

The Magazine for Fredonia Alumni and Friends

Statement

SPRING 2022

Alumna makes history in western New York

Trini Ross, '88, sworn in
as U.S. Attorney



Guertin/Hite Scholarship
endowed by Margaret
"Peg" (Guertin) Hite, '64

Theatre alumna Jennifer Cody
returns in residency to
choreograph 'The Wild Party'

Dream job in White House
becomes reality for
'19 graduate

Unexpected paths lead
graduates to FBI careers

 **FREDONIA**
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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Share your Fredonia story!



Admissions News

Admissions will continue to host daily information sessions starting in late January and running through early May. Following all health and safety protocols, Admissions is also welcoming registered Group Visits for High School and Community Based Programs throughout the spring. In late February to April, Admissions will host off-campus accepted student receptions spread across the state, as well as two on-campus Go Big BLUE Accepted Student Days.

For details and registration, please visit: <https://www.fredonia.edu/admissions-aid/visit-tour>

Alumni and Campus Events Calendar

Please note: It is anticipated that Zoom events and eventually, in-person events, will be added as the year progresses. In-person events scheduled are subject to change pending health and safety regulations. Please check the following link for updates: <https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni>

MARCH

Fredonia Career Development Office's Employer Showcase

A month-long series of employer showcase events hosted by the Career Development Office. For more information, contact CDO Director Tracy Collingwood at collingw@fredonia.edu or call (716) 673-3327.

APRIL

Buffalo Area Teacher Recruitment Day

Tuesday, April 5
11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Virtual event hosted via CareerEco RSViP
Job fair for K-12 careers
<https://trd.org>
For more information, contact CDO Director Tracy Collingwood at collingw@fredonia.edu or call (716) 673-3327.

Deadline for Children/Grandchildren of Alumni Scholarship applications to Office of Alumni Affairs

Friday, April 8, 5 p.m.
Application and instructions may be found at: <https://www.fredonia.edu/alumni/alumni-association-scholarships>

MAY

Alumni Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 286 Central Ave.

Commencement

Saturday, May 21
By invitation only

JULY

Alumni Golf Tournament

Friday, July 15
Shorewood Country Club
4958 E. Shorewood Drive
Dunkirk, NY 14048

AUGUST

Alumni Board Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 11, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 286 Central Ave.

First Day of Classes of the Fall Semester Monday, Aug. 22

OCTOBER

Classes of 1970, 1971, 1972 50-Year Reunion

Friday–Saturday, Oct. 14–16
In conjunction with Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend

Friday–Sunday, Oct. 14–16
Schedule of Events will be available in June at: <https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni>

Family Weekend

Friday–Sunday, Oct. 21–23
Campus

NOVEMBER

Annual Alumni Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 10, 4 p.m.
Alumni House, 286 Central Ave.



Dr. Greg Gibbs,
Fredonia Alumni
Association President

Dr. Stephen Kolison Jr.
Fredonia President

Statement

THE MAGAZINE FOR FREDONIA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

During the nearly two years that I have been at the State University of New York at Fredonia, I have learned just how deeply connected our alumni are to the university. Their every interaction, conversation, and message demonstrate their continued interest, commitment, and support. For this, I am truly grateful and enjoy every opportunity to connect with alumni.

I am certain that you are concerned about the impact that the global pandemic continues to have on your alma mater. Yes, these have been very challenging times. But, I would like you to know that even in such circumstances, we have maintained a high level of academic excellence and provided specialized educational opportunities to students. There are simply not enough words to thank our faculty and staff for their creativity, commitment and extraordinarily hard work in ensuring the fulfillment of our mission. Additionally, our students have demonstrated exemplary resilience and have stayed the course with regard to their academic goals. These are among the many reasons that I am very happy to be here at SUNY Fredonia at such an unprecedented time in higher education.

As you know, students need to be supported in order to succeed and complete their degree programs. There are increasing numbers of Fredonia students who are first-generation college students or are not from financially endowed backgrounds. Despite financial aid programs such as the Excelsior Scholarship offered by New York State, students tend to require additional financial support to pursue and complete their studies. Hence, each and every dollar that we are able to provide helps to ensure that our students can attain their educational goals at Fredonia. This is why I am grateful for the nearly \$5 million in foundation and state-funded scholarships that have been awarded this year. This has only been possible because of the generosity of alumni and other supporters. Please know that I greatly appreciate the contributions you have made and continue to make to create opportunities for our students. Thank you.

In this edition of the *Statement* we profile some of our alumni who have some very special stories of achievements. Such is the story of the Honorable Trini Ross, '88, who has become the first African American woman to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York. We are honored to profile her journey in this edition of the *Statement*. Also included are updates on the great things happening on campus. I hope you will enjoy reading this edition.

As always, whenever your travels take you to western New York, I hope you will come visit us here on campus. It will be our pleasure to welcome you back home.

Very truly yours,

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



FREDONIA
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Alumna makes history in western New York

Trini Ross, '88, sworn in as U.S. Attorney

By Roger Coda



Trini Ross shares the vision that will guide her as the top law enforcement officer in Western New York.

The day after George Floyd was killed, a young son of Trini Ross, an alumna of the State University of New York at Fredonia, told his mother that she should become a United States Attorney because he believed she would take steps to make sure what he saw would never happen again.

"When I asked him why he thought I could do that, he told me because of over the 23 years that he grew up with me being a prosecutor, he saw me try to practice what I preached, and that was ensuring that justice was done no matter the personal circumstances of a defendant or a victim," Ms. Ross explained.

"He saw what I did as a prosecutor, and he believed that I could use that experience to become a United States Attorney and to make positive changes."

Ross indicated the murder of Mr. Floyd that sparked outrage and social justice movements throughout the United States and the world struck her in a very personal way that was unique. An older son is a New York State trooper who was assigned to ensure that the protests remain peaceful, while a younger son wanted to participate in the marches to express the outrage at what he had seen.

That was a defining moment Ms. Ross shared at her ceremonial investiture, as the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, held in November at her alma mater, Hutchinson Central Technical High School. It was a homecoming of sorts in Buffalo for Ross, who went on to earn a B.A. in Sociology at Fredonia in 1988.

President Biden selects Ross

It also marked a historic first. Ross is the first African American female to become the top federal prosecutor for the 17 counties that comprise the Western District.

Continued ►

She was one of eight nominees of President Joe Biden to serve as a U.S. Attorney across the country.

"SUNY Fredonia is incredibly proud of Trini Ross," said SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. "Her journey to this nomination is a shining example of how SUNY Fredonia prepares students for success. We look forward to seeing Ms. Ross fill this important role in the western

"Her career trajectory, culminating in her appointment by the President to be the federal attorney for the Western Region of New York, is testimony to the abilities she demonstrated as an undergraduate at SUNY Fredonia."

— Dr. Peter Sinden

New York community," President Kolison added.

"As a product of local public schools — from Hutch-Tech, to Fredonia, to U.B. Law — Trini Ross rose to become one of the most respected attorneys in Buffalo. I was proud to recommend her for this position, knowing that she will continue her commitment to the highest standards of legal professionalism as the newest United States Attorney," U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer said.

"Even before high school and college, I learned the importance of caring about community, society and my country from my parents, Edward and Ramona, and my uncle, George K. Arthur," Ross said. "I'm standing here today because of that very strong family support," she told her audience.

Early life lessons made an unforgettable impression on Ross and became the driving force behind her commitment to a life of public and community service.

"Unlike other people of color and women when I was growing up, who were protesting and challenging our systems of law and justice, I thought another way to bring about change was to become part of the establishment, to help make those rules, then I could have a voice and then I could assist in making rules that were fair for everyone.

"I want to ensure justice for all who encountered the criminal justice system, including the defendants, the victims and their families," Ross pledged.

"I wanted to bring my perspective as a Black woman, with Black family members, as a person who grew up with modest means, a member of a diverse community, into the criminal justice system," Ross said.

She realized that dream upon becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney in 1995.

Ross formerly served as the Director of Investigations, in the Legal Division, with the National Science Foundation's Office of Inspector General for three years. She led a group of attorneys that investigated allegations of fraud, waste and abuse of money and programs administered by the National Science Foundation.

"It was a position where my love of science intersected with my desire for justice and integrity in government," Ross said.

Impressive career trajectory

Beginning in 1995, Ross was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, serving as the Senior Litigation Counsel and the Chief of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Section, from 2012 to 2017. She was also Assistant Counsel with the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility from 2007 to 2009.

"For 23 years, I prosecuted criminal cases," Ross said, "I tried to balance the need to be tough, with my unique understanding of how the odds were stacked against many of the defendants based on the color of their skin or their socio-economic class."

Ross' steady career ascent comes as no surprise to her former academic advisor at Fredonia.

"My memory is that she was an outstanding student, very motivated and eager to learn, and focused on her goal of being successful in law school and entering into a legal career," said Sociology Professor Emeritus Peter Sinden. Ross enrolled in four classes — statistics, methods, juvenile delinquency and criminal justice system — taught by Dr. Sinden, so he's uniquely qualified to comment on her success.

"Her career trajectory, culminating in her appointment by the President to be the federal attorney for the Western Region of New York, is testimony to the abilities she demonstrated as an undergraduate at SUNY Fredonia," Sinden said.

"I am very proud of her accomplishments and pleased to have been able to make some small contribution to them."

Sinden chaired the Department of Sociology during Ross' years at Fredonia and also supervised her internship with a court in Erie County, N.Y.

Ross pointed to two strong factors that led her to Fredonia. "The cost of attending SUNY Fredonia was very attractive," Ross said. "Also, the financial aid I was able to receive allowed me to earn my degree without incurring student loans." Her choice of Fredonia was further reinforced by Sociology professors who increased her level of curiosity in the study of that discipline.

Highlights of her Fredonia years included being part of the Black Student Union, and seeing how students of color were bonded by their shared experiences at Fredonia, as well as receiving the Outstanding Student Award from the Department of Sociology as a senior.

After receiving her Fredonia degree, Ross earned a M.A. from Rutgers University and J.D., cum laude, from the University at Buffalo School of Law.

The Honorable Patrick H. NeMoyer, who is an Associate Justice, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, was among those speaking at the investiture, and reflected, with pride, that he had the wisdom to hire Ross as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Ross' persistence acclaimed

"Some people may ask why I chose her," Associate Justice NeMoyer reflected. Education, intelligence, experience, common sense and compassion were traits Ross clearly exhibited, he said, though they were not the only ones. "Bill Bradley, who was a tremendous basketball player and a good U.S. senator, said ambition helps us set lofty goals," NeMoyer said, but persistence is the vehicle that accomplishes that, and Ross has demonstrated persistence throughout her life, he said.

Zachary McArdle, former board chair of Buffalo City Swim Racers, a non-profit that provides free swim lessons to at-risk youth throughout the city of Buffalo, served on the board alongside Ross for five years and also spoke at the ceremony.

"We all knew that we were lucky to have Trini; she could have been on any board in town, but she stuck with us, and we desperately needed her. At the time,

our only employees were part-time swim instructors and a part-time executive director, so it was very much a working board,” Mr. McArdle said.

Ross, who joined the board at its infancy, was instrumental in constructing the legal framework that allowed the organization to achieve growth targets, McArdle said, and the budget grew five-fold during her tenure.

