

# *Alfred* MAGAZINE

MAY 2019

*Celebrating AU Couples*





# Magic MOMENTS

*Alfred*  
MAGAZINE  
MAY 2019 ISSUE

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# Alfred

## MAGAZINE

MAY 2019 ISSUE



## Inside

**Facing page:** Commencement 2019 took place on Saturday, May 18. The images at left are special moments captured during the 2018 ceremony.

**Above:** Students, faculty and staff gather for a "family photo" in front of FIAT LUX! sign in the lawn next to Powell Campus Center

**Cover image:** Steve Jones Photography, Memphis TN

### 2 Celebrating AU Couples

Over the years, Alfred University has welcomed tens of thousands of young men and women to this magical valley, helping them pursue their passions and dreams in a learning environment that is far from ordinary. For many, Alfred was also the place where they met their life partners. In this issue of the *Alfred Magazine*, seven couples tell their stories of how they met at Alfred University, fell in love, and eventually married and started families. They also share an affinity for their alma mater, describing how it helped mold their personal and professional lives. Featured are Bob '81 and Chris (Copeland) '83 Locker – page 2; Ron '93 and Kim McIntosh-Little '93 – page 5; Bill '81 and Jill (Peperone) '81 Giles – page 8; Mike '99 and Christa (Nyman) '01 Christakis – page 10; Keniel '06 and Frances (Alexander) '06 Ledgister – page 12; Seth '04 and Jessica (Webster) '07 Richard – page 14; and Amy Karle '02 and Ben Julian '02 – page 17.

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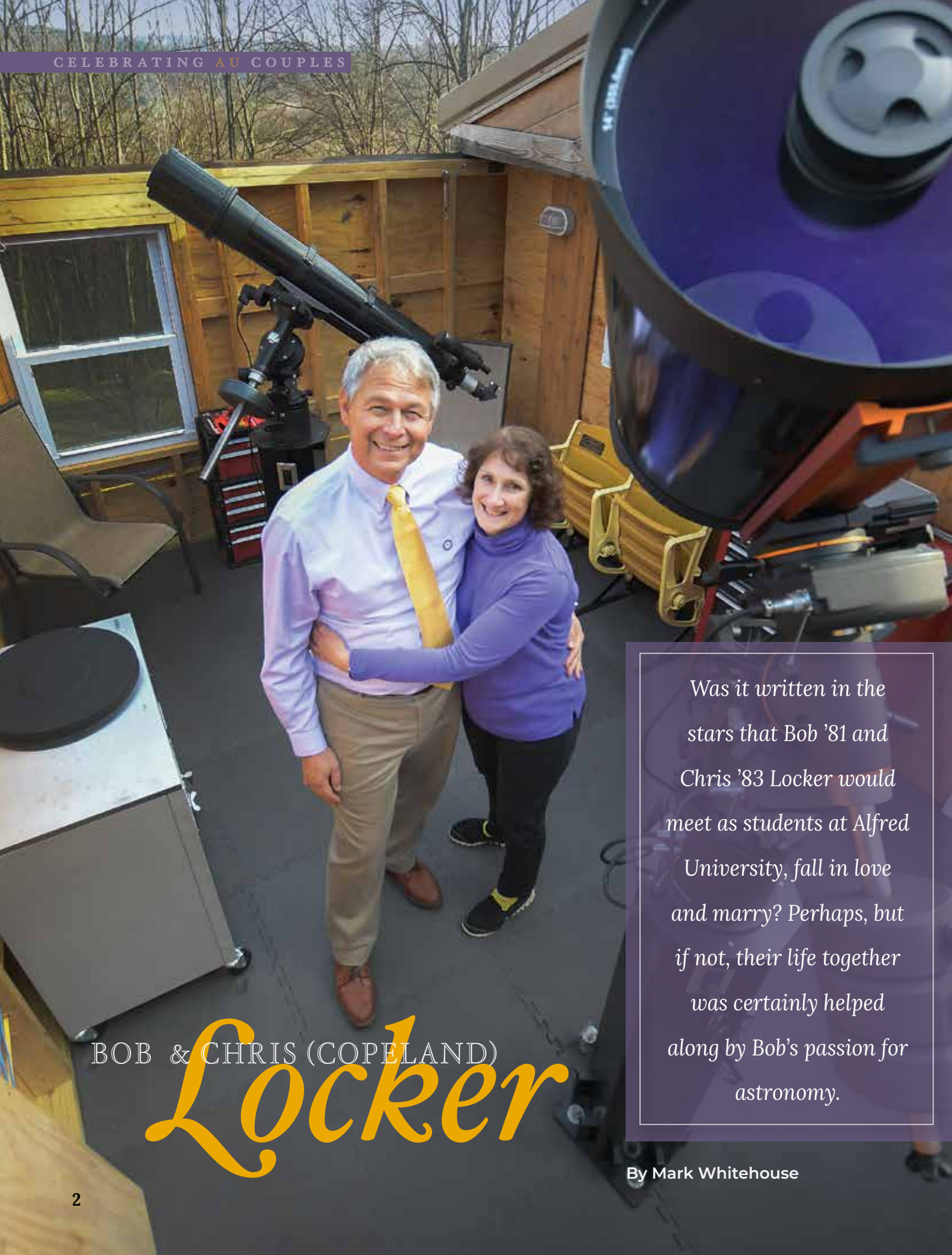
Major happenings on campus.

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A personal message to alums from a member of the Alfred Family.



*Was it written in the stars that Bob '81 and Chris '83 Locker would meet as students at Alfred University, fall in love and marry? Perhaps, but if not, their life together was certainly helped along by Bob's passion for astronomy.*

BOB & CHRIS (COPELAND)  
*Locker*

By Mark Whitehouse

Bob's interest in stargazing brought him to Alfred University, where he earned degrees in ceramic engineering and physics and met nursing student Christina Copeland. And three years later, when planning to propose to Chris, it helped him buy an engagement ring.

As a young teenager growing up in Hornell, Bob pursued his interest in astronomy. He had read about John Stull, founder of the observatory at Alfred University, and contacted him with questions about how to build his own telescope. A dialogue between the two ensued and Bob's love for astronomy kept growing.

When it came time for Bob to choose a college, Stull, a professor of physics, encouraged him to come to Alfred, noting the University's new minor in astronomy. "He knew of my interest and had kept in touch," Bob said.

Initially, Bob was not interested in coming to Alfred, preferring a school with a larger astronomy program. He applied to Cornell, where famed astronomer and astrophysicist Carl Sagan had spent much of his teaching career. Bob didn't get into Cornell, and matriculated to Alfred instead, majoring in ceramic engineering and physics – and minoring in astronomy, of course.

"I was thinking I would someday become an astronomer," he recalled. He eventually realized the job market for astronomers – perhaps 200 in the country – was too limited, and settled in on his studies in ceramic engineering.

"I came to Alfred to study physics, but learned that my love was working in a lab with ceramic materials," Bob said. In 1981, Bob earned bachelor's degrees in ceramic engineering and physics and set his sights on grad school. He began pursuing his Ph.D. in ceramic engineering at Alfred University, but during his second semester, he decided he wanted to leave Alfred.

Bob applied to Cornell, the University of Rochester and RPI and was accepted at all three. Meanwhile, one of Bob's professors at Alfred, Jim Reed, proposed a graduate research project that interested him. Ultimately, he narrowed his choices down to two: stay at Alfred or move on to Cornell.

That's when fate stepped in. It was February 1982, and Bob was attending a men's basketball game on the Alfred campus; Chris, a third-year nursing student from Webster, NY, was attending the same game. Chris was living in Rochester at the time – all nursing students were required to spend their junior year in Rochester, on rotation at three hospitals there – and had come to the game with her roommate, who happened to be dating one of the Saxon basketball players.

"Bill Byrne was the basketball player who was dating my roommate. He (Byrne) wanted to spend time with my roommate, so he asked Bob if he would hang out with me," Chris recalled.

Bob declined Byrne's invitation to meet Chris, saying he had homework. Chris, wanting to meet Bob, encouraged Byrne to introduce them anyway, and the two spent the evening talking. "I ended up finishing my homework around 4 a.m.," Bob said.

They stayed in touch, getting to know each other better, and it made Bob's decision on his graduate studies an easy one. "I wound up staying at Alfred and getting my Ph.D.," he said. "I really liked Chris and I really liked the opportunity Jim Reed offered me. I felt I could turn down Cornell. That was the best decision I made – to stay at Alfred for grad school with Chris returning to campus for her senior year in the fall of 1982."

By the spring of 1982, Bob wanted to propose to Chris, but was facing a dilemma: "As a poor grad student, I didn't have the money to buy a diamond ring to ask her to marry me."

And that brings us back to Bob's interest in astronomy. While contemplating how he would raise the money to get Chris an engagement ring, Bob recalled being given a telescope while a high school student in Hornell. The director of BOCES in Steuben County had read an article in the local paper about Bob's interest in astronomy and had given him a telescope.

"It was an old antique: cool, but in no way could you use it for astronomy research," Bob said. He kept the telescope in a box under his bed, taking it out every once in a while, but eventually forgot about it.

*Continued on page 4*



"I owe  
everything to  
Alfred:  
my career, my wife,  
my children"

Robert Locker '81

While at Alfred as an undergraduate, Bob had shown the antique telescope to Stull who told him it was probably worth something because the company that made it, Brashear, had been out of business since the early 1900s. Bob returned to Stull as a graduate student to ask if he knew how he might sell the antique to raise money for the engagement ring.

Stull gave Bob the name of John Briggs, an antique telescope dealer from the Boston area, who he said may be interested in Bob's

telescope. Bob said he contacted Briggs, who drove to Alfred, looked at the telescope and offered him \$1,000. "I took it, bought the diamond engagement ring and proposed to Chris."

The couple was married in May 1983, after Chris graduated from Alfred with her nursing degree. Bob and Chris lived in Alfred, Chris working at St. James Mercy Hospital while Bob finished his graduate studies. After Bob earned his Ph.D. in 1985, the couple moved to Corning and Bob began work as a scientist at Corning Inc.

Chris continued her nursing career, working as a nursing supervisor at Founder's Pavilion Nursing Home for a year before leaving for St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, where she worked for 20 years, first piloting a pre-admission program, then developing the role of case manager. She has been at Corning Hospital since 2007, working in the area of case management. Bob has been at Corning Inc. for nearly 34 years. He is now senior development associate/director of Process Systems Development, for emissions control devices used in motor vehicles.

Both think back often of their time at Alfred University.

"I have so many fond memories of Alfred," Chris said. "It was the only college I applied to. Alfred felt comfortable



*Bob and Chris Locker at the July 2018 wedding of their older son, Robert II '16 (second from right) and Casey (Duncan) Locker '14. At right is the Lockers' younger son, Sean '15.*

from the start, and the nursing instructors were truly vested in making sure we were successful."

"I spent eight years on that campus: eight academic years and eight summers. I owe everything to Alfred: my career, my wife, my children," said Bob. "Alfred was that fertile environment that gave me self-confidence and helped me grow. My memories are of the students, the professors, and the friendships.

We felt it was a great place for our boys to go."

The Lockers' two children, Robert II and Sean, both earned bachelor's degrees in materials science and engineering from Alfred University, Rob in 2014, Sean in 2015. Rob is an engineer at Cree Inc. in Raleigh, a company co-founded by Alfred University alumnus John Edmond '83. Sean, a standout member of the Saxon track and field team as an undergraduate, is currently studying toward a Ph.D. in glass science.

Rob is married to an Alfred University alumna, Casey (Duncan) Locker '14, an attorney at a law firm in Graham, NC. The couple, who were wed last July, lives in Hillsborough, NC. "I find it ironic that Chris and I met at Alfred, and our son and daughter-in-law did as well," Bob said.

As for Bob's interest in the stars, it remains intact and is part of his and Chris's life even today. With Chris's blessing, Bob installed a small observatory, complete with 14-inch telescope, at the couple's home in Corning.

"There has been a whole lot of astronomy woven throughout our relationship," Bob mused. "I never did become an astronomer, but Chris has supported me in indulging my passion."



KIM (MCINTOSH) &amp; RON

# Little

*Ron Little '93 and Kim McIntosh-Little '93 fell in love as students at Alfred University, their relationship strengthened by their mutual involvement in diversity-building programs on campus. That they would ever meet – let alone eventually marry – seemed unlikely until fate, in the form of the Barron's college guide, stepped in.*

**K**im McIntosh began her postsecondary education in 1988, studying business at Richmond University, The American International University in London. After two and a half years, she decided to transfer so she could finish her degree in the United States. A native of Brooklyn, she preferred a small university in Upstate New York. Looking through a copy of *Barron's*, she stopped at Alfred University, one of the first listed among institutions in New York State.

"It had all that I wanted," Kim recalled. "It was small and rural, and it offered business administration and a minor in theater arts. It was a place I could focus on finishing my studies."

As a high school student in the Bronx, Ron Little aspired to a career in law but wasn't sure where he wanted to go to further his education. "My high school didn't have much in the way of counseling services for students interested in going to college," Ron recalled. "I wanted a small school in New York. I picked up a *Barron's* book and started looking."

*Continued on page 6*

By Mark Whitehouse

He read about Alfred University and decided to take a visit. "I fell in love with Alfred right away: the campus, the town, the people. I knew that's where I wanted to go."

Kim recalled arriving on the Alfred campus in January 1991 to begin the second semester of her junior year. "I remember getting off the bus and looking for a cab. There was a professor who pulled up in his pickup and told me there were no cabs. We loaded my things into the truck and he drove me up to Kruson Hall.

