

Alfred

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2026



ROOTED IN LEGACY

Alfred University holds fourth annual DC Purple City event

Nearly 30 Alfred University students and a group of faculty and staff traveled to the nation's capital March 18–20 for the fourth annual DC Purple City Student Leadership Forum. The event, themed “Leading With a Purpose,” was supported by Washington, D.C.-area alumni and featured 16 alumni panelists and speakers.

The DC Purple City Student Leadership Forum is a student experience designed to educate, engage, and inspire. By traveling to the Washington, D.C. area, current students network and learn from alumni and friends of Alfred University who have cultivated careers in the nation's capital—among them civil servants, elected officials, lobbyists, business and not-for-profit leaders, consultants, and others across industries and government.

Twenty-nine students attended, representing all four of the University's academic units. The event was sponsored by the Division of University Advancement and supported by several alumni donors.

The three-day event began Wednesday, March 18, with a reception at the Georgetown home of Tanya and Alejandro Mayorkas, parents of third-year Alfred University student Amelia (Mimi) Mayorkas. Alejandro Mayorkas served as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security under President Joe Biden. Steve Heine '83 (B.S., management and health care administration), chairman of the Alfred University Board of Trustees and retired CEO and director of Woodsboro Bank, Frederick County, Maryland, was Thursday's keynote speaker.

Enid Borden '72, CEO of the National Foundation to End World Hunger, hosted a tour of the Capital Area Food Bank, where students were able to volunteer packing food items for distribution.

Alfred students worked together in the food bank warehouse to uncrate and box 3,322 gallons of milk which was prepared for distribution to some of the more than 400 nonprofits and food pantries in the D.C. area.



Several **Alfred University students** are shown at the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C., where they took a tour arranged by alumna **Enid Borden '72**, CEO of the National Foundation to End World Hunger, as part of the students' trip to Washington for the DC Purple City Student Leadership Forum.

Alfred University-ARL project gets funding extension

Alfred University has been awarded an extension on a joint project with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) to study the synthesis and characterization of ultra-high temperature ceramic (UHTC) materials. The university will receive \$3.2 million in funding—part of a \$13.5 million contract initially awarded in the spring of 2022.

The original contract provided \$2.7 million per year for five years, from 2022–27, to fund joint research between The New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC) at Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering and DEVCOM (U.S. Army Capabilities

Development Command), Army Research Laboratory (ARL). The \$13.5 million in funding represents the largest research contract the University has ever received from the federal government.

The research project focuses on UHTC materials, specifically artificial intelligence-enhanced materials discovery, and developing new techniques for the synthesis and additive manufacturing of carbides and diborides to create specialty ceramic materials designed to withstand extreme temperatures. Research will also focus on conducting high temperature characterization of UHTC materials used in

defense systems to improve performance. Workforce development efforts will provide research opportunities for undergraduate students as well as internships with collaborating industry partners.

Scott Misture '90, Ph.D. '95, Inamori Professor, materials science and engineering, serves as principal investigator. The research team also comprises post-doctoral researchers and staff scientists. Students, both undergraduate and graduate, are also contributing to the research, which reflects Alfred University's commitment to applied learning opportunities.

Alfred University, Northeast College announce new pathway to chiropractic degree



Mark Zupan (left), Alfred University president, and **Michael Mestan**, president of Northeast College of Health Sciences, shake hands after signing a new agreement that will help Alfred students save time and money while securing admission to Northeast College's Doctor of Chiropractic program.

Alfred University and Northeast College of Health Sciences, both in New York, announce a new agreement that will help students save time and money while securing admission to Northeast College's Doctor of Chiropractic program.

The agreement allows Alfred University students majoring in biology to pursue either 4+3 or 3+3 articulation tracks toward Northeast College's Doctor of Chiropractic program.

The 4+3 pathway includes the B.A. or B.S. in biology with concentrations in biological sciences, human biology or molecular biology; the B.S. in sports and health sciences with a general or rehabilitation concentration; or any program of emphasis. The 3+3 pathway includes the B.A. or B.S. in biology with the same concentrations, the B.S. in sports and health sciences with a general concentration or any program of emphasis.

With the 3+3 option, students can complete three years at Alfred University and, after meeting GPA requirements, be accepted into Northeast College's Doctor of Chiropractic program, reducing undergraduate tuition by one year. The 4+3 option allows students to complete their undergraduate degree before transitioning directly into Northeast College's program.

The articulation agreement was formally signed by leaders from both institutions. With coordinated advising support, students can begin their path to Northeast by submitting a letter of intent signed by their undergraduate advisor.

Students present work at Undergraduate Research Forum

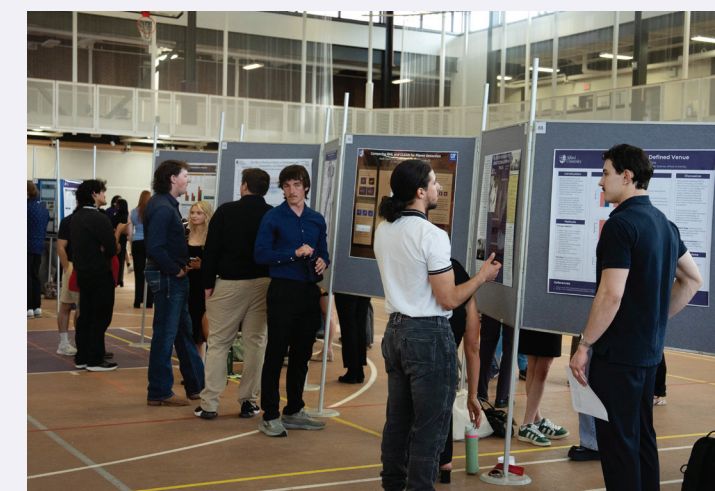
More than 130 Alfred University students participated in the 2026 Undergraduate Research Forum, held April 23, in the Joyce-Walton Center. The students, representing each of the university's academic units—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the Inamori School of Engineering and the School of Art & Design + Performing Arts Division—were on hand to present their research projects to faculty, staff, fellow students, and external audiences.

More than 100 poster abstracts (multiple students shared some posters) were on display at this year's Undergraduate Research Forum. This marks an increase of approximately 20 posters from last year's event, and more than 40 from two years ago.

Projects presented included, among others, a study on female distance by first-year political science major Riley Bell; another by sophomore art major West Armstrong that focused on his incorporation of found materials in his artwork; and senior mechanical engineering major Michael Donor, who presented his work to convert a standard bicycle into an electric-powered bike.

The Undergraduate Research Forum provides a unique educational opportunity for aspiring researchers to present their work, whether in preliminary stages or as a capstone project, and gain experience by presenting their research and answering questions about their

work from visitors and guests. All currently-enrolled Alfred University undergraduate students who are engaged in original work are eligible to participate. Those who received an undergraduate degree in December immediately prior to the Undergraduate Research Forum are also eligible.



More than 130 students participated in a poster session on their research at the 2026 Undergraduate Research Forum.

Christie Smith appointed VP for Enrollment Management



Christie Torruella Smith was appointed Alfred University's new vice president for Enrollment Management. Smith began her duties Jan. 20, 2026.

"We are very excited to welcome Christie to Alfred University," said Beth Ann Dobie, provost and chief operating officer. "She is solidly grounded in our university mission and brings innovative approaches to recruiting students who will thrive at Alfred. Christie is exactly the leader we need!"

With 18 years of experience in higher education, Smith brings a strong record of innovation, strategic planning, and data-informed leadership to the Alfred community. She most recently served as the associate vice president for University Admissions and Enrollment at Nazareth University, overseeing all aspects of admissions, including first-year, transfer, international, and graduate recruitment.

"What drew me to Alfred is the university's deep commitment to student success—from point of entry to graduation. Alfred is reimagining how institutions should invest in and support student success," Smith said. "Enrollment will play a pivotal role in laying the foundation for strong retention by ensuring students are well-prepared, well-supported, and identifying the right fit student."

Smith earned her bachelor's degree in public relations from SUNY Oswego and her master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Rochester. Throughout her career, she has been deeply committed to student success, employing data-driven strategies to optimize admissions processes and enhance the overall student experience.

Smithsonian Institution honors Wayne Higby

Alfred University Professor Emeritus Wayne Higby was awarded the Smithsonian Institution's prestigious Visionary Award, honoring his contributions in the field of ceramic art and art education. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Smithsonian's National Building Museum, located in Washington, D.C., on the opening evening of the Institute's annual craft show.

The award, instituted in 2014, honors artists who, according to the Smithsonian, "have risen to the pinnacle of sculptural arts and design, who have works in major museums, and who have demonstrated distinction, creativity, exceptional artistry and vision in their respective medium."

Members of the Alfred University community in attendance included University President Mark Zupan; Professor of Music Lisa Lantz; alumnus Ben Buess '25; and Benjamin Evans, Wayne Higby Director and Principal Curator of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum; Helen Drutt English, Higby's Philadelphia-based gallerist, who received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University in 2019; and Marlin Miller, '54, H '89, H '19, Alfred University Life Trustee and Board Chair emeritus attended the award ceremony.

Miller and Higby over the years developed a close relationship, with Miller supportive of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, where Higby served as director and chief curator from its opening in 2016 until his retirement in 2025.



Alfred University Professor Emeritus Wayne Higby speaks at The Smithsonian Institution April 22, where he received the annual Visionary Award.

2026 Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors announced

Alfred University students Sofia Pizarro Lobos and Lily Janik have been selected to receive the 2026 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award. The pair were chosen from among 31 exceptional nominees for the prestigious honor.

Winners of the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award are chosen based on scholarship, extracurricular achievement, personal character and conduct, and nominations by faculty, students, staff, or alumni. The award was established to honor Alfred University alumnus Marlin Miller '54, H '89, H '19 one of Alfred University's most generous supporters. Miller was a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees for 50 years from 1972-22, and is Board Chair emeritus.

Lobos, from Santiago, Chile, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Foreign Languages and Culture Studies, with a minor in Political Science. She has been on the Dean's List at Alfred University and is proficient in three languages—Spanish, English, and French—and is working on a fourth: Italian.

She has been deeply involved in Alfred University during her time as a student here. In addition to enrolling in the WLA, she has been active in numerous activities and organizations. Last August, she founded the UNICEF Club—with the aim of raising awareness of children's rights—and for which she serves as president. Under her leadership, the club has grown to more than 60 student volunteers, raised more than \$1,200 for children's initiatives, and coordinated donations of toys and essential items to hospitals in Rochester and Buffalo.

Janik, from Angola, NY, is pursuing a bachelor's degree with four majors—communication studies, political science, global studies, and history—with minors in economics, international business, and Chinese language and culture. Janik contributed to the founding of the Chinese Language and Culture minor last spring.

An Alfred University Honors student, Janik is a Fulbright award semifinalist, awaiting a final acceptance decision, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She founded two student clubs—the Chinese Language and Culture Club (former president, current vice president), and the Alfred SCUBA and Snorkeling Club, for which she serves as president. An Army ROTC cadet since January 2024, Janik graduated from Air Assault School in 2025 and upon graduation from Alfred was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, specializing in military intelligence.

Lobos and Janik were honored during Commencement ceremonies on May 16, when they offered comments to their classmates and others in attendance.



Sofia Pizarro Lobos (left) and Lily Janik, 2026 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award recipients.

NSF grant will support scholarships for ceramic engineering majors

Led by Alfred University, the National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) program will provide scholarships for undergraduate students studying ceramic engineering or glass engineering at Alfred University, Colorado School of Mines, and Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Alfred University is the lead institution for the S-STEM program partnership, with Gabrielle Gaustad '04, dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, serving as Alfred's principal investigator.

Each of the three schools will receive approximately \$1 million in NSF funding over five years to fund scholarships. Need-based scholarships will be awarded to between 12 and 15 U.S. students total at the three schools each year, with students eligible to receive support for their sophomore, junior and senior years of study. Students will also receive a variety of professional development

opportunities, including mentors, industry field trips and networking, and internship opportunities.

Research, professional development, and networking opportunities will also be provided to undergraduate students studying ceramic engineering or glass engineering at Alfred University, Mines, and Missouri S&T. These three universities currently offer the only undergraduate degrees in ceramic engineering in the U.S.

Over the summer, scholarship recipients will visit each of the three schools for two weeks each time, working on a variety of projects. Undergraduate research projects, which will be conducted during the academic year and also during the summer, will focus on several high-demand industry sectors, including semiconductor development, hypersonics, energy and health care. These projects will be cross-cutting across the other schools, focusing on each university's core strengths in ceramic materials research.

Performing Arts students participate in Theatre Festival

Several performing arts students from Alfred University participated in the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) Jan. 13-17, 2026, at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. The students were nominated for awards in Acting, Costume Design, Lighting Design, and Stage Management for their exceptional work on Alfred University's fall 2025 production of "Macbeth."

