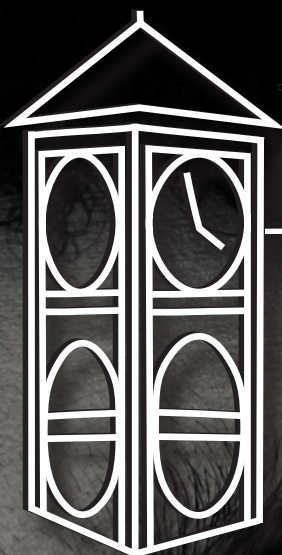


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THE

FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

Eyes On Athletics

See Pages 8-15

**Dead Birds of Rockefeller Update
Fredonia Alum Wins Second Grammy Award
Blue Devils Cheer Places in College Nationals
'Anonymous' Mental Health Survey Blunder**

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Front and back cover: Photo of Fredonia Men's Blackhorse Rugby athlete Jason Winston's eye.

Creative direction by WILL KARR | Editor in Chief.



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"If you're being met with resistance ... that probably means you're rising." - Taylor Swift

Fredonia changes official name designation

DAN QUAGLIANA
Staff Writer

For over 80 years, SUNY Fredonia's official designation has been the "State University of New York College at Fredonia." Soon, that's going to change.

In January 2022, the New York State Board of Regents updated their criteria for what they consider a "university" to be: "an institution that offers three or more graduate programs in the fields of agriculture, biological sciences, business, education, engineering, fine arts, health professions, humanities, physical sciences or social sciences." The board also provided guidelines for colleges that met this criteria to become universities.

Fredonia falls under that umbrella, and the administration has made the decision to switch the official name of the college to "State University of New York at Fredonia," which has already been used for marketing purposes for decades.

"[This] also means that now we have the responsibility to continue to offer a wider range of programs, especially in the graduate area," said Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison.

Fredonia already offers 15 different graduate programs, but Kolison wants to "at some point, offer professional doctorates" as well. The new designation will help the school achieve this goal.

Kolison also noted that enrollment on campus is expected to increase as a result of this.

"Where we should see some significant changes in terms of enrollment is within graduate programs. ... I think we need to be in the range of 4,000 to 4,500 [enrolled students]."

The university itself is not the only entity on campus that is undergoing an identity crisis. The College of Education is also changing its official name to the "College of Education, Health Sciences and Human Services."

"[We wanted to] bring most of the professional licensure programs under one roof," said Dr. Janeil Rey, the Interim Dean of the College of Education.

When the College of Education was first established, teachers were one of the only professions that needed a state license to do their job. Now, there's many more jobs that fit that description, such as nurses and mental health counselors.

"Part of the reason [for the name revision] was to take some of the departments that might fit under this umbrella, and allow them to get more concentrated attention than what was [previously] possible," Rey specified.

The name revision was also well received by students within the College of Education.

"It makes sense to put all the majors that need a license under the same umbrella," said an education student who requested to remain anonymous due to the fact that they work with Rey. "But I think it would be beneficial for the college to better assist students in preparing for their certification exams as well, especially since that's the whole reason for this reorganization."

Education services have been part of the backbone of Fredonia for its entire existence. In 1866, when the school was founded, the official designation was "Fredonia Normal School." It was one of only four schools in the state to share

this designation, which was reserved for schools that awarded New York state teaching licenses to graduates.

Since that time, however, teaching both inside and outside of New York has greatly evolved. It now includes so much more than just providing knowledge to students.

"Teachers go out into classrooms and see

that students have needs [that require special services]," Rey said. "Unless all those needs are addressed, individual students can't take advantage of the educational opportunity that's in front of them."

The reorganization of the College of Education better reflects the fact that students are now able to earn more than just education degrees — they can now learn everything they need to help their students.

Fredonia isn't alone in this endeavor. According to President Kolison, "the majority" of SUNY schools that fit the new university criteria will be changing their names as well. Buffalo State University, for example, has already made the switch.

"[We have] a ticket to the next level," Kolison said. "As a result of this, we will do a lot of things to advance us as a university. It's a great opportunity for us to be recognized [for] things we're [already] doing."



Graphic by RYAN LUDU | Special to The Leader.

Dead birds of Rockefeller: *One year later*

NERON SIMPSON
Special to The Leader

Everyone has had at least one moment in their life where they have walked into a glass, but most people do not die from it. The same isn't always true for birds.

In October 2021, former managing editor of The Leader and Fredonia alum Jules Hoeping covered the tragic occurrence of bird carcasses surrounding the Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center.

In the article, "Dead birds of Rockefeller: A student's dedication to decrease the deceased," Hoeping reported that migratory birds would mistake the clear glass window reflections as real trees. In flying towards the windows, they would hit the glass and collapse to the ground, often succumbing to their injuries. Students passing by the building each day would notice an increase in bird carcasses. They organized a movement to address the problem.

Justine Bloom was a student advocate for the movement. They reached out to Dr. Jonathan Titus, a now retired professor of the Fredonia Biology Department, to strategize solutions. Titus mentioned that he had noticed the dead birds for years and had informed campus leaders but to no avail. He emphasized that school administrators would more likely be receptive if students were the ones voicing concerns.

Various efforts were made to convince campus authorities and department faculty to take action on the problem. Bloom and students in the Visual Arts and New Media (VANM) Department created posters asking onlookers if they were tired of seeing dead birds all over Rockefeller's sidewalk. QR codes on Bloom's poster linked to an article and comic that provided an in-depth explanation to the situation.

A meeting was held with Sarah Laurie, director of Fredonia's Department of Environmental Health and Safety and Sustainability; Markus Kessler, director of Facilities Planning; Michael Metzger, vice president of Finance and Administration; Visual Arts and New Media professors Jason Dilworth and Peter Tucker; and former science major and Fredonia alum Chloe Petry with Bloom and Titus in attendance.

One proposition was the placement of bird strike film in the form of vinyl polka dot stickers for the windows.

"The birds don't see the glass, they see a space they can fly into or a reflection of their habitat. So, when you put the dots there, you're breaking up the space and then they'll see the dots and they'll look at the space inbetween the dots and consider [if they] can fly between [those] dots," Bloom explained in an interview with The Leader last year.

However, due to window replacements on the second and third floor of Rockefeller in 2019, the 10-year warranty would be at risk of violation with the installation of the stickers. Another concern was that the stickers would add extra weight to the glass.

Approval to place the stickers would have to be authorized by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Rockefeller was designed by I.M. Pei and Associates in 1955, which was an architectural firm founded by renowned Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei. Pei's work is protected under SHPO.

"There are some things that we might have to jump through there," Bloom said. "But, for the most part, with how unobtrusive the dots could be to the human eye, it shouldn't be an issue."

There was also the issue of gaining enough funding to purchase the stickers and apply them. If State university funds were to be used, approval would need to be obtained from non-SUNY Fredonia authorities. It would also have to be proven that a significant number of birds were colliding into the windows.

In May 2021, two cameras were installed facing each other to document collisions. If an object crossed the view of the camera, a picture was taken and sent to Sarah Laurie. In October of that year, Laurie stated that "zero bird strikes" were recorded.

According to the Bird Strike Film report, The cost of installing the stickers would range from \$69,000 to \$76,000. With little to no incidents recorded in a six-month time frame after the cameras were installed, there was not enough proof for funding to be acquired.

It was also proposed to use SUNY Fredonia's funding to cover the cost of the stickers. Barbara Racker, director of the Cathy and Jesse Marian Art Gallery, had offered to help provide funding, if she was able to "call it an art project [that]



Bird mascot "Bonkie" created in a Graphic Design 5 course last fall in response to birds being attracted to RAC windows. Graphic by JESSIE STAHLMAN, OLIVIA DURSI and SEAN MARCHANT | Specials to The Leader.

Q+A with Sarah Laurie, Director of Environmental Health & Safety & Sustainability



Has the amount of bird deaths outside of the Rockefeller Arts Center decreased since Hoeping's article was published in Fall 2021?

“Unreliable and inconsistent data make it difficult to ascertain if bird deaths have increased, decreased or remained the same since 2021.”

Have any solutions (permanent or temporary) been implemented to decrease the amount of bird deaths since this article was published?

“No solutions have yet been implemented. As noted above, options are in the discussion phase with the Planning and Budget Committee before recommendations are made to the President’s Cabinet.”

Now that there has been an extended period of time to collect data from cameras surrounding RAC, have there been any bird deaths recorded?

“Zero bird deaths were recorded with the trail cameras. Student Justine Bloom created a report by which campus individuals could photograph and log bird deaths, which is the only available data we have at this time.”

involves students.” She also obtained a quote for \$27,201 for the stickers from local Fredonia sign shop Southpaw Signs & Stripes in April 2021.

This posed another challenge due to the stickers appearing in individual rolls instead of sheets. If applied incorrectly, they were at risk for being damaged and having to be replaced sooner than expected. There would also be no warranty, so any replacements would have to be financially covered by the college itself.

To get approval, the project would need to be reviewed by Michael Metzger, the then vice president of Finance and Administration. He stated in October that since the installation of the trail cameras, “To date, not one bird has hit the windows.” He added that they would continue to monitor the area and periodically check the ground for carcasses.

Since the initial article was published, there has not seemed to be as much interest amongst current students. Some of the students who championed the movement have graduated, and incoming students may not be aware of the issue.

However, on an administrative level, there has been some progress. In November 2022, the University Senate passed a resolution to investigate the bird collision deaths at Rockefeller.

“When the campus Senate passes a resolution. Campus administration has a set amount of days to issue a response to it or a resolution,” Bloom said. “The response to mine was an official acknowledgement and that this will take more time to solve. They are going to put together a subcommittee to work on it. That is where we are right now.”

Fredonia President Stephen Kolison tasked the Planning and Budget Committee to conduct a feasibility study and recommend three or fewer potential solutions. Dr. Bruce Simon, University Senate chair and associate professor of English, is also forming a taskforce to implement the bird resolution.

An email conversation began in February of this year to share information between the offices of Environmental Health & Safety & Sustainability, the Office of Facilities Planning and the Planning and Budget Committee. Some possible courses of action were proposed. Currently, the Planning and Budget Committee is deciding on how to proceed.

“Any time the campus has to spend money, you really want to maximize your efficiency with it to make sure you are not wasting it,” Bloom said. “This is a matter that would take over \$10,000 dollars worth of material and [lots of] manpower. Any large scale commitment requires multiple boards to get involved ... every major financial decision needs to have multiple eyes on it.”



Graphic by DICE YANDOW | Staff Artist.

University Judicial Board accepting applications for student board members

ALANA WINGATE
Staff Writer

Get out your gavels because the University Judicial Board is recruiting student board members for the forthcoming academic year.

The Office of Student Conduct seeks to promote respect among students, resolve disputes and provide instruction to those accused of breaking the Student's Rights and Responsibilities Act.

"The purpose of the judicial board is to have a fair and impartial panel as an option for a student to have their case heard versus having it just be a one-person review," said Lisa Newell, the Director of Student Conduct.

Students, teachers and staff make up the members of the University Judicial Board. If a Fredonia student is accused of breaking the school's Code of Conduct, the Judicial Board offers them the chance to have a fair hearing.

