

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Spring 2022

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette

*"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."
- Aristotle*



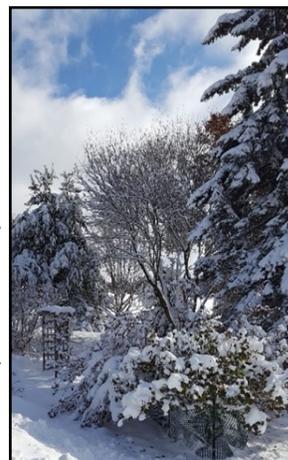
Frigid temperatures remind us that winter brings out the hardiness in Western New Yorkers. Two winter storms dumped more than a foot in Cassadaga, which transformed yards into winter wonderlands. Stepping outside one could hear snowblowers being used to open access to local driveways and mailboxes. Village and state snowplows rumble down snow-covered roads hoping to keep ahead of the rapidly accumulating drifts. The whine of snowmobiles adds to winter's cacophony. After these pass, utter quiet settles in the valley and the silence is welcomed. Have you noticed that falling snow makes no noise?



We try to get outside as much as possible even under snowy conditions. Granted, many times our outside activity consists of shoveling doors and cleaning up after the snowplow service. But when possible, we strap on snowshoes and trek the fields around us. Everywhere we look, the landscape is enhanced by snow mounds - a white world for our enjoyment.

Bare trees become sentries while remnants of deer tracks remind us that we aren't the only winter wanderers. A small trail might be attributed to a mouse or mole gutsy enough to brave the snow and cold.

With deep snow, deer visit the yard searching for spillage from our bird feeders. Frequently we find them watching our movements from kitchen to dining room, sort of "their own deer TV" show (coming soon on *Netflix* I heard). Sources indicate that deer tend to return to the same areas particularly if there is ample food. So, it appears that our yard must be a regular stop on their meal runs. If the feeders are left outside until dark, one large doe has learned to stand on her back legs in order to hit the lowest hanging feeder with her head to knock out seeds. Resourcefulness at its finest!



The new year also is alive with hope - hope for renewed travel, face-to-face gatherings, and warmer days. Some of you were able to attend the holiday gathering on campus sponsored by President Kolison, a chance for much needed socialization. As the months progress and the COVID virus numbers continue to decline in the area, our group may be able to meet in person in 2022 (fingers crossed!). Until then, stay warm and safe!



*"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy."
- William Blake*

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.

► A message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.

Dear Emeritus Members:

It is with mixed emotions that I notify you of the forthcoming retirement of Ms. Denise Szalkowski, Assistant to the President, by the end of February 2022.

For close to 35+ plus years, Ms. Szalkowski has served SUNY Fredonia with integrity and distinction, including 18 years as the Assistant to the President, serving three Fredonia Presidents including myself. I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with her since arriving here in August 2020. She has been a tremendous asset to my office and was invaluable as I navigated my first year as President during an extraordinary time due to COVID-19.

Ms. Szalkowski will be retiring as a highly valued colleague, and I am deeply appreciative for what we accomplished together. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Szalkowski and wishing her a long and prosperous retirement.

Given Ms. Szalkowski's forthcoming retirement in February and the importance of the role she occupies, an immediate transition plan is necessary, including retitling the position to adequately reflect current duties and what is expected in the future. As I shared with University Senate during the November 2021 meeting, I intend to redefine the role and retitle the position to Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant to the President.

I am pleased to share with you that I have selected Dr. Naomi Baldwin to serve in an interim capacity in this position, effective March 1, 2022. Dr. Baldwin is the recipient of the 2019-2020 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service, one of the first awards that I had the privilege of presenting when I arrived here in the Fall of 2020. In terms of educational background, Dr. Baldwin obtained her Ph.D. (Interdisciplinary—Curriculum and Instruction; Educational Leadership; and Policy Studies) from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her M.S. in Educational Technology and B.S. in Psychology were earned from Central Missouri State University (currently known as University of Central Missouri).