During the festival, students took part in auditions, workshops, and professional development sessions in Acting, Performance Design and Technology, Dramaturgy, Directing, Playwriting, and more—engaging with peers and professionals from across the region.

The following Alfred students were nominated for ACTF awards: Nkanyiso Dlamini, senior philosophy and theatre major from South Africa, and Veronica Burns, sophomore theatre major from Ireland (for Acting); Izzy Wachtel, senior performance design and technology major from Alfred, NY (for Costume Design); Jackie Massey, senior art and design major (performance design and technology minor) from Westhampton, NY (for Lighting Design); Minerva Miller, senior art and design major (museum and gallery practices minor) from Fayetteville, NY (for Stage Management).

Wachtel won the Jane Childs DTM Legacy Award, honoring student designers and technicians who present their work for the first time at the regional Design, Technology, and Management (DTM) Expo, hosted under the auspices of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (ACTF).

The students were accompanied to the ACTF by Jonathan Ziese, assistant professor of theatre, who directed the production of "Macbeth." This opportunity was made possible by the generous support of the C. Duryea Smith III and Lois M. Smith Fund.



Nkanyiso Dlamini '26, senior philosophy and theatre major from South Africa, played Lady Macbeth in the Performing Arts Division's production of *Macbeth*.

AKO chapter announces 2026 leadership awards

The Sisters of Alpha Kappa Omicron announce that two current students have been named winners of the 2026 AKO Leadership Awards. The awards were established to award two Alfred University students each year through the generous support of numerous donors from the AKO sisterhood.

The awards are given through the Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center (JLC), in consultation with the AKO Awards Selection Committee, made up of AKO alumnae. Sophia Bill, a junior marketing major (communication studies minor) from Arkport, NY, is the winner of the 2026 AKO Social Change Leadership Award. Jessalyn Aderhold, a sophomore fine arts major from Hamilton, NJ, is the recipient of the 2026 AKO Achievement Award. Sophia and Jessalyn will each be awarded an honorarium.

The AKO Social Change Leadership Award is given to a junior who has demonstrated superior efforts in creating change-for-the-good for the Alfred University community. An emphasis is placed on active, authentic service-based leadership which creates sustainable change. Sophia, a member of the Women's Leadership Academy 2024-25 cohort, participated in the spring 2025 Women's Leadership capstone, which involved a clean-up project benefiting the village of Alfred. As part of the project, she also volunteered for a clean-up project at Living Acres Farms in Alfred.

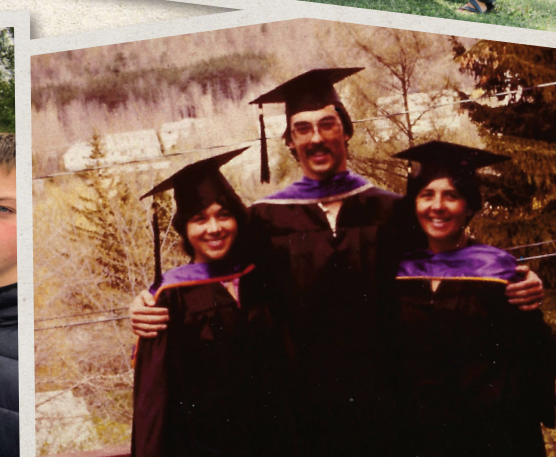
The AKO Achievement Award is given to a sophomore who has demonstrated excellence in personal academic leadership and honors the high standards of scholastic performance. Jessalyn is enrolled in the JLC's Women's Leadership Academy, examining feminist history and social justice issues while engaging in discussions on effective strategies for women in leadership roles. Additionally, she participated in the women's empowerment retreat in October, and is taking part in the Academy's year-end capstone project which will focus on community service.



Jessalyn Aderhold (left) and **Sophia Bill**, 2026 AKO Leadership Award recipient

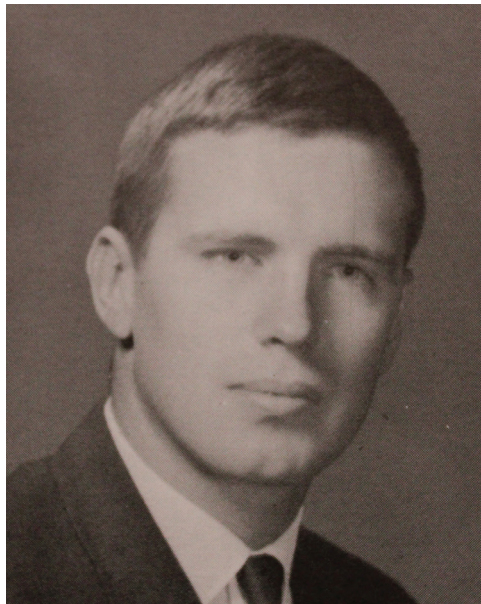
ROOTED IN Legacy

For some families, Alfred University is more than a university—it is part of their family story. Across generations, Saxons have returned to Alfred to share traditions, lifelong friendships, and memories that span decades. These reflections highlight how Alfred's legacy lives on through families shaped by academics, athletics, the arts, and the lasting feeling of coming home.

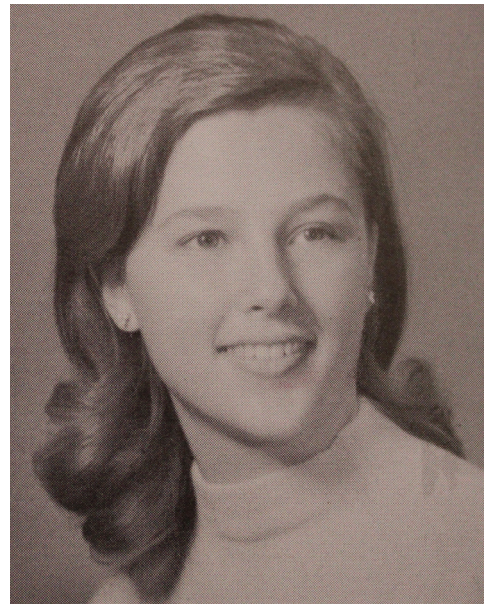


CRISSCROSSING Generations

BY ROB PRICE



Fred Gregory '68 in his senior year at Alfred University



Judy Gregory '68 in her senior year at Alfred University

The Gregory family tree branches across western New York and Alfred University

When Cristin Gregory stepped across the McLane Center in the spring of 1994 to receive her Alfred University diploma, a familiar figure faced her, ready to shake her hand. As a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees, Judith Gregory '68, Cristin's mother, had the honor that day of presenting her daughter's diploma.

"I remember it being very special having her on stage with me," Cristin '94 says from her home in Davidson, NC, where she lives near her parents. Her father, Fred Gregory, graduated the same year as her mother; the Gregorys had married the year before their graduations and lived on Main Street, in the Village of Alfred, during their senior year.

Judy Gregory grew up in Jamestown, NY, and Fred in Skaneateles, NY. He is at

least a second-generation Alfredian: His parents, Glenn and Helen Clarke Gregory graduated in 1934 and 1936, respectively, before marrying. Glenn Gregory graduated with a ceramic engineering degree and got his first job in Fairmont, WV. He didn't like living far away from his girlfriend. "He called Mom up and said, 'We've gotta get married,'" Fred explains. So, Helen Clarke "pulled up stakes, and went to Fairmont, and married Dad."

In 1994, when Judy Gregory handed Cristin her diploma, the ceremony made Cristin a third-generation Alfred University graduate, and her older brother, Matthew, would follow her in two years. It is also possible Cristin and Matthew's family tree extends further into the Alfred University past: With many of Fred's Clarke family relatives residing in Andover,

the Gregorys believe there's a possibility Fred's grandfather, Fred Clarke (on Fred's mother's side), attended classes at Alfred University around the turn of the 20th century.

Fred and Judy Gregory eventually settled in western New York after several years spent in St. Louis, MO, where Fred received his MBA from Washington University and Judy worked as a commercial artist. They became closely associated with the Chautauqua Institution, and in 1994, as her daughter crossed the McLane Center stage, Judy was also working as a teaching artist at the Aesthetic Education Institute in Rochester, in addition to serving on Alfred University's Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile, Fred had founded the Rochester investment management company QCI Asset Management. His father and grandfather had studied and worked as engineers, and Fred began his undergraduate years studying ceramic engineering. Then he took a business course and began studying finance theory. The ways finance and investing overlapped with human personalities and motivations fascinated him.



Fred and Judy Gregory married while both were still undergraduates at Alfred University. They now live in North Carolina after living in Rochester. They still spend summers near Chautauqua.

"Once we started on people and money, I started sitting in the front row, taking copious notes," he says. "It's something in my make-up. I'm interested in what people do, how they make plans for their lives."

He and Judy had met in their freshman year, while Fred was still experimenting with thoughts of a career in engineering. Judy had already decided to study art; she would major in printmaking and minor in painting. She lived in The Brick, and Fred walked into the dormitory with a friend and saw her playing the piano in the lobby. "My mother had played the piano," he says, "and I went over and sat down with Judy."

“

When I walked out of the Brick with my buddy, I said, 'If I don't marry that girl, I'm going to marry someone just like her.'"

They didn't start dating until the end of their sophomore year. Then, says Fred, "it just clicked. It's one of those amazing, indescribable things."

While Fred and Judy moved to North Carolina almost 20 years ago, they continue to maintain close relations with western New York and Alfred University. When the temperatures begin to climb in late spring, they decamp from Davidson and settle into their summer home at the Chautauqua Institution, where Fred is a past Foundation director and continues to play his tuba in several musical groups.

Judy served as a trustee at Chautauqua and is a former president of the Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts. Additionally, she has exhibited her art in galleries across western New York, including the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo, and the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester. In 2023, her exhibition "Choice" opened at the Cohen

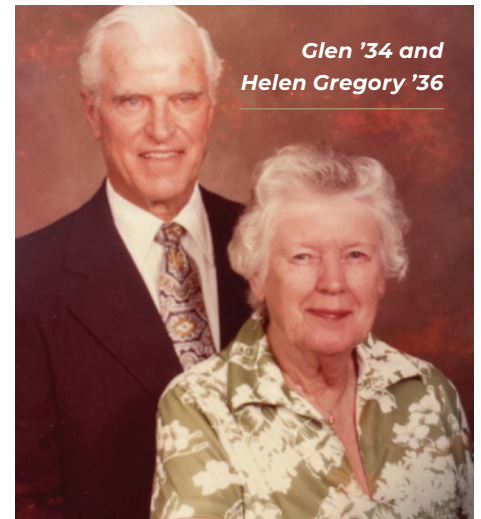
Gallery on Alfred's Main Street.

Their son, Matthew, lives in Alexandria, VA, following a circuitous journey from his own Alfred University years. Majoring in English, he graduated in 1996, then received his MFA from the University of Miami in screenwriting. He moved to Hollywood and began working with literary agents representing writers and directors.

"Eventually," he explains, "I was ready for something else." Meetings over lunch had been popular: "My favorite time of day was lunch," he says, "so I got into the food business."

He moved back east and began working as a chef. In time, he ended up in the Washington, D.C. area, working in a number of high-end restaurants where, on one memorable Valentine's Day, he cooked for the Obamas. He currently manages a MOM's (My Organic Market) in College Park, MD.

His sister, Cristin, who graduated with majors in French and Anthropology, stumbled across the subject of acupuncture while studying medical anthropology with then-Professor of Anthropology Robert Meyers. After graduating, she too moved to the West Coast, where she studied acupuncture at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine, in Portland, OR. After continuing her studies in China, she



Glen '34 and Helen Gregory '36

Parents of Fred Gregory who began in engineering like his father before switching to business.

settled in Davidson where she runs her successful Wellbeing Natural Health business.

Of her Alfred University days, Cristin remembers "a lot of snow." She also is the mother of 11-year-old August, who currently enjoys the hobby of model rockets.

"He's thinking along engineering lines," Cristin says.

And whether August follows the family tree to Alfred University will be up to him, she adds.

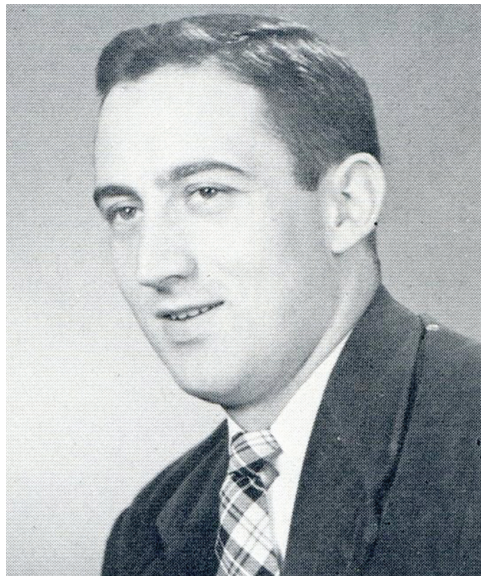
"The Gregory family," says Judy, "feels grateful for the positive influence Alfred University has had on their lives."



