

Alfred

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2023



PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP



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We reserve the right to edit all letters and articles submitted for publication in *Alfred Magazine*.



Facing page: Patrons gather in the Fosdick Nelson Gallery, in Harder Hall, for an exhibition of more than 25 works by Andy Brady, Alfred University Professor of Printmaking from 1970 to 1976. “Andy Brady: Steward of Precision” was curated by artist Pam Cabañas ’74 (BFA) and Joseph Scheer, professor of printmaking at Alfred University. A reception hosted by the Institute for Electronic Arts welcomed Alfred University alumni to Harder Hall, and festivities honoring Brady were held through the weekend. In addition to celebrating Brady, who died in 2022, the weekend events also honored Scheer for his more than 34 years teaching at Alfred University.

Above: Students paddle across Foster Lake, which has re-opened for Alfred University students, staff and faculty use. The area is also used for bird-banding and a host of other academic and social experiences.

Cover: Monica Nowik, a fourth-year Alfred University undergraduate, delivered the 2023 Wit and Wisdom address at the Bergren Forum, and is currently producing and directing a movie based on the Old English epic poem Beowulf. She plans to study Irish literature at Trinity College, Dublin in the winter of 2024.

Inside

- 2 Introduction:** Alfred University was founded by community leaders dedicated to higher education. The University continues to stress the vital importance of leadership in its education of new generations of students.
- 4 Beth Robinson Judson ’82** studied ceramic engineering at Alfred University and devoted her life to encouraging young women to enter the engineering field. Her support of Alfred University students’ potential for future leadership roles led her to play a key role in the founding of the Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center.
- 8 Gabby Gaustad ’04** was a young associate professor at Rochester Institute of Technology when she was hired to lead the Alfred University Inamori School of Engineering as dean. “You can’t be a leader with a hammer,” she says in reflecting on the necessary traits for leadership in academic institutions.
- 13** Twenty-five Alfred University students traveled to Washington, DC in the spring 2023, as part of the first **DC Purple City Leadership Forum**. The event allowed the students to meet Alfred University alumni currently serving in positions of leadership in the region of the U.S. capitol. The second DC Purple City Leadership Forum is expected to be held in the spring of 2024.
- 18 Learning How to Lead:** A Question and Answer Session with Alfred University President Mark Zupan.
- 20 Alfred Campus Digest**
- 25 Saxon Athletics**
- 36 Class Notes**
- 42 In Memoriam**

Ready to lead?

ALFRED UNIVERSITY *is ready to help*

By Rob Price

“Sometimes life throws you into a leadership position,” Abby Hurley says. “It’s not always a choice, and it can be stressful, but it’s an experience you can prepare for.”

A 2017 graduate of Alfred University, Abby is the Coordinator of the Judson Leadership Center. She earned a master’s degree in College Student Development from Alfred University in 2019 and currently is a graduate student in the School Counseling program. It’s in her role, however, at the Judson Leadership Center that she says she has found her niche, at least for now. “When I took this job, I figured I’d get more experience under my belt, and then eventually switch over to school counseling. But I don’t want to do that anymore. I love what I’m doing right now.”

Her responsibilities include teaching a class on gender and leadership and overseeing a practicum in which students plan and lead individual initiatives on the University campus. The class and practicum are offered through the Women’s Leadership Academy, a program within the Judson Leadership Center. Taken together, they offer students both academic and down-to-earth contact with issues of leadership. Abby asks her students: What makes a leader effective? The answer is not the title that precedes a leader’s name.

“Personally, I think leaders have to be excellent listeners. They’re able to sit and take in everybody’s information while also not forgetting what they want to say and provide to their particular organization. Good leaders are often passionate, approachable, and trustworthy, and I’d add that you have to be an effective,

Abby Hurley '17 serves as Coordinator of Alfred University's Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center.



dedicated advocate for your cause. If you wrap all those qualities in one person, you'll have someone who leads by example. Personally, I'm a big supporter of the lead-by-example concept. I think that's really important."

In preparing this issue of Alfred Magazine, we're indebted to Abby's counsel as we approached examples of leadership among numerous Alfred University alums, beginning with Beth Robinson Judson, whose support

made Alfred University's original Women's Leadership Center possible almost 20 years ago. Not surprisingly, we learned leadership resists easy generalizations; every leader builds their own style of leadership. However, certain characteristics tend to be found among successful leaders, and this issue tells the stories of Alfred University alums whose lives embody principles of leadership formed and nurtured by their Alfred University educations.



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245 Eaklor Drive
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WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CENTER



Beth Robinson Judson '82 was a key supporter of what now is Alfred University's Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center. Beth encouraged countless young women and men to pursue their dreams as engineers and future leaders.

WHO'S IN CHARGE? *You!*

Beth Robinson Judson believed in young people's capacities for leadership. The Judson Leadership Center encourages undergraduates to cultivate their leadership potential.

By Rob Price

Beth Robinson Judson '82, for whom Alfred University's Judson Leadership Center is named, grew up on Grand Island, NY, and graduated from Grand Island High School. Her mother later would tell her a story about her high school graduation ceremony: When Beth's engineering scholarship award was announced, a man sitting behind her parents in the high school auditorium could be heard griping the award was a waste of good scholarship money. "A woman will never do anything with a degree in engineering," the man could be heard saying.

"When my mother told me that story, it became an inspiration never to let my education go to waste," Beth later recalled. "I decided I would encourage more women to go into technical fields, because women add different dimensions and perspectives to solving problems and collaborating on team projects. But they need a certain level of self-confidence, as well as an understanding of the opportunities that are available by taking the risk to become a leader."

"She was the smartest person I ever knew," says her brother, Chris Robinson, who followed in Beth's footsteps, attending Alfred University, also studying engineering, and graduating in 1986.

Two generations of the Robinson family were encouraged by Beth's example to study at Alfred University. In addition to Chris, her brother Scott '84 attended Alfred; Chris's daughter and son, Emma Robinson Lenegan '16 and Zachary '13, respectively, studied at the University, and Scott's son, Peter is doing graduate work in Ceramic Engineering at the University.

"She had a Pied Piper's personality," Chris says. He recalls the Blizzard of '77, which buried the Buffalo region. "We were homebound, and Beth all by herself thought it would be a good idea to go ask elderly neighbors if they needed anything from the grocery store. We walked with a wagon. I pulled the wagon, and she led. She was the bricklayer; I was the laborer."

Beth's affinities for leadership and her enthusiasm for encouraging young people to think like future leaders were recognized during Alfred University's 2023 Reunion Weekend at the Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center. Visitors were shown two stained glass wall hangings she had crafted while an undergraduate at Alfred University. Accolades included noting she had served as a member of the University's Board of Trustees and helped found the Women's Leadership Center (WLC) as a silent donor.

Professionally, she had made major contributions in the field of ceramic engineering, receiving her Ph.D. in Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and later serving as a consultant to the University-Industry Demonstration Partnership of the National Academies. She also directed a ceramic armor start-up company, Verco, associated with Georgia Tech, and she served as a member of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. At the time of her death, as a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees, she was preparing to serve as

Board chair, the first woman in Alfred University's history to be accorded that honor.

Her support for the Leadership Center was not disclosed until after the plane crash that claimed her life and the life of her husband, Jim Judson. The crash occurred in 2020, as Beth and Jim were returning to their home in Atlanta, GA after a weekend in Mississippi rooting for their daughter Lauren, who was playing in a golf tournament. Obituaries at the time praised the couple as keystone members of the Atlanta community, both in terms of their professional accomplishments and their involvement in civic affairs.

In the aftermath of their deaths, Chris Robinson observed Beth's closest relatives and friends were only beginning to learn the scope of her work as an engineer and her efforts to encourage future students, especially young women, to enter the engineering field.

"To us, she was just Beth," he said at a Grand Island ceremony honoring Beth's life. "She didn't brag about her accomplishments and never really talked about the important work she was doing. We've only begun to learn about all the accomplishments and achievements that Beth had made throughout her career."

By then, her professional accomplishments had become part of the public record. Her personal accomplishments were no less significant, Chris said.

Beth Robinson Judson as a student studying ceramic engineering at Alfred University.



They included above everything else being a dedicated mother, spouse, and member of the Judson-Robinson families. "Family was the most important thing in Beth and Jim's life," he said. Beth and Jim Judson "lived for their kids."

When the Judson Leadership Center celebrated Beth during Reunion Weekend, her friends and relatives joined University faculty and administrators in the main room of the Leadership Center to watch Coordinator Abby Hurley unveil the stained-glass mirrors Beth had crafted as an undergraduate. Members of Beth's college sorority, Alpha Kappa Omicron, were also on hand, to celebrate their sister and plan future events.

Greeting the guests, Hurley noted Alfred University undergraduate Alyssa DiMillo '24 had organized the reception as a capstone project for her class in leadership through the Women's Leadership Academy. Hurley also spoke of how the Judson Leadership Center owes its existence to Beth's support: She helped found the WLC, Hurley said, because she hoped it would encourage future generations of Alfred University-inspired graduates.

The Center initially had dedicated itself to encouraging and fostering leadership experience for Alfred University's undergraduate and graduate women. Since then, the mission has expanded to include leadership development for all students at Alfred University, irrespective of gender.

As coordinator, Hurley teaches a class in leadership and is happy talking about different styles of leadership. She notes scholarly work on leadership identifies numerous styles (autocratic versus democratic; transactional versus transformational). Speaking of Beth, Hurley says her actions suggest a transformational leadership personality. The



Alfred University President Mark Zupan welcomes friends and relatives of Beth Robinson Judson at a reception held in the spring at the Judson Leadership Center.

historian James Macgregor Burns described that personality and found it exemplified in Franklin D. Roosevelt. Transformational leaders, Burns said, help colleagues "advance to a higher level of morale and motivation."

Think of Roosevelt, or think of Beth Robinson Judson, Hurley says. "Beth helped usher our students into the larger, professional world. A lot of those students will go on to lead companies as well as not-for-profit organizations. Without Beth, they might not have received the necessary encouragement. She really does live on in other people's lives."

"She always had a grand design," Chris Robinson says. "One day, she just said to me: 'I'm going to an Alfred University Board of Trustees meeting, and you're coming with me. She had her meeting, and I walked around the Village just getting the feel of it again. I had lost touch a little with Alfred, and Beth's whole plan was to get me more involved. Now I've joined the Saxon Circle, the Alumni Council, and the Judson Leadership Center. I've been going to Homecoming and Reunion every year since she passed. That's the kind of personality she had. She would point you in a new direction, and later you would realize it was what you'd been looking for all along."

“You can’t be a leader with a hammer.”