McArdle said Ross was a regular financial donor and was always on speed dial for the executive director.

“The most valuable contribution Trini made was how she advocated for us and helped recruit diverse talent to the board,” he said.

The SUNY Fredonia Jazz Collective, comprised of School of Music faculty Dr. Nick Weiser, Elliot Scozzaro, Kieran Hanlon and John Bacon, performed at the ceremony.

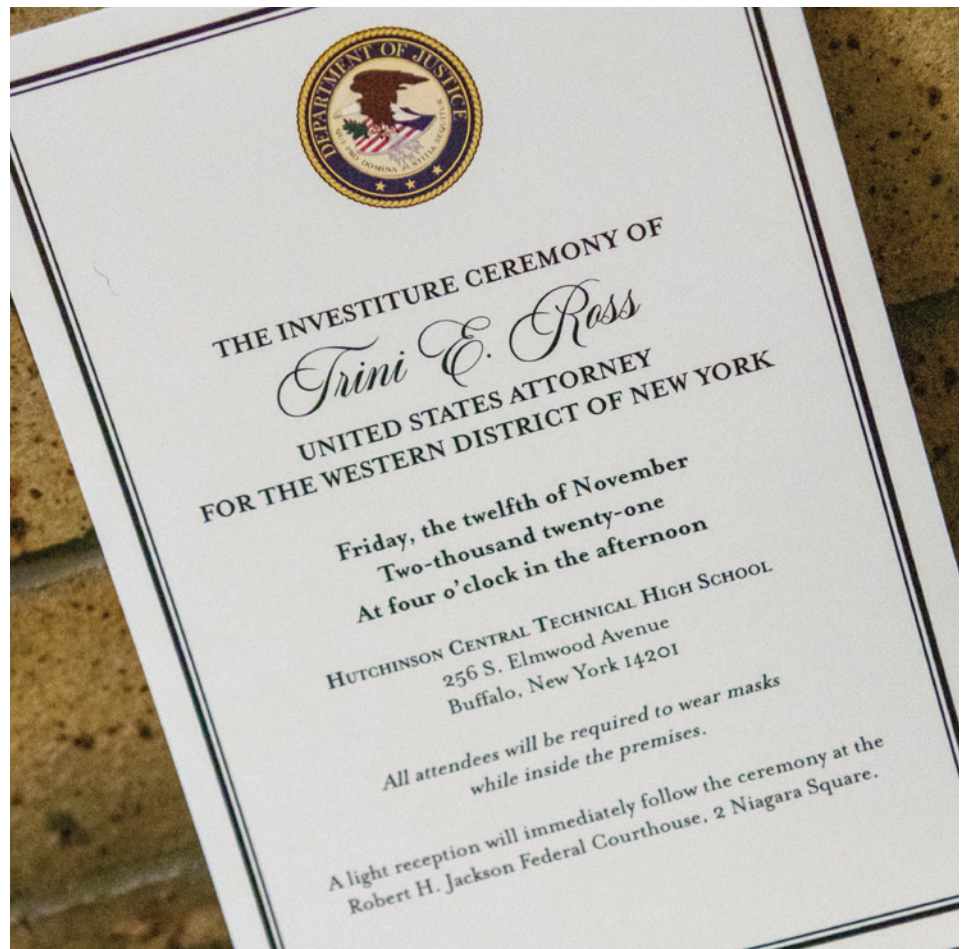
Ross said she was “wowed” by the support she received from the community to become the United States Attorney. She also noted the large contingent of judges, elected officials, colleagues and associates — including a large contingent from the U.S. Attorney General’s Office — and friends who attended her investiture.

She views such strong show of support from the community as a mandate to be inclusive, ensuring all voices are heard; to be strong; to make the hard decisions for the right reasons, without fear or favor; to be innovative; and to be proactive and try to protect and prevent crime and hurt from within communities, thereby keeping people outside of the criminal justice system.

Ross concluded her remarks by challenging Hutch-Tech students attending the ceremony. “I am here on the stage as an alum; if I can do this, you can do this. And you can do more, and I expect you to do more.”



Hutchinson Central Technical High School, site of the ceremonial investiture.



The Fredonia Jazz Collective; Dr. Nick Weiser (director), Kieran Hanlon, Elliot Scozzaro and Dr. John Bacon, received an invitation to perform at the event.



Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. and Ms. Ross

Guertin/Hite Scholarship

endowed by Margaret “Peg” (Guertin) Hite, '64



FREDONIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support to upper level SUNY Fredonia students majoring in the sciences, with preference given to those students who graduated from area high schools in Chautauqua County. Students must be majoring in Geology, Biology, Biochemistry, Physics, or a combination of these programs (with priority given in that order). Students should be either an incoming junior or incoming senior. The student(s) receiving scholarships from the fund must be enrolled full-time at Fredonia, and must be in good academic standing, ambitious and show promise.

In the Donor's words...

I entered Fredonia in the fall of 1960, jammed into a dorm room in Alumini Hall with two other girls — new dorms and Cranston were under construction. I was an Elementary Ed major, very unsure of myself. Come January 1963, I joined the Junior Semester in Antwerp group, and still retain a connection with my Belgian family and the fellow Fredonians. Graduation in June 1964 brought me a teaching position and confidence! My sister, Susan Guertin Chandler, found Fredonia too, spending a semester in Antwerp, graduating in 1971 and teaching for 33 years at Southwestern.

But why the Sciences major scholarship??? My five children, under no coercion from me, also attended Fredonia: Thomas Hite, '93, Geology major, married Brenda Lloyd, '95 (also a Geology major); Laura Hite Scheid, '95, Geology major; Elizabeth Hite Burgeson, '98, Earth Science/Biology Education major; Kristopher Hite, Ph.D., '05, Biochemistry major, and Kathleen Hite Sard, B.S., M.S., '09, '11, Biology major, married to Nicholas Sard, Ph.D., '09, '11, Biology major. Fredonia was a great foundation for my kids, who have gone on to obtain higher degrees at other institutions and all have super employment now. Fredonia awarded them scholarships and the Guertin/Hite scholarship is a “pay it forward” scholarship to repay all the financial aid given to my kids and also myself. Thank you, Fredonia. We are all proud graduates.

— Peg (Guertin) Hite, '64



Proud SUNY Fredonia alumni (from left) Betsy Burgeson, Tom Hite, Peg Hite, Kristopher Hite, Katie Sard and Laura Scheid.



Hite family photo



Peg Hite shares a toast with Kristiaan Magnus, “My Belgian brother. We met in 1963 during the Junior Semester in Antwerp program.” Kristiaan visited during the 2021 Thanksgiving holiday.

What is an Endowed Fund?

Scholarships and program funds at Fredonia are established as endowments through the Fredonia College Foundation. An endowed fund exists in perpetuity for the benefit of Fredonia and the special use you specify. While your gift (the principal) remains invested, the income it earns is spent annually according to your wishes.

How to endow a new fund

The Fredonia College Foundation offers various opportunities to give back, including different ways to endow a new scholarship or program fund.

For more information, contact the Fredonia College Foundation at foundation@fredonia.edu or by calling (716) 673-3321.

➔ www.fredonia.edu/foundation



Save the Date

FREDlanthropy Day April 27, 2022

- ▶ Our biggest single day of philanthropy for Fredonia each year
- ▶ Show your support for future Fredonians
- ▶ Save the date and share the event with others
- ▶ Bolster Fredonia programs and scholarships
- ▶ Watch for information in your email and on Fredonia's social media accounts



2021 FREDlanthropy Day Facts

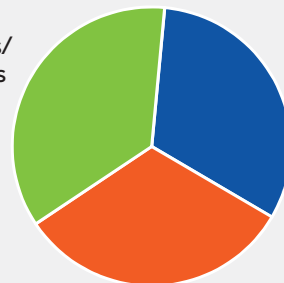
- ▶ \$26,193 total donation amount
- ▶ 143 gifts (134 online gifts, 9 gifts by mail)
- ▶ Most common gift amount: \$100
- ▶ Largest single gift amount: \$1,200

Donor Points of Pride

- ▶ 42 Faculty/Staff/Emeriti
- ▶ 8 Foundation Board
- ▶ 5 Alumni Board
- ▶ 9 New donors
- ▶ 14 Lapsed donors (5+ years)
- ▶ Past FREDlanthropy Day efforts have supported the student emergency fund, campus and department priority needs, scholarships and student research.

Gift Designation

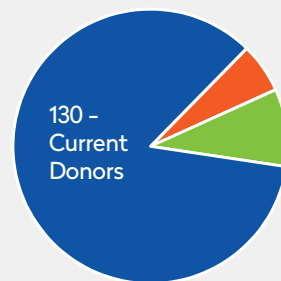
Scholarships/
Endowments
\$9,391



Unrestricted
\$8,372

Departments/Programs
\$8,430

Donor Status

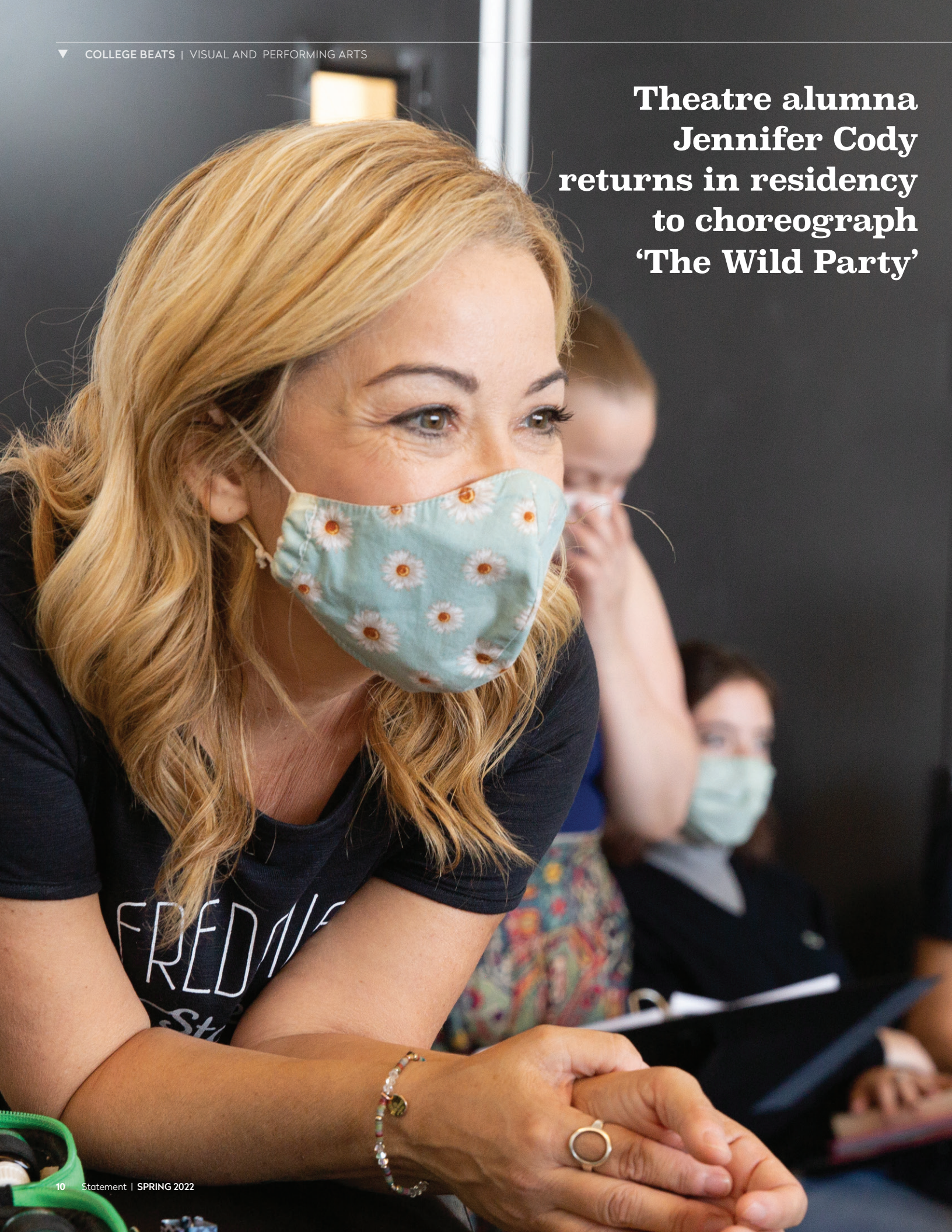


9 - New Donor

14 - Lapsed Donors
(5+ years)

