

THE

# LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S  
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

09.07.2022

Issue 1

Volume CXXIX

**Welcome back, SUNY Fredonia!**

**COVID-19 Cases Rise On Campus  
Canceled Kershner Classes**

**New Live Music Venue:  
Main Street Studios  
New Baseball, Lacrosse  
Head Coaches Hired**

**Williams Center Opens  
Blue Lounge, Blue Devil Den**

# THE LEADER

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## What's in this issue?

### News - 3

- COVID-19 Cases On Campus
- Canceled Kershner Classes
- Student Leadership Kickoff

### Life & Arts - 8

- Activities Night
- "Independent Motion" Exhibit
- Main Street Studios Live Music
- Fredonia Farm Festival
- Blue Devil Den And Blue Lounge Opening

### Sports - 18

- New Baseball, Lacrosse Head Coaches Hired
- Fall Sports Preview
- NFL Season Preview

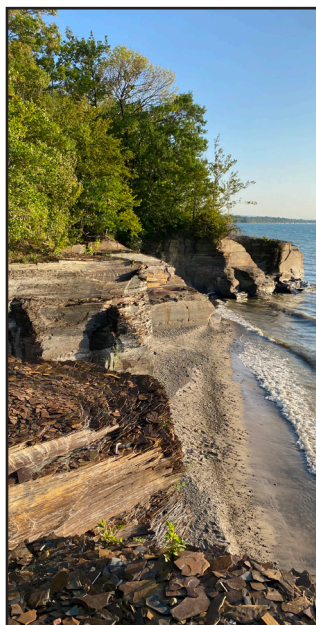
### Opinion - 20

- Eating On Campus Is Hard

### Scallion - 22

- Join The Scallion
- Horoscopes

Front and back cover: Point Gratiot overlooks a sea of shale and the coast of Lake Erie. Photographs by Alyssa Bump.



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You are invited to The Leader's Open House & Issue 1 Release Party. Stop by our office (Williams Center S206) between 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m on Sept. 7.

# SUNY Fredonia sees an uptick in positive COVID-19 cases among students

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

Managing Editor

This year at SUNY Fredonia is different.

For the first time in two years, there are no strict COVID-19 guidelines in place. Students no longer have to wear masks, and more and more in-person events are popping up around campus.

However, the college has seen a recent uptick in positive cases across campus, with classrooms looking emptier and more students joining from Zoom.

At the time of writing this article on Sunday, Sept. 4, there are currently 131 positive cases of COVID-19 on SUNY Fredonia's campus.

In light of the increasing positive cases on campus, SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison sent an email out on Sept. 2. In his email, he wrote how he's happy to see the sense of community and normalcy students have been enjoying on campus, however, he reported the uptick of COVID-19 cases on campus.

Kolison said the cases are in both on and off campus populations. Similarly, the positive cases in Chautauqua County are also increasing.

Kolison also reported that many of the students who have tested positive report feeling cold or allergy-like symptoms. Because of this, Kolison offered some advice.

"If you feel sick, no matter how minor the symptoms, please test. At-home tests are available in the Student Health Center, Williams Center Student Union or Residence Hall offices," Kolison wrote.

He also advised immunocompromised students to discuss options for protection with their physicians.

Kolison also reminded students that "masks are not required on campus, but you should feel comfortable wearing one if you so choose." He added that the CDC recommends wearing an N-95 mask to help best protect yourself from the recent dominant variant of COVID-19.

Just last week, CDC director Rochelle Walensky endorsed the use of an updated COVID-19 booster from Pfizer for those ages 18 and older. This new booster helps protect against the omicron variant. Booster shots are available at local pharmacies.

Some SUNY Fredonia students have reported feeling a little anxious about the rising positive cases.

"It's not completely surprising that there are higher numbers at the start of the semester because everyone's traveling from different places and then coming here to Fredonia," said Sara Gorton, a senior video production major.

However, Gorton was surprised to hear the actual number of cases on campus. "It just reminds everyone that covid

is still very real and very abundant," she said. "As we navigate trying to return to a more normal sense of school functions, we should be mindful of others and monitor ourselves if we're not feeling great, while also not judging others if they want to keep their distance and continue to wear masks."

SUNY Fredonia's COVID-19 dashboard and total case numbers can be viewed online at <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/fall2021/covid-dashboard>.



Image by Mohamed Hassan from Pixabay.

# Dr. Stephen Kershnar's assigned classes canceled one week into the Fall 2022 semester

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

Managing Editor

Last semester, Dr. Stephen Kershnar's views were called to question after a Twitter post by @libsoftiktok showed a video of Kershnar on a podcast defending views that adult-child sexual relationships aren't necessarily harmful.

After further controversy over what many regarded as Kershnar's defense of pro-rape and sexist views, Kershnar was told he would no longer have teaching obligations last semester.

Since then, Kershnar has not been back in the classroom.

While registering for classes last semester, SUNY Fredonia students were left wondering why a few of the philosophy classes were left blank, without a professor listed.

Several students had noticed last spring that Kershnar 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.

Then, in March, Kershnar's name was removed from the classes, yet the classes remained available for registration.

This left many students confused about who their professor would be for the classes they signed up for.

Dr. Neil Feit, a distinguished teaching professor in philosophy, voiced his frustrations regarding the situation as well.

Feit posted his thoughts and opinions on a faculty and staff email message board called "Proftalk." Feit wrote that on Wednesday, Aug. 24, Kershnar was informed that he "does not have teaching or service obligations to this semester." He was told to use this time to conduct research.



Graphic by Angelo Petrilli.

This leaves Feit as the only permanent philosophy faculty member teaching during the Fall 2022 semester.

