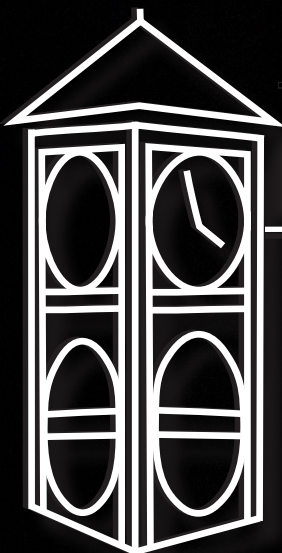


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Issue 11

Volume CXXIX



THE FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

Multicultural Weekend Spotlights Campus Culture

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The Fine Line Between Club & Varsity Sports
Blackhorse Rugby's Winston Recovers After Injury
Fredonia Alum Genevieve Ellis on Broadway
Ultimate Frisbee Club Hits the Road
Intimacy Coach Erica Rose Returns to Lovercall

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Front cover: Fredonia student model Genesis Paisés on the runway of the Black Student Union Fashion Show in Steele Hall Fieldhouse on March 25.

Back cover: Fredonia student model Jhalen Justin looks out at audience as he presents a denim look for the BSU Fashion Show.

Photos by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor.



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I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

Editorial

Student safety pushed to the sidelines: What is the fine line between varsity and club sports?

On the evening of Tuesday Feb. 21, Fredonia Blackhorse Rugby player Jason Winston collided with one of his teammates, leaving him with injuries that hospitalized him at Brooks Memorial overnight. Winston's teammates reached out to one of the athletic trainers nearby on campus for emergency assistance while others called University Police during the incident. However, the trainer did not provide him with care.

“During one of my meetings with my doctors, the doctors told me that the [reason the] athletic trainers didn't show up [to help me] is because we're not an NCAA sport. It doesn't make sense.”

– Jason Winston

At The Leader, we highly value the contributions of all types of athletes to making our campus and athletic programs better. We are disappointed by the campus Athletics Department's lack of immediate response and defense for not providing care to Winston through the means of an athletic trainer, regardless of his club athlete status, when he suffered a medical emergency on the evening of Feb. 21.

Winston is currently recovering due to the response of his teammates and doctors. We will be seeking out more thorough answers/solutions on this issue over the next few weeks from the Athletics Department and members of campus administration. We will be seeking clarification regarding what the university's Division III trainers and professional athletic staff can and can't do for non-Division III athletes, especially in the event of a medical emergency.

However, in solidarity and support of Winston and to raise awareness to the safety of club athletes, for the rest of the Spring 2023 semester, we will be making an increased effort to feature club and recreational sports in our print issues and online articles.

You can read more about Winston and his road to recovery on page 20.

If you are a club athlete and have any concerns about your own health/safety after this incident, please email The Leader at leader@fredonia.edu or email current Editor in Chief Will Karr karr6505@fredonia.edu, and we will endeavor to ensure your concerns are addressed by the appropriate people here on campus moving forward.

ChatGPT takes over the classroom: The robot teacher we never knew we needed

CHLOE KOWALYK

Managing Editor

Students today feel like they are living in a dystopia — a world in which artificial intelligence (AI) can write essays, explain the material and complete assignments.

Perhaps the most prominent form of AI hitting campuses today is ChatGPT: an artificial intelligence model that creates texts based on prompts. Typically, the AI's creations appear as though they were written by humans.

ChatGPT was created in November 2022 by OpenAI. Since its conception, the program has continuously gained accuracy and knowledge in developing texts. Students have begun to use the software to write their papers and answer

questions on assignments. But is AI going too far? And where does the line fall between plagiarism and fair use of resources?

These are just a few questions on the minds of those who've come into contact with ChatGPT.

Dr. Michel Kouadio is the chief information officer at SUNY Fredonia. Kouadio explained that ChatGPT is the "first major breakthrough of its kind in the consumer space of internet search," as it is almost able to think and imagine new answers to things that may not be obvious or predetermined.

Kouadio said that computer systems are based solely on binary choices, which include yes or no responses. These outcomes tend to be predictable. ChatGPT's ability to discover new answers and make decisions are what makes it unique.

"With ChatGPT, you will have a more conversational interaction with the system, as if you were interacting with a knowledgeable advisor," Kouadio said. "One of the best ways to understand this is to just go online and simply type a simple keyword or request such as 'SUNY Fredonia' in both Google and Bing Chat (ChatGPT). The different results will be

obvious."

Many feel that it can be tricky to determine whether or not something was created by AI. Kouadio said it is typically easier to find artificial language and inconsistencies in large bodies of text, but shorter messages might be a little harder to find discrepancies in.

"Using our human faculties/senses alone, I believe we may soon reach a limit of our ability to know whether something was created by AI, especially advanced AI," he said.

"Using our human faculties/senses alone, I believe we may soon reach a limit of our ability to know whether something was created by AI, especially advanced AI,"

**– Fredonia Chief Information Officer
Dr. Michel Kouadio**

ChatGPT's ability to make decisions and create artificially intelligent text is the reason many students are turning to the program to help them write essays and complete assignments.

Dr. Jonathan Chausovsky is an associate professor in the department of Politics and International Affairs.

His views are his own, and are not reflective of the views of SUNY Fredonia or his department.

Chausovsky said that the issue of people using AI software to complete assignments isn't a new issue, and noted that ChatGPT only makes it easier.

Kouadio felt the same way, explaining that we have seen similar rises in the use of technology over time.

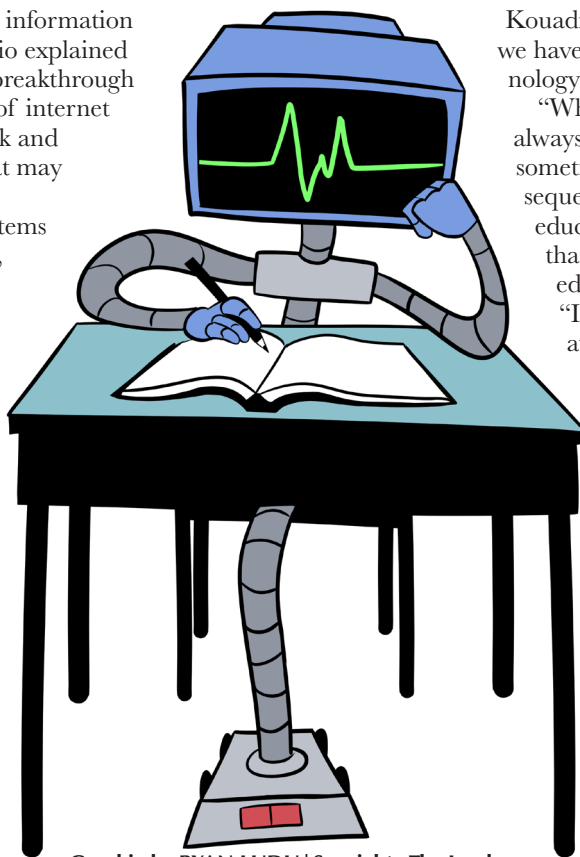
"Whenever there is a new technology, we always wonder about the implications, and sometimes, we simply exaggerate the consequences. As an example, when online education started, some people thought that would dilute and make college education meaningless," Kouadio said. "Instead of trying to combat the negative effects of ChatGPT, I'd rather suggest we study it, understand

it, and see how to leverage it or similar tools in our education."

Students have not just been using their peers, but also paying online writers a fee and using the internet to create essays and complete assignments for them.

Chausovsky said that with how easy it is for students to use ChatGPT, "the temptation is there."

However, Chausovsky said, "I'm not convinced that the



Graphic by RYAN LUDU | Special to The Leader.

Interested in another AI related article?

Take a look at an opinion ART-icle on page 30 to read about "The future of art in an AI world"

actual product of these things is ... necessarily very good."

He explained that with ChatGPT, arguments don't develop throughout the piece, and the piece is written, but "doesn't actually say anything." AI-created pieces typically lack a logical progression.

Chausovsky isn't sure if he's come into contact with any assignments written by ChatGPT in his classes. However, he has reduced the number of papers and is instead having his students take exams. While he said doesn't prefer this, it helps to mitigate the chance ChatGPT is used.

Kouadio said that new tools are being developed to help detect if something was created by AI. One such program is GLTR (<http://gltr.io/>).

Kouadio also provided some advice for students navigating a post-ChatGPT college experience.

"I'd suggest you strive to learn ChatGPT by running different queries," he said. "Educate yourself online about how other students are using it. How far you should go will depend on your own ethics, at least for now."

Chausovsky said that by using ChatGPT, students will not be developing the skills they need to think critically and form arguments. Doing work independently will allow students to fine-tune their skills.

Kouadio has a few thoughts on how ChatGPT will develop in the future.

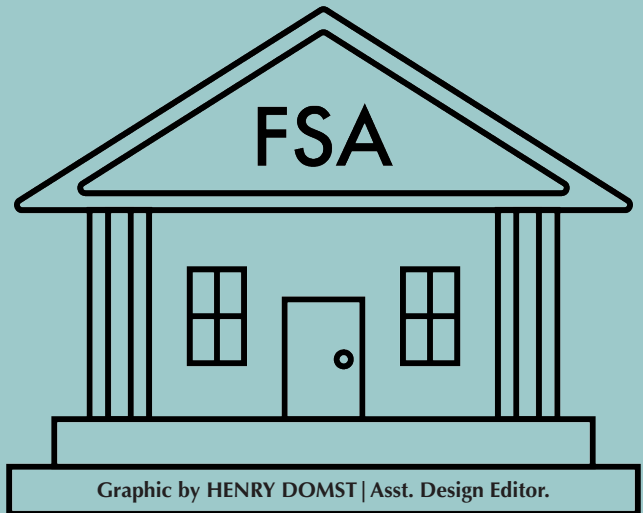
Much like nuclear technology and computing/information technology, Kouadio said, "There may be misuse, as was and is the case with many other technologies," he said. "I am personally very optimistic as an individual. So I like to think that most people understand their responsibilities in many things."

Chausovsky compared the rise of AI to the introduction of social media. While social media seemed to be a positive change, it ended up having destructive consequences.

"Of course, [ChatGPT] may cause disruptions in many areas: jobs, education, economy, security/defense, etc," Kouadio said. "Still, when all is said and done, most likely, we as a society will figure out how best to use AI, and that will be used for the greater good."

Note: The headline of this article was written by ChatGPT. Could you tell?

