

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

# Emeritus News

Summer 2022

## ► My Corner

*"Living with fear stops us taking risks, and if you don't go out on the branch, you're never going to get the best fruit."*  
- Sarah Parish

By Barbara Mallette



In 1982, rockers *The Clash* posed a significant question "Should I stay or should I go?" that still seems relevant today. We were faced with a critical decision when invited to a wedding in Scotland. Do we take our first trip outside our small regular circle of family and friends and travel "across the pond"? Do we attend "a proper Scottish wedding" (in the words of the bride's mother) on the grounds of a castle? Do

we extend our travel so we could explore the Lake District, an area of England new to us? Do we visit former colleagues who were anchors of the Rolle College-Fredonia Exchange Program and the Plymouth University-Fredonia Exchange Program? What are potential risks? Do the benefits outweigh those risks? Armed with a second booster and a cache of KN95 masks would we be protected enough?

Much time was spent discussing our options and considering the what-ifs. The chance to visit the United Kingdom again seemed like a marvelous way to return to traveling. As restrictions began to ease locally and elsewhere, we found that others were also eager to venture farther away from their homesteads. Our conversations seem to touch upon personal experiences with COVID and how folks were continuing to manage living with the threat of virus outbreaks and recessions. We were confused by mixed messages about vaccines, social distancing, and wearing masks. Still many businesses offered sanitary wipes for shopping baskets and carts as well as hand sanitizers for customer use. Many people shed their masks when shopping; reservations were on the rise for in-house dining. Have we beat the virus finally?

With masks and vaccination proof in hand, we ventured to the airport and boarded the first of three flights. We never anticipated that the booked flights would only be half-full. We grew accustomed to having our masks on for the flights, only removing them when eating and drinking. The flight attendants all wore masks as well. Any anxiety about the flight was relieved.

The Scots know how to celebrate a wedding! Greeting by a bagpiper and the Humanist Celebrant's dedication and marriage service were memorable. Food and drink were abundant. And the dancing carried on for hours. As the only Americans present, we were honored to be guests at this event. To our surprise, masking was not required in the UK. Taxi companies asked that passengers wear masks. Although train passengers were encouraged to be masked, wearing a mask was not required. Unmasked customers could patronize stores and restaurants without difficulty as well as ride the Tube. Not a single individual questioned our practice in wearing a mask outside of our room or apartment. As a courtesy, some folks hesitated to enter the elevator upon seeing two masked people and would ask if we were comfortable with their sharing an elevator with us. Our trip to the Lake District opened our eyes to the beauty of the English mountains and lakes, and reminded us of the plethora of public walkways in that country. A fitting way to conclude our trip was travel to Exmouth where we visited with former Fredonia Exchange Program colleagues who had been pivotal contacts for Fredonia students and accompanying faculty.



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.

## ► My Corner—*continued from page 1*



The return trip was 180° different for us. All flights were fully booked. But our airline required proof of a negative test for COVID within 24 hours of flight time. The ruling that determined that masks couldn't be required in airports and on flights had taken effect. No flight attendants wore masks and less than one-third of passengers wore masks. The airports were busy and less than half of people wore masks. Really, the only sign that a virus ever existed was the numerous hand sanitizing stations highly visible in the airports. Had we been gone long enough for virus anxiety to wane? Did we cross a line and enter the Twilight Zone?

Some of our English friends claim that we will just have to learn to deal with COVID for some time; the virus and its mutations just aren't going away. Home testing for the virus appears to be part of a family's routine. Leaving the comforts of Chautauqua County and venturing to another nation has hardened our resolve to be cautious but not fearful about travel. We'll continue to use common sense and proven methods to stay healthy. Adventures await!

*"If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine, it's lethal."*  
- Paulo Coelho

## ► Additional Information

- ◆ **In-person Commencement** is happening on Saturday, May 21, 2022. If you are interested in volunteering for the day or part of the day, please contact Scott Saunders immediately in the Registrar's Office, [Scott.Saunders@fredonia.edu](mailto:Scott.Saunders@fredonia.edu) or 716-673-3171.
- ◆ **Please consider** getting involved with an historic project. Pat Cummings-Witter, Archives and Special Collections at Daniel A. Reed Library is asking for our help:

### Familiar Faces Project - Take a trip down memory lane

Reed Library Special Collections and Archives Department is looking for assistance identifying people in our collections of faculty, staff, and administration photographs. To that end, we have developed an interactive website to enable people to help fill in the gaps for us. If you would like to help identify people, just click on this link to get started: [Fredonia Familiar Faces Project \(https://sites.google.com/fredonia.edu/familiar-faces-project/home\)](https://sites.google.com/fredonia.edu/familiar-faces-project/home) Please share the project link with anyone who may be able to help us put names to the faces.

