

Summer 2024 — Orientation Issue — Volume CXXIII



THE
FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**Welcome to
Fredonia!**

Dishing some insider knowledge on campus food

Which residence hall is right for you?

Photo gallery: A summer studying in Italy

The transition from high school to college athletics

[OPINION] What you really need for college

[SATIRE] Horoscopes

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THE LEADER

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“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you’ve imagined.” – Henry David Thoreau

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What is the Student Association?

DAN QUAGLIANA

Managing Editor

Every student, as part of their tuition bill, pays \$100 as part of the student activity fee. This is used to fund student-run clubs on campus. But who decides how much money each club receives?

That power falls to the Student Association (SA), the organization tasked with representing student interests.

Each class (freshman, sophomore, junior and senior) elects a class president, and then one class representative for every 100 students in that class.

For example, if there are 583 freshmen, the freshman class will elect one class president and five class representatives.

In order to run in an election, you must declare your candidacy. At the end of August, an email will be sent out by SA with instructions on how to do this. You can fill out a Google Form or sign your name in the declaration book in SA's office, located in room S226A-B in the Williams Center.

It is the duty of elected class presidents and representatives to attend the weekly SA meetings to vote on business that is brought up before the assembly.

This can include bills, legislation or resolutions brought to SA by the campus community, but it will mostly consist of budgetary requests from various campus clubs.

These meetings are on Thursdays in McEwen G24 at 6 p.m., and all students, faculty and staff members are allowed to attend.

All students automatically become members of SA just by nature of being students.

Comparatively, the four class presidents as well as the SA president and vice president automatically become voting members of University Senate, the governing body on campus. This directly enables students to have a voice equal to that of professors and faculty members when dealing with matters of academic policy.

SA's main responsibility is coordinating and regulating the economic activity of student clubs. To more easily facilitate this, SA recognizes clubs in a tier system.

In increasing order of responsibility, the tiers are: endorsed, provisional, acknowledged, chartered and constituted. When a new club is formed, it is automatically recognized as an "endorsed" club. To move up a tier, clubs must hold a certain number of campus events and, in return, they get more money to use.

At the end of every Spring semester, SA and constituted club representatives meet for GA Day, where the budget for constituted clubs for the upcoming academic year is decided.

When a non-constituted club needs money for a conference or event, they can request it from the appropriate financial account. SA representatives will then vote on whether to release the money or not.

This must be done on a need-by-need basis — clubs can't request money just to hold on to it.

There is also an SA executive board, just like with every other club. Unless you're running for Speaker of the Student Associ-



Student Association logo via Fredonia.edu.

ation, you cannot be a class president/representative and hold an E-board position. The E-board is tasked with running the meetings and making sure representatives are completing their obligations. Being a class representative does not automatically ensure you have a position on the E-board.

The five E-board positions are the SA president and vice president, the speaker, the comptroller and the chief justice of the SA court.

Aside from the E-board, there are also a number of committees that students can join. You don't have to be a class representative to join these, but it is allowed for committees — and is often the case.

The most important committees are the Budget and Rules committees, which mostly deal with finances and club recognition, respectively, but other ones deal with a variety of matters ranging from community relations to environmental sustainability.

SA also manages the campus and community shuttle bus. The bus stops at multiple spots on campus, as well as points of interest around town, such as Walmart, the T.J. Maxx plaza and Fredonia High School.

It reaches every destination roughly every hour, but it's best to consult the online schedule for specific times. You can also schedule specific pick-up and drop-off times and locations, but this requires coordination with the driver.

Student Association is one of the most direct opportunities a student has to make a real difference and positively impact other students' experiences at Fredonia.

Dan Quagliana, the author of this article, is currently the president of the Class of 2025 and the interim Speaker of the Student Association.

Dishing some insider knowledge on meal plans and dining halls

ABIGAIL JACOBSON

News Editor

If there's one important thing you should know about SUNY Fredonia, it's your meal plans and where to use them.

Fredonia has two main dining halls, the Cranston Marché and Willy C's. Fredonia also has two Faculty Student Association (FSA) run cafes, as well as a student-run business called the Snack Shack, a convenience store and their very own Starbucks.

At Starbucks, you can only use one meal swipe, which is considered to be \$6.00. You may also use points, FREDFunds, cards and cash.

If you have the Starbucks mobile app and have points, you cannot use them if you are paying with a meal swipe, points or FREDFunds.

The Cranston Marché is an all-you-care-to-eat dining hall, which offers breakfast, lunch and dinner options.

It is located in University Commons on the second floor.

You can use your meal swipes, FREDFunds, points and feed-a-friend meals here.

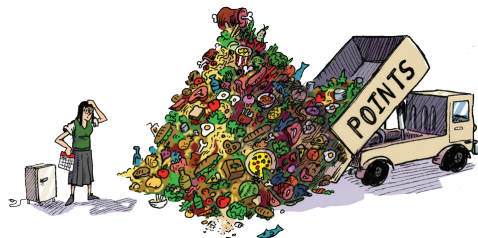
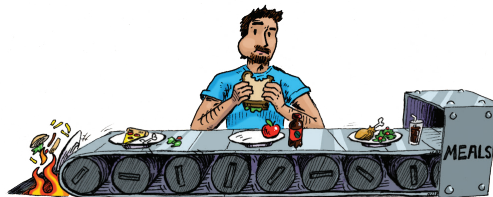
Since Cranston offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, the price of the meal swipe differs.

For breakfast, one meal swipe is \$9.25. For lunch, one meal swipe is \$10.00. For dinner, one meal swipe is \$11.50.

Comparatively, Willy C's has a variety of fast food for when you're on the go or to sit down and enjoy.

Some food options include sandwiches, salads, fries and much more.

Willy C's is located in the basement of the Williams Center.



Graphic by **ROEN CLOUTIER** | Staff Artist

You are able to use meal swipes, points and FREDFunds here. One meal swipe is \$8.50.

Unlike the other dining options, Willy C's accepts a maximum of two meal swipes for one order.

Fredonia's convenience store offers a wide selection of food and snack options for you to purchase.

It ranges from frozen meals to different types of soda to as much candy as your heart desires. The convenience store is also located in University Commons, on the first floor.

You can use points, FREDFunds and other forms of payment such as card and cash here.

At Fredonia's two cafes, which are located in McEwen Hall and Mason Hall, you are able to choose from a few options, such as pre-made meals, coffee and hot chocolate.

Here, you are able to use meal swipes, points, FREDFunds and other forms of payment.

One meal swipe is \$8.50.

The Snack Shack, which is located on the first floor of Thompson Hall, also offers similar items.

Some items include fresh cinnamon rolls to a variety of chips and soda. As of right now, the only payment method available is through card.

Now there's one question you may be asking: How am I going to afford all of these items?

Fredonia offers seven different meal plans for on-campus students.

Meal plan one allows you to have 21 meal swipes per week, 300 points per semester and five feed-a-friend meals. Meal plan one costs \$3,595 per semester.

Meal plan two gives you 19 meal swipes per week, 425 points per semester and five feed-a-friend meals. This meal plan costs \$3,415 a semester.

Meal plan three gives you 14 meal swipes per week, 425



The Fredonia Starbucks.

Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief



Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief

points per semester and five feed-a-friend meals. Meal plan three costs \$3,275 per semester.

Meal plan four allows you to have 10 meal swipes per week, 425 points per semester and five feed-a-friend meals. This meal plan costs \$3,130 per semester.

Meal plan five gives you seven meal swipes per week, 700 points per semester and five feed-a-friend meals. This meal plan costs \$3,100 per semester.

Meal plan six allows you to have 2,825 points per semester and five feed-a-friend meals. This plan costs \$3,225 a semester.

Meal plan seven gives you seven meal swipes per week, 400 points per semester and five feed-a-friend meals. This meal plan costs \$2,850 a semester. This plan is only offered to juniors and seniors.

For every meal plan, you are limited to spending \$75.00 of your points per day.

Fredonia also offers three more plans for commuters. Meal plans eight, nine and C-75 are strictly point-based and allow the commuter to choose a certain number of points.

For more information, reach out to the FSA Office in Gregory Hall. The C-75 plan can only be purchased at the FSA Office.

Meal plan eight costs \$1,025 a semester, meal plan nine costs \$800 a semester and meal plan C-75 costs \$75 a semester.

All first-year freshmen are required to choose plan one or plan two.

Sophomores and juniors who are living on campus are required to purchase a meal plan unless they're living in Gregory Hall, a kitchen suite or a townhouse.

Seniors are not required to choose a meal plan, but can if they would like.

What are these meal plans and points?

Meal swipes are typically used by students to buy their meal, whether it be a sandwich or a bag of chips.

Points can be measured in dollars. If something costs \$5, then that would be five points.

Feed-a-friend meals are just like meal swipes, but are only allowed to be used at the Cranston Marche.

Your meal swipes are recharged every Sunday morning, so the last day to use your meal swipes for that week is Saturday night.

Students are able to use their meal plans during four different meal periods every day.

Our breakfast period is from when most places open to 11:00 a.m.

Our lunch/brunch period is from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our dinner period is from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Our late-night period is from 8:00 p.m. to closing.

All meal plans are not able to be used during break periods, such as Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break.

What happens if you have leftover points at the end of the semester?

They typically roll over into the next semester.

This only applies if you have points left over in the Fall, which then will be given to you plus the amount you started with at the beginning of the Spring semester.

For example, if you started with 425 points at the start of the Fall semester and you have 148 points left over at the end of the Fall semester, those points then roll over to the Spring semester on top of what you came into Fall with.

So you would go into the Spring semester with 573 points.

Points do not carry over from the Spring semester to the Fall semester.

For more information regarding meal plans, points or anything else relating to Fredonia's dining halls and plans, reach out to the FSA office.

FSA email: fsa.office@fredonia.edu

FSA phone number: (716) 680-6228

If you would like more information on meal plans and points, you can also go to fredonia.edu/fsa.

Dining Hall Locations

Starbucks:

- University Commons

The Cranston Marché:

- University Commons

Willy C's:

- Williams Center

McEwen Cafe:

- McEwen Hall

Mason Cafe:

- Mason Hall

The Snack Shack:

- Thompson Hall

ACE program incentivizes academic success

ALEXANDER BUCKNAM

Asst. News Editor

If you are one of many students who wonder how you will pay for college, secure the classes you need and stay focused on your academic studies, then the Advance Completion Through Engagement (ACE) program is here to help.