Gabby Gaustad '04 at the center of a group of Alfred University faculty members at the 2023 convocation ceremony. Gabby was an associate professor of engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology when she was tapped by Alfred University to lead the Inamori School of Engineering – a decision, she says, that required considerable leadership on the part of University administrators.

Gabby Gaustad '04, Dean of Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering, builds a team to carry the school into the future.

By Rob Price

Gabrielle “Gabby” Gaustad '04 was a 37-year-old associate professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology when she was hired as Dean of Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering. “I was young and inexperienced, and it was such a competitive field,” she says. “Hiring me required a leader who was willing to take a big risk”

She had grown up in northeastern Pennsylvania in Wyalusing, a town about an hour north of Wilkes-Barre, was a standout math and science student in her high school, and she wanted to study engineering “from the get-go,” she says. In her four years at Alfred University, the combination of a smaller, welcoming environment and a top-notch engineering faculty provided the springboard for her professional ascent. She received her master's degree in Computation for Design and Optimization from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and also her PhD from MIT with a dissertation in materials science. During and after her MIT days, she consulted for Alcoa Corporation and Norsk Hydro, and conducted research in biodiesel-ethanol-diesel fuel blends and end-of-life management for lithium-ion batteries. As a professor at RIT, she was directing the MS program at the Golisano Institute for Sustainability when the dean's job

opened at Alfred University. The search for an Inamori School Dean was highly competitive, Alfred University President Mark Zupan agrees, “but Gabby stood out.”

The choice required more than checking boxes or assigning scores, Zupan says. “Picking a leader goes beyond finding the piece with the right shape that fits the empty space. Sometimes you have to follow your instincts, and in Gabby's case, our instincts pointed to someone who could change the trajectory of Alfred University.”

The late management theorist Peter Drucker often observed leaders are in the people business. “Executives spend more time on managing people and making people decisions than on anything else—and they should,” Drucker wrote in a 1986 article for the *Harvard Business Review*. “No other decisions are so long lasting in their consequences or so difficult to unmake.”

In Gabby's case, her appointment involved a deep dive by Alfred University administrators into making “people decisions.” Zupan cites two examples of less tangible, more personal factors that contributed to Gabby's rising to the top of the applicant pool. “For one thing,” he says, “she wanted to finish her teaching and mentoring for that year at RIT. That

impressed us. If she had wanted to join us right away, if she had just wanted to jump ship, that would've raised some questions in our mind. She also had a particular kind of enthusiasm, a can-do positive attitude. She has a grounded approach to her work, and that came through in a powerful way in our conversations and interviews."

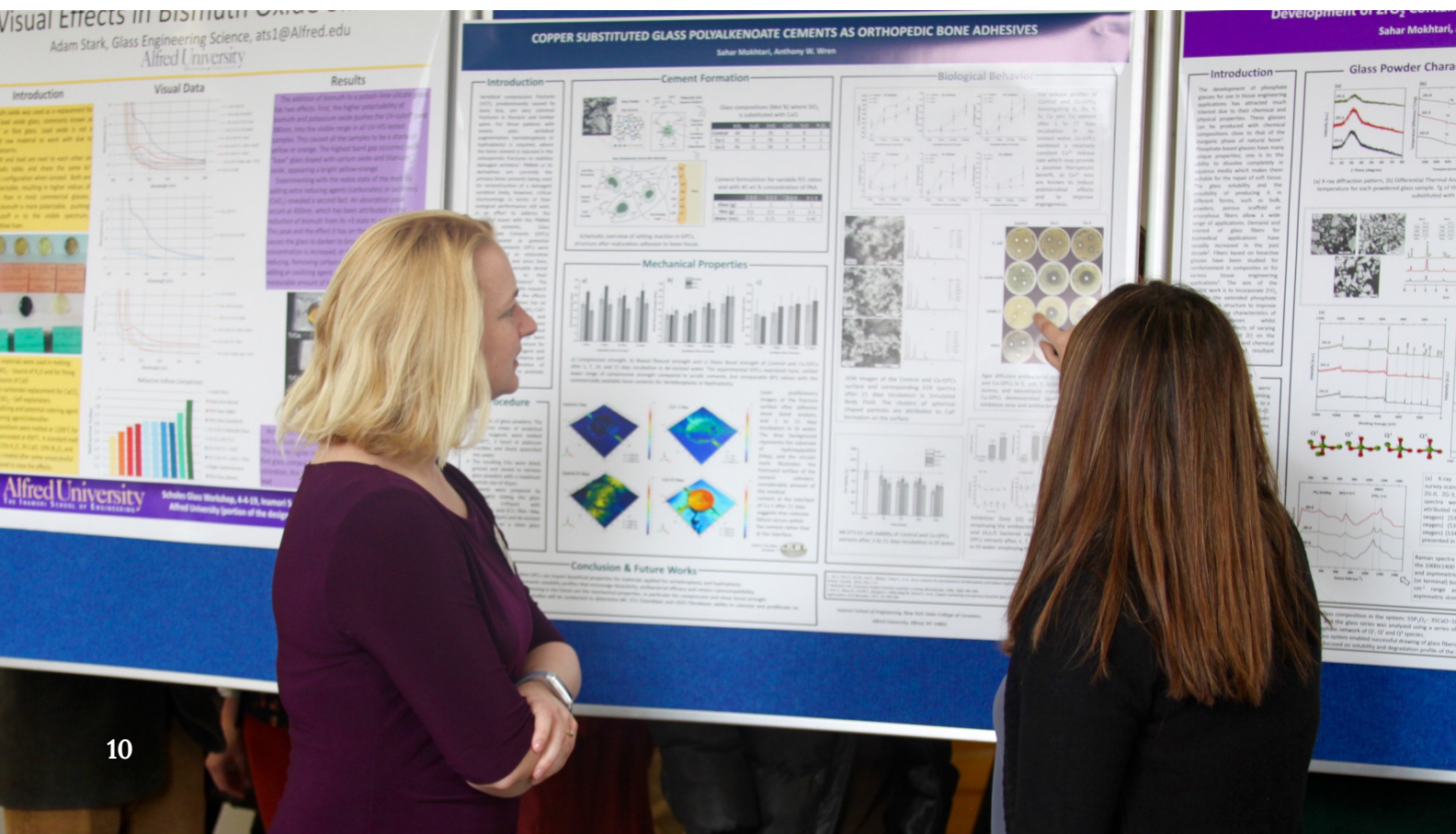
In her more than four years as dean of the Inamori School, Gabby has fulfilled, and in many cases exceeded, expectations. She has seen the school secure millions of dollars in research grants from agencies ranging from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to the U.S. Department of Defense. She has secured \$645,000 in annual additional operating revenue for the New York College of Ceramics at Alfred University from New York State. The

funds will be used for a variety of purposes, including increased stipends for graduate research assistants in both the School of Engineering and the School of Art and Design.

"I think she has raised the level of awareness of the Inamori School within the State University of New York and in New York State government," says David Gottfried, Deputy Director at the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology and Government Relations Representative. "There's more to her success than spotless academic credentials. She has brought a kind of vibe and dynamic energy to the Inamori School that makes coming to work exciting."

As dean, she is making plenty of her own "people decisions" in the form of what Drucker would've called the art of matching the right person with the right

As dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, Gabby enjoys a hands-on style of leadership that includes close interactions with students and their capstone projects.



job. She recalls as an engineering professor being bombarded with student requests to be accepted to her research group. “I would email every applicant, send them one of my papers, and ask them to send me a note on what they thought. Thirty to forty percent would never write back, and thirty to forty percent would write something pretty standard. And then there would be the top ten percent who would write back with questions: Have you thought about this? Have you thought about that? Those students really had a passion for the work, and big surprise: they’d be the ones in the final pool.”

As a University administrator, she now finds herself in the position of building and supporting a team of faculty and staff members whose combined efforts will create the next iteration of a venerable engineering institution. That effort involves establishing a collegial, creative environment; it also means hiring not only the best people in the job market, but the people who will work most productively with each other.

“It’s important for me to find a person who’s going to evolve,” she says of her own, evolving approach. “I think that’s more important than finding an individual whose CV outlines the professional skills you were looking for to fill a space. If after hiring a person with real promise we still have the gap that we wanted to fill in the first place – well then we’re just going to go on having that gap. I’m not going to put a warm body in a position just because they check all the boxes.”

That approach to team-building comes with difficulties, particularly in an academic environment, “In academia, you’re trying



Gabby Gaustad joins Inamori Professor Scott Misture and Alfred University President Mark Zupan in welcoming U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer to the Inamori School of Engineering.

very hard to do things democratically. You consult with committees, faculty members, administrators, staff, students, and boards of trustees. That’s the diplomatic juggling act. Then you have the challenge of reading another person’s character. By the time the choice lands on my desk, the challenge is about assessing the individual person.”

And yet, she adds, the academic environment also provides significant advantages when it comes to the art of hiring.

“It’s not like a corporation – I can’t fire people, right?” she says. “We have collegial traditions and foundations, so you can’t be a leader with a hammer in academia. There may be a lot of leaders who think a hammer is all they need, but I think that tends to catch up with you. Personally, I think academia creates the best leaders precisely because you couldn’t use a hammer if you wanted. And that’s a good thing.”

Alfred University, she adds, maintains a particularly intimate collegial environment in which to exercise leadership. It’s an environment that she wants to nourish.

“I had mentors who guided me through Alfred University and really helped me grow as a person,” she recalls. “I also got to do research almost every single year. That kind of academic experience is rare at a big university, but it’s more a part of the DNA of Alfred. So now, mentoring and supporting faculty, staff, and students and encouraging the research efforts of our engineering students has grown into one of my passions. I mean, part of leadership is just giving people the resources they need to do their jobs.”

“ We have collegial traditions and foundations, so you can’t be a leader with a hammer in academia. There may be a lot of leaders who think a hammer is all they need, but I think that tends to catch up with you. ”

– Gabby Gaustad ’04

Gabby with her husband, Jeff Povelaites '04, their son, Kaz Povelaites, and the family pup, GG. Photo by Alex Tong.



LEARNING *Leadership*



Alfred University students gather in the home of Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (center), during their visit to Washington, DC. The capital area has been designated an Alfred University Purple City due to the high number of alumni living in the Capitol and surrounding communities. During the spring 2023 visit, the students were introduced to numerous alumni who are in a position to advise and mentor them as they negotiate their professional futures.

Alfred University alumni serve as mentors to students and future leaders through the first DC Purple City Leadership Forum.

By Rob Price

As an undergraduate political science major at Alfred University, Danielle Johnson-Kutch '03 interned in the office of U.S. Rep. Amo Houghton during her junior year and became a full-time resident of the Washington, DC area after graduating, working for the U.S. Department of the Treasury in the 2008 financial crisis. At Treasury, she led efforts to develop federal programs supporting homeowners during the collapse of the mortgage markets. She currently serves as Director of Government

Affairs at DocuSign Inc. and continues to reside in the Washington, DC area.