When it came time for the first day of classes, students found out that their first class would be canceled.

On Thursday, Aug. 25, students found a sign that was listed as a “class notice” that said class was to be canceled again.

Feit said that the sign was not made or taped up by anybody associated with the philosophy department, despite the “Philosophy Department” label at the top of the sign. “This is misleading at best and a lie at worst,” Feit wrote.

Students received an email at 11:49 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26, from Dr. Andy Karafa, the dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The email notified the registered students of the cancellation and described what students should do next.

The email read as follows: “Dear Students, I am writing to notify you that [class name] is being canceled. I recognize that this is more than a minor inconvenience and requires you to rethink the composition of your fall schedule. (We also understand that this has likely been a frustrating experience for you, especially the last-minute notices you have found on the classroom’s doors.) We have tried to avoid this outcome; unfortunately we have been unable to do so at this time and have determined that giving you time to develop a plan B is now the best option.

If you would like help exploring a plan B, reach out to your academic advisor as soon as possible or stop in to Academic Advising Services on the 4th floor of Reed Library from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Please note that the final day for web registration is today, Friday August 26.”

Feit said he was never informed about the cancellations, and their chairperson’s office was not aware until 10 minutes before the class on Tuesday was supposed to begin.

“This is an extreme disservice to these students, among them philosophy majors and minors who need the upper-level courses to satisfy program requirements,” Feit wrote.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous due to the nature of the situation, is currently a philosophy major.

They were registered for two philosophy classes: PHIL-303: Crime and Punishment and PHIL-351: Metaphysics.

While the student believes that Kershner is protected under the First Amendment and should be treated as such, they were frustrated with the cancellation of their classes.

“Honestly, it’s annoying, but not the end of the world,” the student said. “There’s another high level PHIL class that I switched into.”

**“Something here is not true, and this does not reflect well on our administrators’ ability to do their jobs to enable faculty help teach students.”**  
- Dr. Neil Feit

Feit explained that the need to find a professor for these three philosophy classes was known since the Spring 2022 semester. “I put the looming problem of staffing the courses, especially the upper-level ones, on the Dean’s radar...” Feit wrote. He did so by emailing the Dean back in April. Feit said that neither he nor his chairperson received any instructions, requests or further information during the spring or summer.

Feit told The Leader that he has two concerns regarding the issue. First, he worries about the upcoming Spring 2023 semester. Feit says that there are currently philosophy courses assigned to Kershner, but he is unsure what is going to come of them. “I don’t want this whole mess to occur again,” Feit wrote.

Additionally, Feit is concerned about what he sees as “mismanagement” in SUNY Fredonia’s Academic Affairs. He wishes for better communication between campus administrators and staff.

Feit asked Provost David Starrett some questions regarding the situation. Feit wrote, “He said that it was only on the

Wednesday of the first week of classes that they made a decision about the three Philosophy courses, and he agreed that this implies that until then, they entertained the possibility of reinstating Professor Kershner to teaching duties.”

According to Feit, Starrett sent a letter to Kershner the same day directing him to work off campus due to ongoing concerns for his safety and the safety of others.

“But if there really were ongoing safety concerns significant enough to keep Kershner off campus, it does not make sense that they entertained the possibility of him teaching up until that day,” Feit said. “Something here is not true, and this does not reflect well on our administrators’ ability to do their jobs to enable faculty help teach students.”

SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison also spoke to The Leader regarding the ongoing situation.

“When we cancel classes, it’s because of the circumstances that have reached a level where we are having difficulties in addressing, such as finding adequate instructors to cover a class,” Kolison said.

According to data provided by Kolison, last fall, in general, four classes were canceled after the semester began. In the Spring 2022 semester, three classes were canceled after the start of the semester. It’s common for classes to be canceled after the start of the semester.

Kolison also noted that the college works closely with students to make sure they are able to find the classes they need and not fall behind in their studies. “Most students that were in these courses have been placed in other classes,” Kolison said.

He also said that this is not the first time classes have needed to be canceled here on campus. “There are different times that you run into some different circumstances that make it difficult for the class [run]. They can go from low enrollment all the way up to not having enough instructors to cover it in a timely manner.”

Overall, Kolison said that he is working to best ensure that students are able to continue their education without being too negatively impacted by the continuing situation.

# Student Leadership Kickoff

## set to reignite student involvement

**ALYSSA BUMP**  
Editor in Chief

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic first shut down campuses nearly three years ago, the aftereffects of the pandemic continue to linger at SUNY Fredonia.

Colleges around the country are facing declining student enrollment in undergraduate and graduate programs, with Forbes citing a nearly 1.3 million decrease of college enrollment since Spring 2020.

With this, universities are facing another challenge: declining student involvement. At SUNY Fredonia, a number of clubs have been derecognized post pandemic by the Student Association due to the issues garnered by spending a semester remote. Several surviving clubs have smaller e-boards than they once did before the pandemic.

To streamline this issue, the Student Association, Campus Life, Fredonia Honors Program, Office of the President and Writers@Work have organized a Student Leadership Kickoff event on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Williams Center MPR.

Dr. Natalie Gerber, director of the Honors Program at SUNY Fredonia and professor of English, has served as one of the lead planners of this project, as she has noticed a decline of student involvement.

“COVID-19 has left us with a vacuum of leadership,” Gerber said. “And for us to have a vibrant campus, which enhances the student experience and supports the campus goals of improved retention and recruitment, we need student leadership.”

Gerber hopes this event will serve as a useful entry point for students that have struggled to become engaged in the campus community during the tumultuous times of COVID-19.