ACE is open to first-year college students and transfer students coming from a two-year college with an associate degree or with 60 accepted credits, according to Gregory Swab, SUNY Fredonia's ACE program advisor.

Fredonia's ACE program was first introduced during the Spring 2024 semester. The program is run by Swab and Susan McGee, a professor in the English department.

"ACE offers a wide range of benefits such as \$150 textbook voucher[s] each semester, monthly FREDFunds [and a] cost of attendance award [of] up to \$550 per year," Swab said.

FREDFunds deposits are \$50 a month and can go up to \$440 a year, according to Fredonia's website.

Being a part of ACE also gives you another advisor different from your academic advisor. According to Swab, the purpose of the ACE advisor is to give you additional support if needed, not to replace your academic advisor.

Your ACE advisor is also able to provide you with career development preparation.

The ACE program has only been at Fredonia for one full semester, but Swab has still seen a lot of personal improvements in students.

He has seen students build friendships, begin to open up more, try new experiences and improve academically.

"We can expect to see a lot more personal growth in the 2024-25 academic year because that will be the first full year [of the program]," Swab said.

If you join ACE, there are a few requirements you have to meet.

"You have to attend monthly one-on-one meetings with your ACE advisor, attend at least three workshops of your choice and maintain a 2.0 average," Swab stated.

If you do not attend your meeting or go to one workshop a month, you may not be able to get your FREDFunds for that month, according to Swab.



ACE program supervisor Susan McGee and advisor Gregory Schwab. Headshots via Fredonia.edu.

Other requirements include completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) yearly, as well as earning 30 credits a year.

If 30 credits are not earned or if a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) is not achieved, students must enroll in winter or summer classes to meet these requirements.

Regarding TAP applications, Swab said, "Students have to at least be getting the minimum TAP award."

According to the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) website, the minimum TAP award for the 2024-2025 school year is \$1,000.

Additional eligibility requirements, according to the ACE website, are that the student "[must] be an incoming transfer student with an earned associate degree or 60 accepted transfer credits; or be an incoming freshman bringing in less than 18 dual credit hours from their high school."

In order to be ACE-eligible, students may not "participate in the Educational Opportunity Program, 3-1-3 Early Admit, or majors that require an audition or portfolio review to be accepted," according to the ACE website.

If students are interested in joining the ACE program, they can either fill out the interest form on the ACE website, email ace@fredonia.edu or email Swab, gswab@fredonia.edu or McGee, susan.mcgee@fredonia.edu.



ACE program logo via Fredonia.edu.



Looking back: **Sit-in** for Palestine

ABBIE MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

On May 9, a group of SUNY Fredonia students organized a sit-in with the goal of supporting Palestinians impacted by the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., students sat outside University Commons with signs advocating for Palestine and for SUNY to divest from Israel and Israel-based companies.

To divest from something means the opposite of to invest in something. In this case, the organizers of the sit-in wished for SUNY to stop investing in and accepting funds from organizations with ties to Israel.

These are similar aims to the recent protests at Columbia University in New York City.

Columbia's protests came to a sudden end when the New York Police Department (NYPD) was called onto campus by Minouche Shafik, Columbia's president, to disperse the protests there. This marks one example of protests being abruptly halted by police out of a string of similar instances throughout other universities across the United States.

"We just want to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and additionally with all the other SUNY protestors, the students and the faculty that have been unjustly punished, suspended, fired, beaten [and] arrested," said Bug Medrano, a junior music composition major and one of the organizers of the Fredonia sit-in. "We're showing solidarity today. Our goal was to do a peaceful sit-in and we did that, and I'm very proud of it."

Medrano organized the protest, along with one Fredonia alum and a current senior who both wished to be kept anonymous out of concern that they will receive backlash from administration.

When asked what inspired the sit-in, Medrano explained, "Palestinians, because despite all of the constant bombardment and the amount of injustice and harshness they're living with, they're still fighting and they're still getting the word out there. So who am I to not try to amplify that?"

Medrano continued by saying, "It is something that is fixable. It is something that the U.S. has direct involvement with. We are, as a country, sending money that is killing people, and SUNY unfortunately is a part of that."

According to The Washington Post, since Oct. 7, 2023, the U.S. federal government has provided large amounts of weapons and military aid to Israel in support of its attack on Gaza. While at least two of these transactions have been made public, government officials have informed Congress that over 100 private transactions have occurred.

In the 2024 Presidential Debate, current President Joe Biden additionally acknowledged the amount of funding that America has given Israel throughout the war, calling the United States "the biggest producers of support for Israel of anyone in the world."

"After seeing what's been going on in the world for over six

months now, it felt like something needed to happen, especially here, where we are very politically liberal but also silent on a lot of major world events that it seems like it would be in line with Fredonia's morals to be louder about," said another organizer of the sit-in. "So we wanted to be the change in our community that we were hoping to see, because if we didn't do it, who was going to?"

Diane Clark, a resident of the Fredonia area who attended the protest, said, "I'm very positively impressed with these students who, in addition to classes and everything else that goes on on the campus, are being involved in world affairs. That tells me that there's a maturity and a consciousness on this campus that's really important."

Over the course of the day, a counter-protest also cropped up in the vicinity of the sit-in for Palestine, but this one was in support of the Israeli hostages that Hamas kidnapped on Oct. 7, 2023 — the action that immediately precipitated the prolonged war in Gaza.

Regarding the counter-protesters, an anonymous attendee of the sit-in described the pro-Palestine event as "peaceful, ... [even] when [the] counter-protesters were not."

Video footage taken of a portion of the protest showed counter-protestors being approached by members of University Police, who escorted them away from the sit-in after they began yelling at attendees.

"I think it's important to know that ... we're not here to endorse acts of terrorism," remarked an anonymous attendee. "We're not here to endorse war crimes. We're here to make a point that there is a genocide happening."

Additionally, one of the sit-in's organizers stated, "I think it's important because we're at this point in history where ... we have these records of all these other political movements where there's a clear aggressor, there's a clear divergence of power ... The U.S. has stopped allying with aggressive powers before. They could do it again ... SUNY has divested before. They could do it again."

SUNY's involvement in support of Israel was reiterated by SUNY Chancellor John B. King in April. King also stated that, despite criticisms, SUNY would not be divesting from Israel.

The event's organizers stated that, above all, the purpose of the protest was to "show solidarity [for] students that have been persecuted for exercising their First Amendment rights [and for] Palestinians and Gazans who've been unjustly displaced and subjected to a genocide."

Sources:

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Where to work: On- and off-campus employment opportunities

ABBIE MILLER

Editor-in-Chief

There are very few college students who would reject the prospect of extra money.

As a new semester approaches, Fredonia students new and old enter the job search in hopes of achieving a little extra money during their schooling.

Finding on- and off-campus job opportunities can be difficult when students don't know what to look for or where to look.

While non-exhaustive and subject to change, the list below will provide Fredonia students with the information they need to begin their escapades for employment.

On-campus:

Faculty Student Association

The Faculty Student Association (FSA) encompasses each and every dining hall and cafe on the Fredonia campus.

Due to the number of locations being served by FSA workers, FSA generally accepts the most applications out of all on- and off-campus employment opportunities.

When filling out their application, students can select their preference of whether they'd like to work at Willy C's, the Cranston Marché, Cafe Mason, Cafe McEwen, Catering, Central Prep, the bookstore or Starbucks. Students are also able to select directly within their application the days and times that they would be available to work.

Students employed by FSA are expected to work at least 10 hours a week and are not allowed to work any more than 21 hours a week.

Both on- and off-campus students are hired by FSA.

Interested individuals can apply by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/9ck9EyTKMq64irpFA>.

Reed Library

While it hires far fewer students, Reed Library serves as a less intensive working environment than FSA.

Students apply to work at Reed Library by filling out an on-line job application.

Job applications will be posted on Reed Library's homepage in mid-November of the previous semester for Spring semester positions and in mid-March of the previous semester for Fall semester positions.

A few weeks later, chosen students are called in for an interview with the library's circulation staff.

According to Dan Quagliana, a supervisor at Reed Library and a senior history and political science double-major, each Reed Library employee is required to work six or eight hours a week, depending on the year the interested student applies.

For supervisors, this requirement increases to 12 hours a week.

Despite the existence of the weekly hour requirement,

"As is applicable to all jobs listed here and is the case for the majority of jobs in general, it helps tremendously to know someone who is already working [as the desired position]."

— **ABBIE MILLER**

Editor-in-Chief

The Leader, SUNY Fredonia

Quagliana notes that "those 12 hours aren't difficult. In fact, they're often one of the highlights of my week."

For Quagliana, "It's a very low-stress job — it's the complete opposite of working somewhere like Starbucks, where you just have to 'go, go, go' all the time. If you need to sit down for a few minutes and take a break, it's very accommodating."

Unlike the other on-campus options included in this list, working at Reed Library is available for both work-study and non-work-study students.

Quagliana expresses the feelings of belonging shared between Reed Library staff, as he says, "Doing my job there doesn't feel like work because we're all one big family."

For more information about the status of a job application or the number of positions available, students can contact libcirc@fredonia.edu.

Tutoring:

Tutoring is offered to all Fredonia students in most subjects.

It is a tutor's responsibility to meet their five weekly required hours for drop-in service.

Tutors are also expected to meet one-on-one with students they are assigned to via Disability Support Services (DSS), Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Full Opportunity Program (FOP).

Applications from students interested in becoming tutors can be filled out during the Spring semester before the academic year in which they hope to work. Tutors are hired on a yearly basis.

Extensive training is given to tutors before the beginning of the Fall semester.

Any student that would like to become involved in the tutoring program should contact Tutoring Services at Tutoring@fredonia.edu.

More information on becoming a tutor can be found at <https://www.fredonia.edu/academics/tutoring-services/apply>.

Residence Life (ResLife)

As the most lucrative but also the most involved on-campus job opportunity, working as a Resident Assistant (RA) for

ResLife has a more lengthy hiring process.

Being an RA is also more restrictive in terms of its requirements, as students are only able to apply if they are a full-time student, have lived in a residence hall for at least one full semester, have a 2.25 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA), are not student teaching and are in good student conduct standing.

