

# Alfred

MAGAZINE

MAY 2024



## MENTORS

**Stories of people who made a difference**

**Mark Lewis looks back on  
Alfred University career**

**Alfred University's busy  
summer campus**





*Alfred University alumna Patricia Nilsen '88, CEO of Rochester Electric and Gas and NYSEG, practices pottery during a recent visit to the campus.*



# In this issue



Cover Illustration: iStock

## 8 Mentorship at Alfred University

Alfred University has nurtured a mentoring environment since its founding. Alumni and their former professors look back on how mentoring "made a difference."

## I4

### Mark Lewis

Mark Lewis, retiring Dean of the College of Business, sees a bright future for business studies at Alfred University.

## I6

### Academic Explorers

New program hones culture of mentorship for first-year students.

## I8

### HeART of Alfred

Alfred University's once sleepy summer campus now hums with academics, studio arts.

## Campus Digest

- 2** Beth Fox appointed inaugural Chief of Staff
- 4** New dual major opportunities
- 4** Raub named VP for Business and Finance
- 6** Best of Ade Dining
- 7** Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors

## Features/ Spotlights

- 22** **SpaceX Odyssey:** How undergraduate Brayden Bush's internship at Cape Canaveral helped him "connect the dots" of his education.
- 24** **Local Stonehenge:** How a young professor named Glenn Zweygardt to public art at Alfred University.

## Athletics

- 26** Saxon Hill update
- 27** Athletic Highlights

## Class Notes

- 29** Alumni Updates
- 34** In Memoriam

# Alfred

## MAGAZINE

MAY 2024

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Alfred University  
OUTSIDE OF ORDINARY

## CAMPUS DIGEST



Beth Fox

## Beth Fox appointed to inaugural chief of staff post

Beth Fox recently was appointed the inaugural chief of staff in the Office of the President. She begins her duties on May 31.

In her role, Fox will serve as an advisor and key member of the University's management team, responsible for coordinating the daily operation of President Mark Zupan's office and strengthening the link between the president, the Board of Trustees, and other external constituents. She will work on the president's behalf to increase Alfred University's fundraising and friend-raising success, enhance the visibility and impact of the University's brand, and plan and implement strategic initiatives in close collaboration with fellow members of the Cabinet and in support of our University's mission.

Fox comes to Alfred University from Cornell University, where she has served since 2015. In addition to her role as director of

postdoctoral and student programs for the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, Fox previously served as assistant dean of academic and faculty affairs at the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business and as senior administrator for the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to Cornell, Fox held a variety of significant administrative positions focused on student advising at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Stanford University, and the University of Colorado-Boulder. She also served as a lecturer and research associate at Princeton University.

Fox earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Columbia University, a master's in education from Lesley University, and a doctoral degree in biological anthropology and anatomy from Duke University.

## Alfred University group attends International Sculpture Conference

Several faculty and graduate students from the Sculpture Dimensional Studies program in Alfred University's School of Art and Design attended the 30th International Sculpture Conference, held Oct. 10-15 in Jersey City, NJ.

The group of four faculty and six MFA students attended the conference with funding from an Emerson Foundation Grant. The conference included panel discussions, exhibitions, and keynote conversations. Attendees also toured the prestigious Grounds for Sculpture Park and the Johnson Atelier Digital Sculpture Studio.

The conference was sponsored and organized by the International Sculpture Center. Faculty from Alfred University who

attended were Coral Lambert, professor of sculpture; Sarah Blood, associate professor of glass; Rebecca Arday, assistant professor of glass; and Erin Taylor, digital fabrication lab specialist. Graduate students in attendance were Heidi Mortenson, Rhiannon Scheidt, Claire Cadorette, C Hancock, Toomas Toomepuu, and Anna Yiaxi Savvidou.

The group toured Johnson Atelier, a large commercial production facility for sculpture, taking in demonstrations of the digital tools used in the facility, which includes 3D printing, 3D scanning, and computer numerical controlled (CNC) milling.



## Grant funds, software support REE training

Alfred University has been awarded a \$466,853 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) that will support student internships and fund a program that provides short course training for renewable energy engineering students and workers in the electric utilities field. The University has also received a donation from GE Vernova of \$786,000 in grid planning and operations software to support the NYSERDA-funded project.

The program—to which the University will provide \$117,000 of in-kind/cost-share funding—will benefit students in the University's Renewable Energy Engineering and Electric Engineering programs by providing them with access to state-of-the-art equipment and training to prepare them for jobs in the growing renewable energy industry.

David Gottfried, deputy director for Alfred University's Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT), said a portion of the NYSERDA workforce training grant will be used to purchase two microgrid control systems—a microgrid control center and a distributed energy resources command center—which will be installed in the McMahon Engineering as a training resource. With the increasing installation and integration of renewable



distribution energy sources, or DERs, power grids can become stressed and need to be better controlled. Alfred University students will learn how to operate the microgrid control systems, which are used to manage the flow of power through the electrical grid.

"Our unique Renewable Energy Engineering degree program combined with our newly reinvigorated Electrical Engineering program provide the perfect platform for this NYSERDA funded work," said Gabrielle Gaustad '04, dean of Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering. "Both programs will benefit greatly from the increased access to industrially relevant curriculum and internship opportunities in the utilities industry."

"Alfred's renewable energy engineering program has taught students the principles behind various renewable energy technologies, like how to make PV (photovoltaic, or solar) panels, but now the emphasis we're seeing driven by the industrial and utilities sectors is teaching students how to better control the grid. This is next generation teaching and research," said John Simmins '84, PhD '90, director of the CACT and principal investigator for the project. "This is hands-on experience, it's not theory. Students are going to be able to go into the lab and reconfigure the microgrid. It will make them (students) very valuable as prospective employees in the electric utilities industry."

Gottfried said the NYSERDA grant will allow the University to subcontract with the EPRI, an independent, non-profit research and development organization, to conduct industry-standard training short courses for students. NYSERDA grant monies will also support a summer internship program in which students at Alfred University work at utilities, renewable energy companies, and other firms serving the sector. The program will create 22 internship opportunities over the next three years.

# New dual major opportunities

A new policy approved by faculty in the fall will allow students to pursue cross-college double majors. Students from across the University can choose from among eight double majors in the College of Business and eight in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Jean Cardinale, head of the Division of Biology and Biochemistry, serves as Interdisciplinary Program manager. Throughout the spring semester, faculty created “official pathways” toward earning a double major. Cardinale said the pathways will coordinate scheduling between academic programs to allow students to take the coursework required to earn majors in both programs.

A double major refers to a student pursuing an academic major or field of study in addition to their primary degree program. Students who double-major fulfill the requirements for both majors and receive a single

degree. Double majors are beneficial in that they show that students are well-rounded in their academic pursuits, something on which employers look favorably. Cardinale said having a double major will be advantageous to students in the job market and those pursuing graduate school.

Faculty approved the following double majors in the College of Business: accounting, business administration, business analytics, data analytics, equine business management, finance, health-care planning and management, and marketing. Double majors approved for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are biology, chemistry, communication studies, criminal justice studies, English, psychology, political science, and sociology. The business administration double major is only available to students enrolled in a non-College of Business degree program.



*Professor of Biology Jean Cardinale*

Each year over the last seven years, between 6 and 8 percent of Alfred University students have earned double majors. By approving the new double majors and creating pathways to earn them, Alfred’s numbers should come more in line with the national average of 25 percent. Faculty from the University’s undergraduate academic units are expected to propose additional double majors in the future.

## Raub named VP for Business and Finance, CFO

Following a national search, Tammara L. Raub was appointed the full-time vice president for Business and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, effective Sunday, Oct. 1.

Raub rejoined Alfred University in January 2023, when she was appointed interim vice president of Business and Finance. She had previously served as Alfred University’s controller from May 2001 until October 2012, when she left to become vice president and treasurer at Utica College. She served at Utica from 2012 until 2016, when she joined Mozaic, where as CFO, she was liaison to the Board of Directors’ Budget and Finance Committee and Audit Committee.

“It is a distinct privilege to have the confidence of the University to return to an institution I have long admired,”



*Tammara L. Raub*

said Raub. “During my interim role, I have been very impressed with the collaborative spirit of the campus and the leadership team. In a time when many colleges and universities are reporting difficult financial conditions, it’s promising to know that this University is on the right strategic growth path and is well-established for long term success.”

“Tammy has extensive experience with managing the complex financial models of universities. She has a strong record of budgetary design and fiscal management as well as knowledge regarding institutional advancement and secondary markets that will serve our University well over the years to come,” Mark Zupan, Alfred University president, commented. “As vice president and CFO, she will lead our talented business office and budget managers as well as our various partners in capital project management, facilitating new approaches that will help enhance our University’s reputation.”

Raub earned her master’s degree in business administration at Utica College and her bachelor’s degree in accounting at St. Bonaventure University.



## Black Glass Artist Series



**Kimberly Thomas**



**Leo Tecosky**



Scan the QR code to watch videos of Alfred University's Black Glass Artist Series.



Glass artists Kimberly Thomas and Leo Tecosky '03 visited Alfred University in the 2024 spring semester as part of the Black Glass Artist Series, founded by Adeye Jean-Baptiste '23 when she was a second-year student in the School of Art and Design.

Tecosky is the recipient of the 36th annual Corning Museum Rakow Commission, as well as the 2023 Maxwell/Hanrahan Award in Craft.

Thomas earned a BFA in Ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design and spent six years as a special effects make-up artist before she began flameworking in 2009.

Jean-Baptiste, now living in Wardensville, WV, is featured in this issue's focus on mentorship, page 10.

Both Tecosky and Thomas delivered public lectures and offered glass art demonstrations during their visits to campus.

Photos: Carole Valpe

## Emma J. Robinson '16 leading JLC Advisory Board

Emma J. Robinson '16 was appointed chair of the Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center (JLC) Advisory Board, effective Jan. 1, 2024. She took over for previous chair Sherry Walton '80, who had served in the role since 2006.



*Emma J. Robinson '16*

As chair, Robinson will oversee meetings of the Advisory Board and serve as a liaison between the Advisory Board and Abby Hurley '17 (MSEd, College Student Development '19), coordinator of the Judson Leadership Center.

The JLC at Alfred University is named for the late Beth Robinson Judson '82, who helped found Alfred University's Women's Leadership Center in 2006. Robinson is the niece of Judson and daughter of Judson's brother, Alfred University alumnus

Chris Robinson '86.

The JLC provides leadership training and education, offering special programs for students who want to assume leadership roles on campus. It houses the Women's Leadership Center, which provides leadership education and skills development for women, and the Women's Leadership

Academy, a credit-bearing leadership development experience which is one of the oldest women's leadership academies in the country. The JLC has been integral to the launch of a leadership minor available to all Alfred University undergraduate students, regardless of their academic major.

Robinson, who earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Alfred University in 2016, participated in the Women's

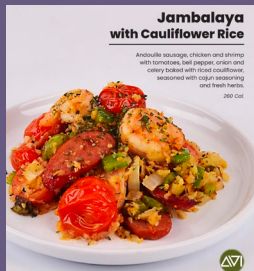
Leadership Academy while an undergraduate and has been involved in the JLC Advisory Board since graduating from Alfred. After graduating from Alfred, Robinson went on to earn a master's degree in chemistry from Bucknell University in 2018. She is an engineer at Alkegen, a specialty materials leader serving mission-critical systems that the world is focused on for the future, including battery technologies, electric vehicles, filtration media, and specialty insulation materials that enable customers to reduce fossil fuel consumption and conserve energy.

