

The Changing Face of Fredonia

A New Millennium!

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Welcome to the place for all of the changes that have come to SUNY Fredonia over the past few years.

There will be profiles and testimonials, on some of our professors, as they have had a large impact on our communities and our environment, all while still teaching classes.

There will **me** information on the changing demographics of Fredonia community. Are we still the same old music and education school? What is the face of Fredonia today?

Construction has been, and continues to, physically change our face. What did the face of Fredonia used to look like? What is our current face? What is our face going to look like in just a few short years?

Some of the faces of our administration and staff have changed over the past few years. Some of them are even found in new places. Soon you will know who they are and where you can find them!

Fredonia students, the faces that change most frequently, are  having a tremendous impact on our world. Hear about current students, as well as alumni, **that**  are leaving their mark.

Stay tuned for this and more over the rest of the semester!

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
— Nelson Mandela

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Changes within the Decade

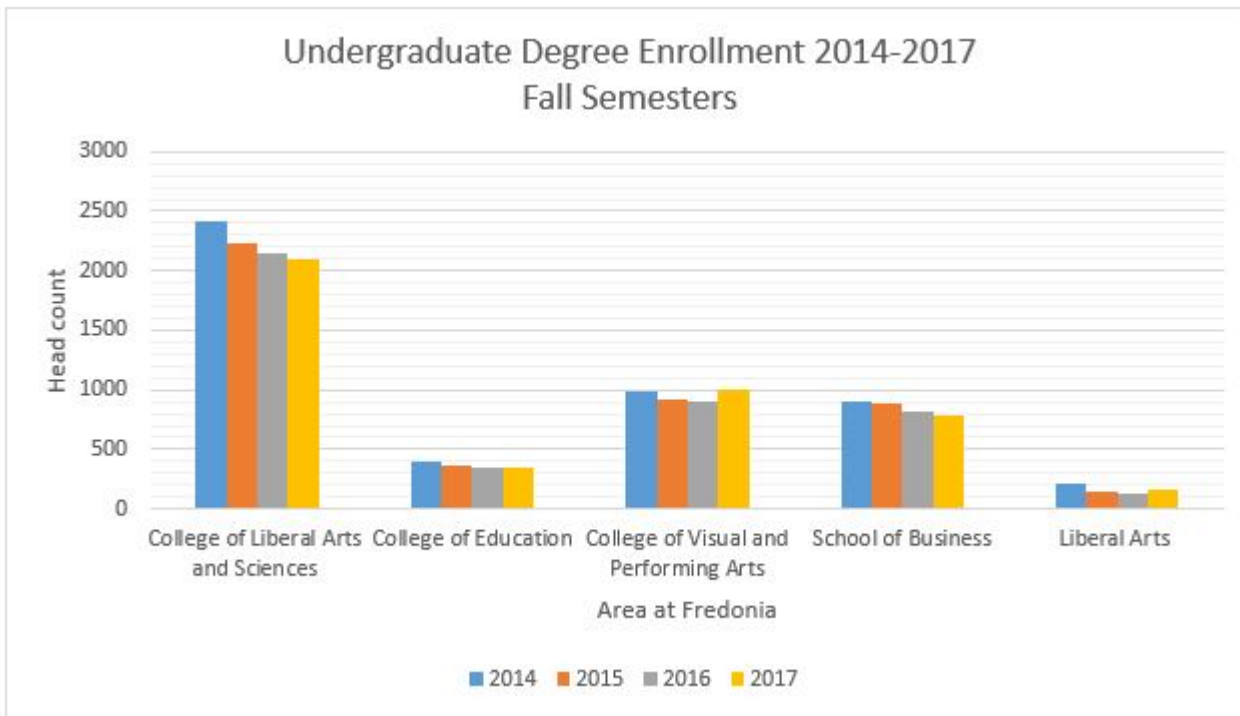
Fredonia has been changing for years and years, but the changes even within the last decade have been huge. Names of programs have changed, enrollment in programs have changed, and the future is definitely changing going forward.

In 2007, the Fredonia split students up into the following categories, Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Liberal Arts. Since that time, Fredonia has changed the method that they break majors down differently.