I believe that Dr. Baldwin will bring the experience, expertise, disposition, and finesse required of this role. I look forward to working with her. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Baldwin on this interim appointment.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Ph.D.
President and Professor

On behalf of the Fredonia Emeritus Group, we wish you, Denise, an easy transition to retired life. Hoping you get to do whatever makes you happy! You have been an anchor in the President's Office and a huge supporter of the Emeritus Group and its activities.

Best wishes Denise!

► Faculty, Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

Three years ago, the Provost's Office began publishing (digitally and in paper) an annual Faculty, Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity piece. This was part of a spring celebration of faculty accomplishments. Typically, faculty update their work in Digital Measures/Watermark, and that information is pulled from the platform, edited, and included in the publication. Last year's publication can be found [here](#).

The annual publication has been very well received by campus. Emeriti faculty are more than welcome to share their accomplishments. That information just needs to be collected in a slightly different process.

A Google Doc specifically for this group has been created. If you have any research, scholarly or creative works that you would like included from calendar year 2021, [please simply include it in the Google Doc](#). You will find the instructions in the Google Doc. If you would rather, feel free to email your material directly to judith.horowitz@fredonia.edu. Or if you have questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Judith Horowitz, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, 716-673-3335.

► Important Information

- **IMPORTANT:** Each mailing of the *Emeritus Newsletter* costs the group about \$100. Because the group has not met for almost two years, we have not collected dues from folks who pay the annual \$10 membership fee. Those of us who paid lifetime membership dues are exempt from paying annual dues (the fee scale was presented by Kevin Fox at a luncheon at the College Lodge some years ago). As the balance in our Credit Union account diminishes, we could be forced to offer only a digital copy of the *Emeritus Newsletter*. The President's Office informed me that recent retirees only receive a digital version of the newsletter. Look for more information on this matter in the next newsletter.

► Events @ Fredonia

- EAP Yoga will resume this semester on Tuesdays in Acting Studio 2—276 RAC from 11:50 AM-12:30 PM and Fridays in Dods Dance Studio - 148 Dods from 11:30 AM-12:10 PM. Please bring your own mat and water bottle. Yoga blocks and straps will be available for those who wish to use them. This class is taught by Diane Everett, a SUNY Fredonia Emerita from the Department of World Languages and Cultures. Diane is a 200 hour certified Kripalu yoga instructor, but the class is appropriate for all yoga traditions and levels. She is also a certified Dance and Pilates instructor. If you have any questions about the class or would like to be included in the EAP Yoga listserve, please email Diane at everettd@fredonia.edu.
- The university has been offering vaccination clinics and testing. Consult the Fredonia Home Page <https://my.fredonia.edu/> as well as the Events Page for more information <https://events.fredonia.edu/>
- 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: W. Dirk Raat

This essay was written for the local newspaper in Surprise, Arizona. The book I am talking about was released the first of the year. I will be doing a presentation (along with Navajo artist Steven Yazzie) to the Guild members at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona on February 16, 2022. This will be kind of a “coming out” for the book.

The Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona is one of three major institutions in the United States (the others are in Santa Fe, N.M. and Washington, D.C.) that specialize in the history, art and culture of Native Americans. Sun City Grand is a Del Webb community launched in 1997 where I presently live. It was built by Del Webb. Webb built two other Arizona communities before Sun City Grand—the others were Sun City and Sun City West.

For thirty some odd years I had taught Latin American history at several institutions including the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Moorhead State College in Minnesota, and the State University of New York at Fredonia, Fredonia, N.Y. In the year 2001, having recently retired, my wife Geraldine and I left the snowy climate of western New York for the sunshine of the Southwest. After arriving in Surprise and settling in Grand I soon decided to take an eight-month training course at the Heard Museum in downtown Phoenix. After graduating from the course, I became a docent at the Heard from 2007 to 2012. Leaving Latin American history behind I became a student of indigenous cultures in the Southwest (especially Arizona). I was soon teaching non-credit courses in indigenous history, first at the Lifelong Learning Center at Sun City Grand, and later at the west campus of Arizona State University in Glendale.