Sherry Walton had served as Judson Leadership Center Advisory Board chair since the JLC's inception and will continue serving on the Advisory Board after leaving her post as chair.

## The best of Ade Dining Hall:

# Jambalaya with Cauliflower Rice

Supplied courtesy of AVI



### Ingredients

Yellow Onion (medium dice)  
1 2/3 cup Bell Peppers Green Fresh (medium dice)  
1 1/4 cup Celery Fresh (small dice)  
Chicken Breast (large dice)  
3.3 ea 0 lb 13.33 oz Sausage Andouille Link (bias cut)  
1 2/3 tbsp Garlic Cloves Peeled (mince)  
1/3 cup Oil Canola Salad  
1 2/3 tbsp Cajun Seasoning  
1 2/3 tsp Oregano Fresh (finely chopped)  
1 2/3 tsp Thyme Fresh (finely chopped)  
1 lb Cauliflower Riced  
13 oz Shrimp  
1 lb 2oz. Tomato Cherry halved

### Directions

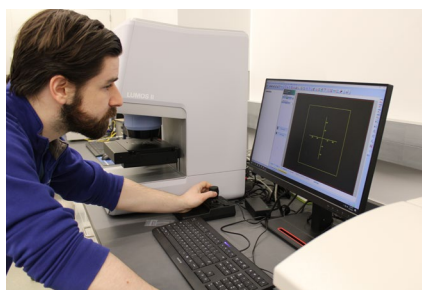
1. Pre heat convection oven 425°F High fan.
2. Place first six ingredients in a baking pan. Drizzle with oil and half the cajun, oregano and thyme; toss to coat. Bake 8 minutes.
3. Add remaining ingredients to pan stir to combine. Bake until shrimp turns pink, 5-7 minutes longer.
4. Finished product 165°F to hot hold keep temperature at 140°F or above.
5. Garnish with fresh herb of choice.

## Project promotes sustainability in wine industry

Glass scientists at Alfred University, in a partnership with New York State, are studying ways to wash and reuse wine bottles. The project could remove tens of thousands of wine bottles from the waste stream each year.

The bottle washing research project, conducted at Alfred University's Center for Glass Innovation, is supported by a portion of \$4.2 million in grant monies from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)—earmarked for projects promoting glass recycling and reuse—with assistance from Vitricity, a consulting company focused on promoting sustainability in the glass industry.

Rebecca Welch, PhD student in materials science and engineering at Penn State who has served as visiting scholar and adjunct at Alfred University since last spring, is a researcher for Vitricity.



*Arron Potter, a postdoctoral researcher at Alfred University's Center for Glass Innovation, uses an infrared microscope on a wine bottle fragment to measure the extent of degradation caused to the bottle's interior surface by exposure to moisture.*

She said a survey of wine producers in the Finger Lakes Region (there are more than 130 of them) shows the average winery uses about 10,000 bottles each year in their tasting rooms alone, with some going through as many as 50,000 annually. For the most part those bottles

are not reused and likely end up in landfills. Developing an effective method of washing and reusing bottles could have a significant impact on sustainability efforts in the region's wine industry.

Arron Potter, a postdoctoral researcher in the Center for Glass Innovation, is helping lead efforts to find effective ways to clean wine bottles. Potter's research is looking into a method of washing the bottle in which a very thin layer—as small as a micron, or one-millionth of a meter—of the glass surface is removed, taking away any residual moisture and leaving a new, more pristine interior surface of the bottle.

Welch said once a suitable method for washing the bottles is achieved, focus will be placed on developing a cost-effective system of collecting and washing the bottles and determining how they will be transported to and from the wineries.



# Two students recognized as Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors

Brian Ngatunga and Emilia Donenberg Smith are the 2024 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award recipients. Winners of the 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 University's Board of Trustees for a half-century, from 1972-22, and is Board Chair emeritus.

Ngatunga, from Mwanza, Tanzania, is a business analytics major (minor in marketing) with a 3.95 grade-point average. He is an Honors Program student who has been inducted into the Delta Mu Delta, Alpha Kappa Phi, Pi Gamma, Mu Kappa Tau, Alpha Iota Delta, Beta Gamma Sigma, and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies.



2024 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award winners Emilia Donenberg Smith '24 (left) and Brian Ngatunga '24.

Ngatunga is president of the International Students Association, co-chair of the President's Committee on Diversity, Student Senate Diversity chair, and coordinator of the Institute of Cultural Unity. After graduation, Ngatunga hopes to either work in the field of business or marketing analytics or enroll in graduate school in the United States.

Smith, from Wilmette, IL, is a dual-major, in fine arts and physics, with a cu-

mulative grade-point average of 3.89. The recipient of a Presidential Scholarship, Smith participates in the Honors Program at Alfred University and was the recipient of the 2023 Natasha Goldowski Renner Prize in Physics and a 2023 American Ceramic Society (ACerS) Scientific Creativity Award.

In 2023, she earned a Corning Museum of Glass Scholarship to study under renowned glass artist Martin Janecky. In the summer of 2022, Smith was a glassblowing assistant/teacher at Urban Glass and Brooklyn Glass in Brooklyn, NY. The previous summer, she was an intern at Los Angeles Glassblowing. This fall she plans to work full-time at Wave Glass, a glassblowing studio in Murano, Italy.

Photo: Carole Volpe

## State approves new Sports and Health Sciences degree

The New York State Department of Education has approved Alfred University's new Bachelor of Science degree program in Sports and Health Sciences, with the first cohort of students enrolling in the program for the Fall 2024 semester. The program offers concentrations which will lead students to a variety of career opportunities in the health care field or provide them a path to graduate school.

The mission of the proposed Sports and Health Sciences major at Alfred University—which will be housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences—is to professionally prepare students to enter a wide variety of healthcare occupations or to continue their education towards

advanced degrees in health care-related fields. The program is designed to create a well-rounded, interdisciplinary experience for students interested in a broad field of healthcare dealing specifically with the physically active or athletic populations.

All first-year students in the new major will take standard required courses before meeting with their academic advisors in the spring of their first year to choose from among five concentration tracks: a general concentration and Performance Enhancement track; and pre-professional concentrations in Rehabilitation Sciences, Pre-Physician Assistant, and Pre-Athletic Training. Grade-point average will be a determin-

ing factor in a student being admitted into a particular track.

"Each pre-professional track is designed to meet the admissions requirements for graduate school," said Jason Honeck, athletic training program director and clinical professor of athletic training, who will oversee the Sports and Health Sciences program.

"Our objective is to create something versatile and give our students more opportunities to get into the health care field," Honeck said. "We're aiming for 100 percent success rates" for students gaining employment in their field after graduation or being admitted into graduate school. "That's what will sell the program in the future."



# The Mentorship Difference

**Alfred University has nurtured a mentoring environment since its founding. Alumni and their former professors look back on how mentoring "made a difference."**

**By Rob Price**

If you ask Alfred University alumni for their best undergraduate memories, you'll likely hear stories of mentoring relationships formed with faculty, friendly staff members, supportive administrators, and even other students. Alfred University places a high value on an academic

environment in which students experience productive, positive emotional connections. Those of us who have benefited from such relationships recognize the ways our mentors helped us hone our skills, clarify our goals, and find our inner balance.





*Illustration: Shutterstock*

Research conducted by Cara Bakalik and Kiley Kinney, School Psychology doctoral students in Alfred University's School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, indicates mentoring relationships have a positive impact on students' overall academic and social success. The relationships also contribute to higher retention rates among first-year students, but historically Alfred University has encouraged a mentoring environment because friendly, supportive relationships are part of our history and makeup.

Our mentorship traditions manifest themselves in gestures as simple as a professor's offer of a room in his home to a student whose living arrangements had fallen through. This article tells that story, as well as other stories of mentorship that have had life-changing impacts on students' lives. They are stories that flesh out our alumni's recollections of mentors in their Alfred University experience "who made a difference."



Professor Angus Powers



Adeye Jean-Baptiste '23

## Professor of Glass Angus Powers and undergraduate Adeye Jean-Baptiste '23 collaborated to launch Black Glass Artist Series

Adeye Jean-Baptiste '23 was a second-year art student in Alfred University's School of Art and Design when she conceived the idea of an annual Black Glass Artist Series. The series is now in its third year, and Adeye is a professional glass artist living in Wardensville, WV. The Alfred University community is richer for the series she founded as an undergraduate student. It is overseen by Professor of Glass Angus, Adeye's teacher, collaborator and mentor when she was a student.

"I took the idea to Angus," Adeye recalls, "and we worked on it together, and Angus was the one who really understood how to take care of the details of such a program. In retrospect, I can recognize it was a good idea, but good ideas don't really go anywhere until you start taking care of the details."

For Powers, Adeye's enrollment in the School of Art and Design was one of those singular events in a teacher's career when a student with extraordinary promise appears in the classroom – or in this case Alfred University's hot glass studio.

"Adeye already was skilled with fibers and was building characters drawn from science fiction that fit into an epic-size narrative," he says. "Their glasswork was about storytelling too. I could see someone interested in pushing the limits of glassblowing as a sculptural medium."

***"One thing Adeye did was push the scale and create big teams for glass blowing."***

**— Angus Powers**

He also noticed Adeye brought a natural charisma and sense of leadership to their work in the glass shop. "One thing Adeye did was push the scale and create big teams for glass blowing. The normal glassblowing team involves two people. Adeye was able to bring in other students and assistants to push the scale of the work. That built up a special energy in the glass shop."

Looking back on his work with Adeye, Powers describes himself as a collaborator and mentor, particularly

in the founding of the Black Glass Artist Series. "Adeye was someone ahead of their years, and we both could lead and push each other, lean on each other, and take care of the details, and make sure the series happened."

From Adeye's perspective, Powers created the nurturing environment in which she could grow as an artist. "Basically, what Angus did was teach me enough so I could begin doing a lot of my own learning through the experience of working in the hot glass shop. He and I worked together to create the space I could work in to improve my technique and art, so by my senior year, I really had my legs under me."

Powers describes his style of teaching as an effort to impart the necessary skills to students so that they no longer need a teacher hovering over them. "That's how it worked out with Adeye," he says. "They were already incredibly capable, and I just had to convince them of that. Ultimately, if I do my job, you don't need me after a while, and that's how it worked out with Adeye. My hope for all my students is that they're more successful than I am."



## Professor Bill LaCourse came to the rescue of Susan Rozak '86 when she needed a place to live

Susan Rozak '86 is a senior applications engineer at Saint Gobain Advance Ceramics Corporation, in Worcester, MA. She enrolled at Alfred University after deciding the size of undergraduate classes at Cornell University was a little daunting.

The average class at Cornell had 400 students, and my biggest class at Alfred had 35," she recalls. That kind of environment made for productive student teacher relationships, and it fostered good mentoring relationships, as well."

She studied ceramic engineering with professors Bill LaCourse and the late Van Derck Frechette and eventually decided to pursue graduate studies at Alfred University. Frechette arranged an internship for her at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, where he served as a consultant. Then, a bump in the road: As she was preparing to leave for California, she learned the residential arrangements she'd made



for returning to Alfred in the fall had fallen through.

I didn't have time to find a new place to live, and I couldn't look for a place while I was in California. I was having a cup of coffee with Professor LaCourse and told him I was in a jam. He said, 'I'm going on sabbatical. Why don't you stay in my house?'

