

Alfred

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2019



CELEBRATING OUR UNIQUE

Maker
CULTURE



Magic

MOMENTS

Alfred
MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE

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Inside

Facing page: As part of the First Year Experience program, professor of Philosophy Emrys Westacott, far left, introduces new students to the unique environment surrounding Alfred University.

Above: After a delightfully warm September in Alfred, the fall colors are at last beginning to appear on campus.

Cover image: Laurie Richer '86 and Jeff Morris '76 inspect the grapes during harvest time at their vineyard. See story, page 2.

2 Celebrating our unique Maker Culture

One of Alfred University's distinctive characteristics is its maker culture, which encourages creativity, pushing students to unlock their potential and reach their goals through an immersive, hands-on learning environment. In this issue, we tell the stories of alumni who were inspired to take their maker spirit into the world and accomplish great things. **Jeff Morris '76** founded Hi-Tech Ceramics in the mid-1980s. In 1989, Jeff and his wife, **Laurie Richer '86** (page 2), started Glenora Farms, producing grapes that supply numerous Finger Lakes Region wineries. **Heatherlee Bailey '90** (page 5), inspired by her parents – themselves pioneers in the field of emergency care – co-founded the student First Responders group on the Alfred University campus and, as a physician trained in emergency medicine and critical care, helped develop a program to train physicians and nurses in the Indian sub-continent in the care of trauma patients. **Mike McCumiskey '03** and **Dave Woolever '06 M.S.** (page 8), grew up as friends in Hornell, NY, and parlayed their passion for brewing beer into a popular craft beer operation in their hometown. **Fred Tracy '87** (page 10), earned his B.F.A. from Alfred University and dreamed of a career as a potter, eventually designing a small canopy to keep shaded at craft fairs. Today, Fred is a worldwide leader in the tent manufacturing industry.

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CHAMPAGNE & WINE

MIGHTY *Fine*



Jeff Morris '76 and Laurie Richer '86 start a second career in grape farming, as New York enters the Modern Wine Age

Jeff Morris '76 was familiar with the lay of the land when he bought a weekend cottage along the west shore of Seneca Lake in 1989. He had grown up in Irondequoit, NY, a suburban kid, but his parents had taken care of a cottage near the lakeshore. Jeff had spent his weekends learning how to farm, and he liked the physical labor. "I had a closeness to Seneca Lake," he says.

He also knew the soil was good for growing grapes.

Buying the cottage also coincided with a nearly 30 year revolution in winemaking occurring in New York's Finger Lakes region.

We had had big wineries in the Finger Lakes – Pleasant Valley, Taylor, Gold Seal – all of them making jug wines," Jeff says. Those wines used the local grape varieties – Catawba, for instance; Niagara; Concord. Grape farmers believed the local varieties had a better chance of surviving Upstate New York winters than the European *vitis vinifera* variety.

Local grapes, however, tended to produce a sweet wine at odds with seasoned wine drinkers' preference for European wines, fermented from vinifera varieties. Cornell University began experimenting with hybrid grapes that combined local varieties with the vinifera, but in 1962, Konstantin Frank began producing outstanding wines solely from locally grown vinifera grapes on his farm overlooking Keuka Lake.

"Now," says Jeff, "we have about 140 wineries in the Finger Lakes region, most of them making wine from vinifera grapes." Those wines have received international respect; the Finger Lakes now are recognized for world-class vintages of Riesling and Chardonnay.

Wineries need grape juice, and to make the juice, you need to grow the grapes.

By Rob Price

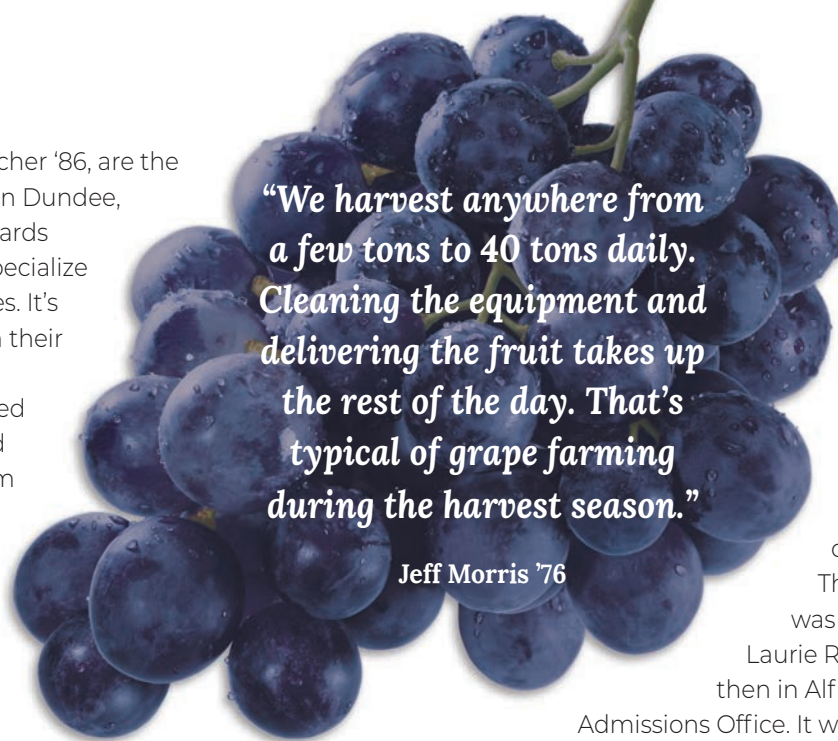
Jeff and his wife, Laurie Richer '86, are the owners of Glenora Farms in Dundee, NY, one of the many vineyards along Seneca Lake that specialize in growing vinifera varieties. It's been a winding road from their work at Alfred University, where Jeff had been trained as a ceramic engineer and Laurie had graduated from the University's College of Business. The story involves a high-tech ceramic material Jeff invented as a graduate student and research associate for the Alfred University Research Foundation, a conference of high school guidance counselors, and an old barn.

It was a big, old barn – “Huge,” Laurie says – and it sat at the top of a hill that overlooked the western shore of the lake. “It obviously needed a coat of paint, but it was still solid. It was built entirely of wood, and they're not making barns like that anymore.”

It was part of a 113-acre parcel of farmland owned by Eastman Beers, a pioneer in the viticulture of the Finger Lakes. Nearby was the Glenora winery, which Beers had helped found with Gene Pierce, who now was producing award-winning wines from vinifera vines. Jeff drove past the Beers property (and the barn) on his trips between his cottage and his office in Alfred Station, where he was president of Hi-Tech Ceramics.

Jeff had started the company in the mid-1980's, while he was pursuing his doctorate in ceramic engineering at Alfred University and working for the Alfred University Research Foundation. His mentor was Emeritus Professor William Crandall '42. With Crandall's guidance and the resources of the Foundation, Jeff developed a porous ceramic material that could be used to filter impurities out of molten metals. Alfred University owned the patent on the material, called reticulated ceramic; Jeff negotiated successfully with the University for the purchase, then started Hi-Tech Ceramics in partnership with two other ceramic engineers from Alfred, John Jarrabet '80 and William Meinking '76.

His subsequent success exemplified the growing career potential in ceramic manufacturing, which traditionally had been viewed as a process dedicated to porcelain bathroom fixtures. In 1989, the same year



“We harvest anywhere from a few tons to 40 tons daily. Cleaning the equipment and delivering the fruit takes up the rest of the day. That’s typical of grape farming during the harvest season.”

Jeff Morris '76

he bought his cottage, he was invited to Alfred University to discuss careers in ceramic engineering at a conference of high school counselors.

The conference was organized by Laurie Richer, working then in Alfred University's Admissions Office. It was the first time she had met Jeff, and they've been together ever since.

By then, Hi-Tech Ceramics had become, in Jeff's own words, “the poster child for economic development.” The company employed about 120 individuals, some of whom were ceramic engineers who had graduated from Alfred University, and it exemplified the successful collaboration between private businesses and academic research institutions. Alfred University next began a collaboration with Corning Incorporated and New York State that resulted in the construction of two business incubators in Alfred and Corning; people in the economic development business began talking about a Ceramic Corridor across Western New York.

Meanwhile, Jeff was feeling the pull of the land, and of that beautiful barn. Driving back and forth between Alfred and the cottage, he could imagine buying the barn and the surrounding acreage, then leasing the land back to the original owner. “We could see the future of cool climate viticulture here in the Finger Lakes,” Jeff says.

“I was traveling in California for Alfred University when Jeff called me with the news,” Laurie recalls. He'd made the deal: The two of them were now owners of one old barn and the 113 acres of farmland that went with it. They would call their new business Glenora Farms.

A period of intense work followed, during which Jeff continued running Hi-Tech Ceramics on a full-time basis while he gradually became more involved in Finger Lakes viticulture. Both he and Laurie were scrambling between the farm and cottage and their obligations in Alfred. Subsequent parcels of farmland also came up for sale, contiguous with the original

Continued on page 4

acreage he and Laurie had bought in 1991. They continued buying property – “It’s part of my nature to get bigger,” Jeff jokes.

Eventually, he began stepping back from Hi-Tech Ceramics. In 1995, he sold the company to Vesuvius, staying with

the company as a research consultant until 1996, when he stepped away completely and became a full-time farmer. Laurie continued working at Alfred University until 2003, when she became Glenora Farms’ other full-time owner and employee.

When *Alfred Magazine* recently interviewed Jeff and Laurie, they were in the middle of the annual fall harvest. Most of the work is done by machine, with Jeff operating the farm’s state-of-the-art mechanical grape harvester and Laurie driving a tractor and bin wagon. One morning in late September, they were hand-picking grapes for sparkling wines: Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Noir. They had some time to sit and talk.

“We’re up before sunrise,” Jeff says. “We harvest anywhere from a few tons to 40 tons daily. Cleaning the equipment and delivering the fruit takes up the rest of the day. That’s typical of grape farming during the harvest season.”

Laurie jokes she’s the first person in her family to take up farming as a business and way of life. She had grown up in Wellsville. When she graduated from Alfred University in 1986, she stepped straight into the Admissions Office, where she stayed until 2003.

“It’s a lot of work and we’re getting older,” Jeff reflects. “How we proceed is always the interesting question we ask ourselves at the end of the season: Do we have another year in us?”

Part of the answer involves two teenagers: their son, Austin, who is 15, and their daughter, Devon, 13. Jeff and Laurie made sure their children grew up absorbing the farming culture, working on the farm two hours a



State-of-the-art equipment is essential for a vineyard of this size, and both Laurie and Jeff take an active part in the harvesting process.

day during the late spring and throughout the summer.

“It’s important for them to have this as their background, doing hard work every day,” Laurie says.

“How do you teach the work ethic?” adds Jeff. “My parents and

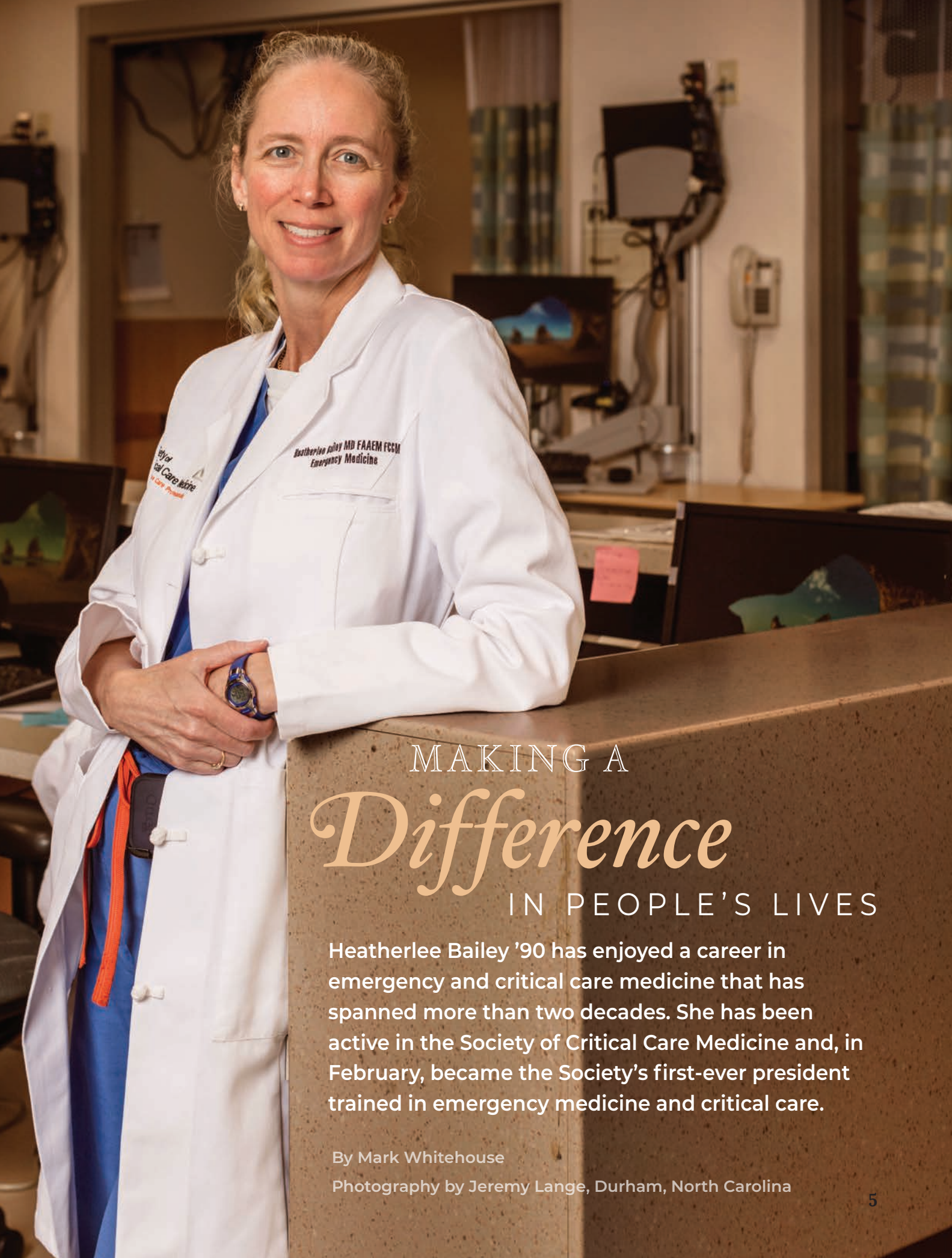
Laurie’s parents taught us. So here comes the next generation. Part of what we are trying to do is help them find out that a huge part of personal satisfaction comes from a job well done.”