"Like faculty and staff members, student board members help review cases of alleged Code of Conduct violations," Newell said. "When a student is accused of violating the Code of Conduct, they have a few options. If they plead responsibly, agreeing they violated the Code of Conduct, then we don't have to have a hearing, but if they plead not responsible, or maybe it's more complicated, they can choose a hearing."

A student member of the University Judicial Board is subject to a variety of Judicial Board duties.

"The board members serve as the people [in charge of] interviewing the student, asking questions and gathering as much information as possible about the incident in question to try to come to a fair outcome in the end," Newell said.

Regarding any important revisions to university policy made during the University Judicial Board's existence, everything remains current.

"We do our best to keep things relevant, modernized and appropriate," Newell said. "Nothing jumps out in my mind where I think, 'we should really change that,' or 'we should really update that,' because we do make periodic updates to make sure that we're in line and we're reasonable."

Out of the 40 members of the University Judicial Board, 15 are students. According to Newell, there are several benefits for those who join the judicial board. Being a board member might look good on a resume for potential employers, boost confidence and connect to certain students' majors.

"I think any student in any major could benefit, but sometimes students who are interested in political science or criminal justice or psychology or sociology might have a natural interest in the judicial board if they want to go into law," Newell said.



Qualifications to be a board member include:

- Be a member of the university community for at least one semester.
- Be promoted to sophomore rank by the beginning of the Fall 2023 semester.
- Have a 2.5 GPA and be in good judicial standing.
- Judicial Board members may not be Student Association leaders (including class presidents) or University Senate voting members.

For anyone who fulfills the requirements and is interested in serving on the Board for the 2023-2024 academic year, please fill out the Judicial Board Application and email it to Lisa Newell at lisa.newell@fredonia.edu by Friday, April 21.

Contact Lisa Newell if you have any inquiries concerning the University Judicial Board, and she will then get in touch with you personally to set up a meeting once you've completed your application.

YWCA JAMESTOWN PRESENTS:

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

PUTTING THE "I" IN DIVERSITY: INVESTMENT, INTENTION, INCLUSION

Join us as we explore why diversity in organizations is only the beginning of equity work.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Bethaney Wilkinson
Founder, The Diversity Gap



April 25, 2023 8:30am to 4:30pm
Double Tree by Hilton, Jamestown, NY

The Leader wins best for New York State Press: Best Sports Coverage and Design



Photo of Alon Kremerman, Will Karr and Alon Haimovitz holding up the The Leader's 2022 Best Sports Coverage Plaque and Issue 6, Fall 2022.
Photo by ABIGAIL MILLER | News Editor.

The Leader recently won First Place in Best Sports Coverage for The New York State Press Association's 2022 Best College Newspaper Contest, which includes college newspapers from all across the New York State region.

The Leader received First Place for three sports article submissions about Fredonia varsity/NCAA level sports that were written by Will Karr, Alana Wingate and Jules Hoepfing.

One of the submitted articles was "A brotherhood that transcends boundaries," written by current Editor in Chief Will Karr. The article profiles two Fredonia men's basketball players, Alon Kremerman and Alon Haimovitz, and their journey coming to America from Israel to play college level basketball.

The other two submitted sports articles include Jules Hoepfing's "For the love of hockey: Canadian goaltender drove 30 plus hours in winter conditions to get to Fredonia" and Alana Wingate's "Blue Devil cheerleaders build bonds through love of sport."

The New York State Press Association's 2022 Best College Newspaper Contest also awarded The Leader with First Place in Design for the second year in a row. The issues submitted were designed by Jules Hoepfing and Alyssa Bump.

The Leader received an Honorable Mention for General Excellence, and Karalyn Hope's photograph from Issue 10, Spring 2022 received Second Place in Photography.



Play-by-play of an athlete's injury

WILL KARR

Editor in Chief

It was about 15 minutes to 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 when Fredonia Men's Blackhorse Rugby player Jason Winston fell on the field during a practice while diving for the ball, resulting in an eye injury. Winston and another player were simultaneously diving for the ball.

"I think someone sent a kick as I was running down for the ball. That is when I caught a knee to the eye," Winston said.

After realizing that Winston wasn't able to stand up and roll back over on his own, Maxwell Hamilton, Blackhorse Rugby President was galvanized into action. He said that he grabbed his first-aid kit from his backpack, as Winston was "fighting for consciousness" on the turf. Michael DeBitetto, another teammate, ran to his car to grab his first-aid kit.

"I gave him 10 to 20 seconds to get up on his own and to tell me he was fine. But after that moment and after counting enough time to go by, I knew there was something wrong," Hamilton said.

Hamilton, who is certified in first aid, CPR and AED instruction through the American Red Cross, started performing first aid and called the University Police Department at 9:19 p.m., according to the UPD incident report The Leader obtained.

"I have been trained ... to introduce [myself] to 911 or whoever [I am] calling and first tell them all the certifications [I] have so they have an understanding," Hamilton said. "... I told them my name and certifications. They said they were going to send someone over to us and call for an ambulance. Then, they hung up the phone."

Before Hamilton called UPD and while Hamilton was on the phone with UPD, teammates Ian Dague and Isiah Goodrich ran in opposite directions to one of the certified athletic trainers' offices on campus at the bottom of Steele Hall for emergency assistance.

When Dague and Goodrich headed for the trainer's office, they were not aware UPD was on the way as a result of Hamilton's phone call. Dague dashed up the Natatorium entrance and down the stairs to the athletic trainers' offices near the Steele Hall Ice Rink. Dague and Goodrich saw that the lights in the office were still on. Dague walked into the trainer's office while Goodrich stood right outside of the open door.

"There is a sign on the Athletic Trainer's door that says the office is open to athletes, but I guess we [as club athletes] are not included [in that definition]."
- Isiah Goodrich,
Blackhorse Rugby Player



Graphic by DICE YANDOW | Staff Artist.

"When I walked in, the trainer was just sitting at their desk scrolling on [their] computer," Dague said. "I told her [that] one of our buddies hit his head on the turf and that he was bleeding out pretty badly."

Dague said that he then asked her if there was any way that she could come out to help them and at least take a look at Winston.

According to Dague, the trainer first responded with one single question before doing anything else: "Are you a club or NCAA sport?"

After telling the trainer they were club athletes, Dague said that the trainer immediately said, "I can't help you because you are a club sport and not an NCAA sport, we're not allowed to touch anyone who is not under NCAA' I'm not sure what specific policy she was exactly pulling from or if there even actually is one, she just said they were told not to."

From outside the door, Goodrich said and added that he heard the trainer say that they couldn't help because it was allegedly "outside of [their] jurisdiction" to do so.

"There is a sign on the athletic trainer's door that says the office is open to athletes, but I guess we [as club athletes] are

9:15 - 9:18 p.m. - Jason Winston falls onto the field during a practice while diving for the ball, resulting in an eye injury

9:20 p.m. - The first officer, Dustin Chesbro, arrives on location

9:32 p.m. - All police units cleared out from scene

9:19 p.m. - Maxwell Hamilton started performing first aid and called University Police

9:24 p.m. - The second officer, Ian Hodkin, arrives on location with an ambulance from Fredonia Fire and Rescue. Winston leaves field via stretcher and is transported to Brooks Memorial Hospital

Before and while Hamilton called UPD, teammates Ian Dague and Isiah Goodrich ran to the certified athletic trainer's office, where she was seen scrolling on the computer by Dague. When told about the injured student, the athletic trainer first asked if Winston was a club or NCAA athlete. Dague and Goodrich said they were a club sport, so the athletic trainer said they could not help and only provided them with gauze and a band-aid.

Graphic by HENRY DOMST | Asst. Design Editor.

not included [in that definition]," Goodrich said.

Dague said the trainer handed them gauze and a band-aid, and they promptly left her office. They headed back to the athletics turf as one of the UPD officers was pulling up to the scene. An ambulance arrived on the scene.

Officer Dustin Chesbro arrived on location at 9:20 p.m., according to the police report. Another officer, Officer Ian Hodkin, came minutes later at 9:24 p.m. with an ambulance from Fredonia Fire and Rescue (FFR).

Winston left the field via ambulance on a stretcher and was transported to Brooks Memorial Hospital for further evaluation. All police units cleared out from the scene at 9:32 p.m., 13 minutes after Hamilton made the initial call to UPD at 9:19 p.m. The team had the field reserved for practice until 9:30 p.m.

"The police were very quick to respond," Dague said. "... The police and the ambulance were in and out in about 10 minutes."

Goodrich said that he would like to thank University Police and the Fredonia Fire Department for their quick, speedy and proactive response to the injury.

At Brooks, doctors gave Winston medicine, stitches and x-rays. Doctors found that he had a fracture at the bottom of his eye, which caused him to temporarily experience double vision.

He was later transferred to Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo and was discharged the following morning. Doctors have told Winston to take it easy and he now routinely sees a local eye doctor. Winston now serves as the team's event coordinator while he is recovering.

Official Police Report Description:

"On Feb. 21, 2023 at approximately 2119 hrs [9:19 p.m.], UPD Dispatch received a call from Maxwell Hamilton who requested EMS for a student with a head injury on the rugby field. FFR was notified while Officer Chesbro was dispatched to that location arriving at 2120 hrs [9:20 p.m.].

Upon arrival I met with the subject, Jason Winston, who stated there was a collision with another player and he took a knee to the head causing a large cut above his right eye.

Officer Hodkin arrived on location with FFR at 2124 hrs [9:24 p.m.]. Winston was transported to Brooks Memorial Hospital for evaluation. Units cleared at 2132 hrs [9:32 p.m.]."

Eyes on campus athletics: Could the NCAA athletic trainer have helped club athlete Jason Winston?

WILL KARR
Editor in Chief

Many members of the campus community are wondering if the athletic trainer could have helped Winston. Members of The Leader recently reached out to the President’s Office on Friday, March 31, regarding concerns over how this incident was handled by the Athletics Department, and our concerns were forwarded over to Student Affairs and the Athletics Department for immediate consideration by the Interim Chief of Staff & Executive Assistant to President Dr. Naomi Baldwin.

The Leader reached out to representatives from the

campus Athletics Department and Student Affairs shortly afterwards — Angela Pucciarelli, assistant director of athletics, and Tracy Stenger, interim vice president of student affairs — regarding whether there is an actual written policy that would potentially prevent an NCAA and certified trainer from treating a club athlete in the event of a medical emergency such as this one and did not receive an answer to that question from either office via email.

After the night of the incident, the following day on Feb. 22, Maxwell Hamilton, President of Blackhorse Rugby reached out to Pucciarelli via email at 9:42 a.m. to inform her about the incident and to inquire about compiling an incident report.

“I know as a club sport, your athletic trainers are technically not responsible for our well-being, as they chose not to be present. However, I feel this situation needs to be documented,” Hamilton said in his initial email to Pucciarelli.

Pucciarelli responded to Hamilton later via email in the afternoon at 2:35 p.m. and said, “I hope your teammate is OK ... our athletic trainers are staffed to take care of intercollegiate, and are not under contract with [Student Association] SA to be there for anything outside of an NCAA sports. I wanted to be clear about your word ‘choice’ since it wasn’t/ isn’t about choice here.”