Alfred University is that kind of place, she says. "Small classes, excellent professors. Do your work, do well, and someone takes you under their wing. Bill and Van were great friends and mentors for me.

LaCourse says he identified Susan as a student with promise based on two qualities: She was an excellent undergraduate student, and she brought a friendly warmth to her work in classrooms and labs.

Good engineering students start out well at academics, but Susan was also so friendly," he says. "She had a really marvelous blend of human traits: A lively personality, and she was willing and eager to do anything in the labs. And not only did she perform better than most of the other students, she was a natural leader.

The best engineering students, LaCourse says, "want to know the next step. They're always looking forward, they always want to understand something. And they want to understand things not only for themselves, but so they can contribute to the wheel of progress. The good ones – and Susan was one of the good ones – always have that desire.

Susan says Alfred University fostered the kind of supportive environment in which a good student naturally attracted the attention of its world-class faculty. "You were only limited by what you wanted to do. If you showed up with some curiosity and ready to work, someone like a Bill LaCourse was going to take you under their wing.



(Above) Professor of Glass Science Bill LaCourse  
(Left) Susan Rozak '86

## English Professors Juliana Gray and Susan Morehouse encourage young poet Colby Cotton to follow his images

Colby Cotton '15 grew up in the Canisteo Valley, where his father and extended family had worked on the Erie and Erie-Lackawanna railroads. He was the first in his family to attend college. As an undergraduate at Alfred University, he began writing poetry.

Since his undergraduate years, his poetry has appeared in major literary magazines including *Ploughshares*, *Iowa Review*, *Prairie Schooner* and *Best New Poets*. His first collection of poetry, *The Living Sign*, has been a finalist for the National Poetry Series, the Alice James Award, the Levis Prize, and the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize. He is currently working on his second collection. Colby also studied at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, where he received his MFA in creative writing. He subsequently served as a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and is a recipient of a Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the Sewanee Writer's Conference.

He credits his professional success in part with the mentoring he received from two Alfred University English professors, Susan Morehouse and Juliana Gray. Morehouse, a fiction and essay writer, and Gray, a poet and essayist, "both recognized independently of each other an ability long before I'd had a chance to begin developing," Colby says. "The relationships I had with them were the closest and most longstanding mentorships I experienced as a graduate student or undergraduate."

He recalls "an instructive moment" working with Morehouse on a short story: "She started crossing out these large sections of the story that weren't working. She told me, 'The real



Colby Cotton '15



English Professor Juliana Gray



English Professor Susan Morehouse

story isn't here. The parts where the sentences are alive are in these other sections.' I had to learn that difficult writer's lesson: 'Kill your darlings.' And that's when I started learning it."

Morehouse remembers that session. "Colby had an image in that piece that was so beautiful and unexpected. ... I wanted him to emphasize the images that were so powerful, because they were the keys to what his imagination was telling him."

Gray also remembers Colby's talent for the image that jumps off the page. "He'd written a persona poem based on Andrea Yates, the Texas woman who'd drowned her five children in

their bathtub," she recalls, "He imagined her going through the house the night before the murders, and he had an image of a sock lying in a hallway. It was the poignant, single detail that carried all this emotional weight. It was a breakthrough poem."

Both Gray and Morehouse teach the importance of concrete details when crafting images. They both agree: Colby was a student who took the lesson to heart.

"Colby would listen to us talk about setting a scene," Gray recalls, "and he'd get on Youtube and listen to something on writing settings, then he'd come to class and talk about it. He just took the craft very seriously."

"We tell a lot of young writers to learn from other writers," Morehouse says. "Colby actually went and did it. He was always thinking about the craft and how you build a story."

Colby also credits Morehouse and Gray with helping him steer his way through choosing a graduate school and working his way through post-graduate positions. "Between the two of them there was this huge amount of knowledge about the business end of writing."

When he returns to the Canisteo Valley for visits, he usually contacts Gray and Morehouse with invitations for a reunion. They often meet at a bar in Hornell along the railroad tracks. "It's the perfect place for an old railroad guy like me," Colby says.



## From Ceramic Engineering to Vocal Music: Professor Luanne Crosby opened Brande Everett's eyes, and voice, to 'whole new world'

Brande Everett was studying ceramic engineering at Alfred University when she met Professor of Music Luanne Crosby. Brande loved to sing, so she enrolled in Private Voice Lessons her first semester at AU. When Crosby heard her sing she recognized something special. "I was blown away by the maturity of her beautiful voice and her natural musicality.

Because it was also Crosby's first semester at AU, she was excited for her students to travel with her to Montreal for the National Association of Teachers of Singing student auditions. Voice teachers from the eastern U.S. bring their students to this annual event to perform for their colleagues, in order to receive feedback on their singing. Brande was required to sing three songs in at least two different languages for three university voice teachers. She was nervous but sang beautifully and received high praise from her judges. "But the most important thing for Brande that weekend," says Crosby, "was being able to listen to other college students sing, and realize that she was of the same caliber as music majors.

Brande calls that trip to Montreal "dreamy," and she credits Crosby's teaching and mentorship as having had a decisive impact on her life in music. She shifted her focus from ceramic engineering to music, studied at Wayne State University, and received an MFA in Vocal Performance from Bowling Green University. She has sung in Verona, Italy, with the Opera Viva and continues singing in the operatic and choral traditions.



Professor of Music Luanne Crosby

***"Luanne showed me the positive directions I could take in music and singing," Brande says. "That's where I went."***

Luanne taught me to feel comfortable with my voice. When we met, I told her I thought I was a booming mezzo, and she said, 'No, you're a soprano. She picked 'Porgi Amor' for me to sing, from La Nozze di Figaro, and when I look back I can see that was a masterful example of teaching. You have to be a soprano to sing that aria, and that's what I turned out to be. She taught me to feel comfortable with my voice."

Brande and Crosby lost touch for a while, but they reconnected recently over Facebook. Brande returned to Alfred for the 2023 Reunion Weekend



Brande Everett

when the 25th reunion of the AU Chamber Singers, originally scheduled for 2020, finally happened. Crosby asked if Brande would like to sing a solo for the Alumni Concert, and she performed a moving rendition of "Hear de Lambs A Cryin'," the spiritual by H. T. Burleigh.

Hearing her sing again made my heart burst," Crosby says.

Luanne showed me the positive directions I could take in music and singing," Brande says. "That's where I went."





# Mark Lewis sees a bright future for College of Business

By Mark Whitehouse

Alfred University's College of Business has grown and advanced in many ways since Mark Lewis took over in 2016. The College has expanded its talented and dedicated faculty; has continued to expand and diversify its degree programs; and has promoted a host of unique and exciting experiential opportunities for students.

"The future is incredibly solid. The faculty are so dedicated; they deeply care about the students," said Lewis, who will step down as dean, effective June 30. "I look forward to seeing the College grow and develop. I know there is a very positive future for the College and University, and the students who come here."

Lewis has been at Alfred University since 2010, when he was hired

as an adjunct instructor in management. His journey to Alfred University was circuitous to say the least.

A native of Almond, NY, Lewis enrolled at Alfred University as a ceramic engineering major after graduating from Alfred Almond Central School. After three semesters he transferred to Alfred State College and earned an associate's degree in business, then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business from SUNY Institute of Technology (now SUNY Polytechnic Institute). Lewis then earned a commission in the U.S. Air Force, where he spent 20 years before retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1997. During his service, in 1980, he earned an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University.

Lewis's time in the Air Force, during which his final service was as chief of software engineering for Air Mobility Command, helped prepare him for a career in business. After retiring from the Air Force, he joined the New York Stock Exchange, where he spent almost 13 years primarily as the senior vice president responsible for developing and maintaining all the software that runs the exchange. In November 2009 he retired from the NYSE and returned to Allegany County with his wife, Ann, whom he has known since their days as students at Alfred-Almond Central School.

His second retirement lasted all of two months. In January 2010 he was appointed to an adjunct teaching position in the College of Business, and then was hired full-time as an "executive in residence." In 2011, he was appointed clinical assistant professor, then assistant professor, of management information systems. He taught finance courses and would eventually be appointed to his current faculty position of associate professor of finance and analytics. Three times, in 2014, 2016 and again in 2019, students voted Lewis to receive the Joseph Kruson Excellence in Teaching Award.

In 2012, the College of Business was changed to the School of Business and was housed in the College of Professional Studies, of which Lewis was later appointed interim dean. Lewis became permanent dean when the School of Business split from the College of Professional Studies and was restored as the College of Business, which is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The College, like other academic units at the University, has changed and adapted over the years. "We're always updating our curriculum, keeping it current, changing the content of our courses, adding new courses," he said. Under his leadership, the College has added three new degree programs in the last five years: business analytics, data analytics, and equine business management.

Lewis said the College has continued to offer students hands-on learning opportunities. "We've made our classes more experiential," he said, pointing to a class he developed for first-year students, "Contemporary Business," in which groups of students learn about entrepreneurship by creating and running a business. "They write business plans, create a pitch for their plans, and run them like pop-up businesses. All profits they make are donated to charities selected by the students."

Students in the College also have opportunities to gain experience by working with local businesses, like Sunny Cove Farm, Trout Run Campground and Honey Pot Chocolates. They conduct market research; develop business plans; and revamp existing business models.

"It helps local businesses thrive. That helps the local economy and helps the students," Lewis said. "It's really exciting to see the students working on something that's live and real. It gives them a real-life experience that will help them when they get a job."

Several years ago, Lewis developed a program that offers students from all academic disciplines the chance to travel to Germany and learn about the automotive industry there. Several other faculty members in the College of Business routinely take students to other countries to study international business.

One experiential program that has been offered by the College for years, the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) club, has continued to thrive under Lewis's guidance. In 1993, one of the University's trustees donated \$100,000 in start-up funding for SMIF, giving students the opportunity to gain experience by investing in the stock market. Lewis, who advised the club, said the fund is currently valued at \$982,000.

"We had a party when it reached a half a million dollars," he said. "When it reaches a million we'll have a really big party."

Lewis said the College has placed a renewed focus on entrepreneurship, offering opportunities for high school and Alfred University students to learn about starting and running their own businesses. They include a business competition for high school students, in which business plans are critiqued by faculty; Saxon Tank, a competition based on the popular "Shark Tank" television show; and the AHA Business Pitch competition, in which students from colleges and universities in Allegany County develop and pitch business plans.

"The last few years, there has been a big push toward (creating) more internship opportunities, so when students go to a job interview, they already have that work experience," Lewis added.

Lewis said his colleagues and students in the College have made his tenure as dean most enjoyable.

"Being able to work with a team of dedicated faculty and staff who are so student outcome-centered and passionate about teaching, makes it incredibly rewarding to come to work," he said. "Seeing the students' progress, hearing from them 10 years after graduation tell you what a difference their time at Alfred University and in the College of Business has made on their lives, that's impactful. It tells me my time as a teacher and mentor has been very well spent."

"I feel like I've always given my best as dean," he remarked. "I feel really good about what we've done as a team, and I am very optimistic about the opportunities for the new dean, our faculty and our students."

An avid outdoorsman, Lewis said he will continue as a steward of the University-owned Foster Lake recreational area, which he has helped develop in recent years. "It's such a wonderful resource for our student experience, from both an educational and recreational point of view."