“For the new and current students who have not been engaged, I hope they have an opportunity to listen and learn from veteran student leaders (about) what the opportunities are and to remove any barriers,” Gerber said.

Donato Tramuto, an author, global health activist and philanthropist, will open the event with inspirational remarks at 5 p.m., as he is a leader from Western New York.

His book, “The Double Bottom Line: How Compassionate Leaders Captivate Hearts and Deliver Results,” is an Amazon Best Seller, and he will deliver remarks on the importance and value of student leadership.

**“COVID-19 has left us with a vacuum of leadership. And for us to have a vibrant campus, which enhances the student experience and supports the campus goals of improved retention and recruitment, we need student leadership.”**  
- Dr. Natalie Gerber

Later in the week, Tramuto will deliver the keynote address at President Stephen Kolison’s Investiture Ceremony on Friday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. in King Concert Hall.

After Tramuto speaks, the student roundtable will commence around 5:30 p.m. The roundtable will feature five student club leaders, and they will have the opportunity to talk about their experiences as student leaders. They will also highlight any vacant e-board positions in groups they are involved with.

The Student Leader Roundtable will include the following students: Ilene Thompson, Courtney Woodring, Molly Gibson, Esmeiry Ventura Santana, Shanty Figueroa and Alyssa Bump.

“I’m gonna be talking about the Student Association in general, and I’ll be talking about my journey and my involvement,” Thompson said. “(I want to send the message that) ... it’s not only about grades, it’s about what you can bring to the table, what you can do for your school.”

At 6 p.m., tacos-in-a-bag will be served, and attendees will be able to mingle with student leaders. Tables will be set up similarly to Activities Night, where students can approach specific groups and ask about open positions.

Five \$20 FSA gift cards will be raffled off to attendees, and one club tabling at this event will receive a \$100 FSA gift card that can be used for purchasing food at club events.

Gerber encourages students to come to the event and learn about the opportunities of being an involved student.

“If you go through college only going to classes, you’ve missed half the point,” Gerber said. “You are not going to remember all of your class content. ... But you will absolutely remember every organization in which you took a leadership role, and you will remember succeeding, failing (and) growing... Academics are incredibly important, but they’re only a piece of college.”

Beyond just serving a student with opportunities, Gerber explained that becoming a leader can help improve one’s community.

“Student leadership is not only investing in yourself; it’s the first step in investing in the community where you are the leaders and the people making the decisions,” Gerber said. “Instead of stepping back and being affected by what others decide, this is your opportunity... to create events, to promote causes, to use the platform and opportunity to shape what is. At this current moment, I can’t imagine that anyone is stepping back because there are so many challenges globally, nationally, locally, on our campus, and we look to leaders for solutions.”

*Alyssa Bump, Editor in Chief of The Leader and author of this article, will be on the Student Leader Roundtable of this event.*

Approved for campus posting



Student club reps will be available to answer questions about open leadership roles & what clubs are looking for in e-board members!

# **Student Leadership Kickoff**



*Find out*

- what an e-board is
- which e-board roles do what
- how to get involved
- why to take on leadership positions
- how to run for e-board positions

***Tacos-in-a-bag will be served!***

## **RAFFLES**

- FIVE \$20 gift cards for attendees
- \$100 FSA funding for a club

**Wed., Sept. 7  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Williams  
Center, MPR**

**5:00 p.m.: Donato Tramuto, Author, Global Health Activist, & Philanthropist**

**5:30 p.m.: Student Leader Roundtable**

**6:00 p.m.: Mingle w/club leaders.**

**Discuss open e-board positions**



***Donato Tramuto***

Collaboratively organized and sponsored by Student Association, Campus Life, Fredonia Honors Program, Office of the President, and Writers@Work.  
Additional Sponsors: Faculty Student Association; Steinberg Endowment

# Life & Arts

## Activities Night sees over 100 clubs in attendance

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

Managing Editor

Activities Night, the traditional and student-loved event that showcases SUNY Fredonia's unique clubs saw over 100 clubs in attendance last week.

The event was held from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Aug. 31 in Dods Grove. Hundreds of tables lined the grass with countless SUNY Fredonia students circling around and signing up for different clubs on campus.

The event was organized by Spectrum, a club at SUNY Fredonia that focuses on bringing entertainment to campus. Alé Herreros, a senior double theatre arts and public relations major, serves as Spectrum's event coordinator. As the event coordinator, Herreros was responsible for planning Activities Night.

"First of all, you have to create a Google form, deciding what questions groups need to answer," she said. Herrero's Google form was sent out to all Student Association recognized clubs, and served as a sign up for a table at the event.

Additionally, tables are provided for the clubs, which meant Herreros was responsible for making sure they were all in place. "Fraternities on campus help us out with setting up the tables, which is really sweet," she said.

Although this was Herreros' first year helping plan out the event, she said, "I am very happy with the turnout."

"I was around the whole night on my scooter, going

around checking up on each group... I thought it was a success," she added.

Many unique clubs attended Activities Fair to show off what their clubs are all about. The D&D club made its return once again, along with Sound Services, a tech-based club that teach-



Students gather at Dods Grove for the Fall 2022 Activities Night. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

es students about the equipment and procedures behind live music shows.

Sound Services hosts events such as campus-wide concerts and meetings to teach students about the different aspects of live audio.

Joshua Ribakove, the vice president of Sound Services, said students should join Sound Services "because we are an awesome community. You learn a lot of really cool stuff."

Ribakove also said that students don't need to have any prior experience to join. "You get to see a lot of really cool events, learn about the music scene and work behind it all," he added. "You get to play with really cool technology, and it's just a lot of fun."