In this email, Pucciarelli said that trainers are “staffed,” contractually obligated, to help NCAA sports and not any sports outside of them, but does not mention or cite any specific NCAA or University Athletics policy that would have actually potentially prevented or prohibited the trainer from having helped Winston in these emails with Hamilton besides the fact that trainers are not contractually obligated to do so.

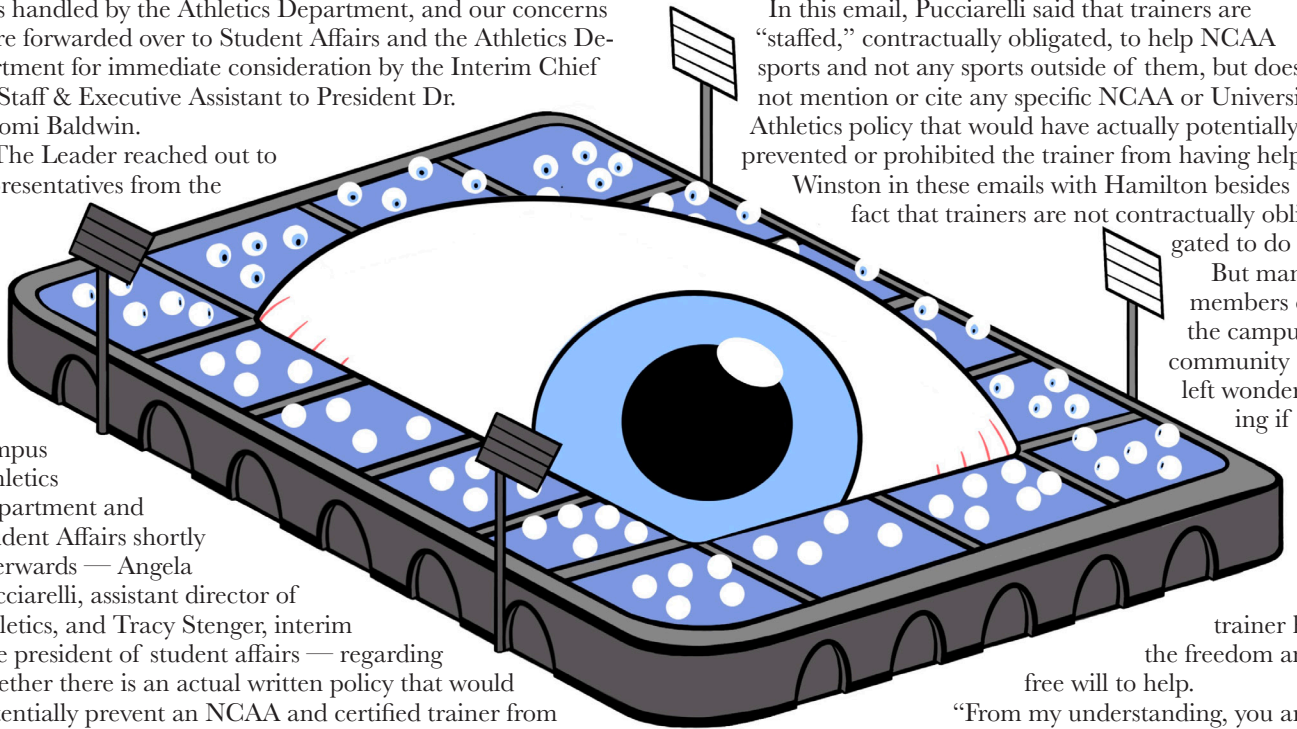
But many members of the campus community are left wondering if

the trainer had the freedom and free will to help.

“From my understanding, you are telling me that because we are not NCAA athletes, in a life threatening emergency, there would be no response from the medical staff of the athletics department,” replied Hamilton to Pucciarelli’s above email.

“Sorry for any confusion,” responded Pucciarelli via email. “I am not aware of what happened on the turf last night, and I am not aware if there was any interaction with our certified trainers. There are times when your group holds practice and our athletic trainers are not on site at all due to the nature of their schedules and that of our teams. I am happy to meet to discuss ...”

Hamilton, Pucciarelli and Winston met on the Friday after



the incident, Feb. 24. They drafted a report to send out to other offices on campus including Campus Life and the Student Association.

In the incident report, Pucciarelli said, "Representatives from Blackhorse Rugby came into Steele Hall to seek medical attention from a certified athletic trainer (AT), and the AT mentioned that they were responsible for intercollegiate athletes, and they could not help a club team."

In the report, Pucciarelli added another reason why the trainer said and alleged they could not help by stating, in a follow-up conversation between the athletic trainer and myself, our AT indicated that [they] said [they] could not leave as [they were] on-duty for our cheer team's practice, [they] gave the club representative some gauze and they left. After [they were] done with the practice, [they] drove by the turf, anticipating to stop and check before [they] headed home, but [they] saw the ambulance there at that point."

In the incident report, the trainer said that they saw both the ambulance and UPD while driving before heading home. All police units cleared out at 9:32 p.m., according to the police report. The ambulance and police were no longer at the scene together after 9:32 p.m.

After Spring Break, Hamilton and Winston met with representatives of the Athletics Department, Campus Life and Stu-

dent Association on Tuesday, March 21 in the Williams Center G103A to discuss the incident and possible solutions. The meeting included Hamilton, injured player Jason Winston, Pucciarelli, Mark Suida and Rachel Martin from Campus Life and Vince Gugino from Student Association.

When asked why he thinks he was not given medical attention by the trainer, Winston said "I think it was because they knew we weren't an NCAA sport. That definitely played a part in them not helping. The trainer was also on site supervising another sport, cheer practice. I guess those are their main reasons."

Hamilton added, "At that meeting [on March 21] with Mark, Rachel, Vince and Angela, Jason and I basically flat out asked if there is a policy written down somewhere that the trainers can't help non-NCAA athletes. They didn't really answer the question of whether there is a policy written down that trainers couldn't help teams or players that are not NCAA recognized. If that is or isn't the case, that should have affected how the trainer responded that evening. But, I think there definitely must be some instilled fear in that [athletics] office for someone not to help if it doesn't say anywhere in their contracts or safety plans that they can't help [a non-NCAA athlete]."

"... I think there definitely must be some instilled fear in that [Athletics] Office for someone not to help if it doesn't say anywhere in their contracts or safety plans that they can't help [a non-NCAA athlete]."

*- Maxwell Hamilton,
Blackhorse Rugby President*

ON THE DEFENSE

WILL KARR
Editor in Chief

On Friday, April 14 at 11:30 a.m. in the Bob Steele Multi-Purpose Room in Steele Hall, members of The Leader, Will Karr (Editor in Chief), Max Hamilton (Sports Editor/Blackhorse Rugby President) and Travis Joyce (Chief PR Chair) met with representatives from different offices on campus, which included the Athletics Department, Campus Life and the Student Association, to discuss club sports and the incident.

All campus personnel attendees at the meeting are listed as follows: Jerry Fisk (director of athletics), Angela Pucciarelli (assistant director of athletics), Mark Suida (director of Campus Life), Rachel Martin (assistant director of Campus Life) and Vince Gugino (general manager of Student Association).

Pucciarelli said that they were advised not to allow the meeting to be recorded by Marketing/Communications and the President's Cabinet. Since the meeting was not recorded, The Leader requested a written statement about the incident.

The statement The Leader was provided with had a SUNY Fredonia logo, but Fisk refused to answer what department the statement was written by. When asked who the written statement was specifically from, Fisk responded "I think it's best said that it is the university's statement."

At the meeting, representatives of The Leader asked if there was some sort of specific NCAA or university-level policy that would prevent a trainer from helping a club athlete in the event of a medical emergency such as Winston's injury and never received a direct response or answer to that question from any office at the meeting.

Fisk briefly mentioned that there is a "memorandum of understanding" that athletics follows that says trainers and other medical personnel should give priority to NCAA athletes. However, he did not mention anything about the memorandum preventing a trainer from helping a club athlete. Fisk read the memorandum off a sheet of paper, but did not offer to share the document with Leader representatives.

Fisk also hypothesized that insurance issues could potentially prevent a certified trainer from helping non-Division III/NCAA athletes, but did not seem certain or definitive on this matter.

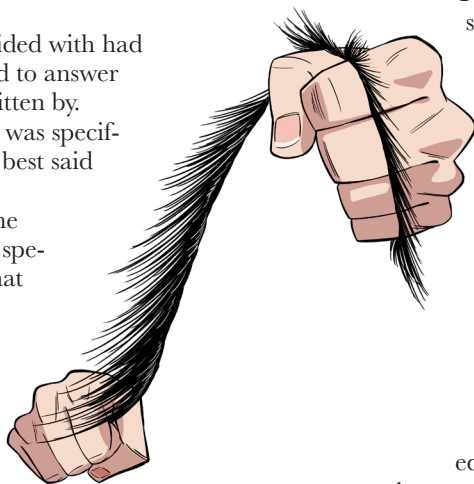
Pucciarelli explained how club sport leaders are trained at the beginning of every academic year in the fall on how to respond in the instance of an emergency when medical staff is not present such as calling University Police. However, these training sessions are only attended by club sports leaders like Hamilton, not by all club athletes.

The university's official response to the incident

As a club sport president, Hamilton attended this past fall session on Oct. 11, 2022. This training session is referenced in the university's official statement.

The statement reads:

"All club sport leaders are invited to a training session at the start of each academic year to go over club sport procedures, including what to do if a student is injured. When a student was injured on Feb. 21 on the turf, the head of the club rugby team did exactly as he was instructed to in the initial meeting, and called University Police. As trained first responders, UPD officers arrived in under two minutes to begin providing treatment to the student and the ambulance was dispatched. The process of dealing with an injured club sport student was followed exactly as the university had intended to. Any claim that an injured student was denied medical care by SUNY Fredonia is completely inaccurate."



The university refers to Winston as a club sport student. In the statement, the university attempts to refute any claims that Winston, who is a club sport athlete, was denied medical care by SUNY Fredonia by describing them as "inaccurate."

In the last print issue of The Leader, an editorial was published on page three titled, "Student Safety Pushed to the Sidelines: What is the fine line between club and varsity sports?" The editorial said that "the [athletic] trainer did not provide [Winston] with care," which is a true statement, and The Leader still stands by that statement.

In the editorial, The Leader acknowledged that University Police were called by teammates. The editorial directed readers to another article in the issue on page 20 titled, "Jason Winston's Road to Recovery." The article said, "UPD eventually came to the scene and dispatched an ambulance." In this article, we acknowledged that "Hamilton promptly called UPD."

"I think our perspective is that we're just thankful that University Police came over and that the school gave medical treatment," Fisk said. "Was it the trainer? It was not the trainer. Was it SUNY Fredonia as a whole? Yes it was."

The Leader and all offices in attendance are thankful that Hamilton called UPD. Fisk said he hopes the "injured student," Winston, is OK now.

"In short, SUNY Fredonia did not fail to treat the student. UP was there within two minutes, which is a very quick response time ... thankfully it all had a good outcome in the end. I guess that's the short of it all from our perspective," Fisk said.

