

# Alfred

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

## Charles Fergus Binns

*First Director of the  
New York School of  
Clay-Working and  
Ceramics*

# INNOVATIONS

Celebrating 125 years of the New York State College of Ceramics

## Taking Stock

NYSCC deans Gabrielle Gaustad, Lauren Lake, and Brian Sullivan discuss the unique identity of the College in its 125th year.

## Epic Moments

NYSCC alumni L. David Pye '59 '68 and Stephanie McMahon '98 describe their education and work in the institution.





# THE SCIENCE OF DESIGN:

## Frederick Carder and Paul Vickers Gardner

The Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center was established in 1994 with the mission to intersect glass art and science. This intersection remains at the heart of the Center today, as reflected by the Center's collection of works by our founder, Paul Vickers Gardner, and his mentor, Frederick Carder. Carder and later Gardner were working during a significant period of transition in glass decorative arts, both in Western Europe and North America. Artist designers, including Carder and Gardner, harnessed advances in glass chemistry, furnace technology, and other industrial glass equipment and processes to further their work. These advances combined with a greater interest in archaeology and art of the Ancient World and excitement as the world progressed into an advanced industrial age.

As archaeology, chemistry, history, and technology met, glass artist-designers including Frederick Carder and Paul Vickers Gardner synthesized these fields into glass decorative arts objects. Experimentation with new glass compositions to create brilliant colors and furnace conditions to create surface effects were integral to Carder's work. Later, both Carder and Gardner turned to cire perdue, or lost wax, casting. This ancient method of glassmaking was combined with new mold-making methods to produce sculptures that embraced both tradition and modernity. Today, the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center at the New York State College of Ceramics continues this tradition, looking both to the past and the future, to science and art, together.

Exhibition Curator: Annika Blake-Howland (Ph.D. student, Glass Science)  
with assistance from students in Matthew Limb's Fall 2024 course  
"Museum and its Discontents" and Doris Möncke's Spring 2025  
course "Natural Glasses."



Exhibition materials design team: Juliet Lyons, BFA, Art and Design, '25 and  
Jamie Shannon, BFA, Art and Design, '27



**Alfred University President Mark Zupan welcomes guests to the opening of the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center, celebrating 125 years of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University.**





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"Fortunate is it that during his day ... the demands of the profession and the industry were not for absolute concentration and specialization.... That made possible the living of a life by him in which the spiritual, the human, the artistic, and the professional were all perfectly blended into as fine a work of art as his best pottery. It can never be duplicated... As a creative teacher, as an artistic, exalted educator or educators, he will be our enduring inspiration."

– Major Edward Holmes, Dean of the New York School of Clay-Working and Ceramics, speaking in 1934 on the occasion of the death of Charles Fergus Binns. Quoted in "Charles Fergus Binns and the Origins of the College of Ceramics," by Susan Strong, appearing in *A Sesquicentennial History of Alfred University Essays in Change*.

# Alfred

## MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

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*Alfred Magazine*, copyright 2025, is published 2 times per year by Alfred University, Alfred, New York. The magazine is mailed free of charge to alumni, current parents, and friends of Alfred University.  
Circulation: 8,000

We reserve the right to edit all letters and articles submitted for publication in *Alfred Magazine*.

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### CAMPUS DIGEST

## Sundaram co-inventor of process to immobilize nuclear waste

S.K. Sundaram, Inamori Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Alfred University, is co-inventor of a novel process by which nuclear waste products can be immobilized in ceramic-metal waste form.



and Technology, Savannah River National Laboratory, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who worked on the project.

The goal of the research was to find a way to immobilize high-level waste products created in the production of nuclear power into a single waste stream. In addition to waste immobilization, the new technology can be used for nuclear waste management and recovery of isotopes used in medical applications.

Sundaram was among a Rutgers School of Engineering-led collaboration of researchers from Alfred University, Washington State University, University of South Carolina, Missouri University of Science

## New art minor offered

The School of Art & Design introduced a new minor in art, available to all Alfred University undergraduate students. This program is designed to develop essential creative, critical, and visual thinking skills that benefit students personally and professionally, complementing their primary fields of study.

The 16-credit curriculum includes 12 credits in non-major studio art courses and four credits in Art History, with various studio options available each semester to

accommodate students' interests. Enrollment began this spring, and students are encouraged to contact their advisors to explore course options and requirements.

Lauren Lake, Dean of the School of Art & Design, commented on the minor's impact, stating, "The art minor broadens students' ability to think creatively and approach problem-solving through a unique visual perspective in, through, and about the visual arts and design."

## Susan Mayberry honored for scholarship on author Toni Morrison

Susan Mayberry, Jane Peterson Professor of the Humanities in Alfred University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was recognized for her scholarly work on the late Nobel Prize-winning author, Toni Morrison, an African American novelist and editor.



Morrison won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and in 1993 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Mayberry has written two books on Morrison: "Can't I Love What I Criticize: the Masculine and Morrison," published in 2007, and "The Critical Life of Toni Morrison: Making a Home in the Rock," published in 2021.

The Toni Morrison Society recognized Mayberry for her work on "The Critical Life of

Toni Morrison: Making a Home in the Rock" by awarding her its Book Prize for Best Single-Author Book, 2019-2022. The prize is given to the book that represents the best original scholarship solely on Toni Morrison, based on the originality and clarity of the thesis, the soundness of the research, the quality of the writing, and the impact of the book on Morrison Scholarship.

The Toni Morrison Society Book Prizes were presented during the American Literature Association at the Reception and Awards Ceremony hosted by the African American Literature and Culture Society.



## Space Materials Institute launched at Alfred University

In November, Alfred University announced the launch of its new Space Materials Institute (SMI), which has been established in the Inamori School of Engineering to advance the science and technology of materials in support of aerospace and outer space exploration.

SMI will facilitate industry and governmental agency projects with Alfred University that engage students in hands-on experiential learning opportunities, while allowing companies to develop and protect intellectual property. Alfred University's New York State College of Ceramics is a key provider of quality ceramic, glass and materials engineers to the advanced materials workforce pipeline. The Space Materials Institute, directed by Holly Shulman, research faculty in the Inamori School of Engineering, is working with Alfred University's Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT) to initiate and grow New York State capabilities in the space and aerospace sectors.

Current efforts at Alfred University with agencies and industry include projects with NASA, ARPA-E, U.S.

Department of Energy, U.S. Army Research Laboratories (ARL), SpaceX, Blue Origin, Safran Aerosystems, Lockheed Martin, Washington Mills, Lithoz, and Blue Star Advanced Manufacturing.

Shulman, president of Blue Star Advanced Manufacturing, working on the NASA Moon to Mars Planetary Autonomous Construction Technologies (MMPACT), is developing a microwave solidification process for the lunar regolith simulant (artificial moon dust). The simulant was developed by Washington Mills for use in constructing landing pads and roads, and for 3D building on the moon. A joint project between Alfred University and DEVCOM (U.S. Army Capabilities Development Command), Army Research Laboratory—funded by a \$13.5 million federal contract over five years—studies forming and characterization of ultra-high temperature ceramic (UHTC) materials. Research at Alfred University focuses on discovering next-generation UHTCs while characterization of a wide range of UHTC materials provides a pathway to making improved materials for defense systems and aerospace applications.



Zoey Keagle, a junior dual ceramic engineering-art and design major at Alfred University, gives a demonstration on microwave sintering of lunar simulant (artificial moon dust). Zoey is an intern with the university's Space Materials Institute.

## Books, articles on sculpture donated to University

In November, Alfred University received approximately 5,000 books and articles on sculpture, donated by the International Sculpture Center (ISC). The material is housed in a permanent collection in Scholes Library.

Coral Lambert, professor of sculpture, was contacted by a representative of ISC last summer, asking if she would be interested in receiving the donation from ISC's special collections library, which contained approximately 5,000 books and articles on sculpture, many of them signed by artists.

John Hosford, art librarian at Scholes Library drove to the ICS offices in New Jersey to pick up about 300 boxes of books and articles and delivered them to campus, where students, staff, and faculty helped move the material into Scholes. The collection is being catalogued and housed permanently in the library, where it will be a valuable resource to sculpture students for years to come.



Sarah Blood, associate professor of glass, moves boxes of books on sculpture, donated by the International Sculpture Center.



## Students shine at financial analysis competition



Alfred University team members, with faculty advisor Mark Lewis (center), dean of the Business School, following their presentation at the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Research Challenge of Western New York, from left: Chris Coyle, Ryan Hughes, Artem Kolisnychenko, and Maksym Smirnov.

A group of Alfred University finance majors, participating for the first time in competition testing their skills as financial analysts, finished runner-up among five teams from Western New York, receiving glowing remarks from judges who commended them for their knowledge, poise and preparedness.

The team of Ryan Hughes, Maksym Smirnov, Artem Kolisnychenko, and Chris

Coyle took second place in their group at the 15th annual Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Research Challenge of Western New York, held in February at Canisius University in Buffalo. The team from Alfred finished behind only Canisius—a perennial power in the competition that has finished first each year and is a past world champion—and ahead of three other schools in its group: Rochester

Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher University, and University of Rochester.

The competition brings together the top business, finance and economics students from the region to research a publicly traded company, develop a comprehensive investment recommendation, and then present and defend their analysis to a panel of industry professionals. Teams presented on Allient Inc., this year's designated company, and made a buy, sell or hold recommendation to the judicial panel. They were judged on analytics, valuation, reporting, writing and presentation skills. Allient is a designer and manufacturer of precision and specialty motion control components and systems for the commercial, industrial, medical, vehicle, aerospace and defense markets.

Each student on Alfred's team is an officer in the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), a club run through the Alfred University College of Business, in which students manage an investment fund. Started in 1995 with a \$100,000 initial investment approved by the Board of Trustees, the fund is now worth more than \$1.1 million.

## Alfred University awarded \$160K NSF grant



Kun Wang, assistant professor of materials science and engineering

Alfred University received a \$160,644 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, which will be used to support a training program focused on battery degradation and

useful life prediction. The program will equip students from the materials science, renewable energy, and electrical engineering fields with skills in battery testing, data analysis, and machine learning for performance prediction. It aligns with the Upstate Energy Storage Engine's mission to advance the battery industry by fostering a highly skilled workforce capable of driving innovation

in energy storage systems.

Kun Wang, assistant professor of materials science and engineering in Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering, is principal investigator for the project. Gabrielle Gaustad '04, dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, Scott Mixture '90, '94 PhD, Inamori professor of materials science and engineering, and Xingwu Wang, professor of electrical engineering, serve as co-investigators.

The Upstate Energy Storage Engine is one of 10 NSF-supported Regional Innovation Engines across the country. It is dedicated to building a comprehensive battery and energy storage ecosystem in Upstate New York by fostering innovation, technology, translation, workforce

development, and inclusive collaboration to support United States independence and leadership in these industries. Alfred University's grant is a sub-award from GROW funding awarded to Syracuse University.

The NSF grant will fund instructional positions and training equipment at Alfred University. Kun Wang is overseeing development of curriculum for short courses, which will be offered to 30 to 50 students from Alfred University, Alfred State College and Corning Community College. The courses will be offered over the summer—possibly in conjunction with Alfred University's Summer Undergraduate Research Institute—and during the Fall 2025 semester. Kun Wang said he expects at least 10 students enrolled in the Undergraduate Research Institute to enroll in the training program.





*The Van Frechette International Friendship Park*

## Alfred University hosts rededication ceremony for Van Frechette International Friendship Park

Alfred University's monument to international collaboration in art and engineering education and research, the Van Frechette International Friendship Park, was rededicated during a ceremony on campus on April 3, which marked the park's 25th anniversary.

The Frechette Friendship Park was unveiled in 2000 as part of the centennial celebration of the New York State College of Ceramics. It honors Van Derck Frechette '39, who earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University and later served as a professor of ceramic engineering from 1944 until his retirement in 1987.

The Van Frechette International Friendship Park consists of a slab of Italian marble with a bronze plaque that explains the park being dedicated to "the causes of peace, friendship, cultural understanding, and to those students from foreign lands who met the challenge of language, culture and

distance to study at Alfred University." It also contains two benches and three flagpoles: one for the United States flag, one for the New York State flag, and one for the flag of the United Nations, with the understanding that the latter is taken down and replaced with the home flag of international visitors to the university.

"This is a special time for us to be celebrating international friendships. They've been so important to our future," said Beth Ann Dobie, provost and chief operating officer. "We have faculty and students from all over the world. There are students from six continents studying at Alfred University. We want to be welcoming to students everywhere."

Alfred University's GE Vernova Advanced Power Grid Laboratory is set to receive a state-of-the-art grid control and distributed energy system, marking a significant milestone in the university's efforts to lead research in renewable energy integration, microgrid technology, and grid modernization.