They’ve developed a sort of unique, hybrid approach to parenting teenagers. Austin and Devon have been enrolled part-time in the local school district, where Laurie has served as school board president. During the winter months, Jeff and Laurie also home-school Austin and Devon during extended ski trips to Colorado. The family loves to ski, and when necessary Jeff and Laurie can oversee from a distance the myriad of winter farming chores, which include hand trimming each vine.

More recently, the family bought a home in the Vail Valley of Colorado. They spend the academic year there, where Austin and Devon are enrolled at the Vail Mountain School. Jeff and Laurie return to the farm for approximately six weeks for harvest. The entire family spends late spring and summer on Seneca Lake working the farm.

Nearby, Glenora Wine Cellars is one of their best customers. Owner Gene Pierce’s wines continue to receive international recognition, and Pierce owns two additional wineries: Chateau Lafayette Reneau and Knapp Vineyards Winery and Restaurant. He also serves as chairman of the Finger Lakes Economic Development Center. Talking with him, you get a sense of someone who has his finger on the viticultural pulse of the county.

“Jeff and Laurie grow good crops of *vinafera* grapes,” Pierce says. “They’re the real thing.”



MAKING A

Difference

IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

Heatherlee Bailey '90 has enjoyed a career in emergency and critical care medicine that has spanned more than two decades. She has been active in the Society of Critical Care Medicine and, in February, became the Society's first-ever president trained in emergency medicine and critical care.

By Mark Whitehouse

Photography by Jeremy Lange, Durham, North Carolina

An emergency care physician at the Durham Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Durham, NC, Heatherlee's dedication to her field is evident at home and abroad. She has served on numerous committees tasked with improving the delivery of critical care, is a past recipient of the American Medical Association's Women's Mentoring Award, and serves as Oral Board Examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine. She is also one of the creators of a course that has provided training in trauma case essentials to thousands of physicians and nurses in India.

Heatherlee has long aspired to a career in medicine. It led her to Alfred University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology, and then to the New Jersey Medical School, where she earned her medical degree in 1994. Her decision to pursue a career in medicine, and in particular to specialize in emergency medicine, was influenced in large part by a December 1973 automobile accident near her family home in Pennington, NJ, which left her parents, father Richard Sr. and mother Jessie, seriously injured.

"My mother was appalled by the care they had received from pre-hospital providers," said Heatherlee, who was just six years old at the time. "It's not that they didn't care; they just lacked the proper training. All the volunteers had were basic first aid skills."

After they had recovered from their injuries, Heatherlee's parents joined the local first aid unit and eventually trained to become paramedics. Jessie was a member of the first class of trained paramedics in New Jersey; Richard was in the second class. Recognizing a need for training in first response, Jessie and Richard began teaching courses in first aid and CPR. The course was 12 hours long, which was prohibitive for many working class adults, so they developed the abridged four-hour version which would later be adopted by the American Heart Association.

In the ensuing years, Heatherlee's parents taught first aid and CPR to thousands around their home in Mercer County and throughout New Jersey. There with them

were Heatherlee and her younger brother, Richard Jr.

"I had my CPR card when I was seven," Heatherlee said. "My brother and I would teach CPR and first aid in high school health class. When EMT courses started to be offered, my parents taught that as well, and we were there with them. I grew up doing this."

Jessie, who passed away in 2014, became the first female captain of her first aid squad, a position she held for 13 years.

Heatherlee's father, now 84, made more than 5,000 ambulance calls.

Heatherlee's dedication to her profession – which places an emphasis on volunteerism and mentoring – is no doubt rooted in her parents' involvement as first aid volunteers.

That sentiment was evident when Heatherlee matriculated at Alfred University in the fall of 1986, her plans to pursue a career in medicine by then clearly set. She chose Alfred because it checked the boxes of what she was looking for in a school: an excellent academic reputation; an equestrian program that would allow her to pursue

her love of riding; and scholarship assistance.

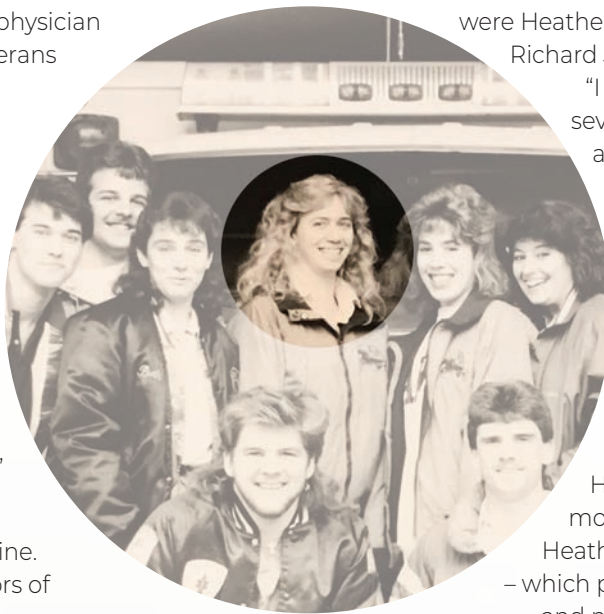
At Alfred, Heatherlee worked a few jobs. One was for then-head football coach Jim Moretti, inputting statistics, filing paperwork, and preparing letters for recruits. Another was working in student security for the Office of Public Safety.

"In student security, every so often we'd encounter individuals who needed help, who were sick or hurt. We'd be on standby at events, and sometimes there were injuries," Heatherlee explained. "Some of us had a first aid background. We got together and talked about forming a first responder group on campus."

The group was outfitted with radios and equipment. Student volunteers, initially numbering 12, provided CPR and basic first aid. The group, founded in 1988 remained active for nearly 25 years, disbanding in 2012.

Heatherlee has continued to follow in her parents' footsteps, making a difference through her professional work, as a volunteer, and as a mentor. After earning her medical degree, she completed her residency at the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia (now Drexel University College of Medicine).

By then, Heatherlee knew she wanted to focus on emergency medicine and critical care. "I knew that's



"I had a great time at Alfred University and wouldn't trade a minute of it."

Heatherlee Bailey '90

where I could make a difference," she said.

After her residency, Heatherlee joined the faculty at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and, after a faculty fellowship in critical care, served as her department's director of Critical Care Education as well as its associate residency program director. Twelve years later, Heatherlee was appointed director of Critical Care Education at Duke University before taking her current position at the Durham VA Medical Center. She is an emergency medicine intensivist, with a primary specialty in emergency medicine and a sub-specialty in critical care.

What does Heatherlee find most gratifying about her work? "The fact that you have the ability to make a difference for the individuals you are treating and their families," she says. "These are people who are having the worst days of their lives and we have the potential to make it better. Saving a life: there's nothing more rewarding than that."

Throughout her medical career, Heatherlee has been a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), the largest non-profit medical organization dedicated to promoting excellence and consistency in the practice of critical care. With members in more than 100 countries, SCCM is the only organization that represents all professional components of the critical care team, from doctors and nurses to respiratory therapists and pharmacists. Her parents' involvement in volunteer work and the impact it has had on her is reflected in her work with the SCCM, which stresses volunteerism and mentoring.

One of Heatherlee's most significant and rewarding endeavors is the development of the Comprehensive Trauma Life Course for India. In 2005, in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of coastal India, Heatherlee was instrumental in creating the program, which trains physicians and nurses in the Indian sub-continent in the care of trauma patients. She stayed active in the program from 2005-10, making annual trips to India. The program remains in operation to this day.



Above: Heatherlee attends to a patient during one of her overnight shifts at the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Durham, NC.

Facing page: Heatherlee along with other members of Alfred University's original student "first responders" group in the late 1980s.

Heatherlee lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, Dr. Edward Cooner, whom she met during her first week of medical school. A member of the equestrian team during her four years at Alfred, she maintains her interest in riding. While she hasn't ridden competitively for years, she owns and boards a horse, Silver, riding as her schedule allows. "It's important to have something outside of medicine, to maintain balance. You need another area of life that brings you joy."

Of her time at Alfred University: "Between working for (Moretti), working with the student first responders, riding on the equestrian team, all my classes, the people I met...I had a great time at Alfred University and wouldn't trade a minute of it."

Footnote: Heatherlee's father, Richard Bailey Sr., passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 20, at his home in Florida.



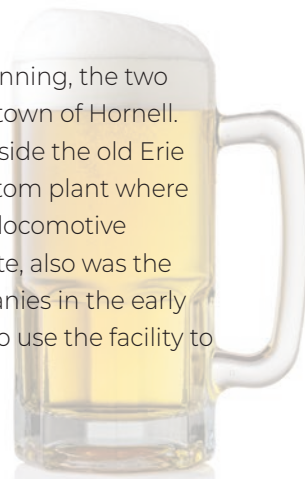
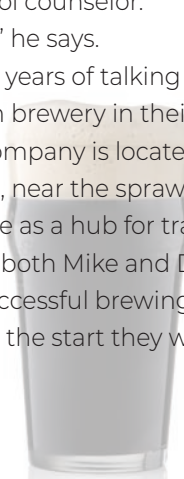
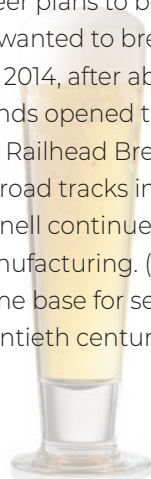
CRAFTING THE **Brew** THAT IS **True**

Mike McCumiskey '03 and Dave Woolever '06 M.S. grew up together in Hornell before attending Alfred University. They enjoyed drinking beer with each other and eventually extended the fun into making their own homemade batches. Mike, an undergraduate business major who had been experimenting with fermenting grape juice, found the relatively short fermentation and maturation period for beer – about a month -- preferable to the six-to-nine-month period it took to produce a drinkable batch of wine

They continued their joint hobby, eventually moving from beer kits to recipes for specific kinds of beer. They used Mike's kitchen in Rochester, where he had moved and was working. Dave also began studying the actual chemistry involved in the brewing process while working as a school counselor (he had earned a history degree at Susquehanna University, then received his master's degree in education counseling from Alfred University). Dave further immersed himself in the science and craft of brewing through internships with the Rochester-based Rohrbach Brewing Company and CB Craft Brewers. Eventually he began working full-time for Rohrbach and dropped his original career plans to be a school counselor.

"I wanted to brew beer," he says.

In 2014, after about two years of talking and planning, the two friends opened their own brewery in their hometown of Hornell. The Railhead Brewing Company is located alongside the old Erie Railroad tracks in Hornell, near the sprawling Alstom plant where Hornell continues to serve as a hub for train and locomotive manufacturing. (Hornell, both Mike and Dave note, also was the home base for several successful brewing companies in the early twentieth century.) From the start they wanted to use the facility to



By Rob Price

brew craft beers and supplement the brewing business with a wood-fired brick oven pizza restaurant. They purchased a ready-made brick oven and learned how to use it, while relatives contributed construction and carpentry skills to renovate the building.

Their first night in business featured a low-key opening, with just an invitation to friends on Facebook. "We knew we were going to have a steep learning curve, and we were nervous," Dave says. "We wanted as soft an opening as possible."

The first customers began arriving at about 3pm.

And they keep on coming.

Mike and Dave credit a lot of their success with knowing the local market and having a realistic idea of what kind of brewing/eating business would succeed in Hornell.

"We knew the community," Dave says. "If we had just opened a brewery, we could take it only so far. The wood-fired pizza just made sense – of course, we had to learn how to make pizza on the fly."

The beer is excellent (so is the pizza). As chief brewer, Dave keeps three 93-gallon fermenting tanks in operation in a back room, turning out a combination of ales and lagers that are served up in pint glasses, or in flights of four five-ounce sampling glasses. The brewery is open for business only three nights a week



and on any given evening the bar serves about seven different kinds of lagers and ale, plus batches of experimental brews. Customers may also purchase 64-ounce servings, or growlers, in take-home containers, and Mike and Dave recently added a crimping machine that can seal a 32-ounce can of

beer, or growler, for transportation.

Business has been good enough for the partners to begin an ambitious expansion plan, leasing a nearby building in which they will have more space for a wider

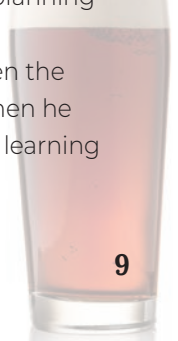
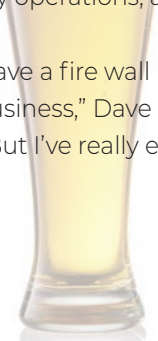
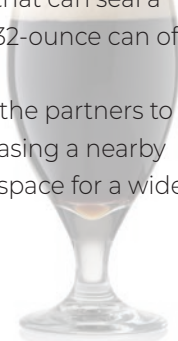
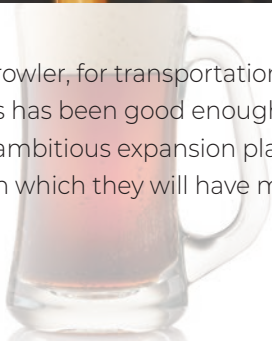
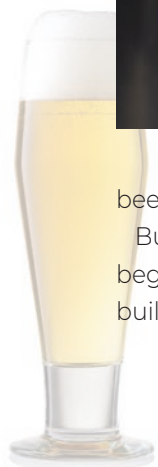


Above: Dave Woolever '06 M.S., left, and Mike McCumskey '03, in the Railhead brewery. Lower left: Dave checks the beer quality with a hydrometer. Facing page: Mike describes the different varieties to customers.

range and greater quantity of brewing. The larger facility will allow them to open the restaurant in its current location four nights a week. They also hope to begin selling their beer to other restaurants in western New York.

