

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Fall 2021

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette

Be a weed! A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.
- Doug Larson



Did you ever notice that twenty-four hours after you have weeded flower beds and/or vegetable gardens new renegades dare to poke up out of the soil? Where were these yesterday? How did they escape the wrath of my hoe, Hori-hori, cultivator, or claw? As I re-enter the garden, I swear that I hear sinister sounding music. But the promise of a weed-free area is just too tempting; I relent and begin to pull the offenders. My younger sister hates to weed, garden, and work outside in the yard. She claims that she would "rather poke her eyes out" than to weed. I am tempted to conclude that she was adopted and shares no genetic material with me but I remember my mother being pregnant with her and bringing daughter #4 home from the hospital.

With the impact of Covid-19 and its Delta variant, staying close to home, Doug and I have spent many hours outside on our property. We continue to thin, trim, and shape previous plantings of trees and shrubs. To some people's surprise, we relocate plants somewhat regularly, naturalizing some on the edges of our fields. Even though we claim that we are



out of room, the lure of new plants at local garden centers is just too strong. We find ourselves picking up a flower, shrub, or tree at each visit as we consider potential planting sites. Our "nursery" is a collection of baby plants that once developed will be transplanted or given to another lucky gardener. Throwing live plants onto our brush pile seems sinful; as a result, we put seedlings into recycled pots. Yes, we have a few Roses of Sharon in the nursery as these plants propagate rabidly. I remind Doug of the Rose of Sharon hedge we viewed during Garden Walk Buffalo a few years ago with the ultimate hope of establishing such a hedge somewhere on our property.



Summer is slipping away. August's heavy morning dews and budded goldenrods signal that we are on the cusp of another season. But we relish every sunny day and welcome rain that provides inside time to deal with house plants and to continue to cull. Like many of you, we miss traveling but are hopeful that opportunities to roam will arise in 2022. For now, we appreciate happy hours on our deck with books in hand. We look forward to future Emeritus Group events when we can gather safely (hopefully in October of this year; see reservation form).

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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*

"The trouble with you is," said Mrs. Oliver, beginning to unwrap a package which she had obviously recently purchased, "the trouble with you is that you insist on being smart. You mind more about your clothes and your moustaches and how you look and what you wear than comfort. Once you've passed, say fifty, comfort is the only thing that matters."

- Agatha Christie



I think I can say with some certainty that folks in our Emeritus Group have moved beyond our 50th birthday. When Mrs. Oliver is chastising Hercule Poirot, she is right about comfort and its relative standing in our lives. May each of you find comfort in whatever form suits you.

Christie, A. (1969). *Hallowe'en party*. NY: Dodd, Mead and Company, pp. 189-190.

► IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR FREDONIA EMAIL ACCOUNT

Ben Hartung, Interim Chief Information Officer (CIO) sent Emeritus Faculty the following email regarding continuance of their Fredonia email accounts. Please note the deadline for dealing with this matter (October 4th). The text of the email appears in its entirety:

Fredonia greatly values and treasures our Emeritus community. In that spirit, we will continue to protect the assets of your beloved institution and our faculty, staff, and emeriti. Higher education institutions across the world are increasingly required to take additional security steps in protecting access to campus systems and services used to store data. We have implemented necessary and mandated security measures to ensure that student, faculty, and staff information, as well as important and private institutional data, are protected from phishing and other online security risks.

We have, for example, implemented a system of dual authentication to protect Fredonia against identity thieves and other scammers having malicious intentions. We have also made efforts to reduce the overall number of used email accounts which have a tendency to be compromised very easily. Consistent with our efforts to increase online security at Fredonia, it is necessary to provide additional protections for lifetime email access granted to retired faculty and staff approved to receive Emeritus Privileges.

