

# Alfred

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2017



Don McPherson '84 MS, '88 PhD

Let there be

**color**

Homecoming 2017  
was a glorious day  
in Alfred.  
An enthusiastic  
capacity crowd  
was treated to a  
Saxon 45-7 romp  
over University of  
Rochester.

# Alfred

M A G A Z I N E

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# Alfred

M A G A Z I N E



## Inside

FALL · 2017

**Above:** *Allen Walk, led by Becky (Butts) Prophet, '70, professor of theater, and Laurie Lounsberry McFadden '91, University archivist, has become a tradition for leading first-year students to the Opening Convocation Ceremony in McLane Center.*

**Cover photo:**

*The primary colors in pigment are red, yellow, and blue).*

*The three primary colors in light are red, green and blue. When those intersect, the result is white – an area where essentially “all colors” exist. Relating to the theme of “Fiat Lux,” in this issue we bring to light the story of Don McPherson '84 MS, '88 PhD.*

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By sheer happenstance, **Don McPherson '84 MS, '88 PhD** discovered how to help people suffering from color blindness enjoy a new way of looking at the world.

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Let  
there  
be

**CEO**

By Rob Price



**Don McPherson '84 MS, '88 PhD** loved playing Frisbee when he was a student at Alfred University, and it was during an Ultimate Frisbee game in California, about 15 years ago, when he came as close to a “Eureka” moment as is possible in the world of science.

**D**on had lent his friend Michael Angell a pair of sunglasses he had developed to protect the eyes of ophthalmic surgeons performing laser surgery. Don himself enjoyed wearing the glasses: they made the natural colors of the world look more vivid. And he had heard from hospitals that the glasses needed constant replacing. The surgeons were constantly pocketing the lenses for their personal use.

It was a sunny day in Oakland when Don passed his own pair of glasses to Angell. Angell put them on, looked around the Frisbee field, and said, “Dude, I can see the cones!”

Angell had suffered all his life from the most common form of color blindness, in which shades of the color orange tend to merge with perceptions of red and green, resulting in a muddy shade of brown. When he said, “Dude, I can see the cones,” Don understood the glasses were somehow having an ameliorating effect on the color deficiencies of Angell’s retinas.

He might have shouted out, “Eureka!” Except, he insists, there are no real “Eureka!” moments in science. “It’s more of a ‘Hmmm, that’s a curious’ situation,” he says. “Then, you start collecting more data.”

For Don, the trail of data he began following after that Frisbee game led to three grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, beginning in 2001, and eventually in 2010 to the formation of EnChroma Labs, a Bay Area company that manufactures eyeglasses that help with the most common form of color blindness, or color vision deficiency (CVD).

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*Don McPherson '84 MS, '88 PhD*

*“Dude,  
I can  
see the  
cones!”*

Don, who serves as chief scientist for his own company (a friend and co-founder, Andrew Schmeder, serves as chief executive officer) estimates EnChroma has sold tens of thousands of eyeglasses. He says the company will introduce a contact lens in about a year, after seeking approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Over 300 million people around the world suffer from color blindness—seven percent of males and one percent of females. Notable individuals suffering from color blindness include Bill Clinton, Prince William, Sting, Mark Zuckerberg, and Marco Rubio. The glasses developed by Don allow 80 percent of color blind people to see in full color.

National media have taken notice. EnChroma’s success has been covered by the *New York Times*, *Atlantic*, *Psychology Today* and *Forbes*, and the company has been the subject of features on *ABC News*, *MSNBC* and *CNN*. EnChroma also has a strong presence on social media, in part due to a brilliant marketing campaign that has utilized YouTube in publishing personal videos of people who are experiencing, thanks to EnChroma glasses, the broader color spectrum for the first time (Many of those videos are on the EnChroma website **enchroma.com** – and are worth the view).

Don didn’t know much about color blindness when he realized his original lenses somehow mitigated the condition for his friend Michael Angell.

"I just stumbled onto this," he said during a 2016 visit to Alfred University when he received the Fiat Lux! Award from President Mark Zupan. "I didn't have a background in vision science."

He immersed himself in the research of vision science, the details of the RGB (red, green, blue) light/photon spectrum, and confronted what he now calls, in retrospect, the mysteries of psycho physics.

"Anytime you have a situation where somebody is perceiving something and they have to tell you what they're perceiving, it's a can of worms," he says. "When someone says they're seeing red, how do you know they're seeing red?"

Trained in Alfred University's glass engineering labs, Don struggled with the issue using a hands-on approach. He initially worked with a standard hue discrimination test, in which participants were asked to differentiate between 15 colored documents.

The test clearly showed improvement in color discrimination when the subjects wore EnChroma glasses. To answer the question "How do you know they're really seeing red?", Don developed a way of looking at the problem backwards. "Instead of

asking someone what colors they see, I asked, 'What color do you see after I take this color away?' That's called the negative after-image. As far as I can tell, no one's ever done this before for color blind subjects using color enhancing lenses."

How did Don reason his way into rethinking a standard visual perception test? He says he learned to think flexibly and creatively as an Alfred University glass engineering student.

"From my professors — Van Derck Frechette, David Pye and Jim Varner — I learned how to solve problems," he says. "No one ever said to me, 'That's not a good idea.' They said, 'Well, what if you looked at it like this?' They said, 'I understand where you're going with this.' They cultivated my mind to think... I learned how to tackle virtually any problem due to their mentoring. Alfred University gave me the opportunity to think. And, so I did."

These days, Don is focusing much of his attention on a problem that may be more complicated than psycho physics. He notes that only 11 out of the 50 U.S. states test elementary school children for color vision deficiency. Meanwhile, vast portions of a child's elementary education involve differentiating between colors.

"Some of these students end up getting moved into a special education track as a result of their teachers failing to understand their color blindness. There's nothing neurally wrong with them. They may be Einsteins or Newtons."

His answer: "We need to get EnChroma glasses and contact lenses to every color blind child in the world. I'm going to make it my mission to make sure every school district has access to these lenses. We have to make this a priority."

Don settled into the Berkeley neighborhood after completing post-doctoral work in New Zealand. He snagged a job after calling a Bay Area optics company and pitching himself over the phone. "I got the job with a cold call," he says.

He brought that kind of forcefulness to his research into optics and color blindness, and now he sounds implacable as he turns his sights on helping color blind elementary school children in the U.S. It's a safe bet that in five years, there are going to be tens of thousands of children seeing a broader range of hues.

Some of them may even say, "Dude, I can see the cones!"

*"I learned how to tackle virtually any problem...*

*Alfred University gave me the opportunity to think.*

*And, so I did."*



# Fir wo

**Pearl Dick '98 discovered she loved the heat of Alfred University's hot glass studio – the "Hot Shop." Now she's passing on her love to Chicago's wounded teenagers**

**By Rob Price**

**W**hen Pearl visited Alfred University in 1994, as a high school senior looking at prospective colleges, she knew she wanted to study art, and she thought she wanted to study painting.

She changed her mind when she stepped into the University's hot glass studio, into a world of fire.

The heat was intense, students were pulling globs of molten glass from the ovens, the environment was downright dangerous.

She *loved* it.

"It was really visceral," the Chicago-based glass artist, educator and community activist says now. "I was just enchanted by the material itself. It was molten and flowing, hot, intense...It just spoke to me."

It wasn't just the heat of what is affectionately called the Hot Shop and the viscosity of the molten glass that fired her adrenaline. She recognized the unique teamwork that characterizes relationships between artists in a hot glass studio. The timing and coordination between the students handling molten glass deeply impressed her.

**"It was a vibrant atmosphere.**

Everyone was working together. The whole dynamic jumped out at me. Not only was there the beauty of the medium, but the partnership between people. It was a whole crew of people and they'd developed a sense of togetherness because they had to rely on each other."

That combination of art-making and teamwork inspired Pearl to enroll in Alfred University, earn her BFA and then pursue a successful career in glass art in the Pacific Northwest after her 1998 graduation. In 2003, she resettled in Chicago, and



# e man



now, almost 15 years later, her work has evolved beyond the creation of glass art.

A recent installment of *NBC Nightly News* picked up the story: Collaborating with Dr. Bradley Stolbach, a pediatrics professor and clinical psychologist at the University of Chicago, Pearl has transformed her Fire House Studio, into an educational arena in which she teaches the hot glass craft to Chicago youths who have been wounded – and not metaphorically. The teenagers learning how to blow glass in her studio have been shot.

They are recovering, and in many cases, will only partially recover, from bullet wounds. Pearl has students who have lost legs; one of her students is paralyzed from the waist down; another student was shot in the head and exhibits symptoms similar to those of a stroke patient.

All of these young people are learning the difficult art of hot glass blowing under her mentorship. The program she co-founded with Stolbach is called Project Fire. It's an educational opportunity that, in the heat of the hot glass shop, is also a chance for emotional healing.

The therapy comes in the form of the artistic teamwork and collaboration Pearl first observed at Alfred University. "Almost everyone is experiencing some form of post-traumatic stress," Pearl says. "Our focus is on helping these young people work through their trauma, to come back from that and eventually have some semblance of a normal life."

*'Our focus is on helping these young people work through their trauma, to come back from that and eventually have some semblance of a normal life.'*

The fire and heat of the hot glass studio are crucial to the healing. Glass blowing is a collaborative medium, Stolbach notes. "You can't really do it alone, so it creates relationships and connections. They know when they're here that they're safe."