Danielle also spends time with other Alfred University alumni in the capital region who meet regularly to discuss ways to help undergraduates and young alumni prepare themselves for future leadership roles. The group includes Mark O'Meara '74, one of the founders of Hot Dog Day and owner of Cinema Art Theaters, based in Fairfax, VA; Enid Borden '72, who founded the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH) after serving for more than 20 years as chief executive officer of the Meals on

Wheels Association of America; and Maribeth Bersani '76, who currently serves as vice president of programs and staff gerontologist at NFESH.

Early in 2023, the group coordinated with Alfred University staff and faculty to hold the first Purple City Leadership Forum in Washington, DC. In March, a group of 25 Alfred University students drove to the capital to participate in the forum, which included more than a dozen University alumni working in Washington, DC and Northern Virginia.

"Purple City" is the Alfred University designation for cities with large



Danielle Johnson-Kutch, a co-organizer of the DC Purple City Leadership Forum, worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury during the 2008 financial crisis, helping to modify home mortgages that had become unsustainable for borrowers.

concentrations of alumni. “Washington is one of those areas in the country where we have a huge network of graduates,” says Abby Hurley, Coordinator of the Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center. “We want our own future leaders to recognize Washington as a hub where they can build relationships with already accomplished leaders. If they’re looking for a place to network with leaders, we tell them to look toward Washington.”

Hurley accompanied the students with Diana Maguire, associate professor of management in Alfred University’s College of Business. The forum hosted panel discussions featuring alumni on topics such as “Career Paths and Leadership Skills” and “Leadership in Practice – Politics and Policy.” O’Meara served as moderator for the panels, and the students had the opportunity to meet and talk with other Alfred University alumni, including Trustee Bryan Hill ’90, who serves as County Executive of Fairfax County, VA, and Meghann Galloway ’10, who has worked in the offices of Representatives Tony Cardenas (CA) and Karen Bass (CA) as well as New York Senator Kristen Gillibrand.

University Board Trustee and KPMG, LLP Senior Partner Patty St. George was also instrumental in providing an exceptional experience during the three-day itinerary. She hosted the Leadership Forum at the K Street offices of KPMG; she introduced Bryan Hill as the keynote speaker and served as a panelist for one of the topics.

The students also toured the White House and visited the Georgetown home of Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of the Department of

Homeland Security, whose daughter has just begun her first year at Alfred University.

“They’re sharp kids,” O’Meara says of the Alfred University students. “And we wanted them to know this is a special moment in their lives. We’re ready to help Alfred graduates get to where they want to go, and this was their chance to take those first steps towards positions of leadership.”

O’Meara founded Hot Dog Day along with Eric Vaughn ’73, another Washington, DC-area resident and executive director of the National Structured Settlements Trade Association. During the Leadership Forum, Vaughn advised students that there were currently about 1,500 job openings on Capitol Hill, particularly in the offices of U.S. representatives and senators. If you’re an Alfred University student, he says, and you see yourself as a future leader, Washington, DC is a great place to live.

Looking back at the forum – and forward to future annual Leadership Forums – Danielle Johnson-Kutch says the Washington, DC visits are ideal opportunities for Alfred University students to meet alumni who have risen to positions of leadership and who are happy to help younger alumni entering the workforce, as well as students who are contemplating future careers.

“We wanted to bring them to DC and showcase all the different opportunities you have in the DC area to engage in leadership and policy making,” Danielle says. “All these students are familiar with local, hometown problems that seem intractable. We wanted them to see how here in Washington you can work on national

policies that can get at the root causes of those local problems.”

Everyone involved in organizing the first DC Purple City Leadership Forum agreed: the Washington, DC area presents extraordinary leadership opportunities in the government, non-government, for-profit, and not-for-profit sectors of the economy.

Maribeth Bersani’s career includes stints in New York State’s Office for the Aging and the for-profit, retirement-community organization Sunrise Senior Living. Her current work at NFESH is in the not-for-profit area, and she says college-age students should become aware of all the major employment sectors, looking for the niche that fits their skills and ambitions as they work through their careers.

“I accomplished so much when I worked for the New York State Government. There are so many things you can accomplish at both the state and federal levels. I’ve also worked for a for-profit corporation and accomplished a great deal in that sector improving the quality of life for senior citizens. Now I work for a not-for-profit, and I feel like I’m making a big difference in the lives of senior citizens and their nutritional needs.”

“Getting students involved in the not-for-profit world is critical,” adds Enid Borden, the founder of NFESH. “There are more non-profits and professional associations in this town than anywhere else in the U.S. A substantial proportion of the people I employ at NFESH are young people. They come out of college wanting to change the world, they’re the ones with innovative ideas, and they come into this venue with energy and compassion.”

Danielle Johnson-Kutch came to Washington as a congressional aide for Houghton, then eventually found herself at the Treasury Department deeply involved in one of the most serious economic crises since the Great Depression. With her leadership, The Treasury Department developed initiatives such as the

Making Home Affordable Program, which helped homeowners and their mortgage servicers modify terms of mortgages that had become unsustainable.

“I was responsible for writing policy guidelines that directed mortgage services on how to modify mortgages to prevent foreclosure,” she says. “So many people had acquired sub-prime or adjustable-rate mortgages. Then the crisis hit, interest rates began to rise, and many homeowners discovered they could no longer afford their payments, or they owed more than the home was worth. Millions of Americans were facing foreclosure and had defaulted on loans or were in danger of imminent default. Our programs addressed those situations and stabilized the housing markets. At the end of the day, the modification provided the homeowner with a fixed-rate mortgage at an affordable monthly payment that was 31 percent of their monthly earnings.”

Across the Potomac River from The Treasury Department, in Fairfax, Mark O’Meara works in the private, for-profit sector, owning and operating movie theaters that deliver the products of Hollywood to ticket-buying audiences. His own professional path followed a winding trail after his graduation from Alfred University: He bought a local sandwich shop in the Village of Alfred, then moved to New York City and worked at Columbia University. He returned to Alfred and worked as a fundraiser for the University. He later moved to Northern Virginia and bought Cinema Arts Theatres, in 1991.

“If you’re going to be a leader,” he says, “There are a few basic character traits you ought to have. It helps to have an engaging personality. You have to be honest and attentive to the people looking to you for leadership. And above all else, you have to be able to listen. That was the opportunity we were able to offer the students. They could sit and listen to the rest of us share our stories. The goal of the forum was

for students to learn there is a network of Alfred University alumni ready to help them and begin teaching them the ropes.”

Alfred University undergraduate Brian Ngatunga '24 was one of the students listening to Danielle and other alumni during the Leadership Forum. A native of Tanzania, Brian anticipates receiving his master's degree in Business as part of Alfred University's 4+1 MBA program. “I would really love to start my own business consulting company,” he says. “I feel called to help small businesses grow and help them recognize new possibilities from different perspectives. And possibly I'd like to take that knowledge back to Tanzania.”

Brian recognized in Danielle “someone awesome,” and he had also a broader takeaway from the Purple City Leadership Forum: “What was valuable was getting to feel and experience being in the same room with someone wearing the same shoes but who was at another level. The people talking to us were all Alfred University alumni. They had all gone to Alfred University as I am, and now their experience was something I'm about to experience myself. In other words, I was getting inspired by someone who went to Alfred University and now is leading others, and I'll never forget that.”



Brian Ngatunga '24, center, a third-year Alfred University student, found the DC Leadership Forum “inspiring.” It was, he says, an occasion for meeting individuals who had traveled the professional paths he and other students were about to embark on.

“ You have to be honest and attentive to the people looking to you for leadership. And above all else, you have to be able to listen. ”

– Mark O'Meara '74

Speaking of *LEADERSHIP*...

A discussion with Alfred University President Mark Zupan about leaders and leading



Alfred University President Mark Zupan

Q: What are some specific character traits you've learned to be essential for making leaders effective?

A: Effective leaders have an unwavering commitment to a vision or strategic plan for their organization. They have a healthy dose of humility and modesty. They tend to downplay their own roles in the success of their organizations, direct the credit to others, and hold themselves accountable for when their organization missteps. A well-balanced sense of humor helps as well.

There are also some basic character strengths successful leaders share. They have unimpeachable integrity, which enhances their ability to build trust. A leader's instincts to hire the right people for the right jobs also are vital to ensuring the prosperity of a team. Then after you have the right people in the right seats and rowing in the same direction, you have to make sure they have the resources they need to succeed. Good leaders are consistent in supporting their colleagues during good times and challenging ones. In return, the people surrounding that individual must see the leader doing the right thing at the time for the right reason.

Q: Do you think people are born to lead, or is leadership a learned ability?

A: Superior leaders have both innate instincts and acquired capabilities. They are comfortable in their skin and are driven to achieve the vision they have. But successful leadership in every field requires a continual process of observation, listening, learning and adapting to changing environments and dynamics. Let's not forget the power of emotional intelligence, of having the ability to "read the room." Successful leaders have an uncanny ability to detect unspoken signals that can lead to unearthing issues and opportunities. They poll

team members and ask, "What else is on your mind?" Those are powerful moments that help affirm trust in a culture of collaboration.

Q: How can Alfred University encourage students to cultivate the skills and character to serve in positions of leadership?

A: Our University has core values that have been part of our mission since our founding in 1836. These include the tenets of inclusivity, mentorship, and encouraging a vigorous academic, social, cultural environment that offers various choices for young people – our intersections. One of those intersections students can tap is programming found in the Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center. Other intersections include the ability to work in teams, and in various curricular and co-curricular programs to develop such power skills as communication, time management, creativity, critical thinking, and team-playing. We encourage students to challenge themselves, to explore new subjects, to take risks and get involved in projects or initiatives that will inevitably immerse them in the experience of leadership. We have a wide variety of impressive alums who have reached considerable professional heights in their fields, and who are eager to share their experiences and wisdom with students. A perfect, recent example of the value-added experience Alfred University provides is the three-day visit by 25 of our students to Washington, DC in April to participate in the Purple City Leadership Forum. We have faculty and staff who are leaders in their own fields and who are delighted to mentor students. In those mentoring relationships,

students get their own feel for the qualities of leadership exhibited by their mentors. Those mentoring relationships are vital to Alfred University accomplishing our mission of helping students to realize their purpose.

Q: Are there some basic skills we could identify that Alfred University students should acquire for future leadership roles?