This new equipment, developed by EDIBON, will enhance Alfred University's ability to conduct advanced research on distributed energy resources (DERs) and energy storage. The system includes components for solar, wind, hydro, fuel cells, syngas generation, hydrogen separation, and advanced battery and non-battery storage solutions. These capabilities will allow the university to simulate and test real-world grid scenarios, accelerating innovation in virtual power plant (VPP) technology, demand response strategies, and DER control protocols.

GE Vernova Advanced Power Grid Lab, unveiled last spring, is part of a workforce development initiative that will prepare students for careers in the growing renewable energy industry. It is supported by a \$466,853 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and \$2.8 million in software licenses donated by GE Vernova.

The Advanced Power Grid Lab will serve as a research hub for testing communication protocols, control algorithms, and system interoperability for grid-connected and islanded microgrids. The lab will benefit students in the Alfred University Inamori School of Engineering's Renewable Energy Engineering and Electric Engineering programs by providing them with access to state-of-the-art equipment and training. It will also support collaborations with industry partners, utilities, and government agencies working on renewable energy integration.





*Pictured above, Deans Lauren Lake, School of Art & Design, Gabrielle Gaustad '04, Inamori School of Engineering, and Brian Sullivan, University Libraries, discuss NYSCC with interviewer.*

## Taking Stock: Deans Gabrielle Gaustad, Lauren Lake and Brian Sullivan discuss the past, present and future of the NYSCC.

On April 11, 1900, New York Governor Theodore Roosevelt signed special legislation establishing the School of Clay-Working and Ceramics at Alfred University. One-hundred-and-twenty-five years later, the New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC) is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Since the tenure of Charles Fergus Binns, the first director of the New York State School of Clay-Working and Ceramics, who served from 1900 to 1931, the College has grown to include two academic divisions: the School of Art & Design and the Inamori School of Engineering. The Scholes Library at NYSCC functions as a specialized academic library, supporting both the College and the broader global research community in the arts and sciences.

Alfred Magazine recently sat down with Brian Sullivan, dean of Alfred University Libraries; Lauren Lake, Michele and Martin Cohen Dean of the School of Art & Design; and Gabrielle Gaustad '04, dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, associate provost for Research and vice president for Statutory Affairs, to discuss the evolution of NYSCC over the past 125 years. The conversation began by reflecting on Charles Fergus Binns's founding vision of a college where engineers and artists could study side by side.



**Interviewer:**

*Let's start with Charles Fergus Binns, a man who valued a close relationship between ceramic engineering and ceramic art in the making of an undergraduate education. Is that relationship as important today as 125 years ago?*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

I think it's even more important. The challenge today is resisting the urge to separate and silo, so I think you have to be even more intentional about having engineering and art and design work side by side. Our students gain so much from working with each other, both in and outside of the classroom, across the disciplines, and that's one of our strengths.

**Lauren Lake:**

Maintaining that relationship has fostered a strong emphasis on collaboration, not only between faculty in areas like glass and ceramics but also with Scholes Library. These collaborations have led to unique curricular and co-curricular opportunities, such as the Glass Art Engine course, co-taught by engineering and art faculty members and students researching together in the library. I believe that if Charles Binns were here today, he would be thrilled to see where we are and where we are going.

**Interviewer:**

*I'm glad you mentioned co-curricular opportunities. Could we continue with that?*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

We also have clubs and groups where artists and engineers work together collaboratively. Our new Foundry is a great example of that. We will have students coming together to do metal pours and casting. There are so many creative artistic elements in that as well as fundamental engineering knowledge that you learn by doing those hands-on activities.

**Interviewer:**

*Is Alfred unique in having that kind of interplay between engineering and the arts?*

**Lauren Lake:**

We are unique in how we embody the concept of intersections—bringing together unexpected elements in authentic and meaningful ways.

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

There aren't a lot of schools in the world that have a top-ranked engineering program together with a top-ranked art program together with a Phi Beta Kappa liberal arts program and a great business school.

**Interviewer:**

*We're meeting in Scholes Library, which must play a crucial role in helping these two schools collaborate.*

**Brian Sullivan:**

One of our unofficial mottoes is, "Where art and engineering meet." This is physically and literally the space where the two come together, where we have resources on art and engineering all in the same space. Typically, people don't use "science" and "the arts" in the same sentence or find them in the same building. That makes Scholes Library a fun space to be, where artists and engineers can work together.

**Interviewer:**

*The library system and curricula of both the School of Art and Design and the Inamori School have broadened considerably in the last 25 years. Tell us about that.*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

There are fundamental areas where our expertise and facilities are historically very strong, but as you mentioned, we have branched out significantly from just focusing on ceramics and glass. We're looking at all kinds of other materials. It's really that materiality that remains important. No matter what we've really branched into, we're devoted to studying materials and materiality.

**Interviewer:**

*What do you mean by "materiality"?*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

Everything's made of something. It has

a touch and a feel. Sometimes things fall apart. How much can you push them? What are their properties? How do they react? Can you come up with completely new materials? "Materiality" describes materials and how they work.

**Lauren Lake:**

The New York State College of Ceramics exists here because of the materials—the very earth beneath us. We take this raw dirt and ask complex questions: What can we do with it? What can we create? This process is deeply tied to this valley, its materials, and its history.

It's important to recognize that the land we use is not originally ours—it has always belonged to others. Yet, this place carries a spirit of making and living, deeply connected to the water that flows through it. That water shaped the land, drawing farms, villages, industries, and eventually research to this area. It's all interconnected, grounded in the natural resources of this region.

**Interviewer:**

*In the Inamori School of Engineering, there are programs in renewable energy, biomaterials engineering, material science, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering. Those areas have developed gradually over the past 125 years. How does that happen?*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

With most great ideas, it usually begins with the faculty. They stay on top of the needs of industry, and we've always been focused on our students getting jobs at the end of their education here. I think one of things that we're really proud of is the economic mobility of our students. So faculty develop the curriculum, adding and getting rid of majors as the needs and demands of employers and industry constantly change. But we also want our students to find their own purpose and figure out what fits for them. That's dynamic and continually changing too, and the faculty do a great job of keeping on top of that when they see a need.



*Interviewer:*

*The art-making side of the College started with clay, and now we have glass, drawing and painting, expanded media, sculpture, dimensional studies, art history and theory and an education as well as art minors. Have these additional programs evolved similarly to new programs in engineering?*

**Lauren Lake:**

While our roots are in ceramic art and design, we offer a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Art History and Theory a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in studio art, providing students with the flexibility to explore various materials, media, and methods. After completing our first-year Foundations program, students choose their own pathways, taking courses in any areas and materials that interest them. For example, a student might combine ceramics and neon, or explore painting and foundry, merge design with glass casting, printmaking, and neon. We also offer four minors including Art History and Theory, Art, Museum and Gallery Practices, and a Technical Minor.

*Interviewer:*

*It just keeps growing?*

**Lauren Lake:**

The School of Art & Design is constantly evolving. We recognize that to stay relevant we must constantly look in the mirror and ask ourselves who do we want to be but more importantly what do we need to be for the next generation of culture creators. As Gabby mentioned, our faculty and staff are both creative and caring. Both schools offer master's programs because our faculty are committed to fostering continued studies and providing mentorship and research opportunities for students. Additionally, SOAD offers a graduate painting program in Düsseldorf, Germany, inspired by our faculty's vision to create something exceptional that connects to the rich history of painting in Düsseldorf.

*Interviewer:*

*Brian, How does a modern library such as Scholes fit into the fabric of a busy college?*

**Brian Sullivan:**

I think the core of Alfred University libraries has always been our people, our spaces and our resources, whether it's 1900 or 2025. In Scholes, for instance, we have specialized librarians in art and engineering. We provide personal librarians for each student. There are places to study, all sorts of nooks around this building where you can go. And right behind me, there're plenty of print journals. People still use those, and we still buy them. One of the things that delights my heart is to walk up here and see an art student with a pile of books all spread everywhere, and they're paging through stuff. That happens regularly.

You know, when the library started, it had a couple of books that had been owned by Charles Binns, and by 1909,

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**“OUR STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM A HANDS-ON, HIGH TOUCH EXPERIENCE, GAINING ACCESS TO MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND PROCESSES THAT MANY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS DON'T ENCOUNTER UNTIL GRADUATE SCHOOL.”**

— DEAN LAUREN LAKE

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I think we were up to a whopping 38 books. Information was very scarce. Now materials are available digitally, as well as in print, and we've expanded along with that. Sometimes students might use the library and be library patrons without our actually seeing them. They're just going through the website. The main thing is, they're locating and accessing the resources, and we make sure we're helping them.

**Lauren Lake:**

I'd like to add that we often hold art history classes inside the library, allowing students to walk through the stacks to reach their classroom and leave surrounded by books filled with knowledge once again. Our librarians also engage directly with our studio spaces. We've created book nooks near

the studios, thanks to the efforts of our art librarian, John Hosford, which help bring the library into our creative environments. Additionally, there's an incredible project room where John collaborates with faculty and students to curate exhibitions. This is the kind of integrated learning environment you'll find here.

*Interviewer:*

*How would each of you describe the mission of the New York State College of Ceramics, including Scholes Library? How do you see that mission evolving over the next 125 years?*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

I think the College of Ceramics shares Alfred University's overall mission of helping students find their purpose. That's certainly something that has been true for many years, maybe since 1900. Certainly, when I was a student here, the College helped me figure out my purpose and passion. That being said, there're some really amazing and unique things about the College of Ceramics. I think our understanding of materials, working with materials, creating new things from materials is a hugely important part of the mission.

**Brian Sullivan:**

I think things change, as they have in libraries. But, materiality, innovation, creativity, hands-on, very personalized, people-centric creativity is always going to be what the College is all about.

**Lauren Lake:**

I agree. We are collaborating with our faculty, students, staff, alumni, and future students to center our work on creating new knowledge in, though, and about materials. Our students benefit from a hands-on, high-touch experience, gaining access to machinery, equipment, materials, and processes that many undergraduate students don't encounter until graduate school. Access to specialized laboratories, research opportunities, and internships with our faculty provide unparalleled learning experiences.

*Interviewer:*

*How do each of you see the College of Ceramics contributing to the overall health and reputation of Alfred University?*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

They rely on each other. You can't imagine Alfred University without the New York State College of Ceramics, or a College of Ceramics without Alfred University. They're so important to each other, and because of that, there's a lot of mutual respect and collaboration across all units that for a really strong connection and partnership. I definitely see that only growing in the future.

**Lauren Lake:**

I agree with Gabby. The School of Art & Design plays a vital role in enriching the health and vibrancy of Alfred University. All our programs are continually evolving, and our faculty are growing in dynamic and innovative ways. We attract students who challenge us, inspire growth, and strengthen our community. This ongoing exchange fosters an environment where mentorship thrives, interdisciplinary connections flourish, and a deep sense of belonging is cultivated. Together, these elements position Alfred University and the New York State College of Ceramics as a hub of creativity, and collaboration.

**Brian Sullivan:**

The library is the living room of the campus. Students have places where they live, eat, and work, but our libraries are where you can relax, hang out with friends, collaborate and work on things. There's information everywhere, so we're concentrating on the things that only we have: our archives, for instance, that contain the story not only of the College of Ceramics, but the story of ceramics in America. In our Special Collections, we're starting to have not just books for research, but physical objects, ceramic pieces, fabric, glass, so that students can study that and even handle it. It comes back to the materiality, the physicality. Students not only can look in a book when they're working on something; they can actually handle objects and look

at them. That's why, to me, libraries are sacred spaces, because they physically embody the knowledge of humanity. When you're walking through shelves of books, you can see it.

**Lauren Lake:**

Our museums and galleries serve as important testaments to this rich history. The Alfred Ceramic Art Museum and the Inamori Museum house extensive collections showcasing the evolution of pottery in both America and around the world. Alongside these museums, we have four galleries that provide additional spaces for exhibitions, learning, and creative exploration. These resources are invaluable to our students and stem from the visionary efforts of the New York State College of Ceramics. Together, they represent a remarkable legacy and

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**"I LOVE THAT YOU HAVE THESE VERY COOL, AMAZING FACILITIES HERE, AND YOUR FACULTY KNOWS WHAT YOUR NAME IS, AND TAKES AN INTEREST IN YOU AND WHAT YOUR INTERESTS ARE."**

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**—DEAN GABRIELLE GAUSTAD '04**

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a promising future that we are proud to preserve.

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

And then there's the Inamori Museum. It's a history of technical ceramics and how the field has changed and advanced over time. In higher education, the legacy is always going to be students who become alumni in what they do, and when you've been doing that for 125 years, it's generational, right? These people are going out, they're joining companies, other institutions, agencies, influencing the field, teaching another generation. Those ripples go far.

*Interviewer:*

*If each of you were working to persuade a high school student interested in engineering or art and design to attend Alfred University, what would you say?*

**Gabrielle Gaustad:**

Of the things that drew me here for my undergraduate education, one vital feature is the small size. I love that you have these very cool, amazing facilities here, and your faculty knows what your name is, and takes an interest in you and what your interests are. We really want to see you evolve and follow your individual path. That was huge for me. And I'd love to see that continue for the next generation of students. Even though we're small, we have access to all the opportunities that you might have at a big place. That's a unique combination that I think a lot of students enjoy and excel in.

