

THE

LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

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Volume CXXIX

A photograph of a person with long, wavy hair playing a black electric guitar. They are wearing a dark t-shirt and fishnet stockings. The setting is a music venue with graffiti on the walls, a drum set in the background, and various guitar pedals on the floor in the foreground. The person is looking down at their guitar.

Local Music Venue Set to Retire

Kershner Update

Google Workspace Storage

BSU Fashion Show

Crowned Rubies

Fredonia Baseball Team

**The Right To Vote:
A Civic Duty**

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BP & the Oil Spills (front cover) and Early Worm (back cover) performing at the North Pole Strip Club music venue. Photographs by Karalyn Hope.



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How many burgers can you spot on page 27?

Students question whether will teach classes next fall



ALYSSA BUMP
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News Editor

Earlier in the semester, there was controversy over statements made and posted online by Dr. Stephen Kershner, a distinguished teaching professor in philosophy at SUNY Fredonia.

After his statements caught a lot of attention online and a student-created petition to fire him received almost 60,000 signatures as of March 25, Kershner was removed from campus and was not allowed to have any contact with students.

Since the removal of Kershner from campus, SUNY Fredonia has stayed relatively silent about the matter. No updates have been released since the University Senate issued their response on Feb. 9. President Kolison has not released a statement regarding the situation since Feb. 3.

These factors have left students wondering whether Kershner would return to teach classes again in the fall.

On March 21, SUNY Fredonia students were notified that the academic advising process for the fall 2022 semester would begin March 28. With this, the Fall 2022 course offerings were released by SUNY Fredonia.

Several students had noticed Kershner was set to teach three courses in the fall, according to YourConnection's "Class Schedule Search" for Fall 2022. The three courses included PHIL-115: Introduction to Philosophy, PHIL-303: Crime and Punishment and PHIL-351: Metaphysics.

But as of March 25, Kershner's name has been removed from the courses that once listed him as the instructor.

The classes are still listed with the same course reference numbers (CRNs), but they now include a blank space for where the instructor's name belongs.

Rather than this remedying the situation, the removal of Kershner's name has only led to more confusion. The Leader asked its Instagram (@leaderfredonia) followers for their thoughts on Kershner potentially teaching next semester through an open-ended question. More than ten users responded.



Dr. Stephen Kershner.
Photograph by Roger Coda, SUNY Fredonia.

"Worried that [h]is name being removed was to help people sign up for the classes," said one user.

"I do not morally align with him or his shock value behavior. He is a disgrace to the university," said another user.

"Given his opinions, I think he's too dangerous to be teaching young people. Get him out," another user said.

When @leaderfredonia's Instagram followers were asked, "Would you enroll in a class taught by Dr. Stephen Kershner?" through a poll, 97% (101 users) voted no, while 3% (3 users) voted yes.

SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison spoke to The Leader on the topic. While Kolison expressed that he cannot speak directly on the matter due to the uncertainty and difficulty of the situation, he did provide a few comments on the situation.

"I remain very focused on making sure that learning on this campus can continue in a way that's not disruptive, and that students on this campus, faculty, staff, everyone and visitors find it is a safe and pleasant place to be," Kolison said.

Kolison also stressed how difficult it has been to be unable to disclose more information to the campus community. "I hope I'll be able to talk about this soon ... I'm keenly aware that students, our alumni, our donors and everybody who cares about this institution are interested." He continued, "And that's where it makes it very hard for me to not be able to say anything. It's a tough place to be, but I fully understand it is in the best interest of everyone."

Kolison said, "I enjoy communicating with students ... but this is something that you haven't seen anything from me. And that will just tell you how hard it is for me not to be able to really talk about."

"I just want students to know that they're always on my mind," Kolison said. "I remain very appreciative of the patience that students have shown over the last couple of years."

35265	PHIL	303	01	3.0	Crime and Punishment	20	0	20
Time:	9:30 am - 10:50 am	Day:	TR	Place:	Thompson Hall E309	Dates: Aug 22, 2022 - Dec 16, 2022		
35266	PHIL	351	01	3.0	Metaphysics	20	0	20
Time:	11:00 am - 12:20 pm	Day:	TR	Place:	Thompson Hall E309	Dates: Aug 22, 2022 - Dec 16, 2022		

Screenshot of philosophy Fall 2022 semester class registration in YourConnection.

What you need to know:

Fredonia Google Workspace storage reduction and account deletion

JULES HOEPTING
Managing Editor

Google recently announced a reduction in the storage limits of Google Workspace for Education accounts from unlimited storage to 20GB. This will be effective July 1, 2022.

In response, ITS has repeatedly emailed current students, faculty, staff, associates, alumni and emeritus (retired professors) about checking the file storage in their Google Drive, Gmail and Google Photos — also known as Google Workspace. If the 20GB quota has been exceeded, account owners are required to migrate files to other locations. Fredonia Google Workspace accounts of visitors and Student Association organizations will be limited to 5GB of data and must also migrate files if the 5GB quota is exceeded.

“There aren’t any specific plans for compensating for the loss in storage with Google, because there’s already something in place. OneDrive with Microsoft is the means that everyone can use for what they need in regard to storage. Everyone — current students and faculty — has a terabyte of storage within it,” explained Prince Aziz Hunt, an ITS Student Technician, via email. “One can log in to OneDrive using their Fredonia email credentials and just transfer everything over as needed after downloading all of it,” Hunt further explained.

Within the repeated ITS emails to owners of Fredonia Workspace accounts, a link explaining suggested alternative sources of storage, including OneDrive, was provided. According to the “Fredonia Google Workspace Storage FAQs” website page available on Fredonia Answers, last updated March 27, it is recommended current students, faculty and staff use the suggested alternative means of storage because they are unable to purchase additional storage for their Fredonia Google Email accounts. “The university is limited to the enterprise license that Google offers and cannot add storage to individual accounts,” the webpage explains.



Illustration by Lydia Turcios.

ITS is currently offering weekly Google Storage Training sessions via Zoom to guide members of the campus community on how to transfer files and any other questions they may have. Registration takes place through the ITS Training Calendar; the link to the calendar is provided in the recurring ITS emails.

To further save on storage, alumni Fredonia Workspace accounts will be deleted. According to an email correspondence from Benjamin Hartung, Interim Chief Information Officer of the ITS Executive Board, students graduating in the spring of 2022 and all future graduates will lose access to their Fredonia Google Workspace account 365 days after graduation. The quota limit of 20GB still applies to these alumni as of July 1. Alumni who graduated before spring 2022 will lose access to their Fredonia Google Workspace account on July 1, 2022. Emeritus will not lose their accounts and will just be subject to the quota.

Although the Google Workspace storage limit was implemented by Google and not the university, it was the university’s decision to abide by a plan that limits storage to 20GB. This decision was made by the SUNY Fredonia Information Technology Advisory Board (ITAB), the Chief Information Officer, and the President’s Cabinet.

According to the Workspace Storage FAQ page, over the past few years the university has had to make “difficult decisions to ensure the university is able to continue to provide a safe, secure and user-friendly computing environment for the entire campus community.” This is due to “unprecedented changes across higher education that range from extreme financial challenges due to low enrollment, increased regulatory mandates and an increase in the number of security threats (e.g. phishing attacks).” The page further explains that changes in Google licensing, Duo Multi-factor Authentication licensing and the IT support staff needed for these “mission-critical services” result in savings “well over an estimated half a million dollars annually.”

Reactions to Fredonia Google Workspace storage reduction



Gmail



Chat



Meet



Contacts



Drive



Calendar



Play



YouTube



Maps



Account

JULES HOEPTING

Managing Editor

The Leader asked Fredonia alumni and current student followers through an Instagram poll (@leaderfredonia) if their Fredonia Google Workspace accounts were over 20GB. The results: 46% (22 users) voted for “very much over 20GB,” 19% (9 users) voted for “close to 20GB” and 35% (17 users) voted for “well under 20GB.”

An open-ended question on alumni and current students’ thoughts on the soon-to-be implemented storage quota was posted on the Instagram story as well. Nine users expressed frustration at the thought of organizing and moving files, including two self-identified alumni. One user commented on the seemingly simple solution of moving files to a hard drive.

This announcement has varying levels of impact on different departments. Liz Lee, a VANM photography professor

of Fredonia for 22 years, heavily relies on Google Drive to teach her classes. High quality photo files are too large to upload to OnCourse directly, but the option to link to Google Drive in OnCourse submissions allows students to still upload huge files. Another advantage of Google Drive is that professors and students can share folders with each other, which allows students to critique their peer’s work even in a remote course, according to Lee.