Club athletes seek **more oversight** for club sports

WILL KARR
Editor in Chief

As a result of this incident, Max Hamilton, president of the Blackhorse Rugby Team, believes that there should be a designated person and central office on campus who oversees club sports in the future. While NCAA sports go through the campus Athletics Department, as clubs, club sports have been overseen by the Student Association (SA), which is a separate non-for-profit organization from the university. However, Hamilton mentioned that multiple offices on campus currently work with club sports.

“I think there should be a position created for club sport oversight. I think SA does all they can realistically do because they have a lot of other clubs to deal with, so club sports often have to fend for themselves,” Hamilton said. “I think there should be an appointed position for someone who acts as an advisor for club sports and has oversight, as well as maintains safety ... their whole job would be centered around club sports.”

However, Hamilton said that the Blackhorse Rugby Team has found a momentary safety solution for themselves in the meantime.

“I have had to edit my club doctrine so that the e-board determines if it is a hitting or a non-hitting practice. If it is a hitting practice, one person has to sit out and maintain safety, who is certified in basic CPR/first-aid training,” Hamilton said. “... Rachel [Martin], Mark [Suida] and I agreed [at our March 21] meeting that it should probably be a contracted person in the future. So our temporary fix for the rest of the semester is that one person on the team sits out and watches.”

Hamilton and his teammate Isiah Goodrich said many players on the team are already certified in first aid and CPR, which has made this change and transition easier. However, if players were not already certified, they would have to pay money out of their budgets for those services. Goodrich emphasized that many club teams might not have the funds to get all their players certified if it were required for all club sports to do so.

Hamilton said that Angela Pucciarelli, assistant director of athletics, suggested that the rugby players could all become certified in first aid as a possible solution. However, Hamilton explained that he believes that club athletes should not continue to be held responsible for the health and safety of their peers.

“I think that is a reactive method to avoiding the crisis [the Athletics Department] is currently in now. That is not a proactive safety measure in my opinion,” Hamilton said. “I should not put my fate in another student's hands. I think that should be left to a contract, so there's accountability and it avoids the gray area.”

One of the things Pucciarelli said in her initial email to Hamilton is “trainers are not under contract with SA to be there for anything outside of NCAA sports.” Therefore, Pucciarelli indicated that there is no contractual obligation for a certified athletic trainer to help a club athlete. Hamilton

believes that having students themselves be responsible for helping other students with no contract between the two could lead to responsibility and accountability issues down the road.

Hamilton explained how the National Collegiate Rugby League that the Blackhorse Rugby Team participates in requires teams to have emergency medical trainers (EMTs) at the games and tournaments they host or the ones they travel to. The team often utilizes volunteer firemen from Jamestown when they host events here on campus.

Although the team brings EMTs to all their official events on campus, they do not and are not required to have them at their practice sessions. Athlete Jason Winston's injury occurred at a practice.

“I don't necessarily bring an EMT everywhere we go. But, the next step is probably finding somebody for practices or having somebody who can sit in their office on call and respond to medical emergencies for practices,” Hamilton said.

Club sports have often been held responsible for both finding and paying for their own medical personnel. Eli Mulville, vice president of the Men's Hockey Club Team, said that the majority of their team's funding comes from dues and personal fundraising efforts.

Mulville said that even before the team heard about Winston's injury, the team was considering finding and hiring their own medical personnel more regularly. However, he explained that club hockey is an “expensive” sport to play already and hiring trainers would add additional costs for players and to an already small budget. While many club sports are funded entirely through student activity fees, club hockey athletes pay a large sum of out-of-pocket costs to play the sport. Overall, Mulville said that he would like to see more funding and support given to all club sports.

“People get hurt and there are injuries that come along with playing the game,” Mulville said. “... We haven't had any injuries at our practices yet. But, we went to nationals a few weeks ago and had a few injuries since we were playing everyday ... We had trainers there, which was where the idea for trainers was brought around again. I just think it's not worth the risk.”

Mulville said that the team has had difficulty finding trainers for events in the past, forcing them to change plans. Mulville believes that club athletes should not continue to be held responsible for finding and having their own medical and safety personnel in the future. He believes there should be some sort of designated oversight.

“We had a hockey game last year. We had to actually cancel because we didn't have an EMT, and it was our responsibility to both find one and pay for it. That was the first lightbulb moment where I was like this isn't right and how it should be,” Mulville said.

Mulville added, “We are a completely student-run club. Our coaches are students and everyone is a student ... We can handle that responsibility, but many of us don't know where to get (an) EMT from. Part of what clubs are is students having responsibilities and having those leadership roles. But, when it comes to health and safety, I think there should be different safety precautions and measures put in place.”

Campus offices envision a new model for club sports

WILL KARR
Editor in Chief

Change isn't going to happen overnight. However, Angela Pucciarelli, assistant director of Fredonia Athletics, said the Athletics Department and other offices on campus are working to envision a safer environment for club sports.

Pucciarelli said herself and the other offices on campus started working on a new model for club sports last year. Offices involved include Athletics, Campus Life and Student Association.

"There was no official club sports meeting. We met over Zoom with multiple offices to talk and use the shared governance model. We came up with lightning policies and addressed some issues to lay out expectations to benefit the club sports," Pucciarelli said. "We are trying to make this a good experience with the way things are currently evolving to have something that is sustainable."

Pucciarelli and Mark Suida, director of Campus Life, explained how club sports are formatted at other universities and colleges. Pucciarelli said that there are many different models.

"It's really a mixed bag between Campus Life, Student Association (SA) equivalents and student government," Pucciarelli said. "Those are pretty much the people who we are talking about and the general areas that they fall into."

Many students and club athletes believe that there should be one designated person or office on campus who oversees club sports.

"If there was one person that was the club sports person and handled all club sports and didn't have to require something from Angela, Vince and Rachel (Martin of Campus Life), I think we would all enjoy that," said Jerry Fisk, director of athletics. "I don't know if that will be the solution. But, what I can say is that the model will not look exactly the same as when we started the process. We just don't know what it will look like."

Many club athletes feel that they should not be responsible for finding and paying for their own medical personnel when they are already operating on small budgets, leading them to ask if the school or SA could work to provide trainers for club athletes. For varsity level sports, there are currently two trainers for the university's 19 NCAA level sports.

"It goes back to a resource situation. We don't have enough resources," Fisk said.

One solution that has been established is having club athletes become certified in first aid and CPR to have basic skills on how to respond to a medical emergency. However, some students view this as putting students in charge of their peers' safety, rather than having safety personnel provided on an administrative level.

"I don't think it's necessarily asking students to be responsible for each other, we think it would be great to have them first aid and CPR trained," Gugino said.

Suida added that "it's a recommendation in terms of resources."

Club sports and clubs at Fredonia are funded primarily through student activities fees. Fisk explained how if medical trainers started being provided for club athletes, it could potentially force the athletes to have to pay to play — preventing students who couldn't pay the amount of money from being involved.

The question is where the money would come from to support a model where club athletes have trainers or all of them were to become certified in first aid/CPR: would it be the students themselves, SA or the university? Fisk hypothesized what might happen if students were the ones to pay.

"If everyone of our students that participated in a club sport had to pay \$500 dollars that would eliminate a lot of people, but would also give us a lot of resources to have people in the game," Fisk said. "Games could have their own EMTs ... it's just a totally different model. We have to figure out what the right model is here because we don't want to do something that has an unfortunate unintended consequence that has an impact on the student experience."

Fisk and other offices at the meeting mentioned that they are open to hearing feedback from club athletes and the campus community on what this new model could look like.

"We would love to know what support looks like for club sport [athletes] and what they need," Suida said.

Fisk added, "I don't think we know about many of the thoughts of club leaders. We the people that can implement change don't hear what we need to ... through meetings, training [sessions] and continuous improvement, we want to start hearing what's going well and not going well."

Athletics, Campus Life and SA would love to start hearing more from students, specifically club athletes. You can reach out to them using the contact info below.

Contact information

(Athletics, Campus Life and Student Association):

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Mark Suida, director of Campus Life:

suida@fredonia.edu

Rachel Martin, assistant director of Campus Life:

rachel.martin@fredonia.edu

Vince Gugino, general manager of Student Association:

gugino@fredoni.edu

News analysis:

Double vision: Balancing looking backwards & forwards

WILL KARR

Editor in Chief

In order to move forward, we must first look backwards. We can't move into the future without going back to address and come to terms with our problematic pasts, histories and actions. Confronting our pasts can be difficult. Looking back can force us to start taking accountability for our own actions, which can have implications for our future.

It's easier to close our eyes to the past and what nearsighted problems are right in front of us, choosing to instead look blindly towards the future. However, focusing solely on the future ultimately blinds our eyes from seeing what we need to realistically see in hindsight in order to truly and fully move forward.

So what should be the goal moving forward?

We need to start striving for double vision: finding a balance of looking backward and forward. The first step in exercising double vision should be looking backward: reflection — asking ourselves how we can learn from the past to ensure an informed and safer future.

“Part of the reason that I wanted to have this conversation is because we'd like to have people like you [students] at the table. But, we have to make sure it's looking forward and not looking for blame and looking backwards,” Fisk said. “Let's learn from this what we can, but let's include you [students] and try to figure out what moves us forward.”

Part of the process of looking backwards is actively taking accountability. The Leader strongly believes that the Athletics Department has ultimately still failed to take any accountability for what happened on the night of Feb. 21. We believe asking for accountability is looking for closure, not blame. There is a fine line between desiring accountability and searching for blame. Through our coverage of this issue, we are hoping for accountability.

The Leader understands that taking accountability could come with possible repercussions for the Athletics Department, which has potential implications for the university as a whole. Therefore, we understand accountability may never be actively taken on the Athletic Departments own accord. But, without taking active accountability, we can't positively and realistically move forward as individuals, as humankind or as an institution.

In a quote mentioned in a previous article, Fisk said, “I think our perspective is just that we were thankful that University Police came over and that the school gave medical treatment. Was it the trainer? It was not the trainer. Was it SUNY Fredonia as a whole? Yes it was.”

Since UPD properly responded to the incident in a timely manner, the Athletic Departments doesn't seem to feel the need to acknowledge what they did by not responding or attempting to offer help through the means of a certified athletic trainer (CAT) because it ended up all being properly handled by another department of the university. Therefore, everything seemingly ended up being okay in their minds at the end of the day because someone responded.

“I think we're skipping over the fact that UPD did arrive

and was able to administer care,” Fisk said.

The Leader feels the Athletics Department is still skipping over who didn't respond: the trainer. We are grateful that UPD responded, but believe the fact of who didn't respond deserves equal attention.

Overall, we seem to have two different visions, focuses and realities. Yet here we are living in the same reality, staring and sitting across from each other on the edge of our seats in conference rooms in the pursuit of mutual understanding. Can two visions and realities exist simultaneously?

In a quote from Fisk mentioned in the previous article, Fisk is right that “SUNY Fredonia as a whole did not fail to treat the student.” However, we believe his Athletics Department that he serves as director of did in fact fail. We believe Winston's club athlete status should have been considered irrelevant since it was a medical emergency. The university's Athletic Department is an office and facet of the larger SUNY Fredonia.