RAs are hired by ResLife, which oversees all of Fredonia's residence halls.

Students working as RAs will be selected by a residence hall that is not of their choice, and both live and work inside of that residence hall for the semester they applied for.

As is applicable to all jobs listed here and is the case for the majority of jobs in general, it helps tremendously to know someone who is already working as an RA.

This person will be able to communicate to their Resident Directors (RDs) on your behalf and advocate for you to be chosen as one of their building's RAs.

RAs do not earn money per se so much as they save it.

The entirety of the room and board portion of an RA's semester bill is paid, and RAs additionally receive four installments of \$175 over the course of the semester.

RAs are also given their own single room, regardless of the residence hall they work and live in.

The downside to being an RA is that RAs are expected to work the most out of the other on-campus jobs.

Even if it is not their assigned duty week/weekend, RAs are somewhat on-call all the time, as they interact with their residents throughout their daily travels and resolve issues as they arise within their residence hall itself.

RAs apply during the semester before the semester in which they would like to work.

They receive extensive training in the winter, for Spring semester applicants, or the summer, for Fall semester applicants.

More information on how to apply can be found here: <https://www.fredonia.edu/student-life/residence-life/ra-selection>.

Off-campus:

Dunkirk City Schools — Pre-K

A student who has experience working with children and is looking for off-campus employment may find the Dunkirk City School District's programs to be more conducive to their strengths.

Marissa Burr, a senior writing major, works as a supervisor for the 3PK and 4PK students of Dunkirk City School District's School #4.

Burr says that she got the job by posting on Facebook seeking job opportunities and getting in touch with the Campus and Community Children's Center (CCCC), who she initially worked for before getting hired at School #4.

According to Burr, there is a healthy relationship between the CCCC and the Dunkirk City School District, with many individuals who worked at one also having worked at the other.

One of the most essential requirements to work for the pre-school-aged students at Dunkirk City Schools is experience with caring for young children.

Fingerprinting is conducted before an individual is hired, and newly hired applicants are given extensive paid training.



Graphic by ROEN CLOUTIER | Staff Artist

Once hired, pay starts at minimum wage and increases based on promotional opportunities.

Of the job as a whole, Burr describes it as “a really good opportunity, especially for those college students who like to work with kids.”

With accommodations to class schedules and both the Dunkirk and Fredonia locations being relatively close to campus, several students have sought this off-campus job opportunity.

Walmart

Owned by a large corporation, the Walmart in Dunkirk, NY is unique compared to the other jobs on this list.

At careers.walmart.com, students looking for a job at the Walmart in Dunkirk can send in an application.

Students may also seek to apply by simply calling the store at (716) 679-3150 or by entering the store and asking for a job application.

Pay is minimum wage and hours may not be as secure as the other options on this list, but this job still offers students the opportunity to earn some extra money in between classes.

Ellicottville Brewing Company (EBC)

As for EBC, a job application is listed on their website: <https://www.ellicottvillebrewing.com/employment/>.

If a more direct response is desired, students can contact the Fredonia EBC location by dialing (716) 679-7939 or by visiting their location to fill out an application form in person.

The EBC website also has a feature whereby students can contact them if they have already submitted an application and have yet to hear back.

Dan Quagliana, one of the people interviewed for this article, is the Managing Editor of The Leader.

Marissa Burr, one of the people interviewed for this article, is the Opinion Editor of The Leader.

Life & Arts

Which residence hall is right for you?

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

SUNY Fredonia's campus can seem like a daunting place to a prospective or new student arriving on it for the first time.

With four different styles of residence halls, it can be incredibly difficult to figure out which one can be the right fit for you. The differences between them, however, aren't as subtle as they might appear to be at first glance.

Freshmen will be put into one of two types of residence halls: corridor-style and suite-style. These halls have different layouts, which is apparent from their names. However, even different halls of the same style can have distinctions in their layouts and living arrangements.

There are more corridor-style dormitories than any other kind, so an explanation of those is always a good place to start.

Currently, there are five corridor-style buildings in use on campus: Alumni Hall, Chautauqua Hall, Gregory Hall, McGinnies Hall and Nixon Hall.

According to Fredonia's website, corridor-style dorms "feature an open lobby with comfortable seating and games; there is also a mailbox for each student room in [the] lobby near the RA desk."

While individual rooms of a corridor-style hall don't have kitchens or any sort of cooking equipment for students to pre-

"The differences between...[the] four different styles of residence halls...aren't as subtle as they might appear to be at first glance."

— **DAN QUAGLIANA**
Managing Editor,
The Leader, SUNY Fredonia

pare their own food, there is a single communal kitchen in the lobby of each dorm if students have a hankering for a midnight snack.

The one-kitchen-per-residence-hall standard is true for all corridor-style dorms except Gregory Hall; that building is geared towards independent living, so it has more amenities than its siblings, with the caveat that freshmen can't live there.

Gregory Hall, named for former Fredonia President Dr. Leslie R. Gregory, is broken up into five houses, each of which contains a laundry room, penthouse lounge and a kitchen.

The building also contains the offices of Residence Life (ResLife), University Police and the Faculty Student Association (FSA), as well as the Career Development Office (CDO).

Freshmen will usually only be placed in Chautauqua and Nixon Halls, as Alumni and McGinnies Halls are primarily upper-class dorms. All of them, however, are coed.

In terms of physical layout, the corridor-style dorms feature long hallways with rooms branching off of them. The only common area in these dorms is the relatively spacious one in the lobby.

This common area location is in contrast to the suite-style dormitories, which, as is evident by the name, feature individual suites with four bedrooms each.

Each suite contains an isolated bathroom and common room, allowing for greater interaction between residents of neighboring rooms.

Open suite-style dorms for this semester are Disney, Eisenhower, Grissom and Kasling Halls, all of which are physically connected as part of the Kirkland Complex.

Residents are not, however, allowed to travel freely between the halls — students can only enter the hall in which they live.

Like the corridor-style buildings, suite-style dorms also contain only one communal kitchen in the lobby.

Residents of both corridor- and suite-style dorms are required to purchase FSA meal plans for use on campus, with



Alumni Hall.
Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief

the exception of seniors. Due to the multiple kitchens in the building, residents of Gregory Hall are also exempt.

Disney and Eisenhower Halls contain something that Grissom and Kasling don't: kitchen suites.

Instead of a fourth room, some suites in those buildings contain full-size kitchens, with everything you need to rival the FSA-prepared fare.

Similarly to Gregory Hall, students living in a kitchen suite are not required to purchase a meal plan.

There are other suite-style dorm buildings on campus that aren't open for student living this semester. The Andrews Complex, which contains Hemingway, Hendrix, Igoe and Schulz Halls, is currently closed.

According to Director of Facilities Planning Markus Kessler, these vacancies are due to low student enrollment.

Kessler additionally noted that, "The Andrews Complex is not closed forever, and still could stand a chance at reopening if student enrollment continues to rise," as written by The Leader's Alexander Bucknam in a Spring 2024 article.

The one dormitory on the main side of campus that doesn't fit into either of these two classifications is University Commons.

Distinguished as a "combination-style" building, University Commons (UC) is essentially an upper-class corridor-style dorm with "lounges on each floor [and] double and single rooms with adjoining shared bathrooms," according to the University's website.

Each room features a miniature fridge and self-controlled heating and air conditioning, both amenities that are unique to this dorm.

Outside of the dormitory area of the building, University Commons also houses the University Bookstore, Convenience Store, Cranston Marché and Starbucks.

But what about the other side of campus, the side with all of the sports fields?

If you direct your gaze out that way, you'll see gray, rectangular buildings towering over Interstate 90. That is University Village, in which lay the townhouses.

The townhouses are essentially Residence Life-owned apart-



Grissom Hall.
Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief

ments that lack Resident Assistants (RAs) and offer a great deal more independence and freedom than the dormitories on campus.

For example, since there are no RAs, residents don't need to check in guests — they can just walk right in with the resident(s) of the townhouse.

Students can also stay over winter break for free, something unique to the townhouses.

Similarly to the rest of the dorms, residents can also stay over week-long breaks, such as Thanksgiving and spring breaks.

Additionally, residents can move into the townhouses starting on Aug. 22 — one week earlier than dorm residents can arrive on campus. In the Spring, they can also stay one week later, up to May 25, 2025.

Every townhouse includes the same features: a kitchen, living room, four single-person bedrooms, two bathrooms (each with a shower) and heating and air conditioning.

This is regardless of the specific floor plan each townhouse has, of which there are three: one floor, two floors and three floors.

In the one-floor townhouses, the bedrooms are connected to a hallway that branches off from the combined kitchen/living room.

In the two-floor townhouses, the kitchen and living room make up the first floor, while the bedrooms and bathrooms sit above them.

The three-floor townhouses follow the same pattern: the kitchen and living room are on the first floor, and the two other floors each contain two bedrooms and one bathroom.

As well-liked as the townhouses are, they come with one catch: residents need at least 30 credits to live in one, meaning freshmen don't get the option of calling one home.

They're also the most expensive residence on campus, which makes them a somewhat prohibitive choice.

With so many living options on campus, it can be difficult to choose one to spend an entire year of your life in.

While some residence halls are objectively better than others, there's a home for everyone somewhere on campus.



University Townhouses.
Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Rob Deemer: Fredonia's faculty maestro

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor



Rob Deemer.
Headshot via Fredonia.edu.

Dr. Rob Deemer is a name that most students have probably heard floating around campus, even if they don't know exactly who he is.

Finding out all that he does will take a long time, simply because he accomplishes so much around the university.

Deemer is, first and foremost, a professor in the School of Music who focuses on music composition.

He grew up in DeKalb, Illinois, "in the cornfields about 80 miles west of Chicago," as he describes it. He completed his undergraduate degree in music education at Northern Illinois University (NIU).

"After playing saxophone for a year on a cruise ship in the western Caribbean," he said, "I studied film scoring at the University of Southern California, did my master's in composition and a Performer's Certificate in conducting back at NIU. I finally completed my studies with my doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin."

In the fall of 2007, Fredonia hired him to become the head of the music composition program, a role he continues to fill to this day.

Deemer is also the chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance (TADA), a department that he doesn't teach in.

