

Alfred

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2018





OUTSIDE
of
ORDINARY



A new look for the *Alfred Magazine*, a new look for Alfred University

Alfred University began a journey to revitalize its brand in the spring of 2017. Why? We wanted to build engagement and pride in our University. We needed to differentiate ourselves by telling a compelling and forward-thinking story. Our goal was to strengthen awareness about the Alfred University you know and love, to grow our enrollment and build prestige with new audiences.

Since that time, we launched a completely redesigned website in March 2018 and created a whole new series of student recruitment materials with new images and a new tagline: "Outside of Ordinary." This fall, we launched an integrated marketing campaign in the Buffalo and Rochester, NY, markets with TV and radio commercials, billboards, and digital ads.

Help us spread the word. A lot is happening at Alfred University, but then again, it always has. We just need to spread the word in a refreshing new way. **No brand should be a best-kept secret.**

Alfred
MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2018 ISSUE

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OCTOBER 2018 ISSUE



Inside

- 2 Well rounded education helps to meet multiple challenges**
Bryan Hill '90 says that the education he received at Alfred University helped prepare him for a career in public administration.
- 5 Success in school and business built on teamwork**
At Alfred University, Carolyn Clark '90 learned the importance of teamwork and being open to different ideas, which has played a major role in her growing a successful business.
- 8 Lighting the way**
1983 alumnus John Edmond's intense desire to achieve was with him when he graduated with honors from Alfred University and later as part of a team whose breakthrough research revolutionized the electronics industry.
- 10 Returning alumna is new Engineering Dean**
Gabby Gaustad '04 is returning to Alfred University as dean of the Inamori School of Engineering and is intent on helping others enjoy the unique, rewarding experience she had as a student.
- 12 Alfred News Digest**
Major happenings on campus.
- 16 Saxon Athletics**
- 21 Class Notes**
- 37 Afterthoughts**
A personal message to alums from a member of the Alfred Family.

A full-page photograph of a man in a dark suit, light blue checkered shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and standing in front of a large building with several flags (American, Maryland, and a university flag) flying in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

‘Well-rounded’ education helps Bryan Hill meet multiple challenges

Bryan Hill’s professional career has seen him achieve tremendous success as an administrator in both higher education and government. He helped guide the transformation of the University of Maryland’s Department of Aerospace Engineering into one of the most elite programs of its kind in the country, and today is county executive of Fairfax County, managing more than 12,000 employees and an annual budget in excess of \$4 billion.

He has excelled as a leader at large universities, and in county governments serving populations both big and small, rural and urban. He gives much of the credit for his ability to adapt to vastly different environments and job responsibilities to the time he spent as a student at Alfred University.

By Mark Whitehouse

“Being able to assimilate within your surroundings is what I learned at Alfred,” Bryan said during a visit to campus in August, when he spoke at opening convocation. “I can go anywhere in the United States and fit in because of what I learned at Alfred University.”

Bryan, who graduated from Alfred University in 1990 with a bachelor’s degree in public administration, did not enroll at Alfred with designs on someday leading one of the largest government jurisdictions in the country.

“I came to play basketball,” said Bryan, who was born in London, England, and grew up in New Jersey, near New York City. He chose Alfred University because it was one of three schools that recruited him to play basketball, and admits that academics came after hoops on his list of priorities when he arrived in Alfred in the fall of 1985.

Bryan chose computer science as a major, but his interest in the field didn’t last long. “Pascal was my first computer science class, and my last,” he said. His second semester, he took some business classes and as a sophomore changed his major to public administration.

Following graduation, Bryan got a job with the Department of Citizen Services in Essex County, NJ, which had the eighth largest welfare department in the nation. It was there that he first felt called to a career in public service. “I felt I could help these people somehow,” he said.

Bryan ultimately moved on to graduate school, earning a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1995. “I knew I was either going to go into higher education or public administration,” he said.

It wound up being both. After graduating from USC, Bryan spent 13 years in higher education. At the University of Maryland, he was director of finance for the information technology office and director of administration for the department of aerospace engineering.

“Maryland went from one of the top 50 departments of aerospace engineering in the country to one of

the top five,” Bryan said, crediting professors Inderjit Chopra, Darryl Pines, and William Fourney, as well as department staff for the improvement. “Research funding went up eightfold.”

Bryan left Maryland in 2004 to become vice chancellor at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort. In 2008, he was appointed budget analyst in Beaufort County, SC, and a year later was elevated to deputy county administrator.

Weston Newton, the former chair of the Beaufort County Council now serving in the South Carolina House of Representatives, “convinced me to consider a career change,” from higher education to county government, he said.

“I coached youth sports throughout Beaufort County,” Bryan recalled. “Game days turned not only into coaching basketball, soccer, or football, it was time spent with Chairman Newton constantly in my ear during games on joining the

team in Beaufort County. His consistent prodding and creative leadership style are areas I have tried to exemplify during my career.”

After six years at Beaufort County, Bryan was appointed county administrator in James City County, VA, a post he held for three years before his appointment in Fairfax County in January. At James City County, he and the board of supervisors – led by then chairman Adam Kinsman, then vice chairman Kevin Onizuk – along with supervisor John McGlennon and chief financial officer Sue Mellen, developed a plan to “ensure the fiscal viability” of the county. What resulted was James City becoming just the 44th county in the United States – and the smallest county in the nation – to achieve a AAA bond rating.

“That was one of my proudest days when the announcement came,” Bryan said. “The great staff of James City County was now in rare air solely because of the great team assembled who understood they worked for the citizens of the county.”

The improvement in James City County’s financial standing led to Bryan’s departure from James City to

Continued on page 4

“My philosophy on leadership is quite simple: treat everyone the way you would like to be treated.”

— Bryan Hill '90 —

his current position at Fairfax County.

"I had no plans on moving (from James City to Fairfax)," Bryan said. "I was in San Antonio speaking on what we had done in James City County and a headhunter for Fairfax County was there. She suggested I apply for the position of county executive after our meeting."

Bryan interviewed for the position and was offered the job the same day. He would go from James City County, with a population of 73,000 and 900 county workers, to Fairfax County and its population of 1.1 million and 12,000 employees. His greatest challenge overseeing such a large entity?

"Managing politics, and not getting involved in politics. Understanding the challenges," he said. "I came from an organization in James City County with less than a thousand employees; I was able to remember names and past conversations. Today I must rely on my senior management team to incorporate the goals of the organization."

Bryan said seeking out input from his management team, treating people fairly, and leading by example are key components to his leadership style.

"My philosophy on leadership is quite simple: treat everyone the way you would like to be treated. I stress the importance of listening to my team while being able to break down and communicate at varying levels to ensure all employees are comfortable discussing ideas."

Bryan attributes much of his success to the time he spent at Alfred, where after a rough patch early on, he thrived as a student. He pointed to Robert Heineman, professor emeritus, political science, in particular. After spending much of his first two years struggling academically, something clicked for Bryan his junior year and he flourished as a student. "He (Heineman) got me in the right frame of mind. Once I learned how to study, it was easy," Bryan said.

As head of a government serving a large and diverse population, Bryan has to navigate a number of different challenges. He said his time at Alfred University helped mold him as a leader and prepare him for the

"Alfred encouraged students to take many courses outside of their major, thus creating a well-rounded educational experience."

— Bryan Hill '90 —

challenges he faces in his career.

"Alfred encouraged students to take many courses outside of their major, thus creating a well-rounded educational experience," he said. "What has been evident in my career is you must create a vision to communicate and implement a plan that incorporates desired outcomes that benefit your constituents. I firmly believe my engagement in the classroom (at Alfred University) with fellow

students and faculty developed an awareness and ability to engage all."

Bryan's fondness for Alfred University dates back to the first few days he was on campus as a first-year student. On his second day at school, he met his future wife, Kenita ('89, B.A., health management). "Eleven years to the day later, our first son was born," he noted. The couple have three sons – two in college and the youngest a senior in high school. Kenita is vice president of operations at Servarus, a health insurance company in Fairfax, VA.

Alfred is also where Bryan met one of his best friends, Sam Goble, with whom he has remained close over the years. Goble, who starred for the Saxon football team before graduating in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering, made the drive to Alfred from Waverly, NY, to hear Bryan speak at opening convocation.

Bryan said there are numerous advantages to attending a small, rural school like Alfred University, where there is a genuine concern for students to achieve and succeed.

"It helped me focus in on what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," he said. "The professors here cared...if you gave the effort, the faculty were always willing to spend the time necessary to ensure you understood the material. Alfred University was small enough for the faculty and staff to know you, they cared for you, and made sure you were positioned to achieve your goal. As we all know, a person's success can be attributed to many factors. Alfred is one of the many contributors that has helped me advance throughout my career."



Carolyn Clark's success, in school and in business, built on teamwork

Peloton Advantage, the medical communications firm Carolyn Clark '90 co-founded 13 years ago, has enjoyed steady growth over the years by following Clark's simple formula for success, which stresses teamwork.

Founded by Carolyn and business partner Mike McLaughlin, MD, Peloton Advantage is a leading medical communications company specializing in publication planning, scientific content development, and innovative scientific programs, platforms, and applications that engage and educate healthcare providers worldwide.

Continued on page 6

By Mark
Whitehouse

Under Carolyn's guidance, the Parsippany, NJ-based company has become a global leader in the medical communication field. Her leadership style can be traced back to her time as a student at Alfred University, where as a communication studies major she aspired to become a sportswriter, and as a student-athlete helped lead the women's soccer team to its greatest levels of success.

Playing for Pat Codispoti on the soccer team, Carolyn – who in 2006 was inducted into Alfred University's Athletics Hall of Fame – learned the importance of teamwork, which she has carried with her throughout her professional career. Indeed, the name of Carolyn's company, Peloton, comes from a cycling term that stresses team over individual. In a bicycle race, the peloton is formed when cyclists from the same team ride in a group, drafting on each other to conserve energy and ride more efficiently. "The group rides much more effectively than the single rider alone. That's how it is in business: it's the whole team that makes the company work," Carolyn explained.

"Pat instilled that in us. I first heard the saying 'There's no 'I' in team' from her and that's always resonated with me," Carolyn said.

"The experience I had as an athlete at Alfred by far exceeded my expectations of what I thought I'd have in college. Pat was a fantastic coach, and the players were so dedicated to the team. Having that foundation, and those relationships, when I think about my career, I always ask, 'How can I do better? How can I motivate people?'"

As a student at Alfred University, Carolyn had hoped to get a job as a sports writer after graduation. She had worked for then sports information director Pat Gillespie as a student assistant, and also wrote for the Fiat Lux student newspaper.

"Alfred forced me out of my comfort zone," Carolyn said. "It gave me the opportunity to write for the student paper. At a larger school there's no way I would have done that."

Carolyn recalled being pushed further out of her comfort zone when she was given an independent study project that required her to write about performing arts. "It opened my eyes to a lot of areas besides sports," she said. Getting to know people from a variety of backgrounds helped expand Carolyn's interests, something that has served her well as a leader in business.

"I lived with a whole host of roommates: business majors, ceramic engineers, art students. And that was the makeup of my team. It forced me to get into

all the nooks and crannies at Alfred," she explained. "I work with people in business with different backgrounds – medical, communications and PR, scientists. You have to have the ability to work with everyone and recognize their contributions."

Carolyn never attained the sports-writing gig she initially dreamed of. After graduation, she returned to Alfred briefly during the summer to help coach the women's soccer team in preseason, before turning her attention to finding work. She

was hired by Saber Communications in Wurtsboro, NY, near her hometown of Middletown. She worked there for three years before relocating to New Jersey and taking a position as project director at Emron, a managed care consulting company. In 1995, Carolyn joined Applied Clinical Communications as director of publication strategy and services.

In 2001, after Applied Clinical Communications was sold to United Health Group, Carolyn went back to school, earning her MBA from Seton Hall University in 2002. She took a position at Boron Lepore (BLP), where she helped develop a division – Medesta Publications Group – which provided medical communications services for the company. BLP was sold to Cardinal Health and Clark remained with Cardinal as vice president of publication services until 2005, when she and McLaughlin started Peloton Advantage.