"I was in one of the lounges in Kruson and met a couple girls who welcomed me. Ron happened to come in and they introduced me to him. That was my first interaction with him. I didn't like him at first; he kind of had an attitude."

Ron enrolled at Alfred University in the fall of 1989, majoring in political science and philosophy. A resident assistant working in Kruson Hall when Kim arrived on campus, he recalled their initial meeting. "I was in the lounge at Kruson and one of the girls there introduced me to Kim. I wasn't really paying attention. I was concerned with other things – school starting back up, students moving back in – so I kind of gave her this limp handshake and moved on."

If Kim didn't have Ron's full attention at that first meeting, she did the next day, when Ron was walking through campus with a friend and spotted her. "I said to him, 'Who is that?' He says, 'You idiot, you met her last night!' I told him, 'That's the one. That's who I'm going to marry.'"

Ron said he did his best to get to know Kim better. "I was persistent, a real pest."

At first, the interest wasn't mutual. Kim was involved in theater and was focused on her academics and adjusting to campus as a transfer student. She said Ron began showing up at theater rehearsals. "I wasn't paying him much attention, but he kept coming anyway," she said.

Ron said he became interested in theater himself, perhaps thinking it could help him become better

acquainted with Kim. "It allowed me to be close to Kim without being too creepy," he joked. At the time, Rene Simmons, a professor of theater, had started "An Evening of Black Theater," which introduced African American authors and playwrights to students through the stage. Ron eventually asked Simmons for a small role in a production he knew Kim was part of and the two were able to perform together. Shortly after, Ron asked Kim out and in April 1991 they began dating.

Ron and Kim were both involved in leadership roles on campus. Both worked as resident assistants and

held jobs at Ade Hall; Ron would serve as president of the Student Senate; Kim held prominent roles in theater. As African-Americans, both were interested in initiatives to promote diversity on campus, which further strengthened their relationship. Kim co-created "Diversity Week", a week-long celebration of international culture, food, and dance. Ron, who came to Alfred University through the Equal Opportunities Program, was involved in Umoja, Alfred's African-American student union.

"That's what really gelled us together," Kim said. "We

were interested in making changes, creating new programs. We wanted to make things better for people who followed us, create a legacy."

By Ron's senior year, he knew he wanted to propose to Kim. Gary Moon, then a manager at Ade Hall, gave him extra shifts to earn money for an engagement ring. Ron planned to propose to Kim the night before Commencement, and enlisted the help of the manager at what was then the Manhattan West restaurant.

"I hadn't thought about what I wanted to do, other than I just wanted to surprise her," Ron recalled. The two were given a corner table and Ron proposed with a cake he had ordered with "Will You Marry Me?" inscribed on it. Kim said yes, and the rest is history.

Kim earned a degree in business administration and Ron earned degrees in political science and philosophy. Ron went on to earn a law degree from

*"We were interested in making changes, creating new programs. We wanted to make things better for people who followed us, create a legacy"*

**Kim McIntosh Little '91**



the University at Buffalo in 1996, and Kim earned her M.B.A. from Canisius College the same year. In June 1997, they were married in Queens and a year later Kim joined the Navy. Kim's first duty station was at the National Naval Medical Center (now Walter Reed Hospital) in Bethesda, MD. While she attended basic officer training in Rhode Island, Ron moved their belongings and set up the household in Maryland, where they've lived since.

Kim is on active duty, serving as a Captain (O-6) in the U.S. Public

Health Service, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. A health care administrator by profession, she was an officer in the U.S. Navy for seven years (1998-2004) before transferring to the Public Health Service, where she works for the Food and Drug Administration.

"We're deployed to national emergencies. We set up medical field hospitals to take care of people," she explained. The Public Health Service was deployed to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, and was on hand for Barack Obama's presidential inauguration in 2009. "We set up a medical team, to respond in case there was some type of emergency."

Ron is a licensed attorney in Washington, D.C., and Maryland. He was with a private law practice in Washington from 1999 until 2016, when he began work as legal project manager at Law Resources,



*Ron and Kim at an Alfred University resident assistant retreat.*

a leading legal services placement firm with offices in Washington and Chicago.

The couple has three children: son Ronald II, 19, a first-year engineering major and soccer player at Howard University; and daughters Catherine, 17, and Kristina, 15, a junior and sophomore, respectively, in high school. Catherine and Kristina both excel in dance and theater as extracurricular activities.

Alfred University holds a special place in Ron's and

Kim's hearts, for helping them grow as individuals and bringing them together as a couple.

"Everyone I encountered at Alfred was eager to help me do what I wanted to do. I never struggled with an issue for long at Alfred; there was always someone there stepping in and helping me," Ron says. "When I think about Alfred, I think about the time I spent there with Kim. I couldn't love Alfred any more than I do."

"It helped me cultivate leadership abilities, and a willingness to be involved and create. Being able to take business classes and be involved in theater presented a message that anything you want to do, (Alfred) will allow it, and give you the tools you need to do it," Kim said. "The fact I met my spouse there made it extra special."



BILL &amp; JILL (PEPERONE)

# Giles

*Bill '81 and Jill (Peperone) '81 Giles met as first-year students after enrolling at Alfred University in the fall of 1977. Attending many of the same classes in the College of Business, and later serving as resident assistants, they developed a friendship that lasted throughout their time at Alfred and continued after they graduated.*

By Mark Whitehouse

**T**oday, the couple has been married 35 years, but it was not until after they had graduated from Alfred in 1981 and started their professional careers that they began dating.

Bill grew up in Alfred Station, attending Alfred-Almond Central School. He was familiar with Alfred University; his mother Mary worked in the nursing school and earned a master's degree in community services administration in 1980. Two of his siblings – sister Nancy '77 (Spanish, education) and brother Thomas '80 (finance) – are also Alfred University alumni.

“Growing up, I wasn't sure where I would be going to college,” Bill said. “When my mom got the job (at Alfred), it made it financially viable.”

Jill grew up in Buffalo and had learned of Alfred University through one of her guidance counselors. Her first visit to campus was to watch her brother compete at an indoor track meet in the former Davis Gym, at which time she took the opportunity to take a campus tour.

“The campus was so pretty. It was very comfortable; just the right size,” she recalled. “Shortly after (the visit) I decided on Alfred. I had to convince my parents to let me go. I was the first in my family to leave our hometown to go to college.”

Bill and Jill became good friends in their junior year. The two were resident assistants at the Treddenick suites. "Jill had one half of the suites; I had the other," Bill said. "We relied on each other as R.A.'s to do our job and developed a trust that has lasted throughout the years."

The two were active on campus. Bill was a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity, and served as chairman of the Hot Dog Day planning committee. Jill was an Alpha Kappa Omicron sorority sister and was active in the American Marketing Association.

After earning accounting degrees from Alfred, Bill and Jill began their careers as Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). While Bill's first job took him to New York City, with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Jill worked in Buffalo, with Johnson and O'Connell, P.C., the two remained close.

"Bill had a brother in Buffalo he would come to visit," Jill said. "Eventually we started dating."

"We had become such good friends (in college)," Bill added. "We had formed a connection that was very strong and after we left school it evolved into a serious relationship."

The two dated for three years, marrying in Buffalo in 1984. They settled in New York City, working there and starting a family. They have three children: their oldest son, Chris, is a CPA in New York City; their daughter, Eliza, graduated from the University of Mississippi this spring and is entering a Doctor of Psychology program in the fall; and son Billy will be a freshman at the University of Miami this fall.

Prior to earning a Ph.D in Accounting from Rutgers University in 1998, Jill was an assistant project manager at the Financial Accounting Standards Board from 1985-89 and was a vice president at Chemical Bank from 1990-92. She was an assistant professor at Seton Hall University from 1999-2005. Jill left higher education in 2005 to stay home with their children and since 2014 has been an assistant professor of business at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN.

Bill left PricewaterhouseCoopers in 1991 to join Linens 'n Things, a retailer of home textiles, in Clifton, NJ, where he stayed until 2006. He became chief financial officer in 1997. The Giles family moved to Tennessee in

*"Alfred gave us a lot of shared memories and it created a great foundation for our relationship."*

**Jill Peperone Giles '81**

2006, when Bill took his current position as chief financial officer and executive vice president at AutoZone in Memphis. Bill is responsible for finance, information technology, and store development. In 2012, Bill was recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top 25 CFOs of public companies in the country. He is active in the Memphis community, serving as the president of the AutoZone Liberty Bowl Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of Youth Villages. He is also a member of

the Board of Directors of Brinker International.

Bill and Jill say Alfred University is much more than just the place they met.

"Alfred created a life connection for us," Bill said. "We both had great experiences at Alfred. Alfred is where we began our adult lives and we are grateful for that opportunity."

Added Jill, "Alfred gave us a lot of shared memories and it created a great foundation for our relationship."

Both share fond recollections of their alma mater and point to the role it played in bringing them together and creating a path for their successful careers.

"I received a very good education there," said Jill, who served on the Alumni Council and was an alumni-elected trustee from 1993-96. "Going to a small school, you get a lot of individual attention, and I left with a lot of confidence. It helped shape me into the person I am today."

"Because of the small size, it's such a personal place," said Bill. "Alfred is a place you can establish a strong foundation."

Both say the faculty at Alfred was genuinely interested in the accomplishments of their students and always encouraged them to have both the courage and confidence to reach for the next achievement.

"The professors at Alfred spend time with you and help you develop," Bill said. "They took a real interest in our success and our careers."

"When we would go back to visit in the early years (after graduation), the professors were so proud of us, and told us so," Jill added. "There was always such positive feedback."



## MIKE AND CHRISTA (NYMAN)

From left: Anastasia, Mike, Katerina, Christa (Nyman), and Victoria Christakis.

# Christakis

By Logan Gee '18

**A**lmost 20 years ago, Mike Christakis '99 and Christa (Nyman) Christakis '01 came to Alfred University to begin their undergraduate education. Each left with so much more though, and still carry with them the Alfred experiences and relationships that continue to shape their lives.

Mike, a Fairport, NY, native, researched and applied to Alfred University, on the recommendation of family friend and Alfred alumnus John Paliouras '60. With other institutions higher on his list, though, Mike felt confident that he would not be attending Alfred University – that is, until he received his acceptance letter just a few months later.

“The acceptance letter was so personal compared to the other letters I received. Whoever wrote the letter included details from my application essay,” Mike said. “And the financial aid package was very generous. I was overall really impressed.”

Seeing there was more to the small private institution

than his research originally showed, Mike attended an accepted students' open house on a rainy, cold day in April and realized Alfred University was the place for him. He deposited the same day, and knew there was no going back because he was completely enamored by the University.

Christa, from Oswego, NY, attended an accepted students' open house two years later and experienced a similar reaction to the University, but enjoyed very different weather.

“The weather was beautiful and the distinct vibe and culture on campus captured my attention,” Christa said. “All of the activities and student interactions impressed me.”

Christa explained that her mother had told her father to pack a check in case Alfred University was “the one” for her, and she vividly remembers the grin on her face while her father signed the check for her deposit.

Throughout their time at Alfred University, Mike and Christa took advantage of the many opportunities Alfred's small campus had to offer. Mike, who double majored in political science and history, and minored in philosophy, was involved in campus organizations such as Student Activities Board, *Fiat Lux*, and Student Senate. He also served as the founding president of Omicron Delta Kappa, the campus leadership honor society; a resident assistant for three of his four years; a campus tour guide; and an organizer for Hot Dog Day.

Christa, an environmental studies major with a minor in writing, served as a resident assistant and participated in campus organizations such as Omicron Delta Kappa, for which she served as vice president and then president. Christa also helped with the organization of Hot Dog Day, participated in Habitat for Humanity, was a campus tour guide, and led the Women's Issues Coalition.

Both Mike and Christa received several awards throughout their time at Alfred University. Most notable were being named to Who's Who Among Students at America's Colleges and Universities (Mike in '98 and '99, and Christa in '01) and receiving the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior award (Mike '99 and Christa '01).

But opportunities and awards aside, Alfred University also brought Mike and Christa together.

Mike, who was a junior and Openhym resident assistant (RA) at the time, first noticed Christa during her new student orientation.

"It was during the new student Olympics. She was completely in charge," he said. "I had a whistle," Christa added.

Later in the semester, the two connected over Mac computers and printing issues.

"I was one of the few students on campus with a Mac computer. It was before they were cool," Christa said. "I was having issues connecting it to my printer and Mike, who was my RA at the time and one of the only other owners of a Mac in the building, helped me out with it."

From there, a friendship started and continued throughout the following two years.

During her sophomore year, Christa took on a resident assistant role and worked with Mike in Openhym as a co-RA. The two maintained their friendship until six-



*Mike and Christa arrive in style at the 1999 Alfies event.*

weeks before Mike's graduation when Christa made the first move, and the two started dating.

After graduating from Alfred University in 1999, Mike went on to receive his master's in public affairs and policy in 2001 and his Ph.D. in public administration and policy in 2005 at the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany, SUNY.

Christa, who graduated from Alfred University in 2001, also went on to receive her master's in public

affairs and policy at the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany, SUNY.

As alumni, Mike and Christa have involved themselves in councils and boards to better the Alfred University as. Mike served as the Alfred University Alumni Council President from 2006-12 and alumni elected trustee from 2012-15. Christa served as a member of the Women's Leadership Center Advisory Board until 2014, and in 2009 she received the Abigail Allen Award for Service to Women.

In reflecting on their time at Alfred University, Mike and Christa agreed that the opportunities presented to them as students shaped the rest of their lives.

