

PROFILE ISSUE: FACES OF FREDONIA

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THE LEADER

04.18.18 | Issue 25 | Volume CXXIV

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NEWS

'I think, more than love, I realized I needed literature'

A profile of Dr. Iclal Vanwesenbeeck, English professor

ALEXANDRIA SMITH

Special to The Leader

She found the connections between myths and reality, traveled the world and has hosted a number of events. All the while, she was and remains a literature professor here at Fredonia. This adventurous life belongs to Dr. Iclal Vanwesenbeeck.

Life, for her, began with a fantastical setting, living close to the ancient Hellenic ruins.

"My mom worked in a school sandwiched between the Jewish elementary school and the ruins of a Greek Agora," she said. "I think imagining the ancient world occupied my mind as a kid, and it still does, and my love for the Mediterranean world kindles that scholarly fire."

Her family also owns a vineyard and an olive grove, and according to Vanwesenbeeck, "Add a few goats and you have the Virgilian pastoral."

At around the age of 13, she began to read the works of Sartre, Camus, Kafka and Montaigne.

"They made literature relevant to my life," she said. "I think, more than love, I realized I needed literature."

Vanwesenbeeck later achieved a bachelor's degree in western languages with their respective literatures and a doctoral degree in comparative literature.

Even though traveling seems to be a hobby for her, Vanwesenbeeck has a variety of reasons why she has been all over the world.

"My family and friends are scattered around the world," she said. "I do research on things that are abroad, I collaborate with people who live in different countries and to places I am curious about."

Speaking of traveling, and teaching, Vanwesenbeeck takes students to Iceland. In fact, there's a trip coming up soon. From these two things came incredible and treasured memories it seems.

"I think because I am about to teach my Iceland course again, I'd say being on a glacier with my students is a unique experience. Hugging newly born Icelandic lambs is also up there with glaciers," she said with a smile. "One time, I got lost in catacombs in Malta and saw light of day again thanks to a film crew. I went to Djerba, allegedly the island of Lotus Eaters in Homer's Odyssey, and had a heat stroke and almost forgot everything, too."

Other interests of Vanwesenbeeck's are music and farming.

"I don't own a farm but I think I might some day . . . Of

course in [Western New York] my farming life is limited to tomatoes and green vegetables, but who knows what the future holds."

The advice she was willing to give demonstrated not only the breadth of life experience that she has but also the passion she has for her students.

"Find a way to be optimistic and happy," she said. "I think without optimism, it is hard to do the work you need to do in life, or commit to yourself and to the world around you."



Dr. Iclal Vanwesenbeeck fosters a love for reading.

Photo courtesy of Roger Coda



On the Cover:

A bitmap collaged image.

Jessica Tompkins/Design Editor

Correction: In Issue 24, Courtney Gfroerer's title was incorrect. She is a communications specialist at Elderwood.

Correction: In Issue 24, Sylvana Dussan's name was spelled incorrectly.

Clarification: A revised article regarding Fredonia Art Forum will be printed in Issue 26

Connor Aitcheson: international man of student advocacy

JOSH RANNEY

Assistant News Editor

The President of the Student Association: everyone votes for them, and they represent each student but not everyone knows who they really are.

President Connor Aitcheson was elected last semester and began his term on the first of this year. Four months into his term, some may know him from General Assembly meetings or SA social media. But not many know him as a student like the rest of us.

Aitcheson grew up down the road from Fredonia, in Dunkirk, where he graduated from Dunkirk High School. After high school, Aitcheson attended Jamestown Community College.

“Location, affordability [and] scholarship opportunities,” were reasons for Aitcheson going to JCC out of high school, like many other Fredonia students.

Aitcheson said that he transferred to Fredonia because of the great transfer agreement with JCC. But as far as he is concerned now, Fredonia is the place to be.

“The overall atmosphere on the Fredonia campus is welcoming and dynamic,” he said.

Here at Fredonia, Aitcheson is a Spanish adolescent education major — a field that he found interest and love for thanks to his roots.

“Growing up in a community with a notable Spanish speaking population,” said Aitcheson, “I befriended many people of diverse backgrounds who had unique perspectives and interesting stories that were often overlooked or ignored simply because of the language they spoke.”

After college, Aitcheson said he hopes to be a middle or high school Spanish teacher.

Exploring this field not only lets him work with his passion, but has provided some unique opportunities. Aitcheson has studied abroad — twice.

“My first trip was to Valladolid, Spain . . . my

second trip was to Antigua, Guatemala,” he said.

These trips developed Aitcheson's appreciation for witnessing and taking in diverse cultures first-hand. This perspective is one that is shared by numerous Fredonians who travel all over the world each semester.

Aside from his work in linguistics, Aitcheson is the chief representative of the students



Connor Aitcheson is the current president of the Student Association here at Fredonia. Photo courtesy of Matthew Anderson

of Fredonia as president of the Student Association.

This is not a line of work that was new to Aitcheson when he came to Fredonia. His involvement in student government goes back to his time at JCC, and it began in sort of a comical way.

“I first got involved in student government at JCC as a compromise with my advisor who said just being the mascot (JJ the Jayhawk) shouldn't be the extent of my campus involvement,” said Aitcheson.

In his first few semesters of student government, Aitcheson became SGA vice president and eventually president.

Aitcheson said the rewarding experience he found in student government led him to immediately seek out Fredonia's Student Association once he transferred here.

He served as a class representative and assistant speaker of the assembly before being elected president.

It's an opportunity that he welcomes and is honored to have, but explains that things did not unfold the way he expected.

“This wasn't my original plan,” he said. “I was actually planning on studying abroad in Costa Rica this semester, but unfortunately those plans fell through.”

But when the possibility of becoming SA president came up, Aitcheson lept on it because of what he described as the perfect opportunity to practice student advocacy.

In all, it's an experience that has been a rewarding for Aitcheson. “The most rewarding part of being president is watching students advocate and educate on matters they are passionate about . . . being able to play a minor role in providing that platform is an extremely rewarding experience,” he said.

Being the chief representative and spokesperson for the students of Fredonia does not come without its challenges, though.

The biggest challenge Aitcheson faces is, “ensuring that all student voices have a seat at the table and that we, as the representative body, are considering the many diverse perspectives,” he said.

Aitcheson makes sure to acknowledge that the progress and success of the Student Association is owed to his colleagues.

'Society constantly tells us the that we do not fit its idea of beautiful, so we're ignoring that and are owning our hair'

Student Sheneca Sharpe starts 'Under this Bonnet' club



VICTOR SCHMITT-BUSH
Assistant News Editor

Creating and managing a club is no easy task. It takes a lot of effort just to get it started. The Student Association must approve the idea for the club, and that takes paperwork, presentations and all sorts of other preparations that are necessary to get the club rolling and ready to go.

Even if the club is approved, nothing is ever set in stone, and things can quickly go downhill.

But that has been far from the case for junior computer and information sciences major, Sheneca Sharpe, who is the president of Fredonia's first curly and kinky hair club, "Under this Bonnet."

Sharpe managed to kick Under this Bonnet off with a triumphant start.

"Obviously from activities night, it showed that people really want something like this here," she said. "We're almost on our fourth general body meeting, and we've got an attendance from 30 to 35 people every week."

According to Sharpe, it isn't just a club. Under this Bonnet is a community dedicated to helping students with curly and kinky hair to learn more about their natural hair. It is dedicated to spreading that knowledge to other people on this campus and even other campuses in the SUNY system.

According to junior public relations and media management major, Kurefe Ejekpokpo, who is the publicity chair for Under this Bonnet, "Society constantly tells us that we do not fit its idea of beautiful, so we're ignoring that and owning our hair. Black hairstyles are some of the only things African Americans have been able to pass down despite slavery."

Even so, Sharpe feels that it is important that people of all different backgrounds and hair types become aware of the importance of this club.

"I want people to know that Under this Bonnet is for everybody who is curious and wants to learn more about it," said Sharpe. "We're always accepting people who want to come to GBs."

She also feels that this club could help reform the way that communities around SUNY campuses handle the presence of curly and kinky hair.

Sharpe explained, "There is an issue when it comes to natural hair and being a

part of this community because there is a lack of resources for you here. I don't know of any barbers or hairdressers around Fredonia who can cut nappy hair."

She also noted that the closest natural hairdresser to Fredonia is in Buffalo, and that's at least 45 minutes away, making it especially difficult for people who need their hair treated who don't have their own vehicles.

"That's what inspired me to start this club," Sharpe said. "It was my interest in the needs of the students themselves, not for myself. It was for people who have nappy hair who wanted to learn more about it but didn't know who to go to."

It was her goal to help as many people as possible. Sharpe and her E-board set this in motion in their most recent general body meeting.

"Last week, we had a meeting on natural hair product ingredients and what's in your hair products," she said. "We discussed what was a good product to use versus a bad one. We had a game going where we determined whether certain hair products were bad or not. It was fun."

It wasn't always fun and games for Sharpe and her club, though. Prior to the club's approval by SA, Sharpe met some adversity along the way.

"There was slack from building the club up and trying to bring it to SA for approval," said Sharpe. "I heard comments through the grape vine where people said things like, 'Well, let's start straight hair club.'"

Even so, she managed to push those comments off to the side and persevere. According to Sharpe, people who said things like that just didn't understand the purpose of the club. They didn't understand how important it was to have a club like this on campus.

It didn't matter to her what people said because she was on a mission to get this club started. Under this Bonnet's E-board did everything in their power to make it a success.

