

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

# Emeritus News

Spring 2019

## ► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette

*"If you want to improve your life immediately, clean out a closet.  
Often it's what we hold onto that holds us back."  
- Cheryl Richardson*



Winter seems like the ideal time to take inventory and cull the too small, outdated, unnecessary, unwanted, and unused items that have accumulated during the year. From where does all this stuff come? I swear that Cassadaga must have elves that sneak into our homes depositing objects in drawers, cupboards, and closets to the bursting point. How many apple corers does one kitchen need? When does saving empty pump soap containers or pieces of bar soap become problematic?

I believe that human nature leans toward filling the space in which we live, be it a small cottage or a sprawling mansion. Add to that inevitable nature, the fact that classroom teachers need to hoard all sorts of objects to combat shrinking or non-existent annual budget lines for materials. Plus, who of us doesn't hang onto books? The result should come as no surprise – a full house (minus the Tanners, Joey, Uncle Jesse, and Kimmy Gibbler)!

Consequently, each January and February, time is spent determining which items need to find new homes so that no one has to dig for the spare toothpaste or a new bar of soap. Creative ways of arranging books to reduce the double stacked piles becomes a lofty goal. Files are culled; unneeded documents are shredded. Whenever possible, clothes are passed on. Plastic containers are sorted and the lid-less ones are recycled. Pot bound plants are repotted and/or divided; the amaryllis are coaxed into dormancy. Harvested winter squash have to be dealt with before they succumb to rot; the potatoes before the sprouts become unmanageable.

But the real challenge in winter does not deal with household materials or garden harvests. Fighting the urge to spend nights in front of the wood stove secluded in the hills is much too tempting in the cold and darkness. Yet the need for continued interactions with "outsiders" draws me down the hill and away from hibernation. President Horvath's holiday reception for Emeritus faculty and staff was well attended this year. Touching base with former colleagues ignited the holiday spirit and represented the kickoff to other celebrations. What a wonderful time we had! We didn't expect that our December event would be the last time we kibitzed with Mac Nelson but are pleased that we enjoyed his powerful presence one more time. As the daylight increases by minutes each day, we'll continue to tackle encroaching "stuff" and deal with cobwebs that appear. But we still seek the company of others to remain grounded.



*"The objective of cleaning is not just to clean,  
but to feel happiness living within that environment."  
- Marie Kondo*

The Emeritus Newsletter is also available in electronic form. Please email Denise Szalkowski at [denise.szalkowski@fredonia.edu](mailto:denise.szalkowski@fredonia.edu) if you are interested in receiving the newsletter through email instead of a paper copy. Thank you!

### Emeritus Group Spring Luncheon Meeting

March 8, 2019 – 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—\$20.48

Number \_\_\_\_\_

or

Fresh fish sandwich with fries & coleslaw—\$17.92

Number \_\_\_\_\_

or

Irish pub salad (can be vegan)  
Fresh greens and vegetables with fingerling potatoes,  
avocado, deviled eggs, green goddess dressing and  
soda bread—\$17.92

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 March 1, 2019.

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 Wonderful Opportunity

- Are you interested in helping the Emeritus Group? Summaries of our events used to appear in this newsletter. The group needs an individual/individuals to recap our events. Consider serving in this capacity please.
- Please be sure to check out the new Fredonia Emeriti Facebook page. If we are not friends already, please send us a friend request. Please enter the page name, Fredonia Emeriti, in the search field to find us. Information and reminders will be posted on the timeline for luncheons along with pictures from the gatherings.
- The Commencement Committee is looking for volunteers for the morning and afternoon ceremonies. Any questions regarding volunteers should be directed to Assistant Director of Campus Life Rachel Martin via email, [rachel.martin@fredonia.edu](mailto:rachel.martin@fredonia.edu).
- Those interested in ushering at the different events held at Rockefeller Arts Center should contact Events Coordinator, Raleigh Hawk, [rhawk@fredonia.edu](mailto:rhawk@fredonia.edu) or 716-673-3744.

### ► Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Friday, March 8, 2019—Spring Emeritus Group Luncheon, Shorewood Country Club, 4958 W. Lake Road, Dunkirk.
- Wednesday, April 24, 2019—President's Award for Excellence Luncheon, Williams Center, Multi-Purpose Room, State University of New York at Fredonia. Please contact Dawn Hunt, (716) 673-3456 to register. The cost is \$5.00 per person.
- Thursday, June 13, 2019—Summer Emeritus Group Luncheon, The College Lodge, 8067 Rte. 380, Brocton.
- Thursday, October 17, 2019—Fall Emeritus Group Luncheon, Clarion Hotel Marina & Conference Center, 30 Lake Shore Dr. E, Dunkirk.
- Friday, October 18-20, 2019—Homecoming, various events, State University of New York at Fredonia.