He admits that he never formally studied the area in academia, but, "I've been in theatrical productions for most of my life, and having experience as an actor, lighting designer, pit conductor and composer for both theatre and dance gives me enough context in order to understand the needs of the students, faculty, staff and the department as a whole," he explained.

In 2022, the administration "asked if I would serve as an interim [TADA chair] for a year, and after a year of working with my theatre colleagues, they elected me to officially fill the role."

Working with both music and theatre students has given Deemer a unique perspective on those departments, whose projects often overlap because of their similarities.

"Both the School of Music and the Department of Theatre and Dance stand out [to me] because our doors are always open for students pursuing other majors to get involved in the performing arts in ways that most schools can't offer," he said. "Besides our amazing students and our incredibly passionate and talented faculty, we have so many standout degree programs that provide our students with the opportunity not only to dig deep into one primary discipline but to get the chance to try their hand at whatever else they'd like to explore."

Students who study outside of the School of Music and TADA might recognize Deemer's name in a completely different context. This year, he'll be serving as the president of Fredonia's University Senate, making him the de facto spokesperson for faculty and staff.

"I was Senate Chair from 2012-2016," he explained, "so I'm taking on this role for the second time for two reasons: the number of faculty who have time, experience and inclination

to facilitate the Senate has dwindled considerably, and we're obviously dealing with some incredibly important issues in the next few years."

Deemer has been active in faculty governance since the 2009-2010 academic year at Fredonia, which was his third one teaching. Since then, he has "always been interested in exploring how to improve how things work here at Fredonia."

Being so involved in governance matters for so long has allowed him to be unusually privy to the constantly changing nature of the university.

"The university's overall character — the ethos, [if] you will — has remained essentially the same. We are known for being caring and friendly and giving students the chance to create strong relationships with both their faculty and other students that will last far beyond their graduation," he said. "While our numbers have reduced greatly, we've never not been in a financially precarious position, so, unfortunately, that hasn't changed either. Our student body has, however, become much more diverse, and I think that has helped make this a better campus."

The work of one who's involved in so many goings-on in the university is never done, and Deemer is "quite sure most of our work will entail jump scares and surprises that we have no idea are coming," he said, remarking on the Senate's agenda for the upcoming year.

"Still, as much as one can plan for things, I intend to work with the Senate and our administration on issues that we can address, including Senate representation, strengthening faculty agency in curricular matters, implementing the Strategic Plan and ultimately finding ways to bring more students to Fredonia."

Deemer took care to stress that, "The University Senate represents students as well as faculty and staff here at Fredonia, so if they have any issues they feel that the Senate should be aware of, feel free to reach out to me at deemer@fredonia.edu."

"Other than that," he declared, "I suppose I will remain a quiet man of mystery."

A guide to the Fredonia music scene

ELENA FITZGERALD

Staff Writer

Fredonia is home to a flourishing music scene, with both local and visiting bands bringing all kinds of live music to the campus and surrounding community.

I myself have been an avid concert-goer my whole life, and being able to see shows in my college town has been such a unique experience — one which has inspired me to get more involved in the local music scene.

If you are someone who wants to get involved in a music scene, Fredonia is truly one of the best places to start, with plenty of learning opportunities to get involved in the industry or to simply have a fun time at a concert.

Last Call Entertainment, a local show promotion group, hosts local concerts twice a month that encompass many different genres. They include acts from bands formed by Fredonia students as well as bands that come in from out of state to perform.

Last Call started nearly 10 years ago, but shows held at BJ's bar in downtown Fredonia date further back than that — students have been continuously booking and promoting concerts there for many years.

Information about Last Call Entertainment, including current show announcements, can be seen on their Instagram, @lastcallmgmt.

Their first show of the semester will be Thursday, Aug. 29 at BJ's, with doors opening at 9:00 p.m. and music starting at 10:00 p.m. The price of admission is \$5 for guests ages 18 and over and \$2 for 21 and over.

Foxhead Record Company, another local show promotion group, also holds shows that have featured many different bands who have made their way to Fredonia to perform in local venues.

Foxhead holds weekend concerts in many locations in town, and anyone can keep up to date with information about them via their Instagram, @foxheadrecordco.

The Toybox is a new and upcoming house venue with shows on the way, so stay tuned for more information to come.

If you want to get involved in the music scene yourself, there are plenty of avenues to do so. The best places to do this are with different clubs on campus, such as Fredonia Radio Systems (FRS) and the Music Industry Club, which create real-life experiences in the music industry.

FRS maintains two stations, WCVF 88.9 The Voice and WDWL 89.5 The Inferno. The Voice holds the “Local at 1” show, with hours of local music programming on-air throughout the week.

FRS itself holds a day-long event, Rockin' the Commons, which will take place Sept. 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Barker Commons in downtown Fredonia. There will be live music from local and Western New York bands as well as plenty of activities, and all proceeds will be donated to Roswell Park Comprehensive wCancer Center in Buffalo.

Besides Rockin' the Commons, becoming an assistant to an E-board member at FRS is another way to connect yourself to the scene, as well as involvement with the long-running show The Local Lo-Down.

The Local Lo-Down airs on both The Voice and The Inferno, holding weekly interviews with local bands and with Western New York-based and traveling groups.

The Music Industry Club (MIC) showcases hands-on experiences that could happen in the music industry, and it has the added bonus of being a club right on campus.

With regular, immersive club meetings and many events on campus, you can be a part of holding student-run concerts.

The Fall semester is big for MIC, with events like Amp It Up to be held in mid-September and Battle of the New Bands to be held near the end of the semester.

To find out more about these events, follow the club's Instagram page, @micfredonia.

Visit these clubs for any other questions and meet members of the clubs at Activities Night, which will be held at the beginning of the semester.

Elena Fitzgerald, the author of this article, is a member of Last Call Entertainment, Foxhead Record Company, Fredonia Radio Systems and The Local Lo-Down.



Tiny the Dream performing at BJ's. **Photo by ELENA FITZGERALD** | Staff Writer

Everything that Reed Library has to offer

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

Reed Library, named for former United States Congressman Daniel A. Reed, is one of the quietest buildings on Fredonia's campus. But that's not to say that there isn't anything happening there.

"One thing we want students to be aware of is that our library offers much more than just books," said Research and Information Literacy Services Librarian Christina Hilburger.

When doing research for a class, it's often required that students go beyond the short answers that Google spits out after a search.

Reed Library offers students free access to academic and peer-reviewed online databases, available through the library's website, fredonia.edu/library.

Librarians are also available to help through research appointments.

During business hours, which are 8:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, students can make appointments to sit down with a research librarian and receive information and feedback about their work.

"We can help students with so many aspects of their research, [such as] identifying appropriate databases, search strategies and keywords. We have so many tips and tricks to make finding information easier!" Hilburger said. "We can even assist students preparing for presentations."

If students need a librarian's assistance outside of normal business hours, there's a 24/7 "chat with a librarian" feature on the website.

"We can help students with so many aspects of their research, [such as] identifying appropriate databases, search strategies and keywords. We have so many tips and tricks to make finding information easier!"

— **CHRISTINA HILBURGER**

Information Literacy Services Librarian,
Reed Library, SUNY Fredonia

"Additionally, we can assist students in citation formatting such as APA, MLA, Chicago, etc., and provide guidance on creating in-text citations and formatting reference lists," Hilburger said.

In addition, a citation guide is also available on the library's website.

None of that is to say that Reed Library doesn't offer plain old books, like any other library.

"Reed Library collects new materials, both in print and electronic formats, from a variety of vendors to support courses and curricula," said Associate Library Director Scott Richmond. "[We also have] a variety of specialized collections, such as the Graphic Novel Collection and the Super Quick Skills Collection."

The books in the library's collection span every genre you can imagine, from nonfiction books covering almost every subject to fantasy and science fiction novels.

If you can think of it, the library probably has it.

If the library does not have the book you're looking for, or if it's been checked out by another patron, you can request it from another library.

This process is called interlibrary loan (or ILL for short), and while it's not exactly a quick process, it can be incredibly useful. Students can request books, articles, DVDs and pretty much anything in between for free from not only other SUNY libraries, but from public libraries across the country.

"Students can also apply for a Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library Card, and take advantage of the local public libraries in the Village of Fredonia and City of Dunkirk," Richmond noted.

If you're looking to do this, the closest public library is the Darwin R. Barker Library, located at 7 Day St. in downtown Fredonia, just south of campus.


The music library, located above the main floor to the left of the circulation desk, has a similarly extensive collection.

"We have a ton of books, scores and recordings based in jazz, folk music, musical theatre and popular music such as rock, hip-hop and R&B. We also provide online access to books, scores,



An outside view of Reed Library.

Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief



REED LIBRARY MCEWEN HALL LEARNING CENTER

Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief

sound/video recordings, articles and more,” said Interim Music Librarian Katelynn Telford.

For vinyl lovers, there are over 7,000 vinyl records in the music collection, all of which are available to check out or listen to in the library.

“Reed Library is dedicated to representing diverse facets of the field of music,” Telford said. “We make an effort to acquire materials by, for and about underrepresented groups.”

The music staff also hosts Reed Recitals, where music students can perform in the library and showcase their talents.

If you’re merely looking for a quiet place to study, the library has plenty of those as well.

There are three study rooms against the back wall of the main floor that borders the Carnahan-Jackson Center, which sits at the rear of the library.

In the music library, there’s a larger study room for group study sessions.

Speaking of the Carnahan-Jackson Center, there’s a wealth of resources available there as well.

Special Collections & Archives, located on the first floor, has some of the most interesting artifacts available on campus.

Some of the Signature Collections in the archives are the papers of Austrian writer Stefan Zweig and world-renowned saxophonist Sigurd Raschèr.

Aside from the Signature Collections, the University Collections provide a glimpse of SUNY Fredonia’s history and development, beginning with the Fredonia Academy in 1826.

The Local & Regional History Collections show both the development of this area of Western N.Y. and “slice of life” perspectives from people living in the area over the past three centuries.

“We also house a really excellent art collection and an assortment of rare music volumes,” said Coordinator of Special Collections & Archives Mandi Shepp. “We are happy to help you explore the wacky world of specialized primary source research during your time at Fredonia.”