"Alfred University taught me how to engage, delegate, and lead," Christa said. "It was in part because of these skills and the passion I developed that I went on to pursue a professional career in advocacy."

Mike agreed with Christa and echoed similar sentiments about his Alfred University experience.

"Not a day goes by that I don't acknowledge that Alfred University shaped me both professionally and personally. The experiences, and especially the people at Alfred University made me the individual I am today," Mike said.

Currently, Mike serves as the vice president for Student Affairs at the University of Albany, and Christa is the executive director at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District II in Albany. With their three daughters, Mike and Christa live in the Albany area. They celebrated 13 years of marriage last September.



## KENIEL AND FRANCES (ALEXANDER)

# Ledgister

By Mark Whitehouse

*From left, Frances, Keniel II, Alexander, and Keniel Ledgister.*

**K**eniel '06 and Frances (Alexander) Ledgister '06 had much in common when they met during orientation week after arriving on the Alfred University campus in the fall of 2002.

Both black and of Caribbean descent, Keniel and Frances came to Alfred from New York City. Both were enrolled in the College of Business. And, although they didn't know it at the time, both had an affinity for the music of Bob Marley.

It was the latter shared interest that would ultimately bring them together as a couple.

Frances came to Alfred in August 2002 without having made a prior visit to campus. She had been accepted to the University of Maryland and had every intention of matriculating there.

"I was part of a mentoring program (in high school) and one of the mentors was familiar with Alfred University and encouraged me to apply," she explained. "I did, and was offered a better financial aid package. That convinced my mother that (Alfred) was a better option."

She and her mother travelled to Alfred and Frances enrolled for classes that fall.

"I knew nothing about Alfred. I had never visited, I didn't know what the culture was like there. I cried the whole way up," she said. "New York City is so lively, so much to do. Alfred was just this little strip of shops, a few places to eat. It was a complete 180 for me."

Keniel knew he didn't want to go to school in New York City and had narrowed his choices down to Binghamton and Clark Atlanta universities. An alumnus of his high school who was familiar with Alfred University urged Keniel to look at Alfred.

"He said it's a great school, very friendly. It's one of those places you go to and make the most of it. My parents saw the financial package, saw that it was in state, and said 'that's where you're going.'"

He took a bus trip to Alfred to visit the University and left impressed and ready to begin his college career there. "It was different, kind of in the middle of nowhere, but I liked it. I said, 'You know what? That's what life is about, doing something different and making the most of it.'"

Keniel and Frances met during orientation, on Sept. 1 (Keniel's birthday). She was living in Openhym and he in Cannon and they would run into each other periodically. "We saw each other every day, in class or somewhere on campus," Keniel said.

"We had an English class together," Frances recalled. "We had a lot of the same friends so sometimes we'd eat breakfast together."

Shortly after the school year began, a high school friend of Keniel's, who was attending Alfred State College, visited him at Alfred University. The two had been in Openhym and Keniel was walking through the dormitory looking for his friend when he passed a room with an open door and saw a poster of Bob Marley on the wall. A fan of the legendary reggae musician, he was curious and knocked and popped his head in. It so happened it was Frances's room.

"We started talking about everything Caribbean, the culture, listening to reggae, living in New York City," Keniel recalled. "It was our first real conversation."

Added Frances: "We had spent some time together with friends. This was our first time to actually talk one-on-one."

Two weeks later, on Sept. 16, they started dating.

"Well, we never really had an official first date," Frances said. "We just hung out together."

During mid-semester break in October, most of their friends returned home but Keniel and Frances stayed on campus for the long weekend. "That's when we really got to know each other," Frances said.

"We've been together since," added Keniel. "We never broke up."

The two were active on campus, which built and strengthened their relationship. Keniel was in the Caribbean Student Association, serving as president for two years. He was also a photographer for the Fiat Lux student newspaper, participated in Poder Latino and Umoja, helped found ALANA (African-Latino-Asian-Native American club), and served on Student Senate. Frances was the treasurer for Caribbean Student

*"Alfred holds a special place in our hearts. It set a foundation for us. It helped shape us as people, helped us become the parents we are."*

**Keniel Ledgister '06**

Association for two years and also attended Umoja, Poder Latino, and ALANA meetings with Keniel.

Keniel and Frances graduated from Alfred University in 2006: Frances with a degree in marketing; Keniel in business administration (minor in management information systems). They remained together after graduation and were married three years later, in July 2009.

Frances is a data analyst with MediaCom, one of the world's largest media agency networks. Headquartered in New York City, MediaCom is part of WPP, a global marketing communications services group.

"I develop and maintain standard processes for data efficiency among analysts and business science teams within MediaCom, guiding teams to ensure they maintain data accuracy," she explained.

Keniel is supervisory special agent with the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

"I find criminals or crimes by tracking money. Special Agents are first and foremost investigative accountants," he said. "They are forensic accountants searching for evidence of criminal conduct. As a supervisor, I am responsible for making sure my Special Agents have the necessary tools and training to do their daily job."

The couple live in Brooklyn and have two sons, 5-year-old Keniel II, and 4-year-old Alexander.

Keniel and Frances are grateful for their time at Alfred University, not only because they met there, but because their experiences there had a positive and long-lasting impact on their lives.

"Alfred holds a special place in our hearts," Frances said. "It set a foundation for us. It helped shape us as people, helped us become the parents we are."

"It's like a book. It's our story" Keniel added. "It's everything. It's how we met and grew closer. It led to our family, our kids."





## SETH AND JESSICA (WEBSTER)

# Richard

*Seth '04 and Jessica (Webster) Richard '07 only spent a year together as students at Alfred University, but that year was all it took for them to meet, fall in love and create memories to last a lifetime.*

**By Mark Whitehouse**

*Facing page: From left, Siena, Seth, Elle, and Jessica Richard.*

*Photography by Amanda Burr FitzPatrick '03 School of Art and Design  
Amanda FitzPatrick  
Photography LLC*

**S**eth Richard was a senior business major in the fall of 2003 when Jessica Webster arrived on the Alfred University campus for her first year, also majoring in business.

Seth came to Alfred in 1999 from his native Connecticut with plans to become a lawyer, but realized it would take far too long to realize his dreams and ultimately transferred to the business school. He had chosen Alfred while perusing the *Princeton Review's* list of Top 311 Schools in America where Alfred University showed up early on the list.

"It hit a lot of my marks," Seth said. "It had a strong liberal arts background, was rated very well, had a great price point, and was in the Northeast."

Jessica's road to Alfred from her native Rochester began in a similar fashion. She wanted to attend a liberal arts-based college that had a strong business program and took an online questionnaire provided by her guidance counselor at Brighton High School to determine what colleges were her best fit. "I took the test repeatedly and Alfred kept popping up, so I asked my parents to take me down for a visit," she recalled.

Their initial visits to campus convinced them to choose Alfred University.

"My mom and I made the drive during the winter and we got stuck in a monster snowstorm. It turned what should have been a five-hour drive into an eight-hour journey," Seth said. "To see the campus that first time was really like stepping into a snow globe. It turned out to be my kind and a perfect great fit."

"Going down Academic Alley was a highlight of the school tour; our guide was a senior art student and her stories made me want to join the Alfred community," Jessica said of her first visit.

At a party during the fall of 2003, Seth and Jessica were introduced by mutual friends -- siblings who were also students at Alfred. Seth invited Jessica to a Halloween party, which turned out to be their first date. "Halloween is still special to us -- although instead of parties, now we trick or treat with our kids," Jessica said.

Seth and Jessica were involved in various activities at Alfred. Both worked at the Phone-a-thon and served on the Student Senate. Seth was a member of the Greek Council representing Kappa Psi Upsilon; Jessica was president of Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda and vice president of the Student Activities Board and a vice president for the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF). She was also a reporter for the *Fiat Lux* student newspaper.

*Continued on page 16*

*“As I grow older, I  
can better appreciate  
how many memories  
I made in just four  
years at Alfred.”*

**Jessica (Webster) Richard '07**

“We were both business students in Olin,” Seth said. “As soon as we met, I recognized her and would see Jessica frequently on campus due to similar schedules. That constant overlap helped us stay connected.”

Seth graduated that spring with a bachelor's degree in business administration and that fall began work in the Connecticut office of Marcus & Millichap, a national commercial real estate brokerage firm. Jessica was beginning her sophomore year at Alfred, and Seth made it back to campus regularly. “Alfred was still a big part of my life,” he said. “I had a lot of friends at Alfred and Jessica was still there so I always went back to visit her.”

Jessica earned a degree in finance (minor in economics) three years later. She was honored at commencement for having the highest cumulative GPA in the College of Business, and was a runner-up for the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award. After graduation, she took a job at the New York City offices of UBS, a Swiss financial services firm. She earned an MBA from Fordham University in 2014 and has remained at UBS throughout her career, now serving as executive director in the Global Wealth Management division. Seth is a vice president of Investments and senior director of the National Retail Group at Marcus & Millichap, advising high net worth investors in the purchase and sale of commercial real estate.

Alfred University provided the Richards with opportunities and experiences that helped shape their career paths.

“I knew I wanted to study business, and I was leaning toward marketing,” Jessica said. On a trip to Tokyo organized by then economics professor Marie Claret-Ruane, she visited the Tokyo Stock Exchange and a Nissan factory, and decided to pursue finance, with an eye on working internationally. “I had the opportunity to take a variety of courses with small class sizes and form lasting relationships with professors like Dr. (Abderrahman) Robana. Alfred helped me find what I was interested in.”

Jessica recalled a trip with the Student Managed Investment Fund to New York City, where she met some

members of the Board of Trustees who were successful in finance.

“Knowing there were alumni in New York working in these positions, I felt it was something I could aspire to.”

Added Seth, “Alfred had a definite impact on me. I had some great professors in liberal arts and sciences. Gary Ostrower (professor of history) was my adviser and he made a tremendous impression on me.

He holds you to such high standards and that always stuck with me.”

Seth said he came to AU intent on pursuing a career in law, “but I realized that wasn't the path for me.” When he decided to pursue a degree in business instead, the University supported his decision and offered him flexibility to transition to the College of Business.

Jessica and Seth were married in New York City in October 2012, almost nine years to the day after their first date. Many friends in their wedding party were Alfred University graduates. They all danced the night away. They live and work in Manhattan, and are parents of two daughters: Siena, 3, and Elle, 10 months. Their alma mater holds a special place in their hearts – it helped them make lifelong relationships and, of course, brought them together.

“Alfred is a special part of our lives. As I grow older, I can better appreciate how many memories I made in just four years at Alfred. I loved my time at Alfred University – I met my best friends there, including Seth,” Jessica said.

“Seth and I went to Alfred at different times. We had some friends in common, but most of them were different. But now, so many of our friends have come together and have become friends themselves. We don't think about being there at different times. If you were ever an Alfred person, you're always an Alfred person.”

“For me, (recollections of Alfred) always come back to the climate. People make fun of the weather, but I relished the transition from a snow-filled valley – with many unsanctioned snowball fights – to Hot Dog Day's reintroduction to spring,” Seth said. “We made memories for a lifetime.”

AMY

*Karle*

BEN

*& Julian*

From collaborating on a plastic bag and twine project for Freshman Foundations to co-founding a company together, Amy Karle '02 and Benjamin "Ben" Julian '02 agree that Alfred University was a springboard for not only their professional careers, but also their personal lives.

*Continued on page 18*



Amy Karle inspecting her work REGENERATIVE RELIQUARY in Beijing China. Photo: Ars Electronica, Vanessa Graf 2018

**D**uring her college search, Amy, from Endicott, NY, received multiple awards through the National Scholastic Art and Writing program, including the National Gold Medal in Ceramics, for the most outstanding work in the nation, and received a scholarship to Alfred University for that honor. Amy was inspired by her cousin, Joe Mancini '86, who attended the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University as a photography major. Since he had a positive experience, Amy seriously considered following in his footsteps. After viewing the campus and finding an appreciation for its small size and quality of studio facilities, Amy decided Alfred University was the place for her.

For Ben, a northern Virginia native, it was Alfred University's ceramic facilities that caught his attention. According to him, the facilities were some of the best, and, like Amy, Ben also liked the studio spaces. Receiving a scholarship from the University sweetened the deal for Ben, and in August of 1998, both he and Amy started their first semester.

Amy and Ben met in first-year Freshman Foundations and eventually collaborated during an installation project. The two were assigned to work together on a plastic bag and rubber project and, according to Ben, Amy was the manager for the project. Ben impressed her with the quality of work he produced, and his relaxed and fun spirit through the collaboration, and the two started dating soon after.

Their next four years were filled with plenty of art and several opportunities to better their individual work.

"We were always in our studios. We were art kids, so we were always creating art. That was our life," Amy said.

Of all of their Alfred-related experiences though, Ben said it was the international internship opportunities awarded to both he and Amy that made all the difference in their professional lives.

"Our international internships especially propelled us into the professional world and got us started," Ben said.

During these internships, Amy was in Milan, Italy, working on fashion and Ben was in China working in ceramics. Their experiences abroad sparked a love of travel in each of them, and the

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By Logan Gee '18

couple committed to traveling internationally for art on a regular basis. They call these international trips “artcations,” which – do not be fooled – often involve very hard work, exhibiting, and speaking about their work at internationally acclaimed institutions. They just returned from Paris where Amy exhibited her work at the Center Pompidou.



*At the Center Pompidou, Paris, from left, Amy Karle, son, and Ben Julian.*

Aside from their academics, both Amy and Ben remember their time at Alfred University as being filled with support during times of transition and hardship.

“I was able to flourish and was not just another face on campus,” Amy said. “The spirit of Alfred supported me throughout all of my four years.”