130 -
Current
Donors

**Theatre alumna
Jennifer Cody
returns in residency
to choreograph
'The Wild Party'**



Jennifer Cody, who went on to become a veteran of Broadway, film and television after earning a B.F.A. in Acting at Fredonia, returned to campus as choreographer of “The Wild Party,” the opening show of the 2021-2022 Walter Gloor Mainstage Season.

During a three-week residency, Ms. Cody worked with students in rehearsal to create all the dancing in the production. She was in the original cast of “The Wild Party,” playing the role of Mae, and appears on the cast album, so she has a special connection with the show.

Cody also worked with students in classes, offering multiple workshops, mock auditions and question-and-answer sessions to provide an invaluable experience.

Department of Theatre and Dance Professor Jessica Hillman-McCord, who directed “The Wild Party,” was thrilled to be able to bring in Cody to work with performers on this production. “It’s an incredible opportunity for our students to be able to work closely with such a successful industry professional,” Dr. Hillman-McCord said.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for our students to be able to work closely with such a successful industry professional.”

— Dr. Jessica Hillman-McCord

Immediately upon graduating from Fredonia, Cody joined a touring production of “Gypsy.” She then began her stage career on Broadway as a replacement in “Cats” in the role of Rumpoleteazer. She was also seen in Broadway productions of “Grease,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Seussical,” “Urinetown,” “Taboo,” “The Pajama Game” and “Shrek,” among others.

Cody is also known for voicing Charlotte in the 2009 Disney animated feature film, “The Princess and the Frog.” That role earned her an Annie Award for Voice Acting in a Feature Production. Other Disney credits include “Gravity Falls” and “Phineas and Ferb,” among many. Cody also serves as second vice president for the Actors Equity Association (AEA).

In 2019, Cody performed at the Rockefeller Arts Center’s 50th anniversary celebration.



“She is teaching them so much in both classes and rehearsals, demonstrating to the students the kind of professional they should aspire to be,” Hillman-McCord explained. “Her work would be inspirational to them regardless, but the fact that she is a Fredonia alumna demonstrates that her success in such a competitive field is not something impossible for them to achieve. Her choreography is challenging, exciting and dynamic, and will truly enrich this production for audiences as well.”

The 1991 graduate savored the opportunity to be back on campus for several weeks, instead of coming in briefly to teach a master class and then leave without getting to know people well. She noted during her visit, “It’s great because I’m here for three weeks, and so I’ve seen even in the show, growth from people,” Cody said.

“That’s why people want to be teachers. It’s not ‘Oh, let me just teach and then get out!’ — There’s something about watching students grow with the things you say. It’s not like I say [the notes] and leave, I [give the feedback] and I see them utilizing the notes I give. It’s really fulfilling and I wasn’t expecting that,” Cody said.

“I love how much the college has grown and the department has grown. I think the talent has grown, which is really exciting.”

Musical Theatre students, likewise, embraced the learning experience Cody provided.

“My favorite part about working with Mrs. Cody is that she gives us a taste of



what the professional world is really like,” said Brandin X. Smalls, a junior from Ilion, N.Y. “With the experience we get from SUNY Fredonia and the real-life glance from Jen into the professional world, I think her being here really helps us be prepared for future performances.”

Lauren A. Teller, a senior from Marilla, N.Y., admired the flexibility that Cody has in her choreography. “She allows collaboration with the actors and making a final product with a learning experience that is like no other,” Ms. Teller said.

How receptive Cody is to collaboration and making everyone happy while also “producing and showing the best versions of ourselves” is what Alissa Rojas, a senior from East Meadow, N.Y., cherished in Cody.

Cody considers “The Wild Party” to be a big show, with many moving parts that she didn’t fully appreciate as a cast member.

“It’s really cool to challenge students a bit and wonder if they can do it, and then they come back the next day with it learned and knowing they’ve spent time on it. I said to my husband ‘I think I’m making a difference!’ And that’s exciting! I’m giving whatever I’ve gotten from my years of school back to Fredonia and I love it,” Cody said.

Cody’s residency was been made possible by the generosity of the Williams Visiting Professorship Endowment through the Fredonia College Foundation.

Six performances of “The Wild Party” were given in late October in Marvel Theatre to in-person audiences.



“The Wild Party”



Dream job in White House becomes reality for '19 graduate

By Jules Hoepfing, Marketing and Communications intern

Like many recent Fredonia graduates, Rebekah Denz works an eight-hour shift at an office job.

Unlike many graduates, Ms. Denz works for the Executive Office of the President.

Denz works in the White House Office of Records Management in a large French Second Empire building, called the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The office is located west of the West Wing of the White House in Washington D.C.

The White House Office of Records Management consists of 17 records managers who retain physical documents from the sitting president's administration. Records such as notes, memos, letters, birthday cards and any other physical document that records the "day-to-day processes and deliberations" of the administration are organized, digitized, and indexed by the records analysts and specialists. The office also offers services to White House staff such as reviewing outgoing correspondence, tracking incoming and outgoing mail and guidance regarding electronic records, according

to Denz. As soon as a president's term is over, all the records obtained by the Office of Records Management during that administration are sent to the National Archives and Records Administration for permanent keeping and all will eventually be accessible to the public in a Presidential Library. In short, "it's about saving history for others," Denz said.

How did a 2019 graduate find herself working for the White House? By "crazy circumstances" and by establishing connections.

Denz grew up in West Seneca, a suburb of Buffalo, N.Y., and decided to attend Fredonia after hearing positive things about the university from friends and relatives. "I went and visited the school and talked to professors and felt like this is where I need to be," Denz said. Majoring in History and minoring in Museum Studies, Denz made the most of her time at Fredonia by serving as president of the History Club, a member of the Honor's Program leadership team and a student member of the Convocation Committee.

She was a teaching assistant for Dr. John Staples' history class, "From the Archives to the Web: Creating the On-Line Biographical Dictionary of Chautauqua." Denz also worked as a peer tutor in the Learning Center and as a student worker at the Reed Library circulation desk and in the library's Special Collections and Archives.

"Being involved in those kinds of organizations on campus really inspired me to listen to other people and to learn from others because we all learn differently," Denz said. Especially with peer tutoring, Denz learned that "some people just need to physically be with history instead of being in a lecture hall, and I think that really drove me to get into records management and archiving." Such abilities to look at the world through different perspectives have continued to benefit her.

In 2016, Denz interned with the Chautauqua Institution, compiling information on activities for the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons.

The following year, Denz landed a highly competitive internship with the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Md., near Washington, D.C. There, she assisted in processing records of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Army Inspector General.

"I think the biggest thing I learned from my internships was to ask questions and to ask for advice," Denz said. Nicknamed the "head intern" at the National Archives, Denz's enthusiasm and positivity gave her advisors a lasting impression — which would later help her land her dream job.

A few months after graduating in the spring of 2019, Denz worked at the Buffalo Central Library as a Library Page, but found the entry level position to be "not as challenging as I had hoped, so I began looking for opportunities outside of the public library." In October of the same year, Denz began working as a Document Custodian Reviewer for M&T Bank in the Larkin Building in Buffalo. "M&T was a fun job, but not my dream job," Denz said.

In August of 2020, "I got an email from my former supervisor at the National Archives saying, 'Hey, my friend at the White House Office of Records Management is looking to hire someone and I think you'd be a good candidate. Would you like to apply?' So, I said 'sure' and I applied. They got back to me really quickly and asked, 'Okay, when can you come? Can you come next week?' So, I hopped in my car and went all the way down to D.C. for a day," Denz said.



Many applicants did not want to interview in-person as there were concerns about travel during the pandemic. But "going down and being in-person and really showing my interest in the job" helped Denz stand out as a serious candidate. Despite the unique circumstances brought about by the pandemic, Denz made it to and through the interview, thinking "if I can get through the interview, I can do anything now."

In October of 2020, Denz found herself moving to the District in the midst of a pandemic and starting her "dream job." The transition was "at first scary, but I think Fredonia really helped me a lot. Living on campus, taught me how to be independent," Denz said.

Denz came into the Records Management office at an "exceptional" time as the presidential administrations were transitioning from President Donald Trump to President Joe Biden. All the records from Trump's staff had to be organized and sent over to the National Archives by Jan. 20, 2021. "Presidential transitions require a lot of manpower. At one point, I had to do a 36-hour shift to help meet the deadline," Denz said.

While most weeks at the office are not as stressful like they are during a presidential transition, they are always "interesting" according to Denz. Records are collected not only from the President, but also their vice president and the hundreds of employees that make up their staff. Additionally, correspondence sent into the White House must also be retained. As a result, Denz and her colleagues need to read and create general descriptions and metadata to make thousands of records easily accessible for the sitting administration and future archivists. "You have to be very open minded about everything and you have to listen to everyone too," Denz said. She finds it "eye-opening" and "humbling" to read about the concerns of Americans. "I think the White House really does value the public and what they have to say," Denz said, adding "In this day and age, we like to boil everything down in an easy black and white answer because we want the answer right away. I think what government has taught me is the answer takes time, so it is important to have patience."

When it comes to archiving and record keeping, Denz loves "all of it." "It's the first step in writing history" and the idea of



"taking care of information so that we can learn from it in the future" truly excites her. "I just love getting materials that I can organize" and finds the different ways staff members give her documents — a box of unorganized papers, a series of already organized folders — to be fascinating. The work is never stagnant: "archiving never really ends, it's always changing."

Thinking back on her incredible journey, Denz said "I think I should highlight that this didn't happen overnight. It happened because a lot of people had faith in me." She recalls all the supportive professors and advisors she has had throughout her Fredonia experience and how their interconnectedness created "one big Fredonia community." She advises current students to "take every opportunity available to them" and to "follow your dreams and don't give up because everyone has a hurdle." Additionally, she encourages alumni to "continue sharing their successes with current students."