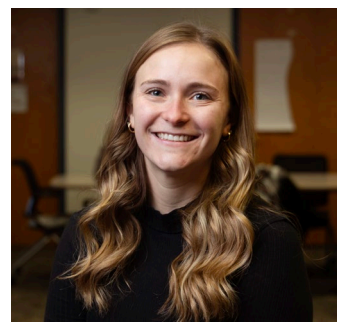


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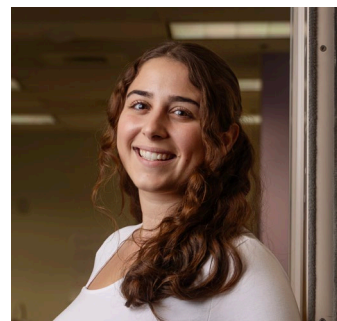
**“I like to tell prospective students, ‘We don’t think of you as undecided because you have made decision. And a very good one: you’ve decided to explore.’”**

— Bob Stein, Dean of Alfred University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Kiley Kinney



Cara Bakalik

Photos: Carole Volpe

## Explorers' Program hones culture of mentorship for first-year students

By Rob Price

When Cara Bakalik M.S. '25 and Kiley Kinney M.S. '25 talk about their work with Alfred University’s Academic Exploration Pilot Program (AEPP), they point to an undergraduate – named John Doe for the purposes of the conversation – who has maintained a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average.

John Doe grew up in rural, western New York, they say. When he finished high school, his mother had to cajole him into matriculating at Alfred University. He was the kind of student who might’ve lost interest in first-year academic pursuits. What he’d really wanted to do, Cara and Kiley say, was hit the road and travel.

Instead, he joined about 14 other students in AEPP, a program developed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to provide support for first-year students who have not declared an academic major. Those students in years past were described as

“undecided,” but CLAS Dean Bob Stein argues “explorers” is the better word. It recognizes the positive features of sampling the diverse academic offerings of both CLAS and the other colleges on the campus.

“I like to tell prospective students, ‘We don’t think of you as undecided because you have made decision,’ Stein says, “And a very good one: you’ve decided to explore.”

“I call AEPP ‘intentional mentorship,’” Cara adds. “We’re working on providing a positive and productive environment for students who haven’t declared a major, who are just not ready to focus on a major field of study.”

Cara and Kiley are both doctoral students in Alfred University’s School Psychology Program, School of Graduate & Continuing Studies. Together with administrators and faculty, they worked on the shape of

AEPP through the 2022-23 academic year. The pilot program began in the fall of 2023 and is housed in the Pamela Bernstein Center for Advising, located on the first floor of the Powell Campus Center. Throughout the academic year, students participating in AEPP met in the Center with older students such as Cara and Kiley for 15 hours a week. They also participated in workshops and one-on-one sessions with assigned mentors.

“Basically, we’re here to be that source of support undergraduates need,” Kiley says. “We’re students ourselves, so undergraduates can relate to us on a personal level. We want to provide unconditional positive regard for their wellbeing.”

Cara and Kiley also are training graduate students in the School Counseling program in the skills of undergraduate advising and mentorship. Those include helping students with decision-making skills and showing



# Pamela Lavin Bernstein Center for Advising



*School Psychology graduate students Kiley Kinney and Cara Bakalik in front of the Center for Advising in Powell Campus Center, where they mentor first-year students at Alfred University.*

them how to reach out to professors with questions about major and minor fields of study. Those graduate students may continue working in AEPP next year; the program is designed to grow.

And so far, data indicate AEPP will deliver on its promise. Grade point averages of students participating in the program show improvement relative to non-participating students. Seventy percent of participants report the program has been “helpful” in their

search for a major field of study. Fifty percent of participants report they’ve identified a “tentative major/minor.”

One of those success stories is John Doe. Now finishing his first year, his course load has spanned the academic possibilities of CLAS. “He loves writing,” says Kiley. “He loves learning new languages, He loves history and art, and he’s taken classes in philosophy, piano, and film. He’s a natural liberal arts student.”

His mid-semester goal was to declare a major by the end of his first year. “I predict something in language and cultural studies,” Cara says.

“I think he’s also going to get hooked with our study abroad program,” says Kiley. “He loves picking up new languages. I don’t think he’s realized yet how great he is.”





# Heart of



Summers at Alfred University have become a beehive of activity allowing students and visitors to pursue a wide range of academic and fine arts pursuits.

Thirty years ago, Alfred University's campus was a relatively quiet place during the summer months. Faculty enjoyed working on research and other projects. A small number of students attended summer classes. Relatively little classroom space, however, was in use. The campus was quiet, almost in summer hibernation.

June, July and August are no longer placid. The campus – and several outlying stations – hum with an array of institutes, homes for national training programs, workshops, and research programs in engineering, visual and performing arts, astronomy, and numerous other academic experiences. Together, these opportunities draw high school students, alumni, current students, and area residents to the campus in search of what makes Alfred University unique: a rich blend of academic intersections, focused research opportunities, hands-on academic and studio experience, and invaluable mentorships.

"We've been evolving from a quiet summer village to a campus teeming with teaching and learning opportunities," says Alfred University Provost and Chief Operating Officer Beth Ann Dobie. "We welcome guests from high school students to professionals who come here to practice their craft or to learn alongside our exceptional faculty.

"Our summer arts programs take participants from a world of

distractions to a space and place where transformation occurs through the act of making and learning," adds Lauren Lake, Dean of the School of Art & Design + Performing Arts Division.

MostArts, Alfred University's weeklong celebration of the classical music tradition, will be held this year from July 14-20. In addition to this program, which draws classical musicians and visitors from around the world, Alfred University now hosts high school institutes in subjects ranging from creative writing to astronomy, engineering, song writing, theater, video editing, ceramics, and more.

Summer Arts Workshops for adults include immersions in ceramic art and studio classes in printmaking, fiber arts, wood turning, metal casting, 3D printing, and Alfred University's Dusseldorf Summer Artist Residency, the later held on the University studio facility in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Many of these programs are offered by the University's School of Art & Design + Performing Arts Division, which also host the Summer Arts BIPOC Residency, the Linklater Voice Teacher Training program, and Integrated Movement Studies Certificate training through the International Somatic Movement Educator and Therapist Association (ISMETA). Additionally, the Performing Arts Division hosts a workshop on the Maine coast: "Body, Landscape, and

*(Continued on page 20)*

"Our summer arts programs take participants from a world of distractions to a space and place where transformation occurs through the act of making and learning,"

— Lauren Lake, Dean of  
School of Art and Design +  
Performing Arts Division

# Alfred





Creative Process.” An additional workshop in creative writing, “From Waves to Page,” also takes place on the same coastal property. The land, cottage, and additional facilities are provided to Alfred University by the parents of Mary Hall Keyes ’19, who graduated with a BFA from the School of Art & Design.

Later in July, the Inamori School of Engineering will host the 21st Century University Conference on Glass and Summer School, a five-day conference for undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals to learn about the later glass research and science.

A related summer program, the Summer Research Institute, sponsored by the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT), provides the necessary resources for undergraduate engineering students who wish to spend the entire summer on the Alfred University campus, immersed in research projects guided by faculty from the Inamori School of Engineering.

Inamori School Dean Gabrielle Gaustad ’04 recalls attending a summer institute at Alfred University while still a high school student, and then a summer research program during her sophomore year. She credits the experiences with helping her

focus on her future life in engineering and academics. “Alfred summer programs are how I really found my calling,” she says. “I love now being part of the team that provides these experiences to the next generation of students.”

The cost of many summer programs is discounted for K-12 teachers and local residents. For more information on pricing, contact [arts@alfred.edu](mailto:arts@alfred.edu).

Alfred University also offers a diverse range of summer sports camps that include day camps, residential camps, skills camps, and sports team prospect camps. These programs cater to a variety of ages and skills levels.

Last but certainly not least, the Institute for Electronic Arts, housed in SOAD and generously funded by a number of organizations including the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts among others, is preparing a print workshop open by invitation to local indigenous populations. The Alfred Ceramic Art Museum will maintain summer hours for admirers of its world-famous ceramic art collection. Additionally, the Robert C. Turner Gallery will host an annual, student-curated exhibition of work by the incoming first-year class.



### Summer in Alfred

Visit our  
Summer Arts  
page to register  
for classes.

See our classes

## Ceramics Workshops

Four Week Open Studio Intensive 6/24 - 7/19

Tile: Exploring Digital Methods 6/24 - 7/5

Ceramic Science for the Artist: "Cone 6" 6/24 - 6/28

Wood Fire with Reduction Cool 6/24 - 7/5 **\*sold out**

Pots With Personality 6/29

Hand Turned Ceramics: Pinch Pots 7/8 - 7/19 **\*sold out**



## Arts Workshops

Experimental Print Residency 7/1 - 7/12

Stone Lithography 6/24 - 6/28

Songwriting and Music Production 7/1 - 7/5

Transformative Fiber Arts 7/8 - 7/12

Painting Patterns in Nature 7/8 - 7/12

3D Printing for Metal Casting 7/8 - 7/12

(Funded by an Emerson Grant)

Public Art 7/15 - 7/19 (Funded by an Emerson Grant)

Color From Nature - Flora, Fauna and Fungi 7/15 - 7/19

Introduction to Foundry: Aluminum Casting 7/15 - 7/19

(Funded by an Emerson Grant)

Introduction to Wood Turning 7/15 - 7/19

Improv is for Everyone! 6/29

Photo Documentation 7/13

Eco Printing on Fabrics or Paper 7/13

Coastal Maine: Body, Landscape & the Creative Process 6/2 - 6/8

Coastal Maine: The Words Between the Waves 6/10 - 6/15

Alfred/Düsseldorf Summer Artist Residency 2024 **\*sold out**

## Summer High School Institutes

High School Portfolio: Color 7/1 - 7/5

Astronomy 7/7 - 7/11

Creative Writing 7/7 - 7/11

Auditioning for Theatre and Film 7/8 - 7/12

School of Engineering 7/8 - 7/12 or 7/15 - 7/19

Songwriting and Music Production 7/8 - 7/12

Wheel Throwing Intensive 7/8 - 7/12

High School Portfolio: College Admissions 7/15 - 7/19

Dive into Dancing 7/15 - 7/19

Stop Motion Animation 7/15 - 7/19

Video Editing 7/22 - 7/26

Introduction to 3D Printing for Metal Casting 7/22 - 7/26





# SpaceX Odyssey

Brayden Bush  
connects the dots of  
his education based  
on his internship with  
SpaceX

By Rob Price



Undergraduate Brayden Bush stands in front of a SpaceX rocket on a Cape Canaveral launch pad. The Alfred University engineering student scored an internship with the company and worked on its manufacturing of heat-resistant ceramic tiles.



Brayden Bush built and flew model rockets when he was young and had talked his parents into taking him to the Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral to watch a full-size rocket launch. Partway through his first year at Alfred University, where he is studying in the Inamori School of Engineering, he applied for an internship at SpaceX, the first private company to establish a regular presence in space with the frequent launches of spacecraft.



Brayden Bush

He got the job.

The Inamori School of Engineering has been working for years with both NASA and SpaceX on issues relating to protective ceramic tiles. In its mentoring of talented engineering students, the School also encourages those students to seek mentoring internships with companies such as SpaceX. In Brayden's case, Gabby Gaustad, Dean of the Inamori School and Vice President for Statutory Affairs at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, personally contacted him with a suggestion to send his resume to SpaceX.

The four months Brayden spent at Cape Canaveral provided a trove of lessons. As a private, for-profit corporation, SpaceX fosters a culture of efficient budgets and tight deadlines. Brayden says rapid timetables are a way of life.

