

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Spring 2023

► My Corner

"Things don't really impress me. Memories impress me. It's not the toys, it's the people."
R. A. Salvatore

By Barbara Mallette



I have to admit that our Christmas tree is still up as are all of the holiday decorations. There is something peaceful about sitting in my chair gazing at the lights and numerous decorations that mean so much. The teddy bear blocks I made for my mother years ago. And the cross-stich photo frame made by my late Aunt Mary with a childhood photo of Isaac at its center. We may

be the only tree to have some Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle ornaments; three years ago, the neighbor children and I made sets for each household plus some for one of the biggest Turtle fans, Isaac. Michelangelo with his orange headband has a special place this year on the tree. I can't overlook the beaded stars made by a parent of a preschool student over 40 years ago or the figurines made by preschool students crafted 44 years ago when the children were 3-4 years old. Ornaments from our travels also adorn our annual tree: a hand painted bell from Wroclaw Poland, a pewter lighthouse from Peggy's Cove Nova Scotia, an okra angel from New Orleans, a woolen girl from Peru, and wooden shoes and ceramic Santa from the Netherlands. I can't put away the memories just yet. As soon as the needles start to drop, the tree will come down. For now, I will continue to appreciate the lights, the decorations, and the memories.

"The shape of my life is, of course, determined by many things; my background and childhood, my mind and its education, my conscience and its pressures, my heart and its desires."
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Memories are not just triggered by the holiday decorations. Teaching on campus this past fall was truly a walk down memory lane. Thompson Hall felt deserted at 7:30 AM, with footfalls echoing from only custodial staff and other instructors of 8 AM classes. Once students began to arrive,

the building came alive. Greeting them as they entered the classroom still elicits a chill; to me, the students are the center, the heart, of the university. I really didn't care who was using my old office as long as it was occupied. But I did care about the students. These folks persevered through two years of changing regulations as all of us dealt with the pandemic. They persisted with switching to online coursework so that they could continue their enrollment. Faculty adapted face-to-face courses to the online course management system in a matter of days. The Director of Online Learning became faculty's new best friend. The dedication all of these individuals exhibited is unparalleled. Kudos to them for being committed to our university!

With only one online course this spring, I have time to engage with my students and time to offer feedback about the content and quality of their work. In all my time at Fredonia, I don't think I have ever taught just one course in a full semester; this feels like a treat. But the call to retire again is strong. Travel urges remind me that there is still much to see before I need to sit in my chair and enjoy the memories. And I still have a tree to take down and holiday decorations to put away.



"Everybody needs his memories. They keep the wolf of insignificance from the door."
Saul Bellow

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.

► Update from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.

Please give a big warm welcome to the following new administrators:

- **Mr. Michael Kelly** has been appointed as Vice President for Finance and Administration, and will begin his role at SUNY Fredonia on February 27, 2023. Mr. Kelly received his Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration: Mathematics) from the State University of New York at Fredonia, his Master of Public Administration (Concentration: Leadership, Financial and Organizational Development) from the University of Akron, and his Master of Educational Leadership and Administration from the University at Buffalo. Mr. Kelly currently serves as the Vice President of Finance with New View Alliance, Inc., a non-profit company in educational, health, and human services in Western New York. With oversight of over 36 separate programs, over 800 employees, and a \$60 million dollar operating budget supported through a variety of county, state, and federal funding sources, he has provided strategic financial management of all matters related to their operations, analysis, budgeting, and long term financial sustainability.
- **Dr. Michel Kouadio** has been appointed as Chief Information Officer, and will begin his role by early March 2023. Dr. Kouadio earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science and a Certificate of Management from Texas A&M University. He earned a Master of Engineering (Computer) from Iwate University in Japan, and a Bachelor of Computer Science from the Institut Africain d'Informatique in Gabon. Most recently, Dr. Kouadio served as Education Technology Consultant, notably in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) in West Africa, including advising schools in digital learning transformation strategies and how to stimulate innovation and the integration of emerging technologies, as well as facilitating the use of technology in strategic planning and adoption of best practices. He formerly was Director of the Education Commons/IT at the University of Toronto; Director of Technology Planning, and Innovation at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), also in Toronto; and served as Head Information Technology Unit and Systems Consultant at Simon Fraser University's Center for Online and Distance Education in British Columbia.
- **Dr. Kaustav Misra** has been appointed as Dean of the School of Business. Dr. Misra earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, with Honors, from Bidham Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya in West Bengal, India; a Master of Arts in Marketing and Master of Business Administration from Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.; a Master of Science in Economics and Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky; and Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Mississippi State University. Dr. Misra most recently served as Associate Dean of the School of Business at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut. Previously, Dr. Misra was Chair of the Department of Economics, Chair of the Vitito Global Leadership Institute and Co-Chair of Cardinal Business Edge at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, where he climbed the ranks from assistant and associate to full professor. He also was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi.
- **Dr. David A. Stringham** has been appointed Dean of Fredonia's renowned School of Music. He will begin his role at SUNY Fredonia during the Spring 2023 semester. Dr. Stringham received his Bachelor of Music (Music Education), Master of Music (Music Education), and Doctor of Philosophy (Music Education) from the University of Rochester. Dr. Stringham most recently served as the Executive Director of the Office of Creative Propulsion at James Madison University. He has been a part of the School of Music and College of Visual and Performing Arts at James Madison University since 2010. In addition to being a full professor of music, Dr. Stringham co-founded JMU's Center for Inclusive Music Engagement and served as its founding director. He was also the Assessment Coordinator for the School of Music, and the Director of Research, Entrepreneurship, and Engagement in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. His work has been supported through dozens of grants from such institutions as the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the 4-VA Collaborative.
- **Ms. Karen Rohr** has been appointed Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the Fredonia College Foundation. Ms. Rohr has over 25 years of experience in higher education, and more than five years of experience in other related areas. Her work in higher education includes advancement, fundraising, marketing and communications, community outreach, and alumni affairs. She has significant achievements in all of those areas and has an exceptional level of talent. Ms. Rohr holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the State University of New York at Brockport and a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Bowling Green State University. She has participated in several workshops and institutes through the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