One thing is certain for Denz: "I couldn't be where I am without my experiences at Fredonia."





Fall Wrap-up/Spring Preview



WOMEN'S

SOCCER –

Juniors Izzy Audette and Gabby Alston headlined a successful season for Fredonia State Women's Soccer. Audette and Alston were named United Soccer Coaches All-Region Selections following a trip to the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Semifinals. Audette, a second-team selection, anchored the Blue Devil defense while adding two goals and one assist. Alston was named a third-team selection after leading the team with seven goals. The pair also received all-conference honors alongside teammates Bri Grazen and Sabrina Suriani. Audette and Alston earned first and second-team honors, respectively. Grazen, an athletic freshman, scored four goals and four assists to be named to the third team. Suriani was also named to the third team after a standout season in goal. The Manlius native averaged a .842 save percentage and 1.07 goals against after starting all 20 games for the Devils. Overall, the team went 10-6-2 in the regular season to earn the fifth seed in the conference tournament. The quarterfinal matchup was a trip to fourth-seeded New Paltz which resulted in a penalty kick shootout. Talia deFay scored the game-winning penalty kick to advance the Blue Devils to the SUNYAC Semis. Traveling to top-seeded Geneseo, the season came to a close after a narrow 3-2 loss.



Izzy Audette

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL – Three Blue Devils were named SUNYAC All-Conference following a successful season. Christie Ackendorf earned second-team honors after recording 180 kills and a .185 hitting percentage. The senior added 54 total blocks. Selena Brown and Emily Jones were both named to the third team. Brown finished the season with 106 kills, a .245 hitting percentage and a team-high 88 blocks. The junior's defensive efforts amassed to 1.01 blocks per set, which was good for second in the conference. Jones rounded out the honors after accumulating a team-high 262

kills as well as a .129 hitting percentage, 31 service aces, and 26 blocks. The trio led the team to an overall record of 12-12 while going 6-3 in conference play. The conference record earned the team the fourth seed in the SUNYAC tournament. Hosting New Paltz, Women's Volleyball's season came to a close after a loss to the fifth seed.



Selena Brown, Emily Jones and Christie Ackendorf

MEN'S SOCCER – The season saw 10 seniors honored and strong wins over non-conference opponents. One of the team's best wins came on Sept. 14 when the Blue Devils rallied from a three-goal deficit at halftime. Travelling to Medaille, the team scored four goals in a 20 minute span to rewrite the outcome. The largest margin of victory came two games later with a 5-0 triumph of Alfred. The team was led by Kevin Loftus and Kaleb Steward who had five and four goals, respectively. William Richardson earned the majority of minutes in goal over 12 games and 11 starts. The keeper averaged 1.57 goals against and a .768 save percentage. Finishing 6-11, the Blue Devils picked up a conference win at Potsdam while narrowly missing out on six one-goal games.

CROSS COUNTRY –

Kyle Campbell was named Third-Team All-Conference after a 15th place finish in the SUNYAC Championship. The senior finished the 8K with an overall time of 28:11.3. The senior



Kyle Campbell

was also the top Blue Devils' finisher in the NCAA Division III Niagara Regional, recording an overall time of 27:04.9. The team competed in six meets throughout the fall with its best finish coming in the SUNYAC Championship where it finished fifth. Kristin Kelemen headlined for the women's team after being named the Elite 20 Award winner following the SUNYAC Championship meet. Kelemen's GPA was the highest of all female runners at the meet, earning her the honors. Alexandra Battaglia stood out throughout the season, finishing first on the team several times. Two of those finishes came in the SUNYAC Championship and the NCAA Division III Niagara Regional with times of 28:14.7 and 25:37.8, respectively.

WOMEN'S TENNIS – The women's tennis schedule changed to a split season, partially in the fall and mostly in the spring, to align more closely with the NCAA Women's Tennis Championship. The women's tennis team went 0-3 in the fall, including a narrow 4-5 loss to Oswego. The team will begin the spring portion of the schedule in April.

WINTER SPORTS – Winter sports have concluded competition for the fall semester. Women's basketball is off to a strong start, holding a 7-4 overall record and a 2-2 conference record. The team's conference victories have come against Geneseo and Oswego, marking the first win over Geneseo in Coach Sarah Cartmill's tenure. Men's basketball began its new regime under Coach Sean Smiley and has faced strong competition all semester. The team was able to experience national exposure on Nov. 22 when it faced Canisius College on the road, which aired on ESPN3. Men's hockey is off to a 4-6-1 start with a 2-4-0 mark in conference play. The team's best showing came on Nov. 19 in a scoring frenzy that led to a 6-1 victory over Potsdam. The Blue Devils honored their late teammate, Tanner Kahlau, in a memorial game on Nov. 6. Men's and women's swimming have competed in several meets. The women's team picked up a win against Buffalo State and tied Alfred.

Events and Performances

ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER/THEATRE AND DANCE EVENTS



COMEDY & VENTRILOQUISM: A FAMILY SHOW WITH LYNN TREFZGER

Friday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
 Marvel Theatre
 Tickets: \$15 (Student/Child: \$10)
 For over 30 years, Lynn Trefzger has given life to a trunk full of comical characters and created a show of non-stop laughter. Audiences will be treated to Lynn's vocal illusion talents when they meet a drunken but lovable camel, a cantankerous old man, and a feisty little girl, and may even see some audience members who are brought up to the stage for the action! Lynn's show is spontaneously funny, no two shows are alike!
 The Kaleidoscope Family Series

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CLASSICS II

Saturday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
 King Concert Hall
 Tickets: \$20 (Student/Child: free)
 Conductor and Artistic Director Glen Cortese leads the orchestra on works by Debussy, Mozart and one of his own compositions.

"MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY"

Feb. 25, 26, March 3, 4 and 5, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 27, 2 p.m.
 Presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
 By Anne Washburn
 Score by Michael Friedman, lyrics by Anne Washburn
 Bartlett Theatre, General Seating
 Tickets: \$27 (Student/Child: \$12)
 Daniel Lenzian, Director
 The imaginative dark comedy propels audiences forward nearly a century, following a new civilization stumbling into its future. After the collapse of civilization, a group of survivors share a campfire and begin to piece together the plot of "The Simpsons" episode "Cape Feare" entirely from memory. Seven years later, this and other snippets of pop culture (sitcom plots, commercials, jingles, and pop songs) have become the live entertainment of a post-apocalyptic society, sincerely trying to hold onto its past. Seventy-five years later, these are the myths and legends from which new forms of performance are created.
 The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CLASSICS III "LE VIN HERBÉ" ("THE LOVE POTION")

Sunday, March 27, 4 p.m.
 King Concert Hall
 Tickets: \$20 (Student/Child: free)
 Semi-staged in English, WNYCO presents the opera by Frank Martin (1890-1974), one of the foremost Swiss composers of the 20th century. "Le vin herbé," first performed in 1942, is based on the novel, "The Romance of Tristan Iseult" by Joseph Bediers. The featured soloists will be from the Fredonia School of Music.

"PIPELINE"

April 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m.; April 10, 2 p.m.
 Presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
 By Dominique Morisseau
 Marvel Theatre, Reserved Seating
 Tickets: \$25 (Student/Child: \$12)
 Yao Kahlil, Guest Director
 Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher, is committed to her students but desperate to give her only son, Omari, opportunities they'll never have. When a controversial incident at his upstate private school threatens to get him expelled, Nya must confront his rage and her own choices as a parent. But will she be able to reach him before a world beyond her control pulls him away?
 The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CLASSICS IV WITH THE FREDONIA MASTERWORKS CHOIR

Sunday, April 24, 4 p.m.
 King Concert Hall, General Admission
 Tickets: \$20 (Student/Child: free)
 Conductor Glen Cortese and Director Vernon Huff
 The Western New York Chamber Orchestra joins the Fredonia Chamber Choir, College Choir and Camerata for two beloved works of the French choral tradition: the Fauré "Requiem" and Duruflé "Requiem."

FREDONIA DANCE ENSEMBLE

May 6 and 7, 7:30 p.m.; May 7, 2 p.m.
 Marvel Theatre, Reserved Seating
 Tickets: \$25 (Student/Child: \$12)
 Paula J. Peters, Director
 The Fredonia Dance Ensemble returns for its 16th annual concert performance. Featuring choreography by faculty and guest artists, the Fredonia Dance Ensemble concert promises an unforgettable evening of dance.
 Walter Gloor Mainstage Series



COMMENCEMENT EVE POPS: SALUTE TO THE BIG APPLE

Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.
 King Concert Hall, Reserved Seating
 Tickets: \$35, \$30, \$25, \$20
 From Duke Ellington's classic "Take the A Train" and Frank Sinatra's iconic "New York, New York" to Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind" and Weather Report's "Birdland," over 3,000 songs have been written about New York City or one of its famous landmarks. Twenty of the most-loved such tunes will be chosen for Rockefeller Arts Center's 2022 Commencement-Eve concert. The show, which is a Fredonia tradition spanning almost three decades, will feature a dozen of Fredonia's most talented student singers and dancers, backed up by the 19-piece Fredonia Jazz Orchestra directed by Dr. Nick Weiser.
 The DFT Communications Pops Series

ART EXHIBITS

CATHY AND JESSE MARION ART GALLERY

Gallery Hours: Monday, closed; Tuesday–Thursday, noon to 4 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

FREDONIA SHOWCASE

Tuesday, Jan. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 13
 Juried by Department of Visual Arts and New Media faculty, the student exhibition will feature artwork in a variety of mediums by currently enrolled Fredonia art majors, first-year students to seniors.
 Reception: Friday, Jan. 28, 6 to 9 p.m.



"PERSISTENT ITERATIONS"

Tuesday, Feb. 22 through Sunday, April 10
Familiar, constant, and even conventional, the tropes of figuration and landscape nonetheless persist through time and outside of fashion to maintain their quietly dominant positions, even in the most contemporary of art approaches. Springboards from the familiar to the strange or even occasionally markers of deviation, these genres repeatedly demonstrate that well-used is not well-worn. Each of the artists in "Persistent Iterations" utilizes either figuration or landscape as a point of departure to serve their own iconoclastic visual languages. Curated by John Massier, who is Visual Arts Curator at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, the exhibition features works by artists currently residing in the Buffalo, N.Y., area. Among the artists are: Bruce Adams, Kyle Butler, AJ Fries, Pam Glick, George Afedzi Hughes, Richard Huntington, Joan Linder, Margaret Schrecongost, virocode and Rebecca Wing.
Reception: Friday, Feb. 25, 6 to 9 p.m.



