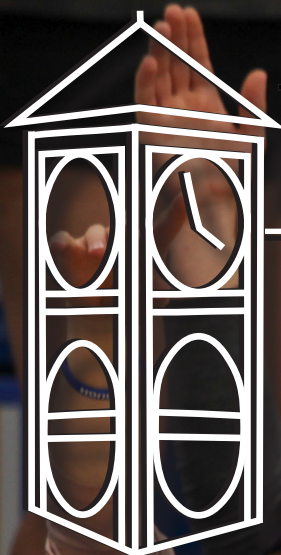


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Issue 13

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THE

# FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

## Athletics Host First Unified Basketball Game

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UP Chief Isaacson Set to Retire  
Campus Safety Investigations  
Enactus' Spring Fling Fashion Show  
Ultimate Frisbee and Field Hockey Collab  
'Vantage Point' Senior Art Exhibit in Marion**

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# THE LEADER

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**Front cover:** Fredonia Men's Ice Hockey players supporting Unified Basketball game. Front row (left to right): Garrison Gagnon, Ethan Pitzman and Justin Guelph. Back row: Brendan Dempsey and Jake Murphy. Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer.

**Back cover:** Fredonia Men's Basketball players Alon Haimovitz and Alon Kremerman. Photo by AMBER LOUIS | Special to The Leader.



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"We are a landscape of all we have seen" - Isamu Noguchi





Graphic by KELLY NGUYEN | Special to The Leader.

**CHLOE KOWALYK**  
Managing Editor

Learning at SUNY Fredonia is going to look a little different next semester.

Currently, Fredonia students are using OnCourse, an online learning platform that is run on Moodle. Most other SUNY campuses run on Blackboard, while a few others use OnCourse or other similar platforms.

But now, SUNY is seeking to make a change. And it has been announced that all campuses will be switching to the same learning platform.

SUNY is calling this the “SUNY DLE” or “digital learning environment.”

The system itself is called “Brightspace” and is run by the company Desire To Learn (D2L).

Each SUNY school is calling the platform by the name it chooses. Fredonia will be calling it “FREDLearn.”

According to Lisa Melohusky, Fredonia’s director of Online Learning, this change is being presented to help keep everything in one place. For instance, if a student takes a course at Jamestown Community College (JCC), the course would show up on the same platform as their courses at Fredonia.

“SUNY is trying to make transferring easier,” Melohusky said.

This will create what she calls a “more seamless system” as students will not need to relearn a whole new system if they transfer universities or take summer or winter courses at other SUNY campuses.

Melohusky said that SUNY is attempting to be more supportive of the students in their system.

“The idea is more support for the students [and] less transition chaos as you decide to take a course somewhere else,” she said.

Melohusky explained that this will be especially helpful for students moving from community colleges to four-year campuses, as they will have access to all of their prior coursework.

Melohusky also said FREDLearn will have several new

benefits. FREDLearn looks similar to OnCourse, and students still use their Fredonia log-ins to access the platform.

The major difference is that some of the buttons have moved around a little.

On FREDLearn, different sections are organized into widgets. Students can still access their grades and instructor feedback and have the capability to pin the courses they use the most.

Much like with OnCourse, instructors can send announcements through FREDLearn, and students will also get an email notification with the professor’s announcement.

According to Melohusky, “Possibly, [FREDLearn is] a more updated version of an LMS [learning management system] than what we’re currently on.”

Additionally, FREDLearn will still allow students to download content in different formats, such as an audio version of an article.

The new platform will also feature improved audio and video recording capabilities, such as an updated recording limit of 30 minutes and automatic closed captions.

FREDLearn links to students’ Google Drives, allowing them to easily upload their content and assignments for classes.

FREDLearn can also be accessed through an app called “Pulse,” which allows users to view coursework and a mobile version of the website.

Students can use the app to sign up for text alerts about their courses and have the ability to opt-in or out of these alerts at any time.

Although the new system seems to have positive changes, many Fredonia students are hesitant to accept the switch to a new platform.

After polling 28 students on my personal Instagram account, I found that 86% of students did not agree with the new change, while only 14% did.

Students expressed that they like OnCourse now, and don’t want to learn a new system.

One user said, “I’ve heard complaints already from professors saying they don’t like the new layout. It’s a whole new system we’ll have to learn and get used to again.”

Another student said, “[As] the old saying goes, ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.’”

Melohusky said that with the new SUNY-wide change, there will be expanded hours to help students transition to FREDLearn.

“Students are going to have expanded help hours, not just when our help desk is open, but nights and weekends as well,” she said.

The help desk hours are from 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Melohusky also found that “Students aren’t finding it difficult to learn.”

The transition will start for students taking summer courses. According to Melohusky, at some point, after grades are due, OnCourse links will be replaced with FREDLearn.

Students are encouraged to move all material they have on OnCourse to a hard drive since the University will be losing access to OnCourse over the summer.

Students have until June to transfer their content.

Melohusky said that in the fall, there will likely be more promotions and information available for students about FREDLearn.

# The 'facts of the case' for bail reform in New York State

**MICHAEL WILLIAMS**

Staff Writer

The American Democracy Project on campus held a forum with the assistant professor of criminal justice at SUNY Fredonia, Dr. Jessica Finkeldey, and Alexandra Harrington, associate professor of criminal justice at University at Buffalo and director of the Innocence Project in Buffalo. A central focal point of the discussion was to break down the criminal statistics across New York State. The event was also held in conjunction with the League of Women voters, a non-partisan group, and the Fredonia Criminal Justice club.

Finkeldey outlined in her presentation what exactly bail is. When charged with a crime, defendants are expected to show up to court. Cash bail, property bail and surety (loan with interest) bail are the main mechanisms used in most states to ensure that criminals show up to their trial. The prosecutors can also just release you after arresting you, which is called “release on recognizance.”

In 2019, the State of New York passed a law to get rid of cashless bail pay requirements for most crimes except those punishable by death federally. This was done to let more non-violent offenders free so they would not have to wait months for trial in jail and lose their job, house and other things.

After 2020, the legislature added some more violent felonies to the list of crimes that can charge cashless bail, such as firearm crimes, strangulation and crimes that resulted in death. The 2020 amendment also required jails and prisons to collect data on the law.

Finkeldey addressed through her data that fewer people are imprisoned. She wanted to caution with her findings that “this is right during [COVID-19] as well, and we cannot weigh the impacts of both causes specifically.”

From 2019 to 2023, jails in New York City started using more cashless alternatives to bail at a higher rate, as well as upstate New York. A study done by John Jay College showed that misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies in had lower recidivism, reoffendment, rates than in 2019. However, violent felonies and firearm crimes had higher recidivism rates. Again, Finkeldey stresses that COVID-19 really makes it hard to come to a finite conclusion.

There are multiple studies linking the pandemic to higher crime rates in 2020 than compared to now or five years before that. To say that bail reform is the problem of these higher rates of crime and recidivism would be inconclusive.

Harrington gave a birds-eye view approach on the issue of bail reform. Bail has been a foundation and bedrock on English common law and society. The developed world has had bail since the 13th century as a way to incentivize people to show up for their trials. Defendants are refunded the bail money they pay when they go to court.

It wasn't really until the 1960s that the federal government started to look at bail reform.



Graphic by KELLY NGUYEN | Special to The Leader.

However, nothing has really gotten done on bail reform, besides a Reagan-era law that let states use a dangerousness standard to assess releasing criminals. The Manhattan Project was way ahead of its time, offering to pay for people's bail to prove that release on recognizance should be used instead of cash bail, to avoid ruining people's lives.

In her presentation, Harrington stated, “[Two out of three] criminals can't afford a \$2,500 bail.” A \$2,500 bail would be for most misdemeanors.

Just because of a lack of financial resources, Harrington states, “People have to forgo wages, miss rent, mortgage, car payments, parenting or medication to sit in a jail when they are presumed innocent until proven guilty.” Harrington also shared statistics on race and bail reform. In New York State, the jailed population is 43% Black, while New York's population is only 15% Black, making Black people incarcerated at a nearly three times clip.

While some people might praise the bill as a step forward, others may see it as a spit in the face to tradition and hard-working people who don't break the law.

Cashless bail can be viewed as a step forward and as an accomplishment where the most vulnerable in New York State gain some justice back from the system. Overall, at the event, a large group of people interested in their government came together to learn about the “facts of the case” and the all-too-often statistical reality for those who get charged with crimes. The people charged tend to be a part of minority populations, who often become forced to put their lives on hold because they cannot afford their bail payment.



# University Police Chief Brent Isaacson set to retire

**DAN QUAGLIANA**

Staff Writer

Brent Isaacson has served as the University Police Chief on campus for the last four years. However, that time is coming to an end as Isaacson will be retiring from his position at the end of June.

“I’ve greatly enjoyed my time at Fredonia,” Isaacson said. “[But] I’ve come to a time in my life where, after 27 years in law enforcement and six in the military, it’s time to spend more time with my wife and family. My wife and I are looking forward to a lot of traveling while we’re still relatively young.”



Photo provided by BRENT ISAACSON.

Before coming to Fredonia in 2019, Isaacson worked in the FBI for 23 years, where he served as the primary coordinator in Western New York for the FBI’s National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime.

During his time here, he worked towards the fulfillment of numerous goals, such as preventing acts of violence on campus and making sure all University Police officers are well-trained.

“Violence is preventable,” Isaacson said. “My personal mission here has been to teach people how to keep our campus safe. ... I issued three standing orders to all of UPD when I arrived four years ago: Be honest, be kind and be empathetic. As a result, our officers are trusted and well-liked members of this great campus community.”

As a way of advancing these goals, Isaacson ensured that every officer wears body cameras at all times while on duty, which is a measure that has been broadly supported by students.

While Isaacson is not involved with the search for his successor, Fredonia President Stephen Kolison said that a job announcement is going out very soon.

“I want us to find a chief that would bring that kind of capacity and gravitas to the job, just as Chief Isaacson has done,” he said.

Kolison mentioned that someone might have to serve in the position on an interim basis until a permanent successor can be found.

Vice President for Finance and Administration Michael Kelly is currently putting together a search committee for a new police chief, on which student opinion “is likely,” according to Kolison.

“The search [committee] is important,” he said. “There is an [ongoing] evolution in law enforcement. Criminals are evolving, so we can’t remain static. It’s a dynamic process.”

For his part, Isaacson said that he is “certain the next chief will bring exciting new ideas and new initiatives to UPD.”

Kolison specified that the main goal of the new chief must be to keep campus safe. “The safety of students and staff is primary,” he said. “The next chief needs to remain dynamic to position us to deal with [new] challenges that are emerging.”

As for what message he wants to leave with students, Isaacson stated that, “My hope for our students is that they work hard to be supportive of and kind to each other. ... Developing a campus culture with a sense of connection to others and belonging goes a long way to bringing more joy to the student experience.”

**“Violence is preventable. My personal mission here has been to teach people how to keep our campus safe. I issued three standing orders to all of UPD when I arrived: Be honest, be kind and be empathetic.”**

# The threats made on Thompson Hall: *One semester later*

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

Managing Editor

The Fredonia student accused of making threats of campus violence on Yik Yak last November is awaiting his day in court.

The student, identified as Malik K. Sissoko, has been charged with making a terroristic threat. He was charged on Nov. 23, 2022, in the wake of the incident on Nov. 2.

He was arraigned on Jan. 25 and is set to reappear in court on June 28.

Sissoko's Yik Yak threats towards students and faculty near and inside Thompson Hall were made at approximately 12:48 p.m.

According to University Police, these threats were reported to the department, and officers from UP and the Fredonia Police Department responded to the scene.

UP deemed the threats as not credible, and classes continued throughout the day while police maintained a heavy presence surrounding Thompson Hall.

Since Yik Yak is an anonymous posting app, UP had to do "investigative work" to determine who made the threats.

According to an email from Marketing and Communications that contained a statement from UP, later that same day, at 7:03 p.m., police arrested Sissoko and charged him with making a terroristic threat. Sissoko is currently 21 years old and was 20 years old at the time of the arrest.

The Leader obtained Sissoko's name and additional information about the incident through a police report. The Leader received the police report after filing a Freedom of Information Act request.

An accusatory instrument felony complaint was filed under the State of New York County of Chautauqua Justice Court Village of Fredonia. The complainant is lieutenant Scott Martin, a University Police officer.

Making a terroristic threat falls under section 490.20, subdivision 1 of the Penal Law of New York State.

This states that "a person who is guilty of making a terroristic threat when with intent to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a unit of government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a unit of government by murder, assassination or kidnapping, he or she threatens to commit or causes to be committed a special offense and thereby causes a reasonable expectation or fear of the imminent commission of such offense."

According to the complaint, Sissoko "did knowingly, unlawfully and intentionally cause fear of the imminent threat of violence involving the use of a firearm to the students, faculty, and staff in and around Thompson Hall."

Police say these threats made were: "I'm in Thompsom and



**Thompson Hall with Blue Light Emergency System.**  
Photo by ALYSSA BUMP | Chief Copy & Design Editor.

"I'm tryna die today bi\*ch pull up;" "I'm outside with a gun looking to lynch negroes and crackers;" "I just shot a n\*\*\*\*;" and "my life is gonna end" verbatim.

The Leader reporter Izzie Inzinna spoke with a student familiar with Sissoko who said that the alleged threats were out of character with the friend they knew.

The source discussed Sissoko's character and wished to remain anonymous due to the nature of the case.

When asked about Sissoko, this person said "he was like a brother to me." They had met Sissoko on a tour of the campus before either of the two attended Fredonia.

When asked to describe Sissoko, the source said he was a genuine and sweet person.

"You would never think that he could harm anyone, or even think about harming anyone," he said.

This concerned friend felt that the alleged threats were out of character for Sissoko.

Said source also felt that Sissoko was misunderstood. They said that everyone has their own problems that they deal with and that everyone has a breaking point. They said when that breaking point is reached, people tend to act out since they want to feel seen or heard.

Inzinna found that, from the knowledge The Leader has, Sissoko was removed from campus.

You can still find his email, however, any sent emails may bounce. You cannot find his information through the Online Student Directory in YourConnection.

Inzinna also came into contact with someone who was close to Sissoko. Further updates will be provided by The Leader.

*Contributions to this article were made by Izzie Inzinna.*



# Fredonia's response plan to an active shooter situation

**ABIGAIL JACOBSON**  
Special to The Leader

News about mass shootings has been shared all over the media in the past few years. We've seen them happening at a Tops supermarket, at a sweet 16 party, at an elementary school and other places in the U.S. This situation can happen anywhere, at any time.

What if this were to happen on SUNY Fredonia's campus?

Chief of University Police Brent Isaacson discussed how SUNY Fredonia would respond.

Isaacson said he believes the last time someone came onto campus with a gun was 10 to 15 years ago.

"Typically, young men would hang their hunting rifles on a rack in a pickup truck," said Isaacson who believed this was the situation that occurred.

Isaacson said that by law, the only people that can legally carry a firearm on campus are police officers. If an incident ever occurred, it would generate an immediate response.

In the case of an active shooter on campus, Isaacson said that every police officer in the county would be notified of the situation. Neighboring police departments, such as the Village of Fredonia and Dunkirk police, would help provide backup.

"I'm sure ... within a minute or two at the most [there would] be a couple or three or four University Police officers surrounding that person," Isaacson said.

If the Village of Fredonia police or Dunkirk Police Department needed UP's help with a situation, UP would provide backup for them. UP would assess the situation and make sure the campus is safe first.

If the Village of Fredonia or Dunkirk were to experience something like this, and UP had concerns that the danger would make its way to campus, he said UP would prepare to keep the campus community safe.

"We'd start to secure the campus and get people in the best, most expedient way we could [and] get people behind closed doors until the danger passes," Isaacson said.

SUNY Fredonia has a total of nine police officers, four lieutenants, three dispatchers, a clerical assistant, an administrative assistant and a chief of police.

Every day, there are three police officers on duty. Two are on the road, patrolling the campus while one is back in the dispatch room looking through the cameras, taking calls and being there in case of an emergency.

Isaacson said we have about 300 cameras on Fredonia's campus. They are mainly stationed outside the residence halls, around all the buildings and in parking lots.

"98% of the campus is covered by a camera," Isaacson said.

These cameras can move around and have high resolution. This aspect can help provide UP with the ability to get license plate numbers, figure out someone's identity and help protect our campus community.

If SUNY Fredonia had an incident where someone came onto campus with a firearm, UP has had training and drills in place that have helped prepare them.

UP officers go through Close Quarters Battle (CQB) training. CQB provides instruction to law enforcement on proven techniques to successfully act in an active shooter situation.

University Police go through CQB training 3 to 4 times per year. They also do firearm training twice a year. They use the techniques they learn from this training to prepare if an armed intruder threatens campus.

"We just had a training a few months ago in Jewett Hall, where we brought in an outside FBI expert on how to breach [closed] doors and barricaded doors and unlock doors," Isaacson said.

While there are no shelter-in-place drills at SUNY Fredonia as there are in most K-12 schools, UP does offer training for faculty, students and the community. This training is called "Run, Hide, Fight."

"Run, Hide, Fight" is exactly what it sounds like. For more information, go to Fredonia's University Police Department (UPD) page. On that page, you will see a video on the "Run, Hide, Fight" training.

