

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Spring 2020

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette

*"One winter morning Peter woke up and looked out the window. Snow had fallen during the night. It covered everything as far as he could see."
- Ezra Jack Keats, The Snowy Day*



This winter is trying my patience. The fluctuations in temperatures, frequent high wind warnings, and lack of snow are frustrating. My muscles have to adjust to shoveling each time we have measurable snowfall. The green lawns fool the eye, as muck boots are needed still to walk to the gardens or go into the fields. And I just can't seem to adapt to how many layers of outerwear are needed to be comfortable outside. Underdressing or overdressing is common.



I know many of you are thrilled with the warm weather that continues to befall our area. Bitter cold does seem to seep into our bones, especially as we age. But 50 degrees in January in Western New York State just seems wrong. Germs abound and incidences of the flu and head colds are on the rise.

Although I don't like driving in treacherous winter conditions, I miss the snow. Snow transforms the landscape. The yard is converted into a winter wonderland; the snow creates works of art as it settles on trees, bushes, and landscape rocks. Even the plastic bags of leaves look like big marshmallows after a heavy snowfall. The drifts that are created by wind bursts are breathtaking. In my childhood, I remember that my father would reminisce about walking to school when the snow was as high as the telephone poles. He never spoke about snow days or how tough life in the rural North Country was in the winter. Maybe my love for snow comes from him or his French-Canadian roots. Je ne sais pas.



On the other hand, I like to sit by the woodstove and cuddle with a book of my choice, especially if we are in the throes of a snowstorm. I check the weather forecast daily and relish 4 Warn Weather advisories when snow is predicted. Lake effect snow and reports of snow along the Chautauqua Ridge delight me. Is it no wonder that as a child I loved visiting Santa's Workshop in North Pole, NY? Years later, I remember with utter joy petting reindeer, seeing Santa Claus in the summer, and making snowballs in July. Maybe Chautauqua County is just a substitute for the North Pole. Still, I miss the snow this winter.

Note: The day after I finished writing this column, Cassadaga received 12 inches of snow. You know one person who was smiling!

*"The snow doesn't give a soft white damn whom it touches."
- E.E. Cummings*

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

► **Save the Date**

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Emeritus Spring Luncheon, Friday, March 6, 2020, Shorewood Country Club, 4958 West Lake Road, Dunkirk, NY
- President’s Award for Excellence Luncheon, Wednesday, April 22, 2020, Williams Center, Multi-Purpose Room. Please contact Dawn Hunt (716-673-3456) to register. The cost is \$5.00 per person.
- Commencement, Saturday, May 16, 2020, Steele Hall Fieldhouse
- Emeritus Summer Luncheon, Thursday, June 11, 2020, The College Lodge, 8067 Route 380, Brocton, NY
- Emeritus Fall Luncheon, Thursday, October 15, 2020, Clarion Hotel, 30 Lake Shore Drive, Dunkirk, NY

► **Events@Fredonia**

- The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers many campus events including Healthy Cooking Demonstrations on March 5, April 2, and May 7. Please watch the Fredonia calendar for all current events. <http://events.fredonia.edu>

► **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. The cost to mail the quarterly newsletter continues to rise. If you could help to reduce mailing costs by receiving the newsletter by email, please let us know. You may email Dawn, dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3456.

Emeritus Group Spring Luncheon Meeting

March 6, 2020– 11:30 AM—punch; 12:00 PM—lunch
Shorewood Country Club, 4958 West Lake Road, Dunkirk

Lunch choice includes beverage, dessert, tax & gratuity:

Corned beef and cabbage with red potatoes, carrots & Irish soda bread—\$17.00

Number _____

or

Fresh fish sandwich with fries & coleslaw—\$17.00

Number _____

or

Irish pub salad (can be vegan)
Fresh greens and vegetables with fingerling potatoes, avocado, deviled eggs, green goddess dressing and soda bread—\$17.00

Number _____

Dessert: Crème de menthe ice cream

Please indicate your meal choice(s) and send your check for the appropriate amount per person. Checks should be made payable to **Emeritus Group**:

C/O Cathe Kilpatrick
491 Chestnut Street
Fredonia, NY 14063

All payments are due by February 28, 2020.

Name (s) _____

I (we) plan to attend the spring meeting at Shorewood Country Club.

Number Attending _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Please consider donating an item that we can raffle as a door prize. Also would you please consider rounding up when you send the check to help keep the fund balance healthy? We hope to see you there!

