

# THE LEADER

2.26.20 | Issue 18 | Volume CXXVI

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UNIVERSITY POLICE  
ACCEPTING FINES IN  
POINTS



# The Leader

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# NEWS

## Dormitory reforms to take place in 2022

**SAMUEL LEWANDOWSKI**

Special to The Leader

Renovations are coming to SUNY Fredonia's housing.

When he arrived in August 2016, Dr. Cedric Howard, the vice president of enrollment and student services, said he reviewed multiple student-response surveys regarding Fredonia's housing.

These surveys found that Fredonia students were comfortable and satisfied with the housing services they received, but that the school was lacking in comparison to other SUNY and competitive institutions.

In 2019, Howard said that Fredonia saw an uptick of around 400 in housing.

Around that time, he and campus life commissioned another year-long study focused on the satisfaction of students with their housing services.

The study reaffirmed that students were satisfied with their housing services, but found various problems existed within the school's facilities.

Sophomore public accountancy and economics major Robert Mitchell confirmed these findings.

"I enjoy living in the dorms because they're so close to everything and it's very convenient, but the laundry room is in the basement, which is inconvenient and creepy," Mitchell said.

In addition to not having accessible laundry rooms, the study also found many dormitories lacked other

amenities like kitchens. Single-occupant rooms also ceased to exist.

Other problems included the absence of proper lighting in the dorms.

"A lot of places felt dark," said Howard. "Especially in some of the complexes."

Further, the study revealed many common spaces haven't been painted or provided carpeting in the last 34 years.

Current dorm resident, freshmen music education major Olivia Rokosz, said she noticed these aged spaces and is not surprised by the news of renovations.

"Some of the buildings seem to be a bit older and some changes could probably be a good thing," said Rokosz.

Upon completion of the study, Howard said the school was prepared to move forward with a plan to renovate the dorms.

As of right now, that plan includes adding laundry rooms to every floor, which will keep students from having to take their laundry down several flights of stairs to access the nearest facility.

Kitchens will also be added to various buildings, double rooms will be converted into singles and changes will be made to the walls and fixtures of the dorms.

Other, less extreme or "low-hanging fruit" changes are also in the works.

Some of these changes can already be seen, such as the implementation of eSports lounges in various buildings.

**Continued on page 6**



### On the Cover:

**Civic Engagement Night:** People gather to present their organizations and spread their cause. Debate watch table: Kelsey Goetz, Derrick Horning, Alia hanai, Tom Sheffield, Victoria King, Anatalia Martins, Jennifer King and Billie McKee | Derek Raymond

# Budget breakdown: Fixing the deficit

## AIDAN POLLARD

News Editor

Right before the beginning of the spring semester, Interim President Hefner sent out an email to the Fredonia faculty and staff. The email contained remarks on the successes of the fall and plans moving forward. It also included a detailed look at the 2020-2021 budget.

The email outlined a six-part explanation of the budget, including state funding and tuition, baseline revenue additions, baseline cuts, structural deficit reduction, “closing the gap” with one-time funds and a plan to rid the school of its structural deficit by 2024.

But in an interview with *The Leader*, Hefner consolidated the budget into a shorter, more digestible three-point plan.

Dr. Hefner’s four-year “correction pathway”:

### 1. Increase enrollment:

“It’s very understandable how the campus got in this situation,” said Hefner. “With the number of students that are

graduating from high schools in Western New York dropping dramatically, that has been the primary reason for shrinking our enrollment.”

Part of the plan to increase enrollment is the Pennsylvania-Ohio Initiative, in which students from those states will be offered more competitively-priced tuition at Fredonia.

### 2. Budget cuts:

There was a \$150,000 budget cut over this past summer. An additional \$900,000 baseline budget cut is planned for 2020, plus a cut of \$200,000 from scholarships to be repeated annually.

### 3. Increase lobbying:

“We’re going to be very aggressive in our lobbying with the legislature to make sure that we don’t go backwards,” said Hefner.

Exactly what that entails is vague, but the state is no longer funding collective bargaining. It caused the budget to take a hit of \$1.6 million.

Though, Hefner has a record as a strong bargainer who makes candies for state officials to help get his foot in the door.

## Full budget plan

State Funding/Tuition	+300,000
Baseline Revenue Additions	+905,000
Baseline Cuts	Saves \$1.25 million
Reducing Next Year’s Structural Deficit by \$2.4 million	Uses one-time funds to cut deficit to \$7 million
Closing the Gap	Covers \$4.35 million
Eliminate the Structural Deficit	Continuing plan to eliminate the deficit by 2024

# Fredonia's first Civic Engagement Night

**ALISA OPPENHEIMER**

Special to The Leader

SUNY Fredonia is putting in the extra effort this year to get students involved with off-campus issues, like climate change and public health.

Fredonia's first ever Civic Engagement Night took place last Thursday evening, Feb. 20, in the Williams Center, Multi-Purpose Room.

The tabling event attracted on-campus and off-campus groups such as Greenwave-Enactus, Partners in Health Engage, Sustainability Committee, League of Women Voters, Climate Education Initiative and many more.

The groups provided education on societal issues and insight on how students can take action in a variety of ways.

Dr. Julia Wilson, associate professor and chair of the mathematical science department, was the driving force in creating this event.

"I'm always looking for opportunities to engage and interact with students and the public at large to teach about these issues, so I was talking with some other people over the holidays and they were

to support science-based understanding of climate and climate education in the schools and, more recently, we've been looking more at the campus population: how can we raise awareness and understanding of climate among the student body?"

Civic Engagement Night welcomed students, as well as the public.

Each table had representatives from their groups and they each provided their own forms of education for the students and community, including informational videos, tips on how to register as an absentee voter, ways in which one can take individual action and more.