The work is collaborative with little division of labor between the brewing and the business end of the operation. Mike focuses more on the details of accounting and taxes, while Dave continues learning the science and craft of brewing. That said, the duo believes the business is small enough, and new enough, for the two of them to work closely together in the daily operations, and in planning for the future.

"We really don't have a fire wall between the brewing and the business," Dave says. Then he laughs and adds: "But I've really enjoyed learning how to brew."



FRED'S GOT IT *Covered*



Fred Tracy '87

In the summer of 1987, right after receiving his BFA degree from Alfred University, Fred Tracy made a living selling his original pottery, at studios he owned in Lake George, NY, and Virginia Beach, VA, and at numerous craft fairs and shows in the Northeast.

What Fred remembers most about working the summer craft fair circuit was the intense heat that reddened his skin and made his artwork nearly too hot for customers to handle.

“I was getting sunburned. I needed something to shade me and keep my pottery cool,” Fred recalls.

Fred’s solution? He designed a small tent – about 10-by 10 feet in size – consisting of a steel and galvanized frame topped by a white polyethylene canopy.

By Mark Whitehouse

The structures were a hit with fellow vendors at craft fairs so Fred began making the tents at a garage in his native South Glens Falls and selling them. “That was the start of Fred’s Studio Tents and Canopies,” he says.

“Studio” has since been dropped from the company name and today, Fred’s Tents and Canopies is a multi-million dollar business, employing nearly 70 people at an 87,000 square foot facility in Waterford, NY.

The business manufactures a variety of tents and canopies of all shapes and sizes, serving the sports and entertainment industries, third-party sales and rental companies, and agricultural and industrial entities. Fred’s Tents and Canopies products have been used by emergency responders at the sites of natural disasters and by the military in overseas operations, at Super Bowls, and Presidential inaugurations.

“We have tents in every continent, in at least 15 countries, and in all 50 states,” Fred says.

Fred and his wife, Linda, co own the business, which has evolved steadily over the years. After graduation from Alfred University, Fred operated pottery studios in Lake George – which he opened during his senior year at South Glens Falls High School – and Virginia Beach.

Fred and Linda met in 1987 when Linda came into his studio in Lake George, looking to buy some pottery. After they married, in 1991, Linda joined the business while working as a CPA.

Over the first few years in business, Fred's Tents and Canopies manufactured and sold thousands of the small tents, moving in 1990 to a building in Stillwater, NY. Fred had closed his studio in Virginia Beach and was making pottery at his Lake George studio. He and Linda sold pottery, wicker baskets, and tents from the Lake George facility. "One day, Linda said to me, 'We have these three businesses. Why not concentrate on tents?'"

Fred agreed and, in 1992, he expanded the tent business, making larger structures that were rented for events like graduation parties and wedding receptions. Fred's Tents operated out of a barn with no heat and, later, in a section of a former middle school building in Stillwater. "We were in a 21-by-24-foot room on the second floor,"

Fred recalls, "If no one was using the gym, we made tents there and carried them back upstairs."

In 1996, Fred moved into a new facility, a 60-by-100-foot building in Stillwater. "Every other year, we put a new addition on," he said.

The business's product line expanded over time as well. In 1992, the company introduced "The Fred Shed," a structure consisting of fabric stretched over metal arched supports, which was typically used as a garage or to store equipment. In 2004, the company manufactured its first pole tent and five years later, in

"Our tents were in Louisiana for 18 months (following Katrina), until people were able to get back on their feet again. People were calling us ahead of Hurricane Dorian."

Fred Tracy '87

2009, introduced the still popular Stillwater Sailcloth line. Made from a translucent material, the Stillwater Sailcloth has been featured on the cover of *In Tents*, a top industry publication.

In 2010, Fred's Tents began manufacturing its BFS (Better Fabric Structure) line. BFS is essentially a much larger version of The Fred Shed. The latter measured anywhere from eight to 30 feet in width, while the BFS ranges from 30 to 100 feet wide. Industries that make use of BFS structures include agriculture (housing farming equipment or livestock) and transportation (storing heavy equipment and road maintenance materials like salt and sand).

By 2014, the facility had increased from 6,000 to 15,000 square feet, but the business was growing at a rate that outpaced the added space. That year, Fred moved the business to its current location, an 87,000-square-foot manufacturing and storage facility in the former Yankee Dollar distribution center in Waterford.

Fred's Tents and Canopies has become one of the largest and most successful businesses in the tent industry. The firm provides tents primarily to third-party businesses, including rental companies, and manufactures tents according to customer specifications. It consists of three divisions: soft goods/fabric; metal fabrication; and printing. Fred's Tents does its own printing on tent and canopy fabric, and has developed a process for printing on the tent's metal components.

Continued on page 12





One of Fred's most ambitious projects was for an expansive tent and canopy structure commissioned for a 2013 Great Gatsby-themed birthday party at a residence on Long Island, NY. The project – which took five weeks to install and three weeks to take down – consisted of a 12-by-34 meter custom marquee entry; a 3-by-15 marquee connecting a 12-by-9 meter cocktail tent with a 15-by-30 meter dining tent; and a 170-foot casino tent installed along the curved exterior of the home. More than 2,000 meters of fabric were used and a faux wood finish was printed on every aluminum element. The project won the International Achievement Award from the Industrial Fabric Association.

Fred's Tents and Canopies has been a supplier for contests in every major sports league. Its products have been used at horse races, stock car races, festivals, and concerts. Fred is quick to point out that the tent industry serves so much more than the entertainment industry.

"Most people think of graduation parties, wedding receptions, carnivals, and festivals. But it's a unique industry. In the 30-plus years I've been doing this, I've seen this country's worst and best days," he says, referring to his tents having been used at staging areas for first responders in New York City following the attacks on 9-11; by rescue workers in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and in Afghanistan, where they've provided shelter to the U.S. military.

"Our tents were in Louisiana for 18 months (following Katrina), until people were able to get back on their feet again. People were calling us ahead of Hurricane Dorian," Fred says. "Those are the bad days. But we've had our tents at PGA golf tournaments, NASCAR events, and Super Bowls. Our products have been there for millions to see, and we've done a lot of those events. There's a huge spectrum there. To have become one of

the major manufacturers in the United States and the world...It's pretty humbling."

Fred attended Alfred University on the recommendation of his art teacher in high school. At the time, he knew of Alfred's reputation as having one of the nation's top ceramic art programs. He called his time at Alfred "a growing experience" that helped set the stage for his career.

"During my junior year, I was able to study abroad in Manchester, England. Alfred gave me that opportunity. I do a lot of international travel so that (experience) helped me," says Fred, who lists Fred Tschida (glass art professor), John and Andrea Gill (ceramic art professors), and Fred Frederickson (kiln technician) among his mentors at Alfred.

His advice to students? "Don't give up on your passion. There are places for you. Eventually you will fall into something. It was what I learned in high school and at Alfred that has allowed me to do this. I took all of what I learned and experienced and applied it, ran with it and created a multi-million dollar company."

Fred and Linda have two children: son Fred Jr. recently graduated from Clarkson with a graduate degree in engineering; daughter Amanda is an undergraduate at Delaware Valley College, studying agricultural business. Despite not having a career as a potter – he hasn't made a piece of pottery in 15 years – Fred says his business is a form of art, and it allows him to indulge his creative side.

"I always thought I was going to do something" that tapped into his creativity, Fred says. "I thought I was going to be a potter; I didn't know it would be in tents. I'm asked, 'Do you still make pottery?' I say I still do it, but in a different form: I do it in aluminum, canvas and steel. I'm still fulfilling my artistic need.

CAMPUS Digest

Marlin and Ginger Miller donating ceramic art to Alfred University

Over the last half century, Marlin Miller '54, '89 HD, '19 HD – with his first wife Marcianne (Mapel) Miller, and second wife, Ginger – has collected works by some of the most renowned ceramic artists in the world. Since Marlin's first acquisition, a lidded ceramic bowl created by famed artist and Alfred University alumnus Val Cushing '52, the Millers' collection has grown to exceed 200 pieces.

On Sept. 27, Marlin, a member of the Board of Trustees and one of the University's most generous benefactors, announced he and Ginger would be donating the majority of the Miller Ceramic Art Collection to Alfred University's Ceramic Art Museum. Marlin, who earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University and received honorary degrees from his alma mater in 1989 and 2019, made the announcement at a dinner following the Perkins Ceramic Art History Lecture.

Miller enrolled at Alfred University in 1950 as an engineering major, but soon became interested in the arts. His roommate was an art student, who introduced him to another art student, Marcianne Mapel '55 (B.F.A.). After Marlin and Marcianne married, Marlin's appreciation for art continued to grow. On a trip to Cape Cod, MA, in 1969, the Millers acquired the first piece of their collection, a lidded bowl by Val Cushing for which they paid \$50.

Today, the Millers' collection contains some of the most renowned names in ceramic art,



Marlin Miller '54, '89 HD, '19 HD and Ginger Miller



"Materiality: Masterworks from the Miller Ceramic Art Collection," opened at the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum Sept. 26, 2019

including the late Val Cushing, a ceramic art professor who earned a B.F.A. degree from Alfred University in 1952, and several others affiliated with the University, including: Wayne Higby, director and curator of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum; John Gill '75 M.F.A., professor of ceramic art, and his wife, Andrea '74 (B.F.A.), professor of ceramic art emerita; Anne Currier, professor of ceramic art emerita; late professor of ceramic art Robert Turner '49 (M.F.A.), the late David Shaner '59 (M.F.A.), the late Ken Price '59 (M.F.A.), the late Ken Ferguson '58 (M.F.A.), Ed Eberle '72 (M.F.A.), and Tony Marsh '88 (M.F.A.). The exhibition also contains pieces by noted Japanese and Chinese ceramic artists.

An exhibition, "Materiality: Masterworks from the Miller Ceramic Art Collection," opened at the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum Sept. 26 and will remain on view through Dec. 30. The Val Cushing piece is one of approximately 60 pieces in the exhibition; the remainder of the collection remains at Marlin and Ginger's home. "We're going to give the bulk of our collection to Alfred University," Miller said in announcing the bequest to the University.

Miller, a member of the Board of Trustees since 1972, is a successful businessman and noted philanthropist who has been one of Alfred University's most generous supporters. His gifts have funded construction of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, as well as the Miller Performing Arts Center and Miller Theater.

Alfred University awards Helen Drutt English honorary degree

Alfred University awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree to Helen Drutt English, a pioneering educator, collector, and curator in the craft art industry, who has long been a supporter and advocate for ceramic artists affiliated with Alfred University. The honorary degree was presented at a dinner following the Perkins Ceramic Art History Lecture on Sept. 27.

Drutt English's involvement in the field of Modern and Contemporary Craft began in the mid-1950s, first as a collector. In 1973, she founded the Helen Drutt Gallery, one of the first galleries in the United States committed to modern and contemporary crafts. In presenting her for her honorary degree, Wayne Higby, director and curator of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, said, "None of the pioneers of the contemporary cultural marketplace has been more important to Alfred University and to the advancement of ceramic art than Helen Drutt English."

Higby related how, during a visit to Alfred University in 1997, Drutt English arranged to see a Master of Fine Arts thesis exhibition of Sun Koo Yuh '97, a Korean American student. A month later at the Helen Drutt Gallery in Philadelphia, she mounted Sun Koo Yuh's first solo exhibition.



From left: Wayne Higby, Helen Drutt English and Mark Zupan.

"During the exhibition, his work was acquired by eight private collections as well as the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art," Higby said. "Today, Sun Koo Yuh is one of the world's renowned ceramic artists. This is but a single example of Helen Drutt English's commitment to young artists."

Over the years, Drutt English has exhibited and promoted the work of numerous ceramic artists affiliated with Alfred

University. They include Higby, whose work has been shown at more than 20 exhibitions at Drutt English's galleries in Philadelphia and New York City. In 2018, she began work with the National Museum of Art in Sweden on an exhibition that includes the work of several ceramic artists connected to Alfred, including Higby, John '75 M.F.A. and Andrea Gill '74, Linda Sikora, Robert Turner '49 and Val Cushing '52.

Over her career, Drutt English has organized a number of major exhibitions in the United States and abroad. In 2014, she facilitated the gift of a collection of 74 works, including ceramics, furniture, and jewelry, worth approximately \$2 million, to Russia's Hermitage Museum. The work of several Alfred University-affiliated artists, including Higby, is included in the collection.

s appointment as vice president of Statutory Affairs



Gabrielle Gaustad '04

On Sept. 26, the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Directors affirmed the appointment of Gabrielle Gaustad '04 as vice president of Statutory Affairs at Alfred University.

In her role, Gaustad – who is dean of Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering – serves as unit head for the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. She succeeds W.

Richard Stephens, who had served as acting vice president of Statutory Affairs from 2016 until June 30, 2019, when he retired from his position as Alfred University's provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

The vice president of Statutory Affairs/unit head is SUNY's chief administrative officer of the New York State College of Ceramics, overseeing budget requests and expenditures for the College on behalf of the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Gaustad has been dean of the Inamori School of Engineering since Jan. 1. She came to Alfred from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where she served as associate professor and director of the Master of Science program in the Golisano Institute for Sustainability. At RIT, Gaustad conducted more than \$2 million in sponsored research programs, and mentored dozens of doctoral and masters students.

Gaustad earned a B.S. degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University in 2004. She also holds a master's degree in computation for design and optimization and a doctorate in materials science and engineering, both from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Alumni gift to support innovation in the Inamori School of Engineering

By Mark Whitehouse

Terry Michalske '75 credits much of his professional success to his Alfred University education. A recent gift from Terry and his wife, Susan (Knab) Michalske '79 will be used to spur continued growth and innovation in the Inamori School of Engineering and allow future generations of students to benefit as Terry did.