► A message from Interim President Dennis L. Hefner

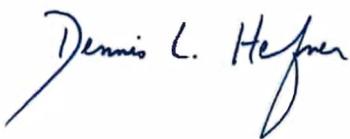
Dear Fredonia Emeriti:

What an exceptional turnout for the holiday Emeritus Open House! Jan and I enjoyed having a chance to host you one more time. During, or shortly after the reception, many of you volunteered to assist with this year's commencement. On Saturday, May 16, many of you will be greeting Fredonia graduates and their families, passing out programs or collecting tickets. I want to thank every Emeritus member who expressed an interest to assist with Commencement 2020: **Tracy Bennett, Mira Berkley, Joy Bilharz, Karl Boelter, Bob Booth, Mary Charbonnet, Theresa Dispenza, Len Faulk, Joyce Haines, Linda Ippolito, Doug Johnson, Cathe Kilpatrick, Mark Kinney, Sandra Lewis, Kathleen Magiera, Barbara Mallette and Doug Lloyd, Brien and Ann Murphy, Shirley Phillips, Colin Plaister, Greg Prechtl, Steve Rees, Dianne Stinson, and Mike Wilson.** If you would like to join this illustrious group, please contact Denise Szalkowski in the President's Office (716-673-3456 or president.office@fredonia.edu).

The spring semester has now begun, and a copy of my All-Campus Meeting remarks, which contained a 4-year budget correction path, were shared with you electronically. Spring will be very busy with the presidential search, the Middle States accreditation review team visiting in late March, lobbying for next year's State budget, preparing next year's campus budget, implementing new curriculum, recruiting heavily in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and much, much more.

There was exciting news with the Village of Fredonia's selection as the site for the Small Business Revolution show. Over 6,000 cities were nominated for the show, which provides \$500,000 and special consulting services to seven local small businesses. Additionally, being selected #1 brings considerable bragging rights! Many of you were voting "early and often" during the week of voting. Thank you for helping to make this win a reality.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the March 6 Emeritus Spring Luncheon.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis L. Hefner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

By Barbara Mallette and Morgan Dowd

"The method of political science is the interpretation of life; its instrument is insight, a nice understanding of subtle, unformulated conditions."
- Woodrow Wilson



One may find it hard to believe that a man who loves constitutional law and public policy grew up in a small town in North Central Massachusetts where he attended elementary and secondary schools. Morgan recalled that at an early age, he had to perform chores on his family's crop and dairy farm. He remembers milking the cows and caring for the chickens, pigs, and turkeys that contributed to the food larder. You won't be surprised that Morgan rose early to complete chores before school and completed chores again at the end of the school day. He continued to help with the farm through the war years.

In Orange, MA, only ten to fifteen percent of high school graduates went on to college. There was no community college available; most graduates secured factory work. The Dowds always seemed to be focused on Morgan going to college, the first in his family to pursue higher education. His mother urged Morgan to take elocution lessons, which helped develop confidence in public speaking. These lessons also contributed to Morgan's pursuit of theatrical roles in school plays and minstrel shows. Acting further developed his public speaking skills. Morgan felt confident performing without panicking at the size of a large audience. The elocution lessons and acting were successful, as Morgan was asked to speak to groups, such as the American Legion, the Grange, and the Fourth of July celebration at the town hall. Morgan's destiny seemed to be set during his adolescence.

While Mrs. Dowd focused on Morgan's public speaking skills, his father was focused on Morgan's athletic skill development, urging him to participate in sports. As a result, Morgan played basketball, baseball, and football. His acumen in baseball grew out of participation in this sport from an early age. In fact, his high school baseball team went to the state finals under the strong arm of pitcher Morgan. Morgan was so talented that he played varsity baseball for three years in college. And he pitched in independent leagues in Quebec, Canada in the summers for which he received a salary. Although Morgan tried out for the Yankees after high school, he was not drafted, as the team was seeking a taller, lanky fellow. Morgan shared his love of baseball with the late Mac Nelson, sharing stories of seeing Sandy Koufax and Mariano Rivera playing. Mac was impressed with Morgan's baseball record; he once commented that Morgan was the only person he knew who was paid to play baseball. Morgan's sports knowledge was recognized in another way. He wrote the sports column for the local newspaper for three years while he played sports.