Specifically, Amy mentioned when she lost her mother to cancer during her first year at Alfred. Instead of feeling alone, Amy was embraced by the individuals who cared for her in the Alfred community.

“The amount of support and caring I received from the faculty made the space and gave me the security for me to both get an education and be with her when needed, process the loss when she passed, and integrate all of that while getting two degrees,” Amy said. “I don’t know if I could have done that anywhere else, and I definitely could not have done it without so many special people at Alfred who really stepped up and supported me through that difficult time.”

In considering his own experiences with the supportive Alfred University community, Ben referenced the summer after he graduated. He was assisting Anne Currier (professor emerita, ceramic art) and George Hrycun (former associate professor, Foundations,

drawing and ceramic systems), who were rebuilding their art studio on their property in Scio. Instead of having to find a residence for the few months he would be in Alfred, the professors welcomed Ben into their own home.

Amy and Ben agree that their Alfred University professors instilled in them the confidence to pursue their

passions in and outside of their artwork.

According to Ben, “We each had professors that took a deep interest in pushing us as conceptual artists, and this made us work ever-harder to express personal meaning with our artwork, and our lives.”

Amy, whose work blends science and art, described her professors as individuals who encouraged her both professionally and personally, and challenged her to put the utmost of quality in craftsmanship and concept into her work. Their mentorship instilled in her the confidence she fuels into her artwork today.

“I see many of my teachers as mentors – both professionally and personally – and use the lessons I received from my time at Alfred University in art and in life,” Amy said.

Amy and Ben live in San Francisco with their son, and have been married for 12 years. Amy is a professional full-time artist whose work has been shown in exhibitions worldwide, and Ben is an industrial designer for a robotics company in Silicon Valley. In 2007, the couple co-founded a company called Conceptual Art Technologies and are a San Francisco/Silicon Valley art power couple.

*“The spirit of Alfred supported me throughout all of my four years.”*

**Amy Karle '02**

# NEWS Digest



*On April 22, 2019 Terry Galanis Sr., right, was awarded an honorary doctorate at a special ceremony held at Sealing Devices in Lancaster, NY. Joining him at the podium was his son, Alfred University Trustee Terry Galanis, Jr., who received an honorary doctorate at the May 18, 2019 Commencement ceremony.*

## **Terry Galanis Sr. '40 presents University with \$1 million gift**

To celebrate his 101st birthday in February, Terry Galanis Sr., a 1940 alumnus of Alfred University with a degree in ceramic engineering, made a \$1 million gift to the University, with a note to Mark Zupan, University president: "Use some of this to do something nice for your employees."

On April 2, Zupan announced that the University was awarding a one-time payment to all full-time and part-time, regular, non-bargaining unit employees hired before July 1, 2018. Another \$100,000 of the gift was used to match gifts to the Alfred Fund during the University's second annual Day of Giving on April 4. Galanis was one of two alumni who matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$200,000, any gift to the

Alfred Fund and any new or increased commitment to the Saxon Circle. The remainder of the gift will be used to support the College of Business and the proposed Jericho Hill project for athletics.

Terry Galanis Sr. is founder of the Lancaster, NY, firm Sealing Devices. His son, Terry Galanis Jr., is company president and CEO, and a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees. The University bestowed honorary doctorates on the Galanises: Terry Sr. at a special ceremony April 22 at Sealing Devices and Terry Jr. at the May 18 Commencement.

## Kambar, Smith named 2019 Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors

Nurila Kambar and Dillon Smith are recipients of the 2019 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award. They were honored at Alfred University's Commencement ceremony on May 18, where they addressed the graduating class, faculty, administration, trustees, and guests.



*Nurila Kambar*

Nurila, from Almaty, Kazakhstan, earned a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering (physics minor). She is a member of several academic honor societies – including Tau Beta Pi (the engineering honor society, for which she served as treasurer), Phi Kappa Phi and Chi Alpha Sigma. For the last three years she served as vice president of the Society of Women in Engineering at Alfred University. Nurila, who

is fluent in three languages – Kazakh, Russian, and English – and proficient in Spanish, also served as president of the International Students Club at Alfred University.

Dillon, from Pine Bush, NY, double majored in criminal justice and experimental psychology (sociology and public law minor). He is a member of numerous academic honor

societies at Alfred University: Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa; and Psi Chi. Dillon has been on active duty in the U.S. Army National Guard since 2011, serving as an electrical engineer. He was deployed to Iraq for a year in 2016, returning home and resuming studies in January 2018. He is a recipient of several awards for his service, including the Army Achievement Medal and the Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal.



*Dillon Smith*

Winners of the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award are chosen on the basis of scholarship, extracurricular achievement, personal character, and conduct

and are nominated by faculty, students, and staff. The award was established to honor Alfred University alumnus Marlin Miller '54, one of Alfred University's most generous supporters. Miller has been a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees since 1972.

## Bernstein Center for Advising opens at Alfred University

Alfred University's Pamela Lavin Bernstein Center for Advising officially opened its doors during a Feb. 28 grand opening. The Center, made possible by a gift from alumna Pamela Lavin Bernstein '71, will strengthen student retention by combining the efforts of faculty and professional academic advisors.

The Center for Advising is located on the third floor of the Powell Campus Center. It is staffed by Executive Director Nadine Shardlow '86, M.S. '16, who also serves as director of the University's HEOP/EOP opportunity programs, and a team of three professional academic advisors: Kassie McCarn '16, M.S. '18, Shelby O'Rourke '13, and Mariah Evans '12.



*From left: Kathy Woughter MSE '93, Mariah Evans '12, Shelby O'Rourke '13, Kassie McCarn '16, M.S. '18, Nadine Shardlow '86, M.S. '16, and Pamela Lavin Bernstein '71.*

The academic success coaching program has been operating since the beginning of the 2018-19 year. Academic advisors are serving as coaches to a portion of the University's first-year students, helping them to stay on track to complete their degrees. When working with students, the academic advisors coordinate with the Career Development Center, Financial Aid Office, and the Center for Academic Success, as well as with faculty advisors, to help students identify the appropriate path to a

degree, and ultimately to a career.

"It's wonderful to have this resource. We at Alfred owe it to our students," said Bernstein, who was on hand for the opening. "It truly enhances their experience."

## College of Business adds major, minor in health planning and management

Health care now accounts for 18 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States, with a majority of new jobs in the sector being managerial and administrative in nature. To help prepare students for this growing field, Alfred University's College of Business has added a new major and minor in health planning and management.

Mark Lewis, dean of the College of Business, said health planning and management will be offered as a major and minor beginning with the 2019-20 academic year. The new major and minor offerings, as well as a Master of Business Administration (MBA) focus in health planning and management already in place, will prepare students to

succeed in one of the country's fastest-growing industries.

"Healthcare has become the largest industry and the second largest employer in the United States, with more than 11 million jobs," said Fred Farley, assistant professor of management, who led efforts to devise the new major and minor.

Farley cited U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics figures showing jobs in medical and health services management are projected to grow 20 percent by 2026, more than double the forecast 8-percent rate of growth for other management positions.

### Alfred University's MBA program breaks into US News rankings

Alfred University's Master of Business Administration program is ranked 99th in the nation by the venerated *US News and World Report*. It is tied with a number of other schools for that ranking.



"This is the best we have fared in the *US News* rankings," said Alfred University President Mark Zupan. "It is significant because *US News* only ranked 131 of

the 367 programs nationally. We are one of the smallest programs ranked, with only 22 full-time students, and yet we are on the list with programs that have nearly 2,000 full-time students."

The College of Business at Alfred University offers MBA degrees in accounting, business administration.

According to the magazine, rankings are based on the "weighted average of indicators such as test scores, recruiter assessments, acceptance rates and student grade-point averages."

"Our excellent placement rates were a key driver of our ranking success this year," Zupan pointed out. "In addition, we attract some top students to our MBA program through the 4+1 option that we offer. The 4+1 option allows students to attain two degrees in five years by pairing a bachelor's degree earned in any field at Alfred University with the MBA offered by our College of Business."

Mark Lewis, dean of the College of Business, agreed. "This ranking is a reflection of the superb quality of the faculty and their dedication to our students."

All the schools ranked by *US News* are accredited by AACSB, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, which Zupan called "the gold standard of accrediting bodies for business schools."



### Alfred University adds new music major

Alfred University has taken a significant step to further strengthen its performing arts program with the addition of a new major in music. Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, the University will offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in music.

Alfred University has a long tradition in music instruction. For many years it has offered a minor in music, and a major in music had been offered until the late 1970s. The University features some outstanding facilities in the Miller Performing Arts Center and Miller Theater. In addition, over the last five years the University has hosted the MostArts Festival, a week-long celebration of music and art which each summer brings a host of talented musicians to campus.

Alfred University currently offers a major and minor in theater, as well as minors in music, dance, and performance design technology. Offering a major in music is a logical next step as the University looks to expand its offerings in performing arts.

"The new music major is a rather natural outgrowth of Alfred University's long tradition in music education and performance," commented W. Richard Stephens, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.



## Marlin Miller, business leader and philanthropist, to speak at Commencement

Dr. Marlin Miller, Jr., '54 a visionary business leader and remarkable philanthropist to Alfred University, will deliver the keynote address at the University's Commencement ceremony



Marlin Miller '54, HD '89

second honorary degree, the Doctor of Arts.

"We asked Marlin Miller to deliver our Commencement address this year because he is among the most

Saturday, May 18. During the ceremony, the University will award Miller, who received a Doctor of Science degree, honoris causa, in 1989, a

remarkable people ever to be associated with Alfred University," said Mark Zupan, University president.

A member of the Board of Trustees since 1972, Miller served a six-year term as chairman, from 1983-89. His philanthropy has resulted in nearly \$75 million in gifts to the University. His investments have underwritten the construction of three new buildings – the Miller Performing Arts Center, Miller Theater, and the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum – and contributed to the construction or renovation of others, including Alumni Hall, the Saxon Inn, Kanakadea Hall, and Tefft Residence Hall, as well as the link that will connect Tefft and Moskowitz halls.

Miller has endowed multiple scholarships; each year, about 35 students benefit from a scholarship fund he has

created, some in his own name and others in honor of friends and fellow trustees. His philanthropic investments have also endowed several faculty/staff positions, including the Wayne Higby endowed directorship/curatorship of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, the Robert Turner professorship in the School of Art and Design, and the Fred Gertz Professional Writing directorship.

Miller's support has been instrumental to the success and growth of Alfred University's dance program. He also provided a generous challenge gift three years ago to help launch the Strategic Investment Fund that has allowed Alfred University to make some pivotal investments in enrollment management, advancement, and branding/marketing.

## Dr. David '78 and Vickie '94 Kaplan make \$3.3 million bequest commitment

Dr. David '78 and Vickie Voss '94 Kaplan were honored by the Board of Trustees at the annual fall meeting for their \$3.3 million bequest commitment that will support the University's professional counseling and psychology programs.



Vickie Voss '94 Kaplan and David '78 Kaplan

at Alfred University's Honors Convocation to a student who demonstrates "outstanding leadership in professional counseling."

Finally, the remainder of their estate will establish the Dr. David M. Kaplan '78 and Vickie V. Kaplan Endowed Fund to support initiatives in professional counseling, and closely related fields such as psychology, as well as career development initiatives at Alfred University.

"The Kaplans both have had distinguished careers, at Alfred University and beyond," said Mark Zupan, Alfred University president. "We are so proud of what they have done, and so thankful they are making this wonderful investment in our University."

Their support will create the Dr. David M. Kaplan '78 and Vickie V. Kaplan '94 Endowed Professorship for studies in professional counseling or psychology. The \$1.5 million endowment will generate income that will support the salary, benefits, and professional expenses of a distinguished professor.

In addition, their investment will establish an endowed fund to support the Dr. David M. Kaplan '78 award. The award will be presented annually

## Second annual Day of Giving tops goal by more than 50 percent

The second annual Day of Giving at Alfred University, April 4, far exceeded expectations. Approximately \$677,000 was raised, which surpassed the stated goal by 50 percent.

The goal was set at \$450,000 for the Alfred Fund, a large portion of which supports scholarships for students. Spurred on by two \$100,000 challenge gifts that matched, dollar-for-dollar, new and increased gifts, the Day of Giving brought in \$677,000 in new pledges and gifts from 329 donors, said Jason Amore '97, M.S. '99, vice president for Advancement. The challenge gifts were received from Terry S. Galanis Sr. '40, and Trustee Neal Miller.

The Day of Giving resulted in seven new members of the Saxon Circle, a leadership giving society, bringing the total to 515. "Our goal for June 30 is 525 Saxon Circle members, so we are progressing nicely toward that goal as well," Amore said.

"In comparing the numbers from the first Day of Giving last year, I am proud to report that we increased overall giving by \$246,000 and the number of donors by 40."

Two "Purple City" alumni events – one in New York City and one in Washington, D.C. – that ran simultaneously during the evening on the Day of Giving, were instrumental in attracting new donors," said Amore.



## Alumnus returns as associate provost for research and economic development



*John L. Simmins '84*

John J. Simmins, an Alfred University alumnus who has been a technical executive for the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for the past 10 years, returned to his alma mater as associate provost for research and economic development. His appointment was effective April 1.

As associate provost, Simmins leads the New York State Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology at Alfred University, in addition to his other responsibilities, which include oversight of the University's research and economic development initiatives, said W. Richard Stephens, provost.

"My goals as associate provost are to grow the research portfolio at the University, beginning with the world class faculty in engineering and the sciences, and then reaching out to other disciplines across the institution," said Simmins. As the portfolio grows, it will reinforce Alfred University's role as a leading center for research in ceramics, glass, and advanced materials, as well as in other areas.

