

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Winter 2023

► My Corner

By Barbara Mallette



September was characterized as a dry month for our area but we could enjoy the warm temperatures with glee, as summer was extended. Now, well into fall, the color of the leaves has been entertaining for over a month. October's rains brought relief to the dryness but the wetness is making mowing and raking nearly impossible tasks. Regardless of the rain and temperatures, Doug and I will continue to knock off items on the *Fall To Do List*. We always seem to experience a bit of melancholy as we put away lawn

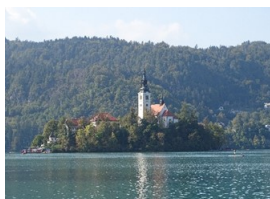
decorations, trim back hostas and zebra grasses. When our tastier shrubs and tulip areas become shrouded with plastic fencing, neighbors know that we can no longer deny that winter is coming. The deer seem to know where they can forage when the snow gets deep in the fields so we have to be proactive. The fall tasks provide us with ample opportunities to enjoy being outside.

Well, we finally did it! Doug and I participated in our first Road Scholar tour this fall. We have many years' experience planning and executing both domestic and international travel. Arranging flights, accommodations, and transportation was second nature to us. Yet we are savvy enough to recognize that in some areas of the world local expertise is needed. Our originally planned trip to Southeast Asia was cancelled for the third year. Rather than mope about the cancellation, we picked another Road Scholar tour to the Balkans, an area new to us. Much as I enjoy the process of planning trips, I have to admit that having tour details worked out by Road Scholar was a relief. All we had to do was pack and get to the Buffalo Airport. We could relax and explore Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Slovenia with a Croatian guide and local experts without worry (yet we still helped haul suitcases, a habit that is



"...I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house. So I have spent almost all the daylight hours in the open air."
Nathaniel Hawthorne

hard for us to break!). The active pace and small group arrangement helped us learn about the history and culture of each country. The lasting effects of the Yugoslav Wars on buildings and landscapes shocked us yet the beauty of the land itself and the warmth of the people provided much needed relief. We did learn that vegetarianism is not widely accepted in the Balkans; meat and seafood are staples in their diets. But most venues were able to accommodate us without too much difficulty. Even other participants were somewhat flabbergasted by what the group termed "plates of meats" that were supposed to be "light lunches." Having a boat tour of the Bay of Kotor that took us into a cave where submarines hid during the war still resonates as one highlight of the trip. Talking to local guides whose families experienced first hand the siege of Sarajevo during the Bosnian War and visiting the Tunnel of Hope made the horrors of this war real. It is now much easier to relate to the situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip. The resilience of the people, their cultures, and their land filled us with hope. We will continue to travel for as long as we can handle the physical demands of exploring other places.



With each newsletter, we read about colleagues that have passed on. Their names remind us of how fleeting our earthly days are. May fond memories of your times spent with them carry you through your sadness. See my note about additional ways the Emeritus Group will explore to socialize in

the future (refer to the Additional Information column). I hope you will join us!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
Helen Keller

Please email Dawn Hunt at dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3456 if you are interested in receiving the Emeritus newsletter by email.



PRESIDENT STEPHEN H. KOLISON, JR.
cordially invites you to attend a

HOLIDAY GATHERING

on Thursday, December 14
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

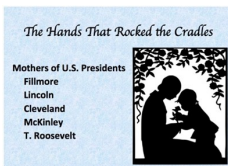
Williams Center
Multipurpose Room

We hope you can stop by to visit with President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.,
enjoy some holiday refreshments, and mingle with
colleagues, students, and emeriti.

Please email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or
call 716-673-3456 if you plan to attend.

► Additional Information

- ◆ You have the opportunity to learn about the mothers of five U.S. Presidents. Linda Brigrance, Professor Emeritus SUNY Fredonia and Board of Trustees Buffalo Presidential Center, is presenting *The Hands that Rocked the Cradle* in the Buffalo area in the next few weeks.