Leaf graphic retrieved from Pixabay.



Above: Animation and Illustration Club member being lifted during Activities Night.  
Below: The Leader tabling during Activities Night. Photographs by Derek Raymond.

Another club featured at Activities Night was Writer's Ring. Writer's Ring is a club open to all students that focuses on different styles of writing and hosts workshop activities and visiting writers.

"This semester, we're really focusing on genres and types of writing," said Georgia Speller, the club's vice president. "We're really just trying to dig deep into writing and get everyone into writing."

Writer's Ring also focuses on helping people find their joy for reading and writing. Liv Frazer, the president of Writer's Ring, said, "Our new direction for this year is trying to reinvigorate people's passion for reading and writing they had as children, but was lost through academics."

In addition to the countless clubs and students attending Activities Night, SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison and Interim Chief of Staff & Executive Assistant to the President Naomi Baldwin came out to support the students.

"I want to welcome everybody back," Kolison said. "I was so excited when I went to Activities Night last night and saw just how many students were there and how students were really enjoying themselves."

Kolison also cited how this is the first year that students do not have strict COVID-19 restrictions since the past two years.

"Welcome back," Kolison said. "I'm very excited and wishing everyone a great semester."

To learn more about Sound Services, check out their Instagram page: [@soundservices\\_](#).

To learn more about Writer's Ring, visit their Instagram page: [@fredwritersring](#).



# Marion Art Gallery's "Independent Motion"

## exhibit set to move hearts

**WILL KARR**

Special to The Leader

From movies to cartoons, animation is typically geared towards children. Artist and curator Yvonne Grzenkowicz, however, is working to introduce the medium to people of all ages.

"In the past five or ten years, animation has probably been classified as something that is more for kids although we all know it's not. Animation has always been a combination of both a science and an art," said Grzenkowicz, the director and founder of Animation Nights of New York (ANNY).

Grzenkowicz started out her career in painting and drawing, but transitioned into web design and animation. Animation Nights of New York is an organization that hosts monthly screening events of animated short films and annual festivals.

One of the groups exhibit's, "Independent Motion: Twelve Animated Films from Around the World," is currently on display at the Jesse and Cathy Marion Art Gallery in the Rockefeller Arts Center through Oct. 9. A hybrid reception with exhibiting artists will take place on Friday, Sept. 9 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The exhibition, which was curated by Grzenkowicz, features animated works from 12 artists, who hail from regions across the globe: the United States, Ukraine, Spain, Ireland, Germany and China.

"So many people love animation, but if we're being honest, movies and cartoons generally aren't thought of as artistic masterpieces," said Hyla Stellhorn, exhibition coordinator of the Marion Art Gallery. "Independent Motion" allows the viewer to wholly experience each animated short and consider it as one would with a painting or sculpture."

The exhibit encourages viewers to appreciate and value the intricacies of animation, which are often taken for granted. Grzenkowicz said that it takes about 12 to 30 different shots to produce only one single second of a film. By lining up the shots sequentially, it gives the appearance of motion and movement.

"Each of the pieces is so relevant," Grzenkowicz said. "Even though the production is different, the topics are all still highly relevant."

In their film "Night Falls on Loserville," UK artists Remus Buznea and Kyriaki Kyrikou highlight dating and social interaction at a teen party before the advent of digital technologies. In his film "Passage," Serbian artist Igor Corić discusses how people from privileged societies often have the luxury of ignorance by not having to know what's going on in the rest of the world.

In her interactive virtual reality experience, "Belongings," Carol Silverman draws creative inspiration from

her mother's life journey. After their mother died, Silverman and her siblings were going through her belongings, and eventually stumbled upon a shocking surprise: Their mother had grown up in a Nazi prison camp until the age of 12.

"They had no idea. Somehow with money and luck, their mother's uncle was able

to get her out of the camp and sent to America. Her mother had never spoken of being in a prison camp or of being rounded up by the Nazis," Stellhorn said. "...They thought they knew everything about her, until they found out about this hidden past."

From home invasions and train stations, to a Nazi prison camp and arriving on American soil, through VR, Silverman takes the viewer on the trajectory of her mother's life.



A still image from Igor Corić's animated film "Passage."

"Animation is not the art of making drawings move; it is the art of drawing movement," Stellhorn said. "It is an illusion – a series of static drawings moving so quickly that they give the appearance of movement."

The showcase includes a gamut of animated short films and two virtual reality experiences from the last decade. Exhibiting artists draw inspiration from a variety of themes such as intolerance, homophobia, isolation, conflict, memory and uncertainty.



**A still image from Nelson Fernandes' animated film "El Castigo, The Punishment."**

In his animated film made entirely out of cardboard, "El Castigo: The Punishment," Portuguese artist Nelson Fernandes highlights feelings of loneliness and separation. In his piece, Lisa, a little girl, cries after being sent to her bedroom by her mother. In the room, the girl collects her tears into a vial, and then uses them to grow a plant for friendship and companionship.

The plant, however, grows exponentially and eventually consumes her. Overall, Fernandes references the idea of how an individual can become figuratively consumed by their own grief, sadness and sorrow. He draws inspiration from the Greek mythological story of Cyparissus, who transforms into a tree after mourning the loss of his stag.

In her piece titled "Hail," American artist Emily Hubley draws inspiration from the U.S. by referencing instances of bigotry throughout American history.