► Save the Date

- **Years of Service and Retirement Recognition Luncheon**

Thursday, April 27, 2023—11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Williams Center, Multipurpose Room

President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. cordially invites faculty, staff and emeritus members to the Years of Service and Retirement Recognition luncheon. Please RSVP by April 13, 2023 by emailing president.office@fredonia.edu or call the office at 716-673-3456. Hope to see you there!



- **Commencement Eve Pops: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber**

Friday, May 19, 2023, 7:30 PM—9:30 PM
King Concert Hall, Reserved Seating
<http://fredonia.edu/tickets>

- **Commencement—Saturday, May 20, 2023**

10:00 AM and 3:00 PM
Steele Hall Field House



Volunteers

The 2023 Commencement Committee is looking for volunteers for either or both ceremonies. If you are interested in volunteering to assist in the celebration of our graduates, please complete the [online form](#). Any questions regarding volunteer opportunities should be directed to Registrar Scott Saunders via email, scott.saunders@fredonia.edu.

- **Emeritus Group Luncheon**—Our next event won't happen until mid-2023, as there didn't seem to be enough interest in a March luncheon around St. Patrick's Day. As a result, we ask that you save the date for our next event: **Wednesday, June 21st, Emeritus Group Luncheon, College Lodge**. Details will be in the next issue of the *Emeritus News*. Come join colleagues, their spouses, and friends in the beautiful College Lodge. What a great way to celebrate spring!

► Additional Information

- Come see the **Department of Visual Arts & New Media Faculty Exhibition that runs from** January 24 through February 19 in the Marion Art Gallery. <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/art-gallery/gallery-calendar>
- At our fall 2022 luncheon, the concern of continuing to publish the quarterly *Emeritus News* was raised. The President's Office currently assembles the newsletter, prints, and mails each issue to those emeriti faculty and staff who have opted for receiving a hard copy of the newsletter. SUNY Central may soon be requiring campuses to use one designated printing site. This move will impact the newsletter. Until we know more, Dawn Hunt continues to shoulder the responsibility of getting the newsletter in our mailboxes, be they physical or digital. Each newsletter costs us about \$90 to mail. Even with a few donations that were mailed last year, the newsletter is our largest expense. All recent retirees only receive the newsletter digitally. Donna Danielsen urged us to continue to mail hard copies, as some people don't want to read the newsletter online. Donna suggested that we charge a subscription fee for those of you who want to continue to get hard copies of the newsletter. Because our next event doesn't occur until June, you have ample time to consider Donna's proposal, consider if you want to receive the newsletter, and consider offering alternative solutions. Please feel free to reach out to me (Barbara.Mallette@fredonia.edu), Cathe Kilpatrick (catherine.kilpatrick@fredonia.edu), and/or Sandy Colvenback (rockytop@netsync.net).
- One person contacted me about the future of the Emeritus Group. Concerns were voiced about the dwindling numbers at our luncheons, the passing of colleagues, and the lack of recent retirees' involvement in the group. I am looking for input from you regarding this matter. Do we want to continue to schedule luncheons or some other events? Send out newsletters? I, for one, enjoy seeing former colleagues at luncheons, volunteering at commencement, and at campus events. Interviewing folks has been an opportunity to get to know some of you better. But the group cannot survive with only Cathe, Sandy and me. Please consider the future viability of our group as we move into 2023. Again, you can offer Cathe, Sandy and me feedback about our group.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Dr. Joy Bilharz

By Barbara Mallette

"The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences."
Ruth Benedict



I admit that when Joy Bilharz shared that she was raised in Bucks County Pennsylvania, I couldn't place its location even when she indicated "it's outside of Philadelphia." Luckily, Google helped and I had a visual for Bucks County, New Hope in particular. William Penn built his home in Falls Township in Bucks County; the area was named for his family's seat in Buckinghamshire England. In the North of the county, you'll find New Hope on the banks of the Delaware River, with New Jersey on the other shore. Now New Hope is about ¼ of Fredonia's population; but the town was probably smaller during Joy's childhood.

