



With the semester well underway, we're starting on the regular rhythms of the year. Activities Night on September 5 was packed as usual with students performing, giving demonstrations, recruiting new members for their organizations, and sharing their passions about everything from *a cappella* singing and science fiction to ultimate Frisbee and sustainability. I talked with a number of new students who were excited by all the possibilities for exploring their interests with other students. "There's so much to do here," several of them said to me, and in the midst of all the booths and music, I couldn't agree more! Congratulations to Mike Lemieux, Erin Mroczka, Mark Suida, and others in Campus Life and the Student Association who organized this event so successfully.

Thank you to everyone who worked together to plan and host the Beginning-of-the-Year Party on August 31. I was delighted to see the little parade of strollers and bikes advancing up the driveway for the Family Hour, and through the work of the Teacher Education Club and Chris and Jim Givner, there was plenty to keep children busy. Facilities staff had the yard looking beautiful, and despite the wind, the tents stayed up! The FSA prepared a wonderful cook-out menu that featured local foods and beverages, and we had support from two local businesses: Carriage House and Fieldbrook Farms. Student ambassadors were friendly and helpful, as always. It was great to see so many emeriti joining former colleagues and meeting new members of the Fredonia community, and we could all enjoy the full range of Fredonia gear people were sporting. Thank you to those who worked to set up and clean up and to all who attended and helped kick off the new year in a fun way.

With best wishes,

Nigeria S. Stovatt



Inauguration Week Events

Beginning on Sunday, Fredonia will have a full week of events related to the transition in presidential leadership. The formal investiture by Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and members of the SUNY Board of Trustees will be on Friday, September 21, but the attention on that ceremony gives the campus an opportunity to showcase Fredonia and what we do here. Several of the events in the Inauguration Week had already been scheduled: the Western New York Chamber Orchestra concert on Sunday, the lecture by Christo and Jean-Claude on Tuesday, and the Maytum Convocation Lecture by Jean Kilbourne on Wednesday. By including these events in the schedule for Inauguration Week, the planning committee wisely publicized our university in the invitations that were sent to many institutions across the country. The presidential portrait unveiling is linked to a display of Fredonia's proud history.

As I'll explain in my inaugural address, the events that were created for this occasion are part of the launching of several initiatives related to the Power of Fredonia strategic plan. On Thursday afternoon, six Fredonia faculty will be speaking in a symposium, "Building Communities of Learning," that highlights their innovative work and reflects Fredonia's commitment to learning. Inaugurations usually include a meal of some sort, but ours will be an opportunity to call attention to the Fredonia as a Global

Community part of the strategic plan. With an international menu and emphasis, this dinner on Thursday evening has sponsorship from Community Bank so that proceeds from ticket sales and other donations can be used to support a new fund for international learning experiences. Guests for this event include presidents of several of our international partner universities, as well as many faculty, staff, students, and community members.

The Inaugural Day of Service on Saturday, which has sponsorship from Alesco Advisors, LLC, will showcase the commitments to community engagement and sustainability that are also parts of the Power of Fredonia plan. The planning committee is working with 20 community partner organizations in Fredonia, Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, and Buffalo to engage students, faculty, staff, and community members in working together on projects such as clean-ups, tree plantings, community music, social and educational programs with children and elderly, and many other projects.

I hope you are planning to join at least one event in this week of celebrating the start of a new era in Fredonia's history. The committee led by Jefferson Westwood has been creative and hard-working in planning and coordinating the week's events in a relatively short time (experts recommend at least six months to plan an inauguration!). Many, many thanks to all members of the teams who've worked with Jefferson on these extraordinary efforts: Meagan Allers, Mike Barone, Kevin Cloos, Jayme Delcamp, Lisa Eikenburg, Patty Feraldi, Nick Gunner, Patty Herkey, Christina Jarvis, Tracy Marafiotte, Adrienne McCormick, John McCune, Dean Messina, Randy Moore, Erin Mroczka, Jordan Nicholson, JoAnn Niebel, Mary Sasso, Joyce Smith, Denise Szalkowski, Katie Thies, Andrea Waisura, Jeff Walter, and Karen West.