Simmins, who grew up in nearby Arkport and earned his bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University in 1984 and a doctorate degree in the same field in 1990, is a recognized leader in cutting-edge technologies such as augmented reality and artificial intelligence. He has led more than 20 EPRI project teams in those areas.

## Alfred University names Kimberly Guyer vice president of Student Affairs



*Kimberly Guyer*

Dr. Kimberly Guyer will begin her new role as vice president for Student Affairs at Alfred University, effective June 4. She succeeds Kathy Woughter '93 M.S., who has held the position for 15 years.

Guyer will come to Alfred University from Temple University, where she serves as vice dean for Student Affairs in the Klein College of Media and Communication, overseeing undergraduate student services for roughly 3,000 students. She has nearly 20 years of experience providing services to students in a variety of areas and settings. Beyond her role at Temple, Guyer has served in student services roles at Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania State University.

"Throughout her career, Kim has been deeply committed to student engagement and success," noted Mark Zupan, University president, in announcing Guyer's appointment to the cabinet-level position.

Guyer earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Spanish from Susquehanna University in 1999. She earned a master's in Human Resources Management at Hawai'i Pacific University, and a doctoral degree in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania.

Zupan extended his thanks to Kathy Woughter "for her exemplary service to our University over the years."

## Michael Kozlowski appointed executive director of Marketing and Communications



*Michael Kozlowski*

Michael W. Kozlowski was appointed executive director of Marketing and Communications at Alfred University, beginning his duties April 29.

"This newly created position underscores how important our marketing and communications efforts are to the future of Alfred University, and our ability to reach the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan," said Mark Zupan, Alfred University president, in announcing the appointment.

"Over the past two years, we have made a substantial investment in marketing with the goals of increasing our brand recognition and meeting our enrollment targets," Zupan said. "Michael's guidance will be invaluable in guiding us as we build upon that work. He has the depth and breadth of experience needed to help us achieve our goals."

Kozlowski came to Alfred University from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, where he held the position of chief marketing officer and director of strategic initiatives since 2014. He directed the system's first-ever marketing and social media campaign targeting retention of current students.

Kozlowski holds a B.A. degree in English from the University of Connecticut at Storrs; an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY; and a J.D. degree from the University of Connecticut at Storrs. He is admitted to the Connecticut Bar.

## Men's basketball shines at E8 Tournament, NCAAs

The Alfred University men's basketball team returned to the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time since the 1996-97 season following the program's first Empire 8 Championship title. Senior captain, Dom LeMorta was named the Empire 8 Tournament MVP after netting 44 points over the course of two games.

The Saxons earned the program's first Empire 8 title in program history with a 90-78 win over St.

John Fisher in the Conference Championship game in the Terry S. Galanis Family Arena. LeMorta led the Saxons with 31 points, while senior Sage Brown had 11 points and four rebounds and senior Scotty Stopera had eight points, 10 assists, and four boards.

The Saxons continued on to the NCAA Division III Tournament where they faced Ramapo College in the first round. LeMorta stepped up in a big way again, scoring 45 points (one short of tying the school record for most points in a game). The



Saxons defeated the Roadrunners 92-76 before ending the season with a loss to Christopher Newport University in the second round. LeMorta scored 28 points in that game.

Alfred University said goodbye to the senior class of LeMorta, Stopera, Brown, and Pat McLamore Jr. LeMorta joined the ranks of the top scorers in school history (1,018 points - 20th all-time), while Brown moved

up the list of the best rebounders in school history, finishing his career 12th all-time with 641 boards. Stopera finished his career with 318 assists and 705 points while McLamore scored 143 points and recorded 61 assists in two years.

The 2018-19 team will go down as one of the best teams in program history. The Saxons recorded the second most wins in a season (24) and tied the record for consecutive wins in a season (14). Head coach Russ Phillips now has the fourth-most coaching wins in school history (81).

## Matt Phillips '10, named head cross country coach

Alfred University alumnus Matt Phillips '10 has been appointed the Saxons' new head coach of the men's and women's cross country teams.

"I am very excited for this opportunity. This is a young team with a lot of potential," Matt said. "There are several men and women whom I met this past fall during the cross country season, and have been coaching during the track and field season, that have a bright future in the sport and I can't wait to see how far they can go."

Matt competed on the cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field teams at Alfred University before graduating with a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering. While at Alfred, he was a recipient of the Presidential



Matt Phillips '10

Scholarship and made Dean's List from 2006 to 2007. He was a member of the indoor 4X400-meter and outdoor 4X400-meter relay teams that still hold Alfred University school records.

Since graduating, Matt has remained involved with the cross country and track and field programs at his alma mater. He helped the cross country teams host their first meet in over 20 years – last fall's Alfred University Short Course Meet on Jericho Hill. Also last fall, the Saxons hosted the school's first-ever Empire 8 Cross Country Championships. In addition to

his duties as head cross country coach, Matt will assist Head Coach Angie Taylor in the development of the men's and women's track and field programs.

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**gosaxons.com**



## Estep '19 named finalist for Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup

John Wooden, the legendary men's basketball coach at UCLA, was known as much for being a positive role model as he was for winning a record 10 NCAA national championships. To honor Wooden, Athletes for a Better World (ABW) founded the Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup in 2005.

Alfred University women's volleyball player Elisabeth Estep '19 was a finalist for the 2019 Cup, which recognizes distinguished athletes who best display character, teamwork, and citizenship, the attributes ABW deems central to transforming individuals, sport, and society.

While Elisabeth ultimately did not win the award, her being named one of four finalists is noteworthy, especially considering the other three were from Division I institutions.

The Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup is an annual award given to the most outstanding role models among athletes. It is presented to one professional or Olympic athlete, one female high school athlete, one male high school athlete, and one collegiate athlete. The award is based on a student-athlete's character and leadership both on and off the field.

Elisabeth was a four-year starter for the Alfred University women's volleyball team, earning the Empire 8 Sportsmanship Award all four years. While she proved to be a valuable member of the Saxon women's volleyball team, both as a player and a leader (she was team captain this past season), Elisabeth excelled in her academics and other on-campus activities. She will graduate from Alfred University in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology, minoring

in both Spanish and chemistry. She also has a pre-health concentration as she aspires to go into the dental field after post-graduate schooling. She has a current GPA of 3.98 and has made the Dean's List and the Empire 8 President's List every semester at Alfred.

Elisabeth's other accomplishments during her time at Alfred include: Honors Program; Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society; Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society; Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society; Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Language Honor Society; Chi Alpha Sigma Student-Athlete Honor Society; 2017 Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship Recipient; 2018 Resident Assistant of the Year; 2018 Alpha Kappa Omicron Social Change Leadership Award; Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant Recipient.

Elisabeth was selected to represent Alfred University at the 2017 NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., joining more than 300 student-athletes from across the nation on all NCAA Divisional levels. She founded and is the current president of the Alfred University

Pre-Health Club, organizing a Red Cross Campus Blood Drive in January.

Elisabeth is an active participant in a variety of on-campus programs. She is a 2017 graduate of the Women's Leadership Academy, an Advisory Board member for the University's Honors Program, and a member of the Symphonic Orchestra, playing the string bass. She organized the day-long "Take the Leading Role" Performing Arts and Leadership Conference consisting of workshops on dance, music, and theater; and organized a career perspective panel as a capstone project.



*Elisabeth Estep '19*

## Saxons earn Empire 8 All-Conference recognition

Several Saxon student-athletes earned Empire 8 All-Conference recognition for their performance during the winter 2018-19 season.

All-Empire 8 honorees from the men's basketball team were: senior Dom LeMorta, First Team; senior Sage Brown, Second Team, Defensive Player of the Year; senior Scotty Stopera, Honorable Mention; and first-year Elliot Bowen, Rookie of the Year. The conference also gave Alfred Coaching Staff of the Year recognition after the Saxons, led by head coach Russ Phillips, won the school's first-ever conference tournament title.

LeMorta, who was named Most Outstanding Player in the Empire 8 championship tournament, was also a D3hoops.com All-East region First Team pick, National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Second Team East District selection, and Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC)

Honorable Mention.

From the men's swimming and diving team, senior Chris Deaver earned First Team honors for 1-meter and 3-meter diving; sophomore Noah Koltenuk was First Team in the 1,650-yard freestyle and Second Team in the 500-yard freestyle; junior Andy Edmister was First Team in the 200-yard backstroke and Second Team in the 100-yard backstroke; and sophomore Logan Cross was Second Team in 1-meter diving.

Deaver also qualified for the NCAA Division III diving championships, where he took 19th and 20th, respectively, on the 1-meter and 3-meter boards.

Sophomore Lauren Serotta earned First Team honors in both the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard backstroke for the women's swimming and diving team, while junior Victoria Cramp earned Second Team recognition in 3-meter diving.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1957 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Dr. Fred Emerson Jr.** (B.A., biology) and his wife, Nancy, provided a gift to Alfred University that helps in the ongoing development of the University's bird research program. The gift funds a bird-banding station at Foster Lake. Bird-banding, the practice of catching birds, marking them with an identifying band around the leg, and then releasing them, is part of the bird research program that has been developed over the last eight years at Alfred University. A ribbon-cutting dedication ceremony at the bird-banding station at Foster Lake was held in October. Fred

is a native of Wellsville who, after graduating from Alfred University, earned a doctorate in wildlife biology from Cornell University. He went on to earn a medical degree from Vanderbilt University and spent 20 years teaching and practicing emergency medicine in Denver and Santa Barbara, CA. He moved to Solvang, CA, because of its proximity to the University of California, Santa Barbara, Sedgwick Reserve, a world-class research, conservation, and education facility located in Santa Barbara County in the Santa Ynez Valley.



That 'other' Alfred: **Dr. L. David Pye '59**, left, who is a professor emeritus of glass science and dean emeritus of the New York State College of Ceramics, visited the King Alfred statue in Winchester, England, with grandson Brysen Pye. Brysen, 14, is already on track to come to Alfred where his grandfather and two aunts studied, and where his grandfather taught and his mother, Pamela Schultz, is a Communications professor.



Alfred University School of Nursing alumnae **Barbara Cohrssen '59** (left) and **Sandy Coplton '62** (right) with University President Mark Zupan at an event in San Francisco on Dec. 5, 2018.

## 1965 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Dianne Hunter** (B.A., English) announces she has written pieces set to appear in two forthcoming publications. Dianne, an emeritus professor of English at Trinity College, wrote "The King Announces Himself," which appeared in *A Door is Ajar* this spring. *A Door is a Jar* is a print and digital literary magazine of

poetry, short fiction, nonfiction, drama, and artwork. She also wrote "Orpheus Says," which will be published later this year in *Plath Profiles*, an academic journal that focuses on art, poetry, music, photos, archival research, and biographical studies. Dianne has a master's degree in English from Purdue University and a doctorate degree in English from the University at Buffalo. She was a professor of English at Trinity College from 1972-2009.

## 1969 HONORED REUNION YEAR

**Eric Bershad** (B.A., political science) is president of the Broken

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## Class of '69 marks 50th Reunion with funding to Common Ground

Members of the Class of 1969, in honor of their 50th year class reunion, have created an endowment to help fund Common Ground, a program initiated last fall to celebrate diversity and promote Alfred University's values of respect, inclusivity, and understanding.

First-year and transfer students to Alfred University's undergraduate residential program are required to complete the Common Ground program as part of an extended orientation. Faculty and staff facilitators oversee small group discussions to achieve two objectives: building greater appreciation for the different backgrounds and perspectives that our students bring with them to the University; and arriving at some common values that our new students are willing to commit to living by as members of the Alfred University community. Groups are formed to balance race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, academic majors, and extracurricular activities.

A group of 1969 graduates that includes trustees Gene Bernstein and Eric Bershad, and Craig Coats and Mark Mitchell, have created an endowed fund to support Common Ground and collectively committed \$100,000 toward the fund. These members of the Class of '69 fondly recall the Western Civilization class they took while undergraduates at Alfred University. Like Common Ground, Western Civ was a requirement for first-year students. And, like Common Ground, the course stressed the importance of shared experiences and values, and understanding and embracing unique and diverse cultures.

"For decades of students at Alfred University one of the most important and distinguishing experiences

for freshmen was Western Civilization. It gave us a sweeping look at the history and traditions that shaped the Western world, and for different majors a taste of what was to come like Plato/Aristotle/Sophocles for philosophy majors, or Greek drama and poetry for

English majors, or Greek architecture for engineering students and sculpture for art students. It also thrust us altogether in Alumni Hall sitting with whomever we came next to alphabetically, creating friendships that might never have happened

otherwise," Bernstein said.

"Western Civ ended decades ago but under new President Mark Zupan the class of 1969 has a chance to capture some of that magic for incoming students via Common Ground. Under this program all incoming students will read the same carefully picked book and study it in classes taught by various faculty and administrators, replicating some of the common bond experiences that Western Civ enriched us with."

"On the occasion of my 50th anniversary of graduation from Alfred University, I feel a contribution to the Common Ground program is appropriate," Mitchell commented.

To make a donation to the Common Ground endowment fund, please contact the Office of University Advancement at 607-871-2144.

"This will require financial support and I hope my classmates, reflecting back on all that we got from Western Civ, recognize how vital such a program is and chip in accordingly to create an endowment to fund Common Ground for future generations of Saxons," Bernstein said.