Sustainability committee/No impact week: Tracy Marafiote | Derek Raymond

Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Women's Action Group (CC-WAG):  
Amy Snyder | Derek Raymond



interested also in engaging with students and the public about issues important to them, and we decided 'hey, let's put this together,'" said Wilson.

Similar to the various student groups who participated in the first-time event, Wilson became passionate about issues like climate change when she was younger.

"I became very concerned about climate a number of years ago, and I've gone through a personal journey in terms of my level of awareness and what I wanted to do about it," said Wilson.

As a direct result of this, Wilson found a way to take action.

"Over the last three years, I've been working through what's called the 'Climate Education Initiative,'" said Wilson. "We're trying

A Fredonia student who attended the event Thursday night appreciated the fact that they provided a table teaching students how to register as an absentee.

"Being far from home, I never actually knew until recently that I can register as an absentee voter, so I thought it was great to learn about that at the event," said music industry major Megan Maull. "I feel like this is a good event for all students to attend because you really do leave with a ton of information," she said.

"Being an education major I know that someday I'll be teaching our future generations so I find it really important for me to come to events like this," said Alyssa Piniewski. "One thing I took away from the event definitely has to be that no action is too small, there are small steps of action we as individuals can take to help," said Piniewski.

That's what Wilson wanted students to get from Civic Engagement Night.

"I want students to leave inspired, feeling like they are now agents of change, that we can all be agents of change, that they're not intimidated by say, a learning curve," said Wilson. "For example when it comes to climate, a lot of people hear things, they realize there's a problem, they're worried about it but they have no idea how to get started.

"So I want people in general to leave the event feeling like they can understand the issues, understand what's to be done, and actually take action themselves."

As for the future of Civic Engagement Night, Wilson's hope is that it continues annually, as well as grows in terms of student groups involved.



# Sanders takes lead as Democratic frontrunner

**SAMUEL LEWANDOWSKI**

Special to The Leader

Democratic Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders just won the Nevada caucuses making him the front-runner in terms of delegates.

Sanders has now won the last two contests of the 2020 election and while he tied at 26.2 percent with Mayor Pete Buttigieg in Iowa, Politico reports that Sanders received slightly more votes.

According to the New York Times, the self-titled “Democratic-Socialist” now holds 31 of the 74 allocated delegates.

The source also reports that the majority of Nevada’s delegates will be awarded after February, meaning his count will likely increase.

South Carolina will be the next state to vote, and recent polls show former Vice President Joe Biden’s lead is shrinking while Senator Sanders is gaining.

As recently as last month, a Fox News poll had given Biden a 21 point lead over Sanders.

A CBS poll conducted last week shows that lead has since dropped to five points.

Previous polling conducted by Fox News also found that he led the entire democratic field among black voters by 24 percentage points.

Recent polling conducted by NBC/WSJ now finds Biden leading Sanders by 4 points, 69 percent to 65 percent among black voters.

In third place is Senator Elizabeth Warren, who sits nearly 20 points behind the two.

According to the Hill, “Black voters are considered a key voting bloc with the Democratic Party, particularly in states like South Carolina where they make up a significant proportion of the electorate.”

In his Feb. 21 show, MSNBC’s Chuck Todd said that Bernie Sanders could win the South Carolina primary where 54 pledged delegates are to be allocated based on results.

South Carolina will vote on Feb. 29, then March 3 is Super Tuesday.

According to the Washington Post, “Super Tuesday” is the day “the most states hold nominating contests, the most voters have a chance to go to the polls, and the most delegates will be allotted to candidates.”

Fourteen states and one U.S. territory will be voting on this day, and over a third (1,357 of the 3,979 or 38 percent of all available delegates) will be allocated to the candidates (hence the name “Super Tuesday”).

As such, the Post refers to Super Tuesday as a “pivotal moment for those hoping to gain the nomination in their bid for the White House.”

Among the states voting on March 3 is California, which consists of 415 available delegates (30 percent of all Super Tuesday delegates).

According to the New York Times, California is the largest delegate prize in the country, and 538 is giving Senator Sanders a four in five (79 percent) chance of winning the primary.

The Super Tuesday state with the next greatest delegate load is Texas where 228 delegates will be awarded.

538 is giving Sanders a three in five (61 percent) chance of winning that primary.

On top of California and Texas, 538 is also predicting Sanders will win 11 of the remaining 13 contests.

This includes Massachusetts; Elizabeth Warren’s home state.

According to the New Yorker, professional campaign observers believe Sanders could gain an “irreversible lead in the number of pledged delegates” by the end of Super Tuesday.

538’s latest odds give Sanders a one in two (46 percent) chance of becoming the Democratic nominee and that he will continue to win states that have large delegate counts.

According to the New York Times, Sanders has received “donations from an estimated \$1.4 million people through the end of 2019 — far more than any other candidate in the Democratic primary race.”

CNN reports that Sanders raised \$25 million in January, his “highest monthly total since entering the race.”

In the state of New York Sanders is leading in the polls with 538 giving the senator a one in two (52 percent) chance of winning the primary.

On the Fredonia campus, excitement can also be felt for the Sanders campaign.

“I support Bernie Sanders as the democratic nominee for several reasons,” said senior psychology major Katyanna Clement, “I like his policies, especially concerning healthcare, education and taxation.”

Clement said they admire how Sanders addresses social inequality and believes his campaign is not about himself, but about a movement for and by the people.

“I like that he’s consistent in his beliefs and that he actively fights for justice,” said Clement.

Former Fredonia students such as social work graduate Anneliese Bienko are also passionate about the Sanders campaign.

“I want Medicare for All, a green new deal and immigration reform and Sanders has been able to gather a strong grassroots coalition,” said Kienko. “That’s not only what we need to beat trump but what we need to pass these policies.”

Like Clement, Kienko admires Sanders for his consistency, dedication to his cause, and belief that his campaign is about the people.

“Sanders’ campaign is about giving the power back to people instead of billionaires, lobbyist and corporations,” said Kienko. “I trust him to listen to the people and stand up for us.”