On the fourth floor of the Carnahan-Jackson Center lies the Tutoring Services and the Academic Advising Services.

If you’re having trouble with a class or subject, student tutors

specializing in almost every subject are available every weekday to help you learn the material.

Academic advisors are available for drop-in and scheduled appointments, not only to help students select their classes for upcoming semesters but also to help guide career advancement and the development of educational plans, according to their website.

If you’re not looking to learn something at any given time, Reed Library is also just a fun place to hang out with your friends.

If you need to unwind, a board game collection is available to anyone who wants to use it.

If you want to get more involved in the goings-on at the library, there are a few options.

Students can apply for a job there, although these positions are usually filled very quickly.

When the library is hiring, there will be a notice on the website and flyers will be placed around campus. The hiring process starts at the end of the semester.

The library also has an Advisory Council for students to join, which serves as a “channel for communication between students and the library,” according to Hilburger. “The Council’s goal is to extend opportunities for students to engage with the library, provide feedback on improving services, spaces, and collections and offer a channel for discussing issues in the library that have an impact on students.”

While Reed Library might not be one of the loudest or most exciting buildings on campus, it’s certainly one of the most useful ones.

“We believe that libraries are the beating heart of campuses, and ours is no exception,” Hilburger said. “Library anxiety is something that a lot of students struggle with, especially new students.”

Hilburger added, “However, I want to emphasize that the Reed Library is a space for YOU. We want you to feel welcome entering the library, utilizing the study spaces, exploring the stacks, and asking questions. We invite you to explore all that our library has to offer and make it your own. We are here to support you throughout your academic journey.”

A summer studying abroad in Italy: Drew Paluch





SPORTS

Talking transition: Adjusting to college as a student athlete

MITCHELL HORUCY

Asst. Sports Editor

According to a study, about one in every six students on a Division III campus is a student athlete.

On top of that, about half of those student athletes will have a job at which they work eight or more hours a week.

Due to this, it's no surprise that time management is a big struggle for students in general, but especially for student athletes.

Kailee Bladin is a junior accounting major who's also a member of the women's basketball team at Fredonia.

When she first arrived at Fredonia in Fall 2022, she had a few worries, as do most incoming college freshmen. These worries ranged from meeting new people to living on her own, but she emphasized adjusting to the workload.

"You always hear your high school teachers talking about how much work you get in college, so I was worried about that," said Bladin.

One of the things she said she had to do was get adjusted to the schedule of a college athlete.

"In high school, I'd be at school from seven in the morning, until 2:30 in the afternoon, then go to practice," said Bladin. "I'd have study halls during the school day so I'd have a set time to do work."

In college, one's schedule might not be as structured as it was in high school.

"You have a lot of free time in college, more than you think, so for me, it was just finding how I could use that free time and turn it into productive time," said Bladin.

Bladin also puts a heavy emphasis on the importance of setting a schedule that works for you.

She says that something she's learned from her teammates and through her own trial-and-error is how to make your own daily schedule.

During a normal week, Bladin has classes, practice, workouts and work.

While the team is in season, they'll often take trips to games that are five or six hours away, and sometimes even more.

Bladin made sure that she used those rides as time to catch up on schoolwork and not waste that entire ride, especially when she had to miss classes due to games.

"It can be a lot at times, but getting into a consistent routine has helped me a lot," said Bladin.

Hannah Potter and Caitlin Snyder, two former teammates

"You have a lot of free time in college, more than you think, so for me, it was just finding how I could use that free time and turn it into productive time."

— **KAILEE BLADIN**

Women's Basketball Team,
SUNY Fredonia

of Bladin, both said similar things in a prior article published in *The Leader*.

With the stress of a collegiate sport, as well as schoolwork and personal matters, it's important to set time aside for yourself.

According to a study done by U.S. News, 66% of college students are experiencing stress, and one of the leading reasons students are dropping out of college is emotional stress.

Bladin spoke about how she has her own ways of dealing with stress, whether they're simple or they require more steps.

"I try to hang out with my friends when I can, as well as giving myself time to chill and get my mind off the things that are stressing me out," said Bladin.

As far as advice for incoming freshmen, she said that this goes for everyone and not just student athletes: "Stay on top of everything, it's very easy to get caught up in your schoolwork and get behind on everything," said Bladin. "It's really easy to ruin an entire semester just from one or two bad weeks."

Fredonia also has many different resources you can use to assist you in numerous ways.

There are quiet study areas in the library, tutoring for almost every subject on the fourth floor of the Carnahan-Jackson Center and librarians to help assist you with questions you may have.

"If I need to lock in and get work done, I usually go to the quiet areas in the library," said Bladin. "They're a great place to get work done with limited distractions."

Outside of the library, there are places like the Blue Devil Lounge in the Williams Center for students to relax in.

The school also has counselors who take drop-in sessions throughout the week if you're struggling with anything.

While it may be overwhelming, there's a wide variety of ways to help you adjust to the college lifestyle.

Double-team: Pucciarelli Rice, Gondek become co-interim athletic directors

MATT VOLZ

Sports Editor

The leadership of Fredonia's athletics department will look a bit different this year.

Jerry Fisk, athletic director since 2017, was named athletic director of Greensboro College in Greensboro, N.C. on May 28.

Following his departure, the University named Angela Pucciarelli Rice and Patrick "P.J." Gondek as co-interim athletic directors.

Pucciarelli Rice, a lifelong resident of Fredonia, had previously served as assistant athletic director under Fisk since 2018.

She is also a Fredonia alumna, as she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 2009.

During her college years, she was a member of the women's basketball team and served on SAAC, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

"When I was a student-athlete here, I didn't know that there was this whole other side to working in college athletics," she said. "I'm grateful for being able to do this in my hometown, and in a place where I went to school."

Gondek, while not a Fredonia alumnus, has also been around the athletics department for quite a while, as he has served as the men's soccer coach since 2000.

He is the third-longest tenured head coach at Fredonia, behind only Volleyball Head Coach Geoff Braun and Hockey Head Coach Jeff Meredith.

Gondek has also served alongside Pucciarelli Rice as assistant athletic director since 2018.

Both will be continuing with their respective responsibilities, with Gondek managing the department's budget and Pucciarelli Rice managing compliance, which includes ensuring that all student-athletes are eligible per NCAA requirements.

They both said that there was no hesitation in deciding that it would be a team effort, with Gondek describing that it was "non-negotiable" for them to take on the position as a team.

"We feel like this is a good relationship," said Gondek. "Maybe we'll have our days now and then, but we can lean on each other."

Pucciarelli Rice said that the added responsibilities of the athletic director position will be a challenge during this upcoming year.

She is a mother of three-year-old triplets, and she's currently working towards earning her doctorate degree.

"All I can do is try and be as open and as flexible as possible and try and over-communicate, just so that my home life doesn't suffer and my colleagues and student-athletes here don't suffer either," she said. "I'm certainly not trying to do it all, because that's not possible, but [my goal is to] have realistic expectations and communicate to people along the way."

Gondek also pointed out that with the added responsibility, the Fall sports season may be one of the most challenging of his career.



Angela Pucciarelli Rice and P.J. Gondek.

Courtesy of Sports Information Office

"I want to make sure that my student-athletes and my soccer players are getting the same experience they've always gotten, so I have to make sure that happens," he said. "If I have to do extra [work] outside the business hours or outside the time I spend with the men's soccer program to help with my role as co-interim athletic director, I'll do that because it's what's necessary."

One of their main goals for the upcoming academic year is to bring the campus and community together through athletics.

"I think living here my whole life brings a unique opportunity in terms of trying to bridge the gap between campus and the Fredonia/Dunkirk area," said Pucciarelli Rice.

She noted that they hope to invite more local teams and schools on campus, and they also hope to see student-athletes continue to go out and help serve the community.

"Now we have this opportunity where there's a transition period with new administration, so now it's just kind of a chance to bridge the gap," said Gondek.

They also hope to increase excitement among students on campus and they would like to see more students come to sporting events.

"[We have] lots of exciting home events on campus," said Gondek. "We just want to encourage the general student body to come out and support, and hopefully we can put on a good show for them."

Currently, the plan for the position is to have Pucciarelli Rice and Gondek serve for only this academic year. Pucciarelli Rice said they have been informed that Fredonia will post the athletic director job opening in the Spring.

However, they both said they are willing to do whatever is necessary to guide the athletics department through this transitional period.

"We're happy to take on whatever we can in the meantime," said Pucciarelli Rice. "Really, we're just trying to stabilize, maintain and just keep the ship moving forward."

Long-term plans for the athletic director position at Fredonia may be unclear, but Pucciarelli Rice and Gondek are prepared to guide the Blue Devils toward a successful future.

Athletic facilities set to receive much-needed facelift

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

In the last few years, several places on campus have received capital improvements, including the outdoor McEwen Hall steps and the renovation of Houghton Hall.

Now, it's the athletics department's turn to upgrade their facilities.

The latest capital improvement project will include a new turf field attached to University Stadium, as well as a brand new complex for outdoor track and field.

Work began on replacing the turf earlier this summer, and it is expected to be mostly completed by the Fall sports season.

The existing turf has been in place for nearly two decades, and over time it has fallen into a state of disrepair.

"When I went out there, it was as hard as a rock," said Director of Facilities Planning Markus Kessler.

Kessler said that soon after the arrival of former Athletic Director Jerry Fisk in 2017, Fredonia learned that the turf had been recalled shortly after its installation.

"We were not aware of it [before 2017]," said Kessler. "I'm not sure why it never got to us."

Several studies have outlined a connection between poor turf and non-contact injuries, especially knee and ankle injuries.

As a result, the new surface will be more similar to natural grass, although it will still be turf.

"This is so wonderful, just from the aspect of preventing injuries," said Tori Poffenberger, Fredonia's women's lacrosse coach.

The current surface of the outdoor track has also seen plenty of wear and tear, so much so that the team hasn't been able to host a meet in over a decade and a half.

The most recent outdoor track meet hosted by Fredonia was in 2008 when the team hosted the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Championships.

"After that, the facility really became outdated," said Tom

"Fredonia is going strong. We're getting new facilities and we're showing our recruits that we're not going anywhere."