**Project Fire is a year old,** and it's the most recent development in Pearl's career as an educator and therapist. But her career in art therapy didn't begin until after she had settled in Chicago, in 2003, following a productive period in Portland, Oregon.

She began teaching with After School Matters, a non-profit organization providing after-school and summer opportunities to Chicago high school students. She started sharing her hot glass skills at Art Institute of Chicago. She hooked up with ArtReach Chicago and currently serves as artistic director for the organization (ArtReach Chicago together with Healing Hurt People-Chicago provide support for Project Fire).

Pearl says her attraction to education grew out of her positive experiences as a BFA student at Alfred University. She fondly recalls studying under professors Steve Edwards, Fred Tschida, and Mary Lum. After graduation, she became so busy, she never seriously considered earning her MFA. Now, however, she is considering returning to school and pursuing a degree in art therapy.

Her work as an educator and youth counselor has earned her

*Continued on page 8*



*Pearl Dick uses the School of Art and Design Hot Shop's unique blend of creativity and teamwork to connect with – and to help – young people of Chicago. See Pearl's painting and glass art portfolio at [www.pearldick.com](http://www.pearldick.com).*

recognition from around the U.S, including Philadelphia's National Liberty Museum, which recently honored her as the Museum's 2017 Artist as Hero. "Pearl, you use your art to heal and empower," the Museum said in its salute ([www.libertymuseum.org](http://www.libertymuseum.org)).

Pearl also continues her work as a practicing glass artist and is a featured character on the website Seriously Badass Women ([www.seriouslybadasswomen.com/pearl-dick](http://www.seriouslybadasswomen.com/pearl-dick)). After all, it takes a certain stamina to work around molten glass. As a seriously badass woman, she says she admires people who ride their bikes as their main transportation, she doesn't like scary movies, and she finds "goofy, clever people" funny.

"I believe in the fantastic," she says. "Fairies, gnomes, elves, unicorns – they're out there."

She also believes in young people and their capacity to recover from disaster. She believes in the power of art to bring about that recovery.

Most of all, she believes in fire.



# Telling the stories that don't get heard

As an English major at  
Alfred University,  
Levi Bridges '07 thought  
he wanted to be a  
novelist.

By Rob Price



*Above – Levi Bridges '07  
conducts an interview on the  
street in Mexico City.*

**H**is professors had recognized his talent. His writing was “lucid and clear,” according to one English professor who remembers him, and who supported his application for a Fulbright Scholarship. He could think big – “respond empathetically” to the dramatic situations in works of literature. “But I wasn’t ready to be a novelist,” Levi says now. “I realized at the end of my years at Alfred University, I was thinking more about writing than actually doing any writing.” That was 10 years ago.

Since his graduation from Alfred in 2007, Levi has picked apples with immigrant Mexican workers in upstate New York. He has worked with Mexican immigrants in a traveling carnival in California. He has bicycled across Russia, from Vladivostok to the Ukraine.

He has volunteered in migrant shelters in Mexico, interviewed migrant workers and shared their stories on radio broadcasts and podcasts. He has recorded hours of interviews with refugees caught in the immigration mill in southern Mexico.

*Continued on page 10*

His articles about his travels and his work with immigrants have been published in *The Washington Post* and by the *Associated Press*. His work has been featured on *National Public Radio* and *Public Radio International*. He has earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of California at Berkeley and a Fulbright Scholarship.

His transition from a student dreaming of being a novelist to a practicing journalist began toward the end of his education at Alfred University. He had taken a year off



*Levi Bridges '07 undercover as a carnival worker.*

from school and lived in Mexico City. Then in his senior year, he returned to Mexico City as part of the University's study abroad program. He stayed in Mexico City and began working for an English-language newspaper. He had a feel for the stories of Mexican immigrants.

Call it participatory journalism.

Call it undercover journalism.

Call it  
risking your neck.

**HE KNEW HOW TO FIND** those stories, and the stories began to find him. He was a good listener.

"Most of the journalism we read concerning immigration comes from interviews with immigration officials," he says. "But those people are far removed from the culture and homes of the immigrants."

As he describes his work, he is standing on a rooftop in Ixtepec, in the Mexican State of Oaxaca, speaking on a cell phone whose signal breaks up from time to time. Oaxaca borders the states of Chiapas and Guerrero, and immigrants arrive in Ixtepec riding on the tops of freight trains. Assaults, rapes, robberies and kidnappings are common.

"I'm just a volunteer at the shelter. I help run things there once a week, and I spend a lot of time talking and hanging out. The people are great storytellers."

The three states of Oaxaca, Chiapas and Guerrero have the highest rates of illiteracy and unemployment in

Mexico. The people Bridges spends most of his time with are those whose voices are rarely heard in all the official narratives of immigration controversies.

"I felt that those voices were being neglected in the general reporting that reaches most of us," he says from his rooftop. "I want to give those people a little more power."

His idea is to collect their stories in a digitized audio form, which instantly provides the potential for global distribution. He hopes the stories help break open the official reporting on immigration, give voice to unofficial narratives, provide the people who tell them a platform alongside the more powerful, official versions.

"If people have the time and training to tell their stories, what would that sound like?" he says. "I think it would be superior to most of the reporting about immigration we get – immigration covered only by outsiders."

And then there's the book.

*A brief moment of respite allowed Levi to pose with two young friends on a hilltop outside of Mexico City.*

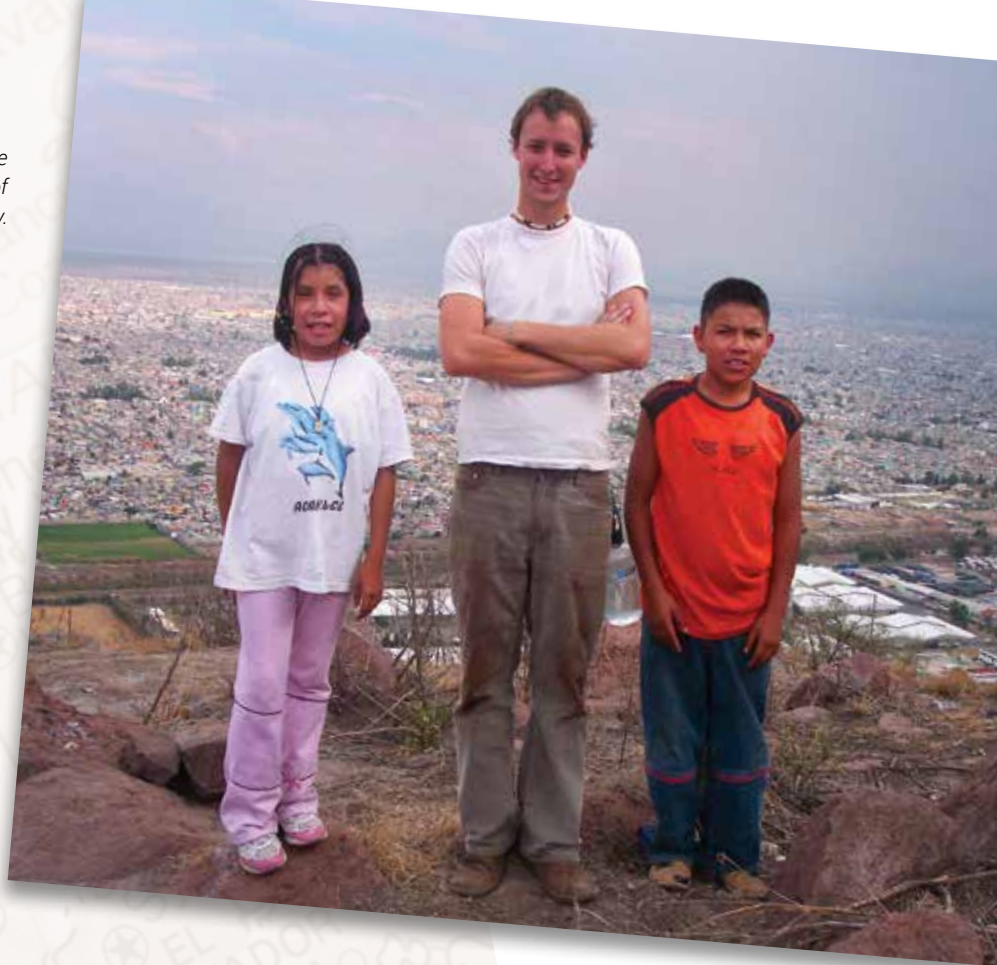
## IT'S BASED ON HIS WORK

with a traveling carnival in California, a job he got after his stint as a newspaper reporter in Mexico City. He spent a summer as a carnival employee working alongside immigrants who had been recruited in Mexico.

"Here's how it works," he says. "There's one guy in a Mexican town, and he's the guy you go to if you want to get into the carnival industry. He's the recruiter – he's like the middle man between the workers and the carnival company. You get the job, you're shipped to the United States and the labor conditions are terrible. It's one of the worst industries in terms of violations of basic labor laws. Some of the carnivals treat their workers okay, but at others you might get paid five dollars a day. The trailers are full of bed bugs and cockroaches. It's hard to sleep at night because of the bed bugs."

Call it participatory journalism. Call it undercover journalism. Call it risking your neck. Bridges continued the work in other areas of immigration, joining immigrant apple pickers, for example, in New York. He encountered similar conditions that revealed the carnival business as just one example of what Mexican immigrants may experience as they try to settle in the U.S.