A: We need to start with the current macro-culture, understanding that many of today's young people can be challenged because of the ubiquitousness of technology and a growing syndrome of isolation. This requires all of us in the higher education space to honor the obligation to engage our students to help them understand and navigate the world around them. We must continue to help them seize more opportunities to meet people of different backgrounds and orientations and to learn how to engage themselves in sometimes difficult conversations with people holding differing perspectives. To be clear, the objective is not to win arguments; it is to engage in conversations and better understand others' perspectives through listening and respectful dialogue. In effect, seeing how we all share this human experience, albeit in different contexts.

Q: How do you do that?

A: It's hard work and requires people to channel their fears and anxieties and know that they are in a safe space to have difficult conversations, whether it's politics and policy, race relations, faith-based differences, opposing ideologies and many others. It begins by learning to cultivate one's own capacities to listen carefully. If you watch effective leaders in action, you'll see how they focus intently on what others are saying.



They're not just being polite. They're listening with their own critical skills and they're engaging in a dialogue of real purpose. There's nothing gratuitous or patronizing about it; it's a critical skill for leaders in any sector of our economy.

Q: You're starting your eighth year as Alfred University's president. What have you learned in recent years that has helped you grow as a leader?

A: One of the most important lessons was taught by the COVID pandemic, when all of us were scrambling to learn something new just about every day -- and our survival depended on getting it mostly right. What saved us was our ability to work with a diverse group of constituents and balance the need to build consensus with the need to take actions for the overall benefit of our community. The road was often bumpy, and sometimes we probably wondered if there was any consensus at all during the height of the crisis. That said, we learned how to integrate various points of view, even strong convictions, into the decision-making process, and to do so on vastly compressed timelines. We also learned about the importance of making decisions – sometime on short notice and often in the face of uncertainty and with the understanding that the results of our decisions may prove to be different from our expectations, thereby precipitating the need to revisit and revise our decisions.

In the midst of COVID, we have also begun to develop our University's next strategic plan. We have sought to be as transparent and open as possible with the various constituents of our community. Our emerging strategic plan is consistent with our mission of helping our students realize their purpose. We advance this mission by focusing on the student experience and bringing to bear three core values that distinguish Alfred University: inclusivity, intersections, and mentoring.

Alfred University President Mark Zupan works with undergraduate Anastasia Campbell '20 as part of the President (for a Day) Program. Under the program, a single student works closely with Zupan during a single day, learning to appreciate the details of a university president's job.

Dr. Robert Johnson '68 addresses 2023 graduates

Alfred University awarded 205 baccalaureate degrees, 61 master's degrees, and four doctoral degrees during the 187th Commencement exercises held May 13 in the Galanis Family Arena.

Alumnus Dr. Robert L. Johnson '68, dean of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ, and interim dean of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ, delivered the keynote address. He urged graduates to be prepared for challenges that will come from serendipitous turns in their life's journeys.

Johnson, who earned a bachelor's degree in biology before going on to earn his medical degree from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now Rutgers New Jersey Medical School), is the only medical school dean serving at two schools simultaneously, he is one of only a handful of African Americans serving as medical school deans.

"My life and career have benefited (from challenges). Each of these has been a force that propelled me forward," Johnson remarked. "As I look back, I am grateful for the challenges, the twists and the turns. They have led me to success and great fulfillment."

Johnson; Gregory Connors '92, a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees and Board Chair Emeritus; and Ann Moskowitz, an Alfred University Life Trustee, were awarded honorary degrees Saturday.

Johnson received a Doctor of Science degree, *honoris causa*, for his career in medicine. Connors—who has served on the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2008, including as Board Chair from 2017-22—received a Doctor of Law degree, *honoris causa*. Moskowitz, who served on the Board from 2017-21, received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, *honoris causa*.



Dr. Robert L. Johnson '68 delivers the keynote address at the 2023 Alfred University Commencement.

Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior award winners Knox VanRenselaar of Amsterdam, NY, a double major who earned bachelor's degrees in history and theater (minor in adolescent education) in December 2022, and Owen Nelson, from Amherst, NY, who earned a degree in materials science and engineering, addressed their classmates. Winners of the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award are chosen based on scholarship, extracurricular achievement, personal character and conduct, and nominations by faculty, students, staff, or alumni. The award was established to honor Alfred University alumnus and Life Trustee Marlin Miller '54, H '89, H '19, one of Alfred University's most generous supporters.

In addition to the graduates honored at commencement, who completed their degree requirements in May, the University had previously conferred 85 baccalaureate degrees, 24 master's degrees, and two doctoral degrees to August 2022, December 2022, and 2023 Allen Term (January) graduates.

William Rice '78, Dwight Gertz join Board of Trustees

William Rice '78 and Dwight Gertz were elected to the Board of Trustees, effective July 1. The Board approved their appointments at its May meeting and will welcome them as new members during its meeting in October.

Rice earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University in 1978. He is currently the chief operating officer of Borla Performance Industries, a leading manufacturer of high-performance automotive exhaust systems, located in Johnson City, TN. Prior to joining Borla, Rice served more than 30 years in several executive positions with Alcoa, Inc., retiring in 2012 as vice president of Mining, Alcoa World Alumina. In that role, he led the development and implementation of Alcoa's long term bauxite strategy. He will be a member of the Board of Trustees' Advancement and Student Experience committees.

Gertz attended Alfred University while in high school, earning six credits during the 1968-69 academic year before earning his undergraduate degree from Yale University and later his MBA from Harvard University. He is an associate professor of practice at Babson College in Wellesley, MA, teaching courses on strategy, leadership, and executive decision making in the undergraduate, MBA, and executive education programs. He grew up around Alfred and Alfred University. His father was Fred Gertz, emeritus professor of English '82 HD and senior administrator at Alfred University. His mother, Elinor Gertz, taught in Alfred University's nursing school and served as a consulting dietician to area hospitals and nursing homes. He will serve on the Board's Academic Affairs and Audit committees.

The University also recognizes three trustees who are leaving the Board, effective July 1: Charlie Joyce '22 HD, MaryJo Finocchiaro '86, and Rich Wuerthele '83.

Joyce is former president and CEO of Otis Eastern Service Inc., one of the energy industry's leaders in the construction of pipelines transporting oil, natural gas, and petroleum products. He joined



William Rice '78



Dwight Gertz

the Board in 2001 and over the years provided philanthropic support for a number of important projects, including the Joyce and Walton Center and Joyce and Walton Conditioning Center. He helped underwrite the hiring of a consulting firm to help Alfred University develop a residence life master plan, invested in the University's Student Experience unit and leadership program, and gave \$2 million toward enhancing Alfred University's athletic facilities on Saxon Hill. In 2022, the University awarded Joyce a Doctor of Commerce honorary degree.

Finocchiario, who earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Alfred University in 1986, joined the Board of Trustees in 2020. She is founder and president of InnFACT Advisors, a hospitality real estate advisory firm based in Boca Raton, Florida, specializing in investment management, financial services, and data analytics.

Wuerthele, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Alfred University in 1983, joined our Board in 2021. He is president and chief executive officer of Crayola, LLC, a global leader in children's creative expression products, including the iconic Crayola Crayon.

Convocation marks start of University's 188th year

Alfred University hosted its Opening Convocation on August 25, welcoming more than 543 new students to campus and marking the beginning of the University's 188th academic year. Classes for the 2023-24 year began on Aug. 28.

Cathy Bissoon, a 1990 Alfred University graduate and a groundbreaking federal judge, provided the keynote address to 453 first-year and 90 transfer students, as well as the faculty and staff in attendance.

Judge Bissoon, a Brooklyn NY, native, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Alfred University in 1990, graduating *summa cum laude* and went on to earn her law degree from Harvard in 1993. In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed her to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Western Pennsylvania. Following her confirmation, Judge Bissoon — who is both Indian and Latina — became the first Latina Article III judge in Pennsylvania and the first Asian American Article III judge in Pennsylvania.

"How did a girl from New York City end up here in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains? I chose this school. When I came here, I fell in love with it immediately," she recalled.



Cathy Bissoon '90 delivers the keynote address at the 2023 Alfred University Convocation.

"I thought about what it would be like to live and study in a place so serene. Alfred seemed like a place where I wouldn't be just a number, where professors wouldn't let me struggle alone. I made some of my best friends here, who shared in my struggles and challenges. I knew when I left Alfred on graduation day that I had made the right choice."

Bachelor of Science degrees in physics, astrophysics

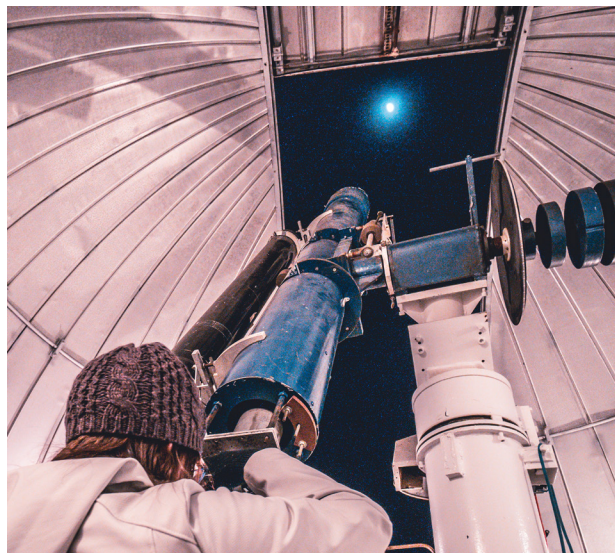
Alfred University has received New York State Education Department approval of two new Bachelor of Science degree programs, in physics and astrophysics. The requirements for the existing BA degree in physics have also been revised, which will give students more flexibility in their academic pursuits.

Joe Kirtland, associate professor of physics and chair of the Division of Physics and Astronomy, said the University could award its first BS degree in astrophysics in May 2024.

Historically, the University has awarded about five BA degrees in physics each year. With the addition of the two new degrees, Kirtland estimates the number of BA degrees in physics and BS degrees in physics and astrophysics could reach 20 per year.

The difference between the BA and BS degrees in physics lies primarily in the depth of physics coursework in the BS and the flexibility of the BA. “Both degrees provide a solid background in physics as well as a broad education in the liberal arts through the same general education program completed by all students in the College

of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The important difference is the BS degree has more of a focus on physics while the BA allows more room for other pursuits, including adding multiple minors or a second major or spending a semester abroad,” Kirtland explained.



Alfred University's Stull Observatory is a valuable resource for the University's new Bachelor of Science degree program in astrophysics.

Steward named associate VP for Student Experience

In May, Alfred University appointed Deb Steward as associate vice president for Student Experience. Prior to the appointment, Steward held the position of interim assistant vice president for Athletics and Recreation, a position to which she had been appointed in January.

“I am honored to serve in this leadership role,” Steward commented. “The last three months have shown me the authenticity and kindness of the AU community and the passionate commitment to the student experience.”