Sharpe explained, "When we went for rules committee, where you get approved to be a club, we basically had this whole powerpoint set up for them. We had all our GB ideas set up for them."

"We had everything step-by-step," she said. "There was no way they would have denied this club because we were that prepared."

According to Sharpe, there was absolutely no contest. They loved it, and it was an easy approval for SA.

The same goes for Sharpe, too. She feels that Under this Bonnet has been a huge success, and she only sees it expanding to even greater heights in the near and distant future.

"Now our next goal is just having a big event," she said. "Yes, I think I'm happy with the goals I've accomplished now, but I'm also setting goals for the future to come."

"Come to UTB," said Ejekpokpo. "We'll give great tips and provide a comforting community to help you go through your [natural hair] transition."



Sheneca Sharpe is the current president of Fredonia's natural hair club Under this Bonnet. Photo courtesy of Sheneca Sharpe

POLICE BLOTTERS

VILLAGE OF FREDONIA

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Heather Scinta, age 30, was charged with operating an uninspected vehicle, counterfeiting an inspection, illegally switching license plates and failure to use a designated lane. Multiple uniform traffic tickets were given.

Lynn Classon, age 53, was charged with driving with an expired vehicle registration and speeding. A uniform traffic ticket was given.

Friday, April 13, 2018

Roberto Castro, age 23, was charged with operating a motor vehicle without an inspection. An arrest was completed.

Stephen Perry, age 19, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Ethan McHale, age 20, was charged with seventh degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Bail was set to \$2,500.



All information printed in The Leader's police blotter is a matter of open public record. No retractions or corrections will be made unless a factual error is shown. Anyone who is cleared of charges has the right to have so printed. It is the responsibility of the accused to provide notice and proof of the dropped charges.

DWYER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES MAY 2018

COFFEE HOURS:

-Wednesday, May 2nd-10:00 am, JoeZ Coffee House, 98 Forest Ave., Jamestown.

-Wednesday, May 16th-6:30 pm, Friendly's, N Main Street., Jamestown.

-Thursdays, May 10, 17, 24, 31st, 6:00 pm, Tim Horton's – Bennett Road.

DWYER PROS: (Spouses/partner group): Tuesday, May 8th, Resource Center, Dunham Ave, Celoron. Speaker and dinner.

BOWLING NORTH: Thursday, May 3rd, Lucky Lanes 10387 Bennett Road, Fredonia (Rt. 60) 7:00 pm.

BOWLING SOUTH: Veterans: May 19th -7:00 pm Jamestown Bowling Company.

GAME NIGHT: May 21st, 6:00 pm Warner Place, LSS Campus, Aldren Ave, Jamestown.

JUDO: Saturdays in May, reservations required: 9:00 am Shin Gi Tai Studio (Pharmacy Innovations building) 2535 John's Place (left turn off of Foote Ave. Ext, Jamestown).

VETS CAMP OUT AT ONYAHSA: May 4th – 6th: Reserve your spot for a fun vet-only weekend at the YMCA camp on Chautauqua Lake. Sign in at the main lodge by 7:00 pm on Friday, May 4th. Includes fishing, horse-back riding, and boating. Comedy show at 7:30 pm in the main lodge on Saturday night.

GOLD STAR MEMORIAL SERVICE: May 26th, 10:00 at Veteran's Park, 3rd Street, Jamestown. Join the Blue Star mother's as they recognize Gold Star families.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Monday, May 28th

PTSD SUPPORT GROUP: Held every Saturday at 1:00, UCAN Mission, 1st Street, Jamestown, all vets welcome.

DWYER SUICIDE PREVENTION MOTORCYCLE RUN: May 7th, 12:15, DPF office, 454 N Work Street, Falconer. Planning meeting for all those interested.

JUNE SCHEDULED AND FUTURE TENTATIVE ACTIVITIES:

Paintball night, putt putt golf, watercolor paint night, hiking at Panama Rocks, 1st annual motorcycle run Sept 29th.

Call Cindy Reidy at 661-8447 for more information and reservations for events with limited spots*

The PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran's Peer to Peer Program's goal is to link Veterans together for socialization and friendship. This program utilizes peer support from those who can relate to the struggles of transitioning into civilian life.

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Life & Arts

Roslin Smith: a life of taking opportunities



AVRIL KING

Social Media Manager and
Assistant Sports Editor

It was 8 a.m. in a town just outside of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Sir David Frost was nowhere to be found.

Working on one of her big projects at the time, Roslin Smith had been up since 3 a.m., making sure that everything was in order.

She had rented a castle-like estate and a luxury vehicle in order to match the grandeur of Frost and to set the tone for her program.

Yet, after hours of waiting, the famous journalist could not be reached.

"I'm calling him and his [personal assistant] eventually comes to the phone, and she says, 'So, David doesn't even get up for the Sultan of Brunei. Why did you think he was going to be up at your place for 8?'" said Smith.

At 2 p.m., Frost finally showed up in a silver Rolls Royce "drunk as a skunk," according to Smith.

"Every shot that I had to think about, everything I had planned, I was like, 'I can't do any of them because he's drunk,'" she said. "He's staggering out of the Rolls Royce."

As Frost continued drinking his wine, Smith recalled having to shout at him in order to get anything done, since Frost had started to go deaf.

His poor eyesight prevented him from being able to read the auto-cue but did not stop him from looking down the front of the makeup artist's shirt.

"And then once we were rolling, he kind of got into this mode, and I was like, 'you've been drunk all your life. You probably were drunk when you

were [interviewing] Nixon,'" Smith said, reflecting on Frost's famous series of interviews with the former American president.

This was Smith's life prior to assuming her current position as assistant professor at SUNY Fredonia.

Originally from a town outside of Glasgow, Scotland, she got her start in filmmaking in a three-week summer class at Stirling University.

After finding out that she could take film courses at the college, she worked in Saudi Arabia as a journalist to earn money for school.

Upon graduating, and with little idea of where she was going to go next, Smith received a letter of recommendation from one of her professors and got a job working at the BBC documentary unit.

From there, she had the opportunity to work as a video journalist for Sky News Medical Channel.

"I was kind of the video journalist for all of Scotland and Northern England," she said.

While in the United Kingdom, she worked as the managing director of Fierce Films, located in Scotland and also co-founded the Film School of Scotland.

In 2003, her work brought her to Charleston, S.C.

After being drawn north by a potential job in western

Michigan, Smith came for an interview at Fredonia. Within two months, she had a job as a professor, and that is where she and her son have stayed for almost four years.

The impression that she has made on students is significant.

Angelina Dohre, a sophomore journalism and public relations major, admires Smith's spirit in the classroom.

"What Roslin has that a lot of other professors lack is a fun, engaging personality," she said. "She makes any topic she teaches fun and interesting . . . not to mention her accent is wonderful."

Indeed, if her short stature and fiery nature did not give away her Scottish background, her thick accent is one of her most distinctive features to students.

Due to her background in media platforms, junior journalism major Victoria Barnes said that Smith uses many examples of videos to support her lectures.

"Ros likes using multimedia to show examples of topics that we're covering in class," she said. "When we were learning about code-switching for our critical analysis journalism class, she showed us a video of a cat barking like a dog as an example."

Smith has not forgotten about her background in making documentaries.

Still going strong at 56 years old, in early February, she finished up a three-part artist documentary.

Working with artists from the North Shore Artists Alliance, of which Smith is a member, she wanted to capture the works of three local talents in the Fredonia area: landscape painter Tom Annear; former Fredonia English professor Carolyn Grady who has a recent interest in painting, sculpture and acrylics; and Marcia Merrins, pottery artists specializing in footed bowls.

The whole project took about two and a half years to put together, and each piece has been shown publicly.

The last piece recently made its debut at the Fredonia Opera House but has yet to be sent on the "festival circuit," as Smith referred to it.

Now she is participating on the project: "Among the Hemlocks: Fantastic Stories from Fredonia, New York."

The project was made possible by money from a decentralization grant from New York State.

She will be showing the history of Fredonia in about 30 minutes, starting with the indigenous people from the area and moving on to topics of how Fredonia got its name, the Women's Temperance Movement and the Marx Brothers.

Despite all of the experiences she has had and the success she has seen, Smith admitted that she fell into a lot of the opportunities she has had.

"I don't usually actively search, it kind of evolves," she said. "If the opportunity is there, I'll take it."

After her project on Fredonia, only time will tell what she will fall into next.



Roslin Smith is currently one of the communication professors at Fredonia and was managing director of Scottish media company Fierce Films, which won a "Best New Business" award in 1998. Photo courtesy of Roger Coda

' . . . Sometimes I have to take a moment and look around at everyone in the [radio] station and remind myself how lucky I am to be where I am'

A profile of senior Amy Gruttadauria, program director of WCVF-FM

MELISSA FUCHS

Staff Writer

Amy Gruttadauria is a senior at Fredonia, and her schedule is anything but empty. She is captivating in her ability to seemingly do it all without showing evidence of faltering.

When you first meet Gruttadauria, you will notice her lengthy chestnut-brown hair with one side shaved. The next item might be her thin black framed glasses, or it might be the infectious smile that shows off her warmth and caring nature.

Gruttadauria credits much of her creative spirit to the Rochester, N.Y., area.

"Originally I didn't care much about Rochester, thinking it was just another 'small town' place I couldn't wait to get out of," she said.

It wasn't until she entered high school that she, alongside her friends, started to seek out the music and art venues Rochester had to offer.

Gruttadauria credits her own upbringing as a pivotal piece of who she has become today. Her parents are huge supporters, especially her father.