"What I learned," he says, "is there are employers in the U.S. in agriculture or landscaping and there are recruiters in Mexico who recruit just for landscaping or agriculture.



*'The trailers are full of bed bugs and cockroaches. It's hard to sleep at night because of the bed bugs.'*

They have their contacts in Mexico and they literally take over a Mexican town. They send workers into the U.S. through the guest worker program, which permits participating Mexicans to work for only one employer so they can't just walk away. And meanwhile, lots of these recruiters have charged high fees and the workers have taken out high-interest loans to pay them. So they get shipped up to the U.S., they don't speak English, and they end up in some town where they're the employer's property. They're beholden to the employers."

Levi started writing his book, focusing on his experience as a carnival worker. He hoped he would

be able to finish the book when he began graduate school.

"I made the story my master's thesis, and I did a radio documentary on the subject."

He estimates the book was three-fourths complete when he started graduate work at UC Berkeley. "I know there's something there," he says.

He can almost hear it in his head: the voices of the people he has met, and talked to and worked with since he graduated from Alfred University. And they're ready to be heard.

"It's just a matter of finding the time," Levi says. "I've gotten kind of busy."

# news digest



*Pictured above, visitors enjoy the stunning visuals of the new Time Space Interface/Harland Snodgrass Gallery, located in Alfred University's Harder Hall. The Gallery opened March 15 with a reception honoring Snodgrass, professor emeritus of Alfred University, and paying homage to one of Alfred University's pivotal professors of art and design from the 1970s to the 1980s. It was Snodgrass who coined the expression "Time Space Interface" while he served on the faculty of Alfred University's School of Art and Design.*

## Edizel named Dean of the School of Art and Design

Gerar Edizel, a long-time faculty member of Alfred University's School of Art and Design, has been appointed as its dean. Edizel, who had served as interim dean of the School for the past



*Gerar Edizel*

two years, has begun serving a three-year term as the inaugural Michele and Martin Cohen Dean of The School of Art and Design, an endowed position funded through the generous support of Michele and Martin Cohen, parents of Alfred University alumnus Adam Cohen '03.

In announcing Edizel's appointment, Alfred University provost, W. Richard Stephens,

noted that Gerar will be responsible for advancing the national and international reputation of Alfred University's school of art and design.

As interim dean of the School of Art and Design, Edizel oversaw increased enrollment in the School and the launching of the University's MFA program in painting in Dusseldorf, Germany. He also has spearheaded an increase in fundraising for the School and supervised a significant expansion of the School's Summer Arts Workshops.

Edizel received his PhD and MA degrees from Cornell University, and his MFA from Southern Illinois University. In addition to his administrative work at Alfred University, he has taught courses in contemporary and new media art at Alfred University. Additionally, he has directed the conference "Electronic Intersections," editing and publishing its proceedings in a bilingual catalogue under the aegis of the Institute for Electronic Arts.

He is the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the New York Film Academy for educational programming. He has lectured at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and taught at the University of Art and Design in Jinan City, China.

## Professors, students and alumni travel to view the “sublime” total eclipse



*Professor David DeGraff during one of his energetic and engaging astronomy classes.*

A group of Alfred University professors, students and other assorted stargazers traveled to Union, Missouri, where they experienced “a spectacularly sublime event,” in the words of physics and astronomy professor David DeGraff about the August 21 total solar eclipse, which swept across the continental U.S. from Oregon to South Carolina.

DeGraff joined fellow physics and astronomy professors Dave Toot and Georgina Bernstein-Kendall for the trip, plus professor of anthropology Robert Myers, visiting assistant professor of art foundations Sara Ferguson, spouses and relatives, numerous AU students and Ben Placek '10.

“Sunsets are beautiful, but literally a daily event, so not that special,” DeGraff reflected. “You can spend as long as you like looking at the Grand Canyon ... but totality was over in just 2 minutes 39 seconds. I was so awestruck I forgot to pay attention to the sounds around me, or to look for stars, or to grab the binoculars, or take any photos.”

“Finally seeing the Sun’s corona with my own eyes was a bucket list event for me,” added Toot. “It is amazingly different to see it that way than to see pictures of it either from other eclipses or from spacecraft.”

## Haiti spring break service trip

A group of Alfred University faculty and students spent their 2017 spring break in the Pignon region of Haiti, working with Haiti Outreach, a non-profit organization which collaborates with the people of rural Haiti to provide access to clean water and sanitation.

They volunteered on behalf of the Water for Haiti fundraiser, spearheaded by Alfred University Environmental Studies professor Michele Hluchy, whose Water Planet students, working within the First Year Experience Program of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, were successful in raising \$15,000 for Haiti Outreach to drill a well in a rural community.

While in Haiti, the Alfred University students and faculty participated in well drilling operations, observed well management committee meetings, assisted with various operational tasks, and attended the inauguration of the well. The group also studied sustainable development, rural justice, and the profound impact of clean water on daily life. Visits to an orphanage, school, and church provided additional opportunities to learn about the culture of Haiti and to interact with residents.



*AU students and faculty at the well dedication in Cabare, Haiti.*



President Mark Zupan presents Lisa Lantz with a golden baton as her "Fiat Lux!" award after the MostArts Gala Finale Concert in July 2017.

## Alfred University honors MostArts founder with Fiat Lux! Award

Alfred University president, Mark Zupan, presented MostArts Festival founder Lisa Lantz with the Fiat Lux! Award at the conclusion of the 2017 MostArts Gala Concert on July 15. Lantz, who serves as artistic director of the classical music festival and is a professor of music for Alfred University's Division of Performing Arts in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, received an engraved conductor's baton from Zupan — and a standing ovation from the audience in Alfred University's Miller Theater.

Zupan also urged members of the audience to continue showing their support for MostArts, which completed its fourth year under Lantz's direction. He noted that any new contributions and commitments, including through the University's Saxon Circle, on behalf of the Festival will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000 through a recent commitment made by an anonymous donor.

Additional members of the audience recognized for their support of the festival included University Trustees Marlin Miller '54 and Thomas Hinman '79; former Alfred University president Charley Edmondson and his wife, Laura Greyson; and Alfred University provost, W. Richard Stephens, and his wife, Debbie.

The Fiat Lux! awards were created in 2016. Previous winners are Don McPherson '84 MS, '88 PhD, Kristen Beck '89, Julio Fuentes, and Sue Goetschius. Presenting the Fiat Lux! Award to Lantz, Zupan thanked her for "the way she inspires, and brings warmth and harmony to our university and community."

## Griffith '10 new director of Judson Leadership Center



Abigail Griffith '10

Abigail Griffith, a 2010 *summa cum laude* graduate of Alfred University, has been appointed director of the Judson Leadership Center.

She has worked as a tutor for student-athletes in a Division I program at the University of Tennessee, an instructor and learning specialist at Roane State Community College in Tennessee, and, most recently, in the TRIO Upward Bound program in New York state.

An English major at Alfred University, Griffith received her master's degree in English from the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, in 2012.

## Dalton named new vice president for Enrollment Management

Dr. Brian F. Dalton, a nationally renowned expert in university enrollment, has joined the Alfred University administration as vice president for Enrollment Management.



Brian Dalton

Dalton comes to Alfred University from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he was vice president for Enrollment Services.

Prior to that,

he was vice president for Enrollment and College Relations at Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pennsylvania; senior vice President for Enrollment Management at Mercer College, in Macon, Georgia; and vice president for Enrollment Management at the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota. He also served as dean of Enrollment Management at the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas.

Dalton's awards include a Marketing and Recruitment Excellence Award from Noel Levitz, 2002; the Outstanding Strategic Enrollment Management Professional Award from the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers, 2011; and the Smith/Wilson Courage Award from the University of Texas at Austin, 2015.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration, both from Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, as well as his PhD in education administration from the University of Texas at Austin.



## Emeriti faculty reception represents 1,000 years of academic experience

More than 40 Alfred University emeriti professors, representing more than 1,000 years of academic experience, gathered August 30 at the home of Alfred University president, Mark Zupan, for a reception honoring individuals who have devoted their professional academic lives to the University.

According to Zupan, the event provided a unique opportunity to gather valuable advice from faculty whose experience gives them a unique perspective on the University.

"They care about us deeply," Zupan said, "and have left such a lasting legacy on our institution through the generations of Alfred University students whose lives they have transformed, thereby bettering our world."

Zupan also noted many of those attending the event continue to find ways of supporting the University. Thirteen, for example, have joined the Saxon Circle as long-term benefactors.

For many of the emeriti faculty members, the event was evidence of Zupan's eagerness to listen and learn as Alfred University's 14th president.

Professor Emeritus Glenn Zwegardt said the reception was "another successful reaching out by president Mark Zupan to the academic community."



*The emeriti faculty reception at the president's house.*

Zwegardt recalled informal meetings with Zupan and other emeriti faculty at the Collegiate Restaurant earlier in the academic year at which the new president solicited observations and advice.

"He wants to learn," Zwegardt said. "He wants to know what was working in the past and what are we doing now that we can do better. He asked us what we did in the past that we're not doing now. And always, how can we improve?"

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## Electric car planned as capstone project for engineering students



*Xingwu Wang*

Alfred University professor of renewable energy engineering, Xingwu Wang, has been working to bring a visionary plan to fruition with the help of Alfred University engineering students completing their senior capstone projects.

The results of their labor will be unveiled next spring, as a two-person electric car makes its way along Academic Alley between

Harder and Seidlin Halls. Wang says he hopes students are able to incorporate LIDAR technology and lithium ion batteries to make the car both a driverless and energy-efficient electric vehicle.