Although it is possible for Lee to transfer files from Google Drive to OneDrive, it will take quite a long time. Lee filled a work-issued laptop she got in 2017 with a 256GB storage twice. Thus, her Fredonia Google Drive contains around half a terabyte of files — again, OneDrive offers one terabyte of data. One of Lee’s student’s is already over a terabyte of storage in Google Drive and is “panicking.”

In addition to the alternative cloud storage options suggested by ITS, stu-

dents and professors can also purchase personal harddrives, as was pointed out by a user on Instagram. But hard drives are not as efficient from an online class perspective.

“I can’t use my hard drive remote.... You can’t send me your TIFF files from Intro to Digital Photography to my hard drive. You have to either email it to me or put it on a cloud storage space of some sort. And I feel like since that is part of the institution and part of education, [storage] should be provided by the institution,” Lee expressed during a Zoom interview.

OneDrive may be a supplement to Google Drive for sharing capacities, but it is not already embedded into OnCourse. This has an uncertain impact on Lee’s classes because OnCourse, SUNY Fredonia’s current learning management system, is set to be replaced by D2L Brightspace starting Summer 2023, according to “Transition to the New DLE is Underway” on d2l.suny.edu/. (See “Transition from OnCourse to D2L Brightspace” sidebar.)

Alex Erwin, a junior double majoring in audio/radio production and video production, currently has 140GB in his Fredonia Google Drive. “I have 20GB just for my audio capstone class, Sound Design, and easily 100GB just for [the club] Fredonia Radio Systems files. We use Drive to share files between departments and critique work both at the [radio] station and in class. It’s honestly integral to my majors to have a file sharing service like this,” Erwin explained via email.

Erwin is “both upset and angry” with the soon-to-be quota on Google Workspace storage. “I acknowledge OneDrive is an option, but it’s not as versatile as Google Drive. And for some stuff, like the [Fredonia Radio Systems Archiving Project], one terabyte still isn’t enough. We need unlimited [storage] to deal with the amount of content we create.”

Continued on next page.

Transition from OnCourse to D2L Brightspace

OnCourse, SUNY Fredonia’s current Learning Management System (LMS) operated by Moodle, is set to transition to Desire2Learn’s (D2L) Brightspace.

According to Lisa Melonhusky, SUNY Fredonia Online Learning Coordinator, the decision to transition was made by SUNY rather than SUNY Fredonia. SUNY decided all 64 of its campuses should be on the same LMS in order to centralize its online learning environment. After research on different LMS and a request for proposal, the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the Office of the New York State Comptroller has approved the contract between SUNY and D2L.

According to “Transition to the New DLE is Underway” on d2l.suny.edu/, there will be a “multi-month process that involves academic and technical planning, training, testing and piloting before all of its courses/activities are live in the production environment.”

The webpage further explains the estimated time for completion is a range between 11 and 13 months. SUNY Fredonia is set to begin the transition in September 2022 with the D2L Brightspace going live around August 2023. Thus, summer semester 2023 is when students are expected to start using Brightspace.

Continued from previous page.

Erwin further expressed he wanted the university to “offer unlimited accounts that groups of students can access, such as one for theatre production and one for the radio station ... to allow us to continue honing our craft efficiently.”

During the “How Technology Changes Education” from the Brown Bag Lecture Series on March 2, presenter Lisa Melohusky, SUNY Fredonia Online Learning Coordinator, explained how technology changes are either forced or welcomed, and that throughout the university’s history, there has been a combination of both reactions.

For example, Fredonia switched from Collaborate, a video communication software used by professors during the beginning of the pandemic, to Zoom. Many professors wanted to use Zoom as the program was less “clunky,” as Melohusky described it, and therefore this change in technology was welcomed.

The introduction of Google Workspace and FredMail to replace Microsoft Outlook was a forced change that faculty were resistant to — they had to relearn an email system so the university could save money.

Melohusky explained that adding programs from the G-Suite like Google Docs changed the way content was delivered to students because of the sharing capacities available within Google programs. She explained that after faculty were given time and training to understand Google Workspace, the campus has become “hard-pressed to function day-to-day without it because we have found a way to help with it.”

When it comes to technological changes, Melohusky emphasized people need to be patient, persistent, practical and positive in general. Technological changes are inevitable and are implemented with the intention of bettering the campus.

Fredonia provides food pantries for students in need



Photograph by Jules Hoeping.

HEATHER OCCHINO

Special to The Leader

Are you struggling to afford food on a college budget? Are you starting to run low on meals and points in your meal plan?

If so, SUNY Fredonia has created two food pantries located on campus for all students to use.

One pantry is located on the information desk in the Williams Center, next to Tim Hortons. Supplies are provided by The Clarence Community Food Bank. The hours of operation of this pantry are Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Another option for students is to visit the other food pantry located in LoGrasso Hall. Displayed in the outer vestibule is a variety of toiletry food items, such as macaroni and cheese, canned soup, rice, canned vegetables and cereal. Next to the pantry is a retro-style refrigerator which stores fresh cheese, juice, yogurt, frozen foods and other perishable items. This pantry runs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Debbie Dibble, director of Student Health Center and coordinator of the food pantry organization, said that the ultimate purpose of the pantry is to “provide the ability for students to have a safe place to get food that they want.”

Dibble also noted that those running the pantry donate to the community food bank at the end of the school season toward the end of every year.

Elaborating more about the endeavors of the food pantry, Dibble commented that the pantry is very successful in fulfilling their goal since “thousands of items of food are distributed every academic year.”

When discussing the difference between the pantry in LoGrasso Hall and in the Williams Center, Dibble made it known that the pantry in LoGrasso Hall is restocked every Friday and there’s a purchase granted every year to purchase frozen food. She also noted that people use the pantry in LoGrasso Hall more at their own leisure compared to the one in the Williams Center.

One student, who chose to remain anonymous, was skimming for food provided at the pantry located in the Williams Center. They shared that this spring 2022 semester was the first school semester that she used the food pantry. When subsequently asked if she felt that the pantry provided a sufficient amount of food items, she agreed.

She also noted that she knows friends who use the food pantry and she hopes that the food pantry will be available for the future.

SUNY Fredonia's snow makes it difficult for students to navigate campus

CHLOE KOWALYK

News Editor

During the winter season, SUNY Fredonia's campus becomes a landscape of white snow and giant snowflakes sticking to the trees. However, along with the winter aesthetic comes various issues for students trying to walk around campus.

One student in particular, Max Sheedy, uses a wheelchair to navigate campus and make his way to his classes. Sheedy is a senior double majoring in video production and public relations with a minor in film studies. He cited that during his four total years at SUNY Fredonia, he has faced many issues getting his wheelchair through the snow and getting to class.

Oftentimes, sidewalks are not properly plowed in the winter months. Because of this, Sheedy and other students face significant difficulties attending classes, club meetings and other responsibilities on campus. These students also risk falling and getting injured, as well as getting stuck or having decreased mobility while in wheelchairs.

"There have been multiple times within the last four years where I wasn't able to go to class because the sidewalks weren't cleaned off enough," Sheedy said. He also explained that not only are the sidewalks on the way to classes often not cleared, but the sidewalks to get to the recreational parts of campus are typically covered in snow as well.

While Sheedy has noted that he feels he can "navigate campus pretty well with very few hiccups," the major issue he faces is the snow.

In hopes of solving his problem, Sheedy reached out to Jennifer Ruhland, the coordinator of SUNY Fredonia's Disability Support Services. Ruhland said that after hearing Sheedy's concerns, she reached out to Facility Services immediately.

In reference to the large amounts of snow on campus in early February, Ruhland said, "I was told that [Facility Services] would clean the sidewalks to the best of their ability." She continued, "I reiterated to the Grounds Crew and Facility Services that all students need

access to classes, even in the wintertime in Western New York. I think with proper communication, I can get on this type of situation quicker."

Sheedy said that the issues proposed to him were to either give the college his schedule every semester, or to chat with the vice president in the spring. Sheedy said that he did not attend the proposed meeting in the spring with the vice president because he was asking for help in the winter, and that holding a meeting after the snow has melted "doesn't help with the current issue."

Sheedy also said, "I shouldn't have to give the school my schedule, the sidewalks should be cleared off for everybody, not just myself."