Artwork by Pam Glick

SENIOR SHOW I

April 15 to 23

SENIOR SHOW II

April 29 to May 5

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES

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

KING CONCERT HALL**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23
AND THURSDAY, APRIL 7**

Fredonia All College Band (LS)

**THURSDAY, FEB. 24 AND TUESDAY,
APRIL 26**

Fredonia Wind Symphony (LS)

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

Fredonia Wind Ensemble (LS)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4 AND WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 20**

Fredonia Concert Band (LS)

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Fredonia College Symphony (LS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13Fredonia Camerata and
University Chorus (LS)**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 6:30 P.M.**

New Horizons Band

ROSCH RECITAL HALL**MONDAY, FEB. 7**

Fredonia Faculty Showcase (LS)

**TUESDAY, FEB. 22 AND
THURSDAY, APRIL 28**

Fredonia Jazz Orchestra (LS)

**MONDAY, MARCH 7; MONDAY, APRIL 4,
AND FRIDAY, APRIL 22**

Fredonia Student Composers (LS)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Fredonia Trombone Choir (LS)

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

Fredonia Brass Chamber Ensembles

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Fredonia Woodwind Chamber Ensembles (LS)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Fredonia Clarinet Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Fredonia String Chamber Ensembles (LS)

MONDAY, APRIL 11

Fredonia Percussion Ensemble (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Fredonia World Mallets (LS)

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Fredonia Chamber Made Guitar (LS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Fredonia Guitar Ensemble and Quartets

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Fredonia Flute Ensemble (LS)

TUESDAY, MAY 3

Fredonia Chamber Orchestra (LS)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Fredonia New Jazz Orchestra (LS)

THURSDAY, MAY 5

Fredonia Chamber Choir and College Choir (LS)

FRIDAY, MAY 6Fredonia Saxophone Ensemble
and Quartets (LS)**MONDAY, MAY 9**

Fredonia Improv Collective

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Fredonia African Drumming Ensemble (LS)

SPECIAL EVENTS**FREDONIA BASS FEST AND HIGH
SCHOOL DOUBLE BASS COMPETITION**

Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022

Mason Hall

There will be two guests joining Assistant Professor Kieran Hanlon, multifaceted bassists Dennis Whittaker and Lloyd Goldstein.

The day includes performances, classes, and discussions focusing on how to build a successful career and create balance in a changing world. Sponsors include the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities through the Fredonia College Foundation, and the Fredonia Bass Society.

For details and registration, go online:
<https://www.fredonia.edu/bass-fest>

FREDONIA CHORAL FESTIVAL

Lecture: Friday, Feb. 18, 12:40 p.m.

Ticketed Concert: Saturday,

Feb. 19, 4 p.m. (LS)

Rosch Recital Hall

The annual choral festival features the Chamber Choir, College Choir, and Camerata. For concert tickets, go to <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/ticket-office> or call (716) 673-3501. A grant for the event has been awarded by the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities through the Fredonia College Foundation.

**WORLD PREMIERE BY THE FREDONIA
WIND ENSEMBLE: NEW WORK BY
AUGUSTA READ THOMAS**

Ms. Thomas

Saturday, April 30, 8 p.m. (LS)

King Concert Hall

Dr. Paula Holcomb conducts the world premiere of a new work by Augusta Read Thomas featuring the Fredonia Wind Ensemble, with special guest, Nadina Mackie Jackson, bassoon. There will be a master class with the composer on April 29 at 4 p.m. in Rosch Recital Hall.

FREDONIA HARP DAY

Sunday, May 1

Mason Hall

A day of harp performances and workshops for all ages and all levels. For details and registration:
<https://www.fredonia.edu/harp-day>

**WORLD PREMIERE WITH THE FREDONIA
COLLEGE SYMPHONY: DRs. NATASHA
FARNY, CELLO, AND ELIRAN AVNI, PIANO**

Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m. (LS)

King Concert Hall

A one-of-a-kind new work by award-winning composer Avner Dorman written for the Ekstasis Duo, under the direction of Dr. David Rudge. Made possible by a generous donation from Christian Granger and the Fredonia College Foundation, and consortium members Sewanee Symphony Orchestra and Gettysburg College Orchestra, the double concerto for cello and piano and flexible ensemble (formal title to be announced) is one of the few double concertos specifically written for cello and piano.

**FREDONIA CONCERTO
COMPETITION**

Sunday, May 8, 1 p.m. (LS)

King Concert Hall

Unexpected paths lead graduates to FBI careers

Working at the FBI probably doesn't come to mind among college seniors, but that's where SUNY Fredonia graduates Deneen Hernandez and Lisa (Mapes) Matsumoto — who, as students, planned more traditional employment routes — landed.

Their undergraduate degrees — Ms. Hernandez, '86, majored in Political Science and Ms. Matsumoto, '90, had majors in English and Human Communications — don't suggest a path to the nation's top law enforcement agency.

So how did the pair — who compiled over 30 years of service with the bureau — happen to connect with the FBI?

A “comedy of errors,” muses Hernandez, a Forensic examiner with the FBI since 2003.

Maybe it was “happenstance,” suggests Matsumoto, who was a Unit Chief in the Office of the General Counsel when she decided to leave in 2018 after 14 years of service.

Becoming an FBI Forensic examiner was a logical career move for Hernandez. She had been a Forensic examiner/inspector for the National Indian Gaming Commission in Washington, D.C., since 1999, conducting forensic examinations on suspected gambling devices and monitoring Class II and III tribal gaming operations to ensure compliance with regulations.

Hernandez, who grew up on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in Western New York, previously served as a senior Indian gaming inspector with the N.Y.S. Racing and Wagering Board. She preserved the integrity of games of chance within casinos and trained and supervised gaming inspectors.

“It's like I kept preparing, learning, and developing,” Hernandez recalls. “Then suddenly, and here's an opportunity and I said, ok. I haven't stopped since. I've tried to learn everything I need to, to do my job and then some.”

Shortly after earning a M.S. in Criminal Justice at SUNY Buffalo State College in 1988, Hernandez became a correctional officer/trainer at the Madison County (N.Y.) Sheriff's Department.

Hernandez always loved animals, so she initially wanted to become a veterinarian.

“I really didn't have firm direction until after my internship with The Washington Center in the fall of 1985,” said Hernandez, then a junior at Fredonia. Fantastic is how she describes her internship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Judicial Services Branch in Washington, D.C.

“After that experience, I wanted to do something in federal service. I loved Washington and have the fondest memories being there as a poor college intern. Loved it.”

At the FBI, Hernandez examines suspected sports bookmaking, prostitution, gambling and loansharking records and constructs reports and provides testimony to examination results. She also examines suspected gambling devices to ascertain if they possess the necessary characteristics to determine if they are gambling devices/slot machines.

Career goals and areas of study changed for Matsumoto. She initially wanted to work in social services for the elderly, but enjoyed writing and literature so much that she pursued majors in English and Human Communications.

Classes taught by SUNY Distinguished Teaching Emeriti Professors Patrick Courts and Malcolm “Mac” Nelson and English Emeriti Professors Minda Rae Amiran and John Ramsey steered Matsumoto towards English, and she considers herself “most fortunate” to have had SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Ted Steinberg as a professor.

Not only did Dr. Steinberg like Matsumoto's creativity in a paper she feared was too “outside of the box,” he was the first professor to tell Matsumoto she really was a good writer. “That encouragement not only gave me

confidence in college, but it stuck with me all these years,” Matsumoto said.

Matsumoto, a native of the Ithaca, N.Y., area who graduated from a small high



Deneen Hernandez, '86

school, came out of her shell at Fredonia.

“I was a shy and insecure teen. Getting away from home, finding friends and being able to grow intellectually created a more confident and more creative me,” recalled Matsumoto, the first member of her family to earn a four-year degree. Being a Resident Assistant for two years was an immense financial help and also helped her build confidence and management and leadership abilities.

She loved her time at Fredonia and opportunities in and outside of the classroom, and particularly appreciated how the Honors Program was academically challenging while also providing a wonderful circle of friends.

Matsumoto went on to earn a M.A. in Student Personnel Administration in



Higher Education at Columbia University's Teachers College and worked in that field before changing gears, at age 29, by enrolling in law school at American University with the goal of becoming a criminal justice prosecutor. It was as a law clerk for a judge in the Washington, D.C., Superior Court, that a friend, who was with the FBI, suggested that she apply for the Office of the General Counsel.

A long shot at best, Matsumoto thought.

"I had honestly never considered it and, frankly felt insecure about applying," Matsumoto recalls. "In the back of my mind, I felt that the fabled FBI would not be interested in me, a country girl from upstate New York."

Matsumoto began her FBI career in Washington, D.C., as Assistant General Counsel in 2004 in the National Security Law Branch. She provided legal support

served in assignments to the Department of Justice Office of Intelligence and District of Columbia United States Attorney's Office. While at the FBI, she traveled to countries throughout the world to assist with FBI coordination and support to the U.S. military and foreign nations on counterterrorism matters. She also provided training to military personnel and foreign law enforcement officials on national security policy.

In 2011, Matsumoto became Unit Chief of the Investigative Law Unit, supervising the group of FBI attorneys primarily responsible for advising on criminal investigative matters for the FBI. She also served as Acting Section Chief of the Operational Law Section. In 2018, Matsumoto resigned her position in order to assist her family with some health challenges.

Hernandez, whose mother, Bonnie, also has a Political Science degree from Fredonia, remembers Department of Political Science Professor Emeritus Julius Paul as a "challenging, yet engaging professor," and she loved his Constitutional Law class. "It really made you think."

She also embraced SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Ray Belliotti's lectures. "I learned so much from him about the great philosophers and their beliefs of people and the world," Hernandez said.

Hernandez attributes living in rural New York — known for challenging winter weather — for giving her tenacity.

"Cold, snow, ice and a college schedule you must be on time for. This small example showed me that I needed to be prepared for class, plan

out my time to fit work, classes, studying and driving to Fredonia in my schedule. Basically, no goofing around. I'm still like this. Prepare. Prepare."

Hernandez is also an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College and Jamestown Community College.

Highlights of Matsumoto's career include traveling to Iraq with senior FBI executive management, to the Philippines to advise on implementation of their new national security law, and to Spain and Thailand to conduct training for law enforcement officers. In addition to a variety of FBI awards and recognition for outstanding service and leadership, she received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award in October 2012 for her assistance with the Ahmed Warsame investigation. In her position as Unit Chief, she also received the Director's Medal of Excellence in 2016 and two Director's Citations for Special Achievement for exceptional leadership in 2014 and 2015.

Matsumoto was part of a FBI/ Department of Justice team that traveled to Uganda in 2010 to investigate the killing and wounding of U.S. citizens in a terrorist attack. She helped coordinate FBI assistance in the investigation with the lead Ugandan prosecutor, Joan Kagezi. Matsumoto was greatly saddened to learn that, in the midst of the bombing trial some years later, Ms. Kagezi was shot to death in her car, in front of her own children.

"This will be with me for the rest of my life," Matsumoto said. Professionals in the United States feel somewhat secure, but the threat of terrorism to those who are fighting it around the world is very real, she said.

"Not every day there was fantastic, but throughout my career at the FBI, I truly loved my job," she said. "I had more responsibility than I ever imagined, and was able to serve the public and have a true impact on preserving and protecting the nation," Matsumoto said.

"Not bad for the shy and insecure country girl from upstate New York," she remarked.

Hernandez and Matsumoto returned to campus in October to share their career paths to the FBI to students at a Writers@ Work residency.



Lisa (Mapes) Matsumoto, '90

and advice to FBI Special Agents on aspects of several of the FBI's most complex and important national security investigations of that time. She also

▼ HOMECOMING 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

1 Enjoying a casual conversation at the Alumni Awards Dinner are (from left): Dianne Kricheldorf, '54; Marilyn (Eddy) Blue, '55; and Joan Bell Larson, '60.