Joy's parents were an older couple when they adopted her. Mr. Bilharz worked in a factory for Honeywell; he was an inspector who instructed new hires on the line, primarily thermostats. Joy's mother took care of the household until Joy entered middle school, when her mother became the financial chair secretary of the Republican Party of Bucks County.

Joy recalled the first six years of school in a Pennsylvania fieldstone one-room school house. Although the school yard contained outhouses, when Joy attended, she spoke of using indoor plumbing. She named the four teachers, noting that only Miss Zimmerman (her fourth-grade teacher) went to college. The only reason the district hired Miss Zimmerman was the fact that she was engaged. Being a married woman was an important criterion for securing a teaching position during this time period.

In seventh grade, Joy enrolled in the Solebury School, a private Quaker School, in New Hope. Here she completed middle and high school. Solebury must have instilled a love of learning, as Joy headed to George Washington University (GWU) in DC after graduation. Joy's recalled the excitement that existed in DC during the late 1960s. At GWU, Joy completed requirements for a BA in history, with medieval history her focus. Although completing all the requirements for a second major in anthropology, GWU wouldn't honor history courses as electives for the second degree.

Drawn to higher education, Joy enrolled in a doctoral program at Bryn Mawr, about an hour driving distance from her hometown. The college required a Master's Degree, which Joy tackled first before registering for doctoral level courses. During this time Joy married and had one child, a daughter. As Joy was completing her coursework, her husband secured employment in Erie Pa; so, the family of three moved across the state. In Erie, Joy was able to secure a position at Mercyhurst. She discovered that teaching at the college level fulfilled a need for continued immersion into academics. But the lack of a doctorate limited Joy's options for life in higher education. After much consultation with Bryn Mawr, Joy returned to the college to complete required exams and the dissertation. At this point, Joy became a single parent and actively sought a teaching position. A friend sent her information about a position at the State University of New York at Fredonia. The position seemed to be designed with Joy in mind. She was hired in 1986, with Peter Sinden, Chair of Sociology and Anthropology, and Carter Rowand, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Because of her background experience, Joy taught sociology courses her first two years at Fredonia. After that, she was able to teach anthropology courses. Joy has always enjoyed teaching the introductory anthropology course but her two favorites continue to be *Sex and Gender* and *Plagues and People*.



Joy was very active during her tenure at Fredonia. She served on the Planning and Budget Committee for a number of years. In addition, she served on departmental as well as campus-wide search committees. For a year, Joy even ran the Student Support Services! She was faculty advisor to the *Vagina Monologues* and an active member in the Council for Women's Concerns.

"For me, a bit of anthropology in the evening is always better than staying and watching the telly."
Nick Rhodes

► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Dr. Joy Bilharz

In retirement, Joy has been busy. She is an avid knitter, creating sweaters, hats, scarves, mittens, and socks. She was the assistant to Ted Lee for the Latin American Health Class; Joy accompanied Ted and his students to Honduras to participate in medical brigades for two years (2018, 2019). Last year, Joy lost her long-term partner and colleague, Alan LaFlamme. Life has changed significantly but Joy has dedicated herself to volunteer work. She continues to serve on the Health Professions Advising Committee and on the Board of Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care. Hospice has a palliative care unit in addition to home hospice and a new hospice residence. Joy is a member of the Cassadaga Lakes Association Board. She continues her involvement in the Chautauqua Cattaraugus Women's Action Group (CC-WAG), devoted to activism for political social justice, now as a member after serving as an officer. Joy even finds time to volunteer for the Wilson Triathlon held annually in Cassadaga. Surprisingly, she squeezes space in her schedule to serve as the UUP Officer for Retirees.

You might be astonished to know that Joy was part of a team that competed in the KBR Triathlon. *The Sloth Squad* involved Janet Ferry (retired from SUNY Fredonia Reed Library) biking, Kathy Wickmark running, and Joy kayaking. Joy and friends took first place but they were the only team entered. *The Sloth Squad* will compete again in 2023 but now know that there will be competition.