**Housing Renovations continued...**

According to Howard, up-to-date computer lounges can also be expected in the near future.

Howard said that these spaces are necessary to the quality of life for students and that implementing them now would be much easier than trying to incorporate them later.

All facilities will eventually be renovated — with the exception of University Commons and the Townhouses.

This is due to the fact that these facilities are newer and have already been recently renovated.

Howard said this project is necessary, as the school must be responsive to students' needs.

As such, he said that students can look forward to having a contemporary residential experience where facilities will be modernized in a manner that meets their expectations.

The estimated costs of the project are still being measured. According to Howard, housing generates enough money to cover all of the costs associated with this type of project.

As of right now, the plan consists of four phases.

Phase one will involve McGinnies Hall and is set to take place in the summer of 2022. The first phase will consist of a conversion and refresh.

That means all furnishings and finishes will be upgraded alongside communal spaces. Consequently, McGinnies will be taken off-line (or, inaccessible) for the summer of 2022.

Phase two involves Igoe Hall and is considered a level two renovation. This, meaning kitchens and laundry rooms, will be added to every level. The renovation will span from 2022-2023, meaning the building will be off-line for that corresponding

school year.

Phase three involves Schulz Hall and is considered a level one renovation, meaning the building will receive updated finishes, lighting and replaced plumbing fixtures. Said renovation will take place in the summer of 2023 and will be off-line (inaccessible) as such.

Phase four will involve Grissom Hall and is also considered a level one renovation. This renovation will take place in the summer of 2024 and will be inaccessible for that time.

The four-phase plan was formulated in an effort to overcome the challenge of timing, which Howard views as the project's greatest obstacle.

"We're bringing more students to campus and our students are returning back to campus as we're closing buildings. How do you balance taking a facility off to renovate it, and updating that facility with the need of space?" said Howard. "To do this in spans of three to five years, we can understand some of the pitfalls we didn't initially think about ... and then we can move forward with some of the more significant and substantial changes with some of the other facilities."

Howard said that he believes these renovations will be impactful in that they will make people want to live in residence halls.

"Research tells you, both nationally and on our campus, that students who reside in campus housing have a higher GPA, complete their studies quicker, and their satisfaction as it relates to their college experience is higher," he said. "For me, taking and using the residence hall is a catalyst for enhancing the overall spirits of those students that are here at Fredonia and those future students that will be coming."

**POLICE BLOTTERS**

**Like University Police on Facebook for updates and info at "New York State University Police at Fredonia."**

*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.*

**UNIVERSITY**

**Friday, February 21, 2020**

**9:58 p.m.** - Jainia Berardi and Nicolas Naratip Harding were charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. Arrests were completed.

A vehicle was damaged in Lot 9B. An investigation is ongoing.

**VILLAGE**

**Sunday February 16, 2020**

**12:26 a.m.** - Adam R. Mills was charged with an open container. An appearance ticket was issued.

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

**6:42 p.m.** - Minerva Santos-Rivera and Shakia Latrice Porter were charged with petit larceny. Appearance tickets were issued.

**Friday, February 21, 2020**

**7:51 p.m.** - Gary Alan Lang was charged with unlicensed aggravated

operation of a vehicle.

**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

**11:13 a.m.** - Dana M. Mulatillo was charged as a result of multiple warrants. An appearance ticket was issued.

**11:42 p.m.** - **Moussa Samassa was charged with violating the noise ordinance. An appearance ticket was issued**

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

**12:50 a.m.** - Gabriel Manuel Soto was charged with petit larceny. The suspect was held.

**1:08 a.m.** - Moussa Samassa was charged with violating the noise ordinance. An appearance ticket was issued.

**12:45 p.m.** - Jordan J. Warrick was charged as a result of a warrant. An appearance ticket was issued.

**4:29 p.m.** - Cheyenne S. Bruyere was charged with unlawful possession of Marijuana. An appearance ticket was issued.

# Life & Arts

## The Trident calls for submissions

**ELIZABETH SUSKI**

Special to The Leader

Have you ever wanted your work published in a literary magazine? Or perhaps you have some old artwork sitting around that you always loved, but didn't know what to do with it?

If so, Fredonia's literary magazine, *The Trident*, is the place for you.

*The Trident* is edited by participants of the English department's Literary Publishing class and is also published with support from the department.

The class is a team of student editors who strive to show the best poetry, art, fiction and nonfiction from writers on and off campus.

The actual founding date of *The Trident* is unknown, but speculation is that it was first created around 2004 with the help of two former English professors: Dustin Parsons and Aimee Nezhukumatathil.

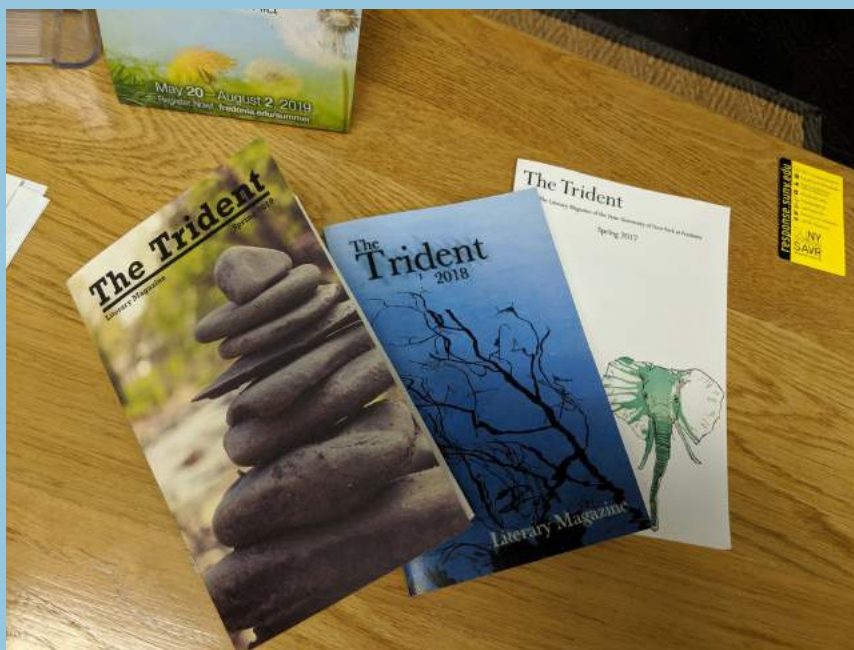
Literary magazines give unpublished authors the chance to submit their work to smaller scales before moving up to the bigger ones.