Despite almost universal acknowledgment--across centuries and cultures--of the importance of mothers in shaping their children's futures--most of us know little about the women called "mother" by our Presidents. This presentation tells the stories of the mothers of the five presidents with the most connections to Buffalo & Western New York.

* Tuesday, December 19th, 1 pm—East Aurora Senior Center

- ◆ As promised, Norma Braude sent a check for \$100 to cover the cost of distribution for the fall newsletter. Norma has a history with the printed word and is committed to getting our newsletter in the hands of Fredonia emeritus colleagues.
- ◆ The Emeritus Group also received an anonymous gift of \$100 to defray postage costs for our newsletter. We are blessed with the generosity of one of our members.
- ◆ At the Fall Emeritus Group luncheon, we discussed novel ways to gather as a group. Marjorie Plaister will investigate holding a happy hour when the newly renovated White Inn opens in Spring 2024. Joe Chilberg will research hosting a wine tasting at 21 Brix in Portland, with the hope of hiring a bus to transport us seniors safely. Stay tuned for more details.
- ◆ The University hosts a variety of events that may be of interest to local folks. Please continue to check out this link for more information: <https://events.fredonia.edu>. Here are just a few:
 - Fight Night—Saturday, December 2, 2023, 2pm to 6pm, Marvel Theatre, https://events.fredonia.edu/event/fight_night
 - Frosty: A Musical Adventure—Wednesday, December 6, 2023 @ 6:30 PM, Marvel Theatre, ticket required. https://events.fredonia.edu/event/frosty_a_musical_adventure
 - Christmas POPS: River City Brass Band "Brasstacular", Friday, December 8, 2023, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, King Concert Hall, ticket required. https://events.fredonia.edu/event/christmas_pops_river_city_brass_band_brasstacular
- ◆ We will continue to explore hosting an event with student alumni to celebrate Fredonia's bicentennial. Patty Feraldi and Alumni Affairs will be part of our discussion. More information to come at a later date.
- ◆ 2023 SEFA Campaign—SUNY Fredonia takes great pride in surpassing the SEFA goal for more than a decade and we hope you'll join us in helping this year. Although gifts in any amount are welcome, you do not have to give a large amount to help make a difference. This year's campus goal of \$35,000 will allow SEFA to continue providing much-needed services to those in our community.

Please feel free to send a check to the United Way, 626 Central Avenue, Dunkirk, NY 14048, payable to Chautauqua County SEFA and note in the memo section that it is for the FREDONIA SEFA Campaign. This will make sure Fredonia is given the credit for it. Also attach a note designating which organization you would like your funds to go to if you have a preference. For a complete list, please see <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/state-employee-federated-appeal/dates>.

- ◆ Total Eclipse, April 8, 2024—An event is being planned with more details to be shared in the next newsletter.

► Update Your Contact Information

- Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? If so, please let us know so we can update the Emeritus database which is used for the quarterly newsletter and informational mailings. If you could help to reduce mailing costs by receiving the newsletter by email, please let us know. You may email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3456.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Ted Schwalbe

By Barbara Mallette and Ted Schwalbe

"Of all the life skills available to us, communication is perhaps the most empowering."
- Bret Morrison



Ted Schwalbe was raised on the south shore of Long Island, Nassau County. He attended elementary, middle and high school at the public schools there. His parents and their family lived in a suburban neighborhood where according to Ted "everyone looked the same." Mrs. Schwalbe was a homemaker who ensured that the household ran smoothly for Ted and his older brother. Mr. Schwalbe was an electrical engineer whose skills came in handy when Ted was completing high school math courses.

