

Alfred

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025

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Alfred University
OUTSIDE OF ORDINARY

CAMPUS DIGEST

Students, faculty recognized by SUNY

Two Alfred University students and two faculty were honored by the State University of New York as recipients of 2024 SUNY Chancellor's Awards.



Olivia Gilbert



Emilia Donenberg Smith



Linda Sikora



Meghen Jones

Olivia Gilbert and Emilia Donenberg Smith, both May 2024 graduates, were among 193 students from 62 SUNY campuses to receive the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. They received the awards from SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. during a ceremony in April in Albany. Gilbert earned a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering, with minors in chemistry and business administration, while Smith earned a dual degree in art and physics.

Linda Sikora, professor of ceramics, received a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Meghan Jones, associate professor of art history, was honored with a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities.

Alfred University appoints director of NYSCC galleries

Claire Kovacs was appointed in July as director of the School of Art and Design Galleries, the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center, and the Kyocera Museum of Fine Ceramics. Kovacs came to Alfred University from the Binghamton University Art Museum, where she served as curator of collections and exhibitions.



Design. Her curatorship within both the Inamori School and the School of Art and Design embraces the original spirit of intersections between art and engineering envisioned by Charles Fergus Binns, the first director of the New York State School of Clayworking and Ceramics, which evolved into the NYSCC.

Kovacs' work will span the New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC) at Alfred University, focusing on art centers sustained within both the Inamori School of Engineering (the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center, and the Kyocera Museum of Fine Ceramics) and the galleries of the School of Art and

According to the NYSCC announcement, Kovacs emphasizes anti-racist, queer, and feminist practices that center community knowledges and histories, trauma-informed praxis, and a culture of care.



State renews CACT; Gottfried promoted to director

The Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT) at Alfred University was renewed for four years with a new \$5 million contract from New York State. In addition, David Gottfried was promoted to director of the CACT, effective July 1.

Gottfried, who had served as the CACT's deputy director since 2016, took over for John Simmins '84, PhD '90, who was named director of the University's new GE Vernova Advanced Power Grid Lab. Gottfried and continues to serve as the University's government relations manager.

The CACT's new \$5 million contract from Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology and Innovation runs through June 30, 2028. Funding supports, among other initiatives, the CACT's efforts to grow glass and ceramic manufacturing in New York State through the acquisition of materials and equipment used in research; funding of student internships in relevant industry; and creating workforce development and industrial training opportunities. CACT also works to develop partnerships with industry to secure federal research grants in the areas of ceramics and glass.



John Simmins named director of Advanced Power Grid Lab

John Simmons '84, PhD '90 was appointed director of Alfred University's new GE Vernova Advanced Power Grid Lab, effective July 1.

The recently-launched GE Vernova Advanced Power Grid Lab is part of a workforce development initiative that will prepare students for careers in the growing renewable energy industry. It is supported by a \$466,853 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and \$2.8 million in software licenses donated by GE Vernova. The Advanced Power Grid Lab will benefit students in the Alfred University Inamori School of Engineering's Renewable Energy Engineering and Electric Engineering programs by providing them with access to state-of-the-art equipment and training.

Simmins will manage the NYSERDA grant expenditures, which will subsidize student internships and fund the purchase of the microgrid control center and DERs command center. The program also allows the University to subcontract with the EPRI, an independent, non-profit research and development organization, to conduct industry-standard training short courses for students.

University awarded NSF grants totaling \$830,000

In August, Alfred University was awarded two National Science Foundation grants totaling approximately \$830,000. A \$480,000 NSF grant will support research on the process of glass relaxation, while another grant, for about \$350,000, will fund the acquisition of equipment that will help the University's enhance multi-disciplinary research and education programs in the Inamori School of Engineering.

The project on glass relaxation—the process by which glass, an unstable material, tries to reach stability—will study how it optimizes the production of new glass materials, providing hands-on experiential learning opportunities for both undergraduate and graduation students at Alfred University. The research is led by Collin Wilkinson, assistant professor of glass science in Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering.

Myungkoo Kang, assistant professor of ceramic engineering, is principal investigator for the second NSF-funded project, "MRI: Acquisition of an In-Situ Infrared Spectroscopic Ellipsometer." Ellipsometry uses polarized light to characterize thin film and bulk materials. The in-situ infrared spectroscopic ellipsometer acquired with grant funding meets a critical need to support multi-disciplinary research and education in Alfred University's engineering programs.



Jean Cardinale appointed associate provost

Jean Cardinale, longtime professor of biology at Alfred University, was appointed the University’s first-ever associate provost of Curriculum, Learning Assessment, and Accreditation, effective Monday, July 22.

In her role, Cardinale has three primary connected areas of responsibility: curricula, student learning outcome assessment, and accreditation. She will work closely with Provost Beth Ann Dobie to advance efforts to realize the University’s curricular intersections and serve as a partner in developing strategic curricular innovation.

Cardinale served as a member of the faculty in Alfred University’s College of Liberal Art and Sciences since 2000, serving as assistant professor (2000-07), associate professor (2007-1012) and professor (since 2012) of Biology and Biochemistry. She was chair of the Division of Biology from 2012-24. She has served as Interdisciplinary Programs Manager since 2022; in that role she oversaw creation of a new policy for students to pursue double majors.

First-ever assistant VP for Student Success named

Gabe Iturbides was appointed the university’s first-ever assistant vice president for Student Success, effective Sept. 23. In his role, Iturbides will lead efforts to enhance student success with a focus on academic and personal development and student well-being.

He will provide leadership, vision, and strategic direction for departments under the Student Experience Unit and



work collaboratively to increase student retention and persistence, and oversee institutional councils, teams, and prevention programs which work together to promote student success.

Iturbides came to Alfred University from St. John Fisher University, where he has served as principal investigator and inaugural director of the Trio Student Support Services and as director of the Collegiate Science and Technology Program, providing guidance and direction regarding academics, career development, study skills, personal concerns, and financial aid for first-generation, limited-income, and under-represented students, and those with documented disabilities.



Pauline Stamp appointed College of Business dean

Professor Pauline Stamp was appointed Dean of Alfred University’s College of Business, effective July 1, 2024. Stamp came to Alfred from Hartwick College, where she served for nine years as Division Chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Associate Professor of the Business Administration and Accounting Department.

She brings extensive business experience to the College of Business deanship, having held positions with numerous private concerns including

Guthrie Healthcare System, in Sayre, PA, where she served as senior vice president, Education and Research; and as president, Mansfield University/Robert Packer Hospital School of Nursing and Allied Health Systems.

Stamp is well-acquainted with Alfred University. She is the mother of alumna Samantha Stamp ’18, who rode on Alfred University’s equestrian team.



Jessie Thoman selected as associate dean, Performing Arts

Jessie Thoman was appointed Alfred University’s first-ever associate dean of the Division of Performing Arts. She began her duties on Monday, July 8.

Thoman will work closely with Lauren Lake, dean of the School of Art and Design and Performing Arts Division, to lead the implementation of the University’s new state-approved Interdisciplinary Performing Arts B.F.A. degrees in dance, theatre, performance design and technology, music-sound studies, and music-performance, along with strengthening the current B.A. degrees in music and theatre and minor programs. She will lead recruitment efforts to build strong cohorts and continue the strong outreach of the Performing Arts Division both on and off campus.

Thoman came to Alfred University from University of Tennessee at Martin, where she had served as professor of music since 2011. There, she was an instructor in horn, chamber music, music history, and music appreciation.

Students, faculty, alumni honored at ACerS MS&T conference



A team of five Alfred University students participated in the mug dropping contest during the ACerS Materials Science & Technology Conference in Pittsburgh. Shown here on campus making the mugs they used in the competition are, from left: Patrick House, Matthew Bittel, Aidan Prendergast, Ally Bruno, and Sam Gross. The contest tests students on their prowess in designing and manufacturing a ceramic mug possessing high strength, mechanical reliability, and/or aesthetics. Mugs fabricated by students from ceramic raw materials are judged on aesthetics and then by dropping them from ever-increasing heights.

Alfred University was well represented at the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) Materials Science & Technology (MS&T) Conference, held Oct. 6-9 in Pittsburgh, with several students, faculty, and alumni recognized as award recipients.

William Carty, emeritus professor of ceramic engineering, received the Education and Professional Development Council (EPDC) Outstanding Educator. Carty was also author or co-author of six presentations given during conference, some in collaboration with Alfred University students and faculty.

Rebecca Welch, visiting assistant professor of materials science and engineering and outreach coordinator in the Inamori School of Engineering, and alumnus Elizabeth Tsekrekas '19 (B.S. glass science), PhD '24 (glass science), were honored as winners of the David W. Richardson Educational Outreach Award, which recognizes recipients for their outreach work.

Welch created, organized, and executed the "Night of Science and Art," which attracted more than 500 children and family members from local elementary and



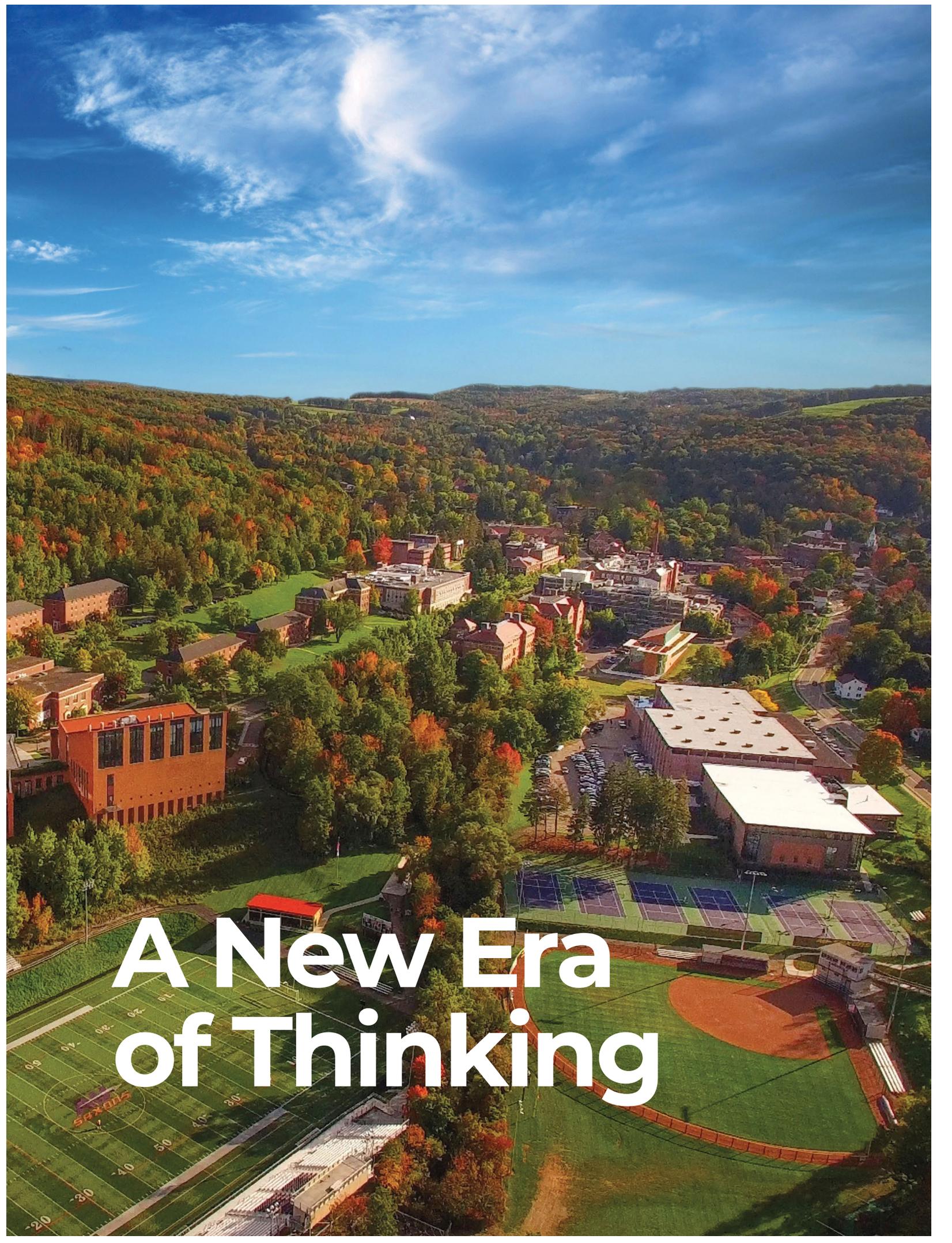
Patrick Lynch (center), a senior glass science major at Alfred University, received the 2024 Alfred R. Cooper Young Scholars Award at the ACerS Materials Science & Technology Conference in Pittsburgh. He is shown here with Myungkoo Kang (left), assistant professor of ceramic engineering, for whom Lynch has been conducting research as part of Kang's Advanced Optical Ceramics group, and Michelle Korwin-Edson '99 (B.S., ceramic engineering)'04 PhD (glass science), senior principal scientist at Owens Corning.

middle schools. The event brings together multiple university departments—including physics, materials science, ceramics, glass science, and chemistry—and featured over 50 science demonstrations, all led by Alfred University faculty and undergraduate students.