Some popular literary magazines include *Gandy Dancer*, *American Short Fiction*, *Ninth Letter*, *A Public Space* and *The Kenyon Review*.

The staff have high hopes for this year's issue and plan to accomplish a lot while learning marketing, editing, design and event coordination.

"We support and empower the current staff to create an issue that reflects them: their editorial vision and their design aesthetics," said the professor of the literary publishing course, Michael Sheehan.

"I also hope to continue the work of connecting *The Trident* to the creative writing, campus and local communities. I think it is important as a venue for student writing. One that is made for students, by students. Any literary magazine stems from the belief that good writing and art are valuable, but I hope we can go beyond the audience that already agrees with that



Copies of past Tridents | *The Trident*'s website

— finding new ways for well-written short stories, poems, essays and visual art to shape and inform conversations and culture at Fredonia and even beyond," said Sheehan.

In addition to being the class's professor, Sheehan is an assistant professor of the English department.

"I plan on making a memorable issue; we are thinking of creating an entire section of haikus, which is something that we've never done before," said Heather Stein, a student contributor.

Stein is a sophomore communication: video production and audio/radio major with minors

in creative writing and film studies. She is a member of the staff's design and calls for submission teams.

This year, the staff is trying to make the magazine stand out by accepting submissions from all schools in the SUNY system as well as creating brand new social media accounts to help advertise.

By using the accounts, the publication has been able to reach a broader audience than ever before.

With this new rise of interest in literary magazines, it seems that everyone wants to jump on the bandwagon.

"This year, *The Trident* has the largest staff in its history (there are 24 students on the masthead)," said Sheehan.

Besides the new social media accounts and the website, this year's issue of *The Trident* will also feature some new sections.

"The editors are seeking creative works that are hard to categorize or defy expectations. They're planning to showcase Fredonia's emerging creative writers in a new section dedicated to freshmen and sophomores," he said.

While the staff keeps working on their new vision for *The Trident*, don't forget to submit your work.

*The Trident* is accepting submissions until March 11. The staff can be reached via email, ([trident.fredonia@gmail.com](mailto:trident.fredonia@gmail.com)), Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and on their website, [www.tridentfredonia.weebly.com](http://www.tridentfredonia.weebly.com).



# Black Student Union welcomes Dark Yogi for 'Healing and Revealing'

**ALYSSA BUMP**

Special to The Leader

“Hello, I am Dark Yogi, but you can call me Dragonfly.”

This article will discuss some potentially triggering subject matters, therefore you may choose to not read further.

On Feb. 20, Dragonfly “Dark Yogi” Hooks came all the way to Fredonia from Dallas, T.X. to host a three hour workshop. Having worked with the Black Student Union (BSU), specifically the Events Coordinator Nelson Clark, Dark Yogi created a safe space where heavy topics could be openly discussed.

Dark Yogi specializes in helping others heal from childhood and sexual trauma through the use of yoga, meditation and mindfulness. She is a certified yoga instructor and has been for four and a half years now.

However, this event was focused on revealing and confronting trauma. Dark Yogi said, “This type of event allows me the opportunity to face myself through the eyes of others. The benefits are healing for myself while simultaneously assisting others with healing themselves.”

As soon as the event started, it was established that attendees were in a safe space meant for healing.

Dark Yogi was raw and unfiltered when she fearlessly discussed her own traumas and how she has struggled. Many people told their own personal stories as well. Although this event made many uncomfortable and even emotional, it made it known that nobody is alone.

Dark Yogi said, “It’s important to know that you are not alone in this dance with trauma. To me, group settings can be therapeutic

because it helps alleviate the stress of feeling alienated as you're processing through the motions of said event.”

Many survivors of trauma do not get the chance to learn healthy coping skills. This is why it is so important that Fredonia hosts events like this one that brings people together.

BSU gave Dark Yogi the ability to come to campus and therefore help many people that needed it. During the event, one person said, “Everything you have said tonight I just really needed to hear.”

Clark realized that an event like this was necessary for many Fredonia students. Many victims of trauma fail to understand what to do with said trauma and how to stop it from altering their life negatively.

One message Dark Yogi hopes to spread through her work is that, “trauma does not make you defective or any less worthy of inner peace.”

Some coping skills that were discussed including keeping a journal, seeing a certified therapist, mindful breathing and doing yoga. Doing simple tasks such as saying affirmations daily and learning how to breathe through the diaphragm can make a tremendous difference.

But most importantly, Dark Yogi stressed that we must keep our heads up. Having the courage to heal may be hard, but learning healthy coping skills and knowing that you're not alone makes it a little easier.

24/7 Crisis Hotline: 1-800-724-0461

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Call the Counseling Center located in LoGrasso Hall between 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at: 716-673-3424



Participants pose with Dark Yogi | Alyssa Bump



# Award-winning words: Fredonia's slam poetry team is headed to competition

## ISABELLA DISTEFANO

Asst. Social Media Manager

Poetic Perspective, the slam poetry team on campus, is competing again in the Intercollegiate Poetry Slam.

Last year, the slam competition was held at the University of Buffalo — however, this year it will be at Niagara County Community College where Fredonia will compete against four other colleges.