Interest in the media seemed second nature. Ted was interested in becoming a sports announcer. As a result, Ted applied to colleges that offered communication and media programs, settling on Ohio University (OU) after he visited the campus. OU's program was well known; Ted found its facilities amenable. Even as an out of state student, the tuition was affordable. His work at the college radio station and opportunities to do play-by-play announcing high school sports filled this interest. But all too soon Ted realized that the long-term goal of sports announcer was not reasonable. In his own words, "I had the face for radio and the voice for newspaper." In his senior year, Ted switched majors to computer science. He believed that having a degree in a different field strengthened his training in communication. The intersection of computer science and media became a passion. Ted's plan was to pursue this interest at the graduate level. He examined programs at Michigan State and the University of Hawaii. But then he learned of a new program at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California (located in Los Angeles) that blended communication and computer science. Even though Los Angeles was across the country from Long Island, the Schwalbes were relieved that Ted wasn't going the greater distance to Hawaii. Although the USC Program was actually a doctoral program, Ted applied and was accepted. USC offered Ted a full scholarship and research assistantship. He acclimated to the west coast and the hustle and bustle of LA, which was markedly different from Ohio University and Long Island. Ted remarked that his UG Program seemed too much like "advanced high school." The academics were not too difficult. However, he found that he "grew up in graduate school." Ted was younger than the other students in the doctoral program, noting that he "became an adult at USC." In fact, Ted loved LA for the three years he spent there. And he happened to fall in love with Joanne Kelley, a woman who was visiting her sister who was visiting Ted's roommate.

Within the graduate program, Ted earned two Master's Degrees: Master's in Public Administration and Master's in Communication. With the urging of his USC mentor, he delved into communication policy and regulation, completing a summer internship in Washington, DC with a major regulatory agency, the Office of Telecommunication Policy (OTP). The following summer he was hired full time at OTP and worked in DC for 18 months, finishing his dissertation. Interestingly, he was able to do this because both OTP and USC were part of the ARPANET which was the forerunner/precursor to the Internet.

Ted had married Joanne during his doctoral program; they lived in Alexandria VA. Although the position at OTP was full time, the job was not permanent. Ted wanted better job security; he read about a position in a media magazine that described an opening at SUNY Fredonia. Fortunately, Joanne was familiar with Fredonia. The chance to return to Western New York was alluring to Joanne whose family lived nearby in Allegany County. A successful interview ended with an offer for employment. At the time of his initial hire in January 1980, communication and media studies was a self-designed degree in Special Studies under the direction of Dean Kevin Fox.

In Spring 1981, Fredonia established the Department of Communication with John Malcolm as its Founding Chair. Ted remembered the four faculty and their specialization areas within the new department: John Malcolm (radio/TV), Bill Jungles (video), Dan Berggren (audio) and Alan Zeremba (communication theory). Ted's expertise in media law, media policy, and communication technology added to the power of the new Communication Department. When John Malcolm was on sabbatical, Ted assumed Chair responsibilities. He remarked that in his tenure at Fredonia, he served as Chair for nineteen years. In addition, Ted was involved in university governance.

In the early 1990s, Ted's focus at Fredonia changed completely by pure coincidence. The U.S. Government offered funds for training in various Eastern European countries after the fall of Communism. A local businessman with Albanian roots, Lou Elias, was an early visitor to Albania. Fredonia received a USAID grant under Len Faulk's supervision to help train local government officials. Fredonia received a second grant to help develop small private businesses in Albania. The third USAID call for proposals focused on media. With Maggie Bryan-Peterson's urging and help, Ted applied for and received this USAID grant in 1995 to assist private newly-emerging media companies in Albania that for the first time had to operate as profit-making businesses. Another area of importance was the development of independent journalism which did not exist under Communism. Seeing first hand the emergence of these companies was life-altering. As part of this grant, six Albanian journalists (2 videographers, 2 editors, and 2 reporters) came to Fredonia and Western New York for one month. Here they completed internships at local TV and radio stations.

"Simple exchanges can break walls down between us, for when people come together and speak to one another and share a common experience, then their common humanity is revealed."
- Barack Obama

► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Ted Schwalbe



International media training has been the primary focus on Ted's work for the last twenty years. With one successful grant completed, Ted pursued other external funding sources. He was awarded a second USAID grant in four countries in Southern Africa. Working with Dan Berggren and Dan Fisher (Jamestown radio), the three men offered seminars to media personnel at newly developing private radio and TV stations. As part of the grant, twelve of these African media folks were flown to Fredonia for in-depth classes and internships. A third USIA grant for media training took place in Bulgaria.