"I would encourage [the campus community] to watch it," Isaacson said.

If an incident happens on our campus, UP will send out an announcement through the loudspeakers on the campus. The officer present in the dispatch room can make the announcement.

"We have a script up there that will be read over the... loudspeaker system [and we] will also put out a New York alert. That's part of our immediate action [plan]," Isaacson said.

**Continued onto next page.**



Graphic by DICE YANDOW | Staff Artist.

Continued from previous page.

We also have blue light phones. These are located all around campus. Isaacson said the blue light phones can be used for emergencies, non-emergencies and any needs a student may have.

Whether you see someone who has a weapon, or even if you get locked out of your car, Isaacson encourages you to call UP or press the blue light button.

"I would encourage [using] them if you need to get a hold of the University Police. I do not care how you do it ... There's not a wrong way to do it," Isaacson said. "If you call

the University Police and it turns out to be a big nothingburger, [a false alarm], ... That's just fine."

SUNY Fredonia wants to provide the campus community with safety tips to ensure that students and faculty are safe on a daily basis.

"The last thing our officers want to see is a hair on any student's head getting hurt ... That is a big, big deal to any of them," Isaacson said. "So I think all of them have that kind of Mama Bear gene ... that nobody's going to hurt the students, not while we are here."

## How would the University at Buffalo respond to an active shooter incident?

**ABIGAIL JACOBSON**

Special to The Leader

Safety is important to every university in the U.S. How does the University at Buffalo, with its three campuses and 30,000 students, guarantee safety for its students, faculty and staff?

I spoke with Joshua Sticht, Deputy Chief of Police at the University of Buffalo (UB), to get an idea of how SUNY Fredonia compares to UB.

According to Sticht, UB has mutual aid agreements with Buffalo police, Amherst police, State Troopers and more police departments as well. In the case of an active shooter, these police departments will come as backup for UB.

If there was an incident where an active shooter was on one of the UB campuses, Sticht said one of his officers would be the first to arrive. Then, possibly an Amherst police officer and so on.

"We're not going to wait until we have a large enough team of just one agency — we're going to go in together because we've all done that training together," Sticht said.

During an incident, UB will stage medical assets at the entrances of the campus.

If this incident occurred on any of the three UB campuses, alerts would be sent out via text. Nine dispatchers, the command staff and lieutenants can send out these alerts.

UB police do a test run every Wednesday, where a dispatcher sends a message to a small group of people to ensure the system sends texts without delay.

"We really have built a lot of redundancy into the system to make sure that there's not a delay," Sticht said.

When UB police send out announcements for an incident on campus, they have a range of templates to choose from.

"We've got [like] two pages of templates that cover everything from ... an active shooter incident to weather emergencies to fires, that kind of stuff," Sticht said. "And it works pretty well."

If this type of incident occurs, information and alerts will be sent out through a system UB calls "Shatter." They can also report stolen vehicles, text what they are doing, and send pictures and other things through this system.

"Rather than having to create a different message to send out, we can post a message right here that gets shared with every police department in the area," Sticht said.

UB police have basic academy training, and rapid deployment training at an academy level. They also do active shooter response training, and 'don't shoot' scenarios. They do these training sessions at the Erie County Central Police Services Training Academy in Williamsville, N.Y.

UB officers qualify for their pistol, rifle and shotgun twice a year. UB police used to do one large-scale drill a year. UB police teamed up with local, state

and federal emergency responders. This drill included other UB parties such as Student Life, their School of Nursing and more.

The drill stimulates an active shooter incident. During this drill, there are realistic injuries and situations, and an immediate aftermath of the situation.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented these drills from taking place over these past few years. UB

recently hired a new emergency manager and one of her objectives was to bring back the large-scale drills they used to do.

UB also offers training for UB students and staff. They use the "Run, Hide, Fight" model just like SUNY Fredonia. There is more information on the UB's University Police website. The link is attached below.

<https://www.buffalo.edu/police/safety/your-safety-during-an-emergency/active-shooter.html>

UB has over 2,000 cameras across all three campuses compared to SUNY Fredonia's 300 cameras. Those cameras provide great resolution which helps identify people, license plates and more. Overall, UB offers many different areas that SUNY Fredonia could benefit from in the near future.

**"We're not going to wait until we have a large enough team of just one agency [to respond to an active shooter crisis]. We're going to go in together because we've all done that training together."**

**- UB Deputy Police Chief Joshua Sticht**



# The social psychology of **violent offenders**: *What do students need to know?*

**MAISIE STRADER**

Special to The Leader

School shootings have had a major impact not only nationally but globally.

So, what does this mean for small town Fredonia? What precautions are in place to protect college students from these events?

After the threat last semester involving students in Thompson Hall, campus safety has been on many members of the campus communities minds.

Luckily, there was no violent physical action taken during the incident by the individual who proposed the threat. However, the individual's threats caused fear across campus. As a result, there have been speculations on what the police would have done if there was a real threat.

Freshman student Julia Klement said, "We have no plan in case of an active shooter [situation], like what happens if someone walks into our buildings? All we can do is lock our doors and hope for the best."

University Police Chief Brent Isaacson was happy to meet and discuss the measures his team takes to ensure the safety of the campus community.

"I think a good way to think about it is first the physical safety of the students. Our priority is making sure that everybody is physically safe. Certainly close to that [and in relation is] are we providing students with a feeling of safety and security?" Isaacson said. "When you are here, it's your home."

When asked what he's most worried about concerning crime on campus, Isaacson said, "the violent crime problem on this campus is like what we see across the country, and that tends to be sexual violence and dating violence [from partners or someone the victim knows] — that would qualify as a violent crime. We don't see physical assaults or stranger sexual assaults or a stranger unknown to the victim is, for example, coming onto the campus and physically sexually assaulting students."

So, what safety measures do University Police have in place? How can they know what's going on, what to expect and how to stop it?

"We have an incredible suite of security cameras in every single lobby in every single residence hall," Isaacson said. "We have security cameras that come right into our dispatch center here. They may not be monitored full-time, but they are recorded full-time. So, if we get a call that something has happened, one of the first things we do here at UPD is pull the video footage that covers the timeframe in question."

Isaacson continued to explain how useful security camera footage can be to a campus crime.

"We've had incredible success with identifying people that have either broken student conduct rules or broken criminal laws — both inside and outside the dorms. With that security camera system, it's very robust," Isaacson said. "The residence halls themselves, there's a live human being there making sure that people that are coming in there belong — that they are

either residents or they are the guests of residents."

Kimberly Wilk, a freshman Chautauqua Hall resident said, "I would say I'm most worried about what would happen if an absolute stranger got into the building, and if it was a dangerous situation."

Regarding the information on Fredonia's safety information located on the school's website, there are tons of safety resources, such as police on site, the blue light system, text alerts, a well-lit campus, many cameras, an under two minute average UPD response time and even two patrol officers on call 24/7.

In addition to these safety resources the campus community can utilize, Isaacson also said that UPD officers participate in training.

"I'll use the term of art in law enforcement tactical training," Isaacson said. "We frequently train our officers on how to respond to an armed intruder call [or] an active shooting call ... Since I've been here, I've been really leveraging my past work as an FBI agent, as a SWAT agent, teaching them tactical skills that I learned as an FBI agent, but then also bringing in my colleagues in [from] the FBI to teach what we call close quarter battle tactics."

In addition to using FBI strategies, Isaacson also said that he uses a tabletop exercise, in which his team outlines an event and they act as if it is real.

Isaacson spoke about how the campus community can take safety into their own hands. Isaacson offered advice as to what warning signs community members should look for in someone who is likely to go on to offend.

"I did a lot of work in threat assessments and what we call threat mitigation," Isaacson said. "In my seminar, you would've learned that people who offend behave [prior] in [identifiable] ways that are concerning to people around them."

Isaacson encourages students to call, text or email the local school support system if you notice a person or friend is acting out of the ordinary. He spoke about common characteristics and themes he sees in violent offenders.

"From a psychological standpoint, [offenders] are what we call grievance collectors," Isaacson said. "They're very easily grieved. We all have those bumps in the road where, you know we got embarrassed or we got bullied or teased, a romantic partner dumped us, got a bad grade, got yelled at or whatever it is. Those kinds of [experiences] for most people, they can make you mad. But we have, most people have the ability to self-soothe."

Isaacson added, "You might be mad for an hour or a day [about something], but are not going to be mad for a month or a year. Well, what the research has shown is that people who carry out these attacks, they hold on to grievances and they incubate them. They go back and revisit them. They can tell you with precision exactly what happened. We almost always find witnesses and bystanders who saw concerning behaviors and didn't report them."

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Even with all these safety precautions and protections for students, there isn't any way for officials to know when a violent offender will strike. Both Chief Isaacson and Jack Croxton, chair of Fredonia's Psychology Department, believe that students can help identify possible warning signs by utilizing social media.

When asked about the psychological mindset in someone who might go on to perpetrate, Croxton said, "I mean obviously there's been a lot of debate over what has happened in schools and what could have been done to stop it. And sometimes, I think that people are rationalizing, maybe there were warning signs that somebody was about to do something. I guess my feeling is when in doubt, say something. [Especially] if somebody is doing something that seems a little bit weird or somebody puts something out on social media."

One question remains, what is the root cause of violent offenders' aggressive feelings?

"I don't think people are born to go [on to offend]. I think something went wrong in their lives. It just seems to me that people aren't just born with that kind of a tendency," Croxton said. "On the other hand, this is where it's tough because I think sometimes people will often say what was wrong

with their parents, for them to end up that way. And I think sometimes it's not all on the parents. Sometimes kids just get involved with the wrong group or the parents don't realize what the kids are doing on social media."

Croxton added, "If they had known what was going on, maybe they would've done something. So I think there's always a tendency to want to blame somebody. I think sometimes the parents are an easy target. On the other hand, I think certainly there are some parents that aren't very good caregivers or don't set good examples for their kids. I guess what I'm saying is that it's complicated. It could be home life, it could be peers, it could be mental illness. Clearly, there's so many reasons that I think can precipitate that kind of behavior."

Although there has been an increase in shootings nationally, Isaacson wants to assure the campus community that UPD is here to protect them.

"It is extremely rare for anybody to get murdered on a school campus," Isaacson said. "Statistically you could pick any campus around the United States and if you had a big ball or a big jar of marbles with the name of each school in the country you could pull one of those and say I just happened to pull out SUNY Fredonia. You would [probably] have to wait on that campus for 6,000 years before any murder happened of any kind, let alone an active shooting."

## Combatting lack of student trust in safety through education

**IZZIE INZINNA**

Special to The Leader

The blue light system has become a beacon of safety across many SUNY campuses, or at least, that's how it seems to administrators. Many students have a very different view of the blue light system compared to administrators.

One student was very honest with their thoughts on the blue light system. Dan Granados, a sophomore majoring in audio and radio production, shared his thoughts on the blue light system.

Granados said, "If we break it down, you're pressing a button that notifies [the] police, that's it." He added, "There's nothing to protect you from an attacker, or give any medical attention."

When talking to students about the system, many seemed skeptical. The rest seem as though they don't know too much about how the blue light system works.

The blue lights are stationed all around campus. According to University Police Chief Brent Isaacson, "There are 200 emergency phones on campus, more than 40 of them being blue light phones."

When the button on the emergency system is pressed, University Police (UP), are notified which specific blue light button was pressed.

The officers then locate the camera closest to the prospective blue light.

"Our video security system has about 300 cameras, and when [one of] the emergency phone[s] is activated, we slow [down] the closest camera to see what's happening." UP officers can then assess the situation and help an individual in under two minutes.

Aside from the well-known blue light system, there are some lesser-known security systems in place on Fredonia's campus.

There are emergency phones outside of every dorm hall. It is a simple box with a big red "EMERGENCY" button on it. This allows students to call for help from UP and verbalize what issue they are experiencing to an officer.

One less-popular system among students is the RAVE Guardian app. Isaacson said that it seems most students don't want the app since they feel it is a breach of privacy. In response to this worry, Isaacson said, "Most students think the RAVE app lets UP track your location [without your consent], however, your location is only shared once you press the button."

Upon doing some further research on the fredonia.edu safety page, the RAVE Guardian app works like this:

Students set up an account on the app, adding information such as name, campus address, important medical information and other details. Students can add family, friends and roommates to the app. One person can be appointed as a "Guardian" and said "Guardians" can be messaged through the app.

One feature that is detailed on the website is the app's safety timer. According to the website, "In the event [of a situation where] a student feels unsafe, they can set a timer with their current location, indicating where they are traveling to and when they should arrive. If they do not make it there and deactivate the timer, your designated guardian(s) will be alerted immediately." The student has to disarm the timer.

Overall, students have a few different safety blankets here on campus. Although most students seem skeptical, it seems as though the lack of trust in the system may be rooted in a lack of knowledge. If students were better educated on the resources available, they might put more trust in the safety measures and systems on campus.



# Fredonia upgrades security by installing door locks

**DOMINICK CORSI**

Special to The Leader

When you walk into a new classroom, what's the first thing you look for? Are you worried about what seats are available? Do you make sure you can see the board at the front of the room? Maybe you just want a seat by a window or near the door.

Before doing any of that, check if the door to your classroom has a lock on it. The chances are it does, but up until very recently, that has not always been the case.

SUNY Fredonia is in the final stages of a project that reinforces the safety of students and faculty by installing locks on every door on campus. The capital project was approved by SUNY after being proposed before the pandemic took effect, which stalled the project's completion.

Almost 400 doors have had locks installed in them, with a few more to be completed. Buildings like McEwen Hall or any of the residence halls were left untouched because of the keycard locks that are already installed on those doors.

University Police have the ability to unlock these doors from the outside, while students or staff can lock the doors from the inside. The type of lock will differ based on the building the door is in.

Classrooms, lecture halls, offices and other spaces have all gotten security improvements.

This project was proposed for lockdown or lock-in scenarios where there would be an intruder or immediate threat to campus. Previously, some classroom doors would not have the ability to be locked, which proposed a danger to students and staff.

According to the Emergency Health and Services website at fredonia.edu, the procedure when dealing with an emergency lockdown or active shooter advises students to "run, hide, and fight." To follow through with this procedure, having lockable doors seems to make the hiding aspect easier.

The construction cost is pegged at \$487,795.

SUNY Fredonia Emergency Planning Coordinator Charles Holder, said, "This is just one better way of hiding if you need to do it. Hey, we're spending half a million dollars on something that probably will never, ever be used."

That should not take away from the fact that having these locks is a step toward promoting campus safety at Fredonia. University Police Chief Brent Isaacson has boasted about "the

campus-wide commitment to keep [the] university an extraordinarily safe place."

Having locks on doors is not necessarily something that people usually think of as a luxury; it's more of an essential safety protection, especially for schools these days.

SUNY Fredonia's campus is not small by any means. There are 62 buildings on campus.

Some of those buildings include very open concepts, which

is not ideal when it comes to holding an actual lockdown because of the lack of hiding spots and the overly-easy access somebody would have to some rooms.

Having locks on doors would likely be helpful, but that doesn't change the fact that some places on campus were not constructed with student safety at the forefront of the planning.

"I think we were behind on the trend of having lockable doors. When I got here, it surprised me that a lot of the larger halls and lecture halls were not able to be locked," Holder said.

For current students, lockdowns have always been an integral part of our educational careers. Throughout grade school, some districts hold monthly lockdowns. But in college, it gets significantly more difficult to put such eerie procedures in place.

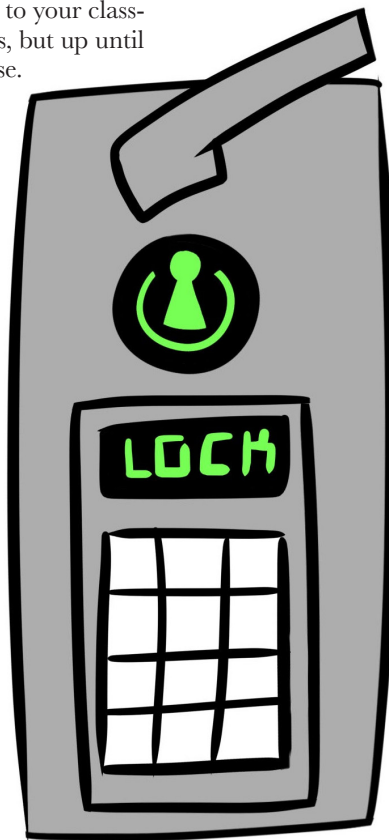
"So you guys know that the campuses are so difficult to hold lockdowns because our campus is wide open. People are constantly coming in and out, on and off campus," Holder said. "And it's not like we can control all of the students by saying, 'Okay, we're gonna do a lockdown drill today, you guys gotta stay in your classrooms.' There's no such thing."

Holder stressed that all students and staff on campus should be signed up for NY-Alert.

NY-Alert is the State University of New York Emergency Alert System. Holder advised that students can and should sign up for NY-Alert through YourConnection. In the case of a lockdown, students and staff would get a notification sent to their phones (either through a phone number or email) that will inform students of the emergency.

Again, the hope is to never have to use the system, but it's best to have it in place and ready to go just in case an emergency ever happens. On top of lockdowns, NY-Alert could also notify students about a shelter-in-place or weather emergency.