"Everything has to be relatively inexpensive and mass-produced. Deadlines are intense, the work is fast-paced, everyone's trying to get a lot done. The goal is getting more things above the atmosphere."

He describes his internship and mentorship by SpaceX professionals as "a trial by fire," but it was a trial he's glad he didn't miss. "I learned more than I'd ever learned before in a four-month period."

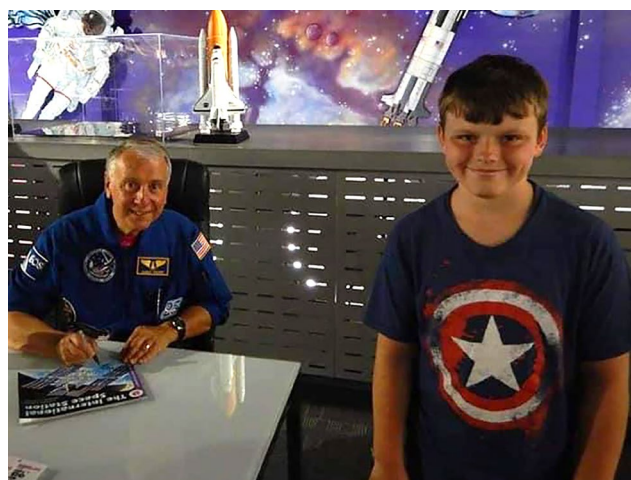
One of SpaceX's long-range goals is a manned trip to Mars. The company is developing its Starship craft, a two-stage launch vehicle designed for earth orbit and eventually a trip to that reddish dot in the night sky. Brayden's internship at Cape Canaveral immersed him in the SpaceX Thermal Protections Development Team, which is researching the design and manufacturing of the ceramic tiles that protect space craft from the high temperature of re-entry into earth's atmosphere.

That work in turn has clarified his continuing undergraduate focus. "I have a better understanding now of what I should be focusing on during my next two years at Alfred University," he says. "I think I'm going to work on an amalgamation of work in material science and work in mechanical engineering."

The line between Point A and Point B has become clearer, he says. "I've always been interested in space aeronautics, and that's the ultimate goal of the project we were working on at Cape Canaveral. SpaceX's Starship program is a part of the company's vision for interplanetary human transportation. Once I finish my education, I hope I can return to SpaceX and continue working on that mission."

He has some advice for younger students, even high school students, who are thinking about their own careers in a future in which interplanetary travel becomes common. "Just apply yourself," he says. "You don't need to discover any new elements. Just keep showing up for class and doing your best. Keep doing that, and everything else falls into place."

"Everything else" includes being able to watch SpaceX crafts launch from the pads at Cape Canaveral. "It's an awesome sight. The rockets fill the air with their roar, and you can feel the ground shake. It's what I always dreamed of experiencing, ever since I started launching model rockets as a kid."



Brayden visiting Kennedy Space Center as a child.

# Local Stonehenge

A young Professor of Sculpture, Glenn Zwegardt, arrived on a campus in need of public art. He set to work.

By Rob Price

Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey had a momentous impact on science-fiction. It also influenced the landscape of Alfred University.

The movie was released in 1968, the same year Glenn Zwegardt joined the School of Art and Design as an assistant professor of sculpture. Zwegardt was impressed by Kubrick's movie and particularly by the image of the monolith that recurs through the film.

He was also struck by the scarcity of public art on the Alfred University campus, in spite of the national reputation of the School of Art and Design. University Archivist Laurien Lounsberry Meehan '91 notes the University in 1972 adopted a ten-year master plan that included development of a "pedestrian campus," but efforts in that direction had not begun when Zwegardt arrived in Alfred.

Zwegardt secured permission from the University to construct a public park along Kanakadea Creek, behind what was then called Carnegie Hall. Agriculture Hall was being demolished at that time to make way for Harder Hall, and Zwegardt – raised on a farm and a natural scrounger – used a '43 Dodge Power Wagon with a two-ton winch on the front, provided by the State of New York, to move huge limestone slabs from the demolition site to the Kanakadea Creek area.

He also convinced the Foster Wheeler company, based in Dansville, to donate an unused 50-feet of steel pipe. During the 1972 summer school period, Zwegardt and his students cut the pipe into 6-foot lengths, then joined the sections at angles to form a huge arch, painted in rainbow colors and spanning the creek.

The arch promptly became the victim of vandalism. Students allegedly from Alfred State College recut the arch, which collapsed



Professor Emeritus Glenn Zwegardt and Laurie Meehan, Alfred University archivist, tour Rock Park, which Zwegardt created during his early years at Alfred University. According to Meehan, Alfred University began to develop more public art in a 1972 strategic plan.

into the creek. Zwegardt and other University officials decided it would be prudent not to rebuild the structure.

But the slabs, in addition to other shapes cast from concrete, remain. They evoke the slabs of Stonehenge, another source of inspiration for Zwegardt, who notes the Stonehenge rocks are aligned with the sun and were likely used to observe the movements of the sun for farming purposes.

"I think Rock Park has its own connection with the earth and agriculture," Zwegardt says.

Zwegardt's efforts were first steps toward the more attractive campus envisioned in the University's 1972 master plan. By the time a student named Laurie Lounsberry arrived on the campus in the 1980's the transformation was in full force.

"So many of the sculptures that were part of my student experience remain as part of the campus fabric," Meehan says. "Campus art, whether it's permanent or a temporary installation, make a strong visual impact and add beauty to the natural environment in Alfred."

Today, Zwegardt works in his studio along State Route 21 between Alfred and Andover. His sculptures appear in numerous public spaces around the country, as well as on his own property, on campus, and in the Village of Alfred. He describes his art partly in terms of its themes of earth and seasons and renewal. He cites another sculptor who influenced his work, Isamy Nagutchi, an artist of huge rock sculptures and landscapes, an artist Zwegardt describes as "of the earth."

"I met him once. He was a powerpack of a man," Zwegardt says. "Short in stature, but size has nothing to do with anything. Making art has to do with will, determination, and inspiration."



# FROM **Z** TO AU

By Mark Zupan, President

## The Power of Mentorship

When asked about what they treasure the most about their Alfred University experience, our alums most consistently mention Alfred's unique commitment to mentorship and the beneficial impact it had on them, both while they were an Alfred student and on their life's future trajectory. Often these mentors were faculty or staff members. At times, they were student peers.

Here's an example. Marlin Miller, who graduated from Alfred in 1954, speaks to this day – 70 years later! – about the impact that someone named John McMahon had on his life as a student, and how this impact permeated his decision-making all the way through to the present day. John McMahon was the Dean of our Inamori School of Engineering, and he is the one who convinced Marlin to attend Alfred. How? By seeing him as a person the moment he walked onto campus. When Marlin visited Alfred for the first time, Dean McMahon asked Marlin where his family was, since he knew Marlin was visiting from Indiana. When Marlin relayed that his family was waiting for him in the car, Dean McMahon asked Marlin to have them come along on the campus tour that he was going to give Marlin. It was that caring, personal touch that convinced Marlin to choose Alfred over other colleges.

During his time at Alfred and beyond, John McMahon continued to make a difference for Marlin: as a teacher, advisor, co-planner of festivities for St. Patrick's Day (St. Patrick being the patron saint of engineers), encouraging him to pursue an MBA at Harvard Business School and writing a recommendation letter on his behalf, and then identifying a promising job opportunity for Marlin in Reading, Pennsylvania when he finished his MBA studies and had served three years in the Army. Marlin went on to lead Arrow International to greatness in the medical device space and then to found Norwich Ventures, a highly successful venture capital firm specializing in early-stage medical technology.

Imagine how different Marlin's trajectory might have been without John McMahon's mentorship. Imagine, too, how much Alfred

University's standing would be diminished had McMahon not been as committed to mentoring students such as Marlin.

Alfred's passion for mentorship — our ability to see every student as a person and invest in cultivating every student's potential — is not just part of our distinctive history but is part of our distinctive present — it's one of the pillars of our mission around which we build our academic programs, our faculty, our staff, and our student community.

For example, Susan Morehouse, a Professor in our English Department, and Amy DeKay, our Vice President for the Student Experience, collaborate to ensure that mentorship stays at the forefront of best practices. Together, they have mapped the mentorship systems that already exist across campus and have established pilot programs such as the University Alumni Mentoring Day. They have also invested in professional development opportunities for faculty and staff with respect to mentorship skills, as well as the enhancement of peer-to-peer mentoring. And it's not just faculty and staff...even our graduate students champion undergraduate mentoring.

The Academic Explorers program piloted this year was spearheaded by graduate students Cara Bakalik M.S. '25 and Kiley Kinney M.S. '25 from our School Psychology Program. It connects first-year undergraduates who are exploring different majors with graduate student mentors who help guide them through their first few semesters. It provides a stress-free and judgement-free environment for students to talk through their ideas and arrive at the course of study best suited to them. And given the abundance of different ways that students can combine interests across majors, minors, and co-curricular opportunities, the opportunity to talk through these options is critically important.

Please join me in thanking these builders of Alfred University's future as well as all the individuals such as John McMahon who established such a powerful legacy of mentorship at Alfred that we are now building upon.

**Fiat Mentorship!**

*Mark Zupan*



**Saxon Hill Sports Complex**

# Saxon Hill receives unanimous Board of Trustees approval



In February, the Alfred University Board of Trustees gave its unanimous approval for moving ahead with the \$30.5 million Saxon Hill Sports Complex project. Once completed, Saxon Hill will include a new outdoor track and field facility as well as home fields for new intercollegiate programs in men's and women's rugby, field hockey, and baseball.

Of the total price, \$28.6 million is for construction; the remainder represents the cost of financing. The Board's action came after the University reached its threshold of \$10 million in philanthropic support. Despite reaching that threshold, the University will continue to raise funds for the project to minimize the need for borrowing.

"Saxon Hill will greatly benefit our student-athletes and serve as an important attraction for future Saxons."

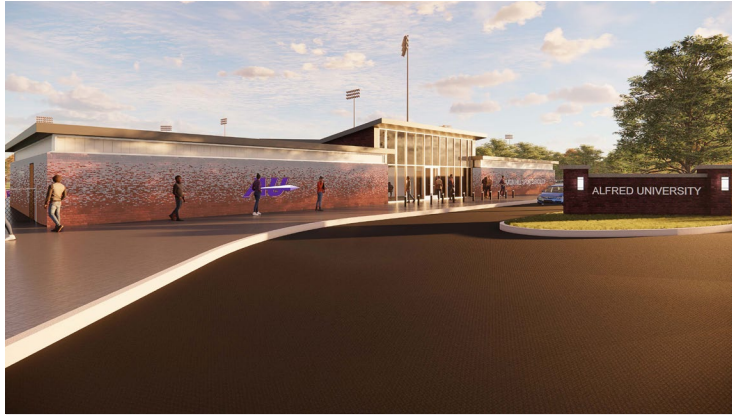
— *Deb Steward, Associate Vice President for Student Experience, Athletics, and Recreation*

"Our University's leadership team worked closely with our Board of Trustees to secure the most effective plan and financing structure to make this bold project a reality, and doing so means we will leave an important legacy that many future generations of Alfred University students will enjoy," said Mark Zupan, University president.

Groundbreaking is planned for early May and heavy earth moving is set to begin in June. The project's completion is expected by the end of 2025.