FSA hosts town hall, allows students to give feedback



DAN QUAGLIANA

Staff Writer

On March 7, the Faculty Student Association (FSA) held a town hall meeting to allow students to give feedback and advice on the food and dining halls on campus.

Students brought up a wealth of concerns, and FSA management took the opportunity to provide explanations.

Traditionally, FSA holds a town hall like this once per semester.

"With COVID[-19], we got out of the habit of it," said FSA's Executive Director Darin Schulz. "But I like to have the opportunity for students to be able to talk right to me."

Schulz started off the forum discussion by talking about FSA's roots as a nonprofit organization before addressing concerns. Students also heard remarks from Dean Messina, the director of dining services; Steve Loman, the director of support services; and Jason Dominica, the manager of Cranston.

Throughout the forum, Schulz and the rest of FSA management took questions and suggestions from students, which ranged from topics such as food availability to bookstore operation.

As a result of a specific student suggestion, ice cream is now offered in Willy C's.

Students are always free to offer suggestions like that, said Messina.

"If you want something different during the week, just ask one of the workers," Messina said. "They should be able to help you out."

Schulz thought that the town hall "was wonderful. It was actually one of the most productive town hall-type meetings that I've had in the 12 years I've been here."

Another town hall forum is expected to be held in Fall 2023.

SUNY Chancellor

John B. King, Jr. reflects on visit to Fredonia campus

DAN QUAGLIANA
Staff Writer

On March 6, SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. visited Fredonia as part of his state-wide tour of all SUNY colleges and universities. Since being appointed Chancellor in December 2022, King has been traveling in order to visit every SUNY campus before the end of the spring semester.

“During my visits, I’ve spoken with students, faculty, staff and employer partners. I enjoy talking with students about why they chose their particular school and what their future holds,” King said. “At each visit, one question I always ask is, ‘What can we do better?’ There are always ways to improve and enhance the experience for our students and faculty.”

As part of his visit to Fredonia, King explored campus with a group of student ambassadors. This included touring almost every academic building, having lunch with President Kolison’s Student Cabinet and even “adjusting his schedule to extend his time here,” Kolison said. “I thought that was very, very kind.”

King began his career as Chancellor in January, when the SUNY Board of Trustees selected him for the position after a nationwide search.

For his part, King was drawn to the role by “Governor Kathy Hochul and the SUNY Board of Trustees’ vision to ensure SUNY is the best system of public higher education in the nation.”

Before being appointed to his current position, King served as the Education Commissioner of New York from 2011 to 2015 and as the 10th United States Secretary of Education from 2016 to 2017, under President Barack Obama’s Administration.

King believes that his past experience has helped prepare him for his current role.

“From starting out as a high school social studies teacher to serving as U.S. Secretary of Education, I have dedicated my career to ensuring every student has access to the same kind of supportive academic opportunities New York City public school educators provided me.”

Having “identified core priorities for SUNY” with the Board of Trustees, King hopes to use his experience to make those priorities a reality.

“[One of my goals] is student success,” King explained. “Everything we do at SUNY, we do for our students. We must continue to invest in proven student support programs to ensure students not only start college, but finish with meaningful degrees and credentials. And we must address long-standing equity gaps.”

This sentiment is shared not only by the chancellor, but also with campus leadership.



Chancellor King during his March 6 visit of Fredonia's campus.
Photo by CASSIDY PIERCE | Special to The Leader.

“[This] aligns with me, personally,” Kolison remarked. “It’s really pleasing for him to come in and share that vision with the campus.”

Kolison took time to emphasize that he believes King will be a fantastic chancellor. “One of the things I admire about [King] is that he is very committed to giving students access to a high-quality education.”

King said, “One of our biggest issues is enrollment. We need to make sure more New York State students and their families recognize the incredible value proposition – quality, affordability, wonderful faculty, a wide range of academic and extracurricular offerings – that places like SUNY Fredonia provide.”

Fredonia, more so than other SUNY colleges, is currently managing budget problems. According to Kolison, King is “pushing hard for a better budget . . . and the last time I checked, the discussions were coming along very well. I’m very confident that the system as a whole will come out better than in previous years.”

The faculty on campus were also very impressed by the Chancellor.

Dr. Bruce Simon, the chairman of the University Senate, said that he is “optimistic that Governor Hochul and Chancellor King, working with the New York State legislature, will take significant steps to sustainably and equitably support and advance Fredonia’s core academic mission . . . and will make it a priority to fund SUNY like the public good it is for years to come.”

News analysis:

Criminal justice professor

analyzes campus-wide opinions on University Police

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Special to The Leader

Over the past month, more than 400 Fredonia students participated in a campus-wide survey. The survey collected information about the students, their interactions with University Police and their opinion of UP.

Police relationships with communities in America have been rocky throughout history. Whether you examine the lives of Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor or George Floyd, the United States is constantly reassessing its role in race relations and policing.

Dr. Jessica Finkeldey, an assistant professor of criminal justice in the Sociocultural and Justice Sciences Department, created the survey. She noted that there's not much research on how campus police interact with students in comparison to local or state police.

Most research indicates that police stop minorities at higher rates than white people even if they commit the same crimes per capita.

Finkeldey said her research did not show that to be the case within the University Police Department staff. For example, among white students who completed the questionnaire, 59.7% reported having any contact with Fredonia University Police, and among non-white students, 58.8% reported having contact.

"This is what we want to see," Finkeldey said.

In fact, minority students said they did not view University Police as less favorable or more favorable.

Through other data, Finkeldey said University Police get less training time than local or state police, and the departments are similar in racial and ethnic makeup.

Other results from the survey also indicated that liberal students were more likely to view UP in a bad light, compared to their conservative peers. Heterosexual students are more likely to view police favorably than students who identify as LGBTQ+.

One difference between departments is the slight increase in education within the UP's force. While there are only 3% more cops who have at least an associate's or bachelor's degree, 13% of UP officer job postings say they prefer to hire a candidate with college experience, compared to 10% of municipal police.

Could this be the silver bullet to solving policing problems? We'll just have to wait and see.

Among white students who completed the questionnaire, 59.7% reported they've had contact with University Police. Among non-white students, 58.8% reported having contact.

Graphic by DICE YANDOW | Staff Artist.



There are only 3% more cops who have at least an associate's or bachelor's degree, 13% of UP officer job postings say they prefer to hire a candidate with college experience, compared to 10% of municipal police.

Life & Arts



BLACK STUDENT UNION presents Black excellence on the runway

ALANA WINGATE
Staff Writer

With fresh lineups, bolder themes, cultural expression and heritage, the yearly fashion show organized by Fredonia's Black Student Union (BSU) made its memorable return.

This year's fashion show titled, "Black Gala," was held on March 25 in the Steele Hall Fieldhouse at 6 p.m.

The focus this year was distinctive from previous years' themes. In an effort to present the Black experience as a whole, the theme was meant to be more extensive.

The gala was hosted by comedian Courtney Bee Bledsoe, who appeared on the last season of Nick Cannon's MTV comedic competition program "Wild n' Out."

"With the BSU fashion show history, there's always been a social media celebrity host, so of course, I wanted to keep that legacy alive by making sure that we have someone who's known in social media and building up their presence," said Sangai Keita, a senior double major in public relations and political science, and this year's fashion show chair.

Opening the show with a "Mean Girls" inspired routine was the EnFusion and EX dance teams, starting the show with a "totally fetch" performance.

Following "The Plastics" departure from the stage, the models walked their runway in full confidence starting with "A Night at the Oscars."

"I would definitely say it is a big confidence boost. I'm a very shy person. I'm not somebody who likes to use my voice as much, but I definitely like to express myself through my body, so for me, doing a fashion show is definitely a great way for me to express that," said Genesis Países, a senior Spanish major with a minor in education of immigrant communities.

This fashion show is one of many BSU activities that promotes diversity on Fredonia's campus as well as highlights the talents of up-and-coming fashion designers.

The featured designers included Fredonia student Jeremy Casso-Garcia, creator of "Blue Stripss Apparel," a small, Buffalo-based black-owned company, "Lvsh & Co." and Izu and Vash, whose Ankara-style dresses were featured in earlier BSU fashion shows in 2017. All of the designers were given full creative freedom to display their vision for all to see.

Even though it looked like a traditional fashion week setting, the fashion display honored Black culture. By highlighting the various cultural facets of the Black identity and its development over time, the program served as a positive depiction of historical progression.

"I feel like a lot of times when it comes to fashion, a lot of people don't know the history behind it. I wanted

to bring more history to fashion and more enlightenment for people to realize it's way more than clothes," Keita said. "Not a lot of people know that, in terms of people of color or Black people in general, we wore those things back in the day to represent a rebellion against civil rights [violations] and social issues."

The models and their bold looks kept the audience engaged throughout the night. With runway lines like "Once Upon a Time," "DareDevil," "Denim" and a throwback to the '70s in the "Soul Train" theme.

"The fashion itself, it did what it had to do. The outfits were well thought out and everyone rocked their look. The brand promotion was the best part. I'd go again next year," said Anthony Pascal, a freshman public relations major.

The show included a body-positive runway walk where models strutted their stuff in swimsuits or other related apparel that made them feel comfortable in their skin, supporting every model and their uniqueness.

"The reason why I like a lot of the DIY scenes is [because] we get to choose what we are comfortable in. I personally do feel comfortable showing my body, that was definitely an aspect that I brought to the stage," Paises said. "Whereas, for people who don't feel that comfortable, they also had the option to stay covered up and still put expression through [their] outfit. I think that was something that I did enjoy – I was in the show

All photos by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor.



last year as well, so it was something that continued through this show as well."

Grace Ojatonwase, sophomore medical technology major added, "The fashion show was very out of my comfort zone, especially the bathing suit scene because, when it comes to my arms, I'm very insecure about how masculine they are and very toned. With that scene, I was kind of able to just say [forget] it, you know, put it on, walk out there, and do what you got to do."

Overall, the fashion show was a success for those that participated and attended.

"The fashion show was a good time. The vibes were there, starting with the dance performance. The host had good energy and was really involved with the crowd. [She] also dropped some nuggets of inspiration here or there in the midst of her jokes," Pascal said.

In the end, the fashion show chair and the rest of the e-board pulled off another annual BSU fashion show. Keita shared that she hopes the tradition continues in the years to come.

"I'm very sure and hoping that next year, BSU continues the legacy of having these big events that bring the students of color on campus together," Keita said.