**Brian Sullivan:**

We're not only library-rich, but knowledge-rich, information-rich. Alfred is a village of one stoplight and four libraries, which I think is fabulous. The fact that two of those are on the Alfred University campus, including Scholes Library, says a lot about what this place values. It is very unusual to find a place of this size with two dedicated libraries on one campus, to say nothing of the other libraries in our village. I think that points to what we value, and it's something that draws students. Our Personal Librarian Program, for example, exemplifies that personalized attention. It shows that there are many people who are part of every student's success network, whether they're faculty, advisors, or librarians.

**Lauren Lake:**

Our university is deeply committed to mentorship, providing students with comprehensive support through athletics, exceptional honors programs, and more than 100 student activities and clubs. Students have the flexibility to tailor their academic journey to their unique interests. Whether you're an art or engineering major looking to minor in business, dance, philosophy, physics, museum, and galleries practices, this is the place to make it happen. There is no single path here—students are encouraged to design their own academic experience. This flexibility and support are what make our university truly special.





L. David Pye '59, Ph.D. '68



Stephanie McMahon '98

## 125 YEARS OF EPIC MOMENTS:

# Conversations with NYSCC alumni L. David Pye and Stephanie McMahon

By Rob Price

With the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC) in full swing, two notable NYSCC alumni talked about this remarkable institution and how it has guided their lives with *Alfred Magazine*. We thank L. David Pye '59, PhD '68, NYSCC Dean Emeritus and Professor of Glass Science Emeritus, and Stephanie McMahon '98, Professor of Painting, School of Art & Design, for taking the time to talk with us. The following articles are a condensed version of our conversations with each of them.

## Stephanie McMahon

Stephanie McMahon '98 grew up in Seneca Falls, NY, in a family she describes as "invested in art" and always happy to make trips to art museums, galleries, and concerts. In high school, she became serious about making art herself, and a guidance counselor suggested she consider the New York State College of Ceramics for her undergraduate education. She was accepted and arrived on the campus in the fall of 1994.

She quickly attracted the attention of School of Art & Design faculty members who offered the validation she needed to solidify her ambitions. "I'd always been interested in art, but my professors at NYSCC showed me how I could build my life around it," she says. In her second year, she asked her printmaking professor, Ted Morgan, how she was doing, and Morgan answered simply: "Stephanie, you're an artist. You don't need to worry."

"As a young artist, that support was a huge confidence boost that helped assure and propel my decision to pursue a career in art."

She took classes in printmaking, photography, painting and ceramics, taking full advantage of the wide-ranging curriculum offered in the School. She studied with Professor of Photography Roger Freeman, Professor of Ceramic Art Anne Currier, and Professors of Painting Mary Lum and Ann Pibal. After her second year, she traveled to Italy with Freeman and Pibal, who were escorting students through Umbria for the summer. Under Freeman's mentorship, she had thought she wanted to make a career out of photography, but halfway through her Umbrian summer, she decided she wanted to concentrate on painting.

"I discovered I loved color. I loved the immediacy of mixing paint and the spontaneity and fluidity of the

brushstroke on canvas. Painting for me became rooted in observation, and I drew from that experience even as I moved more towards abstraction."

She returned to Alfred at the end of the summer and, while studying ceramic art with Professor Linda Sikora, also took painting classes with Professor Kevin Wixted. Both Sikora and Wixted became important mentors, and Wixted together with Lum and Pibal helped form the foundation for a contemporary painting practice. They encouraged Stephanie to follow her growing interests in the medium, and after she had graduated, and completed her MFA at the University of Texas at Austin, Wixted included her work in a show he was curating at the Lohin Geduld Gallery, in New York City. During one of her visits to New York, Wixted also gave her a tip: The School of Art & Design needed an interim art professor. Was she interested in a teaching career?

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## L. David Pye

David received both his BS and PhD from Alfred University, and he joined the NYSCC faculty while he was completing his doctorate. He has received numerous awards honoring his accomplishments in the field of engineering and is involved in multiple professional organizations. For his interview with *Alfred Magazine*, he drew up a list of fascinating facts – what he calls "Epic Moments" – in the history of NYSCC going back to its founding days.

He begins: The road to establishing what originally was known as the New York School of Clay-Working and Ceramics was initiated during the Alfred University presidency of Boothe Colwell Davis, with support from alumnus John Jake Merrill Sr., owner of the Alfred-Atlas Sand and Gravel company. David notes Merrill was both a businessperson and artist, having attended the Metropolitan Museums School of Artists and Artisans.

"With that background," David says, "Merrill fully appreciated the possibility of his company supporting both Alfred University and the broader Alfred community." Accordingly, Merrill and Davis sought approval from the New York State Legislature to establish a School of Clay-Working and Ceramics at Alfred University. Their efforts led to Governor Theodore Roosevelt signing legislation on April 11, 1900, which approved the establishment of their proposed school.

David says he has always believed that Merrill and Davis were aware of previously established New York State schools at Cornell University, which encouraged them to envision a similar statutory school at Alfred University. "They most likely believed that if Cornell could do this, so could Alfred," he emphasizes. Thus, Alfred University

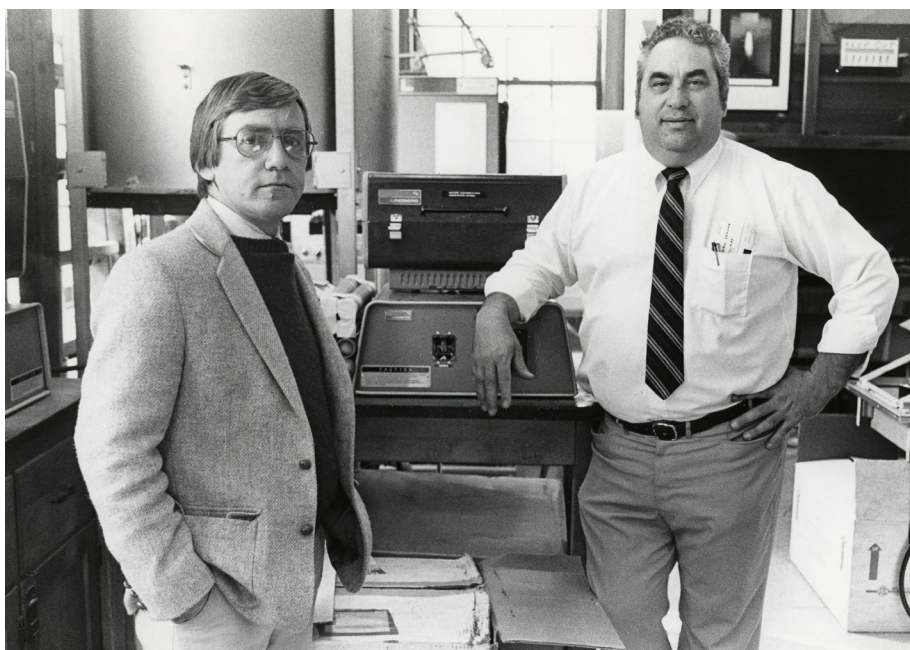
became a hybrid educational institution, part public and part private. In 1948, the Clay-Working and Ceramics School was formally integrated into the State University of New York as the New York State College of Ceramics.

David continues: "The industrial and artistic potential of what was known locally as Alfred clay was also appreciated by a transplanted Englishman, Charles Fergus Binns. Like Merrill, he was fluent in both the industrial uses of clay and its value as a medium for art. Both a ceramic scientist and artist, Binns also believed engineers and artists should have a solid understanding of each other's areas of expertise."

This philosophy, David maintains, has been fundamental to the success of the NYSCC. "Binns saw from the

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*L. David Pye '59, PhD '68 at right, with Professor of Glass Science Bill LaCourse.*

*Pye continued from page 11*

very beginning the value of having art and engineering in a single curriculum existing 'cheek by jowl.' ... I can't imagine NYSCC rising to its present national and international renown if its original focus had just been the manufacturing of Alfred clay products, or just art by itself."

Binns directed the New York State School of Clay-Working and Ceramics from 1900 to 1931 and died three years later in Alfred, nearly 20 years before David himself arrived as a first-year student. Half a century later, in 1996, David was appointed Dean of the College and would celebrate a century of progress at the school Binns had first molded a hundred years before. "Binns, Merrill, and Davis played birthing roles," David says, "whereas I joined NYSCC in its more mature period of history. I will always regard serving as dean one of the greatest honors of my professional career."

NYSCC joining the SUNY system in 1948 opened new possibilities, which David enumerates in his "Epic Moments."

For starters, the College was now part of a much larger educational system. "Representing NYSCC at annual meetings of presidents and directors of Universities and Colleges within SUNY, was a great plus for Alfred University."

Additional "Epic Moments":

- In 1970, the College received a grant from NASA to analyze glass found in lunar soil returned to earth by the crew of the Apollo 12 mission. Alfred thereby joined major universities and research centers across the globe in investigating the thermal and geologic history of the moon.

- In 1980, the engineering faculty adopted a strategic plan that called for competing at the national level for program recognition, research funding, and faculty recruitment. "The College had decided it belonged in the elite company of major educational institutions," David says. This culture led to winning a national competition in 1985 involving 11 universities to establish a National Science Foundation Industry University Center for Glass Research.

- In 1987, a Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology was established at Alfred University, joining 14 other such centers sponsored by New York State with the mission of developing and supporting the transition of university research to industrial use.

- In 2005, following a \$10 million grant from the Kyocera Corporation – founded by Japanese engineer and entrepreneur Kazuo Inamori – the NYSCC School of Engineering was renamed the Inamori School of Engineering.

- In 2011, the Inamori Kyocera Museum of Fine Ceramics was established.

Other "Epic Moments" include the offering of new degree programs, establishing the opening of the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center, the Cohen Gallery, a National Casting Center; and the dedication of the Van Frechette International Friendship Park on the Centennial Anniversary of NYSCC.

When turning from reviewing the history of NYSCC to contemplating its future, David embraces an oft-used and in this case especially appropriate expression: "past is prologue." He predicts even greater achievements are forthcoming for NYSCC. "It's all there. A dedicated faculty and staff, outstanding students, great facilities, and a commitment to embrace Alfred's signature slogan, 'Outside of Ordinary.'"

On a more personal note, he adds: "Thanks to Alfred University, I've achieved the American Dream. This has led me to embrace a line from a famous glee club song: "I will 'serenade Alfred University while life and voice shall last, then I too will pass and be forgotten with the rest.'"

McMahon continued from page 11

“That’s the kind of place Alfred is,” she says. “So many of my classmates are successful because of the relationships they formed with Alfred University faculty and within the community of fellow students at Alfred.”

Stephanie now serves as Professor of Painting and Drawing in the School of Art & Design, where she has been teaching for more than 20 years. In 2012, she met two Düsseldorf, Germany-based painters, Stefan Kürten and Jutta Haeckel, who had been invited to teach at Alfred as International Randall Chair honorees in Painting. Stephanie had been talking with Wixted, now her colleague, about developing an MFA program in painting for SOAD. As she and Wixted got to know Kürten and Haeckel, the four painters began discussing the possibility of an MFA program connecting Düsseldorf with Alfred University.

“We were interested in doing something international,” she says, “because Kevin and I already had developed a summer abroad program in Florence. We’d learned from that experience how our students’ perspectives could be expanded and transformed from working and living in a new environment and culture.”

Eventually, the four artists developed the outlines of a program they presented to Alfred University administrators: an MFA program in which students would divide their time between Alfred and Düsseldorf, studying with art professors in each location. They settled on a curriculum and an international structure (The European Customized Educational Programs Abroad organization would play the key administrative role, with Kürten and Haeckel managing the Düsseldorf end of the program). MFA students would spend their first semester working in Alfred, the second and third semesters in Düsseldorf; and the fourth semester, which would include their



*Pictured above, Professor Stephanie McMahon '98, third from left, with professors Stefan Kürten, Kevin Wixted, and Jutta Haeckel. The four worked together to develop SOAD's MFA program in painting, based in both Alfred and Düsseldorf, Germany.*

spring MFA shows, back in Alfred. The program has a 14-student capacity, with seven first-year and seven second-year students.

“There isn’t any other program like it in the country,” Stephanie says. Nor would the program have been possible without the collegial spirit that had grown between her, Wixted, Kürten and Haeckel. “No one can build a program like this by themselves. Having that special mix of colleagues in the NYSCC was hugely important.”

As a veteran faculty member, Stephanie and her husband, Jason Green, clinical assistant professor of Ceramic Art, live in Alfred in a house formerly owned by artist William Perry. Her paintings, which have been shown in dozens of exhibitions, “extract and distill her observations and perceptions of a particular environment while presenting the possibilities of visual experience and abstraction,” according to the Abattoir Gallery, based in Cleveland, Ohio. “Weaving in and out of referential forms, colors and elemental shapes, she allows for both intuitive and calculated responses. ... Geometric structures and

sharp edges provide a counterpoint to the immediacy and speed of the gesture.”