The project began in December 2016 when Alfred University's Renewable Energy Engineering program came into possession of a 1970's-era electric car. Wang says senior students studying mechanical engineering or renewable energy engineering may use the project for their capstone work at Alfred University.



*For the second year in a row, Alfred University president, Mark Zupan, joins members of the Saxons football team to help first-year students move in to their residence halls at the start of the academic year. This year, members of the women's soccer team also lent a helping hand.*

# saxon athletics



## Quartet of AU softball players recognized for academic achievement

Four members of the 2017 Alfred University softball team have been honored for their work in the classroom.

The four Saxons – Kerri Keeler, Hannah Lawrence (in photo at left), Elena Ceja and Lea Georgatos – were named NFCA All-America Scholar-Athletes for the 2016-17 academic year. To be named an All-American Scholar-Athlete, a player must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5.

Keeler, a senior, has been a three-year starting pitcher for the Saxons. A psychology major, she earned NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors in 2015-16. She won five games in 2017 and 34 overall as a Saxon.

Lawrence, who graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in business, played four seasons for the Saxons, batting .326 and scoring 17 runs in 2017. Lawrence had previously earned NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors in 2013-14 and 2015-16.

Ceja, a sophomore infielder and athletic training major, played in 30 games as a first-year player in 2017, driving in 12 runs while scoring seven.

Georgatos, a junior catcher and athletic training major, played in 24 games as a sophomore in 2017, scoring five runs, and driving in four.

## Athletic Department announces appointments, promotions



**Tony Aquilina** was appointed associate director of athletics

at Alfred University prior to the 2017-18 academic year.

It marks Aquilina's second tenure as an administrator in the AU Athletics Department. He served as assistant athletic director from 2012-16 before taking a position as assistant director of athletics/compliance officer at Misericordia University. After a year at Misericordia, Aquilina returned to AU to take over the newly-created position of associate athletic director.



**Jess Hurlbut '12** first began work as a Saxon athletic trainer

in October, 2012. She then became the head athletic trainer in July, 2013 as well as the senior woman administrator. In August of 2017, she was promoted to assistant athletic director.

Hurlbut earned her bachelor's in athletic training from Alfred University before earning her master's in physical education/exercise and sports science from the University of Central Missouri.



**Mike Graham '16** was appointed head women's and men's tennis coach at Alfred

University prior to the 2017-18 academic year.

Graham earned a bachelor's in athletic training. While at AU, he was a four-year member of the Saxons' men's tennis team (2012-15), serving as a team captain his senior season.



**David Preston** was appointed strength and conditioning

coordinator in the Department of Athletics prior to the 2017-18 academic year.

As strength and conditioning coordinator, Preston is responsible for working with the AU coaching staff and student-athletes to implement new and enhance existing strength training programs for all the Saxon varsity teams.



From left, Brandon Striker '07, Bobby Linaberry '07, Paul Vecchio, Alfred University athletic director, Laura (Carlin) Loehle '85, Sean McCartney '93, and Brenton Brady '06.

## Five inducted into AU Athletic Hall of Fame

Five former standout student-athletes were inducted into the Alfred University Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 23. **Brenton Brady '06** (football), **Laura (Carlin) Loehle '85** (women's swimming and diving), **Bobby Linaberry '07** (men's soccer), **Sean McCartney '93** (men's basketball), and **Brandon Striker '07** (men's swimming and diving) are the newest AU Hall of Fame inductees.

**Brady** played four seasons for the football team, establishing himself as one of the Saxons' greatest linebackers. Finishing his career with 285 tackles, Brady was a two-time All-American and a three-time First Team Empire 8 Conference All-Star, and three-time ECAC First Team All-Star, earning Empire 8 and ECAC Northwest Player of the Year honors in 2004.

**Linaberry** played four seasons on the men's soccer team and is the leading scorer in program history, with 35 goals. His 84 points also tops the AU career list, while his 14 assists are fifth. In 2003, he was the Empire 8 Rookie of the Year for an AU team that made the NCAA championship tournament. He wound up being a four-time Empire 8 All-Star and in 2004 was a First Team All-Region pick.

**Loehle** was a four-year member of the AU women's swimming and diving team, competing three times at the NCAA championship meet. In 1985, she was the New York State champion in 1-meter diving and was also a First Team UNYSCSA All-Conference diver. She set several AU women's diving records during her Saxon career, and still holds the school mark for the 1-meter championship event.

**McCartney** played for the Saxon men's basketball team for four years and became one of the leading scorers in program history. His 1,529 career points rank fourth on the school's all-time list. He was a three-time Empire Athletic Association (EAA) All-Conference selection, earning honorable mention as a sophomore and First Team recognition as a junior and senior.

**Striker** swam for the AU men's team for four seasons, competing at the 2004 NCAA Division III championships and earning All-American recognition as part of the Saxons' 800-yard freestyle relay team. He was a three-time Empire 8 Conference individual champion and was a member of the Saxons team that won a New York State title in 2007 and Empire 8 crowns in 2005 and 2007. He is the third of three Striker siblings (after brothers Brian and Todd) to be inducted into the AU Hall of Fame.

- Live statistics and video
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- Stories and photos



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**gosaxons.com**



## New record boards dedicated in memory of Tim Jaenecke '84

The Alfred University swimming and diving teams unveiled the new men's and women's school and pool record boards on Saturday morning during Homecoming Weekend in the Lebohner Natatorium.

The new record boards are in memory of Tim Jaenecke '84 who passed away from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease) in January, 2007 at the age of 44. He graduated from Alfred University with a degree in ceramic engineering.

Tim's college coach, Mike Schaeberle, said, "Tim was the quiet achiever, who pushed everyone around him to be better. Tim was

a man of action and little talk who was well liked by all his fellow swimmers." He proved that by working his way to becoming a school record-holder in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle and also becoming a three-time All-American.

Under the center of the new record boards, is a plaque dedicated to the memory of Tim Jaenecke. "It is with great pleasure and honor that this record board is named in his memory and in tribute to his academic and athletic achievements," said Tim's wife, Kim Jaenecke.

## Saxon Nation seeks volunteers

Saxon Nation, an organization that raises funds to benefit Alfred University's intercollegiate athletic programs, is seeking volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors.

Service on the Saxon Nation Board of Directors is a rewarding experience. With more than 450 student-athletes competing on 21 teams, the intercollegiate athletics program is one of the most popular and vibrant sectors of student life at AU. Money raised by Saxon Nation helps fund travel expenses for team trips, facility improvement, and equipment purchases, and facilitates the expansion of coaching staffs.

Saxon Nation membership totals more than 400 and donations topped \$120,000 in 2016-17. Prior to 2016-17, membership had not included current student-athletes, but last year nearly 150 student-athletes – including 32 members of the Class of 2017 -- joined the organization.

Increased membership in Saxon Nation on the part of alumni and student-athletes is paramount to the continued success of the AU athletics program. Equally important is the commitment and dedication of the Saxon Nation Board of Directors, whose guidance and hard work will ensure that future Saxons enjoy a unique and fulfilling experience as Alfred University student-athletes.

If you are interested in serving on the Saxon Nation Board of Directors, please contact Paul Vecchio, AU athletic director, at 607-871-2193.



# Board of Trustees names new officers

Greg Connors, a 1992 alumnus of Alfred University, and Carolyn Clark, a 1990 alumna, were recently elected as the new chair and vice chair, respectively, of Alfred University's Board of Trustees.

Greg succeeds Les Gelber, a 1977 alumnus, who served as chair for four years. Greg had been vice chair during Gelber's tenure.



**Greg Connors**, a member of the Board since 2007, previously served as chair of the All for Alfred campaign, the Trusteeship subcommittee, and the Enrollment

Management committee – three critical roles in helping to define the future of the University. He has served on the Executive, Facilities and Grounds, Finance, Human Resources, Strategic Planning, Student Affairs and University

Relations committees. He was a member of the University's Presidential Search committee and he co-chaired the search for the new vice president of University Relations in 2016-2017.

Greg and his wife, Jeni Wetzel Connors '94, have been generous in their support of Alfred University. Their gift to the University during the All for Alfred campaign led to the Connors Pavilion at Merrill Field, which provides a gathering place before, during and after games.

Greg is co-founder of the law firm Connors and Ferris, with offices in Rochester and Buffalo. He and Jeni live in Pittsford, NY, with their sons Luke and Will.

**Carolyn Clark**, Alfred University's new vice-chair of the Board, is a 1990 graduate and dedicated Board member since 2011.

In addition to serving on the Presidential Search committee and the Trustee Advisory Council for the search for



Carolyn Clark '90

the University's vice president of Enrollment Management in 2016-2017, Carolyn is a member of the Academic Affairs, Strategic Planning and University

Relations committees. She is vice chair of the Enrollment Management committee and the Trusteeship subcommittee. She becomes the first woman to serve in a top leadership role on the Alfred University Board of Trustees.

Carolyn is president, co-founder and part owner of Peloton Advantage, a medical communications firm that provides strategic publication planning, content development and project management support for pharmaceutical and biotechnology clients.

Carolyn and her wife, Jody Stowe, reside in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, with their two children, Austin and Sophia.