He also explained that he is very active around campus.

Along with being a double major and having a minor, Sheedy is also the WCVF program director at Fredonia Radio Systems on campus. For his position on the eboard, he spends a lot of time in the radio station in McEwen Hall and around campus. "I'm all over the place," Sheedy said. "I don't just go to class and go to my dorm."

In an email, Ruhland included a statement about the matter posted a few years ago that she felt needed to be reiterated.

The statement is as follows:

"If any student, faculty or staff member sees something that prevents access for anyone with limited mobility — such as a blocked sidewalk or out-of-service elevator — please report it immediately to Facilities Services at (716) 673-3452, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or the Customer Service Center at (716) 673-3454 during evenings, weekends and holidays." Ruhland added, "If you see someone who needs immediate assistance, please call the University Police at (716) 673-3333," and that "Students who require accommodations for access and support should

speak with Jennifer Ruhland, Coordinator of the Office of Disability Support Services for Students (716) 673-3270, disability.services@fredonia.edu."

Ruhland stressed all of the offices and employees she mentioned will do their best to take care of any issues — as long as they are aware there is a problem. She said campus employees "share responsibility for creating a welcoming environment."

However, Sheedy feels that the college should "get plows going before classes and [focus] on spots that need it first... start where most students will be and then move on."

Despite the statement that was released a few years prior, Sheedy has faced these issues for the four years he attended SUNY Fredonia, and he believes that this issue was likely existing before he arrived.

"It's time for the school to do something," Sheedy said. "Even past my graduation, I'm not the only one who uses accessibility equipment. Everyone should be able to access the classes and facilities that we're paying for."

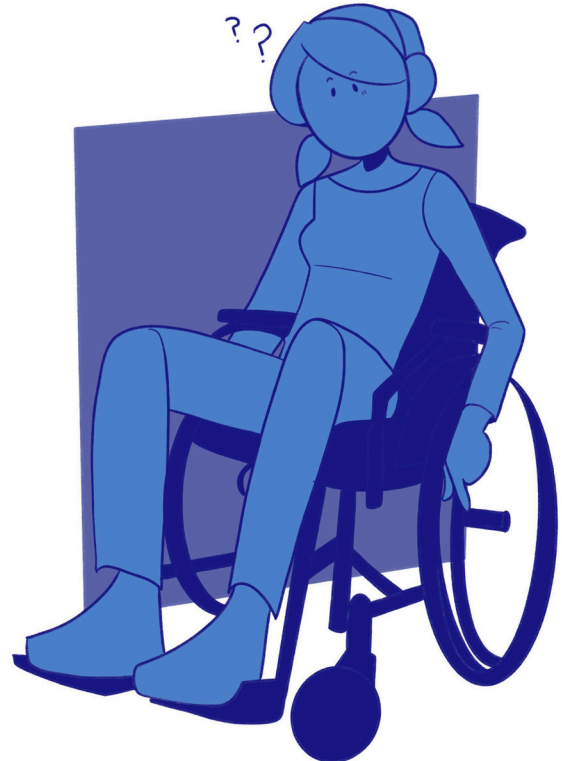


Illustration by Ash Maloney.

Life & Arts

Mason Hall from an outsider's perspective

ANDREA VÉLEZ-DAVIS

Special to The Leader

As I approach the red brick building where only some of the most talented people go, I stare at the oldest building of the Fredonia Normal School campus that marked the beginning of the music program in 1941. It is famously known as Mason Hall. I feel overwhelmed as my feet reach the first few steps of the white door entrance of the music majors' home.

A shiver goes down my spine, and I take a deep breath when walking up the first five steps in front of the door. "Thump, thump, thump. Be careful! Don't trip on the last step right in front of the white windowed door," I think to myself before my right-hand reaches for the cold handle on the front entrance to their world.

Entering through the doors, I'm greeted by what looks like a never-ending hallway, and piercing eyes that know I don't belong. The people here seem to

form an alliance to protect themselves from the unknown. Moving forward, everything in the hall seems kind of dated like the cream-colored and brownish tiled walls.

Door after door, I continue walking down the corridor. "One inhale, two exhale," I whisper to myself as I hear the women in the choir harmonizing as the humming and buzzing of the beverage dispenser in Café Mason constantly pulsates.

"Three exhale, four inhale, five-stop," I say to myself when I approach the doorway of Mason Hall's Student Lounge.

This square room, with high ceilings and tall windows, serves as a safe space for students every day. One girl sits alone at a table enjoying a sandwich while two girls sit next to each other across the room working on assignments. They chatter away speaking a language I barely know, an alien to their world. "Am I right? Doesn't this piece start on a G?" she harmonizes to herself as her strawberry blonde and curly-haired friend looks at her and says, "No, I think you're right. The original piece starts on a G."

The day goes on, and the seemingly quiet room, decorated with bulletin boards and recital flyers, five cushioned seats and four tables, becomes a lot more than exactly that. A rush of students hurries in. It's 2:50 p.m. — ten minutes after a class

has been adjourned. Loud voices and multiple conversations all happening at once engulf the room. Laughs and stories are shared. Yet, I sit in the far corner of the room merely observing everything going on. I am an outsider, watching them from the other side of the glass. Not one person looks in my direction, and I wonder what it's like for those who are a part of the inner circle.

Little by little, the room goes back to silence. An ear-piercing sensation after all the commotion experienced only moments prior. "Do any of you have plug-in headphones? My Bluetooth ones just died," says Reese, a young, dirty blonde-haired man I recognize from our college choir class from two years prior. His friends look around and shrug their shoulders in nonverbal response. I pause and think, "Should I lend him mine?" I reach into my blue backpack and pull out the black pouch that holds my Sony editing headphones. I

walk over to Reese who's sitting on the other side of the room. My heart is pounding. I offer my headphones to Reese. They all stare. "Oh, thank you," Reese looks at me with surprised eyes, as I attempt to make a crack in the glass that separates our two worlds. I turn around and walk back to the corner where I originally came from.

The sounds of trumpets and other musical instruments being played can be heard in the distance. The few students left in the room talk amongst themselves when a familiar face approaches me. A pale skin, dark-haired male, wearing gray sweatpants and a bright blue long sleeve shirt breaks the invisible barrier between our two worlds and asks, "What are you doing in Mason?" I respond with "I'm working on a story. An outsider's perspective of the exclusive bubble that is Mason Hall." They look at me with an intrigued look. "I'll let you in on a secret, I don't even spend time in here anymore because it's full of petty vocalists," he says.

Before I can respond, he leaves the lounge, disappearing into the never-ending corridor, and I sit in the far end corner of the room, allowing the gap in the imperceptible bubble to close again, wondering if any of them feel just as much an outsider as I do.



Photograph by Jules Hoepfing.

Black Student Union Fashion Show review



Photograph by Owen McGuire.

LYDIA TURCIOS

Art Director

Multicultural weekend at SUNY Fredonia is one of the hot button topics for the year. It's one of the few times ethnic students can embrace and share their culture with the greater body of students, and it acts as an attractive pull for incoming students here for tours of campus.

The Black Student Union (BSU) puts the work in to make the loudest and proudest event of the whole weekend.

The BSU Fashion Show is a labor of love weeks in the making. It's a production of passion, dedication and commitment. The event is about BIPOC brilliance, run by the ever impressive and hardworking e-board of Black women in the BSU. It acts as a cultural medium that brings the campus community together for one night of illuminating creativity.

This was the first year in memory that had vendors present prior and during the show, allowing for student and Black-owned businesses to share their work. The vendors this year included Creations With Clare, BESTOFLUXX and Heuristic.

The Fashion Show incorporated a wide range of fashion styles designed by the models themselves, vendors and members of the production team. They ranged from "Independent Women," multifunctional business casual for women in power, "Freak me," an ode to Atlanta Georgia styles, and "Carnival," a bombastic dedication to the Caribbean Carnival — just to name a few. Each one had a solid concept and presentation with kudos to the models for dressing themselves for each category.

One of the most impressive qualities in the show was the high production value of the lights, music and staging.