While a student at Alfred University, Tsekrekas participated regularly in a number of outreach activities. They included events aimed at educating primary and secondary students about science and engineering, such as Women in Engineering Days; open houses and presentations to accepted students; on-campus summer engineering institutes; and Glass Learning Opportunities Workshops sponsored by the Ceramic and Glass Industry Foundation. Tsekrekas is a post-doctoral researcher at the Savannah River National Laboratory in Georgia.

Patrick Lynch, a senior glass science major from Long Island, was named winner of the 2024 Alfred R. Cooper Young Scholars Award, given by the Glass and Optical Materials Division of ACerS. Lynch was recognized for his undergraduate glass research entitled "Accelerated Structural Relaxation of Chalcogenide Glasses via Thermo-Ultrasonication." As winner of the Cooper Award, he presented a talk on his research at the conference. Lynch works in Assistant Professor of Ceramic Engineering Myungkoo Kang's Advanced Optical Ceramics group, conducting research in chalcogenide glasses, which are a key component of many different infrared acquisition, guidance, and sensing systems.

Several alumni received prestigious awards. Victoria Blair '08 (B.S., ceramic engineering) PhD '14 (ceramic engineering) currently Materials Engineering and Portfolio Manager for Super Materials at the DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory, was inducted into the 2024 ACerS Class of Fellows. Dr. Katherine T. Faber '75 (B.S., ceramic engineering), currently with the California Institute of Technology, received the W. David Kingery Award for her distinguished lifelong achievements involving multidisciplinary and global contributions to ceramic technology, science, and art.



A New Era of Thinking

Alfred University's Realizing Our Promise Campaign is a pivotal investment in the future of the University.

Fundraising expresses the values of an institution.

Realizing Our Promise, Alfred University's fundraising campaign, focuses on helping to fulfill our University's mission of helping students to realize their purpose. The campaign, announced in October, will accomplish that goal through philanthropic investments in mentorship, inclusivity, and intersections, realized through specific projects such as Living Learning Communities, Saxon Hill, endowed scholarships, and the Common Ground program for first-year students.

Realizing Our Promise expresses our confidence in the future. It is the largest effort of its kind in Alfred University's history, as noted by Carolyn Clark '90, chair of the University's Board of Trustees. "With this campaign," Clark observes, "we usher in a new era of thinking bigger than ever before." Stephen Heine '81, vice chair of the Board, adds: "As a University, we are challenging our graduates and friends alike to join us in leaving a powerful legacy that will improve the world for all."

That legacy will reside in the students who graduate as beneficiaries of mentorship, inclusivity, and intersections. These values have always driven Alfred University, since its founding in 1836 as a fully coeducational institution. The Realizing Our Promise campaign is a dedication to continuing those values, through the lives of future students who will bear the unique mark of a Alfred University education.

"Alfred University is dedicated to cultivating fearlessly creative people who through realizing their purpose make the world a better place," says President Mark Zupan.

"Alfred University is dedicated to cultivating fearlessly creative people who through realizing their purpose make the world a better place"

— President Mark Zupan



Campaign Priorities

INTERSECTIONS

- **Applied and Experiential (APEX) Learning Program.**

Alfred University's APEX Program encourages students to pursue a broad array of educational opportunities through hands-on experiences. With support from the Realizing Our Promise campaign, more students may apply for funding to engage in study abroad, research, serving learning, and internship opportunities. Such opportunities enhance students' professional outcomes while helping them realize their purpose.

- **Saxon Hill Sports Complex**

The new sports facility, already under construction, will increase Alfred University's athletic and recreational offerings while allowing us to better live into our space. This will boost student recruitment and improve the student experience. By expanding our athletic facilities, the initiative will allow members of existing intercollegiate teams to better balance the demands of their academic workloads with their practice requirements while allowing the University to add teams such as women's field hockey, women's and men's rugby, men's baseball, and men's volleyball.

- **Living Learning Communities**

Investment in the University's Living Learning Communities (LLCs) will support the University's commitment to encouraging students to share interests, backgrounds, and fields of study. Our LLCs create opportunities to build friendships and a heightened our students' sense of belonging, thereby improving the student experience.

- **Foster Lake**

The Foster Lake area offers opportunities for environmental science classes as well as recreational activities. The University plans to enhance the accessibility and impact of Foster Lake through trails and improved access and parking.

- **A Collaborative Community**

The heart of the campus is the Powell Campus Center, built in 1994. The Realizing Our Promise campaign aims to upgrade spaces throughout the Center, thereby increasing the extent to which students can meaningfully interact with each other. Funding will improve meeting spaces, technology, dining areas, and the overlook and feel of the Center.





MENTORSHIP

- **Success Coaching**

Support for success coaches will build a growing environment of dynamic mentorship beginning with a first-year student's early weeks on our campus. Success coaches meet students in the Pamela Lavin Bernstein Center for Advising in the Powell Campus Center, and play a valuable role in connecting students to the larger University community. They maintain regular contact with first-year students, are first responders to Navigate™ alerts and serve as case managers for students experiencing challenges to their academic success.

- **Academic Success**

Alfred University maintains a proactive culture of reaching out to students so as to ensure their academic success. Facilities and programs include The Writing Center and the Fred Gertz Center for Academic Success. Investments in these facilities and initiatives will support diverse learners and enhance a culture in which faculty, staff, peer students, and alumni are able to connect with and mentor our students.



INCLUSIVITY

- **Endowed Scholarships**

Financial barriers often prevent talented young people from seeking the benefits of higher education. Endowed scholarships directly address such barriers and thereby ensure Alfred University can provide a pivotal educational opportunity to prospective students, regardless of financial circumstances, and thereby serve as a powerful force for socioeconomic mobility.

- **Alfred University Summer Bridge Program**

Students' first months of college are frequently challenging. Our Summer Bridge Program is an investment in jumpstarting the transition from high school to college through a four-week on-campus experience in the summer before the first semester. Students participating in the program will have a full schedule of activities, coursework, and seminars that aim to facilitate a successful transition to Alfred University.

- **Common Ground**

The Common Ground program is an immersive experience in advanced civil discourse for all new undergraduate students. Through small-group dialogues facilitated by a faculty or staff member, our incoming students learn to more fully appreciate the different backgrounds, viewpoints, values, and aspirations that they bring to our campus while discussing and then agreeing to some common values that they intend to live by as citizens of Alfred University's community.



Talking about the Future

Interview with President Mark Zupan and Provost Beth Ann Dobie



Alfred University Provost and Chief Operating Officer Beth Ann Dobie and President Mark Zupan during an interview in Jordan Hall.

Interviewer: President Zupan, as we talk about the future, what do you anticipate for Alfred University's trajectory during the next decade, academically, financially, socially, and culturally?

Mark Zupan: The more we can enhance Alfred University's exceptional culture of student-centered, collaborative learning, the more we ensure our success and prosperity. We are not an educational institution focused on mass producing students. Our focus

is on the holistic individual student experience, which we address through our three key strengths: intersections, mentorship, and inclusivity. The more people can feel that culture and its continued nourishment by our faculty, staff, students and alumni, the more successful we will be in attracting and retaining great faculty, students and staff. Once an organization succeeds culturally, the rest starts to fall into place.

Interviewer: Provost Dobie, what will Alfred University's curriculum

look like in 10 years? How will the curriculum evolve to meet the needs of students while also maintaining and improving its intellectual and scholarly rigor?

Beth Ann Dobie: In general, there are two pathways within higher education. The first is the professional pathway with its emphasis on career readiness. The second is in liberal arts education, where we think about the breadth and depth in an area of a student's education. There's a lot of pressure to adopt a pre-professional

model and make higher education more vocational, but I don't see that as part of the future, although I do see career preparedness as part of our work.

Those two pathways are going to become more like each other, and there will be less of a distinction between the two. Our educational programs have to be continuously updated to meet workforce needs, because we cannot simply keep adding to curricula. That will be a key for the future. All programs will be integrating and embedding practice more fully; that is part of making a definitive connection to students' career prospects. Career preparedness will become more simply part of what one does in higher education. That is one way that the two paths become more similar.

In addition, what we consider now as two paths will become more alike, with a greater emphasis on breadth and depth essential for the evolution of both. These two are shifts of emphasis rather than wholesale change.

Everything we do at Alfred University is embedded in breadth. We want to expose students to an array of perspectives and ways of thinking and doing. This is why reinforcing our tenet of "Intersections" will be vital to our distinctiveness and perceived value. Depth is a way of thinking at a different level. Depth is developing deep conceptual abilities. The depth, and in general, educational curricula, are going to be less discipline focused. I believe we will have more interdisciplinary work, more shared educational goals. We won't have a discipline category to fulfill, but instead a kind of thinking that you develop, for example, through learning how historians practice their craft.

Where we're headed, and intentionally,

is toward a greater focus on the ability to think. People have to learn how to think critically, objectively. It's how one develops and advances knowledge. People have to know how to read and think and analyze information. Whether you're studying philosophy or mechanical engineering, you need to mature in your ability to analyze a problem. What the depth gets you is an ability to do this at a more complex level. You develop a vocabulary, you develop ways of approaching problems in historical, social, cultural contexts. The world will always need people with sharp analytic skills; people who can think deeply and incisively.

What we need higher education to do is to prepare people to contribute to human flourishing, to move society forward. We do that by contributing new knowledge, among other things.

Interviewer: We have been emphasizing curricular intersections at Alfred University for several years. How does that fit in with what you're talking about?

Beth Ann Dobie: For one thing, I expect faculty members to be supported in expanding beyond their areas of expertise instead of focusing solely on their own disciplines. The question for a division head, for example, will shift away from "I need more majors in my discipline." We have to embrace an inter- or transdisciplinary way of thinking, in which we draw together previously different disciplines: engineering and history, music and physics, for example. Alfred University is poised beautifully to be a leader in this kind of education. We've expended significant energy in promoting intersectional pathways across many academic units, just through making minors, double majors, and

dual degrees more accessible. Our professors, our students, and the future employers of our students are hungry for more of this.