We appreciate your time and your memory for the Familiar Faces of Fredonia. Keep in mind that the photographs you will see on the website are a fraction of the number in our collections as this project consists of only the faces yet to be identified. If you would like to see the entire collection of photographs, or if you have any questions about the project, please contact us at [special.collections@fredonia.edu](mailto:special.collections@fredonia.edu) or call 716-673-3183. Thank you!

- ◆ **Update:** Many of us remember that Rich Goodman, former Director of Fredonia's Lifelong Learning, International Programs, and Economic Development, often was seen riding a bicycle to work and across campus. His affinity for riding was the brainchild behind *Spoke Folk*, a project that was initiated at the Technology Incubator. Rich saw the need for a neighborhood bicycle repair facility that utilized trained volunteers. And the need for bicycles for area youngsters became the impetus for the *Every Child Needs a Bike Project*. Fifteen years after *Spoke Folk* began, Rich now is involved in an initiative to provide bicycles for young women in Musoma, Tanzania. Working with the Hope Revival Children's Organization and the University at Buffalo, sixteen bikes were purchased so Tanzanian girls can get to school safely. Rich is striving to make the *Spoke Folk Tanzania Project* sustainable with an onsite repair center. To learn more about *Spoke Folk* visit its website [www.spokefolk.net](http://www.spokefolk.net) or contact Rich at [Goodman@fredonia.edu](mailto:Goodman@fredonia.edu). You can read more about Rich's projects at <https://www.observertoday.com/news/page-one/2019/03/dunkirks-spoke-folk-changing-lives-half-a-world-away/>.

## ► From the President's Office

### Recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

This is the highest award bestowed upon a student by SUNY and acknowledges the outstanding achievements that students have demonstrated in the integration of SUNY excellence such as academics, leadership, campus involvement, community service, and the arts.

#### Jules K. A. Hoepting



Jules is a senior in Communications - Public Relations with minors in Writing & Rhetoric and Environmental Studies. She has made a lasting impact at Fredonia within and beyond the classroom. You might recognize her name from the many excellent articles she has written as the Managing Editor for the student newspaper, *The Leader*.

She is a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association's honors society, and has served the campus in multiple ways, including as a Writing Assistant in the Office of Marketing & Communication, a Campus Tour Guide and Event Planner for the Admissions Department, a member of the Sustainability Committee, and a President's Ambassador. Jules has achieved additional recognition through an award-winning essay, publications of poems and photos, and her contributions to the local community through her advocacy work and investigative journalism.

#### Anders Lewis



A music education student and a bass player, Anders has demonstrated strong academic performance, leadership, and community service. He is enrolled in the Master's multi-award program (MusB and MM), and he is expected to complete his Bachelor's degree this semester. He is a passionate musician and is also committed to connecting with others.

He is currently a student teacher in Lancaster, NY at Frontier High School, and contributes to his community through several leadership roles such as Vice President of the American String Teachers Association at Fredonia, President of the Fredonia Bass Society, and mentor in the student orchestra. He has also participated in volunteer programs such as the Freedom Summer Program in New York City.

### Recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Student Excellence

#### Aliah C. Richards



Aliah, a senior in Communications - Public Relations, was honored with the Norman R. McConney, Jr., Award for Student Excellence. In addition to writing for *The Leader*, she is also an EOP student advisor, active member in the Black Student Union, and a mentor in the GyrL Wonder and Women 2 Women programs.

This award recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic excellence and strength in overcoming significant personal obstacles throughout their lives. It is named in memory of Norman R. McConney, Jr. (1946-2016), a graduate of the University at Albany and former Assistant Dean for Special Programs at SUNY. McConney, alongside former Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve, helped create the EOP as a statewide program that has served over 75,000 New Yorkers from underprivileged backgrounds.