2 Ed Evans, '77, a member of Fredonia Radio Systems staff, meets with current *Leader* staffers Alyssa Bump, editor in chief (second from right), and Jules Hoepfing, managing editor (far right), at the open house held at the newspaper offices in the Williams Center.



3 Alumni who returned to campus at Homecoming to participate in a biology panel discussion were (front, second from right): Dr. Mark Dudek of Dunkirk Animal Hospital and (from left): Matt Salvati, a fourth-year medical school student at Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine; Mam Deng, a fourth-year medical school student at Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo; and Dr. David DiPalma, who works at a Rochester dental office.

4 There are plenty of smiles to go around at the alumni get together tent among (from left): Pierre Vavoules, '78; Dennis McGrath, '79; Jeanne Palmer, '79; Jim Moore, '79; and Dave Reiman, '80.

5 Among those attending the Alumni Awards Dinner were (from left): Clifton Turner, '84; a member of the Fredonia College Foundation Board of Directors and a past Outstanding Achievement Award recipient; Laurie Tramuta, '82; and Michael Burgio, also a member of the Class of 1984.

6 Carol (Cameron) Larson, '70, enjoying the moment at the Alumni Awards Dinner.

7 William "Bill" Finn, president of Hospice of the Western Reserve and Western Reserve Care Solutions, accepting the Outstanding Achievement Award.

8 The Honorable William "Bill" Taylor, New York State Supreme Court Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial District, accepting the Outstanding Achievement Award.

9 Starbucks® provides a comfortable atmosphere for alumni to gather Saturday morning, while waiting for the rain to subside.



10 President Stephen H. Kolison Jr., with Outstanding Achievement Award recipients William "Bill" Finn (left) and the Honorable William "Bill" Taylor, outside of the Williams Center before the Alumni Awards dinner.

11 Melanie Gregg-McGovern, '96, and Kevin McGovern, '92, (center) meet with Brandon Martinez (left), assistant to the production director and music director at Fredonia Radio Systems, and Alex Erwin, staff representative, at the Saturday open house held at Fredonia Radio Systems.





Your FRED Stories

Every Fredonia graduate has a story. In each edition of the *Statement*, we will 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.



Sharon Hansen, '95

Major: Psychology

Where are you now? After working in higher education for over 25 years, I recently made a career transition. I now work for Isaacson, Miller, a retained executive search firm specializing in recruiting exceptional leaders for mission-driven organizations. I am grateful to be able to apply I learned in my work in career services and college administration in a way that is meaningful to me and impactful to the world. I always told students that the journey of career development spans a lifetime, and I am a proof of that.

How did Fredonia prepare you? Much of what I experienced at Fredonia have prepared me for my career. My studies in Psychology provided an excellent foundation for my work both in higher education and in my current career. Additionally, I was well prepared for graduate school. My work as an RA [Resident Assistant] for two years (Alumni Hall and Schulz Hall) were what sparked my interested in higher ed as a field and in obtaining a master's degree in College Student Development.



Benjamin Soto, '16

Major: Business Administration: Management

Where are you now? I'm a Product Manager with Google in Boston, Mass. I work in Google's Cloud Platform space to drive new technology products from conception to launch by connecting the technical and business worlds. I break down complex problems into steps that drive product development at Google .

How did Fredonia prepare you?

Fredonia's School of Business, Enactus program and, the EDP program, gave me the foundational mindset required to push my career to the next level. They helped me develop a sense of learning which continuously allows me to grow, even after academia. They helped me develop a sense of curiosity which keeps me interested in exploring the unknowns. They helped me develop a sense of ambition and social responsibility which helps me aspire to make the world a better place.





Alexander (Smith) Svensen, '07

Majors: Music Education and Music Performance

Where are you now? Based in southern Connecticut, I enjoy a career as a classical, jazz, and pop double bassist and electric bassist throughout New England and the northeastern United States. I am the principal bassist of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, assistant principal bassist of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (Mass.), and am in the bass section of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. I also maintain a busy freelance career across the New England and the northeastern United States.

How did Fredonia prepare you? The theory, performance, and private study work I did at Fredonia laid the ground work to launch my professional performing career. The performance opportunities at SUNY Fredonia were amazing and world-broadening. The orchestral programming by [Dr.] David Rudge was creative, invigorating, challenging, and incredibly diverse. Some of the musical moments made on the stage at King Concert Hall will be cherished for the rest of my life.



Rachel Slowey, '03

Major: Business Administration: Marketing

Where are you now? After serving at Class President of the SUNY Fredonia Class of 2003 and Vice President of SUNY Fredonia's Dance Team, I moved to Tampa, Fla., shortly after graduation. Today, I am Vice President of Business Development at The Fountain Group, an award-winning, national diverse supplier in contingent workforce. I was fortunate to be named to the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* List of "40 Under 40," an outstanding award among the business community.

How did Fredonia prepare you? I learned early on that outside of the excellent academic programs, it was important to be involved as a leader on campus. Those combined experiences at Fredonia helped prepare me for the business world, where I worked my way up in my business career through connections and personal commitments throughout the community.



1950s

Edward McClenathan, '56, (early childhood ed.) has published two new books: "Holidays and Hoopla" for elementary children, and "The Verity Scanner," a sci-fi adventure that assists in developing critical thinking skills in high school and college students.

1960s

Michael Jon Wagner, '60, (music ed.) has been married to Mary Ann Frasier for 60 years. He published an autobiography in 2017, "Stumbling Forward - A Life," and then an addendum in 2018, "Sidebars to Stumbles." In 2020, he published "I Have No Voice, Yet I Must Roar," all with Lulu Publishers. In 2018 and 2021 he co-authored the 1st and 2nd editions of "ABOUT MUSIC: Critical

1970s

Alan DuBrow, '71, (psych.) is Owner and Principal of a management consulting firm for the defense industry.

James Gormley, '73, (pol. sci.) from Amherst, N.Y., an attorney at Barclay Damon's Buffalo, N.Y., office, was named to the 2022 edition of "The Best Lawyers of America." He is a specialist in corporate law and health care law.

Bill Cocca, '74, '94, (music ed., school admin./super.) conducted the Buffalo Silver Band's summer concerts in 2021. He is a veteran of 36 years of public school music education.

Sharon A. Green, '74, (elem. ed.) recently retired after 39 years as an educator, 35 of those years in higher

"No Power Tools," an original play by **Charlie Krebbs, '77**, (theatre arts/scenic and lighting design) based on his SUNY Fredonia experiences as a theatre major, premiered Nov. 11 at Lakeland University in Wisconsin, where he is Associate Professor of Theatre and Communication, and Director of Lakeland Theatre and Bradley Theatre Manager. He will retire in May.

Lou Deppas, '78, '86, (music ed., school admin./super.) received a Community Service Award from the Jamestown Community Chamber in October at the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce awards event.

Dr. Marie Perini, '79, (music) was named to the Bellefonte (Pa.) Area School District Board of Education. She is retired after 40 years in public school education.

Paul Ihrig, '83, (bus. admin.) has joined the Mergers and Acquisitions team at Agency Brokerage Consultants.

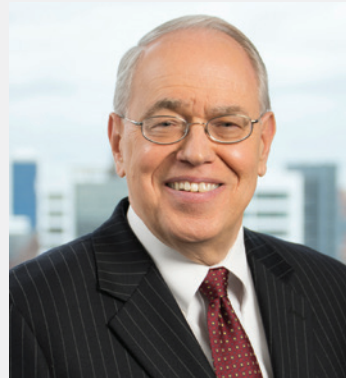
Stephen J. McCall, '83, (sociology) has published his second book, an illustrated children's book, "The Woman Who Pushes Her Bike Through Town," which is available through Kids At Heart Publishing.

Karen Schaeffer Weiser, '83, (commun.) is working as a Story Producer on three series for Nat Geo Wild: "The Incredible Dr. Pol," "Secrets of the Zoo Tampa" and "Dr. Oakley Yukon Vet."

The Second Edition of "Papers On Historical Algonquin and Iroquois Topics," by **Dr. David Ezzo, '85**, (anthro.) and Michael H. Moskowitz, J.D., has been released.



Michael Jon Wagner, '60



James Gormley, '73



Sharon A. Green, '74



SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Robert Spitzer, '75

Listening Skills," with Chandler Bridges/Kendall/Hunt Publishers.

John David "Jack" Martindale, '64, '74, (music ed.) had his memoir published by Amazon, "Luck God & Destiny," including a section describing his days at Fredonia. Jack recently retired from his "retirement music career" as concertmaster of The Advocate Brass Band, the Signature Jazz Orchestra, Soundz of Dixieland Band, and as featured soloist with the Indiana University Southwest Orchestra and Band. He and his wife, Jennie, live in Lake Forest Village Senior Luxury Living Community in Louisville, Ky.

Thomas C. England, '66, (pol. sci.) has retired. He was the co-Founder and CEO of ME&A more than 35 years ago in Washington, D.C., and San Juan, Puerto Rico, to provide consulting services to U.S. federal, state, and municipal governments.

education, most recently at Niagara University.

Dr. Deborah (Anders) Silverman, APR, '76, '79, (English, music ed.) chaired a panel on "Assessment of Public Relations Programs" for the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Educators Academy's virtual annual conference in October.

SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Robert Spitzer, '75, (pol. sci.) who teaches at SUNY Cortland, appeared in a new feature-length documentary, "The Price of Freedom," with his thoughts on gun control legislation. The film had its world premiere on June 16 at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. The film premiered nationwide on July 7, with showings in over 350 theaters. It was produced by Flatbush Pictures and Tribeca Films and directed by Emmy award-winning American filmmaker Judd Milo Ehrlich.

1980s

Linda J. Harris, CPA, '81, (account.) joined the accounting firm of Johnson, Mackowiak & Associates, LLP as a Partner.

David Studwell, '81, (mus. theatre) appeared as Avrum in the national touring production of "The Band's Visit" at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, N.Y., in November.

Betsy (Van Wagner) Wiesendanger, '81, (bus. admin.) is the communications manager for the Chazen Institute for Global Business at Columbia Business School. She earned her M.S. in communications from Columbia University in 2015. Betsy has lived in the metro New York City area for the past 40 years.

Mark Smeadala, '82, (bus. admin.) is Vice President for Intelligent Locations and Living in Naperville, Ill.

Pat Farrell, '86, (bus. admin.) of Garden City Park, N.Y., represented SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. at the inauguration of SUNY Stony Brook's sixth president, Dr. Maurie McInnis, in October.

Arthur Germain, '86, (commun.) recently rebranded his agency to Brandtelling (formerly Communication Strategy Group).

Bryce Thompson, '87, (elem. ed.) recently retired as Superintendent at the Attica (N.Y.) Central School District.

1990s

Heather Bennett, '90, (English) self-published two novels and is the Marketing Coordinator for an engineering firm in Dallas, Texas.

Suzanne Benson, '91, '96, '03, (English sec. ed., school admin./super.) and **Steven S. Swanson, '94**, (econ.) were named to the Jamestown Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

Tom Tette, '91, (account.) is Managing Partner of Allied Financial Partners with offices across Western New York.

Jack D'Agostino, '92, (English) received the Person of the Year Award from the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce in October.