Since joining Alfred University, Steward has led the design phase of the Saxon Hill Sports Complex, an athletics and recreation complex on 200 acres of University-owned land atop Jericho Hill in the Town of Alfred (See story, Page 29). She was also instrumental in the success of the Athletics Department's inaugural Alfy's award program recognizing and celebrating graduating student-athletes.

An award-winning athletics administrator at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Steward was named the 2014 ECAC Division III Female Administrator of the Year and in 2017, she was honored as Women Leaders in College Sports Division III Administrator of the Year. Prior to Hobart and William Smith, she served as assistant director of Athletics at Ithaca College.



Deb Steward

Scheer, Misture honored by SUNY

Two Alfred University faculty—Joseph Scheer '84, professor of print media, and Scott Misture '90, PhD '95, Inamori Professor of materials science and engineering—were inducted into the State University of New York's Distinguished Academy during a June ceremony in Albany.

As inductees into the SUNY Distinguished Academy, Scheer and Misture were named SUNY Distinguished Professors. The honor is conferred upon faculty having achieved national or international prominence and a distinguished reputation within the individual's chosen field through significant contributions to research and scholarship or through artistic performance or achievement in the fine and performing arts.

The rank of Distinguished Professor was created by the SUNY Board of Trustees in 1963 with the first faculty member promoted to the rank in 1964. Since then, 1,302 faculty have been honored in one of four specific categories: Distinguished Professorship, Distinguished Service Professorship, Distinguished Teaching Professorship, and Distinguished Librarian.

Scheer (BFA) is the leading American exponent in the development of digitally derived applications for a fine-art printmaking context. A Fulbright Scholar and co-director/founder of the Institute for Electronic Arts in Alfred University's School of Art and Design, he has held more than 120 exhibitions worldwide, and his works are held in more than 200 public and private collections.

Misture, who has bachelor's and doctoral degrees in ceramic science (both from Alfred University) is an internationally recognized pioneer in the development and application of materials analysis tools to understand ceramics and glasses at high temperatures. He is a recipient of the prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award and holds extensive industry and government funding.



Joseph Scheer



Scott Misture

Orange named dean for Student Experience



Thomas Orange

Thomas Orange was named dean for Student Experience, effective June 26.

Orange came to Alfred from Medaille University, where he served 18 years, most recently as library director. Previously at Medaille, he served as interim dean of the School of Leadership, Science and Technology, and director of EQUIP, a program which integrated high impact practices into the curriculum to promote student engagement and persistence. He also chaired the Medaille's Faculty Council.

During his 18 years at Medaille, Orange was a fixture in the library, helping to build a strong community and a positive environment for student success. In addition to this role, he sat on the core planning team for the university strategic plan and was a member of the Institutional Assessment Coordinating Team. He also served on the Middle States self-study steering group, and as co-chair of a Middle States self-study working group.

Orange earned his bachelor's degree in history from D'Youville University and his master's degree in library science from the State University of New York at Buffalo.



ATHLETICS

Head women's rugby coach appointed

Nicole Bernsen was appointed in May to be Alfred University's first head women's rugby head coach and director of rugby. Women's rugby will play its inaugural season as a varsity intercollegiate sport in the 2023-24 season.

Bernsen came to Alfred University from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she served the last three years as associate director of Athletic Academic Services and Senior Woman Administrator. At Alaska Fairbanks, Bernsen provided academic support to student-athletes, served in a game day administrative role, and was Student Athlete Advisory Council advisor.

Her past collegiate coaching experience includes three years (2017-20) as head rugby coach at the University of Maine and a year as assistant rugby coach at the University of New Mexico.

As former education director for the American Collegiate Rugby Association, based in Dover, DE, Bernsen implemented and directed professional development initiatives. In 2020, she served as an assistant coach for the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union in Seattle, WA.

Bernsen earned a bachelor's degree in global studies from the University of California-Santa Barbara, where she was a member of the rugby team, and went on to earn a master's degree in political science from the University of New Mexico and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in forest resources policy and economics from the University of Maine.



Dr. Nicole Bernsen

Coach named to lead Saxon baseball program



Brian Kehew

Brian Kehew has been named head baseball coach at Alfred University. The baseball team, which had been offered recently as a club sport, will compete beginning this year as an intercollegiate NCAA program.

Kehew comes to Alfred University from Medaille University, where he served the 2022-23 year as head baseball coach. Like Alfred University, Medaille was a member of the Empire 8 Athletic Conference.

Prior to Medaille, Kehew served as head baseball coach at Becker College in Leicester, MA, And prior to that served four years as head coach and pitching coach for the Ocean State Waves, a New England Collegiate Baseball League team based in South Kingstown, RI.

He served as assistant coach for six years at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, where he was the athletics department's recruiting coordinator and student-athlete success coordinator.

Kehew has a bachelor's degree in sport administration from the University of Louisville and a master's degree in sport and exercise science from the University of Central Florida.



ATHLETICS

Peggy Shank appointed to EAGALA committee

Peggy Shank, Western instructor, trainer, and assistant Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) coach in Alfred University's equestrian program, has been appointed to the Research Committee of the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA).

EAGALA is a revolutionary mental health treatment model incorporating horses. It utilizes a team approach that includes a licensed, credentialed mental health professional, a qualified equine specialist, and horses working together with the client in an arena at all times.

According to EAGALA, the mission is as follows: "The mission of the EAGALA Research Committee is to address both mental health and equine research issues and questions, identify resources to strengthen and build the body of evidence to support EAGALA model practice, and encourage all EAGALA members to engage in high standards of program evaluation and research in their EAGALA Model programs."

Shank has been certified as an equine specialist in the EAGALA model of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) since 2016. She has been working with Lynn O'Connell, professor of school counseling, Dani Gagne, professor of counseling, and Robert Stein, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science, to get the EAP curriculum approved at Alfred University.



Peggy Shank

University appoints associate athletic director



Erin Schurr

Alfred University has appointed Erin Schurr to the position of associate athletic director, the Athletics Department announced in August.

Schurr comes to Alfred University from Medaille University, where she was head women's lacrosse coach. She also served as NCAA compliance coordinator—managing all aspects of NCAA, conference, and institutional rules for the Mustang intercollegiate athletic programs—and travel and contest coordinator—managing scheduling and travel for the athletics teams and securing officials for home contests.

Before Medille, Schurr served for five years as head coach of women's soccer and women's lacrosse at SUNY Polytechnic. She also served as assistant coach of women's soccer and women's lacrosse for two years at SUNY Polytechnic and was an assistant women's lacrosse coach at SUNY Geneseo for one year.

Schurr earned a bachelor's degree in sport management from SUNY Fredonia and a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration from Concordia University Irvine.

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Hall of Fame ceremonies set for November

Alfred University will welcome four new members into its Athletics Hall of Fame during an on-campus ceremony scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4.

Nicole (Hedrick) Kivett '12, Vinson Hendrix '11, Lyndsay (Murphy) Kieffer '11, and Chad Pieri '10 are the 2023 Hall of Fame inductees and will be honored along with Steven Miller '73, Distinguished Alumni award recipient, and the 1983-84 men's swimming and diving team, recognized as a Team of Distinction.

Hedrick, who earned a degree in criminal justice studies, starred for four seasons on the softball team, becoming the program's first-ever All-American in 2010, when she helped lead the Saxons to an NCAA tournament berth. Hedrick holds places in the school record book as both a pitcher and hitter. She still holds the team single-season mark for pitching wins with 19, set in 2010.

That year she also had 66 hits, which at the time was the team single-season record. At the time of her graduation, Hedrick held the single-season record for runs scored (46) and career batting average (.410). She was a three-time First Team Empire 8 Conference all-star, winning conference Player of the Year honors in 2010, when she won National Softball Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Region and All-American recognition.

Hendrix, who earned a degree in psychology, is one of the top rushers in the history of Alfred University football. As a sophomore in 2007, he was a First Team Empire 8 all-star and a Third Team All-American. That year, he led the Saxons to their second straight ECAC Bowl Game win over Rochester and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. That year, Hendrix rushed for 1,406 yards, which at the time was a school single-season record. As a senior in 2009, he

Nicole (Hedrick) Kivett '12

Vinson Hendrix '11

Lyndsay (Murphy) Kieffer '11

Chad Pieri '10

**Steven E. Miller '73
Distinguished Alumni**

**1983-84 Men's Swimming & Diving
Team of Distinction**

AU HALL OF FAME 2023

Continued on page 28



ATHLETICS

ran for 1,339 yards, earning First Team Empire 8 honors and helping head the Saxons to a share of the conference title and a trip to the NCAA championship tournament. He is the only player in school history listed twice in the top 10 for single-season rushing yards and shares the school record for 100-yard rushing games in a season, with eight in both the 2007 and 2009 campaigns.

Murphy was a three-year member of the women's basketball team after transferring to play for her father, long-time coach Jay Murphy, prior to the 2008-09 season. At Alfred, she was a three-time Empire 8 all-star, earning First Team honors twice and Second Team recognition once. Murphy scored 1,123 points in her three seasons at Alfred University, which ranks fourth on the school's career list, and her career average of 15.1 points per game tops the school's record books. In 2011, she was Muriel Strong Morley Award winner (given to the top female student-athlete at Alfred University) and ECAC Merit Medal Award recipient, given in recognition of excellence on the court and in the classroom. Murphy earned a bachelor's degree in childhood education and returned to Alfred as a graduate assistant coach, earning a master's degree in school counseling in 2014.

Pieri played four seasons as a linebacker for the Saxon football team (2006-07 and 2009-10) and is one of just a handful of players at Alfred to earn Empire 8 all-conference recognition four times: First Team in 2007; Second Team in 2006, 2009, and 2010. A three-time team captain, Pieri was the team's Defensive MVP in 2009 and again in 2010, when he helped lead the Saxons to Empire 8 Conference titles and back-to-back NCAA championship tournament appearances. He was also a member of Alfred teams that won consecutive ECAC Bowl wins in 2006 and 2007. Pieri graduated with a bachelor's degree in childhood education and also earned a master's degree in literacy from Alfred University in 2011.

Miller, who earned a degree in business administration, is the third former Saxon to be

named Distinguished Alumni. Established in 2018, the award recognizes Alfred University student-athletes for outstanding achievement following their playing careers at Alfred and takes into account things like career success, leadership, and service. Miller, who played three seasons in the Saxon men's lacrosse team, has been an accomplished lacrosse official, officiating club tournament around the country. He has officiated in NCAA championship tournaments and was an official for the 1994 International Lacrosse Federation World Lacrosse Championships in England. He currently serves on the board of the U.S. Lacrosse-Upstate New York chapter and has been coordinator of officials for the Skyline Conference, SUNYAC, Liberty League, United East Conference, North Atlantic Conference, and Empire 8 Conference. In 2004, Miller was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the New York Chapter of U.S. Lacrosse.