Currently, the BSU is planning events that will take place this term, like a basketball game between various Intercultural Center clubs. Watch for a Google form in your inbox to sign up for yourself or a team.

They also intend to revive the "Kickback" for an all-intercultural welcome celebration or meeting the following year. Be sure to follow their Instagram page @BSUfredonia for updates on upcoming events.



'Black Gala'

.....

DREW PALUCH
Photo Editor





**MULTICULTURAL
WEEKEND:**

Latinos Unidos celebrates culture at annual Carnaval

NERON SIMPSON
Special to The Leader

At predominantly white institutions (PWI), students of color may sometimes feel as if they have little cultural connection to the school itself. For students of Hispanic and Latin backgrounds, one way of coming together and celebrating their cultural similarities at Fredonia is through Carnaval.

Carnaval is an annual event hosted by Latinos Unidos and the Intercultural Center that occurs on the Friday after Spring Break leading up to Multicultural Weekend. This year's event took place from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday, March 24 in the Steele Hall Fieldhouse.

Multicultural Weekend is a weekend that works in conjunction with the Office of Admissions where prospective Fredonia students visit campus during the spring semester to participate in cultural events. These events are hosted by Intercultural Center organizations, like Brother2Brother's Family Feud Night and Black Student Union's Annual Fashion Show.

These events are intended to provide a glimpse into the diversity of the campus community, and serve as possible organizations that the students themselves may be interested in joining if they attend Fredonia.

Greeted by a medley of Afrobeats and Reggaeton music, Steele Hall was alive with students from all majors. With college being a hectic and busy experience in one's life, it can be refreshing to be around and speak to people who study different disciplines.

A line formed for food, which was catered by local Dunkirk restaurants Alma Latina and Taqueria Mexicana. Tables were filled with an array of delicious Latin options.

One could encounter savory perrito (slow-roasted marinated pork), rice and beans, stewed chicken, maduros (fried sweet plantations), and crispy pastelitos (in chicken and cheese). There was also a nacho and ice-cream station for those who craved other sweet and salty options.

In addition to the food, there were Carnaval games including basketball toss, wand buzzer, giant Jenga and giant Connect 4. A new addition to this year's event was a life-sized, inflatable foosball table where students played as the figurines.

At each station, volunteers handed out varying numbers of tickets for participating and winning games.

Standard red tickets could be traded in at the prize table for blue raffle tickets. Similar to the food, the prize table had a variety of options. Prizes were a balance of practical to recreational items, giving students the opportunity to win flat screen televisions, a rice cooker, themed baskets, a JBL speaker and a Nintendo Switch.



Sangai Keita with Latin food from buffet at Carnaval celebration in Steele Hall Fieldhouse on March 24. Photo by AMBER LOUIS | Special to The Leader.

Leading up to raffle winner announcements, there were performances by student dance group EnFusion and gospel choir group Divine Sound.

In the midst of having fun, it is important to acknowledge the historical significance of Carnaval in Latin American and Caribbean communities. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade displaced millions of African people throughout the Caribbean, North America and South America.

Being forced to inhabit unfamiliar environments, enslaved Africans combined elements from their respective cultures along with Indigenous cultures and European influence to create their own customs. Carnaval served as a rebellion against colonialism and slavery, and was practiced as an act of freedom and celebration.

Carnaval also served to strengthen community ties and to uplift younger generations. Through celebrations of music and dancing, customs and values were passed down to children to affirm confidence, appreciation and empathy.

Latinos Unidos' commitment to hosting an annual Carnaval serves as an opportunity to connect students of diverse backgrounds.

Q + A with Iaisha Babb, EnFusion president:

Neron Simpson: Carnaval has been used as a tool for liberation in the Latin and Caribbean diaspora. What does liberation mean to you and how does it show up for you in EnFusion, being the group president?

Iaisha Babb: “Liberation, to me, is about the freedom and allowance to do and be whomever you want to be. For EnFusion, it shows up in the dance styles that we do. As someone who studies dance and is earning a degree in this field, cultural dances are always seen as these proper, traditional forms. Many times they show up as something that is 'barbaric,' 'too fresh' or 'unnecessary.' With EnFusion, we get to do that on campus freely, and really show a part of ourselves in our culture on a campus that is not always so inclusive, because it is a PWI. The fact that EnFusion is able to bring that sauce, spice and flavor to Fredonia’s campus is liberation within itself.”



Graphic by HENRY DOMST | Asst. Design Editor.

Q + A with Elsie Tecalero, Latinos Unidos president:

Neron Simpson (NS): Carnaval was often used as a way for Latin and Caribbean people to feel liberated. What does liberation look like to you and how does it show up for you in your life?

Elsie Tecalero (ET): “To me, liberation looks like expressing your culture and beliefs freely without being scared of repercussions. The way it shows up for me is being a part of Latinos Unidos. Being in a predominantly white institution as a person of color can feel intimidating, for me at least. LU allows me and others to express themselves and also educate others about our culture through general body meetings and big events such as Carnaval and Latin Night.”

NS: What is some advice you would give to a student who may have a hard time fitting in?

ET: “I would say put yourself out there and do not be afraid. When I first came here the first thing I was looking for was something Latino/Hispanic related, so when I saw Latinos Unidos on the list of clubs, I was so relieved. Activities Night is the place to be if you want to make new friends and for your personal growth. But if you think there isn't something that you feel expresses your culture/ethnicity or if there is something you want to put out there, make it. You can always create a club and who knows, maybe you'll create something that will make others feel [included] as well.”

For more information about EnFusion and Latinos Unidos events, both organizations can be found on Instagram @enfusiodance and @latinos-unidosfsu. You can also email the club presidents at ibabb@fredonia.edu and etecalero@fredonia.edu to be added to their email lists.



Divine Sound performs at Latinos Unidos' Carnaval. Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor.

A smashing good time with Sigma Gamma Phi x Blackhorse Rugby

EJ JACOBS

Asst. Life & Arts Editor

On March 6, the sorority Sigma Gamma Phi and Blackhorse Rugby Team got together to do something neither group had ever done before. They held events to raise money for an important cause: the March of Dimes.

March of Dimes is a United States organization that works to provide support for mothers and babies. The organization aids babies born prematurely and helps them both neurologically and emotionally. Sigma Gamma Phi has been raising money and awareness for them since the early 2000s.

“I think the thing that stands out to me and what we value in Sigma Gamma Phi is inclusivity,” said Katherine Hanley, philanthropy chair of the sorority. “I think it's really important to educate people that it's not only just women who become pregnant.”

Due to COVID-19, Sigma Gamma Phi's philanthropy faced some difficulty, but as the pandemic becomes further in the past, the group is hoping their events will encourage more people to come out and help raise money in the future.

During the month, the group hosted events such as Pie a Sigma Gamma Phi and a Rugby Guy, a karaoke night and a fair. Along with these events they also offered raffle baskets.



Graphic by NICOLE THORSON | Staff Artist.

This is one of the first collaborations that Fredonia's Sigma Gamma Phi has been a part of. Collaborating with Blackhorse Rugby was very beneficial for both groups.

“I think that besides organizations hanging out as friends, they definitely should try to do more on-campus events and co-host them,” said Max Hamilton, president of Blackhorse Rugby.

Hanley added, “It was a lot of fun, too, for the groups to interact with each other. We had so many people turn up for the event, not only for one group or the other but for both of us. And it just

brought in a lot of people. And it was very successful and raised money for the March of Dimes. The event and cause was something that both of our groups really valued.”

In the future, Sigma Gamma Phi said the only thing they would change is the time they held their events. Due to the events taking place right before Spring Break, they feel that the turnout they received this year wasn't as good as it could have been.

Overall, Sigma Gamma Phi and Blackhorse Rugby raised \$278 from the pie event, and then \$140 from selling raffles throughout the entirety of the week of events.

If you want to donate to the March of Dimes, you can visit: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/donate>.



Right: Blackhorse Rugby president Maxwell Hamilton is pied by Elijah Smalls. Left: Sigma Gamma Phi members prepare pies for event.

Photos by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor.

From the Navy to Fredonia: Darin Schulz discusses military background

ABIGAIL JACOBSON

Special to The Leader

When stepping into Darin Schulz's office, you will see a picture of the USS Ashland Navy Ship (LSD - 48) hung on the wall to the left, a Steelers helmet on top of a cabinet and a Chewbacca pencil holder.

You will see Schulz, the Faculty Student Association's (FSA) executive director, has blue eyes and brown hair. He dresses professionally.

Most people know of Schulz primarily because of his role in the FSA, but here is the Schulz people don't see every day.

Schulz is 51 years-old. He grew up in Randolph, N.Y., as an only child. He went on to graduate from high school in Randolph in 1989. Schulz graduated from Penn State University in 1993, majoring in operations management with a minor in naval sciences, on a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship.

An ROTC scholarship will cover most of your college expenses; in return, you participate in military training while in college and serve after you graduate.

After graduating from Penn State, he was commissioned as an officer in the Navy for seven years. He was stationed on the USS LSD 48 for the first three years.

He went to several different parts of the world: the Mediterranean, Spain, Naples, Italy and many others. Traveling to these areas made Schulz "appreciate how wonderful we have it here."

"Something that really made me appreciate how we live here in America ... the opportunities that we have here," Schulz said. "... Even those that are less fortunate here [have it] so much better than other places."

During his time in the Navy, he was involved in operations that helped out other countries with humanitarian projects. In Africa, he helped with infrastructure projects.

Schulz also worked in South America.

"In Argentina, we went and worked on painting this really rural school that they had," Schulz said.

He said in 1994, several Cubans were trying to move to

Florida. A task force was sent down from the ship he was stationed on to work with the Coast Guard. They picked people up to save them from dehydration, rough currents, shark-infested waters and the humid, hot weather.

"So we were ... just trying to pick them up, along with the Coast Guard, and a few other ships so they wouldn't ... die out there," Schulz said.

Schulz gave advice to those who are thinking of going into the military.

"I would highly encourage doing it early and going that route. ... It gives you the opportunity to see things that you'll never or would never see," he said. "It is a great opportunity to grow." Schulz left the Navy as a lieutenant, and he was fortunate to have the opportunity to move back home to Randolph afterward.

He then worked for the Chautauqua County government as a financial analyst and was promoted to director of finance in 2006.

Schulz decided to come to SUNY Fredonia to work at the Faculty Student Association in 2012.

Sangai Keita, who was previously involved with the Student Association and is a senior public relations and political science dual major, said, "Darin, just like all the FSA members, seems to be very welcoming."