At the end of the “University's [official] statement,” the university says that “any claim that an injured student was denied medical care by SUNY Fredonia is completely inaccurate.”

To be clear, The Leader has not claimed that “an injured student was denied medical care by SUNY Fredonia” as a whole. The Leader has and will continue to stand by the fact that the injured student, Jason Winston, who possesses a club athlete status, was not provided medical treatment by the university's Athletic Department on the evening of Feb 21, through the means of a certified athletic trainer. Fisk himself admits that “it was not the trainer” that “gave medical treatment.”

Once accountability is taken, we can all hopefully finally feel good about moving forward together. Right now, we are all trying to move forward without any closure: accountability.

We at The Leader are looking forward to seeing the Athletics Department and other offices on campus create a safer reality and environment for club athletes here in Fredonia. We would still like to see accountability taken by Athletics but regardless of that, we accept Fisk and the Athletic Department's invitation to continue being vocal agents and catalysts for change through seeing with double vision.

Fisk said, “I think there are some things we need to address looking backwards. [But] there is a lot more to be addressed coming forward. I think that is where I want us to have continued interaction, especially at the club sport level to make sure we get to the solution. I don't think this situation is a bright spot for anybody, even though they, UPD and Max [Hamilton], responded quickly. But I am glad there was a good outcome. I think it's a learning opportunity for us all.”

The Leader would like to thank the Athletics Department and other members of the campus community for taking time to meet with representatives of The Leader. We hope to continue to have a seat at the table, helping to envision a safe future for all athletes through the use of double vision: looking backward and forwards. We will help by endeavoring to use our platform and reach to highlight plans and initiatives for club sports as they are being implemented and developed moving forward.

Life & Arts



Field Day's kickball tournament teams. Photo by SYLVANA CUBILLOS | Special to The Leader.

Fredonia Radio Systems and Campus Life kick it up a notch for Field Day

SYLVANA CUBILLOS

Special to The Leader

As the weather warms up in Fredonia, outdoor events return to campus life this time, thanks to Fredonia Radio Systems which brought Field Day, a FREDweekend event.

Hosted by FRS in partnership with Campus Life, the event took place on Saturday, April 15 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the turf field next to University Stadium.

The Field Day featured lawn games, music, snacks and refreshments that were provided by the Faculty Student Association.

However, the highlight of the event was the kickball tournament that took place on the turf field, in which seven teams registered ahead of time to play the day of the event.

Among the teams that attended and participated in the tournament were Latinos Unidos, Premium Blend, The Leader's team "The Flyers" and others.

"It was a good chance for us to bond as a team," said Elsie Tecalero, a senior social work major and Latinos Unidos president. "It was nice to get to be outside and get to enjoy the nice weather."

Even though the Latinos Unidos team did not place, Tecalero noted how her club enjoyed participating and watching the tournament.

"Watching everyone and how competitive they get — it's very thrilling," said Tecalero.

The two kickball finalists were The Flyers and the Dream Team. The Dream Team ultimately took home the gold medal.

"I think [the event] turned out well," said Yisel Fernandez, FRS's general manager. "Our expectations were low since this was our first time [hosting it, but] I think it turned out well."

About the organization of the event, Fernandez said "We got excited planning, doing this and that, reaching out to clubs [and] making sure people knew."

Initially, FRS intended to collaborate with another club to host Field Day "to make it easier to put on the cost," Fernandez said. "But we ended up collaborating with Campus Life, [and they] provided refreshments sponsored by FSA."

As for future Field Days, Fernandez encouraged Campus Life to continue hosting the collaborative event in upcoming years.

"For FRS it might be too big of an event to put on every year," Fernandez said. "[But] I feel like it would be fun if Campus Life continued doing it — not just for clubs, but for all students to continue playing."

Heat up your night with Some Like It Hot at Acafest

EJ JACOBS

Asst. Life & Arts Editor

With festival season right around the corner, why not kick it off by going to Acafest? Acafest is an event at Fredonia that entails performances by a cappella groups from campus and surrounding New York Colleges.

Acafest is hosted by the all-female-identifying a cappella group Some Like It Hot.

Claire Mariea, a senior psychology major and the president of Some Like It Hot said, "Acafest was first held to share all different types of a cappella and to spread the joy of a cappella as best as possible. Acafest leads to the sharing of ideas, exposure of other groups and helps people make memorable friendships along the way. It may also expose students to a cappella and inspire them to become a part of the spirited and talented community."

Acafest is an event that has been going on for years. But since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has looked a little different, as it has only involved Fredonia a cappella groups. However, this year Some Like It Hot is ready to bring other schools' a cappella groups back onto campus.

"While this is not the first ever Acafest hosted by Some Like It Hot, this will be the first Acafest since the pandemic that we are bringing a cappella groups from other campuses to come perform," Mariea said.

When choosing who should be involved, it was important to find groups that would fit in with the already Fredonia-established groups.

"So I thought that it would be really interesting to kind of have like another group that has similar values to Some Like It Hot to come up," said Alli Evans, senior music therapy major and vice president of Some Like It Hot.

One of the groups coming to Fredonia's campus is University at Buffalo's Buffalo Chips.

"We are the University at Buffalo's first a cappella group, founded in 1995. ... This group, primarily [composed] of non-music based majors, has turned into a strong brotherhood of long-lasting bonds and continuous support," said John K. Della-Contrada, a junior linguistics major at the college and the assistant music director of the Buffalo Chips.

"This is our first Acafest," said Della-Contrada, "but we've been performing at a cappella events across the state for years."

Other groups that will be performing along with Some Like It Hot include the Buffalo Chips and RIT's Vocal Accent are the Guerrillas and Dynamic Intonation.

Acafest will be taking place on April 22, in McEwen Hall 209 from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Graphic by KELLY NGUYEN | Special to The Leader.

Disney Dog Walk set to fundraise for autism research

MAISIE STRADER

Special to The Leader

With the heat wave currently taking over Fredonia, there are few reasons not to have as much fun in the sun as possible before the inevitable return to the cold. When pets are thrown into the equation, these reasons become even fewer.

On Saturday, April 24, HAIL! Fredonia Records will host its Seventh Annual Lend a Paw for Autism Dog Walk to raise money for autism research. Activities will take place from noon to 5 p.m. The walk begins at the Fredonia Clock Tower and stretches to Dods Hall on campus. There will be food, dogs, music and raffles.

This year's annual dog walk theme is Disney. Tickets for participants are \$10 and the virtual guest tickets are \$5. Virtual registration participants will be entered into a raffle to win a signed picture of Dee Wallace from the movie "Cujo" or a DVD of "The Return of the Living Dead" signed by Linnea Quigley.

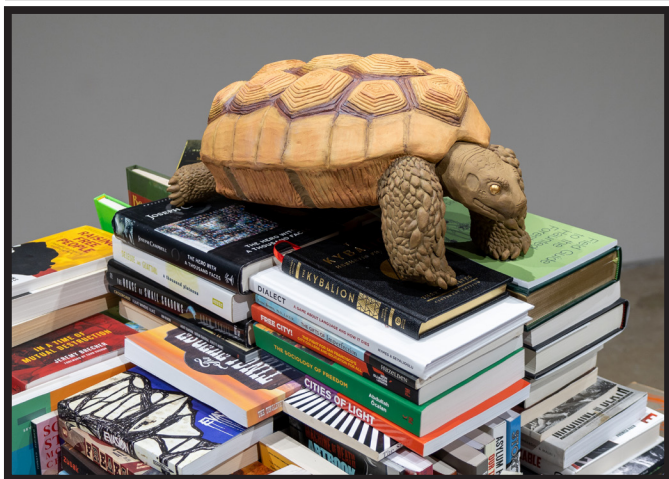
In-person dog walkers will have the chance to win several raffles and purchase pup cups for their Disney dogs. All treats are dog safe.

In-person attendees will also have the opportunity to listen to upcoming local artists including Jacob Kantner, Dog Mom, Tijuana Danger Dogs, and Fredonia's very own a capella groups The Guerillas, The Riveters and Some Like It Hot.

HAIL! Fredonia Records states, "All donations go directly to the Institute of Autism Research (IAR) at Canisius College to reduce tuition for IAR programs and for research and development of interventions for autistic children and their families. The IAR's goal is to ensure that a family's inability to pay will never be a reason their child cannot participate in our programs!"

Not only will walking and having fun at the event fund the IAR, but it will also provide care for the ones who cannot afford the Institute's programs.

HAIL! Fredonia Records urges the Fredonia community to come participate in this event, come take your dog for a walk and lend a paw for autism!



"Chelys Callida," 2023. Stoneware with slip, paint and found book collection. Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor.

NERON SIMPSON
Special to The Leader

A presence can be significant. It can be impactful, but can it be nothing?

The environment in which one enters plays a role in their perception and implicates them in any preceding events.

In "Bell, Book and Candle," visiting professor of ceramics Allora McCullough explores the theme of intention. Through her sculptures, she initiates a space of renewal, invitation and an escape from the minutiae and routine of everyday life.

Upon entering, one lays face to face with "Ursa Tanta" (2023), a large ceramic black bear with golden claws, golden eyes and a golden bell with bright red string hanging from its left paw. I drew similarities between the bear and the "ideal" young student. Their paw was raised, as if wanting to ask or answer a question, gold details to indicate recognition of accuracy or correctness (gold stars/stickers) and an eagerness in the eyes. The bear radiated a sense of curiosity, learning and wonder.

Walking over to "Chelys Callida" (2023), one is exposed to a vibrant orange-shelled tortoise, sitting atop a mountain of literature. With a life expectancy of 80 to 150 years, tortoises have been mythologized as keepers of sacred knowledge.

In this context, this knowledge ranged from iconic titles such as "A Wrinkle in Time," instructional texts like "How to Draw the Human Figure" and modern cult-classics like "Scott Pilgrim." The multifacetedness of knowledge was refreshing, and helps remind visitors that knowledge is not monolithic, and that being open to learning from sources unfamiliar to us can reveal unique points-of-view that can help us along our journeys, whatever that may mean to each of us.

"Cygnus Luminis" (2023), the final sculpture, felt like a dream. A white-feathered, black-billed swan surrounded by rippled water and black candles emitted a feeling of ceremony and introspection. The swan could be meeting someone, as swans are social animals. It could be looking for its cygnet (baby swan). It could also be meeting its fate.

Fate is not inherently dooming though.

One could feel a sense of mystique watching the swan, waiting for its next move. Waiting is inherent to the human experience. One must wait for answers, wait for transporta-

SCULPTING PRESENCE: Visiting professor explores animal species in Emmitt Christian Gallery

tion, wait for others. In all those times of waiting, when is one allowed to just be?

"Bell, Book and Candle" is on view in the Emmitt Christian Gallery in Rockefeller Arts Center 227 until April 27. Open hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All works in the exhibit are for sale. Interested buyers can contact Allora via email at beawestruck@gmail.com or through her website at www.beawestruck.com.



"Ursa Tanta," 2023. Stoneware with slip, paint and brass bell. Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor.