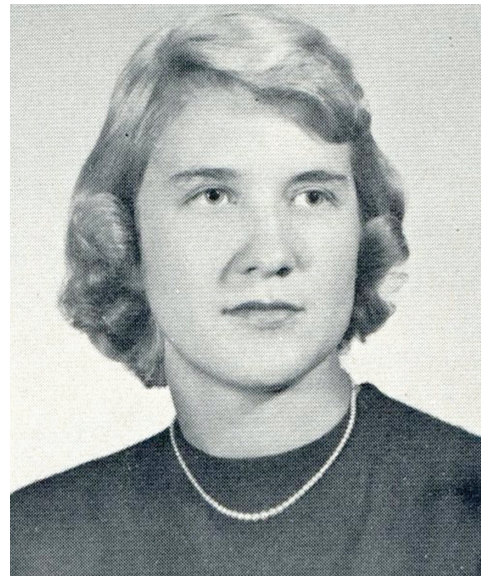
Cristin and Matt Gregory graduated from Alfred University in 1994 and 1996, respectively. Cristin lives in North Carolina near her parents, Fred and Judy, and Matt lives in Alexandria, VA.

'Ever as Our Home'

BY ROB PRICE



Joe Fasano '54 in his senior year at Alfred University

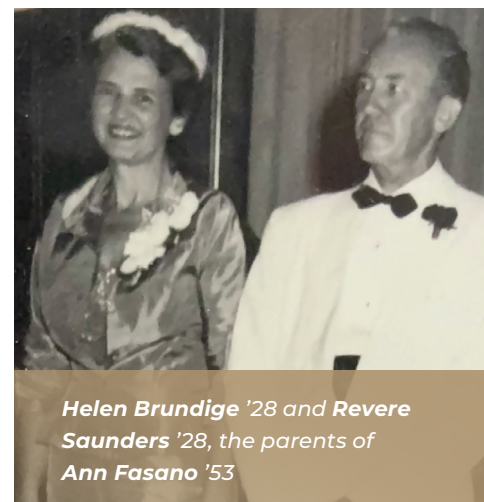


Ann Fasano '53 in her senior year at Alfred University

It is our earnest hope that not only children of our alumni, but their grandchildren may in turn choose Alfred University as that institution of higher learning which, in their considerate judgment, will yield maximum dividends, on their investment of ability, effort, ambition and overall purpose.

Seidlin's words struck a chord. "I remember," Elyse wrote, "looking at a few other schools during my senior year of high school, but knew down deep that the choice was clear. I finally announced, 'I'm just going to say it - I'm going to Alfred!'"

A family that counts four generations of alumni gathers layers of collegial memories. Kathryn Fasano Foster '77, the daughter of Joseph Fasano '54 and Ann Saunders Fasano '53, recalls her childhood in the Village of Alfred and attending the Alfred-Almond school district before she enrolled at Alfred University in 1973. "It was my hometown, the place I grew up," she says. "The University was a town within a town. It was welcoming and friendly, and my lifelong friends are my Alfred University friends."



Helen Brundige '28 and Revere Saunders '28, the parents of Ann Fasano '53

not only a survey of evolving family loyalties to Alfred University. "Ever as Our Home: One Family's Experience at Alfred University across Four Generations" is also a 90-year overview of an evolving Alfred University. It includes images of Elyse's great-grandparents and three generations of Fasanos; it also includes photographs of Alfred University changing through the years, with historical details such as photographs of first-year students wearing beanie caps, which they were required to doff to upper class members and faculty.

In the course of her research, Elyse came across the following quotation from Joseph Seidlin, serving in 1960 as acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:

Elyse Fasano's senior thesis explored four generations of the Fasano family at Alfred University.

In 2011, Elyse Fasano was working on her senior thesis at Alfred University, combing through university archives in search of material on the Fasano family, whose family tree branched across multiple generations of Alfred University students.

Elyse '11 counted three successive generations of Fasanos attending the university. Including her maternal grandmother's parents, she could trace her Alfred lineage back another generation, to Revere Saunders '28 and Helen Brundige '28, who met as university students and married.

Writing about the Fasano and Saunders-Brundige generations made Elyse's thesis



Joe and Ann Fasano with their children Kate and Patrick in front of the former Rogers Campus Center on the Alfred University campus.

Kate's father remembers discovering Alfred University by accident. "Some of my high school teammates were attending Alfred University," says Joe Fasano. "They invited me up for a weekend. I had no intention of attending Alfred. I was heavily recruited by three other colleges, but I fell in love with the small campus atmosphere. I felt more comfortable with the friendliness and the closeness of the people."

Joe's first year at Alfred University would have momentous impacts on his life. For starters, he met his future wife in a first-year history class. "She looked at me, and I looked at her, and I thought, 'Oh boy.' We went steady, and when she graduated ahead of me, I thought it was going to be over, but it wasn't; it was here to stay."

As an undergraduate, Joe also excelled at football, playing under legendary coach Alex Yunevich. After his first year playing on the freshman team, he played three seasons (1951-53) with the Saxons racking up a 17-2-2 record including one undefeated season.

He joined the staff of Alfred University, serving as alumni director for 10 years. The current headquarters for University Advancement is called the Fasano House, in recognition of the Fasano family's long involvement with Alfred University, and Joe remained a resident of Alfred until only recently, when he moved to Connecticut to be closer to his daughter, Kate.

His residency in the Village of Alfred also made him a natural mentor and companion for his granddaughter, Elyse, when she enrolled as a student.

"For me," Elyse wrote, "Alfred was the perfect balance of both returning to a place that already felt like home and starting a new life. I had the best of both worlds, comfort and security of my grandpa, who still lived in town, as well as a whole school of new professors and students."

Joe and Ann Fasano also had two children who attended Alfred University - preparing the way for Elyse's eventual matriculation. Their son and Elyse's father, Patrick '80, married Alfred University alumna Michelle McMillen '84. Years after Patrick's passing, Michelle accompanied her daughter on the long drive from their home in Colorado for the beginning of her freshman year. "Once I arrived," Elyse says, "the Alfred I knew so well was suddenly a completely different place to me. Suddenly it was my own."

Elyse came to Alfred the same year as another student, Tim Morrissey. They met, married, and now reside in Colorado, where Elyse - who holds a special education teaching license - works as a curriculum developer for TeachTown, and Tim - who majored in ceramic engineering - works in investments.

"It's hard to say," Elyse wrote in 'Ever as Our Home,' "where my love for my family

stops and my love for Alfred University begins. Growing up, Alfred was a way for me to connect with my dad and my grandpa. When I go back to Alfred, it's not just my alma mater. It has so much more history for me."

Surveying the generations of Fasanos who attended Alfred University, Joe Fasano says he has only "good memories" about the university and its surroundings in western New York. "It was a wonderful place to grow up. The only memories we all have are good ones. Alfred is a unique place. It's a small university, but our feelings are very powerful."

His daughter, Kate, says the friends she made in her early years at Alfred have remained lifelong friends, in ways similar to the friends her mother had made. "She formed a group of friends called The Round Robins, and they did a Round Robin letter for decades. My own Alfred friends and I would all go on trips together, and a smaller group of us meet every Christmas for brunch. It's an age-old understanding. When we get together, it's as if no time has passed."



Joe Fasano escorts his granddaughter Elyse Fasano '11 on the day of her wedding to Tim Morrissey '11

FAMILY

BY: CAROL MARCY

Baynes Family

For Patrick Baynes '07 and his family, Alfred has always felt like home—a safe, friendly place filled with people who care, a campus that exists in its own welcoming bubble. Being part of a multi-generation Alfred legacy, he says, feels “cool but no big deal”—though he suspects it means the most to their dad. What excites him most is the future: the possibility that nieces and nephews might one day follow the same path, adding their own memories to the family’s growing collection. Just as their father has shared stories with them, they look forward to passing those stories along, connecting generations through a place that continues to bring them back together. For their family, Alfred remains a place where stories and traditions are still shared.



Photo (l to r) Patrick Baynes '07; Chris Baynes; Elizabeth Baynes '05; Colonel John F. Baynes '68, Retired; Andrew Baynes; and Captain Robert R. Baynes '04, Retired.

Giles Family

The Giles family’s connection to Alfred University began with Mary Giles '75, '80, and has become a multigenerational legacy grounded in shared experience and belonging. For her children, Bill Giles '81, Tom Giles '80, Nancy (Giles) Encarnacion '77, and John Giles, Alfred was woven into everyday life. “Alfred University has never been just a school—it has always felt like home to our family,” Bill says, recalling how the campus served as a cultural and community hub in a small rural town, from concerts to sporting events that opened the door toward broader experiences. When Bill met his wife, Jill (Peperone) Giles '81, as first-year students, it became another meaningful part of the family’s Alfred story. Bill reflects that Alfred has remained “a constant in our lives—steady, familiar, and meaningful,” shaping not only individual memories but a common family identity that now spans generations.



Photo (l to r): Jennifer Giles '04, MBA '05, Nancy (Giles) Encarnacion '77, Mary Giles '75, '80, Thomas Giles '80, Bill Giles '81, and Jill (Peperone) Giles '81.

Knee Family

For Kelly Knee '99, Alfred University is a family tradition that began when her parents, Frank '75, MS '78, and Nancy '74 (Woody) Knee, met as students and formed many close friendships that would deepen their ties to the University for years to come. When Kelly arrived on campus, she found it both familiar and new—taking classes with her father’s former graduate advisor, Bob Condrate, a popular professor in the glass engineering department; joining Alpha Kappa Omicron like her mother before her; serving as news editor of the student newspaper, *Fiat Lux*; and performing in the orchestra. Her sister, Erin (Knee) Brooks '06, soon followed, finding her own place on the ski team, in choir, and working in the library. “It was really special to feel part of a bigger family while still making my own way,” Kelly says, an experience she cherishes as she shares stories of Alfred traditions and friendships with the next generation.



Photo (l to r): Erin (Knee) Brooks '06 and Kelly Knee '99

LEGACY

READ MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI FAMILIES: GO.ALFRED.EDU/ALUMNIBLOG

Ormsby Family

Katilyn Ormsby-Prutsman '99 grew up with Alfred University woven into her life. “Alfred is where I grew up—and where I built my own family.” Generations of her family have been connected to the University. Her maternal grandfather, C. Everett Rhodes, was a mathematics professor. Her grandmother, Agnes Rhodes, hosted international students and faculty in Howell Hall for dinners that offered a sense of home and cultural exchange. Her paternal grandfather, Ed Ormsby, worked in the NYS College of Ceramics machine shop for decades, as did her father, Allen Ormsby, who built kilns there—one is marked “Big Al” in Harder Hall. Alfred is also where she met her husband, Michael Prutsman '99. They return often with their three children, sharing a place that shaped their love of art, community, and diverse perspectives.



Photo (l to r): Katilyn Ormsby-Prutsman '99 with children Camden, Violet, Kolton, and Michael Prutsman '99. Other alumni family not pictured include Elizabeth Ormsby '97 and Patricia (Ormsby) Brutsman '70.

Ploetz Family

“I grew up hearing about AU my whole life,” says Larry Ploetz '68, '75. His father, George Ploetz '41, MS '49, studied ceramics at Alfred after World War II, and his aunt Florence (Ploetz) Adams '30 proudly shared stories of her days in the Sigma Chi Nu sorority. By the time Larry first visited campus as a child, tagging along while his father returned for seminars and award banquets, Alfred already felt familiar. He remembers meeting professors and their families and feeling an easy sense of belonging long before he was a student. Alfred holds a special place for another reason: it’s where he met Denise (Chapnick) Ploetz '69, his future wife, and where their daughter, Kristin (Ploetz) Walukas '93, later graduated. Today, he looks forward to bicycling back to campus for Reunion Weekend, a tradition that reflects a lifetime of connection.



Photo (l to r): Larry Ploetz '68, Denise Ploetz '69, Carol Ploetz, Larry Ploetz '72, and John Ploetz. Other alumni family not pictured include Alfred L. Ploetz '41, Thomas Brewer '66, and Seann Bishop '01.

Rossington Family

What started as a research opportunity at Alfred University grew into a multigenerational family story rooted in the community. David Rossington arrived in 1956 on a Fulbright to research ceramics and returned in 1960 to teach in the ceramics college, beginning a life in Alfred that would shape his family for decades. David’s wife, Angela Rossington '80, later graduated as an R.N. and remembers Alfred as “magic,” calling it “a wonderful place for a young couple to build a life and raise children.” That sense of belonging continued with their children, Andrew Rossington '80, Nicholas Rossington '93, and Carolyn (Rossington) Tull '80. Ann Rossington, Andrew’s daughter, says she didn’t fully appreciate Alfred’s uniqueness until she began working at the University and settled there. “There is something truly unique about Alfred that quietly shapes the values of young people,” Ann says, reflecting on a village where families have known one another for generations.