To help protect your email Google Workspace account (Gmail, Google Apps, etc.), please contact the ITS Service Center by calling (716) 673-3407 or emailing its.servicecenter@fredonia.edu **on or before October 4th, 2021** to complete the following steps:

1. Confirm that you wish to continue to use your fredonia.edu email account by emailing its.servicecenter@fredonia.edu. This step is necessary to reduce the overall number of unused email accounts that we need to maintain and secure. All accounts that have not been accessed in the last two years will be deactivated unless you notify ITS that you wish to continue using the account.
2. Enroll in Duo [Multi-factor Authentication \(MFA\)](#). Please contact the ITS Service Center to complete this step by calling (716) 673-3407 or emailing its.servicecenter@fredonia.edu. We are ready to assist!

These measures will help protect Fredonia's electronic assets, reduce the chance of data loss while supporting the open, information-sharing needs of our academic culture.

► Save the Date

- ◆ President's Award for Excellence Recognition
October 13, 2021, 12:00 PM—Cancelled

► Things to Check Out

- ◆ Please check out the events calendar for upcoming public events. <https://events.fredonia.edu/>
- ◆ The 2021-22 Lake Shore Savings Seasons opens September 16 with the Beatles tribute concert. <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/rockefeller-arts-center>
- ◆ Diane Everett, Kripalu-certified yoga instructor and Yoga Alliance member will be teaching free EAP sponsored yoga classes.

When:

Beginning August 31st
Tuesday From 11:50 AM—12:30 PM
Friday from 11:30 AM—12:10 PM

Where:

262 RAC Dance Studio—This is located on the west side of the building in the addition, just down the hall from the Merrins Dance Studio.

The classes are open to all faculty and staff including CSEA and FSA at SUNY Fredonia. This will be a gentle yoga class, so no prior yoga experience is required. Come join our yoga sangha (community) for stress relief, camaraderie, stretching and strengthening. Wear loose and/or stretchy clothing and bring your own mat. Blocks and straps are not required but many people choose to use them to assist with certain postures.

► 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.

Emeritus Group October Luncheon Clarion Hotel 30 Lake Shore Drive East Dunkirk, NY Thursday, October 14, 2021

Please reserve **Thursday, October 14th** for our Emeriti Luncheon at the Clarion Hotel.

We will meet and mingle over lemonade at 11:30 a.m.—lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

Please send your reservations **and** food choice **by October 3rd** (Note: The Clarion needs this lead time to ensure availability of the entrees). **Make your check payable to Emeritus Group.** Please note the price for each entrée.

Luncheon Entrée

Roasted Pork Loin *or*
Tortellini Alfredo with Broccoli & Garlic Bread
With garden salad
Chef's choice of potato and vegetable
Warm rolls and butter
Fresh brewed regular and decaffeinated coffee and tea
Dessert

Send your meal reservation to:

Barbara Mallette
PO Box 328
Cassadaga, NY 14718

We look forward to seeing you.
—Barbara and Doug

Name _____

___ Roasted Pork Loin \$19 per person

___ Tortellini Alfredo w/Broccoli \$19 per person

Name _____

___ Roasted Pork Loin \$19 per person

___ Tortellini Alfredo w/Broccoli \$19 per person

Number attending _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

NOTE: If incidence of Covid-19 or its Delta variant increases significantly at the beginning of October 2021, we will cancel this event. All checks will be returned if the event is cancelled by October 5th.

► Emeritus Scholarship Awarded to Kelsey Wolfe

My name is Kelsey Wolfe and I am a Senior Biochemistry and Public Relations double major at Fredonia. I am the President of Chemistry Club and the Vice President of TriBeta Biological Honor Society. I am also a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association's Honor Society, and a member of Golden Key International Honor Society. I have been a chemistry tutor for the Learning Center since Fall of 2020. Since my sophomore year, I have been working on biochemical research in Dr. Fountain's lab where we've done analytical experiments on RNA and small molecule linkers as well as the *cMYC* gene, which forms a triple helix (unlike the usual double helix that DNA forms).