The company remains in the same location in Parsippany where it was founded, and today has more than 100 employees. Carolyn serves as company

"I love the learning aspect and intellectual challenges I received at Alfred. I apply that every day at Peloton."

– Carolyn Clark '90 –



Carolyn Clark, left, meets with members of the Peloton Advantage team, Eileen Gutschmidt, right, and Dana Torchia '16 (marketing), '17 (M.B.A.), far right. Photography by Ellen Denuto.

president and McLaughlin as chief scientific officer.

Carolyn's leadership style, which she said was influenced by her time at Alfred, stresses maintaining a positive attitude, being openly active in the day-to-day operations, and soliciting input and ideas from others.

"You have to be present and participate in your business, and you have to communicate the direction and goals of the organization. Also, you have to have the ability to listen. I don't have an answer for everything; I want to hear other suggestions and figure out solutions together," Carolyn said.

She said giving employees flexibility is important to the success of her business. "We've moved into a more flexible work environment. Not everyone is in the office every day. The reality is there is a lot of life outside of work. We try to make sure our staff can participate in that as much as possible."

The results of Carolyn's management style are evident in the continued growth of the company – 20 employees have been added in the last year alone – and several employees have been with Peloton Advantage for a decade or longer. "In our field, that typically doesn't happen," she said.

Today, Carolyn lives in Basking Ridge, NJ, with her wife, Jody Stowe, and their two children. Her affinity for Alfred University and the leadership qualities she honed there as a student have translated to her role as a member of the University's Board of Trustees. Carolyn, who currently serves as vice chair and is poised to become the first female chair in Board history, marvels at the commitment of the Board to the University's growth and well-being.

"The Board is such a collaborative and supportive environment. Whether you went to Alfred in the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, or '90s, we all have that common passion for the University," she said. "When I went to Seton Hall, the motto was 'Where Leaders Learn.' I think that way about Alfred, especially when I think about our Board."

Of Alfred University's impact on her life and the role it has played in her success, Carolyn says: "The experience of Alfred helps you grow and challenges you, so you can challenge yourself every day of your life. It helped me become an ongoing learner. I love the learning aspect and intellectual challenges I received at Alfred. I apply that every day at Peloton."



Lighting the Way

John Edmond helps lead Cree through three decades of innovation

By Mark Whitehouse

In the mid-1980s, John Edmond '83 was among a group of five graduate students at North Carolina State University researching ways to synthesize silicon and carbon to create silicon carbide, a compound sought after by the electronics industry for use in lighting applications and in high-power, high-frequency, high-temperature electronic components.

Creating silicon carbide in a laboratory had proved to be a daunting task for industry giants, but John and his colleagues at N.C. State – working on an Office of Naval Research-funded project – succeeded where the giants could not.

“It had been worked on for years by IBM, Westinghouse, and General Electric in an attempt to make transistors and diodes products from this material. No one could figure out how to make it,” said Edmond, who earned a bachelor’s degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University. “We figured it out.”

One of the students who worked on the research project at N.C. State, Eric Hunter, along with his brother Neal, approached the others – Edmond,

John Palmour, Calvin Carter, and Thomas Coleman – with the suggestion they form a company and manufacture products utilizing silicon carbide technology. The group agreed and, in 1987, Cree Inc. was born.

“We took no venture capital, just private financing by family and friends,” recalled John, who earned his doctorate in materials science from N.C. State in the spring of 1987. “I defended my thesis on Friday and started work the following Monday. I’ve been there ever since.”

Today, Cree, located in Durham, NC, is a worldwide manufacturer and marketer of lighting-class light emitting diode (LED) components, commercial interior and exterior LED lighting fixtures, LED bulbs, and semiconductor products for power and radio-frequency applications. Most of its products are based on the silicon carbide that Cree researchers successfully synthesized in the N.C. State lab.

When the company made its initial public offering in 1993, there were about 50 employees; today, there

are more than 6,500 and annual revenue equals \$1.5 billion. LEDs developed by Cree have been used in a number of residential, commercial, and industrial applications. Semi-conductors made by Cree are used to power electric vehicles and solar energy systems.

Alfred University has its share of Cree products, too, thanks to the generous philanthropic support of the Edmond family.

The lighting at Alfred University's Yunevich Stadium was replaced this summer with energy efficient LEDs developed by Cree. Ann's House, a 48-bed residence hall built in 2009, became the first of several campus facilities to use LED lights.

"We're known as the best silicon carbide company in the world. It's because we focused on it from day one, while everyone else stopped (pursuing its development)," John said.

John is director of advanced optoelectronics technology, serving as chief scientist in Cree's lighting, LED component, and silicon carbide materials areas. He has 163 issued and six pending patents in the United States, with an additional 260 issued and 28 pending foreign patents.

"I'm still involved in LEDs and LED lighting, but only the part that's critical to our business," said John, who is transitioning back into a role focusing on silicon carbide and is leading a team of three scientists researching and developing new ways to utilize the material.

As a co-founder with more than three decades at Cree, John has been in a leadership role his entire tenure with the company. He describes leadership as something a person is born with and develops over time.

"I've worked with thousands of people over the years. To me, leadership is such an innate thing," said John. "You lead by example. So many times (at Cree) we have these crises, where you have to make a decision. My thought is, 'I'm going to lead the charge, get behind me.' Teamwork is always critical."

John said he has always felt it important to be visible in the company, and to show passion for his work and inspire it in others.

"You have to constantly be out there. You don't just sit at your desk. I go and visit all the buildings and talk to people. They have to know that what they're doing is important. You need a vision you believe in, and if you're passionate about it, people will flock to you. I'm very

"Alfred was the perfect place to drive my desire to excel and be a leader."

— John Edmond '83 —

hands-on. If there's a problem, I work on it. People see that."

John said he was motivated from a young age to do well while growing up in the small Steuben County community of Cohocton. One of eight children, his parents owned their own business in town, which had a significant influence on his entrepreneurial and leadership instincts. "Growing up, I played sports and did well in school. I loved studying and loved

the intellectual side of it," said John. "I was very self-driven."

That drive to achieve followed him to Alfred University, where he enrolled in 1979 as a ceramic engineering major. After a semester, John married his high school sweetheart, Rita Schichler, and moved off campus, commuting each day from Cohocton to Alfred. He recalls his chemistry professor, Wes Bentz, telling him getting married as a young student was a mistake.

"He told me 'you're throwing your life away,'" he said. "My response was, 'You just watch.' I took it as a personal challenge."

John graduated on time, and at the top of his class, something he says he has lightheartedly ribbed Bentz about. "But professors like him brought out the best in me for sure," he said, citing several educators – Bentz, Jim Reed, Mike Webb, Milt Tuttle, and David Rossington, among others – as having a positive influence on his education.

"There were so many who really challenged me, so that I wanted to not just meet their expectations but exceed them," said John, who has been a member of the Alfred University's Board of Trustees since 2008. "Alfred was the perfect place to drive my desire to excel and be a leader."

John and Rita started a family while he was at Alfred: their oldest child was born in New York and their youngest three in North Carolina. His wasn't a typical college career, but the path he chose played a significant role in his success. "My experience at Alfred, some people saw it as adversity, but I didn't see it that way. School became like a job to me. I was very serious about it. That's carried over and followed me."

INAMORI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



Gabby Gaustad '04 returns to Alfred University as Inamori School dean

From club president to dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, Dr. Gabrielle “Gabby” Gaustad has come full circle as not only an inspiring individual, but as an inspiring leader.

“I’m so excited to come back to Alfred University and to start my new position as a dean,” said Gabby, who will assume her duties as Inamori School dean Jan. 1.

Gabby came to Alfred University in 2000 as a Merit Scholar and graduated in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in ceramic engineering. Throughout her undergraduate career at Alfred, Gabby took full advantage of several opportunities, including a research fellowship with the NASA Reduced Gravity Flight Opportunities Program where she and four other Alfred University students

were able to fly in a retrofitted KC-135 nicknamed the “vomit comet” out of the NASA location in Houston, TX.

After graduating from Alfred University, Gabby earned a master’s degree in computation for design and optimization, and a doctorate in materials science and engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She then began teaching at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) where she is currently completing her 10th year of service to the institution as an associate professor and Master of Science program coordinator for the Golisano Institute for Sustainability.

Gabby has held positions of leadership at RIT, having served on the Golisano Institute's admissions and retention committee for nine years, chairing it for five. She has published more than 60 papers in high-impact, peer-reviewed publications; edited several journals in her field; organized numerous conferences and symposia; and been nominated for excellence in teaching awards.

In research, Gabby has been awarded \$1.9 million in research funding as a principle investigator from the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. She has also secured more than \$2.3 million in research funding from federal, foundation, and industry sources as a co-principal investigator with a wide variety of researchers on interdisciplinary projects. Due to her success, Gabby was named to RIT's "Principal Investigator Millionaire Club" in 2015, and has received RIT's Excellence in Research Award.

Gabby points to traits like being flexible and understanding, and being responsive in critical situations, as having helped her grow as a leader in her field. "As a leader, you're going to be a lightning rod, and you've got to take that criticism for the team," she said.

Perhaps the most important characteristic of a leader, Gabby said, is a willingness to mentor and to find pride in the successes of others through that mentorship. This understanding of mentorship came out of the relationships she built and still maintains with her professors at Alfred University – including Doreen Edwards, former dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, and William Carty, professor of ceramic engineering and materials science; and Holly Shulman, founder of Ceralink, where Gabby served as a co-op engineer her senior year. Shulman is now a professor of ceramic engineering at Alfred University.

"When things got hard (as a graduate student at MIT), I could look back on Alfred University and the people there," Gabby said. However, it was not just Alfred University's people that she found so impactful to her.

There is so much about Alfred to love, and so many

"As a leader, you're going to be a lightning rod, and you've got to take that criticism for the team,"

— Gabrielle Gaustad '04 —

important details to recognize, Gabby noted. From the small class sizes to the copious amount of hands-on work available to students, she said she appreciated all of it, and still does. Continuously, though, she reinforced the fact that these details and opportunities would not be what they are without the individuals on campus.

"When something is special, specifically a place, most of the time it is because of the people there," Gabby said.

While discussing her appointment as dean, she talked about her hope to aid in strengthening the Alfred University alumni network, and mentioned the number of people she graduated with who reached out to congratulate her on this new position. Her response to all of them was to be prepared for an invitation back to campus to lecture and meet current students.

Gabby also plans to promote an initiative to grow more support for females in the school of engineering, and in the general university setting. In doing this, she hopes to promote the same kind mentorship that she experienced during her own time at Alfred University.

"At most universities, grad students cannot take a maternity leave or leave of absence because so many of them depend on their university's health insurance," Gabby said, commenting on one of several female-focused issues she hopes to bring to light and address in her new position.

In addition to talking about her plans to lead initiatives as a dean, Gabby expressed her excitement to work with and learn from members of the administration at Alfred University, especially president Mark Zupan.

"He's a special person," she said of Zupan, "and when it comes to leadership, I can't think of anyone better to learn from."

When Gabby begins her tenure at Alfred University Jan. 1, she will bring a love for Alfred, a passion for research, and a desire to continue her growth as a leader. "I'm ambitious, and I have goals that I will meet at Alfred University," she said.

NEWS Digest



Architect's rendering of the new Moskowitz-Tefft halls project.

Project will link Tefft and Moskowitz halls, providing unique space

A gift and a grant will allow Alfred University to link two newly renovated residence halls, and create a space for innovative residence-life programming, said president Mark Zupan in announcing the project. It is part of an ongoing initiative to enhance residence halls.

With a gift from Marlin Miller '54 '89HD and a \$666,666 grant from New York State's Higher Education Capital Program, Alfred University will link Tefft and Moskowitz halls. Both are four-story brick residence halls, constructed in 1963 as "men's dormitories." The addition between the two will allow for the installation of an elevator to serve the two buildings, tripling the number of residence hall rooms with access to an elevator. The common space will also allow Residence Life to develop some new programs, Zupan said.

Moskowitz Hall, formerly called Reimer Hall, was renovated during the summers of 2017 and 2018. Ann Moskowitz, a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, whose late husband Joel Moskowitz '61 '95HD was a long-time

member of the Board, made a gift to cover the cost of the renovation, continuing the couple's efforts to improve student housing on the Alfred University campus. Earlier gifts created Joel's House and Ann's House.