Chautauqua County is dear to Joy. She has lived in this area for almost half of her life and at this point in time, has no desire to leave. When asked about advancements that has had the greatest impact, Joy did not hesitate to identify the computer and cell phone. She recalled typing papers, having to retype the entire page when one mistake was noticed. Computers made document creation much easier. And Joy noted that the days of being without a telephone are gone. Her cell phone is a life line for both business and pleasure. Joy has a large circle of friends in the area and socializes with them regularly. She also spends a lot of time with her one remaining dog, a Westie, Roo.

"I used to say to my classes that the ways to get insight are: to study infants; to study animals; to study primitive people; to be psychoanalyzed; to have a religious conversion and get over it; to have a psychotic episode and get over it; or to have a love affair with an old Russian. And I stopped saying that when a little dancer in the front row put up her hand and said, 'Does he have to be old?'"

Margaret Mead

► Faculty, Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

Happy New Year! As many of you know, the Provost's Office publishes (digitally and in paper) an annual Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity piece. This was part of a spring celebration of faculty accomplishments. Typically, faculty update their work in Digital Measures/Watermark, and that information is pulled from the platform, edited, and included in the publication. Last year's publication can be found [here](#).

The annual publication has been very well received by campus. I've been asked if emeriti faculty can be included. The answer is of course! We just need to do a slightly different process to gather the information.

I have created a Google Doc specifically for this group. If you have any research, scholarly or creative works that you would like included from **calendar year 2022**, [please simply include it in the Google Doc](#). I've included instructions in the Google Doc for you. If you would rather, feel free to email your material directly to me. (judith.horowitz@fredonia.edu).

Looking forward to including your work!

Judith M. Horowitz, Ph.D.
Vice Provost
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► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. James Sabeto Cicarelli passed away on January 11, 2022. Prior to his resignation in 1988, Dr. Cicarelli served as Professor and Chairperson in the Department of Business Administration for the State University of New York at Fredonia.

<https://www.glueckertfuneralhome.com/obituaries/James-Sabeto-Cicarelli?obId=23665472#/obituaryInfo>

Mr. Gary Cady passed away on November 8, 2022. Mr. Cady worked as an equipment operator with the building and grounds crew for 38 years at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Arrangements were made by Jordan Funeral Homes, and condolences may be made at jordansinclairville.com.

Dr. Charles R. Colvin passed away on December 19, 2022. Before his retirement in 1990, Dr. Colvin served as a Professor and Chair of the Education Department at SUNY Fredonia.

Services will be held at a later time at Burton's Funeral Home and Saint Peters Cathedral Church in Erie, PA. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation be made to Saint Mary's Home of Erie, 1781 West 26th Street, Erie, PA 16508.

Dr. Donald MacPhee, President Emeritus, passed away on December 21, 2022. Dr. MacPhee served as Fredonia's 11th President from 1985 to 1996. At the time of his passing, he was 94 years old.

President MacPhee retired from a distinguished 40-year career in higher education and as SUNY Fredonia's 11th President in 1996. A native of Oregon, Dr. MacPhee earned his Ph.D. in History from University of California, Berkeley, and joined Fredonia after serving as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Founding Dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Professor of History at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

As SUNY Fredonia's president, he was known for his leadership of effective university resource management during a time when New York State experienced challenging economic pressures. While here, he served the regional and county community through his service on the Northern Chautauqua Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Brooks Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. Additional leadership included his work with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities by serving on the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Committee on Purposes, Policies, and Priorities, and Task Force on Quality Issues, Accountability, and Assessment. Among the many points of excellence distinguishing his career as SUNY Fredonia's 11th President, he helped advance Fredonia by prioritizing and expanding diversity on campus, and he oversaw many physical improvements on campus.

A scholarship was created with the Fredonia College Foundation in honor of President and Mrs. MacPhee. Anyone wishing to contribute to the scholarship may do so at <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/fredonia-college-foundation/scholarships>

► Newsbit



Wine tasting, January 2023
Nick, Dan and Janet Reiff

In early January, Janet and I spent two weeks in Italy visiting our older son, Nick, his wife and family. They live in Amman, Jordan, but his wife is Italian. Nick is in "logistics/freight handling" and much involved with arranging warehouses and transport for all manner of things for Ukraine and Poland. Laura works for a Norwegian NGO for Syria and Lebanon. At Christmas time, they visited her parents in northern Italy (Fossano, which has a 14th century brick castle) and we joined them! After, Laura and sons, Leonardo and Alessandro, (6 and 8) went back to Jordan. Nick, Janet and I spent almost two weeks enjoying art, architecture, and food in Tuscany, Lucca (with its fortified ramparts still intact), a wonderful old city almost tourist-free, Pisa, and especially Florence with brief excursions to San Gimignano, and wine tasting in Chianti region (not the Chianti we are use to)! Nick always Googles "best restaurants in..." and we select some. Thus, we avoided snow for a while....

-Dan and Janet Reiff

Informational Website
Retired Public Employees Association –
<https://rpea.org/> -
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RPEA newsletters.