### Visits Across Campus

Early this month, I had the opportunity to visit Fredonia's herbarium in the Science Center and to learn about the outstanding service of a community volunteer, Pat Appelbe. The herbarium, as you may be aware, is a place where plant material is identified, preserved, and cataloged for research and other scientific purposes. Among their many uses, herbaria play an important role in studies pertaining to plant succession and the impacts of climate change on vegetation. Fredonia's herbarium has been a valuable resource to researchers worldwide.

For more than a decade, Pat has offered her service on a volunteer basis to ensure that the herbarium remains a vital part of the learning experience for our students at SUNY Fredonia. She continues to help build the collection and support students to achieve their learning goals.

Thank you, Pat, for your dedication to and support of our students!



Dr. Kolison visits Fredonia's herbarium with Pat Appelbe and Dr. Jonathan Titus.

## ► Lanford Presidential Prize

Kayla R. Makosiej, a senior from Long Island majoring in Early and Childhood Education, with a concentration in English, has been selected to receive the 2022 Lanford Presidential Prize from the Oscar and Esther Lanford Endowment of the Fredonia College Foundation.

The award, which recognizes a member of the graduating class who has exhibited balanced achievement and exemplifies Fredonia ideals, was generously created and endowed by the late President Emeritus Oscar E. Lanford and Mrs. Lanford. The prize will be presented to Ms. Makosiej at Commencement on May 21.

Makosiej is currently completing her student teaching in Duck Walk Montessori in Eastport. Her interest in teaching began in elementary school and she has continued to foster her love for learning and growth. Makosiej's future classroom goal is to make a difference in the lives of her students by showing compassion, empathy, patience, and collaboration. During winter breaks since 2019, she volunteered in special education classrooms at Flowertown Elementary School in Summerville, N.C.

She has been named to the Dean's List at SUNY Fredonia her entire college career, the President's Award for Excellence numerous times, and the SUNY Fredonia Honors Award in 2018. Other scholarships include the Colonel C. Ross Willson and Phyllis Willson '39 Scholarship and the Marion Sonnenfeld Award in 2021, both established through the Fredonia College Foundation.

Makosiej has been greatly involved with the campus and community. From Fall 2019 to Fall 2021 she was a Resident Assistant in McGinnies Hall, an upper level residence hall, receiving the RA of the Month award in March 2021. She also worked with first semester RAs as their mentor, helping them to navigate their new jobs. She has held positions on multiple e-boards in student organizations during her Fredonia years including president of Grissom Hall, treasurer of the Residence Hall Association, sectionals chair of the Alpha Phi Omega community service co-ed fraternity; social chair, treasurer and president of the Resident Assistant Advisory Board, and membership chair of Kappa Delta Pi education honor society. She also organized and presented a "Tech and Connect" event for education majors at SUNY Fredonia that discussed technology resources that could be used within classrooms at different grade levels. In addition, she participated in traditional campus service activities, including Fall Sweep, Beach Clean-up, Safe Halloween, Buffalo News Kids Day and the Mini-Maker Faire.

In addition, Makosiej participated in the Campus Host program, bringing high school juniors and seniors to campus for a "day in the life" of a SUNY Fredonia student, and also hosted students during Multicultural Weekend. She has been a campus tour guide since 2018, and a College Ambassador since 2019.

Makosiej intends to continue her education at SUNY Fredonia by pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Inclusive Education.



## ► Save the Date

- ◆ **Good news!** Emeritus Group luncheons will be back this fall. **SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, October 13th** at the Clarion Hotel in Dunkirk. Look for details in the next issue of the newsletter.
- ◆ **Homecoming Weekend!** October 14-16, 2022. Schedule of events will be available in June at <https://events.fredonia.edu/alumni>

### Informational Website

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

## ► Newsbit

### A Trip to Jordan

In March and April, Janet and I spent three weeks in Amman, Jordan, to visit our son Nicholas and his family; it was an amazing and delightful adventure. Amman itself is a city of over four million, set on seven large hills (through which some highway tunnels pass): while a fine modern city, at its core is a citadel going back to Roman times and before, complete with an adjacent intact Roman theatre. All the city's buildings (like most of Jordan) have a wonderful consistency: 2 stories or 20 stories, vernacular or modern, they are all concrete frame but faced with Jordan's ubiquitous cream-colored limestone; many are the height of modernity. Weekdays, we explored the city at length; but the great treat of our vacation (besides enjoying Nick and Laura, and our two grandsons, Leo, age 7, and Alex, 5) was trips Nick took us on each weekend—his two sons usually accompanied us. (Laura, working for a Norwegian NGO, was often in Syria or Lebanon.)