Matthew McPartlin, '92, (theatre) is a Director of Benefits at Hexcel Corporation, a global aerospace supplier and advanced composites manufacturer. His spouse of 26 years, Fredonia classmate Jennifer (Yates) McPartlin (theatre), teaches dance and acting in their local school district. The pair live in New Fairfield, Conn., with their two children, Connor and Amelia. Inspired by a reunion at the dedication of the Rockefeller Arts Center studio complex, they have

Kate Bantle, '95, (graphic design) has joined CPL, a full-service design firm in Buffalo, N.Y., that has served public and private-sector clients for more than 45 years, as a Marketing Coordinator. She is responsible for supporting proposal and business development efforts for CPL's K-12 education practice team.

Dr. Anthony "Tony" Contento, '95, (rec. gene tech.) has been named Dean of the School of Agriculture, Business and Technology at SUNY Morrisville.

Dan Kinney, '96, (elem. ed./social stds.) from Avon, N.Y., incorporated a weekly remote teaching location for his class with fellow teacher Sandy Stetzel during Spring 2020, including "speaking" with a classroom in Seoul, South Korea. He teaches sixth grade at Henrietta's (N.Y.) Sherman Elementary School.

Evan Harrington, '98, (musical theatre) was a member of the first national tour of the five-time Tony Award-winning production of "A Christmas Carol," playing the role of Fezziwig. The production included Bradley Whitford as Ebenezer Scrooge, and had stops in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Spokane, Wash., and Phoenix.

Keri Sprandel Fadden, '98, (commun.) is a member of the sales force and Senior Manager, Adoption Content, for Education Cloud, after 18 years working in higher education.

Dr. Casey Jakubowski, '98, (social stds./history) is the founder of Ctjsolutions, coaching clients and resolving conflicts.

Matt May, '98, (interdis. stds.) from Lighthouse Point, Fla., has written the book, "Take the Fear Out of Team Building."

James Gang, '01, (soc. stds. sec. ed.) from Hamburg, N.Y., was featured in the July/August issue of *New York State United Teachers'* magazine for his Hamburg High School popular elective class, "Herstory! Rad Women who Shaped the World." He is a former instructor with the Academy for Human Rights and has worked with the American Federation of Teachers on a human rights curriculum.

Jessica (Riley) Gilbert, '01, (Spanish sec. ed.) has purchased a building and moved her women's clothing boutique, AvaGraceFashions, to a new location in Ellicottville, N.Y.

Noah Sheedy, '01, (earth sci. sec. ed.) is a ski resort executive in Telluride, Colo.



Linda J. Harris, CPA, '81



Betsy (Van Wagner) Wiesendanger, '81



Arthur Germain, '86



Heather Bennett, '90

been hosting their own version of the Performing Arts Company (PAC) picnic since 2017.

Lorie Mets-Herman, '92, (speech and hear. hand.) spoke at the International Roofing Expo in Las Vegas in August. She is the Business Development/Marketing person for Farrell Roofing of Dunkirk.

Dr. Tracy (Leva) Stenger, '93, (psych.) was named Interim Vice President for Student Affairs at SUNY Fredonia, effective Nov. 11.

Julie (Baldwin) Zack, '94, (graphic design) has been a full-time faculty member at Villa Maria College since 2006 and was promoted to Associate Professor in Spring 2021. She earned a Master of Arts in Advertising Design from Syracuse University, and, in 2020, AAF (American Advertising Federation) Buffalo awarded her the Levy Osborne Award for Excellence in Communications.

Anne (Zichittella) Cheung, '97, (rec. gene tech.) after earning her master's degree, spent 20 years in the biotechnology field in the Boston, Mass., area, first at Biogen, and then at start-up companies. She also founded an all-volunteer nonprofit company, A2Empowerment, in 2008, to award high school scholarships to young women in Cameroon.

Joe McCann, '97, (English) has been a Compliance Auditor with the New York State Gaming Commission for the last 11 years. He was also just elected to his first term as a member of the Aurora (N.Y.) Town Board and volunteers his time helping with the resettlement of Afghan refugees in Western New York.

Frank Williams, '97, (English sec. ed.) was named Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management in August at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.

Laura Dyte Shrader, '98, (French) after 17 years of working in higher education, is now Instructional Designer in the Online Learning office at SUNY Fredonia.

Buffalo Business First honored **Alexandra Lopez, '99**, (communication disorders and sciences) for her contributions to the community in its 2021 "Women of Influence" Awards. She is the Coordinator, Culturally Responsive Education Specialist, for Erie I Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

2000s

Devon Goffman, '00, (mus. theatre) was cast in the role of Tommy DeVito in the 15th anniversary touring production of "Jersey Boys." The multi-city tour started Dec. 12 in Detroit, Mich. **Noah Turner, '19**, (music comp.) is Assistant Music Director for the tour.

Suzanne Short, '01, (English sec. ed.) was named Interim Principal of Rye (N.Y.) High School for the 2021-2022 school year. She formerly served as an Assistant Principal for the past seven years in Rye, and has been employed by the district since 2002.

Christie Lynn Corsoro, '02, (sociology, psych.) has been teaching early childhood special education for 18 years in Fairfax County, Va. She earned a master's degree in Education from George Mason University and a certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis. She is also a Realtor in the Northern Virginia/D.C. metro area.

Ryan Cantor, '03, (bus. admin./finance) has been promoted to Chief Product Officer at Thryv Holdings, Inc., an international software company. He lives in Euless, Texas.

Continued ►

Justin Bruyer, '04, (criminal justice) is the District Testing Coordinator for Wayne County (N.C.) Public Schools, responsible for ensuring the security, training, implementation, and validity of all state tests administered in the district's K-12 schools.

Beth Kulczyk, '04, '07, (child. ed., curr. and instr.) teaches at an elementary school in Orchard Park, N.Y., and in the fall began her 18th year in education.

Dara (Zigrossi) Brands, '05, (childhood ed.) has accepted a full-time Reading Teacher position at Meadow Hill Global Explorations Magnet School in Newburg, N.Y.

Lee Weinberg, '07, (sound rec. tech.) started his own music studio in New York City, Feet 1st Studios. He is best known for the recording, mixing and mastering work he has done for 6ix9ine.

After graduating from SUNY Fredonia, **Cliff Obrist, '08**, (sound rec. tech.) became Assistant Manager at Daddy's Junky Music in Syracuse, N.Y., and then worked as an audio engineer at Outer Limits Studio in Buffalo, N.Y. For the past eight years he has worked for IBM as a computer repair technician. He currently lives in Jamestown with his wife and two boys.

member of the Finance Committee at Irondequoit Country Club.

Alexandra Lugo, '10, (psych.) from Fairport, N.Y., an attorney at Barclay Damon's Buffalo office, was named to the 2022 edition of "The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch." She is a specialist in labor and employment law-management.

Dan Shick, '10, (graphic design) lives in Hamburg, N.Y., with his wife, **Catherine (Colmerauer) Shick, '10** (English). After working at New Era Cap for four years as a headwear designer, he recently joined **Jon Schreiner, '10**, (vis. arts and new media) as a member of the Brennan Entities marketing and design team.

"Carmen" titled, "The Tragedy of Carmen," with Hawaii Opera Theatre in February.

Joshua Jansen, '13, (theatre prod. and design) is Technical Director at The Atlanta Opera.

Katie Cooley, '15, (comp. sci), has been working at *The Post-Journal* in Jamestown for a couple of years as its Computer Layout and Production Specialist, composing papers daily in InDesign, and managing web aspects such as surveys and ads, as well as billing for commercial jobs.

The research paper by **Samantha (Gaudio) Didrichsen, '15**, (early childhood ed.) from Buffalo, N.Y.,



Maria and Tom Tette, '91



Jennifer (Yates) and Matthew McPartlin, '92



Anne (Zichittella) Cheung, '97



Laura Dyte Shrader, '98

Meadow Hill is a K-8 building, and Dara will be working with readers in third, fourth, and fifth grade.

Michael Valerio, '05, (biology), is a Regenerative Medicine Scientist at the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in the D.C. area.

Kara (Davis) MacVean, '06, (bus. admin./market.) was named Grant Development Specialist II for the Senior Vice President for Research at Augusta University in Georgia.

Dr. Kaitlyn Dykstra, '07, (molecular genetics) is an Assistant Professor of biology at St. Bonaventure University.

Jonathan Fuller, '07, (music perf.) lives near Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and works as a training and certification librarian at ServiceNow, a Santa Clara, Calif.-based software company. He is also an organist and often gives tours and presentations on local historic instruments.

Amanda Ornowski, CPA, '08, (account., psych.) joined the firm of Lumsden McCormick Certified Public Accountants as a Tax Principal.

Ashley Wakelee, '08, (childhood ed.) was recently hired in the Gowanda (N.Y.) Central School District as its new Director of Learning and Continual Improvement.

2010s

Zach Arenz, '10, '12, (music ed.) was recognized as Educator of the Year for the 2020-2021 school year in the Rochester (N.Y.) City School District. As a music teacher at Flower City School No. 54, he is recognized for excellence and exceeding expectations in the service of RCSD students and staff.

Patrick A. Capella, CPA, '10, (account.) joined Fust Charles Chambers LLP of DeWitt (N.Y.) as a Partner. Prior to joining the firm, he was a tax principal at Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP of Rochester, N.Y. He lives in Fairport, N.Y., and is a

Matt Kepler, '11, (soc. stds. adol. ed.) is a former Special Forces Green Beret, with two deployments to the Middle East, and currently is Project Manager of counter-UAS technology for a small defense company in Denver, Colo. He earned his Green Beret in 2014 and became a Special Forces Engineer with a focus on Middle Eastern studies and Arabic linguistics, and later earned a master's degree in International Security from the University of Denver.

Kevan McDonald, '11, (bus. admin./market.) is the Second Assistant to the Superintendent at The Country Club of Buffalo.

Donald "DJ" Schier, '11, (commun./public rel.) was named Dean of Students at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Kyle van Schoonhoven, '11, (music ed.) covered the supporting role of Loud Stone in Matthew Aucoin's "Eurydice" at the Metropolitan Opera in November. He is slated to perform the role of Don José in a 90-minute adaptation of Bizet's

titled, "Familiar vs. Unfamiliar Stimuli in Multiple Stimulus Preference Assessments," was published in the online journal Special Education Research, Policy and Practice, by Hofstra University.

Dominique Kempf, '15, (theatre arts) appeared as Suzie in the Broadway musical "Tootsie" as it began its national tour in Buffalo, N.Y., in October, at Shea's Performing Arts Center.

William Webber, '15, (French, Spanish, intl. stds.) lives in Washington, D.C. He is Associate Director of Membership at Partners of the Americas, and volunteers as Chair of the Latin America and Caribbean Specific Interest Group for NAFSA: Association of International Educators. In September, he was selected as one of 25 young leaders to participate in ASAE's 2021 NextGen Association Summit.

James Feldmann, '18, (history) was appointed Executive Assistant to Chautauqua County Executive P.J. Wendel.

Hei Jing Jason Cheung, '19, (comp. sci.) of Bellevue, Wash., has been hired by Microsoft as a Software Engineer.