Interviewer: Mark, a financial question: We have seen a number of smaller colleges close in the last two years. What evidence exists with respect to Alfred University's financial stability and how can that stability be further enhanced?

Mark Zupan: I could point to external evidence, such as earning an investment-grade rating by S&P Global Ratings for our recent bond issue. We also were given an A- grade by Forbes for the strength of our finances, and our endowment per student places Alfred University 167th in the country among higher ed institutions analyzed by the National Association of College/University Business Officers (NACUBO). But I think a more powerful sign of our financial health is how we are leaning into nurturing our culture at Alfred University. It's important to recognize what makes us culturally unique and build on that through our strengths of intersections, mentorship, and inclusivity.

The demographic cliff we read and talk about is one of those black swans that come along in the history of an industry or institution. Focusing entirely on financials, however, is generally not a good way of addressing the financial challenges associated with black swan events. Instead of being fixated on a bottom line as our main thing, we have to be critically focused on nurturing a culture that delivers an exceptional student experience. Our ongoing financial sustainability will follow if we nurture our culture.

Interviewer: Beth Ann, could you identify the challenges facing a traditional liberal arts education, and in particular the humanities? What is Alfred University's response to those challenges?

Beth Ann Dobie: There are plenty of people who say the liberal arts and the humanities are in a freefall, and we need to tackle that issue head-on. One way to address this is to emphasize the rewards of a liberal arts education. From a financial perspective, what people are saying about the humanities, for example, is just wrong. People who study in the humanities make a better than average living, and actually their salaries as they proceed through their careers have been shown to accelerate at a quicker rate than for other college graduates.

But there's a better way of thinking about this issue. I'm reminded of visiting a bookstore in New Haven during the summer and overhearing someone who worked there talking with someone else about the philosopher Martin Heidegger. I asked them where they'd read Heidegger, and they told me they'd been a philosophy major. They were feeling a little sheepish maybe, because they'd studied philosophy and here they were, working in a bookstore. But I came right back at them and said: No, look what you learned. Your analytical skills and the focused ways you learned to think helped you get here. And now you're on your way!

Yes, the first years out of college for a person who studies the humanities are probably going to be challenging. But there are jobs for these graduates, and what they'll find is that the thinking skills they developed in the humanities will become more and more valuable as they push further into the marketplace.



President Mark Zupan and Provost Beth Ann Dobie with John Simmins '84, PhD '90, director of the Advanced Power Grid Lab, a new program in the Inamori School of Engineering that will prepare students for careers in the growing renewable energy industry.

I also want to stress that the humanities immerse us in the complexities of what make us human beings. I'd remind any of our philosophy graduates working in a bookstore that they're establishing human connections with their colleagues and friends, and thanks to their education they have ways of thinking about those connections. That's what studying in the humanities underscores. We're never going to be without human connections. And certainly, at Alfred University, we want our graduates to contribute to the world in ways that enhance our relationships.

Interviewer: Mark, how would you persuade high school juniors and their parents that college is a worthwhile investment of time and money?

Mark Zupan: The easy answer is financial. I could tell them that they will make a lot more money. But I would rather describe the graduation ceremony in June for our master's candidates from our AUNY program in New York City. The joy those graduating students brought to the ceremony was palpable. It's just undeniable that finding your purpose is the biggest "Why" question we can help our students answer. Putting our energies there and the corresponding meaningful financial outcomes for our graduates will follow.

I would like to add a recent quote from the columnist David Brooks: "We learn from those we love," he said. At Alfred University, we go one step further through a corollary to



the Brooks quote: Our students learn from those who love them, our faculty and staff, who want them to realize their purpose and find the answer to their Why question.

Interviewer: Beth Ann, because you mentioned human connections, could you also discuss the future impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)? How will AI impact our everyday lives as educators?

Beth Ann Dobie: In more ways than we can imagine today. But there are already some shifts and developments that we can observe and prepare to build on. For instance, we're starting to rethink the kind of assignments we give our students. On the one hand, we need to steer them away from the simple temptation to use AI at the expense of developing their critical thinking skills. What kind of assignments can we provide that accomplish that? But at the same time, we have to recognize that AI is going to be a huge part of our working and thinking lives. How do we learn to use it constructively, instead of just an easy shortcut? How do we employ it to serve us? AI has its place and is useful, but it does not replace kinds of learning. AI makes it even more important to be able to analyze and think.

We are assembling a faculty group to lead the discussion of what our University should be addressing with regard to AI. We are still finalizing the charge, but we anticipate asking the group to evaluate concerns as well as opportunities, and to propose policies. Some of these questions have been discussed by our deans, but we must extend the discussion to our full faculty and University community. These are big questions, and there are a lot more of them to ask. We're just getting started.





Interviewer: Mark, we have mentioned intersections, but could you talk more specifically about the power of intersections?

Mark Zupan: There are so many different dimensions to a college experience, and people also bring with them their own complex and varied backgrounds, aspirations, interests, and values. When we talk about intersections, we are talking about how those forces meet and interact. So, the possibilities for education are incredibly broad. For starters, we offer a broad array of curricular and co-curricular programs from which our students can choose to mix and match and thereby forge their educational pathways. We also offer practical experiences because we know people learn from doing. Through hands-on learning and research opportunities, our undergraduate students can learn skills and use equipment that is usually not available until one is a graduate student at most large Research I higher education institutions.

Interviewer: Beth Ann, how do you make a college classroom both a safe place and a place of rigorous, critical inquiry?

Beth Ann Dobie: The first is necessary to the second. The safe place is everything that Mark has been talking about. Once you have that, the rest follows, but you first have to establish the human connections and be certain that everyone in the classroom is willing to listen to each other, to fully engage. That's an environment we began ensuring with a program like Common Ground, which is aimed at fostering respectful discourse so people of varying backgrounds can learn from one another. Once a person knows they will not be attacked, they can speak their mind and the conversation, or debate, that follows can be an invigorating and genuine educational experience. Each of us learns life isn't as simple as we'd assumed!

Interviewer: Mark, a blue-sky question, what does Alfred University look like in 25 years?

Mark Zupan: Our trustee and former Board chair Gene Bernstein '69, HD '01 likes to say that "Alfred University is the biggest small university in the world." Whatever our University looks like physically – our Comprehensive Campaign will lead to enormous physical changes – we will continue growing in the ways that are distinctly Alfredian. Our students will continue acquiring the power skills that we are so good at teaching. They will enjoy, through projects such as the Saxon Hill Sports Complex and Foundry, better living into our space. They will learn from our advanced curricular and co-curricular offerings. And we as a university community will be offering an exceptional educational experience that helps our students realize their purpose. Helping this process will be our ability to substantially grow our endowment as more alumni and friends of the University appreciate our mission and culture.

Philanthropic Investment Transforms Hillel House

Thanks to support from several donors, the Alfred University's Hillel House has undergone a complete renovation that provides Jewish students and community members an enriching residential and cultural experience. Construction on the nearly \$330,000 project—which involved a down to the studs interior renovation—began in mid May and was completed on Aug. 26, in time for the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year.

The project created six new single occupancy bedrooms, all on the second floor, replacing the five double occupancy bedrooms; added a second full bathroom to the existing full bath upstairs and the two downstairs half bathrooms; moved the laundry room upstairs; and moved the non kosher kitchen from upstairs to downstairs, where the kosher kitchen, dining and living rooms, and a library with Jewish reading materials are also located.

This transformation allowed us to create a residential experience upstairs and a communal experience downstairs," said Max Koskoff, director of Residential Communities at Alfred University. "This allows students a place of community—a place to live their authentic Jewish self.

Hillel House is home to a community of Jewish students and also serves as a center for addressing religious, cultural, and ethical concerns in American society. The house functions as a residential learning center and an informal meeting place for Jewish students. Hillel is an international organization that supports Jewish student populations at college



campuses in the United States and abroad. Alfred University's Hillel chapter, for which Koskoff serves as advisor, is celebrating its 75 anniversary this academic year.

Located on Main Street in the village of Alfred, Hillel House hosts religious services, holiday celebrations, cultural programs, social events, and academic seminars on relevant themes. Students gather there for a variety of activities and events, including High Holiday suppers, Sukkot programs, seder dinners, monthly bagel brunches, Friday night Shabbat dinners, the Len Lefkowitz Lecture in Jewish Studies series, Challah making workshops, and Matzah baking classes.

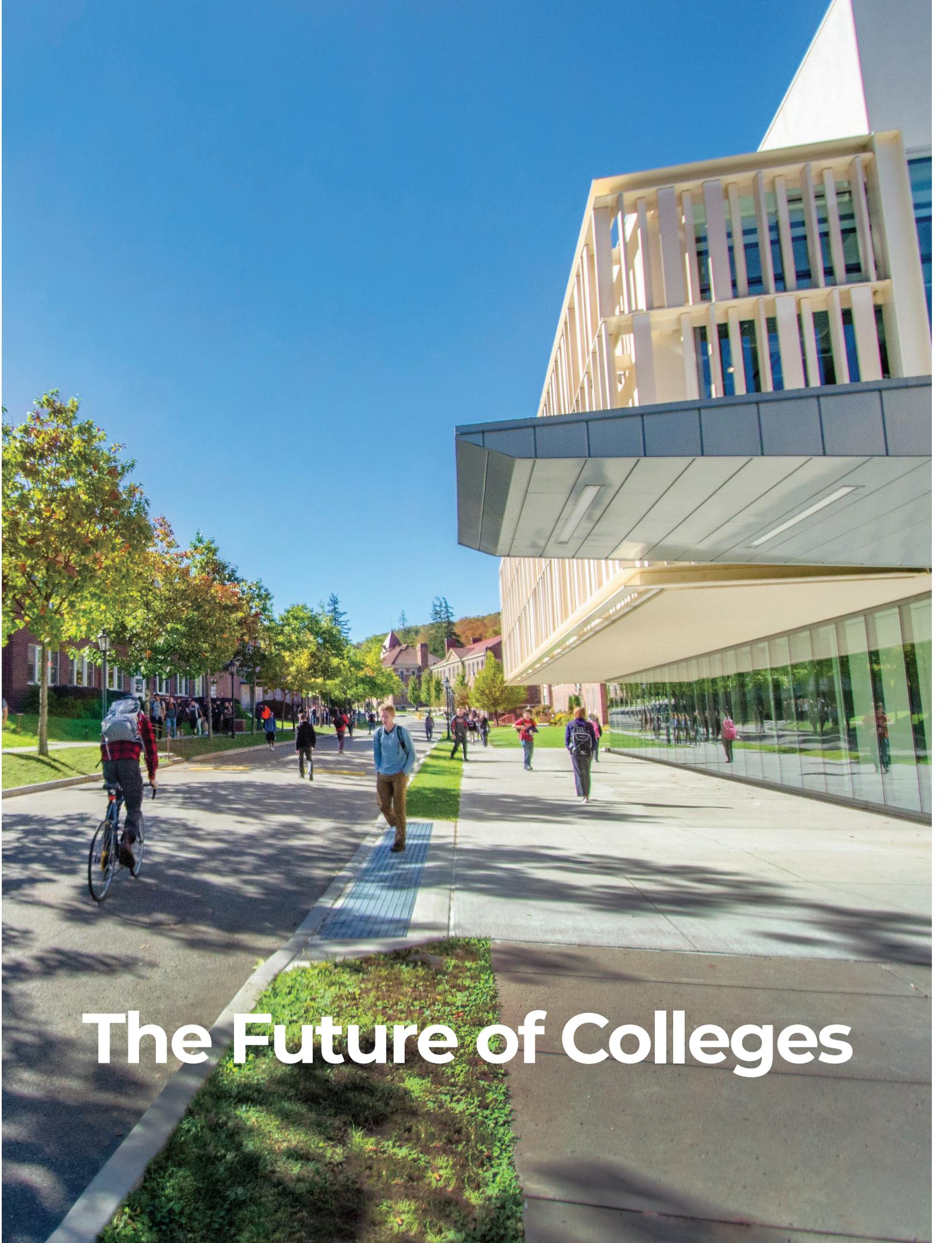
While Alfred University students reside at Hillel House, Jewish students from Alfred State College are welcome to participate in activities at the house. Koskoff said that the renovations Bershad supported greatly benefit Jewish students and members of the

local community. "Other than Hillel House, there is no Jewish place of community within a 90 minute drive of Alfred," he remarked.

