

# Alfred

M A G A Z I N E

SPRING 2018

Discovering  
Their  
*Passion*

Fenna Mandolang '04





# Alfred

M A G A Z I N E

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

# Alfred

M A G A Z I N E



## Inside

SPRING · 2018

**Above:** Family and friends enjoy the special moments of Commencement.

**Cover Photo:** Fenna Mandolang '04.

Fenna, along with Wes Choy '01 and Trent Cooper '93, each have something in common, beyond the simple fact that they graduated from Alfred University.

Their stories, as told in this issue of the Alfred Magazine, are similar in that each left Alfred and embarked on paths they couldn't have foreseen taking during their four years here.

Alfred University has long encouraged its students to be flexible in their studies, engaging themselves in the wide variety of academic programs available to them. It's a philosophy that has allowed alumni like Fenna Mandolang, Wes Choy and Trent Cooper to go not where their degree says they should go, but rather where their passions would lead them.

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### Fenna Mandolang's journey

from undergraduate student at Alfred University to a job managing the largest single stream recycling operation in Western New York may not have ever begun had it not been for her grandmother's suggestion she meet with an art theory professor at our University.



Fenna Mandolang '04

In 2000, Fenna was on spring break during her senior year at George School, a private boarding school in the Philadelphia suburb of Newtown, PA, and had returned home to Alfred, where her mother, Nadine Hoover, and grandparents, former Alfred University faculty members Dean and Sharon Hoover, lived. She had applied to several colleges, including Alfred University, which at the time she considered to be her "safety school."

"Alfred wasn't my first pick," Fenna, a 2004 Alfred University graduate, said from her office at Buffalo Recycling Enterprises, where she serves as operations manager for the 60-employee facility. "I felt like even if I did end up there, I would go for one or two years, get my gen ed requirements in, and transfer."

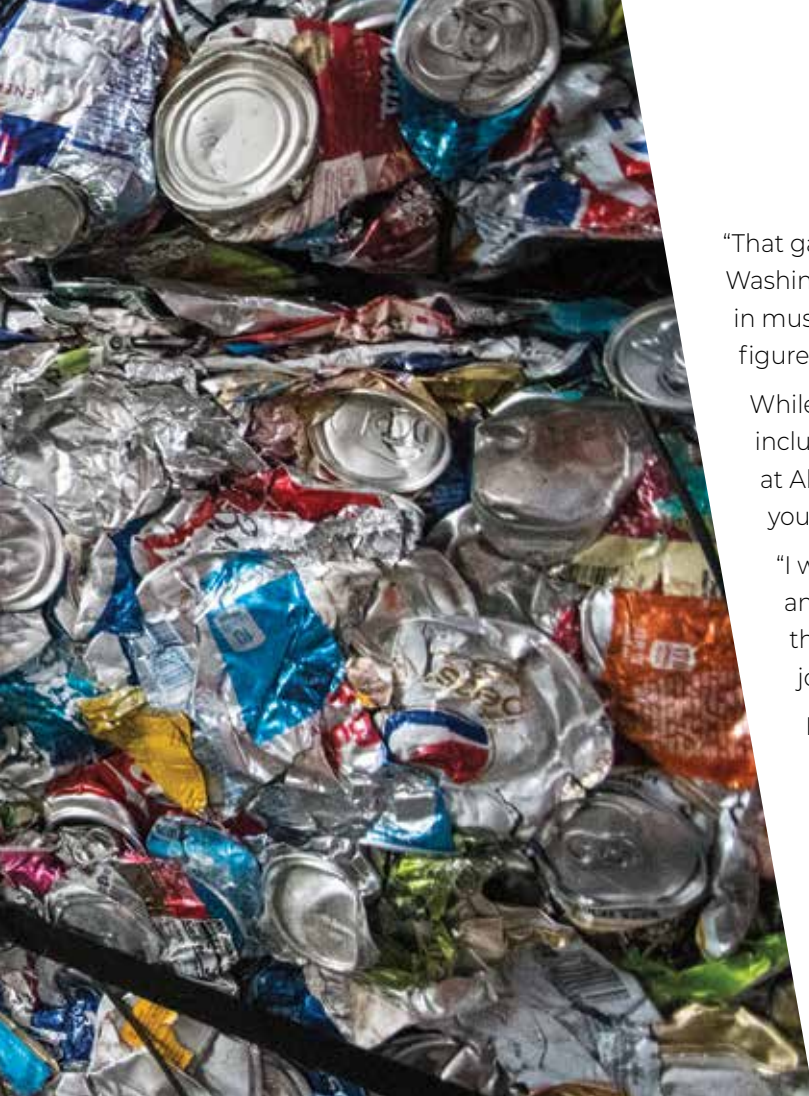
That changed after a meeting with Beth Ann Dobie, then professor of art theory and director of the University's Bachelor of Arts, Fine Arts (BAFA) program, arranged by Mandolang's grandmother. Dobie is now dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"We had the best conversation. I was interested in so many things, but I didn't really know what I wanted to major in. Beth Ann talked to me about my interests and in the end she helped me tie them all together, and I left feeling focused, and invigorated as a learner," Fenna said. "At that point, Alfred went from being my safety school to being my first choice."

By  
Mark  
Whitehouse

Trash





Fenna entered Alfred University in the fall of 2000, enrolled in the BAFA program with art history/art theory as a concentration. She aspired to one day work at an art museum, but was uncertain of the role she would pursue. Wanting to keep her future career options open, she took several math and science classes. An internship at the Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., after her junior year convinced her to seek a career in art curation.

After graduating from Alfred with her BAFA degree, Fenna had a scholarship to attend graduate school at the Art Institute of Chicago, but had also been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. The Fulbright was to her father's native Indonesia, where she would research contemporary Indonesian artists. She deferred the scholarship to the Art Institute of Chicago, but upon returning from Indonesia, learned it would no longer be available.

"That gave me a little pause," Fenna said. She moved to Washington, D.C., and worked in various entry-level positions in museums. "I wanted to keep my foot in the door until I figured out what I wanted to do."

While "evaluating and reassessing" her plans, which included graduate school, Fenna reflected back on her time at Alfred, and also the time she spent in Indonesia as a youngster, and while on the Fulbright.

"I was in the humanities at Alfred, but I took a lot of math and science classes and I enjoyed them. I never realized that I would miss the balance I had in school. I needed a job that had that balance."

Fenna briefly considered civil engineering as a graduate major, but dismissed the notion. "It was too far on the other end of the spectrum" from her previous educational and career aspirations, she explained.

Then, looking back at her time spent in Indonesia, she recalled being struck by the intricacies of how cities are built and the different functions that make a community thrive.

"It was interesting to me: how a city looked, the buildings in relationship to each other in space. I thought about transportation, the buses and traffic, and the trash – all the different community themes," she recalls. "I realized someone makes all those decisions: where the trash is collected, where it goes. Those decisions shape the way we live together. In the end, I felt that urban planning would fulfill my interests, and give me the balance I wanted."

In 2008, Fenna enrolled at the University at Buffalo and in two years earned her master's degree in urban and regional planning. Wanting to remain in Western New York to be close to family, she began applying for municipal planning jobs in the region. Not getting immediate results, and needing an income, she decided to pick up temporary work.

*Continued on page 4*

is **Treasure**



“I felt that would be a good way to get to know Buffalo,” she said. “I’d make some money and get a sampling of different parts of the city.”

In summer 2010, a temporary agency placed Fenna at Buffalo Recycling Enterprises (BRE). “I was excited. Recycling? That’s awesome. I wanted to see how that worked.”

She found that employees there worked five, sometimes six days a week, 10 hours a day. “I came here and saw this is really hard work. But it was very refreshing. It was a whole new world. I grew up in an academic family and was never involved in business. It was interesting.”

Fenna found herself working in virtually every area of the business. She started on the “line,” one of several workers who sort recyclables alongside conveyor belts moving items from a hopper to bins of plastics, metals, glass, cardboard and paper waiting to be baled for re-sale. “It wasn’t long before they took me off the line and taught me the whole operation. I love to learn and they kept me learning.”

She operated forklifts, skid-steers and the baler, and eventually, in 2011, moved into an office setting, filling in for someone on leave. There, she learned the business side of the enterprise: accounting, human resources, sales and shipping. “Here is where my education made a difference. It’s a small operation, so I was able to perform a lot of duties.”

In 2014, she was promoted to assistant general manager and three years later, in 2017, to her current position of operations manager, overseeing the entire facility.

BRE opened in 2009 as Western New York’s first single-stream recycling facility, meaning all materials – paper, cardboard, plastics, metals and glass – come in together and are sorted on-site. It is part of Modern Corp., a group of privately owned and operated recycling and waste companies based in Lewiston, NY, which employs more than 650 workers in Western New York and Southern Ontario, Canada.

BRE operates from a 62,000 square-foot facility in Buffalo, collecting and sorting recyclable materials from Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, and Southern Ontario. In 2017, the company collected and processed more than 75,000 tons of recyclables.

Fenna agrees that the success she has enjoyed professionally is due in part to her time at Alfred University, and that impressionable first meeting with a caring and compassionate professor.





*“At Alfred, there is strength across the disciplines, and it gave me flexibility.”*

“Alfred invests in its students. You can do different things at Alfred. The faculty is encouraging. You learn how to learn...How to process information and analyze. That has definitely helped me here.”

She said her coursework at Alfred University, which was anything but compartmentalized, had a diversity that helped her pursue and excel in a career she could hardly have foreseen during her time as a student.

“At Alfred, there is strength across the disciplines, and it gave me flexibility. (Alfred) is a small school, but it gives you all the resources you need to learn. Alfred prepared me to be flexible and be able to tackle many challenges.”

*Above: Fenna oversees the paper presort conveyor line.*



*Left: Fenna confers with loader operator Ron Carr, as he shifts tons of materials in preparation for the sorting operation that soon follows.*



DISCOVERING THEIR PASSION

# AN ALUM'S JOURNEY



**Wes Choy '01** has traveled a long, ever changing road since graduating from Alfred University. It has taken him in and out of the profession for which he studied in college, on an 18-month bicycle trek across the United States, through culinary school, and into the Alaskan frontier, where he is executive chef at a restaurant with breathtaking views of Denali National Park.







TO THE FINAL

# Food Frontier

By Mark Whitehouse

**W**es has been at the Foraker Dining Room at Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge, about 100 miles north of Anchorage, for four years, the last two as executive chef. In January, he appeared on the Travel Channel's popular program, *Food Paradise*, in an episode titled "The Last Food Frontier," which featured chefs at popular Alaskan restaurants.

Seventeen years after leaving Alfred, he has clearly found his niche. So how did Wes, who earned a bachelor's degree in accounting at Alfred University, wind up working at a restaurant in one of the most scenic places on the planet? As Wes explains, the desire to be in the kitchen was developed at a young age, when he was growing up near New York City. His father, Wing Choy, was an accountant who worked with restaurants in the city, and Wes would often accompany him when he visited on business.

"He helped me get jobs in restaurants – busing tables,

washing dishes, preparing food – when I was in high school," Wes explained. "So I've always had an interest."

Wes came to Alfred in the fall of 1997, enrolled in the College of Business as an accounting major. He was recruited to play football and wound up starting four seasons on the Saxons' offensive line, serving as a team captain his senior year. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting, Wes worked five years as a certified public accountant for the Freed Maxick accounting firm in Buffalo.