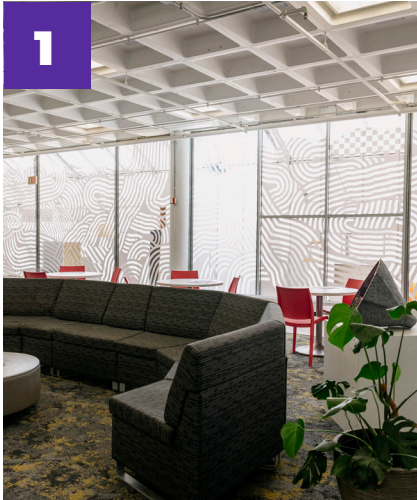
“What I learned to love about painting was and is my deep connection with the material itself,” Stephanie says. “I loved being exposed to so many disciplines at Alfred. Through the breadth of the curriculum at SOAD, it was possible to discover the range of possibilities that painting opened up for self-expression.”

In turn, over the past 20 years, she has been able to share her passion with Alfred University art students. “That’s what we do at Alfred,” she says. “As artists and mentors, we share what we love most. If I can help my students engage the world through their own art, I’m contributing what I’ve learned to future generations. At Alfred, and the School of Art & Design, that’s something we prioritize as we help our students to find their own unique pathway in the arts.”



# NYSCC Continually Evolves With Facility Upgrades and Renovations

The New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC) at Alfred University continues to advance its commitment to innovation, accessibility, and creative excellence through major facility investments. These projects reinforce the College's unique role at the intersection of art, design, engineering, and material science.



1

## 1. HARDER HALL LOBBY AND SECOND-FLOOR LOUNGE

Completed in Fall 2025, this re-design, conceived and created by students, creates intentional, inviting, collaborative spaces that encourage informal mentorship, interdisciplinary dialogue, and creative exchange. Supported by the School of Art and Design and Trustee Eric Bershad, the project features a new vinyl mural installation by artist Taro Takizawa, which illuminates the lobby's natural light.



2

## 2. KILN FACILITY EXPANSION

Building on the momentum of Alfred University's outdoor kiln facility—which opened in Spring 2017 and includes train, soda, salt, car, and raku kilns—a new \$500,000 project on the first floor of Harder Hall will be completed by October 2025. The upgrade includes two state-of-the-art, energy-efficient Blaauw kilns equipped with advanced digital controls to improve firing precision and reduce fuel consumption. Funded by the New York State Construction Fund, this enhancement supports the School of Art & Design's commitment to sustainability and leadership in contemporary ceramics education.



3

## 3. CERAMICS DIGITAL LAB

Renovated in Fall 2024, the Digital Ceramics Lab in Harder Hall bridges traditional ceramic practices with emerging technologies. This space supports interdisciplinary research in material science, digital fabrication, and design, providing students with innovative tools and expanded career pathways in the evolving field of ceramics.



4

## 4. PAUL VICKERS GARDNER GLASS CENTER

Named in honor of Paul Vickers Gardner '30, assistant to Frederick Carder and former Smithsonian curator, the Gardner Glass Center is housed in the historic Palladian Room of Binns-Merrill Hall. The center features a remarkable collection of more than 200 works, including pieces by Carder, Studio Glass pioneers, and renowned European makers such as Gallé, Lalique, and Murano. Also displayed are rare drawings, notebooks, photographs, and personal artifacts from Gardner's distinguished career.

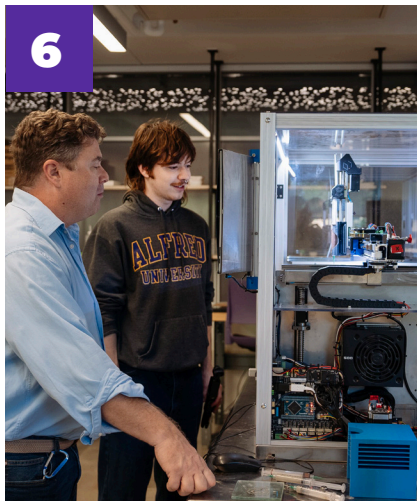


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### 5. HARDER HALL MAIN ENTRY RENOVATION

A \$2.12 million renovation to the main entrance of Harder Hall will begin in May of 2025 and is slated for completion in 2026. Funded by the New York State Construction Fund, the project enhances campus accessibility in full ADA compliance and creates a striking new entry point. The entrance will include display areas for student sculpture, space for contemplation, and a dynamic neon feature that visually connects with the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum.

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### 6. THE CREATE CENTER

The Center for Research, Education, and Application of Technical Excellence (CREATE) supports cutting-edge technical ceramics and glass advancements, including additive manufacturing, ceramic machining, and high-temperature materials characterization. Completed in 2022, this \$7.75 million, 14,778-square-foot facility was funded by SUNY and the New York State Construction Fund, with construction beginning in 2018.

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### 7. SCHOLES PATRON SERVICE DESKS

The recently renovated reference and patron service desk area in Scholes Library welcomes and connects patrons with library services and resources. The design of this hub fosters community, collaboration, promoting intellectual curiosity. Two multi-functional service points serve as the primary place to connect students with library resources such as books, media and journals. The area provides support for course work, research and scholarship activities, and includes a research consultation area (ADA compliant).

8



### 8. SCHOLES OPEN CLASSROOM

This expansive, flexible space serves the entire College of Ceramics through a variety of uses. It includes a classroom area with moveable furniture, collaborative technology with hybrid capabilities for teaching, and a group study area. Adjacent space is frequently used for classes, club activities, tutoring, and NYSCC events such as meetings and holiday celebrations.

9



### 9. NATIONAL CASTING FOUNDRY

Currently under construction on the site of Alfred University's former campus heating plant, the National Casting Foundry is a \$10.1 million project funded through the New York State Construction Fund, Michele and Martin Cohen, and funds from the Emerson Foundation. With completion anticipated in 2026, the Foundry will serve as a national hub for casting arts, furthering the university's mission to integrate technical training and creative exploration in a singular educational environment.



# INNOVATION AT WORK:

The AU Scholars Program draws highly motivated students to campus

By Rob Price



MORGAN WISE '27

Alfred University launched the AU Scholars Program in 2020, seeking high school students across the country whose work demonstrated exceptional grit, curiosity, and engagement with their educational pursuits. This innovation in student recruitment would invite each high school to nominate one promising junior for a generous scholarship to attend Alfred University.

Five years later, Alfred University administrators describe the program as both successful and growing. Retention rates are high among the students participating in the program, a key factor in its development. Moreover, recognizing a significant proportion of new students arrive from other countries (29 nations in





the 2024-25 academic year), the University will open the program to international students who apply for admission for the Fall of 2026.

“Whether from Indiana or India, California or Canada, Utah or Ukraine, every nomination will be carefully considered by our selection committee,” says Alfred University President Mark Zupan, who also asks Alfred University faculty, staff, alumni, and students to spread the word about the Scholars Program at high schools in their own communities.

Celebrating the innovative spirit that drives Alfred University, Alfred Magazine is pleased to share two stories of AU Scholars with our readers.

**NICHOLAS MCLETCHIE-GOLDMAN '26**



## Nicholas McLetchie-Goldman '26

Nicholas McLetchie-Goldman was a student at Shenendehowa High School, in Clifton Park, NY, when his high school counselor introduced him to the AU Scholars Program.

Nick was academically gifted, with a 4.0 GPA, and he was also an athlete, playing high school football and running track. He hoped to play varsity football in college and study biology, in preparation for a career as a physician's assistant in orthopedics or sports medicine. With encouragement and a nomination from his guidance counselor, he applied for the scholarship and received a waiver of all tuition expenses.

Four years along, Nick has maintained another perfect GPA, as well as playing in a starting position on the Saxon football team. He is a biology major in Alfred University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), as well as a chemistry minor. He recently decided to stay at Alfred University for an additional year to complete a second minor in coaching. His scholarship will cover the additional year's tuition.

He exemplifies the kind of student Alfred University had in mind when it launched the AU Scholars Program: a highly motivated, academically talented student who would benefit from financial support to attend Alfred University. Alfred University admissions officers note the retention rate for students in the AU Scholars Program is high; such students arrive ready to thrive at Alfred University. That's a win-win situation for both the students and the university. For Nick in particular, the program was a chance to attend a school his family wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise. "I definitely would have had to choose a different school, probably somewhere near Albany, where I live."



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**"WHAT HE ALWAYS TOLD ME:  
YOU DO IT FOR LOVE OF THE  
GAME AND LOVE OF THE KIDS."**

— NICHOLAS  
McLETCHE-GOLDMAN

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His four years at Alfred University have been busy. Start with his work as a biology and chemistry minor, two demanding fields of study in CLAS. Add to that his four years playing Saxon football – interrupted for several months by a knee injury. Nick estimates weekly practice and meetings take up about 25 hours a week during the football season, not counting the hours spent Saturday traveling to and from other schools and the actual game itself. Off-season, during the winter months, he lifts weights four times a week and runs at least two days. When the weather improves, team practices resume, as well as watching game films.

Nick is enthusiastic about the intellectually engaging environment in his major and minor. Mentors such as Professor of Chemistry John D'Angelo "really care about us and make the work interesting." Organic chemistry lab projects – not for the faint of heart – have included studying the effects of combining alcohol with the drug Benadryl on a simulated stomach. "We wanted to see if the alcohol affected the way the Benadryl broke down in the stomach, whether it broke down correctly, or in different forms and compounds. I thought that was really interesting."

As busy as he's been, Nicholas has also made time to consider the shape of his future professional life after Alfred University. His decision to add the minor in coaching was partly the result of understanding the practical limits of playing football and watching his own father serve as a volunteer coach in Clifton Park.

"I knew my football career was coming to an end. I also figured doing some volunteer coaching on the side would allow me to do what my dad did. He's a great role model. When I talked to him about coaching, he thought it was a great idea and was all in favor of me staying in school for another year."

Nicholas adds: "What he always told me: You do it for love of the game and love of the kids."

## Morgan Wise '27

Morgan Wise grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, where her mother and father both work as architects. As an AU Scholar, Morgan currently focuses her efforts on ceramic art in Alfred's School of Art & Design, but her study of art here are part of a long-range education plan. After graduation, Morgan plans to enroll in an architecture program.

"I'm learning ways of combining my passions," she says. "I'm trying to pull together ceramics, architecture and different international cultures, especially Asian culture, and Japanese culture in particular."

Since enrolling, Morgan has fulfilled Alfred University's hopes for the AU Scholars Program. With a 4.0 GPA, she's considered a highly motivated student who genuinely enjoys the challenges of her undergraduate work and has remained committed to finishing Alfred University's four-year undergraduate program. The AU Scholars Program was designed to attract and retain students just like her.

She has continued lacrosse at Alfred, serving as captain of the Saxons women's lacrosse team, and she hopes to continue serving as captain through her fourth year. She also serves as a member of the University's Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

In addition to ceramic art, Morgan has added a marketing minor in the College of Business. Alfred's multiple colleges and schools provide students a unique opportunity to combine fields of study in ways that will advance their post-graduate success. "Given my parents' work, I've met a lot of architects and marketing people connected with architectural firms. You need to have some basic marketing sense to be

successful as an architect."

Alfred University's SOAD is one of the top-ranked art schools in the country, but at first glance it may seem like an unconventional path to architecture. Morgan, however, has found it to be excellent preparation and extremely rewarding. She has enjoyed everything about SOAD, including Foundations, the core set of first-year courses that challenges young artists to study and practice across many artistic media.

"I really liked Foundations," she says. "I think it pushed me out of my comfort zone. I got to work with clay and plaster – any kind of material I could find. And I got to stretch myself further with painting and drawing and printmaking. I really like the way the School of Art & Design encourages us to try different media. You learn how to do your work under a certain amount of pressure. You have to get that project done, and that encouraged me to combine a practical sense of deadlines with the fun of experimenting."

As an art student, she was also encouraged to explore study abroad options. She recently traveled to Spain with other art and marketing students, and she studied in South Wales, Australia, during the fall semester of 2024. That trip included a tour of Japan, where she developed an appreciation for the sturdiness of the

architecture: the use of wood and joinery to support heavy weight, such as ceramic roofs.

"You look at a building, and you have to ask yourself: How is this standing up?"

Her work in SOAD has taught her additional lessons in time management. Like Nicholas McLetchie-Goldman (see accompanying story), Morgan spends many hours a week in athletic training and competition. "During lacrosse season, we have two-hour practices six days a week. Then there's work in the weight room – three lifts per week – and we also have the games on Wednesdays and Saturdays, which involve two hours of traveling. I'd estimate lacrosse takes up about 20 hours a week.