Miller, who has been a trustee since 1972 and is a past chair of the Board, made a gift to renovate Tefft Hall in memory of Phillip Tefft '39, his mentor when he joined the Board and the person he credits with educating him about the impact of philanthropy. It was a lesson well-learned; Miller is the University's most-generous donor. Work on the Tefft Hall renovation began this summer.

"During our Strategic Planning Retreat in August, we shared a sketch of the proposed two-story link between Moskowitz and Tefft halls, and Marlin immediately committed to funding the addition," Zupan noted. "As always, he was quick to generously respond to a need and his ongoing support is profoundly appreciated."

Robert S. Cohen '59 establishes scholarship to attract New York City students

Alfred University left a lasting impression on Robert Stephan Cohen, who came to the small but multi-disciplinary and distinguished school in Allegany County from his native Brooklyn in 1955. Bob, a 1959 graduate of Alfred University, is a senior partner in a prominent Manhattan law firm and credits his time spent at Alfred for much of his success.

"Alfred was a very important part of my life; it changed my life," Bob said. "I was a lower class kid from Brooklyn. Alfred opened my eyes to so many things."

Bob earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Alfred University in 1959 at age 20 and went on to receive his law degree from Fordham University. A former member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, he is senior partner at Cohen Clair Lans Greifer Thorpe and Rottenstreich LLP, one of the most well-known and successful matrimonial law firms in the United States.

Now, more than five decades after graduating from Alfred, Bob wants to help attract more students from New York City to Alfred. He has established a scholarship fund targeting students from select schools in the city. Beginning with the



Robert Stephan Cohen '59

2019-20 academic year, The Cohen Fund for Admissions Innovations will fund three scholarships to run through the 2022-23 school year. Bob's expectation is that the scholarships will entice more students from city schools who want to attend a distinctive rural-based university.

Several Alfred University alumni, including Joseph Smith '66 and Philip Stillman '64, are raising funds from their fraternity brothers to support the Cohen scholarship. Money raised will underwrite the cost of a private jet flight to bring guidance counselors and administrators from New York City schools to Alfred University. They will spend time on

campus, learning how their students would benefit from an Alfred University education.

Mark Zupan, president of Alfred University, thanked Bob for his ongoing generosity: "Bob's philanthropic investment will allow promising students from the New York City area to follow in his footsteps and provide the means for our University to transform their lives, thereby bettering our world."

Mark Lewis appointed College of Business dean



Mark Lewis

Mark Lewis was appointed in September to the position of dean of the College of Business, after serving the last two years as interim dean.

As interim dean, Mark was at the forefront of efforts to develop and expand the College's offerings, successfully coordinating its AACSB accreditation; working with the University's Enrollment Management office to emphasize the University's 4+1 MBA degree options for students in all degree disciplines; and on various articulation agreements with two-year institutions to attract transfer students. Initiatives Mark will oversee as dean include implementing the Applied Experiential (APEX) Learning Program at the College of Business.

A native of Almond, NY, Mark studied ceramic engineering at Alfred University for three semesters before receiving an associate's degree in business from Alfred State College. He earned a bachelor's degree in business and public management from the SUNY Institute of Technology in 1976 and an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University in 1980.

Mark served 20 years as an Air Force officer and worked for the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). After retiring from the NYSE, he joined Alfred University in 2010. An assistant professor of finance and information systems, he was twice selected for the Kruson Excellence in Teaching Award and holds the Tredennick Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies. He is the faculty adviser to the Student Managed Investment Fund, which has grown from \$160,000 to \$480,000 under his watch.

Princeton Review rates Alfred University among the best in the nation

Princeton Review's annual college guide again rates Alfred University among the best in the nation. "The Best 384 Colleges," the 2019 version of the guide, puts Alfred University among the top 15 percent of colleges and universities in the United States.

Among colleges and universities located in the eight-county Western New York region, only Alfred University and St. Bonaventure made the list.

"It is gratifying to have Alfred University faculty and staff recognized for the quality education they provide our students," said Alfred University president Mark Zupan.

According to the guide, which bases its assessments on actual comments from students, "Alfred's 'outstanding, talented, and dedicated' faculty is one of its biggest draws.

An English writing student gushes that professors 'bring a level of vibrancy and academic encouragement through enthusiasm to the classroom.' 'The professors are always pushing you to reach your full potential' and are 'always willing to put time into student independent projects. 'Students also rave about the small classes sizes. 'It is the closest to one-on-one teaching you can get,' a clinical and counseling psychology major notes, and 'the classroom size is perfect for a more personalized education.'

Students also remarked on the "warm" atmosphere," at Alfred University, adding "You can't go down the street without receiving a smile." Students are "friendly, outgoing, and involved, and many do community service work and are active in one of Alfred's many clubs and organizations."

Alumna's gift will help students graduate on time

A gift from Pamela Lavin Bernstein '71 will help Alfred University make good on its pledge to students that the University will make it as easy as possible for them to graduate on time.

The \$625,000 gift will allow the University to augment its faculty advisors with professional academic advisors who will serve as coaches to a large portion of the University's first-year students, helping them to stay on track to complete their degrees on time, which is part of the Alfred Pledge. The Pledge promises that if students fulfill their part of the bargain with satisfactory, on-time completion of courses and declaration of major, the University will assure they can complete their degree in four years.

"We are thrilled with the support Pam Bernstein is providing our students with her gift," said Alfred University president Mark Zupan. "Through her gift, Alfred University will gain the tools and the people it needs to improve our student retention and four-year graduation rates."

The academic advisors will work with students who may experience barriers to timely degree completion, and coordinate with the Career Development Center, Financial Aid, the Center for Academic Success, and faculty advisors to help students identify the appropriate path to a degree, and ultimately to a career.



Wes Bentz, left, with President Mark Zupan

Kelleher creates scholarship in honor of Wes Bentz

An alumna who credits Dr. Wes Bentz, professor emeritus of chemistry at Alfred University, with inspiring her own love of chemistry is creating a scholarship in his honor, and inviting others to join her.

Susan Kelleher '90 '16 HD may well be the best-known veterinarian in the United States as the star of "Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER," now in its fifth season on the NatGeo Wild channel. Part of the reason for her ability to treat the exotic animals, sometimes in some unusual ways, is her background in chemistry, courtesy of Dr. Bentz and Alfred University.

"I truly credit Alfred University and Dr. Bentz for making me the clinician I am today," Susan said. "My background in chemistry has helped me in so many cases where the exotic animal would have died if I had used a more traditional, textbook, veterinary approach."

Susan has earmarked the Bentz scholarship for a student who "tries really hard and needs the support," and who is, of course, a chemistry major.

Other alumni who benefitted from Dr. Bentz's teaching can donate to the Bentz Scholarship by going to the Alfred University giving site, and selecting the scholarship from the pull-down menu.

Graduate honors LaCourse with gift to support innovative degree programs

An Alfred University graduate has committed to giving \$1.25 million, anonymously, to support an initiative started by William LaCourse, professor of glass science, to develop innovative degree programs in engineering and art.

LaCourse, while serving as acting head of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, wondered how he and others could foster increased interdisciplinary opportunities that would take full advantage of the educational environment that is unique to Alfred University. Specifically, he hoped to develop a degree program in which students could earn both a B.S. in glass, ceramic or materials science engineering, and a B.F.A. in a related art discipline in just five years, rather than the normal seven.

There have been examples of successful collaborations between art and engineering faculty over the years. Now, student employees and professors are busy developing new “Studio Laboratory” courses in which double-degree students will perfect their artistic abilities while simultaneously studying the science that makes the art possible.

LaCourse and his wife Patricia, emeritus librarian at Scholes Library, which houses both art and engineering materials, created a fund that allows the University to facilitate those intersections of art and engineering. Creating and sustaining an academic program such as LaCourse envisions, however, will require substantially greater resources. That is where the anonymous donor, one of LaCourse’s former students, wants to help with the \$1.25 million gift.

CACT funding renewed for 10 years

The Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT), first established at Alfred University 30 years ago, has been reauthorized for up to another 10 years. The designation brings with it \$920,000 a year in state funding to work with glass- and ceramics-based industries in New York State.

“We would like to extend our appreciation to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Howard Zemsky, economic development commissioner for the state and president of the Empire State Development Corporation, for their continued confidence in Alfred University,” said Alfred University president Mark Zupan.

Alfred University’s CACT serves some of New York State’s largest industries, including Corning Incorporated, Lockheed Martin, and General Electric, as well as smaller, start-up companies.

“Research, analytical work, and all the other services we offer are vital parts of our instructional program. Through research projects and other work for industrial clients, we are able to provide graduate and undergraduate students with meaningful research experience that makes them more marketable,” said W. Richard Stephens, provost, vice president for academic affairs.

CACT funding comes from the science and technology division of the Empire State Development Corporation (NYSTAR).

Alfred University announces changes in Board of Trustees membership



Neal Miller

Changes in the Alfred University Board of Trustees membership were announced, effective July 1. Leaving the board will be Eliza-

beth Reina '02, M.S. '05, and Christine Kulp '71. Newly-elected trustees are Neal Miller, Patricia St. George '89, and Matthew Washington '04.

Elizabeth, who received a bachelor’s degree in French in 2002 and a master’s in counseling in 2005 from Alfred University, joined the Board in 2015 to serve a three-year term as an alumni-elected trustee. As a trustee, she served on the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Advancement committees.



Patricia St. George '89

She has been vice chair of the Student Affairs committee and a member of the Advancement committee. In recognition of her service to the Board, she was elected a Life Trustee at the May meeting of the Board.

Neal retired in 2008 from Fidelity Investments, where he was one of the top three money managers in the company’s history. He is also a 1961 graduate of the Harley School in Rochester, NY, where Alfred University president Mark Zupan was a former Board member.

A 1971 graduate of Alfred University with a degree in nursing, Christine joined the Board in 2006 as an alumni-elected trustee and was re-elected in 2009.



Matthew Washington '04

After graduating from Alfred University with a degree in accounting, Patricia joined KPMG in 1989 and was promoted to partner in 2003. She serves as a management consultant in KPMG’s Federal Advisory Practice and is the lead for many of the firm’s largest defense-contracting-related clients.

Matthew earned a bachelor’s degree in comparative cultures from Alfred University and served a three-year term as a member of the Alumni Council. He spoke at Convocation in 2016 and delivered the commencement address to AU-NYC graduates in June. He serves as the deputy borough president for economic development and budget in Manhattan.



SAXON athletics

Four alumni welcomed into the Hall of Fame

Alfred University welcomed four former star student-athletes into its Athletics Hall of Fame in September. The inductees pictured at right, with Paul Vecchio, athletics director (center), are, from left: Daniel Landrigan '95, Jen (Benson) Oades '01, Heather Masotto (on behalf of her brother, the late David Vail '04), and Don Miller '07. Daniel played lacrosse for four years, helping lead the Saxons to three NCAA tournament appearance and earning All-American honors in 1995. Jen played softball for four years during the program's early years, twice earning all-conference recognition. She still ranks among the career leaders in runs and batting average. Don was a four-year starting defensive lineman for the Saxons, twice named an All-American and four times recognized as an Empire 8 all-star. Dave played lacrosse for four years, earning All-Empire 8 honors each year, and was an All-American in 2004. He ranks second in career assists and third in career points at Alfred University. Dave passed away in 2016 after a seven-year battle with Ewing's Sarcoma.



Athletics Department announces coaching appointments

Three new coaches were added to the athletics department staff this fall, including alumnus Stephen Pribble, who was appointed offensive coordinator for the football team. Other new coaches are Jordan Crouch, men's and women's tennis, and Mike Moskowitz, women's basketball.

Pribble earned a master's degree in education from Alfred University in 2011, serving two seasons (2009 and 2010) as a graduate assistant coaching wide receivers. Both years, the Saxons advanced to the NCAA Division III playoffs, with the 2010 squad advancing to the national quarterfinals.



Stephen Pribble '11

Before returning to Alfred University, Pribble held assistants positions at Fordham (2017), Lock Haven (2015-16), Urbana (2014), and Manchester (2011-13). He has a bachelor's degree in business management from Lock Haven (2008).