Jordan is a country full of history and scenic wonders—from deserts to “canyon lands,” “bio-reserves,” and reforestation. Ancient Rome was everywhere: at Jerash the core of an classical city, with a hippodrome, two theatres, paved colonnaded streets, a forum, ruins of great temples, and triumphal arches—grander than anything we'd seen in Italy; at Umm Qays another similar, smaller site, was more remote, but with *two* extant theatres, and underground tombs. The ancient Nabatean site of Petra—the “rose-red city half as old as time”—with the beautiful rock-cut tomb (now called “the treasury”) made famous by Indiana Jones—miles of other tombs line the valley, as well as a Roman complex from their later occupation. Shawbak, at a remote desert location, contained a ruined crusader castle (based on a Roman fort) later yet remodeled by the Ottomans. One site Nick took us to, Wadi al Sir, has a little-known ancient rock-cut columbarium with at least 5,000 niches—and further along, a large Hellenistic palace of colossal cut blocks, the exterior walls and columns still standing. Except for bedouins' goats roaming the site, we had it to ourselves.

There were Christian communities in Jordan during the life of Jesus. At many locations we visited the remains of early Christian and Byzantine churches and chapels, often with wonderful floor mosaics surviving, all carefully curated and preserved. We also found great early mosaics in the venerable Franciscan church on the top of Mount Nebo, the site from which Moses viewed his “promised land” across the Dead Sea and the river Jordan—visible on a clear day.



Tea and a rest at Petra:  
Nick, Janet '73, Leo Alex, and Dan Reiff

In fact, our final full weekend was spent at one of the luxurious resorts that line the Dead Sea's east bank—the Kempinski “Ishtar” Hotel, the most tasteful and sumptuous resort I've ever seen. Stepped down in terraces to the Dead Sea are hotel accommodations and amenities, swimming and wading pools, beautiful overlooks, palm trees, and groves of 700-year old olive trees (transplanted from an ancient oasis!). Janet and Nick “swam” (floated) in the Dead Sea at their beach; Leo, Alex, and I watched: Janet thought the water “gelatinous and creepy.” But it was not all high-end luxury: one evening we drove to a deserted promontory overlooking the Dead Sea for a cook-out, including grilled hot dogs and marshmallows, where we saw the sun set over ancient Palestine. History was everywhere.

- Dan and Janet Reiff

### 2021 Zlotchew

Distinguished Teaching Professor of Spanish, Clark Zlotchew, became Emeritus on 1-1-2017. After 42 years at SUNY Fredonia. Before retirement he had 15 books published, 12 in his academic fields (literary criticism, literary interviews with Latin-American authors, Spanish language instruction, and translations from Spanish of poetry and fiction). However, three books consisting of his own fiction (two thriller novels and an award-winning short-story collection) were also published at that time. Since retirement he has had three more books published, for a total of 18 books.

Upon becoming Emeritus in 2017, Zlotchew switched to writing fiction almost exclusively. He explained, “When you think about it, working on translation and on literary criticism, you're really working with someone else's thoughts, someone else's feelings and notions about the world. When you translate, you take the work of a different person, one who thinks in Spanish (in my case) and recast it in English. It is never an absolutely literal translation because the speakers of one language arrange their thoughts in very different ways than do speakers of, in my case, English. The goal is to use whatever sentence structure, vocabulary, and phraseology we would use to express not only the same thoughts, but the same connotations, the same tone, the same “feeling” in English. Besides, the English translation should not seem foreign to English speakers; it should read as though written in English. But those thoughts and feelings belong to the original author, not to the translator.”

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► **Newsbit**—*continued from page 5*

Zlotchew continued, "In literary criticism, the resulting work may stray further from the the original author's work than in translation, but the point of departure is still the Spanish-language author's literary work. Some critics start with that point of departure but then roam far afield, putting more of themselves into their work than the creation of the original author. In any case, the literary critic still depends on someone else's work as a starting point."