SUNY Fredonia also has an extended list of emergency procedures on their website that you can check out.



Graphic by RYAN LUDU |  
Special to The Leader.

## Fredonia Chamber Choir sings its way to the American Prize semifinals



Photo of Dr. Vernon Huff leading the Chamber Choir at 2022 Commencement Ceremony by ROGER CODA | Marketing and Communications.

### MEGAN KIDBY

Scallion Editor

The melodious voices of the Fredonia Chamber Choir, led by Dr. Vernon Huff, have struck a chord with judges. The Fredonia Chamber Choir is one of four choirs that will make their way to the semifinals of the American Prize for Choral Performance.

The 2023 American Prize for Choral Performance (university division, large program) is presented by the American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts.

The description on its website states, "The American Prize is unique in scope and structure, designed to recognize and reward the best-performing artists, directors, ensembles and composers in the United States at professional, college/university, community and high school levels, based on submitted recordings."

Works performed on the entry include "Laus Trinitati" by Hildegard von Bingen, arranged by Faith Morgan; "Drum-sound Rises" by Daniel Elder; and "The Welcome Table" (traditional), arranged by Stacey V. Gibbs.

"This was our first year submitting recordings of the Chamber Choir to the competition, so this is really special for us

to be semi-finalists for the American Prize," said Dr. Vernon Huff. "The competition has a rolling announcement process, so after the semi-finalists were announced, the finalists began to be announced in each category. We hope to hear the results of the next round soon, but just to be included as semi-finalists in such fine company as these other choirs is phenomenal."

Huff added, "It is my hope that this honor brings recognition that our students so deserve."

Huff appreciates his choir members, and the singers highly regard him as well.

"He's very regimented. He's very organized ... and he's very empathetic," said Daniel Novak, a junior music education and performance double major.

Michael Teti, a senior vocal performance major added, "Dr. Huff has found a way to strike the perfect balance of working really hard and putting a high expectation on the level of quality the music comes out [while] also keeping everything light-hearted."

As the college chamber choir advances to the semifinals, they have proven that hard work, dedication and a passion for music can lead to remarkable achievements. With their sights set on the prize, this talented group of singers aims to inspire and uplift audiences with their harmonies.



# New Iceland **study abroad program** announced

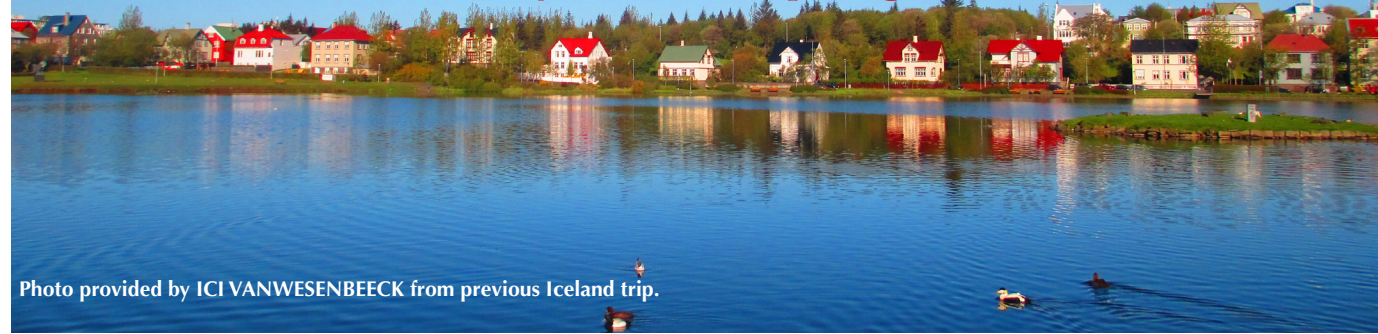


Photo provided by ICI VANWESENBEECK from previous Iceland trip.

## NERON SIMPSON

Staff Writer

For college students, the daily routine of going to class and completing assignments becomes monotonous.

For this reason, some students consider studying abroad.

The opportunity to travel to another country to indulge in a chosen subject and a different culture can be refreshing, rewarding and even life-changing.

Students who are interested in geology, sustainability politics and the literature and history of Iceland may consider applying for the international education course INED 399: Magical Iceland. Scheduled for Summer 2024, the course is headed by Dr. Tom Hegna of the Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences and Dr. Ici Vanwesenbeeck of the Department of English.

In addition to students, campus faculty and local Fredonia community members are also encouraged to apply. Participants will embark on a cultural, artistic and scientific exploration of Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, as well as explore the rest of the island's striking natural features in the southern region.

For more information about the upcoming trip, feel free to email Hegna at [Thomas.Hegna@fredonia.edu](mailto:Thomas.Hegna@fredonia.edu) and Vanwesenbeeck at [vanwesen@fredonia.edu](mailto:vanwesen@fredonia.edu).

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### Q+A with Dr. Hegna, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology and Environmental Science and Dr. Vanwesenbeeck, Associate Professor in the Department of English

**NS:** What are the benefits of studying abroad?

**IV:** "There are different kinds of study abroad programs and each has its unique set of aspirations, goals and benefits. Ours is a three credit, short-term interdisciplinary one that broadly falls under what Jonathan Friedman and Cynthia Miller-Idriss call the cosmopolitan logic. ... In our case, Dr. Hegna and I focus on [four] global problems: energy, geology, sustainability and policy-making, broadly defined. The experiential, immersive design of the course and the civic engagement attribute allows students to network with specialists in the host country and explore future research or internship opportunities abroad."

**TH:** In the U.S., we live in our own bubble. It is an eye-opening experience to see other cultures. Some things that you would not expect feel different. Other things that you assume are unique to your culture, are much the same in many places.

**NS:** Why was Iceland chosen as the study-abroad destination?

**IV:** Its unique form of governance, history, geology [and] energy production are just a few reasons. A breathtakingly beautiful and scenic country with no standing army, sitting on a geological hotspot, with egalitarian values, limited agricultural but unlimited energy resources; puffins, whales, geysers, maybe elves ... That sounds like a place I'd like to learn more about.

**TH:** I'm excited about the spectacular geology on display in Iceland. When I was asked to co-teach the study abroad class, it was difficult to say no.

**NS:** What should students expect if they choose to study abroad in Iceland? What is the class about?

**TH:** I'll be leading several field trips around southern and southwestern Iceland. There is some spectacular igneous geology to see – where we can see tectonic plates tearing apart, volcanoes erupting, the results of lava flows and glacial erosion. In addition, we will be exploring energy and sustainability. We will be visiting the world's largest geothermal energy plant, and the world's largest carbon-capture plant powered by geothermal energy.

**NS:** How can students sign up to study abroad and what does the registration process consist of?

**TH:** The trip will take place sometime early on in the summer of 2024.

**IV:** For now, please email Dr. Hegna and I so that we can invite you to our information session in Fall 2023. Students typically apply for the program in the Fall semester.

# Life & Arts

## Spring in full swing with Enactus' Spring Fling



Photo of models and members of Enactus at the Fashion Show by CASSIDY PIERCE | Special to The Leader.

### WILL KARR

Editor in Chief

While fashion shows have traditionally been focused on entertainment and encouraging consumerism, the Fredonia Enactus chapter's recent Spring Fling fashion show was all about giving back. The show was held to support Chautauqua Rule Ministries, a social services and not-for-profit organization.

"At Enactus, we follow an act that educates, inspires and supports young people to use innovation and entrepreneurship to solve problems," said Henry Wang, director and stylist of the show.

Wang joined Enactus last year. He said that every academic year the club has a project that they work on in partnership with an organization or business to promote sustainability and raise awareness. Last semester, Enactus started partnering with CHQ Rule Ministries and toured their facilities. The club saw that the organization needed help with advertising its programs and services.

"A lot of college students and locals are not necessarily familiar with what the organization does," Wang said.

One of the organization's programs helps provide hot meals to those in need.

"Part of the bigger project [we put on], called "Spring Shower," is to promote everything that they do," Wang said. "But in their building, they also have a thrift store called "Muriel's Closet." When we visited, we talked about different ways that we could promote them and talked about doing a fashion show."

Community members and those in need can purchase clothes for free or at a low cost from the thrift store.

"One of the things that they do is help style [people]. [Sometimes], individuals are coming for a shirt, a blazer or a job interview of some sort," Wang said. "I thought about how we could work with that idea and use a lot of the clothes."

Wang and Enactus came up with the idea to host a fashion show utilizing clothes from the store and Fredonia students as models. They started off preparing for the event by doing a three-day clothing drive to help the store get donations.

"We got 20 bags of clothes that we sorted through. We got a lot of fashionable stuff and things that the models really liked," Wang said. "It all started with getting clothes from the donation drive then sorting out the clothes after, getting all the model's sizes' and seeing what would fit into the different categories."

There were about 14 models in the show. Wang offered models seven different categories to choose from. Models each participated in about two categories. The seven categories were streetwear, loungewear, athletic wear, day and night, job interview, Y2K and the Oscars.

Overall, Wang said that one of his goals was to make sure that all the models in the show felt comfortable.

"As a stylist, I bring ethics and morals into this. Styling people should [always] be based on what they are comfortable in," Wang said.



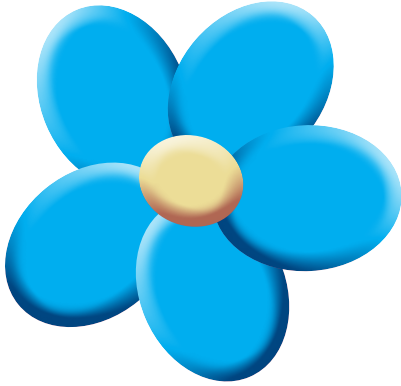


Photo of Mia Massimi by CASSIDY PIERCE | Special to The Leader.



Photo of D'Jahsir Medina-James walking on runway by CASSIDY PIERCE | Special to The Leader.

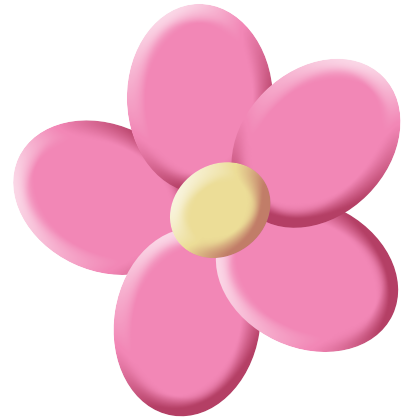
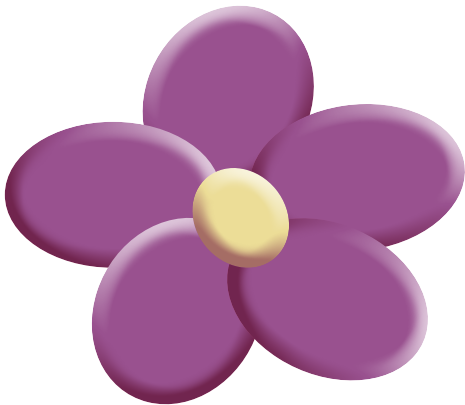


Photo of Henry Wang by CASSIDY PIERCE | Special to The Leader.





# A deep dive into Fredonia counseling services

**SYLVANA CUBILLOS**

Special to The Leader

As college students, there are many factors that can negatively impact our mental health; from our academic duties, social pressure, and for some, being away from home.

To help those students, Fredonia has the Counseling Center as a necessary resource to give to its students.

Located in LoGrasso Hall, the Counseling Center provides free and confidential clinical mental health services to all registered SUNY Fredonia Students.

However, the availability of the services is one of the main concerns regarding mental health resources on campus

“They never got back to me,” said Abigail Jacobson, sophomore journalism major, about requesting or (trying to request) a counseling session with the center.

We spoke to a representative from the Counseling Center to learn about the traditional time frame a student has to wait until they receive a response to their request.

“Currently, our average wait time for a first appointment is three days,” said Jeffrey Janicki, clinical director of the Counseling Center, “We [also] offer crisis services where students can call or stop by at any time if needed.”

Individual counseling sessions aren’t the only services provided by the center.

Ivory Brooks, one of the counselors who works at the center, is the coordinator of the “Let’s Talk” program, which takes place on the second floor of the Williams Center.

Informal conversational sessions are offered to students every Wednesday.

These informal sessions are just another way to make mental health services more accessible to Fredonia students.

“My goal is to make sure that we are there when you need us,” Brooks said.

Staff members play an important part in the availability of the services. The center currently has eight staff members.

“We are very lucky to be extremely well staffed,” said Janicki, in comparison to other SUNY campuses. “Based on the student population we are very well staffed [compared to] some of our peer institutions.”

SUNY Geneseo is one of the campuses closest to Fredonia in student population with 3,994 undergraduate students

as of the 2022 Fall semester, compared to 3,217 in Fredonia. Geneseo’s center has 10 staff members in their counseling center and most of the services they offer such as the Let’s Talk program are comparable to the ones Fredonia offers.

In terms of other campuses and what differentiates us from them in mental health services, Janicki said, “Some campuses may have more [resources] in terms of wellness and prevention,” whereas in Fredonia, “a lot of our resources go to students that are [already] struggling and that takes the majority of our staff.”

One of the biggest criticisms of Fredonia’s Counseling Center is that they don’t offer night or weekend hours. In response to that concern Janicki said, “One of the things we recently did is that we partnered with a company called BetterMynd, they provide students with access to additional counseling support with more extended hours than the ones the Counseling Center offers.”

Student engagement is also an important factor to consider, about the events organized by the center, Brooks said, “My goal would be to promote the services, making sure [students] know how to access the service.”

The main issue is that the events don’t have enough promotion and not enough people are attending “There are oncoming events, but people are not attending” Brooks said.

As of April, this academic year, 550 students have utilized the counseling services — that’s around 12% of the student population. Although the 12% is very consistent, the number varies based on enrollment.

Before the pandemic, the number was around 15% of students, during, it went down to 10%, and since then it has remained at 12%.

October in the fall semester, and April during the spring, tend to be the busiest months for the Counseling Center.

“During the fall there is a chance that people are adjusting to college,” Brooks said, “They book us out usually around October, when homesickness kicks in, and the excitement of college [winds out].”

Most of the funding that the Counseling Center currently has is provided through grants.

“We got [special] covid funding which allowed us to do more things,” said Brooks, “But the question is once that money runs out how we continue



Graphic by ALINA MARSH | Asst. Art Director

to do programing with much limited resources.”

Right now, the center's budget is determined by student fees, included in the Student Services and Programs charge.

“[A lot] of the funding for counseling services is fee-based,” Janicki said. “It’s part of the student health services fee so enrollment has an impact on how much money we have to devote to mental health.”

Both Brooks and Janicki were consistent in saying that there’s always more that can be done for mental health and to get the word out about a student's mental health.

The SUNY Upstate Medical University hospital is one of the services that students working with counseling services can benefit from, all free of charge.

This SUNY-funded hospital provides psychiatric services for students that may need further treatment.

Fredonia is one of the campuses enrolled that benefit from the Upstate Medical University hospital, where students have access to psychiatric care, medical treatments or medication intervention if needed.

And while there are increasing resources to remove the barriers to mental health access, availability is not the only important factor to consider in the conversation.

The stigma there is surrounding mental health is also a big part of this discussion. It is understandable that there may be students who for various reasons do not feel comfortable reaching out for the services.

“A lot of it is about readiness, about students being ready to receive and being willing to ask for and receive help,” Janicki said.

However, that shouldn’t be a limitation, for those students that don’t feel comfortable using the services on campus, the Counseling Center on campus is not the only mental health tool there is in the community. Although it is perhaps the more accessible, for members of the campus community who would rather use a different service or are seeking additional support, here are some you can consider: Chautauqua County Department of mental hygiene, located in Dunkirk, UPMC Hospital in Jamestown, and the Dunkirk Resource Center, all offer counseling and psychiatric services easily accessible for anyone who may need it.

Being a college student can get hard and overwhelming at times. As a result, it is important to use the resources around you and never hesitate in reaching out for help if needed.

## The paws behind Hail! Fredonia Records Dog Walk



**GWEN**



**SAM**



**VALERIE**



**GRACE**

**WILL KARR**  
Editor in Chief

On Saturday April 24, HAIL! hosted a dog walk outside of Dods Hall to raise awareness for autism research. Some dogs eligible for adoption from Lakeshore Humane Society joined the walk.

Gwen, Grace and Sam are all available for adoption at LHS. Learn more adoption opportunities at LHS by visiting [lakeshore-humane-society.org/dogs-cats](http://lakeshore-humane-society.org/dogs-cats).



**LAMBEAU**



# Preparing for the role: 'Romeo and Juliet'

**MICHAEL WILLIAMS**  
Staff Writer

Audiences packed Marvel Theatre this past weekend for the second to last show in the Walter Gloor Mainstage Series, "Romeo and Juliet,"

When preparing to play Juliet, junior musical theatre major Jules Pearson had to do things a little different.

"Shakespeare is very informed to the actor. A lot of the objectives are in the text telling the actor what needs to happen action-wise; there is no subtext/subtleness in Shakespeare," Pearson said.

This differs from many of her other shows at Fredonia. Pearson also expressed her concerns with other traps actors fall into.

"A lot of people think of Juliet as a 13-year-old, ingenue, dream girl. She's not like that; she's very strong and searching for her independence throughout the whole show," she said.