Morgan is considering graduate architecture programs at Syracuse University, Clemson University, Kent State and Virginia Tech. "At first I didn't want to be an architect, since that's what my parents did. I originally wanted to do art therapy, which is one reason I wanted to study art as an undergraduate. I even shadowed an art therapist in Pittsburgh to get a sense of what the job entailed. It turned out, I missed the math, which I enjoyed in high school."

There's plenty of math in the practice of architecture, and according to Morgan, "The graduate schools teach it to you their way." She's not worried, though. "I've gotten used to the pressure."







The Saxon Inn under construction in early 1990.

# A home away from home

By Mark Whitehouse

A visitor to the Saxon Inn, Alfred University's on-campus hotel celebrating its 35th anniversary this fall, and the Brandywine River Hotel in Pennsylvania's Delaware Valley can't help but notice the similarities between the two. The resemblance is no mere coincidence, says Frank Reagoso, a longtime hotel manager and hospitality consultant who oversaw the development, design, feasibility, and construction of the Saxon Inn.

Reagoso is founder and president of Inns of Distinction, a West Chester, PA-based hotel management company. One of the hotels his firm managed was the Bran-

dywine, an 18th century Victorian-style hotel nestled in the quaint community of Chadds Ford, PA. As Reagoso explains, the seeds for the Saxon Inn were sewn in 1988 when the late Arthur Powell '43, then chair of the university's Board of Trustees, and his wife, Lea, visited the Brandywine River Hotel.

"Art and his wife stayed there. They really liked the stay and asked the manager who had built and designed the hotel. Art wanted to be put in touch," Reagoso says, noting that he was familiar with Powell, a well-known real estate developer in the Philadelphia suburb of King of Prussia,



Frank Reagoso, who oversaw planning and construction of the Saxon Inn more than 35 years ago, is shown here with his daughter, Izzy, a first-Year Alfred University student, in front of the university's on-campus hotel.

PA, located about 30 miles from Chadds Ford. "He said he wanted to meet with me about developing a similar property in New York."

"I asked if it was anywhere near the city. He said, no, it's on the other side of the state, a five- or six-hour drive away," Reagoso says. "I asked him why he wanted to build the hotel. He said one of the reasons I'm driven to do this is I owe so much to this school; I want to give back and spend more time there. He also said it was very important to him that his wife be with him when he visits Alfred."

At the time, the Squirrel's Nest, a small motel north of campus, was the only overnight accommodations in Alfred, something Reagoso said was a problem for Powell. "Art told me she (Lea Powell) said she wouldn't come to Alfred anymore is she has to stay at the Squirrel's Nest," Reagoso recalled with a chuckle.

Then, Reagoso recalled with a chuckle: "Art told me she (Lea Powell) said she won't stay in the Squirrel's Nest (the now defunct small, nondescript motel located north of the Alfred University campus in Tinkertown) again; she won't come to Alfred anymore. Art said it was very important to him that she be with him when he comes to Alfred."

The university ultimately hired Reagoso to oversee construction of what would become the Saxon Inn. Construction began in summer 1989, was completed in the summer of 1990, and the hotel opened that fall. "It worked out beautifully. It's



the same today as when it was built. It looks like it belongs there. It was close to perfect; it still is,” Reagoso says.

“Those were good times. Everyone was so friendly,” he recalls. “I consulted on the development of a hotel at Gettysburg College, and I own a hotel I bought from McDaniel College in Maryland. I’ve done work for many colleges and communities and absolutely, unequivocally, 100 percent, Alfred University and McDaniel College are the best. I’m talking about the quality of the officers of university, the faculty, and their commitment to the students.”

Kristen Karl, general manager of the Saxon Inn, credits members of the Board of Trustees for supporting the hotel over the years. She said Eric Bershad ’69 and his wife, Susan—founders of Phillip Jeffries, a manufacturer and distributor of natural, specialty and textured wall coverings—kick-started the current renovation efforts in 2017 with a donation of wallcoverings for the lobby and breakfast room. Over the ensuing years, the Bershads’ philanthropy has supported new



*The Brandywine River Hotel in Chadds Ford, PA, inspiration for the Saxon Inn*

wallcoverings for the hallways, meeting room, and Chair’s Suite. Greg Connors ’92, board chair emeritus, supported the 2020 renovation of the Chair’s suite.

The Saxon Inn isn’t Reagoso’s only connection to Alfred University: His daughter, Isabella—or, Izzy, for short—is a first-year criminal justice studies major here. Reagoso says Izzy discovered Alfred while researching summer astronomy camps. “She was into astronomy heavy in high school,” says Reagoso. “She’d heard there were camps at universities and wanted to go to one. She did some searches on the internet and the University of Maryland popped up, as well as some

schools in New York, including Alfred University. I said, ‘Woah, hold it. I know that place. The best people you’ll ever meet are at that school.’”

Izzy attended the weeklong camp the summer between her junior and senior years in high school. “She had so much fun. There were kids there from all over the world; she still stays in touch with some of them. She loved every second of it,” Reagoso says.

“When Izzy started considering colleges, she applied and was accepted to several, including St. Joseph’s University,” Reagoso said, referring to alma mater. “But I think she knew all along that she wanted to attend Alfred University. At first, she didn’t have the heart to tell me, but I’m glad she’s there. It’s a great place, a wonderful school.”

And where does Reagoso stay when he’s in town visiting his daughter? “The Saxon Inn. I always stay there when I’m in Alfred.”



*The late Art Powell ’43, chair emeritus of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, at the Saxon Inn dedication in 1990. Powell was the driving force behind the construction of the university’s on-campus hotel.*





# Growing up together

*Kristen Karl '94 reflects on her time at the Saxon Inn*

By Mark Whitehouse



The Saxon Inn turns 35 years old this fall and Kristen Karl '94, general manager at Alfred University's on-campus hotel, has been there every step of the way. In the summer of 1990 Karl (at the time Kristen Jacobs), a Hornell native and recent graduate of Alfred State College, had transferred to Alfred University and was preparing to start classes as a business administration major.

Karl recalls driving past the Saxon Inn and thinking it would be a nice place to work while pursuing her studies. She applied and was offered a position as a breakfast room attendant and housekeeper, later moving to the second shift working the front desk, which expanded to group and meeting planning.

"I was really enjoying working at the Inn, so I decided to go to school part-time, rather than full-time, so I could keep my position there," Karl says. She went to class part-time and earned her bachelor's degree in 1994. "Even though it wasn't my initial plan, it was a great decision professionally and financially. Alfred University's tuition remission for employees was a huge benefit for me, and one I continue to be grateful for."

Karl says she considered moving on after graduation, but after a few interviews and an attractive offer, she decided to stay at the Saxon Inn and in 1997 she was promoted to general manager. We sat down with Karl and talked about her professional journey at the Saxon Inn and how the hotel has changed over its 35 years:

## *What was it like working at the Inn when the hotel was new to campus?*

"The 1990s was an interesting time because the Inn was new and just finding its way. And I was a student also finding my way. It was nice to have both going on at the same time. In fact, I was able to use the Saxon Inn as a case study in some of the business classes I took. Even today, one of the best parts of my job is to engage with students. We employ students at the Inn, of course, but we also give access to both undergraduate and graduate students to use the Inn as a laboratory of sorts, for projects, case studies, etc. Over the years, the reputation of the Inn has grown and many of our alumni, parents, and friends see it as their home-away-from home."

## *What were the biggest challenges of filling the role of General Manager?*

"When I was promoted, I felt ready for the GM role. I had done all the different jobs at the Inn, so I knew it inside and out. The biggest transition was being THE person making decisions about the large projects, and also, the smallest details. And, of course, most people don't realize I am "on call" 24/7. Our operation only shuts down for three weeks of the year (late-December to early January). Otherwise, we have guests in house, and I need to be ready to problem-solve any time, day or night."

*At the time, could you have envisioned yourself being at the Saxon Inn, 35 years later?*

"Never. Not at all. I always thought I would teach business in high school! That's probably why I enjoy mentoring students so much. I also come from a very creative family and love entertaining, so the hospitality side of the business – making people feel welcome and making the Inn comfortable and beautiful – feels like second-nature to me."

*What are your fondest memories of working at the Saxon Inn? What is the best part about getting up and coming into work every day?*

"My fondest memories are all about the people I've met over the years. We really are the Front Door of Alfred University for many people. The parents of our students, many of whom will stay with us for the first time when their student is considering Alfred University, and visit several times each year for four years, will say they really miss the Inn when their student graduates. We hear that a lot. And you can only imagine the fun we have when our alumni are in town – the Inn is the place to be!"

*How has the place changed over the years?*

"Without a doubt it's the use of technology. Thanks to Alfred University's ITS staff, we've been able to update and simplify everything we do. They are a true partner for us. And speaking of partners, the facilities team at Alfred never misses a beat when we need quick repairs, snow removal, etc. – we have been well taken care of over the years!"

*What are you most proud of with the work you've done during your tenure at the Saxon Inn?*

"Well, two things really: Attracting and retaining employees, is one. I have a fantastic staff, many of whom have been with us for 10 or more years. And the second thing is the work I've done to renovate sections of the Inn. Renovations are always needed in properties like ours. We've been able to update almost all the back-of-house mechanical systems, as well as all the public spaces and about half of our guest rooms. It's my goal to keep working on renovations until the entire Inn gets the updates it deserves."

## All in the family

Ask any member of the Faughnan family what has kept them working at the Saxon Inn for a combined 48 years and they'll likely say, "It's the people."

"It's Kristen Karl (Saxon Inn general manager) and the other employees," who they say are "the best." And "It's the families, with anxious parents who leave their kids with us, and end up as our friends who we see year after year." And "It's our alumni who see the Saxon Inn as their home-away-from-home."

But, one might wonder, what's it like to work with your actual family? Carole, who works at the front desk, and is married to Josh, who works on the housekeeping staff, says "It's wonderful. We have a great bond—we trust and support each other, which really helps during the busiest days."

Jessica, who is the night auditor and the longest serving Faughnan, having just celebrated her 20th work anniversary, welcomes the chance to see her family as much as she does. "It's very comfortable to work with people you know as well as we know each other."

All the Faughnans have special memories of their time at the Inn.

"Certain guests when they come, they just bring such joy," says Jessica. Since she works nights, arriving guests are often tired, or nervous, and "they are just so happy to see me."

Jessica recalls one special night when "I even got to meet comedian Kevin Hart when he was a guest here!"

Those same weary guests give rave reviews about the cozy beds, and how clean and comfortable the Inn is. Josh noted that he looks forward to seeing familiar names on the arrivals list, and he is pleased that "so many guests remember our names."

"We get comments from people about how nice the Inn looks and how well we work together. And I tell them, well, Justin is my brother, so we are a good team!"

Justin thinks working in the "quiet and relaxing atmosphere" of the Inn is what he likes the best. He also enjoys sharing his local knowledge with guests when they ask about the area. Carole feels great pride in watching the students as they get ready to graduate. "It feels good to know that I was part of making them comfortable and happy here."



The Faughnan family, from left: Josh, Carole, Jessica, and Justin.



## SUCCESSFUL SAXONS

# Program provides student-athletes a wide range of support

By Mark Whitehouse

An innovative new program in Alfred University Athletics Department is providing student-athletes with the tools they need to thrive in the classroom and in competition while laying a foundation for continued success after graduation.

The Saxon Success Program was launched last fall with a goal of providing broad-based training to student-athletes, coaches, and athletics department staff. Five core components comprise the program: life skills, leadership, staff professional development, sport psychology/mental training, and academic success.

The program is supported in part by The Fahey Fund, which was established in 1998 by Russ Fahey '58 and his wife, Patricia, as a way to help first-year football players make the needed adjustments to college life. Russ, who earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering and participated in football and track and field at Alfred, served on the university's Board of Trustees from 2003-08.

"So many kids get to college and the school doesn't have the necessary discussions with players" on what they need to do to succeed, Russ explained "So they fail. I saw kids leaving and not coming back. I thought, this is crazy. Why isn't someone helping these kids?"

Russ said he himself struggled initially after arriving on campus as a first-year student in 1954. He recalled Fred Gertz, dean of students at the time, engaging him in a frank discussion about his prospects for continued enrollment at Alfred. "He told me, you have to pay attention, or you won't be here next year. So, I did. But there were many others who didn't make it. For me

personally, that changed my life. I know the value of having someone to talk to."

The Fahey Fund "started out as a retention program," Pat added. "We wanted to design something to help the freshmen football players, teach them skills like time management, how to make up missed classes and tests; how to get along with their roommates; keeping a checkbook—skills that many student-athletes were lacking."

The initiative eventually expanded to include serving all first-year student-athletes and now, as the Saxon Success Program, provides guidance to all student-athletes enrolled at Alfred.

"There have been success initiatives in the past for student-athletes, but this is far more comprehensive," said Deb Steward, Associate Vice President for Student Experience, Athletics and Recreation. "This is process focused. If we execute the process correctly, the success will come. We need our students taking care of business in the classroom; that shows they are committed to the process."

