Richard Russo was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 for his novel Empire Falls.

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FM Hosts Notable Artists: Stein & Russo

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo returned to his hometown to speak to 700 people in the College’s Raiders Den. After his talk, he signed books and visited with the hundreds who waited in line to meet him.

Russo grew up in Gloversville and has written novels that draw from his experiences in his hometown. During his talk, he gave much credit to the Gloversville Public Library, which inspired him to become the writer he is today.

Artist and activist Linda Stein brought The Fluidity of Gender to the Perrella Gallery. Stein’s five-year national traveling exhibition will also be shown, through 2015, at more than 20 other colleges and museums. Stein has dedicated her art towards tearing down all forms of gender stereotypes and prejudices. Her wearable sculpture breaks down boundaries between female, male, feminine, and masculine and seeks to dismantle concepts that limit individuals and values one gender over another.

Richard Russo with President Swanger

Linda Stein with Fine Arts Professor and Gallery Director Joel Chapin who is sporting a piece of her work.

Math Instructor Sonnet Gravina and Chemistry Instructor Laurie Lazinski have some fun while feeling empowered wearing Stein’s pieces.
The 50 Year Celebration Continues

STUDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
FM kicked off its first days of classes with a 50th anniversary celebration on the campus quad.
On day one, students enjoyed free cake, candy, key chains, blue and green FM “shades,” a DJ, and games.
On day two, students and staff enjoyed free make your own sundaes, popcorn, and then gathered on the campus quad to create a “human 5-0.”

THE COLLEGE HOSTED A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2013
Left: Guest speakers included Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Thayer, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, Sr. Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Fulmont Association of College Educators (FACE) President Sharon Poling, Fulton County Board of Supervisors Chairman William Waldron, College President Dr. Dustin Swanger, Board Chairman Jim Landrio, Marie Valachovic of Senator Hugh T. Farley’s Office, Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk, Chief Advancement Officer Lesley Lanzi, and Foundation Chair Del Salmon, Esq.

50th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ART EXHIBITION
Left: Director of Grants and Grant Funded Programs Jean Karutis and Science Professor Laurie Freeman enjoy the exhibition in the Perrella Gallery.

RAIDERS REUNION ALUMNI DAY
Below: A Raiders Reunion Alumni Day was held on Saturday, October 12. The day kicked-off with the Annual Community and Alumni 5K Run/1-Mile Walk followed by a full schedule of athletic events including a BBQ on the campus quad.
The Foundation of FM hosted its Seventh Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner honoring graduates Hon. Traci DiMezza ’89, Tom DiMezza ’75, and Trudy J. Venette ’87.

Hon. Traci DiMezza

After graduating from FM in 1989, Hon. Traci DiMezza attended Siena College, where she earned her B.A. She went on to Quinnipiac University Law School earning a Juris Doctorate. After being admitted to the bar in January, 1996, she began work as a criminal appellate attorney with the Schenectady County Public Defender’s Office. In the fall of ’96, she opened her own practice which concentrated in real property law, appellate law, and civil litigation. She was later trained and qualified to serve as a Fulton County Law Guardian, representing children and youth in a variety of family court proceedings.

In the fall of 2012, after 17 years of practice in her field, she became the very first woman to be elected as Gloversville City Court Judge. Her term runs from 2013 through January, 2023. Married for 15 years, Traci and her husband Joe have two daughters, Honor and Ella.

Tom DiMezza

Tom DiMezza is a lifelong resident of Montgomery County. Born and raised in Amsterdam, he graduated from Wilbur H. Lynch High School and earned an Associate’s degree in Accounting from FM in 1975 and a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting from Russell Sage Colleges.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with the Third Infantry Division, 2nd/39th Field Artillery Unit in Schweinfurt, Germany. Upon returning, Tom joined the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Corrections Department, moved on to road patrol; and, in 1980, joined the Amsterdam Police Department where he retired as a Detective Lieutenant in 2009.

Currently, he operates his own private investigation company, AAMS Investigations, which he named after his four children of whom Tom is so very proud: Amy, Anthony, Michael, and Sarah. He is also the proud grandfather to three beautiful grandchildren: Gia, Enzo, and Viviana. In July, 2014, Tom and his wife Kathleen celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary.

Trudy J. Venette

Trudy J. Venette graduated FM with Honors and an A.A. in Liberal Arts in 1987. She continued her studies at Russell Sage earning a B.S. in Healthcare Administration, again with Honors, and received the Richard Mattox Award for Outstanding Public Administration Student, and a Master’s degree in Public Administration with High Honors, graduating Cum Laude. Trudy began as a nursing assistant, working her way up to Administrator and CEO in Long Term Care Corporations. She has Nursing Home Administrator Licenses in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Florida, Hawaii, and Texas.