Director of dining services Dean Messina also talked about his relationship with Schulz.

"Darin is professional in his tone and mannerisms," Messina said. "Darin is a person that is motivating, fair, trusting and very family-oriented."

Schulz is married and has three children. He also has two Irish doodles, whose names are Leia and Rey after his biggest interest, "Star Wars." He also has four cats.

Schulz loves "Star Wars," the Buffalo Bills and anything outdoors. He and his family snowmobile in the winter, and spend time outside during warm weather. They often spend time upkeeping the seven acres of land they own.

In many ways, Schulz has returned to where he started but he still has this advice for students. "Get out of a small town and see the world for a little bit [before settling down]," Schulz said.



Schulz with his wife and two dogs. Photo provided by DARIN SCHULZ | Executive Director of FSA.

Gen E. represents Gen Z in Broadway's 'Les Miz'

Genevieve Ellis

WILL KARR
Editor in Chief

In 2019, Fredonia alum and former theatre student Genevieve Ellis was warming up for her senior recital and preparing for life after graduation. But, one microscopic medical discovery put a halt to all of her future plans. As she approached graduation, she explained how “things went awry.”

“I remember my voice just was suddenly not working correctly as I was going to these auditions,” Ellis said. “... Doctors eventually found a cyst on my vocal cords during my senior and final year. I had to cancel my senior recital. ... All of the plans that I had to move to New York with friends and any job offers that I had at the time, I had to turn them all down. I had to pause completely and now prioritize this thing.”

Ellis graduated from Fredonia with her Bachelor's of Fine Arts (BFA) in musical theatre in May 2019. She is currently performing in the Ensemble for the 2022 U.S. National Tour of “Les Miserables” while serving as an understudy for the character Fantine.

Ellis had vocal cord surgery about a month after her graduation. As a result, she wasn't allowed to speak for a month or sing for three months.

Before coming to Fredonia, Ellis graduated from Chautauqua Lake High School (CLHS) in the town of Chautauqua (CHQ), N.Y. She transferred to CLHS from Southern California during her senior year of high school.

Ellis was born in South Africa but grew up in California. Ellis explained how there were not a lot of opportunities at her school in California primarily due to underfunding of the arts.

“My high school theatre department in California was seriously so underfunded that it was sad. ... The shows we did were very small and not very well known,” Ellis said. “... When we moved to Chautauqua Lake during my senior year, it was the first time they were doing a musical that I knew. They were doing ‘Little Women.’ That was a big change. ... It was nice to do a musical that people knew.”

In addition to underfunding, Ellis explained how she was heavily involved with martial arts growing up, causing her to forgo participating in different shows. She has a first-degree black belt in karate.

“As I got older, it would make sense for there to be more opportunities and things for me to do, but I did martial arts my entire childhood,” Ellis said. “I did it for a total of [about] 12 years. ... I was there every single day, and I would teach. So there were not a lot of shows that I did growing up.”

However, one day a week, Ellis would swap out her karate belt for a belt-out session with a vocal coach. After moving to CHQ, Ellis was cast as the lead in “Little Women.” Ellis explained that she decided to come to Fredonia after high school because it was close to CHQ Lake.

“If I had not moved to New York when I did, I would not have known about SUNY Fredonia. I am so glad that I found out about this school and that they had a great BFA program,” Ellis said. “I didn't have any former training or experience.”

Ellis said that since both her parents were raised in South Africa, they didn't understand how the college application and admissions process worked. Ellis applied to five schools and was eventually accepted into Fredonia. She was “nervous” and “intimidated” at first coming to Fredonia and about Mainstage auditions during the first week.

“I had my first day on a Monday and then on Tuesday, I was auditioning for all the shows for the entire year. It was nerve-wracking,” Ellis said. “... I remember it being said that ‘oh, freshmen don't get cast,’ but I got cast my freshman year in a Mainstage, which was so crazy and cool. I remember ‘Cabaret’ was the first Mainstage that I did ... It was the first show I ever did that dealt with adult themes. I felt like a grown up.”

In addition to “Cabaret,” during her time at Fredonia, Ellis performed in productions of “Noises Off” and “Pirates of Penzance.” During her senior year, before her diagnosis, Ellis participated in the Fredonia dance ensemble as a non-dance major.



“It was really rewarding and so cool. It was really interesting to see how rehearsals are so different for dance productions versus theater, musicals and plays,” Ellis said. “It was extremely rewarding and that was one of my favorite things that I did at Fredonia.”

After the dance ensemble, Ellis missed out on many other senior events as a result of medical restrictions. However, in October 2019, five months after graduation, Ellis said that she started to regain vocal strength. In March 2020, Ellis went to her first after-college audition in NYC before the pandemic. However, she contracted COVID-19 at the audition, presenting her with another obstacle.

“The pandemic hit and everything shut down. Unfortunately, in addition to me not being able to perform much, I was sick for about a year and a half with long-haul COVID[-19] symptoms and couldn’t breathe. I was having heart problems, fatigue and some serious lung issues,” Ellis said. “I was still singing as much as I could. But, I was so sick, which was just another really big blow.”

Ellis eventually ended up moving to Buffalo and enrolled in a voice pedagogy course to regain vocal strength. She explained that she started going on PLAYBILL looking for jobs and opportunities at the start of 2022.

“I was extremely lucky and saw the posts on PLAYBILL for ‘Les Miz’ the day it was posted,” Ellis said. “‘Les Miz’ was a show that I have wanted to do since I was a child so I knew that I had to submit for it.”

Ellis submitted a self-tape of her singing Fantine’s parts the day the role was listed. When she submitted it, as a non-union-represented actress with no equity credits on her resume, Ellis said that she never expected anyone from the casting department to actually watch it.

“I [eventually] got an email asking me to come in for an in-person appointment and I thought that they had sent the email to the wrong person,” Ellis said. “I almost emailed them back and said that they had the wrong person. But, my name was in the email a couple of times, so I was quite flabbergasted.”

Ellis took a train to NYC for the audition. She was eventually summoned back on two occasions for work-study and a call back for finals. One night, Ellis got an email about ten minutes before she was about to go on for a performance in Buffalo that she had officially booked the part as a member of the Ensemble on the Fantine track. There are two understudies in the Ensemble for every character.

“To this day, I still have moments where I pinch myself,” Ellis said. “... There were a lot of things. One, I didn’t think I’d be able to book it because I was non-equity. Two, at one point I didn’t think I would ever be able to sing again. And now here I am singing a song that I have wanted to sing since I was eight and being able to do what I want to do.”

Reagan Ellis, Genevieve’s younger brother, expressed how proud he is of her for overcoming so many different obstacles to get to where she is now.

“One of the many things that I admire most about my

sister is her dedication and determination to succeed in such a ruthless profession,” Reagan Ellis said. “I believe she wouldn’t be where she is now with [her] knowledge and capability if she hadn’t gone through the struggles and setbacks that she did. They molded and shaped her into the young woman she is today, and I couldn’t be more proud of my older sister.”

Darin Schulz, executive director of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), whose daughters went to CHQ Lake with Ellis expressed his thoughts on her big stage debut.

“It was obvious the talent she possessed and the extreme passion she felt for performing,” Schulz said. “To see that she has now made her debut in ‘Les Miserables’ is no surprise, and I expect wonderful things as her career progresses.”

Ellis has been traveling across the country since the tour started back in October 2022. Reagan Ellis was able to see her perform on opening night.

“Seeing Gen perform on stage, a dream I know she’s had from a very young age, was such a heartfelt experience because I know she’s following her dreams to the fullest,” Reagan Ellis said. “... It was definitely a full circle moment, too, watching her up on the stage because although I could hear her [singing on stage], I could still also hear the younger version of her yelling [the words to] ‘One Day More!’ in her room.”

Ellis chooses to drive from stop to stop on tour. She travels with a furry traveling companion — her dog Bentley. Ellis said it’s been an adjustment adapting to the fact that she no longer has a home base.

“Going to all the cities and visiting new places has been such a cool way to see the country,” Ellis said. “We don’t have ‘work’ until the evening, so we have the whole day to explore cities and sightsee.”

Show dates are currently released to the public through Fall 2023. However, Ellis expects the tour to be on the road for longer.

Ellis wanted to offer advice to current Fredonia theater students and the upcoming Class of 2023 graduates.

“Something that I had learned that I wish I had known a bit earlier was to always keep learning. There is always opportunity for growth regardless of how far you have come or how much progress you think you are making,” Ellis said. “I learned a lot at Fredonia. But, after graduating, I continued to learn and that is what propelled me so much, within my pedagogy training, my voice training and other master classes.”

Gen’s advice for the Next GEN-eration of theatre students:

- Always continue to learn and seek opportunities.
- Do not submit for everything, only what you are passionate about.
- “Always ... post your work because it can be seen and you have no idea who is watching it.” Ellis said that she has gotten jobs through her social media posts, videos and presence.

Follow Genevieve Ellis on Instagram and TikTok at @genevieve.ellis.

**“To this day,
I still have moments
where I pinch myself ...
At one point, I didn’t think I
would ever be able to sing again.”**

**– Genevieve Ellis, Fredonia alum
and understudy the 2022
U.S. National Tour of
“Les Miserables”**

Fredonia hosts first ever Music Therapy Mini-Conference



MEGAN KIDBY

Asst. Scallion Editor

On Sunday, April 1, Fredonia's Music Therapy Club had great success when they hosted their first inaugural Music Therapy Mini-Conference.

This year's conference was held in the Williams Center MPR and various other rooms in the building. The free event focused on various topics, such as vocal health, anti-ableism and clinical songwriting.

"Today I'm most excited to see all of our speakers' presentations," said Lizzy Davis, a Fredonia junior double major in music therapy and performance and president of the Music Therapy Club. "We have a lot of great stuff happening ... there's a lot of great topics so I'm just thrilled."

Attendees ranged from music therapy students from multiple schools, professional music therapists and even Fredonia students outside the major.

"I'm really excited for all the experiences that we're going to be taking part in and all of the events," said Ethan Smith, a Fredonia junior music therapy major and attendee of the conference.



To kick off the conference, the keynote speaker Wade Richards, an alumni of Fredonia and one of the owners/directors of Spectrum Creative Arts, an arts education and therapy center in Rochester, N.Y., spoke about how music collaboration inspires creativity. To demonstrate this, Wade invited the participants to come up with improvised dances, melodies and spoken-word poems based on prompts.