Fredonia will go up against Niagara County Community College, University of Buffalo and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Poetic Perspective, which has won for the past three years, is feeling good about their chances.

This year's competitors include the team's captain Sophia Moore, co-captain Sarah Hughston, Ashley Halm and Marcia Hunt.

The captains, who both previously competed for the first time last year, are excited to bring the trophy home once again.

Halm and Hunt, however, are thrilled to make their slam debut.

"We are going to win," said Moore.

This year, the team has focused mostly on the delivery of their performances.

Last year, the team performed three individual poems and one



(Left to right) Sophia Moore, Marcia Hunt, Ashley Halm, Sarah Hughston | Sarah Hughston / Social Media Manager

group piece. This year they are all doing individual pieces.

"I think our poems this year are even stronger, and we've really worked hard to keep up with the competition," said Hughston.

The slam consists of four rounds and each team has one poem per round.

Poems must be under three minutes in length, and the judges are picked randomly from the audience.

Each judge must rate each of the poems out of 10.

The highest and lowest score is eliminated, and the average is taken.

Some of the poems discuss important

topics such as sexual assault, feminism and intersectional identities - just to name just a few.

This Thursday at 7 p.m., there will be a send-off event in Williams Center room S204D.

This will be a chance for Fredonia students to hear the poems the team will be performing during the championship.

It will also be an opportunity to wish the team some good luck in keeping the trophy that Fredonia has kept these past few years.

## ATTENTION JUNIORS!

ALMA MATER SOCIETY  
FREDONIA'S HIGHEST NON-ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY  
IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

If you are a Junior (by credits), or first semester Senior (by academic acceleration) and you have made outstanding non-academic contributions to SUNY Fredonia, you are eligible for induction into the Society.

PLEASE PICK UP AN APPLICATION AT THE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICE G-107 WILLIAMS CENTER

For further information

Please contact Kathy Carrus (S. A. Office) at  
[Kathleen.carrus@fredonia.edu](mailto:Kathleen.carrus@fredonia.edu) or call (716)-673-3381

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM  
FEB. 24 TO MAR. 13, 2020 IN THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICE  
(LOCATED IN THE WILLIAMS CENTER)



## A BJ's Review: Cooler, Marquee Grand and Fortunato

**BRENTON NEWCOMB**

Staff Writer

On Feb. 19, BJ's hosted its regular bi-weekly music series with Last Call Entertainment, something that has become a staple of Fredonia's music scene and has garnered sort of a cult status due to its repeating acts and fans.

Joining together this week were three exciting bands including Cooler, Marquee Grand and Fortunato. The show began with Fortunato, a group out of Rochester with a specialty in spaced out and vibey post punk instrumental music. The group played longspanned instrumentals that were heavy and not like that of a normal jam band. Often they would have samples in their songs or spoken word audio introducing the songs.

The group described their sound to be sonically driven from contemporary post rock bands like Caspian, Explosions in The Sky or Russian Circles.

Other influences that don't reflect the group's sonic nature include everything from The Beatles and DeafHeaven to author Kurt Vonnegut. According to the group, Vonnegut has, "Piqued some of our interest in sci fi, but his themes of social equality and the paradoxically barbaric nature of modern society inform our worldview."

Interestingly, the band set-up like no other group I have seen with two members on the stage and the other two in front of the stage very near the audience. This they stated was more out of necessity for the amount of gear they had.

It was not only their first time playing in Fredonia but was also their first time sharing a lineup with the other groups.

They said of the fellow groups "We hadn't played with Marquee Grand or Cooler before, but we certainly hope to again in the future. They're good people who make good music and we couldn't believe how fortunate we were to share the stage with them."

Next to take the stage was Marquee Grand, the first local band to sell out the Rec Room in Buffalo during their album release show just this January.

The EP responsible for the record-breaking debut channels The 1975 as well as Blink-182. It features a healthy dose of catchy choruses.

The Alternative Rock group cites Gin Blossoms, Green



Marquee Grand | Jessica Meditz / Life & Arts Editor

Day and The Wallflowers as musical influences during their founding in 2015.

At BJ's, Marquee Grand's performance was a very crowd participatory event that called for a lot of singing along and dancing in the crowd.

Cooler, who has played at BJ's in the past, wrapped up the night and played a fantastic set decked with their own light show including a neon lit flamingo and parrot.

The three-piece gets a heavy sound that seems unimaginable for three instruments to take on but is somehow achieved.

Last year when I reviewed a BJ's show that Cooler was playing, their single "Metal Moths" had received over 175,000 streams.

The group has well surpassed that now and has over 230,000 streams on the catchy tune. The group remarked of the tune during the show that it was about, "saying some shit you can't take back."

Cooler has recently come out with a new single titled "Gentlemen," which is a truly catchy song with ambient guitar chill vocals.

The group played an incredible set and was a perfect end to the night for all in attendance.



# OPINION

## From the desk of Sarah Hughston, Social Media Manager

The stigma around mental health medication is something I wasn't aware of until I started taking medication.

For me, anxiety medication changed everything. But it took a long time to get there.

After a therapy session one day, my therapist brought up medication. We didn't really talk too much about it, the idea was just brought up.

Nevertheless, I was so excited after - I practically floated out of the Counseling Center.

Here's the thing about medication: it makes an invisible illness feel real.

Obviously, I knew my anxiety was real. I had experienced it long enough to know that it wasn't just something I was making up.

But one of the hardest parts about mental illness is sometimes it takes a while to believe your symptoms.

To hear someone say, "I think you could use some assistance, let me help you find it" is so liberating.

I know I am one of the lucky ones. I have access to insurance, my medication is fairly common and I'm able to pay for it without too much difficulty.

It is not always like that. It should be, but it's not.