Morgan attended Saint Michael's College in Vermont with the help of his parents and loans. The college, run by fathers of St. Edmund, was a compassionate and caring environment. Morgan majored in history, with a minor in English. As graduation loomed, Morgan thought that law school was the next logical step and law presented a career he would enjoy. He enrolled at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Morgan experienced culture shock in the "big city." D.C.'s attitude toward blacks was terrible. Morgan was shocked by the open discrimination toward blacks; there were few black students enrolled in law schools at that time. And there was one female enrollee in his law school! Fortunately for Morgan, he was able to immerse himself in his studies, to interact with his small group of friends, and to survive "these troubling times." At law school, Morgan was named Associate Editor of the law review. Here he began his publishing career and continued on through graduate school and Fredonia. Morgan authored numerous law review articles through the years.

During a trip to a lounge in Athol, Massachusetts one night after law school completion, Morgan met a young woman who lived and worked locally. He later courted and married this young woman; Morgan and Dianne have been married for over sixty years!

With the desire to teach constitutional law at the college level, Morgan applied for a number of positions. Every institution was interested but stressed that a doctoral degree was needed for even an entry level position. He taught political science as an instructor at the University of Maine and University of Massachusetts and returned to secure a Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts. Completion of the doctorate signaled the move to a full-time professorship. A position at the State University of New York at Fredonia piqued Morgan's interest.

► Emeritus Spotlight—continued

Because of Fredonia's similarity to the University of Massachusetts and the village's resemblance to his home town, Morgan was comfortable immediately. The university was in transition: buildings were being erected, faculty were being hired, and completion of degrees was stressed.



Morgan's academic prowess, eloquence with language, emerging leadership skills and personable characteristics contributed to his moving into administrative roles at Fredonia relatively quickly: Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research; Dean for Graduate Studies and Research; Director of the Educational Development and Research Center; Dean of the Faculty for Natural and Social Sciences; and Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs. Add to these roles Morgan's commitment to university, community, and state service, and it is not hard to understand the accolades bestowed on him, cumulating in his promotion to Distinguished Service Professor. Morgan's work has left its mark on Fredonia, including the Honors Program and the Robert W. Kasling Memorial Lecture Award.

In 1991, Morgan was given the President's Medallion for meritorious service at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. In 1999, he was the recipient of the Commission on Higher Education's award for extraordinary service to the Commission.

One of the most significant influences on Morgan's illustrious career at Fredonia was his work in Albania. Working with Tom English, a former student, Morgan was the Project Director for two subsequent United States Information Agency (USIA) grants in Albania. His interactions with Albanians as they moved from Communist rule to independence was educational; he learned so much in this country freed from Communism. Morgan observed highly educated individuals working in low level positions because they were displaced with the advent of capitalism.

Continued efforts with Mr. English and a local businessman, Lou Alias, Morgan facilitated the enrollment of Albanian students at Fredonia. He related stories about some of the Albanian professionals and students he knew; specifically, a doctor who had studied at the Sorbonne and was one of the first physicians to use x-rays in Albania. And he spoke about the women in the Albanian countryside who taught themselves English and Italian. Morgan brought them practical English. Efforts that involved Morgan resulted in acquisition of law library books for the University of Tirana; the development of a music library at the University of Tirana; and the creation of a faculty exchange between the University of Tirana and Fredonia with Open Society Foundations funded by George Soros.

Morgan and Dianne have five children, including twin sons, and eight grandchildren. Although none of these live in Fredonia, the Dowds enjoy visiting them in Houston, Phoenix, Denver, Atlanta, and Duxbury, Massachusetts. Morgan notes that there is "a lot of fire in this family." His children and grandchildren are accomplished individuals. For example, his granddaughter was a coxswain at Clemson University when the team won a national championship. Son Blaine was a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves, serving a year in the Second Iraq War. Blaine was awarded the Bronze Star for his military service.

Besides visiting children and grandchildren, Morgan and Dianne spend the winter in Florida. The sun and warmth are a draw, particularly in cold, snowy Fredonia. Morgan also enjoys reading; his home libraries swell with books read, books to be read, and books to reread. He speaks highly of his time at Fredonia, particularly of his colleagues, maintaining many of those relationships into retirement.

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."
- Steve Jobs

► Emeritus member Mary Charbonnet gives high praise for Fredonia's fall production, *Grapes of Wrath*

November 14, 2019

Dear Faculty,

The recent production of *Grapes of Wrath* by the department pleased me on so many levels that I feel I must offer my heartfelt congratulations.