When I first retired, I spent two years in Arizona playing golf and pickleball (I had spent over thirty years playing racquetball) and not doing anything scholarly. But I soon grew tired of having fun, so I decided to write another book (I had published eight books previously). This time the topic would not be Latin American or Mexican history, but indigenous history in the U.S. My service at the Heard got me interested in first, Arizona’s indigenous cultures, then New Mexico, and finally the entire Southwest.

At the Heard I became acquainted with both the artist (Steven Jon Yazzie) and his art. Yazzie was a Navajo and Pueblo Laguna artist who had several shows at the Heard Museum. One of his works was a mural painted on canvases installed on a wall on one of the galleries. It was called “Fear of a Red Planet: Forced Removal and Relocation.” As a docent I spent several Saturdays talking to visitors about the content of the Yazzie mural—a message about the forced migration and extinction of a people for the benefit of a dominant culture.

Around 2012 my wife and I (as well as my dog Nacho) were travelling though the Owens Valley east of the Sierra Nevada on our way to Lake Tahoe to meet my son, daughter-in-law, and grandson. On the way I noticed a historical marker indicating that nearly a thousand Paiutes had been forcefully moved from the Owens Valley 300 miles to the Los Angeles basin in 1863. I commented to my wife that that was the same year that the Navajos were forcefully marched from northeastern Arizona to Bosque Redondo across the Pecos River in New Mexico, a trip of 400 to 500 miles depending on which trail was chosen for the march. With my interest piqued, upon my return to Surprise I immediately explored the events that took place in 1863 in the Southwest. Much of my research took place at the Heard. The result was my manuscript “Lost Worlds of 1863: Relocation and Removal of American Indians in the Central Rockies and the Greater Southwest.” This study surveys the forced removal of Navajo, Yavapai, Apache, Shoshone, Paiute, Ute, Yaqui, and O’odham peoples around, before, and after 1863.

I spent three years researching and writing the work from 2012 to 2015. It would not surprise anyone who has done any serious writing to learn that I sometimes spent twelve to sixteen hours at my computer eventually realizing that it was 4 AM, not 4 PM. Needless to say, my pickleball and golf playing skills did not improve during this phase. When the manuscript was completed, I found out that getting the work published would be even more of a task than simply writing it at the beginning. I spent the years from 2015 to 2020 seeking a publisher. After way too many editorial rejections I finally found a publisher in Wiley Blackwell. Having published eight books before, I was surprised to discover how difficult it was to get published when you are older, in a new field of interest, have no institutional support, and most of your critics are too young to appreciate the utterings of an old, white guy (especially writing on a controversial topic). But the moral lesson is never to give up; give it the old college try (and even discover that much of the criticism was constructive). W. Dirk Raat, Surprise, Az.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Dr. Nancy Boynton

By Barbara Mallette

"The study of mathematics, like the Nile, begins in minuteness but ends in magnificence."
- Charles Caleb Colton



Previously, home for Nancy Boynton meant somewhere in the only state that borders four of the five Great Lakes, Michigan. Her first two years were spent in Albion, a small city about halfway between Lake Erie and Lake Michigan, that is considered in the Battle Creek region of the state. Because Mr. Boynton's position at Michigan Bell (AT&T) required regular moves, the Boynton family seem to move every two or three years throughout the state, from Jackson, Broomfield Hills, and Grand Rapids (to name just a few relocations). One promotion took the family to Detroit then New Jersey but after several years, the Boyntons returned to their home state. Homemaker Mrs. Boynton managed the many moves and four children. Nancy is the eldest, followed by a sister and two brothers, one of whom is 12 years younger.

A proclivity for mathematics seems to be embedded in the Boynton genes. Mr. Boynton holds an engineering degree while Mrs. Boynton majored in math. Nancy's maternal grandmother from the Upper Peninsula held a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Furthermore, her grandfather was a high school physics teacher. And many of Nancy's cousins hold positions in mathematics-related fields.