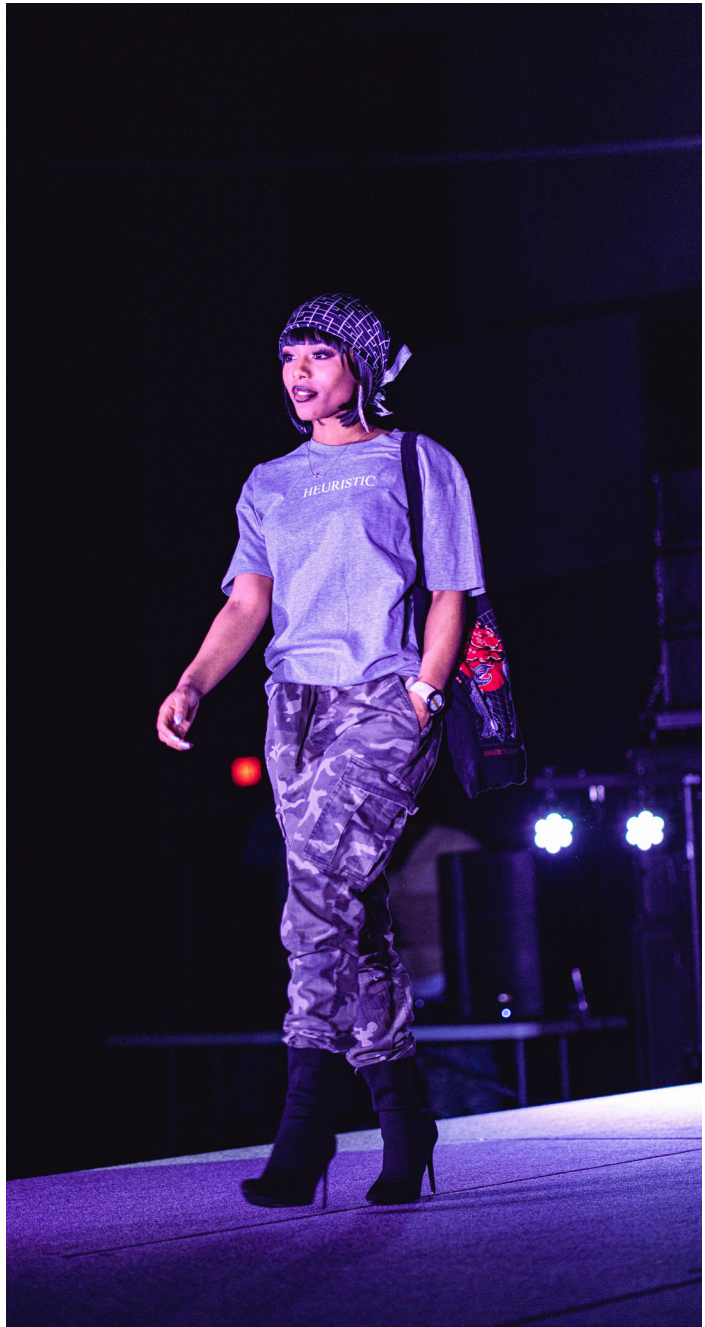
The dynamic lighting was by far the best mood setter for the performance, with more somber serious categories being backdropped to dim cool tones while the high energy categories with a lot of momentum used bright warm tones to elevate the movement of the scene.

The BSU Fashion Show has a reputation for professionalism and the models this year do not disappoint. Each one exuded an aura of confidence with their own personal flare in their walk. The wide range of personalities and body diversity made the models a memorable set where no one outshone each other, instead complimenting their fellow models.

If this performance is what the BSU had in store while still ramping back up from two years of functioning in a pandemic, then the future of the fashion show is brighter than the stage lights.

Owen McGuire: Runway looks of the Black Student Union





Crowned Rubies Program: Building a community for women of color on campus

ALYSSA BUMP
Editor in Chief

Many college students made the decision to pursue higher education to enhance their skills in a specific area and experience diversity on a larger scale. But when it comes to SUNY Fredonia, located in rural Chautauqua County, demographics show the university is a predominantly white institution.

According to fredonia.edu, only 9% of undergraduate students are Black. The majority of the student population, 74%, identifies as white.

It is important to note these statistics reflect fall 2018, as an update on student demographics is not readily available on SUNY Fredonia's website. Outside sources such as datausa.io show even lower percentages of Black students on campus, with numbers as low as 3%.

These statistics can seem intimidating to many people of color that are considering SUNY Fredonia for higher education. However, there are several on-campus communities that work to support students and foster a sense of belonging.

Crowned Rubies is a program meant to bring together female students of color at Fredonia.

The program was established in January 2014 "when it came to the attention of the former assistant vice president of Enrollment & Student Services, Monica White, that retention rates for female students of color had decreased significantly," according to Khristian King, the current program director of Crowned Rubies.

The program is meant to "improve the success of women of color at Fredonia" by creating an environment that "not only provides support for the women but educates them on how to support one another," according to King.

King took over responsibility of the program in fall 2017. Since then, she has worked to get existing students involved in the program rather than only focusing on incoming students.

King explained, "The program was originally designed to focus on recruiting first-year students into the program and supporting them throughout the year. When I took over the program, I noticed that there was a good number of upperclass students, who could use the support of the program but weren't involved because they didn't start with us their first-year." She continued, "I changed the recruitment process, so that now all students who identify as women of color in their application process are invited at the beginning of each academic year."

Every year, King has worked closely with program interns to pick a yearly theme that relates to the needs of the women involved and plan events surrounding that theme. Some events are also centered around the specific interests of students within the program. "For example, last year, we had a few women interested in a book club, and we started that for them," said King.

Each year, the program tends to hold certain events on a recurring basis, such as a Paint & Sip, Corn Maize and Galentine's Day, in collaboration with Sister Circle, another female-focused group on campus. The program receives grant funds through FSA, which means that these programs are held with no cost to students.

King pointed out that the Crowned Rubies intern "is a critical part to our success. The intern works closely with me to plan events. They are responsible for implementation of events, data tracking and budget management."

King has been able to witness several women flourish throughout the years by being a part of the program. "I remember one 'Ruby' from about two years

ago, who started the year essentially without any friends... By the spring, [she] had a real network of women and developed a few friendships," said King.

One of King's proudest moments was when an alum 'Ruby' reached out to her during their second year at SUNY Fredonia. The student wanted to see some changes in the program, and King suggested she come on the board



Markasia McCreary at Paint & Sip.
Photograph courtesy of Khristian King.

as an intern. "They agreed and they introduced wonderful programs, like the Corn Maize, that not only has become one of our most popular events, but our participation in the program tripled that year. We went from approximately 30 active students to just shy of 100 students," said King.

Markasia McCreary, a senior public accountancy and business management major, has been involved with Crowned Rubies since her sophomore year. "Crowned Rubies is one of the best safe spaces for women of color on campus," said McCreary.



McCreary's first trip with Crowned Rubies was the Corn Maize event. "Not only were many of the trips fun, but most of them were educational. We had talks about mental health, hair, book clubs, etcetera," said McCreary.

The program, in McCreary's words, "was definitely the highlight of my college experience."

**"I am an introvert and struggle with social anxiety, so being a part of this group pushed me out of my comfort zone. This program showed me how much I relate to many other women on campus as well as learning how to respect other points of views."
- Markasia McCreary**



McCreary advises incoming students to get involved with the program, as she said "most of my confidence started with Crowned Rubies. I did attend other club meetings, but Crowned Rubies were more intimate and directed towards women like me, which made it easier for me to make friends."

McCreary also praised King's role in the program: "Khristian King is one the best people to have by your side at Fredonia."

If you identify as a woman of color and are interested in joining Crowned Rubies, reach out to Khristian King via email at khristian.king@fredonia.edu.

The program is also looking for a new intern for the 2022–2023 academic year. "Students who identify as women of color are encouraged to apply. I am looking for an intern that is hardworking, creative and dedicated to helping us revive our community," said King.

The internship application can be found on the Intercultural Center website, and students can reach out to King via email with any additional questions.



Local live music venue, The North Pole Strip Club, set to stop shows after this spring

JORDAN BUDD

Staff Writer

The local Fredonia house venue, The North Pole Strip Club (NPSC) has been chugging along this semester with four shows under their belt already.

But on March 6, in between the venue's second and third show of the year, the entity took to its social media to announce that the North Pole Strip Club will not be continuing shows after this semester. For some this announcement was no surprise, as the unfortunate, but inevitable news was beginning to spread within the scene.

Once a fraternity house and now a DIY house venue, the building has taken quite a beating over the years. Holes are prevalent within the foundation, leading to chilly air leaking into the basement during the winter months. The house has been inhabited by many bands over its six or so year run time, including Kill the Clock, Northern State and Eerie Shores. The current residents, The Weather Might Say Otherwise, along with their manager, Dan Doyle, believe that now is the time for the space to go to rest.