Under the program's life skills component, student-athletes participate in 45-minute seminars, called "huddles," which are offered according to their class year. First-year students' seminars focus on areas aimed at helping them acclimate to life as a college student-athlete. Sophomores are taught

about researching careers and securing internships, networking, and personal empowerment. Juniors' huddles teach students how to market their athletics careers to potential employers, setting their career plans in motion, and becoming vocal leaders. Seniors' discussions include securing their financial futures, developing an identity post-athletics, and prioritizing lifelong fitness and health.

Student-athletes are taught leadership skills through the LEAD (Learn, Empower, Achieve, Develop) model. Student leaders from each varsity athletics team—self-nominated or chosen by their coaches—engage in a leadership curriculum and summit while applying their leadership skills to their teams and also in a seminar with



Russ Fahey '58 and his wife, Pat

LEAD athletic workshops led by Dr. Christy Holm Haider, a Minneapolis, MN-based sports psychology consultant. The athletics department partners with the Judson Leadership Center in the LEAD Summit to

Holm Haider leads four one-hour professional staff development sessions focusing on leadership as well as sports psychology/mental training sessions for student-athletes and teams. The latter sessions address topics such as performance anxiety, confidence, and building goals.



Mike Moskowitz, women's basketball coach, and senior team member Alyssa DiMillo

The athletics department tracks student-athletes' performance in the classroom. An academic success committee headed by Erin Schurr, associate athletic director, monitors student-athletes' compliance with minimum academic standards and ensures that they are utilizing the resources available to them. Dr. Nicole Bernsen, director of the rugby program and head women's rugby coach, and Adair Milmoie, head field hockey coach, also serve on the committee; both have backgrounds in academic success programs at their previous institutions of higher education.

provide student-athletes leadership training "in a collaborative team setting," Steward said. "The goal is to help students develop leadership skills through various experiential learning activities, which they will then apply to their teams, in class, and in other settings."

Steward pointed to the benefits of fostering leadership skills in student-athletes, which benefit them on their teams and in the classroom, and also long-term in their lives after graduation. "Everything in athletics is transferrable to everyday life," she said. "We want our students to go out as citizens engaged where they live and work, as leaders in their families, their jobs, and their communities."

Mike Moskowitz, seventh-year head women's basketball coach, said student-athletes have provided the Athletic Department feedback on the Saxon Success Program. "It is ever evolving, and we are constantly looking for ideas to improve their lives as members of their teams, our athletic department, and campus community as a whole. This has certainly led to our student-athletes feeling supported across the board, with opportunities for growth and a stronger connection to the athletic community."

The impact of the Saxon Success Program from an academic standpoint is evident. There was an increase in overall grade-point averages of all student-athletes as demonstrated by the Fall 2023 GPA of 3.18

for 487 student-athletes to the Fall 2024 GPA of 3.26 for 527 student-athletes. In addition, there has been an increase among students with a GPA 3.50 or higher, with 74 more student-athletes achieving that mark or higher in Fall 2024 as compared to Fall 2023.

"This will increase retention, persistence, and graduation rates," Steward said. "It is an enrollment driver; a tool coaches can use for recruiting."

Moskowitz agreed. "When we meet with recruits and their families, this is a big talking point. We often talk about being a program that focuses on developing people and these additional resources offered by our department help us do just that," he said.

Alyssa DiMillo, a senior member of the women's basketball team, touted the benefits of the Saxon Success Program during her time as a student-athlete at Alfred. "I have become more self-aware of my strengths and weaknesses and have learned how to become a better leader for my team, and how to build confidence in myself and others," said Alyssa, a business administration major from Syracuse.

Steward credited the Faheys for making the Saxon Success Program possible and for their continued support of Alfred University student-athletes. "I can't emphasize enough the generosity of the Faheys and how it has allowed us to enhance the opportunities for our student-athletes," she said, adding that the Saxon Success Program also receives support from Saxon Nation, the fundraising organization for the athletics program.

"We're very happy with how it has grown," Pat says. "So many people have brought new ideas and have improved it far beyond what I'd ever imagined it would become. This helps these kids not only become good students, but also good employees and good citizens."



# Saxon Hill Sports Complex construction continues

By Mark Whitehouse



The foyer the Saxon Sport Center at the Saxon Hill Sports Complex.



The rugby field press box at the Saxon Hill Sports Complex.

Construction continues on the Saxon Hill Sports Complex, Alfred University's \$30 million sports and recreation facility atop Jericho Hill in the town of Alfred. The facility will be completed in December 2025 and ready to host practices and athletics competition in the spring of 2026.

In 2023, the Alfred University Board of Trustees gave its approval for the construction of Saxon Hill, a project that is expected to significantly enhance the University's student recruitment and retention efforts. Excavation at the 200-acre site located approximately three miles south of campus began in October. LeChase Construction of Rochester is serving as construction project manager.

"The site construction continues to advance," said Deb Steward, Deb Steward, associate vice president for Student Experience, Athletics, and Recreation. "We are excited to see the installation of lights, and the dimensions of fields and the track become better visually defined."

Steward added, "Behind the scenes, our project team is moving from building design to construction documents including decisions on the details – from locker colors to striping on the track. Our building

contractors are eager to pour foundations and move forward with the building construction."

Tammy Raub, vice president for Business and Finance, said in late March, said the university has signed the overall gross maximum price contract that includes the final piece of the project, the buildings, and all sub-contract awards have been made.

"We remain on time and under budget to wrap things up at the end of the calendar year 2025," Raub said. "We appreciate working with the Town of Alfred to obtain all needed building permits, and we appreciate the hard work of our facilities team working daily with LeChase to ensure that things run smoothly."

For more information—including project details and updates, 3D animated video, photo and image galleries, and a live construction camera—check out the Saxon Hill website at [go.alfred.edu/saxonhill](http://go.alfred.edu/saxonhill).

It is anticipated that site development—utilities, parking lots, roadways—will be finished by November 2025. Other aspects of the project will simultaneously be constructed. The baseball field will be completed by October 2025, while the track

and multi-purpose field, throws area, and rugby field will be finished by December 2025. Construction of the various buildings began in March and is expected to be completed by December 2025.

Once completed, Saxon Hill will have facilitated the addition of four new intercollegiate varsity athletics teams: baseball, men's and women's rugby, and field hockey. The baseball team began competing in the spring of 2024 and will begin playing at its home field at Saxon Hill in spring 2026; women's rugby began competing as an intercollegiate varsity sport this fall. Men's rugby, formerly housed under student clubs, is now an official intercollegiate athletic team. Field hockey will begin competition in the fall of 2025.

The Sports Complex will also positively impact roster growth for the men's and women's track and field teams as the facility will provide them with a home practice and competition facility. The Saxons are scheduled to host the Empire 8 men's and women's outdoor track and field championships in May of 2026.

Saxon Hill will provide valuable practice space for other field sport teams—men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's soccer,

and women's soccer—that currently practice and compete at Yunevich Stadium on the Alfred University campus. An existing cross country course—which has been used primarily for training but has hosted competitive meets—will be retained and used for practices and competitions. In addition, the Saxon Hill Sports Complex will provide space for intramurals and club sports as well as other recreational activities. The complex will host sports camps and provide opportunities for facility rentals.

The facility is expected to be a boon for student-athlete recruitment and student retention, with the University estimating it



*The grandstand overlooking the outdoor track and rugby field at the Saxon Hill Sports Complex.*

will increase enrollment by approximately 170 students over the first six years of its opening. The complex will complement nearby existing sports, recreational, and academic facilities located in the area atop Jericho Hill. These include the Brome-

ley-Daggett Equestrian Center at Maris Cuneo Equine Park, home to Alfred University's world-class equestrian program, and Foster Lake, which provides the campus community with numerous recreational and co-curricular opportunities.

### Garret Eldridge chosen to lead men's soccer team



Garret Eldridge was appointed Alfred University's head men's soccer coach on January 30, becoming the ninth head coach in the 60-year history of the program. He comes to Alfred from Ithaca College, where he led the men's soccer team for four years.

"In a strong pool of candidates, Garret rose to the top due to his experience, vision for Alfred University men's soccer, and our confidence in his ability to mentor our student-athletes for success in all facets of their lives," said Deb Steward, associate vice president for Student Experience, Athletics & Recreation. "I look forward to his impact on our men's soccer program, athletic department, and Alfred community."

During his tenure at Ithaca, Eldridge led the Bombers to the Liberty League Championship match in 2021 and 2023. Six of Eldridge's players earned All-Liberty League honors and two earned regional All-American recognition. In

three of the past four seasons, Eldridge's teams were ranked either regionally or nationally. Before being promoted as the head coach, Eldridge worked as Ithaca College's assistant men's soccer coach and recruiting coordinator. Prior to his time with Ithaca, Eldridge was the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Arcadia University from 2016-18. Eldridge started his collegiate playing career at NCAA Division I Siena College before transferring to NCAA Division III Roanoke College, where he was an Old Dominion Athletic Conference All-League midfielder. Eldridge graduated from Roanoke College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. Following graduation, Eldridge played professionally in Australia for the Sunshine Coast Fire FC.

### Allison Hogue joins Athletic Communications staff



Allison Hogue joined the Athletics Communications staff in December when she was appointed assistant director of Athletic Communications. Hogue joins Director of Athletic

Communications Chris Boswell and Associate Director of Athletic Communications Devon Withers MBA '22 on a team that supports approximately 600 Saxon student-athletes.

Hogue comes to Alfred from the Boston area, where she worked as an athletic communications game day contractor in the area. She previously served in the athletics communications office of Division I University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. She was the primary contact for several sports teams while also supervising and mentoring interns and student workers and producing social media content.

Hogue served as athletic communications graduate assistant for Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, while earning her master's degree in sports communication and media in 2023. She served as an athletics communications intern/student worker at Liberty University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in sport management in 2019. At Alfred, Hogue will be the primary contact for men's and women's cross country, women's tennis, women's volleyball, women's basketball, men's and women's track and field, and men's lacrosse.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1959

### *Golden Saxons Reunion*

**Robert Cohen '59** (B.A., psychology) was listed in Forbes inaugural "America's Top 200 Lawyers" list, published in 2024. Bob is senior partner of the New York City law firm of Cohen Clair Lans Greifer & Simpson and is recognized as one of the nation's top matrimonial attorneys. He is a member of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. For many years, Bob served as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Bob has been a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees since 2019 and previously served on the Board from 1984-90. He earned his law degree from Fordham University in 1962.

## KEEP *in touch*

*Please send us your family activities, professional moves, achievements, and photos.*

### EMAIL

whitehouse@alfred.edu or  
alumni@alfred.edu

**NOTE:** When using alumni@alfred.edu, please label your subject as "Class Note," so we can be sure to include it in the next issue of *Alfred Magazine*.

### SNAIL MAIL

Mark Whitehouse  
Director of Communications  
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football teams in the same year. He was elected to the Alfred University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988. At Jamestown High, he was a three-year starting quarterback for the football team and was a three-year starter for the basketball team, leading the team in scoring each season. He was also a member of the Jamestown High School track and field team that set a school record in the 880-yard relay. Mark retired from the United States Postal Service as a postmaster in 2010 and lives in Ludlow, MA.

**Kevin Winter** (B.S., ceramic engineering) was elected to the Vermont State House of Representatives in November. The Republican, who represents the Rutland-Windsor District, assumed office on Jan. 8, 2025; his current term will end on Jan. 6, 2027. After earning his bachelor's degree from Alfred University in 1977, Kevin began a distinguished 45-year career in corporate manufacturing and sales management with companies including GE, UTC, and Teco-Westinghouse. A resident of Ludlow, VT, for the last 25 years, Kevin brings significant public service experience to the Vermont State House, having served 11 years on a New York state school board and over 20 years as a Church Elder. Now retired, Kevin and his wife, Lee, have been married for 41 years and have three married children and seven grandchildren.

## 1975

### *Golden Saxons Reunion*

**John Gill MFA** (M.F.A.), an alumnus and retired ceramic art professor in Alfred University's School of Art and Design, New York State College of Ceramics, exhibited his new artwork at the Yossi Milo Gallery in New York City. The exhibition, "WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO BE?," was on view from March 13 to April 12. John has been celebrated in the field of ceramic art for over half a century and has long staked his work on the vessel as a starting point, creating endless variations of vases, ewers, bottles, and platters.

## 1977

**Mark Edstrom** (B.S., accounting) was inducted into the Chautauqua County Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Jamestown, NY, on Feb. 17, 2025. Mark was a multi-sport standout at Jamestown High School and Alfred University. He played basketball at Alfred four seasons and his 1,356 career points ranked third on the university's all-time list upon his graduation in 1977. After being away from football for three years, Mark joined the Saxons gridiron team under legendary Saxon coach Alex Yunevich. Playing running back and placekicker, he achieved a rare feat – he was the leading scorer on both the Alfred basketball and

## 1982

**Andrew Berends** (B.F.A.) presented a raku pottery workshop, on Feb. 1 and 8, 2025, at the Gallery at the VAULT in Springfield, VT. Raku is a pottery firing method in which glazed ceramics are taken from the kiln while they are still

glowing red hot and are then placed in a flammable material, such as sawdust or newspaper. This technique is used to starve the piece of oxygen, which creates a myriad of colors within the glaze. The workshops included wheel-throwing, slab-making, as well as extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Andrew, a master potter for over 30 years, has exhibited internationally, as well as been represented by over 180 galleries nationally. In addition to earning a B.F.A. from Alfred University, he has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Montana State University.