A resident of Helotes, Texas, Trudy has been interviewed and quoted in numerous publications, including The San Antonio Business Journal, and was on the cover of INSIDE MD.
Bob Warner grew up in Mayfield, graduating from Mayfield Central School in 1975. He earned an A.A.S. degree in Nursing from FM in 1978, a B.S. with a Nursing major from College of Technology at Utica Rome in 1987, and a M.S. with a major in Nursing from Institute of Technology at Utica Rome in 1992.

“My wife, myself, our daughter and son-in-law are all proud FM grads.”

“I always knew that I wanted to be in a profession that involved helping other people,” says Bob. “While growing up, I had a neighbor and a family friend who were both nurses. Watching them interacting with others and hearing them discuss nursing really inspired me.”

While completing the Nursing program at FM, Bob worked as a nursing assistant at Nathan Littauer Hospital’s Nursing Home. His first position as an R.N. was at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown. He took a nursing position at Nathan Littauer Hospital, where he worked on the medical-surgical and intensive care units, outpatient surgical and diabetes education areas, and the education department.

“There are many things Bob enjoys about his job at the College, especially the students. “I really enjoy seeing how the students grow over their time at FM. I also feel that everyone on campus is student-focused. It’s all about them and what they need to succeed. It’s great to help students learn to be nurses in a supportive environment.”

He is also impressed that the College is an integral part of the community. “Cooperation between the counties, the College and community-at-large, is important and necessary. I think everyone realizes that without FM our area would not have an avenue for its residents to get a college education. My wife, myself, our daughter and son-in-law are all proud FM grads.”

At FM, Bob, Professor of Nursing and Director of the Nursing Program, is a member of all Nursing Program committees including departmental, curriculum, advisory, admissions, and accreditation. He also currently serves on the Commencement Committee, the General Education Committee, and is a member of Fulmont Association of College Educators (FACE). In the community, he is a member of the Fulton County Public Health Advisory Committee, Mohawk Valley Nurses Association, American Nurses Association-NY and National, Nurses House Service Council, and Deans/Director of Council of Associate Degree Nursing in New York State. Bob is also an appointed member of the NYS Board for Nursing and previous recipient of SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Bob and his wife Sherry, Assistant Professor of Nursing at the College, have been married for 34 years. They met while working at Bassett Hospital.

If he had to do anything over, Bob says he wouldn’t change a thing. “I love being a nurse and being able to share that with the students. It is so rewarding to know that I am teaching the next generation of nurses… that they will follow in my footsteps and care for our loved ones as I have done.”

Bob’s favorite quote is an Old Mormon saying: “I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD

Laurence K. Zuckerman
CPA, MST
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS

Laurence Zuckerman was awarded the John G. Boshart Community Action Award at Fulmont Community Action Agency’s Sixteenth Annual Awards Dinner in October. The award was named for the former long-term FCAA board member (and former FM President) John Boshart and is given to those persons or organizations who are community-minded and have assisted the agency to accomplish its mission of helping people and changing lives.

“Larry has been a great supporter of our organization,” said Denis Wilson, Executive Director and CEO of Fulmont Community Action Agency. “For years he has helped us by teaching tax law for our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program volunteers which allows those who qualify to receive free Federal and State tax preparation. We appreciate Larry’s long-term support and commitment to the agency.”
The TOWER FACULTY FOCUS • Welcoming New Faculty

FM augmented its teaching roster this semester with three new full-time faculty members: Physics Instructor Gilbert Ayuk, English Instructor Tom Skowronek, and Accounting Instructor Mark Swain.

Gilbert Ayuk
PHYSICS INSTRUCTOR

Gilbert Ayuk’s long term goal is to share his passion for physics with FM students and community members.

“The hope is that by taking FM’s physics to area high schools and the communities we serve, we will be transforming FM into a magnet center for high school graduates to begin their college education in the sciences and engineering,” says Gilbert.

Tom Skowronek
ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

Tom Skowronek has worked at FM for the last four years as both an adjunct instructor and a writing tutor for the TRIO program. Now a fulltime English instructor, Tom teaches Developmental Writing, Introduction to Composition, and Introduction to Literature. “I was immediately attracted to the dedication, enthusiasm, and diversity of the community college campus,” he says.

Mark Swain
ACCOUNTING INSTRUCTOR

Mark Swain worked in business for the first ten years of his career (after earning a Bachelor’s degree), both in the U.K. and the U.S. Always having a passion for the business field, Mark wanted to share his excitement for the subject with others; thus, becoming a teacher. “I have always wanted to work at a college and after visiting FM’s campus I can’t imagine working anywhere else,” he says.

The TOWER FACULTY FOCUS • Peter Wassel to Retire

Peter Wassel
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Peter Wassel will be retiring in December. An alumnus of FM, Peter earned a B.S. from Syracuse University and a M.S. from University at Albany. He is a brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon (New York Alpha Chapter). He also earned academic credits from the University of Vermont and the College of St. Rose, and has undergone extensive professional development.