In addition to the interior renovations, the project also included replacement of the heating and hot water systems; construction of new decking and refurbishment of existing decking; and new furniture, windows and roofing. Koskoff said the renovations did not detract from the charm of the house—which was built in 1870 and was dedicated as Hillel House in 1995—as the original downstairs hardwood flooring and interior single pane glass doors were retained.

Word of the house's makeover has spread, Koskoff said, pointing to the waiting list for students wishing to live there. It has also spurred renewed interest in Jewish culture, as evidenced by the number of activities hosted at Hillel House. "This is more convenient to Jewish students and makes cultural activities more accessible to them. For Alfred University, it gives us name recognition. Hillel Houses aren't very common, so this sets Alfred apart," he said.

Koskoff added that Hillel House will serve to attract prospective students and also provides a place for Jewish alumni of Alfred University to gather when they visit Alfred.



The Future of Colleges



New York State College of Ceramics

By Dr. Gabrielle Gaustad '04
Dean, Vice President of Statutory Affairs

As Dean of Statutory Affairs, it's my pleasure to be so involved in the New York State College of Ceramics on the cusp of its

125th anniversary. Our celebration of this occasion in 2025 will salute the past 125 years, in which NYSCC rose to international prominence in the field of Ceramic Engineering and Art and Design. Looking ahead, I welcome a future in which NYSCC continues to thrive and grow, educating new generations of students, exploring (and creating) new fields of art and design, and developing impactful research and new technologies in our fields of engineering.

Part of our unique heritage rests on Charles Fergus Binns' insistence on reciprocal relationships between ceramic arts and engineering. We will continue our work in the spirit of Binns' vision, offering our students opportunities for educational growth through intersections of the arts and engineering. Indeed, the relationship between NYSCC and Alfred University provides multiple opportunities for cross-disciplinary work between art, engineering and the additional disciplines provided by other colleges on the campus.



Our university is an environment, and our environment nurtures fresh explorations in research and art. In the School of Art and Design, this spirit manifests itself in fresh innovative programs such as the Institute for Electronic Arts, summer arts programs, and the International MFA program. At the same time, the Inamori School of Engineering continues to expand with new initiatives such as the Space Materials Institute and the Center for Glass Innovation.

Altogether, these initiatives are unambiguous evidence of an intellectually thriving NYSCC. We have the energy and spirit to explore brave new worlds. That is our future!

Inamori School of Engineering

By Dr. Gabrielle Gaustad '04
Dean

It is an incredibly exciting and impactful time to be an engineer. The challenges facing the world today are daunting but every single one is an opportunity for innovative solutions; engineers play a critical role in moving us forward. Our unique degree programs like Ceramic Engineering, Renewable Energy Engineering, Biomaterials, and Glass Science, along with more traditional degrees like Material Science, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, prepare our graduates for a diversity of fields tackling frontiers in space exploration, artificial intelligence, robotics, clean and sustainable energy and mobility, healthcare, and modern



manufacturing. Whether it is our Biomaterials Engineers creating new prosthetics or hip replacement materials for an aging population, our Material Science Engineers inventing or our Ceramic Engineers helping SpaceX land on Mars – the future is sure to be full of impactful discoveries made by engineers.

Engineers today and increasingly in the future will need to balance having the depth of technical expertise required for their field with the demands of employers to have the agility to work across many disciplines. The intersections created across the colleges at Alfred University provide natural collision spaces for our engineers to interact with artists, entrepreneurs, historians, and journalists as peers. Over half of our engineers are NCAA D3 athletes giving them key team and leadership experience. Mentoring provided by our world class faculty and staff in state of the art facilities helps them build the confidence and skillsets they need to find their purpose as engineers creating solutions to tackle future challenges.



School of Art & Design

By Lauren Lake
Michele & Martin Cohen Dean
School of Art & Design +
Performing Arts Division

I am incredibly optimistic about the future of our School and the broader role of art and design in shaping culture. Our core values—mentorship, belonging, and intersections—are the foundation of our work.



Mentorship is what we do. Our faculty are active artists, designers, and researchers, deeply engaged in their practices while guiding students through a rigorous and supportive learning process. From our Foundations program, where students are introduced to a wide array of materials and methods, to our top-ranked MFA programs, we foster a learning environment where creativity thrives. We create new knowledge in, through and about the arts & design every day.

We also understand the importance of belonging and creating inclusive spaces. The Black Glass Artist Series and our summer workshops and institutes, alongside new initiatives like the BIPOC residencies, reflect our commitment to diversity and the power of collective growth. These programs, combined with the interdisciplinary resources at our galleries and the Institute for Electronic Arts (IEA), enable our students to explore the intersections of art, technology, and culture.

As we look toward the opening of our new foundry in 2026, we continue to expand the possibilities for students to engage in large-scale and experimental work and outreach. This facility, along with our rich history of experimentation & excellence, will position us as a leader in fostering artists who are not just creators of objects and ideas but creators of culture itself.



Performing Arts

By Jessie Thoman
Associate Dean

At Alfred University, the performing arts are the beating heart of our campus. This is where students and faculty from all backgrounds and disciplines come together to form a vibrant, creative lifeblood that energizes and connects us all. The arts here are more than just a discipline—they are the foundation of a community that values expression, collaboration, and belonging.

With the launch of five new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Fine Arts programs in Fall 2025—Dance, Music - Performance, Music - Sound Studies, Performance Design and Technology, and Theatre—we are expanding this tradition of connection and creativity. These programs reflect our unwavering commitment to fostering a space that embodies innovation, mentorship, and inclusivity, offering new opportunities for our students to thrive, both personally and professionally.

Mentorship is at the core of our mission. Our students will have the opportunity to work closely with faculty and guest artists, learning from some of the top professionals in their fields. Whether in small groups or one-on-one,



students will engage in meaningful projects, productions, and research, fostering the skills and confidence necessary for their future success.

Inclusivity is another hallmark of our approach. The performing arts at Alfred University are a space where everyone—majors, minors, and non-majors—can find a sense of belonging. We encourage all students to explore their unique path and voice, supported by a nurturing community of peers and professors. The arts here are for everyone, and through that openness, our students thrive.

As we look ahead, the future of the performing arts at Alfred University shines brightly. These new programs enhance our already vibrant educational palette, giving faculty and students the opportunity to be at the forefront of creative innovation. Together, we are building rich, well-rounded artists ready to become makers and doers in the world beyond Alfred University.

The best is yet to come.



Libraries

By Brian Sullivan
Dean

Libraries will continue to evolve over the next 10 years, just as they have over the past 10 years. At the same time, the fundamental mission of Libraries will forever remain providing the services, resources, and spaces that our students need to be successful. The AU Libraries will continue to embody Alfred University’s strategic goals by being an inclusive campus intersection that provides highly personalized mentoring which helps our students to realize their purpose. Specifically, in 10 years the AU Libraries will continue to:



Be the Living Room of the campus, providing students with warm, inviting, and welcoming spaces ideal for both quiet and collaborative purposes.

Curate an ever-increasing variety of electronic resources not freely available elsewhere, such as digital journals, ebooks, and streaming video.

Lead the way in conversations about Open Access, Open Educational Resources, and solutions to the challenge of student textbook affordability.

Showcase our unique resources, including our physical and digital Archives, which tell Alfred’s story and represent the collective memory of our alumni through the years.

Make people our most important resource, through personalized research assistance from our Personal Librarian Program, our mentorship-rich and career-skills driven Student Worker Program, and Information Literacy instruction, including AI Literacy, to help students navigate the increasingly complex world of knowledge.



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

By Robert Stein
Dean

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences wants to deepen the connection among students and faculty, capitalizing on the excellent classroom teaching and mentoring relationships which have been a hallmark of CLAS. To do this, we anticipate providing more opportunities for students to supplement their classroom work with extra-curricular work tied to their academic



interests. We will develop physical spaces where students can work on their academic pursuits with each other and with faculty. These spaces will draw students from multiple disciplines across the university. The Computer and Software Technology Learning Environment (CASTLE)--an example of this kind of space--serves students from many majors who find that they have an interest in computer science. They gather in CASTLE and explore their shared interest, developing friendships and networking with the computer science faculty as they do so. We envision similar gathering spots in our other disciplines. Emphasizing these human connections even as we deepen our students' understanding of a particular field, is going to be ever more important in a world that is constantly reacting to technological advances.



College of Business

By Pauline Stamp
Dean

The College of Business, accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, places an emphasis on experiential learning, inspiring students in ways that drive intellectual curiosity,

professional excellence, and a passion for life-long learning.

Our first-year experience courses provide students with valuable real-world business experience while also helping them chart their academic and professional journeys. Students learn about the on-campus resources available to help them succeed; network with invited speakers, many of them alumni, who talk about their professional business experiences; and develop meaningful relationships with faculty, who help them pursue successful learning pathways.

Students work as teams to build businesses from the ground



up, selling their products on campus at small pop-ups and donating proceeds donated to charities of their choice. The class instills in students skills and competencies—including budgeting, delegation, innovation, entrepreneurial thinking, strategic planning, and marketing—which reflect the college's commitment to preparing students for future employment.

Our students develop the skills needed to succeed through faculty-led student abroad programs to countries like Germany, Costa Rica, and the Netherlands; internships at companies like UBS Financial Services, Merrill Lynch, and Atlantic Records; and initiatives, like the DC Purple Cities Leadership Forum, which provide valuable networking opportunities. Through our 4+1 MBA program, students can graduate with an undergraduate degree and a Master's in Business Administration degree in five years.



Alfred University School of Graduate and Continuing Studies

By Al Mancuso
Dean

The School of Graduate and Continuing Studies excels in providing opportunities for

students on the Alfred University main campus who are pursuing careers as school psychologists and/or mental health and school counselors. These are outstanding programs with a strong legacy of success. Additionally, the school has developed educational opportunities for non-traditional students in Corning, NY and the Greater NYC Metropolitan area. These programs focus on human

services and education, offering graduate degrees in mental health counseling, school counseling, literacy (birth to Grade 6) and inclusive and special education (all grades). Our programs in Corning, NY and New York City are successful in educating professionals seeking to advance their education, training, and professional credentials, but whose daily schedules are constrained by family and professional responsibilities.

As Dean of the School, I anticipate significant growth over the next ten years in our curricular offerings, which in turn will lead to further growth in our student body, and in our ability to help young and professional adults “find their purpose” and advance in their current field or expand into new professions. I have no doubt as to the demand for this kind of flexible, “niche” educational opportunity. Individuals engaged in the education and mental health care of our young people have entered professional fields that place heavy demands on their time. In addition, many of these professionals have already assumed the responsibility of raising families, which is a full-time job under the best of circumstances! Through our success to date in attracting these ambitious, hardworking individuals to our Corning and New York City campuses, we know there is a need for the flexible



educational opportunities our school offers. I look forward to developing a greater range of curricula and professional opportunities within that model of flexibility to reach an even broader audience in the years to come.