"The reason I concentrated on writing my own fiction, then, is because I felt I had as much to say as the authors I had been translating and on whose work I had commented. And, of course, in a way that would be entertaining to the reader, that would make him or her want to keep reading. I wanted to express my own ideas, in my own way.

"And, you know, you could think of turning out fiction as an inexpensive method of psychotherapy as well. It allows the writer to let off steam, to release his inner demons. But the writer also wants to connect with fellow human beings, to really communicate with others, to bring to light something new about our common humanity."

Dr. Zlotchew's first novel, *TALON Force: Dire Straits*, was for Signet (a division of Penguin Putnam) book published in 2001. This was a thriller novel involving terrorists and special forces. It was one novel in an eleven-part series of novels, and each author had to use the pen name of the non-existent Cliff Garnett." Zlotchew chuckled and added, "But I did manage to get my name in the book. I made myself one of the characters! There I was, Admiral Clark M. Zlotchew." In a phone call, the editor told Zlotchew that one of the other 10 authors managed to get his own name in his book as well; he dedicated the book to himself!"

Prof. Zlotchew's book of short stories, *Once Upon a Decade: Tales of the Fifties*, was published by Comfort Publishing in 2010. Unknown to Zlotchew, the publisher submitted it to the Next Generation Indie Book Awards. "I only found out about this, when the publisher forwarded to me the notice that the collection had been chosen as one of three Finalists in the short story category for 2011. What a great surprise! This group held a reception at the Plaza Hotel in NYC and gave me a medal for the award."

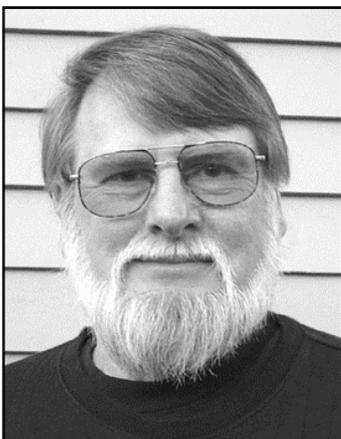
My next work of fiction published was the espionage/thriller novel *The Caucasian Menace*, 2010. In 2021, *Eccentric Narrations: Stories True and False*, which contains 15 short stories and 4 memoirs was published. In that same year, *A Presence of Absence: Poetry* was published. All the poetry and most of the short stories and memoirs in these books had already been published in literary journals between 2016 and 2021. At present I am putting together another group of short stories, all of which have been published in literary magazines, for a book I hope to have published,

"I'm really enjoying my retirement mostly because I continue writing fiction and poetry and having them appear in literary magazines. Adding to my enjoyment," he added, "I belong to a writers' group that meets in Sinclairville. This group is composed of a talented and enthusiastic gathering of writers, who are extremely supportive of each other, so that we've become not just fellow writers, but real friends."

► **Emeritus Spotlight—Mr. Steve Rees**

By Barbara Mallette and Steve Rees

*"The most successful and brilliant work a lighting designer can do is usually the least noticeable."*  
- Jean Rosenthal



In the late 1800s, Waukesha, Wisconsin called the "Saratoga of the West", was a mecca for health enthusiasts who sought its healing waters. [Steve's mother, Virginia, was a waukesha native. Her parents came to the city in the early 1900's. She met Steve's father, Louis, while they were students at Carroll College (home of the first legal forward pass in 1906) in the early '30s. She never actually resided anywhere other than Waukesha, commuting daily to Milwaukee County Hospital back when interurban trains were prevalent. They were married in June 1943 shortly before he was shipped out to the South Pacific. Mr. Rees didn't return until 1945. Steve was born on the leading edge of the baby boom near the end of 1946. There were so many babies born in early December that several of them spent their first days in dresser drawers as the maternity ward had run out of bassinets.] Mr. Rees was a pharmaceutical salesman; Steve often refers to him as the family "drug dealer." Mrs. Rees was trained as a lab technician at Milwaukee County Hospital; she assumed homemaking after her marriage. Steve's elementary and high school years were spent in the public schools of Waukesha.