Q+A with Allora McCullough, Visiting Professor of Ceramics

For the tortoise sculpture, did you have specific books you wanted to showcase when building the mound? Were there any titles you wanted viewers to think about?

“All of the books included in this installation belong to my partner and me. There are a variety of genres from art to comics, philosophy to religion, and social justice to science fiction. The most precious book in the stack is my late grandmother's cookbook with handwritten recipes and notes. I definitely considered which titles would be visible as I arranged the collection. I hope everyone viewing it finds something of interest.”

Bears symbolize different meanings in different cultures. Did you reference a specific type of bear and if so, why that one?

“For the past 10 years of my life, I've lived in different parts of the Appalachian and Adirondack mountain ranges. Black bears are native to these areas, and I've personally seen one on a hike. My sculpture is a direct life-size scale of a female black bear measuring four feet long from nose to tail.”



What was your favorite piece to work on?

“This is a difficult question because it is like asking a parent to choose a favorite child. Each piece presented different challenges to solve and different ways of working with clay and ceramic materials. There are parts of the process that I enjoy more than others, but in the end I find them all very satisfying. Building large is exciting but it takes a long time. Small details and complex textures can draw me in for hours without realizing it. Mixed media application creates new results that are enthralling to realize. Every animal offered me a different experience in working on it, and I appreciate them in different ways.”

The scientific names attached to each piece seem to be fictional species. What was the process of coming up with them? And why were those names chosen?

“All of the species included are real animals: the American Black Bear, Sulcata Tortoise and Trumpeter Swan. The Latin titles I gave each piece are a clue to research, but I won't give them away. The translations of those titles reveal adjectives describing the scene and personality traits I attributed to the animals.”

Spectrum's annual Spring Escape set to attract hundreds of students

DAN QUAGLIANA

Staff Writer

On April 23, from noon to 4 p.m., Spectrum Entertainment Board, the club that holds public on-campus events, will be holding its second annual Spring Escape in the Williams Center.

“It’s sort of like a carnival-fair sort of day,” said Rowan Potzler, Spectrum’s treasurer.

The carnival theme extends to all aspects of the event, including food and planned activities. There will be an excess of both, allowing everyone to find something they’ll enjoy.

The food, which will be a major draw for most students, will include churros, fruit kabobs and corn dogs, amongst other carnival food.

Desserts include cotton candy, snow cones, funnel cake sticks and soft pretzels; there will be lemonade, fruit punch and water for drinks.

Activities will include airbrush tattoos, two caricature artists and two escape rooms with a “magic potions” theme. There will be a photo booth for students to take photos with their friends.

Students will also have the opportunity to create their own stuff-a-bears, which will be given away for free. There will only be approximately 100 of each, so “if you want a stuff-a-bear, get there as soon as it opens, because those are going to go fast,” Potzler said. “I would be surprised if we had any left over by 2 p.m.”

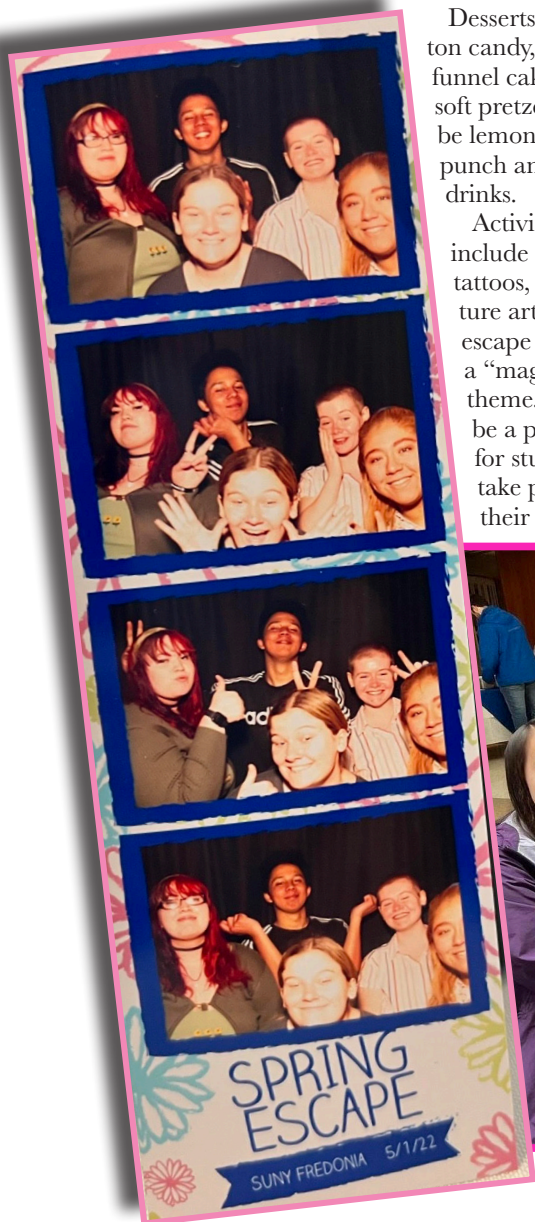
Spring Escape 2022’s stuff-a-bears were goats, sheep and cats, but this semester students were able to vote for what animals they wanted on Spectrum’s Instagram story. Planned designs include dinosaurs, wooly mammoths, frogs and pigs. Unfortunately, choices such as panda stuffies did not make the cut.

Last year’s Spring Escape was a huge success, with over 300 students showing up for the relatively short event. It was planned rather quickly, with the then-new E-board wanting to pull something together for the spring semester in a rush. This year is much better planned and is hoping to garner more of an audience than last year.

Within the last year, Spectrum has also run several welcome week events, such as screenings of “Shrek” and “Shrek 2,” trivia nights, their annual Hanging of the Greens event in December, as well as working with ResLife to host the Halloween Bash last October.

After Spring Escape, their next event will be Dinosaur Bar-B-Que visiting campus on May 13, which is another yearly occurrence.

Spectrum would like to thank Campus Life, and specifically Spectrum advisors Rachel Martin and Caitlyn Cybart, for their generous support. These events wouldn’t be possible without them.



Students participate in Spring Escape 2022. Photos by COURTNEY WOODRING | Special to The Leader.



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From Mason Hall to the Grammy Stage: Alumnus Charlie Post

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
Special to The Leader

An alumnus of SUNY Fredonia, Charlie Post has worked his way up in the music world to recording top-tier orchestras.

Charlie Post graduated in 1998 with a dual Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in music-applied and sound recording technology. He went on to work different positions in the music industry, and won his second grammy at the 2023 GRAMMY Awards.

Post won his first Grammy back in 2021 for a live orchestra performance, “Shostakovich Symphony No. 13 Babi Yar.”

“I got chills several times and thought to myself, ‘This performance is stellar; the world needs to hear it,’” Post said.

Post was one of the music engineers on this recording of the performance. This was recorded live in 2018 with Riccardo Muti, the Zell Music Director and Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). It was released in 2020, and went on to win a Grammy in 2021.

Post then went on to win his second Grammy this year, from “Bates: Philharmonia Fantastique - The Making Of The Orchestra.”

“Bates: Philharmonia Fantastique - The Making Of The Orchestra” is described by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as ‘a 25-minute concerto for orchestra and animated film.’

The musical composition was commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra

This recording of “Bates: Philharmonia Fantastique - The Making Of The Orchestra” won a Grammy for Best Engineered Album, Classical.

“Bates: Philharmonia Fantastique - The Making Of The Orchestra” can be found on Spotify, Apple music and Apple TV.

“It’s fantastic to get this level of recognition ... To have it happen twice is a dream,” Post said.

Post went on to talk about words of wisdom he has for current music students and what he thinks they need to learn from the music field that will help them in the long run. That includes knowing how to navigate a studio, learning all aspects of audio and video production and learning to be well-rounded in their field.

“I recommend diversifying [your areas of study] — that is learning all facets of the industry in which you plan to work,” Post said.

Post also provided advice for all students at Fredonia.

“I strongly recommend considering furthering [your education] with a master’s degree, too. You are already in the process of getting a solid basis of understanding at Fredonia,” Post said.

Even though Post does not have a master’s degree himself, he believes that it is advantageous for upcoming generations of music professionals to attain one.

“To be competitive in today’s world, advanced training is a must,” Post said. “At least in the audio industry, that means getting a master’s degree.”

Post said during his time in the music industry, he has held “a variety of different positions in the world of audio including working from the ground level-up in commercial recording studios, mixing live sound in both concert halls and theaters ... and now working for a top-tier orchestra.”

Post currently works as an audio engineer at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra has earned 64 Grammy awards.

Post talked about how Fredonia prepared him for his career in the music industry.

“[At Fredonia] you are in an excellent place where you’re exposed to music being made at a high level and [are provided] with the tools to capture it,” Post said.

Post went on to share some of his fondest memories during his time at Fredonia. He talked about a time where he was waiting offstage in Diers Recital Hall, when he was

going to play a bass saxophone piece for his senior recital, and then his instrument accidentally fell to the floor.

“It landed with its mouthpiece hitting the wood stage which created a huge noise, and threw the recital into emergency mode,” Post said. “... My stage manager made a calm announcement, and I played the remaining pieces with more adrenaline than I would normally have.”

Another memory of Post’s time at Fredonia occurred in Mason Hall.

He talked about how a friend introduced him to a piano student, who he had seen but never talked to before. The pianist, Julian Plyter, went on to become one of Post’s closest friends and the pair are still close to this day. Plyter was even the best man at Post’s wedding.

“I swear, Mason Hall has some kind of magic in it,” Post said.



Charlie Post with Grammy award.
Photo by Benjo Arwas courtesy of
Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

A hoppy Easter weekend show with The Guerillas

ADA PACHUCINSKI
Special to The Leader

When the sun comes out, so do the a cappella groups.

One such group, The Guerillas, hosted a show to kick off the warm spring weather. The show took place on April 8 at 7 p.m. and included performances from other Fredonia a cappella groups, Premium Blend and Dynamic Intonation.

The Guerillas make music and memories together performing at different shows that put together the vocal ranges of each member, and this spring show was a representation of their abilities.

This spring presentation included the songs, “Some Nights” by Fun, “Songbird” by Fleetwood Mac, “I Get Around” by the Beach Boys and a favorite of the night, “Burnin’ Up” by the Jonas Brothers.

Though the performances entail a lot of practice, friendships and fun are the main focus of The Guerillas. Brendan Mathewson, a freshman music education major with a focus in voice, joined the group this spring semester and said, “I love it. I have made so many new friends that make this experience even more special than it already is.”

Mathewson arranged the piece “Some Nights” and performed a solo.



Photo by ADA PACHUCINSKI | Special to The Leader.

Andrew Palmer, a sophomore music education major with a concentration in bassoon, has been a part of The Guerillas since Fall 2021. He is now president of the group and said, “Three rehearsals weekly that equate to about five hours a week, shows how everyone puts their [best effort] into making sure that we are ready for performances like this one.”

The talent of this a cappella group is showcased through their hard work and dedication, arranging pieces unique to their group and their attributes.

An important aspect of each of these productions is the songs chosen to be laid out for the audience to enjoy. For this, the group works diligently to arrange the pieces perfectly to fit the vocal range of each member.