Photo (l to r): Carolyn (Rossington) Tull '80, the late Andrew Rossington '80, and Angela Rossington '80.



The livery stable in 1920, pictured to the right of Jordan Hall, stood until its demolition in 1922.

Alfred's Equestrian Story

Honoring Tradition, Building the Future

BY: CAROL MARCY

Alfred's enduring partnership with horses prepares students for careers while strengthening its academic and competitive edge.

Before there were cars, a livery stable stood near Jordan Hall—then Carnegie Library—where students and faculty could hire horse-drawn buggies. From there, horses carried passengers to the nearby Erie Railroad station, or out for errands and picnic outings. It was an everyday rhythm of life that feels almost impossible to picture now.

Yet the hoofbeats of that era carried forward at Alfred. Horses remained central to campus life—from pulling wagons during campus celebrations to appearing at football games and in riding lessons that could fulfill a student's gym requirements. In 1974, the same year Alfred's Riding Club was formed, that enthusiasm took academic shape with the introduction of the equestrian studies minor.

By 2005, Alfred's growing commitment

to equestrian pursuits was realized with the opening of the Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center at Maris Cuneo Park, made possible through major gifts



From the arena to the classroom, students at Alfred University's Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center pair riding disciplines like dressage, hunt seat, and western with academic programs in equine business, science, and psychology.

from Catherine Bromeley Daggett '58, and Peter '67 and Maris Cuneo. The facility provided a dedicated home for a diversified equestrian program on a 400-acre site.

Since then, Alfred University's equestrian program has grown intentionally—through deeper student

engagement, expanding academics, competitive success, and stronger industry and community connections. Together, these elements point to a program gaining momentum—one that is expanding thoughtfully and positioning itself for an ambitious future.

At the heart of this growth is a shift in how students engage with the program. Today, students are not only enrolling but staying active and invested throughout all four years—participating in coursework, team competitions, internships, and leadership roles—signaling stronger academic focus and integration into broader educational goals. That sustained engagement is already showing results, with participation in equestrian coursework up 23% from the 2024–25 academic year to 2025–26.

“We’re seeing a much bigger buy-in from our students,” said Adam V. D’Agostino, director of the equestrian program and head western coach. “That engagement correlates directly with academic focus and long-term success.”

Career Preparation

One of the clearest signs of progress is the evolution of equine-focused academics, particularly the equine business management major, according to Mark Lewis, dean of the College of Business.

“Now in its third year, the program has become the fastest growing major within Alfred University’s College of Business,” Lewis said. “While still in its early stages, it is already attracting strong interest from prospective students and building a pipeline of graduates prepared for

a wide range of careers in the equine industry.”

Students gain hands-on exposure through internships, industry partnerships, and applied coursework that bridges classroom theory with real-world practice. This year, the program reached a milestone with its first student placement at a nationally recognized equine-assisted psychotherapy center—an opportunity rarely extended beyond its home institution.

The program is also attracting graduate-level interest, including students focused on equine-assisted practices. Alfred is also exploring interdisciplinary partnerships and refining offerings to better reflect industry needs and student interests.

The impact of that expansion is visible in alumni outcomes. Emma Johnson '22, MBA '23, who earned a business administration degree with minors in marketing, equine business, and equestrian studies before completing her MBA, now works in the luxury equestrian sector, serving elite riders and clients at the highest levels of the sport.

“The clientele that I work with now is very high-end. I sell luxury products to some of the best riders at the most prestigious equine facilities,” said Johnson, a sales rep for Voltaire Design. “I love what I am doing.”

Her experience reflects a broader philosophy: Alfred graduates are prepared for a range of careers that require adaptability, professionalism, and industry insight.

Varsity Athletic Excellence

That same energy extends into varsity competition. Alfred's equestrian teams remain a cornerstone of the program's success. At the close of the 2026 spring season, AU's Hunt Seat and Western teams won their regions and advanced to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Championships. The western team finished 10th in the U.S., and the hunt seat team competed for a zone title for the first time in more than a decade, with a student-athlete capturing a Cacchione High Point Rider honor.

The dressage program, introduced in 2018, is also gaining momentum, with a roster of 12 riders, its first home show completed, and growing interest.

“These are riders who want to come to Alfred to ride dressage,” D’Agostino noted, “not only riders who discover dressage once they get here.”

Strategic Investment

Continued investment in horses and facilities is supporting this success. Alfred has made strategic investments in recruiting high-quality show horses, supported by alumni and community members who lease horses to the University.

Facility improvements are keeping pace. Recent turnout enhancements expanded capacity while prioritizing safety and sustainability. The program is also renewing all 52 stalls at the Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center through a Sponsor-a-Stall initiative, inviting alumni, families, and friends to directly support horse care and student learning.

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Legacy



Impact



Education



Community

A Legacy of Generosity

The Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center at Maris Cuneo Equine Park stands as a testament to the vision and generosity of its founding donors, whose commitment helped bring Alfred University's equestrian ambitions to life. Opened in 2005 and formally dedicated on October 20, 2006, the facility was made possible through major gifts from Catherine Bromeley-Daggett '58, along with Peter '67 and Maris Cuneo, as well as several other alumnae. Their philanthropy established a dedicated home for the University's equestrian program designed to support both academic and competitive excellence. Today, the center continues to reflect the enduring impact of these donors—providing students with opportunities for hands-on learning, competition, and engagement in a program that has grown in depth, scale, and national reputation.



Community Engagement and Industry Leadership

Beyond campus, the program is strengthening its role across the region. It serves as a hub for outreach, hosting youth events, judging clinics, and EquestFest, which welcomed more than 300 participants last year.

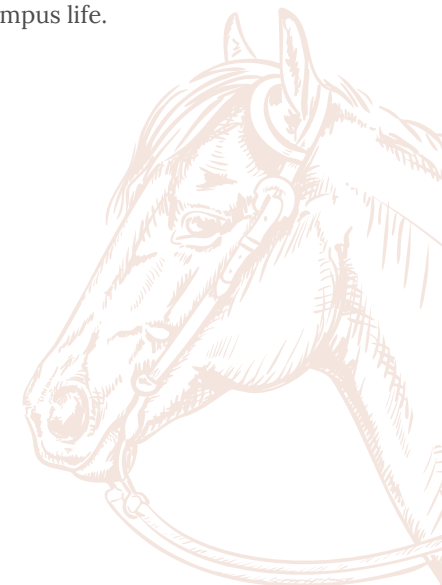
Students also traveled to Albany for the New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day to discuss agricultural and equine legislative issues.

“

Our commitment extends beyond enrollment,” D’Agostino said. “It’s about serving the equine industry and investing in young people.”

Although Alfred’s equestrian facilities have been in place since 2005, the program itself is still actively building its foundation—aligning staffing, stabilizing the herd, and expanding its academic and athletic infrastructure. With that groundwork in place, the program is poised for greater national visibility, a stronger academic identity, and deeper industry partnerships.

As Alfred University’s equestrian program grows, it prepares students for careers, advances ethical horsemanship, and strengthens its place on campus and in the equine industry, carrying forward a legacy shaped by the cadence of horses that once defined campus life.



To learn more about the Sponsor-A-Stall initiative, visit go.alfred.edu/stall.



AU students challenged to 'Be the Difference'

SAXONS IN Service

BY: ROB PRICE

On an afternoon in the spring of this year, Nonprofit Management, a class offered through Alfred University's College of Business, met in the Franklin Olin Building, drawing students from across the colleges of Alfred University. This is the class's first year on the books. It is open to both undergraduate and graduate students, the latter pursuing their MBAs.

Meeting once a week, Nonprofit Management provides students with a broad overview of the nonprofit world, which in 2025 generated more than half a trillion dollars in fundraising in the U.S. The class also is a possible first step toward what

Alfred University alumna Enid Borden '72, a national leader in nonprofit management, hopes is a groundbreaking curriculum that prepares students for careers in the world of nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit Management covers some of the basics of leading and managing a nonprofit organization, such as federal tax law, fundraising, and grant writing. Borden, who has been meeting with Alfred University administrators and faculty members, hopes the single class evolves into a dual program for undergraduates and graduate students, operating within an entity known as the **Be The Difference Institute**.

Borden is the former president and chief executive officer of the national nonprofit Meals on Wheels Association of America. More recently, she founded and serves as president and chief executive of the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH), a nonprofit based in the Washington, D.C. area. The goal of NFESH: is to end hunger among U.S. seniors, and if anyone can accomplish that, it would be Enid. Her track record in galvanizing volunteer support is impressive. During her tenure as head of Meals on Wheels, donations to the organization skyrocketed from \$60,000 annually to \$16 million.

Enid's idea is for Alfred University to provide an opportunity for students to initiate careers in the nonprofit sector as a possible alternative to working with for-profit corporations and private businesses.

"I hope we can show our students what it means to volunteer for a nonprofit, to start a nonprofit, to work for a nonprofit," she says. "The nonprofit world is a world

of community service, and finding a career within that world will change their lives. They'll discover what it's like to volunteer yourself to the world."

On the Alfred University campus during a recent visit, Borden explained to students how nonprofit organizations in the U.S. are established with the purpose of providing services to targeted groups within communities and, for larger nonprofits, across the country.

She explained that while nonprofits may generate considerable revenue through fundraising, they are required to spend the bulk of their funds on providing defined services. In that regard, they're distinct from for-profit corporations, which are established for the purpose of generating profits and distributing earnings to shareholders.

Public service, she says, isn't the only feature of the nonprofit world. At its core, nonprofit organizations depend on a spirit of volunteerism among their employees and supporters. Those individuals are motivated strongly by a desire to serve a larger purpose, and the nonprofits they support are woven through students' homes and lives.



Enid Borden '72 leads a class offered in Alfred University's College of Business that introduces undergraduate and graduate students to the basics of nonprofit management.



Alfred University students gather at the end of a busy day packing milk jugs for Enid Borden's National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, based in the Washington, D.C. area.

Alfred University, their home away from home, is one example of a nonprofit. So are local YMCAs, most churches and hospitals, and community organizations such as animal shelters and food banks. Many families also support national nonprofits like the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

"I've been talking with a lot of students, and they still don't know about career opportunities in the nonprofit world," Enid says. "But I think the more they learn about that world, the bigger the chance their lives can be changed."

She adds: "Nonprofits certainly changed my life."

She graduated from Alfred University with dreams of becoming an actress, a Broadway star. "I even got a master's degree in theater. Then I went into teaching, then I went into politics. Eventually, I interviewed for Meals on Wheels, and the rest is history."

She served as president and chief executive officer of the Meals on Wheels Association of America – one of the largest volunteer organizations in the United States, from 1990 to 2012, when she stepped aside to form NFESH. Based in Alexandria, VA, where she lives, NFESH is dedicated to addressing hunger, food insecurity, and related health issues among older adults. Enid founded the organization in part from caring for her mother, whose health was undermined in her final months by malnutrition.

"It's a full-time passion. Running a nonprofit is a full-time job and then some."

It's also the kind of work that appeals to people who want to make the world a better place. Enid has been instrumental in promoting nonprofit work while Alfred University students visit Washington yearly for the DC Purple Cities events. She has taken Alfred students to a local DC food bank, where they engage in volunteer work and then learn what facing hunger looks like.

“Volunteering for nonprofits, working with nonprofits, can give you such a larger sense of purpose,” Enid says. “Your mental health is improved greatly. Your sense of purpose and belonging in the world improves and grows.”

Finishing another meeting with Alfred University students, she pauses outside the Olin Building and reflects: "It's all about courage. I had no idea what I was doing. I just jumped in and learned it as I went along. And I've loved that whole journey."

The Volunteers' VOLUNTEER

BY: ROB PRICE

As an undergraduate, Emma Robinson began volunteering at the Judson Leadership Center. Now she volunteers as chairperson of the Center's Advisory Board, helping other volunteers 'become better at being themselves.'

In her high school years, Emma Robinson '16 served as president of the school band, her first experience in leading a group of volunteers. "And maybe it was my first step outside my comfort zone," she says now – although she does recall learning to be assertive in her own family, where she was the youngest child, with two older brothers. "I had to learn to stand up for myself."

Now, working for Alkegen, the Tonawanda-based specialty materials manufacturer, she volunteers outside of work as a coach for The Buffalo Hot Shots, a Special Olympics team that participates in basketball and softball, and whose members also play flag football to raise money for Special Olympics NY.

She volunteers also at Alfred University, serving as chairperson of the advisory board of the Judson Leadership Center (JLC). The group is composed of Alfred University alumni volunteers who serve as a resource for information, advice, and support for the coordinator of the Center.

Volunteering to lead a group of volunteers requires a unique set of skills. After serving as president of her school band, Emma continued developing her own skills at Alfred University, where she majored in chemistry and involved herself in the operations of the JLC, named for her aunt, the late Beth Robinson Judson '82, who had served on Alfred University's Board of Trustees and helped found the JLC as a way to encourage young women to develop leadership skills.