Steve recalls that Waukesha was "a cool place to grow up", rural enough for outdoor adventuring but near enough to the metropolitan area for more interesting pastimes. A suburb of nearby Milwaukee that was mainly farmland, Waukesha had about 30,000 people during Steve's youth; now the city contains approximately 90,000 residents.

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## ► Emeritus Spotlight—*continued*

Steve was an active youth, spending a lot of time outside riding his bicycle. He was a Boy Scout with a fondness for camping. As well, the Rees family liked to travel each summer. Much of this travel was to the Western U.S. where they found a much beloved dude ranch located inside Rocky Mountain National Park. Steve recalls staying at this dude ranch from the time he was seven years old to age nineteen. During this annual two-week stay, Steve regularly rode and cared for horses. At one point, Steve knew the trails better than the hired wranglers and would take visitors on trail rides. Steve noted sadly that the ranch doesn't exist any longer by BLM edict, but that the sole remaining ranch cabin is now a National Park Service ranger's home.

In high school, Steve was a member of the Madrigal Chorus and the Drama Club as well as the Blackshirts swimming team. He found time to be involved in theatrical events as an ensemble cast member in school musicals, such as *Oklahoma* and *Carousel* and once played leads in *Stage Door* and *The Fireman's Flame*. Interest in the theater grew after taking a couple of theatre electives, resulting in enrollment in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's (UWSP) Theatre Program. He left for summer school at UWSP immediately following high school graduation. Taking mathematics and psychology courses tested Steve's ability to handle college level work although he did reasonably well. He volunteered in the Summer Theatre Program and decided that acting was not for him. Rather, he was drawn to all aspects of technical production. Having learned some electrical skills from his grandfather, an esteemed electrical contractor, and basic carpentry from a neighbor, Steve found himself backstage building scenery and properties as well as lighting college productions and touring concerts. His first "professional" gig was lighting the Kingston Trio in the campus fieldhouse. Steve also took time out from his "studies" to work the IATSE union load-in and run of *Funny Girl* in Madison, WI. This obsession ultimately led to his academic downfall. Although Steve developed a fascination with the natural sciences, particularly Geology and weather and climate, his grades didn't support his penchant for production work. As a result, UW-SP and Steve parted ways via his astonishing .58 GPA. He enrolled in Milton College as a draft avoidance ploy. Art courses were particularly intriguing but continued enrollment ended after just 9 weeks.

Shifting gears from academia to the world of work, Steve secured employment at Generac, a Waukesha company that produced portable generators for Vietnam among other products. Working on the final assembly line, Steve soon realized that he didn't want to do this job long term. Then, as was expected, he received his draft notice to the US Army in December 1967. He was inducted the day the '68 Tet Offensive began. As a 2-year draftee, he knew exactly what lay in store. Given an option to re-enlist for a third year and have the ability to choose a Military Occupational Skill (MOS), he selected a program in electronics and target drone systems maintenance. After basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY, Steve proceeded to Ft. Bliss, TX for electronics school. Upon completing this training, Steve became a Control Systems Mechanic for Radio Controlled Aerial Targets (RCATs) working on drone aircraft used for artillery practice at Fort Bliss. He then moved to a remote station in the New Mexico desert that was about 50 miles from El Paso. On the White Sands Missile Range, RCAT drones would fly, get shot down, and have to be repaired to become targets again. Steve recalls how much he enjoyed the solitude of this station. An inadvertent confession changed the trajectory of Steve's military career – he confessed that he knew how to type and that got him transferred to the orderly room as a Clerk/Typist at Range Command headquarters. The fun electronics job was history. Then, in typical Army style, in December 1968, the Army transferred Steve to Frankfurt, Germany where he spent the rest of his military career at the 21<sup>st</sup> Replacement Battalion. Here, for 2 ½ years, he maintained records of troop assignments all over the European Theatre. Computerization was in its infancy at this time so all these records were kept on 5" x 8" manila cards filed alphabetically by month of arrival. This accounted for upwards of 200,000 alphabetized cards annually. The Germany assignment gave Steve the opportunity to live in a cosmopolitan city and travel around Europe on weekends and on leave (e.g., Paris, Switzerland, Amsterdam, Oberammergau, Tunisia, and Strasbourg). He also spent two years volunteering at the Frankfurt Army Entertainment Center involved in technical production in US forces community theatre building scenery and executing stage lighting.