In 2006, Wes made the decision to leave the accounting profession to open a sushi restaurant in Buffalo. "Cooking had always been a passion of mine. As my career in accounting progressed, I realized how much I loved to cook and decided to move away from accounting. Cooking at home, and watching cooking shows on TV got me thinking about being in the kitchen and drove me to pursue it."

His father had talked to him in the past about getting into the restaurant business and offered to

be his partner. Wes would run the kitchen; his dad would handle the business end. "He helped set me up in the business. I was learning on the job, watching our sushi chef work. It inspired my passion for preparing and plating food," Wes said.

In 2008, Wes's father passed away and, soon after, his desire to be in the kitchen waned. "It was overwhelming, and I was in mourning. It was a big loss for me and I needed to step back," he recalled.

Wes sold the restaurant and made a brief return to the accounting field, but in 2009 left the profession for good. In the wake of his father's passing, he felt the need to reflect on his life, and wanting to learn more about his Chinese heritage (his parents had emigrated to the States from China) he embarked on an 18-month bicycle trip across the country. The journey – which took him from Buffalo to Boston, Miami, San Diego, Seattle, and back to Buffalo – would help define Wes's career as a chef.

*Continued on page 8*



**“At Alfred,**



Nearly a decade after beginning his cross-country bike trip of self-reflection, Wes is exactly where he wants to be.



*Wes provided the above snapshot of his bicycle journey for the 2009 edition of the online Alfred Magazine.*

At various stops along his route through the country, he would go to restaurants and volunteer his services, or “stage.” By “staging,” Wes explained, an aspiring chef will exchange free work – for weeks at a time in some cases – for the opportunity to learn new cooking techniques. His travels throughout the country gave him the chance to learn a wide variety of cooking techniques.

“I learned so much from so many people in so many different settings: from fine dining establishments to barbecue stands, from home cooking to highly technical ways of preparing food. It really broadened my horizons.”

Wes’s trek was interrupted by side trips to Hong Kong, where he learned Chinese cooking techniques, and

to Hawaii to attend a cousin’s wedding. While in Hawaii he learned to prepare dishes native to the Islands.

When his bicycle trip – or, as Wes calls it, his “adventure” – ended in 2010, he was fully committed to pursuing a career in cooking. He enrolled at the Vancouver Culinary Arts College in Canada, choosing Vancouver because of a diverse culture that was reflected in its restaurants. After completing his formal training, Wes got a job at the world-renowned Hawksworth restaurant, which had perhaps the greatest influence on his career as a chef.

“The many amazing chefs that worked at the Hawksworth introduced me to the cutting edge of culinary techniques and philosophies,” Wes says. “With the restaurant scene in Vancouver, they shared my passion for combining Asian foods and



## ***I was able to be a complete, overall student.***

*Alfred did that for me, helped me to be flexible and balanced.”*

ingredients with European cooking techniques and styles, and vice versa.”

While in Vancouver, Wes got a phone call from an old friend and classmate from Alfred, Chris Ungaro '01, who at the time was living and working in Las Vegas. “Chris told me he was thinking about opening a restaurant and wanted to know if I wanted to be his partner,” Wes recalled. In January 2013, he packed up and moved to Las Vegas, where he and Ungaro opened Pasta Fresh, a restaurant that made pasta dishes to order, utilizing fresh, locally-grown ingredients. “We were open about a year. We did OK, not the greatest, and we wound up selling it.”

It wasn't long before Wes landed his dream job.

“I had some time to think about what I wanted to do. From my time in Vancouver, I had always wanted to work at a fishing lodge,” he said, referring to hotels that cater to recreational fishing. “I'd been interested in Alaska, so I Googled ‘Alaskan fishing lodges’ and the first one that came up was the Talkeetna.”

He applied for a position at the Talkeetna and in 2014 was hired as a sous chef in the Foraker Dining Room. The promotion to his current position of executive chef came two years later. Nearly a decade after beginning his cross-country bike trip of self-reflection, Wes is exactly where he wants to be. “It's amazing

here. The summers are just like fall back in Alfred. It really is the last frontier,” he said.

Looking back on his time in college, he sees how the four years he spent at Alfred University helped shape his life and prepare him for a job in one of the most wide-open places in the world.

“I was a New York City kid before I came to Alfred. Moving to Alfred was surreal, but it felt great. After visiting I knew I wanted to go there. Being in that location really opened my mind to what living in a rural setting can be like,” he said. “At Alfred, I was able to be a complete, overall student. Alfred did that for me, helped me to be flexible and balanced.”





# Lights, camera,



**TRENT COOPER'S CAREER** in filmmaking has undergone a complete transformation since he made his directorial debut in 2006 with the eponymously titled comedy *Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector*. A dozen years after the film's release, Trent's work has moved to the other end of the cinematic spectrum, from the lowbrow humor of *Health Inspector* to hard-hitting, critically-acclaimed documentaries that highlight the human struggle and shine a light on issues of social injustice.

By Mark Whitehouse



Trent Cooper '93 (left) oversees filming of one of his latest projects, about athletes excelling despite the challenges of physical disabilities. All photos provided by Trent Cooper.

# ...action

“I’ve gotten to tell inspirational and emotional stories about people who’ve gone through something difficult,” said Cooper '93.

“I’m doing something I’m very passionate about. It’s a really exciting time for me.”

Trent is a producer of original content for the National Football League. The subject of his most recent film is Shaquem Griffin, who at the age of four had his left hand amputated but grew up to become a star linebacker at the University of Central Florida and a promising NFL prospect. “It’s such a great story,” he said of the Griffin piece, which was released on the NFL Network in late April.

The narrative, told from the first-person perspective, chronicles Griffin’s life from the time he was a young child to the present. It is a story of perseverance and overcoming the most difficult of obstacles in pursuit of a dream. The voice-overs for the script are shared by Griffin and numerous youngsters.

“You hear this chorus of voices – kids’ voices – and later learn they all have limb challenges of their own and are competing in mainstream sports against able-bodied athletes,” Trent explained. “His (Griffin’s) story is their story...It’s really inspiring.”

Trent produced a pair of NFL 360 short documentaries that came out last fall. One of the NFL 360 pieces, *On a Mission*, tells the story of Konrad Reuland, an undrafted free agent tight end who played for three seasons in the NFL and died in 2016 after suffering an aneurysm. Reuland was an organ donor and his heart saved the life of Hall of Fame baseball player Rod Carew. His tissue and organ donations saved or impacted the lives of more than 75 others.

The Konrad Reuland story came on the heels of last year’s *Us Against the World*, a 10-part series he directed for Uproxx Studios.

*Continued on page 12*



*Us Against the World* follows the lives of a handful of promising minority high school basketball players who re-locate to Lott's Creek, KY, to play at Cordia High School for coach Rodrick Rhodes, a former NBA player. Hoping to escape the violence of their inner city hometowns in New York City and New Jersey (one player is a refugee from Africa) and use basketball as a means to go to college, the youngsters find themselves subjected to racial intolerance.

Rhodes, an African American, was hired in 2011 to coach Cordia – arguably the worst high school team in the region – and five years later led the Lions to a Kentucky state championship. Within days, the school board opted not to renew Rhodes' contract and many believe race played a factor in the board's decision. Most of the documentary follows Cordia's players as they attempt to defend their state title without their coach on the bench.

In an on-campus presentation last October, where he screened portions of *Us Against the World* and engaged in a discussion with students, Trent said he was upset to learn how Rhodes and the Cordia players were mistreated. "When I see situations like this, it makes me angry," he said, noting that he has a unique platform – filmmaking – he can use to shine a light on social injustice and advocate for change. In his profession, it's a role he embraces.

"It's no secret: I'm a white male. With these stories (of social injustice), there is an opportunity for them to explode and reach



*Trent Cooper '93, on the set of a recent film project.*

a larger audience. I believe it's helpful when a white person looks at a story and it upsets them in the same way it upsets a person of color. When that happens on a large scale, it shows we're growing and things are changing," he said.

*Us Against The World* recently won Cynopsis Awards for Best Television Documentary Series and Best Sports Media Documentary Series. Three of Trent's works have been nominated for 2018 Sports Emmy Awards: *Us Against the World*, for Best Documentary Series; *On a Mission*, for Best Editing; and *NFL 360*, for Best Sports News Anthology. The Emmy Awards will be announced in May in New York City.

Trent didn't always aspire to a career making films. He came from his native Florida to Alfred University in the late 1990s, as much as anything to play football. He chose political science as a major because he wanted to become a lawyer.

Trent's interest in law would eventually fade, as a potential career in film began to come into focus. After graduating from Alfred with a bachelor's degree in political science, he took a job as a marketing assistant with a production company in Tampa, FL, where he stayed two years before moving on to a corporate communications firm in Denver, CO, producing and directing

regional television commercials. Filmmaking remained on the distant horizon.

"Making films wasn't even on my radar when I was at Alfred. It was five years after I got out of school that I realized making films is what I wanted to do," Trent said. "One day I happened to stumble onto a film production site, saw the dollies and the lights, and said, 'Wow!...I want to do that.'"

In 1998, Trent moved to New York City and started his own production company. He made commercials for the likes of DirectTV, the National Football League and ESPN. One of his works – *The Comeback*, a comedic short film he co-wrote and directed for ESPN's ESPY Awards, starring noted Hollywood actor Samuel L. Jackson – set him on the road to success as a filmmaker.

*The Comeback*, about a 55-year-old man in search of redemption as a Pee-Wee football coach, was a hit at festivals around the world, winning the award for Best Short Film at HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival. The film caught the attention of Hollywood film producer Alan Blomquist and in 2006, Blomquist chose Cooper to direct *Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector*.

*Health Inspector* was considered the "breakout indie comedy of the year" in 2006. Produced at a cost of only \$3 million, the film made a modest \$16 million at the box office, but took in \$42 million in DVD sales.

After Trent directed *Father of Invention*, a 2010 independent comedy-drama that was an official selection of the Berlin International Film Festival, his work began

## "I've gotten to tell inspirational and emotional stories about people who've gone through something difficult"

to shift to more serious films centered on sports. He helped direct the Emmy Award-winning documentary, *All or Nothing: A Season with the Arizona Cardinals* for Amazon Studios. The series – which won a 2017 Sports Emmy for Outstanding Serialized Sports Documentary – presented an inside look at the lives of Cardinals players, coaches and owners over the course of the 2016 NFL season.

In 2017, Trent produced *The Conversation*, which followed sports journalist Jeffri Chadiha as he traveled across the country, examining the impact of former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's national anthem protest.

The intense subject matter of *The Conversation* and *Us Against The World* took an emotional toll on Trent and after the project was completed, he needed a change of direction to "recharge his batteries."

"I really needed a break. I needed to tell some stories that were a little more hopeful and optimistic – triumphs of the human spirit," he said. The two *NFL 360* features fit the bill, and wrapped up a whirlwind 2017 for Trent.

He also produced some short pieces for the NFL in advance of February's Super Bowl LII. His favorite, *The Super Bowl of Celebrations*, starred comedian Keegan-Michael Key, playing the role of Boogie Down Brown, a touchdown celebration consultant.

"That was a blast. I really got to go back to my comedy roots," said Trent, 46, who lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Shannon, and their 15-year-old son, George. He is living his dream making films for a living, but in the dog-eat-dog world of his chosen profession, he knows he has to hustle and work hard every day.