"He always was the one who taught me to work for what I wanted, teaching me that things are worth what you put into them," Gruttadauria said.

Initially, Gruttadauria came to Fredonia as a communications disorders and sciences major before taking her mother's advice and switching to theater.

As a BFA theatre arts major, Gruttadauria was impressed by the department's dedication to supporting students seeking their own creative paths.

This is something she has experienced firsthand, with her biggest learning opportunities working as a stage manager with the productions "The Illusion" and "Peter and the Starcatcher."

"Being a stage manager isn't easy, it sacrifices your free time and resources . . . that being said, as a stage manager you are one of the only people involved who is there and involved in 100 percent of the process," said Gruttadauria. "Being able to see the show blossom and transform in

front of your eyes — nothing beats it."

Samantha Ticker, a BFA theatrical production and design major, worked alongside Gruttadauria on "The Man Who Came To Dinner." She credits Gruttadauria with being a supportive sounding board when she needed inspiration for her designs.

"Amy is able to sympathize and relate with the people around her . . . this level of empathy is key for a stage manager," Ticker said.

Ticker reminisced about memories working on the Performing Arts Company's production of "Eurydice" together with Gruttadauria.

"There was a dance to 'Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree' . . . From then on we have always tried to find a way to sneak the song or renditions of the song into other shows," she said.

Gruttadauria also keeps herself busy as the current program director at WCVF-FM. The station was recognized for the second year in a row at the

"It doesn't feel real — Sometimes I have to take a moment and look around at everyone in the station and remind myself how lucky I am to be where I am . . . it is the dedication of everyone around me: every jock, every ops, every archivist, and every eboard member (past or present) that made this award possible," Gruttadauria said.

One of her assistants, Sydney Mulkey, hopes to further WCVF's legacy as Best Station in the Nation once Gruttadauria graduates this May. Mulkey, a political science major with an international relations concentration, attributes the lessons she has learned to having a great mentor.

"Amy has showed me not only how to handle the basics like automation and scheduling, but how to work with what we've got and keep a positive outlook (even when we're super frustrated with automation) . . . in a way she's also taught me not to be so hard on myself and that it's OK to have a bad day once in a while," she said.

Gruttadauria started off with an assistant position in the station's archives and worked her way up. Her experience with FRS led her to adding the audio major her junior year.

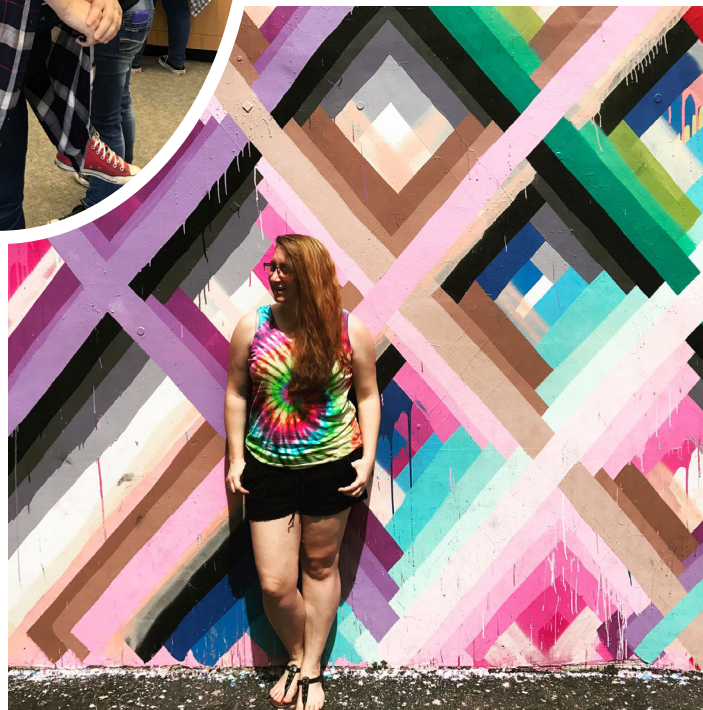
"I always say that WCVF is like a child — sometimes it misbehaves but most of the time it doesn't so you learn to love its bad quirks and good quirks all the same," she said.

While she may downplay her ability to be manage such a full schedule and still keep everything in pristine shape, she notes the important role of the support available.

"I think the most important thing one can do when taking on the world is recognize what you have available to assist you . . . I know personally that I lean on those around me and often seek the advice of others," she said.

Knowing that her time at Fredonia is coming to a speeding close as she prepares for graduation, she ultimately wants to leave her mark before she walks on that stage in May.

"Fredonia has given me a lot," she said. "So it's up to me to give the most I can back to the school and those I love in it."



Amy Gruttadauria is the current program director of Fredonia's radio station WCVF. Photos courtesy of Amy Gruttadauria.

Intercollegiate Broadcasting Systems as having the Best College Radio Station for a college with under 10,000 students.

'I was always a reader ...'

Professor Eric Schlich shares his journey with writing

ELYSE GRIECO

Assistant Life & Arts Editor

Every year, the University of North Texas holds its annual Katherine Anne Porter Prize competition, a writing competition that awards one writer with the opportunity to publish one of their books.

Writers from all across the country enter this competition, and this year the winner is Fredonia's own professor Eric Schlich.

Although he has been a writer for many years, he did admit that reading was his first love.

"I was always a reader, I loved reading when I was a kid," he said. "Some writers write a lot when they're kids, but I didn't. I mostly just read."

Schlich took his love for novels and decided to study as an undergraduate English major at the University of Kentucky.

It wasn't until then that he realized his passion and connection to developing his own stories.

"I took both theory and literary study classes, but I also took creative writing classes. Those classes were really great, it made me realize that,

'Oh wow' I can make a story myself and not just do the reading and studying of the literature," he said. "That's when I actually started writing."

Over the years, Schlich realized that writing wasn't easy. In fact, he has faced many struggles in his career.

Out of all his difficulties, Schlich said his biggest problem was publishing.

"For a long time I didn't submit my work because it wasn't ready, and then you get a lot of rejection," he said. "You have to grow a really tough skin to be a writer. You write a short story, you work on it in class or you develop it and work on it for months, and then you send it out and you get 10, 20, 30 rejections."

Although it can be hard to face, rejection does not mean you should give up.

Olivia Pratt, a junior English major, is one of Schlich's students.

"He is very encouraging and enthusiastic about writing, he makes me want to be a better writer," she said. "He gives us feedback and is very honest about things that do and don't work in our stories, which can be tough sometimes, but it also pushes me to do better."

His work has appeared in several magazines such as Mississippi Review, Fairy Tale Review and many more.

Schlich's competition-winning book, "Quantum Convention and Other Stories," took three years to perfect. It took another year and a half for the story to be printed.

"It takes time," he said. "It's exciting to see that it is finally being published."

Schlich finds inspiration everywhere. Whether it be from life experiences or other stories he has read, he always finds ways to come up with new stories.

One story in his book traces back to one of his favorite childhood movies.

"This story is kind of inspired by my life. When I was a little kid, I was in love with 'The Wizard of Oz.' I was obsessed with it, I really don't know why," he said.

While studying for his masters, Schlich found out that the actress who played the Wicked Witch of the West, Margaret Hamilton, did her own movie stunts. At one part, she even caught on fire and suffered from severe burns.

He was shocked to find that out that since she wasn't a Hollywood starlet, the producers of the movie treated her terribly.

He took this news and made it into one of his favorite stories.

"It's a two timeline story. One timeline is me, the little boy, who is in love with the movie. The other one is about her story, so I did more research on her. It's one of my favorites because it's so personal," he said.

Both of Schlich's parents are teachers, but teaching was not something Schlich necessarily had in mind as a career. He said it was something he just kind of "fell into."

During his time at college for his master's degree, he had to teach to pay for his tuition.

At first, he found it unamusing.

"I was teaching English composition, like entry level English," he said.

When he went on to do his doctorate, he had to teach again. However, he eventually began to climb the ladder and teach things he loved, such as fiction and nonfiction.

"That's when it really clicked with me," he said. "I admire teachers. It's a very hard job, and society treats them terribly. They should be appreciated a lot more."

He now teaches multiple courses at Fredonia, helping students learn and sharing his expertise and advice.

Julia Costa, a senior psychology major, said that Schlich's class is one of the best she has ever taken.

"I wanted to take fiction writing to better myself and my skills, but I never thought it would be this beneficial. I've learned so much from Professor Schlich already and I'm actually really glad that I took it," she said.

Schlich's debut book, "Quantum Convention and Other Stories," is set to come out this November.

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'I love the idea of growth mindset over fixed mindset'

A profile of Sarah Green: English professor, poet and musician

ERIKETA COST

Special to the Leader

Sarah Green's love for poetry dates back to a high school science class assignment to draw the position of the sun every morning.

The point was to understand that the sun is always moving across the sky, even though it seems fixed in one place.

To Green, it was poetic.

It was a metaphor for life — we often think certain people or situations will always be the same, but life is ever-changing, like the position of the sun in the sky.

Green is not just an English professor at SUNY Fredonia, she's also the author of a poetry book, "Earth Science," leader of the Fredonia literary publishing course and for the literary magazine, *The Trident*. She is also a singer/songwriter for the band *Heartacre*.

The metaphor she fell in love with from the high school assignment was a catalyst for Green's poetry book, "Earth Science." The title of the poem reflects the idea of how we can view certain things in life as fixed, but we must accept that nothing is here to stay forever.