### Alfred University COMMON GROUND

Sound Club in Boca Raton, FL, which was named one of top 150 private clubs in the United States. The Broken Sound Club is 57th on the 2019-20 Platinum Clubs of America listing, up from its 62nd ranking in the 2016-18 list. The Platinum Club of America is a biennial listing of the top 150 private clubs in the country, as determined by the Club Leaders Forum, the preeminent industry consulting source providing

relevant, creative and informative subject matter for leaders in the private club industry. Eric is a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees and is chairman and founder of Phillip Jeffries, a leading manufacturer of natural, textured, and specialty wallcoverings.

**Jacqueline Gikow** (B.F.A.) reports that, since 2013, she has been practicing as an independent certified personal trainer, health

and wellness coach, and specialist in aquatics fitness through her New York City company, Audacious-Aging.NYC. After graduating from Alfred University, Jacqueline enjoyed a fruitful career as an artist and designer, working as a potter and an industrial and graphic designer. An avid cyclist, she participated last summer in a week-long ride across Iowa that covered 430 miles.

## 1975

**Piero Fenci** (M.F.A., ceramic art) has been named the Dean's Circle Endowed Professor at Stephen F. Austin University in Nagadoches, TX, for 2019-22. Piero has been on the faculty at the Stephen F. Austin School of Art since 1975 and has distinguished himself as both an artist and an educator. His ceramic vessels have been featured in *Ceramics Monthly*, *American Ceramics*, *The Contemporary Potter*, and *Clay and Glazes for the Potter*. In 2004, he founded the first university program in contemporary ceramic art in the history of northern Mexico at la Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua in Chihuahua City. He continues to travel there yearly to mentor the program. Piero has earned an international reputation as a ceramist, exhibiting his work from coast to coast and in Italy, Russia and Mexico. He was recently named "Texas Master" by the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, becoming the fourth person (and the first ceramist) in the state to be honored with the award. Piero lives and shares a studio with his sculptor wife, Elizabeth Akamatsu, in the small town of Appleby north of Nacodoches. His work is represented in private and public collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum.

## 1984 HONORED REUNION YEAR

**Lori Gramlich** (B.A., psychology) of Old Orchard Beach, ME, was elected in November to the Maine State House of Representatives. An adjunct faculty member in the University of Southern Maine School of Social Work and owner of Rise Up Café in Old Orchard Beach,

Lori defeated her Republican opponent, two-time former State Rep. Sharri MacDonald, in the Nov. 6, 2018, election for Maine House District 13. Lori also served as executive director of the Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and, prior to moving to Old Orchard Beach in 2013, she served in the Portland (ME) School Committee, from 2005-08, and was special assistant and communications director for Maine Senate President Beverly Daggett from 2002-04.

## 1985

**William Johnson** (B.S., ceramic engineering) was named president and CEO of Welbilt Inc., a leading global manufacturer of commercial foodservice equipment headquartered in New Port Richey, FL. Prior to joining Welbilt, William was CEO of Chart Industries Inc., a global manufacturer of highly engineered equipment for the industrial gas, energy, and biomedical industries. From 2006

to 2016, he held various senior level positions at Dover Corp., a global conglomerate manufacturer of industrial products. Earlier in his career, he was president and CEO of Graham Corp., a publicly traded manufacturer of oil refining, petrochemical and power equipment. Prior to that, he served as senior vice president of ESAB Welding and Cutting Equipment, a manufacturer of welding, cutting, and steel industry scarfing equipment. From 1990 to 1999, William held various positions of increasing responsibility at ABB, a \$35 billion manufacturer of electrification, robotics and motion, industrial automation, and power grid products. William began his career as a Commissioned Officer and Nuclear Engineer in the United States Navy where he served from 1985 to 1990. William holds an M.B.A. from Rollins College.

## 1990

**Dr. Heatherlee Bailey** (B.A., biology) has been elected



A group of Theta Theta Chi alumni meet every two years. Last September, several alumni from the classes of 1987, 1988 and 1989 gathered in York, ME. They are pictured above, from left: **Cathleen Stirpe-Gonta '89**, **Debi Meyers Wagner '88**, **Sherry Thayer Haley '89**, **Jeanne Yost Asquith '88**, **Diane Carey Bloom '89**, **Andrea Henderson Crabb '88**, **Cheryl Smith Coan '87**, **April Welch Gallagher '89**, **Tina Heaney Birdsall '88**, **Laurajean Dahn Tiberia '89**, **Randi Hirsch Hogan '89**, **Patricia Barone Taylor '89**, **Jennifer Smith Johnson '88**, **Nina Zullo Mathewson '89**, **Amy Holben Smith '89**, **Rebecca Branch '89**, **Michele Digiandomenico Hermsen '89**, and **Terese Kirkpatrick Dillon '89**.



1992 Alfred University graduates, from left – Trustee **Kristen Klabin**, **Trent Cooper**, and Board of Trustees Chair **Greg Connors** – shown here in Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium for the Feb. 3 Super Bowl LIII between the New England Patriots and Los Angeles Rams.

president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), the largest non-profit medical organization in the world dedicated to promoting excellence and consistency in the practice of critical care. Heather is assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Durham VA Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, in Durham, NC. After graduating from Alfred, Heatherlee completed medical school at the Rutgers University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark, NJ, before completing her residency at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. She joined the faculty at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and, after a faculty fellowship in critical care, served as her department's director of Critical Care Education as well as its associate residency program director. Twelve years later, Heatherlee was appointed director of Critical Care Education at Duke University before taking her current position at Durham VA Medical Center. Heatherlee is serving as the 48th president of SCCM, and the first ever trained in emergency medicine. She has been actively involved in the organization for 20 years.

## 1991

**Chris Longwell** (M.F.A.) participated last October in the 13th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon, which raised money to combat hunger in Chemung County. A lecturer in art and art history in Elmira College's Art Department, Chris was one of several artists who created pottery used in the fundraiser. People could purchase a bowl of soup served in an original piece of pottery and keep the bowl, with proceeds going to Catholic Charities.

## 1996

**Peter U. Bergmann** (B.S., business administration/health planning and management) was named president of Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI, effective Feb. 11. Peter's appointment comes after a two-year tenure as president of University Hospital Parma Medical Center in Cleveland, OH. He also

served 10 years as president and CEO of Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo. A member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Peter was president and CEO at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Pottsville, PA, for three years prior to moving to Buffalo. He also has a Master's of Health Administration degree from Cornell University.

## 1997

**Karl Newbauer** (B.F.A.) and wife **Melissa (Fagnoli) Newbauer** (B.F.A. '95, MSA-Ed '97) are owner-operators of Hollerhorn Distilling in Naples, NY. The distillery, which produces a variety of spirits, opened in September. It offers a diverse seasonal menu of food items and is a venue for musical entertainment.

**Jason Amore** (B.A., communication studies; M.S., community service administration, '99) was inducted in October into the Section V Basketball



**Victoria Rentz '94** (B.A., elementary education) married **John Damond Jr.** on July 28, 2018, in Baltimore, MD, where the couple makes their home. Among the wedding guests were five of Victoria's friends and fellow alumni from Alfred University, shown with Victoria in the above photo (from left): **Sidney Cherubin '96**, **Jennifer Swinton '95**, **Ellen Sawtell '95**, **Rachel Goldenberg Schiller '95**, and **Lynn Peters Telford '95**.



Hall of Fame. Section V oversees interscholastic athletic programs at high schools in the Greater Rochester area and several Western New York counties. Jason enjoyed a stellar playing career at Friendship Central High School, where he netted 2,332 points – fourth on the section V career scoring list – from 1989-93. He was named a Second Team New York State all-star following his senior season in 1992-93 and at the time of his graduation he ranked 13th all-time on the state's career scoring list. After graduation from high school, Jason attended Alfred University, where he was a four-year member of the men's basketball team, scoring 1,392 points (eighth all-time). At one



The AKO Reunion attendees gathered with President Mark Zupan in 2017.

## AKO readies for 75th birthday celebration at Reunion 2019

Alpha Kappa Omicron will be commemorating its 75th birthday at Alfred University's 2019 Reunion. AKO members will be celebrating a successful campaign in which they endowed the Alpha Kappa Omicron Leadership Awards. A record number of AKO sisters are expected to attend Reunion, set for June 7-9. An open house celebration of AKO's 75th birthday will be held at Ann's House on Saturday, June 8, from 2 to 4 pm.

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time, he held school records for three-point field goals made in a game, season and career. He was a team captain for the Saxons his junior and senior seasons. As a junior in 1995-96 Jason was named an Empire Athletic Association all-star. As a senior in 1996-97, he helped lead the Saxons to a Presidents Athletic Conference title and a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs. Jason was inducted into the University's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014.

## 1998

**Jason Gray's** (B.A., English, minor in environmental studies) recently published book, *Radiation King*, won the 2018 Idaho Prize for

Poetry. *Radiation King*, Jason's second full-length collection of poems and fourth book overall, was published in April by Lost Horse Press, of Sandpoint, ID. In addition to *Radiation King*, Jason has published one other full-length collection of poetry, *Photographing Eden*, which won the Hollis Summers Prize in 2008. He has also published two chapbooks, *How to Paint the Savior Dead* (2007) and *Adam & Eve Go to the Zoo* (2003). He has a master's degree in creative writing and poetry from Johns Hopkins University and an M.F.A. degree, also in creative writing and poetry, from the Ohio State University.

**Kevin O'Buckley** (B.S., electrical engineering) is general manager at Avera Semiconductor LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GLOBALFOUNDRIES, a leading full-service semiconductor design, development, fabrication, and innovation company with locations across the globe. Avera Semiconductor, formed last fall, is dedicated to providing custom silicon solutions for a broad range of applications. Kevin, a leader in the application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) field, was chosen to lead Avera Semiconductor. He had spent 20 years at IBM in a variety of roles spanning both technical and executive leadership positions before

joining GLOBALFOUNDRIES when that company acquired IBM Microelectronics in 2015. Avera Semi provides ASIC semiconductor solutions that deliver system-level differentiation for next generation networking, data centers and storage, machine learning, and automotive, aerospace and defense applications.

## 2001

**John Mauro** (B.S., glass engineering science, computer science; Ph.D., glass science, '06) and Arun K. Varshneya, Alfred University emeritus professor of glass science, are co-authors of a book, *Fundamentals of Inorganic Glasses*, the third edition of which will be released by Amazon in June. The book, published by Elsevier, is a comprehensive reference on the field of glass science and engineering that covers numerous, significant advances. The third edition has been updated with the most recent advances in glass physics and chemistry, as well as discussions of new groundbreaking applications of glassy materials. John is professor of materials science and engineering at the Pennsylvania State University. He joined Corning Inc. in 1999 and served in multiple roles there, including senior research manager of the Glass Research Department, before joining the faculty at Penn State in 2017. He is currently a world-recognized expert in fundamental and applied glass science, statistical mechanics, computational and condensed matter physics, thermodynamics, and the topology of disordered networks. A Fellow of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS), John

is the author of over 220 peer-reviewed publications and is editor of the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society*.

## 2003

**Charlotte (Potter) Kasic** (B.F.A.) was appointed executive director of Yestermorrow Design/Build School in Waitsfield, VT. Yestermorrow inspires people to create a better, more sustainable world by providing hands-on education that integrates design and craft as a creative, interactive process. Charlotte came to Yestermorrow after serving six years as glass studio manager at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, VA. Charlotte is an educator who has taught glass and new media courses at universities and summer programs. She co-founded two performance glass



A daughter, Nyla Monae' Thomas was born Oct. 29, 2018, to **Sheree N. Johnson '03, '04 M.S.** and Corey L. Thomas. Sheree earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies (minors in business administration and writing) and a master's degree in community service administration from Alfred University. She is president at Maktub Consulting Inc. a firm headquartered in New York City that oversees the social media presence of diverse clients ranging from small and medium-sized businesses to Fortune 500 companies.

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**Kashay Hampton '03** married Alvin Spaine on Oct. 28, 2018, in College Park, MD. The Spaines make their home in Hyattsville, MD. Kashay graduated from Alfred University with a B.A. in history.

troupes, Cirque de Verre and the Glass Theater, and is also co-founder of the Neon Arts District in Norfolk, VA, and director of Grand Point Weird, a contemporary art component to the Grand Point North Music Festival in Burlington, VT. She has served on the Glass Art Society and was the co-chair of the 2017 Glass Art Society Conference. Her work has been exhibited internationally at galleries, museums, and universities and is included in numerous public museum and private permanent collections. Charlotte also holds an M.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design.

## 2005

**Emma Buckthal** (B.A., history, philosophy) received the Director's Community Leadership Award from the Buffalo office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on March 15. Emma was honored for her work as supervising immigration attorney at the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer's Project,

Buffalo, NY. She supervises a staff of four immigration attorneys, representing clients in cases before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, immigration courts, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The practice focuses on cases of domestic violence, crime victims, trafficking, and unaccompanied minors. After graduating from Alfred University, Emma earned her law degree from the University at Buffalo in 2010 and then joined the Volunteer Lawyer's Project. She was promoted to senior immigration staff attorney in 2016 and supervising immigration staff attorney in 2018. In 2016, Emma was named New Lawyer of the Year by the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

## 2008

**Chaz Bruce** (B.A., theater) was named a recipient of a 2019 Roc Award, which celebrates and recognizes local talent, business and volunteerism in the Rochester, NY, area. Chaz was one of five recipients of the High Honor Community Award. After graduating from Alfred, he trained at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester and is currently Western New York Director at the New York Institute of Dance and Education. He serves as a personal mentor to young men interested in pursuing a career in the creative arts. Chaz also works as a vocal and instrumental instructor, choreographer, music producer, comedian, and developer of school culture. Chaz is the nephew of Alfred University alumnus **Terrance Bruce**, an accomplished musician in the Rochester area.