"There's nothing that glamorous about what I do," he said. "It's ridiculously competitive. It's really hard to be good at; it's really hard to get your opportunities; and it's really hard to cash in on them."

Success in Trent's career has required hard work, determination and perseverance, the importance of which he learned as a student at Alfred University.

"We're up there (in Alfred), kind of in the middle of nowhere. It's cold, there's not a lot to do, so you have to make your own fun. But you grind and you work hard. I think we hustle and work harder at Alfred," said Trent, who was a Delta Sigma Phi brother at Alfred University. "At some schools, you come out with a degree that's got a lot of built-in cache, and you feel like you can waltz in and get a job wherever you want. The attitude you get from Alfred is, 'I'm going to work harder than anyone else to get what I want.'"



## TERRY GALANIS SR., CLASS OF 1940

# 100 years young

By  
Mark  
Whitehouse

One of Alfred University's oldest living alumni, more than three decades removed from the age when most would be enjoying retirement, still comes into work most every day. For Terry Galanis Sr. '40, who in February celebrated his 100th birthday, the reason is simple.

"I have to have something to do," he said from his office at Sealing Devices Inc., the company he founded more than a half-century ago. "This is my life. This is what I've been doing for 55 years."

"He's wanted to leave a couple times, but I wouldn't let him," jokes his son, Terry Jr., who joined Sealing Devices in 1972 and assumed the company presidency in 1983.

Terry Sr. started Sealing Devices from his family's home in the Buffalo suburb of Alden, more than two decades after graduating from Alfred with a degree in ceramic engineering. He and Terry Jr. (a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees) have overseen more than five decades of sustained growth as Sealing Devices has become one of the most successful family-owned businesses in the region.

Today, Terry Sr. serves as chairman of Sealing Devices, a manufacturer and distributor of O-rings, gaskets and seals. He comes to the office regularly, greeting employees who now number more than 200. The first thing he does after settling into his office is turn on his computer to



Caption

*Coming to work at Sealing Devices, as he has most every business day for the last five-plus decades, has helped keep Terry Galanis Sr. '40 young.*

check his investments. This helps him prepare a monthly newsletter he sends to friends and family, offering advice on the stock market.

Terry Jr. explained that after his father turned 65 and handed him the day-to-day operations of the business, "he started doing things he wanted to do. He got involved with marketing and pursued his passion for the stock market."

That passion dates back to the earlier days of Sealing Devices, when Terry Sr. set up a profit-sharing program. "The biggest thing I ever did for this business was set up that program for the employees," he commented.

Treating employees well has always been a priority at Sealing Devices, first under Terry Galanis Sr. and still today under Terry Jr. It's a sentiment borne from the elder Galanis's days at Alfred University, when as a struggling student he was shown empathy and caring and given every chance to succeed.

Terry Sr. arrived at Alfred University in 1935 and enrolled that fall as a ceramic engineering major. Needing a job to help pay for college, he worked nights at the Collegiate restaurant, but found that work hours cut into study time and his grades suffered. At the end of his sophomore year, he failed out of school.

After taking a semester off, he re-enrolled at Alfred University in the spring of 1938, intent on bringing his grades up. "My marks didn't go up enough, so I got another letter (at the end of the spring semester) asking me to leave," Terry Sr. explained.

One of Terry Sr.'s instructors at the time, chemistry professor Dr. Murray J. Rice – who he described as "the most feared professor among juniors" – intervened on his behalf, encouraging him to go before the academic review board and plead his case. He did, and ultimately was allowed to stay in school.

"Thanks to Dr. Rice," he said. "Here was this guy who was the nemesis of all the juniors, and he's the one who saved me from getting thrown out. I worked hard and got my grades up."

The experience left an impression on Terry Sr., who two years later would earn his diploma.

"With all the problems I had, I always felt that there were so many people at Alfred University who were concerned about me," he said. "The way they would listen to me...they were very caring and compassionate."

He said later, after he had started Sealing Devices, he would send a card to Dr. Rice every Christmas, outlining what he had done over the previous year. "I know he read it and was happy. I never got a reply, but I know he read it and said, 'you know, there was something in that guy worth working for.'"

After graduation, Terry Sr. worked briefly at the Buffalo Arms plant on

Broadway, which made machine guns used in fighting during World War II. He was drafted into the Army in 1942 and served three years in Europe until the war's end.



*Terry Galanis Sr. starting out as an entrepreneur in 1963.*

He worked at Gates Rubber Company in Buffalo – first as an office engineer, then in sales – from 1946 until 1951, when he accepted a sales position with Hercules Packing. He remained with Hercules until 1962, when he was offered a franchise to distribute O-rings for Parker Seal Company. Sealing Devices was incorporated in 1963, when Terry Sr. bought \$157 in inventory and set up shop in their Alden home.

Now located on Walden Avenue in the Buffalo suburb of Lancaster, the company's total office, warehouse and manufacturing space is 175,000 square feet, and annual sales top \$64 million. The company serves the industrial, aerospace, automotive and telecommunication markets and has branch offices in Erie, PA (opened in 1970), Syracuse (1973), and Rochester (1980).

Did Terry Sr. ever envision his company would enjoy this type of success?

"God, no," he says. "Some people say you planned this or you planned that. How can you plan some of the things we're doing?"

Terry Sr. credits his time at Alfred University for helping him succeed as a businessman. Among the life's lessons he says he learned at Alfred: overcoming adversity, meeting challenges, and the importance of a sound work ethic. "I did a lot of growing up at Alfred," he noted.

The Galanises have been generous supporters of Alfred University. For years, they teamed with Alfred University to sponsor the Galanis Awards for Excellence in Family Business, recognizing the top family-owned firms in the region while shining a spotlight on Alfred University's College of Business.

In 2006, the Galanises funded a full-time junior varsity coach's position for the Saxon football team that remains in place today. And, in 2014, renovations to the gymnasium at McLane Center were unveiled. The project replaced the original court surface; traded wooden plank seating for composite bleachers in Alfred University purple; and installed a new state-of-the-art sound system. Combined with the modern bleachers and the new floor – with large Saxon logos marking each end of the court – the Galanis Family Arena is in stunning contrast to the older facility. "One of the things my dad and I are most proud of is the gymnasium at Alfred," Terry Jr. said.



# news digest



*The current exhibition in the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum is Cristina Córdova's JUNGLA and is on display through July 29, 2018. Also on view is Mysteries of Place, Selected Prints from the Institute of Electronic Arts, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, featuring the work of Elisabeth Pellathy, Lee Somers and Scott Stephens.*

## Love of Alfred and Art focuses on the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum

His love of Alfred University and his hometown of Alfred is one reason Phil Baker '58 made a gift of stock earlier this year, which will be divided between Alfred University and the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum.

For Phil, this was an opportunity to “invest in the future of Alfred University and the Art Museum.” This and earlier gifts “underscore my faith in the future” of both, he said. Helping the University and the Museum to thrive is necessary for the continued well-being of the town.

The gift also underscores a point important to Phil: “Most alumni cannot come up with gifts in the million-dollar range, but many can come up with significant contributions that further the good health of the University.” Smaller amounts, given over a period of time through the Saxon Circle, for example, can also accomplish much for the University, he said.

Phil lives in Washington, D.C., and is retired from Stamford (CT) public schools, where he served as coordinator of library media programs before ending his career as director of curriculum and instruction.

## Miller makes gift in honor of Phillip Tefft to renovate namesake's residence hall

When Marlin Miller, Jr. '54, H '89 joined the Alfred University Board of Trustees in 1972 as an alumni-elected trustee, the then-chair, Phillip W. Tefft '39, H '75, taught Miller what it was to be a board member, and a philanthropist.

In honor of his mentor, Miller has committed \$2 million to renovate Tefft Hall, a four-story brick residence hall built in 1963. Tefft Hall is named for C. Forrest Tefft, Phillip Tefft's father and a 1914 graduate of Alfred University.

Miller is the longest-serving member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees and the University's most-generous donor. His previous gifts have built the Miller Performing Arts Center and the Miller Theater, as well as the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, reflecting his commitment to the arts at Alfred University.

He endowed the directorship of the Museum in honor of Wayne Higby, its current director and chief curator; the Robert C. Turner Professorship in Ceramic Art; and the Ted Randall Chair for international visiting artists. Miller also endowed a dance residency program for the Division of Performing Arts, and created the Marcianne Mapel Miller fund for ceramic art in honor of his late first wife, who earned a BFA in ceramic art from Alfred University.

Miller and his wife Ginger reside in Reading, PA. The Millers are members of the Society of Benefactors at Alfred University.

## Torthe and Gee named 2018 Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors



*Outstanding seniors Beryl Torthe and Logan Gee*

Beryl Torthe and Logan Gee are recipients of the 2018 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award. Beryl and Logan were honored at commencement ceremonies on May 12 and addressed the graduating class, faculty, administration, trustees and guests.

Beryl, from Pretoria, South Africa, earned a bachelor's degree in psychology (clinical focus) with designation as an Alfred University Scholar. She is a member of several academic honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa and Chi Alpha Sigma. An accomplished writer, Beryl won the Gertz Award for Excellence in Academic Writing in 2015.

Logan is a resident of Nunda, NY, who earned her bachelor's degree in communication studies and English. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Tau Delta honor societies, as well as the Alfred University Honors Program. Logan, who served two years as editor-in-chief of the Fiat Lux student newspaper, won the Cifford Hopkins Writing Prize in 2017.

Winners of the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award are nominated by faculty, students and staff, and chosen on the basis of scholarship, extracurricular achievement, personal character and conduct. 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.

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## Gills recipients of 2018 Renwick Distinguished Craft Educator Awards

John Gill, professor of ceramic art at Alfred University, and Andrea Gill, retired professor of ceramic art, were named recipients of 2018 James Renwick Alliance Distinguished Craft Educator Awards.

The Renwick Alliance is an independent national non-profit organization that celebrates the achievements of America's craft artists and fosters scholarship, education, connoisseurship and public appreciation of craft art. Distinguished Craft Educators Awards are based on the recipient's reputation for excellence and innovation in education, influence on future artists in an education program, and significant contributions to American education in the craft field.

Previous honorees with ties to Alfred University include Ken Ferguson, MFA '58 (awarded in 2000); Wayne Higby, professor of ceramic art, director and curator of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum (2002); William Carlson, MFA '76 (2004); and Don Reitz, MFA '63 (2006).

The Gills began teaching at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 1984. Andrea Gill retired after the 2016-17 academic year. The husband-and-wife tandem has been active in summer instructional programs and at



*Andrea and John Gill*

workshops around the country throughout their teaching careers. In 2014, Andrea Gill started the Alfred Ceramic Summer Workshops, held in conjunction with the Alfred University-hosted MostArts Festival.



## Cohen and McPherson receive honorary degrees at 2018 Commencement



Don McPherson MS '84, Ph.D. '88, H '18

Alfred University President Mark Zupan named McPherson one of the initial recipients of the Fiat Lux! Awards in October 2016. McPherson also delivered the Commencement address to the Class of 2018.



Michele Cohen H '18

are providing seed money for the APEX program that will ensure every Alfred University student has the means to have an applied or experiential learning experience before graduating.