Grants were but one way for Ted to be immersed in international media efforts. He found that a Fulbright at the American University of Bulgaria offered his family and him a greater opportunity to experience life in another culture. Placed in a small city, Blagoevrad, reminded Ted of life in Fredonia. Meeting people was easier than if he had pursued a Fulbright in a major city. The small city venue was comforting. Because AUGB is a small private university and highly selective, its students were on par with Harvard and Yale. Ted found teaching the students challenging as they were extremely motivated, with the ultimate goal to attend graduate school in the U.S. This Fulbright whetted Ted's appetite in international teaching and research. He enjoyed working with local media and creating courses in international media.

Ted's passion for international experiences was fueled with a traditional Fulbright in Bulgaria and later a second traditional Fulbright in Hungary. His prowess in international media was recognized with three Fulbright Specialist awards: the first to the University of Swaziland, a second to the Polytechnic Institute in Namibia, the last in the University of Elbasan in Albania. He was fortunate to be part of the SUNY Exchange Program at the Izmir University of Economics in Turkey. Again here, Ted gravitated to small and medium cities when engaged in international programming.

When the opportunity arose to write a grant focused on video production training for high school and college students in Turkey, Ted and Nefin Dinc collaborated on the grant proposal put forth by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. Despite heavy competition from major universities, Fredonia's decentralized mode of instruction impressed the grant reviewers. Ted and Nefin performed training in six Turkish cities. They then brought eighteen students to Fredonia for four weeks where they lived with local families and worked on their short films depicting important social issues in Turkey. Public screening of these films took place in Fredonia, Jamestown, and Buffalo, often to packed houses. The films were well received as evidenced by the number of standing ovations. A number of these films won awards, quite a feat for rookie filmmakers. For most students, the trip to Fredonia was the first time they traveled outside their home towns.

In 2011, Ted was named Distinguished Service Professor by the SUNY Board of Trustees, the highest honor that the SUNY Board of Trustees can confer to instructional faculty for extraordinary service. After forty years of service, Ted retired from Fredonia in 2019. He reflected on his time at Fredonia as being "blessed." All of his comments seem to rave about the numerous positive experiences with colleagues and students. In fact, Ted stressed that he's "never been held back from outside opportunities by being at Fredonia." His time spent at Fredonia and beyond its borders has been wonderful.

Ted and Joanne raised two daughters in Fredonia. The older daughter lives in Brooklyn and is a researcher for a nursing union. She has an eighteen-month-old son. The younger daughter lives in the Buffalo area and is a lawyer.

In retirement, Ted is active in the local (regional) and national Fulbright Association. Currently, he is the Vice President in the Western New York State and Northeast Pennsylvania Fulbright Chapter. Ted also serves as a reviewer for Fulbright applications.

You might be surprised to find out that Ted is very active in bowling. He was on his high school bowling team and has always enjoyed the sport. When Ted first moved to Fredonia, he felt like an outsider. Bowling on a local league afforded him the chance to have "an in" with the community; that is, he became more familiar with the greater community. At the same time, bowling satisfied Ted's competitive streak. Currently, one can locate Ted on the lanes, as he bowls two to three times weekly in local leagues. He has several 300 games and an 800 series to his credit and was recently inducted into the Dunkirk Lakeshore Bowling Association's Hall of Fame.

When not on the lanes, Ted can be found puttering with his model train sets. The challenge for him is to create trainscapes (not landscapes) that fit this limited space. He can also be found spending time with the two cats he and Joanne adopted. Traveling will continue to be a part of Ted's routine, as there is still much to see. He maintains contact with friends in Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey; you can bet that he will travel to these areas again.

Informational Website

Retired Public Employees Association –
<https://rpea.org/> - Sign up for informational emails and RPEA newsletters.