## INTRODUCING VISA

**VISA (Volunteers in Support of Alfred) is a new program for Alfred alumni to get involved and give back to their alma mater. There are two ways to volunteer:**

### **1** Help us recruit interested students

- Write holiday cards
- Make a connection from your business
- Attend a local reception/event

### **2** Refer a Student

Tell us of someone who would be a great match for AU. If they apply and are accepted, they will receive an official Alumni Referral Scholarship of \$1,000, in your name, renewable each year they are enrolled. Deadline is February 1, 2018 for our fall 2018 entering class.

**For more information contact Janet Lynch at [lynch@alfred.edu](mailto:lynch@alfred.edu).**

# Class Notes

## 1950 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Robert Lunney** had the honor of being singled out by South Korean President, Moon Jae-in, during a recent ceremony in Quantico, VA. honoring the rescue of 14,000 Korean civilians fleeing the 1950 Choisin Reservoir battle. At the time, Lunney was a 22-year-old staff officer aboard the rescue ship Meredith Victory.

In 2003, Lunney was interviewed by *Stars & Stripes* and vividly recalled the operation:

"As far as we could see, there was a mass of humanity on the beach. The poor people were being threatened with annihilation.

Many of them were being wiped out in the village because they were accused of cooperation with the UN forces, especially the Americans. They were fleeing for their lives."

Lunney lives in Bronxville, NY, with his wife, Joan.

## 1951 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Roger D. Jones**, described as an "entrepreneur, artist, poet, playwright, actor, director and all-around renaissance man," as well as a "loving, generous husband, father, grandfather and friend," died Aug. 2, 2017, at his home in Youngstown, OH. He was 89. Born in Buffalo, NY, Roger graduated from high school at the age of 18 and went to work on the ore boats that plied the Great Lakes. During the winters, when the lakes were impassable, he worked in steel mills, eventually earning enough to finance his education at Alfred University, where he earned a bachelor's in ceramic engineering with a focus on refractory materials. Following a brief stint at Corning Incorporated, where he worked on heat-resistant ceramics for the outer covering of rockets, Roger volunteered for the U.S. Army and attended Officer Training School. He was sent to Korea to lead a platoon that worked ahead of the front lines to clear paths through minefields. Upon his discharge after the Korean War, Roger worked at Bison Refractories and New Castle Refractories before starting his own company, Fireline, Inc., with his wife Gloria. In addition to being an entrepreneur, Roger wrote poems, plays and sketches. He was also a painter and sculptor whose work is found in more than two dozen collections, including the Butler Art Museum. In addition to his wife, Roger is survived by a daughter, Rachel Jones Wimer of Sloatsburg, NY, and a son, David Jones of Canfield, OH, and five grandchildren.

## 1953 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

From **Mary Jane Mackey**, class correspondent: **John Fasano** died July 31 in Tom's River, NJ. He was 88. Although he was modest about his football career at Port Washington High School in the 1940s, Fasano made his mark early, winning the

Thorp Trophy for Nassau County's most outstanding player in 1946. He spent a year at Hofstra, dropping out because of appendicitis. He got a job at a meat market, until a customer came into the shop, saw John, and informed him "you are going to Alfred," John recalled in a *New York Times* interview in 2000. So off he went to Alfred University to play linebacker for legendary Saxon's coach Alex Yunevich. He played on the freshman team in 1949, and then played three years on varsity, 1950-1952, as a starting lineman on both offense and defense. He was a two-time *Associated Press* All-American in 1951 and 1952. In Fasano's three years on varsity, AU went a combined 17-3-2, with the Saxons going unbeaten (6-0-1) his senior year of 1952. He was inducted into the Alfred University Hall of Fame in 1979. **Joe Fasano '54**, recalled that at 230 pounds, his cousin John was the heaviest man on the line. "Today the line averages 290 at Alfred," Joe Fasano told *Newsday*. "He was fantastic, a terror on offense, a very good blocker." After graduation, John Fasano served in the U.S. Army, then returned home to Port Washington to coach football for a year. He moved to Westport as an assistant coach, and served as head coach from 1975 to 1984. He is survived by two daughters, Felicia Fasano and Fran Davis, both of Toms River, and two grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary, and their son, John.

## 1954 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Former Alfred University Trustee **Dionne "Dee" Michaels Levine** died June 11, 2017, on Reunion Weekend 2017. She had been scheduled to attend, as she had every Reunion since 2003, but health problems prevented her from being in Alfred with her classmates and friends. Dee had been a long-time supporter of Alfred University and was an alumni-elected trustee from 1999-2002. She was the Class of 1954 correspondent for the *Alfred Magazine*, and was a member of the Heritage Circle. She was awarded the Lillian Nevins Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Alfred University Alumni Association, in 2004. Her son, **Evan Goldstein '78**, earned a bachelor's in political science from Alfred University. Dee was a resident of Center Moriches, NY.

## Keep in touch

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

### EMAIL

[whitehouse@alfred.edu](mailto:whitehouse@alfred.edu)

or

[alumni@alfred.edu](mailto:alumni@alfred.edu)

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

### SNAIL MAIL

**Mark Whitehouse**  
Associate Director of  
Communications  
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Alfred, NY 14802

## 1956 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

"New Acquisitions," an exhibition of works by Alfred University alumnus **Stanley Rosen**, was on view at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City through October 15, 2017. The show explores Rosen's creations within the context of the 1950's and 1960's, a period in which craft experienced an explosion of creative growth in the United States. The artist transformed ceramics from a practice devoted to the production of utilitarian objects to one that embraced clay as a medium of sculpture. The exhibit features examples of this expansion of the field of ceramics into the realm of fine art. In addition to his MFA from Alfred University, Rosen earned a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Between 1956 and 1959 he was the studio manager at the legendary Greenwich House Pottery in New York City, and in 1960 he joined the art faculty at Bennington College in Vermont, where he led the ceramics department for many years. Beyond his important contribution to the field of ceramic sculpture, Rosen was also a gifted teacher, inspiring several generations of ceramic artists.

## 1959 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Note from **Larry Eaton**, who is still running (and winning) based on the training principles he learned from Dr. Milton "Doc" Tuttle 60 years ago. As Larry says, while the labels may have changed, the fundamentals of what Doc taught have remained the foundation for training good runners: (The following was triggered by the Spring 2017 *Alfred Magazine*.)

"It's about long distance running at Alfred in the late 1950s. More specifically it's about Frank, Doc Tuttle and 'My Story.' It begins with **Frank Finnerty '60**. He was my teammate, my fraternity brother, my roommate and my best friend. Long distance runners fall into three categories: the trainers, the racers and/or the gifted. Obviously, at highest levels of the sport, one must be pretty good at all three. But I've been around running for around 65 years and observed the best at all age levels. Simply stated, Frank was the most naturally gifted runner I've ever seen. Watching him run drew an analogy of a deer gliding over the ground. He was beautiful to watch. He appeared to be hardly working. Frank was truly a gifted runner...and a wonderful friend."

Reflecting on his own life, Larry wrote "Doc Tuttle was among the six most influential people in my life." An engineering professor who also coached cross country and distance runners, Larry said Tuttle "was way

ahead of his time in developing a training regimen that applied bio-engineering principles to improving distance running performance. As I read present-day books on the subject, I'm amazed that his regimen of long runs; VO2 max intervals; lactate threshold and speed work outs have not changed very much over all that time. We did not use this modern vocabulary, but it was exactly how we trained almost 50 years ago."

Larry added "After this year's 2003 Naples Half Marathon, I was looking at the race results taped to the tables when I saw a name I recognized: John Tuttle had won the Masters Division with a time of 1:09:33 (5:19 pace). While I had never met John, I did know Mrs. Tuttle had given birth to a son during my senior year and he had become a world class distance runner. Excited to meet him, I looked for him. He wasn't anywhere in sight. My last chance was the awards ceremony, and, sure enough, John had stayed. As you might expect, we had a wonderful chat."

"For everyone who loves our sport, the story doesn't stop there. In 1992, Doc Tuttle died. He died the way many runners (including me) say they would like to go....while out on his daily run. John told me his dad often said he didn't want a fancy funeral, no fancy speeches, just let him go quietly doing what he enjoyed most....running. He got his wish."

"My Story: Very simply stated, I owe my education, my wife and my career to Doc Tuttle. How so? My wife: That's simple. I was attending pre-season training as a sophomore and met my then frosh wife who happened to be wearing a beanie. I accused her of wearing it wrong (somehow) and the rest is history. My education: I grew up on a farm. We had very little money. I was able to cobble together a state scholarship, a board job at the Brick and I corrected papers for Doc Tuttle. Maybe shocking in today's world, with summer work, my wife working and my Alfred income, we actually finished our time at school with money in the bank. Doc Tuttle was also responsible for my acceptance at MIT for a master's program. His letter of recommendation did the trick."

"My Career: This one is really crazy. Almost every afternoon when classes were over, we'd go to Doc Tuttle's office. One afternoon, I asked him if he would have worked in industry, what company would he have chosen. His answer: "There's a company in Minnesota called Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing." A few months before graduation from MIT I went to the annual meeting in Philadelphia. As I entered

the hotel there it was: INTERVIEWING TODAY, MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING. I said out loud.....'Hot dog, that's the company Doc Tuttle told me about.' Choosing 3M was quite simply one of....if not the....best career decisions I could have possibly made. "Thank you, Doc Tuttle. And yes, thank you for everything you did for me. I can't tell you that personally, but I do believe you know."

## 1964 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Ruth (Aldrich) Gau** writes:

"Nestled away in Dryden, NY is the Dryden History House at Southworth Homestead on North Street, where **Janice Williams** volunteers as a cashier and is a 'Jill of all trades.' Tours are given the first Saturday of the month. On the property there are draft horses that take the tourists around, as well as tents filled with antiques."