"I count myself among the many Alfred University grads whose lives and professional careers have benefited



Terry Michalske '75

greatly from my Alfred University engineering experience," said Terry, who earned a bachelor's (1975) and doctoral (1979) degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred. "My glass and ceramic education provided the professional connections and engineering skills that allowed my career to develop in directions that I couldn't have guessed."

The Michalskes recently gave \$50,000 to Alfred University to establish the Alfred University Engineering Innovation Fund. It creates a permanent endowment that the dean of the Inamori School can use in support of strategic priorities; rapidly respond to new opportunities; and invest in the future of the School's students, faculty and staff.

Terry, who is a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, retired last year from his position as laboratory director for the U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) in Aiken, SC. He and Susan, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Alfred, live in Cedar Crest, NM. Prior to joining SRNL, Terry worked for nearly 30 years at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM, and Livermore, CA.

Gabrielle Gaustad '04, dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, expressed her appreciation to Terry and Susan for their generosity, and noted the important role Terry has played in the advancement of the engineering program at Alfred University.

"Alfred University, and its School of Engineering in particular, are so fortunate to have Terry and Susan Michalske sharing their resources with us," she said. "The investment is appreciated, and even more significant is the tremendous time and energy that Terry has spent helping us with strategic leadership and curricular innovation. I have personally benefited tremendously from the mentoring he has provided me stemming from his years of experience leading large, diverse research teams."

Terry explained that as the endowment grows, the Engineering Innovation Fund will assist in a number of initiatives he sees as important to advancing the Inamori School. They include undergraduate research; fellowships

aimed at attracting top student applicants; hiring new faculty; supporting faculty teams writing large-scale research projects; and investing in improvements to the operational efficiency of the School.

"In the near term we have several exciting initiatives to support. One is reinvigorating our first year engineering curriculum, and the other is providing enhanced hands-on capabilities in our maker spaces," Dean Gaustad commented.

Terry pointed to recent "exciting new developments" in the School of Engineering – such as the appointment of Gaustad as dean; the state's reauthorization of the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology for another 10 years; and the creation, in 2013, of the renewable energy engineering major – on which the University can build momentum.

"We're very excited about the future of Alfred University engineering. The expansion into new directions is paying dividends and the addition of Dean Gaustad is just what we need to take our game to the next level," Terry said. "There are great things happening in the engineering school. The facilities are world class. This is a great time to draw attention to that."

Terry encourages other Alfred University engineering alumni to support the endeavor. "Our hope is that the new Engineering Innovation Fund will provide a vehicle to give back to Alfred University engineering and to provide (Gaustad) and future engineering deans with the flexibility they need to invest in the continued growth of our Inamori School of Engineering."

Alfred University trustees, including Tom Hinman '79; Kathleen Richardson '82, M.S. '88, Ph.D. '92; Cheryl Blanchard '86; A.N. Sreeram M.S. '90; and Christine Heckle '92, M.S. '95,

"There are great things happening in the engineering school. The facilities are world class."

Terry Michalske '75

Ph.D. '98 have also committed to support the Engineering Innovation Fund.

Tom, who earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering and is retired as senior vice president at Corning Incorporated, expressed his enthusiasm about the vision for the Inamori School.

"For me, a major point of distinction for Alfred has always been ceramics and glass, and I personally benefited from my bachelor's in ceramic engineering during my 32-year career at Corning Incorporated," he said. "Today, engineering at Alfred has grown, building on the strengths of our uniqueness in ceramics and glass to include mechanical engineering, as well as a number of other distinctive engineering majors. I am delighted to support the Engineering Innovation Fund to ensure that Alfred University's engineering program continues to thrive well into the future."

Academic Program Innovation Fund initiative creates path to new majors

The Academic Program Innovation Fund established last year by Kevin Livingston '93, a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, and his wife, Hanh, is leading to the creation of new majors in data analytics and computer science.

This academic year, the University began offering a minor in data analytics. As that minor, and one in computer science created in 2015-16, are being offered, the University is developing new majors in both fields, with an eye on implementing them in the fall of 2020.

Beth Ann Dobie, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said \$50,000 from the Academic Program Innovation Fund was split evenly to help develop new majors in data analytics and computer science.

Alfred University faculty groups are developing the new majors and designing the needed courses. Once a proposal is drafted, and resources required to deliver the new program are identified, the University's Curriculum and Teaching Committee will review and make the decision to approve the new majors.

Once approved by the New York State Education Department, the University will house two data analytics majors – data analytics and business analytics – in the College of Business. Only the business analytics major would be accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Business Schools (AACSB). The computer science major will be housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The data analytics major is being developed by faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Inamori School of Engineering, School of Art and Design and the College of Business. "It includes courses from all four units, and is governed by a committee of faculty representing all four units," explained Mark Lewis, dean of the College of Business.

Business Analytics, Lewis said, "will be a business degree, with students taking all of the accounting, finance, marketing, and other courses required for all business students. In addition to the core business courses, students will take analytics coursework, including newly developed advanced business analytics courses."

Data analytics is the process of examining data sets in order to draw conclusions about the information they contain. Data analytics technologies and techniques are widely used in commercial industries to enable organizations to make better-informed business decisions and by scientists and researchers to verify or disprove scientific models, theories, and hypotheses.

An increasing demand for graduates trained in data analytics makes the new academic programming at Alfred University attractive to prospective students.

"The market demand for graduates to fill data analytics needs in both the private and public sectors is growing rapidly," Lewis said. "The demand for filling analytics positions far outstrips the supply of graduates, and comes from small and medium businesses, government and non-profit sectors."

Lewis said that Academic Program Innovation funding may be used

to support initiatives – such as consulting, attendance at AACSB analytics workshops, and visits to analytics Centers for Excellence – that will assist in the development of the new analytics majors.

Alfred University had offered a computer science major, but it was discontinued in the early 2000s. The minor provides students with an introduction to modern programming, web development, and software

engineering. The program can supplement majors in engineering, mathematics, physics, or other fields where computing technology is an integral part of job responsibilities.

David Toot, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, noted that since the discontinued Bachelor of Arts degree in computer science is still registered with the State Education Department, the University could simply reactivate the degree program. He said the University is looking into expanding the major to include specialties and will likely submit a proposal to the state for a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

Toot said funding from the Academic Program Innovation

Fund will support faculty searches and, potentially, defray the cost of developing new physical space, like classrooms and labs, needed to facilitate a major in computer science.



Kevin Livingston '93

Academic Program Innovation funding may be used to support initiatives – such as consulting, attendance at AACSB analytics workshops, and visits to analytics Centers for Excellence – that will assist in the development of the new analytics majors.

Dillon Smith '19 leading program advocating for military

By Mark Whitehouse

Dillon Smith knows well the challenges that come with being both a member of the military and a college student. Dillon joined the Army in 2011 during his junior year of high school and has held the roles of both college student and soldier since the time he enrolled as an undergrad at Alfred University in the spring of 2014.

Dillon earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and experimental psychology (minors in sociology and public law) from Alfred University in May, and in the fall began his graduate studies at Alfred, pursuing a master's degree in College Student Development. He spent his senior year developing his graduate assistantship, Military Affairs Liaison, with a goal of helping members of the military – active duty and veterans alike – meet the challenges they may face as college students.

If anyone is suited for the job, it is Dillon, who has thrived as a member of the U.S. Army National Guard, attaining the rank of sergeant, and as an Alfred University student, honored this spring as one of two Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award recipients.

Dillon's career in the military began well before he matriculated at Alfred University. A four-year member of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at Washingtonville (NY) High School, he earned the position of battalion commander as a senior, overseeing a group of more than 150 cadets. As a junior in high school, Dillon decided he wanted to commit to military service and, with his parents' consent, joined the Army as a 17-year-old.

The summer before his senior year, he went to Fort Benning, GA, for basic training. After graduating from high school in 2013, he traveled to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to complete his advanced individual training in electrical engineering. Dillon became interested in Alfred University during his junior year in high school, learning about the University at a college fair.

Looking back at his early years at Alfred, Dillon said there were moments of uncertainty. He was unaware of the financial aid benefits available to him as a member of the military, and unsure where to turn for guidance. "When doing my own research, I found out my benefits were greater than I originally thought. It was just a matter of miscommunication



Dillon Smith '19

between the Student Accounts and Financial Aid offices, and the military," Dillon recalled.

Early last year, Dillon approached Kathy Woughter '93 M.S., then vice president of Student Affairs, and Norm Pollard, then dean of students, about planning his graduate assistantship.

"When I realized my career aspirations, I was considering my focus and thought back on the tough times I had experienced. I thought it would be a good idea to analyze Alfred University's strengths and weaknesses and see if there are ways we

can better support service men and women, said Dillon, who hopes that as Military Affairs Liaison, he can give that group greater attention. "I will be the person to help them if they're struggling. I can use my experience and give guidance."

Dillon's goals for the two-year assistantship include: educating various departments on the needs of those on campus with connections to the military; maximizing military benefits; creating a Veterans/Military Support Council; creating a resource center where veterans and members of the military can learn about the services available to them; travel for the purpose of student recruitment; and development of on-line academic coursework for veterans and active duty military personnel.

His assistantship is supported by a pair of gifts to the University. One – from Board of Trustees member Neal Miller and his wife, Lynne – enhances the assistantship, allowing Dillon to work 20 hours per week instead of 10. The second – from alumnus Dr. Robert Chaikin, a Vietnam veteran (U.S. Army) who graduated from Alfred in 1962 (B.A., psychology) – is dedicated to supporting programming initiatives, such

as training seminars, travel, and guest speakers.

Dillon said he hopes that after his graduate assistantship concludes, efforts to serve the military and veterans on campus will continue, whether through continued advocacy by the Veterans/Military Support Council, or through the establishment of a Military Affairs Office staffed by a full-time director.

"I will be the person to help [students] if they're struggling.

I can use my experience and give guidance."

Dillon Smith '19

Hall of Fame ceremony taking place in November

Five former student-athletes will be inducted into the Alfred University Sports Hall of Fame during an on-campus ceremony in November. The University will also introduce



Matt Baker '09

two new honors, recognizing a pair of former Saxons.

The 2019 Hall of Fame inductees are twin brothers Mark Baker '09 and Matt Baker '09 (swimming and diving), Katie Calfee '08 (women's tennis), Tim Jaenecke '84 (swimming and diving) and Paul Keeley '08 (football). This year, the University added

two new honors to the Hall of Fame ceremonies: Golden Saxon inductee and the Distinguished Saxon Alumni Award. Honorees for those awards are, respectively, John Henderson '76 (football) and Dr. Kathleen Richardson '82, M.S., Ph.D. (volleyball).

The seven will be recognized at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Knight Club in Powell Campus Center. They will be honored as well at halftime of the home football game that afternoon against Utica. Other events honoring former and new Hall of Fame members will be held on Friday, Nov. 1.

This marks the first year a weekend will be dedicated to Hall of Fame festivities: in the past, induction ceremonies were held the same weekend as Homecoming.

"What an outstanding class of inductees we will honor this November. They represent the very best of what a Saxon student-athlete is, and across a great diversity of sports as well," said Paul Vecchio, athletics director. "I am also excited to welcome our first Distinguished Saxon and Golden Saxon honorees, which will add greatly to our celebration and, we hope, lead to many more nominations in those deserving categories in the future. I hope to see plenty of former Hall of Famers, alumni, family, and friends as we usher in a new era by moving the Hall of Fame to its own weekend in early November."

The Baker brothers were four-year members of the Alfred University swimming and diving team from 2005-09, helping lead the Saxons to three consecutive Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association (UNYSCSA) Championships in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Matt was a four-time NCAA All-America Honorable Mention: three times in the 100-yard backstroke (2007, 2008, and 2009) and once in 200-yard backstroke (2009). He is a two-time Empire 8 Swimmer of the Year (2007 and 2009) and 23-time Empire 8 Champion, including 13 relays and 10 individual events. Baker was named the Empire 8 Swimmer of the Meet in 2007 while aiding the Saxons to their first of three consecutive UNYSCSA Championships. Over the course of his career, he won 54 individual events and 42 relay events during dual meets.

He participated in the NCAA Division III National Champi-



Mark Baker '09, right

onship meet in 2007, 2008, and 2009. During the 2007 meet, he finished 14th in the 100-yard backstroke to earn his first career All-America Honorable Mention recognition. He finished ninth in the 100-yard backstroke at the 2008 NAAs. At the 2009 NAAs, he placed 13th in the 100-yard

backstroke and 16th in the 200-yard backstroke. Matt still holds school records in the 400-yard medley relay, the 200-yard medley relay, and the 100-yard backstroke.

Matt graduated from Alfred cum laude with a degree in chemistry. At the 2009 honors convocation, he was honored with the American Chemical Society College Student Award, the American Institute of Chemists Foundation Award, and the ECAC Merit Medal. He was also a three-time UNYSCSA All-Academic selection and four-time Collegiate Swim Coaches Association of America Academic All-American.

Mark Baker secured 16 Empire 8 Championship titles



including four titles in the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay. He also aided the Saxons in winning the 200-yard medley relay three times, the 400-yard medley relay twice, and the 800-yard freestyle relay twice. He was part of the 200-yard medley relay team that holds the school record with a time of 1:32.34.

Individually, Mark won one Empire 8 title in the 50-yard freestyle during the 2006-07 season. He also earned Empire 8 All-Conference Second Team honors in the 100-yard freestyle twice while earning Second Team honors in the 200-yard freestyle and 50-yard freestyle once. Mark earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Alfred University.

Katie Calfee, a four-year member of the women's tennis team (2004-08) is the fourth Alfred University women's tennis player to be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame, and is one of the most decorated tennis players in school history.

She was recognized on the Empire 8 All-Conference team every year at Alfred University earning Empire 8 Rookie of the Year, Empire 8 First Team singles, and Empire 8 Honorable Mention in doubles during her first year in 2004. She earned first team singles and second team doubles honors in 2005; Player of the Year, first team singles and second team doubles honors in 2006; and first team singles and second team doubles honors in 2007. She was also a member of the 2004 team that went undefeated (12-0).