— **TORI POFFENBERGER**
Women's Lacrosse Coach,
SUNY Fredonia

Wilson, Fredonia's track and field coach. "There were a lot of rules that came through the pipeline ... That facility was just completely outdated."

The new facility will be more than just a new track surface. According to Kessler, it will also include other amenities such as a digital scoreboard, a press box, lights, a storage facility and bleachers to fit 500 spectators.

In addition, the new eight-lane track will be painted Fredonia Blue.

Kessler said that both projects will be overseen by the State University Construction Fund, meaning that the state will monitor day-to-day operations and foot the bill.

It is important to note that because the projects will be funded by the state and not Fredonia itself, the money to construct the facilities is not being pulled from Fredonia's budget.

The turf field is estimated to cost \$1.3 million, and it is expected to be mostly completed by the Fall.

However, the blue border trim that will surround the playing field may not be in place until a later date.

Kessler said that the contractor in charge of construction is looking to put the blue border in place before the Fall sports season begins, but there is no guarantee that it will be in place before the end of August.

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However, Kessler reiterated that regardless of whether or not the blue trim makes it in time, the field will be playable by the beginning of the season.

The track and field complex has a larger price tag attached to it, as it is estimated to cost roughly \$8.5 million and be completed by Fall 2026.

Construction on the track and field complex will begin later because of how large of a project it is.

Contractor bids will be going out towards the late summer and early fall, with construction slated to begin in the late spring or early summer of 2025.

The improvements of these facilities will benefit not only the programs that they directly serve but also the campus as a whole, according to both coaches.

Poffenberger noted that as other schools are facing difficulties, including the closure of competitors such as Wells and Medaille in recent years, the construction of the new facilities is a sign of strength for Fredonia.

“Fredonia is going strong,” she said. “We’re getting new facilities and we’re showing our recruits that we’re not going anywhere.”

Recruiting is a large reason why both coaches are excited about the projects.

Wilson noted that since he took over as head coach in 2010,

he and his staff have mostly only been able to sell prospective recruits on the culture of the school and not on its athletic facilities as well, which may have put them at a competitive disadvantage.

“Having the ability to say we’re getting a new facility, having the renderings and showing them what it looks like ... It definitely helps for high school kids who have never had something to compete on or train on,” he said.

Poffenberger said in her recruiting visits this summer that she has been able to take recruits out to the existing field and show them what will be coming in the future.

“I just feel like this is really taking Fredonia to the right place, and not just for our program,” she said.

When the projects are completed, the athletics department hopes to utilize the facilities not only for Fredonia sports, but for community events as well, such as high school championships or local events.

“I would love for this to be the catalyst for introducing lacrosse into this area,” said Poffenberger.

The construction of both facilities has many people hopeful for the future of Fredonia athletics, and it could signal significant forward momentum for the school as a whole.

Intramural sports: A chance for everyone to play

MASON NEALE
Special to The Leader

Who hasn’t had the dream to one day be a professional athlete?

As they grew up, many people wanted to be the next Odell Beckham, Jr., Kobe Bryant or Lionel Messi.

However, most soon realized that fewer than 10% of high school athletes make it to the college level for sports and even fewer get to the professional level.

But thanks to intramural sports, your short-lived athletic career doesn't have to end just yet.

“My favorite part is being able to provide an opportunity for students to do something healthy and active that doesn't have to do with their academics,” Director of Intramurals Geoff Braun said.

Intramural sports give a chance for students to put the books down, get out of the classroom and go play some sports and socialize.

“Intramurals gives students time to do something that will benefit them from a mental health standpoint; it provides a fun environment to escape to,” said Ali Dixon, an employee of intramural sports for three years.

For this fall semester, they are offering doubles pickleball, which is a paddle-based game that takes elements from ping-pong, badminton and tennis. They are also offering co-ed indoor volleyball. Lastly, there is co-ed flag football, which is by far the most popular.

It’s almost Bills season — who doesn't want to go out on the gridiron and sling the pigskin around like Josh Allen?

“Intramurals allow me to meet other college peers, while also trying new sports,” Dixon said.

If you win the league of the sport you play in, you and your team get a free “Intramural Champion” shirt to keep.

If you win three intramural leagues throughout the school year, you qualify for an “Intramural Legends” hoodie.

“It’s a great atmosphere. I’ve met and worked with amazing people ... Working there has improved my time management skills along with problem-solving,” Dixon said.

If you are ever bored from the constant drag of class and miss getting to hang out with your friends in the gym or playing a sport, try intramural sports. It’s a great opportunity to make new memories and friends while still getting to compete in a sport.

“That’s our mission: to provide a fun and safe environment to play,” said Braun.

To join intramurals next semester, all you have to do is sign up online, or ask one of the staff members inside the intramural office just outside of the gymnasium in Dods Hall.

Check the office hours posted outside the office door, or look up @fredintramurals on Instagram and all of the information you need will be right there.

Mason Neale, the author of this article, is employed by the Office of Intramurals.

What you actually need at college

MARISSA BURR

Opinion Editor

Before I started college in 2020, I spent hours watching Tik-Toks and YouTube videos to see what I would actually need in college.

As a senior having lived in dorms and in an apartment, as well as being completely in-person and completely virtual, I've got this whole "packing thing" down to a science.

This is going to be a rapid-fire list because you don't need a ton of explanation — you should just trust me on these things.

Item: Actual writing materials, including pencils, pens and notebooks

Why or why not: Yes, at least one set in a binder to use for all of your classes. You'll figure out whether you prefer writing or typing your notes pretty quickly (my advice is always to type but I also write on my iPad).

But even professors who let you use devices to take notes sometimes want you to use scrap paper to turn something in or use it for an activity. It's always nice to have, and I've gotten away with one spiral notebook and a pencil case every semester.

Item: Clothes for all seasons

Why or why not: Yes, because if you haven't grown up in Western New York, you are not prepared for the drastic season changes that can happen in the span of one week.

I'm serious, it could snow on Monday and be 70 degrees and sunny by Friday. Don't bring your whole wardrobe, but when you're packing shorts and tank tops, include a jacket or two as well.

Item: A planner

Why or why not: This is up to you and your own journey of self-discovery. I try to be a planner girly and I have found some really cute ones, but in the end, I am terrible about keeping up with it.

A lot of professors don't even tell you that there's an assignment before you leave class, they've just posted it on FREDLearn and expect you to check it.

But you definitely need something to help you keep track, so I suggest just a calendar that you can input dates in as they are posted on FREDLearn. I write all course assignments and due dates down on a calendar template in GoodNotes on my iPad.

Item: Books

Why or why not: Not more than two or three even if you are a book person. Coursework and extracurriculars take up a lot of your time and energy.



Graphic by ISABELLA RIZZO | Art Director

Odds are you will not have the energy to sit and read very often, even if it is something you do to relax.

Bring a couple just to have if you need to take a break, and then if you finish them both you can switch them out next time you go home, check out a new one from either Reed Library on campus or the Darwin Barker Library downtown, or have Amazon deliver one to you.

Plus, it makes moving a lot easier; books are heavy.

Item: Lots of different shoes

Why or why not: Just like the clothes, you need some for different types of weather, but not four pairs of sandals, six pairs of sneakers, three pairs of boots plus some extra random pairs.

You'll need a good pair of walking shoes for classes and exploring the area — I suggest black sneakers so they match with a lot. Then maybe one comfy pair of dress shoes in case you have a presentation or interview.

A pair of boots that can double as rain and light snow boots are always helpful with Fredonia weather. Of course, bring shower shoes if you are dorming.

Item: A coffee maker

Why or why not: I like coffee but I just didn't use mine enough. It was clunky and so were the mugs I brought to drink it in.

If you drink coffee every day, maybe bring yours so you don't

spend an arm and a leg at Starbucks, but this may be a good time to wean yourself off.

Keep a couple of pre-bottled coffees in your fridge for those days when you really need it, but a healthy breakfast and cold water can honestly be a better boost for the day.

Item: Cold/flu medicine

Why or why not: No matter how careful you may be at trying to avoid those who've been claimed by the "dorm disease," the illness that plagues every college will find its way to you.

Whether it's from that guy you sit next to in class who won't stop coughing or that roommate who parties every other day, getting sick is unfortunately unavoidable, especially during your first semester at school.

If your temporary home is on campus, you will be living with hundreds of strangers in close quarters, so having some medicine for when you inevitably start to feel that itch in your throat will save you a great deal of discomfort.

This is not an all-inclusive list, because most of it depends on you and where you're living.

My overall advice is not to pack too much to begin with, and to make a list as you go of stuff you wish you had. As I mentioned, Amazon can deliver and Walmart is right in town.

If you desperately need something, there are options for you beyond shoving it all into your cramped living space.

Put yourself out there sooner rather than later

MARISSA BURR

Opinion Editor

Finding the right path in college is not as easy as cheesy movies make it seem.

While it does start with your major, it doesn't have to stay within those circles.

You will spend enough time with people on the same career track as you and you shouldn't feel like the only way to make friends is by joining a program-related club.

In fact, the further you branch out, the better chance you have of leaving college as a well-rounded individual. Most extracurriculars on campus take people from every major, so it is all about finding a place that makes you happy.

For me, that was The Leader. I knew when I transferred from Canisius that I would be joining the newspaper, since I had enjoyed working as the Opinion Editor for The Griffin so much.

That is where I had found my best friends, and I wanted to give myself the chance to do that again in Fredonia.

I was one of the "oddities" at The Leader because I wasn't a communication major — I was in the writing program.

But I soon came to realize that a lot of people on staff also weren't in the communications department, and even if they were, they had minors in completely different departments. Academically, we are a versatile group.

Extracurricular-wise, we're like fruit salad. We're all in the bowl (Fredonia) and are all fruit (working on The Leader) but we're all different shapes, sizes, colors and textures. Yet, we make something really delicious when we work together.

Everyone on staff is in their own clubs and activities, works different jobs and volunteers at separate places. But that means we have connections to get the latest scoops on everything happening on campus.

We're able to help each other out far past getting interviews for stories, but instead finding friends and better opportunities for our fellow staff members.

That being said, just because you can join as many clubs and activities as you want, doesn't mean you should. College is an overwhelming place, especially if you are a transfer student

who is coming in at the junior or senior level. Taking upper-level courses full-time can really limit your social calendar, and you do not want to burn out.