Alfred University awarded two honorary degrees at the May 12 Commencement. The University bestowed a Doctor of Science degree, honoris causa, to Don McPherson MS '84, Ph.D. '88, co-founder and chief science officer at EnChroma Labs; and a Doctor of Arts degree, honoris causa, to Michele Cohen, a member of the Board of Trustees and chair of its Student Affairs Committee.

McPherson was recognized for his ground-breaking work in developing lenses that correct most forms of "color-blindness," which affects more than 300 million people around the world. He holds numerous patents, and has received National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, and other grant funds to further his research.

Cohen, a member of the Board of Trustees since 2001, was honored for her passion for the arts at Alfred University and her commitment to improving the lives of Alfred University students. She and her husband, Marty, have been creative and generous supporters of the arts at Alfred, creating the Cohen Art Center for the first-year Foundations program and the Cohen Gallery to spotlight alumni artists; sponsoring several senior shows in New York City for our students, and most recently, establishing an endowed deanship for the School of Art and Design.

She has been a strong advocate for programs that enhance and enrich the student experience at Alfred University. The Cohens

## 4+1 MBA initiatives to enhance opportunities for students

Alfred University announced a pair of major initiatives that will expand the University's appeal, greatly enhancing educational opportunities and emphasizing the skills students need to succeed in the 21st century.

A renewed emphasis has been placed on the 4+1 MBA program, which will meet the demands of a marketplace that requires students graduate with a comprehensive list of skills needed to thrive in today's dynamic economy. The 4+1 MBA program's structure best ensures students will earn their undergraduate degree in four years and complete Master of Business Administration degree requirements in one year.

The University is emphasizing the 4+1 program's availability to students enrolled in the Inamori School of Engineering, the School of Art and

**4+1  
MBA**

Design, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in all majors, with only

two exceptions — athletic training and education — due to their curriculum requirements.

Alfred University also entered into an affiliation agreement with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, in which LECOM's College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy and School of Dental Medicine will offer provisional early acceptance to qualified AU students.

High school seniors planning to matriculate at Alfred University, or existing Alfred University students in their first or sophomore years, will hold a provisional reserved seat at one of LECOM's professional schools upon successful completion of an interview. Students can then pursue their required undergraduate coursework at Alfred University.

## MostArts Festival to celebrate its fifth anniversary in July 2018

Alfred University is gearing up for the fifth annual MostArts Festival, a week-long celebration of music and art scheduled for July 8-14.

Events scheduled throughout the week will include a number of musical performances and concerts, and art exhibitions will be open in the University's museums and galleries. There will be workshops and demonstrations focusing on music and art, creative writing, and gardening.

Among the headlining musical performers will be Grammy Award-winning piano soloist Angelin Chang and the 2017 MostArts Young Pianist Competition grand prize winner, Alice Zhang, will be featured soloist, performing Chopin's Piano Concert No. 1 at the Festival's Opening Gala on July 8.

Spectators will not want to miss the extraordinary talents of the eight finalists in the 2018 Young Pianist Competition, who will perform accompanied by the MostArts Festival Orchestra. The Orchestra will be led by Maestro Yuval Zaliouk, internationally-renowned conductor.



For more information on the 2018 Festival or to purchase tickets, please visit [mostarts.alfred.edu](http://mostarts.alfred.edu). Ticket inquiries can also be made by emailing [MostArts@alfred.edu](mailto:MostArts@alfred.edu) or by calling Lisa Lantz, professor of music at Alfred University and artistic director for the MostArts Festival, at 607-871-2569.

## New Stonewall Fund to assist students with needs due to discrimination

Rick Russo '92 and his spouse, Luis Lifschitz, created The Stonewall Fund at Alfred University to assist students in need who cannot rely on their families due to discrimination or intolerance with respect to their sexual and/or gender identity. The income from the endowed fund will provide assistance with food, housing, basic healthcare, textbooks, transportation or other emergency needs.

Rick is currently the associate vice chancellor of undergraduate education at the University of California at Berkeley and sees students struggling on a daily basis to meet financial needs. He knows the problem is exacerbated when the student is cut off from help from his or her family, and how difficult it can be for an LGBTQX student to fit in and thrive in college.

Donations to the Stonewall Fund, which Russo and Lifschitz will match up to \$25,000, may be made by visiting [alumni.alfred.edu/giving/specific-donations](http://alumni.alfred.edu/giving/specific-donations) and choosing "Stonewall Fund" in the drop-down menu. Checks may also be sent to Alfred University, 1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802. Please mention "Stonewall Fund" in either the memo line on the check or in the cover letter. Additional information about the Stonewall Fund may be obtained by contacting Amy Jacobson at [jacobsona@alfred.edu](mailto:jacobsona@alfred.edu) or calling her 607-871-2144.



*Rick Russo '92 and Luis Lifschitz*



# saxon athletics



## Two Saxons earn All-America honors

Senior **Seth Spicer**, left, stormed his way to his second career All-American performance in March at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field championships in Birmingham, AL.

Seth finished eighth in the men's heptathlon with a score of 4,973 points as he earned All-American designation (top eight) for the second time in his career (he placed fourth at the 2017 NCAA Indoor Championships).

Seth said of his finish, "Not quite as sweet as last time. Eighth certainly isn't as good as fourth, but I got to take something home, so I'm happy with it."

The student-athlete from Corning, NY opened the second day of competition in eighth place. He moved up to seventh following the 60-meter hurdles, but dropped out of the top eight, into ninth, after the pole vault. Seth was clutch in the final event, the 1,000-meter run, turning in a personal-best time to place eighth overall and earn a spot on the podium.

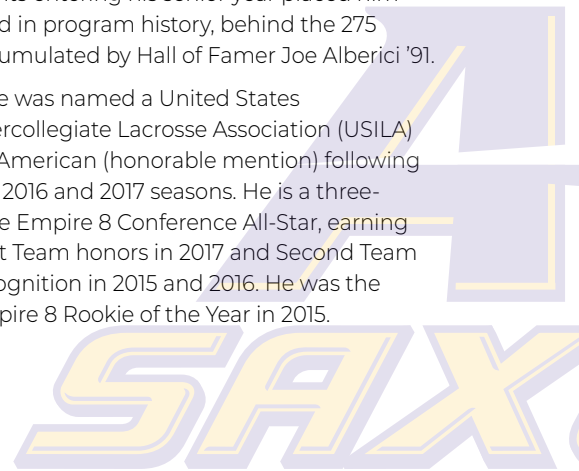


Alfred University senior attackman **Jake Lynch**, left, the all-time leading goal scorer in Saxon team history, was selected to the 2018 Inside Lacrosse Preseason All-American team. Jake, who was named a preseason honorable mention pick, was also named a preseason All-American prior to his junior season in 2017.

Jake played and started in all 14 games in 2017 and led the team in goals (45), assists (23) and points (68). His nine goals in a win over SUNY Canton tied a school single-game record.

He is currently the all-time leading goal scorer at Alfred University, entering the 2018 season with 153 goals. His 210 career points entering his senior year placed him third in program history, behind the 275 accumulated by Hall of Famer Joe Alberici '91.

Jake was named a United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) All-American (honorable mention) following the 2016 and 2017 seasons. He is a three-time Empire 8 Conference All-Star, earning First Team honors in 2017 and Second Team recognition in 2015 and 2016. He was the Empire 8 Rookie of the Year in 2015.



# From Quarterbacks to Cancer: Kohler Sacks the Opposition

By Brandon Harrison '16

**O**n what would be just another wintry day in January in Alfred, NY, Alfred University sophomore Russell Kohler laid in a hospital bed in New York City. But it was not just another day; it was a life-changing day for both Russell and a stranger in need of a bone marrow transplant.

Lucky was how Kohler felt as he lay in bed at the New York Blood Center. "It happened so quickly," he said with a shrug. "I know a lot of guys that didn't get phone calls and others that weren't matches. I was just lucky enough to be a match."

Russell entered the "Be the Match" registry on April 26, 2017, at an on-campus event hosted by the Alfred University football team.

"(Be A Match) came to campus and told us what they were about and I'm really happy they did, said Russell, a defensive lineman for the Saxons. "We were off-season, lifting and talking about (donating) being a good thing to do and what we'd do if we were chosen. But based on what they said, the odds are you won't get chosen."

During the event, 192 individuals stepped forward to participate, with approximately 100 football players taking part. Russell is the first to be a 100 percent match from that day.

"When we originally decided to work with 'Be the Match,' our goal was to be able to put our young men in a position to truly make a difference by saving someone's life," Head Football Coach Bob Rankl stated. "When Russell told me that he had been contacted and he was preparing to be a donor, I couldn't have been prouder of him. He was very eager to do it and not concerned about the sacrifices he had to make. This is what it's all about."

"I know a lot of people that think they need to drill into your bone and take out the marrow, but that's not the case," Russell explained. "They give you medication that stimulates the marrow in your blood and the platelets, which they can then make into stem cells and bone marrow for the patient. The initial injections hurt a little bit because they're not small, but you do it. It really was not that big of a deal in my opinion. It was just doing the right thing."

"Be a Match" is operated by the National Marrow Donor



Russell Kohler '20

*"You may not be a match, but if you are, you could change a person's life or their whole family's life."*

Program (NMDP) and began in 1987 and has grown to become a leader in unrelated bone marrow transplant donations. To date, "Be the Match" has facilitated 80,000 marrow and cord blood transplants, treating diseases such as leukemia, anemia, immunodeficiency, sickle cell and various metabolic disorders. Russell's match was a 50-year-old male diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Both parties will remain anonymous for one year, at which time, the patient will receive Russell's information and given the opportunity to reach out.

"I would hope that more people could start finding these organizations, so they can learn more about the process and get involved," Russell said. "You may not be a match, but if you are, you could change a person's life or their whole family's life."





The Alfred Rugby club team celebrated claiming the 2017 National Small College Rugby Organization (NSCRO) Upstate Championship. Alfred Rugby, comprised of students from Alfred University and Alfred State College, went 9-2 on the season and ascended to 18th in the NSCRO national Top 40 rankings. Shown above, from left, William Pulos '77, founder of the Alfred Rugby club team, Tony Aquilina, Alfred University associate athletic director and former Alfred Rugby club coach, Rick Crouse, team captain, and Mark Zupan, Alfred University president.

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# Athletic Department announces three appointments

Two new coaches and a new sports information director in the Alfred University Athletics Department began their duties this academic year. Angie Taylor was appointed a full-time head coach for the Saxon men's and women's track and field teams; Erin McGaffigan was appointed head women's lacrosse coach; and Brandon Harrison was named sports information director.



Angie Taylor

**Angie Taylor**, who comes to Alfred with extensive collegiate, national, and international coaching experience, was appointed following a national search and began her duties in January.

She spent four years in the city of Abuja, Nigeria, where she was a member of the Ministerial Committee for the

Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, serving as a project manager for Team Nigeria in the 2016 Rio Olympics and Paralympics. She was also a part of the 2015 All-Africa Games held in the Republic of Congo, where Team Nigeria finished second overall with 47 gold medals – the best team finish in the country's history.

Prior to her work in Nigeria, Angie was head coach of the George Mason University women's track and field team, guiding multiple student-athletes to the NCAA Division I Championships, U.S. Olympic Trials, Pan American Games and Junior Pan American Games. From 1995-99, Angie served as an assistant women's track and field coach at Princeton University. She has also served on the coaching staffs at Louisiana State University and the University of Minnesota. Angie has coached in various roles for the U.S. national team, including with teams competing in the Olympics, IAAF World Championships, Pan American Games, World Junior Championships in Athletics, World Cup, Goodwill Games and Junior Pan American Games.