Katie won a school-record 44 singles matches in her career as well as 30 doubles matches. She is the overall winningest player in program history with 74 total wins. She is tied for second all-time at Alfred University in career doubles wins, singles wins in a season (12), doubles wins in a season (10) and total wins in a season (twice winning 20). The two-time captain, who earned a B.F.A. degree, capped off her career by earning the Muriel Strong Morley Award as Alfred University's most outstanding senior student-athlete.

The late Tim Jaenecke was a four-year member of the Alfred University swimming and diving team from 1980-84 under legendary Hall of Fame coach Michael Schaeberle. He was a member of the 1983 and 1984 undefeated Saxon men's swimming and diving teams – the first two in program history. He was also a two-time All-American, earning recognition in the 400-yard medley relay (1982) and 800-yard freestyle relay (1984) while setting school records in the 50-yard freestyle



Katie Calfee '08

and 100-yard freestyle.

Tim, who passed away in 2007 from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease), was recently memorialized in 2017 by the Saxon swimming and diving team and alumni with the installation of the "Tim Jaenecke Memorial Record Boards" in Lebohner Pool.

Schaeberle said prior to the dedication, "Tim was a dedicated student-athlete, a hard-working, competitive swimmer who never complained about how difficult the workouts were. Tim was the quiet achiever, who pushed everyone around him to be better. Tim was a man of action and little talk

who was well liked by all his fellow swimmers."

Paul Keeley was a three-year starting quarterback on the Saxon football team from 2005-07. In 2007, he was a Gagliardi Trophy semifinalist, competing for the National Player of the Year honor. Over the course of his career, he was a two-time D3Football.com All-Region honoree, three-time Empire 8 All-Conference honoree, two-time ECAC Bowl Championship Most Outstanding Player, team captain, and team Most Valuable Player.



Tim Jaenecke '84

Paul currently holds the school records for passing yards in a season (3,015 in 2007), passing touchdowns in a season (34 in 2007), passing touchdowns in a game (six vs. Hartwick in 2007), passing efficiency in a season (166.31 in 2007), passing efficiency in a career (145.21), passes completed per game in a career (17.6), passing completion percentage in a game (82.1 percent vs. Norwich in 2007), passing completion percentage in a season (64.4 percent in 2007), and passing completion percentage in a career (59 percent). He held records, since broken, for career

continued on page 20

Hall of Fame *continued*

passing yards (7,607), career passing touchdowns (80), total yards in a career (7,647), and total yards in a season (2,991 in 2007).

Keeley earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice studies and returned to Alfred as a graduate assistant coach before earning his master's degree in counseling in 2010.

John Henderson is the inaugural inductee and recipient the Golden Saxon Award. The Golden Saxon Award was created in 2018 to honor student-athletes from earlier eras (40 years or more back) at Alfred University. It honors outstanding athletic achievement while recognizing that a lack of statistical information puts nominees at a significant disadvantage when assessing them against contemporary student-athletes.

John was a four-year football and golf player at Alfred University, where he played under legendary Hall of Fame coach Alex Yunevich. He contributed to a 26-7 overall record for the football team during his tenure with the Saxons, helping lead them to the Lambert Bowl in 1971 and another Independent College Athletic Conference (ICAC) Championship in 1972. On the golf course, John carried a handicap of four throughout his career while serving as the number one player on the Saxon golf team.

Alfred University Hall of Fame member Joseph Van Cura '76 said about Henderson, "John was always a positive, quiet leader with an amazing work ethic that he carried on and off the field. I believe John's greatest asset was his versatility. He played defensive back, linebacker and even filled in at defensive tackle. It didn't matter where he played, his performance was seamless."

Another Hall of Famer, former Alfred University football coach and Athletic Director, Jim Moretti '72 cited in his letter of recommendation, "I'll end with this short story told to me by Gregg Maurer. Gregg was struggling with his (golf) game his senior year and asked Coach Yunevich for advice on his swing and stance. 'Don't ask me - go over there and ask Henderson for some pointers.' Yunevich said. "Henderson was a first-year student at the time."

John graduated from Alfred University with a bachelor's degree in economics, and went on to earn his MBA from the University of Rochester.

Kathleen Richardson is the first former student-athlete to be recognized with the Distinguished Saxon Alumni Award. The

Distinguished Saxon Alumni Award was created in 2018 to recognize Alfred University student-athletes for outstanding achievement following their playing career at Alfred University. This award is not necessarily based on athletic achievement, but on the nominee's career success following graduation through leadership, service, and professional accomplishment.



Paul Keeley '07

Kathleen, who played volleyball at Alfred University from 1979-82 under head coach Shirley Liddle, is currently the Pegasus Professor of Optics and Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Central Florida and has been a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2006.

In 1989, Kathleen earned the IR 100 Award from Industrial Research Magazine for one of the most significant technical advancements of the year – Liquid Crystal Polarizer/ Isolator. She is a past president of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) and a past chair of the ACerS Glass and Optical Materials Division, as well as a past president of the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers. She is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society; the Society of Glass Technology in Britain; SPIE,

the international society for optics and photonics; and the Optical Society of America. In 2009, Kathleen received the Outstanding Educator Award from ACerS. In 2012, she became a United States Representative to the International Commission on Glass, and, in 2015, she was named President of the ACerS.

Kathleen earned a B.S. degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University. She went on to earn her M.S. degree in glass science (1988) and doctorate in ceramic engineering (1992), both from Alfred University. She founded the high-tech optics company, IRadiance, which was recently purchased by Rochester Precision Optics – one of the fastest growing optics companies in the United States and regional employer of nearly 300 people.

She was also a trailblazer for the Alfred University women's volleyball team, playing in the program's infancy of the late 1970s and early 1980s. During her playing career, the Saxons posted a 47-59-2 record, including winning seasons in 1979 and 1981.

Saxon men's basketball team earns Pride Board title

The Alfred University men's basketball team topped the 2018-19 Connors & Ferris Saxon Pride Board, which measures athletic team performance in a variety of categories over the course of a full academic year.

The Connors & Ferris Saxon Pride Board measures each team's performance in each of the following: community service; academic excellence; athletic achievement; sporting event attendance at designated games; Saxon Circle and Saxons Nation contributions; and participation in the athletics' LEAD Program.

Men's basketball took home the Connors & Ferris Saxon Pride Board title after earning 21,871 total points. The team earned a majority of its points via athletic achievement (15,660), but also led all Alfred University programs in community service (2,860 points) while ranking third in Saxon Circle and Saxon Nation participation (1,000 points) and fifth in Saxon-For-Saxon attendance (750 points).

"I continue to be incredibly proud of the efforts that all of our programs are displaying in our critical areas of focus: academic and athletic achievement, community service and support and selflessness to causes outside of their own," Athletics Director Paul Vecchio said.

"Through these efforts we are living our goals of creating champions in life. Our men's basketball team truly embodied all of these attributes this year and is an extremely worthy champion. I look forward to our programs raising the bar even further next year and I am thankful for Connors and Ferris' ongoing support of this important Athletics Department endeavor."

The men's basketball team earned athletic achievement points both through team efforts and individually. Senior Dom LeMorta and Head Coach Russell Phillips earned All-Region honors following a season where the Saxons won both the Empire 8 regular season and championship tournament titles. Men's basketball also earned significant points from senior Sage Brown and first-year Elliot Bowen, who were named Empire 8 Defensive Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year, respectively. Overall, four players and the coaching staff earned Empire 8 All-Conference honors in 2018-19.



In addition to their athletic achievements, the men's basketball team completed 214.5 hours of community service, which included playing in "Greg's Game" – a fundraiser in honor of Greg Norton in Almond, NY; hosting shooting clinics for local youth; and hosting the Hornell Concern for Youth. All four seniors on the team also joined Saxon Circle – a five-year leadership giving society. At the student level, students pledge \$100 per year over a five-year period.



Football (17,325 total points), women's volleyball (16,901 total points), softball (13,145 total points) and women's swimming and diving (12,675 total points) rounded out the top five overall in the Saxon Pride Board final standings.

Women's soccer led all teams in overall GPA points (2,700 points) earning the highest GPA and the most improved GPA for the spring semester. Softball took home the crown in Saxon-for-Saxon attendance, earning 1,275 points due to 85 percent attendance at all Saxon-for-Saxon events. The team with the highest participation in Saxon Nation and Saxon Circle

was women's soccer (1,300 points).

Men's basketball had the most community service points (2,860) in 2018-19 while football (2,125), women's swimming and diving (1,500), women's basketball (1,283) and men's swimming and diving (1,270) comprise the other top five teams in the category. Overall, Saxon student-athletes completed 1,120 hours of community service over the course of the 2018-19 academic year.

Women's tennis took home the top honor for the most "Purple & Gold" points, measured by academic honors achieved by the team and individuals, with more than 40 percent of the team earning President's/Dean's List honors in both the Fall and Spring; four or more players earning Chi Alpha Sigma recognition; and senior Nurila Kamar being named a 2019 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior. The Saxon Pride Board is supported by Connors & Ferris, a law firm specializing in worker's compensation, with offices in Rochester, Buffalo, and New York City. Greg Connors '92, chair of the University's Board of Trustees, is a co-founder and partner in the firm.

Nate Smith named Director of Athletic Communications

Nate Smith is Alfred University's new Director of Athletic Communications. Smith, whose appointment was announced by Athletics Director Paul Vecchio, began his duties on Sept. 30.

"I am very excited to have Nate join our Saxon family and for the work he will do in sharing the many accomplishments of our student-athletes as well as interfacing with our alumni and friends," Vecchio commented. "He brings great enthusiasm and experience to Alfred University and I know will be a great asset to our department."

Smith came to Alfred University from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, where he has served as Athletic Communications and Marketing Manager since June 2016. At Skidmore, he handled public relations efforts for 19 athletic programs, with primary responsibilities for the soccer, field hockey, volleyball, basketball, ice hockey, baseball, softball, lacrosse, and tennis teams.

"I would like to thank Paul Vecchio and the rest of the search committee for their trust and faith in me. During the search process, it was clear that the staff and I shared the same plan of showcasing the day-to-day successes of our student-athletes," Smith said. "I was also inspired by the vision laid out by everybody I met on campus."

Smith worked with social media, videography, photography, game-day operations, and oversaw an eight-person staff of



Nate Smith

student-workers to deliver a memorable four-year experience to Skidmore's student-athletes.

Prior to working at Skidmore, Smith worked at Rochester Institute of Technology for one year, serving as an associate contact for the Division I women's ice hockey program as well as providing coverage for the soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, and lacrosse teams.

Smith earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 2015 from Buffalo State College, where he was a student assistant in their sports information department. He worked at 91.3FM WBNY as the sports director, producing and co-hosting multiple

music, news and sports talk programs. Prior to being hired as a student assistant in the sports information department, Smith helped to provide play-by-play and sideline commentary for 10 of Buffalo State's 14 varsity sports.

Smith joined Assistant Director Chris Boswell and Graduate Assistant John Ambroselli on the Alfred University Athletic Communications staff. "When I first met Nate Smith, I quickly learned that we would work very well together and that he would be an excellent fit for Alfred University athletics," Boswell commented. "I could tell that he had a strong desire to continue to develop himself and the Athletic Communications office in order to set ourselves apart from other institutions and provide a great four-year experience for our Saxon student-athletes and to stay connected to them once they graduate."

Empire 8 President's List includes 76 Saxons

In July, the Empire 8 Conference announced its President's List for the 2019 spring semester and a school-record 76 Alfred University student-athletes were recognized. In addition to individual awards, seven Saxon teams earned Empire 8 All-Academic honors.

To be named to the President's List, a student-athlete must earn a 3.75 grade point average or higher during the semester, while participating in an NCAA-sponsored sport. In addition, the student-athlete must display positive conduct on and off campus and be enrolled full-time at the member institution.

Overall, more than 750 student-athletes from the league's membership were recognized for their excellence in the classroom last spring. The nine full-time conference members sponsored a record number of 3,744 student-athletes who combined for a conference-wide spring

semester grade point average of 3.243, the league's highest since the President's List program was initiated.

"Our student-athletes continue to achieve at very high levels in the classroom. I am so proud of their accomplishments," said Empire 8 Commissioner Chuck Mitrano. "The commitment to academic excellence from our member institutions is unmatched and these numbers prove it."

Additionally, 116 teams were acknowledged as Empire 8 Conference All-Academic Teams for registering a team grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the spring semester. The Alfred University recipients of Empire 8 All-Academic Team recognition for the spring 2019 semester were: women's soccer (3.47), women's track and field (3.45), women's cross country (3.42), women's swimming and diving (3.42), women's volleyball (3.41), softball (3.24) and men's cross country (3.21).

CLASS NOTES

1952 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Frank Hamm (B.A., economics) of Corning, NY, received 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 make outstanding contributions to Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite. Frank traveled to Milwaukee, WI, in August to receive his degree. Of the two million Masons in the United States, roughly 1,500 have attained the 33rd Degree.

1956 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

The 20th novel by **Robert Littell** (B.A., English) '56 — “Koba” — has been published by Baker Street, a French-language publisher based in Paris. Robert’s book is the story of a fictional encounter in Moscow between Joseph Stalin — the “Koba” of the title — and a 10-year-old chess wizard. Written largely in dialogue, the tale develops into a growing dependence by the Soviet dictator on his meetings with the boy, whose candor and precocious intelligence secretly delight him. Praise for the new novel by the French press was immediate and unstinting. *Le Monde*, a leading French newspaper, called the book “superb.” Robert, the paper said, “has become both painter and story teller — one sees; one hears.... He tells the story of a dictator that has always obsessed him.” The monthly magazine *Litteraire* acclaimed the book as “a splendid success.” Robert, it said, “is an American author who writes a cruel fable—which keeps us glued to his work.” Another literary publication, *Livres*, is headlining “Koba” as “The child and the tyrant from the head of one of the masters of espionage fiction,” and called the book “a theatrical and lyrical fable that at the same time stands as a great novel that cuts like a diamond to the heart of its story.” U.S. publication has not yet been announced. Robert has been awarded both the English Gold Dagger and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for his fiction. His spy novel “The Company” was a *New York Times* bestseller later made

into a television miniseries. He served in the late 1950s as a junior officer in the Navy’s Mediterranean fleet. Later, in civilian life, he had stints as a wire-service and newspaper reporter in New Jersey and New York before joining *Newsweek* as a staff writer and editor. He left the magazine in 1970, moving to France to become a full-time novelist and permanent resident. With his wife, Victoria, a Moroccan-born artist, Robert migrates annually between a Paris apartment, a country home in the western province of Normandy, and a winter retreat in Morocco.

