

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Fall 2020

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette

"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part."

John Lewis, *Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change*



Our nation is experiencing a period of intense unrest and turbulence. Individuals are gathering even during social distancing restrictions to express the need for change – eradication of racism, maintenance of voting rights as well as women's rights, solutions to immigration, availability of quality health care and virus testing, and equity in education. Coverage of senseless killings, particularly killings of blacks, dominates the press and news reports.

People have grown restless. Social distancing and travel restrictions have become quite confining after five months. Wearing a mask in public is becoming second nature to us in Western New York. Going to the grocery store and Home Depot now are celebrated outings for us, and a reason to wear clothes that aren't work-in-the-yard attire. Even driving around the new roundabout in Fredonia has been a thrill (particularly when there is a downpour!).

Facebook postings seem to focus on how we are spending time in our homes and in our immediate area. Who knew that there were so many chipmunks and squirrels around? Who knew that the robins begin their morning songs before 6 AM? Who knew that the dehumidifiers filled their reservoirs every 8 hours? Who knew that zucchini plants don't always overproduce? When did the dew each morning become so heavy? Why do the rainclouds pass by without a drop of rain falling in our area? (You can see that I have just too much time to ponder such profound questions.) We seem to have plenty of time to sharpen awareness of our surroundings and to reacquaint ourselves with the wonders of the kitchen. Even my neighbors' children have spent time in our kitchen making zucchini cake, roasted tomato sauce, and fresh tomato soup. We hope to move onto juicing apples and carrots in the near future.

We have limited face-to-face interactions with only a few people, with the aim of not contracting COVID-19 and not spreading it if we are asymptomatic. For now, phone calls, emails, messages, and texts will have to do. These don't replace direct interactions but are the best alternative during our unsettled time.

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

► My Corner—*continued*

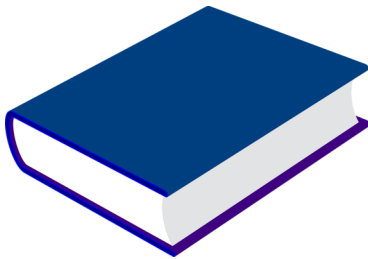
Evenings are spent reading, catching up on sports, highlights of the political conventions, reruns of movies, and Netflix series as well as star gazing. A real treat has been visibility of some planets - Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars appear in the evening sky; Venus rises before dawn. The search for meteors continues even after the Perseid meteor showers have peaked.

Although the Emeritus Group won't be gathering formally in October this year (see Save the Date section), I hope you can reach out to our colleagues through Facebook or with an email, telephone call and/or a snail mail note. Please stay safe!

"He signed and sat up, elbows on his knees, looking tired. Not physically tired, Kate thought, but mentally, emotionally, spiritually tired. Tired right down to his soul. 'Sometimes I wonder if we'll ever get it right in this country. If we'll ever stop seeing people who don't look like us as other. As disposable. If those kids had been white, how different might their story have been at that border crossing in Texas.'"

- Dana Stabenow, 2020, No Fixed Line, p. 308

► Newsbit



I have signed a contract with Wiley publishers. Many activities must be completed before the book appears---rewriting; locating photos, and obtaining permissions; composing an index; etc. The book will come out in Fall 2021. The tentative title is *Lost Worlds of 1863: Relocation and Removal of American Indians in the Central Rockies and the Greater Southwest*. The book narrates the removal of the lands and identities of several Southwestern tribes, including Navajo, Hopi, Shoshoni, Apache, Paiute, Ute, Yavapai, Yaqui (northern Mexico), Pima and Papago. Steven Yazzie, well known in the Southwest as a prominent Navajo artist, wrote the foreword for the book.

-Dirk Raat

Informational Website

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

► A message from President Stephen H. Kolison Jr.



I believe that the relevance meter for public higher education institutions must include inspiring and preparing students to be skilled, connected, creative, ethical, entrepreneurial, innovative, and responsible professionals and global citizens. Public institutions must be engaged with the communities in which they are located. In other words, it is not enough for public institutions to be located in a community. They must be of, and for the communities in which they are located, and be strong socioeconomic anchors for those communities. An excellent example of this is the State University of New York at Fredonia. This is why I am thrilled beyond expression to be the 14th President of the State University of New York at Fredonia.