Angie graduated from Illinois State University in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in speech communications. She went on to earn a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University and her doctorate in Leadership in Higher Education from Capella University. As a student-athlete, she was a nine-time Gateway Conference Champion and member of the Valley All-Centennial Track and Field Team. In 1992, the Gateway Conference recognized Taylor on the All-Decade Team.

**Erin McGaffigan** was appointed women's lacrosse coach at Alfred University at the start of the 2017-18 academic year. Prior to Alfred, Erin was at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, where she was the women's lacrosse assistant coach from 2015-17.



Erin McGaffigan

While at Allegheny, Erin coached 11 NCAC All-Conference Team honorees (including the NCAC Midfielder of the Year), two First Team All-Region selections and one Second Team All-Region pick. She also coached players who broke the school career records for points and goalkeeping wins.

Erin has international experience, serving a year as head lacrosse coach for the Deutscher Hockey Club Hannover in Germany, guiding the team to a National Championship title, its fourth straight. Among her players were eight 2017 German National Team finalist pool members and three 2015 U-19 National Team members.

Prior to her tenure overseas, Erin was the assistant women's lacrosse coach at Fitchburg (MA) State University from 2011-14 and the assistant lacrosse coach at Central Lacrosse Bay State Games in Massachusetts from 2007-13. She participated in the NCAA Women Coaches Academy in Denver, CO, in 2016 and Camp Hallerstein in Schwarzenbach/Saale, Germany, in 2015.

Erin graduated from Norwich University in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She played for the women's lacrosse team from 2007-10 and helped her team claim GNAC Conference championship titles in 2008 and 2010.



Brandon Harrison MBA '16

**Brandon Harrison** returns to Alfred University from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD, where he was sports information director in 2016-17. He has experience with the sports information office at Alfred, serving as a graduate assistant from 2014 until earning his MBA in 2016.

During his time as a graduate assistant at Alfred, he was the primary sport contact for men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball and men's and women's lacrosse. He was also the director of the Saxon Pride Board, a platform to promote student-athlete community involvement and school pride.

A native of Canisteo, NY, Brandon graduated from St. John Fisher College in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in sports management. He interned with the Alfred University Athletics Department in the summer of 2013 while finishing his degree requirements at St. John Fisher, and played a key role in creating Alfred's new athletics website.



# Class Notes

## 1945 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Christian Laurin “Larry” March** (USAF, Ret.) passed away on Feb. 18, 2018, in Seminole, FL. A native of Farmingdale, NY, Larry attended Alfred University as an industrial ceramic design major and member of the Class of 1945 before leaving Alfred in 1943 to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He remained an active member of the United States Air Force for 32 years, retiring in 1974 as a colonel and command pilot. He was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during his service during World War II. At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, Larry was eligible to wear the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation

Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Eastern African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with five bronze battle stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. Larry, a devout Presbyterian, earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in political science from George Washington University. He married his late wife, Edna “Eddie” March, in 1950. Even though he did not graduate from Alfred University, Larry considered himself an alumnus. He was a long-time correspondent for the Class of ‘45, keeping Alfred University publications informed of his classmates’ news, and frequently attended alumni events. He is survived by daughters Laurin Griffith of St. Augustine, FL, and Andrea Laurin of Austin, TX; and son Larry March of St. Petersburg, FL.

## 1952 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Frank Bredell** (BA, English) passed away on Feb. 24, 2018. While at Alfred, he was a member of the *Fiat Lux* student newspaper staff and after graduation from Alfred, went on to earn a degree from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. A native of Lockport, NY, Frank enjoyed a distinguished career as a newspaper journalist and editor, in publications, and in his own firm. In his retirement, he continued his literary output, authoring the delightful and successful memoir *Lockport Boy*, about growing up in Lockport during the 1930s and 1940s. He travelled extensively around the world and wrote travel articles for a wide variety of periodicals. Frank was a loyal alumnus of Alfred University, serving as a class correspondent for Alfred University’s Class of 1952 for over a decade. In 2012, he created an endowed scholarship to help make Alfred University – and the opportunities we offer – accessible to students of modest means. The Bredell

Scholarship is named in his honor. Frank is survived by his wife, Jean Carnahan.

## 1953 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Charles “Buddy” Rabiner, M.D.** (BA, psychology) passed away on Jan. 2, 2017. Buddy graduated cum laude from Alfred University. While at Alfred, he was a member of the Kappa Nu fraternity and competed for the cross country team. After graduation from Alfred University, Buddy earned his medical degree and received his psychiatric specialty training from SUNY Downstate School of Medicine. He served in the U.S. Air Force, and from 1970-87 he was chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Long Island Jewish Hospital. He relocated to San Diego, CA, where he served as medical director at Mesa Vista Hospital until 1994. He maintained a private practice throughout his career before retiring in the early 2000s. Buddy is survived by his wife, Barbara “Bobby” Cohen Rabiner '54, and the couple’s two children, Steven and Ellen.

## 1962 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Robert “Bob” Boden** may not have graduated from Alfred University but he credits Alfred with starting him down the path that led to a 50-year career as a dentist. Bob enrolled in Alfred in 1958. “I studied hard, was a third-floor dorm counselor, cleaned the library and belonged to Klan Alpine,” he wrote in a recent letter. “I took note that after two years (at Alfred), I would have the basic requirements for admission to dental school. He applied to, and was accepted at, the University of Pennsylvania dental school. That he was accepted “says a lot for Alfred and its reputation,” he said, “but it’s more than reputation and studies that I owe Alfred.” He recalled that the spring semester of his second year, he came down with mono and was “sick as can be.” He spent a week in the infirmary, and was sure that he was not going to be able to finish the semester, his dreams of dental school evaporating. Dean

## 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  
1 Saxon Drive  
Alfred, NY 14802

of Men Paul Powers, who visited him every day in the infirmary (“He took the dorm counselors under his wing,” Bob said) took it upon himself to call the dean of the Penn Dental School Lester Burket and pleaded my case.” Bob was given the opportunity to return to Alfred in the summer to take his final exams, and was told that if his grades were satisfactory, he could be a freshman dental student in the fall. “It is this type of personal interaction that I will never forget about my Alfred days, and great people like Paul Powers,” said Bob. “I proceeded to graduate with honors, top 10 in my class, did a United States Public Health Service Internship, published research on histoplasmosis, and became a small-town dentist in Lionville, PA. “I think often of Alfred and how lucky I was to pick Alfred for my undergraduate studies and to have had the opportunity to know Dean Paul Powers,” Bob said. He and his wife Doris now have a farm and raise horses and cows.

## 1963 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Richard P. Widdicombe** (BA, English) received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from *Marquis Who's Who*. Prior to his retirement in 2009, Richard was the F.W. Taylor Curator at Stevens Institute of Technology. He had previously been director of the libraries and an assistant librarian at Stevens Institute. He also worked at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and the Yonkers Public Library. According to *Marquis Who's Who*, Richard wrote a “seminal article in *Science & Technology Libraries*, Vol. 14 (1), 1993, entitled ‘Eliminating all Journal Subscriptions,’” in which he postulated that “libraries and customers of the future would search for (as we do now in Google) individual articles or more accurately specific information, rather than search broadly and perhaps inaccurately for answers.” The article engendered furious debate at world conferences, with more conventional librarians arguing libraries should continue to purchase and store everything in paper format. Richard is now considered, according to *Marquis Who's Who*, to be a “pioneer of library technology.” He introduced the first library computer

database on the East Coast and promoted the Stevens Institute of Technology as being in the forefront of innovation. The Council on Library and Information Resources recognized Stevens Institute of Technology as one of the top nine most innovative libraries in the United States. A long-time class correspondent for the Class of 1963, Richard has served Alfred University in a variety of other ways as well, as a member of the Alumni Council, an alumni-elected trustee, and a Reunion coordinator. The Alumni Council recognized his service, naming him the recipient of an Alumni Citation and the Lillian Nevins Award. His wife, Martha, was named an honorary alumna in 2008. They are charter members of the Saxon Circle and are sponsors of faculty and staff-hosted dinners for students. Richard and Martha now devote their time to their private art collection. They live in Utica, NY.

## 1966 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

**Richard Zakin** (MFA) passed away April 5, 2018, in Cleveland, OH. He was 81 years old. Richard was an accomplished ceramic artist who exhibited his artwork, drawings and graphic designs throughout New York State, including the Everson Museum in Syracuse and the Greenwich House Pottery; the United States, including Fort Worth, TX, and Chicago; and Canada. He published numerous important books, including *Electric Kiln Ceramics* (2015 edition), *Ceramics: Mastering the Craft*, *Ceramics: Ways of Creation* and *Hand Formed Ceramics*. In his books and articles, he provided innovative glaze formulas and glazing techniques, which many potters use. Richard was born in Manhattan and grew up in Spring Valley and Monsey, NY. He studied painting at Syracuse University, earning a BFA in 1956, and the Brooklyn Museum School before earning his MFA from Alfred University in 1966. He taught ceramics at SUNY Oswego from 1967 until 2008, when he retired as professor emeritus. In 1994, he received the SUNY Oswego President's Award for Creative Research. At the time of his death, Richard lived in Cleveland with his wife of 48 years, Helen. His most recent exhibition

“Richard Zakin: The Art and the Craft: A Retrospective,” opened in Judson Park's Streeter Gallery in Cleveland in January and will close on May 10, 2018.

## 1972

**Deborah Walker** (BA, economics) is the 2017 recipient of the Arthur J. Dixon Memorial Award, given by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA). The award, presented at the AICPA's Fall Tax Division Meeting in Washington, D.C., is the highest honor bestowed by the accounting profession in the area of taxation. Deborah is national director of Compensation and Benefits at the accounting firm of Cherry Bekaert LLP, working out of the firm's Washington, D.C., office, and for more than 35 years has been an expert in a broad range of employer-related issues. In addition to her work at Cherry Bekaert, she edits for Bloomberg BNA as part of the Bloomberg Tax and Accounting Center. Deborah is a published writer, having authored numerous articles, and was editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Taxation of Employee Benefits*. She was also a member of the Tax Advisor Editorial Board. Deborah has volunteered with AICPA for 30 years, during which she has held many positions and served on many committees, including chair of the AICPA Tax Executive Committee. She currently serves on the planning committee for the annual AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Conference, and is a past chair and co-chair of that committee. She holds an MBA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Prior to working with Cherry Bekaert, she was a partner at two of the Big Four accounting firms and served as deputy to the benefits tax counsel in the Office of Tax Policy at the U.S. Department of Treasury.

## 1973 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Ben Ostrer** (BA, history), an attorney practicing law in Chester, NY, has been honored for his dedication to defending those in need. In January, the New York State Bar Association presented Ben with the 2017 Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteer Award. He was honored during the Bar Association's annual meeting for



contributing hundreds of hours of pro bono service. It is the second time in two years Ben has received a significant award from the New York State Bar Association. In 2016 he was presented with the Charles F. Crimini Memorial Award as Outstanding Criminal Defense Attorney in New York state. He earned his law degree from New York Law School in 1976.

## 1977

**Evan Katz**, who attended Alfred University from 1973-75, fulfilled a dream of playing baseball professionally when he suited up for the White Sands Pupfish of the Pecos League in New Mexico. Evan had one at-bat, pitched to two batters and played an inning in right field. He lives in Swampscott, MA, and is business administrator for Swampscott Public Schools.