Megan Wilson, a freshman music education major listening in the audience said, “My favorite part was hearing the vocals come together to create a song that sounded better than the original version.”

After the rehearsals, practices and arrangements, The Guerillas were able to create a show that brought together different songs, and channeled the vocal talents of the group.

Palmer said, “Doing something outside of regular curricular classes is something that really allows us to release some steam and just have fun together as a group.”

If you are interested in watching this a cappella group perform, the upcoming dates are April 22 at 8 p.m. and May 13 at 8 p.m.

SPORTS

Fueled up for Nationals in Daytona



Blue Devils Cheer Team. Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer.

MATT VOLZ
Asst. Sports Editor

Daytona Beach, Fla., a city known for its Atlantic Ocean coast and rich auto racing history, hosts the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) College Nationals each year.

For the second year in a row, Fredonia's cheer squad has left Florida with a top 15 finish.

This year, the team finished ninth in the Intermediate All Girls Division III division with a final score of 86.8635, an improvement upon a 13th place finish in 2022.

But, according to senior Sam Villante, it wouldn't be possible without teamwork and trust.

"Trust for cheer is a really big thing because you can't do anything without your whole group or else nothing works," Villante said.

Villante, a Rochester, N.Y., native, chose Fredonia because of its close proximity to her home and its cheer program.

"Cheer really [was] a bigger reason why I came," she said.

Fellow senior Shannon Fowler, a native of New York, N.Y., also said that cheer impacted her college decision.

"I was supposed to go out of state, but I saw that I could be seven hours away from home and still live the [college] life. ... I found out that they had cheerleading, and I was like, 'Yeah, this is where I want to be,'" Fowler said.

Villante, Fowler and Kloe Samick were the three seniors that led coach Julie Troche's cheer squad this season.

The cheer season is different from other sports seasons, as Nationals in Daytona Beach is their only competition. The rest of the season consists mostly of sideline and halftime performances for other sports such as basketball.

Villante said that their season begins in late September and early October.

"That is mostly just getting the feel of everyone and doing game stuff," she said. "Our practices are strictly competition based. We only compete at Nationals, but I think [coach Troche] might want to do another competition in March or something."

Fowler added that the team used to compete in a small competition, but that changed when COVID-19 hit in 2020.

"It's been hard to do [the competition] again," she said.

They both agreed that competing at Nationals was stressful but fun.

"We'll wake up at, like, 6:30 or 7 a.m. We'll rush to eat breakfast, and then we'll be out the door practicing in the grass," Villante said. "It's nice because you get to see so many other different teams and see what they have to offer."

One of the highlights of the weekend, though, wasn't anything that happened on stage. One of the famous teams, Navarro, from the Netflix docuseries "Cheer" stayed in the same hotel as the Blue Devils, and Villante, Fowler and the rest of the team were able to get pictures with them.

Fowler noted that she could draw inspiration from the famous team, saying, "Watching 'Cheer' actually helped me get

my mind right and look at different things, like, ‘This is where you want to be, this is what you want to do.’ So it gave me the motivation, and regardless [of] if I feel like I can’t, I know that I can. Talking with actual people, the coaches from ‘Cheer,’ they gave me a lot of motivation. ... It built my confidence.”

Villante also noted that watching “Cheer” and meeting the team reinforced the importance of teamwork.

“I feel like watching it definitely also made [me] realize how ... everyone has to work together in order to succeed,” she said.

Overall, they both believe that their experiences at Nationals were some of their fondest memories from college cheer. Fowler specifically said that she loved it because in high school, she didn’t have many opportunities to compete.

“When I joined, I was just so happy to get that experience to learn everything,” Fowler said.

In May, Villante and Fowler will graduate – Villante with a degree in social work, and Fowler with a degree in liberal arts. Villante plans to pursue her master’s degree online through Syracuse University, and Fowler plans to work at a daycare center and intern at a cheerleading gym.

They both expressed interest in keeping cheerleading as a part of their lives past college, with Villante thinking about becoming a cheer judge and Fowler considering going into coaching. Villante hopes to encourage young cheerleaders to continue with the sport.

“It’s a lot, but it’s worth it ... If you’re trying to choose a school based on cheer, come to Fredonia,” Villante said. “I’ve met so many people through cheer.”

Fowler also hopes to encourage young women of color to pursue their dreams.

“I told one of the freshmen on the team, a couple of days ago actually, ‘Don’t give up. Keep fighting; you will be in that place that you want to be eventually, just keep fighting. Don’t let [anybody] downplay what you’re doing ... Get in there, and don’t give up,’” she said.

Fowler also said that it was difficult for her to open up to the other cheerleaders about those things at first, but she stuck with it and “it definitely got better.”

Both Fowler and Villante feel that cheerleading at Fredonia has made a significant impact on their lives.

“I just love different people that I’ve met, and [with] all the friendships that I’ve made, I feel like it’s definitely changed my life and changed how I view things,” Villante said.

Villante added, “I don’t know if I’ll ever be able to get cheer out of my life. I feel like I’m always going to be doing something with cheer.”

Both Villante and Fowler expressed excitement for the future, believing that a top five finish could be possible. Fowler encouraged the younger members of the team to “keep grinding and do things they haven’t done before.”

When the Blue Devils travel to NCA College Nationals next year, they’ll be without Fowler and Villante. But, the team will always have the advice, mentorship and support that they received from their senior teammates.



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Blue Devils Sports Roundup

MATT VOLZ
Asst. Sports Editor

CHEERLEADING

The Blue Devils cheer squad competed at the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Nationals in Daytona Beach, F.L. from Thursday, April 6 to Saturday, April 8.

In the preliminary round on April 6, the team scored a perfect 10 in the Collegiate Image category and tallied eights and nines in several other categories.

Overall, the team came in ninth place in the Intermediate All Girls Division III division with a final score of 86.8635.

Salisbury University took home first place with a final event score of 94.7245.

Last year, the Blue Devils finished 13th at NCA Nationals. More information can be found on fredoniabluedevils.com.

LACROSSE

On Wednesday, April 12, Fredonia's women's lacrosse team traveled to Buffalo to face the Buffalo State Bengals in a SUNYAC matchup.

Despite leading 11-6 with under 10 minutes left in the third quarter, the Bengals rallied to beat the Blue Devils by a final score of 15-13.

Senior Julie Culver scored a season-high six goals, while freshman Cailin Karalus and junior Sydney Buchko each scored twice.

Culver also tallied two assists and recorded a season-high 12 shots.

Senior Emily Carr made 16 saves on 31 shots.

On Saturday, April 15, the Blue Devils scored five unanswered goals in the fourth quarter to pull away late and defeat the Potsdam Bears, 19-11.

Senior Erin Woods, the team's leading scorer this season, scored six goals and recorded four assists for a total of 10 points.

Buchko also scored three goals, as Culver and freshman Noelle Mendez each scored twice.

Carr made 13 saves on 24 shots in the victory.

The win brought Fredonia's overall record to 6-9 and marked their first conference win of 2023.

The Blue Devils will be in action again on Saturday, April 22 at 11 a.m. against the Plattsburgh State Cardinals in what will be their final home game of the regular season.

SOFTBALL

Fredonia's softball team played two doubleheaders over the weekend, with all four games at home.

On Friday, April 14, the Blue Devils hosted the Geneseo Knights in the first doubleheader.

In game one on Friday, Geneseo jumped out to an early lead and held on to win 9-2.

Senior pitcher Emily Chelius drove in both Fredonia runs with a single in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Junior Alexis Wulf and sophomore Allie Wandell scored the Blue Devil runs.



Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer.

Chelius pitched six innings, allowing nine runs on 12 hits while walking two batters and striking out five.

In the second game, Geneseo pulled away from a 3-3 tie to win, 7-3.

Sophomore outfielder Megan Guidry drove in two runs with a double in the bottom of the third inning, and senior Marisa Sultana drove in the other run with a single in the second inning.

Junior Alyssa Santiago scored twice, and freshman Isabella Lemke scored once as a pinch runner.

Junior pitcher Vanessa Galbraith started the game but was pulled in the second inning. Freshman Mack Celauro pitched the rest of the game, allowing four runs on eight hits and striking out one batter.

On Saturday, April 15, the Blue Devils hosted the Brockport Golden Eagles in another doubleheader.

In the first game, Fredonia took the lead on Wandell's RBI triple in the bottom of the fourth inning and didn't look back on the way to a 5-1 win.

Wandell scored three of the team's five runs and recorded three hits. Santiago and senior infielder Victoria Pauwels each scored once.

Chelius pitched all seven innings, allowing just one run on five hits and striking out nine batters for her first win of the season.

In the second game, the Blue Devils held a one-run lead through five innings, but Brockport came back for a 6-4 win.

Wandell went 2-or-3 with two runs scored, while Pauwels went 3-for-3 with a walk.

Lemke and sophomore Isabella Rizzo each scored once as a pinch runner.

Celauro pitched all seven innings, allowing six runs on five hits with two walks and two strikeouts.

The weekend's results brought Fredonia's overall record to 2-18 and their conference record to 1-5.

The team will be on the road for three upcoming doubleheaders, starting with two games at St. John Fisher University in Pittsford, N.Y. on Tuesday, April 18.

Their next home game is slated for 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 as part of a doubleheader against Alfred University.

BASEBALL

The Blue Devils played three home games over the weekend, all against SUNY Brockport.

On Friday, April 14, the Golden Eagles jumped out to an early lead, and a fourth inning grand slam sealed Fredonia's fate in a 12-1 loss.

Fredonia's lone run came in the bottom of the fourth inning when freshman Garrett Stuckey drew a bases-loaded walk that allowed sophomore Alex Gannon to score.

Junior pitcher Nathan O'Brochta started the game and pitched five innings, allowing 10 runs on 12 hits with a walk and a strikeout.

Freshman Nathan Zicari pitched the rest of the way, allowing two runs on three hits with four walks and three strikeouts.

In the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday, April 15, the Blue Devils trailed 5-3 after four innings, before Brockport scored a combined 12 runs over the next three innings to win 17-3.

All three Fredonia runs scored off of senior outfielder Jordan Maher's bases-loaded double in the bottom of the fourth inning. Stuckey, senior Jake Wentland and sophomore Tyler Curtis scored the runs.

Freshman Morgan Zientara started the game, pitching four innings and allowing seven runs on nine hits with three walks and two strikeouts.

Freshman Michael Byrns pitched two and one-third innings in relief, allowing eight runs on three hits with five walks and one strikeout.

Sophomore Jeremy Rosado pitched two-thirds of an inning as well, allowing two runs on two hits with one walk and two strikeouts.

In the second game, the Blue Devils rallied from an early 7-0 deficit to pull within one run, but Brockport ultimately pulled away and won, 12-7.

Curtis hit a two-run home run in the sixth inning, while Gannon and senior Matt Wojcik also each drove in two runs.

Junior Kyle Tedford drove in the other Fredonia run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning that allowed freshman Brady Ventura to score one of his two runs.

Freshman Nick Syposs started the game, pitching four innings and allowing seven runs on six hits with two walks and a strikeout.

Freshman Owen Ludwig came on in relief, pitching three innings and allowing four runs on six hits with one strikeout.