Jules Pearson as Juliet by BECCA TORNCELLO | Special to The Leader.

Working with the director is another important aspect of preparing for the role, and Pearson was pleased to work with Ted Sharon.

"Ted was so open to many of my ideas. It was a breath of fresh air," Pearson said.

For example, during the balcony scene, Pearson carried a bottle of alcohol with her, something from her first run through of the show that she asked to be kept in the show.

Pearson also had many great things to say about her co-star as well.

"[With] Aidan Conklin as Romeo, we were able to trust each other, and we had a great sense of play," Pearson said. "We could trust each other as actors and scene partners."

Pearson is thankful to Dan Lenzian, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance (TADA), for the wise words he has given her throughout her time at Fredonia. Pearson took Lenzian's Shakespeare class.

"With Dan, you always expect the unexpected and to be challenged," Pearson said.

With Shakespeare being its own genre, actors are expected to know most of his works before they attempt to perform in the play. Sharon helped Pearson strengthen her voice for the role.



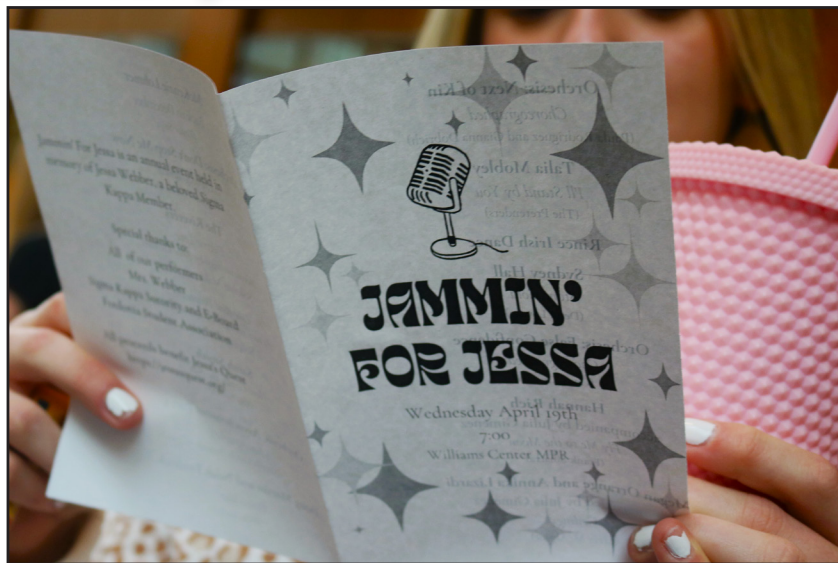
Aidan Conklin as Romeo by BECCA TORNCELLO | Special to The Leader.

Also, as a member of the improv club, "Random Acts," Pearson learned the tools she needed to experiment with the works of Shakespeare.

This was Pearson's first Shakespeare show, and when asked what she learned from this show, she said, "Live theatre is still live theatre, Shakespeare or not, all the notes, actions, run throughs, your cast, you all just learn so much from each other and grow close."



# Sigma Kappa's annual philanthropy concert 'Jammin' for Jessa' returns



Left: Premium Blend's Talia Mobley performs. Right: Jammin' for Jessa program.

**WILL KARR**  
Editor in Chief

Sororities and fraternities often have the largest number of members out of all student clubs and organizations on campus. Meg Orrange, the philanthropy chair for Fredonia's Greek Life sorority Sigma Kappa, believes that it is important for fraternities and sororities to use their numbers to give back.

The sorority recently hosted its annual event, "Jammin' for Jessa," on Wednesday, April 19, in the Williams Center to help raise funds for brain cancer research. The event is hosted annually in honor of Jessica Webber, a former member of Sigma Kappa, who passed in 2010 as a junior, after experiencing brain cancer for seven years.

"Jessa was a very active member in Sigma Kappa. She loved her time with it. Even though she was sick, she still made it her priority to be a part of our organization," Orrange said. "... We have been doing 'Jammin' for Jessa' for a long time now, and all our proceeds go to Jessa's Quest — an organization [created in honor of Jessa] to support children's brain cancer research."

The event featured performances by singers, acapella and dance teams. Orrange discussed her favorite part of the event.

"Being able to watch people's faces during the 'Jammin' for Jessa' concert when Orchesis [Dance Team] was performing is a feeling I will never forget," Orrange said. "Everyone was having such a good time, and it just made me so happy knowing that we were able to raise money for such important causes."

This spring is Orrange's first semester as the philanthropy chair for Sigma Kappa. Before entering into the role, Orrange set out goals that she wanted to accomplish. In addition to supporting cancer research, the sorority has set out to raise awareness to other causes.

"This semester I wanted to create an event that would support the Alzheimer's research cause. Our main philanthropy is Alzheimer's research and we do a lot with that in the fall. I created a spelling bee that featured members from every Greek Life organization on campus where all the funds went to Alzheimer's research," Orrange said. "... Next semester, I am very eager to take on planning our Walk to End Alzheimer's. Last year, we raised over \$3,600 and I am very excited to keep raising money for such an important cause."

Overall, Orrange is looking forward to creating more opportunities for the sorority to give back.

"Giving back is one of the most rewarding experiences," Orrange said. "I think a lot of people overlook giving back, but it should be something that organizations do."



Annika Lizardi and Megan Orrange at Jammin' for Jessa event.  
All photos by CASSIDY PIERCE | Special to The Leader.

# From Buffalo Bills linebacker to backing up students: Director of **Multicultural Student Services** David White

**ALANA WINGATE**  
Staff Writer

Education, culture and family are the first elements you'll notice when entering David White's office. Black cultural representation in the form of art, numerous frames filled with family photos and higher education, fill the walls and shelves of White's office.

White is the previous Director of EDP (educational development program) and is currently the Director of Multicultural Support Services. Over the past 17 years, White has been a part of the SUNY Fredonia community where he helps provide guidance and assistance to students. White was raised in a two-parent household that valued higher education. Due to his parents' educational backgrounds and the fact that he was lucky to grow up in a cozy household, White today sees himself as having a privileged background.

"I felt blessed. I felt loved. I felt appreciated," said White.

Growing up, White dreamed of being a professional athlete.

"I wanted to be a football player, I was pretty good and athletic... I was pretty good in all the sports, but obviously a stronger passion for football," White said. "I could run, I could catch — I could do it all."

Throughout the course of his three NFL seasons (1993, 1995 and 1996), White played linebacker for the New England Patriots and Buffalo Bills. From 1998 through 2005, he also played linebacker and fullback with the Arena Football League's Tampa Bay Storm and Buffalo Destroyers, respectively.

"I was a big Earl Campbell fan. He was a running back for the Houston Oilers, and I just love the way Earl Campbell ran that ball. I was a New Orleans Saints fan, but I was a Houston fan too, just [because] of Earl Campbell," White said. "I was a bigger kid. So, I really admired Earl Campbell. In fact, I wore number 34 when I played arena ball here a couple of years ago."

Aside from the famous football star, White also idolized the first Black man to run for president, Jesse Jackson.

"Jesse was always in the news, speaking of, operation push, civil rights and things of that nature and I remember seeing a picture of Jesse Jackson with Martin Luther King and it was like, wow," White said.

White stated that in addition to the famous people he admired, his grandfather (who he refers to as Pops) and father were also among his list of heroes. He expressed his gratitude for the role models in his life, noting that he was incredibly blessed.

"Pops then of course, my dad [were] always there supporting me," White said. "I was blessed in those regards to [having] strong male figures in my life growing up."

White, who earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a minor in sociology/psychology, went on to earn a master's degree in student personnel administration from Buffalo State University.

Following his professional athletic occupation, White traded in his football cleats for a career in education.

"I've had my 15 minutes of fame — if not longer. I truly feel blessed, so my thing is to give back," said White.

"To throw the rope back, to give back, and help someone else, [have] if not the same amount of success, but more success than I had. If I do that, then maybe they'll turn around and throw the road back and lift as they climb as well."

Black Student Union Fashion Show chair '23 Sangai Keita, a senior public relations & political science major, said that White had a variety of influences on her.

"Mr. White has motivated me in many ways. ... I remember last spring he took a couple of students to the theatre out in Buffalo to watch the play 'To Kill A Mockingbird,'" Keita said. "I had only been to one play in my entire [life] and that was Mary Poppins back in the fifth grade. Attending that trip with other great students made me realize the beauty of plays and how it can send such a strong message."



**David White. Photo provided by  
ROGER CODA | Marketing and Communications.**



White said that although he believes that his kids would characterize him as demanding at home, he believes that his students would view him as someone always willing to provide a helping hand.

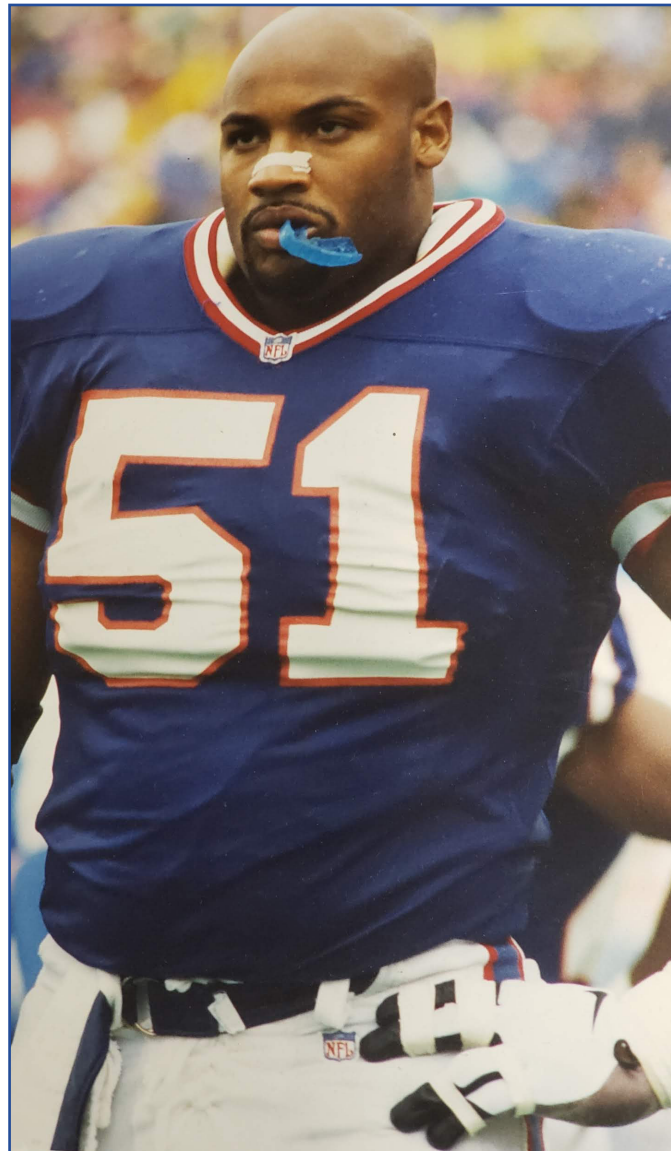
"I would hope students would describe me as helpful and maybe motivating," White said. "If they want to be an 'A' student, an exceptional student, an engaging student and have an amazing experience, then I would help them do that."

Keita shared that in her struggles throughout the semester, White and his other known associates have been more than a big help.

"Well, currently I am the fashion show chair for BSU, and I constantly have struggled throughout the semester and last semester. But Mr. White, including other faculty members such as Khristian King, has been very encouraging and supportive [in] helping me out and staying organized," Keita said. "In times where I felt very low, they both encouraged me and showered me with compliments about my work ethic and that means a lot coming from people who are constantly working and having meetings back to back. That is a way of keeping me [pushing] past my limits and [accomplishing] anything."

If there was one thing that White hoped to achieve, it would be to continue to make a difference in students' lives.

"[I want to] help them reach their potential, and maybe help them see something that they didn't see in themselves," White said. "While at the same time challenging students [and] pushing students to achieve their potential. That's, that's what it's all about. That's what it's all about for me."



"I've had my 15 minutes of fame — if not longer. I truly feel blessed, so my thing is to give back. To throw the rope back, to give back, and help someone else, [have] if not the same amount of success, but more success than I had. If I do that, then maybe they'll turn around and throw the road back and lift as they climb as well."  
- David White



# A celebration of music to binge drinking bonanza: The origins of Fred Fest

**TOPHER ELKINS**

Special to The Leader

You wake up at around 10 a.m. It's Friday, you look out your window to see people walking down your street with gallon jugs full of alcohol. This is what it's like living on Canadaway Street during Fred Fest weekend.

If you ask a Fredonia student what their favorite weekend of the school year is, chances are they might say Fred Fest.

Usually set around the first weekend in May, Fred Fest occurs the weekend before "Dead Week," or the last week of classes and has become synonymous with a two day long "bender" of day drinking and partying on a few select streets in the village of Fredonia.

On any given year during Fred Fest, Canadaway Street in Fredonia can be found lined with students in yards and in the streets drinking, listening to music and simply enjoying themselves.

But what many students may not know is how the event started, and how it transitioned to the "darty" many students know it to be now.

The first "FredoniaFest" started back in 1980, after a group of students known as the Union Board of Governors (UBG), which was described by their president at the time as "a radical bunch of kids, always at odds with the college administration in pushing our agendas of providing great entertainment and social activities for the students."

According to a previous article written, there was a lot of "red tape" that the UBG had to jump through in order to get FredoniaFest off the ground. Even so, they proved administrators wrong and were able to find every loophole to make this now annual event a success.

The three key elements of the original "FredoniaFest" were simple: beer, music and fun. These were implemented with the half-kegs of beer that were purchased with a \$1,500 budget alongside the many music groups that have performed over the years.

Because Congress did not pass the National Minimum Drinking Age Act until 1984, which raised the legal drinking age from 18 to 21, nearly all college students were of age at the original FredoniaFest.

The first ever headliner for FredoniaFest was Todd Hobbin Band, who were from Syracuse. They were in the middle of a college tour at the time to promote their then hit song "I Hate You."

Fredonia has since had some major artists perform at FredFest including SlipKnot, Gym Class Heroes and Lupe Fiasco.

SUNY Fredonia continued to sponsor the event up until 2015. In January of that year, Vice President of Student Affairs David Herman sent an email to the entire student body announcing that the school would no longer be hosting the event. This decision was due to a number of concerns and factors — primarily the off campus safety of students.

A major concern was the amount of non-student related incidents that were occurring because of guests or friends of people who are Fredonia students.

In the original email, Herman wrote, "Over the last three years on FRED Fest weekend, there have been more than 100 citations in the village, numerous campus conduct cases, injuries and reported sexual assaults. Most of these problems have occurred off campus and involved non-students, but many of those arrested were guests and friends of Fredonia students."

According to past statements made by Fredonia Police, the majority of arrests they have made in the past during FredFest weekend have mostly involved non-Fredonia students.

The event also cost the village of Fredonia a lot of money to try and get ready for the massive influx of people as well. According to past news reports, in 2015, preparations for Fred Fest cost the village over \$3,000 for extra "porta-potties," trash barrels and overtime pay for officers.

Officers have had to work overtime to monitor Fred Fest festivities in recent years.

Last year, especially after dark, there was a consistent police presence seen on Canadaway Street.

This didn't stop everyone from continuing to party, as videos can be found online of people hitting, or even jumping onto the police cars.

But the question is, do these concerns still exist? How do students feel about the weekend now?

One aspect that some students could forget is that the streets they are partying on do have people living on them, and the sheer amount of people can overwhelm them.

One Canadaway resident said, "I loved Fred Fest last year, and I'm excited about it this year. But this year, I live on Canadaway, so it does give me a bit of anxiety after seeing so many people just walk into houses last year. And truthfully I don't want my house to be the one house where someone jumps off the roof."

Realistically, there seems to be no stopping Fred Fest, as it's almost become synonymous with SUNY Fredonia. Many students look forward to it every year, and it's a staple of the spring semester.



Graphic by DICE YANDOW | Staff Artist.

# Fredonia's first-ever Literary Festival

## ALEXANDRA GILES Staff Photographer

Sigma Tau Delta members Haileigh Pawlak and Nina Doyle selling used books.



Chris and Tim, whose pen names are their first names, showcasing their comic books.



Writers' Rings' Kaitlyn Woodard, Every Mancuso, Bridget Brown, Liv Frazer and Georgia Speller.



The Trident's Amber Kutschke, Jacob Kantner and Lura Manikowski.



# SPORTS

## Racing into action with captain of men's track and field Josh Walters

**MITCHELL HORUCY**  
Staff Writer

Captain of the men's track and field team, Josh Walters, runs year-round for the Blue Devils. He is a member of the cross-country team as well.

Walters, a junior exercise science major, ran track in middle and high school. He debated on if he wanted to pursue track and field at the next level for a while, but ultimately decided to keep running at the collegiate level.

With track having one of the longest seasons, it is possible to lose focus throughout the season. Walters said that the team tries to take it one week at a time and one meet at a time. He added, "All of our meets are always [at the end of] the week so it's always like something else to look forward to."

Since the season is so long and takes up so much time, it could be hard to squeeze in schoolwork. Walters said it's very important to find a routine that works for you and stick to it.