When asked afterwards about what music therapy means to him, Wade said, "Music therapy is so connected to my spirit and soul with creativity and making music. I am so thankful I have it as my career."

Wade also talked about his time at Fredonia.

"When I went through the [music therapy] program, there were maybe about six or seven of us in our class," Wade said. "It's really great to see how things have grown and expanded, and I'm super excited for [Fredonia students] to have their first conference and to be a part of it."

Thanks to the success of this first conference, music therapy majors can expect more Mini-Conferences to come in future years thanks to the Music Therapy Club.

Megan Kidby, the author of this article, is a music therapy major and a member of the Music Therapy Club.

Dancing into spring with the Fredonia Dance Ensemble

RACHEL BAYER
Special to The Leader

This spring, the Fredonia Dance Ensemble put dance majors in the spotlight for two days. On March 24 and 25, the FDE performed their annual show in the Robert W. Marvel Theatre located in the Rockefeller Arts Center.

The show was directed and choreographed by Professor Paula Peters and featured several guest choreographers including Dale Merrill, Sumi Clements and Ryan McMullen.

“Rehearsals for this performance began the first week of classes,” said Valentina Duic, a freshman dance major and FDE performer.

Duic said the most challenging aspect of the rehearsal process was “the long hours” because she was a part of two routines in the show.

“Being in the studio all day for multiple days in a row can take a toll on you if you don’t get enough sleep or fuel your body correctly,” Duic said.

The show featured four pieces, which didn’t have, “any one centralized theme, but had a throughline of the passage of time,” Peters said.

Peters also said that the show had the “idea of the human experience” and how “we all have humanity, but it’s expressed differently.”

This show was really important to both the dancers and choreographers, which was evident to the audience through each piece.

“Being a part of this show opened so many new opportunities for me,” Duic said.

The show was Duic’s “first experience being in a professional setting and it gave [her] so much knowledge on how the professional world works.”

This experience was extremely different from other performances Duic has done in her home studio.

“The pieces I was a part of in FDE had so much thought that was put into them and were truly amazing,” Duic said.

Duic was very excited to get the opportunity to work with

new choreographers and to “learn from new people and gain connections within the field.”

Peters admires her students and expressed her gratitude for all of their hard work preparing for this performance. She knows that when necessary they will always rise to the occasion.

“I think probably the biggest thing about them is how adaptable they are. They can take an idea, embody it and collaborate,” Peters said.

The dancers’ adaptability and resilience were extremely important aspects of the FDE performance, as it premiered earlier than usual.

Duic admires her professors and choreographers who put a lot of effort into this show.

She enjoyed seeing the behind-the-scenes aspects of the show that normally wouldn’t be as evident to performers. She expressed how amazing it was to see all of the hard work pay off.

“I also learned so much more about being a professional and how to act in a show so that everything runs smoothly,” Duic said.

The dance program at Fredonia is open to new students getting involved. There are many ways for students to join the program. The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance program teaches students who are interested in working in the professional performance area of dance.

Recently, a new major was added, the Bachelor of Science in Dance, which is mainly encouraged for students interested in double majoring and incorporating dance into another field.

This new program allows students to still have the opportunity to perform but is half of the credits required for a BFA because it is mainly for double majors. There is also a dance minor students can add to their degree.

Outside of majoring or minoring, students across campus can also audition for senior BFA dance projects.

For more updates, follow SUNY Fredonia Dance on Instagram @fredoniadance.



From left to right: Kaylee Brott, Kory Randles, Gianna Dobrich, Angelina Rand, Eleanor Fish, Nicolena Treasure, Mackenzie Phelps. All BFA Dance Majors. Photo provided by DOUGLAS OSBORNE-COY | Marketing/Public Relations Assistant of RAC.

SPORTS

Jason Winston's road to recovery

DOMINICK CORSI
Special to The Leader

Juggling athletics and academics can be tough for anybody. Schedules are conflicting, assignments pile up fast — the list of difficulties goes on forever. Adding a serious injury to that list could be catastrophic for some students.

But Jason Winston is not one of those students.

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, Winston collided with one of his teammates on the Fredonia Blackhorse Rugby team, leaving him with injuries that hospitalized him at Brooks Memorial overnight.

Winston needed stitches, and is recovering in high spirits.

“[I eventually found out that] I got a concussion, but at first [all I knew was that] I was seeing double vision,” Winston said.

Winston caught a knee to the eye when diving for the ball and immediately went down. He thought that he would need eye surgery. However, he did not end up needing surgery, and has returned to the classroom with just under two weeks of rest and recovery time recommended by his doctors.

Winston is a video production major in his junior year at Fredonia. He played high school football and track back home in Westchester, N.Y.

“I came here for track originally, but it never just ended up happening,” he said. “And my girlfriend was starting to play rugby. She was just trying it out and recommended it to me. So I went to one of the practices, and the rest is history.”

While joining the Fredonia Blackhorse Rugby team might not have been on Winston’s radar when coming to Fredonia, he decided to step out of his comfort zone and do so.

“I was a receiver and running back for my high school football team, so that made the transition a lot easier in playing rugby,” Winston said.

Winston said President of Blackhorse Rugby, Max Hamilton, was able to navigate the situation with great poise and leadership.

“Yeah [Max has] really been helping me out through this whole process and telling me how everything’s working out,” Winston said. “He’s not only been a good president, but a very good friend, too.”



Jason Winston surrounded by his teammates on the rugby field.
Photo by GABE ROGERS | Special to The Leader.

That type of camaraderie is a theme for the Blackhorse Rugby team, as they have been supporting Winston throughout his recovery and have kept him involved with the team as he was voted in as the team’s event coordinator.

Winston wants to leave the door open for a potential return to the rugby pitch in the future, however, he’s considering his health first before committing to anything.

“I don’t know whether I want to go into contact sports again, yet,” Winston said. “I still want to be around the rugby scene though, and I would love to play; it’s killing me that I can’t for the rest of the season. I was coming off a really good season, and I love my guys so it’s tough. But it’s just doctor’s orders.”

Hamilton has applauded Winston’s play over the course of the season.

“He was an everyday starter before the injury and was always known as a playmaker,” Hamilton said.

There has been controversy surrounding the lack of involvement from NCAA trainers during Winston's medical emergency. The common response and defense from the campus athletics department has been that NCAA trainers are prohibited from treating club athletes because they are not playing official varsity, DIII sports.

So when the injury happened, Hamilton, who is certified in both First Aid and CPR, led the way in taking care of Winston himself while his teammates, Ian Dague and Isiah Goodrich, called for aid and left to find help immediately. The two went to one of the athletic trainers' offices on site for help while Hamilton promptly called University Police.

"When Ian went to find somebody he specifically went to the athletic trainers, but nobody [came to help me]. And then during one of my meetings [later on] with my doctors, the doctors told me that [the reason] the athletic trainers didn't show up [to help me] is because we're not an NCAA sport," Winston said. "It doesn't make sense."

UPD eventually came to the scene and dispatched an ambulance. While the whole situation leaves plenty of questions about the accessibility of athletic trainers for club athletes in the event of a medical emergency, that's a subject for another time.

Winston has been appreciative of the support he's received from friends, family and his professors. He has been catching up on the schoolwork he might have missed while out.

"Time management is my biggest thing right now and also my health is big for me as well,"

Winston said. "I'm just taking steps in order to take care of my body, my eye and my health overall."

By making a quick recovery, getting back to his schoolwork and having a positive impact on Blackhorse Rugby, Winston has had an eventful past month-and-a-half.

On and off the pitch, Winston has a warrior's heart and is an inspiration to all athletes – club and varsity athletes alike.

Max Hamilton, president of the Blackhorse Rugby Team, currently serves as The Leader's Sports Editor.

"Time management is my biggest thing right now and also my health is big for me as well. I'm just taking steps in order to take care of my body, my eye and my health overall."

– Jason Winston

WHAT'S NEW ON 'BIG BLUE SPORTS' PODCAST?

MATT VOLZ
Asst. Sports Editor

Be sure to tune into Big Blue Sports Podcast **every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m.** to catch up on all the latest news involving our own Blue Devil teams, the Sabres and much more!

Last week on the show, I discussed the Sabres' playoff hopes, March Madness coming to a close, the start of Fredonia spring sports and the dawn of a new MLB season.

In the coming weeks, I'll be talking all about the Sabres and Blue Devils, as well as keeping listeners up to date on the latest news and notes from around the sports world.

Big Blue Sports Podcast can be heard on WCVF 88.9 FM or streamed live on fredoniaradio.com.



Graphic by ALINA MARSH | Asst. Art Director.

Blue Devils Sports Roundup

MATT VOLZ
Asst. Sports Editor

SOFTBALL

Fredonia's doubleheader against Penn State Behrend, originally scheduled for Thursday, March 30, was postponed due to inclement weather.

The games will be made up on Thursday, April 6, starting at 3 p.m., according to sports information director Matt Palisin.

Overall, the Blue Devils currently sit at 1-11 on the season, with their lone victory coming over Macalester College on March 17.

The team will be in action again on Tuesday, April 4 for a home doubleheader against Alfred University.

BASEBALL

The Blue Devils baseball team was scheduled to play three games in two days against the Oswego Lakers to open SUNYAC play, but those games were postponed due to inclement weather.

The doubleheader, originally scheduled for noon on Saturday, April 1, will be made up on Sunday, April 2 starting at 4 p.m., according to Palisin.

Overall, Fredonia sits at 4-8 on the season, with their most recent win being a 13-12 victory over Ramapo College down in Florida.

Following the games in Oswego, the Blue Devils will return home to face Allegheny College on Wednesday, April 5 at 4 p.m.

LACROSSE

Fredonia's women's lacrosse team has started SUNYAC play, with two recent road contests both resulting in losses.

On Wednesday, March 29, the Oswego Lakers scored early and often in a 19-2 win. The Lakers held an 8-1 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Senior Erin Woods and junior Sydney Buchko were the only goal scorers for the Blue Devils. Freshman Cailin Karalus provided the team's only assist, as Woods' goal was unassisted.

On Saturday, April 1, the Blue Devils were unable to score in the first half in a game they eventually lost 11-3.

Sophomore Audrey Brown scored two goals for Fredonia, while senior Molly McGowan added the other.

Freshman Camryn Jacobs tallied the team's only assist.

The weekend's results bring Fredonia's overall record to 5-6, and their conference record to 0-3.

Their next home game is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4 against Brockport, beginning at 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Fredonia's women's track and field team began their season on Friday, March 31 with the Dave Labor Invitational at Slippery Rock University.

