

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Winter 2021

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette

"It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!"

- Winne the Pooh
Pooh's Grand Adventure

Taking note of leaf dropping in our area seems to be a favorite fall pastime. We marvel when the ash trees drop leaves first in our yard, most of them still green. The wild apple trees begin to lose fruit and leaves almost simultaneously. And finally, the oak trees drop their leaves, almost seeming to do so reluctantly in late October or early November. Leaf crispiness produces that memorable sound as we shuffle among the fallen leaves.

At one time, we scoured the neighborhood for bagged leaves, as our few trees produced only a small number of leaves during our fall roundup. And the leaves were perfect compost for our vegetable gardens. Now after many tree plantings and growing seasons, our trees produce plenty of leaves for the gardens; we no longer hunt the neighborhood for full leaf bags. Raking is a frequent activity as we hustle to beat the first snowfall. Sometimes we win!



Like most folks in our area, fall is a time of wonder. Wonder at the change in color of trees that dot the hills of Chautauqua County and beyond. Sometimes the colors are bright reds, yellows, and oranges. Other times the trees display muted color changes that disappoint the "leaf-peepers" who find their way into the southern tier but don't disappoint us residents. Wonder about the colors of mums that aren't labeled at local garden stores. Shouldn't one seek symmetry by buying at least two mums that are the same color? Are all mum colors compatible? Wonder about the timing of the

first snow fall. Will Halloween costumes be hidden under winter coats as children trick or treat this year? Will the remnants of summer be stowed until next year and the snow shovels ready for duty? Wonder when the driveway markers should be installed to guide the plowing service. If you install them too early, are they considered lawn ornaments? Wonder why anyone would retreat from our area when the temperatures start to get frosty and snow blankets the hills. Perhaps one's tolerance for cold temperatures wanes as the years pass. Or the lure of summer temperatures year-round is just too strong to ignore.



We all wonder when we can gather safely without the threat of breakthrough COVID or any of its variants affecting us. Access to vaccine boosters and continued masking offer some hope for relief. With colder temperatures looming and blustery weather sure to come, spending time indoors becomes the norm. As all of us spend more time inside, let's continue to stay healthy and safe, and get your booster vaccine shot!

"I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift."

- Dodinsky

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

► President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. cordially invites you to attend a Holiday Gathering



PRESIDENT STEPHEN H. KOLISON, JR.
cordially invites you to attend a

HOLIDAY GATHERING

on Wednesday, December 8
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Williams Center
Multipurpose Room

We hope you can stop by to visit with President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.,
enjoy some holiday refreshments, and mingle with
colleagues, students, and emeriti.

Please email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or
call 716-673-3456 if you plan to attend.

Masks Required



► Additional Information

- The Emeritus Group luncheon scheduled for October 14th was cancelled due to low registration. Hopefully, folks will feel more comfortable gathering in 2022!
- Reed Library Special Collections and Archives Division is endeavoring to compile a comprehensive list of names and images of former faculty, staff, and administration. With the help of our many retirees who live locally, we will be well on our way to achieving that goal.

We are asking for your first-hand knowledge and recall of faces and names of former colleagues. Your input will greatly increase the effectiveness of the archives by adding detail and specificity to our institutional history. If you are interested in helping with this photo ID project, please contact Patricia.Cummings-Witter@fredonia.edu to set up dates and times to visit the archives.

Peg Card and I recently reviewed photographs involving Education faculty and students. We could identify some former colleagues and students and had a great time looking at Fredonia folks in the past.