Liberal Arts has remained the same, Education has transitioned to the College of Education, Fine Arts is now referred to as the College of Visual and Performing Arts, other categories such as the Natural and Social Sciences and the Humanities have been transitioned into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In addition, Fredonia has added the School of Business.



The School of Business has also recently received AACSB accreditation. This is important to note as less than 3% of all business schools in the world has accreditation.




According to Director of Admissions at Fredonia, Cory Bennett, we are most known for our art, music, and theatre programs, all of which we now categorize as the College of Visual and Performing Arts. In 2007, these majors were bringing in approximately 1200 students. These numbers have since dropped and are hovering just below 1000 students currently.

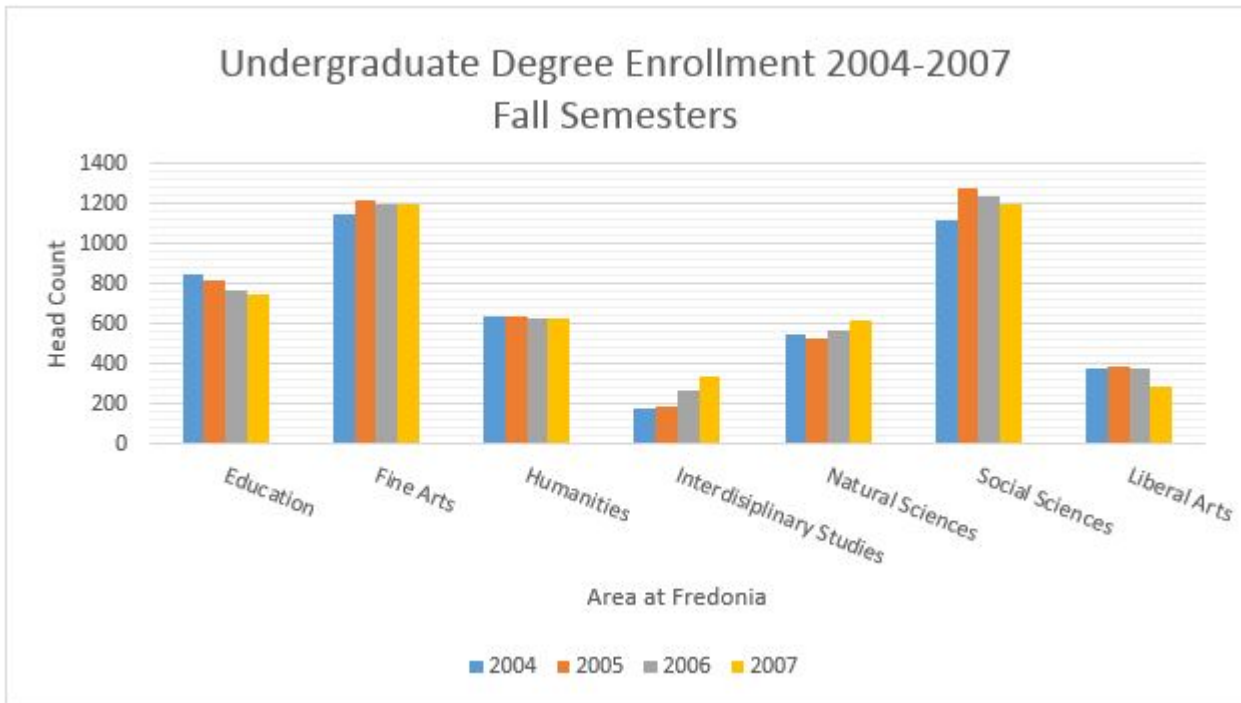


Bezek noted,

“While we are known for the arts, we are receiving just as many, if not more applications in business and STEM.”

It is hard to make exact comparisons for the business and STEM  as they are no longer categorized in the same way. Looking at the data from 2004-2007, Natural Science enrollment was increasing. Since that time, the new Science Center facility has opened, providing students with top notch technology and labs. While the **current**  numbers for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have not increased in recent years, Bezek says that the biology department is continuing to grow.