Crouch came to Alfred University following a four-year tennis career at Houghton College, where he



Jordan Crouch

earned a bachelor's degree in sport recreation and wellness in 2018.

While at Houghton, he served as the director of the Houghton College Tennis Camp. A native of Fillmore, Crouch will also serve as Life Skills coordinator at Alfred University. In that role, he will oversee initiatives to strengthen retention rates among first-year student-athletes.

Moskowitz comes to Alfred University from SUNY New Paltz where he served as an assistant for three years. During his tenure, the Hawks twice made the NCAA tournament, advancing to the Sweet 16 in 2017.



Mike Moskowitz

Prior to coaching at New Paltz, Moskowitz spent one season (2014-15) as the student assistant for the SUNY Oneonta men's basketball team.

Moskowitz was the girls' junior varsity head coach and assistant girls' varsity coach at Unadilla Valley Central High School. There, he coached former Alfred University standout Amanda Off '17, who finished her career as the Saxons' second-leading career scorer.

Nick Clark '11 – Honoring a fallen hero

Nick Clark '11 was known in Alfred University circles as not only an outstanding football player – one of the greatest ever to don the Purple and Gold – but also as a model student and citizen, always willing to give of himself for the good of others.

Nick's selflessness was never more evident than on the morning of July 1. A New York State trooper serving from the Bath barracks, Nick was killed in the line of duty, shot while responding to a report of a suicidal man barricaded in a residence in the Steuben County town of Erwin.

What Nick meant to those who knew him – from his hometown of Canisteo and the surrounding area, at Alfred University, and in the law enforcement community – was evident at his funeral on July 8 in the Galanis Family Arena on the University campus. Thousands attended, many of them police officers from across the nation, to pay their respects to a fallen hero.

Nick played four years on the Alfred University football team, finishing as one of the finest players in the storied history of the program. He was a two-time All-America and Empire 8 Conference Defensive Player of the Year honoree as well as a four-time Empire 8 all-star, two-time ECAC All-Region selection, and ECAC Merit Award winner. After graduating from Alfred University in 2011 with a degree in environmental studies, Nick tried out for the Buffalo Bills before settling on a career in law enforcement and graduating from New York State Police's Basic School in 2015.

Alfred University honored Nick at the 2018 football team's season opener Sept. 1 against visiting Thiel College. Nick's former teammates and troopers who served with him were invited onto the field for pregame ceremonies. His family, including



Nick Clark '11.

mother Theresa Gunn, an Alfred University accounting professor, participated in the coin toss as honorary captains, and a montage of highlights from Clark's playing days was shown on the stadium's scoreboard video screen.

Nick's number 32 is stenciled onto the turf at Yunevich Stadium, and a special decal honoring Clark adorns the players' helmets. Athletics director Paul Vecchio and Bob Rankl, head football coach, announced that the number 32 will be worn by a player selected each year by the coaching staff, honoring Nick's passion, determination, and service to others on and off the field of play.

The University established a scholarship in Nick's honor. The Nicholas F. Clark '11 Endowed Scholarship will be given with priority to children of first responders. As of Oct. 1, close to \$50,000 had been raised for the scholarship, combining donations with

proceeds from sales of T-shirts with an image of the helmet decal honoring Nick. The shirts are being sold at all home games this year and at the University bookstore. To donate to the scholarship fund, please call the Alfred University Advancement Office at 607-871-2144. Checks should be made payable to Alfred University, with Nicholas F. Clark '11 Endowed Scholarship written on the memo line, and mailed to Alfred University Office of University Advancement, 1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802.

Vecchio also announced that the Ideal Saxon Award, the athletics department's most prestigious award, will be renamed the Nicholas F. Clark '11 Ideal Saxon Award. Established in 2013, the award recognizes the achievements of a male senior and a female senior student-athlete at Alfred University who "displays excellence in both academics and athletics while providing service and leadership of distinction to the Alfred University community."





Athletics – whether it be at the intercollegiate level or in clubs and intramurals – represents a significant segment of student life at Alfred University. More than 400 students are members of 21 varsity intercollegiate teams and another 100-plus participate on intramural and club teams.

The Joyce Walton Strength and Conditioning Center

Facilities improvements reflect importance of athletics and recreation

Over the last decade, the University has demonstrated a commitment to its sports and recreation programs through a concerted effort to improve facilities. Those efforts benefit not only student-athletes, but in many cases the entire University and local community as well.

“The strides that we have made in terms of significant physical upgrades within both our athletic and recreational facilities impact the University in a variety of ways,” said Paul Vecchio, director of athletics. “This has put us back in the game with our peer aspirants in terms of facilities that will meet the needs of the 21st century collegiate student-athlete. And many of our upgrades give all Alfred University students, faculty, staff, and community members first-rate facilities with which to pursue their goals of recreation and healthy living.”

Over the last year alone, significant improvements have been made to the Gibbs Fitness Center and the new Joyce Walton Strength and Conditioning Center was added. Funding for that project – as well as for the Joyce Walton Center four years earlier – was provided by Charlie Joyce, member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, and Sherry Walton '80, '88 M.S.

The Gibbs Fitness Center was fitted with new training machines, free weights, and Olympic platforms while the former squash courts were repurposed to serve primarily as a cardio space. The Joyce Walton Strength and Conditioning Center, which serves as a varsity weight room, includes a

dynamic fitness area complete with 12 Olympic racks, free weights, dynamic fitness equipment, air bikes, and a 13-yard turf.

“The incredible thing about Charlie and Sherry’s philanthropy through the years is how focused it is on our local communities. They continue to tirelessly support those in the Southern Tier and have completely transformed the opportunities for not only Alfred University student-athletes, but indeed, our Alfred campus and community,” Vecchio said.

Space above the cardio room was renovated to provide a classroom and rehabilitation facility, which includes state-of-the-art equipment and opportunities for hands-on experience for athletic training and health/fitness management majors. The Hansinger Family Physical Rehabilitation Center was made possible by a gift from Mena '73 and Rick Hansinger '75. Both Rick and Mena are long-standing supporters of the Alfred University athletics program. Rick is the former president of Saxon Nation, a fundraising arm of the athletics department.

“This gift to support those who are both learning how to heal others – our athletic trainers and health/fitness management majors – as well as the student-athletes they are making whole again is emblematic of everything that Rick and Mena have done in their lives,” Vecchio commented.

All told, the updates to the expanded fitness center and the additions of the varsity weight room, cardio space, and

classroom and rehabilitation facility brings the health and wellness space in the McLane Center to more than 6,500 square feet.

Other improvements to athletic facilities completed this year include a new video scoreboard at Yunevich Stadium; the Saxon Victory Room, a new football locker facility funded by Russ '67 and Jo Ann Cesari; new starting blocks in Lebohner Pool, supported by swimming and diving alumni; a new All-American wall, also in Lebohner Pool, featuring updated plaques of the University's swimming and diving All-Americans; and new LED lighting at Yunevich Stadium.

"Thanks to the generosity of Russ and Jo Ann (Cesari) our football team has a place to prepare for victory that matches the tremendous legacy of Saxon football dating back over 100 years. This gift, along with recent upgrades to our men's and women's soccer and women's lacrosse locker rooms, are providing our Saxons with first-rate facilities," Vecchio remarked.

Funding for the Bob '66 and Pat Codispoti Scoreboard at Yunevich Stadium was given in recognition of the couple

"Our athletic programs serve to attract top students while developing their team-playing, communication, time management, and leadership skills, as well as their work ethic and core values, such as integrity."

- Mark Zupan -

who have been supporters of Alfred University athletics. Bob, a former football player and coach at his alma mater, has long been the radio voice of the Saxons and is current president of Saxon Nation, while Pat enjoyed a distinguished career as head coach of both the women's soccer and softball teams.

The lighting at Yunevich Stadium was funded by John Edmond '83, co-founder of Cree, and his wife, Rita. The new stadium lighting at Yunevich is made by Cree, a worldwide manufacturer of lighting-

class light emitting diode (LED) components, commercial interior and exterior LED lighting fixtures, LED bulbs, and semiconductor products for power and radio-frequency applications.

The recent work in the McLane Center is the latest during a decade of improvements to Alfred University's athletic facilities, which began in 2009, when Peter '67 and Maris Cuneo funded an expansion at the Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center at Maris Cuneo Equine Park. In 2010, new bleachers and a new pressbox were installed at Yunevich Stadium, and the Astroturf surface on the playing field was torn up and replaced with Field Turf. Two years later, Alfred
Continued on page 20



The new football locker room, funded by Russ '67 and Jo Ann Cesari.



Pat and Bob '66 Codispoti at the unveiling of the new scoreboard.

University alumni Greg '92 and Jeni Connors '94 funded the Connors Family Pavilion at the south end of the stadium.

Harrington Field was unveiled in 2013, giving the Saxons' softball team a home on campus, and a year later, in the spring of 2014, the Joyce Walton Family Center for Health and Wellness opened. The Joyce Walton Center is a 33,000-square-foot facility containing all-purpose courts, an indoor track, locker rooms and a multi-purpose room. In the fall of 2014, a gift from the Galanis family-funded renovations of the McLane Center gymnasium. Improvements to the men's soccer and women's soccer and lacrosse locker rooms have also been completed over the last two years.

Alfred University's commitment to athletics and recreation through facilities improvement coincides with the increasing success of student-athletes on the field and in the classroom. "These facilities upgrades have aided us greatly in terms of the way we can assist Admissions in our shared goals of recruiting highly talented student-athletes and we have seen significant growth over the past four years in both the quantity and quality of our Saxon student-athletes," Vecchio noted.

In the last eight years, two Saxon teams – football in 2010 and 2016 and softball in 2015 – have made the final eight of their respective NCAA Division III National Championship tournaments, while several others have competed for Empire 8 Conference championships. Scores of student-athletes have earned individual recognition and even more have been cited for their academic achievements and their service to the community.

"All of the successes that our athletic teams have had in recent years would mean little to me if the same efforts weren't being produced in both our classrooms and the community which we call home," Vecchio commented.

Last spring marked the seventh consecutive semester that the overall cumulative grade-point average of all student-

athletes exceeded 3.0. The last two semesters saw the average student-athlete's GPA exceed 3.1, with the spring 2018 GPA of 3.192 representing an all-time high. Alfred University intercollegiate sports teams have logged more than 1,500 hours of community service in each of the past three academic years.

Alfred University president Mark Zupan noted that athletics are an integral part of Alfred University's strategic plan.

"Our athletic programs serve to attract top students while developing their team-playing, communication, time management, and leadership skills, as well as their work ethic and core values, such as integrity," Zupan said. "Our athletic programs are key to an immersive learning model, to offering top programs our students can mix and match, and to Alfred University serving as a talent incubator. We are grateful for the leadership that Paul Vecchio and his coaching staff provide as well as to so many generous alumni and friends who have made our recent facility improvements possible through their philanthropic support."



The cardio room of the newly renovated Gibbs Fitness Center.

CLASS NOTES

1952 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION*

Frank Hamm (B.A., economics) of Corning, NY, has been elected to receive the 33rd Degree of Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of Masons. The 33rd Degree designation is awarded to those members who have been outstanding in their contributions to Freemasonry, the

Scottish Rite. Frank will travel to Milwaukee, WI, in August 2019 to receive his degree.

1954 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION*

Robert Kalfin (B.A., speech, drama) directed "The Property," the New York debut of playwright Ben Josephson. The play, produced as part of the New Light Theater Project's Spotlight Series, opened June 16 and ran through July 14. Robert is founder of the Chelsea Theatre Center (1965-84) and has directed more than 600 productions in readings, workshops, and full productions, with a primary focus on developing new works. His career spans Broadway, Off-Broadway regional theaters, and theaters around the world. His Broadway credits include "Strider," "Happy End" (Meryl Streep, Christopher Lloyd), "Yentl" (Tovah Feldshuh), and "Truly Blessed." The book "Chelsea on the Edge" by Davi Napoleon chronicles his contribution to American theater. In 2015, the Off-Broadway Alliance named him a Legend of Off-Broadway. Robert earned an M.F.A. degree in directing from the Yale University School of Drama. Robert asked the late Leah Napolin '56, whom he had met while doing theater productions at Alfred, to adapt the Isaac Singer short story "Yentl" for the stage, launching her career as a playwright.