Doyle had this to say about why they are choosing to discontinue shows at NPSC:

"It's been a very tough decision due to the impact it's had on not only me and my life but the live music scene here. Truthfully it's tough to try and put anyone in a position to continue a full slate of shows under the current conditions of the house, so passing it down has been a tough idea for me."

Doyle continued, "Although that shouldn't be taken as a negative, plenty of people have suggested they may do a house venue in the future, so in my opinion if the scene wants a DIY venue, [someone will] make it happen. I'm so excited to see what comes of this in the future and what exciting new places pop up. If anyone out there is struggling with the idea of putting on shows or doesn't quite know where to start, I'd love to help/give advice to anyone thinking of this!"

Doyle continued by explaining what the house has meant to him and the scene:

"[NPSC means] everything [to me], maybe a little too much sometimes. I feel like I've lived here forever, honestly. Since before I was even at Fredonia, I was looking in from the outside — one day hoping to put on shows here and mostly try to give back as much joy to people as these shows have brought me over the years."

- Dan Doyle

Doyle also spoke about the impact the pandemic had on NPSC. "Covid may have robbed the scene a year or two of shows, but seeing how strong everyone in the scene's passion for live/local music is truly inspiring. When out of town bands come to play, they always comment on how wholesome and supportive our community is, and I couldn't be more thankful for everyone involved."

Doyle, The Weather Might Say Otherwise and each of the other bands have done their part in holding down the iconic house venue and creating an

ambitiously fun safe space for countless music lovers, touring musicians and local acts alike. In my opinion, the house and its residents should be commended for their commitment to providing a platform for an array of artists and upholding an important aspect of the music community within Fredonia and the Buffalo area at large. They've made a conscious attempt to have the backs of both the bands who've been booked and the never ending list of people they have invited into their home.

The unparalleled family-like vibe and caring atmosphere have been key to the venue's success and influence over the years within Fredonia. Above all, the house has allowed people to enjoy music together, sing, dance and most importantly, be themselves. Throughout its course, many have come to a show and left in a better mood, knowing one way or another it'd be a must for them to return to NPSC.

Along with providing a supportive environment for concert-goers, the house has also forged valuable connections, lifelong friendships, beneficial experience and irreplaceable memories for musicians, photographers, writers, managers, podcasters and many other occupations alike.

As Doyle mentioned, it is the hope of many that the upcoming extinction of NPSC will not hurt the supply for live music in Fredonia, but only open up the market for more house venues in the following years to meet that insatiable demand.

R.I.P. to The North Pole Strip Club; its legacy and undeniable influence in the Fredonia scene will live on.



Pool Kids performing at the North Pole Strip Club on March 26, 2022. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

North Pole Strip Club March 12 & 26 show reviews: Featuring BP & the Oil Spills, Pool Kids, Carpool

JORDAN BUDD

Staff Writer

The Fredonia house venue, The North Pole Strip Club (NPSC), has successfully held shows on March 12 and 26 since the vital shutdown announcement.

During the first event, the old house filled up with a boat-load of midterm-liberated students for one last show before the crowd left for spring break. Intoxicated with freedom and maybe something else too, the lot geared up for another enjoyable classic at the North Pole Strip Club.

The lineup consisted of Buffalo punk-rock and noise participants, Cheap Peach, the best-type-of-dreary post-hardcore and shoegaze mergers, the Massachusetts act Moss Tongue, and the 2020 formed Buffalo genre-bending rockers, BP & the Oil Spills.

Cheap Peach started off the night on a strong note with a roaring set of originals, both released and unreleased. The band is no stranger to distortion, wielding a healthy amount within their hauntingly moody set. The band repeatedly deluged the audience in submersive waves of ethereal effects before building up to more traditional structuring throughout their dynamic performance.

Guttural yells from lead singer Tyler Will and witchy screams from Jade Hoch, the bassist, characterized their performance. The entirety of Cheap Peach, including guitarist Dillon Slater and drummer Brendan Ryan, built upon this noisy vibe and delivered greatly on their first show at the North Pole Strip Club in about two years.

Next up was the out-of-towners Moss Tongue, whose melodic but hard hitting set featured ear grabbing riffs, spacey sections of guitar feedback and villainous breakdowns. This tangible blend perfectly soundtracks eternally overcast days, where every wrong move feels cataclysmic.

Belligerent screams and downbeat vocals from their front-man, Max Fagnant, were proliferated appropriately throughout their show. His knack for a balance of sweet melody and rough throated torrents hitting in all the right places, made for a standout performance.

The band's impressive writing wowed on both musical and lyrical fronts, with all four musicians meshing well together for their first and final set in NPSC, during the house's ultimate spring semester run.

BP & The Oil Spills, the final act, rounded off the night in style with a myriad set spurring an unrivaled amount of passionate moshing within the rowdy crowd.

The fresh-sound group started off with the barbershop quartet intro baked into their original, "Breaking Even," a move that defines the band as an eclectic and dramatic act. BP & The Oil Spills' performance was multi-sided, blazing through genres while retaining their core sound with a hydra-like approach.

Trevor Balbierz, Ashford lead singer and guitarist, Eerie Shores drummer, concert photographer and scene member of many talents, joined BP & The Oil Spills upfront to assist in



Moss Tongue performing at the North Pole Strip Club on March 12, 2022. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

covering the nu-metal rap rock classic "One Step Closer" by Linkin Park.

The group ended with a hilariously good ska-punk encore of "Stupid Horse" by 100 Geecs, which brought on an infectious wild abandon that was unmatched within the night's performances. This wildcard band has a lot to offer.

The latest show on March 26 — dubbed a pool party hit for the ages — was a standing room only event that featured punk up-and-comers Early Worm, the headlining math rock of Floridian band, Pool Kids, and the Rochester emo powerhouse Carpool.

In particular, the shocker announcement of Pool Kids playing at NPSC, invigorated the Fredonia scene. The band is fresh off a national tour with Origami Angel and Save Face, supporting the Californian emo goliath, Mom Jeans.

Early Worm features two members from sister band The Weather Might Say Otherwise (TWMSO), Tanor Morrison (bass) and Zach Richardson (drums), while the rest of their lineup consists of Cooper Taylor (guitar) and Milo Duhn (vocals). The band started off the night appropriately in the full-to-the-brim basement. The group blends hard-hitting punk, mathy emo and even hardcore in a highly entertaining

concoction. Lead singer, Duhn, impressed with a cutting-edge delivery full of varied vocal acrobatics.

The group's performance consisted of unreleased tracks since they've yet to put out any tunes yet. As the four-piece's six-song set progressed, it became a crossover episode leading to multiple feature performances from the TWMSO camp. Damian Brown, TWMSO's lead vocalist, worked his way up to the front twice, while James Embser, close friend of the North Pole tenants, and Dan Doyle, the main orchestrator of the venue, contributed to Early Worm's cover of "MYSTERY" by hardcore legends, Turnstile.

The headliners, Pool Kids, were up next, met with a spellbound audience, thrilled to have the popular, but still on-the-up-and-up act travel to perform in the depths of North Pole. The band is composed of vocalist Christine Goodwyne, bassist Nicolette Alvarez, drummer Caden Clinton and their more recently added guitarist Andy Anaya. The twinkly math rock virtuosos played standout songs from their highly praised 2018 album, "Music to Practice Safe Sex To," while throwing in some sundry unreleased material within their edge-of-the-seat set.

The talented southern-born players did not shy away from connecting with the Fredtown audience, as Goodwyne and Anaya repeatedly dove into the headbanging hoard of star-struck but still in-the-moment listeners, which overflowed into

the merch room and stairwell at the basement's rear.

The fervid crowd emphatically sloshed about as Pool Kids incisively guided the audience through extensive math rock adventures. Players Anaya, Alvarez and Clinton repeatedly impressed, showing the band's legitimate musical chops, while Goodwyne's palpably emotional, adroit vocals helped to give the Floridian-band an evident emo lucidity.

Huge thank you's extended from the Fredonia community to Pool Kids for making the long trip to play at our house venue. Their unbelievable, monumental performance seemed like a pipe dream, meaning oodles to both the rising bands and the enthusiastic supporters at the North Pole.