2025 Alfred University Alumni Awards

We are now accepting nominations for the Alfred University Alumni Awards that celebrate outstanding achievement, lifetime service, distinguished service, or unique accomplishments of young alumni. The awards will be presented during Reunion 2025.

Nominate someone deserving at www.alfred.edu/alumni/programs/form or use the QR code below. The deadline is January 31, 2025. Nominations after this date will be considered for the following Reunion year.

Help us celebrate the incredible contributions of our alumni and ensure their efforts receive the recognition they deserve!



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!



Navigating the AI Landscape

Alfred University grad Matthew Versaggi '86 offers a peek into the AI future of higher education "The impact will be profound."

By Rob Price

Matthew Versaggi '86 was studying business and computer science at Alfred University when Herbert Simon, one of the early theorists of Artificial Intelligence, lectured on the campus. Simon had been one of 11 scientists, philosophers, and mathematicians who'd joined the 1956 Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence. That gathering of intellectuals developed the origins of Artificial Intelligence during a six-week summer workshop on the Dartmouth campus.

When Simon visited Alfred more than four decades ago, Artificial Intelligence hadn't entered the general consciousness. "Simon told everyone there's this thing out there called AI," Versaggi recalls, "and that started me off and running. I went to Herrick Library and read everything we had on the subject. There were maybe four books. I devoured them. When you start digging into a new subject, you grab anything you can get your hands on."

Versaggi went on to have a successful career in business and technology, founding Versaggi Information Systems, where he served as CEO until 2014. He continues to work in what he calls "the AI space," serving currently as a White House Presidential Innovation Fellow (PIF) in AI, and commuting



Matthew Versaggi '86 and his wife of 22 years, Anna.

between his home in Minnesota and the Beltway of Washington DC.

His current appointment as a PIF has him stationed at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), working on proliferating AI throughout CMS operations. Medicare- and Medicaid-related operations, he observes, account for 20 percent of the nation's overall federal budget. "Bringing AI into this area will be a real game-changer," he says. "We want those changes to be very positive." His work with intelligence systems has provided him with both wide-ranging and granular perspectives on how artificial intelligence is changing the world. Remember, he recalls,

how the Internet in the mid-1990s was described as a looming tsunami? "AI as a General-Purpose Technology (GPT)," he says, "and GPT's rearrange everything: wealth structures, power structures, and geopolitical structures on a global scale. Steel displaced rock and wood, which brought on the Industrial Revolution. The same has been happening with technology: First computers, then the internet, now AI."

The impact on higher education will be profound, he predicts, with disruptions felt at the deepest levels of both students' and educators' experience. Teachers already are experiencing a classroom landscape disrupted by generative AI apps such as Chat GPT. But Versaggi predicts AI in general may impact the classroom as the traditional medium for learning.

"AI-powered adaptive learning technology can fundamentally change how education gets delivered," he says. "It can use student assessments to highlight how each student learns, discover their proclivities, and understand where they're coming from. AI can map all that and develop an individualized educational program for each student at scale and incredibly fast. That would really change the dynamics of higher education."

As for students' lives after college, AI will likely have a rippling effect

“Strength comes from pushing up against difficulties.”

— Matthew Versaggi

that changes the nature of careers. “Our high-tech economy developed in a fraction of the time it took for the industrial revolution to run its course. That means the skills taught in any university will become obsolete far more quickly. Instead of one or two careers, a university graduate may look forward to a life of many micro-careers.”

If this sounds as if all the rules are about to change, Versaggi is confident some rules remain the same. “Take a paper a student has to write for a Philosophy class. Philosophers don’t like fluff work. They’re very diligent about word choice, and that kind of diligence will subvert an app like Chat GPT very easily. In fact, in an environment of academic diligence, Chat GPT will always fail in producing carefully thought-out, articulate critical essays.”

He also offers a perspective honed by his years of entrepreneurship. “Artificial Intelligence puts us in a period of transition vulnerability. Human beings have to fight their way through that, but that’s the only way you get strong. You work hard. Strength comes from pushing up against difficulties of various sorts. That’s the nature of history and of humankind. You become strong only by overcoming adversity.”

Matthew Versaggi will visit Alfred University to talk about Artificial Intelligence on April 17, 2025.



Matthew Versaggi, top row, far right, with the first ever Artificial Intelligence Presidential Innovation Fellows Cohort in 2024. Eleven members were chosen out of a pool of 3,000 nationwide candidates. The group stands on the steps of the Old Executive Office Building, in Washington, DC.



Matthew Versaggi with his three sons: Nathan, Kaleb, and Lukas. Nathan and Kaleb are identical twins.

New Performing Arts BFA Degrees Added



Alfred University has added five new Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees, effective for the 2025-26 academic year. Interdisciplinary BFA programs in music-performance, music-sound studies, theatre, performance design and technology, and dance will be housed in the Performing Arts Division.

The university will continue to offer Bachelor of Arts degrees in music and theatre and also offers minors in music, dance, performance design and technology, and theatre. While the BA degree places performing arts within a broader context of a comprehensive program of general studies, the new BFA degrees focus on intensive study and practice in the performing arts and are complemented by a program of general studies.

Lauren Lake, dean of the School of Arts & Design and Performing Arts Division, cited the interdisciplinary nature of the degree offerings, which will provide students with a more well-rounded education while facilitating unique intersections. That interdisciplinary focus is evident in the course requirements for the new BFA degree programs. Students enrolled



in the BFA dance program will be required to take classes in music, for example, and theater majors must take classes in dance.

On a broader scale, all students enrolled in an Interdisciplinary Performing Arts BFA degree program must take a course in Stage Management and Collaboration. In this class, students from all disciplines—theatre, music, dance, performance design and technology—will learn the roles each of the others play in producing a stage performance.

Students will be required to complete a first-year experience course, Performing Arts Core, which outlines expectations of the students, and discuss what it is to be an artist, further exploring what their goals are for their time at Alfred and beyond. In their senior years, students will be required to complete a capstone experience project, mentored by faculty.

The programs provide new courses, including one on make-up design; computer-aided design (CAD); sound gathering; and theatre colloquium. It will also create new co-curricular opportunities, including new music ensembles, such as one in popular music.

Alfred University Launches Space Materials Institute

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

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

Current work at Alfred University with agencies and industry include projects with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), ARPA-E, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Army Research Laboratories (ARL), SpaceX, Blue Origin, Safran Aerosystems, Lockheed Martin, Washington Mills, Lithoz, and Blue Star Advanced Manufacturing.

Senior ceramic engineering major Braden Heim served as an intern at Washington Mills, helping the company develop a lunar regolith simulant (artificial lunar dust) for NASA. The material is now commercially available for experimentation and testing so that processes can be developed on Earth for eventual “in situ resource utilization” of actual materials found on the moon. Dr. Holly Shulman '87, president of Blue Star Advanced Manufacturing, working on the NASA Moon to Mars



Holly Shulman '87, director of Alfred University's Space Materials Institute (left), Gabrielle Gaustad '04, dean of the Inamori School of Engineering (center), and David Gottfried, director of the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (right) at the ribbon-cutting celebrating the Space Materials Institute's opening.

Planetary Autonomous Construction Technologies (MMPACT), is developing microwave solidification of the lunar regolith simulant developed by Washington Mills for use in



Ruby Kavanagh (left) and Ben Rondeau, sophomore ceramic engineering majors at Alfred University, examine a microwave-sintered lunar tile made in the Space Materials Institute lab at Alfred University. Kavanagh and Rondeau are interns for Blue Star Advanced Manufacturing working with the Space Materials Institute.

constructing landing pads and roads, and for 3D building on the moon. A joint project between Alfred University and DEVCOM (U.S. Army Capabilities Development Command), Army Research Laboratory—funded by a \$13.5 million federal contract over five years—studies forming and characterization of ultra-high temperature ceramic (UHTC) materials.

Research at Alfred University focuses on discovering next-generation UHTCs while characterization of a wide range of UHTC materials provides a pathway to making improved materials for defense systems and aerospace applications. These materials must be able to withstand the extreme temperatures that result from traveling at speeds greater than Mach 5. Scott Misture '90, Ph.D. '95, Inamori Professor, materials science and engineering, serves as principal investigator.

Alfred University's Saxon Hill Sports Complex Remains on Target for Early 2026 Completion



A groundbreaking was held in May for Alfred University's Saxon Hill Sports Complex. Shown shoveling dirt at the ceremony are, from left: Steve Heine '81 (vice chair, Alfred University Board of Trustees); Robin Mazejka, associate vice president, philanthropic relationships; Greg Connors '92 (trustee, past chair of the Board of Trustees); Marlin Miller '54, HD '89, '19 (Board chair emeritus), Carolyn Clark '90 (chair, Board of Trustees); Mark Zupan, university president; Deb Steward, associate vice president for Student Experience, Athletics and Recreation; and John Crisafulli and Kristina Krzyzanowski from Field of Dreams in Olean, representing Nick Ferreri '64 (a lead donor for the project).

Construction of the Saxon Hill Sports Complex, Alfred University's \$30 million sports and recreation facility atop Jericho Hill in the town of Alfred, is underway and on schedule to be completed in December 2025 and ready to host practices and athletics competition in the spring of 2026. "We are still on target for finishing as scheduled," said Deb Steward, associate vice president for Student Experience, Athletics and Recreation, said. "We have worked hard on all aspects of this project to be able to stay on track."

Excavation at the 200-acre site located approximately three miles south of campus began in October. LeChase Construction of Rochester is serving as construction project manager, while the Olean, NY-based architectural firm of Clark, Patterson & Lee (CPL) performed design services. Workers from LG Evans Construction of Avon, NY, the subcontractor for site construction, have begun moving dirt and removing trees to make way for

roadways and utility lines and, ultimately, for the installation of athletic fields, an outdoor track, and several accompanying buildings. Of the 200 acres at the Saxon Hill site, only 41 acres will be physically disturbed.

"We have a really great team between CPL, LeChase and Alfred University. We're very excited to see this project put in motion," added Steward.

Last fall, the Alfred University Board of Trustees gave its approval for the construction of the Saxon Hill Sports Complex, a project that is expected to significantly enhance the university's student recruitment and retention efforts. Once completed, it will have facilitated the addition of four new intercollegiate varsity athletics teams: baseball, men's and women's rugby, and field hockey.

The baseball team began competing last spring and will begin playing at its home

field at Saxon Hill in spring 2026; women's rugby began competing as an intercollegiate varsity sport this fall. Men's rugby, formerly housed under student clubs, is now an official intercollegiate athletic team. Field hockey will begin competition in the fall of 2025. The Complex will also positively impact the men's and women's track and field teams as the facility will provide them a home practice and competition facility.

In addition, Saxon Hill will provide valuable practice space for existing teams—football, men's and women's soccer and lacrosse—that currently practice and compete at Yunevich Stadium on the Alfred University campus. An existing cross country course—which has been used primarily for training but has hosted competitive meets—will be retained and used for practices and competitions. Once completed, the complex will include:

- Saxon Sports Center: locker rooms; athletic training room; offices; assem-



Aerial view of Saxon Hill Sports Complex

bly space where alumni, parents/families can gather for tailgate functions; officials' locker room; media room.

- **Baseball field:** lighted, synthetic turf field with scoreboard; bullpens and dugouts. A two-tier building will house restrooms, a concession stand, team room, public address and game operations space.

- **Track and field facility/Multi-purpose turf field:** lighted 400-meter eight-lane track with jump and throw areas; video scoreboard. The infield of the track will be a multi-purpose synthetic turf field which will be home to the future intercollegiate field hockey team and as a practice and competition facility for other outdoor field sport teams.