Freshman Kira Davidson took first place in the second flight of jumpers of the triple jump.

Davidson also competed in the 400 meter dash, taking fourth out of eight runners in her preliminary heat and 20th out of 30 in the final race.

Junior Vanessa Ryhal participated in the 800 meter dash, finishing 11th out of 12 runners in her preliminary heat and 31st out of 40 in the overall race.

Freshman Cara Pellechia competed in the pole vault event, finishing 16th out of 25 athletes.

Senior thrower Marisa Stravino finished second in her preliminary flight for the hammer throw. In the final event, she placed 10th out of 18 throwers with a distance of 35.52 meters.

Stravino also competed in the discus throw, finishing eighth out of 10 throwers in her preliminary flight and 31st out of 39 in the final event with a distance of 23.40 meters.

The Blue Devils will be in action again on Saturday, April 8, as they travel to Henrietta, N.Y. for a meet at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The Blue Devils began the season with the Dave Labor Invitational at Slippery Rock University on Friday, March 31.

Eight Fredonia athletes competed in the event, participating in eight different events.

Four Blue Devils competed in the 1,500 meter run, all finishing in the top 50 out of 73 athletes.

Junior Josh Walters was the team's top finisher, placing 19th with a time of 4:11.89.

Also competing in the event for the Blue Devils were junior Sam Cottrell (26th place, 4:16.97), senior Kyle Campbell (31st place, 4:19.93) and senior Vincent Mendez (48th place, 4:36.44).

Three Blue Devils also competed in the 800 meter run, with Campbell as the team's top finisher (11th place, 2:07.89).

Cottrell placed 15th with a time of 2:08.86, and Mendez placed 25th with a time of 2:13.47.

There were 47 finishers in the race.

Fredonia's jumpers also took home top 10 finishes in their events. Senior Toby Onuoha came in fourth out of 23 athletes in the triple jump with a distance of 13.33 meters.

Freshman Cameron Sample competed in the long jump, finishing fourth out of 24 with a distance of 6.32 meters.

Other notable results included sophomore Patrick Klinger finishing eighth in the 5,000 meter run with a time of 16:15.60 and freshman Jacob Winn finishing 10th in the 200 meter dash with a time of 23.42.

Fredonia will be back in action on Saturday, April 8 for a meet at RIT.

CHEERLEADING

Fredonia's cheerleading team hosted a showcase at the Dods Hall Gym on Saturday, April 1.

It was the first showcase event the team has ever hosted.

The team will travel to Daytona, FL. for the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) College Nationals, which begin on Thursday, April 6 and end on Saturday, April 8.

The Blue Devils are set to compete at 5:47 p.m. on Thursday at the Ocean Center Arena in Daytona, according to the NCA's website.

In 2022, the team took home 13th place at Nationals.

Archive graphic by OLIVIA CONNOR.

Road trip with the Ultimate Frisbee Club



Terrifying Turtles at an ultimate frisbee tournament in Philadelphia over Spring Break. Photo provided by JAKOB PACHUCINSKI.

ADA PACHUCINSKI

Special to The Leader

Ultimate frisbee is a sport involving a frisbee disc that is thrown across a field around the size of a football field. The goal of this game is to reach the end zone of the opposing team, scoring as many points as possible.

Fredonia's Ultimate Frisbee Club was founded in October 2004, and has continued to grow its club members over the years. This Spring Break, the club team, the "Terrifying Turtles," decided to drive to Myrtle Beach for a team trip, which then led them to Philadelphia, Pa. for a tournament.

A new rookie of the club, junior applied mathematics major Jakob Pachucinski said that the trip was an experience that brought the team closer together as friends.

"Once we got to Myrtle Beach the vibe was totally different. Each day we felt more and more like a family — you could really tell it was something special," he said. "Everyone was welcoming, and it was impossible to feel left out in an environment like that."

Pachucinski added that going into the trip, he felt anxious, since he was a new addition to the team and did not know the club members that well. After the trip had ended, he felt a shift in attitude with everyone, as if a weight had been lifted and the team was finally united as one.

A memory the entire team will remember was the lunch served each day.

"Lunch everyday in Myrtle Beach was pasta, sauce and ground meat," Pachucinski said. "Each car that drove down had an assigned day and was in charge of making six pounds of pasta before the day's practice."

After playing in South Carolina, the team had to drive across the states to Philadelphia, P.A. where they would play multiple Division I colleges. The club members felt that the match-ups were tough, but they continued to keep their heads

up, and never truly gave up on themselves. These games were great competition and practice for the colleges they will be playing against in the upcoming weeks.

The team's Spring Break was filled with lasting memories, from carpool karaoke to late-night card games.

Brandon Jeanotte, a senior communications major, has been on this team for four years, and captain for two of those years. He added that his favorite part of the vacation was being able to see the bonds forming between everyone.

"Groups that did not interact were now sharing rooms together and even the quieter people on the team became more open to talking," said Jeanotte.

Jeanotte said that he had always loved ultimate frisbee, and four years ago when he was a freshman, he immediately signed up for the team at Fredonia. From the start, Jeanotte experienced a welcoming group that shortly became his family, and he continues to keep that family growing today as one of the captains.

Senior Seth Porter is dual majoring in history and political science and is a first year captain for the team he has been on for two years. Porter brings leadership to the club members, and said that his favorite memory has been watching everyone grow as players.

The captains shared they want everyone to feel welcome and understand that the practices held are meant to be fun and for anyone to join in. Practices for the ultimate frisbee team are currently held Thursdays 7 to 9 p.m. The teams that are faced regularly in tournaments are Geneseo, Cortland, Brockport, and even some Division I rivals, such as University of Pittsburgh and The Ohio State University.

If you are interested in becoming a Terrifying Turtle, feel free to reach out to them on the Twitter page @fredoinault.

Ada Pachucinski, the author of this article, is related to Jakob Pachucinski, a player interviewed in this story.

Setting up for victory with women's club volleyball

MITCHELL HORUCY

Special to The Leader

Freshman Rachel Bayer has been playing volleyball for almost her whole life, but now she plays for the women's club volleyball team at Fredonia. Bayer talks about the transition from high school volleyball to collegiate-level volleyball.

Bayer, a double major in sport management and public relations, has been playing volleyball since the third grade. She was on her middle and high school teams, and she mentioned that she played year-round as well.

The Pittsburgh, P.A. native has been a middle hitter for the team but had to make the switch to setter due to injuries on the team.

When talking about some of the biggest differences between high school and college-level volleyball, she was quick to talk about competitiveness.

Another difference she mentioned is how independent the team is.

"It's a lot more independent. It's kind of like a student-run [operation]," Bayer said. "So we kind of run whatever plays we want, whatever rotations we want because we don't really have a coach. So it's definitely a lot more free."

Despite liking the new structure, Bayer said that was one of the harder things to get adjusted to.

"Not having one specific coach and kind of just having a student-run program [is different], but it's definitely a good thing," Bayer said.

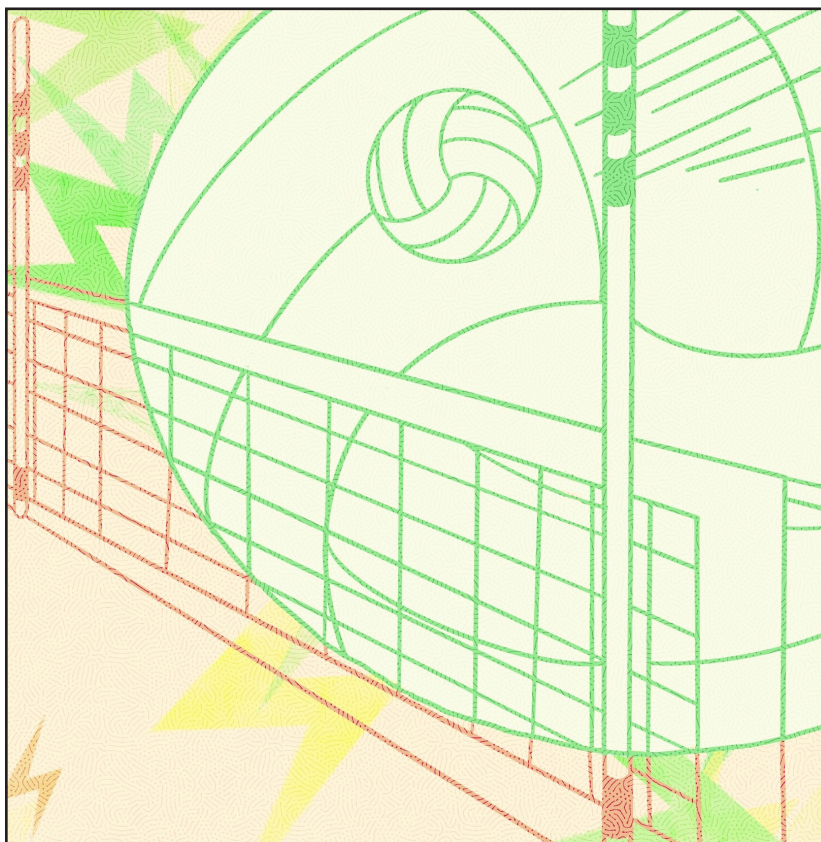
Being a club team, it can be hard to find the balance between competing, but also having fun.

The team tries to accomplish that with the way they structure their practices.

Bayer said that they will usually start practice with a hitting or passing drill. They will then end off practice with a drill that can still help them get better, but it'll be fun.

They also try to stay disciplined as a team. In practice, if a ball hits the floor, they'll do burpees or some sort of exercise as a sort of punishment. They want to keep it disciplined but not to the point where it's overlaying stressful.

The team also believes team bonding is very important. Bayer mentioned that a team with good chemistry typically tends to play better together on the court. She also added that the team as a whole is really close.



Graphic by DICE YANDOW | Staff Artist.

Some of the things the team does to bond are just as simple as going over to one of the player's houses and hanging out.

The team also usually gets food together before games, practices and tournaments.

When asked what she's learned from any upperclassmen on the team since joining, she named many things but emphasized that she's learned a lot from current club president Taylor Potter.

She's helped Bayer learn how to manage her time with volleyball and schoolwork and how to balance the two.

Being on the team has also helped her adjust to college and being at Fredonia.

Bayer said some of her closest friends are people that she met on the team. It's also helped her meet tons of new people even if they aren't best friends.

She spoke about how it's nice to walk by someone that she met through volleyball and just said hello.