"Hail is a wonderful piece. It's such a beautiful film, but it's heartbreaking," Grzenkowicz said. Hail tells the story of three hate crime victims: Brandon Teena, Brian Deneke and Matthew Shepard. In 1993, Teena, a transgender man, was raped and shot by two male acquaintances after he was publicly outed. In 1997, Deneke, a nineteen-year-old punk rock musician, was killed in a premeditated hit and run incident in Amarillo, Texas. In 1998, Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming was beaten, tortured and left to die after being tied to a fence.

In the film, the men all meet up in the afterlife. The short features a song titled "Hail," by American punk rock musician Hamell on Trial, which was written in response to the three incidents. In the song, the trio discuss whether they would consider returning to Earth if ever given the chance to do so. However, they eventually come to the conclusion that heaven is ultimately the better place to reside.

One section of the song reads, "Matthew Shepard dropped by for dessert. And they, (Deneke and Teena), asked 'Does it still hurt?' And (Shepard) paused and spit over the rail. And it flew down to earth just like hail. He said, "No, we can be who we want to be."

In the film, individuals can freely be "who they want to be" in heaven, without man-made prejudices or inhibitions like transphobia, homophobia and stereotypes. Teena and Shepard's deaths have both led to the development of numerous U.S. laws to combat bigotry, which include The Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. Today, in 2022, queerness has become less socially stigmatized in many settings despite attempts to infringe upon the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans.

As an independent arts organization, ANNY's has the ability to spotlight a diverse range of voices.

"Without any kind of political sway or corporate pressure, we're able to just really focus on the quality of the work and the end result is diversity," Grzenkowicz said. "You don't have to create diversity, it's baked in from the way that we are approaching it."

Grzenkowicz will give a lecture about ANNY, her work and the exhibit before Friday's reception at 4 p.m in McEwen 206. She is excited to visit Fredonia and to see animation being exhibited in a gallery setting.

"Animation really is something that should be put on a pedestal," she said. "There is definitely work to do with highlighting animation as an art form and that's why I was so thrilled when the gallery reached out about carrying an exhibition."



**A still image from Emily Hubley's animated film "Hail."**

# A new music venue

## *MAIN STREET STUDIOS*

### hits the Fredonia local music scene

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

Managing Editor

**ALEX ERWIN**

Special to The Leader

Since the closure of the popular house venue North Pole Strip Club (NPSC), many students have been wondering what the future of Fredonia's local music scene might look like.

Just this semester, The Foxhead Record Company started renting out Main Street Studios, a rentable entertainment space in downtown Fredonia.

Initially, Foxhead started out making cassettes for local bands. But now, they have taken the reins of the local music scene, bringing bands into Fredonia.

Felix Kellogg-Williams, a cofounder of Foxhead, showed his enthusiasm for livening the local music scene. "We all are just really passionate about giving a platform for bands to play and get paid," he said.

SUNY Fredonia is known to have a strong and welcoming local music scene. Kellogg-Williams

and the other members of

Foxhead were hoping to keep that atmosphere alive.

"There's a big history of shows going on and a lot of connections being made between bands at events here," he said.

Kellogg-Williams also said that a major reason for starting these shows at Main Street Studios was "connecting students and other people here that like the music scene going on, and trying to get people from other places and introduce themselves to people."

Several students and community members came out to see last Saturday's show. Three bands played live, including Johnny & the Man Kids, Clump and

Heather Leonardi, a fan of Johnny & the Man Kids, said, "[It's] really fun, everyone's just here to hear good music, and there's live bands performing [and it's] not that expensive. So on a night out, it's just a fun thing."

There was never a quiet moment; the room was filled with music and the sounds of people laughing and talking. Many scene-goers were happy to be back following the closure of NPSC.

"I was really worried that after North Pole closed, there wouldn't be a good place to have shows ... I'm really glad

that we were able to have an opportunity to find a really nice space ..." said Ryan Terry, a fan who attended last weekend's show. "The audience is very quick to mosh and dance and move around, which I'm very thankful for."

Foxhead will be hosting shows at Main Street Studios as they're able to rent out the space.

Kellogg-Williams has plans to showcase a variety of music genres and bands at the new venue.

"I think there's really just different kinds of music that get more of a platform than others, and especially in specific places and organizations," he

said. "So I think a big thing

going into this is, I really want to ... (give) a place for all kinds of work."



Doors of Main Street Studios. Photograph by Chloe Kowalyk.

The Midroom Drifters. The venue was packed and full of students dancing and having a great time.

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**FREDONIA RADIO SYSTEMS PRESENTS**

**BP and the Oil Spills**

**Hal and Pals**

**Some Like it Hot**

**Johnny & the Man Kids**

**Marquee Grand**

**Capo II**

**Much More Chill**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

**11 AM - 7 PM**

**BARKER COMMONS, FREDONIA**



# Photo gallery: "Main Street Studios" by Chloe Kowalyk





# Fredonia Farm Festival

## unites local and college community



Fredonia's Annual Farm Festival garners pedestrian traffic to Barker Commons. Photographs by Chloe Kowalyk.

### CHLOE KOWALYK

Managing Editor

Downtown Fredonia was filled with excited residents and returning students at the end of August with the Fredonia Farm Festival.

The festival was held Aug. 26–28 in Barker Commons, and featured countless local vendors selling a variety of goods including jewelry, honey, fresh produce and homemade crafts.

Every inch of Barker Commons was filled with tables, tents and people exploring.

Several food trucks serving snacks such as curly fries, fried dough and smoothies decorated the festival, and live music could be heard across the event.

One vendor, Jaime Foster of W&W Creations, was enthusiastic about the Fredonia Farm Festival.

“It’s great to see everybody out here with all the creativity and local music,” she said. Foster sold handmade jewelry and wall art. Several SUNY Fredonia students made it out to the festival.