He also talked about how things are always changing, so it can be hard to adjust sometimes. But, he said, it's important to always set aside a couple of hours a day or week to sit down and focus on your school work.

Since the track team is co-ed, they have one of the bigger teams. Walters said because of how big the team is, it's important to bond and get close. He said the team doesn't do anything special when it comes to team bonding. They usually

try to have team dinners or hang out at someone's house, just to be around each other.

He mentioned that it's hard to find time where everyone is available to hang out, so when they can all get together, it's "really nice."

Walters mentioned a couple of things that the team does to stay in touch over the summer. He said they will set up a group chat, and he also talked about an app that a lot of people on the team get that allows you to record a run and then upload your stats.

He said it's a "cool way to see [his] teammates putting in work over the off season."

The team will be losing seven seniors after the end of the season. Walters is already a captain on the team, and he will be a senior next year as well.

He said he doesn't try to "reign control over everyone" or try to control what other people do as a captain. He said that he tries to just lead by example and hope people follow.

He said he's learned a lot from previous Blue Devils from his time here at Fredonia. One of the biggest things he talked about, though, was the importance of keeping your body healthy and staying in shape.

Walters' favorite moment as a member of the team is when he won his first 800-meter run at a meet at the University of Buffalo (UB) last season.

As the season wraps up, they will continue to compete and participate in the SUNYAC championships on May 5 and 6 in Oneonta.



Josh Walters.

Photograph by ETHAN YANNIE | Special to The Leader.



# Ultimate Frisbee and Field Hockey clubs join forces

**WILL KARR**  
Editor in Chief

While many students don't take on leadership roles until their junior and senior years, Fredonia student Isabella Smith is already a club president as a freshman. Smith became president of the Fredonia Field Hockey Club team this past January. This semester, the Field Hockey Club team and the Club Ultimate Frisbee team are collaborating to share players.

This semester, the two teams started practicing with each other and sharing turf rentals. Last semester, members of the frisbee team began playing in the Field Hockey team's games. With lower participation in both club sports than in previous years, the teams started thinking about how they could work together to grow the clubs and get more students interested in playing the sports. Smith said that the teams are working to open themselves up to new audiences.

"A lot of people don't really know what field hockey is," Smith said. "... We are trying to open up practices so people can learn [basics] — how to hold a stick and [properly] hit the ball."

Field hockey is similar to traditional hockey. However, it takes place on a field instead of ice and players use a puck instead of a ball. Price played field hockey at her middle school and high school in Akron, Ohio. As a result, she fell in love with the sport. Price said that her school's teams were section champions.

"I always loved it. At Activities Night, I saw that we had a Field Hockey Club team, and I wasn't really sure I wanted to join because I am not in high school anymore. I didn't know if I wanted to play a sport," Smith said. "I wanted to focus on my academics, but I ended up joining and I have no regrets. It has been so much fun. I've made so many friends and had a great time traveling with the team."

The Field Hockey team currently has an equal number of boys and girls. Even though the Field Hockey team is co-ed, the league they compete in only allows two male players to play in a game at once. Smith said that this is likely because field hockey has traditionally been a female-dominated sport,

and the league doesn't think it would be fair for a team of all boys and girls to compete against each other. The Ultimate Frisbee team is also co-ed, but they currently don't have enough female players to compete in the women's league.

The Field Hockey team is looking to eventually purchase new equipment as new players join. However, Smith said that the team is currently getting by with the equipment they have. Due to a small budget, they can't afford to buy the new supplies they would like to at the moment.

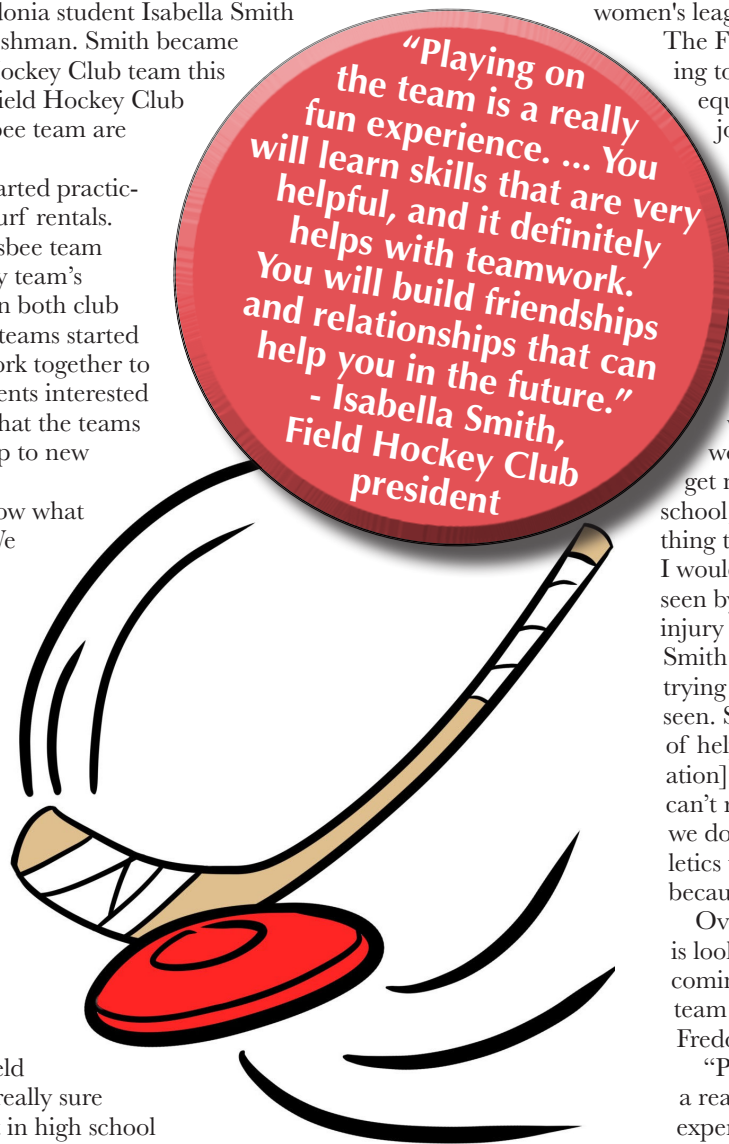
"We are working with what we've got. ... I would love to see club sports get more support from the school, especially with the whole thing that happened with rugby. I would like for club sports to be seen by the school because an injury like that is really scary," Smith said. "As clubs, we are trying to speak up and be more seen. So hopefully that will kind of help tell SA [Student Association] what we need because we can't really function as a sport if we don't have support from athletics trainers or medical staff because sports are dangerous."

Overall, Price said that she is looking forward to welcoming new players to the team throughout her time at Fredonia.

"Playing on the team is a really fun experience. No experience is needed, [and] you don't even have to bring your

own equipment. You will learn skills that are very helpful, and it definitely helps with teamwork," Smith said. "You will build friendships and relationships that can help you in the future."

*If you are interested in joining the Field Hockey team, you can email Smith at [smith4274@fredonia.edu](mailto:smith4274@fredonia.edu).*



# Blue Devils Sports Roundup

**MATT VOLZ**  
Asst. Sports Editor

## LACROSSE

Fredonia's women's lacrosse season came to an end on Wednesday, April 26 with a 19-2 loss to Geneseo.

Senior Erin Woods and freshman Camryn Jacobs scored the Blue Devils' lone goals.

Senior goalie Emily Carr made nine saves on 28 shots.

Woods finished the season with 48 goals, the most by any player in the SUNYAC conference. She finished third in the conference and first on the team with 64 total points.

Senior Julie Culver was second on the team and ninth in SUNYAC with 41 goals, and her 56 total points were good for tenth in the conference.

Junior Sydney Buchko led the team in assists with 17.

The loss brought Fredonia's final record to 6-11 and their conference record to 1-8.

The six wins are the most in a season by the team since 2016, a season in which they finished 7-10.

## SOFTBALL

On Thursday, April 27, the Blue Devils played a road doubleheader against conference rival Oswego, with mixed results.

In the first game, Fredonia's offense exploded for 11 runs in the second inning on the way to a 15-2 win.

Senior Victoria Pauwels hit a three-run home run, and sophomores Allie Wandell and Megan Guidry each drove in two runs in that inning.

In total, the Blue Devils recorded 15 hits and committed only one error, while Oswego tallied five hits and three errors.

Senior Emily Chelius only pitched two innings, but that was enough to earn the win as she allowed only two hits and struck out two batters while not allowing a run.

Junior Vanessa Galbraith pitched the other three innings, allowing two runs on three hits with four walks and four strikeouts.

In the second game, the Blue Devils held a 5-0 lead before Oswego came back late to win, 8-5.

Pauwels hit her second home run in as many games, and Chelius, Wandell and junior Alyssa Santiago each drove in a run.

Fredonia had eight hits and one error in the game, while Oswego recorded 10 hits and one error.

Chelius started the game and pitched five innings, allowing six runs on eight hits with three walks and three strikeouts.

Freshman Mack Celauro pitched the sixth inning, allowing two runs on two hits with one walk.

On Friday, April 28, the Blue Devils played a doubleheader at Cortland, losing both games.

In the first game, Cortland pitcher Karlee Weeden kept the Blue Devils scoreless in a 5-0 decision.

The Blue Devils recorded five hits and three errors, while Cortland had five hits and no errors.

Chelius started the game and pitched 3 and one-third innings, allowing five runs on five hits with three walks.

Galbraith and Celauro pitched the rest of the game, keeping Cortland scoreless and striking out one batter.

In the second game, Cortland tied it at three in the eighth inning before winning the game on a throwing error.

Sophomore Erin Cunningham drove in two runs with a single in the first inning, and Pauwels hit an RBI double in the eighth inning.

Altogether, the Blue Devils tallied seven hits and five errors, while Cortland had 12 hits and two errors.

Galbraith started the game and pitched four innings, allowing two runs on seven hits with one walk.

Chelius came on in relief and pitched three innings, allowing two runs on three hits with one walk and two strikeouts.

Celauro pitched one-third of an inning, allowing two hits.

The weekend's results brought Fredonia's overall record to 5-27, and their conference record to 4-10.

They will be back at home for two-weekend doubleheaders on Friday, May 5 against Oneonta and Saturday, May 6 against New Paltz.

## BASEBALL

On Friday, April 28, the Blue Devils hosted New Paltz in a game that was moved to Salamanca, N.Y. due to inclement weather and poor field conditions.

In a tight contest, the Blue Devils pulled away late for a 9-6 win, their first conference victory of the season.

Sophomore Tyler Curtis drove in three runs, while junior Kyle Tedford and freshman Garrett Stuckey each drove in two.

Junior Nathan O'Brochta started the game and pitched four innings, allowing four runs on five hits with three walks and four strikeouts.

Freshman Owen Ludwig pitched two and one-third innings in relief, allowing two runs on three hits with one strikeout.

Freshman Nick Syposs pitched an inning and two-thirds, keeping New Paltz scoreless and earning the win.

Freshman Morgan Zientara pitched one scoreless inning, earning the save.

On Saturday, April 29, the Blue Devils played a doubleheader against New Paltz in Salamanca, coming up short in both games.

In the first game, Fredonia held an 8-5 lead after seven in-

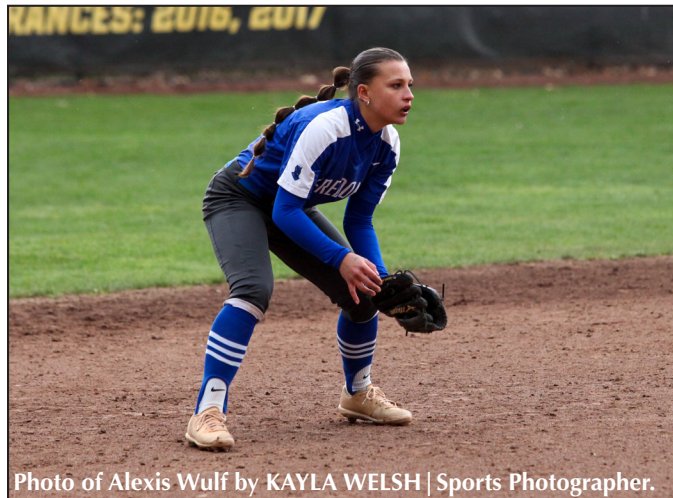


Photo of Alexis Wulf by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer.

nings of play, but a late New Paltz charge tied the game before New Paltz won 10-8 in 10 innings.

Sophomore Alex Gannon hit a three-run home run in the second inning, and sophomore Tyler Curtis drove in two runs in the game.

The Blue Devils totaled 11 hits and two errors, while New Paltz recorded 14 hits and one error.

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

Four other relievers pitched in the game for Fredonia, including junior Derrick Walters, who pitched two and two-thirds innings and allowed four runs on five hits with five walks.

In the second game, New Paltz led early and didn't look back on the way to a 13-7 win over the Blue Devils.

Freshman Garrett Stuckey drove in two runs in the game, while senior Jake Wentland hit a solo home run in the seventh inning.

Fredonia had 17 hits and three errors, while New Paltz had 15 hits and one error.

Freshman Michael Byrns started the game for the Blue Devils and pitched an inning and two-thirds, allowing four runs on two hits with five walks and two strikeouts.

Four relievers pitched in the game for Fredonia, including senior Nicholas Barberio who pitched three and one-third innings, allowing four runs on five hits with one walk and one strikeout.

The weekend's results brought the team's overall record to 6-25, and their conference record to 1-14.

The Blue Devils have one more series remaining in their season, with three games in two days at SUNY Plattsburgh on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6.

### **WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD**

On Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16, a handful of Blue Devil runners competed in the Bison Outdoor Classic hosted by Bucknell University.

The Leader did not receive the complete results of this meet in time for the previous issue, so they will be printed in this issue.

Freshman Cara Pellechia was the lone female competitor for Fredonia, finishing 18th out of 25 in the women's pole vault with a height of 3.2 meters.

This past weekend, the team concluded their regular season with the St. John Fisher Cardinal Classic, hosted by St. John Fisher University in Pittsford, N.Y.

Junior Vanessa Ryhal competed in the women's 800-meter run, finishing 32nd out of 50 runners with a time of 2:38.01.

Pellechia competed in the women's pole vault, finishing 10th of 15 with a height of 3.25 meters. Sophomore Haley Lerner also competed in the women's pole vault, finishing 14th with a height of 2.95 meters.

Freshman Kira Davidson competed in the women's triple jump, finishing 11th of 21 with a distance of 10.3 meters.

Senior Marisa Stravino competed in the women's discus throw, finishing third of seven with a distance of 23.17 meters. She also competed in the women's hammer throw, finishing 23rd of 29 with a distance of 34.16 meters.

Also, the 4x400 meter relay team of Davidson, Ryhal, freshman Hayley Mercer and junior Arden Brown finished fourth

of five teams with a time of 4:51.81.

SUNYAC Championships are scheduled for Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6, with SUNY Oneonta as the host.

### **MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD**

Several members of the men's track and field team competed in the Bison Outdoor Classic, many of whom achieved personal bests.

Senior Nick Abdo and freshman Jacob Winn competed in the men's 100-meter dash. Out of 112 finishers, Abdo finished 40th with a personal best of 11.02 seconds, and Winn finished 52nd with a personal best time of 11.09 seconds.

Both runners also competed in the 200-meter dash. Of the 97 finishers, Abdo finished 43rd with a time of 22.42 seconds, and Winn finished 72nd with a personal best of 22.91 seconds.

Junior Josh Walters competed in the 800-meter run, finishing 51st out of 189 runners with a personal best of 1:54.49.

Sophomore Patrick Klinger and senior Sam Cottrell competed in the men's mile run. Out of 29 finishers, Klinger came in 10th with a time of 4:27.49, and Cottrell finished 21st with a personal best of 4:40.54.

Senior Kyle Campbell competed in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase, finishing 51st of 59 runners with a personal best of 10:04.6.

Also, the men's 4x400 meter relay team, consisting of Abdo, Walters, freshman Nick Marsowicz and senior Toby Onuoha finished 12th out of 28 teams with a time of 3:19.85.

Their time was the fastest of any Fredonia relay team in coach Tom Wilson's tenure, which dates back to 2011.

In the St. John Fisher Cardinal Classic this past weekend, Abdo took home the win in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.93 seconds.

He also competed in the 200-meter dash, finishing fourth out of 53 runners with a time of 22.38 seconds.

In the men's 400-meter dash, senior Toby Onuoha finished sixth out of 47 runners with a time of 50.65 seconds. Two other Blue Devils competed in this event as well, as freshman Nick Marsowicz finished tenth with a time of 50.94 seconds and freshman Kevin Voegelin finished 40th with a time of 55.72 seconds.

Three Blue Devils competed in the men's 800-meter run. Walters was the team's top finisher, placing seventh out of 58 with a time of 1:56.91.

Cottrell finished 23rd in the event with a time of 2:00.96, while senior Vincent Mendez finished 27th with a time of 2:02.13.

In the men's 1500-meter run, Klinger finished 11th of 62 with a time of 4:05.55, and Campbell finished 20th with a time of 4:14.82.

The 4x100 meter relay team of Winn, Marsowicz, Abdo and freshman Cameron Sample finished second out of 8 teams with a time of 42.8 seconds.