- Speakers, sports, music, dance, and theatre events have returned to campus. Enjoy the talents of our faculty and students again! Masks are required for all indoor events. Check out what is happening on campus by perusing the Events Page <https://events.fredonia.edu/>

► Newsbit

By: Dan and Janet Reiff

From the 1970s onward, Janet and I have spent part of our summer vacations at a cabin in the Adirondacks, and beginning in 1981 (a year after our first son, Nicholas, was born) we always took an overnight trip to Canton, an hour's drive north, where I grew up – my father, Harry Reiff, having been a professor at St. Lawrence University (SLU). My two sons always enjoyed these visits, and became familiar with all the "family stories" associated with this charming village and the SLU campus. This past summer, in celebration of my 80th birthday, Nick (we have the same birthdate, August 17th) – who lives abroad, but comes back to the U.S. once a year – decided that we should all go back to Canton for a visit! With my younger son, Michael, and Nick and his two sons, we made our "historic" pilgrimage. As the photo depicts, we visited the "Reiff house" (now the Global Dialogue Center). My father was a distinguished SLU professor for 38 years and was head of the History and Government Department; many of his students went on to success in government, law, public service, and education. His name is well known to this day on the campus since his "legion of grateful student" (some of whom became SLU trustees) honored him for many years after his retirement: the Harry Reiff scholarship (1966), an honorary doctorate (1972), his portrait in the Law Window (1979) of the SLU chapel (my father had been on the U.S. delegations for setting up the UN), a beautiful oil portrait (1982) for the library, a classroom in his name (1984), and a freshman dorm, "Reiff College," dedicated in 1987. (My parents also had a Fredonia connection: they had met Kris and Dallas Beal in 1964 at the noted "Pinebrook Conference on Chinese Culture," and even visited the Beals in Fredonia.) It was a memorable reunion.

Photo Caption:

Three generations of Harry Reiff descendants visit the Reiff former home. Left to right: Alessandro, Leonardo, Michael, Nicholas, and Daniel Reiff. (Photo by Janet M. Reiff, '73).



Informational Website

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

► Emeritus Spotlight—Dr. Gregory Harper

By Barbara Mallette and Greg Harper

"It is with children that we have the best chance of studying the development of logical knowledge, mathematical knowledge, physical knowledge, and so forth."
- Jean Piaget

Orange, New Jersey is the birthplace of several well-known individuals: Dionne Warwick, Kevin Spacey, Roy Schneider, Gordon MacRae, and our own Gregory (Greg) Harper. Greg has never indicated any acquaintance with these other stars even though he spent all of his childhood and adolescence in the Garden State.

Greg is the oldest of seven Harper children. Because of his father's employment and the arrival of more children, the Harpers moved frequently. Mr. Harper's full-time job involved materials production but he held additional jobs to support his growing family. Mrs. Harper worked in food service, waitressing, cooking and later in life, owning a restaurant. Greg calls Belleville, New Jersey his hometown, as seven years were spent in this city. He recalled with fondness an assembly in elementary school when he was eight or nine years old. A teacher presented and played musical instruments. When Greg heard the sounds emanating from the trumpet, he was spellbound. From that point on, Greg has continued to nourish his love of the trumpet.



He attended Belleville High School, graduating in 1966, well after Connie Francis and Joe Pesci. In high school, Greg was active in the school band. He was involved in school musicals regularly but lamented that he often was cast as an old man; e.g., someone's father.

After high school, Greg sought more than New Jersey could offer. Although accepted at a number of colleges, Greg found Allegheny College (Meadville, Pennsylvania) a magical place on his visit there. Psychology faculty were welcoming to interested visitors. With support from a New Jersey State Scholarship, he enrolled in Allegheny College where he pursued a Bachelor's Degree in psychology and played in the Allegheny Pep Band. Perhaps having six younger siblings planted the seed for deeper knowledge about human development and the mind. Greg's mother recalled on more than one occasion that he always seemed to be interested in "why people do stuff." At Allegheny College, Greg developed several close friendships that he has maintained for 50 plus years.



During Freshman Orientation, Greg met the love of his life at Allegheny, Jean Black, who was also from New Jersey. Greg retorted that Jean and he lived only 5 miles apart in NJ but there was 50,000 people living between them. Jean was a mathematics major and seemed a perfect fit for a man who loved research and data analysis. They married shortly after graduation and have enjoyed 51 years of wedded bliss.