Bayer said her favorite memory on the team is probably when they found out they were making playoffs at their tournament at Brockport.

"It was a rough season. We've had a lot of injuries and stuff like that like taking out key players," Bayer said. "So when we found out we were playing in the playoffs, we were super excited."

Despite the season being well underway, the team still has goals. Bayer mentioned that they don't have anything super specific, they just want to keep improving as a team this season.

INTRAMURALS AT FREDONIA:

Bringing students together through sports

WILL KARR
Editor in Chief

There are many varsity level athletic teams at SUNY Fredonia. However, Geoff Braun, Fredonia's intramural director and volleyball head coach, is working to show that students don't need to be a varsity athlete to play sports.

Braun has been intramural director for approximately 18 years and aims to provide students with recreational sports opportunities.

"You don't have to be on an NCAA team to play, be active and compete," Braun said. "[With intramurals], there are different levels that suit everybody's interests. Within each sport if we have enough interest, we can have a recreational division, an intermediate division and then a competitive division."

Through intramurals, students can compete against fellow students in semester long and half semester tournaments.

"I think that Covid affected students' motivations to get out and do things for a while. But, most of our students are doing at least one other thing [outside of class] now," Braun said. "But I would love to see students be involved in lots of other things — one of which is physical activity."

Braun explained how intramural sports are different from varsity and club level sports. While varsity sports are funded by the athletics department, club sports and intramurals are funded by Student Association (SA). Club sports are student-run and groups often compete against teams from other colleges and universities. Meanwhile, with intramurals, students can form their own teams and compete against their peers right here on campus.

This spring semester, the Intramural Office is offering five different sports, which include basketball, volleyball, 3-on-3 soccer, pickleball and floor hockey. Braun said that volleyball and basketball are currently the two most popular sports.

Even though the registration deadline has already passed for this spring, Braun mentioned that many other intramural sports will be offered this upcoming fall semester such as flag football, dodgeball and indoor volleyball.

Students can put together teams by creating an account with their Fredonia email at IMLeagues.com. Students can also register as a "free agent" to be placed on a team with other students. In addition to creating an account, they can stay updated with intramurals by following @fredintramurals on Instagram.

"There have been studies that have shown participation in intramural sports is beneficial to a student's GPA, overall mental health, fitness and socialization."

— Geoff Braun, Fredonia's intramural director

Braun explained how the Intramural Office handles all the scheduling, officiating and refereeing of the games. All the games and programming occur between 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, so participants can still have their weekends free. When players win three championship games and t-shirts in a single academic year, they can win an "intramural legend" hoodie.

"We kind of say that everybody wants to become a legend," Braun said.

Anyone with a valid FRED Card ID can participate in intramurals, including faculty and staff members. Braun explained how there are an even number of students participating across grade levels this spring. However, there are no faculty members and less than a third of participants are also varsity level athletes this spring. Braun would like to see more people from all areas of campus participating.

"There have been studies that have shown participation in intramural sports is beneficial to a student's GPA, overall mental health, fitness and socialization," Braun said. "You could have a campus that has a very diverse population, but if everybody is sitting in their dorms and is only going to and from class, you aren't really taking advantage of the diversity. [Intramurals] are an opportunity to socialize with the diversity we have here on campus."



Intramural basketball player Nick Aufiero.
Photo by AMBER LOUIS |
Special to The Leader.

The opinions voiced by writers and artists in the Opinion section of The Leader reflect those individuals' opinions, not those of The Leader as a whole.

OPINION

Only stories clearly marked as Editorials reflect the opinion of The Leader's executive staff.

Lovecolumn: Intimacy coach **Erica Rose** provides professional advice

"THE PLUMBER"

Executive Producer of Lovercall

"THE ELECTRICIAN"

Lovercall Producer

Last week's episode of Lovercall featured lessons from a very special returning guest.

Erica Rose, a certified intimacy coach who works primarily with women and couples to increase sexual confidence and experience. Erica uses her experiences to guide others. She said that part of her job is to "embrace those desires and those passions."

She also works closely with her clients to "build confidence from the inside to outside" as she has done herself.

Erica and the usual hosts and producers as well as some guests discussed several aspects of love, sex and relationships on the show.

Date idea of the week

We also hope to provide our fellow students with a fun and unique date idea in every column. This week, we here at Lovercall decided to collaborate with Erica for the date idea.

Erica suggests having a weekend getaway with your partner. A trip to an Airbnb or hotel can serve as a good change of environment for both of you.

Visiting a place both of you are unfamiliar with but excited to explore offers a great way to collaborate with your partners. Trip planning can be a fun activity in itself, as you decide where to go.

This trip doesn't necessarily need to be in a different state either. The idea is simply to enjoy your company with your partner.

As Erica said, "Just connect together that's outside the space you're traditional to."

If you need some inspiration, look towards nature! State Parks such as Letchworth and National Parks such as Acadia offer stunning vistas to explore, quaint towns to roam and plenty of hospitality options.

Sexual inhibition and sexual excitation

For this episode of Lovercall, Erica taught us something new about sexual health.

Sexual inhibition, or a person's "breaks" refers to a lower sexual interest and the things that might be a turn-off for you or your partner. Sexual excitation, or a person's "accelerator" on the other hand, refers to a higher sexual interest, and the things that are a turn-on for you or your partner.

Erica provided us with two quizzes, both of which were created by Emily Nagowski: one for sexual inhibition, and one for sexual excitation. The first quiz we took told us our level of sexual inhibition.

People who got a lower score for sexual inhibition tend to have higher sex drives. Higher scorers are more reserved regarding arousal and sexual interest. Those who score in the middle have a blend of the two.

On the contrary, people who got a higher score on the sexual excitation quiz are more likely to be aroused and have a high sexual interest. Those with a low sexual excitation score are less driven by sex and aren't easily aroused. And, those in the middle once again experience a blend of both.

Take these quizzes to see where you fall! Erica explains that being aware of where you fall with your own sexual inhibition and excitation can help you express your needs to your partner, as well as being educated about yourself.

Professional intimacy coach Erica Rose answers our Lovercallers' questions

Erica worked with us to answer both questions from our listeners and the questions we had ourselves live on air.

One of the questions asked was, "How can my partner and I spice things up in the bedroom?"

Erica said to remember that bedroom spiciness depends on where you and your partner are at.

For instance, if you and your partner are more "vanilla" or traditional when having sex, it wouldn't hurt to stay within that realm.

One way to explore more ideas for the bedroom is to play "red light green light," which Erica brought to play on the show last semester.

Image of/provided by ERICA ROSE | Guest of Lovercall.



Each partner checks “yes” or “no” next to a list of different positions and ideas for the bedroom. Then, you and your partner go over the list together to learn about each other’s interests. The pdf of the list is available on Erica’s Instagram (@xo.ericarose).

Erica also suggested playing a sexy card game, dirty talking, sexting and changing up your location and positions each time you have sex.

One caller asked about good brands of condoms and other intimacy products to use. Erica suggests using good brands that do not contain harmful substances. She notes that you should always be mindful of what you are putting into your body.

Another person wrote to us, asking “I feel like I am falling out of love but I don’t know how to tell him. We haven’t had sex in months, and I am wondering how we revitalize our sex life to match our emotional connection/intimacy.”

Our host “Bunny” recommended taking a look at your train of thought before continuing. If you are feeling like you’ve fallen out of love already, chasing that love you felt before might be trying to convince yourself it can still work because of the amount of time sunk in the relationship.

Take a step back and reevaluate, and consider if it might be time to end the relationship for your own well-being. Chasing an emotion that’s long passed will almost always bring turmoil, so don’t subject yourself to a chase.

A bit of final advice Erica gave us was to remember that the transition between sexual experiences from college to adulthood is “not as scary as you think.”

She explained that the real world is full of different thoughts and ideas and that people should “stay genuine to whoever [they] are.”

Erica left us with the idea that we shouldn’t be afraid to try new things, and that we will attract the people who are supposed to be close to us.

Reach out!

You can find Erica Rose on Instagram @xo.ericarose and TikTok @xoericarose. She will be returning to social media on June 1.

Do you want to ask the authors of Lovercolumn a question? Do you need advice? Fill out the form by using this QR code.

Interested in being a guest on Lovercall? Email frs@fredonia.edu or visit Fredonia Radio Systems, located in McEwen Hall 115 and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“The Plumber” and “The Electrician” are members of Fredonia Radio Systems and are involved in the production of Lovercall.



FSA has a bad reputation — here’s why that’s unfair

DAN QUAGLIANA

Staff Writer

If you stay on campus long enough, there’s one thing you’ll eventually hear, no matter what: someone complaining about how bad the food is.

Let that person continue complaining, and you’ll have almost enough material to write a book about how bad the Faculty Student Association (FSA) is. For context, FSA supplies the food on campus and manages the dining halls and bookstore, amongst other services.

While a lot of complaints that students share are valid, there are a few major ones that are a result of necessary policies and decisions that even FSA doesn’t like. Chief among these are the dining options available on campus — or rather, the lack thereof.

The closing of Tim Hortons has often been cited as a major pitfall of this academic year, and students were quick to blame FSA — but FSA wasn’t exactly happy about the situation, either.

According to FSA’s Executive Director Darin Schulz, the decision to close Tim Hortons came down to the unmanageable cost of franchise fees, as well as low enrollment, the seemingly end-all-be-all of budgetary issues on campus.

Last year, about 90% of the purchases made at Tim Hortons were with meal plans, which are a fixed source of revenue for FSA. Once every student has purchased their meal plan at the beginning of the semester, no more money can be made from them.

For comparison, at Starbucks, only 60% of purchases are made with meal plans, which means that they’re taking in a lot more extra revenue than Tim’s was. This was a main contributing factor as to why Tim’s was costing more money to run than what it cost to keep open, which itself was the main reason for its closure. It’s not a very good business model when said business is bleeding money.

This is despite the fact that Tim’s was one of the most popular restaurants on campus. The degree to which students have lamented its closing speaks to that fact.

“If you’d asked me 12 years ago if we would ever close Tim Hortons, I would’ve said ‘you’re crazy. No way we’re going to do that,’” Schulz remarked. “[But our enrollment was] almost twice the size [it is] today ... and so it’s been a challenge.”

As a response to recent rumors circulating on Yik Yak and elsewhere, Schulz wishes to specify that Starbucks and Willy C’s are not in any danger of closing.

It is also worth noting that due to the low number of students enrolled on campus, meal plans are making less money than ever before, which is the main reason that the cost of them had to be raised this semester.

