

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

# Emeritus News

Spring 2021

## ► My Corner

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."*  
- Mahatma Gandhi

By Barbara Mallette



Articles about keeping sharp and fending off memory loss extol the virtues of continued learning through the "golden years" (My older sister scoffs "Golden years my ass!"). As the holidays faded, my thoughts turned to what I might do to stimulate my brain and keep me active. I have wanted to sew again and even extend my sewing skills for some time. My sewing materials take up one section of our attic; I always

seem to be looking in the wrong bin for material. One of my tasks this winter has been to go through my sewing "stuff" carefully. For years, I have been carting around fabric, notions, and sewing doo-dads. The time has come for some organization. Thread needed to be separate from sewing notions and fabric. Material remains from skirts, blouses, dresses, and pillows made many years ago. At times I found myself amazed at my fabric selection – what the heck was I planning with 6 yards of upholstery fabric in my least favorite colors. And I don't know how my friend Delfina's pants made their way into my fabric bin. My best guess is that I acquired them during one of her moves across the country. My favorite pot holders were falling apart; I thought I could remedy the situation by sewing new ones from fabric on hand. You probably saw this coming.... I made potholders from Delfina's pants. I made enough that I could send her two, with obvious improvements in the last two made. I've moved onto two different mask designs, using colorful and fun fabrics to break the monotony of wearing the same few masks. Getting to know my sewing machine has been thrilling. I am amazed that I never before considered acquiring specific sewing tools that make some tasks easier. Dexterity is sure to be compromised as the years pass. Seams and hems will be straighter for now or at least until my vision becomes less acute.

Learning some new skills and extending others became goals – after all, I now had time. I was fortunate to receive a one-year membership to Master Class from friends. What a blessing! So many choices are available in Master Class, enough of them interesting that I could be in front of my computer all day. My first class was with photographer Annie Leibovitz. Listening to Ms. Leibovitz address her own history as a photographer was captivating. Having access to some of her work felt special. Although I have worked through all of the sessions, I am still finishing some "assignments." I look forward with relish to my next Master Class adventure.

All of us are experiencing the effects of COVID-19. For a long time, news of infected individuals saddened us but the virus has now made its way into our familial circles. Members of our extended family have passed due to the virus. And one member of our immediate family is battling COVID. We can provide support and love only from afar. Like you, we long for the days when we can engage in social activities face-to-face with loved ones and treasured friends. And the thrill of potential travel continues to feed our gypsy souls.

Our nation is reeling from the shock of the attack on the Capitol. The images of insurgents breaching the hallowed halls of that iconic building continue to be disturbing. The polarization and passion of Americans could divide us further. A new President and Vice-President have been inducted. Biden's message of unity and support during his inauguration address voiced hope to us. More hope comes in the form of the COVID vaccine. Seniors are now eligible for the COVID vaccine as NYS implements its plan for vaccination of its residents. With an eye to the future and with hope in our hearts, we will get through this tough time. Please stay safe!

*"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."*  
- Henry Ford

Please email Dawn Hunt at [dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu](mailto:dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu) or call 716-673-3456 if you are interested in receiving the Emeritus newsletter by email.

## ► President Stephen Kolison's General Campus Meeting Remarks



Please find below a link to President Kolison's General Campus Meeting remarks.

<https://fredonia.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=a271865e-e5c9-4eb4-bb92-acc6012548fb>

## ► Save the Date

### ● President's Award for Excellence Recognition—April 21, 2021, 12:00 PM

Dr. Kolison will recognize both the 2020 and 2021 award recipients and retirees virtually on Wednesday, April 21 at 12:00 PM. A link will be sent via email.

## ► Things to Check Out while in Isolation

- Check out artifacts located in the British Museum; you can select the time period as well as the continent. <https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>
- The Louvre is closed but you can embark on one of seven virtual tours. <https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>
- Explore the Art Institute of Chicago from the comfort of your home. <https://www.artic.edu/visit-us-virtually>
- Select one of thirteen bird and conservation events offered through the National Audubon Society. <https://www.audubon.org/news/13-virtual-bird-and-conservation-events-tune-spring>
- Enjoy a variety of virtual orchestral and choral performances. Experience a variety of virtual choir and orchestra performances from around as selected by Rockefeller Arts Center for your viewing and listening pleasure. <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/rockefeller-arts-center/virtualchoirandorchestra>
- Enjoy Rockefeller's archived performance clips via our Youtube channel. While live events are still on hold under the Governor's NY Forward Guidelines, special live performance clips are available for viewing on Rockefeller Arts Center's Youtube channel. The channel may be found at the below link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RockefellerArtsCntr/videos>
- In addition, we will be posting curated videos several times a week to our Facebook page. Some will be of past performances at Rockefeller Arts Center, and some will be from various artists and arts organizations that we admire. We hope this will help you keep the arts alive in your heart until we are allowed to re-open and welcome you back in person! Use the link below to get to our Facebook page. [https://www.facebook.com/RockefellerArtsCenter/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/RockefellerArtsCenter/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)
- Please check out the events calendar for upcoming public events. <https://events.fredonia.edu/>

### Informational Website

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

## ► Emeritus Spotlight—Joe Chilberg

By Barbara Mallette

*"Good communication is just as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after."  
- Anne Morrow Lindbergh*



Joseph Chilberg was born in western Michigan farm country. His mother was an Italian war bride; her heritage and friendliness fostered friendships when the family moved to Niagara Falls, NY. Joe recalls his childhood and adolescence with fondness and pride in being a blue-collar family. Joe's father was a foreman at a local lumber yard; he worked with a pneumatic gun operator who served in the armed forces in Rome with him. This man's wife was also friends with Joe's mother, which further fueled the relationship between these two families. For extra funds, Joe's mother worked outside the home: waitressing, working the deli counter at Tops, and cleaning motels.

