors.

"Music education can help spark a child's imagination or ignite a lifetime of passion. When you provide a child with new worlds to explore and challenges to tackle, the possibilities are endless. Music education should not be a privilege for a lucky few, it should be a part of every child's world of possibility."
Hillary Clinton

Distilling his long tenure at our University is difficult. A review of Steve's illustrious career at Fredonia includes some of his favorite highlights. He sang the role of Schaunard in *La Boheme* in the Hillman Opera. With John Olsavsky, Steve secured a grant to explore use of internet courses via the Top Class teaching platform. John and he employed their computer prowess to develop the first web page for SUNY Fredonia, the first web page for the School of Music, and the first web page for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). They even team-taught summer courses about the Internet. Steve is particularly proud of the installation of six paintings in the School of Music Mason Hall Lobby that depict music students and alumni.

In the 12 years since he retired, Steve has remained busy. He sings with numerous community music ensembles. In fact, Steve is celebrating 37 years of singing with the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Buffalo. He has directed the Westminster Presbyterian Church Handbell Ensemble for 25 years. When he is not singing, one can find Steve on his bike. He has biked the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany seven times. His love of the outdoors is evident in his talk of his Hosta gardens. Surprising, Steve still finds time to paint and to display his paintings in most of the major outdoor art shows in Western New York State.

Steve enjoys spending time with his second wife Cindy, who is a true partner in his activities (except the Erie Canal biking treks). This summer, they leave in mid-July for a singing tour to Iceland and England. Their two adult daughters can be described as "independent professionals." One lives in South Carolina; the other in South Texas. Extended family members are just a telephone call away, with gatherings a priority on major holidays.

Steve credits the internet as having the greatest impact on his teaching. He notes that his friends describe him as "busy." In reflecting on how he would like to be remembered, Steve replied, as a "teacher of children, good Dad, and husband."



"The only thing better than singing is more singing."
Ella Fitzgerald

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Ms. Melissa N. Buchanan passed away on May 7, 2023.

Ms. Buchanan joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 2008 as a Cleaner in the Facilities Services area and served in Hemingway Hall.

Arrangements were entrusted with Fantauzzi Funeral Home, Fredonia, NY.

Mr. William Leslie passed away on June 28, 2023.

Mr. Leslie joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1970 as a Coach of the Junior Varsity Soccer team; and in 1981 was hired as a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics/Computer Science.

Mr. Leslie retired in August of 2000; then returned as an Adjunct Instructor for many years after retirement.

Donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation (michaeljfox.org) for Parkinson's Research in his honor, in place of sending flowers. On-line condolences may be made at <https://www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com/>. Arrangements by David J. Dengler.

Ms. Donna Danielsen passed away on July 31, 2023.

Ms. Danielsen was a SUNY Fredonia alum, and taught in the Tonawanda and Fredonia school districts after earning her Master's degree in Education. She served SUNY Fredonia in her role as Director of Student Teaching for twenty-five years prior to her retirement.

In place of flowers, please consider a donation to the Fredonia College Foundation, School of Education, SUNY Fredonia.

Arrangements were entrusted with McGraw-Kowal Funeral Home, Dunkirk, NY.

Dr. John Charles Arnold passed away on August 4, 2023.

Dr. Arnold served as an Associate Professor of History, retiring in 2021. On behalf of Dr. Arnold's colleagues, please see below the information they have shared about him.

Dr. Arnold initially trained as a musicologist, and he ultimately combined that background with his study of medieval history. Whether through his teaching, which included a special topics Queer History course co-taught with Dr. Jeff Iovannone, through his service as an advisor to Fredonia's Pride Alliance, or through his charisma and wit as an instructor, Dr. Arnold always engaged his students and ensured that they had an important place on our campus and in our world.

Dr. Arnold's colleagues are organizing a memorial to allow friends to join together to share memories as we embrace John's belief, guided by his Buddhist practices, that the spirit lives long after the body. Anyone interested is invited to attend on September 22, 2023, 5:00 pm, in the Costello Room of the Rockefeller Arts Center. Anyone who is unable to join in person may visit via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/JohnCharlesArnold>.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to GLSEN Arkansas (<https://www.glsen.org/chapter/arkansas>) or the Northwest Arkansas Equality, Inc. (<https://www.nwaequality.org/>), P.O. Box 179, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

Dr. Richard A. Leva passed away on August 13, 2023.

Dr. Leva joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in September of 1972 as an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department and retired in 1999 as an Emeritus Associate Professor of Psychology.

The family suggests donations can be made to ACLU, Lakeshore Humane Society or the [Fredonia College Foundation](#).

Arrangements were entrusted with McGraw-Kowal Funeral Home, Dunkirk, NY

Photos from the Emeritus Group Luncheon, June 21, 2023 The College Lodge, Brocton, NY