- **Rugby field:** lighted, natural grass field with scoreboard. The women's and men's teams began play as intercollegiate teams this fall.

- **Grandstands and Press Box:** One set of grandstands will face the track and multi-purpose field, the other will face the rugby field. A dual-sided press box will feature public address and game operations booths for each competition venue and will include spectator restrooms and visitors' team rooms.

Subcontractors have been chosen for the installation of turf for the fields (Chenango Contracting of Johnson City, NY); the outdoor track surface (Detroit-based Crafcro Inc); lighting (Musco Lighting of Oskaloosa, IA); and scoreboards/sound (Toth's Sports of Victor, NY). Bids for

the construction of the Saxon Hill Sports Center, press boxes, and grandstand are being prepared for release in the coming months, with construction expected to begin next spring.

It is anticipated that site development—utilities, parking lots, roadways—will be completed by November 2025. The baseball field will be completed by October 2025, while the track and multi-purpose field, throws area, and rugby field will be finished by December 2025. Construction of the various buildings begins in March and is expected to be completed by December 2025.

The \$30 million project will be funded by a combination of bonds and philanthropic gifts; to date, more than \$10 million has been raised through philanthropy.

Saxon Hill is expected to be a boon for student-athlete recruitment and student retention, with the University estimating it will increase enrollment by approximately 170 students over the first six years of its opening. The complex will complement nearby existing sports, recreational, and academic facilities located in the area atop Jericho Hill. These include the Bromley-Daggett Equestrian Center at Maris Cuneo Equine Park, home to Alfred University's world-class equestrian program, and Foster Lake, which provides the campus community with numerous recreational and co-curricular opportunities.

Withers Named Associate Director, Athletic Communications



After serving two years as assistant director of Athletic Communications, Devon Withers '22 MBA was named Alfred University's first ever Associate Director of Athletic Communications.

Withers first came to Alfred University as the graduate assistant for Athletic Communications in 2020 and after earning his MBA and was named the Assistant Director of Athletic Communications in June of 2022.

Prior coming to Alfred University, Withers was a sports information intern for the University of Rochester, worked as a promotions and social media intern for minor league baseball team Rochester Red Wings. He is a graduate of Alfred State College, earning his Bachelor's in Sport Management in 2020 before attending Alfred University for post-graduate studies.

Adair Milmoie Named first-ever Field Hockey Head Coach

Adair Milmoie has been appointed Alfred



University's first-ever field hockey head coach, effective Sept. 30, 2024. Field hockey will play its inaugural season at Alfred University in the fall of

2025. The Saxons will compete on Merrill Field at Yunevich Stadium for the 2025 season, before moving to the Saxon Hill Sports Complex in 2026.

Milmoie came to Alfred University from Wells College, where she served as the head field hockey coach and assistant athletic director of Student Athlete Academic Success. She previously served as head coach at Cazenovia College for

four years and head field hockey coach and assistant women's lacrosse coach at SUNY Morrisville for five years. Mil-moe's first head coaching position was at SUNY Oswego, when she led both the field hockey and women's lacrosse teams for four years.

Milmoe graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 1988, earning a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She later earned her MBA in 1992 from Northeastern University.

Wyant Joins Alfred University Western Equestrian Staff



Prior to the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year, Ashley Wyant joined the Alfred University Equestrian Department as assistant Western equestrian coach, equestrian instructor and trainer.

Wyant has been owner/operator of Clover Street Farms in Lillian, AL, since 2012. She has served as an assistant trainer for Mayabb Show Horses in Ocala, FL, and as horse show assistant at JH Performance Horses in Albany, GA. She has helped lead riders and horses to high placings in Quarter Horse events, including Quarter Horse Congress and the National Snaffle Bit Association (NSBA) World Show.

Nick Milgate '20 appointed head strength and conditioning coach



Alfred University welcomed back alumnus Nick Milgate '20 as the new head strength and conditioning coach, effective the beginning of the 2024-

25 academic year.

Most recently, Milgate worked as the strength and conditioning coach at HD Performance LLC since July of 2023. He also served as an athletic performance intern with the University of Rochester Medical Center. While with UPMC, Mil-

gate manufactured programs for clients and gained experience with the athletic performance training department.

Milgate was a star member of the Alfred University football team. With the Saxons, he was honored as a D3Football.com All-American and All-Empire 8 selection. He is listed in the top 10 records for career tackles (298) and tackles in a single game (18 vs. Ithaca). After graduating in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in health fitness management, Milgate was drafted by AFC Rangers Mödling of the Austrian Football League, where he competed from 2021-23. He earned a master's degree in exercise science at SUNY Cortland in 2022.

D'Agostino tabbed Equestrian Program director, head Western coach



Adam D'Agostino was appointed director of the Equestrian Program and head Western equestrian coach at Alfred University. He leads operations and staffing at the Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center at Maris Cuneo Equine Park. In addition, he teaches equine-related courses and serves as head coach for the Western team.

D'Agostino six years with Albion College as the Head Western Coach. At the 2024 IHSA Western National Championships, D'Agostino's coached his Albion riders to six Top-10 finishes. In 2023, he coached the IHSA Individual National Champion in Level II Western Horsemanship. Before Albion, D'Agostino served as an associate lecturer, adjunct professor and head western coach at Cazenovia College, where in 2017, he coached an IHSA National Champion.

He earned an MBA in marketing and organizational leadership and bachelor's degrees in Western Equine Studies and Equine Business Management at the University of Findlay (OH).

Russell Named Head Men's Rugby Coach at Alfred University



Dale Russell has been named head men's rugby coach at Alfred University. He also serves as the assistant women's rugby coach and plays a lead role in Alfred University's intramurals program.

Russell came to Alfred from the University of Maine, where he led his team to the 2024 National Collegiate Rugby Menco Division II National Championship title. He had worked as the men's rugby coach since August of 2015 and led his teams to a 49-20-1 overall record, appearing the national tournament for 15's in 2015, 2016, 2022, 2023, and 2024. His program also qualified for nationals in 7's in 2021 and 2022.

He graduated from the University of West Florida in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and also has a master's degree a sports performance and coaching.

Fisler appointed head men's and women's tennis coach



Alfred University Athletics appointed Jake Fisler as the Saxons' new head men's and women's tennis coach.

Fisler is familiar with the Empire 8 conference, having competed with Houghton University as a member of the men's tennis program from 2016-21, earning All-Empire 8 and All-American accolades. Fisler helped lead Houghton to the 2020-21 Empire 8 Championship. While attending Houghton, Fisler served as a student assistant coach for the women's tennis program during the 2019-20 season.

Fisler earned a bachelor's degree in sport, recreation and wellness management from Houghton with minors in athletic administration and sport management.

Alfred University Inducts Hall of Fame Class of 2024

Alfred University welcomed five alumni into its Athletics Hall of Fame during an on-campus induction ceremony November 16. In addition to the four Hall of Fame inductees and one Distinguished Saxon Alumni honoree, the ceremony also recognized the 2004 women's tennis team.



Hall of Fame inductees included Rebecca (Graudons) Kramer '14, women's track and field/Western and hunt seat equestrian; Beth (Sanger) Brown '06, volleyball; Richard Scott '12, men's track and field; and Thomas Secky '12, football. Mark O'Meara '74, was recognized with the Distinguished Saxon Alumni Award.

Rebecca (Graudons) Kramer placed 17th in the pole vault at the 2011 NCAA Division III outdoor track and field championships and was named an All-American. That same year she won a state outdoor championship and would go on to win state indoor and outdoor titles in 2012 and indoor titles in 2013 and 2014. She set school records in the indoor and outdoor pole vault and also in the indoor high jump. As a member of the equestrian team, she won an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) regional title in Western intermediate horsemanship in 2014.

Beth (Sanger) Brown '06 set 13 school records as a member of the volleyball team including records for career kills, career kills per set, single season kills per set, career service aces, single season service aces, career digs, single-season digs, career

digs per set, single season digs per set, career points, single season points, career points per set and single season points per set. She earned All-Empire 8 Honorable Mention three years in a row in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Richard Scott was a four-year member of the Alfred University indoor and outdoor track and field teams. He capped off his impressive athletic career with a trip to the 2012 NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships in the 400-meter dash, where he placed 10th out of the 19 competitors. A three-time Empire 8 Champion and All-Empire 8 First Team selection, he set school records in the indoor and outdoor 400-meter dash, records that still stand, and was part of teams that set school marks in the 4-by-200 and 4-by-400 relays.

Thomas Secky was a four-year member of the Saxon football team, earning All-Empire 8 First Team in 2009, Second Team in 2010 and Honorable Mention in 2008, when he was also named Empire 8 Rookie of the Year. He was quarterback on two Saxon teams that made the NCAA Division tournament, in 2009 and 2010,

the second of which advanced to the national quarterfinals. At the time of his graduation in 2012, he held several school records, including career passing yards, passing yards in a single game, career passing touchdowns, passing touchdowns in a single game with six.

Mark O'Meara is the fourth former Saxon student-athlete to earn the Distinguished Saxon Alumni recognition since its inception in 2018. The award recognizes Alfred University student-athletes for outstanding achievement following their playing career at Alfred University. O'Meara—who was a member of the football, track and field, and basketball teams—has been a fixture at Alfred University Homecoming football games for more than a half-century. As an undergraduate, O'Meara served on the student newspaper, the yearbook committee and was on the St. Pat's Day Board. He and alumnus Eric Vaughn are credited with starting the popular Hot Dog Day Weekend celebration, which raises funds for local charities. In 1980, O'Meara started and coached the women's soccer team for one year before the school appointed a full-time coach. O'Meara lives in Virginia where he and his wife host an annual alumni/admissions event and is also a DC Purple City volunteer for Alfred University. In 2008, he was honored as the recipient of the Athletics Award of Distinction.

The **2004 women's tennis team** is the fourth Team of Distinction to be inducted into the Alfred University Athletics Hall of Fame. That year's squad went a perfect, 12-0 and won the program's first-ever Empire 8 Championship title with a perfect 8-0 league record. Three members of the team—Alicia (Ballard) Cordle '05, Katie Calfee '08, and Jodi (Butterfoss) Dobmeier '08—are Hall of Fame inductees.

CLASS NOTES

1969

Golden Saxons Reunion

Marsha Lane (Eastwood) Morien (B.A., economics) received the Saguaro Award from the Arizona Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. It is in recognition of fellowship through the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA), demonstrating a continued commitment to education and excellence in the industry as well as volunteerism within the local chapter. Marsha and her husband, Neal, live in San Tan Valley, AZ. She is a retired chief administrative officer for the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

1975

Golden Saxons Reunion

Katherine T. Faber (B.S., ceramic engineering) received the W. David Kingery Award, which recognizes distinguished lifelong achievements involving multidisciplinary and global contributions to ceramic technology, science, education, and art. Katherine, who currently serves as Simon Ramo Professor of Materials Science at California Institute of Technology, received the award during the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) Materials Science & Technology (MS&T) Conference, held in Oct. 6-9 in Pittsburgh. In her comments accepting the award, Katherine talked about facilitating intersections between engineering and art, influenced by her time as a student at Alfred University. She recalled that while serving as department chair of materials science and engineering at Northwestern University she agreed to a request to collaborate with the Art Institute of Chicago's first ever conservation scientist. "My response was influenced by my undergraduate work at

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

Alfred University where the programs in ceramic engineering and ceramic art and design were located in the same building. And now so many years later, I take great pleasure in the work that I have done with experts in art conservation," said Katherine, who with Dr. Francesca Casadio from the Art Institute of Chicago founded the Center for Scientific Studies in the Arts. Katherine previously served as President of ACerS and she was named a Distinguished Life Member for her contributions to the ceramic and glass profession. In 2014, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for her contributions to science and engineering.