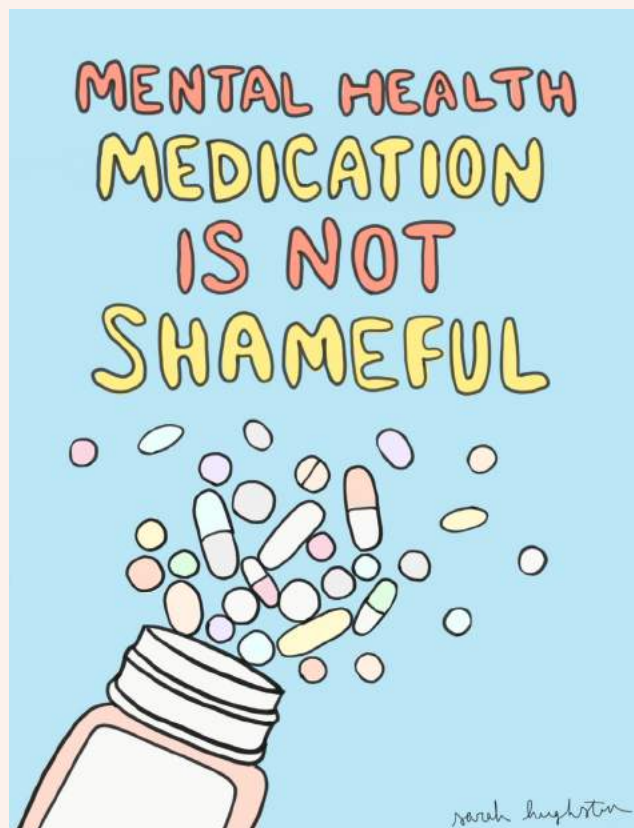
The first medication I tried did not work for me. It made me dizzy and I often forgot my surroundings. It was honestly probably one of the worst weeks of my life.

And then I found the right medication.

At first, I didn't notice a difference. Everything seemed back to normal, but not like my brain had dramatically changed.

Until I realized that this was what it felt like to have less anxiety. To go through a day without looking for it around every corner, to sit in peace without wondering what the worst possibilities are.

Medication helps my body calm down. It helps my brain tell me how to react to my fight or flight instinct. I am able to focus better and let go of things easier. I am able to slow down



my thoughts enough to process them before deciding to act.

Let me be clear: I am able to live a better life because I have access to mental health medication.

My medication doesn't magically make my anxiety go away. My anxiety will never fully go away, actually. But it does give my brain the chance to have moments, or sometimes even a full day, without anxiety. That, combined with therapy, gives me the opportunity to live a much calmer life.

One of the constant thoughts I had while in the process of finding medication was, "what will other people think?"

Clearly, I've gotten past that worry, however, it is a terrifying thought to wonder if the people in your life will judge you for something that helps you so much.

The easiest way to support someone with mental illness is to trust them when they say they have one. And then validate their desire

to get better.

You wouldn't question someone for taking medication for a chronic illness like diabetes or asthma, would you?

Mental illness is no different.

Suggesting a "natural solution" like yoga or to "chill your mind out" (I'm looking at you Jake Paul) is equally unhelpful, as sometimes my brain is chemically incapable of "chilling."

If someone you know has told you that they're either thinking of going on medication for mental illness or that they are already on medication, here is an appropriate response: "Thank you for trusting me enough to tell me that! I'm glad you've found/are trying to find a solution that works for you. If there is anything I can do to support you on this journey, please let me know. I'm so proud of you!"

Medication is not a sign of weakness.

Some people can manage their mental health without medication, some people can't.

I can't, and that's okay.

# VERBATIM

## Do your professors track your grades on OnCourse? Do you want them to?



**Gavin Card, sophomore musical theatre major**  
*"They do their best to update them, but I would like more reliability on when they update them but we in general know our grades."*



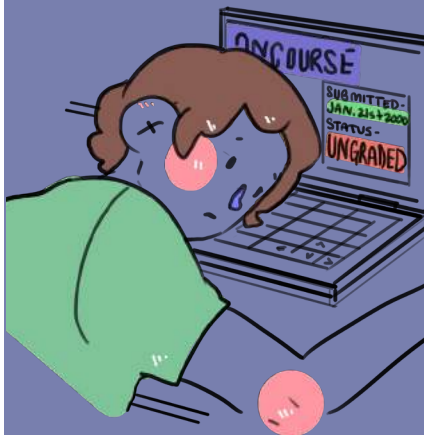
**Syd Strong, sophomore BA theater arts major, minor in women and gender studies**  
*"Some do, but it would be nice if they all did."*



**Janelle Hill, sophomore psychology major**  
*"Once in a while, but I want them to."*



**Adrian Fazekas, sophomore psychology major**  
*"Some of them, yes, but not all and I want them to."*





# SPORTS

## How was the new eSports Lounge paid for?

**DANTE LASTING**

Sports Editor

At the end of January, the university unveiled a new eSports lounge in Shultz Hall. This lounge is home to a lot of new hardware, including an Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch, two TV screens and 13 gaming computers.

But with all the talk about program cuts because of Fredonia's budget problem, how did this state of the art eSports lounge get paid for?

The eSports lounge is a big hit with gamers and a welcoming new home for the eSports club on campus. While the club will meet there, the fully furnished lounge is open to all students. The club will be hosting events throughout the entire semester. The university is also becoming one of the first to offer a two-credit course on eSports.

While the idea of an eSports lounge on campus has been tossed around for a while, the planning and development of the space only took about three months. This project could not have been completed at the pace that it did without the help of university facility services, electricians, carpenters and eSports club Advisor Mark Mackey. Mackey is the residential technology coordinator for the university and pushed for the lounge to get finished in a quick and timely manner.

So with all the financial struggles that the university has

faced recently, how did this new project get paid for?

According to Mackey, they got lucky with getting the funds for the lounge.