1959 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Robert S. Cohen (B.A., psychology), one of the nation’s leading matrimonial attorneys and a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, is one of six narrators in a documentary on the late Roy Cohn, one of the most infamous and controversial men in 20th Century America. *Where’s My Roy Cohn?*, released to theaters Sept. 20, tells the story of Cohn, an unscrupulous attorney and political power broker who served as chief counsel to U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy during investigations into Communist activities in the 1950s. Cohn is also known for being a personal lawyer and mentor to a young Queens real estate developer named Donald Trump. Robert Cohen earned his law degree from Fordham University and today is senior partner at Cohen Clair Lans Greifer Thorpe & Rottenstreich LLP, headquartered in New York City.

KEEP
Whitehouse

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

EMAIL

whitehouse@alfred.edu or
alumni@alfred.edu

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

SNAIL MAIL

Mark Whitehouse
Assoc. Dir. of Communications
1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802



Bob '60 and **Karol Libbey '61** were in Alfred recently for a visit with their daughter, Carol. **Warren Sutton '61, '17 HD**, Bob's friend and roommate at Alfred University, drove to Alfred from his home in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, to join the Libbeyes for lunch. Pictured here at the Community Table in Powell Campus Center are, (clockwise from back-left): **Gary Ostrower '61**, professor of history; Warren; Mark Zupan, University president; Bob and Karol.

South Carolina. During his career, Richard made humanitarian trips to several developing nations. He has moderated debates on public radio; served as a mentor through the Leadership Fellows Program at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; was an American Medical Association delegate for five years; and steered Pattison's Academy for Comprehensive Education, a Charleston public charter school for children with multiple severe disabilities, through a financially difficult time to stability. For the past 10 years, Richard has been working on a spinal implant treatment for kyphosis and other spinal deformities. The implants are attached to four ribs and slowly pull the bones back to bring the patient to a more upright position. It is an alternative to the risky and more complex vertebral column resection procedure.

1962 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Pasquale De Blasi Jr. (B.A., history, political science) conducted a workshop in May titled "Adolescent suicide and the therapeutic relationship," at the Sixth Chinese Psychoanalytic Congress, Shanghai, China. Pasquale is assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and assistant clinical professor of environmental medicine and public health at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City. He is serving as visiting professor at Wuhan Mental Health Center, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, through next November.

1968

Dr. Robert L. Johnson (B.A., biology) has been appointed a Board of Trustee member at RWJBarnabas Health, a network of

Earlier in his career, he worked at Roy Cohn's law firm. This year, Robert began his second tenure on the Alfred University Board of Trustees. He also served from 1984-90.

1961 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Dr. Richard H Gross (B.A., biology), professor emeritus in the Department of Neurosurgery at the Medical University of South Carolina, was awarded the Humanitarian Award by the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America in June. A pediatric orthopedist, Richard's continued research focuses on finding a better way to treat kyphosis, a

condition generally known to the public as hunchback. Richard earned a medical degree from Duke University in 1965 and entered the U.S. Army, having been commissioned on graduation from Alfred University's ROTC program. He received training in orthopedics and primarily treated patients who were casualties of the Vietnam War. In his last year of residency, he worked at Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children in New Mexico. After leaving the Army in 1973, he worked in Oklahoma as that state's first pediatric orthopedist. Richard then moved to Florida, and finally, in 1986, to the Medical University of

independent healthcare providers in New Jersey, based in West Orange, NJ. Its members include academic centers, acute care facilities, and research hospitals. Robert is dean of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and Interim Dean at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He is a professor of pediatrics, and director of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. He chairs the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, the Newark Ryan White Planning Council, and the Board of Deacons at Union Baptist Church in Orange, NJ. Robert is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and vice chair of the Community Prevention Task Force of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has previously been the president of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners, the chair of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Council on Graduate Medical Education, and a member of numerous councils in his field. Robert earned his medical degree from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

1977

Debra Kreck-Harnish (B.A., environmental studies) participated in Sacramento's Open Studies over two weekends in September. Artists around the Sacramento, CA, area, including Debra, opened their studios to the public. Debra describes herself as a "lifelong creative recycler." Trash, she believes, "is simply a failure of imagination." Over the past 10 years, Debra has put her imagination to work, building complex and eloquent mixed-media assemblages out of discarded objects.



Regular lunches bring 1950s alumnae from Long Island together

*A group of Alfred University alumnae, graduates from the 1950s who reside on Long Island, NY, have been meeting regularly for lunch, some since the 1980s. The group usually gets together on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Some of the group is shown above at a recent gathering, from left: **Judy Greenberg Saccucci '55, Simone Zudeck Adams '54, Barbara Schwartz Kirsh '56, and Mary Jane Villereale Mackey '55.** Sadly, some members have been lost in recent years, notably **Dee Michaels Levine '54** (former alumni-elected trustee), an irreplaceable personality. We would love to have more Alfredians join us. For more information contact Mary Jane Villereale Mackey at 631-368-6089 or Barbara Schwartz Kirsh at Babslea42@gmail.com.*

1979

Sue (Boutillier) Vinton (B.A. criminal justice) is currently serving her second term in the Montana House of Representatives representing House District 56 in Yellowstone County. Sue serves on the Business and Labor; Education (vice chair); Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and Ethics (chair) committees. She has also been appointed by House Leadership to serve on the Education Interim Committee and to the Montana University System Education Review Structuring Commission. Sue is also currently serving on the Economic Development Committee of the Council of State Governments West.

1980 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Marianne (Wilcox) Gaige (B.S., accounting) was selected for induction into the Printing Industry Hall of Fame by *Printing Impressions*, a magazine covering industry trends, emerging technologies and news in the graphic arts industry with a specific focus on the commercial print segment. Marianne is president and CEO of Cathedral Corp. Since Marianne took over at the company in 1996, Cathedral has grown from a printer of church offering envelopes to a complete marketing service provider. Among the services Cathedral offers are: The Essentials® Suite (specialized set of services developed to handle critical communication needs), data management, direct mail, print production, digital solutions and fulfillment services. In an article announcing

the 2019 Printing Industry Hall of Fame inductees, Printing Impressions cited Marianne for maintaining the core values and mission of Cathedral Corp., which include treating employees with respect; providing customized and personalized service to customers; and embracing new technology. The article also refers to her commitment to mentoring women to excel in management roles. Women hold more than half of Cathedral's senior management positions.

1985 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Greg Leshe (B.F.A.) curated a group exhibition, "Mounds, Piles & Massings," Sept. 9 through Oct. 19 at the Walsh Gallery, Seton Hall University, in South Orange, NJ. The exhibition examines the human impulse to stack, pile and amass groupings of objects as both creative action and critical inquiry. The participating artists investigated a variety of themes within the notion of accumulation, including: consumer waste and climate change; Caribbean history and the colonial economy of salt tied to slave labor; the "mixed reality" world we inhabit between physical and virtual contexts; consumerism, capitalism, and copyright. Greg's solo exhibitions include "Personal Gravity" at the Jersey City Museum and "Personal Radar" at Exhibit A Gallery in New York. He is a member of the South Orange Arts Advisory Council.

Nancy Agati (B.F.A.) is one of six artists participating in a group art exhibition in Philadelphia which aims to bring attention to the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect that is destroying ash trees throughout the region. The exhibition, "We All Fall Down," opened Sept. 19 at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education and will remain on view through Nov. 30. For the



When **Eric Brennan** graduated in May with a B.S. degree in health fitness management, he joined his mother, Lydia (Tengstrand) Brennan, and sister, Laura Brennan, as Alfred University alumni. The Brennan family, from Mansfield, PA, pictured above at our 2109 Commencement, are (from left): **Laura Brennan '16** (global studies, political science), **Lydia Brennan '88** (B.A., psychology, general studies), Eric, and Eric's father, Charlie Brennan.

exhibition, the Schuylkill Center provided six artists with Emerald Ash Borer infested wood, cut from the Center's property. Each artist created new work highlighting the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation on our nation's forests. The exhibition features sculpture, photography, cyanotype, laser cut wood forms and wood installation

1986

Sandra Garby (B.S., ceramic engineering) is the co-founder and COO of Vizinex RFID, a developer and manufacturer of high-performance RFID (radio-frequency identification) tags tailored to specific applications for businesses and government. For more than 20 years, she has been directly involved in electronic materials development. At Vizinex, Sandra oversees the company's manufacturing operations and has successfully implemented process improvements and testing automation, which more than

doubled manufacturing capability. Radio-frequency identification uses electromagnetic fields to automatically identify and track tags attached to objects. The tags contain electronically stored information. RFID tags are frequently used for merchandise, but they can also be used to track vehicles, pets, and even patients with Alzheimer's disease. A staunch advocate of encouraging women of all ages to pursue careers in STEM, Sandra educates and supports women and those in education, on engineering and the benefits of a career in the field. In 2017, she was named one of Lehigh Valley Business's Women of Influence. Prior to joining Vizinex, she served as business manager for Engelhard Corp., where she was responsible for managing the Electronic Materials product unit.

1992

Jill Vitale-Aussem (B.S., business administration) is author of a newly-published book titled “Disrupting the Status Quo of Senior Living: A Mindshift.” Interweaving research on aging, ideas from influential thinkers in the aging services field, and her own experiences managing and operating senior living communities, Jill challenges readers to question long-accepted practices, examine their own biases, and work toward creating vibrant cultures of possibility and growth for elders. Shining a light on her own professional field, Jill exposes the errors of current thinking and demonstrates how a shift in perspective can affect real cultural transformation. Her book delves into society’s inherent biases about growing older — where ageism, paternalism, and ableism abound — and provokes readers to examine how a youth-obsessed culture unconsciously impacts even the most well-meaning senior living policies, practices, and organizations. Jill is a licensed nursing home administrator, and a certified assisted living administrator. Since 2018, she has been president and CEO of Eden Alternative, a global nonprofit organization that provides education and consultation for organizations serving the needs of elders and their care partners, wherever they may live. She resides in Highlands Ranch, CO, with her husband, Todd.

1994

Sanjit Sethi (B.F.A.) was appointed president of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, effective July 15. Sanjit came to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design from George Washington University, where he

A i a b l A

*Was there a member of the faculty, staff or administration during your time at Alfred University who had a profound and lasting impact on your life? If so, we'd like to hear your stories. Draft a quick note with s name and a brief description of what he or she did to make your experience at A and enriching.
Email to amore@alfred.edu*

had served four years as director of the Corcoran School of Arts and Design. At George Washington, Sanjit led the reincarnation of the historic art school into one that has a home in a major research institution. Under his direction, the university’s programs in museum studies, theater and dance, music, fine arts, art history, and interior architecture were integrated under the Corcoran School of Arts and Design umbrella. He articulated a mission focused on cultural leadership and launched a new master of arts in interaction design and a master in fine arts in social practice. Sanjit’s previous positions in higher education include: director of the M.F.A. program at the Memphis College of Art; director of the Center for Art and Public Life, Barclay Simpson Professor, and chair of Community Arts at the California College of the Arts; and executive director of the Santa Fe Art Institute. He has lectured and taught at the Srishti School of Art, Design, and Technology in Bangalore; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Saint Mary’s College in London. A native of Rochester, NY, Sanjit has an

M.F.A. degree in ceramics from the University of Georgia and a master’s degree in advanced visual studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships, including an Enrichment Travel Fellowship to work on a project in London, Budapest and Dublin, and a Fulbright fellowship in India. The Minneapolis College of Art and Design is home to more than 800 students and offers bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees, and continuing education courses for all ages in arts entrepreneurship, design, fine arts, and media.

1997

Kari (Jermansen) Martin (B.A., environmental studies, political science) was appointed in May to the position of education coordinator for Clean Ocean Action (COA), a leading national and regional advocacy group working to protect waterways using science, law, research, education, and citizen action. COA is a broad-based coalition of 125 active boating, business, community, conservation, diving, environmental, fishing, religious, service, student, surfing, and women’s groups. These “Ocean Wavemakers” work to clean up and protect the waters of the New York Bight – the coastal waters that extend from Cape May in New Jersey north to Montauk Point on the tip of Long Island. Kari originally joined the COA staff in 2000 as a college intern while a graduate student at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse (ESF). In 2001 she joined the staff full-time focusing on outreach and education, and was later appointed policy outreach and communications director. Kari, who met her husband, Joseph, while staffing a COA table, left her

Pair of glassblowing alumni take part in Netflix series

Two Alfred University alumni appeared in a 10-episode reality series that aired this summer on Netflix, which chronicled competition among some of the most promising glass artists in North America. The series, *Blown Away*, premiered on Netflix on July 12. Produced by marbledmedia for Blue Ant Media and Netflix, *Blown Away* features 10 competing glass artists from the United States and Canada. The competition was set in Toronto, in a glassblowing studio constructed specifically for the series, which was filmed last fall and originally aired in Canada.

In each episode, contestants had four hours to design, create and present a piece of glass art. Each week, one competitor was eliminated until there were two left in the series finale. The winner earned prizes worth \$60,000, which included cash as well as two working sessions this summer and a five-day residency in October at the Corning Museum of Glass. The series was produced in partnership with the Corning Museum of Glass.

For the series finale, Eric Meek, senior manager of hot glass programs at the Museum, served as guest evaluator. Alfred University alumni G. Brian Juk '01 (B.F.A.) and Tom Ryder '09 (B.F.A.) were among six glass artists from the Museum's Hot Shop who assisted the final two competitors.