"In Grafton, NH, **Janet (Peachie) and John Bidwell** live near Kilton Pond where they enjoy the quiet life. John rides his bike on the rail trail, 24-25 miles towards Vermont, and 'Peachie' has a garden with perennials and native flowers, from which she removes invasive plants."

"**Elaine (Torkildsen) Jermansen and Ted Jermansen** spent their summer at the Jersey Shore with their grandchildren and are looking forward to a return trip to the Aruba beaches in early 2018."

"The sun ever shines in San Francisco where **Roger Underhill** and his wife, Na, live. Roger coaches intermural volleyball at UCSF and is involved with memoir writing and video imaging workshops. He and Na have vegetable gardens and intend to travel in the near future to Thailand where they hope to view wonderful underwater scenery."

"My husband Gregg and I visited Jackson Hole and Yellowstone National Park and encountered bears, bison, antelope, elk, magpies, etc. The watch trees shared dominion over hillside and glen when we had the opportunity to view Old Faithful, such a dynamic plume of steam!"

"I talked to **Harriet (Fain) Berger** about the short trip to Canyon Lodge, in Yellowstone, and how the fires burning in Montana and Wyoming were not only causing a haze in the air, but permeated our newly renovated lodgings. Harriet is in the process of renovating her home, as she retired a year ago from owning a preschool and child daycare center. She is enjoying taking courses on the Civil War as it applies to

# ClassNotes

Maryland, as well as courses on Chinese medicine."

"**Dennis Newberry** and wife are moving from Pennsylvania to Ohio (Youngstown area). They plan to winter in Florida and spend Spring/Summer sailing the Chesapeake Bay. When Dennis was in Vietnam he ran into **Richard Giandana**. Both were field officers in Vietnam and both were in Ceramic Design at Alfred University."

"Our trip to Utah proved interesting when we boarded the Delta jet and sat behind former Vice President Cheney and his wife. It's a small world! Then on our flight home from Utah, a passenger who sat next to me asked about my alma mater and I replied 'Stands a Pioneer College of Western NY, Alfred, the mother of Men.'"

## 1968 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Our condolences go out to **John F. Baynes**, who notified us of the death of his wife, Mary Riordan Baynes on May 26, 2017. They were married for 36 years, and were the parents of three Alfred University alumni, **Robert Riordan Baynes '04**; **Elizabeth Ann Baynes**,

**'05**; and **Patrick Ryan Baynes '07**. A good friend of Alfred University, Mary attended Marymount University in Arlington, VA, and graduated from Triton College in River Grove, IL.

## 1974

**Paul Ormond** was installed as a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society at the annual meeting of the Materials Research Society in Pittsburgh in early October. Ormond is a senior account manager at AluChem, Inc., based in Cincinnati, OH. According to an article in the *ACerS Bulletin*, Ormond is in market development for reactive alumina products. He is past chair of the Refractory Ceramics Division for ACerS and past program chair of the St. Louis Refractories Symposium, and a past recipient of the ACerS Global Ambassador Award.

## 1977

**Marina R. Pascucci** is one of three people who was designated a Distinguished Life Member of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) at its awards banquet as part of the Materials Research Society's annual

meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, Oct. 8-12. "Not bad for someone who had no intention of becoming a ceramic engineer when she enrolled in Alfred University," she told the *ACerS Bulletin*. She explained she wanted to be a math major, but the Admissions counselor told her the University was "trying to get more women" in engineering. Marina recalled she was told she could double-major in math and engineering, and if she didn't like engineering, she could just be a math major. She stayed with engineering, a choice she has not regretted, she told the *Bulletin*. Following her graduation from Alfred (with degrees in ceramic engineering and chemistry, not math), she earned her MS and PhD degrees from Case Western University in ceramics and materials science. Marina has spent her career in the ceramics field, as a researcher, a faculty member, and, for the past 20 years, a corporate leader. She has been with CeraNova Corporation in Marlborough, MA, where she is currently director of government programs and contracts, responsible for business development, customer relations, and program management for government clients, including \$20 million worth of Department of Defense contracts. CeraNova was founded by another AU alumnus, **Mark Parish '79**, who is now director of technology for the firm. A member of the American Ceramic Society since her student days at Alfred University, Marina is a past president of the national society, and a Fellow. In June 2000, she was honored as a Distinguished Alumna of the Alfred University.

## 1980

**Mitchell Lampert** was one of three lawyers recognized by the firm Robinson + Cole of Hartford, CT, for their "outstanding guidance, support and encouragement of fellow lawyers in their pursuit of professional growth." He joined the firm in 2013 as a partner in the Business Transactions Group.

## 1981

There's a brick in the Frontier Field Walk of Fame with **Bill Schuster's** name on it. The Alfred University alumnus and former Saxon football player was one of three people honored this summer. While Schuster's Saxon gridiron accomplishments were significant, it's his work as a National Football League umpire, a career that included a Super Bowl game in 2015

## Alberici '91 receives West Point Award

In May 2017, Joe Alberici '91 was presented the Mike Krzyzewski Award for Excellence in Teaching Character at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where Alberici is head coach for the men's lacrosse team.



At left, Duke University's Mike Krzyzewski – aka "Coach K" – congratulates Joe Alberici on his Coach K Award.

Krzyzewski, the legendary basketball coach for Duke University, joined Alberici at West Point for the awards presentation. Alberici and Krzyzewski worked as colleagues at Duke, where Alberici was an assistant coach for the Blue Devils.

Krzyzewski himself is a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. The "Coach K" Award recognizes West Point athletes for "outstanding commitment to the development of noble character through athletic participation and leadership."

In announcing Alberici's honor, the Academy noted the men's lacrosse team had finished the season with a 12-4 record. During his 12 seasons at West Point, Alberici has inspired his players to high levels of performance on the field, coaching 21 All-American certificates, nine Patriot League major award winners, seven Academic All-Americans, four Patriot League Scholar-Athletes of the Year, and two Senior CLASS Award winners.



between the New England Patriots and the Seahawks, that earned him Hall of Fame status at the Rochester field, home of the Rochester Red Wings. A special section of the Walk of Fame is dedicated to Rochester's "sports legends," those who have "made a monumental impact on the community through their achievements in the Rochester-area sports scene." Schuster makes his home in Livonia.

## 1979

**Sue (Boutillier) Vinton** was elected to serve in the Montana State House of Representatives and was sworn in on January 2, 2017. She represents House District 56 in Southeastern Yellowstone County, Montana. Representatives in Montana serve a two-year term and may be re-elected for a total of eight years in each legislative house.

During the 2017 legislative session, Sue served on the Business and Labor committee, the Education committee and the Fish, Wildlife and Parks committee. Sue and her husband, Mike, own Vinton Construction, Inc. in Billings, MT and have four children and four grandchildren.

## 1983 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Susan Stevenson Garnett** recently earned her master's degree in art therapy and counseling from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. She also received the Paul J. Fink MD Outstanding Art Therapist Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in clinical practice, academics and capstone.

## 1985

**Amy Pollard** recently received the *Rochester Business Journal's* Healthcare Achievement Award. She currently serves as chief executive officer and president of Noyes Memorial Hospital, in Dansville, NY.

She spearheaded the 2014 construction of a new Emergency department that is equipped with cutting-edge technology, is three times larger than the previous facility, and affords comfort and privacy for patients. Also under her supervision, the Ann and Carl Myers Cancer Center (a regional division of the Wilmot Cancer Institute) opened to provide comprehensive medical and radiation oncology services to patients in Livingston and surrounding counties.

## 1989

Xylem Inc. (NYSE: XYL), a leading global water technology company, announced that **Colin Sabol** has been named Xylem senior vice president and president of Sensus & Analytics, effective October 1. Mr. Sabol succeeds Randy Bays, who will move into an advisory role with a focus on Xylem's global manufacturing operations. Both will report to Xylem President and CEO Patrick Decker. "Colin is a proven leader with both the strategic perspective and executional discipline to unlock the full potential of this newly integrated business and accelerate our growth in the smart infrastructure sector," Decker said. Sabol graduated from Alfred University with a bachelor's degree in materials engineering.

## 1992

**Brian Reardon** writes he is "serving as a Department of Energy Fellow to the U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI). This is a two-year fellowship after which I will return to Los Alamos National Laboratory."

## 1997

**Peter Gard**, a graduate of Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, PA, was commissioned to create a sculpture for the "new" school building that opened in 2010. Looking for inspiration, he found it at the "old" school building -- hundreds of lockers in yellow, red and maroon, each six to 10 inches wide. He ripped out about 3,000 pounds of lockers, and put them through a plate-rolling machine to bend them. He used the strips to create a seven-and-a-half-foot sphere that weighs 700 pounds. It is suspended by a single rod, with safety cables inside, 25 feet above the floor at the entrance to the gymnasium. Peter and his wife, **Allison Beth Tratner**, and their two sons recently moved to Newtown, PA.

## 1998 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Robin Cass** has been appointed interim dean of the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (CIAS) at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Robin had been serving as acting dean of CIAS since Lorraine Justice stepped down on March 31. Previously a senior associate dean of the College, Robin assumed her new responsibilities on July 1, with an opportunity to continue serving in the role through the 2018-19 academic year.