The American Craft Council recently announced its 2018

awards and **Marlin Miller** (B.S., ceramic engineering), a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees, was named recipient of the Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy. The Aileen Osborn Webb Award recognizes "exceptional contributions to, and support of, the American Craft Council and the field of contemporary craft." Marlin has been a member of the University's Board of Trustees since 1972, served as Board chair from 1983 until 1989, and is Alfred University's most generous supporter. His gifts created the Miller Performing Arts Center, the Miller Theater, and the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum. He supports endowed professorships including the Robert Turner Chair in Ceramic Art and the Ted Randall International Chair, honoring two past faculty members in the School of Art and Design who were legendary figures in the world of ceramic art. To honor a lifetime of friendship with Wayne Higby, professor of ceramic art and director of the Museum, he created an endowed directorship of the Museum in Higby's name. Marlin endowed the Fred Gertz Chair in Technical Writing and created the Fred Gertz Center for Student Success to demonstrate the respect and affection he had for Gertz, who was a professor of English and then, dean of men, when Marlin was a student. He has created endowed scholarships in

KEEP *in touch*

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or
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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

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Class members from '77, '78, and '80 gathered in Boston in June to attend the world premiere of the musical *DIVAS*. **Kathleen McDermott** ('78, B.A., history, English) is a Boston-based fashion historian/visual artist and founder of the Diva Museum. She served as historical consultant for *DIVAS*, a play with opera music that finds nine great opera divas from across three centuries locked together in the afterlife, pitted against each other to fight for the soul of opera. Pictured here, from left, are: **Victoria Flood McDonnell '78**, **Mary McDermott '80**, **Kathleen McDermott '78**, **Lisa Stark Walsh '77**, **Dan McNerney '80**, **Eliza Beckwith '78**, **Marina Pascucci '77**, and **Debra Kreck Harnish '77**.

honor of two friends, fellow alumni, and Alfred University trustees who passed away while serving on the Board, **Albert Paladino '54** and **Joel Moskowitz '61**. His most recent gift honors the memory of **Phillip Tefft '39**, his mentor when he first joined our Board of Trustees and the person Marlin credits with educating him about the impact philanthropy can have on the institutions it supports. In Tefft's memory, Marlin made a gift to renovate Tefft Hall, and now, has committed to creating a two-story link between Moskowitz and Tefft Halls. (See story, page 12)

1961 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Bette Blank (B.S., ceramic engineering; M.S., '62) had six of her paintings exhibited in the show, "The Comic Influence," at the Center for Contemporary Art in Bedminster, NJ. The show opened Sept. 14 and ran through Oct. 27.

1970

Eric Geoffrey "Geoff" Brunger (B.A., history) was chosen for induction into the Kenmore (NY) East High School Hall of Fame. Geoff was among 10 members in the 2018 Hall of Fame class inducted at a ceremony in October. He played football and ran track four years while a student at Alfred University and enjoyed a 38-year teaching career in the Kenmore-Tonawanda School District, also coaching cross country and track and field. He was head men's and women's cross country coach at Hilbert College for six seasons (2011-16).

1973

Ben Ostrer (B.A., history), an attorney practicing law in Chester, NY, was appointed in May by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to serve on the New York State Commission on Forensic Science. The appointment will expire Dec. 26, 2018. Ben has a

record of service to the community and his profession. In January, the New York State Bar Association presented him with the 2017 Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteer Award. In 2016 he was presented with the Charles F. Crimini Memorial Award as Outstanding Criminal Defense Attorney in New York State. Ben earned his law degree from New York Law School in 1976.

1976

Anne Evans (B.A., political science) an attorney with the Barclay Damon law firm, has been named in the 2018 edition of Best Lawyers in America. Evans is an attorney specializing in real estate law and works at Barclay Damon's Buffalo offices. She is one of 51 Barclay Damon attorneys named to the list.

1980

Sculptures created by **David Boyajian** (B.F.A., ceramic art) were on display at two locations this summer. Two sculptures made of stainless steel – titled *Cotyledon* and *Falling Water* – were displayed as part of a group outdoor exhibition at Chautauqua Institution which ran June 14 through Aug. 22. Another sculpture made from stainless steel, titled *Flourish*, was permanently installed outside the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services in Hartford. *Flourish* is 26 feet tall and 32 feet wide and was installed in two phases. *Phase I* (the free-standing sculpture section) took five months to build and was installed in November 2017; *Phase II* (the wall relief portion) was created over two months and was installed in August. David has a

sculpture studio in New Fairfield, CT. He is an adjunct professor of foundations in the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Western Connecticut State University.

1985

Jack Canty (B.S., accounting) was named chief operating officer at Upstate Shredding-Weitsman Recycling in June. Jack, a certified turnaround specialist and New York State certified public accountant, came to Upstate Shredding-Weitsman Recycling with more than 25 years of global experience in finance and operations. He had previously held positions as director/consultant at JC Jones and Associates; chief financial officer at Agway Energy Products; division controller at ITT Industries; and vice president of operations at Advanced Motors and Drives. Jack is a member of the Turnaround Management Association and serves on the board of Strategic Communications, LLC, and the Leo A. Pinckney Scholarship Fund. Upstate Shredding-Weitsman Recycling is the East Coast's largest privately-held scrap metal processor, with 17 locations in New York and Pennsylvania.

Works by **Greg Leshe** (B.F.A.) are included in an outdoor sculpture exhibition, "Synergy 2018," at the Wildflower Sculpture Park in Essex County's South Mountain Reservation. Greg's artwork, titled Wind Pile, consists of 40 cubic yards of topsoil, planted with natural grasses, adorned with 17 aeronautical windsocks mounted on steel poles. The sculpture "channels an evolving concern with natural and cultural systems and how, due to climate



A group of eight Alfred University nursing graduates and Sigma Chi Nu sisters have been getting together for many years since graduating in 1979 and 1980. They include: **Debi Lewandowski Glitter '79**, **Kathy Klein Spensieri '79**, **Liz Alpstege Causey '79**, **Paula Staada Black '80**, **Nancy Meierdierks Bowllan '80**, **Diane Holland '80**, **Anita Latini Herrmann '80**, and **Tina Toleli Pearsall '80**. Over the years, members of the group have lived and worked with each other, attended each other's weddings and raised 20 children. Members include four nurses with master's degrees and one Ph.D., a nurse anesthetist and numerous advanced certificate holders and professional association members. The group attended the Alfred University Alumni Reunion in 2017 and, in October 2017, four went on a Mediterranean cruise. In the photo above, the eight members of the group, along with **Anne Yammond Karim '80**, a fellow Alfred University nursing graduate and Sigma Chi Nu member, take a sunset cruise around Key West, FL, in March 2018.

change, they are in greater flux, tension, and disharmony," Greg explained. Synergy 2018, a one-year exhibition, opened June 1. Leshe also co-curated and exhibited in South Orange, NJ, Sept. 13-Oct. 13. The exhibition, titled Pleasure and Terror in Plein Air, was held at the Pierro Gallery in South Orange and was co-curated with Sandy Martiny. It included video work by Leshe and also work by **Nancy Agati** (B.F.A. '85). The exhibition examined art that was created outdoors, or begun outdoors and completed elsewhere. In the 19th century, Plein Air painters moved from their studios to work on their art outdoors. The exhibition included work in a broad range of media, including painting, sculpture, installation, photography, and video.



John Samuels '92, right, with Olympian **Greg Louganis**

1992

John Samuels (B.A., political science) serves on the board of Mary McDowell Friends School, a K-12 college preparatory Quaker school in Brooklyn serving students with learning disabilities. John invited four-time Olympic

Li Hongwei on Alfred: No place like home

Raised in Beijing and educated at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, one of the most exclusive art schools in that country, Li Hongwei '07 MFA and his family have found a home in Alfred. While that may seem an unlikely choice, “We love it here,” said Hongwei.

His wife, Qing Lu, had lived in Paris for five years, then moved to New York City, where they met. But she, too, loves their Alfred home. He admits he had some initial qualms about asking her to move to a small town, but she “loves the people, loves the atmosphere in Alfred.” They were married at a ceremony at Foster Lake and their two young sons each have an “Alfred” name.

“So many factors” drew him to Alfred initially, Hongwei said. “I knew Alfred’s reputation” before he applied to become an M.F.A. student. He found he enjoyed the academic work; the intellectual discussions with students and faculty; the technical expertise available; and the open access to studios, even at 3 or 4 a.m. The School of Art and Design lived up to its reputation as a

“heaven for ceramic artists,” he said.

While they spend several months a year in Beijing where he is a tenured faculty member in the College of Fine Arts at the Capital Normal University, they find ways to spend as much time as possible in Alfred. They know that in a few years, when their sons are of school age, they will need to settle in one place a little more permanently.

Meanwhile, Hongwei also continues to create and show his sculptures, which combine porcelain and steel, some abstract and some reflecting classic Chinese porcelain shapes. He has several upcoming exhibitions, including shows opening in January at the Art Institute of Chicago and Harvard University. His work is part of the collections of the Vassar College Art Museum, the Harvard Art Museums, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the British Museum, the Israel Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and several museums in China.



Li Hongwei, (M.F.A. '07)

gold-medal-winning diver Greg Louganis, with whom he is acquainted, to speak at the Mary McDowell Friends School Gala, an annual fundraising event held in May. At the event, Louganis was honored as a recipient of Adam's Prize, given to individuals who triumph over learning challenges as children, or whose exceptional

work on behalf of such children merits public recognition. John Samuels is founder and CEO of New York City-based Better Health Advisors which offers personalized advice and support to people of all ages and health conditions. (with photo.

1993

Martin Heffron (B.F.A.), internationally recognized sculptor and painter, participated in an exhibition, Retrospective Encore Exhibit, Sept. 14 at the Yuengling Mansion in Pottsville, PA. The exhibition, sponsored by the Schuylkill County Council for the Arts, kicked off the 250th

Alumna chosen to design replica statues honoring Frederick Douglass

An Alfred University alumna has been selected to design and create 13 life-size replicas of a 119-year-old monument in Rochester honoring civil rights activist Frederick Douglass. Once Olivia Kim has finished the statues, they will be installed at various locations throughout the city.

Olivia earned a B.F.A. degree in art and design (concentration in sculpture) from Alfred University in 2001 and has a sculpture studio in the Hungerford Building on East Main Street in Rochester. She was chosen by the Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass committee to design and make the 13 statues of Douglass, which are being placed throughout Rochester in a city-wide interactive tour. The monument display is part of a larger celebration marking the bicentennial of Douglass's birth in 1818.

Douglass was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, and was renowned as an anti-slavery speaker and writer. Douglass moved to Rochester, known as a stop on the Underground Railroad, where he established the *North Star*, an abolitionist newspaper. He visited Alfred University several times to give talks. In his writings, he noted both the friendliness of our community and the beauty of our rural setting.

In 1899, an eight-foot bronze statue of Douglass was

created by Stanley Edwards. Originally, it was located at Central Avenue and St. Paul Street before being moved, in 1941, to Highland Park in Rochester, near where Douglass once lived. That statue is the basis for the 13 life-sized replicas

Olivia was commissioned to create. Olivia is making the epoxy-and-fiberglass statues – each more than six feet in height and weighing about 40 pounds – in her studio in Rochester.

The first three statues, unveiled July 12, were placed at Douglass's home site on South Avenue, near the Anna Murray-Douglass School 12, named in honor of Douglass's wife; at the Hochstein School of Music, site of Douglass's funeral; and by the Talman Building on East Main Street, site of the *North Star* newspaper office. A full list of proposed statue locations and details can be found at douglasstour.com.

Olivia also made a replica

statue for Garth Fagan, the internationally-renowned choreographer who owns Garth Fagan Dance in Rochester. Fagan choreographed the Broadway production of *Lion King* and created a new dance piece – *The North Star by Garth Fagan* – celebrating Douglass's life and the bicentennial of his birth. *The North Star* was set to run Oct. 30–Nov. 4 at the Joyce Theater in New York City; Olivia's Douglass statue was to be used as part of the theater set for the production.