The NPSC fan-favorite veterans, Rochester band Carpool, Carpy for short, are one of the select acts that could successfully follow up Pool Kids at a Fredonia show. The Western New Yorkers lit a fire under the audience with their galvanizing, emotionally charged compound of gravely relatable emo disport and catchy pop rock zest.

The NPSC basement turned to a moshing funhouse as the audience members sang along with lead singer Stoph Colasanto's lyrics as they joined with the audience, effectively blurring the lines of performer and show-goer. Their lyrics of substance abuse, toxic dalliances and endless pop culture references have become synonymous to the developing Carpy narrative.

Continued on next page.



Carpool performing at the North Pole Strip Club on March 26, 2022. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

Continued from previous page.

Later on, the group let loose with their most popular song thus far in the penultimate moment of their set. The anthemic emo and powerpop slapper, “The Salty Song (Erotic Nightmare Summer),” is a quintessential moment from their most recent album. This vivatic spark plug of a track features a gargantuan, punchy chorus that stomped its way through every inch of the six-year-old showplace and was met with a first-rate audience response.

As they’ve done in the past, Carpool ended the night appropriately with a classic pop-punk heater, this time they

chose the route of “My Own Worst Enemy” by Lit. Colasanto was joined by Goodwyne on stage, performing the alt-rock screamer, while engaging in a lionhearted whole-body launch into the audience for a once-in-a-lifetime house venue crowdsurf.

Soon enough the music winded down, and the crowd recuperated as punkish delirium still flew about the air. One of the biggest audiences to ever grace the NPSC filed out into the snowy outside world, thinking about what it must be like to be poolside in Tallahassee, Fla.

Upcoming NPSC Events:

Whether you’ve never been to a show, or you’re a long-time basement dweller, come out to NPSC while you still can! There’s three shows left:

Hardcore Show: April 9

- SPACED
- p.s.you’re dead
- Pure Bliss
- Pale Hell

37 Fest: April 22 to 23

Lineups Unannounced



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Dr. Amanda Lohiser shares journey to becoming a professor

BRYAN BEREK

Special to The Leader

Dr. Amanda Lohiser, an assistant professor at State University of New York at Fredonia, has a passion for teaching — a quality that is on full display when she is in the classroom. Her journey to becoming an educator was a long one, but one that was, for her, well worth the wait and schooling.

Lohiser's inspiration for educating began long before she became a professor in 2016.

At first, she attended church and taught Sunday school, designing lesson plans and taking a liking to the idea of teaching. Her educational background began at State University of New York at Buffalo, where Lohiser earned a Bachelor's degree in communication.

Afterwards, she pursued a Master's degree in public relations management, which she earned in 2008 at the University at Buffalo. Lohiser wanted to further her educational background and went back to the University at Buffalo to earn her Ph.D. in communication in 2012.

Lohiser's wealth of knowledge pays off when it comes to class time.

Her knowledge of the topic at hand is valuable in helping the students understand the topic. For example, Lohiser teaches classes in nonverbal communication and the fundamentals of communication, along with a plethora of other communication courses. Nonverbal communication focuses on nonverbal cues in communication situations. The fundamentals of communication teaches students the basics of communication and collaboration skills.

In her classroom, Lohiser can apply the highest level of knowledge and interaction to make her classes as informative as possible.



Dr. Amanda Lohiser.

Photograph by Lori Deemer, SUNY Fredonia.

Lohiser also had the opportunity to teach overseas in Singapore. While she was attending school for her Ph.D. at the University at Buffalo, Lohiser was approached by her advisor about the opportunity to teach overseas in Singapore.

According to Lohiser, the opportunity was exquisite and too good not to pounce on. Lohiser put in an application on behalf of the University at Buffalo's doctorate assistantship program and was chosen to go to Singapore.

The intention was for Lohiser to go for one year to teach in Singapore, but each year she was reviewed and ended up staying for a total of four years.

Lohiser taught at what was called a "satellite campus" of the University at Buffalo, known as the Singapore Institute of Management.

Lohiser said that she "loved teaching overseas" and is "very happy" to share her experiences of teaching a different culture back here in the classroom at Fredonia.

Lohiser admitted that she is an introvert, and wanted to make it clear what an introvert meant. "Being introverted doesn't mean that you don't involve yourself in group exercises and such, it just means that you need your own space to recharge... Having a group of introverts to be introverted is quite beneficial," Lohiser said.

To further understand Lohiser's method of teaching and her impact on her student lives, Allyson Youngs, a student of Lohiser, wanted to share her experiences.

She said, "Dr. Lohiser has a love for teaching and her students. She makes the content more digestible with her personality." Youngs continued, "Dr. Lohiser also approaches her instruction with a more relational

approach, meaning what content Dr. Lohiser [delivers with] her personality and being able to implement it in the classroom... Her openness makes us want to excel in the classroom and participate more."

Lohiser said that she wishes to remain a professor, "until I drop over." Lohiser sees teaching as her calling and sees herself in the position until she is no longer able to do it. "When I start falling asleep during class, then I'll retire," Lohiser said.

Lohiser would share her passion for teaching and sharing her knowledge with the entire student body if given the opportunity.

Lohiser certainly has made her mark on the student's lives with whom she has taught. She creates an environment where she wants all to feel welcome and safe, and one where they can succeed and strive in.

SPORTS

Fredonia Sports Update



Women's lacrosse. Photograph by Mckenzie Washington.

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

Spring sports have popped out of the ground, sprouted and are waiting to blossom for Fredonia athletics.

Men's baseball traveled to Brockport to begin conference play. The team lost all three contests.

In the conference opener, the Blue Devils lost 1-14.

- Tylor Murphy went 1-4 at the plate with a double and the lone run scored
- Christian Brown allowed three earned runs in four innings of relief pitching

In the second game of the double header, the team lost 1-12.

- Pat Bigham went 1-3 with the teams' only run batted in on the day
- A.J. Kinney allowed one hit and no runs in one inning of relief pitching

In the third game the Blue Devils played against Brockport. The Blue Devils lost 2-10.

- Tyler Phillips was 2-4 at the plate with a triple and one run batted in
- Andrew O'Connor allowed one hit and no runs in one inning of relief pitching

Fredonia will host Penn State Behrend Tuesday before traveling to Cortland for three games on the weekend.

Women's lacrosse began their conference play this week. Before that however, they hosted Grove City.

The team lost 5-10

- Tessa Brady scored twice in the contest
- Makayalla Farino, Sydney Buchko and Julie Culver each scored goals as well

The team traveled to Oswego to begin conference play.

They lost 4-19.

- Makayalla Farino and Audrey Brown scored in the first quarter
- Tessa Brady and Julie Culver each scored one goal as well

The Blue Devils will travel to Plattsburgh Saturday.

Women's softball begins their conference play this upcoming week. They will host Oswego Friday and Cortland Saturday. The team has not played since their spring trip to Florida.

The men's and women's track and field teams begin their outdoor season this upcoming weekend at the Geneseo Early Season Invite.



Men's Baseball Preview



Men's baseball practice. Photographs by Abdullah Yusuf.

TYLER PACOS

Staff Writer

Spring sports are back in Fredonia.

Now that most of the COVID-19 protocols have been lifted by the school, athletic teams are fully cleared for play. For some, it's their first "normal" season, while others are ready to get to work for their new team. The Blue Devils went 3–16 overall last year, and 0–16 in the SUNYAC conference. They will look forward to getting back into the winning column this season, which will be led by their more experienced players on the roster, as well as new head coach Jordan Basile.

Matt Palisin decided to step down and take on a different role with the school after being the head coach of the Fredonia baseball team for 19 years, giving

former Fredonia State student Jordan Basile the gig. Basile brings 12 years of experience with him to Fredonia.

He has worked with numerous organizations, most recently with neighboring south county school SUNY Jamestown Community College (JCC). Basile has also worked in the professional level of baseball as he assisted with player development with the Detroit Lions (MLB) back in 2011.

Despite being involved with numerous organizations throughout the duration of his career, Basile is eager to get started this season and seems to be fitting right in. "I can truthfully say that Fredonia feels like home to me, and this is somewhere I plan to be for a long period of time," said Basile.

Basile was also asked about what he expects his team to focus on for the remainder of the season; his response was heartfelt for his new team and especially the 16 seniors on the squad. "I want these guys to enjoy it, embrace it, have fun, know that we're all in this together and go out and leave it on the field." He continued, "If we do that, whether we win it all, or we're second place, third place or wherever we end up, we can look back and say we left it on the field."