## 1982

**Dr. Kathleen Richardson** (BS, ceramic engineering, Ph.D., ceramic engineering '92), professor of optics in the College of Optics and Photonics



Kathleen Richardson

at the University of Central Florida where she runs the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory, was honored as a Pegasus Professor by the University of Central Florida, one of five chosen for the highest academic honor at the university. It "rewards highly successful teaching, research and creative activity, as well as service." Kathleen was honored for her work developing "special glass with specific optical properties and the ability to withstand extreme temperatures." The glass has specific optical properties and ability to withstand extreme temperatures that can be used in devices such as night vision goggles or infrared cameras. Recently, she and her students worked with an international company to create a specific type of glass for a commercial

project, initially creating the glass in her lab and then working with the company to show how to scale up production. She has taught at the University of Central Florida and at Clemson University. She is a past president of the American Ceramic Society and a past chair of the ACerS Glass and Optical Materials Division, as well as a past president of the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers. She is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society, the Society of Glass Technology in Britain, and the Optical Society of America. Kathleen has been a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2006.

**Elizabeth Lyons** (BFA, sculpture), a renowned glass sculptor based in Rochester, was recently featured in *Rochester Business Journal*. The story, which appeared in *RBJ's* April 5 issue, highlighted Elizabeth's' growing international reputation as a glass artist. She opened her first studio – More Fire Glass Studio – in Rochester two decades ago, moving to its current location on Field Street in Rochester less than two years ago. She has been working exclusively as a glass artist since 2010, with her work now being commissioned by top interior designers and architects worldwide. Her work has been featured in numerous publications, including the *New York Times* and magazines like *Vogue*, *Architecture Design* and *Elle Decoration*. Her company, Elizabeth Lyons Glass, produces a design collection that includes glass vessels, vases, bowls, and candle holders, which have been showcased in residential and commercial applications, fine restaurants and hotels. Two fellow glass artists work with Elizabeth at More Fire Glass Studio, including Alfred University alumna **Jennifer Schinzing** (BFA, 2004), whose work has also been featured in national publications. Elizabeth's parents are both Alfred University alumni: mother **Joan** earned a BFA in 1957; her late father **Nathan** was a world-renowned photographer who earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1957 and an honorary doctorate in 2006.

## 1983 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Paul H. Viau Jr.** (MS, education) earned his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Central Florida in August 2016. His dissertation, entitled "Second-Year to Third-Year in College: Identifying Factors in the Decision Not to Return," looked at the reasons that students who complete two full years of college work, and are eligible to return for their third year, choose not to continue their education at their native institution. He is associate registrar and director of the Veterans Academic Resource Center at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

## 1984

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed **Elizabeth Garry** (BA, psychology) presiding justice for the Appellate Division of the Third Judicial Department. She was appointed a judge in the Appellate Court, Third Judicial Department, in 2009. Elizabeth was elected Supreme Court justice for the Sixth Judicial District in 2006. With her appointment, Elizabeth becomes the first openly gay judge named to lead a New York Appeals Court. Based in Albany, the Third Judicial Department hears appeals from 28 counties in eastern and central New York. Elizabeth holds a law degree from Albany Law School, earned in 1990.

**John Simmins** (ceramic science, Ph.D., ceramic engineering '90) was asked to speak at Dubai Electricity and Water Agency and Electricity de France Smart Grid conference in Dubai in March. John presented the results of his work on mitigating solar power variability using heating, ventilation and air conditioning parameters to an audience of scientists and engineers from around the world. John is a technical executive with the Electric Power Research Institute. He was recently named one of the "Top 40 Innovators" in the utility industry worldwide for 2017 by *Public Utilities Fortnightly* for leading efforts to apply augmented reality to improve utility operations.

## Twin sisters, Alfred University alumnae, again create official Kentucky Derby Festival poster

**F**or a fifth time, twin sisters and Alfred University alumnae Jeaneen Barnhart and Doreen Barnhart DeHart have designed the official poster for the Kentucky Derby Festival.

The sisters' 2018 poster is titled "Spirited Pegasus" and was created with a spontaneous flow of oil pastel sticks and oil wash brushstrokes. The sisters had previously designed posters for Kentucky Derby Festivals in 1994, 1997, 2009 and 2014. The poster went on sale March 2.

DeHart earned a BFA degree in art and design (concentrations in painting and graphic design) in 1989, while Barnhart received a BFA degree (concentration in painting) in 1992. The sisters live and work in Louisville, KY, home of the famous Kentucky Derby horse race. Barnhart specializes in painting and drawing, DeHart in graphic design. Their work can be seen on their website, [twinspired.com](http://twinspired.com).

The Kentucky Derby Festival is a community-wide celebration held in Louisville during the two weeks leading up to the Kentucky Derby horse race (held May 5 this year). Held since 1956, the festival includes music (concerts and dances); sports and recreation (full and half marathons, golf tournaments); and numerous other events. Drawing more than 1.5 million visitors each year, it is a five-time winner of the International Festivals and Arts Association award for Best Overall Festival.



*Doreen Barnhart DeHart (left) and Jeaneen Barnhart with the 2018 Kentucky Derby Festival poster they designed. (Photo courtesy, Kentucky Derby Festival)*

### 1987

**Marybeth Tarzian** (BA, communication studies) has been named associate vice president for colleges and units at Cornell University. Marybeth had previously worked for 12 years as assistant dean for alumni affairs and development for Cornell's College of Human Ecology, leading a \$95 million comprehensive campaign, which exceeded its \$70 million goal and more than doubled the magnitude of its Annual Fund. Previously, she worked at Cornell's Law School and the Samuel C. Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management.

### 1988 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Tony Marsh** (MFA, ceramic art) has been named a 2018 United States Artists fellow. He is one of 45 artists and collectives across nine creative disciplines to be awarded a fellowship, which comes with a \$50,000 unrestricted award. The award, according to United States Artists, is in recognition of their contributions to the field, honors their creative accomplishments, and supports their ongoing artistic and professional development. Tony has a bachelor's degree in ceramic art from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), where he is a member of the faculty in the School of Art. For the last 25 years, he has been chairman

of the ceramics program at CSULB. Tony's work is in several private and permanent museum collections around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Art and Design in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Oakland Museum of Art, the Gardiner Museum of Art in Toronto and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

### 1990

**Bryan Hill** (BA, public administration) was appointed Fairfax County (VA) executive in November, effective Jan. 2, 2018. Bryan had been serving since 2014 as administrator and clerk to the Board of Supervisors of James City County, VA, where he was responsible for oversight of staff, major infrastructure projects, economic development, transportation initiatives and development and implementation of the county's first strategic plan. Bryan also has served as a deputy county administrator in Beaufort County, SC; vice chancellor for finance and operations at the University of South Carolina's Beaufort/Bluffton Campus; director of finance at the University of Maryland's Office of Information and Technology; and director of administration for the University of Maryland's Department of Aerospace Engineering. He is a past

recipient of an award for excellence from the American Association of Budget Analysts. While at the University of Maryland, Bryan earned the A. James Clark School of Engineering Staff Award and a commendation from the Department of Aerospace Engineering during its 50th anniversary celebration. Bryan also holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. He will be Alfred University's convocation speaker in August.

**Mark P. Szykowski** (BS, accounting) was appointed in December 2017 to the position of senior vice president of finance at Evolving Systems, Inc., a real-time leader in digital engagement solutions and services. He will lead accounting and finance operations of the New York City-based company. Mark came to Evolving Systems with more than 20 years of finance and accounting experience, extensive background in mergers and acquisitions, and a broad knowledge of the software technology industry.

### 1991

**Brian Battle** (BS, business administration) was appointed in January to the position of interim athletic director at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. Brian joined



the athletics department staff at Florida Atlantic in 2014 as associate athletic director for business and finance. In 2015, he was promoted to the position of senior associate athletic director for internal operations. He previously held athletics administration positions at University of North Carolina, Greensboro (senior associate athletic director of administration); Florida State University (associate athletic director for compliance; director of compliance); and Georgetown University (associate athletic director for compliance). Brian majored in finance at Alfred University and was a member of the Alfred University men's basketball team and Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. He earned a master's degree in sports administration from Florida State in 1996.

## 1992

**Traci Molloy** (BFA, ceramic art) was in residence on the Alfred University campus last fall and collaborated with a group of 13 Alfred University students to create a 16-by-10 foot piece of art titled "I Am, I Will, I'm Afraid (Alfred)." The print, which utilizes photographic and digital processes, is a constructed composite portrait of all the participants (Traci and the students), which are layered to form one collective likeness. The surface text on the piece depicts personal anonymous handwriting by participants in response to three prompts: "I am," "I will," and "I'm afraid." The piece was displayed on the exterior of Harder Hall and Traci returned to campus in January to discuss the art installation. Traci returned to campus in April to discuss another installation, "Against My Will," which seeks to advocate for victims of sexual violence.

## 1993 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Nick Basta** (BFA) appeared in a November episode of the popular Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) television drama *Queen Sugar*, directed by Ava DiVernay. Nick, an actor living in Wilmington, NC, played the role of editor Steve McDonald. A veteran television actor, Nick has had recurring roles in *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, and *Law*

*and Order: Special Victims Unit*, and as Corporal Eastin in the AMC drama *TURN: Washington's Spies*. A native of Syracuse, Nick is a part-time theater instructor at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

**Frederick Pollack** (BA, psychology) was appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott as a trial court judge on the Sixth Judicial Court. Pollack had previously served as a family law general magistrate and child support hearing officer for the Sixth Judicial Court. A resident of Clearwater, FL, he is a partner at Hunter Law Group in Tampa. Frederick holds a law degree from California Western School of Law.



**Libby Kirkpatrick** (BFA '93) reports visiting the Vipissanna Meditation Center in Shelburn Falls, MA, last fall for a 10-day "silent retreat" and meeting fellow alumna **Emily Guth** (BAFA '05). The selfie photo provided by Libby (above, right) was taken on Day 11 of the retreat, when participants were free to talk.

## 1995

**Laura Berman** (BFA, art and design) was featured in the *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*. In the Feb. 1 article, she talked about how relationships and her environment have inspired her artwork. A printmaker and watercolor painter, Laura has been a professor at the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) since 2002. She teaches printmaking and book arts and is currently acting chair of the KCAI Printmaking Department.

## 1996

**Jason Silbergleit** (BS, ceramic engineering) was highlighted in the November 2017 issue of *The Voice*, appearing in a feature titled "Young Jewish Professionals of Dutchess." Jason, who lives in Lagrangeville, NY, with his wife **Debbie '94**, is director of Research Alliances and Government Programs for IBM Corp. in Hopewell Junction, NY. He earned his MBA from the University of Vermont in 2000.

## 1998 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Esca Stumpf** (BS, ceramic engineering; MS, ceramic engineering 2001) was named a "Women to Watch" by the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* for her work as an animal advocate. Esca is community outreach manager at Lollypop Farm, Humane Society of Greater Rochester, where she is involved in adoption, outreach, resource compilation and education for pet owners. She also manages the emergency pet food program, works on the pet assisted therapy program, and oversees the free Pet Peeves behavior hotline.