Sample also competed in the men's long jump, finishing 10th of 42 jumpers with a distance of 6.56 meters.

In the men's triple jump, Onuoha finished fourth of 12 jumpers with a distance of 13.63 meters, and Sample finished seventh of 12 jumpers with a distance of 13.15 meters.

SUNYAC Championships are scheduled for Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6. SUNY Oneonta will host the event.



# Blue Devils men's and women's soccer: Scrimmaging images



**KAYLA WELSH**  
Sports Photographer



Photo of Liam Walsh.



Photo of #22 Jenna Tenney on the ball during scrimmage.

Photo of Maddie Payne.



During their off-season, Fredonia's Blue Devils men's soccer team has been competing in exhibition games, or friendly matches, against neighboring schools such as Gannon University and Jamestown Community College (JCC). The Blue Devils women's soccer team has been playing exhibition games against Daemen College and Niagara University Club Soccer.



Photo of Andres Martinez.



Photo of Huddy Kwiatkowski.

Photo of Bri Grazen.





## Safety on the mind:

# What if a life-threatening injury happened to a varsity athlete at Fredonia?

**MATT VOLZ**  
Asst. Sports Editor

Sports can be dangerous. There is always the possibility of injury, no matter the sport.

But many football fans likely will not forget what happened on Jan. 3, 2023, when Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed during a Monday Night Football game. Bills trainer Denny Kellington had to administer CPR for over nine minutes and used an automated external defibrillator (AED) to bring back Hamlin's pulse.

In the NFL, trainers like Kellington are always on-site, and an ambulance is waiting on-call in case of an emergency.

But what if something like that happened to a varsity/NCAA athlete at Fredonia?

"That is our worst nightmare," said Katie Miller, Fredonia's assistant athletic trainer. "[But] we really are there in case the worst happens."

Miller said she has never personally experienced something like Hamlin's injury in her career.

Brenda Dean, head athletic trainer, expressed similar sentiments.

"I personally have been involved with situations like that, [at least] not here yet, knock on wood," Dean said.

Although Miller and Dean have never seen anything quite as serious as Hamlin's injury, they have both "sprung into action" to help an injured varsity athlete whether it was major or minor, according to Fredonia athletic director Jerry Fisk.

"They are both the kind of professionals that would step in and manage a situation much like the way it was handled in Cincinnati [with Hamlin]," Fisk said.

If some sort of catastrophic injury occurred at a Fredonia sporting event with a varsity athlete, the athletic trainer would be the first point of contact, according to Fisk. After that, the trainers would review the severity of the situation and determine if further medical attention was needed.

"The first step would be assessing the situation and deciding, 'How bad is this? Do we need to call for EMS [Emergency Medical Services]?' And that happens very quickly. If EMS needs to be called, we have to call UP [University Police]," Dean said. "UP then makes that phone call for us because our

attention needs to be on the injured athlete. And then it's a matter of kind of barking out to different people, 'Call 911' or 'Bring me the AED.'"

Miller said she tries to keep it simple and remember the "ABCD" – airways, breathing, circulation and defibrillation.

"You do that first, the chance of survival is going to be much better. Again, you can never guarantee anything, but you've [at least] done the things that are critical [at] that moment," Miller said.

When performing life-saving measures such as CPR, the statistics show that time is of the essence. According to

ProCPR, a website that educates individuals about CPR procedures and helps people obtain CPR training, the chances of survival are relatively high if CPR is administered within the first four minutes after the person went into a cardiac event. According to the site, nearly 45% of people who have experienced out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survived because bystanders administered CPR.

Because injuries happen and serious ones are always possible, Fisk said every school has an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). He said that each school's plan may slightly differ based on the number of sports and the layout of the campus.

He also explained that UP is heavily involved in Fredonia's response plan, and he is thankful to have them as an immediate resource.

"I think [UP Chief Brent Isaacson] is great to work with and his staff is always quick to come over if there's any sort of issue," Fisk said. "I know that's not the way [things are] on every campus, so that's part of the reason it varies a little bit in some places."

One such school whose plan slightly differs is SUNY Brockport. According to Erick Hart, the school's head athletic director, they are able to have more athletic trainers thanks to their athletic training program, something Fredonia does not currently have.

"A lot of schools in the country are struggling with athletic trainers, and because we have a program, we are fortunate," Hart said.

Hart said that Brockport's EAP is always being updated, and staff is constantly being educated on what to do in case of an emergency. He also said that there are sometimes as many as four months' worth of advanced planning in EAP logistics



Graphic by NICOLE THORSON |  
Art Director.

leading up to a major sporting event.

Varsity teams at both Brockport and Fredonia are able to have athletic trainers on-site during sporting events in case of an emergency.

But what about club or intramural teams?

Geoff Braun, Fredonia's volleyball coach and director of intramurals, referenced the EAP and said that the club and intramural athletes first course of action should be to call UP, then 911.

He noted that it's important to make sure that the first call is to UP because they don't want a situation where "an ambulance [is] scooting through campus and [UP] not knowing what's happening." However, he tells his employees that it can't hurt to still call 911 after UP is notified, and that it's also okay if multiple people call 911.

"[We're] keeping the scene safe and administering care appropriately. And that might include CPR, as in the [Hamlin] case, and the use of AED," he said.

Mike Pitts, SUNY Potsdam's head athletic trainer, said that their plan for intramural and club sports is similar.

"At Potsdam, [trainers] are only responsible for varsity athletics," Pitts said. "So, any injury at club or intramural levels are handled by those parties, [club or intramural athletes], attendance, meaning no differently than any student or community member would handle a car crash for instance. Call 911 and wait."

Braun said that for Fredonia's intramural and club sports, Fredonia requires that there must be at least one person at every game who is certified in CPR, AED and first aid.

Braun expressed a desire for clubs to put pressure on Student Association (SA) to set aside money in their budgets for athletic trainers to be on-site for club sports.

He also recognized that the need for athletic trainers would only apply to certain clubs, specifically club sports.

"So it's [about] creating some kind of framework where there's a category of club sports that would require an athletic trainer on site. The problem right now is, we don't have a lot of athletic trainers around. We have two full-time NCAA athletic trainers [for varsity sports], but we don't have anybody on staff ... that could cover club sports," Braun said. "So there are some challenges with athletic trainer availability. And budgeting is certainly one of the challenges."

Both Hart and Pitts also expressed that increased budgets would help improve overall athletic safety. Hart also mentioned that the NCAA has a recommendation system for how many athletic trainers each school should have on staff. The system recommends that, with as many athletic programs as Brockport has, they should have at least seven trainers on staff.

However, Hart said that they only have five trainers on staff, and they hire "per diems" (trainers for specific events) to fill in the gaps. Brockport currently has five on-staff trainers to cover its 23 varsity sports teams. Whereas, Fredonia currently has 2 trainers to cover its 19 varsity sports teams.

"That's a huge piece of it; I think we probably need to do a better job from a medical standpoint," Hart said.

Dean addressed that the field of science is changing and talked about how important it is to stay updated on the latest information.

"What was considered the gold standard five years ago may or may not still be considered the gold standard," Dean said. "So it's just a matter of staying up to date on current educa-

tion and science evolution and implementing that."

Miller also stressed the importance of everyone knowing the EAP and being aware of their roles in an emergency.

"[If] you look at the Damar Hamlin situation, everybody knew what their role was ... I just think, the more people who are aware of the EAP and know exactly what their role is, that is crucial," Miller said.

Although they believe things can be improved, Fisk, Braun and the athletic trainers believe that Fredonia would be prepared in the event of a serious athlete injury.

"I have full faith and confidence in our staff and in our policies that, you know, big picture wise, things would go well," Dean said.

Both Hart and Pitts also expressed their confidence in their schools' preparedness for a major injury.

However, Dean and Miller both pointed out that nobody can be sure of anything until they're in that moment. "You can do everything right, and sometimes, things just don't go your way," Dean said.

Because of this, Fisk and Braun believe that it is crucial for people to get trained in CPR, AED and first aid.

"I would like to see [the training] be something that everybody has because you never know when you're going to be in that situation," Fisk said. "You might have to step in, and I think that that seems to be something that would be worthwhile to me."

Braun said that he has personally certified people at Fredonia who have ended up using the skills they learned in their personal life. Braun used to be a certified CPR instructor.

"You don't really understand the value of it until it hits home," he said. "You don't know [how valuable it is] until you know."

Fisk said CPR and first aid courses are regularly offered by the American Red Cross and local YMCAs. He also said that it is typically offered annually at most SUNY schools.

Braun believes that emergency preparedness can mean the difference between life and death, and it's okay to have more preparation than what an individual might end up needing.

"Being over-prepared – there's no such thing when it comes to human life."

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

**MATT VOLZ**

Asst. Sports Editor

It's officially NFL Draft season, and "Big Blue Sports Podcast" has you covered on all the latest news, notes and opinions.

In the next few shows, I will also be covering the NHL and NBA playoffs, the MLB season and of course, our very own Fredonia sports teams.

You can tune in to "Big Blue Sports Podcast" every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. on WCVF 88.9 FM or stream live on fredoniaradio.com. Also, be sure to check out the Fredonia Radio YouTube channel, as episodes of the show will be uploaded every Wednesday and Friday.



## Fredonia athletes unite for Unified Basketball game

**WILL KARR**

Editor in Chief

While SUNY Fredonia athletes are usually the ones playing on-campus sporting events. Last week, on Thursday April 27, the Athletics Department hosted its first-ever Unified Basketball game in Dods Hall between Dunkirk and Fredonia high schools.

“I brought up the idea of hosting a unified game in a leadership team meeting in February and it seemed to catch on,” said Jerry Fisk, director of Athletics.

Fisk and men’s head varsity soccer coach PJ Gondek are both high school referees. Each year, the pair referee unified games in the spring and Fisk said that they are always some of their favorite games to ref. Fisk and Gondek collaborated with the two high school athletic directors and unified coaches to plan the event.

“Unified sports pair athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team,” Gondek said. “Hundreds of Fredonia State student-athletes for the various athletic teams turned out to support and cheer on the unified athletes ... roars from the crowd could be heard with every basket made.”

Fisk said that many of Fredonia’s athletics teams and athletes helped out with running the event.



All photos by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer.

“Coaches spoke with their teams about attending and the attendance was great and everyone was engaged,” Fisk said. “The men’s soccer team played a big role on game day—helping to hand out pizza, tear down after the event and [with] anything else that came up.”

Dunkirk ended up defeating Fredonia 28-24. Fisk said that the Athletics Department is looking forward to hosting more unified games in upcoming semesters and years.

“While this was our first unified game, it won’t be the last,” Fisk said. “Universally, the coaches, student-athletes and other attendees had a great time. The gym was electric and everyone had fun.”



Unified Hoops participates in Cupid Shuffle dance.

# Fredonia hosts Unified Hoops match



**KAYLA WELSH**  
Sports Photographer



Fredonia Mens' Hockey players Nick Newman and Parker James holding a sign.





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.

## ART-icle: An inside look at the Marion Art Gallery Senior Exhibit

**JIMMY KELLER**  
Special to The Leader

While looking at the charcoal and pastel drawings by artist Christopher Dorner, I couldn't help but also see my reflection in the glass. My mirrored face almost simultaneously placed myself in a landscape that reminds me of home. The tranquil, open skies in his paintings and atmospheric tones help recapture the lifelike serenity he wanted to reproduce. Beyond the surface of landscape paintings and drawings, lies deep personal meaning. Landscapes are depicted in the art exhibit "Vantage Point" in the Marion Art Gallery.

"Vantage Point," is the Department of Visual Arts and New Media's spring senior show. The exhibit includes artwork by Dorner and 13 other senior art majors. The gallery is currently on display in the Marion Art Gallery through May 7.

Beyond many of the pieces in "Vantage Point" is a meaning that can only be seen in depth through time. This is time spent watching and listening to films in their entirety such as Rex Grant's work. Time spent reading Patch Parsons' artist statement and understanding the inspiration. Time spent understanding the ironic and true story of Shengyang Simon Lui's perspective into a culture that many Americans are ignorant to. These artworks are not only representative of the dedication these seniors put forth the past four years, but also a personal look into the artists that we think we all know.

After interviewing several artists featured in the show, something resonated with me that I think is important for all artists to consider.

Senior film and video arts major Rex Grant said, "As an artist, you shouldn't be afraid to talk about what you want to talk about ... You shouldn't be nervous about something that is super personal because it's your story."

We must not be afraid to create art on a personal level, and in fact, we should embrace it. It is what makes each artist's work unique. Grant said he was nervous not only for his family viewing his work, but also the public. It is very much a terrifying process because you never know how people will react, and I think that's the greatest thing about producing works of art. Each viewer will react differently and each will have their own opinion outside the artist's control.

There is a fine line between intent and attempting to control one's opinion. In Dorner's words regarding his art, "It's creating a safe space for the viewer to get lost in there, [and] possibly explore what they can do in the future."

He does not force the viewer to like nor dislike his work, but rather invites them to take it upon themselves to find their

own thoughts within the piece. He uses his art to create a space, possibly as a place for the viewer to reflect on their life, just as he does in these landscapes. The landscape he painted was of Tillman Nature Preserve in Clarence, N.Y. This is a place where he finds peace and tranquility, then tries to replicate this feeling into his art.

The personal look is also true with Shengyang Simon Lui's graphic design and sculptural art hanging in the center of the gallery. At first glance, in his piece "100 Nutrition," we see a bio-engineered animal with big eyes and an erect penis, but there is something deeper that people might not at first see.

Lui grew up in China but came to America for high school and college. Experiencing both of these polarizing cultures expanded his understanding of stereotypes produced mainly by American media. What us born and raised Americans might be blind to, gets highlighted, literally and metaphorically, through his piece in the gallery.

"This project started with the food culture as a starting point, but it's actually not framed by the food culture," Lui explained. "I just want to tell people a bigger vision of how you [Americans] criticize and see the stereotypes and think about human ethics."

Before the viewer even reads his artist statement, we can analyze this through his work. When viewing the printed graphic design panels surrounding the piece, we begin to notice the ironic verbiage that markets this new animal with ancient Chinese traditions and satirical modern media.

"Vantage Point" is a title meant to describe multiple viewpoints whether it be uncomfortable conflict, newly imagined worlds, or pieces with new knowledge.

The artists in this show include: Valerie Barbera, Morgan Byham, Katelyn Davis, Christopher Dorner, Rachel Gonzalez, Rex Grant, DJ Henderson, Allison Kohl, Shengyang Simon Lui, Lochlainn O'Connell, Patch Parsons, Angelo Petrilli, Bijen Tandukar, and Savi Williams.

I feel that these 14 artists are more connected than they think. They each found something personal within their lives to openly share with the world, something that an art environment creates the ideal community for.

If you haven't been able to take a walk through the Marion Gallery, there is about a week left before it comes to an end.

If you are one of the 250 people that attended opening night, maybe it's worth a revisit to take in each piece in its entirety. Make sure to spend time there and come with an open mind. There is much to be learned and appreciated about each other, each culture and each point of view.

**"As an artist, you shouldn't be afraid to talk about what you want to talk about. ... You shouldn't be nervous about something that is super personal because it's your story."  
- Rex Grant, senior film and video arts major**



Rex Grant "The End Justifies the Means," 2023. Mixed media.



Christopher Dorner "Untitled," 2021. Charcoal and pastel on toned paper.



Allison Kohl "Abandoned," 2022. Digital Photography.



Angelo Petrilli "Nimba," "Sigurros" and "Dozha," 2022. Acrylic on board.



Katelyn Davis "Collector," "Natural Pesticide" and "Beware," 2023. Watercolor, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe InDesign.



Shenyang Simon Liu "100% Nutrition," 2023. Mixed media.



# Lovercolumn:

## “THE PLUMBER” & “THE ELECTRICIAN”

Lovercall Producers

Birth control is often a taboo and controversial topic. But without talking about it, women and young couples lose access to proper education and resources that guide them in having safe sex.

This week on Lovercall, we decided to dive into the topic of birth control and the different methods people can use.

### DATE IDEA OF THE WEEK

Before we discuss our main topic, we at Lovercall hope to provide our fellow students with a fun and unique date idea in every column.

This week, we here at Lovercall think going on a thrifting date is a good way to welcome in the warmer season.

Saving some money on new clothes, you and your partner could help each other find a new fit for the season. Dressing up your partner could be a part of the fun.

There are a few thrift stores in the Fredonia area, so you have plenty of options if one store is a bust.

One such example is Recollected, a vintage and secondhand clothing store.

You could also go to the Salvation Army Family Store or other local thrift stores for a day of fun.

### BIRTH CONTROL METHODS

There are several different methods of birth control.

Birth control is not only used to prevent pregnancy but also to help avoid sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Depending on your goal, the different methods may help you in different ways.

Surely your high school health teacher told you that the number one way to prevent pregnancy and STDs is abstinence, or not having sex.

But that’s not realistic. College students not identifying as asexual are likely going to have sex at some point — if not in college, during some time in their lives.

So for those choosing to have sex, here are some ways you can stay safe.

#### Condoms

Perhaps one of the most commonly discussed birth control methods is condoms. Condoms are a latex-based product that prevents sperm from entering a vagina. Since sperm does not enter the system, condoms protect users from STDs. According to Planned Parenthood, condoms are 98% effective at protecting pregnancy.