"I can't tell you how many life lessons I've learned through bowling. Time management, finding balance in life, how to lose, how to win, how to bowl as a team and deal with people. How to do something I love to do and inspire other people."
- Diandra Asbaty

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. Thomas Rywick, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, passed away on September 28, 2023.

Dr. Rywick joined the SUNY Fredonia Department of Psychology in 1970 and held many leadership roles until his retirement in 2005.

Below is a message from his colleagues in the Department of Psychology.

Thomas Rywick, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, passed away September 28 after a short illness. After graduating from SUNY Albany, he taught mathematics at Rondout Valley High School in High Falls NY, before continuing his education at Southern Illinois University in Illinois at Carbondale. Professor Rywick was granted his MA and completed his PhD in Social Psychology in 1970. He joined the faculty of Fredonia later that year as an Assistant Professor before being promoted to Associate Professor in 1975 and Professor in 1984. He was also a visiting scholar at Harvard University in 1982, and a Visiting Professor at Universite Blaise Pascal, in Clermont-Ferrand, France, in 1994. Additionally, he was invited to teach at the University of Cork in Ireland in 2002.

A dedicated teacher and a skilled administrator, Tom guided many students in their preparations for careers in Psychology. He offered an array of courses to his students, including his specialization of Social Psychology, Statistics, Introduction to Psychology, Psychology Lab, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and a unique offering featuring the Psychology modeling tool SymLog to explore Group Dynamics. An early adopter of computers in Psychology, he introduced many students to the intricacies and the power of SPSS.

During his years at Fredonia, he was called upon to serve in numerous leadership roles, guiding the Academic Affairs committee, chairing the department of Psychology, stepping in as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1996 to 1997, and then being tapped to shepherd the transition of the Business Department from 1999-2000 as it worked to gain accreditation enroute to becoming the School of Business. He returned to the Psychology faculty until his retirement in 2005.

Ably supported by Carol, his wife of 57 years, Tom opened his home to friends, colleagues, and campus visitors, working to make Fredonia a welcoming and nurturing community. Carol always ensured that guests were warmly welcomed, graciously hosted, and elegantly fed.

Tom was a sports enthusiast. He was an avid fan of the New York Mets and always enjoyed talking baseball with his friends. He played softball for many years, first as a member of Kasbaum Egg Farm and later as a member of OMPS (Old Men Playing Softball).

Tom was an excellent photographer, specializing in 3-D photography. He presented his work at national and international conferences. He was also a musician, playing both the acoustic guitar and piano. He composed and sang political satire, much to the enjoyment of everyone.

Dr. Bruce Chilton passed away on July 19, 2023.

Dr. Chilton joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1967 as an Associate Professor of Mathematics and remained in that position until his retirement in 1995.

Dr. Fred Byham passed away on October 10, 2023.

Dr. Byham joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1964 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and in 1972 was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Byham retired in 1995.

In accordance with his wishes, services will be private. Arrangements are by the McGraw-Kowal Funeral Home.

Mr. Roger A. Colvenback passed away on October 15, 2023.

Mr. Colvenback joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1973 in the Facilities Services-Custodial Services Department, and retired in November of 2002.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be made at www.addisonfuneralhome.com.

Dr. Regina Reed passed away on October 22, 2023.

Dr. Reed joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1969 as an Instructor in the English Department and was later promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Reed retired in 1994.

A memorial service at the convenience of the family will be held at a later date. Arrangements by the F. E. BROWN SONS FUNERAL HOME. Online condolences may be shared at www.febrownsons.com.

In Loving Memory Of Jean M. Wood and Dr. Kenneth G. Wood

We will be celebrating the lives of Jean M. Wood aged 101 and her husband of 75 years Dr. Kenneth G. Wood aged 99 who passed surrounded by family in October 2023.

Memorial Service
1 PM, November 18th, 2023
Unitarian Universalist Church
1 Middle Street, Brunswick, Maine,
04011



**Emeritus Fall Luncheon—Alumni Garden Room, SUNY Fredonia
October 18, 2023**