"I started at the Center, just getting involved, because of the association with my aunt," she recalls. "I made close connections with the director and got brought on to help



Emma Robinson '16, pictured in her senior year at Alfred University, holding her Saxon Six Award. The award was given to six graduating seniors annually who embodied service and dedication to the Alfred University community.

support some of the students' capstone projects."

In her second year, she enrolled in the Women's Leadership Academy (WLA), where one of her challenges involved learning how to change tires at a local car mechanic's shop. For her own capstone project, in her junior year, she and another student produced a video of students grappling with definitions of feminism at a whiteboard set up on the Powell Campus Center. She interned at the JLC during her senior year, and after graduation maintained close contact with the organization, in addition to joining the University's Alumni Council for a period of service. In 2024, she was elected to serve as chairperson of the JLC Advisory Board.

According to people who regularly work with Emma, her years of volunteer service have helped form an individual well-suited to coordinating the myriad personalities of a volunteer group.

"Emma and I talk frequently," says Abby Hurley '17, MS.Ed. '19,

66

"You don't grow by staying in your comfort zone. In volunteering, you become the truest version of yourself."

Emma Robinson '16

'26, JLC director. "As a person and a leader, she stays very involved. She's passionate about her family's legacy at Alfred University, she's very people-oriented, and she's a delight to work with."

Emma herself says she experienced no sudden recognition of her love for volunteer service, and her capacity to guide other volunteers in a common mission. "I guess I developed into it over time. In my early life, it was the high school band. Now, it's the Judson Leadership Center and coaching Special Olympics."

She is happy to share a few of the basics she has learned in the art of guiding other volunteers.

"You have to surround yourself with people inspired by the same cause, but also people who have the time to commit. When I reach out to people, I usually ask, 'Do you feel passionately about this project, and do you have the time to commit yourself to it?'"

She has learned not to assume every volunteer shares her own perspective. "You can't assume everyone else will have the same desires or ability to commit. With the Judson Leadership Center, my goal has been to find volunteers who maybe haven't connected with the University, but who might want to reconnect through the goals of the JLC."

Emma's volunteer spirit runs in the Robinson family. Her aunt, Beth Robinson Judson, was serving on the

University's Board of Trustees at the time of her death, in a plane crash that also took the life of her husband. Beth was preparing to serve as chairperson of the Board and would've been the first woman to serve in that role. She had also quietly provided funding for the founding of the JLC, a gift that was not disclosed until after her death. Obituaries published in the aftermath of the couple's death praised the Judsons as stalwart volunteers and supporters of civic organizations.

When Emma began volunteering at the JLC, her initial motivations were practical and oriented toward a future career. "I was looking for a place on the campus where I could work on professional leadership

skills while also preparing for my post-undergraduate life." But her years of volunteering took her farther than that.

"I've learned how to lead with confidence and empathy," she says. And as a volunteer among many volunteers, she says she took to heart words from the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: "Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

"People become better at being themselves when they volunteer," Emma says. "You don't grow by staying in your comfort zone. In volunteering, you become the truest version of yourself."



Emma Robinson '16 with, from left, Abby Hurley '17, MS.Ed. '19, '26 and Sherry Walton, the former chairperson of the Judson Leadership Center Advisory Board. Abby serves as director of the JLC, which was founded with support from Emma's aunt, Beth Robinson Judson. Emma currently serves as chair of the advisory board.

Making it PERSONAL

Librarian mentors help students succeed

BY: MARK WHITEHOUSE

Twelve years ago, in a play on the popular digital collectible card game, “Magic: The Gathering,” Alfred University librarians took on the personas of game characters to connect with students and assist them in their academic endeavors. The program was aimed at introducing first-year students to the library resources available to them and to show that librarians are a helpful, friendly, and welcoming presence on campus.

The initiative has evolved into a unique program in which all Alfred students—undergraduate and graduate—have a “personal librarian” who acts as a liaison with their respective academic departments and assists them in their studies and research.

“It was trendy at first,” said Brian Sullivan, librarian. “But we’ve kept it going.”

“It was the new thing, but we have really grown the program,” said Mechele Romanchock, director of Libraries. “Because our library approach really fits with the Alfred University philosophy—providing a personal touch, emphasizing mentorship and individualized attention—we’ve taken it beyond being just a trend.”

Sullivan said that the libraries have always had a connection to students, with a goal of assisting them in their academic pursuits by guiding them through the resources available at Herrick and Scholes libraries. In the past, librarians acted as liaisons to the various academic departments. In 2014, the concept of providing students with personalized librarians was introduced.

“We made it so that ‘this is the person who is your librarian.’ You can place a face to the name; it’s more personalized than

a liaison,” said Sullivan, who serves as the personal librarian for students enrolled as Academic Explorers. “It’s essential, especially for first-year students, to have names and faces of people they can go to, to ask questions. (Personal librarians) give students a friendly face they’re comfortable with. And it’s clear to them they can come to us at any time.”

The primary role of personal librarians is to assist students with research for academic work, steering them toward resources that help them with writing papers, working on theses, and completing research for capstone projects. Those resources are not limited to materials available in the libraries; it could also mean referring a student to a tutor, or the Writing Center, or connecting them with non-academic resources—such as financial aid, or the Wellness Center—that will help them succeed during their time on campus.

Kevin Adams, information literacy librarian, is the lead organizer for the program, overseeing which librarians are paired with which students, supporting librarians in doing outreach to their students, and ensuring that the program is integrated into university programming, and generally advocating for the program.

“The Personal Librarian Program is the student-facing side of our Liaison Program,” said Adams, who is personal librarian for students majoring in biology, English, history, philosophy, religion, and those minoring in women’s and gender studies.

“Just like each faculty member has a librarian for their area, students have a librarian based on their major. This allows students to work closely with librarians throughout their research careers at Alfred University, first meeting their librarian at new student orientation, or in the classroom in

their first year, and sometimes continuing the relationship until they’ve finished their research capstone project in their final semester,” Adams said.

““

“I work most closely with students with heavy research loads and find it incredibly rewarding to guide students as they explore different research pathways.”

“We are the library faculty’s equivalent to faculty advisors,” Sullivan said. Students are still advised by faculty in their respective academic programs; the personal librarians provide an extra level of guidance students can rely on.

“We’re part of the students’ support network—a resource they can use,” added Romanchock, who said the program has become ingrained in campus life, so that students take full advantage of the relationship with their personal librarian. Faculty know the service librarians provide and use them as a resource to assist students.

“Students look up to their librarian. They find them when they need them,” she said, noting that librarians don’t wait for problems to come up before reaching out to students. “We are proactive. We build connections with faculty and help students navigate the libraries’ resources.”

Gillian Comeau, a sophomore fine arts major from Plainville, MA, said her personal librarian, John Hosford, art librarian in Scholes, has been a great help to her during her first two years on campus, familiarizing her with resources available at the library.

“He has helped me succeed academically as he is a very good resource in finding information on artists, techniques, and art from different cultures,” Gillian said, noting that she works the front desk at Scholes and often has time to talk with Hosford.

“He has assisted me a number of times when researching things for different classes. He is very good at finding books, articles, and information that the Alfred libraries have, and also outside sources if Alfred doesn’t have what we are looking for.”

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Gillian Comeau (right), a junior-to-be majoring in art, and her personal librarian, John Hosford, look over some documents in the Special Collection at Scholes Library.



Sophomore **Muhiddin (Max) Bogibekov** (left) and his personal librarian, **Samantha Dannick**, peruse some digital resources at Herrick Library.

Samantha Dannick, engineering and scholarly communication librarian, is personal librarian for Muhiddin (Max) Bogibekov, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

“During my first year at Alfred, Samantha came to talk at our first-year seminar for engineering students, and she talked about how she is available to help us in any kind of school-related projects. That gives me a realization that there are people out there who are here to help students whenever we need them,” said Max, who estimates he works with Dannick three or four times a semester to locate resources needed for projects he is working on.

“I needed a book for my project for one of my classes and we didn’t have the book here at either library,” Max related. “Samantha showed me how to get that specific book through an Interlibrary loan program and eventually that book ended up helping me a lot with my project.”

Nick Kicior is a PhD student in school psychology from Buffalo who works with Ellen Bahr, systems librarian. “I joined Alfred University when I was a first-year doctoral student and was introduced to the library and all of its resources. The librarians would offer support and resources for research, which was incredibly beneficial to me as a first-year,” Nick said.



Nick Kicior

Nick said in his first semester on campus, Bahr was available to help him right away, giving him comprehensive responses to

questions he had, providing him with citations and links, and asking follow-up questions that would enhance his research.

“I am appreciative of how fast I received my replies and communicated very easily with her. She was friendly, engaging, and interested in my work, never seeming like any of my questions were an imposition,” Nick said. “I have been very thankful to have such strong support and access to such wonderful tools.”

There are 10 Alfred University librarians working at Herrick and Scholes. They all have different responsibilities, serving students based on academic majors. If a student switches majors, they will often be assigned a new librarian.

Sullivan said that when first-year students arrive on campus in the fall, the librarians are on hand to meet them, introduce themselves, and let them know they’re an available resource.

“It makes us unique. You won’t hear that pitch at most other colleges,” he said. “The program is a great recruiting tool. Parents get really excited about it. We’ve had students relay to us that their parents tell them to ‘talk to their personal librarian, if they have a school-related concern.’”

Sullivan said students may not be aware of the Personal Librarian program at Alfred University, “but if you ask them who their librarian is, they’d know.”



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SAXONS
TEAM STORE

Opening for Saxon Hill Sports Complex set for fall 2026



A first pitch ceremony was held at the new baseball field at the Saxon Hill Sports Complex prior to the Saxons' first home game March 21. Shown above tossing out first pitches to members of baseball team are, from left: **Deb Steward**, then associate vice president for Student Experience, Athletics and Recreation; **Charlie Joyce** H '22, **Terry Galanis Jr.** H '19; and **Mark Zupan**, Alfred University president.

Construction continues on the Saxon Hill Sports Complex, Alfred University's \$30 million sports and recreation facility. Saxon Hill, located on 200 acres atop Jericho Hill in the town of Alfred, is set for completion prior to the start of the 2026-27 academic year.

"We are thrilled that the Saxon Hill Sports Complex will be opening this fall, marking a major milestone for the Alfred University community," said Erin Schurr, interim athletics director. "We are excited to share the growth and opportunity with our student-athletes, alumni, and fans for years to come."

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 site, located approximately three miles south of campus, began in October 2024. 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 played its first games at the Saxon Hill field—named Galanis Baseball Stadium in honor of Board of Trustees member Terry Galanis Jr. H '19, a significant donor for the Saxon Hill project. A ceremony officially opening the field was held March 21, with Galanis and Life Trustee Charlie Joyce H '22 throwing out the first pitch. The Joyce Family Press Box is named in honor of Charlie Joyce, also a generous donor to Saxon Hill.

The facility also includes a rugby field and an eight-lane outdoor track with jump and throwing areas. The infield of the track will serve as home field for the field hockey team, which begins competition this fall. The men's and women's rugby teams will begin playing home games at Saxon Hill this fall as well. The men's and women's outdoor track and field teams will host a track meet during the regular season next spring and will also host the Empire 8 Conference

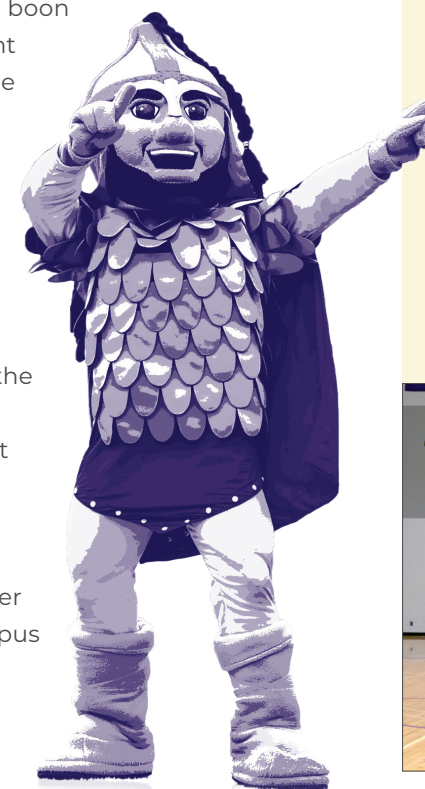
Outdoor Track and Field Championship meet in late April/early May.

Work will continue throughout the summer on the Saxon Sports Center—which houses home and visitor locker rooms; an athletic training room; offices; assembly space similar in function to Connors Family Pavilion, where alumni, parents/families can gather for pre-game, post-game functions; restrooms; and a media room—and a press box serving both the track and rugby field.

Alfred University will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for Saxon Hill on September 26, 2026. More details will be coming this summer.

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 intramural 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 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 Bromeley-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.



