



As we move steadily toward the opening of the fall semester, the pace of activity is intensifying across campus. This week, offices began to move back into a transformed Williams Center, and the modular units in the Dods parking lot will be removed soon. If you haven't seen the renovated spaces yet, you'll be amazed! The Admissions staff continues to call students who didn't come to Summer Orientation so that we can plan for their arrival and welcome them in an orientation on August 26. Residence Life is preparing for new and returning students, as well as the arrival of this year's Resident Assistants. As some athletes move in this weekend, the men's and women's soccer and cross country teams and the women's tennis team are preparing for the opening of their seasons on August 31, and new ice is going into the ice arena this week.

Faculty are wrapping up summer research, creative activity, and writing, as well as completing preparation for their classes. The organizers and presenters are putting the final touches on their presentations for the 6th annual Teaching and Learning Conference (Monday, August 20; <http://www.fredonia.edu/pdc/tlc.asp>). And in the meantime, numerous facilities projects, campus tours for prospective students, and all kinds of operations continue every day.

If you ever take electrical power for granted, this was a week to be reminded of how much we rely on electricity! A scheduled shut-down earlier in the week to upgrade a system resulted in discovery of several other issues, leading to intermittent loss of power throughout this week. It has been challenging to continue working without computers, refrigeration, or light in the buildings that do not have generators, but the campus has responded with generosity and support for one another and the crews that have worked exhausting hours to restore power across campus. Thank you to all who assisted directly, communicated about the status of shutdowns and repairs, and endured the situation patiently.

It's an exciting time, filled with anticipation of the coming year. This letter offers information about a few other topics as well. I welcome your responses and suggestions, as well as questions that you would like to see me address in future letters.

With best wishes,

Nigeria D. Stovatt



Senator Gillibrand at the Incubator

I was glad to welcome United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to the SUNY Fredonia Business Incubator in Dunkirk last week. She was eager to meet current Incubator clients and community members who turned out on August 9 for her press conference. Sen. Gillibrand was eager, in her discussion of the America Innovates Act, to emphasize her support for entrepreneurship and funding that encourage the growth of small businesses. Thank you to Bob Fritzingler, Incubator Director, and all who were on hand to meet the Senator and let her see, first-hand, the great ideas taking shape there and the community support for entrepreneurship that is already bringing new jobs to this region.

Moving Day

This letter is a little late not only because of the power issues on Tuesday and beyond but because my husband, Brooke, and I moved into the President's House this week. We are thrilled to be in such a lovely space and greatly appreciate the hard work and TLC that many facilities staff contributed through repairs, painting, cleaning, and groundskeeping. We look forward to welcoming you to the backyard at the Beginning-of-the-Year party on August 31 (*details below*) and for tours of the historic home at an open house sometime this fall.

Visits with Directors and Offices

I have continued to meet with leaders from across campus to learn more about their areas and to hear their ideas of the challenges and joys of their work. Although I have been part of the SUNY Fredonia community for years, I've learned a lot from these conversations and appreciate the time that people have been willing to spend with me. I include here some brief comments about some of these visits, and I'll include more in the next letter.



Campus Life
Michael Lemieux, Director

I visited Mike Lemieux in the temporary office he occupied during the renovation of the Williams Center. As you can see in this photograph, Mike was packed up and definitely ready to move into the renovated space; stop by that new office to see the difference in his work space! The Office of Campus Life provides guidance to more than 140 student organizations and the leadership programs, and it also supports FSU4U, a Collegiate Link portal that helps student groups stay organized, informed, and connected (see <http://www.fredonia.edu/campuslife/>). The Williams Center is a hub for student organizations and campus and community events, as well as informal gatherings that are at the center of a residential learning environment. Because he coordinates both summer orientation and commencement, Mike sees students and their families at the entry and exit of their college careers; the daily life for him and his staff, however, are all the activities in between, and their recently developed Learning Outcomes and metrics show the important roles Campus Life has in student learning.

University Accounting

Sandy Noble, Director (with Evelyn Fintzel, Diane Snyder, and Cynthia Haase)

Keeping track of campus expenditures is a huge responsibility, but that task is accomplished well at SUNY Fredonia due to the careful work of Sandy Noble and her team. When I visited this office in the Administrative Office Complex, I learned that any payments other than payroll are processed by the Accounting Office, which coordinates efforts with the New York State Payment System. Expenses include supplies and equipment, utilities, travel reimbursement, and vendor payments. This office also verifies payroll data and delivers advices on paydays. One of the recent challenges in the Accounting Office has been to master use of the Statewide Financial System (SFS) which was rolled out across New York last April. To learn more about this unit's important work, please visit <http://www.fredonia.edu/admin/accounting/>.





Sponsored Programs

Maggie Bryan-Peterson, Director (with Amy Cuhel-Schuckers and Cathy Kilpatrick)

This office—which includes four experienced Certified Research Administrators, or CRAs—assists faculty and staff with every stage of the process

of exploring, writing, securing, administering, assessing, and closing out grants. Some of their work is related to compliance and research ethics, including the Internal Review Board. In addition to developing a strategic plan for their unit, recent accomplishments include working with colleagues on re-funding for Upward Bound, STEP/CSTEP, and Liberty Partnerships programs. This office also assisted in securing U.S. Department of Education funding (~\$1.1M) for Project BELA: Broadening Language Acquisition. For more information about this office and to access a range of helpful resources, please visit <http://www.fredonia.edu/sponsoredprograms/>.

Athletics

Greg Prechtl (with Tracy Wysong and Megan Valentine)

I was glad for the opportunity to visit with Greg Prechtl and learn more about athletics programs and teams here. The Blue Devils compete in 17 NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports as a member of the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC). This division also runs club sports teams, intramurals, sports camps, ice skating programs, and special events, such as Kids Night Out. In addition to the excitement of the opening of Blue Devils seasons, there is also much anticipation of the new fitness center in Dods Hall, scheduled to open in the 2013 spring semester. If you haven't looked yet, you can see some renderings of this project on the Athletics website: http://www.fredoniabluedevils.com/documents/2011/10/6/Proposed_Fitness_Center.pdf?&tab=3. Go Blue Devils!



Updates on Searches

Interviews are now underway for the Director of the Center for Multicultural Affairs, and the search committee for the Vice President for Finance and Administration is conducting telephone interviews to narrow its list of candidates.

All-Campus Meeting on August 24

I hope to see many of you on Friday, August 24, at 9:00 in Rosch Recital Hall for the All-Campus Meeting. This has been a tradition on campus to begin the semester together by recognizing accomplishments and new members of the SUNY Fredonia community. We'll have a reception afterwards in the courtyard outside Mason Hall, with a tentative rain location of the Williams Center.

Celebrate Fredonia on August 31!

You should have recently received an electronic invitation for you and your spouse/partner and family to a beginning-of-the-year celebration at the President's House (rain location: field house in Steele Hall).

Based on comments from many of you on the transitions survey I sent out, we have invited *emeritus* faculty and staff as well. Families with children are welcome to be part of the Family Hour we're trying from 5:00 – 6:30, with special activities for children to enjoy with their parents. At 6:30, we'll begin the transition to an Adult Party, which will begin at 7:00. Please be sure to send in your RSVP, so that we can plan appropriate activities for children and have a sense of the amount of food to prepare. We want to enjoy each other's company and celebrate local foods and drinks. I hope to see you and your partner/spouse/guest there!

In the Next Letter

These are some topics I expect to address in the August 28 letter:

- Welcome to the start of the fall semester
- Reports from more visits with Directors across campus
- Updates on searches

Please send your ideas, questions, and comments to me at president.office@fredonia.edu.