Robin had been a faculty member in the glass program in RIT's School for American Crafts within CIAS since 1998. She has been instrumental in forging new international partnerships for the college with schools, including the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in China and the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

As a widely acclaimed artist, Robin works primarily with hot glass and her current pieces explore themes of discovery, display and wonder. She has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally

## 2002

**Aaron Backhaus**, who earned a master's degree in counseling in 2002, has been named the defensive coordinator for the Hobart College Statesmen for the 2017 season. Aaron is in his 14th season with the Statesmen; for the previous 13 seasons, he was a part-time linebackers' coach and a full-time counselor at Geneva City School District. During his tenure as linebackers' coach, 35 of his players have earned All-Liberty League recognition, and three were named Defensive Players of the Year for the League. He has been part of eight of Hobart College's 11 Liberty League championships. A former Statesman, Aaron was a four-year starter at inside linebacker and was named to the All-Liberty League team for all four years.

## 2003 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Andrew Hay** recently was appointed a partner at RMF Engineering, based in Baltimore, MD. Andy has been serving as infrastructure electrical group manager and an expert in medium voltage power. As a partner, he will have an increased role in business development efforts for the firm.

Andy is a registered professional engineer in 10 states. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Alfred University.

He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

**Benjamin Lawrence** recently began working in the U.S. government as a Foreign Service Officer with the United States Agency for International Development. Later this year, he will begin a four-year tour in Egypt as a U.S. diplomat.

**Chesa Conrad** was recently appointed manager of marketing and development at the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA).

# ClassNotes

Chesa graduated from Alfred University with a bachelor's in public relations and communications. She has been involved in fundraising and marketing efforts for non-profits for nearly 15 years, having previously worked with organizations such as YMCA of Central Massachusetts, Tufts University, and the National Brain Tumor Society.

Now a resident of Grafton, MA, Chesa joined BIA-MA in 2015 as development manager.

**Steve Harriger** was selected to design RidgeWalk and Run's 25th anniversary poster and tee-shirt design. The RidgeWalk and Run is one of the premier trail events in Western New York. Now organized by University of Rochester/Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville, the event annually attracts as many as 1,000 participants. Steve's design incorporates the art work for the previous 24 years' worth of tee-shirts and posters into a single poster for this year's event.

**Sheree Johnson** always has a "plan B," and she advises others to do likewise in an article published on **entrepreneur.com** entitled, "Never Doubt Yourself, but Always Have a Plan B." [www.entrepreneur.com/article/298241](http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/298241). A communications major at Alfred University, Sheree founded the Alfred Steppas dance team, was a member of Student Senate, and a member of the AU Dance Team. She has worked for several public relations firms, managing international and national clients across the technology, lifestyle, entertainment, finance and health sectors. She is also a published poet. "In a Dark Room... with Highlights of Maroon" was published in April 2014. Sheree is a member of the Women's Leadership Center advisory board.

**Tim Olson**, a registered architect, joined Banwell Architects in April 2017. Prior his current position with Banwell, Tim was based in Walpole, NH, and worked for Bensonwood, a design-build company that specializes in custom high performance prefabricated construction. His employment history includes working for Boston-based architecture firms Cambridge Seven Associates, Inc., and as an intern for Sasaki Associates. Tim currently holds a part time teaching position at Dartmouth College where he teaches a digital architecture workshop series during the spring and fall

terms. Tim attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he graduated in 2011 with a master's in architecture. He earned a BFA from Alfred University in 2003. Tim lives with his wife ,Amy; two sons, Tucker and Maxwell ages 2 and 6; and dog, Cedar in Lebanon, NH.

## 2005

**Daniel Gagnon**, an art teacher at the South Kingstown, RI, school district, has been named the district's "teacher of the year." He now advances to the state competition. He told the *Independent* newspaper, "I was pretty surprised, especially only being seven years in and being in a district with so many phenomenal teachers who dedicated their whole careers to make a positive impact in South Kingstown." Gagnon, who is a photographer, has instilled a love of that medium in "countless students," the district superintendent noted. He began teaching photography and graphic design part-time in 2010, and became full-time in 2011. In addition to his teaching, Daniel is an advisor for the photography and yearbook clubs and runs a social media account that highlights district accomplishments. Gagnon earlier gained acclaim when his photos were featured on "Project Runway."

**Angus Graham** died Aug. 25, 2017, in an accident. According to the police report, his car rolled off a steep embankment near Glendale, OR. Angus had been in the area to watch the solar eclipse earlier that week. Angus had moved to Carbondale, CO, in the summer of 2008 to work with **Alleghany Meadows '99** at the School for Art and Works. In addition to his art, Angus was a ski and snowboard instructor in Aspen, and a member of the Rocky Mountain Division of the Professional Ski Instructors of America. He was originally from Bethel, ME.

## 2007

**Kethia Eliezer** received her bachelor's in biology from Alfred University. After graduation, she taught elementary school science for two years, completed a post-bachelor's program in one more year, and then earned a master's in medical science. She started medical school in June 2013 and graduated from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse NY with an M.D. on May 21, 2017. Keitha started a three-year

residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital at Montefiore in Bronx, NY, starting on July 1.

**Gerardo Schiano** is one of four candidates to fill a District One seat on the City Council in Worcester, MA. He is a current member of the City's Citizens Advisory Council.

Gerardo is a graduate of the New England School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 2012. He is an attorney with the firm Lawson and Weitzen in Boston, and specializes in healthcare and medical malpractice matters.

## 2009

**Ralph E. Jackson** married Abby Graves on May 27, 2017.

## 2010

**Martin Schreiber** recently was married to **Catherine Sahi '13**. The June 25, 2016 wedding was held at the bride's home in Connecticut. The couple is residing in Gainesville, FL, as Catherine completes her doctorate in materials science at the University of Florida.

## 2011

**Samuel Margolis** has been appointed a research and development engineer at Bristol Instruments Inc. In addition to his bachelor's in glass engineering from Alfred University, he earned a master's degree in optics from the University of Rochester.

As part of his graduate studies, Samuel worked on thin-film modeling at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics. Prior to joining Bristol Instruments, he was an optical engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory. In addition, he held the position of process engineer at Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, working on silicon wafer processing and nickel electroforming. He also has prior experience at GE Global Research as a materials scientist.

Moore Family Trust Prize recipient **Meghan Smythe**, who earned her MFA from Alfred University, had a solo exhibition at Mar Moore Gallery in Los Angeles July 10-Aug. 13, 2017, as the recipient of the 2014 Moore Family Trust Prize. The gallery showcases emerging talent each year. From among the exhibitors, a selection committee nominates one featured artist to be considered for the Moore Family Trust Prize, which consists of a cash prize and a gallery exhibition.

## Alpha Kappa Omicron awards recognize student achievement

The sisters of Alfred University's Alpha Kappa Omicron sorority are leading a campaign to fully endow two annual awards presented in collaboration with Alfred University's Beth Robinson Judson '82 Center for Leadership.

The AKO Leadership Awards recognize junior women for their achievements in personal and campus leadership, with the AKO Achievement Award acknowledging excellent academic performance by a sophomore woman and the AKO Social Change Leadership Award honoring a junior-level woman for her leadership through a campus organization.

Fourteen AKO Leadership awardees have been recognized since the awards' inception, according to Abigail Griffith '10, director of the Judson Leadership Center.

AKO sister and AU alumna, Natalie Krauser McCarthy '98, reports the campaign was launched during the Reunion 2017 weekend. "Our sisters decided that the 75th anniversary of our founding was the perfect time to solidify our commitment and set a goal of \$25,000 by 2019," she says.

In partnership with the Alfred University Relations team, AKO is reaching out to the sorority's 400-sister membership to herald this opportunity to invest in young women who show promise as future leaders.

McCarthy and AKO Alumni Council Co-Chair, Danielle Johnson Kutch '03, visited Alfred University in mid-September to review current progress in the campaign and discuss further collaboration with University Relations that will increase support and achieve the sorority's goal in support of the annual awards.



AKO sisters pose for a group photo at Reunion 2017. They were joined by one of their award recipients, Rachel Pera '18, front row, second from left.

McCarthy noted Alpha Kappa Omicron was founded at Alfred University in 1944 in celebration of values historically celebrated by the University: equality, diversity, service, and academic excellence.

"Alpha Kappa Omicron is proud to perpetuate our ideals through the AKO Leadership Awards," she said. "It is exciting to work with the Judson Leadership Center on this activity, particularly because Beth Robinson Judson '82 was an AKO sister and would have been the first female President of the Board of Trustees. We were honored when the Women's Leadership Center was renamed in her honor.

"We salute all of the AKO Leadership awardees and are gratified to play a small role in recognizing and empowering female leaders. We look forward to many more stories of achievement."

**For more information on the campaign,** contact Natalie McCarthy at [natalie@1211prospect.com](mailto:natalie@1211prospect.com) or join the **Alpha Kappa Omicron Facebook group**.

Meghan's work has previously been shown at the Arizona State University Art Museum, and the Gardiner Museum in Toronto. From 2012 until 2014, Meghan was a visiting artist in residence at Cal State University-Long Beach, and she continues to teach ceramic arts there. She is a resident of Long Beach.