Third Go Saxons Day of Giving breaks philanthropy records

Alfred University Athletics was successful during its third annual Go Saxons Day of Giving fundraiser, which ran March 24-25 and \$156,515 to support Saxon athletics.

A total of **383 alumni made gifts** to their favorite team(s)/program(s) and **191 current student-athletes contributed** as well. The **\$156,515 raised** and the **1,770 donor gifts made** were both record highs for the three-year program.

"It is a privilege to be a part of such an exciting program for our Alfred student-athletes and coaches. The collective support of our extended Saxon Nation is positively inspiring, thank you."

Erin Martinovich, Galanis Family Vice President for University Advancement

The Saxon men's swimming & diving program won the top prize for the number of alumni who gave back. Women's soccer was second with softball, men's soccer, women's basketball, women's lacrosse and women's swimming & diving all tying for third place. The friends & family challenge was won by the women's basketball team with the softball and men's soccer placing second and third, respectively.



Alfred University captures 2025-26 Alfred Cup



Morgan Wise (left), a senior on the Alfred University women's lacrosse team and president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), and **Tucker Jones**, a senior on the men's swimming and diving team and SAAC vice president, hold the Alfred Cup trophy. Looking on are Li'l Alf (left), Alfred University's mascot, and Big Blue, Alfred State College's mascot.

represented themselves with integrity and heart, making this cross-stroplight rivalry something meaningful."

In announcing the final standings of the Alfred Cup, the athletic departments from the schools noted that over 400 food and pantry items were collected at Cup games and donated to the Alfred Area Food Pantry. The schools also presented a check for \$1,216 to the Alfred Almond Community Sports Association from donations collected at games.

2025-26 Alfred Cup Results:

Men's Soccer | Aug. 29:

Alfred State 2 – Alfred University 1

Women's Soccer | Sept. 10:

Alfred University 3 – Alfred State 0

Men's Cross Country | Sept. 20:

Alfred State over Alfred University at the Yellowjacket Invitational

Women's Cross Country | Sept. 20:

Alfred State over Alfred University at the Yellowjacket Invitational

Women's Volleyball | Oct. 11:

Alfred University 3 – Alfred State 1

Football | Nov. 8:

Alfred State 35 – Alfred University 28

Men's Basketball | Nov. 8:

Alfred University 62 – Alfred State 38

Men's Lacrosse | Feb. 25:

Alfred University 25 – Alfred State 7

Women's Lacrosse | March 19:

Alfred University 9 – Alfred State 6

Men's Outdoor Track and Field | April 12:

Alfred State over Alfred University at Brockport

Women's Outdoor Track and Field | April 12:

Alfred University over Alfred State at Brockport

Competition between Alfred University and neighboring Alfred State College. The Alfred Cup trophy was presented to Alfred University at a ceremony April 30 at the intersection of Main and Pine Streets, site of the village of Alfred's lone traffic light.

The Alfred Cup, sponsored by Power & Construction Group and ServU Federal Credit Union, uses a point-based system that awards two points for a win, one point for a tie, and zero points for a loss in head-to-head matchups or predetermined meets between the two schools' intercollegiate varsity programs. In this, the first year of competition, the Saxons edged the Alfred State Pioneers by a 12-10 score.

"The Alfred Cup has become a symbol of excellence, pride, and tradition, showcasing the dedication and resilience of every student-athlete who has competed for it," Interim Director of Athletics Erin Schurr said. "We have witnessed incredible performances and a shared respect that goes beyond the scoreboard. Both institutions have

Ayomideji Israel-Akinbo named first-ever Alfred University men's rugby All-American

Ayomideji "Deji" Israel-Akinbo, a junior from Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa, has been named Alfred University's first-ever All-American in rugby. National Collegiate Rugby (NCR) released its 2025 All-American teams on Feb. 5 and Israel-Akinbo was one of just 23 players nationwide named to the Division III squad.

"I am proud of the hard work, dedication, and leadership Deji showed this year," Head Coach Dale Russell said. "His athletic ability and rugby IQ led to a season where he finished with the most tries scored and second most tackles. Deji is the program's first All-American and that is a great honor and is well deserved."

Israel-Akinbo finished the fall XV's season with an impressive stat line of 64 tackles, while winning 16.5 turnovers. He paced the Saxons with 17 tries, helping lead the team to a Lake Effect Rugby Conference (LERC) Championship appearance.

"I'd firstly like to give all the glory to God and acknowledge the work he has done in my life," Israel-Akinbo said. "I'd like to thank Coach Dale for his continuous support; if not for his belief in me, I would not have made it this far. And finally, thank you to Alfred Rugby for the love and all we accomplished together."

A mechanical engineering major, Israel-Akinbo has excelled academically at Alfred as well. For the fall 2025 semester, he was named to the Empire 8 Conference President's List and the Alfred University Dean's List and was also named a Saxon Scholar Athlete.



Alfred University names new field hockey coach



Alfred University appointed Shelby Bourn as the Saxons' head field hockey coach. Bourn comes to Alfred from Roberts Wesleyan University, an NCAA Division II school in Rochester where she served as the team's top assistant coach after the program was begun in 2023.

"I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity and thrilled to continue building on the momentum of this young program at Alfred University," Bourn commented. "After meeting

some of our student-athletes, I am even more excited about the group we have and look forward to developing a strong, competitive culture together this fall. I can't wait to get started!"

Her previous coaching experience includes a six-year stint as the head varsity field hockey coach, at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy in Suffolk, VA, where she also served as assistant varsity girls' lacrosse coach and middle school girls' basketball coach. While at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, Bourn was the Records and Stewardship coordinator, an experience that led her to serve as the Gift and Data Management Specialist at St. John Fisher University.

Bourn is a 2016 graduate from Wells College where she earned her bachelor's in chemistry. During her time there as a field hockey player, she was the 2012 Rookie of the Year, 2013 and 2015 Most Valuable Player and the 2015 North Eastern Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

She will lead the Saxons in their first home contest at the Saxon Hill Sports Complex in the fall of 2026. Alfred University will celebrate the grand opening of Saxon Hill on September 26, 2026, during Homecoming and Family Weekend.

FROM **Z** TO **AU**

BY: MARK ZUPAN

Roots & Branches

A few weeks ago, I came across a series of reflective “Dear Alfred” posts shared by students and alums across various media platforms such as LinkedIn. Each story was uniquely moving, and together they painted a powerful portrait of what Alfred University means to the generations who have passed through our campus.

One graduating senior wrote about arriving at Alfred expecting simply to earn a degree, only to leave with “something far more valuable,” a deeper understanding of who he is, how he leads, and the importance of helping others feel that they belong. Another alum reflected on arriving at Alfred withdrawn and uncertain after a difficult personal loss, but leaving transformed by professors, classmates, and experiences that helped him grow in confidence and purpose. A graduating international student from Ukraine shared how Alfred became “the place where I found community, purpose, and a sense of home” after arriving during a time of uncertainty and upheaval in her life.

Many of these reflections returned to the same themes: **mentors who challenged and encouraged them, opportunities to lead before they felt fully ready, and a campus culture that allows students to explore widely across disciplines and identities.**

Students spoke about being engineers and artists, athletes and entrepreneurs, scientists and performers, all at once. Alums described Alfred not simply as a university, but as a place that expanded their sense of possibility and helped shape the trajectory of their lives.

Among the responses was a thoughtful reflection from Patrick Baynes '07, whose own Alfred roots extend across generations of his family.

“ Patrick described Alfred University as **“never just a place, but a legacy,”** crediting the university’s mentors, friendships, and interdisciplinary experiences with giving him **“perspective, confidence, and a foundation that’s carried me through my career and life.”** ”

Alum Danielle Johnson-Kutch '03 reflected on initially resisting Alfred because it felt too close to home, only to later recognize it as a “hidden gem” whose lessons and personal growth have stayed with her throughout her career.

Along with Alfred family stories appearing in this issue, the “Dear Alfred” reflections illuminate the

roots and branches of the Alfred University family tree. They remind us that while every individual journey is different, the values at the heart of Alfred remain remarkably consistent across generations: mentorship, belonging, opportunity, and the freedom to discover a purpose through meaningful connections and interdisciplinary learning.

In recent years, higher education in the United States has faced significant challenges stemming from demographics, public policy changes, technology, and societal questions about value and purpose. As has been the case throughout our nearly 200-year history, Alfred University and its graduates will continue to thrive so long as we remain rooted in our mission: **helping students realize their purpose** through transformative educational pathways, caring mentorship, and a community where people feel they belong.

Fiat Alfred University’s roots and branches!



Mark Zupan

NYSCC Museums + Galleries Where Materials Meet Imagination

Support a Living Network of Art, Learning, and Innovation

At Alfred University’s NYSCC Museums + Galleries, students don’t just study art—they help shape it. Across six venues, they gain experience as curators, organizers, and interpreters, transforming complex ideas into exhibitions, programs, and public dialogue. Guided by faculty and visiting artists, they build the confidence and skills to lead in the arts, research, and creative industries.

Support students, artists, and innovation by expanding paid internships and mentorship, enriching inclusive exhibitions and artist-led programming, and revitalizing spaces of creativity and belonging—including the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center, Inamori Museum of Fine Ceramics, and the historic Celadon Terra Cotta Building.

Your support sustains a living network where students become makers of culture and community.

GIVE ONLINE
go.alfred.edu/MuseumsGalleries

 **Realizing Our PROMISE**
The Campaign for Alfred University



Celadon Terra Cotta Building

Cohen Gallery + Shop

Fosdick-Nelson Gallery

Inamori Museum of Fine Ceramics

Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center

Turner Gallery

CLASS Notes

1975

Golden Saxons Reunion

Debra Rhodes Smith (B.S., marketing and finance), a professional fine arts appraiser and consultant based in Pinehurst, NC, recently was the Special Interest Speaker on Silversea Cruise: Buenos Aires to Rio. Debra's four lectures referenced curating collections, appraisals and a presentation of the most important donation of extreme miniature scratch built historic ship models to the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, MD. She will be speaking again on several upcoming cruises. Debra, who is Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) compliant, is a member of the Appraisers Association of America. Specializing in the appraisal of fine art prints and contemporary art, Debra is the author of "Tales of Art Beyond the Frame," a memoir of her career in fine arts services.

Wayne Rosenfield, Ph.D. (B.A., psychology), is an adjunct professor in the school psychology program at National Louis University, Tampa (FL) Campus, and is a member of the International Jewish Association of Trauma Therapists, providing peer consultation and support to mental health colleagues in Sydney, Australia, who are treating survivors of the Bondi Beach attack.

Susan Rogers (BFA, MS.Ed. '77) retired in September as executive vice president and general manager of WXXI, concluding a tenure of nearly three decades at Rochester's NPR radio affiliate. Rogers joined WXXI in 1996 as chief operating officer and quickly rose through the ranks, becoming executive vice president in 1999 and adding the general manager title in 2008. During her tenure, she oversaw WXXI's transition from analog to digital broadcasting and spearheaded two major capital

campaigns. She also played a key role in WXXI's acquisition of The Little Theatre, which extended the company's reach beyond the airwaves and into live events and film. Rogers helped establish Rochester Area Media Partners, which led to the acquisition of CITY News (now City Magazine) and secured an FM frequency to strengthen NPR and WXXI's news services. Beyond WXXI, Rogers has been active in public media leadership and community service. She chaired Eastern Region Public Media, served on the board of Women Helping Girls of the AAUW, and currently sits on the boards of the Judson Women's Leadership Center at Alfred University and the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Before joining WXXI, Rogers was an associate professor and director of the Office of Distance Learning at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where she was recognized as a leader in educational technology. She earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Rochester in 2006, after completing undergraduate and graduate degrees at Alfred University.

1982

Kathleen Richardson (B.S., ceramic engineering; M.S. '88, glass science engineering; Ph.D. '92, glass science engineering) is recipient of the 2026 Otto Schott Research Award — one of the most prestigious honors in glass and materials science. Kathleen, a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, is a University of Central Florida (UCF) trustee chair and Pegasus Professor of optics and materials science and engineering in UCF's College of Optics and Photonics (CREOL). She is also Director of UCF's Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory (GPCL). The international honor recognizes her contributions to optical glass and infrared (IR) materials that power next-generation technologies. The award was presented Monday, April 13, in Lyon, France, during the annual meeting of the International Commission on Glass. Over the course of her career, Kathleen has focused on advancing the science of optical materials, helping to expand how glass can be used in increasingly complex and demanding environments. Her work has contributed to the development of materials that can be precisely engineered for performance, supporting innovations in imaging, sensing and optical systems.