The Blue Devils continue conference play this week taking on Cortland on the road for three games. So far, they have managed to go 9–8 this season, including tournaments they competed in at Myrtle Beach, S.C. at The Ripken Experience and numerous locations in Florida for the Russmatt Central Florida Invitational.

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Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher, is committed to her students but desperate to give her only son Omari opportunities they'll never have. When a controversial incident at his upstate private school threatens to get him expelled, Nya must confront his rage and her own choices as a parent. But will she be able to reach him before a world beyond her control pulls him away?



PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS

How *CRAZY* was it this year? A guide to *MARCH MADNESS* for 2022

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

Every year during the month of March, there's always some amount of chaos during the NCAA Tournament. There are Cinderella stories, David vs. Goliath showdowns and dominant performances that will go down in history.

There is one thing that stays the same; someone will be cutting down the nets as the National Champions.

As it stands now, only four teams remain: Duke, North Carolina, Villanova and Kansas. Each has a storied history and are in the top tier of teams year in and year out. But how did we get to this point?

That's where the tournament gets its name of March Madness.

Obviously the first thing that comes to mind is St. Peters — the first 15 seed in the tournament to reach the Elite Eight. Beating Kentucky, one of the favorites in the first round before defeating Murray State and Purdue.

St. Peters shot the ball really well and had some of the best defensive showings of any team throughout the tournament. We were given constant entertainment with their postgame quotes and the internet frenzy that came from such an underdog like the Peacocks. Their run was ended by North Carolina one game short of the final weekend however.

That was the story of the tournament.

There weren't any high ranking teams that looked safe throughout the tournament. Before their elimination in the Sweet 16, Gonzaga was given a run for their money in the second round. Arizona was on the ropes throughout their time in the tournament before falling to

Kansas, who most people had as a two or three seed through the season.

One of the biggest remaining storylines of the tournament is Duke and Coach Krzyzewski. This season has been considered Coach Krzyzewski's farewell tour, as he announced before the season began that he would retire. He has had an elite team this season and is just two wins shy of going out on top. During this tournament, he was able to claim his record breaking 13th Final Four appearance, and he will now get to coach in the first North Carolina vs. Duke game in NCAA tournament history for his chance at the title game.

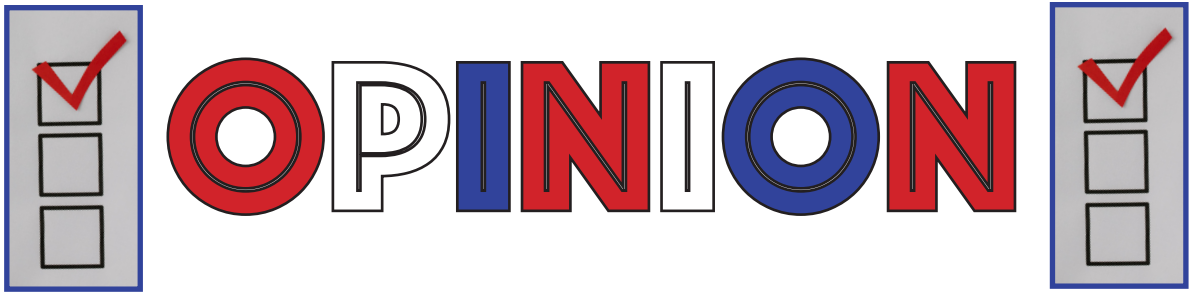
When asked what their favorite moment of the tournament has been so far, junior sociology major Anthony Ruiz said, "St. Peters. It has to be. They made history and are just the right type of underdog for anyone to be able to root for."

As for how the rest of the tournament will go, it's hard to say. Each of these teams has fought hard to get to this point and all have a chance of winning. Out of the four left, North Carolina is the weakest of the bunch by a good margin. Duke and Kansas have been talked about as favorites all year long, with Villanova not far out of the conversation as well. This seems like Duke's to lose, though. In my prediction, Coach K will have his storybook ending by cutting down the nets and taking home the title over Villanova in the championship game.



Photograph from Pixabay on Pexels.
NCAA logo added.

Houston in the Sweet 16 as well. Baylor went out in the second round after their 25 point comeback came up short in overtime. These are the one seeds of the tournament. The only one seed left is



The right to vote: A civic duty and moral imperative

DENNIS MYERS
Special to The Leader

In recent decades, about 60% of eligible U.S. voters cast a ballot during presidential elections.

During midterm elections, like this year, participation is only at around 40%. By international standards this is noticeably low. For example, according to fairvote.org, member nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), of which the U.S. is a member, have a voter participation rate of around 70%.

Voter turnout among the youngest Americans remains concerning. The “youth vote” continues to lag behind other age demographics, and has done so for several decades. Now the good news: According to statista.com, about 55% of voters aged 18–29 decided to cast a ballot in 2020, a substantial increase from the approximately 44% who voted in 2016.

Additionally, both the youth vote and voting overall increased when comparing the 2014 to the 2018 midterm elections. According to brookings.edu, overall voter turnout in 2020 was relatively high compared to recent decades, with 66.8% participation. Robust voter turnout is fundamental to a healthy democracy, and these results are encouraging.

Now back to the bad news: According to the Brennan Center For Justice (brennancenter.org), over 440 bills with provisions that restrict voting access were introduced in 49 states during the 2021 legislative sessions. At least 19 states have successfully passed 34 laws restricting access to voting.

Rather than try to appeal to an increasingly diverse voting public, these state legislatures would rather prevent people from voting. This is as undemocratic as it gets. If you’re unaware of who these anti-democratic forces are, individually or as a group, you need to start paying attention — quickly.

Maybe consider it like a homework assignment; you don’t wanna do it, but you know you should. It won’t take long to complete the assignment, as the major “villains” are obvious. Then perhaps it gets more difficult because you may feel compelled to do something. As they say, time is of the essence. Like climate change, I believe there is a tipping point here that we are rapidly approaching.

While there are many valuable forms of civic engagement, exercising your right to cast a ballot is perhaps both the most straightforward and the most important, considering the current threats to democracy our nation faces — mostly from within.

Endeavors like fighting for social and economic justice is an uphill battle, even in a relatively free society. How well will we all, but especially the less powerful, fare if we lose our democracy? If you’re scared, you’re right — you should be. A bulwark against autocracy is a politically educated populace that takes action, the most fundamental of which is protecting and exercising your constitutional right to vote.

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SCAN ME



THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia

Disappearance of the **FRED** sign and other stuff that probably doesn't matter as much

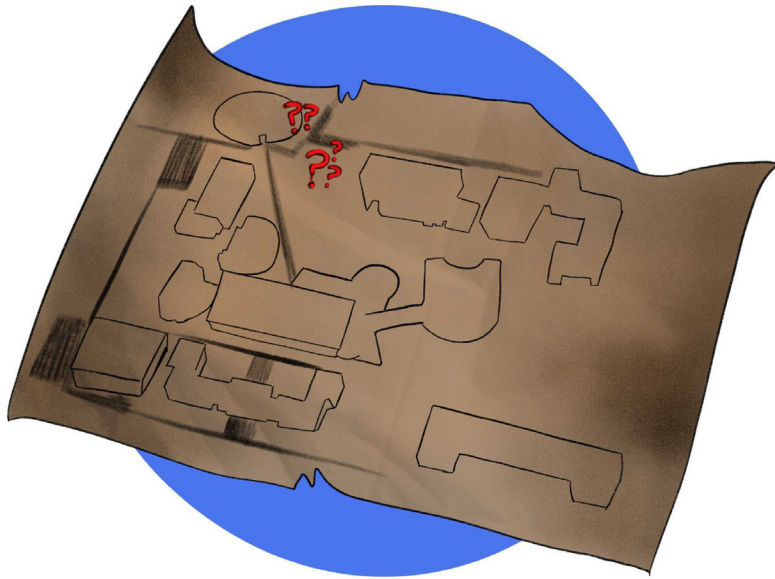


Illustration by Ash Maloney.

MATTHEW BAUM

Scallion Editor

Over spring break, while hordes of college students spent way too much money and acted recklessly in public, the FRED sign on campus was taken away, as well as some other things. We'll cover the other things, but my main priority is the signage to our noble and respectable college grounds.

I have heard it said that the letters which signify the name of the village and our university — FRED — weren't a necessary addition to the school grounds. Wrong! If there's no signage at every corner to remind me of the geographic location of my college day in and out, how will I remember where I am? What if I wake up one day, fully convinced I'm back in Oxford, Ohio, land of pleasant dreams and bread-scented wind?