### In Memoriam

#### 1940

Rev. Lewis M. Blackmer, July 2, 2017  
Evelyn J. Konanz Timmens Klink, June 7, 2009

#### 1941

Mario A. Carota, June 17, 2017

#### 1943

Joseph D. Broudo, May 23, 2017  
Eugenie G. Stanislaw, April 4, 2017

#### 1944

Elmer S. Fitzsimmons, April 10, 2017

#### 1945

Shirley F. Baldwin Hartman, June 3, 2017

#### 1948

Olive T. Cohen Herstand, Sept. 3, 2017

#### 1949

Richard R. Babcock, Feb. 27, 2017

#### 1949

Dr. Russell L. Langworthy, July 1, 2017

#### 1949

William E. "Bill" Naum, April 16, 2016  
Stanley C. Ruger, July 26, 2017

#### 1950

Joan Bloor Faccioli, Aug. 13, 2017

#### 1951

Paul L. Flurschutz, May 27, 2017

# ClassNotes

## 1951

William M. Gallow Jr., April 20, 2017  
Roger D. Jones, Aug. 2, 2017  
Constantine J. "Gus" Rigas, May 19, 2017

## 1952

Josephine A. "Jody" Perry Conroe, April 6, 2017  
Doris "Jeannine" Crandall Hall, July 24, 2017  
Madeleine P. Bouvier VanCott, Aug. 5, 2017

## 1953

John N. Fasano, July 31, 2017  
Gabriel T. Russo, April 14, 2017

## 1954

Vernon R. Fitzgerald, Dec. 6, 2016  
David C. Hill, Aug. 4, 2017  
Dionne "Dee" E. Michaels Levine, June 11, 2017

## 1955

Francis W. Campbell, June 28, 2017

## 1956

Telesphore L. Charland, July 27, 2017  
Naomi A. Miller Kerwin, June 22, 2017

## 1957

Bert Kohn, May 19, 2017

## 1958

Casper R. "Bud" Pepitone, Dec. 17, 2016

## 1959

Michael J. Selsley, Sept. 2, 2017

## 1960

Richard C. Hacker, Dec. 15, 2016

## 1961

Dr. Jean R. Blanchere, Nov. 2, 2016  
Allen K. Gillette, April 18, 2017  
Glenn M. Morris, May 20, 2016

## 1962

Wayne H. Harrington, April 26, 2017

## 1963

Burton S. Bogart, April 29, 2017  
Sandra L. Conderman, May 3, 2017  
Arthur F. Reinking, Aug. 13, 2017

## 1964

Roberta "Bobbi" J. Kleisley Yazwinski,  
June 1, 2017

## 1965

Suzanne L. Kuehm, June 10, 2017

## 1966

Zackre Finelli, Jr., Aug. 1, 2017

## 1967

Robert J. Dougherty, Aug. 4, 2017

## 1968

Charles A. Richmond, Aug. 30, 2017

## 1968

James K. Stiffler, May 14, 2017

## 1971

Nancy A. McPherson Cushman, July 30,  
2017

## 1973

Arthur J. Haney, March 30, 2017  
Alan G. "Al" Whitney, April 8, 2017

## 1974

Gerald E. Deal, Aug. 5, 2017  
John R. Houseman, May 19, 2017  
Stephen W. Moffett, Aug. 13, 2017

## 1977

Michael J. DeVito, Aug. 28, 2017

## 1980

Mary H. Canty Bogan, Sept. 1, 2017  
Rosalind M. Delaney Digioia, July 24, 2017

## 1988

William J. "Bill" Castle, April 17, 2017

## 1993

Gregory D. Stayer, Sept. 2, 2017

## 2005

Angus L. Graham, Aug. 25, 2017

## Friends

Mario Prisco, dean emeritus of the School of Art and Design and a renowned painter and educator, died Sept. 5, 2017 at Strong Hospital in Rochester, NY.

A Brooklyn native, Prisco earned a BFA in Painting and Illustration from Syracuse University in 1952. He served in the Army as sergeant between 1952 and 1954 during the Korean War. After his service, he returned to Syracuse University and earned an MFA in Painting in 1955. He began his career in art education as a painting instructor at Maine Arts and Crafts, where he taught from 1955 until 1959. He subsequently taught at Nasson College and Moore College of Art, where he served as director of the Division of Fine Arts until 1973.

He joined Alfred University as professor of painting and assistant dean in 1973. He was promoted to associate dean in 1980. He served as dean of the School of Art and Design from 1984 until 1989. He continued to teach until his retirement in 1995. Prisco came out of retirement in 1996 to lead the School, once more, as interim dean, until 1997.

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) recognized Prisco for his distinguished contributions to the organization by conferring on him the honor of NASAD Fellow.

Prisco's works were exhibited and collected internationally. A retrospective of his works spanning 67 years was held in 2014 at the Hornell Community Art Center. Most recently, his drawings and watercolors were shown at the Cohen Gallery in an exhibit titled "Observed and Imagined: Works on Paper by Mario Prisco" and curated by professor Mary McInnes in 2016.

# A lesson in Alfred University history

In Doug Clarke's '01 mind, Alfred and Alfred University can be summarized aptly with one word: "hello."

Clarke joined the Biology Division of Alfred University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2011, bringing with him more than 150 years of family involvement with the Village of Alfred and the University. As President Mark Zupan noted in a recent email, the Clarke family history, together with its involvement in the Seventh Day Baptist Church "sheds light on our University's DNA and what makes it so distinct."



Doug Clarke '01

Dr. John Clarke, Doug's ancestor 12 generations removed, was successful, Zupan observed, "in persuading King Charles II of England to issue a charter creating the Rhode Island colony in 1678, the first of the 13 original colonies to promote complete freedom of political thought and religion.

"John, along with Roger Williams and their followers, founded the colony of Rhode Island

beginning in Newport. The egalitarian nature of their colony's charter is what attracted the Seventh Day Baptists from England. In turn, it was a band of Seventh Day Baptist settlers from Rhode Island who traveled westward to Alfred, New York, and founded what was first called the Alfred Select School, the first institution of higher learning in the nation to admit women on a fully-equal basis with men. In fact, our University's first class had 22 women and 15 men."

Zupan observed the bedrock values embraced by the Seventh Day Baptist Church — a "belief in equality, in acceptance of all people and all manner of thought" — can be boiled down to a simple sentence, which Clarke shared with Zupan during a recent conversation: "It starts with hello."

"The 'Alfred hello' has been a long-standing tradition and is well-known among our alumni," Zupan wrote, adding that first year-students were once required to "greet all faculty members, students, and campus guests with the customary 'hello' or similar greeting."

It was a tradition emerging from the nineteenth century period when Doug Clarke's ancestors sank their roots in the rolling hills and valleys of western New York. Doug's great-grandfather, Alpheus Burdick Kenyon, graduated from Alfred University in 1874 and later joined the faculty as professor of mathematics. He served as registrar, became the University's acting president upon the death of Jonathan Allen, and served a second stint as acting president when then-president Booth Colwell Davis took a leave of absence.



1890s view of campus

*"At Alfred University we accept people for who they are and empower their dreams for making our world a better place, rather than focus on the differences between us. Alumni still recall it; students still feel it; and staff and faculty still live it."*

## President Mark Zupan

Numerous members of Doug's subsequent ancestors became Alfred University students and alumni, including his grandfather, Ford Stillman Clarke (Class of 1910), a professor of Sociology; his grandmother, Agnes Kenyon Clarke Bond (Class of 1909), an instructor of Home Economics; and his father and mother, the Rev. David Clarke '41 and Frances Polan Clarke '42. Doug's former wife, Jeanette, earned a Master's degree from Alfred University in 1990, and their son, Ian '18, is an undergraduate majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry.

All of which makes Doug Clarke an eloquent spokesman for the values that distinguish Alfred University.

"On my morning runs throughout our campus and village, for example," Zupan noted that "I am struck by the exceptionally high percentage of passers-by that greet me with a pleasant hello—a much higher percentage than I experienced on similar runs during earlier times in my life in locales such as Rochester, Tucson, Los Angeles, Boston, and Columbus."

"At Alfred University," Zupan concluded, "we accept people for who they are and empower their dreams for making our world a better place, rather than focus on the differences between us. Alumni still recall it; students still feel it; and staff and faculty still live it."

# Alumni Events



## Upcoming Events

Alfred, NY	Bryan Karl '86 Men's Soccer Alumni Event	10/21/2017
Rochester, NY	More Fire Glass Studio	10/26/2017
Albany, NY		11/2/17
Brooklyn, NY	NYC area	11/3/2017
Olean, NY	AU vs. St. Bonaventure Exhibition Game	11/4/2017
San Francisco, CA		11/8/2017
Boca Raton, FL		3/7/2018
Lockport, NY	St. Patrick's Day	3/11/2018
Alfred, NY	Reunion 2018	6/8-10/2018

To learn more and register for upcoming events, visit

[alfred.edu/alumni](http://alfred.edu/alumni)



# SAXON CIRCLE

## *Enriching the* student experience



The Alfred University Saxon Circle program is in its second year and has made a significant difference in the lives of our students. We are currently at 371 Saxon Circle members which includes 41 faculty/staff and 16 students who have collectively pledged \$8 million over a five-year period to Alfred University.

Senior psychology major, Beryl Torthe (left) became our first student Saxon Circle member last spring to begin giving back to Alfred University. This fall, she decided to take her membership to a new level. Beryl is sponsoring another student's Saxon Circle membership to encourage them to begin their philanthropic journey with the University. Thank you, Beryl!

To learn more about how you can be a part of the Saxon Circle, visit:

[www.alfred.edu/alumni/giving/leadership-giving.cfm](http://www.alfred.edu/alumni/giving/leadership-giving.cfm)

Alfred University

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welcome you home!*

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

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