"I revisited the assignment when my parents were going through a divorce. I thought it would be a great metaphor for how you think certain things will stay in the same place, but they are always capable of changing position," Green said.

Green also explained that you can choose to have a fixed mindset that prevents you from starting something new due to intimidation, or you can have an open mind and take a risk.

"I love the idea of growth mindset over fixed mindset," Green said.

Green allowed herself to take the risk and open her mind to writing her own poetry in college.

"Poetry was always in the background for me. I had a lot of family members who were into poetry influencing me," said

Green. "It wasn't until college when I started to take it seriously. I got really good feedback and praise that was encouraging from [a] professor, and I thought maybe there was something to this."

Green went forward with a bachelor of arts in English with a concentration in creative writing from Oberlin College. She then went to work for her MFA in poetry at Purdue University and her Ph.D. in creative writing at Ohio University.

Green has also demonstrated a growth mindset by delving into songwriting. At first, she knew starting something new was scary and intimidating. "At first I thought songwriting was really intimidating when I was in college," she said. "I thought people were just born with it . . . people always told me I should write songs since I love poetry and singing. When I first started it, I didn't have a knack for it."

But with an open mind, Green attended concerts of singer/songwriters and immersed herself in good-songwriting. She felt inspired and motivated to try again.

"I started to study guitar seriously with the guitarist for Josh Ritter and other singer/songwriters. I would go to his concerts to support him, but I would also absorb and take in the lyrics and the good songwriting," she said.

Green started growing her songwriting skills without even knowing it. It took a lot of listening, experiencing and spontaneously putting words on a page.

"I would soak up what makes a good song without analyzing it — just experiencing it and letting it wash over me. I started spontaneously writing songs to join the conversation," she added.

Green ended up forming a singer/songwriter group with her friend, Andy Cambria, who had some bluegrass background. Together they won



Sarah Green is one of the English professors at Fredonia and has won several awards for writing and music. Photo courtesy of Peter Campion

"She is very enthusiastic about what she is teaching and very interested in the success of her students," said sophomore Hannah Pegg."

a grant for a club Iguana Foundation, and they both used the money to publish their very own record in 2011 called "Climb."

Green continues to sing and play guitar today.

"Singing and playing guitar has always been a self-care thing," she added.

Here at Fredonia, Green teaches a few poetry and writing courses and works to inspire her students.

"She is very enthusiastic about what she is teaching and very interested in the success of her students," said sophomore Hannah Pegg.

One of her courses is Literary Publishing, which acts works to create a literary magazine, *The Trident*. Students work and critique each other's writing pieces and poetry. The course has been around for many years, but Green was happy to run it this year.

Green encourages Fredonia students to head out to their latest "Lit Crawl" event, which features readings from the compilation of poems students publish in *The Trident*. The event will be held April 22. It will start off at Tim Horton's at 3 p.m. and will rotate to two other locations.

From wanting to skip recess to read, to becoming a writer A profile of Dr. George David Clark

STEPHEN SACCO

Special to the Leader

Dr. George David Clark was born in Savannah, Ga., but moved from time-to-time while growing up in the southeast of The United States. He was raised by his father, a pastor, and his mother, a teacher just like himself.

Clark talked about his roots in English literature and poetry in conjunction with his family.

"[There was] very little poetry in my house growing up, but lots of fiction . . . reading was always a big part of their lives," he said.

It would take awhile for Clark to develop his passion for poetry, but he found a natural love for stories and writing at a very young age.

"The Chronicles of Narnia' . . . those were some important books . . . [I read] 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' books when I was little and not wanting to go at recess," he said.

"Everybody else [was] going out to play and I remember thinking, I really wish I [could] read right now. Like you're right inside the middle of an exciting part of the book, and you don't want to stop," he continued. "So that's what I think of



George David Clark is the award winning author of *Reveille* and recently spoke on campus. Photo courtesy of George David Clark's website georgedavidclark.com

when I think of early powerful experiences from books."

Clark vividly recalls being out on recess and wanting to read instead of playing games and swinging on monkey bars.

His love of reading sparked his writing.

"When I was little, since I love books some much, I would write little stories and things like that," he said.

Now, as an adult, he has seen this passion passed down to his four children.

"My own kids do this now," said Clark. "They write stories, as they are learning to write. They are willing to engage into storytelling themselves, as they're reading stories they like."

Clark didn't gain interest in poetry until after he graduated from high school.

"I couldn't have cared less about poems until college," he said. "I didn't read much poetry at all certainly not contemporary poetry."

So what was it that sparked Clark's interest in poetry?

He recalls taking a creative writing class his freshman year. The very first poet that Clark gained inspiration from, specifically, was Elizabeth Bishop.

"I remember we read 'The Fish,' 'The Mothman' and 'Crusoe in England' . . . [they] are highly narrative and had a story which drove the drama . . ." he said. "It wasn't just the narrative content driving these poems but the sonic content . . . they had this sort of physical thrust behind the language."

Clark explained many of his inspirations in two lectures here at SUNY Fredonia.

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OPINION



From the Desk of Dan Orzechowski, News Editor

Two and a half years after I was born, my life as an only child was over.

I once lived like a king. It was me who was the center of attention. I didn't have to share a room or wait in line for the bathroom at my own house.

My younger brother, Matt, with his big cheeks and pudgy arms, was the one who put an end to all that.

This kid was born knowing how to piss me off. When Matt was younger, he wore around this Hulk costume everywhere. The costume, which I'm almost certain was bought for Halloween, was worn for months straight. It didn't matter if my mom was taking the two of us grocery shopping or if we were on our way to school, the Hulk was present. As you can imagine, I got very embarrassed pretty fast.

In the end though, I don't know where I'd be without Matt.

As kids, Matt and I were always moving. Our parents divorced when we were young, and by the time we reached high school, we had moved too many times to count. This made making friends difficult for us and, because of that, we often turned to each other for entertainment. We did everything together.

Time passed and we eventually saw each other less. Matt decided to attend a trade school while living at our mom's house. I stayed with our dad. Transitioning from seeing him everyday to maybe seeing him on the weekends was tough.

I'll always be proud of what Matt accomplished during those years, though. In a matter of months, he had learned about carpentry and agriculture, while also learning how to weld — things that I'll most likely never know anything about.

Oh, and he's also a volunteer firefighter. I don't know about you, but I flinch just opening a warm oven.

Matt is a dork, a friend and a brat. But above all, like the Hulk, he's a hero.

He may be younger than me, but Matt is someone to look up to.



Matt (left) wishes he was as good looking as his superior brother, Dan (right). Photo courtesy of Dan Orzechowski

VERBATIM

Who do you look up to on campus and why?



Marisah Croakman, freshman childhood inclusive education major
"Probably my advisor (Dr. Kathleen Gradel) because she helps me a lot."



Tala Harden, junior video production major
"I think I look up to the people who start their own clubs and try to make a change. They start new events or new task forces to actually fight against problems that we have on campus instead of sitting around and just talking about it. You're cool, I'm going to follow your footsteps."



Jordan Kanyike, freshman computer science major
"I look up to Melissa from larping club. She's only been larping for about a year or so and she's really impressive with her skills so far. She's very dedicated to becoming a warlord."



Samuel Lewandowski, sophomore political science and journalism major
"I really look up to Dr. Horvath actually, our campus president. I think that she's a really good role model, very well-spoken and cares about the students."



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'Coach is someone who cares about your complete overall success, not just your on-ice success'

30 years later: Men's Ice Hockey Coach Jeff Meredith's legacy



ANGELINA DOHRE

Photo Editor

When walking into Fredonia head hockey coach Jeff Meredith's office, two walls immediately stand out. One is scattered with coaching awards gathered from 30 years at Fredonia, and the other is covered with photos of families of past hockey players.

These walls represent Meredith's two most important things to him: family and coaching.

Growing up in Rochester, N.Y., Meredith stayed there until he went to Monroe Community College for two years as a criminal justice major.

"I thought I wanted to be a cop but got into it and realized that was not for me," he said.

He decided to take a year off and spent his time unloading railroad cars full of 50 pound bags of dog chow.

"I knew I did not want to do that," he said. "Those train cars came in from a place I never heard of before called Dunkirk, New York."

After the year passed, Meredith attended SUNY Brockport as a physical education major.

"I thought I wanted to be a P.E. teacher but realized I didn't really want to do that," he said.

He first thought of coaching college hockey when attending Ohio State for graduate school.

"I was very fortunate to meet some really good people along the way and people that helped me get to where I am," he said.

Meredith returned to Brockport as an assistant coach and ice rink manager.

"I thought at the time that if I really wanted to get into college coaching, I needed to get in with somebody that knew what they were doing," he said.

That person was hockey coach Phil Grady at Hamilton College. Meredith spent four years with him there before being presented the opportunity at Fredonia.

According to Meredith, what made Fredonia stand out was its beauty.

"It had very nice facilities and very friendly people," he said. "At the time I got offered the job here I had a couple of opportunities, but I

think the biggest thing was the opportunity to take over a brand new program at the time and be able to build it into something that I wanted to build it into."

When it came to hockey, Meredith was considered a "late starter" and didn't start playing until he was 15.

"I wasn't a player that was going to help anybody," he said. "Maybe I could be a good teammate, maybe I could be a hard worker, maybe I could be a disciplined person, but I wasn't going to help anybody win any hockey games with my limited ability."

Being at Fredonia for 30 years, Meredith has countless memories to go with his career.

"Waking up in 1995 on a Saturday morning in March and playing for the national championship that night was pretty exciting," he said.