Saxon Hill, to be constructed on University-owned land atop Jericho Hill in the town of Alfred, is projected to increase new student enrollment by approximately 170 in the first six years of its opening. The facility also will allow the University to expand its intramural and club sport offerings, further assisting in our retention efforts.

"Saxon Hill will greatly benefit our student-athletes and serve as an important attraction for future Saxons," said Deb Steward, principal project leader and associate vice president for Student Experience, Athletics, and Recreation. "Having led the process to build impactful sport



facilities at other institutions, I know just how important these resources will be for Alfred University as well as for our community at large.”

The project will expand the University’s intercollegiate athletics facilities by improving our existing rugby field, adding an eight-lane, 400-meter outdoor track with a multi-purpose synthetic turf infield, and installing a synthetic turf baseball field. The women’s rugby team begins play as a varsity program this coming fall and the men’s club team will move to varsity status and begin formal competition once the project is completed.

The eight-lane, 400-meter outdoor track and field facility will be the first modern-day home practice and competition

facility for Alfred University men’s and women’s track and field teams. The facility will feature a throws area and two directional options for pole vault, long jump, and triple jump.

The baseball team began play this spring with most games on the road. The new field at Saxon Hill is expected to be ready for the spring 2026 season. Both the baseball field and track and field facility will include press boxes, restrooms, concession stands, athletic training rooms, team rooms, and offices.

The multi-purpose turf within the infield of the track will be home to the future field hockey team and will also serve as a practice and competition facility for our existing field sport teams: men’s and

women’s soccer, and lacrosse. It will also serve as a practice facility for our football and rugby programs. The lighted facilities will aid in practice and competition times at Yunevich Stadium, decreasing the need for late-night and early morning practices.

Once completed, Saxon Hill will complement nearby existing sports and recreational facilities located in the area atop Jericho Hill. These include the Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center at the Maris Cuneo Equine Park, home to Alfred University’s world-class equestrian programs, and Foster Lake, which provides our campus community with numerous recreational as well as curricular opportunities.



# **ATHLETICS** *Highlights*

## **Saxon student-athletes, teams honored for academic excellence**

In January, the Empire 8 Athletic Conference released its list of student-athletes from the conference who earned President's List recognition for academic excellence for the Fall 2023 semester. A school-record 138 Alfred University men's and women's students were honored.

To be named to the President's List, a student-athlete must earn a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Of the 138 Saxons named to the list, 56 had perfect 4.00 GPA. The Empire 8 also honored teams that posted a cumulative team GPA or higher. Fifteen Alfred University teams were honored, with the women's rugby team posting the highest Fall 2023 GPA, 3.80.

Fernando Lagos, a senior mechanical engineering major from Honduras, earned the Torchbearer Award from the Empire 8. The award recognizes the student-athlete with the highest GPA among the top two teams competing at the conference championship meet. Alfred University was runner-up behind Hartwick at the E8 men's swimming and diving championships.

The Saxon men's and women's swimming and diving teams followed up their Empire 8 recognition by being named to

the Fall 2023 College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America list. In order to qualify for CSCAA Scholar All-America honors, each teams need a term GPA of 3.00 or higher. The Saxon women posted a 3.23 GPA last fall, while the men finished with a 3.15 GPA.

## **Steve and Peggy Shank leave equestrian program after a decade**

Steve Shank, who for a decade served director of Equestrian Studies and head coach of the Saxon Western equestrian team, departed Alfred University become CEO of the Virginia Horse Center Foundation, effective March 31.

Shank's wife Peggy, who served as Western equestrian instructor and trainer, leaves Alfred University effective in May. A national search is being conducted for their replacements.

Under the Shanks' leadership, Alfred University's western equestrian team has earned Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) Zone II, Region I Western High Point Team every year since the 2013-14 season and have led the team to multiple trips to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Championship Show. The Saxons have produced multiple Top-10 finishes at the national level in both the Western and hunt seat disciplines.

## **Volleyball teams wins first-ever E8 crown**

The women's volleyball team made history by winning the program's first-ever Empire 8 Conference tournament championship.

Playing as the fifth seed, the Saxons went through the Empire 8 tournament with wins over fourth-seeded Nazareth and top-seeded St. John Fisher in the first two rounds to reach the title match, where they defeated third-seeded Keuka to claim the Empire 8 crown and the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA championships. The Saxons had lost to all three teams during the regular season.

Alfred lost its first-round match at the NCAA championships, but it did not tarnish what was an historical season for the Saxons.

Several players earned individual accolades as well. Jamie Chun and Delaney Sims were honored for their work in the classroom as each were received Academic All-District recognition from College Sports Communicators. Taylor Malone was named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Second Team. Malone also was named an honorable mention all-star by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Malone was named a First Team Empire 8 all-star, while Sims and Casey Grange were named to the Third Team.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1952

### *Golden Saxons Reunion*

**Herbert "Herb" Loesch** (B.A., biology) was named to the New York State Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame during a ceremony held Dec. 18, 2023, at the Medina Memorial Hospital in Medina, NY. Presiding over the ceremony was Rob Ortt, senator from New York's 62nd District. Herb, from Barker, NY, served in the U.S. Army in Korea as a medic with the 24th Division, obtaining the rank of sergeant 12T. After basic training at Camp Pickett in Virginia, Herb received advanced medical training at Fort Devens in Massachusetts before his deployment to Korea. In 1954, he was honorably discharged from the Army and became actively involved in the Barker Chapter of the American Legion Post No. 435, as well as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For his service, Herb earned numerous recognitions and accolades, including the Korean Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation (ROKDA), United Nations Service Medal and the National DEF Service Medal.

## 1973

### *Golden Saxons Reunion*

**Ed Mishrell** (B.A., history) has published a book titled for leaders in the non-profit field. "Five Truths for Transformational Leaders: How Nonprofit Organizations Thrive, Grow, and Make a Profound Difference, was published by John Wiley and Sons in 2023. The book is based on Ed's 40 years as a nonprofit leader and interviews with staff and board leaders of nonprofit organizations that achieved extraordinary results. The book provides nonprofit organizations with a mission driven leadership model that addresses the unique challenges facing leaders of nonprofit organizations and provides step-by-step guidance and advice to board and professional leaders of nonprofit organizations to embrace the five key principles of transformational leadership.

## 1978

**Nicholas Bonner** (B.F.A.) had work featured in an exhibition titled "Juxtapose" last fall at the Harcum Gallery at Wilmington (Ohio) College. Nicholas is foundations coordinator at Northern Kentucky University, a position he has held for 25 years. He also served as director of galleries at the Pendleton Art Center in Cincinnati, OH. He has also taught ceramics at Northern Kentucky and previously taught at several colleges and universities nationwide and has exhibited and earned awards nationally and internationally. A resident of Cincinnati, where he maintains a studio practice, Nicholas earned an M.F.A. in ceramics from Ohio University.

## 1987

**Sana Musasama** (M.F.A.) took part in an International Women's Day panel discussion on February 8, organized by the University of Rochester and hosted



David Z. Chernoff '76 (right), a nationally renowned attorney and philanthropist, receives the Scopus Award from Asher Cohen, president of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, during a ceremony January 20 at the Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas. Presented by the American Friends of Hebrew University (AFHU), the Scopus Award recognizes individuals for their dedication to humanitarian concerns, as reflected in their achievement, leadership, and philanthropic engagement. David earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Alfred University in 1976 and went on to earn his law degree from Suffolk University

in 1979. He is leading criminal defense attorney and a partner at Chesnoff & Schonfeld, which has earned a national reputation for its legal expertise and is listed as one of the country's top criminal law firms in several directories, including "The Best Lawyers in America," and "The National Directory of Criminal Lawyers." While David counts Hollywood celebrities and well-known public figures among his clients—including Martha Stewart, Bruno Mars, Mike Tyson, and Brittany Spears—he is deeply committed to helping the underdog prevail against a more powerful entity.

at the Perkins Mansion in Rochester. Sana was among a diverse group of influential speakers who shared their stories, experiences, and insights, when participated in a Q&A session. Sana is a ceramic artist whose art is influenced by her international travel, which has taken her to West Africa, Japan, China, South America, and Cambodia, and informed by history, women's studies, culture, and her travel journal.

## 1988

**Nick Azzara** (B.A., economics) was inducted into the Comsewogue High School (Coram, NY) Hall of Fame last October. Nick, a 1984 Comsewogue graduate, where he starred in basketball and baseball, was a member of the Alfred University men's basketball team, serving as a team captain his senior year.

## 1989

### *Honored Reunion Year*

**Brian Huff** (B.S., business administration) has been named president and chief executive officer of Nissin Foods USA. Nissin, a manufacturer of instant ramen noodles, tabbed Brian to succeed Mike Price, who retired as president and CEO. Brian will oversee the U.S. division of Nissin Foods and Huff will have a hand in the company's global initiatives such as Earth Food Challenge 2030, which is part of the company's long-term environmental strategy. Before joining Nissin Foods, Brian was most recently president at Diamond Foods, LLC, and previously president for the North America division at Whole Earth Brands. He also was president at companies like Merisant, Kellogg Co., and CEO of SunTree Snack Foods LLC.

## 1990

**Gordon Andrus** (M.F.A.) owns Sage Creek Stock Saddle Co., a maker of fine

## KEEP *in touch*

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

### EMAIL

whitehouse@alfred.edu or  
alumni@alfred.edu

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

### SNAIL MAIL

Mark Whitehouse  
Director of Communications  
1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802

leather and silver goods. Gordon hand crafts saddles and uses leather tooling to create the decorative details that adorn them. He also crafts in silver, which is used to accent saddles and other leather items he creates. Gordon grew up for the most part in three western states, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico. He has been working leather since the mid-1970's when his grandmother, Vera Rees Tippetts, gave him a handful of tools that had belonged to his grandfather, Vaughn Tippetts. Gordon worked for saddle maker Mark Broughton at his business, Buffalo Strong Saddlery, while pursuing an art degree at Utah State University. It was during this time Gordon, following notes provided by saddle maker Jesse Smith, made his first saddle. Gordon also owns Red Ox Brand Tools, a maker of tools used in the leather trade.

## 1994

### *Honored Reunion Year*

**Vince Palacios** (M.F.A., ceramic art) is

an instructor of ceramics at El Camino College in Torrance, CA. He was recently featured on The Potter's Cast, an on-line video broadcast program which serves the community of ceramic artists and potter by spotlighting ceramists from around the world. Vince has been an instructor at El Camino College since 2011.

**Peter Seibert** (B.A., political science) is a librarian at the National Library of Medicine, a post he has held for over four years. He currently leads development of the Dataset Catalog and DATMM products within the Controlled Vocabulary Services Program of the Health Data Standards Branch. Prior to NLM, Peter served as a Signal Officer in the US Army until 2004 and worked as a program manager specializing in network support operations at the Army Research Laboratory.