## ► Highlights from President Horvath's Monday Updates

### Institute for Composer Diversity

Congratulations to **Rob Deemer** and colleagues on the recent launching of the Institute for Composer Diversity, housed in Fredonia's School of Music. This Institute is dedicated to the celebration, education, and advocacy of music created by composers from historically underrepresented groups through online tools, research-based resources, and sponsored initiatives. As Prof. Deemer explains, "**Andrew Martin Smith** and **Jamie Leigh Sampson** (both Fredonia composition faculty and our heads of database management and marketing and partnerships, respectfully) and I started this project originally to help our composition students know about women composers and composers of color, and it just grew from there!" Located online at [www.composerdiversity.com](http://www.composerdiversity.com), the website offers conductors, performers, educators, and programmers across the country and around the world tools with which to diversify their concert repertoire and course curricula. This Institute was recently praised as noteworthy by the *Washington Post* as an initiative "actually poised to bring about change" and by WQXR as one of five "organizations making a difference in Classical Music." The Institute won the 2018 ASCAP Deems Taylor/Virgil Thomson Media/Internet Award, presented in December.

### Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching

Recently two of Fredonia's contingent faculty received news that the Chancellor and state-wide committee approved their nominations for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Congratulations to **Diane Everett**, Adjunct Lecturer in World Languages and Cultures, and **Andrew Smith**, Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Music, on receiving this award! The official campus presentation of their medals will occur at the all-campus meeting in August before the fall term begins.

### Construction and Renovation

The Houghton Hall renovation continues through the winter, with the project anticipated to be complete in Fall 2020. At that time, the departments now housed in Jewett Hall will move to Houghton Hall, and other departments will be moved there in the next stages of developing the Science Quad. Soon after Commencement in May, work will begin on several projects across campus related to air handling, window replacement, and roof replacement. The lower level of the Williams Center will be updated to reflect new dining trends and options, including kiosk-ordering, updated seating, and a more inviting atmosphere by Fall 2019.

### Commencement Speaker

Dr. Shaun Nelms (Fredonia '99) has accepted our invitation to be the speaker at both Commencement ceremonies on May 18! Dr. Nelms is the Superintendent of East High School in Rochester, an institution that is now known for remarkable commitment to student success--along with dramatic results. And a bonus for this proud alumnus and father is that his daughter, Nia, will be graduating that day. If you'd like to see more information about Dr. Nelms, he is featured in the most recent issue of *The Statement*, available at [https://www.fredonia.edu/sites/default/files/section/alumni/statement/Fredonia\\_Statement\\_Magazine\\_2019-01-16\\_Spring.pdf](https://www.fredonia.edu/sites/default/files/section/alumni/statement/Fredonia_Statement_Magazine_2019-01-16_Spring.pdf)

### Lanford Presidential Prize

I am pleased to announce that senior **Monica A. Manney** has been selected to receive the 2019 Lanford Presidential Prize at the afternoon Commencement on May 18. The award, generously created and endowed by President Emeritus Oscar E. Lanford and Mrs. Esther Lanford, recognizes a member of the graduating class who has exhibited balanced achievement and exemplifies Fredonia's ideals.

Monica, from Buffalo, NY, is completing a B.A. in Communication--Journalism with a minor in Sociology and Applied Research in Civil Rights, and her current GPA is 3.95. Her passions for activism and using her voice to rally change are reflected in her leadership as a student at Fredonia: President of Sister Circle, Events Chair of the Black Student Union and Under This Bonnet, Co-Anchor of WNYF-TV, Fredonia Ambassador, Leader writer, and Upward Bound Tutor. She has been leading efforts for FREDFlo, an initiative to provide sanitary products in restrooms across campus. She has completed internships at Walt Disney World, NBC University, Make-a-Wish Foundation, and Fredonia's Career Development Office. She is currently completing internships at WGRZ and Spectrum News. She defines her personal mission as "to amplify the voices of marginalized groups and bring truth to her community through avid research and persistent questioning." A Keeper of the Dream Scholar, Monica is a member of Tau Sigma National Honor Society, Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society, the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists, the Buffalo Broadcasters Association, and the Buffalo Urban League. Congratulations to the 2019 Lanford Presidential Prize recipient, Monica Manney!

## ► Emeritus Spotlight

### Mary Charbonnet

By Barbara Mallette and Mary Charbonnet

*"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."  
- Mae West*



Mary Charbonnet is a consummate story teller, and it is easy to tell her career was in the theatre, as actress, director and professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance from 1989 to 2006. Her life has been rich with performance, travel and adventures that took her from an infancy in Korea to Kilimanjaro to Kathmandu and myriad places in between.