The oldest of four children, Joe thrived in the Italian neighborhood in which he was raised. At sixteen, Joe was hired by the local lumber company (where his father worked) where he constructed industrial pallets. Perhaps it was the mighty Niagara River or summers on Lake

Ontario that sparked Joe's interest in marine biology. Following high school graduation, he enrolled in the nationally recognized Marine Biology Program at the University of Corpus Christi (UCC). The area was a marine biologist's Eden - Corpus Christi's tidal flats are home to sheepshead minnows and blue crab. Additionally, Corpus Christi Bay is a bird watcher's paradise, with over 400 species living or flying through the area. Water conditions are perfect for an annual migration southward for ducks, sandpipers, and warblers. Life in Corpus Christi was expansive for Joe. He was used to strong ethnic cultures in Niagara Falls where many Italians, African Americans, and Polish folks resided. In Texas, Joe was introduced to several Hispanic cultures. After initial wonder, interest in the Corpus Christi Latinos grew; Joe was fascinated by their worldliness.

After his first year as a science major, Joe grew close to folks in acting. A new world was opened; one full of poetry, radical literature, and other arts. As a result, Joe changed his major to speech and drama. He was elected Student Body President; the \$1000 scholarship associated with this office covered UCC tuition. His first son was born in 1969 so scholarship money was appreciated. As his program concluded at UCC, Joe considered his options. Fortunately, his UCC speech teacher returned from a communication conference with news that Illinois State University (ISU) was offering an assistantship in communication. Joe's application for this assistantship was successful - off to Illinois he traveled.

In Normal, IL running communication exercises and labs, Joe "fell in love with teaching." His training at ISU included operating systematic desensitization regarding communication anxiety. Joe furthered his work in speech communication by earning a Master's Degree from ISU. He stayed at ISU one year beyond degree attainment to teach. His love for the work he did at ISU was evident in his voice as he recalled ISU days. Teaching at ISU also provided Joe with experience that could and would move him to the next level academically and professionally. Because of pressing matters, Joe had to pass on a full ride in the doctoral program at the University of Oklahoma. Looking back at this decision, Joe has no regrets. He had no definite plans after the Master's Degree. When a term appointment was available at University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Joe applied and was hired. He enjoyed his year in Wisconsin where he continued to expand his teaching repertoire. In returning to Niagara Falls, Joe split time between teaching at Niagara County Community College and installation of siding and windows with his father. During this time, Joe recognized that if he was going to continue to teach at higher education institutions, he needed a Ph.D. He was looking for an institution that offered a flexible doctoral program in communication. His goal was to learn everything about communication and communicating to teach people while earning a Ph.D. in interpersonal communication. Ohio University (OU) offered such flexibility as well as a liberal spirit. Like other colleges in the late 1960s, OU experienced protests. Joe found OU stimulating.

OU's setting (Athens, OH) exposed Joe to rural life. He shared a "country place" in Meigs County with a friend while completing the doctorate. Here Joe fell in love with living with the great outdoors (and no one should be surprised about his choice to continue to live in the country in Chautauqua County). Joe admits to being somewhat of a nomad with degree in hand. He taught at Notre Dame but was unsettled there. Then worked at Utica College of Syracuse University. Although he found the Italian, Polish, and African-American neighborhoods endearing, Joe couldn't shake his unsettledness. Ithaca College drew Joe next. He loved the Ithaca area but didn't agree with some of the college's policies for promotion and tenure. Perusing the National Communication Society placement service, Joe came upon the ad for a position at the State University of New York at Fredonia. His background across areas of communication, language, philosophy, and semantics would fill a need at Fredonia.

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## ► Emeritus Spotlight continued—Joe Chilberg

Being from Niagara Falls, Joe was somewhat familiar with the SUNY system and Fredonia. The opportunity for a senior faculty position was tempting. Added to this was proximity to family and the village/rural setting. Fredonia was a win-win for Joe. In fall 1987, Joe joined the faculty. Fredonia must have been a good match for Joe. In the twenty-three years he worked at the university, Joe was instrumental in establishing the Public Relations major. He created opportunities for student portfolio activities; these activities were promoted by the Applied Communication Association (which Joe co-founded). Joe saw the importance of service projects for communication majors and advocated activities for students. One such project was the *Communication Student Survival Guide*. He established the annual Public Speaking Competition and set up an annual scholarship for the Applied Communication Service Award.