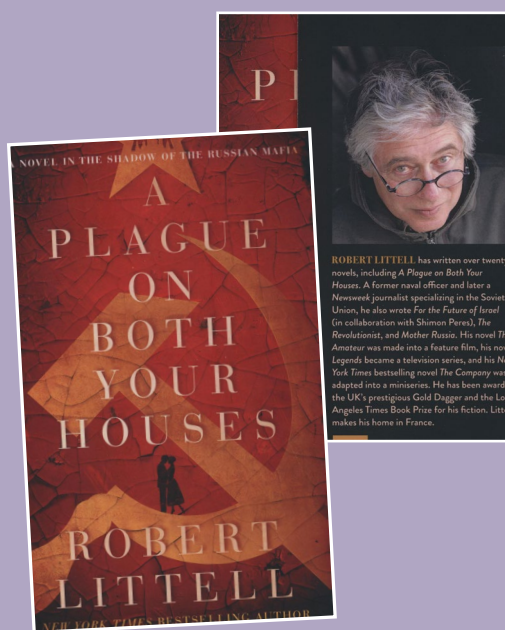
## 1996

**Sheilla Roth** (B.A., accounting) has been appointed chief financial officer of OCWA, Central New York's Water Authority. In her role, Sheilla, a certified public accountant, will manage accounting, finance, purchasing, inventory, and payroll for operations, maintenance and capital projects for OCWA. Her appointment was effective Jan. 1, 2024. Prior to her appointment as CFO, Sheilla served as fiscal officer for OCWA since October 2023. Previously, she was business executive for Mexico Academy and Central Schools, Mexico, NY.

## 2000

**Joel Simpson** (B.S., ceramic engineering) was promoted in November 2023 to vice president-supply chain at American Refining Group (ARG), an oil refinery in Bradford, PA. In his role, Joel collaborates to design, build, and implement supply chain strategies that efficiently enhance operational capabilities, drive synergies across business units, and maximize profitability. He has worked for ARG since 2017.





The 21st novel by an Alfred University alumnus, Robert Littell '56, has been released by Blackstone Publishing and is now available on Amazon and in bookstores across the country. Set in 1991 in Moscow, "A Plague on Both Your Houses" is the author's fictional retelling of Shakespeare's classic tragedy of two young lovers from feuding families, "Romeo and Juliet." A former naval officer and later a Newsweek editor specializing in the Soviet Union, Robert is also the author of "The Revolutionist" and "Mother Russia." His novel "The Amateur" was made into a feature film and his New York Times bestselling novel "The Company" was adapted as a television miniseries. He is the winner of Britain's prestigious Gold Dagger award and The Los Angeles Times's Book Prize. The Washington Post has called him "one of the most talented, most original voices in American fiction today." Robert, 89, has lived in France for the past 50 years. With his wife, Victoria, he maintains residences in Paris and the province of Normandy and has a winter retreat on the Moroccan coast. He graduated from Alfred in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in English literature.

## 2001

**Adam Dahill** (B.F.A.) was recently featured in the February 2024 issue of Real Simple, a go-to source for practical, useful and clever solutions to make every aspect of busy lives easier. Adam was one of several people who designed spaces for the 2024 Real Simple Home (located in Crown Heights, Brooklyn) featured in the issue. Adam is married to Alfred University alumna Charity Lord Dahill (B.F.A. 2002), a working artist and teacher. The couple and their two daughters live in the home, an historic 1890s era brownstone, which was renovated and featured in Real Simple. Adam, a mortgage sales manager for Citizens Bank in New York City, has completed six home renovations and restorations and the Real Simple home will be his seventh.

## 2002

**Stephanie Rozene** (B.F.A.) recently co-wrote an article published in The Studio Potter Journal. Stephanie, professor of art and the ceramics program coordi-

nator at Hartwick College, and Tamie Cook, owner of Tamie Cook Culinary Productions, a culinary consulting firm, co-authored the article, "A Recipe for Cooking with Clay: A Delicious Collaboration of Taste and Place." The article, which reflects on Stephanie's and Cook's participating in a 2022 gathering of a group of innovative and curious chefs and ceramists for a first-ever group collaboration hosted by the Hambridge Center for Creative Arts in Georgia, appeared in the journal's December 2023 issue. In fall 2023, Stephanie was nominated and accepted into the International Academy of Ceramics, Geneva, Switzerland. She was among six new members from U.S. and Canada accepted into the IAC, including Alfred University alumnus Shawn Spangler (M.F.A., 2006) and Matt Kelleher, assistant professor of ceramics at Alfred University. 6 new members from the US and Canada including Shawn Spangler who is an MFA alum and Assistant Professor of ceramics Matt Kelleher. The goal of the IAC is to stimulate friendship and communication between professionals in the field of ceramics in all countries. The IAC develops and encourages all forms of international cooperation to promote ceramics and to encourage and

maintain production at the highest level of quality in all ceramic cultures.

## 2003

**Eric Zuckerman** (B.S., political science, minors in public law, business administration) was elected to Board of Directors of the 24 Karat Club. Founded in 1902, the 24 Karat Club seeks to unite members of the jewelry industry through annual events and activities. Eric is chief executive officer of Pac Team Group, a global leader in the design and manufacturing of display and packaging. Pac Team's clients include major brands from various industries including watch, jewelry, eyewear and luxury goods.

## 2004

### *Honored Reunion Year*

**Krista Carlson** (B.S., glass engineering; Ph.D., glass engineering '08) was featured by the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) in its Volunteer Spotlight last October. Volunteer Spotlight recognizes an ACerS member who demonstrates

outstanding service to the American Ceramic Society through volunteerism. Krista is associate professor of chemical and materials engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, (UNR) where she works primarily on developing materials and processes to deal with the backend of the nuclear fuel cycle and waste generated from the nation's nuclear weapons program. As a lover of water in all forms, she has also focused her efforts on understanding the role of suboxide and disordered phases on the electrochemical behavior of titanium oxide electrodes for water purification. In 2022, Krista served as chair of the Energy Materials & Systems Division (EMSD) and co-chair of the Education and Professional Development Council. She is currently the faculty advisor for the Material Advantage student chapter at UNR. Krista was recently recognized as a Global Ambassador for her work with EMSD and for being a co-lead organizer for MCARE 2023.

## 2008

**Joseph W. Bigley III** (M.F.A., sculpture dimensional studies) has been inducted into Marquis Who's Who. As in all Marquis Who's Who biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are considered during the selection process. Joseph, a prominent figure in the fields of art and education, is renowned for his vast contributions to the industry spanning over 15 years. In 2020 he founded the Western North Carolina Sculpture Center, which provides a platform for artists and promotes creativity. He serves as the Center's executive director. Joseph served as a professor at Appalachian State University from 2012 to 2020, and from 2008 to 2012, he was a teacher at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. For his achievements in art, he was nominated for the International Sculpture



*Michael Kaplan '64 (B.A., history) with Mark Zupan, Alfred University president, is a personal injury attorney living in Del Mar, California. In 2013, Michael was named the Top Personal Injury Attorney in San Diego County in San Diego Magazine's annual listing. Today, he is semi-retired, working in private practice. At Alfred, Michael was a member of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and was a drummer in a jazz band with Life Trustee David Miller '66, H '12. After graduation, he received his law degree from the University of Albany in 1968 and was in private practice in New York City until being drafted into the U.S. Army. He served a year in the Judge Advocate Corps and as a Captain in Vietnam, earning*

*two Bronze Stars, one of which was a First Oak Leaf Cluster for "meritorious achievement against hostile forces." Post-discharge, Michael returned to New York for a year before moving to and opening a private practice in La Jolla, California. He eventually moved to San Diego and served as an attorney with Goode, Hemmed & Peterson, specializing in medical malpractice, personal injury, insurance claims, and collections. He has served as an appointed arbitrator for the San Diego Superior Court and has served on the San Diego County Bar Association's attorney client relations and volunteer lawyers committees.*

Center, Outstanding Student Achievement Award in 2008. After establishing the Western North Carolina Sculpture Center, he received an artist support grant from the Caldwell Arts Council in 2020. He had earned a similar grant through the Durham County Arts Commission in 2010.

## 2013

**Stephen Reyes** (B.S., athletic training) was named athletic trainer at SUNY Broome prior to the start of the 2023-24 academic year. Stephen, who played football for the Saxons, is an experienced sports rehab specialist. He



worked at UHS in Vestal, NY from 2016–2020 with the Bridge Program, which helps athletes with their transition from post-rehab to performance. He came to SUNY Broome from Lourdes, where he facilitated his own redesigned version of the UHS Bridge Program to his patients. A Bronx, NY, native, Stephen gained experience in athletic training with numerous high schools within the Binghamton, NY, area. He is also the owner and CEO of Nomad Performance and Rehab, a business promoting the journey to optimal performance, injury recovery, and prevention as an athlete.

## 2016

**Joel Isaak** (M.F.A., sculpture dimensional studies) named deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) in December 2023. Joel teaches Dena'ina at Kenai Peninsula College in Soldotna, Alaska, and also works as a linguist for the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. He previously served as DEED's director of tribal affairs, through which he created and helped implement the department's State-Tribal Education Compacting program. That program broadly includes agreements between the State of Alaska and Alaska Native tribal entities that formally recognize a tribe's authority to operate and oversee K-12 schools. Locally, Isaak is perhaps best known for his artwork. He is the artist behind the bronze sculpture of a Dena'ina fisherman, another of a family drying salmon, and a circular enclosure of tanned moose hides — all of which are located at the Dena'ina Wellness Center in Kenai, Alaska. In 2019, his installation "Unforgotten" was hosted by the Kenai Fine Art Center and drew attention to the legacy of federal boarding schools in Alaska. In addition to his degree from Alfred University, Joel holds a bachelor's degree in sculpture from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and he is actively pursuing a Ph.D. in Indigenous studies from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

## 2019

**Chase Travaille** (M.F.A.) presented a solo exhibition in February at the Boston gallery, LaiSun. The exhibition, titled "Exquisite Corpse," was on view Feb. 5–18 and included 2D collages created from comic book pages and 3D vessels constructed using shards collected from other ceramicists. Chase's practice was developed during his 2021 residency in Montana when he was looking for new ways to make ceramics without a kiln. He then stumbled across a pile of discarded projects from past residents and repurposed them into unique vessels of his own. As a student at Alfred University, Chase was awarded the Outstanding Student Achievement in Sculpture Award from the International Sculpture Center. He has attended international residencies and finished his long-term residency at the Archie Bray Foundation in the summer of 2021, and the Community Creative Center in Fayetteville, AR in 2022–23. Chase currently lives and works in Little Rock, AR.

## 2021

**Spencer Wockenfuss** (B.S., mechanical engineering) is designing the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for buildings at the new Saxon Hill Sports Complex, planned for construction on Jericho Hill in the town of Alfred. Spencer works for the Rochester architectural firm of Clark, Patterson and Lee, which Alfred University has contracted with to provide design services for the \$30 million Saxon Hill project. Groundbreaking for Saxon Hill is planned for early May with project completion expected by the end of 2025. Spencer, a native of Lock Haven, PA, was a member of the Saxon football team at Alfred University.

## 2022

**Margaux Claude** (M.F.A.) was appointed last fall as assistant professor of ceramics in the Eastern Michigan University School of Art and Design. Margaux received her B.F.A. from Kansas City Art Institute. Her most recent work was on display in the exhibition "Fragments: pieces of time and place," at the International Ceramics Studio's Kapolna Gallery in Kecskemet, Hungary. This work and exhibition were a culmination of time she spent in research during her experience as a Fulbright Scholar.

**Camille (Dietrich) McKenna** (B.A., Fine Arts) and her husband, Dan, own an artisan chocolate shop, Mission Heights Chocolates, which they opened in 2016 in San Diego, California. According to their website, Camille was a skilled glass artist and had always been fascinated by the intricate and delicate art of working with chocolate. She saw starting a chocolate business as the perfect segue from her work in glass art and was excited to use chocolate as her new medium. Dan had always been passionate about food, and after graduating from the California Culinary Academy, he began working in the pastry department at the prestigious Ritz Carlton hotel. It was there that he developed a deep love and appreciation for chocolate.