## 1999

**Thomas Khork** (MPS, community services administration) was named the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation's "Investigator of the Year" for 2017 at a ceremony held in Manhattan in November. Thomas is a New York State Police investigator stationed in Bath, NY, and has been a state trooper since 2006. He had previously worked as an investigator with the New York State Department of Labor.

## 2001

**Paul Kahan** (BA, history and English; minor in Renaissance studies and music) announces the upcoming publication of his sixth book, which examines the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant. In May 2018, *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War's Legacy* will be published by Westholme Publishing. It focuses on the politics of Reconstruction. Paul's writing deals with a variety of subjects

## Alfred University alumni's band takes the stage on 'Conan'

**T**he band Ghost of Paul Revere, two-thirds of which are Alfred University alumni, made its television debut Jan. 24 on the late-night show "Conan."

The Portland, ME-based folk band is made up of guitarist-vocalist **Griffin Sherry**, banjo player-vocalist **Max Davis** and bassist Sean McCarthy. Sherry and Davis graduated from Alfred University in 2010 with BFA degrees in art and design.

The trio, who grew up together in southern Maine – Sherry and Davis in Buxton; McCarthy in neighboring Hollis – founded the band in 2011. Their debut full-length album, "Believe," was released in 2014 and the following year they put out an EP, "Field Notes Vol. 1." Their second LP, "Monarch," was released last year.

Ghost of Paul Revere performs at festivals and in venues across the country. Their appearance on "Conan" was taped at the TBS studios in Los Angeles and aired that night.

For more information on Ghost of Paul Revere, check out the band's website: [ghostofpaulrevere.com](http://ghostofpaulrevere.com).



*Ghost of Paul Revere, whose members include Alfred University graduates Griffin Sherry (left) and Max Davis (right), perform on the set of the late-night show "Conan." Photo by Team Coco.*

in American history. His previous books include: *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History* (2008); *Seminary of Virtue: The Ideology and Practice of Inmate Reform at Eastern State Penitentiary* (2012); *The Homestead Strike: Labor, Violence, and American History* (2013); *The Bank War: Andrew Jackson, Nicholas Biddle, and the Fight for American Finance* (2016); and *Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War* (2017). Paul earned a master's degree in modern American history and literature from Drew University and a doctorate in U.S. history from Temple University. To learn more about Paul's work visit his website, [paulkahan.com](http://paulkahan.com)

### 2004

**Cara Felski-Smith** (MA, school psychology) was honored at the New York State Association of School Psychologists (NYSASP) Conference, held in White Plains, NY, in October. She won the NYSASP Chapter E School Psychologist of the Year Award, which recognizes excellence in providing school psychological services. Cara, who also earned a doctorate degree in

psychology from Alfred University in 2010, works in the Cortland City School District.

### 2005

**Linda Swanson** (MFA) participated in a trio of recent art exhibitions: two held last fall, in Ohio and Romania; and another in Paris, France, which began in October and ran through April 2018. **Alexandra Hibbitt**, also an Alfred University alumna (MFA '01) curated the exhibition at the Majestic Galleries in Nelsonville, OH, titled *Material Histories: Cultures of Resistance*. Linda's exhibition at Galatea Contemporary Art, Bucharest, Romania, was titled *We Are Time's Subjects*. The exhibition in Paris, titled *L'Experience de la Couleur* (The Experience of Color), was held at the Musee National de Ceramique de Sevres. Linda is an assistant professor of ceramics at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. She was an adjunct assistant professor in the Alfred University School of Art and Design from 2005-07.

**Matt Oakes**, who earned a bachelor's degree in athletic training from Alfred University, served as athletic trainer for the United States Luge Team at the 2018



Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. In the photo above, Matt (right) stands with Chris Mazdzer of the United States, silver medalist in the men's single luge at PyeongChang, and Dr. Eugene Byrne, team doctor. This was Matt's second Olympics as athletic trainer for the U.S. Luge Team. He was also part of the 2014 team that competed at Sochi, Russia. Matt was part of history at both Olympic Games. In Sochi, Erin Hamlin became the first American female to win a luge medal (bronze), while Mazdzer's silver in PyeongChang was the first Olympic medal for an American male luger.



## 2006

**Amy Ruza** (BFA, glass and ceramic art) received the 2017 ARTS Partnership Award from the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes. She and the other award recipients were honored at a ceremony in December at the Clemens Center in Elmira, NY. Amy is currently the Youth and Family Programs educator at The Rockwell Museum in Corning and previously worked at the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes. While at the ARTS Council, she sustained the National Youth Art Month project, and, because of her efforts, it still exists today. She has volunteered at the Corning Children's Center as well as the ARTS Council's annual fundraiser, Recycled Runway. She also helped develop a summer program for youth called "The Garden of Fire," the Rockwell Museum's "El Dia de los Muertos" program, and the Falling Leaves Festival.

**Jon Fuller** (BFA, concentration in graphic design and video) has been appointed lead web designer and developer at FreshySites, a website development company with locations in Binghamton, NY, Scranton, PA, and Manassas, VA.

**Tristan Hujer** (BA, history, minor in philosophy) was elected in January to the position of partner of Harris Beach PLLC, Buffalo, NY. He represents a wide array of business interests in commercial litigations and personal injury matters throughout New York and the nation. Tristan also assists businesses in implementing strategic objectives. He earned his law degree from the University of Maine School of Law in 2009.

The seeds of **Meg Gray's** (BFA, with a minor in Women's Studies) current career as a librarian at the Portland (ME) Public Library were sown by her senior thesis about sex education and public policy for Women's Studies, according to a profile of Meg in the Portland Press Herald in April. A winner of the Abigail Allen Award for her efforts on behalf of women on the Alfred University campus, Meg initially thought about going

to grad school for some sort of research, but heeded the words of advice from one of her thesis advisors, who told her "Graduate school will always be there. You don't have to do it now," as she explained to the reporter. Eventually, she decided to attend McGill University to become a librarian, and last year was named to lead the science team at the Portland Public Library. She's already launched two noteworthy initiatives.

One is a seed library. "Borrowers sign up to receive seeds, up to four packets a month, for vegetables that are easy to grow. The only requirements are a valid library card, and a willingness to save the seeds from their crop and "return" them to the library in the fall. Second is a set of backpacks for adults who want to actively explore nature. Funded by the Cornerstones for Science grant, the Discovery ME backpacks provide equipment, such as binoculars for bird-watching or a blanket, headlamp and sky chart for star-gazing, along with appropriate guidebooks. At present, the Discovery ME backpacks center around three themes: astronomy, birding and hiking.



*Kian Nathan Mohammadkhal*

**Kathryn Goetschius** (BS, glass science) '09 (MS, glass science) and her husband Ali Mohammadkhal are parents of a son, Kian Nathan (shown above), born Jan. 30, 2018. Kate and Ali, who earned their doctorate degrees in materials science from Missouri University of Science and Technology, are both research scientists at Guardian Glass. The family makes its home in Canton, MI.



*Wendy Decker '09 and Dan Staples were married Aug. 12, 2017 on Canandaigua Lake. Wendy earned a BFA from Alfred; Dan attended AU from 2005-09 and was a member of the men's swimming and diving team. Several of his former teammates attended the wedding.*



*Martin Schreiber '10, (BFA) and Catherine Sahi '13, (BS Engineering) were married on June 25, 2016 at the bride's home in Connecticut. The couple is residing in Gainesville, FL, as Catherine completes her Ph.D. in materials science engineering at the University of Florida.*

## 2008 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Irene Brown** (BA, comparative cultures; minor in anthropology) has been promoted to order resolution specialist at CXtec. Irene has been with CXtec, a technology products and network solution provider headquartered in Syracuse, NY, since 2015.

**Joseph Page** (MFA, ceramic art) had his artwork displayed in February in a large-scale installation at Marshall University's Carroll Gallery. The installation, titled "Flow Chart," was installed with assistance from students in the Marshall School of Art and Design. Joseph is an assistant professor and

## Alfred University alumnus at forefront of soft robotics research

A group of students at University of Colorado Boulder are on the cutting edge of soft robotics research, developing artificial muscles that closely resemble, in function and appearance, those found in the human body.

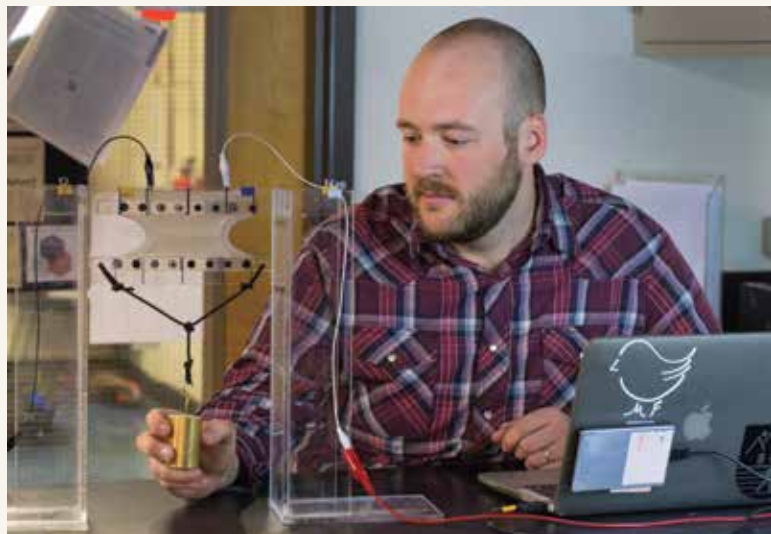
One of those students is Alfred University alumnus Tim Morrissey, who earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering in 2011. Now a fifth-year graduate student at Colorado set to earn a doctorate in mechanical engineering this year, Tim has been working at the Keplinger Research Group since its founding in 2015 by mechanical engineering professor Christoph Keplinger.

Tim, who serves as laboratory manager, helped author a paper on the hydraulically amplified self-healing electrostatic (HASEL) actuator developed by the Keplinger Research Group. The HASEL actuator is an electrically-activated device that can mimic the movement of human muscles. It consists of an electrically-insulated liquid encased in a soft, pliable pouch connected to electrodes. When activated with a current of electricity, the shape of the pouch changes, replicating natural muscle movement. Another actuator that operates similarly has the ability to contract. The actuators come in different shapes and thus can mimic different actions: flexing; gripping and releasing; lifting and dropping.

Research papers on the HASEL actuators were presented in early January and appeared in several prominent academic journals, including Science and Science Robotics. Developing the HASEL actuators is but a step in the process of what researchers at Keplinger see as dramatically improving robotics. Their goal is to create artificial muscle units that are used in soft-structured robots and prosthetic units that more closely resemble a human not only in appearance and feel, but also in motion.

"In the future, there may be service robots that interact with the elderly, or we may have nanny robots in our homes," Tim said. "Prosthetics are usually made of hard, rigid material, but the human body is soft. This is where soft robotics can provide great benefits."

Tim began his graduate studies at University of Colorado Boulder in 2013, earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering (materials science track) in 2016. Tim's road to



Tim Morrissey '11 in the Keplinger Research Group lab. Photo courtesy Keplinger Research Group

Boulder, CO, and the Keplinger Research Group began at Alfred University. He credits the time he spent at Alfred University with helping prepare him for the research he's involved in now.