Kaylei Russell, '19, (public account.) is a CPA and a Senior Accountant at Brock Schechter & Polakoff in Buffalo, N.Y., working on a variety of assignments including cross border and domestic taxation, audits and attestation engagements.

Emily Sullivan, '19, (bus. admin./mgmt.) is a Career Services Advisor at Bryant & Stratton College and a MBA student at St. Bonaventure University.

of influencer marketing campaigns through research, outreach, and teamwork.

Joe Russi, '21, (mus. theatre) appeared in the Shea's 710 production of "RENT" in the role of Angel in Buffalo, N.Y., in November. He also appeared with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra's "Halloween Spooktacular Pops" in King Concert Hall at SUNY Fredonia.

It was announced in September that **Dr. Jeffery Kelly, '82**, (chem.), who is the Lita Annenberg Hazen Professor of Chemistry at Scripps Research, has won the \$3 million 2022 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. In a news release, Scripps noted that Dr. Kelly is being recognized for "work in demonstrating that nervous system and heart diseases can be caused by protein clumping-associated toxicity, and for inventing a medication to slow progression of such diseases." The prize is recognized as one of the world's most prestigious in science.



Dr. Jeffery Kelly, '82



Cliff Obrist, '08



Amanda Ornowski, CPA, '08



Zach Arenz, '10, '12



Elizabeth N. George, '21

2020s

Deoniss Jackson, '20, (criminal justice) from Buffalo, N.Y., has been appointed Assistant Director of Residence Life at Collegiate Village in Buffalo.

Sally Rudny, '20, (psych.) has been named Head Coach of the Jamestown Community College women's volleyball team.

Wayland Whitney, '20, (music perf./conducting) has been named Conductor of the Modesto (Calif.) Symphony Orchestra. He co-founded the Placer County Youth Orchestra and is Director of the Music in the Mountains Youth Orchestra and Assistant Conductor of the Music in the Mountains Orchestra.

Elizabeth N. George, '21, (commun./public rel.) is working as a Perlu Digital Outreach Specialist for Terakeet in Syracuse, N.Y. Her days consist of wearing a ton of hats for Perlu (an influencer marketing platform), with duties including aiding the planning and execution

Dr. Thomas J. Quatroche Jr., '92, (bus. admin./market.) who is President and CEO of Erie County (N.Y.) Medical Center, (left) was presented a plaque by SUNY Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr. in appreciation of Dr. Quatroche's service to the university as Commencement keynote speaker in 2020 and 2021. Dr. Quatroche's talk was featured on videos produced by Fredonia's Office of Marketing and Communications and the Commencement Committee for both ceremonies. Also attending the presentation was Fredonia Alumni Association President Greg Gibbs.

A copy of the Fredonia College Foundation's most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry of the New York State Office of the Attorney General at www.charitiesnys.com, (212) 416-8401, or by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or us at 272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY 14063



Dr. Thomas J. Quatroche, '92, and President Stephen H. Kolison Jr.

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

Births

A daughter, Adelina Dana Douglas Bruyer, to **Heidi** and **Justin Bruyer**, '04 (criminal justice).

A daughter, Allie, to **Dan** (graphic design) and **Catherine (Colmerauer) Shick**, '10 (English).

Marriages

Cori (Barnard), '18, (public rel.) and **Keith Monahan**, '16, (comp. info. sys.) shared this fun photo (below) of their wedding in October. The Fredonia flag was gifted to Cori from the Office of Admissions, where she worked as a student. She is currently Assistant Director of Admissions for Paul Smith's College, adding, "so I love seeing the Fredonia Admissions team out on the road during travel season."

Cori noted, "Our time at Fredonia was truly some of the best years of our lives. From the classes and professors that have guided us to our futures to the multitude of clubs and organizations to get involved in. We are so thankful for the lifelong friendships that were built and the wonderful community that we will always have surrounding us, thanks to Fredonia."

**Deaths*****ALUMNI**

Dorothea (Miller) Reilly, Class of 1941

Marian (Brumm) Carlson, Class of 1944

Elizabeth (Fox) Abram, Class of 1949

Robert E. Coon, Class of 1950

Marjorie A. (Pangborn) Brauer, Class of 1951

Marjorie (Anderson) Daniels, Class of 1952

Helen (Petitt) Snyder, Class of 1952

Dr. Mario D. Rabozzi, Class of 1953

Dr. William McPhee, Class of 1954

Richard "Dick" C. Ingraham, Class of 1955

Anthony "Luke" Parisi, Class of 1958

Rev. Joseph A. Williams, Class of 1958

Dr. Jay William Erickson, Class of 1959

Dr. Michael D. Nascimben, Class of 1959

Mary Lou (LaMattina) Pawlak, Class of 1959

John P. Szczerbacki, Class of 1961

Lois A. (Wood) Sanderson, Class of 1962

Sandra L. Linderman, Class of 1966

Maureen (Osborne) Pagano, Class of 1966

Ronald L. VanOrd, Class of 1967

Patrick L. Bailey, Class of 1968

Jessica (Liebowitz) Biondi, Class of 1968

William "Bill" Bowen, Class of 1968

Harold E. Coons, Class of 1968

Joyce A. (Fisher) Walsh, Class of 1969

Gerald "Jerry" W. Mann Sr., Class of 1970

Kathleen Ann (Barnwell) Bechtel, Class of 1971

Mary Ellen (Schmatz) Nicholson, Class of 1971

Dale Spaulding, Class of 1971

James M. Barto, Class of 1972

John V. LaBardo, Class of 1972

Marion (Congdon) Sticek, Class of 1973

Ruth S. (Morris) Theilemann, Class of 1974

David K. Moyer, Class of 1975

David Pistner, Class of 1975

Susan (Brooks) Horvath, Class of 1978

Jeffrey D. Garverick, Class of 1981

Melody Lynn (Swanson) Peterson, Class of 1981

Phillip J. Trusso, Class of 1983

Tristram "Scott" Barnard, Class of 1985

Dr. Donald W. Imm, Class of 1985

Shawn Stone, Class of 1985

Christopher S. Nowak, Class of 1988

Eric R. Wright, Class of 1992

Kenneth F. Sohmer, Class of 1995

Michael J. Onderko, Class of 1996

Andrew C. White, Class of 2008

Jonathan B. Kenneth, Class of 2009

Shirley M. (West) Ibach, Class of 2014

FACULTY/EMERITI

Paul D. Andrews, Student Counselor, Director of the Counseling Center, 1972–1999

Dr. Alan LaFlamme, Instructor/Assistant/Associate/Professor, Department of Sociocultural and Justice Sciences (Anthropology)/Commencement Mace Bearer, 1970–2021

Dr. Edwin D. Lawson, Professor, Department of Psychology, 1967–1989, 1990–1992

Barbara Ann Neth, Adjunct Faculty, Communication Disorders and Sciences, 2009–2020

Kenneth J. Plucinski, Assistant/Associate Professor, Accounting/School of Business, 1984–2011

STAFF/FORMER STAFF/RETIRED STAFF

Joseph J. Kolasa, Supervising Electrician, Facilities Services, 1970–1999

Deborah A. (Dewey) McCown, Mini Computer Operator/Office Manager, Faculty Student Association, 1978–2011

Nancy L. Wagner, Director, Liberty Partnerships Program/SUNY Research Foundation, 1989–2021

*Memorials may be directed to a scholarship established with the Fredonia College Foundation. See fredonia.edu/foundation.

Gift from alumni benefits future generations of Fredonia saxophonists

Dr. Michael D. Nascimben, '59, a well-known Fredonia Music Education graduate, educator and performer, passed away in September. Prior to his passing, he and his wife, **Sylvia (Cowe) Nascimben**, '67, gifted his personal music library of saxophone music to the Fredonia School of Music.

At one time, Dr. Nascimben was Principal Saxophonist of the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point. His teaching experience spanned over 60 years and included teaching at all levels, from elementary to university. He also was a founding member of the West Point Saxophone Quartet, Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the DaCapo Saxophone Quartet, and performed with symphony orchestras including the Buffalo Philharmonic, Austin Symphony and the Meadowbrook Orchestra.

Dr. Wildy Zumwalt of the School of Music woodwind faculty noted the significance of the Nascimbens' gift: "Fredonia alumnus Michael Nascimben was a wonderful saxophonist, arranger, and teacher. We are saddened by his passing and ever so grateful that he and his wife, Sylvia, chose to donate his collection of saxophone music to the Fredonia Saxophone Studio. Thanks to his generosity, students will have access to these scores for future study and performance."

CAREER CORNER

by TRACY COLLINGWOOD, '94
Director, Engagement and Career Development

'Meet the Professionals' sessions pay dividends for alumni

When something works, you stick with it.

That phrase easily applies to SUNY Fredonia alumni who return to campus, often year after year, for "Meet the Professionals Night" to get acquainted with Accounting and Finance students who could be good fits for their employers.

Fourteen alumni represented eight of a record 26 organizations participating in-person in the fall semester's "Meet the Professionals Night" to discuss internship and employment opportunities with juniors and seniors. The School of Business and Career Development Office sponsor the event to provide high-impact experiences to help students learn and practice career readiness skills.

And it works quite well for everyone! "We have hired many Fredonia graduates and generally find the students to be well prepared to enter the business world," said Andrew Reading, CPA, a partner at Dopkins & Company, LLP. "Additionally, Fredonia students have a strong work ethic," noted the '07 graduate, who earned a B.S. in Accounting and Business Administration: Finance and has attended several Meet the Professionals Nights.

Alumni represented five accounting firms, two finance/banking firms and a state agency.

It was the inaugural "Meet the Professionals Night" for Evans Bank

representatives Michael Ceccato and Sarah Smith, and they're both looking forward to returning. Students were very well prepared, professional and eager, observed Mr. Ceccato, a retail sales support specialist who earned a B.S. in Business Administration: Management in 2003, and "you can tell they had done their homework on the employer in advance."

These kinds of events are extremely helpful for companies to get that first look at the next wave of potential candidates, added Ms. Smith, a wealth program manager who received a B.S. in Business Administration: Finance and Economics, in 2015. "It's a great opportunity for soon-to-be graduates to network and find what they value in a company before going out into the work force."

Smith enjoyed talking with students and admiring their excitement about the event. "Fredonia gives so many opportunities to get hands-on experience through their internships or organizations (Enactus, Business Club, etc.) that they are able to talk about in interviews, or when networking," she said.

Many employers like to send alumni to this event, noted Career Development Office Associate Director Chris LaGrow. "Alumni can relate a little better to current students and make them feel a little more at ease. And students can learn a lot about what to expect in the workplace from these alumni."



Richard Burllett, '13, representing the Office of the State Comptroller, meets with Leah Heimink, a senior Finance major from Marlboro, N.Y.



BS&P CPAs and Consultants representatives Molly Gibbs, '21, (third from left) and Melissa Stevener, partner, (second from right), meet with students Morgan Muriel, a senior Public Accountancy major (far left), Allison Price, senior, Public Accountancy (second from left) and Hannah Boothe, senior and a future hire at BS&P CPAs and Consultants, Public Accountancy (far right).



Michael Andalora (center), a Business Administration: Finance major from Jamestown, and Luis Romero, Business Administration, from Liberty, N.Y., discuss career opportunities with Sarah Smith, '15, a wealth program coordinator at Evans Bank.

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