Olivia Kim '01 at work on one of the Frederick Douglass statues in her Rochester, NY studio. Photo by Sue Weisler, RIT Marketing and Communications

anniversary celebration of the coal region and Pottsville On-Tap Weekend. Martin is internationally known for expressing the coal region in his work and is listed

in the archives of the American Painters and Sculptors of the Smithsonian American Museum of Art and the National Art in Architecture Program. He

created the largest and most comprehensive memorial in the world honoring anthracite coal miners and their families.

Alumnus spends summer on Glass Barge

Alfred University alumnus G Brian Juk makes a living creating beautiful pieces of artwork from glass. For much of the summer, he demonstrated his craft to thousands aboard a floating hot glass shop traveling the Erie Canal.

The Glass Barge is a 30-by-80 foot vessel which contains a hot glass shop and seating for well over 100 spectators. It began traveling the Erie Canal in late June, stopping at various points along the way for glassblowing demonstrations.

Organized through the Corning Museum of Glass, the Glass Barge took a four-month trek from Brooklyn to Watkins Glen, commemorating both the 150th anniversary of glassmaking in Corning and the bicentennial of the Erie Canal.

The barge's trip was meant to replicate the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company's move in 1868 from Brooklyn to Corning. Equipment from Brooklyn Flint Glass was transported to Corning, and the company was renamed Corning Flint Glass Works, the precursor to Corning Glass Works, which today is Corning Inc.

G Brian graduated from Alfred University in 2001 with a B.F.A. degree (minor in art education) and a year later earned his New York State teacher certification. The Detroit native has worked at the Corning Museum of Glass for 15 years and is a gaffer (glassblower) in the museum's Hot Glass Show. He also makes glass art at Steuben County Glass, his studio in Corning.

Part of his work at the Corning Museum of Glass involves taking part in community outreach efforts –

like the Glass Barge – to educate people on glass and its many uses, including as a medium for art. A team of three gaffers typically participated in the glassblowing shows at each stop along the canal, rotating in the roles of gaffer, assistant, and narrator. Another Alfred University

alumnus, Tom Ryder (B.F.A. '09) spent some time giving glassblowing demonstrations on the Glass Barge in the earlier portion of its journey.

The Glass Barge traveled as far west as Buffalo before reversing course and heading east. It departed the canal in early September, moving down Seneca Lake to Watkins Glen, where it was docked for three days, during which time G Brian and his fellow gaffers gave several demonstrations. By the time the trip wrapped up, G Brian had spent nearly 11 weeks working on



G Brian Juk '01 creates a colorful pitcher during a demonstration aboard the Glass Barge.

the Glass Barge. He estimated that he and his colleagues gave more than 1,500 demonstrations given to over 75,000 people.

The Glass Barge demonstrations gave the public a look at the science that accompanies glass art, something G Brian learned to appreciate as a student at Alfred University.

“The collaboration between art and science...Alfred has really given me an appreciation of the two and how they are related. Glass is such an artistic material, with its color and transparency, but you have all these innovations with glass through physics and chemistry. It really is a remarkable material,” he said.

“I’ve been able to grow into a successful artist because of my time at Alfred University. Alfred gave me all the tools to succeed as an artist.”



Kenny Noll '12 (third from left), married Alicia Smolenski on Sept. 1 in Albany. Several of Kenny's former teammates on the Alfred University cross country and track and field teams were in attendance, including, from left, **Andrew Parson '12**, **Kate Lepore '11**, **Bill Sortore**, cross country coach at Alfred University, **Casey Townsend '11** (best man), and **Evan Roush '12**.

1994 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Jen Violette (B.F.A.) participated in the Vermont Craft Council's 26th annual Spring Open Studio Weekend over Memorial Day weekend. Jen creates unique glass sculptures and landscape paintings that often feature Vermont barns. A full-time artist since 1996, Jen has worked with molten glass for 27 years and is known for her colorful garden-inspired glass sculptures, which often incorporate glass and wood. Jen has a studio in Wilmington, VT. Her work can be seen on her website, jenviolette.com.

1998

A piece of artwork by **Dirk Staschke** (M.F.A.) was made part of the permanent collection at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, CA. Dirk is best known for his exploration of Dutch Vanitas still life themes in the medium of ceramics. His work at the Crocker Art Museum, *Soliloquy #4*, is a sculptural representation of a still life painting, and is made from ceramic, wood, scrap, and epoxy. Dirk resides in Portland, OR, where he is a full-time studio artist.

Jennifer (Brown) Smith (B.A., communication studies, minor in business administration) has been named a 40 Under 40 winner by the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy. Jennifer, who works for Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation in Neptune, NJ, has raised more than \$58 million for Hackensack Meridian since 2015. She secured its first-ever eight-figure gift, given in support of a new interactive medicine program. She has secured at least one seven-figure gift each year and her fundraising efforts have fully funded two da Vinci Robot Surgical Systems and a MAKO orthopedic robot for her hospital. Jennifer and her husband, **Willie Smith** ('01, elementary education), live in Freehold, NJ.

1999 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Brett Dusinberre (B.S., athletic training) has been named elementary principal in the Alfred-Almond Central School District. Prior to taking the position at Alfred-Almond, Brett was elementary principal at Bolivar-Richburg Central School District. He earned a master's degree in education, also from Alfred

University, in 2002. Brett has been active with Alfred University's Saxon Nation, serving on the Athletics Hall of Fame Selection Committee. He and his wife, **Casey** ('05 M.S.Ed.), reside in Alfred Station.

2004 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Julie Peppito (M.F.A., sculpture, dimensional studies) was co-curator of a group show, *In Her Hands*, which ran June 14 through Aug. 17 at the Robert Mann Gallery in New York City. Fifteen artists, including Julie and co-curator Orly Cogan, had work included in the exhibition, which seeks to inspire female artists to create work that highlights other women who are working to advance their communities, the country, and the world.

2007

Andrew Erdos (B.F.A.) had his work included in a group show at The Chimney in Brooklyn. The show, based on *Letters of a Young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke and the influence of literature on contemporary art, was open during May and June. Andrew's contribution to the show was two glass Moon Jars created earlier this year in Alfred – one coated in aluminum, the other in coal – placed in relation to several raw and man-made materials.

2008

Jenny McCumisky (B.A., psychology; M.B.A. '12) was promoted in May to affirmative action manager at HR Works Inc., a total solutions provider of human resource management and benefits administration services. Jenny lives in Hornell with her husband, John.



Danielle (Raynard) '16 and **Justin Collen '14** were married Sept. 1 in Albany, NY. The couple, who met while students at Alfred University, used wine glass embossed with the Alfred University seal to toast their nuptials. Several other Alfred University alumni were in attendance, including **Caleigh (Rodgers) Thompson '15**, **Kelly (Fidler) Donley '15**, **Evan Smith '14**, and **Nicole Zanetti '16**. The couple resides in Amherst, NY.

Jessica Henderson-Reagan

(B.A., communication studies) recently won the national award from Hilton and Hampton Inn Co. as Director of Sales of the Year. Jessica, a Student Senate president while at Alfred University, is sales manager for Hilton Inn and Hampton Inn in Charlotte, NC.

2009 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Nick Garafoli (B.A., philosophy, minor in art history) has opened a new restaurant in Rochester. Steadfast, which features “upscale casual” and brunch menus, is located at 200 East Avenue in Rochester’s East End, at the site of the former Matthew’s East End Grille (corner of East Avenue and Winthrop Street). Nick describes Steadfast as “a community-focused restaurant that combines elements of a fast-casual experience with the quality of food you’d expect from a fine dining, chef-driven concept at a reasonable price

point.” Nick worked at local eating establishments like Café Za and L’Italia while a student at Alfred University and was the male recipient of Alfred University’s Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award. His wife, Hannah (Meier) Garafoli, is a 2010 graduate of Alfred University, earning a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

2010

Robert Cain (B.A., communication studies), a real estate developer with PathStone Development Corporation, was lead developer for a mixed use project near the Eastman Business Park in Rochester which will create nearly 200 rental units. Ground was broken in July on the Eastman Reserve project, a development Robert put together from concept through site control and pre-development to securing and closing financing required to start construction. The \$53 million project will include 187 rental units

– 27 of them for homeless young people, with on-site support. The site is located within walking distance to Eastman Business Park where the surrounding area consists of many retail, grocery, entertainment, health service, employment options, and public transit. PathStone Development Corporation is the real estate development line of business PathStone Corp. and is one of Upstate New York’s most active non-profit developers.

2011

Charles Davis (Master of Public Administration, AU-NY) was appointed in June 2017 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to serve on the New York State Board of Parole. The Board of Parole, run by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, consists of 12 members, each appointed by the governor and confirmed by the New York State Senate. The terms are for six years. Charles will serve until Aug. 31, 2019 to complete an unfinished term and will be up for reappointment to a new six-year term in 2019. In addition to his master’s degree, Charles also earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Mental Health Counseling, also from AU-NY.

2015

Tim Gonchoroff (M.F.A.) served as Joshua Tree Highlands Artist in Residence and in August displayed some of his work at the Joshua Tree Art Gallery in Joshua Tree, CA. For his residency project, Tim experimented with making dyes from plants native to the Joshua Tree area. He dyed small pieces of wool with a “mordant” or afterbath – which he described as

a “pickling agent” that makes color permanently adhere to fiber – to create a Joshua Tree dye catalog. Tim’s M.F.A. from Alfred was in sculpture and dimensional studies; he also holds a certificate in fibers from the Art Institute of Chicago and was a recipient of a Fulbright Research Fellowship to study natural dying in Arctic Norway. He teaches sculpture at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley.

Colby Cotton (B.A., English) was awarded a Wallace Stegner Fellowship to study poetry writing at Stanford University. The Wallace Stegner Fellowship is a prestigious honor, as only 10 fellowships (five in fiction; five in poetry) are awarded each year. It is named in honor of



Elizabeth (Dangelantonio) '15 and Zachary Grove '15 were married June 16, 2018 in Gasport, NY. The couple met on the first day of orientation (Aug. 25, 2011) when Zachary sat down at Elizabeth’s table at Ade Hall and they have been together since. They graduated together – she with a B.A. in English, he with a B.S. in mechanical engineering – and had their engagement photos taken on the Alfred University campus. The Groves make their home in Corfu, NY.

KEEP *in touch*

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

EMAIL

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or
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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

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the late Wallace Stegner, a former Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who taught at Stanford and founded the creative writing program there. Since the program’s inception in 1946, more than 600 writers have come to Stanford as Stegner Fellows. Among them are National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winners, National Medal of the Arts honorees, and U.S. Poet Laureates. Colby began his two-year-fellowship at Stanford this fall.

Meghan A. Roach (B.F.A.) passed away Sept. 19, 2018, following a battle with cancer. A resident of Bellmore, NY, she was 27. One of her classmates at Alfred University, Hallie (Kistler) Kirkley, wrote of what the arts community at Alfred meant to Meghan. Kristey Palmisano (B.F.A. '13) also knew Meghan from their time at Alfred University and wrote, “Meghan was an incredible painter and has left a legacy at Alfred through her many beautiful paintings composed there.”

2016

Rachel Romack (B.A., psychology, theater) sang with the chorus of the Finger Lakes Opera’s performance of *Die Fledermaus*. The Aug. 10 and 12 performances in Canandaigua, NY, marked the professional operatic debut for Rachel. A resident of Rochester, Romack continues to study voice under Luanne Crosby, professor of music at Alfred University. She was soprano soloist in the Alfred University Chorus and Chamber Singers’ performance of Haydn’s *Theresa Mass* in March at the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. While a student at Alfred University, Romack participated in theater, performing the title role in the musical *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She works with a pediatric therapy group and is active in Rochester’s local theater scene.