Her dad being in the military, Mary's family moved regularly. Her mom, a small-town girl from rural Louisiana, crossed the country and the Pacific Ocean with a toddler and one-year old Mary to be in the first wave of U.S. Army dependents to be based in Korea during the period between WWII and the Korean War. Never having seen Westerners, the Korean caregivers in the house were fascinated by this blond, blue-eyed baby, taking every chance to play with her as well as assuming the bathing, diapering and feeding duties all the while imparting their language, one that Mary's parents did not speak. Thus, began Mary's self-styled life as "a vagabond," a life filled with curiosity about what adventures were over the next hill.

Most of Mary's youth was spent in the South as the family was transferred to North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama – all hot weather states which Mary has never found comfortable. There was one two-year sojourn in Germany (which she loved), and then a final relocation to Florida upon her dad's retirement. Including three high schools and five colleges, Mary attended about 20 schools, so, she admits, "wanderlust is in my DNA." Enrolled at a community college in Florida where she appeared onstage in principal roles for two years, Mary won a full scholarship in acting to complete her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Mississippi. However, once at Ole Miss, Mary was blindsided by the blatant racism she found, as well as the archaic restrictions for female students. She handed them back their scholarship and headed to the University of Florida where she finished her bachelor's degree, paying for it by taking out loans, modeling for artists, and loading the dishwasher at the college cafeteria. Upon graduation, true to form, Mary hit the road. This time, to Boston where, she was told, the weather was cooler.

In Boston, Mary fell in love with a wonderful man from Laconia, New Hampshire, which led to her next move. The newlyweds completed teaching certificates at Plymouth State College only to discover there were no full-time theatre teachers in the New Hampshire high schools in the 70s. Undaunted, Mary found several interesting jobs while waiting to break into education: roller operator for a paving company, chef for a millionaire, dental assistant, copy writer for a radio station, desk clerk at a resort and service representative for the telephone company. After three years of haunting the Superintendent of Schools, she got an offer as a teacher of remedial reading to children with learning disabilities. It involved traveling between three different schools and using supply closets for class rooms, but she loved it! However, she chafed against the education hierarchy which she saw as grindingly slow at giving her students the opportunities and materials they needed.

Mary continued to perform in community theatre at the college but postponed graduate school while her husband established his career in social work. Finally, the couple headed to the University of Virginia for three years where Mary earned her Master of Fine Arts in Acting and Directing but, unfortunately, the marriage ended.

A move to Washington, D.C. provided more acting opportunities before she took the position of Public Relations Director for the Folger Shakespeare Theatre and then Promotion Specialist for WETA Public Television, the latter leading to a meeting with Dame Margot Fonteyn to promote her TV series, "The Magic of Dance." A special relationship developed, and Mary was invited to the cattle ranch in Panama to live with the prima ballerina and help with a book on Anna Pavlova. With lots of free time to wander the ranch, which bordered the Pacific Ocean, Mary began each morning with a solitary hike to the beach and much time was spent with the ranch hands, who taught her to ride. "It was heaven!" Before returning to the States, she managed to finagle her way onto a container ship transiting the Canal and, also, a visit to (at that time strictly off-limits) Barro Colorado Island to hug

## ► Emeritus Spotlight—*continued*

giant trees and commune with howler monkeys. Mary used her earnings from Dame Margot to visit Tanzania and climb Mount Kilimanjaro before heading back to the U.S.

After several months on the Equator, she was ready for some cool, clean New England air, so Mary moved to Maine and accepted an adjunct position at the University of Southern Maine. During this time, she created her performance in *The Belle of Amherst*, a full-length, one-woman play about Emily Dickinson. And, feeling she might now have enough experience to share with students, Mary searched for a full-time teaching position. A community college in Cocoa, FL had a tenure track opening for an acting professor and director of a new outdoor musical. Intrigued, and braving the heat, Mary accepted the position, teaching, directing and touring *Belle* for two years. She also met and married the love of her life, Hollie Phillips, and the two moved to Dunkirk, in 1989 when Mary was offered a position at Fredonia.

During the seventeen years she taught and directed plays and operas at SUNY, Mary added a second one-woman production, *Shirley Valentine*, to her repertoire. One particular joy for Mary while at Fredonia was taking large groups of students and community members to London to see world-class theatre. "So many of our students have seen only popular entertainment onstage, with little knowledge of the classics of dramatic literature or the best cutting-edge modern plays. I'm so glad I could introduce them to productions that will open doors and enrich their lives."

Early retirement in 2006 saw Mary moving once again, this time to the mountain home her husband had built for them near Asheville, North Carolina. Hollie had been diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia which would end his life in 2010. The four years before his death were the best, according to Mary. Riding their 4-wheeler through the woods, watching the wildlife, swimming in the river, and playing with the dogs, they grew closer than ever.