Reflection on her growing years in Michigan, Nancy admits that she hated moving. She acknowledges that her choice of undergraduate college offered stability in her life and the chance to pursue her penchant for mathematics. Albion College was a small liberal arts institution where Nancy majored in mathematics and German. She confessed that French presented quite a challenge for her in high school. Having seven teachers in three years led to disjointed French instruction. As a result, Nancy wanted to pursue her desire for knowledge of a language other than English and knowledge of a different culture. Switching to German provided her with a "fresh start." She shared that the study of German was not as hard as she expected. Nancy was able to use her German skills when she joined a small group of Albion students in spending a semester in southwestern Germany near Basel Switzerland. Courses were conducted in German but instructors spoke English if the need arose. Nancy became aware of another western culture and learned how different life could be outside the United States. Because her international experience affected her deeply ("One of the best experiences of my life."), Nancy encouraged her Fredonia students to enroll in international programs.

Upon completing her undergraduate program, Nancy pursued her love of mathematics at the graduate level. Although she enrolled in the Master's Program at Western Michigan University (WMU) in Kalamazoo, Nancy moved into the university's doctoral program at her first opportunity. Here she taught algebra, calculus, and math for school teachers as part of her teaching assistantship. One advantage of WMU's doctoral program was that candidates were required to teach a junior/senior level probability course. This experience extended Nancy's qualifications for a position in higher education. Her dissertation in applied probability cemented her commitment to applied math. With her doctorate in hand, Nancy sought employment and was fortunate to be hired at the Michigan Technical University (MTU) in Houghton in the Upper Peninsula (UP). Her first winter in UP proved a record breaker, with over 365 inches of snow. MTU celebrated the long winter in UP with numerous activities, with Winter Carnival as its most famous. Nancy spoke of the snow sculpture contests, one of which involved working all night. The photo here depicts the first-place men's group's 2021 snow sculpture entry.



<https://tinyurl.com/5n6e72hu>

"Before creation, God did just pure mathematics; Then HE thought it would be a pleasant change to do some applied."
- John Edensor Littlewood

► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Dr. Nancy Boynton

The four years spent at MTU were interesting. But the university just wasn't the right place for Nancy. When she received a call from Joe Straight, a colleague at WMU, Nancy was intrigued. A vacancy in the Fredonia Mathematics Department sparked interest and an application was pursued. Dr. Polimeni, then Chair of Math, was familiar with a professor at WMU; connections to her beloved WMU only added to Nancy's determination to apply. After a successful interview, Nancy was offered the position in Math. The campus and community seemed like a good match for this Michigander. And her thirty-six-year tenure at Fredonia began!

To say that Fredonia was a good fit for Nancy is quite an understatement. She settled here and was thrilled to move around no longer. Her colleagues in Math and across campus made it easy for Nancy to remain in the area and purchase her first home here. She liked the department, the kind of school Fredonia was, and the students the university drew. Nancy had the good fortune to be a pioneer, earning tenure in a department of predominantly male faculty. She paved the way for other females to join the Math faculty. When Nancy retired, half of the Math faculty in tenure track positions were female.



Nancy served Fredonia well. Two terms as Chair of the department helped usher in the applied mathematics major from a possible tract for mathematics majors. Participation in numerous search committees, the General Education Committee, and Strategic Planning helped provide multiple opportunities to impact Fredonia. Nancy served as a representative to University Senate for a number of years and undertook the Chair for 1½ years. She had sense of her department and its students' needs. With Colleague Bob Rogers, Nancy recommended the *Fish Bowl* to the department as area for students and faculty to work mathematics. The department and then Dean wholeheartedly supported the idea. Anyone who ventured passed the *Fish Bowl* would find students gathered around a white board working through some math problem. The *Fish Bowl* concept was included in the renovation design of Houghton Hall. Nancy also had a hand in continuing to shape the math majors. She worked on the establishment of the minor in statistics and the inclusion of a data science course in the department.

The virus pandemic has impacted Nancy's post-retirement plans. She manages to maintain an active role in the Fredonia League of Women Voters, serving as the group's Treasurer. Getting out with a small group of friends is a priority while remaining vigilant about Covid protocols. They have enjoyed the Indian food at the Clarion this past fall and try to continue having lunch out on a regular basis. Even though the turnout was small, Nancy joined other female Math professors for a Christmas-time luncheon. This group's Christmas luncheon has been occurring for over twenty years.