The *cMYC* gene is linked to over 40% of cancers in humans, so by studying the structure of its promoter region, we could determine possible drug targets for the gene as cancer therapy. The goal of the project is to confirm the triple helix structure with 1- and 2-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra. Beyond research, Public Relations has allowed me to enhance my communication skills for a future in health communication. After graduation from Fredonia, I would like to further my education in a graduate program that connects biochemical research and the need for science communication. Becoming a science communicator would allow me to explain the research behind new scientific advancements or medical technologies to non-scientists.



► Homecoming 2021

Fredonia Homecoming 2021 looks inviting and could be the highlight of your October! A variety of events have been planned. Please consult the Homecoming website for details: <https://events.fredonia.edu/homecoming>

Informational Website

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

► Emeritus Spotlight—Linda Brigance

By Barbara Mallette & Linda Brigance

"There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."
- John F. Kennedy



Linda Brigance is originally from Detroit. She spent much of her early years in the Motor City and has many fond memories of life there. But change was inevitable. Linda's father was transferred to Grenada, Mississippi (about halfway between Memphis TN and Jackson MS) when Linda was in the seventh grade. Her father was part of a management team opening a new automotive parts plant. A total of six families moved to this small southern town. Small town life was enjoyable, but there were many noticeable differences between the native Southerners and the transplanted Yankees. Although she had a lot of friends and was active in many community activities, Linda remembers never growing accustomed to the racial differences in Mississippi. Linda recalls that many of her friends had black maids, which was so outside her experience in Detroit. Forty-five minutes away from Grenada, James Meredith became the first black student at the racially segregated University of Mississippi. Linda recalled how several people she knew headed to Oxford with guns to prevent Meredith's entry into the university. A few years later, her high school in Grenada was burned down when integration was forced in Mississippi.

Shortly after moving to Grenada, Linda experienced a particularly poignant event concerning the death of President John F. Kennedy, a man she admired greatly. On the day of the assassination, Linda was home for the lunch break when the news of the shooting in Dallas was announced on television. Shortly after returning to school, when the principal of her school announced that President had been assassinated, her social studies teachers led the class in applause. Linda was stunned by this response. Linda was again surprised when her teachers and classmates, who just few days before had clapped at the announcement of Kennedy's death, stood in respect for the presidential office as they watched Kennedy's funeral in the school auditorium. Interestingly, while at Fredonia, Linda was astonished when on the anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination, another faculty member who had lived in Mississippi at the time of the assassination wrote about an identical experience on a display in the library.

Another promotion for her father meant a move to Memphis when Linda was in the middle of her sophomore year. She graduated from high school in Memphis and completed one year of college at the University of Memphis (then Memphis State) before getting married. While her two daughters were young, she continued taking courses part-time and completed her degree in Social Work. During her course work and internship, Linda confirmed the joy she received from working in social services. After graduation, Linda served as the Assistant Director of the Partner Program and then Director of Foster Grandparent Parent Program, both federally funded social services agencies. Her work with volunteers at those programs led to her position as Director of Volunteer Services at the Memphis public hospital. When her supervisor, the Director of Corporate Communications left the hospital, Linda was offered her position managing the hospital's marketing, development, and public relations functions.

Dealing with the media was one of Linda's favorite parts of the job. Her hospital stories are entertaining: Jerry Lee Lewis as a hospital patient, a missing person in the hospital, and even a murder in the hospital. She also managed media communications during a hospital workers' strike. Linda relayed her one rule for dealing with the media: Never lie or hide anything.

"It is always a risk to speak to the press; they are likely to report what you say."
- Hubert Humphrey

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► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Linda Brigance



Linda completed a Master's Degree in Communication with a focus on film history and theory at the University of Memphis. While completing this degree, the hospital department grew and her position evolved from working directly with media and the public to managing a staff that took over these duties. She found herself at a crossroads. Management wasn't as fulfilling; opportunities to TA in the Master's Program opened the world of teaching to her. To teach in higher education, Linda would need a Ph.D. Her interest in film history just seemed too narrow a field, with few employment prospects. However, her background in public relations fit with doctoral programs in rhetoric and persuasive communication. Linda's graduate professors were supportive and shared their doctoral experiences. Because several of her major professors were graduates of the University of Iowa, they made sure that faculty there connected with Linda.