G. Brian has been on the hot glass team at the Corning Museum of Glass since 2004; Tom joined the team in 2009. Both have worked on the Hot Glass at Sea Program – giving glassblowing demonstrations on cruises – and other educational outreach initiatives.



Top photo: G. Brian Juk '01.
Above: Tom Ryder '09

The pair participated in the Museum's Glass Barge program in the summer of 2018, giving glassblowing demonstrations on a barge outfitted with a hot glass studio. The Glass Barge traveled along the Erie Canal as part of a celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of glassmaking in Corning and the bicentennial of the canal's opening. The Glass Barge trip was meant to replicate the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company's move to Corning in 1868. The Brooklyn Flint Glass Company was renamed Corning Flint Glass Works, which today is Corning Incorporated.

G. Brian commented on the role Alfred University played in his success as a glass artist and the diversity he's had in his career. In addition to participating in rewarding outreach initiatives like the Glass Barge and Hot Glass at Sea programs, Juk has his own glass art studio, Steuben County Glass, in Corning.

"When I began my glassblowing career at Alfred University, I never imagined all of the places it would take me or the people I'd meet," he said. "Being part of *Blown Away* was really special for me. I'm so happy I made the decision to attend Alfred University."

given by students, recognizes a faculty member for his or her work in teaching, research and service. John joined the faculty at Penn State in 2017 and is currently a world-recognized expert in fundamental and applied glass science, statistical mechanics, computational and condensed matter physics, thermodynamics,

and the topology of disordered networks. Prior to his appointment to the faculty at Penn State, John spent nearly two decades at Corning Incorporated, where he served in multiple roles, including senior research manager of the Glass Research Department. He is the inventor or co-inventor of

several glass compositions for Corning, including Corning Gorilla Glass products. A Fellow of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS), John is the author of over 220 peer-reviewed publications and is editor of the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society*.

2004

Matthew Washington (B.A., comparative cultures), the deputy borough president of Manhattan and a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, was honored by the Barrow Group at its annual Spring Benefit in May. Matthew, along with actress Alison Wright and theater producer Andrew Hamingson, were recognized for their support of the Barrow Group and commitment and dedication to the arts. The Barrow Group is a New York City Theatre Company and performing arts training center committed to combining unpredictable, spontaneous acting with well-crafted plays that address social, spiritual, and political issues to create an immediate, authentic connection between actors, audiences, and the writing. On Oct. 12, Matthew married Sibi George.

2005 *HONORED REUNION YEAR*

Fei Jun (M.F.A.) is representing his native China at the 58th Venice Biennale in Venice, Italy. The Venice Biennale, titled “May You Live in Interesting Times,” opened May 11 and runs through Nov. 24, 2019. Fei Jun is one of four artists chosen for the China Pavilion at Venice Biennale, one of the world’s largest and most prestigious international art exhibitions. Fei Jun, who is director of the Media Lab at the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing, China, has two major pieces exhibited at the Biennale. One is a massive video wall titled “Interesting Word” and the other is a mobile device application he created titled “Re-Search.” “Re-Search” is a location-based application created for the 2019 Venice Biennale, which viewers can download to their mobile devices. On this app, viewers can search and experience bridges



Lauren S. Klepacki '11 (B.F.A.) married Anthony “Tony” Andreassi on August 17, 2019 at a beautiful ceremony in Pittsford, New York. Bridesmaids and fellow alumni from Alfred University, shown with Lauren in the photo (from left): **Jaime (Wyzykowski) Hoag '11** (B.A., English), **Rosemarie Fraioli '12** (B.F.A.) and **Sara Schwarz '10** (B.F.A.).

from China “transplanted” to virtual locations of bridges in Venice. By connecting bridges from two lands through similarity of forms, “Re-Search” reveals the commonalities between the two civilizations, as well as the differences between the two regions.

2007

Artwork by **Gretchen Weidner** (B.A., fine arts) was chosen for incorporation into a new wallpaper design that was unveiled in August in Buffalo. Red Disk, a Buffalo, NY, firm specializing in the production of artisan wallpapers, and Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo, collaborated on a project to create wall coverings with 1920s era designs. Artists were invited to submit designs and Gretchen, a muralist, artist and educator living and working in California and New York, had her design, titled “Balboa Roses,” selected. A native of Eden, NY, Gretchen taught art in the Dunkirk (NY) School District from

2007-14, before moving to San Diego, CA, in 2014 and starting her own business. Among the services her business provides: creating murals and commissioned paintings; “live painting” (at weddings and fundraising events, for example); and giving personal painting lessons. Gretchen splits her time working and living in San Diego and Buffalo, where her personal painting collections have been exhibited in numerous galleries and shops. Another Alfred University alumna, Emilie Vicchio '06 (B.S. marketing, B.A. fine arts; '08 MBA,) assisted Gretchen in creating the “Balboa Roses” design. Emilie and Gretchen were teammates on the softball team at Alfred University. Emilie, who lives in San Diego, owns a private consulting business that provides brand, design and marketing services to a variety of industries.

Li Hongwei (M.F.A.) had two collections of his artwork exhibited this summer at the Art Institute

of Chicago's Ando Gallery. One, titled "Allegory of Balance #6," was acquired by the Art Institute of Chicago in 2016; the other, titled "Xuan," a collection on loan, was exhibited with "Allegory of Balance #6."

"Allegory of Balance #6" is the Art Institute of Chicago's first acquisition of contemporary Chinese ceramics and contemporary Chinese sculpture. It consists of three groupings of wheel-thrown, crystal-glazed porcelains and industrial, reflective stainless steel. The crystal glazes used in "Allegory of Balance #6" are Li's creation and earned him the China National Invention Patents Award. "Xuan" is a collection of nine pieces crafted from porcelain and stainless steel. Li is recognized as one of China's most accomplished and innovative ceramic artists, whose work has been shown in international exhibitions in China, Europe and the United States and is currently represented in several American museums. He holds a B.F.A. degree in sculpture (2005) from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, and currently serves on the faculty at the College of Fine Arts at the Capital Normal University in Beijing.

Yasmin (Green) Mattox (B.A., political science) was featured in the Sept. 6 issue of *Rochester Business Journal*. *RBJ* profiled Mattox and her new startup business, Arkatecht, which provides digital professional advancement tools tailored to the needs of working parents.

2011

The late **Nicholas Clark** (B.A., environmental studies), who died in July 2018 while serving as a New York State trooper, was posthumously awarded a Certificate of Exceptional Valor by New York Governor Andrew

Cuomo. Nick, who was shot and killed in the line of duty on July 2, 2018, in Erwin, had been nominated for the New York State Police Officer of the Year Award. A star football player at Alfred, Nick 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 graduation from Alfred University in 2011, Nick tried out for the Buffalo Bills before settling on a career in law enforcement. He graduated from the New York State Police Basic School in 2015. At the time of his death, he was stationed as a state trooper at the Bath barracks.

2014

Nurielle Stern (M.F.A., ceramic art), won the 2019 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics. The \$10,000 cash award, given by the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo, Ontario, recognizes early-career ceramic artists in Canada. Nurielle was among several finalists from across Canada considered for the honor. The cash award is provided to allow early-career ceramic artists to undertake a period of independent research, or other activities to advance their artistic and professional practice. A group exhibition of work by Nurielle and the other Winifred Shantz Award finalists will be on view at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery through Nov. 17. As part of her project, Nurielle will produce large-scale ceramic sculptures, beginning with her participation in a residency at the California State University Long Beach Center for Contemporary Ceramics. Nurielle, who is based in Toronto, is a ceramic sculpture and installation artist. Her most recent exhibition, "Unswep Floor (Tesserae)," was commissioned by the Gardiner

Museum in Toronto, in response to "Ai Weiwei: Unbroken." Stern's collaborative work with Nicholas Crombach, *Whale Fall*, is currently at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery and features an assemblage of furniture and ceramic components alluding to a decaying whale carcass.

Deaths

1943

Ailsa Johnstone Inglis, May 4, 2019

1949

Archie Farr, March 11, 2019

Ralph Jordan, April 21, 2019

1950

Joseph Markle, Dec. 24, 2004

Lavern Olson, Feb. 1, 2012

Roy VanAlsten, April 24, 2019

Lockhart Harder, May 16, 2019

1951

Dr. Richard Johnson, May 8, 2019

Robert Dungan, Aug. 1, 2019

1952

Joseph Piccirillo, March 17, 2019

Jerome Ackerman, March 30, 2019

Armand Beaudoin, June 28, 2019

1953

Rosemary Raymond Stoller, Feb. 26, 2019

Joyce Dennison Simchick, Aug. 23, 2019

1954

Donald "Arnie" Armstrong, July 19, 2019

1955

Dr. Robert Carman, June 8, 2019

1956

Robert Kennedy, July 8, 2019

1957

Kevin Flemming, June 29, 2019

1958

Victor Babu, April 17, 2019

William Hoskyns, Jan. 11, 2019

Dr. Morris Kotick, June 13, 2019

Richard Bauer, June 17, 2019

Alice Bogaskie Louy, May 12, 2019

1959

George “Jed” Hoffner, May 15, 2016
Janice Ewell Post, April 21, 2019

1960

Judith Alsberg Fredericks, May 22, 2019
Dr. William J. McDonough, April 14, 2018

1961

Lt. Col. C. Thomas Ferguson, Sept. 10, 2015
Barbara O’Conner Hargrove-Yee, Aug. 25, 2019

1962

Maj. Arthur Wood, USAF (Ret.), Feb. 25, 2019
Gerald Walker, Aug. 27, 2019

1963

Robert S. MacDonald, May 19, 2019
Joan F. Goodman, May 1, 2019
Ralph Schnell, June 23, 2019

1964

Paul A. Leipold, Sept. 3, 2019

1966

Mary Smyth Moore, March 30, 2019
Walter Peterson, April 27, 2019

1968

James Barrow, Aug. 17, 2019
John Lucadamo, April 14, 2019
Rebecca Barnum Tillotson, July 12, 2019

1969

Rhondda Vazquez Little, April 6, 2019
Andrew Mowrer, April 20, 2019
Hon. Andrew “Drew” Mullen, May 15, 2019

1970

Terry Mee, Aug. 5, 2019

1972

Dwight Kreuter, June 30, 2019

1977

Jane Mihalich, March 27, 2017

1980

Carol Anne Weaver, June 19, 2019

1981

William “Billy” Leverage, July 18, 2019

1983

Bruce Clark, Sept. 7, 2019

1984

Jon Kaufman, March 26, 2019
Charlene Domoracki Prior, July 11, 2019

1985

Steven Murphy, Nov. 11, 2018

1989

Dr. Michael Joseph Renzi, July 25, 2019
Glen Holt, March 19, 2019

1990

Marcus Stornelli, March 12, 2019
Laura VanHaelst Hogan, Aug. 22, 2019

1997

Jarod Finlay, April 11, 2018
Tanya Babcock, June 1, 2019

William F. Holly '51

William F. “Bill” Holly '51 a former member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, passed away Oct. 4, 2019, at age 90.

Bill earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Alfred University and was the owner of Sage, Rutty & Company in Rochester. He served on the Alfred University Board of Trustees from 1980-97.

Bill is survived by his daughters Linda Nash (Mark), Susan Roy and his son Wayne Holly (Judy), 13 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and special friend, Gail McCue. He is also survived by Audrey W. Holly, the mother of his children.

Jerome “Jerry” Ackerman

Jerome “Jerry” Ackerman, '52 M.F.A., a pioneer in mid-20th Century California Modernism, passed away March 30 at his home in Culver City, CA. He was 99. Jerry and his wife, Evelyn, were renowned for their work in a variety of media – including ceramics, weaving, wood carving, and mosaics – in creating modernist decorative art. After Jerry earned his M.F.A. from Alfred University, the couple moved to California and started Jenev Design Studio in Los Angeles.

To honor her father, Laura Ackerman-Shaw has generously created The Jerome Ackerman Endowed Internship at the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum. The internship will offer students in-depth exposure to Museum professional practices as well as insight into the creative processes. It is designed to further each interns' professional goals while helping the Museum address its multifaceted organizational goals.

Brian Dodge

Brian Dodge, director of Alfred University’s Physical Plant, passed away on Aug. 25, at age 58 following a battle with cancer.

Brian began his career at Alfred University in January 1999, when he was hired as a boiler tender. He progressed through the ranks, becoming senior boiler tender and heating plant supervisor before his August 2011 promotion to director of the Physical Plant.

Survivors include his wife, Tammy, who works for AVI, Alfred University’s campus food service provider; brother, Kevin Dodge, facilities leader in the Alfred University Maintenance Department, and his mother, Crystal Dodge.



Why American Higher Education Shines

By Mark Zupan, President

While the United States fares poorly in terms of global rankings of elementary and secondary school education, we lead the world at the post-secondary level. The fact that we attract more international post-secondary students than any other country evidences this. Currently, one out of four students globally who leave their own countries to study abroad come to the United States, more than double the number drawn by the second and third most popular destinations (11 percent go to the United Kingdom and 10 percent to China).

The two main reasons offered for American higher education excellence are competition, due to having so many institutions, and a large number of private schools.

With regard to the private sector, there are over 1,700 private (not-for-profit) colleges and universities in the United States, including Alfred University. These colleges and universities collectively account for one third of total undergraduate student enrollments. By contrast, private higher education elsewhere in the world is rare.

Are private universities drivers of educational quality? Without question! According to the latest U.S. News and World Report annual ranking, 19 of the top 20 national universities are private.

Beyond competitiveness and the role played by private schools, David Epstein's brilliant book *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World* suggests three other reasons why American higher education is so impressive. Specifically, our colleges and universities allow students to sample from a broader array of educational programs, make it easier for students to shift from one major to another, and offer much greater opportunity for interdisciplinary work.

The American approach to higher education pays huge dividends. Epstein reminds us that the 1989 Challenger disaster might have been prevented had engineers who had broad training in the sciences and humanities (and suspected that cold weather might threaten the mission's success) not been ignored by those with narrower training. He vividly describes how scientists with backgrounds in music and literature are more likely to make Nobel Prize-winning breakthroughs in fields like chemistry and economics.