“We still aren’t known for our STEM programs,” Bezek said. “But until recently we didn’t have  the facilities to compete. Now we do.” He went on to discuss the importance of the STEM **field**  as the demand for **it**  across the world is increasing.



These aren't the only differences though. Education, a program that Fredonia also is relatively well known for, has seen a drastic reduction in numbers over the past decade. In the last few years, the College of Education has not had more than 400 students. Just ten years ago, there were over 700 students in the same programs.

Looking at just the just the College of Liberal Arts and Science combined with the School of Business, the two areas that Bezek noted that they were receiving more applications for, have more students than all other areas combined.

All of Fredonia's numbers may not be trending upwards, but it is clear that Fredonia isn't the Arts and Education school that it may have been in the past. Business and STEM are thriving, and that is the way that many, including Fredonia's Director of Admissions believes things will continue.

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Water and Plastics, Changing the World's View



Science is constantly changing, the information we know is always advancing, and Dr. Sherri 'Sam' Mason is one of the people at the front lines of that.

A few years ago she made the news **the first** time, studying the plastic saturation in the Great Lakes. This year, her research on plastic is making waves once **again, this time** however, it is due to the abundance of plastics within common consumables.

In 2012, after teaching about plastics in the oceans for over **twelve** years, Mason had a different thought.

"We happen to live on the largest freshwater system in the world," said Mason, "The Great Lakes."

Mason assumed that someone had to have done research on **how** Great Lakes had plastic in them. When she checked the literature **though**, she quickly learned that no one had.

"As a scientist, I was like 'Yes!'" Mason said.

As a result of that research, there is legislation that goes into full effect in July 2018 regarding microbeads and their use in beauty products.

Since that research concluded, Mason began to think about how plastic may even be in the things that we eat and drink, the consumables.

Working with a grad student out of Minnesota, Mason learned about the plastic that is contained within tap water, beer, and sea salt. World-wide, a liter of tap water contains 5.5 particles of plastic. Beer produced with water from the Great Lakes contained on average four particles of plastic. Sea salt, produced **in** different methods from various locations across the **US** contained an average of 212 particles of plastic per kilogram of salt.

This led Mason to think about how much plastic may be in bottled water. So Mason took the top 11 brands of bottled water across the globe and tested **them. In** total testing 259 bottles of water. Each and

every single brand of water contained some particles of plastic.



Mason concluded that on average each bottle of water had 12 particles of plastic when only getting down as small as they were able to for the tap water. That is double the amount of the same sized pieces of plastic. When looking even closer, additional particles were found. Including the smallest pieces identifiable in this test, there are 325 particles of plastic on average per liter of bottled water.

Since the release of this research, the World Health organization has said that they need to do a study on how ingested plastic is impacting human health.

The question that Mason says she always gets next is "What can we do?" and she has an answer.

"Let's turn off the tap. We can talk about clean ups much as we want, but if we don't turn off the tap, the water is going to continue to run," she said.


So stop using plastic. Find another material that isn't going to find its way into your consumables. You cannot just worry about the plastic that is already here. Instead focus on how we can reduce the amount of plastic in our world all together.

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Fredonia Grad takes skills to Myanmar, Peace Corps

It is not every day that someone gets the opportunity to visit Myanmar, a sovereign state in Southeast Asia. Even less likely is the opportunity to work with their students and help them learn and grow. That is exactly how blessed Fredonia graduate Maia Scarabelli is though! Maia is spending the next two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Bago Region of Myanmar.

Scarabelli is serving as **and** education volunteer, along with two counterparts  to help students improve their English speaking abilities, increase group work and **student centered** learning and to incorporate critical thinking into classroom curriculum. Additionally, she is teaching classes that focus on speaking for students in fifth through tenth grade, all of the teachers at her school, and students that are preparing to attend university or additional schooling.



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Originally from Northport, New York, Scarabelli attended SUNY Fredonia for Education. While at Fredonia, she was an active member of Residence Life and many other clubs.

“I was fortunate enough in Fredonia to find very giving people,” Scarabelli said. “People from these different groups showed me how easy it was to give to others, care for others, think of another person first rather than yourself and to love others.”