1987

Lori (Bauman) Davis (B.S., nursing) co-authored an article that appeared in the 2024 issue of *Nursing*, a peer-reviewed nursing journal. Lori, a triage nurse at Lipson Cancer Institute in Rochester, co-wrote the article—titled "Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy: Immune-Related Adverse Event Management"—with colleagues Mary Beth Casselbury and Sharon Wilson, a triage nurse and clinical nurse leader, respectively, at the Lipson Cancer Institute. The paper's abstract states that "Treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors for cancer is associated with a high prevalence of multiple immune-related toxicities. Immune-related adverse events (irAEs) can occur anytime during treatment and up to three months after treatment." The article discusses checkpoint inhibitor therapy and describes the implementation of a patient education program focused on recognizing immunotherapy irAEs and their toxicities. The paper concludes that "Patient education is critical to



Each year, a small group of eight alumnae (sometimes less) from the Classes of 1979 and 1980 goes on a trip together. In March, the group traveled to St. Maarten, where they set sail together—on the *Star Flyer* by *Star Clippers*—for the Leeward Islands. Some of them have sailed on this line before throughout Europe, including to France, Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, and Greece. Last year the group—who all met at Alfred, are nurses by profession, and are Sigma sisters—traveled to Key West. Shown in the photo above—on "Pirate Night" off the Island of Antigua—are (first row, left to right) **Kathy Klein Spensieri** '79, **Paula Staada Black** '80, **Diane Holland** '80, and **Debi Lewandowski Gitter** '79, and (second row, from left) **Anita Latini Herrmann** '80, **Liz Alpsteg Causey** '79, **Nancy Meierdierks Bowllan** '79, and **Tina Toleli Pearsall** '80.

maximize early recognition and prompt reporting of irAEs, leading to early intervention. Outpatient oncology nurses play a vital role in optimizing patient outcomes and are well-positioned to provide ICI education and encourage patients to call early and often with any signs or symptoms of irAEs. Telephone triage is often the first step in assessing and detecting irAEs."

1992

Thomas P. Rock (M.S.Ed.) was promoted to vice president for Community and Student Affairs at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City where he has worked for more than 20 years. Tom is also an adjunct professor at Teachers College and has lived in Manhattan for almost 30 years. Tom previously worked at Alfred University in the Office of Admissions for 5 years.

Mitra Samadani (B.A., communication studies) retired in 2015 after working 22 years and then spent the next decade traveling the world with her husband, Phil Argiros. The couple quit their jobs and moved to Arizona before beginning their journey around the globe. They had previously visited several countries in Africa, and have seen numerous animals—among them lions, elephants, penguins, whales, and great white sharks—living in their natural habitat. They spent a month in India in the spring of 2024, witnessing tigers living in the wild. They drove the whale watching route in Canada and chased the Northern Lights in Norway and Sweden last summer. Among their future plans is a trip to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, as well as visits to Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, Russia, Iceland, and French Polynesia.

1993

Trent Cooper (B.S., political science), an eight-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, directed a docuseries celebrating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 50th season in the National Football League. "Raise The Flags: 50 Years of Buccaneers Football" debuted on Dec. 11, streaming exclusively on Amazon Prime Video. The film, which has been nominated for a 2026 Emmy (Outstanding Sports Camera Work – Long Form), will also run on NFL Network this summer. The series is described on the NFL website as "a wide-ranging portrait of the Buccaneers organization, tracing

its path from humble beginnings to championship heights.” Presented by Skydance Sports and Prime Video Sports, “Raise the Flags” is viewed as the most complete account of the Buccaneers’ history ever produced. Trent is an independent sports documentary director and showrunner known for his award-winning work on high-profile sports documentaries and character-driven storytelling. He was a director and showrunner for the Melissa Stark-hosted “NFL 360” from 2018–2024. He directed multiple Emmy-winning features and documentaries including “NFL 360: Heroes” (2024, Outstanding Short Feature); “NFL 360: Who If Not Us” (2023, Outstanding Interactive Experience – Original Programming); “The Indelible Legacy of Jimmy Raye” (2023, Outstanding Edited Sports Special); “NFL 360: Searching for the Summit” (2022, Outstanding Short Documentary); “Through the Ashes” (2022, Outstanding Long Feature); “NFL 360: The Gift Of Gaba” (2021, Outstanding Long Feature); “NFL 360: I Am Shaquem Griffin” (2019, Outstanding Short Feature); and “All of Nothing: A Season with the Arizona Cardinals” (2017, Outstanding Serialized Sports Documentary). From 2015–2021, Cooper was an independent filmmaker for UPROXX Studios. He produced the documentary “For Walter & Josiah” (2022), centering on a high school basketball team in the throes of a teen suicide epidemic on a Native reservation in Montana. The film was named winner at the Portland Film Festival and Florida Film Festival. He also directed “Us Against The World” (2019), an Emmy-nominated documentary series about a Black high school basketball coach in rural Kentucky who was fired by a racist school board days after leading an underdog school to its first state championship.

1998

Kevin O’Buckley (B.S., electrical engineering) has been appointed executive vice president of Global Operations and Supply Chain at Qualcomm Incorporated, effective March 2. In this role, Kevin will lead Qualcomm’s global semiconductor operations across manufacturing engineering, foundry and supplier partnerships, supply chain, and procurement. He joins Qualcomm from Intel, where he most recently served as senior vice president and general manager of Intel Foundry Services, leading a global foundry organization and driving execution across advanced packaging, process technology, and global supplier partnerships. With three decades of leadership experience across Intel, IBM, GlobalFoundries, and Marvell, Kevin brings deep technical expertise, operational leadership, and a strong commercial perspective,

with a proven track record of leading transformation in complex engineering and supply chain environments.

2003

Leslie Storms (MBA) has been appointed president of Ethos Veterinary Health, a division of National Veterinary Associates, West Chester, PA. She started in her new role in December. Prior to her appointment at Ethos, Leslie worked at Johnson & Johnson MedTech for almost eight years, serving as vice president of sales, Surgery; president, Surgery; and president, Orthopaedics, U.S. She previously held positions at Johnson & Johnson, Vision and the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, and was vice president, Global Sales and Marketing, for Noramco. She earned her bachelor’s degree in communications from St. Bonaventure University.

2017

Jimmy Ronner (MFA) was featured in a recent episode of PBS’s program, “MAKING: Our Creative Community.” PBS episode, titled “Jimmy Ronner: Bending Light,” is available on pbs.org and highlights Jimmy’s deep engagement with neon glass art and his passion for preserving and advancing this luminous medium. Jimmy is an Elmira-based neon glass artist whose work combines technical craftsmanship with a conceptual practice rooted in material, perception, and cultural experience. In the PBS feature, he discusses how his artistic journey led him to neon, the complexity of glass as a medium, and his commitment to making neon art accessible and viable for future generations, despite challenges such as limited access to equipment and a shrinking pool of practitioners. Jimmy’s interdisciplinary background—which spans fine art glassmaking, molecular biology, and conceptual artistic inquiry—informs his distinctive approach to both studio work and public engagement. Prior to his MFA, he completed advanced study in cell and molecular biology, and his transdisciplinary perspective continues to shape his work as both artist and educator. Ronner’s PBS feature serves as both recognition of his creative achievements and an inspiration to current and future students in the arts, particularly those pursuing studio craft, material innovation, and interdisciplinary expression.

2019

Mary Hall Stephenson Keyes (BFA) has been appointed manager of the Children’s Studio at Woodmere Art Museum, a leading institution devoted to artists of the Philadelphia region from the pre-colonial era to the present, with a strong focus on contemporary art. In this role, she oversees family and youth studio programs as part of the museum’s newly

expanded education initiatives at its acclaimed Maguire Hall in Chestnut Hill. Mary brings experience in arts education and studio leadership to the position. Prior to joining Woodmere, she served as assistant director and teaching artist at the Philadelphia Art Center in Mount Airy and its additional locations across the city, where she played a key role in curriculum development, community engagement, and youth programming. A practicing painter, Mary lives in Philadelphia with her fiancé and cat, and spends part of her summers in Maine, where she continues to develop her studio practice.

Uriel Caspi Jr., MFA ’21 exhibits internationally

Ceramic artist Uriel H. Caspi, Jr., MFA ’21 continues to garner global attention for his work’s conceptual depth, material innovation, and cross-cultural engagement. Uriel earned his MFA in 2021 from the Division of Ceramic Art at the School of Art & Design New York State College of Ceramics. His work has been exhibited internationally and is recognized for its integration of archaeology, identity, and contemporary ceramic processes.

He has recently returned from Taiwan, where he presented a solo exhibition, Shell-Ter, at the Yingge Ceramics Museum. The exhibition featured three new large-scale installations and included a collaborative project with students from the Yingge School.

Uriel’s work Postman is currently on view in Tokyo at the Tomo Museum as part of the Kikuchi Biennale, one of Japan’s most significant platforms for contemporary ceramic art. In Europe, he participated in Boundaries of Metamorphosis: Contemporary Ceramics, a group exhibition curated by Joana Weitzdörfer at SchenkWeitzdörfer Gallery in Cologne, Germany. He also presented Anatomical Fragments at Talente in Munich.

Last spring, Uriel debuted Corpus Archetypus, a new collection of lusterware, at Collect Art Fair in London. Drawing on archaeological remains, pre-historic artifacts, and antiquarian references, the series transforms historical forms into contemporary objects embedded with personal and multicultural narratives. The collection will next be showcased at Ceramic Brussels as part of its Art Prize exhibition and was featured in Ceramic Review in an article by Annie Le Santo.

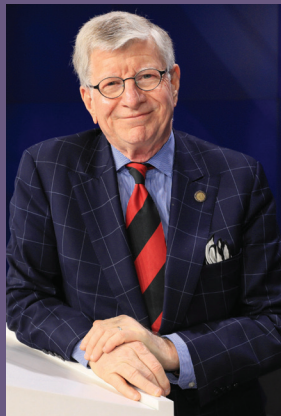
In Germany, Uriel has been working at the Höchster Porzellan-Manufaktur, where he produced a new series of porcelain figurines titled Anthropoids. This body of work debuted in May at Ceramic Art London.

Looking ahead, Uriel will present a new sculptural installation in June, developed during his McKnight Fellowship at the Northern Clay Center. Conceived as an interactive environment, the installation invites viewers to activate the work, construct narrative, and become participants within the sculptural field.



Uriel Caspi Jr. Photo, by Chen Jin Xiong, provided courtesy of the Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taiwan.

Peter Cuneo '67 writes book on leadership



Peter Cuneo '67, HD '13, HD '22, is renowned for a career reversing the fortunes of struggling businesses. His most significant turnaround was at Marvel Entertainment, where he served as CEO for a decade in the early 2000s before the business was sold to the Walt Disney Company for \$4.5 billion.

From his time as a student at Alfred, to his serving as a lieutenant in the Navy during two tours of duty in Vietnam, to his decades-long career in business—Forbes Magazine and Business Insider once called him one of the greatest turnaround CEOs in America—Cuneo has embraced leadership as a key to personal and professional success. In his new book, “Superhero Leadership: 28 Ways to Lead with Courage, Strength, and Compassion,” Cuneo discusses 28 “essentials” that he hopes can inspire in others the qualities of effective leadership.

The book, co-authored with six-time New York Times best-selling author Joe Garner, came out in mid-February and is available on Amazon. Cuneo says the book was decades in the making and reflects what he has learned about leadership over the course of his career.

“I’ve been working on the book about 20 years,” he commented. “It’s about lessons learned. I’ve

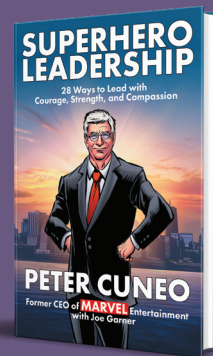
been lecturing on leadership throughout my lifetime.”

Cuneo said that in 2003, while serving as CEO at Marvel Entertainment, a group reached out to him and asked if he would give a speech on leadership.

“I said I would,” he recalled, “but I really hadn’t spent much time consciously thinking about leadership. What am I going to say?” He said while on a long flight, he began jotting down some core principles of leadership. And thus, the 28 “essentials” of leadership outlined in Cuneo’s book, which have helped guide him in his career in business, were born.

While those essentials have changed over the years—he has added four, and removed a couple he felt were no longer relevant—their significance and meaning have remained steady. They include: “Communicate consistent messages: Walk the talk,” “Avoid prejudices and embrace diversity,” “Don’t be self-important, be accessible,” “Find a few people who will tell you the truth, even when it hurts,” and “Welcome problems: Worry about what you don’t know.”

“These are universal principles that will last as long as humans walk the earth,” said Cuneo. “Some of the essentials are 10 pages long; some are only two. There are personal stories for all 28.”



professor of glass science engineering in the Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University; Alexis Clare, professor of glass science engineering emerita at Alfred University, and Sophia Carretto '24 (B.S., glass science engineering). Elizabeth is a postdoctoral researcher at the Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken County, SC.