With a nephew and his family in remote Alaska, Nancy was able to travel there with friend and former colleague Joy Bilharz. After visiting Anchorage and Seward, this pair ventured to Aniak, a remote town of approximately 500, that is accessible only by boat or small airplane. Both the nephew and his wife are educators; they have two young children. Nancy and Joy saw firsthand the concessions folks have to make when living in the bush. Salmon fishing and moose hunting sustain families there. The plight of some Native Alaskans was hard to miss. But the passion of the local school's athletic team, the Half-Breeds (the name they chose), was evident in Aniak.

Nancy remains close with her family, including her seven nephews and two great-nephews. Frequently she makes trips to MI to spend time with family. Her family owns a cottage in Traverse City. Now, with no ties to Fredonia's academic calendar, Nancy can enjoy all the seasons at this cottage. Looking ahead, Nancy is eager to travel to Isle Royale with her siblings and their spouses in summer 2022. With lodging booked well in advance, the Boyntons are sure to have the adventure of a lifetime. She hopes to attend a nephew's wedding in Colorado this May. And if the virus eases and the planets align, Nancy may travel to Turkey to attend this nephew's second wedding reception, a Turkish one.

Being in the kitchen brings Nancy joy. She cooks a lot, with lasagna being one of her favorite dishes. Nancy is also known for her baking prowess, particularly for the cakes she brought to departmental functions. Math students clamored for her carrot cake while her nephew requests Nancy's chocolate chip cookies when she is scheduled to visit.

Being settled in Fredonia is comforting to Nancy. She has access to her friends and colleagues as well as easy access to local stores and restaurants. And Michigan is only a drive away! In retirement, Nancy has time to enjoy her two favorite areas.

Note: Nancy has indicated that she is willing to drive anyone in need of a ride to a medical appointment. Now that she has time in retirement, she is extending herself to emeritus folks! If interested, email Nancy at Nancy.Boynton@fredonia.edu

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Mr. Paul D. Andrews passed away on November 12, 2021.

Mr. Andrews joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1972 as a Counselor in the Student Counseling Center, and was later promoted to Director of the Counseling Center in 1983, a position he held until his retirement in 1999. He was the recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Service in 1995, and he founded and served as the first campus Director of Veterans Affairs.

The family requests donations be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Ste. 800, Miami, FL, 33131, or Sanibel Captiva Audubon Society, PO Box 957, Sanibel, FL, 33957.

A celebration of Mr. Andrews life will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Robert E. Coon, Vice President for Student Affairs, Emeritus, passed away on December 15, 2021.

An Alumnus of SUNY Fredonia, Mr. Coon made a tremendous impact on the campus both during his 35-year career and after his retirement in 1991. He was admired by many, and while he is no longer with us, his memory and legacy will live on in the students and staff who benefitted from his leadership and scholarship.

As noted in his extensive obituary, "Mr. Coon is remembered with great affection and admiration by the SUNY Fredonia community, former colleagues, and generations of alumni. His "students first" and open-door philosophy was reflected in the high quality of student life at SUNY Fredonia over his 35-year career at the university."

Memorials can be made to the Robert E. and Shirley P. Coon Scholarship at the Fredonia College Foundation, 272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY, 14063 or St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home, 2546 Lake Road, Silver Creek, NY 14136. For more information or to post condolences online, please go to www.rilesandwoolleyfuneralhome.com

Dr. James Smith Hiatt passed away on December 8, 2021.

Dr. Hiatt joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1970 as an Instructor and was later appointed Assistant Professor in the School of Music, teaching Music Theory, through 1978.

Online condolences may be made at www.beanfuneralhomes.com.

Mr. Gary A. Maycock passed away on January 10, 2022.

Mr. Maycock was employed with SUNY Fredonia for 24 years in Facilities Services before retiring on September 7, 2017. During this time, he held the positions of cleaner, maintenance assistant, motor equipment mechanic and janitor.

Memorial contributions in Gary's memory may be made to the Chautauqua County Humane Society, 2825 Strunk Road, Jamestown, NY 14701.

Online condolences may be made at www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com

Informational Website

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