Throughout her life, the Peace Corps has always been a dream of **Maia's**.  “This dream became a conscious desire my freshman year of college when I was sitting in a friend’s dorm room having a conversation about what we might do after graduation,” said Scarabelli.

“Choosing Peace Corps was like my brain breathing in a way,” Scarabelli said. **“It knew what it wanted to do and it did it three years later when it acquired the college degree it needed for service.”** 

In an area where even most English teachers are unable to speak English aloud, Scarabelli is able to provide a service that people may not ever get otherwise, the ability to speak English with another person, a person who actually knows how to speak English.

“I am trying to give as much to my Myanmar community as those at Fredonia gave to me,” Scarabelli said.

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Education and Technology, Leading our World Forward

Our world continues to grow, and as that happens we need more and more educators to help our future generations be as knowledgeable as possible to make positive changes for our world.

Hayley Guild, a current senior at SUNY Fredonia cannot wait to help join this fight.



“I want to be an educator because I like to see the difference I am making in children’s lives,” Guild said. “To see a child that comes from a disadvantaged life, and watch them grow and learn, is one of the more heartwarming and inspirational things.”

Education is constantly evolving and improving. Guild **hops that his with** lead to better opportunities for more students, especially children in inner city public schools.

Technology has allowed our education system to teach things in ways that never seemed possible before. Learning is no longer just pencils and papers. “Teachers prepare children for the skills need to live and survive in the real world,” Guild said.

Our world has advanced, and our educators have right along with it. Things such as drones and computer programs have changed how we operate and our teachers have risen to the challenge.

“Without teachers and education, we simply would not have the knowledge to have the technology and

other advances in society that we have,” said Guild. “We would remain in a primitive era.”

Our educators are allowing our students and in turn our world to grow, by giving them opportunities and the knowledge and skills to advance our society.

So what should we change? Equality.

“I would make education more equal for children in inner city schools,” explained Guild. “Often times children with higher socioeconomic status’ receive higher quality education due to the funds available at schools in higher class areas. I would like all children to have the same opportunities at school, regardless of income.”

This is a common problem that our world, and our local area, faces. Dollar signs frequently influence how much experience a student is able to gain.

As more young, technologically advanced and motivated teachers, like Ms. Guild, enter our education system, the opportunities for our students continue to grow.

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A Tale of Two Cities



A relatively small school in the middle of Western New York, an area that is not overly diverse, is the home to a few thousand students, staff and faculty, including Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services, Fredric Howard.

The face of Fredonia is a “tale of two cities,” said Howard. “The student population is more diverse, but the staff haven’t seen the same rate of change in relation to composition.”

Howard is one of few **the** very few **diverse**  faces among Fredonia faculty and staff, even more so among the administration. Since he first arrived at Fredonia, he believes that there has been some inclusion of a different voice but he thinks that we need to be “building a larger, more diverse set of campus stakeholders.” Howard continued, “We have to be intentional and separate quantity from quality.” He explained that while an increased number of diverse individuals is important, it is more important that those people make quality contributions to the community of Fredonia.



What are the next steps for Fredonia to take? That is a simple question, according to Howard. We need to assess the current culture. “It is difficult to know where you are going, if you don’t know where you are,” Howard said.

Beyond that  Howard said that we need to have the motivation to become the type of institution that we desire. **A** motivation that he indicates we are lacking . Additionally, he said that in order to have a diverse university, diversity needs to **have been** defined. This is another thing that he said Fredonia has not done.

When first arriving at Fredonia, Howard said his first thought was, “Whoa, this place hasn’t changed in 25 years.”

Is this a bad thing? Not necessarily, but it doesn't allow for improvement or additions. Those who have been running this have been intending to do their best, but the actions have kept us stagnant, Howard explained. When reflecting, "We judge others on their actions, but we judge ourselves on our intentions," said Howard. Unfortunately, intentions and actions aren't always aligned.

He went on to talk about how we don't need to pick and choose what we want to be good at. We don't need to pick one identity and stick with it.

"Fredonia struggles with having multiple identities," said Howard.

Why can't we choose to excel in all areas and all departments? "No face looks the same," said Howard, "So why should we have only one identity?"