Three years after Hollie passed, Mary moved to the coast of Maine where she acted in and directed plays, began to paint and (of course) traveled. She snorkeled in the Bahamas and the Florida Keys, visited Kathmandu and remote villages in Nepal, and painted in Mexico. She loved her tiny village in Maine but missed her close friends in western New York. In 2016, she returned to Fredonia ("the closest thing to a home I've ever had") where she now plays with Lola, her canine companion, gardens, paints, attends local events and spends time with friends. Having Mary's gregarious, friendly, laughing, expressive and adventurous nature back in our area is a treat!



*"Do your thing and don't care if they like it."*  
-Tina Fey

## ► Emeritus Newsbit

"Slurs, Smears and Suffrage" recounts an incident in 1910, when a young suffragist, Henrietta Mercy, accused long time state representative, James Oliver, of inappropriate behavior when she met with him to lobby for the passage of a suffrage amendment to the New York State Constitution. Oliver (the legislature's oldest member denied Mercy's accusations that he told her if she wanted to get support for the amendment she should "find some younger men and hug and kiss legislators...as the street girls get things done." This "she said-he said" incident made headlines around the country as New York state suffrage leaders used the incident to call attention to a number of categories of mistreatment of women including domestic abuse and wage inequality. Ultimately the 1910 legislature failed to pass the amendment out of committee. It took until 1917 for New York to become the 12th state to add an equal suffrage clause to their amendment.

Here's a link to the magazine website: (Full access is only for subscribers).  
<https://www.nysarchivestrust.org/new-york-archives-magazine>

- Linda Czuba Brigance

## ► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

**Mr. Gary Brittain** passed away on August 20, 2018. Mr. Brittain had been a part-time Fire Safety Coordinator in the Department of Environmental Health, Safety, and Sustainability at Fredonia since 2010.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Buffalo Animal Shelter 380 Oak Street, Buffalo NY, 14203, in Gary's memory.

**Mr. Donald J. Woleben** passed away on November 26, 2018. Mr. Woleben began his campus employment in 1993 and retired in 2016 as a Janitor in the Department of Facilities Services.

Messages of remembrance or condolence may be shared at <http://themorsefuneralhome.com/obituaries/>

**Mr. Frank J. Napieralski** passed away on November 28, 2018. Mr. Napieralski was employed from 1985 until 2003 as an Ice Rink Instructional Support Assistant in the Department of Health, Wellness, and Recreation.

**Mr. Randy J. "Pete" Goodemote** passed away on December 15, 2018. Mr. Goodemote joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 2000 as a Cleaner and retired in September 2016 as a Janitor in Reed Library/McEwen hall.

Memorial gifts may be made in Randy's name to the Gowanda Ambulance Service, PO Box 143, Gowanda, NY 14070 or the Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department, Aldrich Street, Gowanda, NY 14070.

**Dr. Susan P. Besemer** passed away on December 23, 2018. Dr. Besemer had been employed at the State University of New York at Fredonia between 1988 - 1999 as Director of Reed Library. She implemented one of the first SUNY comprehensive college online catalog systems during her tenure.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**Dr. Malcom "Mac" Nelson** passed away on December 25, 2018. Dr. Nelson began his successful career at the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1968 as an Associate Professor of English with a specialty in Shakespeare and literature of the English Renaissance. He retired from Fredonia in 2007 as a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. A strong supporter of faculty unionism he served for many years as President of the Fredonia Chapter of United University Professions. He was the recipient of many awards and honors including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1975.

Dr. Nelson's beloved Catch Club will honor him with a singing session sometime in the spring.

**Ms. Evelyn Fintzel** passed away on February 8, 2019. Ms. Fintzel was employed from 1999 until 2014 as a Clerk in the Accounting/Accounts Payable Office.

Friends may call on Friday, February 22 from 4-7 PM and Saturday, February 23 from 11-12 PM at the Hamburg Chapel, John J. Kaczor Funeral Home, 5453 Southwestern Blvd. A memorial service at the funeral home will immediately follow Saturday's calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made in Evelyn's name to the Erie County SPCA, American Heart Association, or a charity of choice. Condolences may be shared with the family at [www.kaczorfunerals.com](http://www.kaczorfunerals.com)

## ► SEFA

- The State Employee Federated Appeal (SEFA) Campaign closed out a record-breaking year at \$51,985. The appeal allows state employees to join local non-profit organizations to support those in need.

## ► Events@Fredonia

- Please check out the website for upcoming public events being held: <http://events.fredonia.edu>.

## Informational Website

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



## *Emeritus Holiday Celebration*

On Wednesday, December 5, the Emeritus Holiday Celebration was held at the Lanford House. Six boxes of canned goods and non-perishable items were collected for the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry in Dunkirk. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Emeritus members at the holiday celebration at Lanford House on December 5, 2018.



Emeritus members at the holiday celebration at Lanford House on December 5, 2018.