Lance T. Shaner (B.A., history) is chairman and chief executive officer of Shaner Hotel Group, a more than 40-year-old hospitality ownership and management company based in State College, PA, which specializes in hotels and resorts. Since its inception Shaner has operated more than 140 hotels

in 30 states for a variety of individual owners, banks, real estate funds, and other institutional partners. The diverse listing of properties includes select-service, extended-stay, mid-scale, and full-service hotels and resorts in popular markets throughout the U.S., Italy and the Bahamas. Under Lance's leadership, the companies have completed more than \$2 billion in transactions and have grown into a highly respected business group with more than 4,200 employees. In addition to his business achievements, Lance has served in a number of leadership roles in his community, including Vice Chairman, Board of Directors for Graystone Bank Central PA; Past Chairman, United Way Campaign for Central PA; Past Chairman, Centre County Business & Industry Council; Winner, Centre County Entrepreneur of the Year, Good Scout of the Year Award; Winner, Palmer Award for Philanthropy; Past Co-Chairman, YMCA. He also gave the lead gift to build the new Lance & Ellen Shaner Cancer Pavilion, at the Mount Nittany Medical Center in State College, PA. He is the 2010 recipient of the Renaissance Man of the Year Award.

1977

Nancy M. Crooks (B.F.A.) has authored a book, "Eavesdropping on the Matrix: Mechanical Link, and What Understanding Fascia Can Teach Us about Health and Pain." Nancy, a Licensed Massage and Bodywork Therapist, has been helping people with chronic pain since 1984. Her book, released on Amazon in August, discusses Mechanical Link, a pain-relieving technique learned from French osteopaths Paul Chauffeur and Eric Prat, which Nancy has adapted to her own abilities. Nancy, who lives in Winston-Salem, NC, is one of fewer than 20 therapists and doctors in the US who use the Mechanical Link technique

exclusively. She calls the drug-free, manual therapy a very gentle but powerful approach that addresses many problems simultaneously through the body's connective tissue system.

1983

Nancy Blair (BFA) presented an exhibition of her artwork, titled "Temple of the Beekeeper," at Miami Dade College Kendall Art Gallery. The multi-sensory installation, which explores themes of female identity, belonging, and myth, opened on October 10 and remained on view through November 7. Nancy says the work "reimagines the narrative of the older woman as a powerful, healing force within the natural world...Just as the bee tends to the hive, so too the Wise Woman Beekeeper tends to the soul, nurturing growth, and facilitating deep awareness of life on a Living Planet." The installation features intricate and highly textured ceramic sculptures—earthy, crusted, radiant and sparkling; video of bees hovering in the hive, and vibrant; and colorful photographs of flowers, which "symbolize the altar of the bee's desire." She says the installation "emphasizes the critical role bees play in sustaining life and how this sentient, indicator creature parallels the strength and resilience of women throughout herstory." Learn more at www.nancyblair.art/miami-exhibition. Nancy, who lives and works in New Jersey and Florida, was an instructor at Pilchuck Glass School for several years. Her works are in the collection of Sir Elton John, The Tacoma Museum of Glass, Douglass Library at Rutgers University and numerous private collections.

Joseph "Joe" Hale (B.S., ceramic engineering) was appointed chief executive officer at McDanel Advanced Materials Technologies. McDanel is a leader in developing and manufacturing high-per-

formance proprietary Advanced Material Technical Solutions for mission-critical applications across Aerospace Defense, Medical, Semiconductor, and other Diversified Industrial end-markets. Joe is responsible for leading the organization's continued efforts to serve customers with excellence, as well as talent development and empowerment in service to the organization's professionals and communities in which McDanel operates in. Previously, he served as the Chief Growth Officer of Qnnect, and prior to that, served as Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Hermetic Solutions Group.

1984

Robert Beyer (B.A., history; minors in coaching, writing, and secondary education) was named an assistant coach for the National Basketball Association's Los Angeles Lakers, serving under first-year head coach JJ Redick. A native of LeRoy, NY, Bob has coached more than 35 years in both the collegiate and NBA ranks. He has served on the coaching staffs of nine NBA teams, his first being the Toronto Raptors in 2003. He has also coached for the Orlando Magic, Golden State Warriors, Charlotte Bobcats, Detroit Pistons, Oklahoma City Thunder, Sacramento Kings, New Orleans Pelicans, and now the LA Lakers. Bob's coaching career began while he was still an undergraduate at Alfred University. He played three seasons for the Saxons' men's basketball team before his playing career was ended by injury. As a senior, he served as a student assistant for the Saxons.

Elizabeth A. Garry (B.A., psychology) was honored by the New York State Bar Association in May. Elizabeth, who serves as presiding justice of the New York State Supreme Court's Appellate Division, Third Department, was

the recipient of the Robert L. Haig Award, which is given by the state Bar Association's Commercial & Federal Litigation Section. The award is named after Robert L. Haig, esteemed past chair of the Commercial & Federal Litigation Section, and is presented to a long-standing member of the legal profession who has rendered distinguished public service. A graduate of Albany Law School, Elizabeth began her legal career in 1990 as a law clerk to Justice Irad S. Ingraham. She served as the New Berlin town justice from 2002 to 2006; was appointed to the Third Department in 2009 and became its 16th presiding justice in 2018. She is a past co-chair and current commissioner of the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York Courts. Elizabeth is a founding member of the Del-Chen-O Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and a member of the Board of the International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges. She served as a regional delegate and treasurer of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of New York and became a trustee of Albany Law School in 2022.

1995

Honored Reunion Year

Norwood Viviano (B.F.A.) was named recipient of the Smithsonian Women's Committee's Delphi Award. The award recognizes mid-career artists who demonstrate distinction, creativity and



exceptional artistry in their work. The award selection committee noted Viviano's complex sculptures and installations that tell the story of worldwide climate and population changes. Norwood is an associate professor of sculpture and foundations and area coordinator for sculpture at Grand Valley State, Allendale, MI. In his work, he explores how urbanization, industry and immigration shape personal and shared histories.

1998

Kevin O'Buckley '98 (B.S., electrical engineering, minor speech communication) was named senior vice president and general manager of Foundry Services at Intel Corporation, effective May 13. Intel's Foundry Services is the customer service and ecosystem operations division of Intel Foundry, a manufacturer of semiconductors. In his new role, Kevin oversees Intel's systems foundry growth strategy, spearheading the growth of Intel's foundry business and building out its ecosystem of intellectual property and electronic design automation partners. Kevin joined Intel with more than 25 years of semiconductor industry experience. Most recently, he was senior vice president of hardware engineering for the Custom, Compute and Storage Group at Marvell Technologies, which he joined as part of its 2019 acquisition of Avera Semiconductor, where he served as chief executive. He also served as vice president of Product Development at Global Foundries, and before that spent more than 17 years at IBM leading technology development and manufacturing organizations. In addition to his Alfred University degree, Kevin also has a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Vermont.

2005

Honored Reunion Year

Oren Darling (B.A., general studies) is creative manager with Purdue Research Foundation in West Lafayette, IN, a private, nonprofit foundation created to advance the mission of Purdue University. Established in 1930, the foundation accepts gifts; administers trusts; funds scholarships and grants; acquires property; protects Purdue's intellectual property; and promotes entrepreneurial activities on behalf of Purdue. The foundation manages the Purdue Innovates, Purdue Office of Technology Commercialization, Purdue Research Park, Discovery Park District, Purdue Technology Centers and University Development Office. Oren has been with Purdue Research Foundation since 2013, serving as marketing operations manager, video producer/graphic designer, and web and graphic design associate. He earned a master's degree in electronic and time-based art from Purdue in 2015.

2007

Yasmin (Green) Mattox (B.A., political science) is among the young professionals honored by the Rochester Business Journal in its 2024 "Forty Under 40" list. Each year, RBJ recognizes young professionals as future leaders who achieve success in their careers and give back in meaningful ways to the Rochester community. In 2017, Yasmin founded, Arkatecht, which creates products that assist women in realizing their fullest potential in accordance with family and career goals, helping working parents accomplish their professional aspirations in a manner that respects their parenting needs. This year marked the 30th anniversary of RBJ's "Forty Under

40," which over the years has honored 1,160 individuals. Yasmin was among a group of alumni who came to campus Sept. 27 to serve as a panelist for Alfred University's inaugural Mentorship Day. In 2020, Yasmin was honored by Tech Rochester as "Emerging Technology Professional Woman of the Year." Tech Rochester, founded in 2000 as Digital Rochester, honors professionals in the technology field who live, work and make a greater impact on the Greater Rochester area.

2012

Andrew Jacobs, MD (B.A., environmental studies) joined the TidalHealth Family Medicine Practice in Salisbury, MD, the practice announced in May. He is board certified in family medicine caring for patients at TidalHealth within the Family Medicine Residency Program as Core Faculty. Andrew earned his medical degree from the Hofstra University North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine in Hempstead, NY, and later completed his residency in family medicine at Southside Hospital-Northwell in Bay Shore, NY, as academic chief resident. He is certified by the American Heart Association in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), has authored several publications and given numerous presentations.

Gretchen Schweigert (B.F.A.) has been appointed library director at Newfane Public Library in Newfane, NY. Schweigert, who was appointed to the position in May, previously was the library director at Royalton-Hartland Community Library for seven years and served as a trustee of the Roy-Hart library for two years. In addition to her Alfred University degree, she has a master's degree in information and library science from University at Buffalo.

2015

Honored Reunion Year

Ali Feeney (B.F.A.) was a featured artist at the Hot Glass Hangout and Studio Sale, held Sept. 13 at Urban Glass in Brooklyn, NY. Hot Glass Hangout is a free monthly demonstration series where artists create with glass in the hot shop. Urban Glass is an open-access facility with 17,000 square feet of state-of-the-art studios where more than 380 professional artists and designer create using glass. Ali is an emerging professional artist based in Brooklyn who has shown her work across the country. She earned her M.F.A from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2020. She has given lectures at the Corning Museum of Glass,

presented workshops at Alfred University, and taught a class at the Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, WA.

2024

Lucas Greiner (M.S. '24, glass science engineering) placed second in the prestigious Oldfield Award competition, sponsored annually by the Society of Glass Technology in recognition of students' undergraduate project theses and taught master's theses and research projects. It is open to students in the United Kingdom—where the Society of Glass Technology is based—and international students from around the globe. Lucas was presented with the overall second prize. His master's thesis, "Water Interactions with Silicate and

Phosphate Glasses: Taking Advantage of Corrosion," was partially supported through a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation-funded project at Alfred University researching ways to recycle glass. His experimental focus was the surface modification of recycled glass material for reuse in fertilizer or foam glass. Lucas joins recent Alfred University alumni who were among the top award recipients in the Oldfield Award competition. In 2021, Brian Topper, who earned a master's degree in materials science and engineering in December 2020, was awarded first prize. The following year, alumna Jen Hunt, who earned a master's degree in materials science and engineering in spring of 2022, took first place.

CELEBRATE 125 YEARS IN 2025!