"In this year's budget, we had planned to add a printing station in all the residence halls but we ended up with some end-of-year funds last year so that paid for the printing stations," Mackey explained. "We then used the \$20,000 we had in this year's budget to pay for the [eSports] lounge."

It seems that they were able to keep all the costs around the given budget. For all the computers, consoles and TVs, Mackey said that it cost around \$17,000. On top of that, they still had to pay for the lounge to be renovated and they had to buy furniture to put in it. Not a cheap project at all, but the lounge looks very clean, inviting and a good place to hang out.

For more information about the eSports club, visit the eSports lounge located in Shultz Hall.

There is an eSports competition hosted by Campus Life and the eSports club in the Williams Center MPR. It is Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At this event, there will be a Mario Kart tournament where you can race against President Hefner and Dr. Howard. In addition, there will be a few other gaming consoles around the MPR to play a variety of games. There will also be a nacho bar to enjoy while you play.

For additional details, visit the Campus Life website.



The new eSports lounge, located in Shultz Hall | Dante Lasting / Sports Editor

# Fredonia sports update

**ANTHONY GETTINO**

Staff Writer

This past weekend brought the end to many of Fredonia's winter sports seasons.

The first of these was women's basketball. The Blue Devils faced off against Buffalo State in their season finale in Dods Gym Saturday afternoon. They finished off in a 96-56 defeat, with Katie Pitcher leading the team in scoring with 13 points, followed by Lauren Mickley with 12 points. The team was eliminated from the SUNYAC playoffs last weekend.

The men's basketball team played in the Battle by the Lake against Buffalo State following the women's game on Saturday afternoon in Dods, finishing off their season in a loss with a score of 92-87. Leading the way for the Blue Devils was Dyd Bryan with 29 points, followed by De'Quan Smith with 17 and Tyler Roberts with 16.

The men's ice hockey team played two games this past weekend, needing to win them both to qualify for the SUNYAC playoffs. The team got the job done Friday night against Cortland on the road, winning in a 3-2 effort with goals by Chandler Judd, Ethan Kirbis and Victor Tracy. The Blue Devils fell short in the season finale against Oswego State in a win or go home game for both teams. The lone goal in the 4-1 loss for the Blue Devils was scored by Chandler Judd.

The men's and women's track and field teams competed Friday night at the Nazareth College Conference Tune-Up Meet.

On the men's side, William Guagliardo had a great day, finishing second in the 400-meter dash in an All Atlantic Regional Track and Field Championship qualifying time of 51.03. He also had a ninth-place finish in the 200-meter dash in 23.26 seconds. Other scoring performances include Toby Onuoha in the 400-meter dash and the triple jump, Dan Sudyn in the triple jump, Jonah McGrath in the triple jump, Aidan Pollard and Noah Watkins in the 3000-meter run and Ivan Torres and Alec Wright in the 400-meter dash.

As for the women's team, Cassandra Serrafin placed third in the triple jump with a season-best 10.91-meter jump. Other

scorers for the team include Emily Fish in the 800-meter run and Sarah Buckley in the 400-meter dash.

Both teams will compete this weekend in the SUNYAC Championships at Brockport.

Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed in their SUNYAC Championships this past week, ranging between Wednesday and Saturday. Both teams placed seventh.

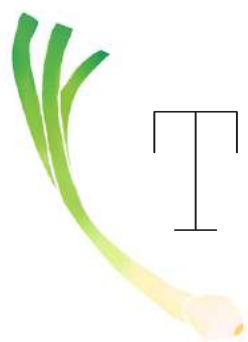
Scoring performances for the women include Alyson Baumann in the 50-yard freestyle for 12th place, Hailey Rossi in the 100-yard freestyle for 11th, Mckayla Polowy in the 200-yard freestyle for seventh, the 500-yard freestyle in fourth and third in the 1650 yard freestyle. Rachel Mayou in 12th place in the 500-yard freestyle and fifth in the 1650-yard freestyle. Erin Kalsman placed 11th in the 400-yard Individual Medley, Jessica Schimek placed seventh and Tess Smith placed 12th in the 1-meter dive. The team also placed seventh in the 200-yard, 400-yard, and 800-yard freestyle relays and eighth in the 200-yard and 400-yard medley relays.

Scoring for the men's team was Cameron Criss in seventh in the 50-yard freestyle and 11th in the 100-yard freestyle. Zach Dean in 14th in the 200-yard freestyle, seventh in the 500-yard freestyle and eighth in the 1650-yard freestyle, along with Kaden Cole in 16th in the 500 freestyle and 13th in the 1650 yard freestyle. Charles May placed fourth in the 100-yard backstroke and 5th in the 200-yard backstroke with Drew Page in 9th as well. Kyle Copper in eighth in the 100-yard butterfly and second in the 200-yard butterfly, Drew Page in eighth in the 200-yard Individual Medley and 5th in the 400-yard Individual Medley with Brad Zifra placing 14th in the 200-yard Individual Medley. The team placed third in the 200-yard freestyle, fourth in the 400-yard freestyle, fifth in the 200 yard medley and sixth in the 800-yard freestyle and 400-yard medley.

One team starting its season this week instead of ending is the women's lacrosse team. They will face the University of Mount Union on Saturday.

For all final scores, stats, team schedules and information visit <https://fredoniabluedevils.com>.





# THE SCALLION

Satire for modern Fredonia

## University Police accepting fines in the form of points

**DOM MAGISTRO**

Asst. Scallion Editor

Recent studies show that approximately 42.069 (nice) percent of students at Fredonia have committed some form of parking violation on campus while working on their “four” year degree. This is a 200 percent increase from 1985 when college students did not have to pay to have limited parking on the campus of the school they attend.

These crime sprees across campus have led to an increased presence of University Police, much to the chagrin of general rabble-rousers and parking violators alike.