## 1983

**Susan Nelson** (B.S. accounting) retired on Dec. 31, 2024, as chief financial officer of Total Senior Care, concluding a 37-year career with the Olean, NY, organization. Total Senior Care is a comprehensive managed long-term care program designed to support adults 55 and older who wish to live independently while maintaining health and safety at home. Sue's journey with the organization began in September 1987, when she joined as business manager for what was then Home Healthcare of Cattaraugus County. Since then, she has played a vital role in the organization's growth and transformation. Her retirement plans include spending more time with her husband, Dave, their two sons, Nathan and Nick, and their four grandchildren.

## 1990

### *Honored Reunion Year*

**Andrew Call, M.D.** (B.A., biology), board-certified in family medicine, is joining Hamilton, NY-based Community Memorial Hospital's Family Health

### **Kathleen Richardson '82, MS '88, PhD '92 receives prestigious ICG President's Award**

Alfred University alumna Kathleen Richardson, '82, MS '88, PhD '92, was named winner of the International Congress on Glass (ICG) President's Award for 2025.

Richardson, who earned bachelor's and doctoral degrees in ceramic engineering and a master's degree in glass science from Alfred University, is Pegasus Professor of Optics and Materials Science in CREOL, the College of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central Florida (UCF) and is a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees.

She received the ICG President's Award at the 27th International Congress on Glass meeting held Jan. 20-23 in Kolkata, India. The International Congress is a triennial gathering of the glass scientists and technologists. The ICG President's Award was established in 1995 to recognize outstanding lifetime contributions to the international glass community in areas such as scientific discoveries, engineering developments, artistic accomplishments leadership and communications.

Richardson runs the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory (GPCL) at UCF. She and her team of researchers carry out design, synthesis and characterization of novel glass, glass ceramic and ceramic materials for optical applications, examining the role of structure/property relationships on resulting optical function and performance in bulk, planar and fiber optical materials. Her team is a leading source of global expertise and workforce development in the design, fabrication and characterization of next generation materials for use in infrared components and systems based on diverse optical applications.

Richardson is a fellow of the SPIE, an international professional society for optics and photonics technology; the Society of Glass Technology; the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) and European Ceramic Society (ECerS). She was also instrumental in organizing the United Nations International Day of Glass Celebration held in Washington, D.C., in 2022.



Kathleen Richardson (right) is presented the International Congress on Glass (ICG) President's Award by Hiroyuki Inoue, ICG president, during the ICG meeting in Kolkata, India.



## Friend's passing inspires Bill Kelleher '93 to pursue career in EMS



*Shown above is a group of Alfred University students testing for their Tae Kwon Do class belt/rank promotion on April 19, 1990. Bill Kelleher '93, is fifth from left, front row, and Bob Messenger, is first at left, standing.*

William (Bill) Kelleher '93 (B.S., business administration/health planning and management) and Bob Messenger, his friend and classmate, were taking a Tae Kwon Do class in Davis Gym on April 19, 1990, when Messenger collapsed and went into cardiac arrest. Bill and another classmate performed CPR on their friend until the local rescue squad arrived, but Messenger wound up passing away.

Bill says the incident inspired him to pursue a career in emergency medical services. "I always wanted to be a paramedic as a kid, but that motivated me to follow through," he said. He has been in the EMS profession for 35 years now, and for the last four has been the owner and CEO of Integrity EMS, a critical care transport ambulance service in Nashville, TN. The company also operates a CPR training center, Nashville First Aid and CPR, that Bill has owned and operated since 2016, and has been responsible for training thousands of people in lifesaving CPR skills.

Integrity EMS has nine ambulances in its fleet, each numbered in honor of fallen friends Bill has worked with over the years. He says the identification number of each of their ambulances is the radio call sign or the month and day of the person's birth, and their initials are etched into the ambulance identification number.

Bill is adding a 10th ambulance to his fleet and has chosen to honor Bob Messenger's memory. He is planning to number the ambulance with 419, the month and date of Messenger's passing. "I'm honoring him with 419 for April 19, because that day was a rebirth of sorts for me, and it's a big part of the reason I'm where I'm at today."

In the mid-90s, Bill was part of an emergency services instructor group that did a pilot project in New York State that brought defibrillator training down to the first responder level. He said that at the time of Messenger's cardiac arrest, the use of defibrillators in the field was re-

served only for paramedics, and that the Alfred Rescue Squad had no defibrillator available when responding to Messenger's emergency due to the limitations at the time on the level of licensure required to operate one.

"Our project also helped pave the way for public access defibrillation in New York so the lay public could be trained to use AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) as well," Bill noted. "Public access defibrillation (PAD) was first authorized in New York State in 1998, in part thanks to data generated from the pilot project the instructor group did to get over 900 Buffalo Fire Fighters trained as Certified First Responder-Defib (CFR-D) providers in under two years. It is one of the things I'm most proud of in my career."

business-related tasks of the athletic training department. John has served the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA) since 2010 as the Annual Meeting Exhibit Coordinator and was previously the District 3 representative to the NATA Career Assistance Committee from 2002–2008. He has served on the VATA Government Affairs Committee since 2013 and has delivered multiple presentations and workshops at both the VATA Annual Meeting and the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians Annual Meeting. John is a past recipient of the MAATA Service Award, MAATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award, and the NATA Service Award.

## 1999

**Scott Reitnour** (M.S. Ed) was appointed head men's soccer coach at Houghton University, his undergraduate alma mater. Scott served as a graduate assistant coach for the Alfred University men's soccer team from 1997–99 while earning a master's degree in education. The Fillmore, NY, native comes to Houghton from Wesleyan Christian Academy in High Point, NC, where he served as head boys' soccer coach for 22 years, leading the team to 12 state championship games, eight state titles, and four seasons ranked among the top 10 teams nationally. He had a coaching record of 411–82–36 at Wesleyan and was named North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association Coach of the Year nine times, four times being named a finalist for national Coach of the Year.

**Michael Christakis** (B.S., political science) recently began serving a term as chair of the Board of Directors of NASPA–Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education for 2025–26. NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession, with 13,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and eight U.S. territories.

Mike, who is vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment at the University at Albany, was elected NASPA Board Chair in March 2024. He served a year as Chair Elect before beginning his service as Board Chair following the NASPA annual business meeting, held on March 15–19 in New Orleans. In March 2026, he will serve for a year as Past Chair.

## 2001

**Corey Fecteau** (B.F.A., B.A. '15, art history and theory; M.A. '19, college student development), assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University, was honored for a piece of art she entered into the recent Tri-County Arts Council's annual small works member show. Corey's work, "Invocation: Artist Conk," was selected by the independent juror for the Amateur Best in Show award. The show, "A Little Something," opened Nov. 15 at the Peg Bothner Gallery at 110 State Street in Olean, NY, and was on view through Jan. 11. Corey's award-winning piece features mushroom spore prints on an artist conk fungus with oak galls. Two other pieces of her art—"Invocation: Alaska Cove" (mixed media) and "Shag Island" (watercolor sketch)—were also entered in the show's competition.

**John Mauro** (B.S. glass engineering science and B.A. computer science; Ph.D. '06 glass science) has been named head of Pennsylvania State University's Department of Materials Science and Engineering, effective July 1. He currently serves as Penn State's Dorothy Pate Enright Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, chair of the Intercollege Graduate Degree Program in Materials Science and Engineering, and associate head for graduate education in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences' (EMS) Department of Materials Science and Engineering. John is an internationally-recognized materials and glass science expert and co-inventor of LionGlass, a

family of glass that requires significantly less energy to produce and is much more damage resistant than standard soda lime silicate glass. Prior to joining the Penn State faculty in 2017, John worked for 18 years as an industrial research scientist at Corning Incorporated, where he was co-inventor of three iterations of Corning Gorilla Glass, a thin, durable, touch sensitive cover glass that has been used in billions of cellphones, tablets, and touch-screen devices worldwide.

## 2002, 2019

**Shawn M. Allen** (B.S. materials science and engineering) and **Ryan Fordham** (B.S. mechanical engineering, 2019; M.S., materials science and engineering, 2021) co-authored an article with Alfred University Inamori Professor of Materials Science and Engineering S.K. Sundaram, which appeared in the December 2024 issue of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) Bulletin. Shawn and Ryan are vice president and materials engineer, respectively, at Lithoz America, a Troy, NY-based maker of additive manufacturing (3D printing) equipment to produce high-performance ceramics. The article in the ACerS Bulletin, titled "A study of lithography-based additive manufacturing of ceria ceramics," is a case study investigating the printability of ceria with a range of densities and microstructures using the Lithoz CeraFab 8500 system. Nicholas Voellm, a materials technician at Lithoz America, was also a co-author of the article.

## 2003

**Gregory Gascon** (B.S., business administration) has been appointed strategic account executive for MicroCare, LLC, a global leader in critical cleaning solutions. Greg comes to MicroCare with more than 15 years of experience in sales and



## Prolific pumpkin carver Eric Jones '97 earns place in Guinness Book of World Records



Eric Jones '97 (right) poses with Travis Gienger with the pumpkin Jones carved, earning him a spot in the Guinness Book of World records for largest and heaviest jack-o-lantern. Gienger, a Minnesota farmer who grew the pumpkin that Jones carved, also earned a spot in the 2024 Guinness Book for growing the largest pumpkin.

Alfred University alumnus Eric Jones '97, increasingly renowned for his sculpting prowess, is one of four New Yorkers who entered the Guinness Book of World Record last year.

Eric, who earned a B.F.A. degree from Alfred University and resides in West Clarksville in Allegany County, was named in the 2024 Guinness Book for carving the heaviest jack-o'-lantern (a whopping 2,749 pounds) and the largest jack-o'-lantern in circumference (21 feet, one inch). While Eric carved the pumpkin in November 2023, he officially entered the Guinness Book of World Records the following February. He was one of four New York State residents featured in a Jan. 4, 2025, New York Post story for entering the Guinness Book in 2024.

For his world record-setting jack-o'-lantern, Eric reached out to Travis Gienger, the Minnesota

man who grew the world's largest pumpkin, and asked if he could carve it to raise money for a charity for veterans with PTSD. The carving, which went about 180 degrees around the pumpkin's 21-foot circumference, depicts three service members, a female, male and disabled veteran and a bald eagle. A large piece that fell off while he was working was carved into a service dog and placed on top of the sculpture.

Eric is a caricature artist and an accomplished sculptor who also works with snow, sand, and wood. He is founder and co-owner of Give A Caricature LLC, where artists create caricatures from photographs provided by customers. He has gained acclaim in Western New York for his skills sculpting in snow. In 2022, Jones won the Season 3 competition of Food Network's "Outrageous Pumpkins" show.

business development within the industrial and safety markets. His career spans leadership roles with globally recognized companies, including 3M, Bosch USA, and Graco. Most recently, he served as Regional Product Specialist for 3M's Industrial Tapes and Adhesives Division, where he excelled in driving sales strategies and exceeding performance goals across multiple territories. In his new role, Greg will be responsible for managing and growing relationships with distributors and end users. His strategic expertise in industrial cleaning equipment and cleaning fluids aligns with the MicroCare mission to provide best-in-class cleaning solutions across diverse industries. Greg, whose business degree was focused on management information systems, was a member of the men's lacrosse team at Alfred University.

## 2008

**Joseph Bigley** (M.F.A.) had his artwork exhibited in a show titled "Meteoric" at the Happy Valley Filling Station, a brewery and pizzeria in Happy Valley, NC, in January, February, and March. A mixed media sculptor and educator, Joseph worked as assistant professor of art and sculpture at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, for five years and is currently a full-time lecturer of art at his undergraduate alma mater, Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. His work has been exhibited across the United States and internationally including China, the Netherlands, Spain, Montevideo, Uruguay and Berlin.

## 2014

**Edward Raby Jr.** (MBA) has been appointed head football coach at St. John Fisher University. Ed, who becomes the eighth head football coach in St. John Fisher history, served as a graduate assistant coach at Alfred University during the 2012 and 2013 seasons while

## Madeleine Lomax-Vogt '17 working as post-doctoral researcher in Austria

Madeleine Lomax-Vogt is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Vienna Department of Environmental Geosciences (EDGE) in the Austrian capital of Vienna. Her research is focused on developing methods to analyze and identify vehicle non-exhaust brake wear nanoparticles and microparticles.

"These particles are an under-researched yet widespread pollutant, produced when you use your car brakes to slow down," Maddy explained. "They pose significant environmental and human health risks due to their high metal content, including toxic heavy metals, which can leach into the environment. Their small size allows them to be inhaled and enter the bloodstream."