The 1983-84 men's swimming and diving team is the third Team of Distinction honored at Alfred University, joining the 1971 football team and 1988 women's soccer team. The 1983-84 Saxons were undefeated and were runners-up at the 1984 Upper New York Collegiate Swimming Association championships. The team, led by Hall of Fame coach Mike Schaeberle, went on to place eighth at the NCAA Division III championships, with six Saxons earning All-American recognition. They included Howard Seidman '84, who as a senior claimed NCAA titles in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke, setting national records in both events. Seidman, the most decorated athlete in Alfred University history, also won national titles in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke in 1982 and 1983. Other All-Americans from Alfred University on the 1984 team were Cary Schaeberle '87, John Jewell '85, Mark Ginn '86, Tim Jaenecke '84, and Tim Schaeberle '85. Seidman, Tim and Cary Schaeberle, Jewell, and Jaenecke are all members of the Alfred University Hall of Fame.

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Plans for Saxon Hill Sports Complex move ahead

Project will increase student enrollment and retention, raise athletics program profile.

By Mark Whitehouse

Plans are moving forward on the development of the Saxon Hill Sports Complex, a \$28.6 million athletics and recreation facility on 200 acres atop Jericho Hill in the town of Alfred. Construction on the facility—which is expected to significantly increase Alfred University’s student enrollment and boost the University’s student retention efforts—is anticipated to begin in spring of 2024 and be completed in the fall of 2025.

Deb Steward, associate vice president for Student Experience, Athletics and Recreation, said the project is currently in the design and approval phase. The

architectural firm of Clark, Patterson and Lee (CPL), with architects from their Olean, NY, office, is providing design services for the Saxon Hill Sports Complex, with Athletics Department staff—including coaches and administrators—having input on project details. In addition, AU’s finance, advancement, physical plant, and marketing and communications offices have key roles in bringing this project from concept to completion.

Traffic, light, sound, and environmental studies have been completed and an initial



Artist's rendering of the baseball press box at Saxon Hill Sports Complex

Continued on page 30

AU SAXONS ATHLETICS

presentation, with preliminary plans, has been made to the Alfred Town Board. Representatives from the University and CPL will return to the Board in October with updated studies.

Final approval of project funding from the University's Board of Trustees is required before bids are awarded early next spring, with construction to begin soon after. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 16 months. The University expects the majority of the project to be funded through philanthropic gifts.

Saxon Hill will be located on approximately 200 acres, although only 41 acres will be

physically disturbed, including the currently mowed fields. Once completed, the Saxon Hill Sports Complex will include:

- **Saxon Sports Center:** home and visitor locker rooms; athletic training room; offices; assembly space (similar in function to Connors Family Pavilion, where alumni, parents/families can gather for pre-game, post-game functions); restrooms; media room.
- **Baseball field:** full-field turf, lighted, with scoreboard; bullpens and dugouts. A two-tier press box will have restrooms, a concession stand, and team room on the first floor; the



Artist's rendering of the press box at Saxon Hill Sports Complex which will serve the rugby field and track.

FOR ALL THE LATEST IN ALFRED UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS, VISIT

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second floor will include press and public address space, coaches' offices, and a media room for holding interviews with media. The Saxon intercollegiate baseball team will begin play next spring, playing home games at local ballparks until the Saxon Hill field is ready for use for the spring 2026 season.

- **Track and field facilities:** lighted 400-meter 8-lane track with jump areas and throws areas; video scoreboard. Infield of track will be a multi-purpose synthetic turf field which will be used as the home to the future varsity intercollegiate field hockey team (anticipated to begin competition in fall 2025) and as a practice facility for football, men's and women's lacrosse, and men's and women's soccer.
- **Rugby field:** natural grass, lighted, with scoreboard. The women's rugby team will celebrate its inaugural season as an NCAA sport in 2023-2024 and the men's rugby team will also be housed under the athletic department.
- **Dual two-tier press box:** One side faces the track and multi-purpose field, the other faces the rugby field. The first floor will house concessions and restrooms; the second floor will include a press box and VIP suite. Grandstand seating will be available for each venue.
- **Five parking lots** with 435 parking spaces.

An existing cross country course—which has been used primarily for training but has hosted competitive meets—will be retained and used for practices and competitions.

The Saxon Hill Sports Complex is expected to be a boon for student-athlete recruitment. The University estimates the project will increase new student enrollment by approximately 200 in the first six years of its opening. "We are already starting to build energy around the project," Steward said, noting that coaches are using architectural renderings and project descriptions on recruiting visits.

"Many prospective student-athletes have these types of facilities at their high schools," she noted. "This demonstrates to our recruits that athletics is an integral part of Alfred University. This facility will also compare with our opponents' facilities allowing us to be more competitive in the recruiting process while also providing our students with facilities that fill them with a sense of pride. In addition, we will be able to provide a better quality of experience for our student-athletes and staff as there will be less early morning and late-night practices."

Student recruitment will be further enhanced by Saxon Hill hosting sports camps and clinics for high school students.

The facility will be a resource not only to the University's Athletics Department, but to the entire campus and Alfred community at large. Steward pointed to expectations that Saxon Hill will facilitate growth in the University's club and

AU SAXONS ATHLETICS

intramural offerings, which will further aid in student recruitment and retention efforts. “This sports complex will make those programs much more robust,” she said.

Saxon Hill, Steward noted, will reflect Alfred University’s mission of helping students find their purpose. “We want our students to be the very best they can be, and we are helping them by providing the finest possible facilities, as well as the support personnel needed to help mentor and engage them.”

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



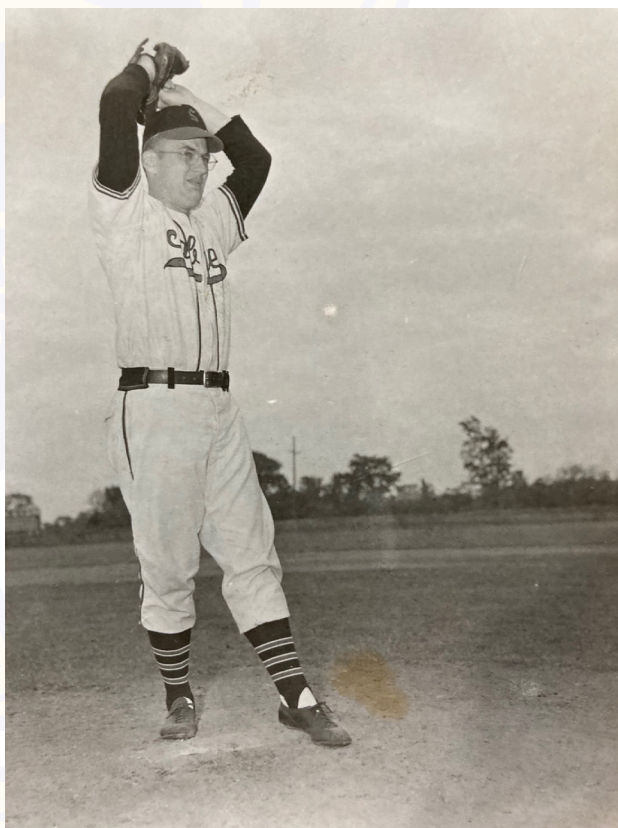
Artist's rendering of the Saxon Hill Sports Complex at the top of Jericho Hill.

More Saxon Professional Baseball Players than Football Players? **Yes, it's true.**

By Evan Katz

In 1866 when baseball fever gripped the United States the recreation sensation became Alfred University's first intramural sport. Intercollegiate play began in the 1890s and, according to an excerpt from the 1925 *Kanakadea* yearbook, baseball remained "a leading sport" until 1921.

Baseball was diminished by the emergence of football, basketball, track and cross country.



John Stivers, who earned a master's degree from Alfred in 1962, was drafted by the St. Louis Browns and played for six minor league teams in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Baseball's final year as a varsity sport was 1937, the *Fiat Lux* student newspaper reported in 2005, when baseball was in its resurgent 10th year as a club.

Remarkably, with no intercollegiate baseball program for 75 years, four Saxons have played professional baseball. That outnumbers the three former Saxons—Les Goble, Frank Trigilio, and Ray Witter—who according to Pro Football Reference played professional football. (Of course, with the minor leagues there have been many more professional baseball players than football players.)

The first was John Stivers, a left-handed pitcher from Corning. He left Valparaiso University in Indiana in 1947 to play for the St. Louis Browns, from which he received a \$20,000 signing bonus.

In 1948 and 1949 Stivers pitched in 39 games for six teams in six leagues. He opened both seasons in the Southern Tier, first with the Elmira Pioneers in 1948 and the Olean Oilers in 1949. In 1950, he played for the Paducah (KY) Chiefs of the Ohio Valley League.

Stivers graduated from Valparaiso in 1951 and retroactively became Alfred's first pro baseball player when he received his master's degree in education in 1962. He was elected to the Corning-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame in 1977.

John M. DiMartino of Bellmore left Alfred in 1951 after his freshman fall semester. The next spring the 20-year old right-hander pitched for three Philadelphia Phillies minor league teams.

DiMartino opened the 1953 season 60 miles southwest of Alfred in Bradford, PA, with the PONY League, but was released in June. He

Continued on page 34



ATHLETICS

returned to Long Island and later relocated to North Carolina. He was AU's first pro baseball player for nine years until Stivers earned his master's degree.

In the mid-1980s, Greg Prusia '88 built his Alfred University Athletics Hall of Fame credentials (he was inducted into the Hall in 2003) on the football field (and basketball court for one season). He was also a standout high school baseball player at Union-Endicott High School near Binghamton and played in the Northeast College Baseball League during his college summers. "I was the only player who wasn't playing college baseball," said Prusia of tenure with the NCBL.

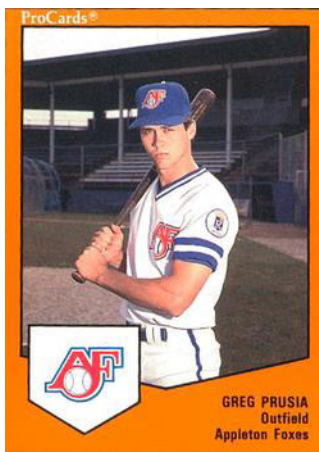
With the Broome Rangers in 1987 Prusia hit .363 with 10 home runs in 40 games and the outfielder caught the attention of pro scouts. The following spring, on Alfred University's Merrill

Field football turf, a Kansas City Royals scout ran baseball drills to evaluate Prusia.

In June 1988 Prusia was drafted by the Royals and assigned to its Gulf Coast League rookie team, where his high-level college baseball summer experience paid off. He led the team in batting average, home runs and runs batted in.