Before joining the College’s full-time faculty in 1984, Peter was a Programmer-Analyst at Automated Data Processing Corporation, Lead Analyst at Cole-Layer-Trumble Corporation, and contractor at the New York State Department of Equalization and Assessment. He was formerly an adjunct faculty member teaching night courses at FM prior to 1984.

Peter taught six different computer-programming languages (COBOL, FORTRAN, Assembler, Pascal, C++, and Java), hardware courses, and computer applications. He has been an advisor to the computer club, a founding member of the original Assessment Committee, served on the former Academic Policy Committee, the FACE executive board, the FACE negotiating team, and on numerous ad hoc committees. He has been a frequent volunteer for FM and community events while making his expertise available to local business professionals.

Peter and his wife Linda will explore retirement one day at a time. However, golfing and fishing with his grandsons will be a priority. “Always remember that, in life, the learning and skill-acquisition processes are always ongoing. I wish success to the students, faculty, staff, and administration in their future endeavors.”

BUCK MOON ARTS FESTIVAL JULY 11 • 12 • 13 2014

Mark your calendar for the 3-day Buck Moon Arts Festival to be held at FM. This free, regional arts festival will showcase diverse visual and performance art from across NYS with multi-venue performances, a juried art show, gallery talks, artist and food vendors, workshops, and much more. Applications are now available for the juried show entry, artist and exhibitor booths, and food vendors. Please contact the festival coordinator, Debra Kolsrud, at Debra.Kolsrud@fmcc.suny.edu or by phone at 518-848-3552.
Stanislava Mladenova returned to FM to speak to students during the College’s first Student Government Association (SGA) Senate Meeting. Mladenova, who came to the United States from Bulgaria as an International student, was SGA Freshman Senator (1998-99) and SGA Vice President (1999-2000), and is now Political Advisor to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan.

“I remember sitting where all of you are now,” said Mladenova to the large group of students at the Senate Meeting. “When I came to FM, I became immediately involved on campus. My goal was to someday work in International Relations and I knew becoming involved would get me there.”

While at FM, Mladenova was a member and officer of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the International Honor Society for two-year colleges, and was selected as part of the All USA Academic Team which led to her being selected for a coveted internship at the U.S. Department of State. “Without my extracurricular involvement at FM, I would have never had the opportunity to partake in such a wonderful internship.”

After FM, Mladenova went on to the Honors College at Stony Brook to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Affairs (Cum Laude) and continued on to University at Albany to earn a Master’s degree in Public Administration. Her first job following college was as a Budget Examiner in the NYS Division of the Budget, the agency which prepares the Governor’s budget. After five years with the State, she landed her dream job, working for NATO in Afghanistan.

“My job is challenging, but rewarding,” states Mladenova. “But I can tell you, the principles I learned while at FM are the same principles that remain constant in my daily life.” Mladenova went on to share her guiding principles with the students. They included expanding your horizons, making compromises, seeking mentorship, keeping your mind on task, and being flexible.

“Through my involvement with SGA, I was given opportunities to travel to conferences and other colleges to learn leadership and fellowship; I learned how to prioritize; I learned to seek and receive advice; I learned you should feel passionate about what you do so you will love what you do; and most importantly, I learned how to be a part of a team. No matter how difficult the task at hand, if you work together, you can accomplish anything,” said Mladenova.

The TOWER Alumna Feature: Stanislava Mladenova Class of 2000

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The TOWER Alumna Feature: Kristen Hill Class of 2007

The Criminal Justice program welcomed Alumna Agent Kristen Hill, a 2007 SUNY Chancellor’s Award Recipient for Student Excellence, and her husband, Agent Nate Hill, to their class as guest speakers. The Hills, who are both Federal law enforcement agents currently stationed in northern New York, were invited to speak about their career experience, how to become an agent, and the necessary education, skills, and requirements. The duo selected two students to participate in exercises, which provided insight about how an applicant should dress, answer questions about his/her résumé, and how to conduct themselves during a law enforcement interview.

Criminal Justice Professor Paul Giudilli (standing far right) asks follow-up questions to his students after Agents Nate and Kristen Hill mock interview senior Ben Chaparro (center, wearing suit) who is scheduled for a law enforcement interview in the near future.

More 50th News

SAVE THE DATES
Friday, March 21, 2014
The Charter Ball
An elegant evening of fine dining and dancing to the sounds of the New York Players in a transformed Raiders Den

Wednesday, May 21, 2014
21st Annual Golf Classic
Fox Run Golf Club, Johnstown

NEW YORK PLAYERS • NEW YORK’S DANCE PARTY EXPERTS!
**Alumna Feature:** **Kayla Henry**  **Class of 2007**

Kayla Henry, a graduate of Mayfield High School, came to FM during her senior year as an Early Admission student. This was when the College started its Radiologic Technology (Rad Tech) program and Kayla’s mother, a graduate of FM’s Nursing program, suggested it would be a good idea for Kayla to apply for the program.