Serving in the military helped better focus Steve's academic goals. With the assistance of the GI Bill, he was able to re-enroll in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Theatre Program. Steve was a transformed student, earning As in completing the BS in Theatre Arts. The nine-year saga of his undergraduate career mercifully came to an end. His zeal for the theatre continued as he sought admission to a graduate program in Technical Direction and Stage Lighting. Although the University of Wisconsin-Madison courted Steve, the financial support offered by Memphis State University (now The University of Memphis) was too good to ignore. In two years, Steve was awarded an MFA in Technical Direction and Lighting Design.

A Technical Director/Lighting Designer position at the University of Georgia caught Steve's attention and he began his academic teaching career. He taught in Athens for six years in the MFA graduate program, mounting over 25 productions.

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*"The intelligent use of science and technology are the tools with which to achieve a new direction."  
- Jacques Fresco*

## ► Emeritus Spotlight—*continued*

However, due to a lack of “publication” he did not attain tenure and had come to realize that he much preferred to work with students at the undergraduate level. [Also, at the time, UGA did not recognize the MFA as a terminal degree and did not count production activities as “publication”]. To find a position that met this passion, Steve applied to about 3 dozen universities that focused on undergraduate students. Although he was a final candidate several times, Steve missed being selected as the number 1 candidate. Fortunately, a former UGA graduate student (who had completed his undergraduate degree at Fredonia) and a colleague (a former student of Carol Prevet and Jack Cogdill) alerted Steve that Fredonia was searching for a Technical Director/Lighting Designer immediately. Steve applied and was one of six candidates seeking the position. He interviewed and apparently impressed Jack Cogdill and Gary Eckhart, who became colleagues once Steve accepted the Fredonia position in early August of 1982. With little time to spare, Steve and his new wife, Mary, packed and moved from Athens to the Fredonia area. He recalls first meeting Jefferson Westwood in Marge Buckley’s office as they completed HR paperwork. It was Jefferson who sent Steve to rent a house in Dunkirk across from Washington Park as the semester was beginning the next week.



Steve and Mary welcomed their son Dylan in their second year in Dunkirk and bought a home in Dunkirk a few years later. Mary soon became a teacher assistant for Fredonia Central Schools. Dylan became a student at SUNY Plattsburgh after high school. He earned a B.S. degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management. He and partner Lindsey ultimately made their way to Bellingham, WA where Lindsey completed undergraduate and graduate degrees in Special Education and Dylan worked at a local sporting goods store, with water and snow sports his specialties. As an adjunct to his work responsibilities, Dylan worked with the Snowboard Outreach Society, teaching snowboarding to underserved youths of the Lummi Indian Reservation in Washington State. He also briefly served as President of a local sailing club. A serendipitous conversation with a neighbor who was a designer for Kona Bicycles, led to his hiring as a salesperson for that company. Dylan lives with his partner Lindsey, who is the Head of Special Education for Mt. Vernon High School.

Steve settled into academic life at the university, securing promotions and tenure. His commitment to theatre is evident by Steve’s willingness to serve as Interim Chair twice and then Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. Advisement, juror of BFA applicants and student portfolios, and teaching undergraduate courses met Steve’s passion for influencing his field. Yet he still found time to be involved in faculty governance with membership in Faculty Council and sundry academic committees. Furthermore, Steve served as Technical Director, Lighting Designer, and/or technical advisor for all productions mounted or supported by the department, including purchasing materials used for in-house fabrication of scenic elements specification of rigging and stage lighting equipment. Readers may find Steve’s duties overwhelming; he would claim that he was just doing the jobs he loved. He has been involved in over 200 productions at Fredonia, including his favorites *A Christmas Carol*, *A Cry of Players*, *On The 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, and *Barnum*. Eventually Steve’s focus shifted to the importance of safe stage rigging in performance spaces and after meeting rigorous requirements under the auspices of the Entertainment Technicians Certification Program was recognized as a Certified Rigger-Theatre. Concurrently, Steve was a long-member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology having joined that organization as an undergrad. He served in regional and national positions until his retirement. Interestingly, it was the creation of a device that had not existed previously but initially found use in Fredonia’s counterweight rigging system and first exhibited at a USITT conference Technology Expo that led to Steve’s attaining a US Patent for the “RetroSpreader Plate” and the creation of GreyBeard Solution, LLC to market it. The product has since been licensed to an east coast rigging supplier. Although retired over ten years, Steve still enjoys interacting with Fredonia Theatre Department alumni, many of whom are his Facebook friends. Steve remarked that many of these former students are involved in the entertainment industry, educational and regional theaters, touring companies, opera houses, and film and television facilities across the country. He remains proud of the contributions his students have made to the industry. To honor the work of Fredonia students and ease their financial burden, Mary and Steve established the *Rising Junior Scholarship for Technical Production* through the Fredonia College Foundation. The award is given solely to a young woman who shows great promise in one of several areas of design and production technical production. The scholarship will mark its 26<sup>th</sup> presentation in May 2022.