As you are aware, I retired from the Department of Theatre and Dance in 2006, as a professor of acting and directing and as stage director for many plays, musicals and operas. Since my return to the area three years ago and now in my role as audience participant, I admit to feeling much pride in the growth I see with each production. The greatest levels of growth are most obvious to me in the areas of singing and dancing. The department's design/tech areas have always been very strong and have continued exemplary in the intervening years.

Regarding *Grapes of Wrath* specifically, first and foremost, I must congratulate the faculty for having the wisdom to select such a timely script. With populations around the world now being driven from their homes and forced to travel great distances facing untold hardships to seek new lives in unwelcoming lands, the decision to present the travails of the Joad family could not have been more fitting. Through your talents and energies in sharing this story with our students and community, you shine a light on our common humanity and take a step forward toward the important goal of social justice.

In terms of production values, there was so much to like about *Grapes of Wrath*. The rustic nature of the wooden set created a perfect tone for the play and served as an attractive and solid base for the actors, projections and special effects. The lighting of that set marvelously created the many moods within the story, from the sorrow of leaving a now-barren farm to the jubilation of a rollicking nighttime dance to the final *Pietà* moment of pure human grace. Likewise, the excellent costume design served the play splendidly. I am aware of the vision and skill required to create a costume plot that will support two or more characters played by the same actor, and your talented designer more than adequately fulfilled this requirement. The costumes so fittingly conveyed the economic situations of the characters, adding just the right amount of color, as well as insuring that the audience could easily distinguish between them in their multiple roles.

Special mention is due to those who created the sound design and its wonderfully evocative music. I want to thank the composer and the musicians whose talents added so much to this production. I wish you had been able to take a bow, for you certainly deserved it. The young man who served as "narrator" with his spiel and song deserves a special mention as he successfully added a welcome and colorful accent to the overall tone of the story and helped to illuminate the spirit that continued to burn within these dispossessed migrants.

As an actor myself, I am eternally grateful to the various crews who work, unseen by the audiences, to support those of us in the spotlight. The talented and hardworking students who spend untold evenings and weekends in the various shops and design labs of SUNY's Rockefeller Arts Center deserve special notice and thanks. In each of their capacities, they reflect so well on the department, from attaching the last wire to create the lights on the amazing Joad truck, to sewing the final button on Grandma's dress, to building a newborn baby, to focusing the lighting instruments high above the stage, not to mention all those amazing folk who make each performance click along smoothly cue by cue. All are so appreciated.

The young actors in *Grapes of Wrath* were asked to reach back to a time of which they have only heard, a time of terrible degradation of our country's physical environment and spiritual health. The dustbowl was created by events of ignorance, apathy and greed and a great many suffered. For a student cast to embrace and then convey to an audience the enormity of this story takes a level of commitment to the art of acting that a director can only hope to inspire. What I saw and heard from the stage tells me that the director of this production embodies a devotion to the highest ideals of our art. Professor Lenzian was able to enlist from his cast an obvious belief in the importance of their story and, in each actor, the importance of their part in telling it. This goes far beyond a director's basic skills -- space utilization, pointing the action, timing, etc. Dan's cast followed him into new and important territory, and the result was an exciting and impressive ensemble.

Thank you again for bringing this reminder of a time when many of our own countrymen faced the kinds of losses and indignities which we often ascribe only to our brothers and sisters in other countries. And, let us hope this production serves, in some way, to engender an increased desire to aid those now fleeing war, religious persecution and environmental catastrophe.

Yours truly,



Mary Charbonnet,
Professor Emerita
Department of Theatre and Dance

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Ms. Valerie L. Heywood passed away on October 31, 2019. Ms. Heywood was employed at the State University of New York at Fredonia from 1995 through 2005 as a Lecturer in the School of Music.

Memorials may be made to the SPCA Serving Niagara County. Online condolences can be made at www.beachtuynfh.com

Mrs. Ruth Mary Shokoff passed away on November 7, 2019. Mrs. Shokoff was employed at the State University of New York at Fredonia from 1979 through 2001 as a Lecturer in Visual Arts.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the 1891 Fredonia Opera House, 9 Day Street, Fredonia, NY.

Dr. Andree Penot passed away on November 25, 2019. Professor Penot was employed at the State University of New York at Fredonia in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures from 1965 until her retirement in 1985.

Informational Website

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



Holiday Open House
Lanford House
Fredonia, NY
December 12, 2019.