Junior Derrick Walters and sophomore Nathaniel Lockwood each pitched one inning, both recording two walks and a strikeout while keeping Brockport scoreless.

The weekend's results brought the team's overall record to 5-19 and their conference record to 0-9.

The Blue Devils will be on the road in the upcoming week with a game at Penn State Behrend on Monday, April 17 and a weekend series at SUNY Oneonta.

Their next home game is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Friday, April 28 against SUNY New Paltz.



Junior pitcher Vanessa Galbraith delivers a throw to the Rochester Yellow Jackets batter on April 11.
Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer.



Alex Gannon runs to the next base on April 14 in a game against SUNY Brockport.

Swinging into spring with Blue Devils Baseball



KAYLA WELSH Sports Photographer

Jordan Maher jogs on the field
during game against SUNY Brockport.



Brady Ventura strikes the ball on April 14 during match against SUNY Brockport.

Club soccer president Vincent Alesi talks goals for season

TEDDY COBO

Special to The Leader

There have been many candidates who were eligible for the position of president of the men's club soccer team at Fredonia. But, during the Fall 2020 semester, there was one candidate who stood out from the rest: Vincent Alesi.

Alesi was born on Feb. 6, 2001 in Long Island, N.Y. Vincent went to high school at Valley Stream North. Alesi found the passion for soccer when he was a child, and has been playing the sport since he was 6 years old. His family watched the sport as well throughout his adolescent years.

Alesi loves watching the Italian Premier League (Serie A) and became inspired to play the sport at Fredonia. Alesi's position on the soccer field is left defensive back (LB). Alesi is an aggressive defender, which makes it hard for strikers to win any air duel against him.

When speaking about his defensive abilities, Alesi said, "It's always a great feeling once you clear the ball out and disrupt the opponent's attack. I get on the field to do my job as a defender, and I feel driven every time I interfere with the opponent's attack."

Alesi said that he would consider playing at the varsity level for college.

"I'd love to ... When I first came to Fredonia, academics were everything to me and I wanted to do my very best and put my full focus on school. Joining the club team made playing the sport more manageable along with keeping my academics up," Alesi said. "After all these years, I have had conversations with myself [about] if I were to attempt to try out for the varsity team, we'll see. [But], one thing for sure is that I will never stop playing the game."

In Fall 2019, Alesi was a freshman on the club soccer team and became a part of the starting 11 fairly quickly.

"Trying out for the club team was definitely harder than I expected," Alesi said. "There were many great players and half of the team had players that were on the varsity team at one point but ended up dropping down to the club division."

Alesi also said, "Seeing the intensity in practices and the will to win from my teammates at the time only made me want to work harder to earn a position on the team where my performances can make a positive impact on the pitch."

In addition to Alesi, there were a couple of other teammates that started on the team back in 2019. Senior teammate and starting striker Jovan Opacic reflected on his positive experiences with Alesi.

"Playing with Vincent is an honor," Opacic said. "... When the team needs a leader, he's the one to speak up and motivate the team in any possible situation. He is truly inspirational to the rest of the team."

In Fall 2020, Alesi was appointed president of the team.



Alesi dribbles the ball down the field. Photo provided by VINCENT ALESI.

"I was so happy to take on the position. I have had so many ideas for practices and preparations for games in the coming season. I would like to continue playing in our official league season and finally be part of a league since we haven't been in one in a while prior to this season. I can't wait to push the club team to compete at the highest level to really showcase our skills as individuals and as a team as well."

As everything seemed to be on track leading into 2020, one factor that unexpectedly affected the team and future performances at the time was the start of the pandemic. To this day, there are still many clubs throughout the school that are experiencing the repercussions of the pandemic.

"When [COVID-19] hit, it was really hard for us. [Soccer is a team sport], [so] it was really hard to set up practices and games when you really weren't supposed to be around other people," Alesi said. "From students graduating, to some players just not showing up to practices, we lost many players throughout that period of time. We at times didn't have enough people at practices and this made it really tough for us as a team to keep on running."

Alesi and several other players still found ways to attend private practices together, even if that meant needing to wear masks. Throughout these tough past few years, Alesi and the team have come together as one.

"After all these tough months we are finally part of a league where we will compete against several local colleges around us such as the University of Buffalo, Niagara University, SUNY Brockport, Cortland and others. This can be a time where we can really put Fredonia back on the map when it comes to sports," Alesi said. "... I am excited to see how the team will perform in the upcoming season."

As the season starts soon, the men's team has had months of preparation for the upcoming season. The team is ready to showcase their skills and compete.

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.

The 'anonymous' SUNY mental health survey

CHRIS SILL

Special to The Leader

If you attend Fredonia, you probably received an email from the SUNY Student Association on April 3, asking you to fill out a "SUNY Mental Health" survey regarding SUNY's mental health resources. In the email, students were told that this survey would be completely anonymous and that it would help advocate for "better resources and policies" for students.

What SUNY failed to realize is that the survey was not, in fact, anonymous. After the form is completed and submitted, students can access a button that reads, "See previous responses." By clicking the said button, viewers can see statistics such as how many responses were recorded, which schools they came from and even the short answers that were input into the survey.

According to the page, Fredonia ranked one of the highest in terms of feedback rates with a whopping 27.5%, or 67 out of 244 responses. Though we can't see which school each short answer came from, it would be understandable to interpret that many of these comments came from SUNY Fredonia students.

You're probably thinking, "Even if we can see the statistics, that doesn't necessarily mean it isn't anonymous!" That's what I thought at first too until I scrolled down to see where students were able to input their names and emails if they

wanted to speak to the Director of Mental Health for SUNY. Viewers can also see the reasons why these respondents would want to meet with the director, exposing them to possible retaliation from anyone who reads it (especially if an answer mentions a specific situation that another individual knows of).

As a current student with multiple diagnoses (including generalized anxiety disorder and major depressive disorder, both of which directly correlate to this survey), I would have answered differently if I knew that the survey wasn't actually anonymous. Something about other students, faculty and staff being able to see my personal responses without my permission makes me uncomfortable, and I'm not the only person who feels this way.


I spoke with a current Fredonia student with an anxiety diagnosis (who wishes to be anonymous at this time to protect their reputation) to get their opinion on the matter.

The student said that in their opinion, "[The survey] is a breach of confidence in the SUNY system, and discourages students from potentially seeking help in the future since, if they cannot keep a survey anonymous, how could they feel safe when being open about their issues?"

Next time a survey gets sent out, whether it's by the SUNY system, your childhood best friend or even a major media outlet on the internet, be sure that you know where your feedback is going and who can view it. You never know who could get their hands on it.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS BACK-TO-BACK WALTER GLOOR MAINSTAGE SERIES EVENTS

William Shakespeare's
Romeo & Juliet
directed by Ged Sharon



Thursday, April 27 @ 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 28 @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 29 @ 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 29 @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 30 @ 2:00 p.m.

MARVEL THEATRE

Campus Ticket Office, Williams Center, fredonia.edu/tickets

Young Jean Lee's
LEARN
directed by Daniel Lendzian



Thursday, May 4 @ 7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 5 @ 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 6 @ 2:00 p.m.

MARVEL THEATRE

FREDONIA
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Lovercolumn:

Sex and Shame

“THE PLUMBER” & “THE ELECTRICIAN”

Lovercall Producers

This week on Lovercall, we dove into a more serious topic: sex and shame. We discussed sex as a taboo topic, why we might feel shame and how we can take steps to prevent this negative mindset. Be sure to tune in again this Thursday, April 11 at 10 p.m. on WDWL 89.5 on fredoniaradio.com

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 dive into something more collaborative with video games!

There are plenty of video games you can play with your partner. We recommend something a bit more relaxed than competitive for a date and to keep things positive

One of the best game series to do this with is the line of LEGO games. These games include LEGO Star Wars, LEGO Harry Potter, and others. LEGO games are easy and widely accessible, being available on most popular gaming platforms since the mid 2000s. They include some action and puzzle solving, perfect for a date with your partner.

Besides LEGO games, “The Electrician” recommends Stardew Valley. This game provides a laid back environment where players can work together to make a farm. Additionally, the game can run on most laptops and computers, so it is perfect for those that may not own a gaming console.

Lovercallers

We call those who reach out to us with their questions and stories “lovercallers.”

We received a question from “Average Neighborhood Shy Fellow” who asked, “As we know the one and only FredFest is peeping its head around the corner, usually as my codename could [imply], I’m quite shy, but I’m [willing] to burst out my bubble just a little bit. This question might not pertain to your usual question of love and relationships, but any advice [on] how to burst out of one’s bubble when it comes to anxiety?”

“Carebear” recommended just getting yourself out there, and trying new things.

It could help to go out with friends you feel comfortable with so you aren’t alone. Remember that when going out, you can always leave if you are feeling uncomfortable, and your friends should support that.

If you want to start out a little slower, maybe just try going to a smaller party before FredFest. That might be a bit of an easier experience to help you adjust, just go out there and try to have a little fun! And if you feel uncomfortable in the slightest, remember to put yourself first and remove yourself from the situation.

Sex and shame

Have you ever felt embarrassed in the bedroom? Do you feel awkward discussing sex with your partner or in general? Are you worried about sharing your fantasies and sexual desires?

If so, you may be experiencing sexual shame. According to Perspectives Therapy Services, sexual shame is “a feeling of wrongness in our sexual desires, fantasies, and/or acts.”

We feel that one source of sexual shame is the fact that sex is typically thought of as being a taboo topic.

Talking about sex usually results in the divulged or shocked faces of others. With this negative reinforcement, we feel that people may feel shame when discussing the topic.

We here at Lovercall believe that there should be more conversation around sex. Because of this, people can become more educated about how to be safe when having sex and more resources can be provided to those seeking them.

Guests on the show also cited that gender roles also may play a role in sexual shame.

For instance, “Carebear” pointed out that women are often raised believing that they should only have one male partner and should stay pure. However, men are typically encouraged to increase the amount of sexual partners they have and are often rewarded for it.

Because of this, if a woman has multiple sexual experiences, she may feel shame as she was previously thought up on the idea that sexual exploration is “unladylike.”

Other things such as religious beliefs and cultural values can also factor into shame. “Zim,” another guest on Lovercall, mentioned that virginity is a major aspect of many religions, and when a person loses their virginity, they are told they are “losing a part of themselves they cannot get back.”

But how can we stop this shame that many of us feel? There are many different methods a person can employ to avoid sexual shame.

We recommend first, being honest with your partner about what your desires are and what you’d like in a sexual relationship. Having a conversation about it lets your partner know what you need and can help avoid the awkwardness.

Additionally, “Bunny” recommends doing shadow work. Ask yourself what factors may have shaped your relationship with your own body. Try to think about what your formative sexual experiences were like. This may help you get some background into why you experience shame for certain things and why.

You could also try journaling about your thoughts. Ask yourself if what you’re writing down actually makes sense. Or, are they just thoughts and nothing more?

It can also help to have a welcoming circle of people who empower you and support you. It’s important to remember that many people feel sexual shame, and you aren’t alone in that.

Reach out!

Do you want to ask the authors of Lovercolumn a question? Do you need advice?

Fill out the form by using this QR code.



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