#### The Pill

The birth control pill is a hormonal form of contraception, which means that hormones such as progesterin and estrogen are released, which prevents pregnancy. An active pill is taken daily at the same time for three weeks, and then an inactive pill is taken for one week while the user ovulates. To go on a birth control pill, you first need to talk to your doctor and get a prescription. With most insurances, birth control pills are covered. The pill is 91% effective, as people often forget to

take the pill daily. Additionally, birth control pills do not protect users against STDs. “The Electrician” shared that while she does experience occasional symptoms from being on the pill, her experience has been overall positive, and she recommends it for those just starting birth control.

#### IUDs

An IUD, or intrauterine device, is a small, t-shaped object that is inserted into the uterus. IUDs are inserted by a medical professional. There are two major types of IUDs: copper and hormonal. The copper IUD is made of copper and is inserted to help protect against pregnancy. These kinds of IUDs may lead to heavier and more painful menstrual cycles, but protect against pregnancy for up to 10 years. Hormonal IUDs are similarly placed on the uterus but release hormones to avoid pregnancy. Hormonal IUDs also stay in place for up to 10 years. IUDs do not protect against STDs, but they are very effective in preventing pregnancy. Planned Parenthood estimates they are 99% effective.

#### The shot

An additional form of contraception is Depo-Provera, also known as “the shot.” While it may sound scary to get a shot as a form of birth control, this form of birth control lasts for three months at a time. The hormone progesterin is injected into the user, and it can be administered by either the user themselves or a medical professional. Some users of Depo-Provera have noted similar side effects as other hormonal methods, such as weight gain, but using the shot helps remove the forgetfulness that may come with using the pill. The shot is around 94% effective and does not prevent STDs.

#### Other methods

There are several other methods of birth control people can use to practice safe sex. We at Lovercall recommend talking to your doctor about which methods are best for you. We hope this was informative and helps you see what options are available to you and your partner.

#### Resources

There are several resources available to help give you further information about birth control and contraceptive methods.

Planned Parenthood:

[plannedparenthood.org/learn/birth-control](http://plannedparenthood.org/learn/birth-control)

National Institute of Child Health & Human Development:  
[nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/contraception/more\\_information/resources](http://nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/contraception/more_information/resources)

Center for Disease Control and Protection:

[cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/index.htm](http://cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/index.htm)

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

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

# From the desk of **Sports Editor** Max Hamilton

**MAXWELL HAMILTON**  
Sports Editor

In my first draft to submit for this “From the Desk of,” I wrote about my time here at Fredonia throughout the years. I gave an honest review. If I am being honest with you, it wasn’t good.

It’s not that I don’t think we have a great school, because I think we do. There are so many little groups scattered all across campus: 170 clubs and student organizations, two of which I am a part of, 17 athletic teams and over 100 different majors and minors. There are so many interests on this campus, and I think that is cool. We have a cool community.

Due to this being my final draft of my “From the Desk of,” I guess I should tell you what my desk looks like. It has a lot on it. I am the president of Blackhorse Rugby, and that has been a huge honor to lead my teammates and play some great rugby. I am also a part of *The Leader*, but that’s obvious hence this letter, but my role here is the Sports Editor, I communicate with writers and edit articles — I basically signed up for extra homework.

I think Fredonia has the opportunity to be great, yeah, we all miss the Tim Horton’s, but at least we have cool chairs so we can sit in style or be massaged. But our campus has so much more, I don’t know if you all feel it too, but something besides dog food is in the air here. That’s why I like this place, the magic of Fredonia.

We the students are what makes this campus magic. There are so many different student groups with history all across campus, but also the opportunity for someone to come here and make it their own. The ability for a student to recognize that there is a need and make change. I think that is super cool. Students are what grow the school, not just by getting more students to come here but by adding to the mix by creating more opportunities for other students here right now.

The steps may be difficult, but I can assure you that everyone who you will have to meet with are super nice and have open ears. They only want to help you make something cool happen. I know it sounds like extra work, but we can make changes. We need to take advantage of that.

Campus is ever changing, and because of that, we always have to adapt. It is okay if things don’t work out or they fizzle out. We always have to look up ahead, off into the horizon — that’s where we are headed.

What’s next after school? It is the best and worst question you can ask someone who is about to graduate. Before they can even answer you can tell by the look on their face, worry or excitement.

Some have it all figured out and that’s great. Some need more time to find their niche; don’t worry about it. In time, we all will be ok. We made it to Fredonia and can use this as a stepping stone in life — just know that there is always something more.



**Spring 2023 Sports Editor Maxwell Hamilton.**  
Photo by KELLY COOK | Special to *The Leader*.

What’s next for me?

I couldn’t tell you, but I cannot wait. I am ready to take on this next challenge in my life, and I hope this feeling I have is contagious because there is no need for any doubt, we all will do great things.

I promised myself I wouldn’t forget to thank my family. Without them, I wouldn’t be who and where I am today. My mom made sure to pack my cleats in my bag, even when I said I did not want to play rugby anymore after high school. That is what I am most grateful for. Without those cleats, I wouldn’t have gone to my first practice and met all of the boys.

Being a part of Blackhorse has been exhilarating, not because we play rugby, but because the people that play rugby are wild. These wild animals are my brothers, and I am happy to have met all of them.

If there is anything I want you to take from this, it’s don’t do nothing. Stop being those students that sit in class and don’t talk to your teacher. When you see someone in the hall say hello and be social. COVID-19 did something to all of us and some of us need to shake the dust off. Don’t sit and do nothing, make something happen and odds are it will be great.



# From the desk of Editor in Chief Will Karr: Speechless — If there's a Will, there is a way

**WILL KARR**  
Editor in Chief

I remember standing up in front of my class in middle school giving a presentation and suddenly, I was speechless. Everyone around me thought that I had just forgotten the words. But I knew them — the truth is I just couldn't say them. It wasn't even that I couldn't pronounce them. I physically couldn't say the words.

As I approached junior high, I started realizing that I wasn't like all the other kids. When I would go to say certain words, my jaw would immediately lock, and my mouth wouldn't form the right words, sentences and phrases I had intended to. I didn't have any control over my own speech. I didn't quite understand or fully grasp why at the time. I just remember crying about it.

I slowly came to terms with the fact that I had a speech impediment — a stutter. For the longest time, I didn't want anyone around me to know or find out, so I just stopped talking. I started avoiding and replacing words, sentences and phrases for fear that someone would discover my secret. I didn't want to appear stupid or unintelligent. Growing up, everyone always assumed I was the shy kid, when in reality, I was really just speechless.

However, in my junior/senior year of high school, I decided to enroll in my former English teacher Barbi Price's college-level public speaking course. For the class, we regularly wrote five minute speeches, memorized them and recited them to the class. I found that when I would write something down and memorize it, I wouldn't stutter anymore — I suddenly found my voice. Writing my words down on paper gave me a voice when I felt speechless.

During my senior year, I ended up entering the Optimist Oratorical Speech contest. The theme of the speech for that year was "Is there a fine line between optimism and reality?" My best friend Emily Crasti encouraged me to do it with her. At a time when I was nervous about simply speaking in front of my peers for fear of judgment, the thought of giving a speech in front of panels of judges, whose literal job is to actually judge and critique you, was terrifying to me. Regardless of my apprehensions, I decided to go for it.

I spent hours in my cramped bedroom privately perfecting that five minute speech in front of the mirror. But, speeches are ultimately meant to be heard. My words soon traveled outside of the sanctity of my Buzz Lightyear, green bedroom walls into spacious conference rooms and auditoriums.

For the first round of the contest, the Club Level, I presented the speech at my local YMCA. I ended up placing second. My friend Grayson Holt, who placed first, and I moved onto the next level of competition, the Zone Level, in Lockport, N.Y. Grayson's twin Finley and I were in the public speaking class together. Grayson and I ended up eventually advancing to New York State finals, where I placed third overall in the competition.

For one of the first times in my life, I felt heard, seen and understood. I had found the courage and strength to speak up regardless of my fears. I remember how happy I was when one of the judges placed the copper medal around my neck. The speech competition taught me that I had the power within me to accomplish anything that I set my mind to — if there is a will, there's a way. All I had to do was 'Will' it into existence.

I graduated from Jamestown High School in 2019, a year earlier than I was supposed to. Since I graduated a year early, I was able to still have a prom and an in-person graduation ceremony — a luxury and privilege that many of my beloved friends who graduated in 2020 unfortunately didn't get to experience.

After I graduated from JHS, I attended Jamestown Community College (JCC) in my hometown from Summer 2019 to Spring 2021. When I first went to JCC, I majored in social sciences. However, during my final semester, a few months before the pandemic, I soon discovered that communications was a major.

As a result of my public speaking background, I quickly switched my major to communications and graduated with my associate's degree in communications from JCC in Spring 2021.

I transferred to Fredonia from JCC in Fall 2021. I was considering majoring in speech pathology, but I decided to ultimately major in journalism here at Fredonia after starting to watch reporter Gio Benitez on ABC News. I started watching Benitez after his husband Tommy Didario, a TV host, popped up on my Instagram discovery page during the pandemic.

As a transfer and commuter student, I didn't have the typical college experience coming in two years later than most of my peers who started at Fredonia as freshman on campus. Also, coming in during the pandemic, we were all wearing masks so I couldn't see anyone's facial expressions, which complicated things even further and made it difficult for me to make friends at first.

I spent my first semester mostly acclimating and adjusting myself to campus. I remember I was so nervous walking into journalism professor Mike Igoe's Foundations in Journalism class for the first time in the basement of the Science Center. But, I felt comfortable once I saw his burnt orange pants and got to know his perky personality.

In Spring 2022, The Leader's adviser Elmer Ploetz and Chloe Kowalyk, News Editor at the time, approached me after a class asking me if I wanted to start writing for The Leader. I said that I would consider it, but never started writing that semester because I was extremely stubborn and preferred to keep mostly to myself.

However, last summer, I did an internship at The Chautauquan Daily newspaper at Chautauqua Institution with Alyssa Bump, the Editor in Chief of The Leader at the time. The internship gave me a newfound sense of confidence. Throughout the summer, Alyssa encouraged me to join The Leader.



**Spring 2023 Editor in Chief Will Karr.**  
**Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor.**

Upon returning to campus this past fall, I became the Life & Arts Editor and started writing regularly for The Leader.

This spring, I served as Editor in Chief. Even though I may have had the shortest Editor in Chief run as the position is traditionally a year long term, I have been able to accomplish more than I could have ever imagined in a semester.

From helping recruit many new staff members, to significantly increasing The Leader's advertising revenue and social media engagement rates, I have made it my mission and goal to help revitalize The Leader for not only now, but for future generations and cohorts to come.

From restructuring our entire sports section to better highlight Fredonia's diverse array of athletic programs, to later raising awareness to and calling out the campus Athletics Department's unfair treatment of club athletes, I have learned to expect the unexpected and the importance of stepping outside of one's comfort zone to speak up.

Overall, being Editor in Chief has encouraged me to use my voice and The Leader's unique platform to be an advocate for change and institutional reform at times when it would have been very easy and more convenient for me to remain silent: speechless. I have worked to hold campus officials and administrators accountable on multiple occasions, while striving to simultaneously highlight the positive aspects of our campus life for students. As a queer person of color, I have loved amplifying some of our campus' diverse voices — helping to ensure that no one is speechless.

From quitting my retail job this past fall to putting The Leader before my personal relationships/friendships on many

occasions, I have made a lot of sacrifices for The Leader that I am honestly still coming to terms with, processing and reconciling.

This academic year has been a whirlwind for me, but I am thankful that it has all brought me to where I am now. To quote The Leader's queen Taylor Swift's poem "Why She Disappeared": "Without your past, you could never have arrived — so wonderfully and brutally, By design or some violent, exquisite happenstance ... here."

My journey to this point has been both extremely fulfilling and painful. It's so full circle and surreal for me to think that I graduated high school four years ago and now I am about to graduate from college. In my optimism speech during my senior year, I talked about the difference between optimism and reality.

I said, "Optimism softens us, instills in us the qualities of positivity and hopefulness and encourages us to attain our aspirations despite imminent failure. On the contrary, reality hardens, keeps us narrow minded and forces us to abide by a set of limitations determined by history, life experience and the failures of others."

I could have let the reality of having a speech impediment continue to stand in the way of me ever finding my voice. However, I decided to take an optimistic leap of faith. I am so happy that I did because I would not be at The Leader, studying journalism or where I am today if it was not for that single five minute optimist speech. Those five minutes paved my trajectory.

I am truly so grateful for all the friendships and memories that I have made throughout my time at The Leader. I would like to specifically thank Leader Adviser Elmer Ploetz, Chief Copy & Design Editor Alyssa Bump, Sports Editor Max Hamilton and Community Relations Coordinator Capri Cibelli for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this spring semester. I am eternally grateful for Alyssa, Max and Capri's friendship and can't wait to make more memories in the future.

I am excited to announce that after graduation, this June, I will be participating in the Buffalo News 10-week long summer internship program. I am so excited to start my journalism career right here in WNY and spend this upcoming summer in Buffalo.

I know that I would not have been given this opportunity if it were not for my time at SUNY Fredonia and The Leader. Even though my goal down the road is to eventually become a communication director or coordinator for a public official, I am excited to pursue journalism for a little while longer.

I am thankful for my time at Fredonia, and I look forward to seeing whatever the future holds for me.

My mason jar is full of memories from Fredonia that I will always carry with me into the future no matter where I may end up. Wishing you peace, love and positivity.

Sincerely your not-so-speechless-anymore Spring 2023 Editor in Chief,

Will Karr



# From the desk of Chief Copy & Design Editor Alyssa Bump: A note on survival and hope

**ALYSSA BUMP**

Chief Copy & Design Editor

*Content warning: This story includes depictions of sexual assault and suicidal ideation. But it ends with hope.*

April is a month normally associated with the summoning of spring songbirds and sprouting plants. But for me, April is a month I routinely have to bury my past deep within the soil of my soul.

In the center of my one-bedroom apartment, a dark wood plaque with the words, 'BRAVERY AWARD,' engraved in large letters rests neatly on the wall. The plaque is only about six inches tall, but its presence is a heavy reminder of the assault I survived.

In 2018, I was 16-years-old, and I went to a party hidden in woods between tall trees and thickets. I remember getting out of my friend's car and trudging through the thick April mud. I was determined to make it to the cabin lit up with lights and music down the isolated driveway.

I have always sought escape — a hobby to pass the time, a thought to cling onto that is not my own. At this time in my life, my escape lied at the bottom of a solo cup or at the end of a joint.

But after I had decided I was tired, after I had decided to stop pouring drinks and lighting matches and swaying to the music, I decided to lay down. I decided to go to sleep, or maybe sleep decided to come to me.

Something else came to me that night — unwanted hands, unapologetic and unforgiving touches.

I remember waking up and feeling my insides burning, feeling the sweat of my hands and the filth of the abandoned party around me.

I remember saying 'no' — since I know, oftentimes, people care more about if someone says 'no' rather than 'yes.'

Yet nothing stopped.

I remember hearing footsteps and laughs as this nightmare unfolded around and inside me.

Yet nothing stopped.

My rape was not the worst thing that has happened to me. The worst came after.

I grew up in a small Allegany County town, and my class

only had 60 kids in it. Everyone knew exactly what had happened to me the following Monday when the homeroom bell rang. I could tell by the way the air stood still, the way heads moved as I walked and voices switched to whispers.

Before I even had time to process what had happened to me, everyone and their mother knew some version of what had happened that April night. I don't know how to explain it, but their knowledge of what happened to me proved to be another assault on my body, my privacy and my autonomy.

But I still got ready for my second period gym class with my rapist. He immediately looked me up and down, and then whistled at me.

I left and barely made it to the locker room where I puked.

After a day or two, I was called into the principal's office and asked if I would like to talk to the authorities and press charges regarding what happened. I was also informed that I needed to tell my parents within the next 48 hours what happened to me.

I always knew statistics for rape, sexual assault and abuse are staggering. This is because I am also a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. But in case you do not know, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 82% of all juvenile victims of rape are female, and females ages 16-19 are four times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault.

I never had a chance to report my previous abuse — I was too young, too disoriented to fully understand. But this time, my assailant wasn't so lucky. I knew no matter how much I did not want to, I had to come forward and report my case. After spending hours in the police station, handing over my phone for evidence and talking until the hot coals inside my chest turned cold, my

19-year-old rapist was charged with third-degree rape and acting in a manner injurious to a child. Because New York State's legal age of consent is 17, anyone under the 17 is legally incapable of providing consent to sexual relations. This meant as a 16-year-old, I was legally unable to consent regardless of the fact I was incapacitated.

I met with my prosecuting attorney and victims' advocate a number of times during the year my case was filed. In between appointments at the courthouse and trying to maintain my sanity, I was harassed by several of my peers. Freshmen — students I didn't even know by name — would prank call me and pretend to be my rapist. The boys would not stop calling



**Alyssa Bump at her desk in  
The Leader Office.  
Photo by DREW PALUCH |  
Photo Editor.**

me until I answered the phone, and when I picked up, they would explicitly describe how they would assault me.