So, during the first few weeks of the semester when course loads are a little lighter, I suggest exploring the different activities you're interested in to see which seem like they will pour into your cup rather than take from it.

If that means you only are in one extracurricular outside of your course load, that is totally okay.

Take it from me — I was involved in a dozen activities in high school and burned myself out by the time I got to college.

I couldn't find the energy to join any clubs until my third semester. I refused to let that happen once I transferred to Fredonia by making sure I didn't overextend myself.

The best way you can put yourself out there within the hours you are in classes is by speaking up in class. This is your education that you are paying for, so you might as well get the most out of it.

Sitting in silence in the back of the room isn't going to get you very far. Participate in discussions, ask questions and contact professors to build relationships with them.

In addition, talk to your classmates even if you don't know them! They can become great assets and may even result in a lasting friendship.

After all, in one of my first classes at Fredonia, I sat in front of this really nice girl and just made casual conversation the first few weeks.

Then, she reached out to me about one of the stories she was writing because I had spoken up in class about my experience as a daycare teacher. Long story short, we kept talking, got each other's numbers, had more classes together and I can now call her a close friend.

Oh, and my Assistant Opinion Editor.

You never know who you might click with, so don't be afraid to put yourself out there and become the best possible version of yourself.

Those cheesy movies did get something right; college is the time for self-transformation. So don't let any opportunities for improvement pass you by.

The pros and cons of FREDLearn

SAMANTHA ZOTARA

Special to The Leader

As a third-year student at Fredonia, I am quite familiar with the many positives and negatives of working with FREDLearn.

However, my first year at the oh-so-lovely SUNY Fredonia was spent navigating the previous site, OnCourse.

I have had the pleasure of experiencing both of these online applications throughout my years of study.

Personally, I have found that FREDLearn has been preferable to my academic needs in college.

That being said, if I had to choose a second favorite, I would flash back to high school and choose Google Classroom.

I enjoyed the simplicity of the layout as well as the reliability of the platform, but it would need updating to be used in a university atmosphere.

I do not remember OnCourse very well, considering I used it for only a year.

Regardless, that means the features did not stand out at all or make an impact on my academic life.

Each site was carefully analyzed by their ease of use, features and overall applied experience to come to my conclusions.

I have found FREDLearn to be generally simple to navigate and to get used to. If you find you are having issues or questions, Fredonia now offers a page on their website that lists resources on how to use the site properly.

I find this especially helpful for freshmen or transfer students who may have not used a platform similar to this before.

All in all, the general layout is user-friendly and can be easily understood after a couple of uses.

Brightspace, the web hosting system for FREDLearn, support hours are also posted on your personal FREDLearn interface below your classes, which I find is a nice touch.

The site contains useful features, such as the ability to post assignments, discussion posts and quizzes.

I have never had any major issues with accessing assigned work through FREDLearn.

You can access your grades on assignments and your grades in the class as a whole, which is convenient.

Each professor will use FREDLearn differently, so certain information will be listed however they feel is best.

I enjoy that professors have that level of freedom, but it can make the user experience less uniform.

The Pulse app is a dumbed-down version of the website and allows you to access your assignments on your mobile device.

OnCourse was the worst format between the two platforms.

Now that I am knee-deep in using FREDLearn, it has taken a lot of brain power to remember what it was like using OnCourse for a year.

One key difference I noticed as soon as the change happened was the layout.

FREDLearn has a very simple, easily manageable format where all classes are presented to you in large square icons, similar to Google Classroom.

Comparatively, OnCourse felt less intuitive to use than the previous platforms listed above, with not a lot of notable fea-

tures.

From my perspective, most people enjoyed OnCourse because that was what they were used to.

Nothing more, nothing less.

For comparison, I used Google Classroom consistently for four years when I was in high school.

I graduated in 2022, which meant I used the site throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

I enjoyed the simplicity of the application, mostly because it was designed to be used by children.

Even though that may be the case, it made the online learning experience easier to handle for teachers and students.

From what I recall, the platform was reliable in education's darkest hour and that really speaks for itself.

There are many features that assist teachers and students in their daily learning atmosphere as well.

According to the "Help Center" tab on support.google.com, teachers can list assignments, classes and grades directly within the site, as well as have the ability to give feedback to students and link online applications from Google Drive.

Since these features are available to teachers, students can access their classes, grades and any feedback listed on their work.

Google Classroom does what it is meant to do: help people learn through an online medium.

There are no overly complicated or "smart" aspects to the site. It is simple, effective and a good platform to work with for the teachers and the students.

I am not sure how Google Classroom would be incorporated into a college learning environment, but I think that it would do a fine job. It has very similar features to FREDLearn but not as many support features if you have issues with the platform.

If Google Classroom produced an updated sister site used only for universities with more advanced features and included a professional tone to their interface, it would be more realistic for colleges to implement that as a part of their curriculum.

As I researched more about each online platform, I discovered that I preferred FREDLearn the most out of all three sites.

It has the most features, it is the easiest to use and has the most manageable layout.

OnCourse has honestly been forgettable and was very difficult to find information on now that Fredonia no longer uses their services.

Google Classroom was great based on my user experience in high school, but there could be more advanced features that college students would appreciate.

For grade school students, that level of simplicity is necessary for teachers, parents and students to use the site effectively.

University students, though, can handle a site that's more robust.

FREDLearn has that balance of simplistic layout with intuitive features.

I believe Fredonia made the right choice by switching to FREDLearn.

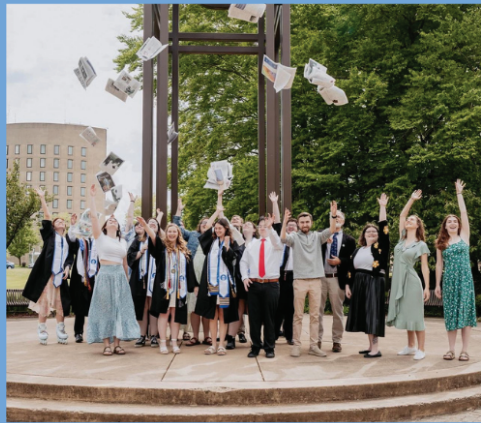
I just hope they stay with the site and don't keep changing their online platforms every year.

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A Playlist for Every Mood: Vacation vibes

MARISSA BURR

Opinion Editor

For some, the minute our last final is taken starts our three months of summer vacation. I envy those people.

My life only sped up once the academic year ended. Working full-time means that I have to squeeze every drop of enjoyment from my four days in paradise; I have to be in full-on vacation mode.

I can't do that without the perfect playlist, so while my trip was mostly no-work-all-play, I did take the time to write down a few select songs from my "summa vibes" playlist I made back in early high school.

So soak up some sun for your favorite opinion writer and pop on the best of the best vacation vibes playlist (with shorter entries since there's a no-work atmosphere).

"Something About The Sunshine" from Disney Channel's "Starstruck"

If you've seen "Starstruck," then you know exactly why this song opens this playlist.

The soundtrack to a Malibu love story montage is the only way to start your vacation as an early Gen-Z'er.

So roll down your windows, blast the AC anyway, drink your fresh-squeezed lemonade and throw on some shades. You're on vacation now.

"Girls Just Want To Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper

If the Barbie movie was made in the '80s, this would have been the theme song.

It's not so fast that you get whiplash from jumping into the summer, but it's great background music for a beach get-ready montage or driving with your girlfriends to the airport.

As a child of an '80s and '90s rock 'n' roll music fanatic (say that five times fast), I can say with complete confidence that music from the last century is necessary for any summer playlist.

Whether you're going to the beach and listening to Bryan Adams' "Summer of '69" or on a road trip and jamming to Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl" or if you're able to find an outdoor venue that'll blast "Livin On A Prayer," the throwback soundtracks are a necessity.

I could make a whole playlist of songs like that, but maybe another time.

"Walking On Sunshine" by Katrina and The Waves

I know I said this isn't an '80s music playlist, and yes, I know this was released the same year as Lauper's entry, but you can't name a better run-into-the-surf song than this.

I can't listen to this song without singing or dancing along, and that's the kind of energy we need more of this year. It needs no other explanation.



Graphic by JOHN LEAHY | Staff Artist

"Vivir Mi Vida" by Marc Anthony

I fell in love with this song back in my high school Spanish class, and it still captivates me.

Now, seven years later as a teacher in a bilingual district with more Spanish-speaking than English co-workers and a passion for learning from them, I can not only listen and dance, but sing along and not sound like my only background in the language is "Dora The Explorer."

When I get back from vacation, I plan to extend paradise even longer by dancing to this with my kiddos and watching them light up as I do.

Not singing and dancing to this song should be a crime.

Grab a friend and a drink and go dance to this wherever you are. Whether the sun is shining or it's pouring rain, I guarantee you it will still feel like you're in a movie.

Once this song ends, go play "Calma" by Pedro Capó and then "Ocean" by KAROL G. You won't regret it.

"Geronimo" by Sheppard

Another early 2000s throwback, but what else would you expect?

If you're going on a long drive on your vacation, I suggest cranking this and rolling down the windows.

Hang out of the car (safely) and just take in the moment. Extra aesthetic points if there are palm trees around you or fireworks in the distance.

"Cruise" by Florida Georgia Line

Totally different road trip song, but hits just as hard. This is what you put on when driving down the backroads and there's no civilization in sight.

Most country music is only tolerable under these circumstances, so you might as well take advantage, especially if you're traveling with someone who immediately switches anything

with a banjo off.

They won't be able to resist the good vibes that radiate from the speakers.

“Home” by Phillip Phillips

Yup, it's time for the nostalgic vacation song that gets pulled out on flights home or last bonfires.

Clapping, acoustic guitars and harmonies will make every-

one slightly teary-eyed and overly optimistic for the future. This song just has that effect on people.

That's why it plays at the end of movies, as well as gets performed at a certain opinion editor's eighth-grade graduation. The nostalgia is going to be there either way, so embrace it.

Catch you later! I'm off to enjoy the last few hours of my vacation.

Do people really not want to work?

MARISSA BURR

Opinion Editor

I'm sure we've all heard it from a Boomer or Gen X spouting off at the mouth once again about something they know nothing about: “Nobody wants to work anymore.”