Three out of the four seniors this year started on the team as freshmen during the season with the worst record in the history of the program.

"For those guys to be such a huge part of turning this program around and kind of reclaiming the culture is a great moment right there," Meredith said. "For them to persevere through that and all the hard times and doubters to then get to the conference championship their senior year is a great moment."

Meredith believes that there is a lot more that goes with coaching hockey other than the actual on-ice coaching.

"You get to work with good quality young men who want to work hard and be successful,"



Jeff Meredith has been the head coach for the Fredonia men's ice hockey team for the last 30 years. Photo courtesy of Minju Kim

he said. "You have a front row seat to four years of amazing personal development for those people, and maybe even closer than their parents would see."

Meredith recalls his role model growing up and how it shaped his own career.

"My college coach, a guy named E.J. McGuire, took a lot of interest in me, and I wasn't a very good player," he said. "He was really good to me and I saw the impact that kind of role could

JEFF MEREDITH continued

have and that's something I wanted to do."

One of the hockey players under Meredith is senior finance and political science major James Young. According to Young, Meredith truly cares about his players on and off the ice.

"When coaching is your career, your life and your players' lives can sort of get lost in the shuffle of wins and losses, which isn't the case with Coach Meredith," he said. "Coach is always asking players about their families, how their school work is going and doesn't forget that there is a lot of life that happens away from the rink. Coach is someone who cares about your complete overall success, not just your on-ice success."

Meredith stays involved in the Fredonia sports community and it seems as though

everyone in the department knows him.

"I am not sure about everything he does in the Fredonia sports community, but I know it is pretty expansive. Not only is he quite involved here on campus, but his efforts to connect with the community, in general, are pretty impressive," Young said.

"Any time we're chatting with coach and mention we need to get an errand done he always has a contact for it," Young continued. "Coach also treats his players and colleges with respect, and I think that is why he is so well known around the community."

Outside of coaching, Meredith said the only other thing he really focuses on is family. He and his wife have been married 26 years and have three boys, all of which have played

hockey at one point.

"Spending time with my family is pretty much it," he said. "I don't have a lot of hobbies. This hockey program and my family are my passions."

According to Fredonia assistant hockey coach Mike Lysyj, one word to describe Meredith would be: "legend."

"People kind of look at him as being at the top of the totem pole," he said. "I learned in college [from] taking sports psychology classes and coaching courses that most coaches have a shelf life, and that shelf life is at most five years. To surpass that six times really says a lot about his character and his ability to relate with people and see the bigger picture."

'Seeing students ultimately be successful, that's what it's about' David White: former Buffalo Bills player heads Fredonia's Educational Development Program

JAMAL HYPOLITE

Special to The Leader

Did you know that between the years of 1981-1999, SUNY Fredonia served as the Buffalo Bills' training camp?

Not many of today's students do. Many also don't know that one of their Bills returned: David White.

White played 12 years of professional football, retiring with the Buffalo Bills. He is also the head of the Educational Development Program at Fredonia, also known as EDP, and he brings the same pride and passion from the field to his workplace.

EDP is a need-based academic support program for incoming freshmen who are financially challenged or students deficient in academic preparation. As head of EDP, White recruits incoming students from all over who match this criteria.

He has background in recruitment from working five years in the office of admissions. He was the coordinator of minority recruitment and also coordinated multicultural weekend.

White said when he chose Fredonia he was, "taking advantage of an opportunity." While looking for his second career after football, he almost went to the University of Buffalo as an athletics advisor.

Instead, with the help of his wife, Monica White, who was assistant vice president at Fredonia at the time, he took his resume to administrators and, what was supposed to be an emergency hire due to a shortage of employees, later became a permanent position.

White has been EDP director for eight years now, with retirement nowhere in sight. After almost a decade, he still very much enjoys the

work that he does.

"Seeing the day-to-day impact ... [the] positive impact that I and this program are able to have [is what I enjoy most]," he said. "Assisting a student in being as successful as they want to be, that's what I signed up to do."

It is clear that the students' success is also his. He said that he is always looking forward to commencement.

"Seeing students ultimately be successful, that's what it's about," he said.

Each summer, a new EDP class is introduced, and White spends a few weeks getting to know these students. He said that EDP is a need-based program so, first and foremost, these students come from a common place of need.

"When students get here, everyone wants to do well, but not everyone wants to put in the work to succeed," he said.

White finds that seeing these students find a balance between capability and accountability is common. He claims that some students find this balance quicker than others, partly because some fail to take advantage of the school's resources.

"Everyone in this program is certainly capable, it's just a matter of how accountable [they are]," he said.

One of his EPD students, Bradys DelVillar, said White taught him that "success is your decision."

"The number one thing is that they can be as successful as they want to be, despite all the obstacles that are in their way ... and the key to that is utilizing the resources at your disposal," said White. "Last but not least, at some point, turn around and give something back ... give something back to someone."

Most EDP students discover that White is a former Bills player by their second semester. It is quite evident that he brings traits from his time

on the field to his current position. Work ethic is one of them.

"I was never the fastest guy on the team, I was never the strongest guy on the team, sometimes I think I might have been the smartest ... but no one on any team I ever played on outworked me," he said. "Being able to work as a team is something I brought from football ... and being able to problem solve and the value of preparation."

White spoke of his former coach for the Bills, Marv Levy, and what he taught them about preparation.

"If we have a good practice, and we prepare, good things are probably going to happen, not guaranteed, but the chances of us winning certainly increase," he said. "And that's a life lesson."

One of the qualities that Daniel Smith, an EDP advisor, stated that Mr. White possesses is determination.

"He is very goal oriented," said Smith. "EDP is circled around goals."

White is still involved with football today. He is active in the Bills Alumni Association and also coaches little league.

Anthony Hunter is one of the kids that White coached on the Pop Warner Youth Football team.

"He wouldn't let me quit at all, he kept pushing me," said Hunter. "He would even run with me to help me lose weight."

While White takes a new position on the field, he said that the only "playing" of football he does is on the Xbox and PlayStation.

In his free time, he enjoys cooking and eating. He keeps up to date with sporting events and does community service.

White sets a great example for his students and truly shows that hard work and dedication can take you beyond any goals you set for yourself.

'... she was pretty much unstoppable'

Jenna Einink, junior basketball player, reaches 1,000 points

CHELSEA BARON

Special to The Leader

2,000 may not be a high score in a video game, but it is in basketball.

Jenna Einink has celebrated reaching 1,000 points in both her high school and college careers.

Ken Ricker, Einink's basketball coach from the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), was by her side for both.

"[I] was lucky enough to be there for 1,000 high school points and today again for 1,000 college points. Congrats to one of the best players I have been privileged to coach. So happy for and proud of you, Jenna Einink," said Ricker on a Facebook post.

Ricker and Einink have known each other since she was in eighth grade when her parents brought her to try out for the team.

Unfortunately, Einink couldn't make it work until the following year.

"The next year she joined what may be the highest scoring and most accomplished AAU team in Western New York history. She was one of 10 1,000-point scorers on our team," said Ricker.

Einink's family is no stranger to sports. Her parents, aunts, uncles, as well as her sisters all played basketball.

"My dad, he was really good. He had broken his pinky and didn't end up getting his 1,000 points, but he was really, really close," said Einink.

Officially starting basketball in elementary school where she played in a recreational league, Einink never thought she would play in college.

"[Playing in college] was always a goal of mine. It's been an amazing experience," said Einink.

Einink's career at Chautauqua Lake Central School is quite impressive, considering the two trips she made to the New York State championships.

In 2014, the Thunderbirds received their first ever New York State Championship win, 47-36 victory over Hoosic Valley.

"It's probably one of the best feelings I ever had and something I'll never forget," says Einink about her State Championship win.

The following year they returned, ranked as No. 1 in class C girls basketball, only to fall to Cooperstown, 50-59 in the New York State semi-finals.

Linda MacDonald, the State University of New York at Fredonia women's basketball coach for the past five years, noticed Einink's talent as a high school player.

"In high school, she was pretty much unstoppable," said MacDonald.

Coach MacDonald also mentioned a handful of Einink's assets that made her want to recruit her, such as her rebounding, versatility and speed.

"She was extremely effective inside in the post where she plays. She had versatility in her game in that she can step out to three point range and hit [a] three point shot," said MacDonald, "I like the way she ran the floor and a lot of times was the first one down in transition, so she was willing to work and get down the floor to get the easy baskets for us."

Einink has both talent and work ethic.

"Junior year and she's scored 1,000 points so that kind of speaks for the fact that she's working hard," said MacDonald.

MacDonald is not the only one who noticed Einink's work ethic. Ricker did as well.

He believes Einink's success stems from her hard work.

"Immediately we knew as a staff that Jenna would be really good. She was a sponge and worked very hard," said Ricker.

Not only did Einink work hard for herself, Ricker mentioned she was always willing to help out other teammates if they happened to miss a practice.

This past year, Einink stepped into similar footsteps when she was named captain alongside two other teammates.

As a team captain, some of the things she was in charge of were the preseason workouts, relaying messages to the team, making sure everyone is on time to practice and wearing the correct apparel.

"Our coach looks to us when things go wrong," said Einink.

Out of her family, Einink took basketball more seriously than other sports. She even quit playing softball so she could devote more time to basketball.

"I think [my sisters] had loved other sports the same, and I just fell in love with basketball more than I did volleyball or anything else," said Einink.

Anyone that paid attention to Einink during her high school years still sees her name in the papers, considering Fredonia is only a short drive from her alma mater.