Steve retired in 2010 but continued to teach courses for one year. He reflected on his years at Fredonia, identifying some highlights. His work with Gary Eckhart is remembered fondly as are the many sets they constructed after Gary worked his magic as an “exquisite designer.” Their relationship expanded when they worked in a summer opera Theater in Washington, DC for over four years. And the *Steve and Gary Show* produced by *Madama Butterfly*

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## ► Emeritus Spotlight—*continued*

in San Jose, Costa Rica under the direction of Christine Komatsu McMasters, a former School of Music faculty member. One of Steve's most rewarding contributions to the university remains serving as Project Shepherd on the design, construction, and completion of an addition to the Rockefeller Arts Center. This 7-year project has benefitted faculty, students, and the community who have been enjoying new classrooms, studios, rehearsal space and dance studios. At the same time, he and Mary were able to endow a named office for the Scene Shop Manager, a dedicated space that had never existed during the previous 46 years of RAC's existence.

Steve's service extends beyond the University. He was heavily involved in the restoration of the 1981 Fredonia Opera House, most noticeably having specified the stage rigging, and sound and light control systems. He served on its Board of Directors for several years. Additionally, Steve and Mary are active in the Revitalize Dunkirk, Inc., a not-for-profit volunteer organization that serves the City of Dunkirk in many ways. They can often be seen planting trees, shrubs, and flowers around Dunkirk and using captured rain water to keep these plants irrigated. Many of the funded grants for tree purchases have been crafted by Steve. Since retirement, Steve's involvement in community gardens has expanded. He and Mary completed the Cornell Cooperative Extension - Chautauqua County Master Gardener Volunteer Program and Steve now provides Master Gardening presentations in soil composition, composting, native plants, and landscaping basics.

Steve shared that Fredonia and the Dunkirk area has been a good place for his family. Although he and Mary often visited their parents in Wisconsin and Georgia, they are pleased to have decided to remain in the area. Both he and Mary hope to continue to serve our area in years to come, planting trees and leaving the area a greener place.

*"Lighting is the lifeblood of a design."*  
- Gregory Kay

## ► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. John "Jack" Glenzer passed away on Sunday, April 10, 2022. Dr. Glenzer joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1968, where he taught until leaving in 1984 for a career in public office with Chautauqua County.

Online condolences may be made at  
<https://www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com/>

Donations can be made to the Dr. John A. and Joan L. Glenzer Endowment for Performing Arts, c/o Fredonia College Foundation, 272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY 14063.

Mr. Brian Hobbs passed away on Sunday, March 13, 2022. Brian was hired at Fredonia in 2003 as an Instructional Support Assistant in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Department (now known as the Department of Athletics & Recreation). In 2010, he became a SUNY Campus Worker in Athletics & Recreation/Facilities Services, and he was promoted to Maintenance Assistant in Facilities Services-Structural Trades in 2017.

A celebration of life is to be scheduled in the coming summer months. The family asks that you please consider memorial donations to the American Heart Association.

Dr. David L. Larson passed away on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Dr. Larson joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1971 as an Assistant Professor in Sociology. He was highly engaged in the campus and community and served in multiple roles until he retired in 2000 as Professor. He also served as Visiting Assistant Professor in Business Administration from 2012-2013.

Donations can be made to the Dunkirk/Fredonia Rotary Club, Chautauqua County Hospice Care, or the charity of one's choice.