“My grades were good but my SAT scores weren’t the greatest. I knew I would end up in medicine, I just never thought I would start in radiology. I now know there is no better place to start,” says Kayla.

Vince Carelli, who developed the Rad Tech program, was Kayla’s instructor. “What an incredible teacher! He truly cared about his students and their well-being,” she says. “Not only was teaching the craft important to him, but it was even more important that he produced awesome x-ray techs for our local hospitals. Also, at that time in the program, Cindy Close (who is now the director of the program) was my radiology physics teacher. She did an excellent job with such a difficult part of the x-ray world. With such an intense program, it can’t be just one person. When it comes to medicine, it’s all about the team effort.”

Kayla graduated from FM in 2007 and enrolled at SUNY Stony Brook. She transferred to University at Albany majoring in Human Biology and graduated Cum Laude in 2010. The following November, she was accepted at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master’s degree in 2012.

Currently, Kayla works as a Registered Radiologist Assistant in the capital region. Her career goal is to become a physician. “I work with Dr. Tariq Gill, a Radiologist who says life is a script, we are placed for a reason. With the right guidance and the determination to achieve your goals, it makes your script that much easier to follow. As long as medicine allows, I will keep going.”

Residing in Mayfield, Kayla believes there is no better start than FM. “A community college is a way to get your feet wet without feeling overwhelmed financially and mentally. I had small classes at the junior college level and classes with over 1000 students at the university level. It is so important to be able to raise your hand in a classroom and have your question addressed. As far as the Rad Tech program, there is no better program. The instructors are technologists themselves and they work at the local hospitals. You’re set up for success.”

**Alumnus Feature:** **Chris Renda**  **Class of 2013**

Chris Renda, a husband and father of three boys, wanted a more comfortable career. His wife’s cousin, Marty Waffle, an Associate Professor of Computer Science at FM, took the time to talk to Chris about the Electrical Technology program offered at the College. “It just seemed like a perfect fit to enhance my existing career as a telecommunications technician,” said Chris.

Chris states that his Professor of Electrical Technology, Rich Prestopnik, was “my inspiration to achieve the best I could. His knowledge and guidance was what led me down the path of extreme success. I could not have picked a better mentor.”

Chris was extremely active in extracurricular activities. He joined the Elec Tech Club and served as both Club Senator and President. With the help of fellow student, Jeff Reed, and the guidance of Assistant Professor of English (and musician) Steve Hymowech, they pioneered and established FM’s first music club where Chris served as Vice President. “I co-starred in FM’s first two live-action commercials. I played guitar at the Student Government Association’s Awards Ceremony. I competed in the SUNY Business Plan Competition with two classmates, representing FM in the competition for the first time, going on to the finals in Albany. I worked as a tutor in my major helping first year students.”

Chris still managed to graduate with a 4.0 GPA!

Chris worked at Albany Nanotech until accepting a great opportunity at GLOBAL-FOUNDRIES, his ultimate career goal.

“At 39, I considered myself a non-traditional aged student and I first thought I could not pull off getting a college degree. Admittedly, it was extremely difficult, but with dedication, hard work, and the full help and support of my family I was able to graduate with highest honors and earn the job that I wanted. My wife Allison, my three sons, and mother and father-in-law are the people I owe the credit for my success.”

Chris also credits FM’s labs and Cleanroom. “FM has some of the best facilities in a college anywhere in upstate NY and a staff that is very personable and knowledgeable. It was the perfect springboard.”

A resident of Gloversville, Chris is still very involved with the community. He is a board member of Gloversville Little League and the Intermediate Division Vice President. He is the head coach for Fulton United Soccer Grades 5-6 and participates in all of his son’s extracurricular activities.
Give a Gift to your Alma Mater

By making a tax-deductible gift to FM Foundation, you will also be making an investment in your community. In addition, your employer may have a Matching Gift Program that could increase your contribution to your community college.

Yes, I want to make a tax deductible gift to FM Foundation. I would like the gift to go toward:

- [ ] Dr. Varghese Pynadath Memorial
- [ ] Raiders Cove Project
- [ ] General Fund

Enclosed is a check made payable to the Foundation of FM in the amount of:

- [ ] $500
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Please charge my MasterCard or VISA in the amount of: $________________

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Gifts of any amount are welcome. Thank you for your contribution.

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☐ Please contact me about establishing a scholarship.

☐ Yes, I am interested in making a gift through a bequest, charitable trust, charitable gift annuity, life insurance, retirement plan, or other planned gift. Please contact me with further information.

Mail to: The Foundation of FM, 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown, NY 12095