Einink mentioned when she goes to eat with her teammates, she often comes across local referees or townspeople referencing her appearance in the paper.

"I go places all the time with people and someone says something like 'Oh, you're Jenna Einink?' and they're like 'How does everyone know you?' and it's different because I grew up around here," she said.

That's one way her basketball career is different now.

The game in college is faster paced, the players are stronger and in better shape and you travel, which includes missing school.

"The basics are the same, but the expectations

are so much higher," said Einink.

Even though Einink misses classes due to traveling during the season, she is still expected to get her work done. There is specific study time for the team to work on homework when they're on the bus.

All student-athletes are required to give their professors a sheet listing dates that they will be absent from class.

"You just have to be on top of things and very prepared, and you have to communicate with your professors. The professors are really cool about it if you let them know ahead of time," said Einink.

Einink did not know she was close to her 1,000 points until she read an article. Everyone else knew.

During the Blue Devils game against Buffalo State on Feb. 17, Einink scored her 1,000th college basketball career point.

The Devils lost that day, 74-60.

Einink is the 12th Blue Devil overall to score 1,000 points, trailing behind her fellow teammate Jacque Law, who is a senior this year.

MacDonald mentioned scoring 1,000 points as a junior takes a special type of player.

"Most of Jenna's points are inside the arc, which makes her accomplishment a little bit more incredible because the majority of her shots are either from the foul line, which is one point, or inside the arc which is two points," said MacDonald.

During MacDonald's years of coaching at Fredonia, only five athletes have hit the 1,000 point mark, and two of them were juniors.

"Everyone knew except me. I just wasn't even thinking that I was close at all," said Einink.

Scoring isn't something that's on Einink's mind. "I just play . . . I just play I guess, I don't know. I don't really think about my points or my stats as much as I just want us to win," she said.

Ricker mentioned how special it was for him to attend both milestones.

Einink scored her high school 1,000th point during a tournament at Jamestown High School, where Ricker teaches.

With permission from Eric Shuster, Chautauqua Lake women's basketball coach, Ricker was able to award Einink her 1,000 point ball.

Luck was on Ricker's side when he was also able to attend the game that Einink hit 1,000 again.

"It was really special because like in high school, we want our AAU kids to find a great college fit and have success, and Jenna has clearly done both," he said.

"I would not ever trade playing basketball here for anything," said Einink.

From the battlefield to the playing field: how a military hero has found solace in a sport

TANNER WILLIAMS
Special to The Leader

After serving any kind of military tour, reintegration into the “real world” can be a trying process. You often hear stories of soldiers who cannot quite get back on their feet, to the point where many of them choose to re-deploy.

Passing up the safety and security that comes from being home to return to the dangerous uncertainty of war may seem like an inexplicable decision to those who have never served, but, in reality, a change so drastic can be physically, mentally and emotionally overwhelming.

Jeremy Lilga, a sophomore criminal justice major here at Fredonia, is currently taking that challenge head on.

As a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, Lilga served a four-year combat tour, primarily in Afghanistan, immediately following high school.

While Lilga enjoyed his time that he spent overseas, and looks back upon it fondly, he had always intended to use his time in the military as a stepping stone, of sorts.

“I always wanted to go to college; I just wasn’t sure of what I wanted to do. I had a few friends in the Marine Corps and it seemed like I’d fit well,” Lilga said.

Being unsure of what to do, or what you want to be, following high school is not at all uncommon. But Lilga, a motivated, hard-working person, did not want to fall into a cycle of uncertainty and indecision.

“The last thing I wanted to do was get caught up and waste time. I felt like if I just took a year or two off after high school, that I might have gotten lazy or lost my drive. Joining the Marines was a perfect way to stay focused and disciplined,” Lilga said.

Lilga, a three-sport athlete throughout his time at Eden High School, knew that he’d have to find a sport to play when he chose to attend Fredonia. His older brother and Fredonia alumnus, Justin Lilga, spent a lot of time persuading him to

join the school’s rugby team, and he eventually succeeded.

“I pushed Jeremy not just because I had played for Blackhorse [the school’s rugby club], but because I knew he’d be great at it,” the elder Lilga said. “Rugby’s not for everybody, but [Jeremy] has the size, the speed and the mentality for it. It made too much sense.”

Ultimately, Jeremy followed his brother’s advice and showed up to the first day of practice in August of 2016. Having been a captain for his sports teams in high school, and also because of his standing as an “older” freshman at the age of 23, Lilga felt like it was right to try and assert himself as a leader —

something that both older and younger players were very receptive to.

“I wrestled against [Jeremy] in high school, so I had always known about him and his fire,” said senior captain Zach Buckley. “I was really happy to see him come aboard and even happier to see him step right up as a leader. We don’t really see

many rookies willing to come in here and put themselves out there like that.”

Though he had never played rugby, Lilga’s background as a football player and wrestler made for a smooth transition. On top of that, his persistent studying of the game, whether through

YouTube videos or observing Blackhorse’s more experienced players, allowed him to pick up the mental side of the game rather quickly as well.

“Rugby had elements of the sports that I had already played, and I think that’s what drew me to it. I wasn’t really worried about being inexperienced because I know how I am as a learner and as an athlete,” Lilga said.

Lilga, who became a full-time starter early on in his rookie season, has contributed greatly to the team’s recent success. This past fall, with Lilga serving as one of three co-captains, the club won their first playoff game since 2008.

So, how, if at all, do rugby and the Marine Corps relate?

“Rugby is all about the men beside you,” said Lilga. “You play your heart out for them and hope they’ll leave it all out there for you. Things are easy when all 15 guys are at their best. If just one person isn’t giving it their all, the other 14 will feel it.”

While rugby isn’t exactly a matter of life and death, the comparison between rugby and the Marine Corps, based upon the idea that the best possible result can only come about when any individual agendas or egos are thrown out of the window, makes a whole lot of sense.

Based upon what Lilga said, it’s clear that the relationship between the two goes far beyond strategy and approach.

“I found brothers overseas. People I went through a lot with, people that I still talk to everyday. I’ll never forget any of them and I am thankful for that. We wouldn’t have gotten through all of that without each other,” Lilga said. “I think I’ve found the same thing here.”

“The last thing I wanted to do was get caught up and waste time. I felt like if I just took a year or two off after high school, that I might have gotten lazy or lost my drive. Joining the Marines was a perfect way to stay focused and disciplined,” Jeremy Lilga said.



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'Everything and anything is possible through hard work'

A profile of Phil Seymore, Fredonia's head coach of men's basketball

DERECK ICE

Special to The Leader

As you step foot inside Coach Phil Seymore's office, something that will immediately grab your attention is his large award from Canisius College that he received for earning all-conference and all-region honors his senior basketball season.

You will see many basketball trophies and awards from his playing career prior to becoming a coach. You will immediately get a warm feeling of basketball love when you are inside of his office, as well as seeing some pictures from Mohammed Ali on the wall, as he was very interested in boxing for a good portion of his life.

Seymore grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., where the everyday living was rough and rather hard. While there was a lot of violence surrounding the Bed Stuy area in which he grew up, Seymore found a way to make basketball his way of enjoyment — a way to not get caught up in any of the trouble that was around him.

Basketball, and the desire to be a great student-athlete, inspired him to take matters into his own hands and become something special.

"My interest and inspiration for the game really started when I was a young boy growing up in Brooklyn. I really started taking basketball serious when I was a young, around 9 years old," he said. "Where I grew up at, it was a lot of competition regarding basketball. Academics not so much, but definitely sports. Entering eighth grade, I really started to get in the gym and work on my craft and skill."

Basketball was top priority for Seymore in high school.

"Going to high school, there was nothing else on my mind besides becoming a top prospect and playing at the highest level possible in college," he said. "During this time, highlight tapes were not as big as they are right now, so a lot of recruiting was done when coaches came to see you play or at camps that you were invited to so you could get more exposure."

"Looking back now, this was great for me," Seymour continued, "because I got a chance to play against the top prospects and in front of the highest level coaching. Really [it] was amazing."

Much of his early inspiration was found in basketball and top pro athletes. His high school coach took a deep interest in him and showed him that hard work and focusing on goals can really make a big difference in everything.

"My high school coach, [Terry Jones], was a perfectionist, and it rubbed off on me," said Seymour. "A lot of experiences that came after high school, Coach Jones really played a big part in making sure I was at the top of my game. Many of the pros I watched, such as Vince Carter and Magic Johnson, started exactly how I started,

working exactly how I was working and became pro athletes."

"After seeing this and realizing this," he continued, "I said to myself, 'okay these two athletes were hard working men with a focus and a good head on their shoulders. So, hell, I can do that too. Why not?'"

Following high school, he attended Independence Junior College. This helped him to get a scholarship to Canisius College.

Seymore played two seasons at Canisius (1980-81 and 1981-82) and was selected by the New York Knicks in the 1982 NBA Draft. He later joined the Albany Patroons of the Continental Basketball Association. During this time he played for legendary Head Coach Phil Jackson.

Playing under Jackson helped him in understanding coaching and played a big part in helping him start his coaching career following his playing career.

"Playing under Phil Jackson helped me see the game from a different perspective and not only see the court from a player perspective but how to also think the game," said Seymore. "I knew following my career I wanted to get into coaching, especially considering I was good with recruiting and how to get through to my players."

"I was blessed to coach for so many great programs, and not just head coach, but assist and get some great learning experience from some great head coaches who I worked under. Really great people," he continued, "and had a great feeling for the game. This was a really influential experience and it helped change and shape my life in a great direction."