Maddy earned bachelor's degree in chemistry from Alfred University in 2017 and went on to earn a master's degree in analytical chemistry from The Ohio State University in 2019. In 2024, she earned her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry, also from The Ohio State University; her Ph.D. work involved developing methods to measure mineral dust nanoparticles and microparticles entrapped in glacial ice cores from Antarctica and Mt. Ortles in the Italian Alps.

Maddy and her husband, Ian Murphy—along with their two cats, Topo and Duchess—live next to the Vienna vineyards and less than 10 minutes



*Maddy Lomax-Vogt and her husband, Ian Murphy, with their cats, Topo (left) and Duchess.*

from the Danube River. In her spare time, she visits the museums and historical buildings in and around Vienna and goes for walks in the vineyards. She is also a member of a local community garden—"Gemeinschaftsgarten Donaukanal"—located on the Danube Canal in the center of the city.

"Our life here is magical," she says. "From the good food and coffee to the appreciation for art and culture engrained into daily Viennese life, we have created a charmed existence for ourselves."

Reflecting on growing up in the small town of Ada, OH, to earning a doctoral degree and making a move

overseas, Maddy gives credit to her time at Alfred University. "My four years at Alfred have played such an integral part in my successes," she says. "Beyond my excellent chemistry education, Alfred taught me how to maintain my curiosity and optimism and to think with an interdisciplinary mindset."



pursuing his MBA. Prior to his appointment at St. John Fisher, Raby spent four seasons as head football coach at SUNY Morrisville.

## 2017

**Maxwell Mustardo** (B.F.A., B.A., art history) was featured in *Collateral*, a web magazine dedicated to contemporary creative culture. The article explores Maxwell's vibrant ceramic work. He is an artist-in-residence at Toshiko Takaezu's studio in New Jersey.

## 2018

**Seth Spicer** (B.S., athletic training) was inducted into the Corning-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2025 during a ceremony in March. Seth competed in the pentathlon for the Corning High School Hawks and holds the school record. During his time at Alfred University, Spicer set a school record in the indoor heptathlon and later that same season, set a school record in the outdoor decathlon. He was named a Division III All-American two times while at Alfred. Seth earned a master's degree in exercise science from SUNY Cortland in 2021 and is currently pursuing a medical degree from the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. He serves as president of Future Forward Research Institute (FFRI) in Toms River, NJ, a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and mentorship of future healthcare professionals as clinical researchers.

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## 2020

### *Honored Reunion Year*

**Casey Boston** (B.S., psychology) is founder of Break The Cycle Today, a Brooklyn, NY-based organization with a mission of using mentorship and leadership development initiatives and after-school programming to help teenage boys of color become confident leaders. Casey— a Licensed Social Worker, mental health therapist, and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional—founded Break The Cycle Today to help fatherless boys develop the necessary skills, confidence, and knowledge to succeed in all areas of their life. As a TEDx speaker, he has shared his insights on personal growth, resilience, and overcoming challenges, inspiring countless individuals with his powerful message on breaking the cycle of community violence. During his time at Alfred University, Casey was a quarterback on the Saxon football team. After graduating, he went on to earn a master's degree in social work from Binghamton University in 2022.

## 2023

**Shushank Shrestha** (M.F.A.) was featured in a Dec. 25, 2024, *Nepali Times* article on Miami Art Week. With 286 galleries from 38 countries represented, Miami Art Week is the largest contemporary art event in the United States, attracting 75,000 visitors, collectors and art lovers. Shushank, a ceramic artist from Nepal, displayed her work in a booth by the French Gallery, Galerie Lefebvre & Fils Louis Lefebvre.

## 2024

**Daeun Lim** (M.F.A.) was featured in *Canvas Rebel*, an online magazine that features stories about artists, entrepreneurs, and creatives. Lim is a Lawrence, KS-based ceramic artist from South Korea whose work focuses on designing and creating functional objects, while also delving into digital fabrication techniques.

# In Memoriam

## 1948

Robert Burdick, Nov. 25, 2024

## 1950

Loren R. Cohn, Feb. 19, 2025

Lewis J. Robords, Feb. 13, 2025

## 1951

Richard C. Nohle Sr., Oct. 8, 2024

Daniel Olenchuk, Oct. 21, 2024

Marjorie (Schulze) Reiter, Dec. 13, 2024

Deforest H. Warn, Dec. 14, 2024

## 1952

Edwin S. Higgins, Dec. 26, 2024

## 1953

Robert E. Barnett, Oct. 18, 2024

## 1955

Stig B. Holmquist, Dec. 8, 2024

David D. Jordan, Nov. 13, 2024

## 1956

James Vernon Morton, Jan. 9, 2025

Robert Morris A. Nochimson, Feb. 23, 2025

## 1957

Carol (Heidtmann) Gault, Jan. 10, 2025

## 1958

H. Bruce Boulton, Jan. 13, 2025

## 1959

Max Sluchak, Feb. 2, 2025

Christine Clausen Hakewessell, Jan. 8, 2025

Charles Richard Sonne, Nov. 28, 2024

## 1960

Phillip Carl Breunle, Jan. 14, 2025

Edward F. Howe, Oct. 20, 2024

Stephen M. Kelley, Jan 17, 2025

Robert M. Libbey, Nov. 25, 2024

Susan (Christopher) Rossi, Feb. 17, 2025

## 1961

A. Michael Italiano, Jan. 8, 2025

Sally Johnson, Jan. 14, 2025

Grazina (Ciplijauskas) Klein, Oct. 9, 2024

Jack H. L'Amoureux, Nov. 19, 2024

Gregory T. Powhida, Oct. 14, 2024

## 1962

Robert F. Grossman, Jan. 27, 2025

Wendy (Whiteside) Meilinger, Oct. 24, 2024

Stephen B. Morley, Dec. 6, 2024

## 1963

Alexander R. Horowitz, Nov. 16, 2024

William J. Shuff, Jan. 25, 2025

## 1964

Nancy A. (Bustard) MacDonald, Oct. 11, 2024

## 1965

Carole (Kornish) O'Malley, Jan. 25, 2025

## 1966

John Rothstein, Feb. 11, 2025

Robert L. Kinzel Jr., Feb. 11, 2025

## 1967

Margaret (Muller) Bjarno, Feb. 22, 2025

Loretta (Bocek) Orsley, Oct. 10, 2024

Patricia R. Romano, Nov. 6, 2024

William E. VanBuren Jr., Oct. 31, 2024

## 1968

Thomas G. Eckman, March 6, 2025

## 1969

Spencer P. Annabel, March 22, 2025

## 1970

Barbara A. (Bredl) Allen, Nov. 2, 2024

Linda Franchell, March 4, 2025

Jeannine (Holmes) Goggins, Nov. 14, 2024

## 1971

Martin T. Rozanski, March 28, 2025

## 1972

Coral A. (McNey) Link, Nov. 4, 2024

Audrey (Camann) Pfohl, Nov. 6, 2024

Bonnie L. (Butner) Church, Dec. 18, 2024

## 1973

Susan L. (Cramer) Conlon, Dec. 31, 2024

Terry A. Inlow, Dec. 23, 2024

Edward S Lyba, March 28, 2025

Douglas R. Nagel, Nov. 9, 2024

Margo (Stavrides) Perschbacher, Dec. 5, 2024

## 1974

Steven E. Lusk, Dec. 3, 2024

## 1975

Stephen G. Fenson, Nov. 27, 2024

Gerald C. Malanoski, Nov. 15, 2024

## 1976

Dan D. Marsh, Oct. 19, 2024

## 1978

Holly R. Cheser, Oct. 10, 2024

## 1979

Nancy Caroline Faubel, Jan. 12, 2025

## 1981

Kenneth D. McKeever, Jan. 4, 2025

Rex A. Weary, March 2, 2025

## 1984

Edmund J. Schupp, Sr., Feb. 4, 2025

## 1985

Donald Lyon Scholla Jr., Jan. 28, 2025

## 1987

Carol A. (Rector) Sammons, Feb. 21, 2025

## 1988

Esther (Barrett) Desnoyers, Jan. 20, 2025

Anthony M. Sapienza, Oct. 22, 2024

## 1993

Thomas G. Brewer, Dec. 4, 2024

Molly K. (Kremers) Williams, Oct. 11, 2024

## 2000

Brooke C. Keil, Oct. 10, 2024

## 2004

Robert F. Franklin, Dec. 2, 2024

## 2005

Kristian M. Pownall, Jan. 26, 2025





## Honoring a Mentor

Laurence R. Fieber '72 and Douglas C. Confer '72 Establish a Faculty Recognition Award

When Laurence Fieber and Douglas Confer signed up for a Russian language class as first-year students, they expected to learn a new language—but they gained much more. Their professor, Ukrainian-born Dymtro Y. Sich, a specialist in Slavic languages and literature, wasn't just an instructor—he was a mentor who instilled a love for learning, a deeper global understanding, and a commitment to doing good.

The class sparked a lifetime of friendship between them and Professor Sich, who passed away in 2024. To honor Sich's impact on them and countless students, Fieber and Confer established the Dr. Dymtro Y. Sich Faculty Recognition Award through a gift and bequest. The award supports Alfred University faculty dedicated to student success through mentoring, teaching, and guidance.

"Even as a survivor of World War II concentration and labor camps, this professor embodied the very best qualities of teaching," says Fieber. "He set clear expectations, was very encouraging, and was genuinely interested in students." Confer adds, "We spent hours talking with him—not just about Russian, but about life, his experiences, and putting world events into context."

After earning his B.A. in political science from



Laurence R. Fieber '72



Douglas C. Confer '72



Dymtro Y. Sich

Alfred University, Fieber dedicated his career to public education, striving to empower all young people. He began as a social studies teacher and later served as assistant principal at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South in Princeton Junction, NJ. He went on to become principal of Parkway School in Ewing, NJ, and then became the Executive Director of the Center for Future Educators at The College of New Jersey. An accomplished and visionary educator, Fieber was named New Jersey Principal of the Year and received the Ruthann Sheer Award—the highest honor bestowed by the New Jersey Education Association for outstanding contributions to public education.

Confer, who earned a B.S. in business administration with a minor in Russian, co-founded Confer Plastics, Inc. in North Tonawanda, NY, with his father in 1973. The innovative company produces everyday living products used worldwide. Confer invented the popular flexible fuel funnel. Passionate about giving back and uplifting others, Confer and his company are invested in supporting communities and charitable causes.

For Fieber and Confer, Professor Sich was instrumental in their growth and success. Together, they honor Sich's legacy, leave their own mark, and support future students.

## JOIN US IN ALFRED THIS SUMMER!

**Reunion June 5 - 8, 2025** with NYSCC 125th Celebration

**Engineering Short Courses:** Glass & Ceramics  
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**Pre College Programs:** June 23 - July 18, 2025

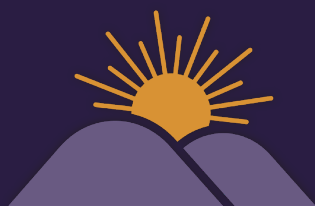
Week-Long Academic Institutes & Sports Clinics

Arts: Wheel Throwing, Painting, Photography, Portfolio Prep, Auditioning, Curating  
STEM: Engineering, Astronomy, Women in STEM, Alfred E. Niggas Puzzles, Meet Your Brain  
Liberal Arts: Media & Politics, Ethical Conflicts in Scientific Research, Exploration in Equity  
Sports: Swimming, Equestrian

**Summer Arts Workshops:** June 23 - July 18, 2025

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Social Engagement, Printmaking, Sculpture, Sound: DIY MIDI, Theatre, Wood Turning  
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## REUNION

JUNE 5-8, 2025



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## REUNION 2025: A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

Pack your purple and gold and join us on campus for Reunion 2025, happening June 5-8! Get ready for an exciting lineup of celebrations and events that will make this year truly unforgettable. Events include featured alumni speakers, campus demonstrations, and entertainment. There's something for everyone!

### Honored Class Years

Congratulations to the class of 1975 who will be celebrating their 50th year Reunion. We are excited to host you back on the campus and create the perfect opportunity for you to relive your memories and create some new ones.

All class years ending in a 5 or 0 will be honored, along with Alfred's Golden Saxons, who graduated in 1974 or earlier.

### Milestone Celebrations

The New York State College of Ceramics celebrates 125 years of ingenuity and excellence.  
Hillel House celebrates 75 years of supporting our Jewish community.

### Special Groups and Highlights

AU Nurses Reunion, Chamber Singer alumni

### Greek Celebrations

Alpha Kappa Omicron will hold its annual meeting and gathering.  
Delta Sigma Phi, Kappa Psi Upsilon and Lambda Chi Alpha hold their annual Friday night dinners.

**Register now and see more events by visiting our  
Reunion website at [go.alfred.edu/reunion](https://go.alfred.edu/reunion) or  
contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 607-871-2144.**