JOIN US

St. Augustine, FL Jan 26 30, 2025
Composites Materials Structures (Booth)

New York City, NY Feb 12 15
College Art Association (Alumni Event)

Salt Lake City, UT Mar 26 29, 2025
NCECA (Booth & Alumni Event)

Novi, MI Apr 29 30, 2025
Ceramics Expo (Alumni Event)

Vancouver, BC May 4-9, 2025,
Pacific Rim Conference Ceramics
& Glass Technology

Fort Worth, TX May 14 17, 2025
GAS Conference (Alumni Event)

Columbus, Ohio Sept 28-Oct 1, 2025
Materials Science & Technology (Alumni Event)

Toledo, OH Sept, 2025
Glass Problems

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Alfred University
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SPRING 2025 EVENTS

February Black Glass Artist Series
April 3, 2025 Scholes Lecture + Poster Session
May 15, 2025 Foundry Ground Breaking

SUMMER 2025 EVENTS

Jun 5-8, 2025 Alfred University Reunion:
Celebrating Retired NYSCC Faculty;
Reception, Tours, & Exhibition
Jul 25, 2025 Summer Research Reception
+ Poster Competition
PLUS! Arts Workshops, Pre College Institutes,
Summer Research, Engineering Short Courses

FALL 2025 EVENTS

Night of Science & Arts / Glass Olympics /
Light Matter Film Festival / McMahon Lecture

2025 EXHIBITIONS

Jan 24-Mar 20 Cohen Gallery New Faculty
Jan 31-Mar 20 Fosdick-Nelson Gallery Foundations Division
April 3, 2025 Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center (PVGCC) Launch
Apr 5-May 9, 2025 MFA Exhibitions
May 8-Dec 14 Alfred Ceramic Art Museum *Memory Lane: Recalling a Legacy*
May 10, 2025 BFA Exhibitions
May 23-Jul 6 Cohen Gallery MFA Painting Alumni
Aug 29 - Oct 12 Fosdick-Nelson Gallery Painting Division
Fall 2025 PVGCC: Carder + Gardner

In Memoriam

1943

Richard F. Dickinson, July 17, 2024
1949
Daryle E. Tripp, May 1, 2024

1950

David Hildebrand, May 4, 2024
Joseph Seidel, Sept. 15, 2024

1951

William E. Willey, May 26, 2024

1952

Ralph J. Calabrese Jr., Aug. 31, 2024
Eloise M. (Mullen) Hilsdorf, May 14, 2024
Leon W. "Pete" Riker, March 26, 2024

1953

John L. Henkes, July 30, 2024
Kay M. (Gentile) Newman, April 15, 2024

1954

Hope (Abrams) Blonsky, May 8, 2024
Dorothy M. Hayes, June 15, 2024

1955

Nelson O. Albrecht, June 30, 2024
Patricia Di Umberto, May 17, 2024

1956

Lawrence G. Mass, May 19, 2024

1957

Ernest C. Taylor, July 20, 2024

1958

Barbara (Long) Zafuto, May 7, 2024
Stephen C. Saunders, June 10, 2024

1959

Karen Dennis Barney, Feb. 12, 2024
Richard E. Engle, June 4, 2024
Arthur Waugh, June 21, 2024

1960

C. Thomas Beard, June 27, 2024
Relva Buchanan, Aug. 9, 2024
Paul T. Culley, June 12, 2024
William B. Hanna, March 27, 2024
Richard F. Hunt, May 1, 2024
Noel W. Reitmeister, June 19, 2024

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
to register!

1961

Ray Pardon, Sept. 19, 2024
John E. Benson, April 2, 2024
Francis A. Gilligan, July 6, 2024
Judith E. (Douglass) Pearson, June 27, 2024
Joseph S. Pierce, June 21, 2024

1962

William M. "Boomer" Crozier, May 5, 2024
Richard H. DeMott, May 14, 2024
James C. Nosky, May 11, 2024
John L. Pfeiffer, May 11, 2024
Ann B. Walker, Sept. 5, 2024

1963

Gloria A. Austin, April 15, 2024
John M. Kozlowski, July 18, 2024
Robert J. Seider, July 8, 2024

1964

Robert Howe, Sept. 14, 2024

William J. Riley, July 7, 2024
Kathryn (Simons) Wurster-Schmidt,
July 21, 2024

1965

John Denton, Aug. 3, 2024
Kenneth A. Anderson, May 17, 2024
Walter C. Goller, June 5, 2024
Dennis G. Walrod, Aug. 18, 2024
Christian J. Hipp, Aug. 18, 2024

1966

Peter Dodge, June 26, 2024
Paul E. Train, July 18, 2024

1967

Robert M. (Snyder) Baker, Sept. 16,
2024
Nancy (Farnsworth) Downs, July 11,
2024

1968

Arline N. (Graff) Anderson, April 16,
2024
Francis S. Norton, May 26, 2024
Robert J. Williams, May 14, 2024

1970

James P. Green, June 14, 2024

1971

Wilfred F. Drake, April 11, 2024

1972

Raymond F. Cuzzolino, Aug. 12, 2024
Margaret M. (Long) Dowling, June 9,
2024
Gilbert E. Dupras, Aug. 28, 2024

1973

Dallyn Jenkins, Oct. 1, 2024

1975

Erwin "Bub" Siwek, Jan. 19, 2024
John N. Fanizzi, June 18, 2024
Courtney W. Smyth, May 11, 2024

1976

Timothy G. Arem, May 31, 2024

1977

Leonora C. Irish, July 28, 2024

1978

Patricia A. (Blocker) Blatch, April 2, 2024

1979

Patrick J. Patton, April 3, 2024

1980

Joseph E. Mooney, July 27, 2024

1984

Daniel P. Schick, July 17, 2024

1987

Dean E. Wildrick, April 17, 2024

1989

Evelina E. Fuller-Lincoln, June 17, 2024

1990

Anne M. (Higgs) Oldick, May 20, 2024

Drew T. Uhlig, Aug. 6, 2024

1991

James R. Bolton, July 2, 2024

1992

G. Jacob Fox IV, Aug. 26, 2024

Stephanie L. (Goebel) Quinn, May 23, 2024

1993

Michael J. Drabek, Sept. 4, 2024

Sally A. (Covert) Seawright, Aug. 8, 2024

Sandra L. Hackett, April 28, 2024

1994

Elisa (LaCourse) Martin, May 15, 2024

1997

Tracy A. Hyde, July 5, 2024

2000

Thomas R. Donnell, Aug. 25, 2024

**Obituaries**

Alan Littell '53, former director of News Bureau

Alan Littell '53, a Western New York author and journalist and former head of Alfred University's News Bureau, passed away on October 13 at the Hart Comfort House in Wellsville, NY. He was 95.

At the time of his passing, Alan was serving as curator and bibliographer of the Openhym Collection of Modern British Literature and Social History at Alfred University's Herrick Memorial Library.

Alan earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Alfred University in 1953 and in 1966 earned a master's degree in British history from Columbia University. For more than 40 years writing as a freelancer, he reported on travel for publications ranging from The New York Times and Travel & Leisure Magazine to The Athens (Greece) News. He contributed articles on voyaging and nautical history to Ocean Navigator, a national yachting publication.

In Western New York his work appeared regularly in The Buffalo News, The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle and The Olean Times Herald, and for 10 years he served as travel editor of The Hornell Sunday Spectator. In addition to his travel reporting, Alan wrote essays and opinion columns for the Olean and Hornell newspapers as well as for his hometown weekly, The Alfred Sun.

In addition to his work as a travel writer, Alan also published several books, including "The Absentminded Stargazer," a collection of 18 essays on people associated with Alfred University that he penned during his 18-year tenure (1968-86) as the university's public information officer.

In lieu of flowers, Alan's family suggests making a donation to the Hart Comfort House. A memorial service will be held in the spring. Online condolences may be expressed at www.wellsvillefuneralhome.com.

FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

Jack Hedlund '65 and his wife Linda

Founder Society members Jack Hedlund '65 and his wife Linda "want to give something back"

Jack Hedlund '65 and his wife, Linda, both grew up in Kane, PA. They were high school sweethearts and married entering his sophomore year at Alfred. Jack was a history and political science major while Linda worked at the local drugstore, Hitchcock Pharmacy. Following graduation, he began a 36-year career in education that includes earning his master's degree at Alfred, teaching in the Hornell school district, Elk County Christian and Ridgway High Schools and concluding as principal (19 years) and assistant to the superintendent (9 years) in his hometown of Kane.

An undergraduate athlete who lettered in football and track and is a member of Alfred University's Sports Hall of Fame, Jack also enjoyed a successful career in high school coaching and served with numerous interscholastic athletic associations including the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Rules Committee of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The Hedlunds are parents of three children including daughters Tammie and Tania and son Tim, who is a "chip," having graduated from Alfred University in 1989. They are also members of Alfred University's Founder's Society, composed of AU alumni who have donated cumulatively at least \$100,000 to Alfred University.



They have chosen to support undergraduate scholarships, helping students who otherwise would not be able to afford an Alfred University education.

"I came from a humble background," Jack says. "I wouldn't have been able to attend college without scholarship support. That's the point of the scholarship," he explains. "We want to give something back to the University. Our appreciation extends to wanting to

help other students experience what I got to experience. The heart and soul of any university are the students, and we want to help other students attend Alfred University and join the University community."

Members of Alfred University's Founders Society have provided significant support to all areas of the University, including endowment, capital projects and The Alfred Fund. The University is fortunate to have a growing number of alumni and friends who have made lifetime gifts totaling \$100,000 or more. Their exemplary generosity is deeply appreciated.

To learn more about the Founder's Society and other ways of supporting Alfred University, contact Alfred University's Advancement Office, or visit Alfred University's Leadership Giving website, or email Robin Mazejka, associate vice president, Philanthropic Relationships, at mazejka@alfred.edu.

JOIN US IN ALFRED THIS SUMMER!

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

Engineering Short Courses: Glass & Ceramics
Fracture Analysis (June 9-13) & Computational Methods (July 15-18)

Pre College Programs: June 23 - July 18, 2025
Week-Long Academic Institutes & Sports Clinics
Arts: Wheel Throwing, Painting, Photography, Portfolio Prep, Auditioning, Curating
STEM: Engineering, Astronomy, Women in STEM, Alfred E. Nigmas Puzzles, Meet Your Brain
Liberal Arts: Media & Politics, Ethical Conflicts in Scientific Research, Exploration in Equity
Sports: Swimming, Equestrian

Summer Arts Workshops: June 23 - July 18, 2025
1, 2, & 4 Week Workshops for Artists, Community, Students, & Teachers
Ceramics, Ceramic Science, Fearless Performance, Fibers, Papermaking, Performing as
Social Engagement, Printmaking, Sculpture, Sound: DIY MIDI, Theatre, Wood Turning
+ Workshops on Coastal Maine! Dance/Somatic Movement (August 4-8) & Photography (June 23-27)

MostArts Festival & the Young Pianist Competition July 13 - 19, 2025



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- Young Pianist Competition Evening Concert Series
- Chamber Music Series
- Music Under the Stars
- International Guest Artists

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Honoring all class years ending in 0 & 5!

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New York State College of Ceramics 125th Anniversary
 Hillel House 75th Anniversary

Special Greek Celebrations

Alpha Kappa Omicron — Annual gathering and meeting
 Delta Sigma Phi — Annual gathering
 Lambda Chi Alpha — Annual gathering

If your fraternity or sorority would like to plan a gathering too, contact us.
 We look forward to celebrating your history over Reunion weekend!

Special Group Celebrations

Alfred University’s Golden Saxons (graduates from 1974 and prior).
 Alfred University Chamber Singers – Celebrate as a Reunion special group before departing for your European Tour. If you have a suggestion for a special group celebration, contact us.

Visit AU’s Reunion website at go.alfred.edu/reunion or use the QR code. Details will be added as our Reunion celebration plans evolve. Registrations open by March 1. If you have any questions, group recommendations, or to be a class or special group coordinator, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 607-871-2144.