He earned a bachelor of science degree in sociology with a minor in physical education from Canisius in 1989 and was inducted into the Canisius College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996. He was voted onto the Canisius All-Century Team in 2004.

He coached 12 seasons at Providence College, seven as women's head coach, five as men's assistant coach. He also served as a men's assistant coach for three seasons at Richmond, and for seven seasons at Canisius.

All three seasons at Richmond, and five at Canisius, were spent on the staff of Head Coach John Beilein, the current head coach at the University of Michigan.

Seymore also coached boys basketball at Turner-Carroll High School in Buffalo for four seasons after spending one season as a graduate assistant at Canisius under his college coach, Nick Macarchuk.

He has served as associate director of athletics at the College of New Rochelle, an NCAA Division III school in New Rochelle, N.Y.

"This was a really good experience for the fact that it gave me a chance to see basketball from a

different point of view and work with a different group of athletes," said Seymore. "Not only in basketball but baseball, volleyball etc. For me, I think it's so important that students have mentors and outlets that constantly encourage them and guide them to pursue their dreams and goals."

Seymore recruited top performers at the college level.

"My recruiting experience was very interesting and fun for me. I got a chance to travel many places," said Seymore. "I got a chance to see a lot of great basketball and see what exactly distinguishes one player from the next. It really is a joy when seeing the hard work of a group of guys competing for that one scholarship."

Teaching the game of basketball and working with kids is his life passion. Being able to give back and work with hard-working athletes is what he loves to do.

"I absolutely love the game of basketball and love teaching it to those who want to learn," said Seymore. "It helps me to see that at one point in my life that was me, I was that hard-working young male athlete, competitive, and had a dream I wanted to fulfill. I just love seeing that fire, and sense of urgency, when it comes to someone trying to fulfill their dreams."

Seymore has been working at SUNY Fredonia for the past four years, and he has struggled a great deal while he has been coaching there.

His win percentage is .255, which is very low and inconsistent. His first year head coaching at SUNY Fredonia, the team finished 6-19 and did not make the SUNYAC playoffs. His following year the team went 2-22, and they finished almost in last place in the entire league. Over his next two years he only made the playoffs one time in 2015, when the team finished with a 10-15 record.

Despite the struggles he has faced to win, this up and coming year he has some talented players coming in to play for the program, and he is looking forward to having a great year.

"He is a great coach and definitely has some great wisdom and knowledge towards the game," said Ian Helps, a senior sports management major and former player under coach Seymour.

"Coach Seymore is a great person with good feel for the game. His basketball IQ is rather impressive, but we have had our struggles over the past couple years winning and becoming a powerhouse program. I can say only good things about him ... " said Adam LaQuier, Seymore's assistant coach.

As for Seymore, he believes a strong work ethic can lead to great things.

"Everything and anything is possible through hard work," said Seymore. "The little things do matter, and always remember to pay attention to detail."

'Softball became my entire life. It was able to get me through the toughest times in life'

A profile of Eva FitzSimmons, freshman softball player

CASSIDY HERMAN

Special to The Leader

Eva FitzSimmons, a freshman from Rochester, N.Y., has begun her first softball season at SUNY Fredonia.

FitzSimmons came to Fredonia with 15 years of softball experience under her belt.

Throughout her 15 years, she played shortstop, third and first base. Never once did she catch in those 15 years.

Her experience on the field led her to believe that she was capable of playing any position if she tried hard enough.

When she arrived at Fredonia, the positions that she had played for so long had been filled by upperclassmen.

She realized that she probably wouldn't win those spots over.

FitzSimmons decided that she would have to find a position elsewhere on the team. Being the outgoing person she is, FitzSimmons stepped up and decided to help the team out by learning the catching position. Since that position had been filled by two senior catchers that graduated the year before, the spot had been left wide open.

She decided to buy a catchers mitt and practice on her off days. She picked up the techniques and caught on quickly.

Tony Ciccarello, head softball coach for Fredonia, said that FitzSimmons is an all-around great player and an even better person.

"She has a good head on her shoulders and you can really tell that she cares about her teammates. She also really cares about learning the game," he said.

"Eva is so energetic and encouraging. She always pushes you to do the best that you can. She's the first person to tell you that you did a good job or try to cheer you up," said Sydney Merkle, freshman outfielder for Fredonia.

During the fall season, FitzSimmons was successful on the field as a catcher.

After 15 years of softball, she had found her place on the team behind the plate.

She helped her team win by blocking balls in the dirt, gunning girls out at second and being a key communicator on and off the field.

"I was a catcher for my entire life. I started when I was 6, and I caught until I graduated from Fredonia last year," said Madison Stavish, a Fredonia

softball alumna. "I have never seen a person catch on to a position as fast as Eva did. She really is a great learning catcher, and she will definitely see a lot of playing time this year."

FitzSimmons recalled a time where she was playing third base, when a rocket of a grounder was hit at her. She said she didn't know why, but for some reason she dropped to her knees to the catching position.

Her coach called out to her and said, "Hey, if you want to block a ball like that, I'll put some shin guards on you and put you behind the plate."

Eva remembered laughing it off and thinking, "Yeah, right, I will never catch."

Even though FitzSimmons was perfectly happy playing her normal positions, being a catcher remained a thought in the back of her mind. Obviously, that thought came to fruition

and has worked out well for her so far.

FitzSimmons success comes along with a healthy support system.

"My dad is the biggest influence I have in my life. He supports me in everything I do, especially softball," she said. "My dad was always proud of me; he made it very obvious that he was."

She shared that her parents' divorce at a young age taught her to keep pushing to achieve what you want.

"My parents rekindled their love after all of those years. They never gave up on each other and I couldn't be more grateful that they were able to work everything out," she said. "Their time apart showed me that you really have to keep fighting to improve yourself as a person but still fight for the people or things you love and care about."

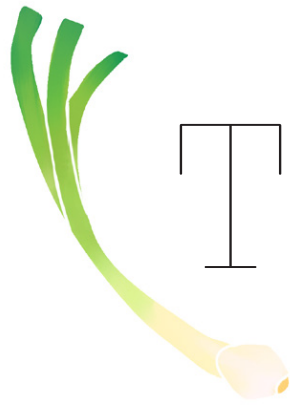
Her parents' decision to split made her slightly scared to invest herself solely in another human. She worried about getting into relationships or friendships.

"I worry about putting that much trust and reliability into someone because people could walk out at any moment, and that scares me way too much," FitzSimmons said.

Instead of investing all of her love and passion into someone that could leave, she turned to softball. She figured that she could always turn to softball on a bad day. Softball could never leave her, and that gave her the drive to accomplish all of her goals.

"One of my biggest goals in life was to play softball on a college team," said FitzSimmons. "Softball became my entire life. It was able to get me through the toughest times in life. Whatever ups and downs came my way, I always had softball. So playing softball in college was very important to me."

""[Eva] has a good head on her shoulders and you can really tell that she cares about her teammates. She also really cares about learning the game," said Tony Ciccarello, head softball coach."



THE SCALLION

Melissa Neuburger/Special to The Leader

Profile: Tin man of notorious 'Three Man Hill' statue speaks out

The exclusive sculpture tell all



PATRICK BENNETT
Staff Scallywag

One third of the members of the iconic tin men statue, situated on the incline between the Rockefeller Arts Center and the woodlot near Ring Road, has recently released an autobiography recalling prime events and encounters in his life. The tin man, Warren Conrad, delivered the autobiographical prose in shades of unimaginable emotion.

The autobiography entitled "I've Been Standing On Top of This Hill For A While, Could I Get a Chair?" opens with what it means to be a sculpture on a college campus in the 21st century. Over the course of the book, many feelings are expressed. Loneliness, in particular, was a feeling Conrad often had to endure.

"People would sit beneath me and do homework, look at the sunset and as time went by, send snapchats to their significant others. I wish I could have that. I wish I could photobomb their pictures even more, though. People used to have a lot of sex underneath me, too. After the

internet happened, that kind of disappeared," Conrad recalled.

After the release of his autobiography, Conrad instantly became a New York Times bestselling author. However, since Conrad is immobile, being permanently situated on the hilltop, he wasn't able to sign autographs for fans.

When the sculpture gets a chance, Conrad enjoys a variety of different hobbies including staring into the distance for long periods of time, watching students trip and fall on their way to Thompson hall and re-watching episodes of the MTV hit show "The Hills."

Fashion statements are made by Conrad on the daily. Various scarves of assorted colors are donned by the statue depending on the weather. For instance, if it's cold out, Conrad wears a warm sweater. When the weather is warm, Conrad will wear a cute romper with a floral design.

No one knows what the statue will do or become in the next couple of years. What's for sure is that the statue will not move because it cannot walk.

"When the sculpture gets a chance, Conrad enjoys a variety of different hobbies including staring into the distance for long periods of time, watching students trip and fall on their way to Thompson hall and re-watching episodes of the MTV hit show 'The Hills.'"

'It hasn't always been lemon squeezy for this buck'

A profile of that squirrel always seen outside of University Commons



JACLYN SPIEZIA
Staff Scallywag

Twitchy Squirrel is about 6 in human years, which in squirrel years is equivalent to age 30. But unlike 30-year-old homosapeins, he isn't going through a mid-life crisis.

Twitchy is totally unique from other squirrels as his fur is chestnut colored and is mixed with tinges of dark brown, and his tail, which is medium length, is dark brown with tinges of black fur. Even though he is cute and fluffy, he still has not found the one he can give his nuts to.