This means that, for the average student at Fredonia, the “real” cost of attendance (that is, the estimation given including dorm necessities, textbooks, parking passes and fines in addition to the school’s quoted cost of attendance) has risen.

In the midst of this “legal debt crisis,” as Maikin Bucks, top economist at The Scallion, has called it, one University Police officer has found a way to help students in need.

Sergeant Stoll N. Valor has been given clearance to deduct portions of the outstanding fines of any student using a meal (or the equivalent thereof in such cases where points are used) to provide a meal to on-duty University Police officers.

According to the official Valor Plan, the amount deducted must be in no way equal to or greater than the points value of the meal purchased.

“I think it’s a great idea,” said Valor, of his own plan. “It helps the kids, it helps our officers. It creates a headache for me, keeping track of all the records, but hey, it’s not about me. It’s about the great idea that I had. No one else thought of this, and you can quote

me on that.”

Officer Valor brushed the crumbs of his most recent panini off of his desk to get back to work on balancing the records of all students already taking advantage of the ingenious plan.

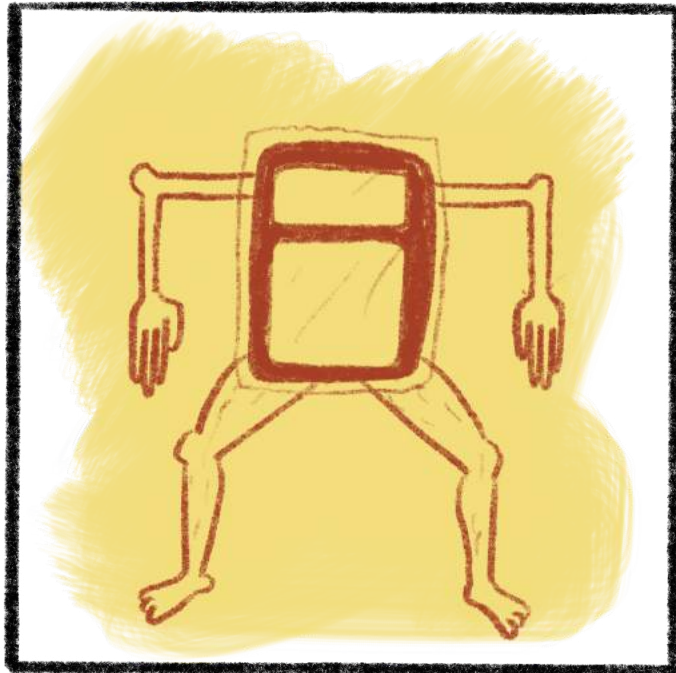
“I think it’s a pretty good idea, but I can’t go into Tim Horton’s without a swarm of sophomores begging to buy me a coffee and a dozen donuts anymore,” said Officer Miranda Rights. “I wouldn’t mind so much, but I’m trying to cut caffeine and I don’t really like donuts. The only reason I go to Tim Horton’s is to read what new items I can’t get here on campus.”

Valor urges The Scallion to remind anyone with outstanding fines that the plan only applies to on-duty officers and only reduces fines owed due to University Police tickets. This program can not be used to decrease tuition, housing fees or meal plan costs.



Graphic | Olivia Connor / Art Director

# COMICS



@GRIFFIN McPHERSON ART

TILFTI: discovery

simon duncan



idea cred @setheverman



# Invisible student questions attendance policy

**HANNAH BLIDY**

Guest Scallywag

If you're a student at Fredonia, you know that every teacher has its own attendance policy. Every semester, professors outline requirements of the course and of those requirements.

Attendance is one of the most crucial. The usual policy that professors have is that a student can have up to three unexcused absences.

But how will the professor take attendance of an invisible student?

Alex Covert, a freshman English major, has chronic illness invisibiltis and the side effects of this illness are severe. While the illness doesn't cause pain or other physical symptoms, it causes Alex to be constantly invisible.

They said, "It's just so hard managing this disease. In high school, all my teachers were very accepting and patient with me. Now that I'm in college, though, my professors have been giving me a really tough time. I've never missed a class, but all of my professors emailed me this week saying that if I don't show up, I'll flunk out! It's so unfair. I really just don't know what to do."

Covert tried registering their chronic illness with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, but when they showed up for their appointment, the secretary screamed and thought she had heard a ghost.

When asked about this incident, Covert said, "Yeah, that happens all the time. It's honestly really offensive. People have no idea what I'm dealing with and then to be

called a ghost? It's disrespectful."

They also said that if this keeps being an issue, they're going to sue SUNY Fredonia for negligence. So come on Fredonia, let's all work to make life a little more bearable for our dear friend Alex, the invisible student.



Graphic | Jesseca Bennett / Asst. Art Director

# What's that, Fredonia?

## "How do YOU feel about Cranston breakfast?"

**ALEXANDRA WALSH**

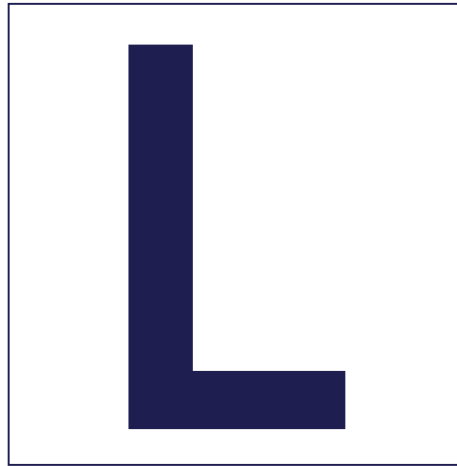
Guest Scallywag

**Danny Diets,**  
Freshman communication major  
*"Disgusting."*

**Taylor A.,**  
Senior almost dropped out of school because of the Cranston breakfast major  
*"Gives me instant gas."*

**Ally B.,**  
Sophomore B.F.A. major  
*"When I eat it, my stomach literally performs fireworks, and I have to run to the upstairs UC bathroom."*





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