Joe using the tractor to plow the driveway. Ah, life in Cassadaga!

Service to the institution was second nature to Joe. He served as President of Faculty Senate (now University Senate). Joe conducted several large group facilitation initiatives for program development with the College Foundation, Education Department, and other various campus project groups.

Following retirement, Joe spends his time making wine. He has been making wine since 1986 and co-authored *New York Wine Country: A Tour Guide*. When he's not making wine, Joe can be found in the vegetable garden or mowing. He lives with his wife, Janet Mayer, and their son, Jackson, on a park-life refuge outside Cassadaga. Sitting on his screen porch, he can enjoy the pond view and read at his leisure. But he also has been known to play catch with his dog, Blaze or ride the property. The position at Fredonia drew Joe back to Western New York and country life. Ahhhhh.....

*To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.*  
- Anthony Robbins

## ► Update—By Kyle Semmel, Communications Manager of the Western New York Land Conservancy

### Community Reaches Fundraising Goal, Western New York Land Conservancy to Purchase the College Lodge Forest

The Western New York Land Conservancy and the Friends of the College Lodge Forest recently announced some incredible news: their community has matched a challenge gift and reached their fundraising goal to save the beloved College Lodge Forest, long a cherished community gathering place near Fredonia. Once it is purchased, it will be permanently protected.

During the past few years, the Land Conservancy and the Friends of the College Lodge Forest carried out an ambitious fundraising campaign to protect the property. Purchased in 1939 by SUNY Fredonia students, with their own funds, for the main objective of promoting health outdoors, the land has been a prized learning laboratory for thousands of teachers, researchers, students, and the entire community ever since. The Faculty Student Association (FSA), a non-profit auxiliary of SUNY Fredonia, has owned the property and operated a historic lodge on the site since 1969.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation played a significant role in the campaign by awarding the Land Conservancy a large grant: "The College Lodge Forest is a jewel," said Parks Commissioner Erik Kulleseid. "For decades, its well-maintained trail system has provided Western New Yorkers as well as SUNY Fredonia students and faculty with a place to both appreciate and study nature. Protecting this forest is a win for New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds who are eager to explore all that our great state has to offer."



Dr. Terry Mosher at the College Lodge.

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## ► Update Continued —By Kyle Semmel, Communications Manager of the Western New York Land Conservancy

In addition to being a sanctuary for people, the College Lodge Forest is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife, a pristine wetland with carnivorous plants, old-growth trees, and unique native orchids. It is also part of a significant migratory bird corridor—a fact that led the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to award the Land Conservancy with a grant as part of its Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is happy to support the conservation of the College Lodge property under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, through our Joint Venture habitat grant program," said Wendi Weber, Regional Director for the North Atlantic-Appalachian Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Just 4.5 miles from Lake Erie, the tract provides important stopover habitat for migratory birds during spring and fall migration, and a mosaic of interior forest and wetland habitats used for breeding and wintering by many different wildlife species. The area also provides valuable opportunities to connect people to nature, as it has long been used for birdwatching, hiking, and other outdoor recreation."

Joe Johnson of the Lenna Foundation, which provided a portion of the challenge grant funds, said: "Ever since the enterprising students at SUNY Fredonia purchased the property during the Great Depression, the College Lodge Forest has been a place of enormous significance in Western New York. As a research center and as a refuge for people to get outdoors and into nature, its value to our community is incalculable. We are thrilled to help to save this local treasure."

"We are extraordinarily grateful to the entire community for accomplishing this goal," said Nancy Smith, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy. "This has been a challenging year for everyone. What this demonstrates, once again, is just how much our community values nature. Even in a year like this, the community came together to protect one of Western New York's most incredible forests."

Additional support for the College Lodge Forest comes from Kathy Lasher and Scott Bieler, the Gallogly Family Foundation, hundreds of individual community donors, and the Garman Family Foundation administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

The Land Conservancy will now enter the final stages of purchasing the property, and will be the proud new owners of the College Lodge Forest in early 2021. Once the sale is official, the Land Conservancy will keep it open year-round as a publicly accessible nature preserve, and it will maintain miles of existing hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country ski trails. FSA will continue to own and operate the lodge and the 33 acres surrounding it, using funds from the sale to operate the historic lodge on its share of the property.

To learn more about the Western New York Land Conservancy and the work they do protecting land with significant conservation value in Western New York, visit their website at [www.wnylc.org/](http://www.wnylc.org/)

## ► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Mrs. Norma St. George passed away on January 10, 2021. Mrs. St. George began her employment at the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1966 as a Stenographer and was subsequently promoted to Secretary 1 in the School of Music before retiring in 1991.

Memorial contributions in Mrs. St. George's memory may be made to St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Center, 32 Moore Ave., Fredonia, NY, or Darwin R. Barker Library, 7 Day St., Fredonia, NY. Online condolences may be made at [www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com/](http://www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com/)

## ► 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. If you could help to reduce mailing costs by receiving the newsletter by email, please let us know. You may email [dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu](mailto:dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu) or call 716-673-3456.