Terrance Bruce graduated from Alfred University in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in music and education.

## 2010

In May, **Stephen Denman** (B.F.A.) celebrates the one-year anniversary of his starting Respectrum Arts LLC in Sussex, NJ. What started as a gallery that carried art, antiques, and books has grown into two spaces: an art gallery/classroom and a bookstore, Respectrum Books. Respectrum Arts has a wider connection to Alfred University, as several alumni



A daughter, Nora Lynn Jackson (top photo), was born March 17, 2019, to **Ralph '09** and Abbey Jackson. Nora Lynn joins her older sister, 2-year-old Lila Ann Jackson (lower photo), as a Saxon fan. Both girls are shown with Alfred University gear, including a football helmet. Their dad played linebacker for the Saxons before earning a bachelor's degree in early childhood/childhood education. Ralph is an elementary teacher in the Forestville, NY, Central School District, where he also coaches football and basketball.

have been involved in both the gallery and bookstore. Over the last year, Respectrum Arts Gallery has held several themed group shows that included works by **Eunice Prieto Damron '46** (B.F.A.), **Sylvie Demers '11** (B.F.A.), and **Michael Stevenson Jr. '10** (B.F.A.), as well as local artists. The shows included a storefront display of both antique glass and contemporary glass art titled "Fragilé!" Installed last September, the display included work by glass artist **Caitlin Vitalo '10** (B.F.A.) and **Zach Weinberg '09** (B.F.A.). Respectrum Books has a neon "Fiction/Non-Fiction" sign created by **George Vidas '10** (B.F.A.) and will soon sport an "Open" flag designed by **Emily Bellinger '11** (B.F.A.)

**Rachael Deeley** (B.F.A.) has been appointed digital project manager at Dixon Schwabl, an advertising, marketing and public relations agency in Victor, NY. Rachael, who has eight years of experience in marketing and design, is responsible for managing projects to ensure they are completed on time, on specifications and within budget. She also ensures that marketing technology needs are met for her clients.

## 2011

**Nicholas Clark** (B.A., environmental studies) was inducted posthumously into the Section V Football Hall of Fame at a ceremony April 5. Nick starred in football and wrestling at Canisteo-Greenwood Central High School, winning a state wrestling title as a senior in 2006. After a year at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro on a wrestling

scholarship, Nick transferred to Alfred University in the fall of 2008 and joined the Saxon football team. He played four seasons as a linebacker at Alfred University, finishing as one of the finest players in the storied history of the Saxon football program. He was a two-time All-America and Empire 8 Conference Defensive Player of the Year honoree as well as a four-time Empire 8 all-star, two-time ECAC All-Region selection, and ECAC Merit Award winner. After graduating from Alfred University in 2011 with a degree in environmental studies, Nick tried out for the Buffalo Bills before pursuing a career in law enforcement. He graduated from the New York State Police Basic School in 2015 and was stationed



**Casey Bright '16** (B.S., business administration) and **Kaitlyn Koester '16** (B.S., accounting) were married Sept. 15, 2018, on Kaitlyn's family farm in Harrison Valley, PA. Casey and Kaitlyn met in Olin in January 2015 and have been together since. Casey was a tailback for the Alfred University football team, playing on the 2016 squad that made it to the NCAA tournament quarterfinals; his jersey was among the decorations used at the wedding. A handful of Alfred University graduates and students attended the wedding, including **Douglas Wright '16** (best man), **Maleke Fuentes '16**, **Wyatt Esposito '17**, **Daniel Gallagher '17**, **David Sylvester '18**, and **Becca Alexander '19**.

as a state trooper at the Bath barracks when he was killed in the line of duty on July 1, 2018.

## 2012

**Ben Pelto** (B.A., geology, environmental studies) was featured in a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) News story on the research that he and fellow scientists are conducting on the effects wildfires have on mountain glacier ice in the Canadian Rockies. The story chronicles how soot and smoke from Western wildfires have caused glacier ice to darken. This results in the ice absorbing more sunlight, thereby increasing glacial melting. Ben has been monitoring glaciers in British Columbia for the last five years as part of a research project at the University of Northern British Columbia, where he is pursuing a doctorate degree.

## 2016

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

## Deaths

### 1936

**Doris “Dolly” Earl Jacques**, Sept. 21, 2018

### 1941

**Louise Schafhirt McCarty**, Oct. 6, 2018

### 1943

**Evelyn Stevens Gorman**, Dec. 22, 2018

### 1945

**Evelyn Grossman Viniar**, Nov. 30, 2018

### 1946

**Patricia Schmengel**, Dec. 7, 2018

### 1948

**Anne Huntington McCarthy**, Sept. 29, 2018

### 1949

**Marguerite DeLorenzo Cox**, May 11, 2018

### 1950

**Heman P. Adams**, Dec. 7, 2018

**William G. Carlson**, Dec. 9, 2018

**Charles R. Chase**, Sept. 16, 2018

**Jack Goss**, Feb. 23, 2019

**Richard C. “Dick” Hallberg**, Oct. 28, 2018

**Robert Hatch**, Nov. 10, 2018

**Herbert MacDonell**, April 11, 2019

### 1952

**Harris A. Britting Jr.**, June 23, 2018

### 1953

**James C. Herrick**, Oct. 21, 2018

**James R. McFarland**, Jan. 31, 2019

**Robert K. Smith Jr.**, Dec. 14, 2018

### 1954

**Martin T. Curran**, Sept. 17, 2017

### 1955

**E. Charles “Chuck” Watkins**, Jan. 21, 2019

### 1956

**Warner J. “Chet” Micciche**, Oct. 10, 2018

### 1957

**Robert W. Bassett**, April 29, 2016

**John S. Zee**, Feb. 6, 2019

### 1958

**Robert Lee “Bob” McEnroe Sr.**, Nov. 28, 2018

**Sonya Rudy Zee**, March 7, 2018

### 1959

**Charles “Chuck” Stirling III**, Oct. 14, 2018

**Kenneth W. Brandes**, Sept. 8, 2018

**Frederick K. Luhrs**, Aug. 31, 2018

**Audrey Wood Markle**, Aug. 31, 2017

**Harriett Fowler O’Toole**, Nov. 4, 2018

### 1960

**Larry B. Wander**, Dec. 29, 2018

### 1961

**Dr. Martin H. Frost**, Sept. 18, 2018

**Elsa Reckewell Gibbons**, Nov. 27, 2018

### 1964

**Gerald J. Mariani**, Feb. 22, 2019

**Hubert C. Wightman**, Dec. 4, 2018

### 1965

**Donald E. Polaski**, Feb. 16, 2019

### 1967

**Susan M. Dole Alessi**, Nov. 10, 2018

**David H. Smalley**, Nov. 21, 2017

### 1970

**Thomas Q. O’Rourke**, Nov. 22, 2018

### 1971

**Mark L. Morrison**, Dec. 8, 2018

### 1972

**Michael J. McCarthy**, Dec. 6, 2018

**Edmond C. Dean**, Feb. 20, 2016

**Charles N. Jewart Jr.**, Nov. 23, 2018

**Jane Sharenow**, Feb. 22, 2019

### 1973

**Dr. Peter D. Lichtenstein**, Oct. 14, 2018

### 1974

**Joseph A. Stallone**, Jan. 15, 2019

### 1975

**E.C. Goodner**, Jan. 31, 2019

**William E. Julius**, Jan. 19, 2012

**Dr. Richard M. Sturr**, Dec. 19, 2018

### 1977

**Lori Cohen Tinsdale**, Oct. 6, 2016

### 1979

**Robert W. Bellish**, Sept. 24, 2017

**Janice A. DiGioia**, Jan. 6, 2019

**Susan DiMilia Myron**, Feb. 4, 2019

### 1980

**Ellen K. Brackman**, Feb. 19, 2019

### 1981

**David P. Geibel**, Dec. 8, 2013

### 1983

**Jacqueline E. Perley**, Feb. 20, 2019

**Mary Beth Teddy**, Nov. 26, 2018

### 1984

**Richard F. “Rick” Harris**, Dec. 21, 2018

**David A. Palmquist**, Jan. 4, 2019

### 1985

**Timothy E. Burgess**, Dec. 16, 2018

### 1986

**Frederick J. Calnan**, Nov. 1, 2018

### 1987

**Daniel B. “Danno” Altwarg**, Oct. 31, 2018

### 1988

**John I. Cardillo II**, Feb. 6, 2018

### 1991

**Judy Hoberg**, Nov. 2, 2018

### 1995

**Jennifer Kraemer-Smith**, Jan. 30, 2019

### 2001

**Daniel L. Dempsey**, Nov. 9, 2018

### 2005

**Roberta A. Ream**, Oct. 8, 2018

### 2017

**Caleb D. Lawrence**, Feb. 13, 2019

### 2018

**Matthew Grinnell Underwood** (M.F.A.), March 23, 2019

## Deaths-Friends/Former Employees

### John E. Ninos Sr.

John E. Ninos Sr., an Alfred community icon for nearly 70 years, died February 18 at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell. He was 91.

Generations of Alfred University alumni, faculty, staff and students remember John and his wife, Angie, and later, his son John and daughter-in-law Chelly, as the owners of the Collegiate Restaurant, often referred to as "The Jet."

John had a deep love of the Alfred community. One of his greatest pleasures was meeting and befriending the many people who came through Alfred. His smile and greetings at the Collegiate and throughout the community touched the lives of many.

He served two terms as president of the Alfred Lions Club. He was a member of the F&AM (Masons) Lodge #944 and served four terms as president of the Alfred Business Association. Both John and Angie received their Honorary Doctorate degrees from Alfred University on December 12, 1993. Their contributions to Alfred University were recognized by the Alumni Association in 1986 when they were named Honorary Alumni.

### Robert J. Doherty

Robert J. Doherty, Alfred University professor of design emeritus, who is credited with starting the

graphic design program in the University's School of Art and Design, passed away Jan. 6 in Cambridge, MA. He was 94.

Doherty was appointed professor of design at Alfred University in August 1984, retiring in December 1991 as professor emeritus. During his tenure at Alfred he established a graphic design program and would serve as chair of the School's Design Division.

He served two years in the U.S. Army during World War II and after the war earned a B.F.A. degree from Rhode Island School of Design in 1951 and an M.F.A. degree from Yale University in 1954.

An accomplished photographer, Doherty was appointed professor of photography at the University of Louisville in 1959 and later developed the university's graphic design and art therapy programs. From 1959-72, he served as photography collection curator, acting director and director of Louisville's Hite Art Institute and from 1967-72 as chair of the University of Louisville's Fine Arts Department. From 1972-81, Doherty served as director of the George Eastman Museum (then called the George Eastman House) in Rochester, and was director of the Salt Lake Art Center, Salt Lake City, UT, from 1981 until 1984, when he joined the faculty of Alfred University.

In 1992, following his retirement from Alfred, Doherty became printer in residence at Wells College, Aurora, NY, where he founded the Wells College Book Arts Center in 1993 and reactivated the Wells College Press.

Doherty was living in Cambridge, MA, at the time of his passing. He was preceded in death by his wife, Esther (Fiske) Doherty, in 2017.

### Harland Snodgrass

Harland Snodgrass, emeritus professor, Alfred University School of Art and Design, passed away March 31, in Chicago, IL. He was 77.

Snodgrass was a legendary teacher of the School of Art and Design, where he pioneered the first program in video art in the context of higher education. He was founder of the Media Program in the School of Art and Design and was an original faculty member of the School's Foundations Program.

He joined the faculty of the School of Art and Design in 1969 to teach painting. With John Wood, he designed the original Foundations program that began instruction in 1974. He received tenure in 1975 and taught at Alfred University until 1986.

Snodgrass visited the School of Art and Design most recently in March 2017 when the new media exhibition space located in Harder Hall, the main building housing the School of Art and Design, was dedicated and named after him: The Time Space Interface Harland Snodgrass Gallery.

Today, the video/media art and the Foundations programs that Snodgrass founded at the School of Art and Design remain active within the Division of Expanded Media and the Division of Foundations, respectively.

## Networking helps students find career path

Career development specialists at Alfred University view networking as a valuable resource for Alfred University students as they chart their academic and career paths. To that end, the University is placing an emphasis on building relationships between current students and alumni.

The Saxon Career Volunteer Network, a program offered through Alfred University's Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center (CDC), seeks to help connect students with alumni established in their professional fields. The CDC is working to build the program, identifying alumni, established in their professions, who will serve as mentors to students.

Volunteer alumni will provide advice and guidance on a range of topics – what careers best fit a student's skills; what internships are available in a student's field of study; resume building and improving interview skills, to name a few.

"Forming meaningful professional relationships is the foundation of networking," said Amanda Baker, director of the Career Development Center. "Students who take advantage of these opportunities early and often are typically more successful in their internship and job searches."

The Saxon Career Volunteer Network seeks to increase opportunities for students and alumni to build those important relationships. "We're looking for alumni willing to share their expertise with current students," said Corey Fecteau, service learning coordinator at the CDC.

"If a student reaches out and asks how to break into a field, we'll have alumni who can give them an answer," added Baker.

Anastasia Campbell '20, a junior criminal justice major from Rochester, began taking an interest in networking early in her collegiate career.

"I've been contacting alumni, sometimes reaching out to trustees when they come to campus," she said. One alumnus she met was Greg Connors '92, chair of the University's Board of Trustees. Connors is a co-founding partner of Connors & Ferris, a law firm specializing in workers' compensation, Social Security disability, and personal injury law, with offices in Rochester, Buffalo, and New York City. Anastasia, who wants to pursue a career in law, introduced herself to Connors when he was on campus, while she was serving as President for a Day last spring.