## NEW ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Connect with your Alfred University alumni family on our new online alumni community. You'll discover a classmate directory, regional and campus events, an alumni-owned business directory, job postings, news from campus, and more. Explore what your peers are up to and find alumni near you. It's easy to connect!

**Visit [alumni/alfred.edu](https://alumni/alfred.edu)  
to register!**

## In Memoriam

### 1947

Robert V. Lange, Jan. 1, 2024  
1948

Elizabeth (Craddock) Cicero, Jan. 31,  
2024

### 1949

Philip H. Crayton, Feb. 6, 2024  
Jean (Strangover) Foster, Oct. 25,  
2023

### 1952

Lillian Fischer, March 3, 2024  
Herbert C. Loesch, Jan. 28, 2024  
Joyce (Meyer) Solak, Dec. 19, 2023

### 1953

Joseph Blonsky, Sept. 19, 2023  
Douglas Freitag, Oct. 25, 2023  
Donald A. Quick, Feb. 24, 2024  
Marilyn (Jeffrey) Strauss, Jan. 14,  
2024

### 1954

James L. Behrenberg, Nov. 27, 2023  
Bruce H. Doane, Sept. 10, 2023  
Barbara (Mezey) Grandin, Feb. 6, 2024  
Mary H. Scott, Sept. 18, 2023

### 1955

Roger P. Beswick, Sept. 4, 2023  
William H. Harold, Jan. 17, 2024  
Lynda (Litteer) Erickson, Nov. 12,  
2023  
Francis "OB" O'Brien, 2024

### 1956

Stuart Kester Jr., Nov. 12, 2023  
Gordon Lewis, Jan. 24, 2024  
Arthur H. Shaw, Nov. 1, 2023

### 1957

Sue (Olsen) Mittelstaedt, Oct. 19, 2023  
Lucyanne (Ellsworth) Nolan, Jan. 31,  
2024  
Erford E. Porter II, Sept. 6, 2023

### 1958

Thomas R. Curtin, March 12, 2024  
Shirley (Erickson) Engle, March 11,  
2024  
David B. Jacobs, Feb. 25, 2024  
Edwin C. Law, Oct. 20, 2023  
Jean (Spafford) Perry, Feb. 10, 2024  
Richard J. Sturzebecher, Feb. 9, 2023  
George W. Wright, Feb. 20, 2024

### 1959

John W. Cannon, Sept. 24, 2023  
Raymond C. Doty, Dec. 8, 2023  
Charles S. Greenhouse, Sept. 9, 2023  
Richard W. Jorgensen, Oct. 2, 2023  
Barbara Korman, Nov. 30, 2023  
R. James Kornish, Oct. 30, 2023  
Orvella (Shaw) McGrath, March 11,  
2024

### 1960

David E. Blowers, Nov. 20, 2023  
Allen H. Bush, Sept. 11, 2023  
Joann (Kester) Ingle, Jan. 23, 2024

### 1961

Joan (Saiberlich) Bohlig, Jan. 26,  
2024

Harold N. Collier, March 17, 2024  
George E. Curran, Dec. 27, 2023  
James R. Doud, Feb. 18, 2024  
Neil Drossman, Nov. 25, 2023  
Gilbert S. Green, Oct. 28, 2023  
Estelle (Simon) Lent, Oct. 27, 2023  
Penny (Ames) Miller, Oct. 22, 2023

### 1962

Harold Hackett Jr., Oct. 15, 2023  
Walter B. Reed, Jan. 16, 2024  
Gary A. Rosen, March 12, 2024  
William J. Tolien, Feb. 17, 2024  
Janet VanKeuren, Nov. 23, 2023

### 1963

Orlando DelValle, Dec. 30, 2023  
Karen (Kobuskie) Kelly, Nov. 14, 2023

### 1964

David Hetherly, Oct. 9, 2023  
Douglas L. Horton, Jan. 27, 2024  
Joseph E. Sturm, Oct. 19, 2023  
Janice Williams, Dec. 20, 2023

### 1966

George E. Beattie, Oct. 12, 2023

### 1967

William M. Baker, Nov. 12, 2023  
Donald W. Cameron, Sept. 27, 2023  
Richard E. Galusha, Sept. 5, 2023  
Theodore S. Seamans, Jan. 12, 2024

### 1968

Lois (Cox) Churchill, Dec. 15, 2023

### 1969

Richard E. Borst, Nov. 12, 2023  
James A. Gabriel, Dec. 10, 2023  
Charles R. Peyton, Nov. 22, 2023

### 1970

Frederick L. Rassman, Oct. 15, 2023  
Marion "Fran" (Burdick) Witt, Sept. 12,  
2023

### 1972

Edward S. Eberle, Sept. 26, 2023  
JoEllen (Christy) Fernbach, Oct. 13,  
2023  
John "Klondike" Klaus, Oct. 6, 2023



Thomas C. Markham, Nov. 27, 2023  
Deborah (Davison) Pavia, Oct. 1, 2023

### 1973

Dorothy (Sturzenberger) Dickieson,  
Sept. 27, 2023

### 1974

Christopher Chiarello, Jan. 16, 2024  
Gordon "Itch" Ichikawa, Dec. 2, 2023  
Richard J. Lines, March 18, 2024  
Gail (Lohrey) Markey, Sept. 15, 2023  
Patricia (Godlewski) Wolfanger, Oct.  
13, 2023

### 1975

Barbara (Allen) Ferguson, Dec. 24,  
2023  
Edwin J. Siwek, Jan. 19, 2024

### 1976

Valerie (Ackerman) Blackford, Sept.  
26, 2023  
Jeffery S. Brundage, Feb. 10, 2024

### 1977

Frank J. Logan, Jan. 4, 2024

### 1979

Gail (Rannels) Harlin, Nov. 12, 2023

### 1980

Barbara J. (Dann) Horton, Nov. 15,  
2023

### 1982

Keith W. Cornish, Oct. 10, 2023  
Nancy B. Mingus, Sept. 19, 2023  
George D. Thompson, Nov. 14, 2023

### 1983

William H. Bogart, Nov. 25, 2023  
Terrance A. Stifter, March 31, 2022

### 1984

Warren R. Amphlett, March 12, 2024  
Todd R. Pixley, Feb. 12, 2024  
Janet K. Whelpley, Dec. 27, 2023

### 1985

John R. Mallaber, Nov. 10, 2023

### 1986

Scott S. Northrup, Oct. 23, 2023

### 1988

Lorraine K. Hill, Dec. 21, 2023  
James T. Nichols, Dec. 29, 2023  
Eric Recktenwald, Oct. 21, 2023

### 1989

Mark E. Shelly, Sept. 20, 2023

### 1991

Nancy J. Becker, Aug. 30, 2023

### 1992

Daniel M. Mahoney, Feb. 19, 2024

### 1993

Matthew M. McDowell, March 5, 2024  
Douglas W. Serra, Nov. 20, 2023

### 1997

Jason Amore '97, M.S. '99, Feb. 6,  
2024

### 1998

Joshua P. Fenton, Dec. 4, 2023

### 1999

Barbara Harney Alliegro (HD), Nov. 3,  
2023

William L. Benedict, Dec. 11, 2023

### 2002

Kerry S. Peterson, Jan. 1, 2024  
Darren M. Ross, Sept. 13, 2023

### 2004

Marc DeBernardis, Sept. 6, 2023

### 2010

Annette Wilson, Jan. 8, 2024

# REUNION 2024

## THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

Hear from Alfred University mentors on Saturday, June 8, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. during Reunion 2024. Our faculty panel will share stories and talk about the strong impact of mentorship on students' lives and career paths. For more information and to register, [go.alfred.edu/reunion](https://go.alfred.edu/reunion).



Gary Horowitz, H '91



Danielle Gagne



Bill LaCourse, H '86



Angus Powers '00



Theresa Gunn '96



Angie Taylor

# HERITAGE CIRCLE

## Yasmin Mattox '07

Yasmin Mattox '07 grew up in New York City, studied Political Science at Alfred University, and now works for the University of Rochester, where she serves as Director of the Barbara J. Burger iZone, a creative problem-solving and social innovation center offering undergraduates the opportunity to accelerate their positive impact on the world, often within the Greater Rochester area.

She describes herself as “a lifelong learner.” At Alfred University, in addition to studying Political Science with mentors such as professors Robert Heineman and Jeff Sluyter-Beltrao, she soaked up other subjects in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, including Philosophy with Professor Emrys Westacott, and Professor Luanne Crosby through the musical arts.

“Liberal Arts encourages that desire to keep pushing yourself in fresh directions,” she says.

Recently, Yasmin logged onto the FreeWill platform maintained by Alfred University’s Office of Advancement and which provides users with the tools to easily draft a legally binding will. “I figured the present is as good a time as any for an estate plan,” Yasmin says.



In drafting her plan, she named Alfred University as a beneficiary, earning her a spot in the Heritage Circle, an honor Alfred University bestows on alumni who include their alma mater in their estate plans. “I consider Alfred to have been crucial to my personal and professional success,” Yasmin says. “So I consider it a happy duty to support the University however I can.”

She estimates the FreeWill platform required about 45 minutes of her time. “It was a simple and straightforward experience.”

Alfred University’s Heritage Circle gratefully recognizes supporters such as Yasmin, whose philanthropy ensures the University’s continuing commitment to higher education that helps students discover their purpose. Heritage Circle gifts ensure the generous legacies of Alfred University alumni and friends live on for generations.

To learn more about the Heritage Circle, visit Alfred University’s Advancement Office at [www.alfred.edu/alumni/ways-to-give](http://www.alfred.edu/alumni/ways-to-give). Visit the FreeWill platform, designed for Alfred University, at [FreeWill.com/Alfred](http://FreeWill.com/Alfred).

Photo: Rob Price



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# JUNE 6-9, 2024 REUNION 2024 COME HOME AGAIN

**Come home again and celebrate life, friends and mentors at Reunion this year! We have an exciting lineup of events planned for you. Milestone year celebrations include the Golden Saxons — those who graduated in 1973 or earlier — and all class years ending in a 4 or 9. All alumni are welcome to attend!**

## Special Highlights

The Power of Mentorship - Panel features popular mentors sharing transformational stories.  
"Bottoms Up" - Features entrepreneurial alumni in brewery, distillery, and wine businesses.  
Terrance Bruce '77 Plus Two - As a student musician, Terrance entertained Alfredians from 1974 -1977.

## Group Gatherings

MBA Accounting group dinner with Theresa Gunn, Ph.D.  
All AU couples - Reconfirmation of Love – Reconfirm your love at the place where it all began.  
2004 BFA and MFA Graduates

## Greek Celebrations

**Sigma Chi Nu** - Celebrates their 100th anniversary  
**Alpha Kappa Omicron** - Celebrates their 80th anniversary  
**Delta Zeta** – Celebrates their 30th anniversary  
**Delta Sigma Phi, Kappa Psi Upsilon and Lambda Chi Alpha** - Celebrate their Golden Saxons and Honored Year Alumni.  
**Klan Alpine** - Sponsors one of their EPIC band parties.

See all the events and register on the Reunion website at [go.alfred.edu/reunion](https://go.alfred.edu/reunion) or use the QR code. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at [alumni@alfred.edu](mailto:alumni@alfred.edu) or 607 871 2144.