His love for psychology wasn't satisfied at Allegheny College; Greg wanted more. Bowling Green University recruited him for its Clinical Psychology Program. After intense coursework and clinical as well as school practica, Greg graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology and certification in School Psychology. Greg has always wanted to work with children. He discovered that the clinical setting just didn't have the impact on children for which he was striving. Schools, especially early childhood settings, appeared to be the better setting for helping children as well as teachers. His love of learning and his desire to impact young children positively urged him to pursue further studies, with psychology as the focal point. At a psychology conference in Columbus, Greg noticed that a new program was being offered at Kent State University, Early Childhood School Psychology. Although he hadn't planned on getting a doctorate, Greg was accepted into this doctoral program where he focused on school psychology in the early childhood years. Kent State offered Greg opportunities that went beyond that of a doctoral student. He served as a visiting professor at Kent for one year following his degree completion.

"I think the future of psychotherapy and psychology is in the school system. We need to teach every child how to rarely seriously disturb himself or herself and how to overcome disturbance when it occurs."
- Albert Ellis

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► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Dr. Gregory Harper

When he completed the year appointment, Greg did what most newly minted doctors were inclined to do – he applied for a position in higher education. Fortunate for him, positions were offered for someone interested in Gifted and Talented Programs, School Psychology Programs, and Director of Early Childhood Preschool Programs. Although these job offers were tempting, none were a good match for Greg's skills and professional interests. He happened to see an ad in the *Chronical of Higher Education* for a position at Fredonia that piqued his interest. Having successfully negotiated the initial application process, Greg drove to Fredonia for an interview. The university secured a room at Don's Motel (now the Dunkirk Motel, pictured here) for his stay. Even the miserable atmosphere of his motel room didn't dampen Greg's enthusiasm for Fredonia. John Silvestro, Chair of the Search Committee, was welcoming and supportive; Greg knew he would be comfortable at Fredonia as the position seemed perfect for him – it matched his academic background.



https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipNZbaaG1FoQ8dabRjSFCvp2Z5mlqpv6n_Pj2t4=w325-h243-k-no

What a great place to be inducted into higher education teaching! When faced with finding suitable housing, Greg and Jean bought a house close to campus that needed TLC. They finished the inside of the house and enjoyed their walks to campus during the days when parking on campus was a problem. It was here that Greg and Jean raised their two children before relocating to Kentucky following retirement from Fredonia.

Fredonia offered Greg many professional opportunities. He taught a variety of courses in the Psychology Foundations areas, with Developmental Psychology as one of his core courses. Greg credits his success at Fredonia to supportive and helpful colleagues in Education and across campus. His competence in teaching, student advisement, and administrative duties did not go unnoticed. Greg was sought for a variety of administrative positions: Associate Chair of the Department of Education, Associate Director of the School of Education, Interim Dean of Educational Studies and Associate Dean of Professional Studies. He chaired a number of search committees and served as a member of other search committees during his tenure at Fredonia. When asked about the highlights of his career at Fredonia, Greg stated "Perhaps the best thing to happen in my career was my success in hiring Lawrence Maheady and Barbara Mallette ☺. Our careers coincided with federal legislation requiring all students to be fully placed in regular education classrooms to the extent possible; i.e., the Least Restrictive Environment. Classroom teachers were unprepared for this and needed strategies that would promote both academic achievement and social integration of all children in their charge. Larry, Barb, and I focused 25 years of our careers devising and evaluating highly effective strategies that accomplished both needs. We generally published two to three research articles each year. It was a win-win-win for students, teachers, and us."

Not only was Greg involved in our classroom research projects, he spearheaded pursuit and acquisition of several federally funded grant projects. He was the driving force behind the McNair Scholars Program, a project which supported Fredonia undergraduate student mentorships with faculty. The students were encouraged to enroll in graduate programs beyond Fredonia. And Greg was co-author of the Liberty Partnership Program, one of the longest running externally funded programs at Fredonia. This Rural Dropout Prevention Grant is in its 31st year under the leadership of Ms. Nancy Wagner, recently deceased.

No one was surprised by Greg's selection as a mentor for new faculty in our division. Annually, one of the rookies would choose Greg to serve as his/her faculty mentor. Having someone who balanced teaching, research, and service to the campus positively impacted these new faculty members.

I don't know where he found the time but Greg was a member of the Cassadaga Area Concert Band. He often played trumpet next to his son. When that group disbanded, Greg enrolled in the New Horizons Group at the university.