She had no idea where Iowa was located; checking out the state's location, Linda applied to University of Iowa (UI) and was accepted. Iowa (and the Midwest) immediately felt more like home than the South. The warm summers were delightful but the bitter winters were unbearable. Iowa City seemed to endure weeks of 0° days, with viscous winds originating from Nebraska, Oklahoma and Canada. Because of this experience, she may be one of the few people to move to WNY and think the winters aren't so bad.

Linda referred to Iowa City as "the ultimate college town." She loved her time in the city and at the university, and has fond memories of her colleagues in UI's doctoral program who made a pact to support each other through the program to assure everyone's success. There was always so much to do in Iowa City, including attending lectures by world-renowned authors and experts, attending musical performances, walking explorations of the city, and spending time with wonderful colleagues. One yearly highlight was getting together as a department to watch the Super Bowl—but as communication scholars, they talked and visited during the game and then all gathered together to watch and analyze the commercials.

After completing UI's program, Linda applied for a number of teaching positions and was granted several interviews. Linda knew what she was looking for and turned down a few positions that did not meet her expectations. She recalls with delight being picked up at the Buffalo airport by John Malcolm, the outgoing Chair of the Communications Department. Dr. Malcolm insisted on driving to Fredonia via Route 5 so that Linda could experience the natural beauty of the area. But a dense fog occluded the lakeside vistas and small-town scenery. John Malcolm was not disheartened by the fog; he described in detail what Linda would be seeing sans fog. Because of Malcolm's down-to-earth and welcoming manner along with his obvious pride in the region, Linda was sold on Fredonia before she even set foot on the campus. During her interview, she found everyone on campus welcoming and knew that Fredonia was the place for her.

Linda raves about her colleagues in Communication; for her first few years, she was the only female faculty member in the department and says they were the "greatest group of males ever!" Before her retirement in 2015, Linda was able to teach a variety of courses, including the department's first Public Relations, Gender and Communication, and Political Communication courses. Other teaching highlights were co-teaching a History of Social Movements course with Dan Berggren and an Honors Program course on the Rhetoric of Collective Memory. She recalls with much fondness her years at Fredonia, particularly the camaraderie and creativeness of her department and university colleagues as well as the general tenor of the campus.

At least three opportunities took Linda beyond Fredonia. She was one of the leaders of a service-learning course in Krakow Poland with her partner, a sociologist from SUNY Geneseo. Accompanying students to their sites and working with site supervisors provided all involved with enormous insight into Polish culture.

"It's a smarter form of marketing that starts with listening and it's called public relations."
- Stephen Waddington

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► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Linda Brigance

The group was able to tour Poland included traveling to Warsaw and Auschwitz (the silence of the group on its return trip from Auschwitz signaled how moved folks were by the tour there). Linda also served as a co-teacher when her partner took a class to Edinburgh Scotland. One memory is how much Scots knew about the U.S., often engaging her students in political discussion that surprised them all.

Traveling abroad with students was a life-changing event that she will always cherish. Linda always encouraged her students at Fredonia to take advantage of international travel whenever they had a chance-- because it is not only a way to learn about other cultures, but even more because how you better understand your own cultures after such exposure.

Another highlight of her teaching career at Fredonia was when students in the Political Communication course instigated a trip to Washington for Obama's inauguration. Linda worked feverously to find housing for two campus vans of students without success. Everything was booked months in advance and at outrageous prices. The last day of class she had informed the students that all efforts had failed and sadly bade them goodbye for the fall semester. After class that very same night, she got a phone call from a youth hostel a few blocks from the White House saying they had a cancellation and the reservation was theirs. She booked it immediately and contacted all the students with the good news. Linda stated that being in D.C. for the inauguration was amazing. Strangers were hugging and crying on the streets to celebrate our new President. She is thrilled to have been part of this momentous event and to have shared it with such amazing students and with Professor Elmer Ploetz who accompanied the group, driving the second van.