Abby Elliott, a senior dance major, said, “My favorite part was being able to walk around and see all the different booths, but also having the food trucks and vendors were great since it was like our own mini fair.”

For SUNY Fredonia students, Fall 2022 is the first semester without strict COVID-19 restrictions since Spring 2020. Because of this, many were excited to get back to a more “normal” college experience.

“I really enjoyed the atmosphere, especially since everything has been socially distanced for so long,” said Liv Frazier, a senior English major. “It felt nice, and (the event) really fostered a sense of community between the school and the town.”

Overall the Fredonia Farm Festival had a big turnout, with hundreds of people attending the event.





# New Blue Devil Den and Blue Lounge attract students to Williams Center

**WILL KARR**

Special to The Leader

After receiving news last spring of Tim Horton's upcoming closure in the student union, Khristian King, executive director of Student Engagement and Inclusion, came up with a plan to reinvent the space. Now, she is working to help make the Williams Center the epicenter of campus life.

In recent years, while students have consistently gravitated towards other buildings on campus, this year, King is hoping the Williams Center, also known as the student union, will once again become the main gathering place.

"The ultimate goal is that I want this building to be noisy," King said. "I want to hear laughter, and see people making TikTok videos. I want to see what you would normally expect from a student union — that is our hope."

Student Engagement and Inclusion (SEI) advocates for the needs of students. This summer, the group partnered with Academic Success and Retention (ASR) to revamp the space previously occupied by Tim Horton's into what's now the Blue Lounge.

Last spring, the college received a grant from SUNY focused on promoting wellness. The group used the funding to help furnish the lounge with massage chairs, soft-seating and a fireplace. However, what started out as an effort to preserve a single space has since transitioned into an effort to revitalize the multiple facets of the building.

King said SEI came together with ASR to take a "holistic look" at the union. She conducted focus groups and interviews with numerous students in the union, asking questions about their favorite spots on campus. Out of the 43 total students that she interviewed, only three students mentioned the student union.

She said that this experience ultimately galvanized her to think about ways to make the whole building a more attractive and alluring spot for students.

"My favorite undergrad experiences were hanging out in the student union," King said. "Some of our best moments were just being silly, being in there for three to four hours... having different things happen in the space. I want the same thing for students here."

From the survey results, King recognized the need for two major changes: The need to create more campus spaces for commuter students and to foster a sense of school pride.

Last spring, the Student Association conducted a survey with over 950 students. The study asked students what changes and improvements they would like to see on campus.

Many students said that they would support the creation of a game room, leading to the development of what is now the Blue Devil Den. The den, which is located in room S220 of the union, is equipped with an air hockey table, a ping-pong table, electronics and board games, which were all funded by SA.

"At the same time as (us), the Student Association came up with the idea to do this," King said. "That project is my favorite because it was 100% the students; it had nothing to do with us. It came from the students really saying 'this is exactly what I want and this is how I want to interact.'"

SA made the space more inviting and spacious by knocking down the wall between the two rooms. Throughout this semester, King said that the groups hope to add new features to both the lounge and den. From an upcoming bubble

water wall installation to soft-seating with interwoven electronic charging stations, the rooms are not fully furnished yet.

"Our goal is to truly make the room(s) feel like a lounge," King said. "Ideally, as the semester goes on. It'll hopefully happen sooner than later. We just knew that we had to have something up and running for students by the time the semester started."

King said that they are looking to introduce more creative programming and events to the lounge space like Karaoke and Open Mic Nights. Through her role, she is striving to overall amplify the voices of students and to improve the campus experience.



**Blue Lounge. Photograph by Justina Eodice.**

When a student walks into the student union, one can now find a plethora of deep blue colored walls, redolent of the school colors, instead of white ones.

"There's obviously a lot of blue in the building right now. I'm not going to lie, we got a little carried away with it," King said with a laugh.

Shortly after SEI and ASR collaborated, Mark Suida, director of Campus Life, approached Student Association with the idea of also turning two vacant club rooms on the second-floor of the Williams Center into another gathering space for students.

# SPORTS

## Fredonia hires **two head coaches** for baseball and lacrosse

**TYLER PACOS**  
Sports Editor



**Head Baseball Coach Jordan Basile.**  
Image retrieved from [fredoniabluedevils.com](http://fredoniabluedevils.com).



**Head Lacrosse Coach Tori Poffenberger.**  
Image retrieved from [fredoniabluedevils.com](http://fredoniabluedevils.com).

Although students have had the past couple of months off for summer vacation, the Fredonia Blue Devils Athletic Department has been working diligently to fill two vacant head coaching positions over the course of the off-season.

At the end of the Spring 2022 semester, the search began for a new women's lacrosse coach as former coach Alanna Herne announced she would be stepping away from the game. Men's baseball also had been looking to acquire a head coach as at the time interim head coach Jordan Basile was filling in for Matt Palisin, former coach and current sports information director.

Luckily for the baseball team, Fredonia's athletic department looked no further than Jordan Basile, a former Blue Devil who certainly has what it takes to lead the squad. Basile has had numerous experiences in his baseball career, including his work with the Detroit Tigers back in 2011.

Basile told The Leader in an interview last spring that "Fredonia feels like home and this is somewhere I plan to be for a long time." Now, Fredonia officially is home for Basile.

As for women's lacrosse, they are bringing in Tori Poffenberger, former NCAA Woman of the Year nominee. According to the hiring report on the Blue Devils athletic page, Poffenberger's career started out at her Alma Mater of St Mary's College of Maryland as a graduate assistant. From there, she assisted at Boonsboro High School for three seasons before taking over as head coach in 2019. The report also highlights some of her biggest accomplishments throughout her career thus-far.