And that helps to make my point.

In our colleges, we welcome "undecided" students while students in many other countries are required to choose a post-secondary academic specialization while they are still in high school. That is the very definition of educational rigidity. Such rigidity hinders what economists call match quality—the degree to which training is aligned with individuals' abilities and passions. Imagine the analogous negative consequences associated with having to choose whom to marry based on your dating experiences in high school!

We are enhancing match quality at Alfred University with our Applied Experiential (APEX) learning program. It provides students financial grants in support of co-ops, internships, study-abroad, research, and service learning opportunities. APEX promotes experimentation. It instills confidence. And it is generating demonstrable results.

There's more. American colleges and universities allow students to change their academic major. This is much harder to do at many European and Asian schools that are a confederacy of faculties rather than fully integrated universities. Unfortunately, students in Shanghai or Berlin who begin an engineering program and later discover that they would prefer to study environmental science or business, are unable to make the change.

Finally, the ability to pursue multiple cross-disciplinary majors or minors is more limited outside of the United States. That is why we excel in fields like behavioral economics, biomedical engineering, data analytics, and design thinking.

At Alfred University, students can combine work in fields as diverse as ceramic engineering, glass science, and our top 10 program in art and design. Such combinations would be next to impossible to pursue in Japan or France. In fact, we have long encouraged our students to be flexible in their studies and engage in the wide variety of academic programs we offer. We advise them to go not where their degree program says they should go but where their passions lead them, and then we support them fully.

We also require our new undergraduate students to take a unique one-unit course called Common Ground. It involves facilitated dialogue, in small-group settings, among students scrambled by gender, major, nationality, geography, and race.

Common Ground exposes students to different cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives and, as a result, broadens their viewpoints. It also seeks to identify the central values by which our students are willing to commit to living as citizens of our University community.

Universities are ideal settings for students to learn from each other and thereby hone their understanding and principles that will shape them for the remainder of their lives. America's post-secondary schools are primed to outcompete our global counterparts by capitalizing on the rich range at the core of our DNA. It's also the reason why America's colleges and universities, such as Alfred University, will continue to lead the world in producing better prepared, balanced graduates.

Fiat Lux!

– Mark



APEX program continues to grow

APEX, Alfred University's experiential learning program enjoyed a very successful first year, with \$1,000 grants awarded to 187 juniors and seniors.

Under the leadership of new APEX Coordinator Krystal Cooper '12, the University hopes to enjoy similar success in 2019-20. Early indications show the program is on track to meet or even exceed its goals.

"We were quite pleased with the number and quality of opportunities made possible for our students through last year's APEX grants," noted Amanda Baker, director of the Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center, which oversees the APEX program.

APEX provides grants to students to help them pursue a wide variety of co-op, internship, research, study-abroad, and service learning possibilities.

As of Sept. 23, 15 APEX grants had been awarded for 2019 fall semester projects. Baker noted there are several pending applications being reviewed, and other proposals awaiting final approval from project supervisors. She is confident this fall's numbers will compare favorably to last fall, when 54 grants were awarded.

A total of 200 grants are available for 2019-20. Baker said some applications have been submitted for projects to be completed during the Allen Term (between the fall and spring semesters) and for the spring 2020 semester.

Cooper began her duties as APEX coordinator in July, succeeding Logan Gee '18, who served as the program's first coordinator in 2018-19. Cooper, who worked for several years in the Athletics Department before taking over as APEX coordinator, enjoys being in a role that helps students pursue their goals.

"As an alumna, it's heartwarming and encouraging to have this program available for juniors and seniors, at a time when students are finding what they're passionate about,"



Krystal Cooper '12, APEX Coordinator

"As an alumna, it's heartwarming and encouraging to have this program available for juniors and seniors, at a time when

they're passionate about"

Krystal Cooper '12

Cooper commented. "Having funding for these experiences can make a real difference in our students' college careers."

Cooper said one of her primary goals is to continue marketing the program on campus, making more students aware of the opportunity.

"We need to continue spreading the word. This is our second year, so we've been exploring new marketing tools," said Cooper, who earned a bachelor's degree in theater (dance minor) from Alfred University. Her husband, Jared, is a 2013 graduate (B.S., accounting), who went on to earn an MBA from Alfred University in 2014. He is currently assistant dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Word of mouth remains a significant vehicle for promoting APEX. "A lot of assistant deans are promoting APEX to faculty," who in turn encourage students to explore the program. Now that the program has a year under its belt, there are other marketing opportunities.

"We'd like to have panel discussions, bringing in students who have completed APEX experiences," Cooper said. She hopes to organize the discussions for mid-semester, with an eye on boosting spring funding applications.

The benefits of an APEX experience go beyond funding – which grant recipients use to cover a variety of expenses ranging from transportation and housing to work clothing, equipment, and materials. Baker said students learn key skills like interviewing and resume-writing that will help them in their pursuit of careers. "It can help them get used to putting together and managing a budget. For most students, that's a skill they will need in the

future," she noted.

Cooper credits the staff at the Career Development Center for helping her transition into her new role.

"It's been enjoyable. It's wonderful working with students, hearing about their ideas, and seeing how organized they are," said Cooper. "It's exciting. It's a great challenge and opportunity."

APEX student pr

Helena Opare

Helena Opare '19 graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in finance and is currently pursuing an MBA from Alfred University. At Commencement, the Bronx resident was one of two seniors recognized for having the highest cumulative GPA in the College of Business.

For her APEX project, during the spring of 2019, Helena completed a financial literacy internship in the Division of Student Affairs at Alfred University.



Helena Opare '19

Helena promoted financial literacy to Alfred University students through a number of

initiatives. She created and delivered educational workshops using Cash Course, a non-profit system created by the National Endowment for

Financial Literacy; acted as a liaison to the Judson Leadership Academy, offering workshops to help students meet requirements for the leadership program certificate; and partnered with the Alliance Advisory Group to provide workshops on investing.

"This project was beneficial to me in many ways, as I was able to learn more about financial literacy," Helena said. After earning her MBA, Helena hopes to pursue a career in the field of corporate finance. Another possibility is working in the financial department of a college or university.

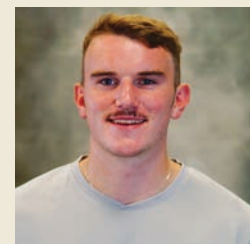
Evan Merkey

Evan Merkey is a senior ceramic engineering major from Webster, NY, and plays for the men's soccer team at Alfred University.

For his APEX project, Evan completed a summer internship at Cree Inc. in Durham, NC. Cree, a worldwide manufacturer and marketer of light-emitting diode (LED) components, commercial interior and exterior LED lighting fixtures, LED bulbs, and

semiconductor products for power and radio-frequency applications, was co-founded in 1987 by John Edmond '83.

For his internship, Evan worked as a process engineer in the photolithography group in Cree's Radio Frequency and Power Device Division. He used his APEX funding to defray some of the costs of his internship: travel, housing, food, and clothing for work.



Evan Merkey '20

"This internship gave me valuable experience into what I want to do after I graduate and

where I want to live," he explained. "This experience has made me want to pursue a career in electronic ceramics."

Evan said he was able to interview for multiple full-time positions at Cree with the hope of pursuing a career with the company after graduation.

Every Alfred University alum is invited to become a VISA member!

VISA Volunteers In Support of Alfred

Give back to your alma mater in a number of ways & make a tremendous difference to a current and/or prospective student

1 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, 2020 for students entering in the Fall of 2020.

2 Help us recruit interested students

- Attend a local reception/event in your area
- Make career connections
- Assist admissions with outreach from alums to prospective students
- Raise awareness of **Alfred University** in your community

For more information, contact Barb Condrate at condrate@alfred.edu or Diana Dalton at daltond@alfred.edu

STRONG TIES

Across the

Larry Eliot '49 moved to France in the 1950's, soon after graduating from Alfred, but his alma mater has never been far from his thoughts.

Inspired by **Kurt '51** and **Ruth "Torj" Goodrich Wray '51** (and a postcard the University sent out describing the Wray's charitable remainder trust), Larry's estate plans will provide lifetime income to a family member and extraordinary support for the University.

Larry has not been able to visit Alfred in a number of years, but welcomes all Alfred visitors who make their way to the South of France!

So far, he's enjoyed visits from Board Chair **Greg Connors '92** (pictured at right with Larry) while on vacation with his sons; **Beryl Torthe '18**, who was on her way to visit family in Monaco; and President Mark Zupan.

*Interested in making a planned gift to Alfred University?
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Director of Planned Giving, University Advancement

jacobson@alfred.edu (607) 871-2144



HERITAGE
CIRCLE



ENRICHING

the student experience

LEO PAMPHILE, IS A SENIOR MAJORING IN HISTORY

with a minor in education. A four year member of the Saxon football team, Leo is serving as a team captain this year. He has enjoyed success off the field as well, twice earning a spot on the Empire 8 Conference President's List, which recognizes academic achievement.

"Alfred provided me an extended family away from home. My peers, professors, and all of the other faculty members I've encountered have played a significant role in my success here," Leo says. "This community will always have a special place in my heart and I hope to one day be able to give back to others and provide the support I received here!"

The Alfred University Saxon Circle program is in its fourth year and has made a significant difference in the lives of our students. We currently have 555 Saxon Circle members, including 54 faculty/staff and 65 students who have collectively pledged \$8.7 million over a five-year period.

SAXON
CIRCLE

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

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM

BRIAN Saltzman

Alfred University Director
of Student Diversity and
Inclusion

Hello my friends, neighbors, and fellow Saxons. This month I was asked by Jason Amore and others in University Advancement if I would be willing to write a piece on our burgeoning e-sports team and our Alfred Saxon gaming community.

This opportunity touches both a professional and personal passion of mine. I currently serve proudly as the Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion for the University, but I am also an avid gamer (top one percent of gamers by time in 2018; a catalogue of over 600 games; and a researcher of gaming curricular innovation and integration).

The world of Electronic Sports (e-sports) is one which embraces and welcomes members of all communities. A participant's ideology, ethnicity, education and gender make no difference to their ability to join. Moreover, with current innovations and advancements initiated within the broader gaming community even those individuals and groups who may

have need of adaptive technologies for sight, hearing, or mobility are openly welcomed for the love of gaming, community, and shared pride.

This sentiment and inclusive motivation strikes at the heart of my professional position here at Alfred. Our goals and vision are to empower and engender an inclusive and transformative experience for all those who join and make up our community. E-sports is another portal and outlet to embrace and advance that noble cause.

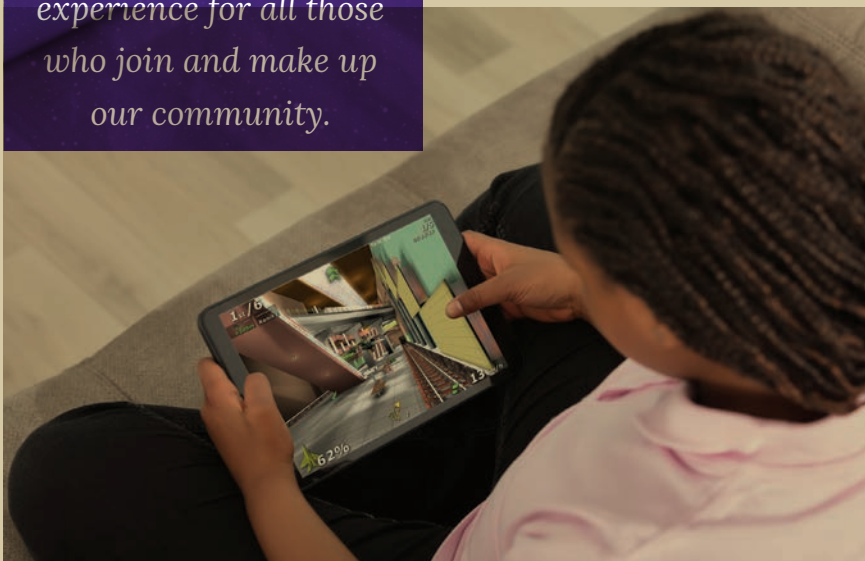
To that end, Alfred University is looking to join an increasing number of colleges, universities, and educational institutions in fielding a competitive e-sports team. The Saxon Gaming Society is working with University Advancement, Information Technology, the Center for Student Involvement, and a number of other constituents to bring that dream to reality. The plan this academic year is to build at least three six-person teams around popular competitive and cooperative games such as Rainbow Six Siege, Rocket League, and League of Legends.



The power of gaming, the community of gamers, and the opportunities for both curricular and co-curricular innovation with the presence of an e-sports team are only limited by the imagination of those who are present in the community in which the team is built and sustained. Diversity is about counting the people and inclusion is about making sure the people count. Here at Alfred we have artists, communications majors, influencers, professionals, and scholars. When we embrace the talents of our community we have the opportunity to transcend our simple notions of what is possible.

With a community behind our e-sports team we are bringing together those talents for a common purpose. The e-sports team will need shout-casters (commentators), players, coaches, moderators, fans, publicity and hype people, and so much more. Everyone who wants to take part can and will have a place. For such a collective effort, the line between who is "the talent" and who is not is nearly indistinguishable and that is just another reason why e-sports could and should have a natural place here at Alfred University now and for the foreseeable future.

Our goals and vision are to empower and engender an inclusive and transformative experience for all those who join and make up our community.



afterthoughts

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Alfred University *Reunions*



FRIDAY, JUNE 12 – SUNDAY, JUNE 14

*M*ark your calendars and plan to join us for the 2020 Reunion, June 12-14. Everyone is welcome with special invitations extended to Alfred's Golden Saxons (anyone who graduated 1969 or earlier, with Golden Saxon honored years being 1950, 1955, 1960 and 1965). We will also honor and celebrate members from the classes of: 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015.

See the full Reunion schedule online at alfred.edu/alumni/reunion.cfm

Save the date for Reunion 2021, June 11-13