2022

Grace Evans (BFA, minors in Spanish and art history) has

been selected to the inaugural Education Impact Advisory with Fred Rogers Productions, a nationally respected leader in children’s educational media. Grace, a bilingual educator, and interdisciplinary artist based in Pittsburgh, brings a dynamic practice that bridges education, creative inquiry, and community engagement. Fred Rogers Productions, the legacy organization behind Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood and a continued innovator in children’s programming, has convened this advisory to shape meaningful, research-driven approaches to educational impact across its initiatives. Grace will collaborate with educators, researchers, and creative leaders to guide the development of content and initiatives that support children, families, and communities nationwide. Her perspective as both an artist and educator aligns closely with the mission of Fred Rogers Productions to foster empathy, curiosity, and lifelong learning.

2024

Cecilia Sherwood (BFA) was appointed director of Retail and Creative Commissions at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, a leading nonprofit institution dedicated to the creation, promotion, and education of contemporary glass art. Sherwood, a 2024 BFA graduate of the School of Art & Design at Alfred University, earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus in Ceramics and Glass, complemented by minors in Business Administration and Arts Management. As Director of Retail and Creative Commissions, Sherwood will spearhead visionary retail programming featuring glass and craft works by regional and national artists, strengthen partnerships with maker communities, and guide curated creative commissions that elevate both emerging and established artistic voices. Her leadership aims to further the Center’s mission of fostering accessibility, innovation, and sustainability within the glass arts ecosystem. The Pittsburgh Glass Center, established in 2001, is renowned for its dynamic public programming, studio education, and commitment to contemporary glass art. It serves as a vibrant hub for artists, students, and collectors alike, championing creative exploration and cultural enrichment.

Lio Bonaccio (B.S., art history and theory) has joined RoGallery, a respected gallery and auction house based in Long Island City, Queens. RoGallery has been a distinctive force in the art world for more than 35 years, operating as a gallery, fine art dealer, and auction house. Founded in the early 1980s by Gail and Robert Rogal, the gallery built its reputation through major acquisitions of print publishing inventories and has since become a trusted source for modern

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and contemporary artworks in New York City. In their role at RoGallery, Lio manages artwork listings, social media, online inventory organization, and photo editing, contributing to both the digital presence and daily operations of the gallery. This position provides hands-on experience at the intersection of art history, market engagement, and contemporary gallery practice.

2025

Emily Woo (BFA) and **Diabou Hubbard** (BFA) have been recognized by the International Sculpture Center (ISC), a leading organization dedicated to the advancement of contemporary sculpture worldwide. Each year, the ISC honors outstanding student achievement through its prestigious “Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award,” established in 1994 to recognize emerging artists and encourage their continued commitment to the field. Students are nominated by faculty and selected through a highly competitive, juried process that also recognizes the strength of their institutions and faculty mentorship. Emily was named a recipient of the ISC’s award for her work “Made In New Jersey” (2023), a dynamic combination of neon, wood, and acrylic. She is currently a Technician and Program Assistant at Greenwich House Pottery, supporting studio operations and public programming within one of New York City’s historic arts institutions. Diabou, BFA 2025, received an Honorable Mention from the International Sculpture Center as part of the 2025 awards. She is currently an MFA candidate in Sculpture at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Eva Tellier (MFA) was among the participating artists in “Something Fierce,” an interdisciplinary art festival and exhibition presented by Flux Factory – Something Fierce at Flux IV in Long Island City, Queens, NY. “Something Fierce,” was a two-day arts festival and exhibition held Nov. 22–23, 2025, that explores queer ecology, resistance, and speculative futures through installation, performance, video, sound, sculpture, and mixed media. The festival engages with critical themes including biodiversity, psychogeography, climate change, and community persistence, inviting audiences into dynamic, experimental encounters that reflect urgency and resilience. Eva’s contribution to the exhibition features “Swamp Pleaser” (2025), a ceramic work that merges high-arched, sex-work footwear silhouettes with insect-like exoskeletal architectural forms. By blurring the distinctions between

ornament, tool, body, and environment, the piece examines cultural assumptions about labor, embodiment, resilience, and collective adaptation. Eva is a visual artist who primarily works with ceramics, fibers, and organic materials. Born in France, she later moved to Montreal, Canada, where she completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus in Fiber and Material Practices at Concordia University in 2020. She graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 2025. Tellier has shown her work internationally in Europe, Canada and the United States. She lives and works in New York City, where she has recently ended a residency at SculptureSpace NYC and a residency as the artist fellow at the Museum of Arts and Design.

Keep in touch

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

EMAIL

whitehouse@alfred.edu or
alumni@alfred.edu

NOTE: When emailing 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
1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802

In Memoriam

1950

Robert C. Kennedy, Sept. 23, 2025
John W. Lindenthal, Jan. 7, 2026
Richard C. Robinson, Dec. 14, 2025
Stephen Thorngate, Nov. 29, 2025

1951

Jane M. Bette Jamison, March 1, 2026

1953

Oscar C. Burdick, Nov. 29, 2025
Nancy C. (Perreault) Colavito, Oct. 1, 2025
Dorothy (Shaw) Doane, Jan. 8, 2026
Robert C. Ewell, March 26, 2026
Pamela A. (Davis) Merwin, Oct. 11, 2025

1954

G. Fred Chapman, Jan. 12, 2026
Joyce C. Trevor, Jan. 12, 2026

1955

Mary Jane (Villareale) Mackey, Oct. 24, 2025
Ronald K. Francis, April 7, 2026
Francis S. LoCastro, Sept. 26, 2025

1956

Richard H. Ewell, March 26, 2026
Gerald Geltman, Jan. 2, 2026
June L. (Smith) Bates, Jan. 31, 2026
Mary Ann (Mazourek) Stein, Dec. 28, 2025

1957

Carol L. (Fisher) Chollick, Oct. 28, 2025
Frederick F. Donovan, Nov. 23, 2025
Zelma R. (Tousley) Meyer, Jan. 31, 2026
Angela J. (Zegarelli) VanDerHoof, Oct. 2, 2025
John C. Wright, March 3, 2026

1958

Roger Eiss, Jan. 26, 2025
James A. Cornett, Nov. 5, 2025
Deborah (Ingwersen) Dean, Jan. 3, 2026
Dee L. Parker, Jan. 23, 2026

1959

Sally C. Garrett, Oct. 14, 2025

1960

Dr. Norman Browner, Nov. 4, 2025
Arthur Bresnick, Sept. 1, 2025
J. Paul Green, Sept. 23, 2025
John A. Plusch Jr., Oct. 1, 2025

1961

Haynes Lee Jr., Oct. 29, 2025
Francy (Falk) Phelps, Nov. 9, 2025

George C. Phillips Jr., Nov. 5, 2025
Norman T. Ryan, Nov. 19, 2025
Robert C. Tite, Jan. 6, 2026

1962

Pearson C. Arrison, Oct. 25, 2025
David J. Skolsky, Nov. 6, 2025
Bonnie (Mayhood) Weber, Oct. 13, 2025
David A. White, Feb. 1, 2026

1963

Raymond L. DeMonte, Feb. 23, 2026
Jack C. Brooks, Nov. 5, 2025
Grace R. (Robertson) Chartier, April 6, 2026
Linda C. (Kaiser) Friedman, March 1, 2026

1964

Joseph R. Cesare, Feb. 2, 2026
John R. Guild, Sept. 18, 2025
Joseph J. McConnell, Sept. 15, 2025
Mary Linda (Embser) Lewis, May 3, 2026

1965

Maxime A. Pilon, Feb. 14, 2024
Roberta A. (Perry) Clarke, Jan. 14, 2026
Steve K. Clarke, Sept. 27, 2025
John O. Francis, Nov. 16, 2025
Nancy (Sprague) Vaughan, March 2, 2026

1966

Burton I. Gubenko, Sept. 28, 2025
A. Jeanne (Sterner) Wolfanger, Nov. 6, 2025
Thomas K. Zajac, Nov. 17, 2025

1967

D. Douglas Eadie, Feb. 2, 2026
Jesse R. Harris, Jan. 14, 2026
Robert J. Thomas, Oct. 22, 2025

1969

Kathleen M. Buckley, Jan. 18, 2026
Larry R. Sell, March 27, 2026

1970

Peter M. Adriance, Nov. 7, 2025
Ann M. (Daly) O’Hora, April 6, 2026

1971

Ralph C. Cooke Jr., Dec. 23, 2025
Peter G. Skowronski, April 3, 2026
Jean C. (Krueger) Lauderdale, Nov. 23, 2025

1972

Georgette A. (Kernell) Bruenner, Feb. 14, 2026
John M. Dann, Sept. 15, 2025
John S. Vanini, Sept. 28, 2025

1973

Richard L. Schrader, Jan. 19, 2026

1974

Terry L. Sherman, Jan. 5, 2026

1975

Mary Francis (Sage) Eisvang, Jan. 6, 2026
Peter L. Giusti, Feb. 25, 2026

1976

Frederic “Barrie” Freeman, Feb. 26, 2026
Terence L. Griswold, Sept. 22, 2025
Carol H. Reed, Feb. 16, 2026

1977

Bruce F. Beckner, Oct. 23, 2025
Victoria MacKenzie-Childs, March 4, 2026
Stanley J. Munson, March 24, 2026

1981

Margaret “Sissy” (O’Neil) Mahoney, Dec. 7, 2025

1982

John E. Herbert, Nov. 25, 2025
Daniel P. Moran, Oct. 24, 2025

1983

Shirley F. Matteson, Jan. 22, 2026

1987

Robyn J. (Fleischer) Farrington, Oct. 17, 2025

1988

William Bretzin, Oct. 21, 2025
Nancy A. (Years) Hughes, March 6, 2026

1989

William H. Kerr, Feb. 2, 2026
Diana (Kulisek) Pancioli, Dec. 9, 2025
Timothy P. Quill, Feb. 11, 2026

1990

Cotter R. Luppi, Nov. 12, 2025

1991

Linda (Rega) Stundtner, Nov. 9, 2025

1995

Kristina M. (Snyder) Gardner, Sept. 29, 2025

2000

Erin C. (Cave) Quattrone, Feb. 2, 2026

2008

Carolyn V. (Steere) Tee, Jan. 18, 2026



A LEGACY OF BELONGING

BY: CAROL MARCY

For Elaine (Torkildsen) '64 and Ted Jermansen, Alfred University has been a cornerstone of their family's life. Alongside their daughters, Randi Jermansen '95 and Kari (Jermansen) Martin '97, the Jermansens share a deep affinity for Alfred. As members of the Saxon Circle, which honors those who show exceptional commitment to the University through their support, Elaine and Ted have translated that connection into meaningful impact for future generations.



Kari (Jermansen) Martin '97, Elaine (Torkildsen) '64 and Ted Jermansen, and Randi Jermansen '95

It is a connection that began with Elaine's path to Alfred, which took a few turns before bringing her back to the place that felt right. After beginning in the nursing program, she left to attend other institutions before returning to complete her degree in music—a decision that affirmed her love for the University. "I always wanted my degree from Alfred," she recalls. "If I needed help, the professors were always there... I didn't find that at other schools." That sense of care became the foundation of her enduring bond with Alfred.

Years later, when it came time for their daughters to choose colleges, Elaine and Ted fostered exploration—visiting more than two dozen campuses. Yet both ultimately chose Alfred. Randi, a mathematics major with a computer science minor, remembers the moment it clicked: "At the end of the day, it was exactly the place I was supposed to be." Randi had also attended prospective and accepted student events hosted by other families, and seeing the value of those early connections, Elaine and Ted began hosting similar gatherings at their home.

Kari, who majored in environmental studies, initially resisted following in her sister's footsteps but was drawn in by the same qualities. "There's something about Alfred that's just magical," she says. "It nurtures everybody's needs, helps them grow, and challenges them when they need it."

At Alfred, both daughters discovered a community rich in opportunity and belonging. Randi embraced academics and campus life—from student leadership to being a founding member of a sorority—while Kari found her calling in environmental work, supported by professors who remain her mentors today. "I met my lifelong friends. I met my lifelong mentors," Kari says.

Inspired by these experiences, Elaine and Ted made a lasting commitment to give back. In addition to giving annually,

they established the Jermansen Family Endowed Scholarship—founded in 2007 and fully endowed in 2018—to create opportunities for future students to benefit from an Alfred education. "It was one way to give back to other students," Ted says. Their philanthropy reflects both gratitude and a belief in Alfred's ability to transform lives.

As members of the Saxon Circle, the Jermansens are recognized for their sustained support. While they speak modestly about the distinction, their impact is clear. For the family, giving back is about paying forward the values and opportunities Alfred made possible.

Randi captures that sentiment, noting that supporting Alfred means "building people who think, explore, and are open to anything." Through their scholarship and legacy, the Jermansen family continues to do just that—ensuring future generations of Saxons can discover their own place, purpose, and lifelong connection to Alfred University.

“

There's something about Alfred that's just magical. It nurtures everybody's needs, helps them grow, and challenges them when they need it.”

Kari (Jermansen) Martin '97

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