Both newly acquired coaches can be seen in action during the upcoming spring season, which will start in March of 2023.

# Fall 2022 sports preview

**TYLER PACOS**  
Sports Editor

With the Fall 2022 semester underway at SUNY Fredonia, students will now have the chance to take part in an abundance of activities on Fredonia's campus. On top of the upcoming activities planned throughout the semester, Fredonia will also be starting the 2022-2023 sports season with six different NCAA Division III teams to watch.

At the beginning of the fall semester, students will be able to attend games/matches for men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, women's tennis and women's volleyball. The seasons for the teams listed above will start at the end of August and will run through the end of October. Once the Blue Devils regular season is over, be on the lookout for some playoff action, as we could potentially see the Blue Devils at the SUNYAC tournaments during the beginning of November.

Throughout the fall season, you will notice that each team has different playing areas located throughout campus. Soccer home games for both teams will be played at University Stadium, located on Ring Road just past Igoe Hall and near the student overnight parking lots. Men's and women's cross country will also take place farther up Ring Road, just near the nature trails. Tennis matches will be played at the Steele Hall Tennis Courts, which sits just outside Steele Hall and next to Dods Grove. Finally, volleyball will be played inside Dods Hall Gymnasium, located on the second floor inside Dods Hall next to the Blue Devil Fitness Center.

Students will have the option to attend any on-campus sporting event free of charge to them. All you have to do is present your FREDCard at the entrance of the event, and that will give you free access to the game.

For the complete schedule of the Fall 2022 Fredonia Blue Devils' games, visit [fredoniabluedevils.com/calendar](http://fredoniabluedevils.com/calendar). Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity and cheer on the Blue Devils throughout the entire 2022-2023 season.

## "Super" expectations: Previewing the 2022 Buffalo Bills season

**MATT VOLZ**  
Special to The Leader

Last January, the Bills were a mere 13 seconds away from a thrilling playoff victory.

In true Buffalo fashion, things didn't work out how Bills Mafia had hoped. 13 seconds became just another of many Buffalo sports blunders.

In 2022, the team and its fans hope to put the heartbreak behind them and aim for the franchise's first Lombardi Trophy. They certainly appear up to the task though, as Vegas oddsmakers have given the Bills the best chance to win it all. It all starts with QB Josh Allen.

The tall, rocket-armed quarterback remains one of the most feared players in the game. Alongside him on offense, the Bills boast arguably the top receiving core in the league, with the likes of Stefon Diggs, Gabriel Davis, Isaiah McKenzie, rookie Khalil Shakir, free agent Jamison Crowder and top-tier tight end Dawson Knox. The run game, though maligned at times, features a solid trio of Devin Singletary, Zack Moss and rookie James Cook.

Defensively, Buffalo trotted out one of the premier units in the game last year, a group that became even scarier after the signing of elite pass rusher Von Miller. He'll play alongside standouts such as Matt Milano, Jordan Poyer, Micah Hyde and Ed Oliver.

Unfortunately, the Bills will be without All-Pro cornerback Tre'Davious White for at least the first four games of the season, as he continues to heal from an ACL tear he suffered on Thanksgiving last year. Dane Jackson, along with rookie standouts Kaiir Elam and Christian Benford, appear to have the position locked down in the meantime.

The Bills certainly appear to have the pieces for success not seen since the early 1990s. Of course fans don't want to get their hopes up too much, but one thing is certainly clear: Bills Mafia is more than ready for a championship party.



Spencer Brown (79), Ryan Bates (71). Buffalo Bills Week 1 Practice, Sept. 4, 2022 at One Bills Drive. Photograph by Bill Wippert. Property of the Buffalo Bills.

# OPINION

## Eating on campus is difficult: FSA could improve

**GABRIEL GONZALEZ**

Special to The Leader

As a senior business administration management student, I have witnessed several issues with campus dining since my freshman year.

Starbucks, being the only place that I prefer to go, always has enormous lines out the door. This not only creates issues for the people waiting in line, but it also makes it more difficult for the staff to prepare orders.

As we all know, FSA has made the decision not to extend their contract with Tim Hortons due to the extensive amount of money that would have to be spent. But why don't they develop better menu alternatives for Willy C's and Cranston Marche?

I haven't been able to enjoy one good meal here at SUNY Fredonia since I started here. All of the food has been pretty subpar, and it's disappointing knowing that we pay for this food.

I am constantly trying to work on my health, and it's very hard to do that if we are only exposed to fried foods and unhealthy options from everywhere on campus.

Meal plans are starting to be something that I regret getting involved with while being a Fredonia student. These have not only taken my hard-earned money away, but they have made me eat food that is not the best for my health.

In the morning, most people just want a cup of coffee to start the day, but this is close to impossible unless you have time to wait.

On Aug. 29, I waited from 12 p.m. to 12:58 p.m. in order to get my venti iced matcha green tea latte. These drinks

take less than two minutes to produce, so it's sad that I had to wait that long for such an easy item to make. Not to mention, Starbucks is very expensive to begin with. So not only do we have to wait in a long line, but we have to pay double the amount of money that a normal cup of coffee would cost.

It is very disappointing to me that we haven't figured out how to cut down the line yet, as this has been an issue since I got here four years ago.

My suggestion is to implement some type of pre-ordering system. There should be a way for students to order their drink ahead of time while using their FredCard to purchase their drink. Look at Chipotle for example: They have a shelf with alphabetical order for pre-orders by time. This would definitely make it much easier for college students to get the proper amount of product for the right amount of time.