Deaths

1949

Mildred "Millie" Muller Ovens Caren, May 4, 2018

1950

Evelyn Congdon Wightman, May 11, 2018

1951

Eugene Schulz Jr., April 27, 2018
Ellen Platt Loewenthal, July 28, 2018
Joan D. Palmer, July 29, 2018

1952

Jean McGraw Riker, July 3, 2018
Wallace "Wally" C. Higgins, Aug. 22, 2018

1955

David L. Mahoney, May 1, 2018
William W. Lewis, May 15, 2018

1956

Sylvia A. Johnson McDermott, March 16, 2018
Leah Napolin, May 13, 2018
Earl J. Whitney, May 18, 2018
Arling "Art" C. Hazlett, June 5, 2018
Arnold J. Habig, Aug. 28, 2018

1957

Angelo T. Muccigrosso, Aug. 29, 2018

1958

Joyce Pontbriand, Nov. 20, 2017
Dr. Lawrence Stanley "Stan" Harri, May 1, 2018
Edward F. Weiss, Aug. 7, 2018

1959

Robert W. Snyder, May 4, 2018
Frederick K. Luhrs, Aug. 31, 2018

1961

Frank Beylo, July 25, 2018

1962

William R. Keen, Aug. 7, 2018

1964

James L. Franklin, May 2, 2018
Angus "Muzz" Lindsley, May 31, 2018
Keith B. Shatrau, June 29, 2018
Ronald D. Herman Sr., July 5, 2018

1965

Richard C. Knapp, Aug. 5, 2018

1966

Lois Grey Harrington, Nov. 21, 2017
Susanna Masters-Miller, February 2, 2018

1967

Daniel M. Breedlove, July 21, 2018
Richard "Dick" L. Wahlers, Aug. 11, 2018

1968

Douglas C. Lee, Feb. 24, 2018
Robert Frankson, Sept. 1, 2018

1969

Linda Motsay Dietsche, July 27, 2018

1970

Cheryl B. Hammond, Aug. 16, 2018

1971

Bartlett "Bart" H. Smith, May 2, 2018
Francis S. Casciani, Aug. 12, 2018
Robert F. Hillman, Sept. 19, 2018

1972

Albert M. Valenze, Aug. 5, 2018
Martha E. Lopez, Sept. 18, 2018

1976

Laurie A. Kautz-Labela, May 29, 2018

1981

Robert Paul Purdue, April 17, 2018

1985

Zoe Southam Coombs, July 23, 2018
Barbara Engster Sullivan, Aug. 12, 2018

1989

Patricia O'Brien, June 3, 2018

2003

Mark C. Smith, April 23, 2018

2008

Ashley L. Gelser, June 1, 2018

2011

Nicholas F. Clark, July 2, 2018

2014

Sandra Kuhn, July 25, 2018

2015

Meghan A. Roach, Sept. 19, 2018

Wallace "Wally" C. Higgins '52,

World War II veteran and professor emeritus of ceramic design, passed away Aug. 22, 2018, at the age of 92.

Wally was born Nov. 11, 1925, in Orleans County, NY. At age 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was selected for the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American military pilots who fought during World War II.

On March 17, 1947 Wally received his final Honorable Discharge as an Army Air Force Staff Sergeant. He earned the WW II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and New York State Medal for Merit. In 2015, Wally was presented with a Congressional Gold Medal for his Civil Air Patrol service.

Wally graduated from Alfred University with a B.F.A. degree in ceramic design in 1952. While a student, he met his wife of 64 years, Norma (Miller) Higgins, who earned a B.F.A. from Alfred University in 1951. After graduation from Alfred University, Wally was a model/mold-maker at Glidden Pottery in Alfred, then became a technical specialist at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. He went on to become an associate professor of ceramic design, retiring in 1985.

Wally and Norma, who passed away in 2015, lived in Alfred Station, where they raised four children. The couple also had nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Leah Napolin '56, a noted Broadway playwright, passed away May 13, 2018, at the age of 83.

After graduating from Alfred University with a bachelor's degree in English, Leah acted in summer stock, worked for an anthropological research foundation, and taught music in Venezuela. In 1958, she married abstract expressionist artist Bert Katz, himself a 1956 Alfred University graduate (B.F.A., ceramic art), and the couple had two daughters before divorcing in 2000.

Leah made her Broadway playwriting debut in 1975 with *Yentl*, adapted from a short story by Isaac Bashevis Singer and since performed widely both in the U.S. and abroad. Leah's other works include *Lost Island*, *Aristophanes' Retreat*, and *The Dogs of Pripyat*, which earned her the 2004 John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Award.

She taught comparative literature at The Ohio State University, founded a creative writing program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, and was the Associate Editor at Choice Magazine Listening. Leah was a member of P.E.N. and the Dramatists Guild.

In addition to two daughters, Margo Katz and Jessica Starke, Leah is survived by: her wife, Barbara L. Murphy, who she married in 2013.

Former Employees

Donald L. Brutsman, a former bus driver who worked in the Physical Plant at Alfred University, passed away April 14, 2018, in Rochester at the age of 96.

Zoë S. Coombs, a secretary for Alfred University for 17 years until her retirement in 1995, passed away July 23, 2018, at Noyes Memorial Hospital in Dansville following a brief illness. She was 85.

Zoë earned her bachelor's in history from Alfred University in 1985.

Joanne Droppers, former longtime Alfred University carillonist, passed away May 23, 2018, in Topsfield, MA, at the age of 86. She was appointed University carillonist in 1977 and retired in 1994.

Nancy Hanks, a longtime assistant in Alfred University's dining services, passed away on July 17, 2018, at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester after a brief illness. She was 62.

Doris Harrington, an Alfred University Athletics Hall of Fame inductee and former chair of the Division of Physical Education at Alfred University, passed away Sept. 11, 2018.

Doris, a native of Hudson Falls, NY, was a pioneer in women's athletics at Alfred University, serving as director of physical education from 1961-69 and chair of the Division of Physical Education from 1970 until her retirement in 1985.

During her tenure at Alfred University, Doris worked tirelessly to increase athletic offerings for female students. The passage of Title IX legislation paved the way for growth in women's intercollegiate athletic programs nationwide and that was true under Harrington's

watch. Under her leadership, Alfred University became a charter member of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW), a predecessor to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

By the time Doris retired in 1985, Alfred University had women's varsity intercollegiate teams in swimming and diving (formed in 1972), skiing (1974), cross country, track and field, volleyball, and rifle (1976), tennis and basketball (1977), soccer (1979), and hunt seat equestrian (1984, co-ed).

Doris served as head coach of the women's volleyball team its inaugural season of 1976. She was inducted into the Alfred University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1987. Doris had remained involved in Alfred University athletics, most recently meeting the Saxon softball team in Florida during their 2018 spring break trip. Alfred University's on-campus softball facility, Harrington Field, opened in 2013, is named in Doris's honor.

Stanley A. "Stan" Hill, 84, retired director of the Physical Plant at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, passed away June 15, 2018, in Hornell, NY, after a short illness.

Anthony John "Tony" Hawkins, a retired laboratory glass blower at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, passed away April 30, 2018, in Hornell at the age of 86.

APEX off and running, poised to enhance Alfred University's Maker Culture

APEX, Alfred University's fledgling experiential learning program, is off to a fast start, with nearly 100 juniors and seniors having applied for grants to help defray the costs of work, study, and research opportunities.

Logan Gee '18, APEX coordinator, says she is pleased with the response, given that details of the program were finalized this spring before being rolled out in the summer.

"It was launched July 1, so having nearly 100 applicants in just three months is a great number; we weren't



Logan Gee '18

expecting it," Gee said, noting that applications were submitted before students arrived

on campus for the start of the fall semester. "It shows people want to take advantage of this opportunity."

The APEX (Applied and Experiential Learning) program allows juniors and seniors to apply for \$1,000 grants to defray the cost of work experiences – such as on-campus and off-campus internships, co-ops, clinical and practicum placements, ROTC, volunteer and civic engagement initiatives, and art apprenticeships and residencies – or study/research programs, including study abroad/off-campus study, undergraduate research, service learning classes, and capstone projects.

The program is made possible by start-up funding from Michele and Marty Cohen. The Cohens are members of Alfred University's Society of Benefactors, and Michele Cohen has been a member of the Board of Trustees at Alfred University since 2001.

Other alumni and friends supporting the APEX program include Janet Axford Foster (daughter of Vincent Axford '19 and Eloise Clarke Axford '21), Richard '62 and Freya Block '64, Sally Mueller '83, and Fred and Judy Gregory '68.

Two recipients of initial APEX funding completed their work experiences this summer. Rosey Borquez, a junior psychology major from the Bronx, and Lu Krawczyk, a senior health fitness management major from Buffalo (see their stories, facing page).

The application process for APEX funding for the 2018-19 year will remain open until 200 grants have been awarded. The number of awards will again be capped during the program's second year in 2019-20.

"This is the first year of a pilot," Gee explained. "We hope that number (200) will increase and down the road we can provide funding for sophomores as well."

Gee is responsible for reviewing all applications to ensure the proposed APEX experiences qualify for funding. While she said a small number were declined, they were not rejected; rather, they needed minor revisions. She said applications reflect a broad range of experiences that include work (internships, for example), study abroad, and research.

"My worry was that APEX projects would be dominated by internships," Gee commented. "We don't want to

put a limit on any one category – a lot of people use internships as their experience. It's been a good mix."

Gee said there has also been diversity in applicants across academic disciplines, although the highest concentration initially appears to be in engineering and the liberal arts.

"We're working to remedy that. I think that comes with just being a new program," Gee said, noting that part of her job is promoting APEX across campus. She said she gave a presentation on APEX at a College of Business retreat

and was asked by an art professor to speak to her class about the program. "It's just a matter of always working to get the word out and let people know about the opportunity."

Gee began her duties as APEX coordinator in May, shortly after graduating from Alfred University with a degree in communication studies. One of two Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award recipients, she was an active member of the campus community as an undergraduate and has embraced her new role of helping students achieve success.

"I've always wanted to work with students. I was a Peer Leader and I think it opened up that passion," she said. "I've already had students email me and thank the University for this opportunity."



Gee said her desire to help students comes from her own time as a student at Alfred University, when her mentors showed an interest in her success.

"It started with my advisors, Robyn Goodman and Susan Morehouse. They took the time with me, listened, and pushed me to pursue my interests. The fact they were willing to work with me, not just in academics but in life, makes

me want to do that as well."

Gee predicts that the APEX program will continue to grow in popularity. The program will continue as a pilot, open to juniors and seniors, for two years. Once permanent funding is in place, the maximum one-time award will increase to \$2,000 and will be available to second-semester sophomores as well.

"I honestly think the program is going to explode," she said. "At a faculty/staff reception in August, professors approached me and said 'I want you to come to my classroom and talk about this.' Everyone involved has done a great job of getting word of the program out there."

Junior, senior are first to complete APEX experience

Alfred University's APEX program officially rolled out at the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year, and organizers are pleased with the number of applicants for funding to support their work, study, and research initiatives.

Two students – junior Rosey Borquez and senior Lu Krawczyk – received funding and completed their APEX projects over the summer. Both are grateful for the financial assistance provided them and are excited with where their projects will take them as they pursue their careers.

Rosey, a psychology major with minors in political science and public law, completed a two-month internship with U.S. Rep. Tom Reed. The Republican lawmaker is a 1993 Alfred University graduate (B.A. political science) representing New York's 29th Congressional district.



Rosey Borquez '20

During her time in Reed's Washington, D.C. office, Rosey developed bill justifications, gave briefings and wrote notes for staffers, gave tours of the Capitol, interacted with constituents, and drafted mail reports.

"It was interesting. I got to live in the center of our government. It's really like a history book, but I'm in it," Rosey commented. "Instead of listening to or watching the news, I was aware of the news as it was happening."

Already interested in going to law school, she came away from the APEX experience further intent on pursuing a career as an attorney. "They personalized it for me. They knew I was interested in law, so they tried to give me legal tasks," she said.

"My APEX experience allowed me to do something

that was memorable, which I can take with me beyond Alfred University," said Rosey, who used her \$1,000 APEX grant to defray the cost of housing during her internship. "I now know that I want to go to law school."

Lu, a health fitness management major, had a three-month summer job at the IMG Sports Academy in Bradenton, FL. A four-year member of the Saxon softball team, she wants to pursue a career in professional sports operations, preferably with the National Football League or Major League Baseball.