In 1989 Prusia was promoted to the Midwest League Appleton (Wisconsin) Foxes. In June, a high-profile draftee outfielder joined the team and Prusia lost his starting outfield role. "It was the first time I learned about business," he said.

Prusia sat on the bench for 13 games and when he played again his aggressive football and basketball instincts were mismatched for baseball. "It's more of a mental game," he said, "You can't make things happen in baseball. You have to let things happen."



Greg Prusia's baseball card for the 1989 season, when he played for the Appleton (Wisconsin) Foxes of the Midwest League. Prusia is a 1988 Alfred University graduate.



The 1899 Alfred University baseball team.

FOR ALL THE LATEST IN ALFRED UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS, VISIT

gosaxons.com

Prusia finished the season with a .235 average. He turned down an invitation to spring training in 1990. The only Alfred four-year degree student to play pro baseball is now living in North Carolina.

Evan Katz became Alfred University's most recent pro baseball player in unique fashion. Katz (author of this story and a lifelong baseball fanatic who attended Alfred for two years) had dreamed of playing pro baseball as a child, but never played until he was 45. After 15 years of adult recreational baseball Katz searched for a minor league team that would make his dream come true.

In 2017, after an 18-month quest the Pecos League granted Katz's wish. At 61 he played two games as a pitcher and outfielder for the White Sands (New Mexico) Pupfish. Six years later, Katz, now at age 67, ended his pro career by playing in three games—one on the mound and two in rightfield—for the Austin Weirdos of the Pecos League.

Katz lives in Massachusetts and coaches high school baseball.

Alfred's oldest sport continued in 2023, when its club team competed for a third season in the Colonial Baseball Club Association. In the spring of 2024, the Saxons will once again offer baseball as a varsity intercollegiate sport. The Saxon baseball team will be affiliated with the NCAA, Division III, and compete in the Empire 8 Conference. Once completed, the Saxon Hill athletics complex atop Jericho Hill will be home to the Alfred University baseball team.

Evan Katz attended Alfred University from 1973 to 1975 and was a reporter for the Fiat Lux. He considers himself a member of the Class of 1977.



Evan Katz (foreground), who attended Alfred University for two years, enjoyed two brief professional stints in his 60s playing for two teams in the Pecos League in New Mexico.

CLASS

Notes

1963 *Golden Saxons Reunion*

James Scott (B.S., economics) was inducted into the Schenectady (NY) City School District Athletics Hall of Fame. Jim was the 1959 New York State high school 440-yard champion, setting a record at the time of 48.8 seconds, and ranked 15th in the nation that year. At Alfred University, he won the 1961 New York State Small College 440-yard event with a record time. He lives in Summerfield, FL.

1965 *Golden Saxons Reunion*

Nancy (Sheldon) Stone (B.F.A.) has written a book, *Indigo Hours: Healing Haiku*, a lyrical, profound, and playful book of haiku poems with original scratchboard drawings. In poems that show the change of emotions with insights for coping with loss and grief, with metaphors about nature, Nancy breaks down the silence and stigma associated with dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, while offering a calming

guide for others dealing with the devastation and exhaustion of caregiving. The book is published by Rootstock Publishing, which announced an Oct. 16 release. Nancy is an award-winning painter and book artist living in Williston, VT, who taught art at Williston Central School, Vermont Commons School, and Community College of Vermont. She is the author of *251 Vermont Vistas*, a book of her watercolor paintings documenting visits to each of Vermont's 251 towns.

Jim '72 and Sue Moretti '73 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 23 with a surprise gathering of family and friends in Orlando, FL, where the couple resides. Jim and Sue (second from right and right), who were married on July 21, 1973, were joined by their children: **Lindsey (Moretti) Ibarra '11** (left), **Jim Moretti '02** (second from left), and **Matt Moretti** (center). Guests joined the honored couple at Disney's California Grille, where they ate, danced, and enjoyed the Magic Kingdom fireworks. Jim and Sue reside just outside of the Disney property where they enjoy their daily walks, bocci tournaments, and babysitting duties as grandparents.



The original painted postcards are in the University of Vermont's Special Collection.

1970 *Golden Saxons Reunion*

Ira Knickerbocker (B.S., ceramic engineering) is chief executive officer at Victor Insulators, Inc., a leading manufacturer and supplier of porcelain insulators used in the electric power and electronics industries. Ira has been with the company, located in Victor, NY, since 1972. Victor Insulators was founded in 1893 as one of the great early contributors to the successful establishment and growth of the electric power industry in North America. The company developed and patented a process for manufacturing wet process porcelain for use in insulators for power lines.

Howard Gershon (B.A., economics) has authored a chapter in the 4th Edition of "The Tracks We Leave: Ethics and Management Dilemmas in Healthcare" published by Health Administration Press, a Division of the Foundation of the American College of Healthcare Administrators. Howard is a Life Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), the professional home to more than 48,000 healthcare executives who are committed to integrity, lifelong learning, leadership and diversity and inclusion. He has served as a faculty member for courses offered by ACHE as well as several other national organizations. He recently retired after serving

as management consultant to hospitals and healthcare systems, specializing in strategic planning, for almost 50 years. He and his wife, Char Cook, live in Santa Fe, NM, with their dog Lizzie and their horse Sunny.

1985

Jack Canty (B.S., accounting) has been named president and chief operating officer of ReSource Waste Services (RWS), a leading processor of construction and demolition waste in the New England region, the company announced in June. Prior to his new appointment, Jack served as chief financial officer for RWS and ReEnergy Holdings LLC. Among other positions, he previously served as the chief operating officer/chief financial officer of Weitsman Recycling and as vice president of Finance of Agway Energy Products. He also operated his own consulting practice for three years that focused on identifying and implementing performance improvement opportunities for his clients. A Certified Public Accountant, Jack is based in Boston.

1996

Jamie Keefer (B.S., mechanical engineering) was named on the Healthcare Technology Report's list of the Top 25 Healthcare Technology Leaders of Tampa, FL, for 2023. The list includes executives who have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills,

effectively balancing business success with a profound commitment to improving patient outcomes. Jamie is vice president of operations and genetic testing solutions at Thermo Fisher Scientific, an American supplier of analytical instruments, life sciences solutions, specialty diagnostics, laboratory, pharmaceutical and biotechnology services.

1997

Tetsuya Yamada (M.F.A.), a member of the art faculty at the University of Minnesota, was awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship in April 2023. Tetsuya, an associate professor of ceramic art and a member of the University's faculty since 2003, was honored for his work in fine arts. The

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SNAIL MAIL

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Director of Communications
1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802

Guggenheim Fellowship is a highly distinguished, annually awarded grant for North American-based artists and scholars. Tetsuya was among three University of Minnesota faculty to be named Guggenheim fellows. Born in Japan, Tetsuya came to the United States in 1994 for graduate school and completed his MFA at Alfred University in New York in 1997. He has worked as a professor of ceramics at the University of Minnesota since 2003. Much of his work examines the natural world, human nature and the connection between the two. He has participated in artist residency programs in Wisconsin, Philadelphia and the

Netherlands. He is a recipient of the Tiffany Award (2001), the McKnight Fellowship for Ceramic Artists as administered by The Northern Clay Center (2005), the McKnight Artist Fellowships for Visual Artists as administered by the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (2014/2019), and the Grand Prize at the Gyeonggi International Ceramix Biennale in South Korea (2011).

1999 *Honored Reunion Year*

Dan Nathan (B.S., ceramic engineering, computer science) was named in *The Software Report's* list of "Top 25 Software CTOs of 2023." Dan is chief technology officer at Phreesia,

a Wilmington, DE-based technology company that gives healthcare organizations a suite of robust applications to manage the patient intake process. As CTO, Dan directs Phreesia's core and integration platforms. He is responsible for the company's patient intake, data center operations, site reliability engineering, and analytics teams. Since Dan joined Phreesia in 2007, the company began trading on the New York Stock Exchange and has grown exponentially to more than 1,500 employees. Before he was promoted to CTO in 2019, Dan spent his first 12 years at Phreesia as an Architect and then as vice president of engineering.



In May, **Shakima M. Clency '01** (B.A., business administration) received her doctorate degree in educational leadership and cultural foundations from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and several Alfred University alumni joined her at her graduation party. They included (in photo above, from left): **Dan Napolitano '93** ('98, MEd), **Tricia Debertolis '95** MEd, **Shakima**, **Ann R. Jones '00**, **Kris Stachowiak '01**, and **Jessica McCaffrey '00**. Shakima was the inaugural Diversity Fellow at Alfred University during the 2018-19 academic year and worked with Dan and Tricia. She now works for Kessler Scholar Collaborative and resides in Hackensack, NJ.

2003

Fabienne C. (Raszewski)

Johnson (B.S., ceramic engineering, M.S., glass science '04, PhD, glass science, '07) was inducted into the Iroquois High School Alumni Hall of Fame at her high school alma mater's graduation ceremonies in June. Fabienne, who graduated from Iroquois High School in 1999, is a principal investigator at the Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken, SC, where she has been for 16 years. At SRNL, Fabienne leads a team focused on glass waste form development for the Defense Waste Processing Facility, the only operating high-level radioactive waste vitrification plant in the United States. She has received several awards from SRNL over the years for leadership, building relationships, operational excellence, new process developments and quality assurance. Most recently, she received the Secretary of Energy Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), representing DOE's highest form of employee recognition for excellence and achievements that support the department's mission. The award was presented to the Accelerated Basin De-inventory Team, an interdisciplinary group of experts focused on the accelerated disposition of spent nuclear fuel at the Savannah River Site.

2006

Emilie Vicchio (B.S., marketing, '08 MBA) was named winner of the 2023 San Diego Communicator of the Year Award, given by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC)-San Diego. With more than 18 years of experience in communication, Emilie is the director of marketing, brand and communication for Client Solution Architects, a leading defense firm that solves some of the defense industries toughest technology and mission challenges. Emilie leads all marketing, brand and communication efforts, guiding her organization's internal, corporate and executive messaging during M&As, organizational restructuring, rebrands, and day-to-day operations. In addition to her Alfred degrees, Emilie also earned a master's degree in strategic brand communication from the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana. She is a certified copy editor from UC San Diego and holds a certificate in leadership and change management from Cornell University.

2007

Dillon Stein (B.A., biology) was recognized by the Pennsylvania Medical Society as one of the year's top physicians under 40. Dillon earned his medical degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

and is director of palliative care at Butler Memorial Hospital in Butler, PA, which is a member of Independent Health System. To be eligible to receive the Pennsylvania Medical Society honor, physicians must be members of the Society, and all nominees are selected by colleagues and peers within the Society. In 2022, Dillon was one of just six physicians in the country to be recognized with the prestigious Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Award. The honor is given by the Cunniff-Dixon Foundation and recognizes clinicians for outstanding care provided to patients nearing the end of life. Dillon was one of three physicians chosen for the honor in the early career category. Dillon was a standout member of the Alfred University men's basketball team from 2003-07 and is listed among the Saxons all-time leaders in career scoring

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and rebounding. He was named the Empire 8 Conference Rookie of the Year in 2004 and was an Empire 8 all-star each of his four years at Alfred.