SUNY Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Merryl Tisch, and all members of the SUNY Board of Trustees, Former Chancellor Kristina Johnson and the senior leadership of the State University of New York System, College Council Chair Frank Pagano and members of the College Council, and all the members of the Presidential Search Committee, thank you for this tremendous opportunity and confidence. Also, I want to thank my family for their love and support. I want to thank my dear friends and mentors across the globe for their support and being a part of my journey. Allow me to thank the faculty, staff, students, and my cabinet colleagues at the University of Indianapolis for their generosity, hospitality, and the accomplishments we achieved together during the last three years.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Interim President Dennis Hefner for the guidance and leadership he provided Fredonia during the 2019-2020 year.

To the students at Fredonia, I am overjoyed to have the opportunity to be of service to you all. The State University of New York at Fredonia is your institution. You belong! So, embrace it, love it, and take full advantage of all that it has to offer. I will work hard each day to ensure that you are successful in your endeavors.

To the faculty and staff at Fredonia, you are my partners in the advancement of our university. To the citizens of the Village of Fredonia and the neighboring communities, I am going to be one of you and a strong partner in the work to advance our region.

Sincerely,
Stephen H. Kolison Jr.

► Update Your Contact Information

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

► Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- **Emeritus Fall Luncheon**

With COVID-19 still a potential threat in our area, the luncheon, scheduled for **October 15, 2020**, has been cancelled.

- **Virtual Homecoming Weekend—October 16-18, 2020.**

Please continue to check the Alumni website for virtual Homecoming events.

<https://www.fredonia.edu/alumni>

- **President's Award for Excellence Luncheon**

As the result of regulations from the government and public health organizations, as well as the safety of our employees, the President's Award for Excellence Luncheon scheduled for October 28 has been postponed until **Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at noon in the Williams Center Multipurpose Room.**

At Fredonia, we are making daily decisions through the lens of how to best keep our faculty, staff, students, emeritus, and community members safe and healthy. With that being said, we hope to hold this event in the spring so that we can properly celebrate our recent retirees and recognize our 2020 and 2021 Presidential Award for Excellence recipients. All are welcome to this event...faculty, staff, students and emeritus.

The President's office will let you know in early spring if we're able to hold this luncheon in April. For now, (if you are planning to join us), please hold April 21 on your calendar.

- **2021 Commencement**

May 15, 2021

- **2020 Commencement Postponed**

More than 59% of the graduating Class of 2020 voted to hold an in-person Commencement next May. As a result, the 2020 Commencement will be held on **Sunday, May 16, 2021** at 10:00 AM in Steele Hall.

► Find us on Facebook



Fredonia Emeriti

A private group for the State University of New York at Fredonia Emeritus

► Walking WNY in the Time of COVID-19

The Buffalo News published an op ed piece by our colleague Bill Graebner on July 16th. Bill's assessment of his walks with his wife Dianne reminds us of the joy of walking adventures, but also of the disparity in treatment because of our perceived races. With Bill's permission, a reprint of his article appears here.

To stay active and engaged in the time of the coronavirus, I've spent many afternoons with my wife, Dianne, discovering some of the lesser-known parts of Buffalo and its environs.

Equipped with boots and hiking sticks, we've explored remote and often muddy paths – in Gardenville, in West Seneca, in Cheektowaga, even in Williamsville and Amherst – that here and there allow access to the area's rivers and creeks and to the wild and dense woods that cover their banks, where one comes across the occasional wild turkey, and more deer than people.

Whether in South Buffalo or Black Rock or Lackawanna or Kaisertown, we've enjoyed walking along abandoned rail lines, often bound by woodlands used by youths on ATVs. We've enjoyed old industrial sites, some being reclaimed by nature (and the occasional skateboarder), others graffiti-covered hulks, with the remains of a camp fire.