Lu Krawczyk '19

IMG is one of the top sports academies in the nation and an international training site for athletes from all over the world. Many promising tennis players from around the globe train and are instructed at IMG, as are professional athletes in the offseason. In her summer position, Lu was in charge of scheduling for developmental camps (ages 10-18) for tennis and baseball and setting up training and workout schedules for campers.

Lu is already getting valuable experience on campus as a game day operations student worker for Tony Aquilina, associate athletics director. Her time in Florida added to the experience she'll have when she graduates and pursues a career.

"I'm getting experience now (at Alfred University), but doing it at IMG let me do sports operations at such a high level," said Lu, who used her APEX grant to help pay for housing and transportation. "It's one of the elite facilities of its kind in the world."



By Mark Zupan, President

In generations past, Alfred University students shared a number of experiences in their first months on our campus. They wore beanies, participated in games that pitted one class against another, and shared formal meals in the dining halls at the Brick (women) and Bartlett Hall (men).

And they gathered at 8 a.m. in Alumni Hall and then later in Holmes Auditorium, for Western Civilization, a course that was required of all first-year students.

Gary Ostrower '61, a professor of history for over 50 years at Alfred University, not only took the course, but also taught it. Gary recalls the original version of the course: "Western Civ was a comprehensive and topical romp through the history of the West, taught by a team of outstanding scholars, led by professor Mel Bernstein. Required of every first-year student, it ranged from lectures about Plato and Aristotle, to feudalism, then to Renaissance Art and Shakespeare and Ibsen, and also the key revolutions of modern history (American, French, Russian) and the World Wars of the 20th century. This provides you with only a smattering of Western Civ's range. The course also contained a writing component where we learned to communicate more effectively through the written word. Western Civ was taught at 8 a.m. We hated it until we realized how much we loved it. It was the best course taught at Alfred University since 1945, in my judgment."

Although the course is no longer required of every student, Gary still teaches a similar course, Modern Western History – 1517 to the present, in Kanakadea Hall. Without shared experiences, which establish a set of values, implicitly if not explicitly, that our students understand and subscribe to, the Alfred University experience is diminished.

A steering committee, chaired by Melissa Ryan, professor of English, and Bob Stein, associate professor of political science, was charged to explore how we might restore that sense of shared experiences and shared values among our students.

What the committee proposed is a new extended orientation program, Common Ground, which is designed to strengthen the foundation of the Alfred University experience, effective with this new academic year.

Each of our new students, transfers and first-year students alike, has been assigned to one of 28 groups that

will meet at least nine times during the first semester. Students were assigned in an effort to provide each group with as much balance as possible in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, residence hall affiliation, nationality, regional background, academic majors, and co-curricular activities.

Each Common Ground group is facilitated by a faculty or staff member. Interestingly, when we put a call out for volunteers, we received many more positive replies than we originally sought. Among the facilitators are three deans, two vice presidents, and yours truly.

Our Board of Trustees has generously committed \$100,000 for the pilot offering of Common Ground. They have also established an endowment to help support the program beyond the inaugural year.

Each student has received a copy of "Tales of Two Americas: Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation," which includes essays by a number of major contemporary writers. In addition to the book, students are viewing selected videos, reading other relevant materials, and having group discussions, all with a unifying theme: how to find our common humanity notwithstanding the dimensions on which we otherwise differ.

Common Ground does not seek unanimity of thought on issues, but instead to develop the capacity to express our sometimes disparate views, come to an understanding of what is behind them and learn to deal with those differences in a respectful manner. An end objective of Common Ground is also to have each group of students develop some shared principles that they commit to living by as members of the Alfred University community.

I suspect that the etymology of the expression "common ground" may harken back to the "commons" that were found in most English villages. No one individual owned the commons, but its use, and the responsibility for its upkeep, was shared among all the villagers. That is an apt analogy to what we are up to with Common Ground at Alfred University this academic year: Each of us has an obligation to continue to build the unique Alfred University culture from which we all benefit and through which we can ultimately positively impact the broader world.

Fiat Lux!

– Mark

Alfred University COMMON GROUND

VISA

Volunteers
In
Support of
Alfred

Thank you to the following alumni who have participated in the VISA Program to date:

Jessica Archinal '14
Robert Auerbach '74
David Bachrach '94
Jeff Becker '85
Christina Behr '15
Gene Bernstein '69
Clark Brueckl '17
Emma Buckthal '05
Nan Burges-Whitman '81
John Byrnes '04
Mike Carey '99
Peter Caroccio '03/'05
Jeffrey Castor '95
Preston Chapman '88
Bob Cohen '59
Greg Connors '92
Matthew Curtis '16
Rachael Deeley '10
Patrick DePree '17
Taylor Leah Dezio '15
Mackey Dopman '88
Renee Duquette '13/'15
Sarah Eggleston '13
Thomas Fleming '10
Greg Gascon '03

David George '90
Leigh George '91
Joseph Gibbs '11
Liz Groff '05
Theresa Gunn '96/'98
Zach Hampton '98
Christine Heckle '92/'95/'98
Jack Hedlund '65
Kathleen Henry '06/'07
Emily Heslop '15
Thomas Hinman '79
Shawn Issacs '08
Ralph Jackson '09
Christopher Johnson '22
Brian Kennedy '14
Thoms Kowalik '75
Christine Kulp '71
Gary Kwiecien '11
Chris Lambe '08
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Joshua Liddell '04
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Robert J. Locker '81
Maddie Lomax-Vogt '17

Ryan Love '05
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Kerry Mack '16
Kara Mackey-Dopman '88
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Susanna Masters-Miller '66
Jeff Mauer '69
Sean McCartney '93/'97
Mark McDonough '88
Mark McOmber '90
Kian Merchant-Borna '07
George Meyer '56
Omar Mohamed '17
Richard Morabito '65
Gail Olyha '75
Mary Patnaude '17
Craig Peretz '88
Michael Perkins '15
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Michelle Pomeroy '00
Quinn Porzio '17
Steve Powley '83
Jeffrey Ramos '87

Andy Ricci '17
Kathleen Richardson '82/'88/'92
Christine Conderman Riter '91
Joy Robinson Leinenbach '90
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Brandy Russell '98
Lisajoy Sachs '92
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Ben Schreiner '14
Michael Shaffer '96
Matt Shayer '05
Charlene Short '15
Frank Skeele '83
William Slusser '91
Jacob Spadoni '13/'15
Robert Strickland '02
Miriam Valero '03
Robert Wallace '02
Andrew Weller '90
Eric Winkky '90
Mark Zoyhofski '11
Eric Zuckerman '03

VISA is a program in which Alfred alumni can give back to their alma mater in a number of ways.

1 Help us recruit interested students

- Make a connection from your organization
- Attend a local reception/event in your area
- Assist admissions with outreach from alums to prospective students
- Help raise awareness of **Alfred University** in your community

2 Refer a Student

Think someone you know would be a great match for Alfred? If they apply and are accepted, they will receive a \$1,000 alumni referral scholarship in your name each year they are enrolled. The deadline is February 1, 2019 for students entering in the Fall of 2019.

For more information, contact Diana Dalton at daltond@alfred.edu

CELEBRATING

the unexpected

Lucille Weichert Croscup '63 grew up in the small rural town of Bennington, VT. She expected to love Alfred because it would be another small rural town, comfortable and familiar.

But what she loved about Alfred was everything that was new and unfamiliar. Her fellow students came from across the country and around the globe. They were from different walks of life, and different cultural, religious and racial backgrounds. She was challenged, sometimes uncomfortable, and thrilled.

At Alfred Lucille also honed her passion for music – which became her profession – studying with Professor LeMon, who became a lifelong friend and mentor.

Lucille and her husband Bud eventually returned to Bennington where she taught music for 39 years. Lucille and Bud have joined the Heritage Circle by putting Alfred University in their will so as to enhance the University's ability to make magical opportunities possible for its students.

*Interested in making a planned gift to Alfred University?
Please contact:*

Amy Jacobson

Director of Planned Giving, University Advancement

jacobson@alfred.edu (607) 871-2144



HERITAGE
CIRCLE

ENRICHING THE student experience



"It's vital for each of us to support the next generation of Alfred University student athletics"

Caroline Burgos '19

The Alfred University Saxon Circle program is in its third year and has made a significant difference in the lives of our students. We are currently at 473 Saxon Circle members which includes 47 faculty/staff and 40 students who have collectively pledged \$8.4 million over a five-year period to Alfred University.

Caroline Burgos (left) is a dual major in political science and global studies. She is a founding member of the Saxon Circle.

SAXON
CIRCLE

To learn more about how you can be a part of the Saxon Circle, visit: alfred.edu/alumni/leadership-giving.cfm

Kathy

Kathy Woughter, M.S.E. '93,
Vice President of Student Affairs

This January will mark my the start of my twenty-third year at Alfred University, and also my last as I step down this year to join my husband who has a new job near Lake Placid, NY. What a ride it's been! I can't imagine a better place to have grown up as a professional, surrounded by caring and dedicated staff and faculty colleagues and thousands of students who challenged me, made me think, made me happy, and inspired me with what they accomplished. I imagine many people reading this are among that group. Please know that you, individually, left your mark on Alfred University and on me personally.

Like many student affairs professionals, I saw my two sons most often right here on campus. They grew up beside and among you, visiting the senior shows, going to performances at first Miller I and then Miller II, attending lectures that were scholarly as well as controversial, eating in the dining halls, and cheering on our Saxons. What a opportunity: to expose growing boys to the diversity of thought, people and expression on a college campus like Alfred University. Now that they are grown men, both graduated from college with lives of their own away from Alfred, I know they are living lives of purpose. Thanks to you, they have an Alfred foundation to challenge themselves and make informed decisions for the common good.

I'm a different person because of you, the students and alumni of Alfred University. Here's a short list of the lessons I've learned:

Steven Zelin '98 taught me in my first year at Alfred University that accountants can look like rock stars, and it's my job to help students figure out how to combine what you love with what you do for a paycheck.

Nikhil Jog '03 taught me the value of networking and that dreams can come true if you are driven. He also taught me that alumni really do want to help current students. All you have to do is ask, and follow up.



From left, Noah Mitchell, Alfred University, class of 2018, Kathy Woughter, Alfred University Vice President of Student Affairs, and Zaire Anderson, SUNY Purchase student.

Jessi Gottlieb Empestan '98 inspired me with yet another example of a woman breaking the glass ceiling, despite my belief that gender and motherhood penalize women in the workforce. Many of you, of all genders, have also provided hope that someday there will be an even playing field; thank you for that.

Please keep on staying informed, fighting for whatever it is you believe in, and creating opportunities for others.

Jessica Cabrera '08 showed me that mentees become friends and in turn, share their professional and personal wisdom with mentors. Jessica also pays it forward by mentoring young women and making sure they have the knowledge to succeed in the workplace.

Ana Devlin Gauthier '12 showed me that even when I run away from graduation through the back door and drive home immediately after the ceremony concludes, as I do every year because I hate saying goodbye, some people know where I live and won't let me off the hook that easily.

Beth Judson '82, who believed in women enough to start the Women's

Leadership Center, and believed in men enough to support us broadening our mission to include all genders.

Lightning round: Conrado, who greeted almost every single graduate who crossed the stage by name during the year he was Outstanding Senior. Ian, the Student Senate President who ensured that every Senate from his year forward got a three-percent increase in funding. Andreina, who asked all first-generation college students to stand during her Outstanding Senior speech and beamed as much of the audience of parents and grandparents also stood up, to thunderous applause. Penelope, the best dancer I have ever seen on a stage. The many swimmers and divers I've had the pleasure of announcing for over the years and seeing the poetry of our gorgeous sport in motion.

This list is so very short and my 700-word limit won't allow me to name the other hundreds of you who made me smile, made me examine my own beliefs, and made me proud. Please keep on staying informed, fighting for whatever it is you believe in, and creating opportunities for others. Thank you all for the best student affairs career anyone could possibly ask for.

I would love to stay in touch after I leave Alfred University and move up to the Lake Placid area! Please find me on Instagram (@kwough) and Twitter (@kathywoughter). **Fiat Alfred University!**

afterthoughts

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Alfred University *Reunion 2019*

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welcome you back!*

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Engagement
at 607.871.2144 or visit

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