Of course, the nobody that they're referring to is usually those of the younger generations, Millennials and Gen Z. They are using the constant short-staffed businesses and endless job postings as evidence for their claim, but if they tried to back it up by actually interviewing those younger than them, they would not have much of a leg to stand on. Why?

Because we as young people do want to work, we're just no longer accepting crap working conditions or holding out hope for lazy employers to call us back.

Let me tell you about the lives of two young roommates who have been struggling to make ends meet since 2021 despite wanting nothing more than to work and make money.

Their names are changed in these completely factual retellings in order to not face backlash from any employers — because yes, that is something that can happen.

We'll start with Margot.

At 18, Margot ended up in a big city for college and was attending classes full-time, which meant 18 credit hours a semester.

Because dorming was too expensive, Margot was living in an off-campus apartment with her two close friends.

Due to her class schedule, she had scattered availability but still plenty of time to be able to fit in a part-time job if her employer could work with her.

Unfortunately, said employer decided to take advantage of Margot and give her the shift that no one else wanted: Opening at 5:00 in the morning.

This may not have been so bad if not for the fact that Margot didn't have a license or a car and lived a half-hour's walk away.

Her employer knew this and still thought it was a good idea for a young woman to walk alone in the dark every morning for 30 minutes through the East Side of Buffalo.

The public transportation systems didn't even run at that time. In the seven months she worked there, she was harassed by multiple men that were prowling in the early hours when they knew people would be vulnerable.

Eventually, it became too dangerous for her to be walking by herself, so she had to resign. It wasn't that Margot didn't want to work, but she didn't want to continue being petrified of being kidnapped or assaulted.

Next, let's talk about Katie.

She actually had a pretty nice job in the local mall and enjoyed working there. It was customer service, so not the most rewarding of positions, but she didn't mind. For her, management was the problem.

Her store manager hated call-offs, even for sickness—despite this being late 2020 and early 2021—because God forbid she had to come out of the office and actually do her job. This same manager had even told Katie that no one actually had food poisoning when they said they did.

Instead, the manager insisted that if these employees were really sick, they wouldn't have been able to pick up the phone (which would have meant no-calling no-showing, something that the manager also looked down upon).

Well, Katie was a dedicated employee who, despite being in college full-time, worked 30 hours a week and was soon promoted to a sales lead position.

One night, when she was the manager on duty, she passed out in the back room from pain due to a cyst the size of an orange holding residence in her side. She wasn't found for at least 20 minutes according to coworkers, and emergency services had to come to bring her to the hospital on a stretcher.

Management was pissed when they heard about this because that meant someone else had to come in to close the store.

While admitted to the hospital overnight, the only messages Katie received from her managerial team were ones asking when she was coming back because she was supposed to work the next day.

A good friend of hers, who was the assistant manager, told her she “really screwed them over” by going into the hospital. Katie quit while still hooked up to an IV and never looked back.

She had been the most dedicated worker there, but in the end, she was nothing more than an employee to them. Katie put up with a lot of abuse from her superiors in the workplace, but completely disregarding her health has never been something she just ignored.

So do any of us actually want to work? In these conditions, hell no.

We are demanding respect, basic human decency and fair working conditions.

No, we will not stay five hours after we're scheduled without even being asked.

No, I don't intend to go above and beyond at a minimum wage job that tries to deny my time off to go to a funeral.

So readers, next time you or someone else tries to say that the younger generation doesn't want to work, feel free to cite the atrocities listed above.



Satire and parody for Fredonia

Quiz: Does your crush like you back?

MEGAN KIDBY
Scallion Editor

In my humble editor's opinion, you really shouldn't date in college because college people are icky, but if you REALLY want to know if your crush likes you, I suggest taking this quiz!

Question #1: What is your ideal date?

- A. Walking around campus
- B. Picking out a book at the Next Chapter Bookstore
- C. (LEGALLY) smoking and watching a movie
- D. Singing duets in Mason Hall
- E. None of these interest me

Question #2: Pick a song from my summer playlist!

- A. "Cruel Summer" - Taylor Swift
- B. "Zero" - The Smashing Pumpkins
- C. "Rush" - Troye Sivan
- D. "360" - Charli XCX
- E. None of these are good songs Megan

Question #3: What's your favorite physical trait in a person?

- A. Eyes
- B. Smile
- C. Collarbones
- D. Hand veins
- E. Wow Megan you're so vain physical traits don't matter

Question #4: What's your favorite personality trait in a person?

- A. Kindness
- B. Intelligence
- C. Sense of humor
- D. Creativity
- E. Only physical traits matter Megan

Question #5: If you were stranded on an island what one thing/person would you want with you?

- A. My crush
- B. My phone
- C. A book
- D. A musical instrument
- E. That would never happen Megan

Question #6: What was your favorite subject in high school?

- A. Math
- B. Science
- C. History
- D. English
- E. None of the above

Question #7: Pick your favorite social media site/app

- A. TikTok
- B. Instagram
- C. Snapchat
- D. X (RIP Twitter)
- E. I'm not on any social media

IF YOU GOT...

Mostly As: Your Crush absolutely hates you

Oh...um this is embarrassing. Your crush actually despises you. I don't know how you managed to do that. I really can't help you with this one. Try harder?

Mostly Bs: YOUR CRUSH LOVES YOU!!

Congrats bestie!! Your crush is actually madly in love with you. Maybe...too in love with you. Make sure to lock your doors and windows. Please take advantage of the blue buttons on campus and purchase a knife.

Mostly Cs: You're in the friend zone

I'm sorry hon he just thinks of you as a friend. That's still something though! Maybe keep talking and see where things lead. Maybe they'll take off your literal or figurative glasses and find out your true inner beauty.

Mostly Ds: Your crush likes you back

You did it!! Your crush likes you back. Maybe you should text them and ask them to hang out. I did give you some good date ideas just saying...

Mostly Es: You're a party pooper

Seriously?? You picked mostly Es? That's party pooper behavior. You won't get anyone to date you if you're this much of a downer.

NEW SCALLION ASSISTANT WANTED (SERIOUSLY)!!

MEGAN KIDBY
Scallion Editor

In a groundbreaking upset, Jace Jacobs, the Assistant Scallion Editor for The Leader, has graduated.

After this tragic loss of our previous assistant, the editorial board of The Leader has announced the search for a new writing assistant for its highly esteemed (read: barely tolerated) satire section.

This unprecedented opportunity promises the chance to work alongside some of the greatest minds in comedy who still have to Google “How to be funny.”

Job Description:

- **Hours:** Whenever you feel like it, but mainly nights and the occasional existential crisis. Also, note that the sports section will talk to you about the newest Taylor Swift drama as soon as you walk into the office.
- **Pay:** Nonexistent. You'll be paid in exposure (And no, you can't pay rent with it).
- **Responsibilities:** Include, but are not limited to, coming up with puns that would make your grandpa proud, finding new ways to make fun of current events and perfecting the art of writing fake news that's more believable than real news.

Requirements:

- **Sense of Humor:** If you've ever laughed at a knock-knock joke, you're overqualified.
- **Thick Skin:** Our readers are known for their constructive feedback, such as “You suck!” and “My cat writes better than this!”
- **Creative Genius:** If you think Shakespeare was too mainstream and Kafka too cheery, we want you.
- **Self-Starter:** Must be able to generate 100% of the content while the editorial team takes all the credit.
- **Starbucks Dependency:** Must drink an unhealthy amount of Starbucks. If your blood type isn't peach green tea lemonade, don't bother applying.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience in avoiding real work while appearing busy.
- A deep understanding of sarcasm and irony, preferably developed from years of dealing with internet trolls.
- Ability to use humor as a defense mechanism to mask deep-seated insecurities.

What We Offer:

- **Office Perks:** Unlimited access to the coffee machine (if you bring your own coffee), an assortment of broken pens and a stack of cut-up Leaders we used for collages.
- **Team Atmosphere:** Join a close-knit team of misfits, outcasts and the guy who still thinks fart jokes are the pinnacle of comedy (looking at you, Dan Q and Matt).



Jace Jacobs, the former Asst. Scallion Editor poses for graduation.
Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor

- **Career Advancement:** The potential to move up to Head Scallion Editor, or as we call it, “The Big Jester.”

How to Apply:

Send a cover letter, and a joke that makes us snort coffee out of our noses to leader@fredonia.edu.

Bonus points if you can make our advisor Elmer laugh — I need to get on his good side.

Applications will be accepted until I can find someone who can tolerate me.

Apply today, because if you don't, I'll be forced to keep making terrible jokes on my own.

HOROS

ABBIE MILLER

Editor-in-Chief, 1-Star Comedian

With a new school year comes a new horoscopes writer, I am sad to say. It is my only hope that my horoscopes will do justice to the previous Assistant Scallion Editor and former horoscopes column writer, Jace Jacobs. This change is the first of many to come in a new semester, for new and returning students alike, as they acclimate to Fredonia's somewhat underwhelming (seniors who remember the Tim Hortons in the Williams Center are more likely to share this view) atmosphere. To help you anticipate some of this semester's changes, I have done the honor of describing what your semester will look like.



Aries

Whether it's your first year or your fourth, new friends will flock to you.



Taurus

Be sure to put yourself out there this semester, and opportunities will abound.



Gemini

Your semester will be a mixed bag. You'll be taking classes you like but with professors you don't. Hang in there!



Cancer

Take in your surroundings and be present. College may feel like 100 years, but for the majority, it is only four.



Leo

Your determination to improve your GPA will not be a failed pursuit.



Virgo

While difficulties may arise, you should be mindful of the sun on the horizon. For Fredonia students, this sun will take the shape of Burger Wednesdays.

COPEES



Libra

You will find the perfect balance between work and play at a pace that will marvel your peers.



Scorpio

Improvements are always to be desired, but staying true to yourself is what will allow success both in and out of the classroom.



Sagittarius

Your roommate may prove to be a handful. But with time and patience, you will come to a mutual understanding.



Capricorn

Do not get ahead of yourself. Taking one firm step at a time will prevent you from feeling the burnout most college students face at the end of the Fall semester.



Aquarius

Remember that, like college itself, everything comes at a price, including overindulgence in certain college-affiliated activities.



Pisces

Sometimes to achieve your full potential, you must enlist the help of others. Group projects this semester will result in your best work yet.