This activity requires chutzpah. Following Two Mile Creek in Tonawanda, we went through the heart of Sheridan Golf Course, where we didn't belong. A trek through the back spaces of nearby Sheridan Parkside, World War II housing, involved exiting onto the street through someone's yard, where a security vehicle appeared. Entering Cayuga Creek at Harlem Road and Clinton Street meant walking on the property of an industrial equipment business.

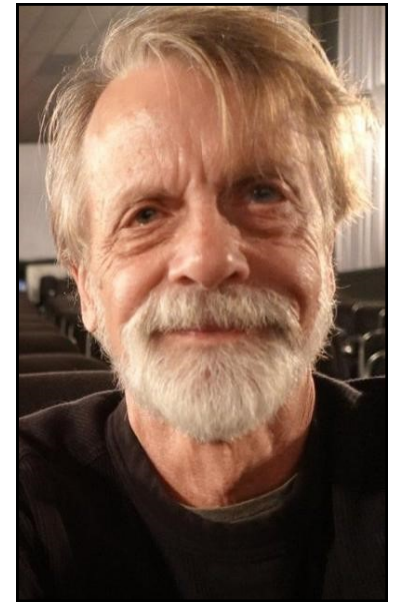
Often the contours of a river or creek forced us to exit the streambed – into the rear of a cemetery, or an earth-moving business, or across back yards, then down quiet streets, of the tidy French Quarter Mobile Home Park. While walking the silent roads of what remains of Bethlehem Steel – not a soul in sight – a police car appeared, and drove by.

We have crawled through holes in dozens of fences, poked around businesses protected by cameras, and been known to ignore ("didn't see") the occasional "No Trespassing" sign. We joke that we probably commit one illegal –or prohibited or unauthorized – act each day we do this sort of hiking.

We can do this – thus far with impunity – for two reasons: because we are old (late 70s), and therefore understood to be harmless; and, more importantly, because we are white. Were we young and Black, our contacts with law enforcement would, we think, have gone very differently.

Golfers would likely have reported our presence on the Sheridan course. In Bowmansville, where the streambed paths cross private property – and where we were made aware of the hostility of some homeowners – our presence would not have been tolerated. In the rail yards of Tonawanda, west of Military Road, the switchman we saw would have warned us off; instead we got a wave from the engineer. And in the French Quarter, could two black teenagers have emerged from the creek bed, navigated several back yards, and reached the main road without some kind of confrontation?

The coronavirus has driven us outdoors and introduced us to an aspect of the Buffalo area that we didn't know existed. The other phenomenon of the day – the Black Lives Matter movement – has made it clear that our explorations owe a great deal to something unearned and undeserved: white privilege.



Besides walking, William Graebner and his wife, Dianne, review films together.

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. Myron Luntz passed away on June 20, 2020. Dr. Luntz was a faculty member in the Department of Physics at the State University of New York at Fredonia from 1969 until his retirement in 1997. During his tenure, he served as Chair of the Department of Physics and assisted with the Educational Opportunity Program.

An online guestbook is available at <https://www.levinememorialchapel.com/home/>.

Memorial donations may be made in Dr. Myron Luntz's name to the Fredonia College Foundation, 272 Central Avenue or <https://give-to-fredonia.formstack.com/forms/campaign>.

Dr. Marvin Kohl passed away on July 8, 2020. Dr. Kohl joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1965 as Assistant Professor of Philosophy. During his thirty year career with SUNY, he served as a department chair and a SUNY Faculty Exchange Scholar before retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1995.

The family suggests donations in his memory be made to the Bertrand Russell Society (<https://bertrandrussellsociety.org/donate>) or the American Civil Liberties Union (www.ACLU.org).

Dr. Jere A. Wysong passed away on August 16, 2020. Professor Wysong was employed at the State University of New York at Fredonia from 1973 until his retirement in 2002. During his tenure, he served as assistant to the dean for arts and sciences, director of health services administration program, and he held a Fulbright Senior Lectureship at Philipps University, Marburg, Germany.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation in Professor Wysong's memory to the Men's Soccer Booster Club, Fredonia State Athletics, 120 Dods Hall, Fredonia NY.