An “unlimited” meal plan, something that a lot of students have expressed a desire for, would cost even more money since students would then be hypothetically eating an unlimited amount of food. This would also lead to the closure of Willy’s and Starbucks, the a la carte options on campus.

Speaking of meal plans, another popular complaint in the community is that you can only use your plan on yourself — you can’t, for example, buy your friend a drink at Starbucks.

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Continued from previous page. “New York State allows collegiate meal plans to be tax exempt if they’re not refundable, and if they’re a contract between the student and the university,” Schulz explained. “[That means] it must be for the sole consumption of that student.”

If FSA was to allow students to share their meal plans with others, they would lose their tax exemptions, which would raise the price of everything by eight percent.

One of the main reasons why students don’t make their concerns known is a simple matter of convenience. Schulz realizes that a lot of students don’t want to go track down an administrator or manager just to air criticism.

“If you want to speak with me, come to the FSA office [located in Gregory Hall]. I will listen no matter what it is,” he said.

The FSA office is open every weekday for students to go in and talk to a staff member.

“Once knowledge is relayed, there’s usually a change of opinion, or at a minimum, an understanding,” Schulz said. “We want to make every student happy and satisfied. That’s our ultimate goal.”

Students are the most powerful people on campus. They’re the ones paying the salary of the faculty and staff. This means that students also have the most powerful voices to enact change on campus. It falls to them to use that voice if they actually want to see meaningful changes happen.

Dan Quagliana, the author of this article, is a member of the FSA Board of Directors.

A crisis of the humanities

Graphic by HENRY DOMST |
Asst. Design Editor.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Special to The Leader

As we know, the Science Center is now becoming the crown jewel of our campus, along with the respectable School of Music and theatre/visual arts buildings that give the campus of Fredonia its illustrious reputation. The Science Center was built using \$60 million in funding from New York State in 2014. The project was spearheaded in most part by Republican Senator Catherine Young on the premise that the STEM professions will be growing at a much faster rate.

Over the next decades, Fredonia would have to catch up with the times and build a new facility to stay on par with many other SUNY institutions. This decision was a no-brainer.

The Science Center is beautiful. It is a great place that continues to draw in many more students to study science on campus. However, I feel this has come at a cost. There has been a steady deterioration of other humanities programs across campus.

For example, the department of political science, which I am a part of, is still down two full-time faculty. I am graduating a year early because the academic standards and course offerings for the program are very lacking, and even laughable compared to other SUNY schools.

While the campus may be gaining more STEM students, the humanities students are leaving in droves. Students see cutbacks in English, criminal justice and psychology departments and wonder where the line stops.

Fredonia’s long history of being a teachers’ college and a quality liberal arts school is hanging on by a thread. Fenton and Thompson are terrible halls to study in. These halls are in worse condition than my high school back in Cortland, N.Y., and I grew up in a high school that is ranked around 500th in the state. The rhetoric around the humanities is sickening.

Every time I’m asked what the hell I am going to do with a political science degree, the school massively fails in helping. Besides SUNY programs, there are practically no programs for job placement in my degree.

My degree is not a joke and an English degree is not a joke.

The president and school have given up on trying to expand the humanities. We have suffered cut after cut for the sake of austerity and balancing the budget.

While maybe humanities majors are less likely to work a job in their field than STEM majors, the humanities are an unknown gem to the world. The humanities almost become unquantifiable in a sense until someone writes “The Grapes of Wrath,” or changes the philosophical or political thinking of the world. Our contributions are priceless, and that scares people.

You should not need to come from wealth to get a degree in the humanities. Say it with me again, your wealth should not dictate what you study in college.

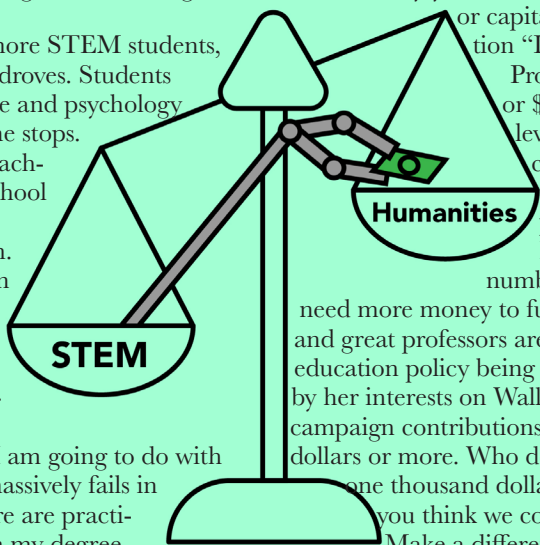
Writing this article will make me no money and not show up on a budget sheet. However, even by saying that, this school has failed us.

The purpose of my degree is to think critically about the world and make rational decisions based on my observations. That skill will always be in need.

I strongly ask you to contact your state representative in Albany, contact your state senator, and especially Governor Kathy Hochul. They have failed us. There is up to 40 billion dollars every year the state could collect through a wealth tax or capital gains tax, as stated by the organization “Invest in Our New York.”

Projections say that even 25% of that, or \$10 billion a year added to the current levels of SUNY funding, would make college tuition-free, and provide more capital for the investments SUNY desperately needs to attract more students.

Look up your state representative’s number and tell them that we desperately need more money to fund higher education. Great students and great professors are leaving this school — the terrible education policy being pursued by the governor is influenced by her interests on Wall Street. Ninety percent of Hochul’s campaign contributions came from donations of one thousand dollars or more. Who do you think has the money to donate one thousand dollars to a political campaign? Why do you think we come second? We can stop it. Speak up. Make a difference.





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ART-icle:

The future of art in an AI world

JIMMY KELLER
Special to The Leader

Artificial intelligence (AI) isn't something of the future — it is the present. It's beginning to take over many sectors of our everyday lives and growing at a rate that tech innovators Elon Musk and Steve Wozniak describe as risky. Just like art, the tech industry is constantly morphing into tomorrow's ideas.

AI “art” is art. We can go down the centuries long rabbit hole of what constitutes art or we can accept the notion that even computers can create visually intriguing, intellectual based pieces. Whether an inanimate object can be an artist or not is still questionable, more likely the human programmers are the real artists in a sense.

Along with the emergence of this new art, there is still the same problem of whether the art is “good” or “bad.” Art critic Jerry Saltz described some of the examples as “crapola.” He isn't wrong. There are some very basic and non creative pieces out there made by artificial intelligence. It has and will get better with development as we know machine learning takes time.

There is only one commonality that categorizes AI “art” as art. That is you and me. A painting, sculpture, film, etc. on its own isn't art until we say it is.

The first part of this is where it is viewed. A comb is just a comb, until Duchamp places it in a gallery. Then it becomes art, then the term “readymade” gets invented, then it begins a new art movement and revolutionizes all art that follows.

For AI, that began with an artist (or non-artist?) named Jason Allen in 2022. His piece “Théâtre D'opéra Spatial” won first place in an art competition, which as suspected sparked an uproar of controversy.

The second part of this is the need for an audience. The viewer completes the work by being in the presence of the AI art and viewing it, fulfilling the circle from conception to viewer contemplation. If the computer develops these artworks but in a world without humans, the work would not be able to constitute itself as art, only we can do that.

Artificial intelligence will lurk into many fields replacing humans and working alongside them, but it will not completely replace human artists. This isn't because it can't.

There will be a day that AI can 3D print anything it imagines or paint the newest masterpiece. It will become the new developer for graphics and we will one day be sitting on our couch watching a film directed by “Steven Spielbot.” However, in most art, it will just be another tool.

When the camera was first invented, the world thought it would mark the end for artwork that followed. What we saw instead though, was the camera becoming just another tool in the toolbox. Today, we see art flourishing more than ever. AI will be just like the camera, and we must accept that.

Computer and information sciences professor Dr. Ziya Arnavut gave his opinion saying, “Given time, with advances in machine learning, personally, I expect AI to be a useful tool in art.”

We will forever appreciate the natural touch, the creative intellect, and the unmechanized craftsmanship just as much as we will forever appreciate the machined, computer developed, articulate art by AI.

It takes humans to make art, art. It takes our appreciation. It takes our experiencing actions. It takes our mind and taste. This is all from the viewers perspective. From the artist's perspective, it takes much more than what AI can only offer because of its limits. It takes handling of the art. It takes development of the software. It takes consideration of all history from previous artists.

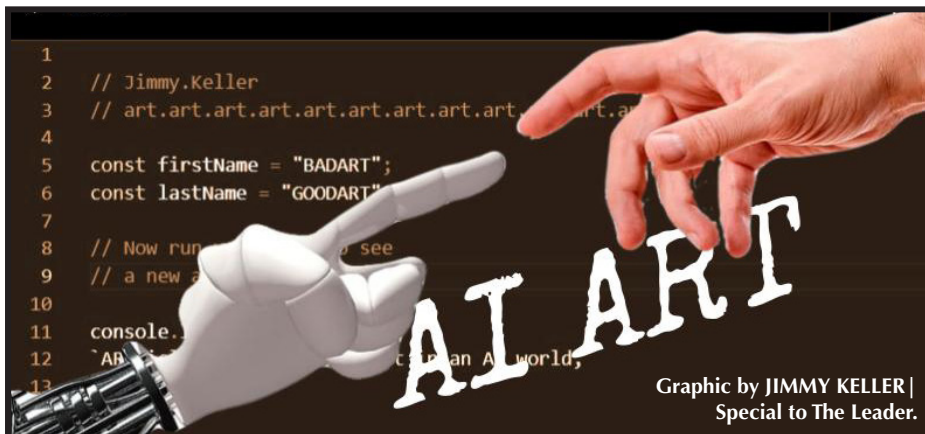
Just like with the camera, we thought painting would be a thing of the past. I suppose the current painting majors are living proof to discredit that. This is true for any other human made art. When the camera was developed, it freed up the art world from strictly creating realistic portraits or scenes for expanding to different horizons.

We must let it happen and welcome AI art.

“Although there are concerns of AI being used for art, it is getting popular,” Arnavut said.

AI will become an important part of art history marking its own period and technique just like impressionism or action painting. It will affect all work from here on out as “post AI.”

This new period, just like history tells, will open up new possibilities for the future of art. Human development in the art world will not die, but flourish further into possibilities we just can't yet see.



Graphic by JIMMY KELLER |
Special to The Leader.

RYAN LUDU: FREE MAN HILL SNOWY SPRING