Update from SUNY Council of Presidents' Meeting

On September 6, the SUNY Presidents met in New York with Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Provost David Lavalley, and Vice Chancellor for Financial Services Brian Hutzley. The agenda included an overview of the upcoming Harnessing Systemness Conference in New York on November 8-9 and presentations on shared service alliances and 2013-2014 legislative and budget priorities. The largest part of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the Resource Allocation Model that had been developed over the past year. These are the stated principles of the roll-out of this plan:

- State allocation remained the same for the 2012-2013 budget.
- The model was shared with presidents on August 31, with an expectation of individual discussion with campuses and the final Model Design by September 30.
- Implementation will begin in the 2013-14 budget.
- The Model provides a five-year model that lets every campus plan for change.
- Changes in allocation will be rolled out over three years.
- Special support will be provided short-term to certain campuses.

This model is based on using data in four critical areas to determine the allocation for each campus: enrollment/cost (using national CIP data about costs for students enrolled in particular academic programs), research, geographic differential, and mission. Karen Porpiglia (Vice President for Administration), Ann Aldrich (Budget Director), and I participated in SUNY conference calls in preparation for my attending this SUNY meeting, and we continue to review the figures for Fredonia and to craft a response and suggested revisions before the Model is finalized in late September. We are glad to see that SUNY is proposing multiple-year models that let us plan, as well as recognizing through CIP data the greater cost of some of the programs that are critical to our historic and continuing mission. We want to be sure, however, that allocations reflect a commitment to access to the baccalaureate degree for New York citizens and that allocations based on research are not directed only toward the kinds of projects that receive federal funding. I'll provide more details as the proposed models are made public, as they do not yet appear on the SUNY website.

Second Friday—and Networking: Friday, September 14

Based on your suggestions in a survey this summer, we'll be trying a slightly different approach to the Second Friday meetings that are held each month during the academic year. These meetings bring together invited directors from across campus and have been valuable in allowing the President to share updates and invite others to provide information about their areas. Participants were glad for this chance to hear from the President and share events; however, several people suggested that we use some of the time for informal networking—sharing a cup of coffee with a colleague to discuss something instead of emailing or tracking one another down later. Others expressed interest in having the meetings in a larger space and including academic department chairs, if they're interested. So we'll try this on Friday, meeting in G-103 Williams Center, with about 20 minutes for announcements and updates, and the rest of the hour for informal connection. Department chairs are welcome to join this group. I'll be eager to hear your ideas about the best ways to use this time together effectively.

Updates on Searches

- Director, Center for Multicultural Affairs. Interviews have concluded in the search for the Director of the Center for Multicultural Affairs, with an offer expected when final reference checks are completed.
- Vice President for Finance and Administration. The search for the Vice President for Finance and Administration has narrowed its pool to finalists and is in the process of setting up two-day campus interviews. The dates will be announced soon.
- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The search committee for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has had a change in co-chair, based on the recent appointment of Adrienne McCormick as Assistant Provost. Kerrie Wilkes has agreed to join David Herman in leading this important search, and they met with the committee on Friday, August 31. They hope to have campus interviews for this position before the end of the fall semester so that the appointed Provost can be involved in the final stages of the search for the Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The actual appointment of the Provost is expected to be July 1, 2013.
- Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts. The members of this committee have been appointed jointly by the University Senate and the President, in consultation with the Cabinet. Co-chairs are Tom Loughlin and Chris Givner. This committee will meet soon to begin the process of hiring the Founding Dean of this new college; this is hiring on a vacant dean line and then moving four units from the College of Arts and Sciences (School of Music, Department of Theatre and Dance, Department of Visual Arts and New Media, and Rockefeller Arts Center). This new Dean is expected to begin on July 1, 2013.

Visits with Directors and Offices

In the interest of space in an already-long letter, I'll continue with the information from these visits in the next letter.

In the Next Letter

These are some topics I expect to address in the September 25 letter:

- Details from inaugural week events
- 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.