Linda has remained active in retirement. She tutored English learners, predominantly female refugees from the Middle East. Because she and her tutees met at the Buffalo Central Library, tutoring activities have been halted during Covid-19 restrictions; Linda looks forward to a return to tutoring. Recently she was a guest lecture in Dr. Angela McGowan-Kirsch's Communication Leadership course. Linda told the students about managing volunteers and understanding leadership styles. Linda highlighted that students need to be aware of multiple leadership styles and have self-awareness regarding with which styles they are the most and least comfortable.

Perhaps her biggest project since retirement is the Buffalo Presidential Center. For over a decade, the BPC has presented public educational programs about Western New York's unique historic and contemporary connections to the U.S. Presidency. In November 2020, the all-volunteer non-profit group opened a museum in downtown Buffalo. Linda serves as President of the Center's Board of Trustees. Work with the BPC is very rewarding—bringing together her experiences with media, volunteers and her academic field of research—the rhetoric of public history.

Linda stays in touch with her out-of-town family; she Facetimes regularly with her younger sister and their 98-year-old mother, as well as her two daughters and three grandchildren. They recently all came together on-line to cook an elaborate meal under the direction of a professional chef—then ate dinner “together” while catching up with everyone's news. She also maintains relations with relatives in the Detroit area. Linda has been a lifetime movie fan, avid reader and consumer of the news. Her life may be busy, but finds time to walk her dog—one of the highlights of every day



Linda is not surprised by how much she loves the Buffalo area, and takes advantage of the wonderful outside areas as well as cultural and educational events. The down-to-earth WNYers and their culture remind her of her native Detroit. Linda's maternal grandparents first settled in Buffalo after immigrating from Poland. Although they lived here less than a year and no other family members lived in WNY, she feels that her life in the Buffalo area has brought the family full circle.

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. Patrick R. Damore passed away on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Dr. Damore began his Fredonia career in 1956 as an Assistant Professor of Physical Education. In 1968, Dr. Damore was named Director of Athletics, Men's Intramurals and Sports Publicity. He coached tennis for four seasons, soccer for nine, and basketball for four.

In 1979, Dr. Damore was appointed the first commissioner of the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) and served in that capacity for 33 years. During his tenure, he was responsible for significant growth in both men's and women's collegiate athletic programs. He earned numerous accolades and state and national awards for his distinguished achievements and noteworthy performance, including induction into the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame, Brockport State and Fredonia State Athletics Halls of Fame, and the Chautauqua County Sports Hall of Fame.

The family suggests a donation to the Fredonia College Foundation for the Patrick R. Damore Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Edwin D. Lawson passed away on July 3, 2021. Dr. Lawson joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1967 as a Professor in the Department of Psychology. During his twenty-two year career with SUNY, he served as a department chair, published over 160 books and articles, and was awarded a Fulbright lectureship to Yarmouk University in Jordan.

A celebration of his life will be held at a future date, yet to be determined.

Online condolences may be made at <https://www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com>

Ms. Nancy L. Wagner passed away on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

Ms. Wagner served as the Director of the Fredonia Sponsored Programs—Liberty Partnerships Program for more than 30 years. Under her leadership, the project reached thousands of students. The New York State Education Department Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) supports at-risk middle and high school students in their academic, social, and emotional development. Her leadership extended to the statewide collaboration of 46 higher education institutions across New York State, with multiple roles in the network as well as in the Friends of Liberty Partnerships group.

Memorials may be made to Lakeshore Humane Society, 431 E. Chestnut St., Dunkirk, NY 14048
<https://www.lakeshorehumanesociety.org/donate>