The phone calls continued for months, and when I reported them to the cops, they suggested I change my number. I didn't think the harassment had anything to do with the digits of my cellphone, but rather the graphic and disturbing threats I was receiving. After pleading with the police to take these threats seriously, three of the students were caught.

The trial for my rape case finally came, 10 months after my assault during the coldest days of February. My rapist took a plea — the class E felony rape charge was dropped to a class A misdemeanor of acting in a manner injurious to a child. He was only required to serve 105 days in jail. He did not have to join the Sex Offender Registry, and his record does not indicate he committed rape.

I wrote a victim impact statement to read at court. Similarly to pressing charges, I did not actively want to write this statement, but I was terrified of how I would feel if I said nothing at all. I wanted my rapist to know that even if he got off with this plea, he is still indeed guilty.

These are some of the words I spoke on that gloomy day, as I stood on my own two feet alone in the courtroom, and faced my rapist:

“As a 16-year-old, I had to endure so many things I did not deserve. ... I did one of the hardest things to do after being raped, which is report my story. I found something inside of me, something tiny, a glimmer of light, I suppose. But soon, that light burst into flames, and I realized how angry I truly

was. ... This feeling of anguish I never thought could be distinguished. But even though it felt like I was on fire, that hell had come into my life and completely taken over; I did not lose hope — I gained it. After everyone found out what happened to me, I faced backlash and found myself wondering if I did the right thing. But I still pursued what seemed like the impossible for 10 months. My life was put on hold as I waited to see if what you did to me would have consequences. And in the end, I found justice. I found myself here, in a situation I would have never predicted for myself. ... I hope you see the damage you did to me behind the courage I hold. I will never be the same, but who I am becoming now, after being raped, after being betrayed, after everything, is someone strong. I am becoming more and more hopeful, and despite everything, I am healing.”

My victim impact statement is the reason why I won the 2019 National Crime Victim Rights Week Bravery Award from the Allegany County District Attorney's Office. My victims' advocate called me two months after my case closed to tell me the good news. But this news didn't feel good.

To be quite honest, a Bravery Award felt like another fire began to bloom in my bosom, spreading to every corner of my skin. I was angry — I did not feel brave. I felt like a fool.

But still, I drove my tiny gray 2003 Hyundai Accent to the jail my rapist would soon be serving his sentence at to receive my award. Even though two months had passed since my case closed, my rapist would not be in custody until he finished his first year of college. This was part of the plea he had agreed to; the plea that I never had a say in.

Five years ago, on April 28, 2018, I was raped. I find it quite ironic I was raped during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I find it even more ironic I was honored with a Bravery Award a year later during that same week in the jail my rapist should have been at — not me. I realized I felt more like a prisoner than my rapist probably felt at that moment, miles away at college.

I am a firm believer that we do not always have control over what happens to us, but I believe we hold all the power in how we react. I suppose my Bravery Award is a constant reminder of this, but it is also a reminder of how I felt in that jail that day, when my rapist was free.

I have spent years of my life hating the fire that burns inside of me, the fire I spoke of in my victim impact statement. But on the bottom of my Bravery Award, a quote by Joshua Graham reads, “I survived because the fire inside me burned brighter than the fire around me.”

I've thought about this quote a lot during the past four years. I believe all of us hold a light within ourselves that can carry positivity, passion and energy. My inner light has repeatedly burst into flames — from pain, from rage, from self hate — consuming all that I am. These flames burn and sting; the fire hurts then heals. And after four years, there are countless times I've risen like a phoenix from the ashes of my old self.

I did not rise from these ashes alone, though. This is not a story about suffering or sorrow. This is a story about stoicism, about defying the odds and the statistics. This is a story about how I could have never survived without the support I received.

Continued onto next page.

*“I can be changed by what happens to me.  
But I refuse to be reduced by it.” — Maya Angelou*



**82% of all juvenile victims of rape are female**

**Females ages 16-19 are four times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault**

Graphic by HENRY DOMST | Asst. Design Editor.



Continued from previous page.

Jane Goodall wrote in “The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times,” “Hope is often misunderstood. People tend to think that it is simply passive wishful thinking: I hope something will happen but I’m not going to do anything about it. This is indeed the opposite of real hope, which requires action and engagement.”

Hope requires us to act. Because of the actions of others, I have realized there is more good in this world than there is bad. I wholeheartedly believe this — I want you to believe this, too.

But for a long time, I did not see myself when I looked in the mirror. Instead, I saw my 16-year-old self looking back at me: The 16-year-old who was raped at a party with bystanders everywhere. The 16-year-old who came to school that next Monday, and everyone already knew about the worst thing that had happened to her.

Actions of altruism have convinced me to cling to hope during my darkest times. I often remind myself of the two boys in my high school who drove me to the police station to report my assault. Another high school boy compiled evidence to support my case immediately after hearing my story. He is now pursuing a law degree to help survivors like me.

I remind myself of my victims’ advocate who was truly inspired by my bravery enough to recognize me for it. After I read my victim impact statement at the ceremony, a woman told me in between sobs and sniffles that I was so brave — braver than her because she never reported her assault.

I remind myself of the empathetic girls at school who would console me between tears in the bathroom stalls. I remind myself of my high school math teacher who refused to let me fail physics my senior year because he knew I was too smart and too strong to give up. And I’ll never forget my high school English teacher who helped me write my victim impact statement and recommended I attend Fredonia for journalism.

I did not always have hope, though. Hope and grit are difficult to sustain during trying times. During my first semester at Fredonia, I was convinced I had lost all hope. After barely surviving high school, college felt too nauseating to comprehend.

August came and went. I moved into Hemingway Hall, but I never felt at home. September unapologetically ran away from me, stealing all hope I had left. By the end of October, I decided my life was too much to bear.

While most of my peers were enjoying their first Halloween, I spent six days in a now-closed psychiatric center.

After I was released from the hospital, I was certain I would drop out of college. I believed I didn’t belong at Fredonia — or anywhere for that matter. I had plans to inform my academic adviser, Elmer Ploetz, that I would not be continuing higher education. That was until he told me about *The Leader*.

*The Leader* undoubtedly saved my life. Nights I otherwise would have spent alone, aimlessly drifting between thoughts of failure and doom, I wrote stories about this campus. I wrote stories about resilience, hope and determination. These stories mattered deeply to me — but they meant even more to my subjects and readers.

Jessica Meditz, who was first my editor but soon became my close friend, encouraged me to continue writing for *The Leader*. Her downstate Queens attitude inspired me to embrace myself. I followed her footsteps up the ranks from Life & Arts Editor to Editor in Chief. By the time I was a junior, I was in charge of Fredonia’s student-run newspaper.

Jules Hoeping, *The Leader*’s previous Managing & Design Editor, and I took control of this paper the year after the pandemic. Jules allowed me to see the world from a new perspective of wonder and curiosity. I found great delight that the two of us would lead *The Leader*, but I also felt an exuding amount of pressure to build this paper into something bigger than ourselves.

I refuse to say that running this publication has been easy — these past two years have been full of challenges, mistakes and obstacles. But with every difficulty, I have learned important life lessons. More importantly, I have learned to hold hope for the future.

Will Karr, *The Leader*’s current Editor in Chief, joined our staff in Fall 2022 with burning enthusiasm and energy. His genuine desire to build community and cultivate kindness have allowed me to grow into a better leader. After spending a year and a half as Editor in Chief, I was excited to see Will step into the position in Spring 2023.

Almost everyone I’ve interacted with at Fredonia has cemented that I need to stay true to myself. Of course, there have been negative experiences, but I have decided the positive outweigh the negative.


Before I found supportive students on campus to lean on, my professors gave me their compassion. There are so many mentors here who have made a significant difference in my life: Elmer Ploetz, Dr. Natalie Gerber, Vincent Quatroche, Dr. Amanda Lohiser, Dr. Sue McNamara, Dr. Kim Marie Cole, Dr. Jeanette McVicker and so many others that deserve recognition.

When I feel close to self combustion from the wildfires abroad and the flame in my belly, people here reaffirm I cannot go out in a plume of smoke.

I could not write this story without telling my truth about my assault, but my assault is such a small part of my story. I have built my life to become so much more than that stormy April night. Often, survivors are terrified to speak about their experiences because our society often punishes survivors more than the perpetrators. I have learned we must speak out anyways, despite the backlash we might face.

April is the month of rebirth and triumph, despite its turbulent weather. I see the budding daffodils bringing color back to the bleak landscape; their green stalks dare to break through the cold mud. April is a reminder that after a frigid, harsh winter, life prevails.

I won the Bravery Award by using my voice alone in a courtroom. Four years later, I earned the 2023 Lanford Presidential Prize by being a voice for a community. Although this prize honors one graduating senior, I earned this award through the stories my subjects have shared with me. Their vulnerability and courage to share their stories is why I am sharing mine today.


**FREDONIA** Internship Opportunity

**Academic Advising  
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**The Ideal Candidate:**

- Has the ability to work on projects independently
- Is personable and outgoing
- Acts professionally when communicating with students, faculty, and staff

**Requirements**

- Minimum 2.50 GPA
- Currently enrolled as a full-time student
- SUNY Fredonia student for at least one semester

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**Did you know current students can apply to Honors? Learn more at  
<https://www.fredonia.edu/academics/honors-program>**



# THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia

# HOROSCOPES

JACE JACOBS

Guest Scallywag/Semi-Pro Interpreter of the Stars

**This month the stars have some wisdom for the signs on where they'll meet their soulmates. Keep an eye out for platonic and romantic vibes alike!**



## Aries

As soon as the alien invasion happens, that's where you'll find your soulmate. Only someone from deep space could truly understand you.



## Taurus

You've already met your soulmate in the Buca Di Beppo parking lot on 4/20. Please contact me ASAP if you eat spaghetti Lady and the Tramp style.



## Gemini

Let me set the scene for you: You're at a late spring wedding. You catch the bride's bouquet and lock eyes with a cutie across the dance floor. It's cheesy, and everyone might hate you for catching those flowers, but you gotta live your life!



## Cancer

Congrats! You've already met your soulmate!



## Leo

You're going to be pulled up onstage at a Big Time Rush concert to be serenaded by the boys. You're so charming that James won't be able to resist you. Find the nearest concert and GO!



## Virgo

You're going to meet Harry Styles in London this fall in a small coffee shop. Spoiler alert: you're going to convince him to revive One Direction because he loves you so much.



## Libra

You're so cool that you're going to have multiple soulmates! You've already met some, and others you won't meet for years. Keep your eyes peeled for good vibes!



## Scorpio

You're going to find your soulmate at the beach this June! They'll be playing beach volleyball while you hang out on the sand.



## Sagittarius

The classroom is where you'll meet your soulmate! This September, you'll find them sitting next to you in the lecture hall.



## Capricorn

This July, love will find you at your summer job! Don't look past that Karen yelling at you, you can fix them!



## Aquarius

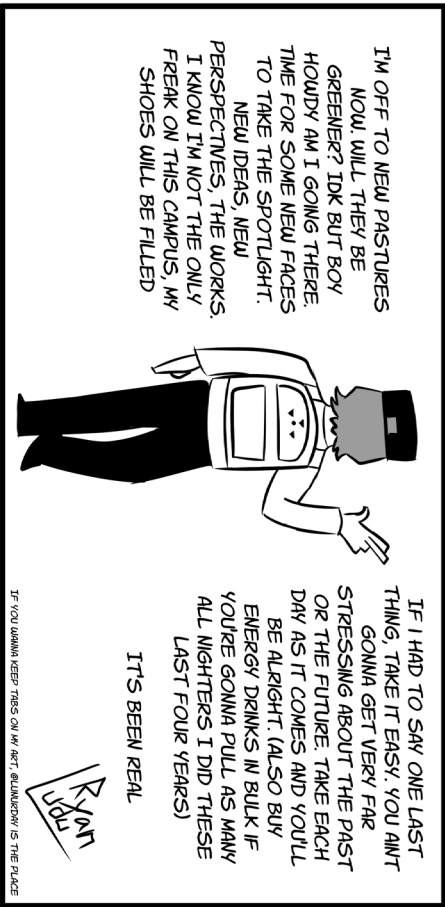
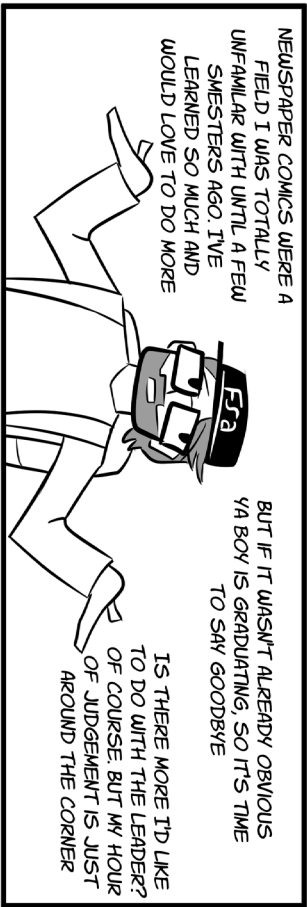
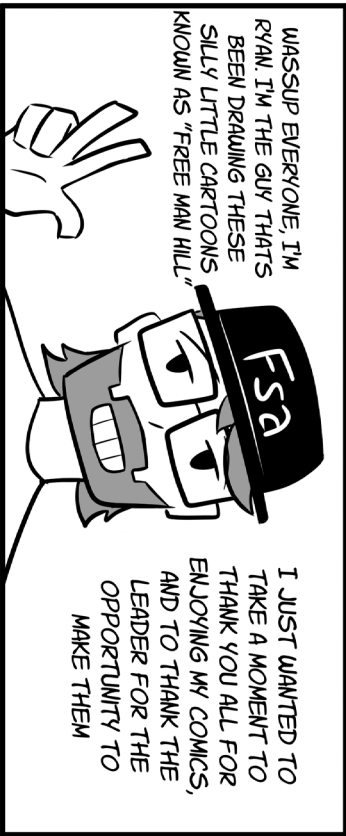
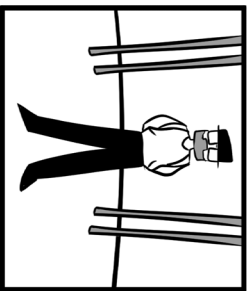
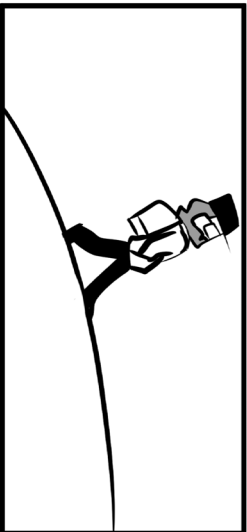
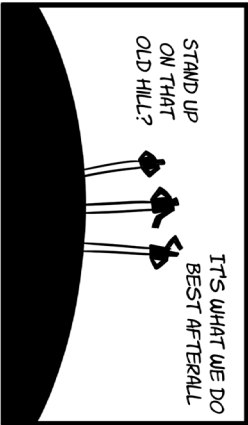
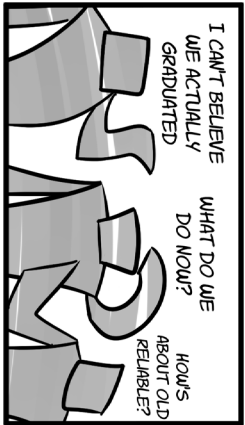
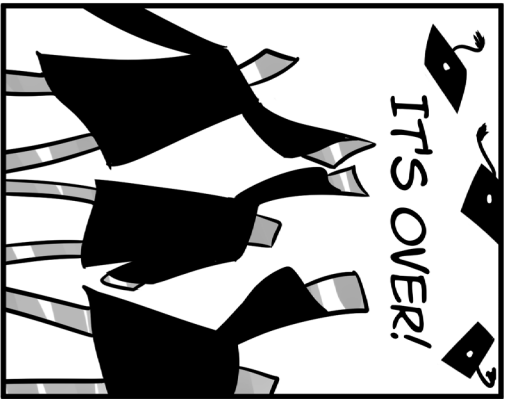
You'll find your soulmate once you have a steady job. They'll have the desk right across from you. Ask them to lunch and see where it goes!



## Pisces

You'll find your soulmate crushing it at skee ball at your local Dave & Busters this August. Buy them a crappy burger, and they'll love you forever.

# FROM THE DESK OF RYAN LUDU: FREEE MAN HILL Graduation



IF YOU WANT KEEP THIS ON MY INSTAGRAM, IS THE PLACE



# NICOLE THORSON: Hard night's day

9:30 PM

GOTO SLEEP!!!

I have a reputation of not sleeping.

It be easier if people didn't have to sleep. I have no time in the day to do work, so the next best option is to work at night. Plus no one bothers you then.

10:30 PM

But whenever I work on things, it takes a lot more time than I think. There's a sort of time blindness at night. Making your other tasks be late, which leads to more all nighters, and less and less sleep until...

11:15 PM

12:50 AM

ONE PIECE

1:36 AM

Don't sleep.

3:00 AM

You're going to go back to your dorm, work on Book Arts homework, and then go to the class at 9:00am.

You know if you go into your bed you're going to fall asleep. Stop crawling into bed. Yea the bed's warm and nice and comfy and your tired and a 15 minute nappy nap won't hurt.

Sh\*t

6:48 AM

# DICE YANDOW: Milkshake