However, Twitchy is not worried in the slightest, since he says that he is hoping for about four more human years, and currently enjoys being a bachelor. He has previously been seen with a beautiful doe named Sandy, but there is a rumor that she has moved to Bikini Bottom, or something like that.

It hasn't always been lemon squeezy for this buck. He has recently admitted to having experienced seasonal depression, especially when nuts are hard to find. In fact, when he was just a kit he once got angry with his parents and scurried away to a spot near LoGrasso. Being at LoGrasso helped him to deal with his depression. Twitchy would've stayed there, but another squirrel came along and marked it as his territory, so he decided to go back home to his family.

Originally from a tree next to Jewett, Twitchy has just recently branched out away from his family, now that he is an adult. He has described his move as instinctual, and he

says that he mostly enjoys chilling outside University Commons. One day, when he finds a mate, Twitchy does aspire to travel to other trees off campus.

As for personality, Twitchy is quite the character. Amongst other squirrels he is well known for his quick, agile movements, which is how he earned the nickname, "Twitchy." However, he has also recently began to put on some weight what with all the disgusting leftovers from Cranston that he finds in the dumpster. He hopes that in the summer he will work it off.

He noted that his favorite game is "don't become roadkill," where he and his squirrel friends stay in the middle of the road while cars are coming, and then move at the last possible second.

Twitchy's only regret is that he used to assume all humans were out to get him, ever since one college kid tried to shoot him with a BB gun. Now, if a human does see Twitchy, he doesn't immediately scurry up a tree, but he has admitted that doesn't think he will ever be into humans petting him.

"He noted that his favorite game is 'don't become roadkill,' where he and his squirrel friends stay in the middle of the road while cars are coming, and then move at the last possible second."

A profile of that one guy panicking in the back of the library

MORGAN HENDERSON

Staff Scallywag

Chad Ball sits alone in the back corner of the library. Every day. Hands running through his frizzy curls with a look of frustration on his face.

His troubles don't end in the library, though. Right now he's in the middle of a three-day-long argument with his Runescape girlfriend.

"She's mad I can't pay for her membership right now," Ball said.

His girlfriend, LoooveKitty22, said, "Every other Runescape girlfriend doesn't have to pay for their membership."

"She tells me to get a job all the time, but, like, is being the best Runescape player of all time not a job?" Ball asked.

He also can't find a way to focus while a professor who cannot be named still works at SUNY Fredonia.

"He's just so ugly it keeps me up at night," Ball said. "If he would just pluck the unibrow, I might be able to stop thinking about him and stop failing calculus every semester," he continued.

On top of his online girlfriend being mad at him and Professor Unibrow existing, he ruined his brand-new used couch. Ball reportedly stepped on a Lego and knocked his hookah over and into the couch. The coals burned three holes right through the

brand-new used couch.

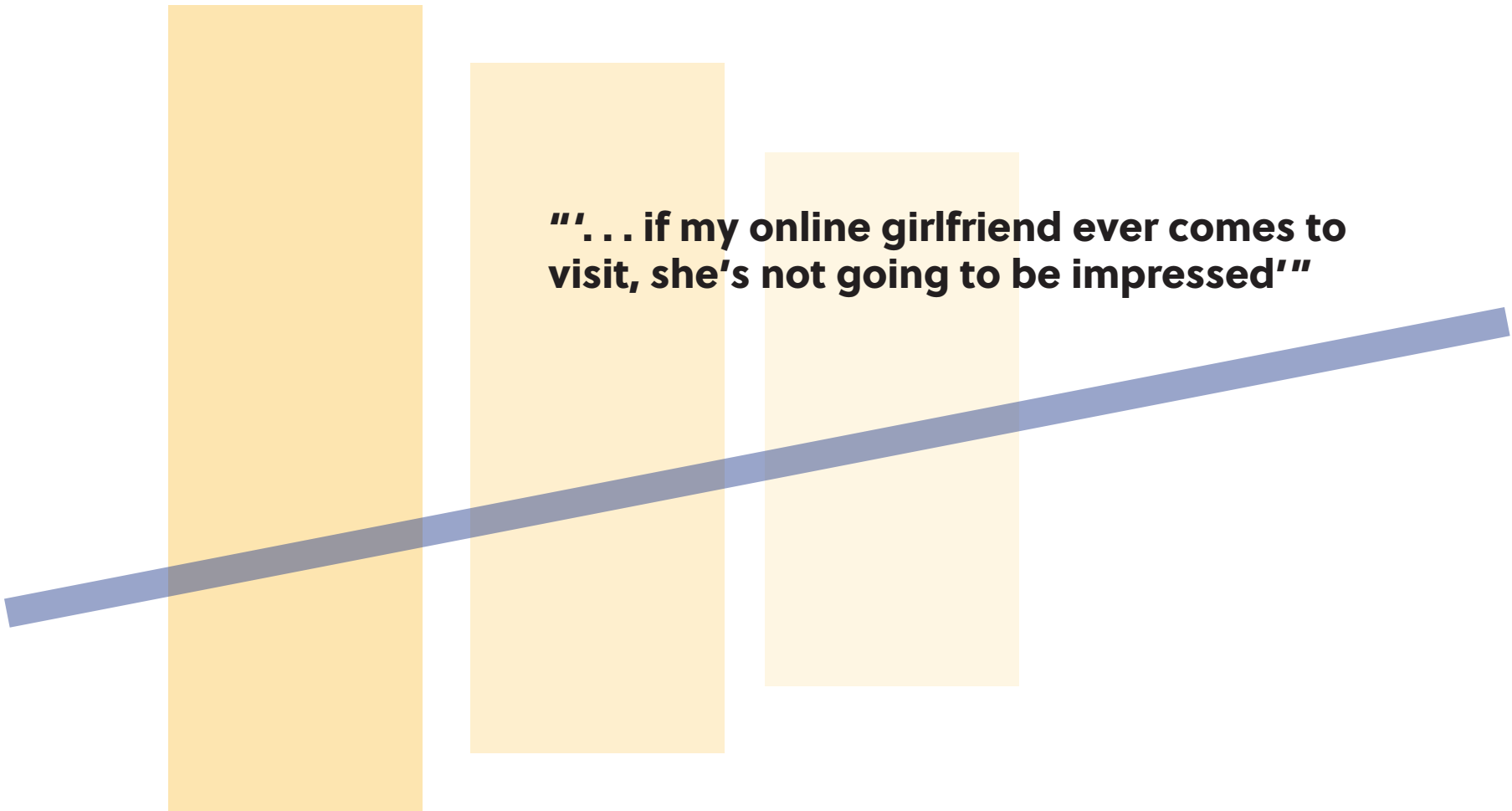
"Now if my online girlfriend ever comes to visit, she's not going to be impressed," Ball said.

The biggest issue for Ball right now is his group project. None of his group members will answer his messages.

"I'm never going to get this project done if they don't start answering me," Ball said.

Group member Alyssa Snow said, "I would rather do more work than talk to him and I think the rest of us would agree."

Next time you see him in the library tearing up a little, before you point and laugh, remember that even his group project members are ghosting him.



“... if my online girlfriend ever comes to visit, she's not going to be impressed”

Profile: Your geology professor who dreams of the stage



ALBERTO GONZALEZ
Staff Scallywag

Professor Dreary has now been teaching geology at Fredonia for the last 20 years, or how he remembers it, the number of years since he could have had a child with his ex-wife, but declined the opportunity.

Back then, his wife had really wanted a child, and he was taken aback when she later decided to divorce him and find a better man. He didn't really miss her, but rather the opportunity to force a child into acting so that he could live vicariously through the child.

Dreary had never wanted to be a geology teacher, and he still doesn't. Even so, he makes a big spectacle on syllabus day when students always neglect to ask him about his life story. He responds to this by monologuing the story of his life anyway, starting with the moment his parents conceived him outside of a KFC/Taco Bell combo in a parked car.

Ever since the age of 6 when Dreary first saw the musical *Grease*, he knew he wanted to have an onstage presence like John Travolta's onscreen crush, Olivia Newton-John. Dreary knows that he was born to be an actor, but after he got offered a position to teach at Drab, he realized he needed the money and immediately accepted. He just couldn't get up the courage to leave and pursue his real dream of acting. However, Dreary sees his job as one of his great acting accomplishments. He could

not dislike geology more, but still he puts on a performance telling students, "Of quartz I love geology. It rocks."

He increasingly finds himself getting lost in geology, the shimmers of light bouncing off the many angles of the calcite he keeps on his desk. He manipulates his in-class example of perfect three dimensional cleavage so the sunlight pouring in from the gap between his always-drawn blinds creates spots of lights that dance across his room in all directions. He imagines they are cameras going off as he arrives at the premiere of another of his films.

He feels like all of his lying about how much he loves his job has really done some good for his students in the long run, though, and he hopes to one day be recognized for his great service to them. Though he always accidentally insults geology, they always think he's joking. It helps foster their love for geology, even when he suggests they quit doing it because it's not a practical career, unlike acting.

In fact, it seems that his students really do love him, as they call him "airhead," which he thinks is in reference to the fact that he claims to love the element Oxygen.

How could he ever leave this position? He wonders as he waits for his Tinder date to meet him in a parked car outside Taco Bell. He hopes of convincing his date to conceive a child with him, as he feels that teaching, though it has obviously done his students a service, has not really done him one.

"Dreary had never wanted to be a geology teacher, and he still doesn't. Even so, he makes a big spectacle on syllabus day when students always neglect to ask him about his life story."

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