"If the student hasn't learned, the teacher hasn't taught."
- Siegfried Engelmann

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► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Dr. Gregory Harper

As mentioned previously, Greg and his wife, Jean, have two children. Some of us can remember Alice and Donald coming into Thompson Hall. Alice sold Girl Scout cookies to willing takers; the thin mints were a big hit. Alice is now Professor of Analytical Chemistry and Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Berry College in Rome, Georgia. Son Donald is the Research Coordinator for the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, DC and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force Reserve. A licensed pilot, Donald and his plane take to the skies whenever possible. Greg and Jean have three wonderful grandchildren; spending time with them is one of their pleasures in retirement.

Since Fredonia, Greg and Jean have been active in their church in Kentucky. They volunteer at ReStore, supporting the sale of used household goods and building supplies for Habitat for Humanity. In addition, Greg continues his trumpet playing with the Young at Heart Big Band. This group plays at community events, veterans' homes, and local schools. Travel has been a priority for the Harpers. They recently completed visits to all 50 states! When restrictions ease, they hope to travel beyond U.S. borders.

Greg is an avid bird watcher; adding birds to his life list has been another priority in retirement. He also is a moderately successful fly fisherman and has a small group of friends with whom he travels to fly fishing locations across our nation.

Leaving Fredonia was difficult for the Harpers. Yet the lure of being geographically closer to their children was strong. Almost as strong was the desire to escape the cold of Western New York winters.

*"I think I did pretty well, considering I started out with nothing but a bunch of blank paper."
- Steve Martin*

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. Alan G. LaFlamme passed away on October 14, 2021.

Dr. LaFlamme joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1970 as an instructor, he achieved the rank of Professor in 1986, and held that title until his retirement in 2021. During his tenure, he served multiple years as department chairperson and Commencement Mace Bearer. The latter is a position reserved for the most senior faculty member on campus.

Ms. Debora A. McCown passed away on September 16, 2021.

A recipient of the 2009 President's Award for Excellence, Ms. McCown was hired in 1978 as a Mini Computer Operator for the Faculty Student Association (FSA); was promoted in 1986 to Office Manager, and remained in that position until her retirement in February 2011.

Memorials may be made to the RO Foundation or a charity of one's choice.

Mr. Kenneth J. Plucinski passed away on October 5, 2021.

Mr. Plucinski joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1984 as an Assistant Professor in the School of Business. He was promoted to Associate Professor of Accounting in 2011, and remained in that position until his retirement in 2017. During his tenure, he also served as Coordinator of the Accounting Program and Internal Control Coordinator.

► Fredonia's "Grande Orange," Alan LaFlamme

By: Richard Reddy



Professor Alan LaFlamme died on October 14th.

Al earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology at UB and taught at Fredonia for over 50 years, retiring this summer.

He shared his life and his love of anthropology with Dr. Joy Bilharz, also a retired Emeritus Professor.

He was an outstanding teacher and an excellent, long-serving department chair.

Although he taught innumerable sections of Intro, his specialties centered around the Caribbean and Africa.

His dissertation was a study of Green Turtle Key in the Bahamas, but Al's life was centered on Buffalo where he was born and grew up and Fredonia/Cassadaga where he lived most of his life.

For more than a decade he served on the committee for the Rosa Parks Awards and on the Human Subjects Review Committee.

Al was an avid sports fan throughout his life, starting with the Cleveland Indians and adding the Bills and the Sabres when they came to town.

Among other things, he enjoyed cycling, archery, and playing softball. He also loved rock music.

Of French Canadian heritage, part of Al's love of baseball was following the career of Rusty Staub who played for the Montreal Expos and who later also starred with the New York Mets.

While playing in Montreal, Rusty was nicknamed "Le Grande Orange" because of his stature and his red hair. (The French get this right. Very few people actually have red hair, it's actually closer to orange in color.)

In any case, Al LaFlamme had a legendary career at Fredonia and certainly was our "Grande Orange."

He is and will be profoundly missed.

► 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 or call 716-673-3456.