The FRED sign was a new addition to the campus sights and sounds, and without it, I feel an emptiness I can hardly put into words. When my parents come into town, they will have nowhere to force my little brother to stand in order to capture a good photo of him visiting his older brother! They'll be left out to dry!

My problem lies with the fact that it's such a new part of campus life. The FRED sign hasn't even been around long enough to be properly taken care of and lived in. Like a new pair of shoes, additions to campus need to be broken in, which is why I have my suspicions of who took the letters.

It's my guess that the designers and contractors of Houghton Hall are behind the theft. While students were gone, they had every opportunity to make away with the FRED sign. With the newfound favorite on-campus attraction gone, people will have no choice but to go to the shiny new building and post ridiculous photo shoots in front of it to feel anything at all! I've blown this case wide open. I know my convictions are true.

Also Mason Hall has been missing since the Saturday before break. And Maytum Hall has finally been turned the correct way — the way famous architect, I.M. Pei, intended it to be built — since Sunday.

My heart is broken and my thoughts go out tonight to everyone who is mourning the loss of our newest community member. And also all the other stuff that's not here too. But mostly the sign.

I'm only holding out for **Burger Wednesday**

MATTHEW BAUM

Scallion Editor

I'm keeping it real with you, guys. This semester is whopping my whopper. Really, no lie. I'm absolutely befrungled this spring. Bescringled, even.

There is only one thing that's keeping me in the loop, and I'm not alone.

Burger Wednesday.

Walking into Cranston Marché as a full-grown adult reminds me of a simpler time. A time when my classes were not so demanding. A time when I was brand new to Fredonia. A time when I had no standards for what I put in my body.

Every aspect of my current life is coming to fruition, but when I'm in Crannies on a Wednesday, all my problems drip away, like the residual soy chocolate milk from the perpetually-empty Silk dispenser.

There's nothing that can crush my flow, when I place myself in a seat with a slightly-sticky table and start chomping down on fries that are neither hot nor cold, but are crispy and soggy at the same time. Every synapse in my brain fires into overdrive as I try to comprehend what exactly the burger is supposed to taste like, and how far from actual beef it is. The rush from finding out I was eating a turkey burger the whole time is close to a euphoric experience.

This high lasts, too. I carry my worry-free attitude with me all day, similar to how I carry those goddamn ketchup smudges to each class I have after lunch.

The students at this remarkable campus may have complaints. "Ooh, I don't like the food here! I don't want to eat food that's uber-saturated with fat!" And that is perfectly reasonable. What my peers forget, however, is that life is already so g**d**m hard. Can I not have this one thing? Burger Wednesday is all I ask for. Let me have this. Please.



Photograph by Roger Coda, SUNY Fredonia.

Burger image: "Hamburger" by Tim Reckmann is marked with CC BY 2.0.



Wee-oo! Wee-oo! Police Notters

Alert: NEW RULES!

BRIAN CECALA

A Totally Real Cop at Fredonia & Part-time Scallion Writer

Listen up, chumps. The University Police are getting real tired of your S#@*. We heard the news that they're closing down Tim Hortons on campus, and we're FED UP. We gotta go to Starbucks to get donuts? NO WAY, JOSE. We're not playing around anymore, and we're taking these streets back. You knuckleheads are gonna fall in line starting now or face a DIRE CONSEQUENCE™.

Some DIRE CONSEQUENCES™ may include but not limited to...

1. We will make you film a thirst trap for TikTok, and you will have to post it unironically to main.
2. We will forcefully change your major to Musical Theatre. Good luck finding a use for your diploma now, idiot.
3. We will make you take Craft of Writing AGAIN.
4. You will have to watch the 2022 Film Musical Cyrano (I watched it over break. It was terrible. Trust me on this)
5. ETC. ETC.

Now that we laid down the line and set the stakes, get ready for your NEW RULES:

NEW RULE: WE DON'T TALK ABOUT "WE DON'T TALK ABOUT BRUNO"

I'm so f\$%^ing sick and tired of hearing this song every day. It was good at first but you guys are getting ridiculous. If we hear one even one LYRIC we are going to lock you up big time, slumdog.

NEW RULE: IF I'M THIRSTY, YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME A SIP

Look, it's a tiring job being a cop. I'm walking around all-day yelling at teenagers. So forgive me if sometimes I GET A LITTLE BIT THIRSTY. I forgot my cup in my car so you *HAVE* to give me a little sip of whatever you're drinking. I don't care what it is, I'M PARCHED.

NEW RULE: GATHER MAGIC SOMEWHERE ELSE, NERDS

Lately, we've been seeing a lot of people playing Magic the Gathering on campus. Guess what? It makes us look like dorks! When you guys play Magic, it affects everyone else around you. So MTG is BANNED. Go be a f\$%@ing wizard somewhere else.

NEW RULE: YOUR PODCAST STINKS, AND I'M GONNA RUIN IT

Oh, you got a podcast? Well so does EVERYONE ELSE, dingus. An hour-long conversational format isn't meant for everyone. So if you are a student and you have a podcast, I get to be on it. You gotta bring me on as a special guest and I'm going to share a bunch of controversial opinions. If you even try to disagree with me I will power slam you into the table.



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For more info, contact

Henry Wang | wang0713@fredonia.edu

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HOROSCOPES

JAY BYRON - Staff Scallywag

Welcome back to your favorite article series ever. I'm here to do a classic: predict how your week is gonna go.



Aries

It's your time to shine, Aries, and you know it! The winds are beckoning you. You're gonna spend some well-deserved time outside, probably near the creek, because that's just what everyone does when they wanna have a good time. Remember your sunscreen, because if not, you're gonna get a gross sunburn that you will have to smother aloe on. Then you're gonna look like a slime sod. Slime sod! Slime sod!



Taurus

You will pick up a dating reality TV show. It'll probably be "Love is Blind" because that's kind of the vibe right now. You'll start by saying "lol this is soooo stupid, like how can they even like each other" and end by sobbing and projectile mucus-ing at a couple being happily married. You'll need to dry out your nose. Maybe go to a doctor? (THIS IS NOT MEDICAL ADVICE!)



Gemini

Uh-oh, struggle city! You and I are on the same page, fellow Gemini! We are gonna STRUGGLE. Not to worry, though! You might be surprised with a fun little gift from someone unexpected. ;) Maybe from an Aries...? But, if it's Sagittarius... well. Struggle city!



Cancer

Somehow, you'll have lots of chicken nuggets this week, and that's really innovative and beautiful of you. You're really really really really quirky.



Leo

You're mad Aries is stealing your spotlight. Why can't it be Leo season already? So, you'll do a silly wee impish prank on an Aries in your life. Ooooo, it's gonna be so good. I can't tell you what it is (not because I'm bad at pranks or anything I'm really good at pranks I swear!) but you're gonna be the coolest cat around. Coolest Leo ever! Best sign! YEAH! YEAAAHH!



Virgo

You're hard to predict this week! I think that means YOU'RE GONNA GO BONKERS!!!!!! Soooo much stuff is gonna happen!!! You'll be fine, though, for real. Just soak it all up like a sponge.



Libra

A cat is going to pee on all of your belongings. Not to worry, though — you're prepared now so you can get the material you need to get it out. Have fun trying to help yourself!



Scorpio

Your SOULMATE is going to FART in your KITCHEN!!!!!! Better get the Febreze, 'cause it's a biggie. You fart with that dumpy?? Gross!



Sagittarius

You're gonna do some heavy thinking for the first time! It might suck for a day, but it'll be worth it directly afterwards, because all the tears are gonna be drained from your body and down the drain. You basically refresh as a human being. And you'll be sexier for it! Gemini's your friend in this time, at the very least to remind you that you are sexy.



Capricorn

Someone's going to compare you to a "Euphoria" character and you're gonna hate it. It's up to you to figure out what character they're going to call you so you can prepare for the worst. Don't do drugs.



Aquarius

You'll be relying on Willy's a lot this week, Aquarius. Sorry to say! However, you know it'll taste the best out of all the places, especially when it's nighttime and you want some grease. Good ol' grease. It'll treat you well, at the very least, emotionally.



Pisces

Oh, Pisces, Pisces, Pisces. I already know you're not gonna sleep this week. Try it, though! Prove me wrong. Get a goooooood sleepyttime.