"I reached out to him for advice. I asked, how did you become so successful? I asked if there were any internship opportunities."

Her efforts paid off when she was offered a summer internship as an office assistant at Connors & Ferris in Rochester.

Anastasia applied what she has learned about networking into the classroom, in a leadership course she took during the spring 2019 semester titled "Improving Alfred University." Student groups were charged with developing ways to improve the University and Campbell's group chose to



Anastasia Campbell '20, left, and Corey Fecteau BS '15, BA '01, Art Advisor and Service Learning Coordinator, Career Development Center

focus on bettering alumni-student relations. The group recommended creating new pathways for students and alumni connect – through on-line networks, for example – and increasing opportunities for students to engage with alumni while they visit campus.

Nick Sugg '18 (B.S., accounting) said throughout his time as a student at Alfred University, he was encouraged by his professors to get as much experience as possible while he was still in school. He worked at Cunningham

and Stauring, a financial services firm in Hornell and also at ACCORD Corp. in Belmont, with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. He believes that experience, combined with connections he made on the job, and assistance he received from the CDC helped him gain his current position as a certified public accountant at the Freed Maxick accounting firm in Buffalo.

"I had made it through a long interview process, one in which the CDC was very beneficial in helping me shift things in my resume to make it more molded to my industry and helping me strengthen my interview skills," Nick recalled.

Nick pointed out that even though he knew he was interested in pursuing accounting as a career, he tried to attend several events on campus not directly related to that field – such as the Engineering Career Fair and speaker presentations – simply to make connections with professionals, some of whom were alumni. He said the relationships he built helped him get to where he is today professionally. "I made sure I was there to try and network. Each person I met helped me enhance my skills to be better equipped to talk to others," he said.

Alumni interested in serving on the Saxon Career Volunteer Network can email Baker at [bakera@alfred.edu](mailto:bakera@alfred.edu). The Career Development Center also encourages alumni and students to connect by joining the CDC LinkedIn group: [www.linkedin.com/groups/47487/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/47487/)

# FROM Z TO AU

**F**our “I’s” create a powerful “we” that make an unbelievable difference for Alfred University.

**Inspiration** is the first “I.” You inspire us. Your success is our success. If you share your stories, or tell us about other alumni, maybe your classmates, friends or even relatives, who have significant professional or personal achievements, they become part of the Alfred University lexicon, the way we talk about ourselves, the way we talk about our alumni. That, in turn, both enhances our reputation, and helps us to attract and retain students. There are many ways to share your stories – in person at alumni events or campus visits; by writing to me at 1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802 or by sending me an email to [zupan@alfred.edu](mailto:zupan@alfred.edu). I look forward to hearing from you!

**Insight** is the second “I.” Beginning more than three years ago, the Alfred University community began developing a strategic plan that helps us define what an Alfred University education is, and what we want it to be. Working with the Board of Trustees, our community – faculty, staff, students and alumni – put forward a number of strategic goals, and then defined what success would look like in each of those areas. Strategic plans are, by definition, dynamic; they need to evolve over time in response to current challenges and opportunities. That’s where we need your help. Take a look at our strategic plan, and offer us your insight, based not just on your knowledge of Alfred University, but on how your education and experiences helped shape your life. Email me at [zupan@alfred.edu](mailto:zupan@alfred.edu). I would be happy to share a copy of our strategic plan with you, and welcome your insights.

By Mark Zupan, President

**Involvement** is the third “I.” There are many ways to help. Join the Alfred University LinkedIn account. Offer to mentor current students as they look for their career paths. Sign up for VISA, the alumni volunteers who help us recruit students. Host a small group of alumni.

Participate in larger alumni events in your area, or come back to Alfred for Homecoming and Reunion. If you are interested in volunteering to help Alfred University, please contact Alumni Relations at [alumni@alfred.edu](mailto:alumni@alfred.edu).



*“It takes all of us, working together, to move Alfred University forward.”*

**Mark Zupan**

**Investment** is our final “I.” It is your way to continue to “pay it forward,” to help students today just as you were helped by the gifts of those who came before you. Support our Alfred Fund, which provides a significant amount of financial aid to our current students. Join Saxon Circle, our leadership giving society whose members commit to making a gift of at least \$1,000 a year for five years. (The levels for current students and young alumni differ.) Our goal is at least 525 Saxon Circle members by June 30, when we close the books on our fiscal year. Today, we are at 521 members, including 57 students and 51 faculty and staff. Be the one to put us over the top by reaching

out to Jason Amore '97 BS, '99 MS, our vice president for Advancement, at [amore@alfred.edu](mailto:amore@alfred.edu) or to me at [zupan@alfred.edu](mailto:zupan@alfred.edu).

Thank you in advance for your inspiration, insight, involvement, and investment. It takes all of us, working together, to move Alfred University forward.

*Fiat Lux!*  
– Mark



# APEX enjoys successful first year, stands poised for growth

**W**ith 170 of the 200 allotted APEX awards for the 2018-19 academic year given out, Alfred University's new applied and experiential learning program, APEX, is off to a great start and has provided AU students with \$170,000 toward opportunities all over the world.

"APEX has allowed so many Alfred University students the opportunity to take advantage of experiences that would have been financially out of their reach," Logan Gee '18 current APEX coordinator said.



Casey Boston '20

With APEX, Alfred University juniors and senior can apply for up to \$1,000 toward a study, work, or research experience. Two students who took advantage of the award are Casey Boston '20 and Gabrielle Warren '19, and both agree that their APEX

awards were a great resource while completing their on and off-campus experiences.

Casey Boston is a junior psychology major with a minor in sports management. For his APEX experience, Casey interned with the Hornell Area Concern for Youth throughout the spring semester. While interning, Casey was able to lead activities, such as basketball games, and mentor the youth who attended the programs provided by the community-based organization.

After graduating from AU, Casey plans on attending graduate school to obtain a master's degree in social work. He would then like to work in a school where he can provide support to students in high school.

When asked about APEX and his feelings about the award, Casey said "Awards like APEX are needed for college students," and expressed how appreciative he was to be able to utilize the award for gas as he travelled from campus to his internship several times a week.

Gabrielle Warren is a senior psychology major and minor in equestrian studies. Gabrielle utilized her APEX

award to support the material costs for her senior honors thesis, which is titled Decoding Nonverbal



Gabrielle Warren '19

Communication: Does Experience with Horses Enhance Skill Level.

In the future, Gabrielle hopes to become a school counselor and also work in equine assisted psychotherapy.

Of her APEX experience Gabrielle said, "Before this opportunity I wasn't sure I was capable of doing my own research. But this has taught me that I am capable of doing anything that I set my mind to."

By Fall of 2020, the APEX award is expected to raise from \$1,000 to \$2,000, which opens the doors for several more opportunities for Alfred University students.

## VISA Volunteers In Support of Alfred

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

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

### 1 Help us recruit interested students

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

### 2 Refer a Student

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

For more information, contact Diana Dalton at [daltond@alfred.edu](mailto:daltond@alfred.edu)

## INVESTING IN

# what matters

As chairman of the board at Sage Ruddy, a family-owned investment firm in Rochester, New York, Bill spent a career building wealth – and dreams – for his clients. In his retirement, Bill gets to focus on what matters to him: restoring a cabin in the woods that his father and uncles built, and building a legacy at Alfred University.

Bill has funded several charitable annuities at Alfred. He appreciates the security of guaranteed lifetime payments, the benefit of an up-front tax deduction, and the satisfaction of making a difference at his alma mater.

Anxious to see the fruits of his generosity, Bill also funded an endowed scholarship with appreciated stock. Proceeds from his annuities will augment that scholarship.

Filling chinks in the log cabin, and shaking hands with Holly Scholarship recipients – these are two ways Bill knows he's making a difference.

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

**Amy Jacobson**

**Director of Planned Giving, University Advancement**

[jacobson@alfred.edu](mailto:jacobson@alfred.edu) (607) 871-2144



HERITAGE  
CIRCLE

## ENRICHING THE student experience



FOR OLIVIA AND CODY CRONMILLER, ALFRED UNIVERSITY IS ABOUT FAMILY.

The brother and sister duo from Western New York were both standout performers on the soccer field. Both made their marks on campus by participating in several other organizations and took on roles mentoring many of the students they came in contact with.

Cody received his Bachelor of Science from the Inamori School of Engineering last spring and recently received his MBA, while Olivia just received her Bachelor of Science from the Inamori School and will return to campus in the fall to pursue her MBA.

The Alfred University Saxon Circle program is in its third year and has made a significant difference in the lives of our students. We currently have 523 Saxon Circle members, including 51 faculty/staff and 58 students who have collectively pledged \$8.6 million over a five-year period.

SAXON  
CIRCLE

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

# GARY Ostrower

Professor of History  
Class of 1961

In 1957, when I arrived in Alfred for my freshman year, I got on the end of a long line to register. It would have been peachy if it were an AU line. In fact, it was for the Ag-Tech. The clerk was puzzled. I was embarrassed. I figured that things could only get better.

They did. By the time I returned as a faculty member in 1969, AU had grown from 1,200 students to 2,000. New dorms and a science center appeared. Good-bye to white Christian-only fraternities. The food, too, had improved. Salads, which during my student days had usually consisted of a pitiful square of Jello under a dab of mayonnaise, now contained... lettuce. Who could argue with the Enlightenment belief in progress?

Although my mentor, Professor Dave Leach, had moved on, most of the great faculty who had taught me were still around — Mike Sibley, Dan Sass, Dave Ohara, Val Cushing and, of course, the legendary Mel Bernstein. Damn, I thought, did I have the courage to call these guys by their first names? Might I aspire to be an intellectual equal?

I had exciting colleagues like Gary Horowitz, Larry Belle, Stu Campbell, John Gilmour and Rick Bergren (we named the Bergren Forum after him). Tom Peterson succeeded Rick. We formed the Division of Human Studies and, during the turmoil of Vietnam, took on the world.

Of course the world won. We discovered that institutions overshadow individuals, and that not we, but our students, form the heart of this University. Sure we teach, but teaching is a two-way street. One student, the late Phyllis Monroe, asked me to supervise an independent study about women's suffrage. That project evolved into AU's first class in Woman's History, a course I taught for over three decades.

Such experiences became routine, with exceptional history majors

like Ann (Richardson) Miller, Tyler Maroney, Jim Jordan, Rick Zeckendorf, Bill Haines, Marvin Kierstead, Jen Futterman, Carlyle Hicks, Nick Walker, Allison Haymes, and, a generation later, her son Aaron Vit. Soccer star Brian Middleton did a fine independent study about the 1930s.

There were kids I escorted for coursework in Europe like Katy Fasano, Joe Van Cura, Rachael Haslauden and Tim O'Toole. Mike Zarkin was one of our Merit Scholars. Jonathan Makeley is becoming an historian. And special mention goes to Meredith Scott, who is carving out a career as a historian of the Holocaust. Hey, readers, if your name is missing, I apologize; remember that I've taught nearly 9,000 of you.

*Hey, readers, if your name is missing, I apologize; remember that I've taught nearly 9,000 of you.*

Nor was my educational growth limited to the classroom. I assisted women's tennis coach Virginia Rasmussen, attended countless student theater productions (thank you Frank Cornelius and Becky Prophet), and helped to resolve plenty of quarrels as the University ombudsman.

I also learned about the social side of Alfred.

Today, a member of the faculty would be fired if courting, much less living with, an undergraduate. Good reasons for this, which explains why in the 1970s I didn't advertise that I bunked



with a junior (Yes, she was a history major.

No, she never took one of my courses). I thought no one knew until one day the president's wife phoned me at 10 p.m. "Gary, can I speak to Judy?" Our cover was blown...as if it had ever existed. No regrets. That undergrad has brought me incredible joy and two fabulous kids. We just celebrated our fortieth anniversary.

I should pay tuition for what I learned as the village mayor. AU provided sabbaticals for me to write books and then op eds in papers from Long Island to Buffalo. It supported my Fulbright lectureship in Denmark. It encouraged me to teach courses ranging from Western Civ to the Nazi Holocaust. It hired Emrys Westacott, an outstanding AU philosopher, to teach me humility on the golf course (ahem, I hit my first hole-in-one last summer).

Lots of folks ask: What's the main difference between students today and students 50 years ago? Fair question. In 1969, students were more political (remember, this was the Vietnam War era). They were more idealistic. They read more (my reading lists were twice as long as today). Because they read more, they wrote better. And yet the similarities among generations greatly outweigh the differences. That's why I still love the classroom.

# Alfred University

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Alfred, NY 14802  
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# Alfred University *Reunion 2019*

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 – SUNDAY, JUNE 9



*M*ark your calendars and plan to join us for the 2019 Reunion, June 7-9. Everyone is welcome with special invitations extended to Alfred's Golden Saxons (anyone who graduated 1968 or earlier, with Golden Saxon honored years being 1949, 1954, 1959 and 1964). We will also honor and celebrate members from the classes of: 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014.

There will be a special group reunion for Alfred University sisters of Alpha Kappa Omicron, celebrating AKO's 75th birthday.

We will honor all Alfred University couples (married or partnered AU). If you found love on the Alfred University campus, this is your year to CELEBRATE IT! Come back and relive the romance!

Finally, we will honor Dr. Gary Ostrower '61 for 50 years of teaching excellence at Alfred University!

See the full Reunion schedule online at [alfred.edu/alumni/reunion.cfm](http://alfred.edu/alumni/reunion.cfm)

**Save the date for Reunion 2020, June 12-14**