Jeremy Brooks (M.F.A.) was recipient of an artist fellowship from the South Carolina Arts Commission, which presented fellowship awards for fiscal year 2024 to four artists in South Carolina working in various disciplines. Jeremy, from Conway, SC, is an assistant professor of ceramics at Coastal Carolina University, Myrtle Beach, and balances his career between working as an artist and teaching. Some of his honors include receiving the emerging artist award from the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), being selected as a guest of honor at the XX1st International Biennial of Vallauris, France and being selected as a finalist for the 2017 Elizabeth R. Raphael Founder's Prize. The artist fellowships from the South Carolina Arts Commission comes with a \$10,000 award. Jeremy was awarded in the craft art discipline.

2008

Jessica Cabrera (B.A., communication studies) was presented with the Education Award, given by the New York League of Puerto Rican Women during the organization's 15th annual Scholarship Gala held in the Bronx on August 24. The New York League of Puerto Rican Women, Inc. is one of the

only organizations in the state whose focus is the Puerto Rican/Hispanic woman and her ability to provide a better life for herself and her family through higher education. Jessica is associate director of Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) at Bronx Community College.

2010

SV Randall (B.F.A.) participated in a joint exhibition titled "LAST SONG" with artist Laura Hyunjee Kim which was one view April 14 through May 19 at the Goldmark Cultural Center's Norman Brown Gallery in Dallas, TX. LAST SONG is a multimedia installation that intertwines the past, present, and future into a cyclical perception-altering timescape, in which constructs of order and continuity no longer apply. SV, an interdisciplinary artist from Buffalo, NY, is currently an Assistant Professor of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Texas at Dallas. His work has been exhibited at David & Schweitzer Contemporary, Brooklyn, NY; the El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX; Ditch Projects, Eugene, OR; and the Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juárez in Mexico. SV is the recipient of the Toby Devin Lewis Fellowship Award and has most recently participated in residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (Skowhegan, ME), Sculpture Space (Utica, NY), the Fine Arts Work Center (Provincetown, MA), the Vermont Studio Center (Johnson, VT), and the Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program (Roswell, NM).

2014 *Honored Reunion Year*

Nurielle Stern (M.F.A.) had work included in the 2023 Summer Exhibitions presented by the MacLaren Art Center, Barri, Ontario, Canada. Nurielle's exhibition, "Petrichor," a collaboration with artist Nicholas Crombach, opened June 17 and remained on view through Oct. 22. Nurielle is a Toronto-based sculpture and installation artist who has been recognized for her work in ceramics with the national Winifred Shantz Award for Canadian Ceramics (2019), the NCECA Emerging Artist Fellowship (2020), and Craft Ontario's Helen Copeland Memorial Award in Ceramics (2022). Her work is in the collections of the Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON, the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo, ON, the Art Gallery of Burlington, Burlington, ON, and the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, Alfred, NY. Her large-scale installation, "Fable," was commissioned by the Gardiner Museum in 2019. In 2020, Stern was a visiting artist at California State University, Long Beach Center for Contemporary Ceramics funded by Canada Council Arts Abroad.

2017

Maxwell Mustardo (B.F.A., B.S., art history) showed artwork in a solo exhibition, "Recasting Rococo," held at the Lefebvre & Fils Gallery in Paris September 7-October 14. "Recasting Rococo" uses vases to organize and illustrate some of the precursors

and derivations of mid-18th century French ceramics. Max created the work included in the exhibit at Lefebvre & Fils, where he spent the summer of 2023 in residency. During his time at Alfred University, Max earned multiple awards that include an ARGUS grant for materials research, a Levine Endowment grant to study in Japan, and a nomination for the Thayer Fellowship in the Arts/Patricia Kerr Ross Award as the SUNY finalist in the visual arts category. He is currently working as a resident artist at the studio of Toshiko Takaezu in Quakertown, NJ.

2019 *Honored Reunion Year*

Jeff Klossner (B.S., electrical engineering) is owner of Hop Notch Brewing Company in Montour Falls, NY. Jeff opened the brewery in September 2022. He also works as a self-employed real estate agent and as an electrical engineer for LaBella Associates in Elmira. Hop Notch won the Watkins Glen Chamber of Commerce “Best New Business Award” in 2022.

2021

Chloe Kottwitz (B.F.A.) was featured in the Aug. 14, 2023, issue of *Richmond BizSense*, Richmond, Virginia’s premier source of business news and information. The story, “Uptown Neon looks to add some extra glow under new ownership,” outlines Chloe’s

purchase of Uptown Neon, a Richmond neon sign shop. In the story, she said she became interested in neon art when she took a glassblowing class while pursuing her B.F.A. Today, Uptown Neon is the only remaining shop in Richmond dedicated solely to neon. A native of Bolivar, NY, Chloe played on the Saxon women’s basketball team in 2017-18.

2022

Henry Jackson-Spieker (M.F.A., sculpture/dimensional studies) has joined the University of Washington art faculty as Dale Chihuly Endowed Chair of Glass. Henry is a Seattle, WA-based multidisciplinary artist, focusing on sculpture and site-specific installations. His work combines glass, bronze, steel, wood, fiber, and light. His sculptures explore tension, balance, and reflection through the merging of contrasting materials. Jackson-Spieker’s installations examine and question how social and cultural norms shape the way we perceive and utilize space. He is the recipient of the MAC Fellowship and the Chihuly Garden and Glass Award, and currently has public artwork at Seattle’s Midtown Commons and the Bellevue Art Museum. Jackson-Spieker has exhibited at Wa Na Wari, Method Gallery, the San Juan Museum of Art and others, and teaches glass blowing and bronze casting at Pratt Fine Arts Center, where he first started working with glass.

2023

Elliott Houghteling (B.F.A.) was named a finalist for the prestigious AXA Art Prize, presented annually by AXA XL, an insurer of some of the world’s most acclaimed galleries, art collections and dealers and an established patron of the arts which champions initiatives designed to support and celebrate emerging talent across the globe. Finalists for the AXA Art Prize have their work included in a virtual exhibition which opened September 23 and in a live exhibition at AXA gallery space in New York City, on view starting in November. Finalists compete for a first prize of \$10,000 and a second prize of \$5,000. The prizes will be awarded in October.

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SNAIL MAIL

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Director of Communications
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In Memoriam

1946

Ruth (Welstead) Friend, May 17, 2023

1948

Lewis Palter, May 21, 2023

1951

Louise (Krauss) Brandwein,
April 24, 2023

1953

Marilyn (Richard) Synnestvedt,
Aug. 2, 2023

1954

Janice "Jan" (Jarvis) Gibbs,
Aug. 29, 2023

1955

Wilfred L. Eckert, June 20, 2023

Lenore (Green) Lapin, April 28, 2023

1957

Frederick B. Emerson Jr.,
June 30, 2023

1958

Donald Calabrese, May 10, 2023

Joyce (Emmick) McNamara,
July 11, 2023

1959

Donald J. Ulmer, July 1, 2023

1960

Stan Schumann, March 18, 2020

Joyce (Harrington) Cirrito,
June 15, 2023

Francis J. Giuffrida, July 6, 2023

Priscilla (Allen) Tyler, June 4, 2023

1961

Sally (Benedict) Florence,
June 22, 2023

1962

Elbert G. Spencer, May 19, 2023

1963

Frank DiGangi, Aug. 10, 2023

Walter W. Scott, May 21, 2023

Michael F. Vogel, Juny 10, 2023

1964

Elaine (Bremer) Apczynski,
May 31, 2023

1965

Barbara (Tripp) Crumb, May 29, 2023

Stephen W. Dodge, April 5, 2023

1966

Sandra (Manning) Davison,
May 19, 2023

1967

John C. Burdick, May 1, 2023

1968

David H. Feather, June 27, 2023

Susan L. Miller, May 24, 2023

1969

Anthony B. Munroe, June 6, 2023

Reed K. Patterson, April 23, 2023

John M. Tobin, July 3, 2023

Gerald A. Wolter, July 30, 2023

1970

Gregory Dahlman, June 30, 2023

Scott K. Reed, June 26, 2023

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1971

James R. Fillmore, June 7, 2023

1975

M. Kate (Frechette) Foshee,
June 6, 2023

1976

Joyce (Stenger) Matson,
April 24, 2023

1977

Anthony Sabo, May 10, 2023

1978

Samuel P. Opper, April 12, 2023

1979

Lt. Col. Bryan R. Samson,
July 23, 2023

1982

Susan C. Treadwell, July 23, 2023

1983

Margaret A. Callahan, April 10, 2023

Sally S. Mueller, April 3, 2023

1984

Kenneth A. McKee, April 21, 2023

1990

Barbara L. Randall, July 4, 2023

1991

Dorothy M. Porter, Aug. 11, 2023

2000

Christine (Snyder) Watkins,
May 14, 2023

2020

Benjamin J. Cafolla, June 15, 2023

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MICHELLE DERITTER '74

Michelle DeRitter '74 earned her bachelor of arts degree in music at Alfred University, having fallen in love with reed instruments during her elementary, middle, and high school years. At Alfred University, she played tenor saxophone in the Jazz Ensemble and clarinet in the University concert band.

"We had very good bands," she says. "They were comprised of many music majors, but also non-music majors. I loved the experience, especially because I already knew I wanted to be a

band director and high school music teacher."

She met her future husband, Paul, at an All County festival (He was a band director in the Franklinville School District), and she worked for the Olean City School District as an instrumental music instructor and band director until her retirement. She also developed a side business: country antiques, which kept her busy during the summer months. Now retired, she and her husband live in Eustis, FLA, where she continues to utilize

her Alfred University music education by teaching privately and also playing clarinet in the Lake Concert Band.

Michelle became an early member of the Saxon Circle based on her long history of supporting Alfred University as an alumna. "I was very well suited to Alfred University. I came from a small town and a one-building school. I always felt comfortable with the faculty at the University. Alfred University was a place that welcomed me and provided me with the academic and social comforts that help a student grow. Giving back to the University is my way of helping the University provide that education to the next generation."

The Alfred University Saxon Circle program proudly recognizes our annual leadership giving donors whose combined philanthropy has made a significant impact on the experiences of our students. We currently have nearly 700 Saxon circle members, comprised of alumni, families, faculty, staff and friends of the University.



Michelle DeRitter '74

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