Every time I go to Starbucks, I see at least three or four people step out of line due to the wait time that they are experiencing. It is just a hassle all around for the workers and the students.

We need a much better system of production. Using the space where the Tim's location was before as an express kiosk might be a great way to separate the congestion that Starbucks faces each day.

I think everyone can agree that the hours for Starbucks are a little disappointing as well. This is the only Starbucks within miles. So not only are there college students buying from there, but there are people from Fredonia and around the city of Dunkirk, too.

I truly believe that we can get this under control if we put our minds to it.

Starbucks is a great place to get coffee and get some work done before classes, so we just need to eliminate the stress factor. After all, business functions and operations are what I love to focus on, so why not express this point of view. There are many ways that we can eliminate this line and provide a more efficient process for the employees and the students.

On Sept. 4, I went to the Starbucks on UB North Campus as a test to see what their line would be like. I waited less than a minute to be helped and my drink was ready within less than a minute. To put it into perspective it is the weekend; however, I interviewed a student who comes to that location very often. They stated that "they never have to wait more than five minutes for their order to be ready." Their Starbucks is open from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on weekdays, and our Starbucks is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Not to mention UB has plenty of other food options on their campus, and they have gluten free and vegetarian options available.

I am not here to just write a negative article about our meal plans. I want to offer ethical ways that we can fix our issues with time management and the amount of food options available on campus. Together, we can make a change that will help benefit future students and hopefully current students as well.

Some solutions for the future could include coffee vending machines, pre-made drinks at the C-Store, an express checkout line for just drinks and a pre-ordering system for quick pick-up.



# Trinity Episcopal Church

Barker Commons, Fredonia

*EPISCOPAL/ANGLICAN TRADITION*

**WELCOME SUNY FREDONIA  
STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF  
AS YOU BEGIN A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!**

**Join us on Sunday, September 11, at 11:30 a.m. for a  
complimentary breakfast with our parish family.**



## FELLOWSHIP & MORE!

### Canterbury Gathering

An Episcopal College Ministry  
for SUNY Fredonia students!

### Community Outreach Program

The Trinity Family contributes  
regularly within our local region.

### College Kitchen at Trinity

A complimentary monthly communal  
meal open for all college students.

### Music in our Parish

Our congregation is eager to welcome  
guest musicians and choir members.



@TrinityFredonia

[www.trinitychurchwny.org](http://www.trinitychurchwny.org)

### Trinity Episcopal Church

11 Day Street, Fredonia, NY 14063

[office@trinitychurchwny.org](mailto:office@trinitychurchwny.org)

716-679-7901



# THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia



## Join the Scallion, save your soul

**MATTHEW BAUM**  
Scallion Editor

Hark, all you who stumble upon this page!  
It is I, a mere pawn to the Scallion Eternal, and I come bearing the opportunity of a lifetime.

I have been sent forward to you! You who would capture the spirit of levity in your mind and a mirth in your meaning. Those who would satirize. Those who would make merry war on convention with their words! Those who fear not the dangers of ironic texts and the consequences thereof.

I seek writers, companions in my mission of entertainment, goodly creators and heralds of the elusive funny ha-ha's.

Basically, I'm asking you guys to join the Scallion Staff.

It's not a big deal! You know, I'll ask if you want to write an article every week, and if you have something you want to say about something, just let it rip! I then edit it, take out any Oxford Commas you add ~~because my bosses are afraid of the Oxford Comma~~ because it's not suitable for the newspaper article format, and then you get your work printed and published for all your friends and family to see! It's a blast!

Also, don't worry about "ooh, wah, I've never written for a newspaper before," because guess what? Neither have I! I'm an acting major, I'm just making things up as I go. It's a very low-stress position, with the opportunity to move up the ranks all the way up to where I am, as a Section Editor for The Leader, which means I get invited to the Big Boss Meetings that we hold every week. It's something else, I tell ya.

Most of the time, it doesn't take longer than 40 minutes for me to whip something up, and it's always just a matter of taking a story from recent news and carrying the premise to its silliest extent. If you've not done something like this before, it's fairly easy to catch on to. And I'll be there to help! You won't be on your own in writing.

So, yeah. If you're interested in giving satire a shot, hit me with an email ([baum0866@fredonia.edu](mailto:baum0866@fredonia.edu)) and let me know! We'll figure out what kind of articles you'd like to write, how often you can crank them out, and we'll go from there. I hope to hear from you, so long as you're willing to be silly on paper.

Best wishes, lots of love, and hail our unconquerable Scallion Overlord,  
Matthew Baum



The Scallion of The Leader. Graphic by Malana Chen.

# HOROSCOPES

**ALYSSA BUMP**  
Editor in Chief

## THE SIGNS AS BACK TO SCHOOL THINGS



**Aries**

Post-It notes for your so-called to-do lists.



**Taurus**

A green apple smelly pencil that loses its scent in 24 hours. You disgust me.



**Gemini**

A Jansport backpack to hide all of your secrets.



**Cancer**

Tissues. Get the kind with aloe. Thank me later.



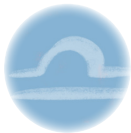
**Leo**

A study buddy so you can stop bothering everyone for the homework.



**Virgo**

Just your big brain filled with all those big brain facts.



**Libra**

Glasses for you to see reality more clearly.



**Scorpio**

A large black coffee to soothe the bitterness in your soul.



**Sagittarius**

A new wardrobe. We can't wait to see you slay the campus.



**Capricorn**

An emotional support animal.



**Aquarius**

Every textbook that was listed as "required" because you have a fear of failure.



**Pisces**

A dream journal. Pay attention: Your dreams are trying to tell you something.