"Alfred is where I received my first lab experience. Getting that groundwork with Dr. (William) Carty (professor of ceramic engineering and materials science) was crucial. It really showed me how scientific research happens," said Tim, who was on campus in March to deliver an engineering undergraduate seminar. "I was involved in a lot of clubs at Alfred and it gave me leadership skills. I didn't realize how important that was, but it has really helped me at Keplinger."

Alfred is also where Tim met his wife of two years, Elizabeth "Elyse" (Fasano) Morrissey. She graduated from Alfred University in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and is a lead teacher at the Joshua School in Boulder, which specializes in teaching children with autism and development disabilities.

Both Tim and Elyse have multi-generational family connections to Alfred University. Tim's brother, Michael, earned a master's degree in 2012. Both of Elyse's parents – Michelle Fasano Reffner '84 and the late Patrick Fasano '80 – are Alfred University alumni, as are her grandparents, Joe Fasano '54 and the late Ann Sanders Fasano '53.

area head of ceramics at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

### 2011

**Tara (Quigley) Snyder** (BFA, art and design) was a member of the eighth graduating class of Leadership Allegany.

She was one of 13 men and women from organizations and businesses in Allegany County to complete a leadership training program for adult professionals who live, work and have a vested interest in Allegany County. Tara is vice president of Snow Hill Inc., a landscape business in Alfred. She

was chosen by her classmates to be the student speaker for the Leadership Allegany graduation ceremony in Cuba in February.

### 2013 REUNION HONORED YEAR

**Aaron Benson** (MFA, ceramic art) opened the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art's 2018 calendar. His exhibition at the museum in



Tuscumbia, AL, was titled "Vailed: A Space Between" and focused on the ideas of time and eternity, questions that the artist grapples with as a Christian. Aaron is an assistant professor of art at the University of North Alabama, where he teaches ceramics, sculpture and three-dimensional design. He earned his MFA from Alfred University after receiving a BFA degree from the University of Tennessee.

## 2014

**Travis Johns** (BA, athletic training, minor exercise science) is in his second season as athletic trainer for the Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs, a professional hockey team

playing in the Southern Professional Hockey League. Travis is in his third year overall as a professional sports team athletic trainer. Prior to being appointed athletic trainer for the Rail Yard Dawgs, he held the same position with the Rochester Lancers of the Major Arena Soccer League.

**Julie Slattery** (BFA, sculpture) exhibited in a Feb. 23 show titled "Mirror Box" at the Strangers Collective at Form and Concept in Santa Fe, NM. Her sculptural work explores emotional responses to loss and attachment. Her creations reflect sensations of unease, oddity, and a recognition of something that was or could have been. Julie works at the Los Ranchos Fine Art Foundry in Albuquerque, NM.

## 2015

**Dalton Walsh** (BA, criminal justice) was part of the 206th graduating class of the New York State Police Academy. During the January graduation ceremonies at the Empire State Plaza Convention Hall in Albany, Dalton was named Class Representative and awarded a firearm by the New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association. The award is given in memory of Trooper John J. McKenna IV, who was killed in action and each year is presented to a member of the class who is selected by his or her peers to represent them during graduation exercises. Prior to joining the New York State Police, Dalton served two years as an officer in the United States Secret Service. A native of Stockton, NY, who was an all-conference basketball player at Alfred University, Dalton will be assigned to Troop C in Sidney.

**Lillian Rodriguez** (BFA) and **Philip Truant** (BFA) announce their wedding engagement.

## 2016

**Joseph Januzzi** (MA, school psychology) was honored at the New York Association of School Psychologists Conference, held in White Plains, NY, in October. He received

the Ted Bernstein Award, given to a recent graduate who shows professional promise in school psychology. Joseph is a school psychologist for Sandusky, OH City Schools.

## Deaths

### 1936

**Mary Bardeen Wilson**, Dec. 13, 2017

### 1941

**Eleanor "Lennie" Landis**, Jan. 25, 2018

### 1944

**Raymond J. Dry**, March 17, 2018

### 1945

**Christian Laurin "Larry" March**, Feb. 18, 2018

### 1946

**Jean A. Marder**, Oct. 20, 2017

**Mae Barrus Rowland**, April 29, 2017

**Dr. Mildred Pivetz Cooper**, March 28, 2018

### 1947

**Barbara Guillaume Hathaway**, Feb. 28, 2018

### 1948

**Dr. Arthur "Art" T. Hall**, Feb. 3, 2018

### 1949

**Dr. Seymour Burday**, Nov. 29, 2017

**Jaclyn Kieley Hoffman**, Nov. 23, 2017

**Charles P. Hoffman**, Dec. 22, 2017

**Joan D. Geise Kula**, Jan. 6, 2018

**Edward W. Schane**, Feb. 4, 2018

**Duane J. Andersen**, March 26, 2018

### 1950

**Donald E. Seaman**, Nov. 4, 2017

**Marjorie G. Komitor**, Nov. 15, 2017

**Jeanne Hardenburg Wood**, Jan. 8, 2018

**John W. McNabb**, Feb. 22, 2018

**Philip J. Secrest**, March 12, 2018

### 1951

**Paul Lester**, Nov. 15, 2017

**Marvin B. Rosenthal**, March 8, 2018

### 1952

**Harrison David Woodin**, Feb. 14, 2018

**Frank Bredell**, Feb. 24, 2018

## 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  
1 Saxon Drive  
Alfred, NY 14802

# class

## 1953

**William J. Hall**, Dec. 5, 2017  
**Charles “Buddy” Rabiner**, Jan. 2, 2017  
**Barbara L. Parlato**, Oct. 10, 2017  
**John V. Denero**, Feb. 4, 2018

## 1954

**William B. McMahon**, Dec. 16, 2017  
**Dr. Ronald Russell-Tutty**, Jan. 12, 2018  
**Marjorie R. Baker Jones**, Feb. 22, 2018  
**Leo A. Ressa**, March 17, 2018

## 1955

**Dr. H. David Trautlein**, Jan. 13, 2018

## 1956

**William J. Balle**, April 4, 2017  
**Doris A. Wilson Hughes**, Jan. 25, 2018  
**Milford R. Vail**, March 7, 2018

## 1958

**Dorothy M. Perez**, Oct. 28, 2017  
**Joan Snyder Beckman**, Nov. 22, 2017  
**Amy L. Koechling Weaver**, Jan. 30, 2018

## 1959

**Mary Ellen Hunt Rauber**, Jan. 19, 2018

## 1960

**Ronald J. Carmichael**, Nov. 8, 2017

## 1961

**Carmen J. Narde Jr.**, Feb. 11, 2018

## 1962

**Robert A. McNeil**, Feb. 21, 2018

## 1963

**Henry Michael Landman**, April 8, 2017  
**Francis R. Hazlett**, March 16, 2018

## 1964

**Robert H. McGlynn**, Jan. 8, 2018

## 1966

**Lisa Gray Harrington**, Nov. 21, 2017  
**Susanna R. Masters Miller**, Feb. 2, 2018

## 1968

**Barry F. Quinn**, Feb. 10, 2018

## 1971

**Carmen J. Narde Jr.**, Feb. 11, 2018

## 1972

**Carol Zea Cromwell**, March 12, 2018

## 1977

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

## 1978

**Maaike Klubnick-Hoekstra**, Feb. 2, 2018  
**Daniel J. Carman**, Feb. 21, 2018  
**Keneth F. Mutch**, March 27, 2018

## 1979

**Michael W. Clancy**, Jan. 31, 2018

## 1980

**Dennis G. Whelpley**, Dec. 20, 2017

## 1982

**Michael R. Silsbee**, Jan. 25, 2018  
**Robert M. Swinnerton Sr.**, Feb. 17, 2018

## 1983

**Thomas J. Roberts**, May 15, 2016

## 1992

**Mary Ellen Rishar Little**, Jan. 3, 2018  
**Edward C. Szemkow**, July 18, 2017  
**William “Bill” M. O’Connor**, Jan. 31, 2018  
**Philip L. Bennett**, March 17, 2018

## 2001

**Matthew J. Fleming**, Dec. 12, 2017

## 2002

**Melissa DeBolt Virag**, Dec. 3, 2017

## Friends

**Vicki Eaklor**, who taught history at Alfred University for more than three decades before retiring two years ago, passed away March 8, 2018. She was 63. Vicki was a well-known professor who received numerous honors and awards during her tenure at Alfred University. She was the recipient of the Abigail Allen Award in 2004 and in both 1998 and 2005 received Excellence in Teaching Awards from the University. Vicki was born Nov. 24, 1954, the daughter of Warren and Josie Eaklor, and grew up



*Vicki Eaklor*

in Grand Junction, CO. She had a passion for both history and music and would go on to earn BA degrees in history and music education from Adams State College (CO) in 1976. She earned MA degrees in musicology in 1979 and American Intellectual/Cultural History in 1980 from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She also earned her Ph.D. from Washington University in 1982. She was appointed professor of history at Alfred University in 1984 and taught for 32 years, until her retirement in 2016. She also taught the course Women in Society and created the first-ever history courses at Alfred University in Queer America and Queer Hollywood. Vicki’s academic accomplishments also include dozens of published articles on music, history and gender issues. A published author, she wrote the books “Queer America: A GLBT History of the 20th Century” and “American Anti-Slavery Songs: A Collection & Analysis.” She also edited the book “Bringing Lesbian & Gay Rights Into the Mainstream,” by Steve Endean. A talented percussionist, Vicki’s performances on the drums – with AU’s concert band, its orchestra, and in smaller musical ensembles – were nothing short of spectacular, and she often gave private percussion lessons to Alfred University students. She is survived by her partner, whom she was with for 29 years.

**Peter Finlay**, retired professor of biology at Alfred University, passed away March 24, 2018. He was 93. Peter was a professor of biology in Alfred University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for 34 years until his retirement in 1990. During this tenure at Alfred University, he taught a variety of courses including biology, general zoology, cytology and embryology, as well as introductory courses. He was also active in the Environmental Studies program at Alfred University. Peter earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Williams College, a master’s degree from the University of Vermont, and a doctorate from Syracuse University.



# A message from President Zupan

**D**ear Alumni, creating a strategic plan for an institution as complex as Alfred University is not an easy task, but together – faculty, staff, students, alumni, and trustees – we have accomplished our goal. A special thanks to all those who have offered their input along the way. I encourage all of you to read our strategic plan and offer your feedback (zupan@alfred.edu).

The on-line version of the plan may be found at: [www.alfred.edu/strategic-plan/strategic-plan.cfm](http://www.alfred.edu/strategic-plan/strategic-plan.cfm)

## THE PLAN IS DIVIDED INTO:

**Three themes** – Transform Student Lives and Better our World; Forge Strength through Inclusivity; and Amplify our Impact.

**Four transformational initiatives** – Leverage our Community, Diversity and Inclusivity; Promote APEX; Build a More Immersive Learning Model; and Capitalize on Ceramics.

**Five foundational initiatives** – Build and Promote the Alfred University Brand; Enhance Student Recruitment and Success; Strengthen Alumni Engagement and Philanthropic Investment; Increase Support for Research and Socio-Economic Development; and Foster an Entrepreneurial Culture that Empowers Our People.

But bringing a plan together is only the first step; now we have to bring it to life in a way that assures a strong and healthy future for Alfred University. While we have started work in many areas, our APEX initiative is particularly worth noting.

APEX will provide the means for every Alfred University student to have an applied or experiential learning opportunity. Other schools offer them, but few, if any, provide financial assistance to students to make the opportunities possible.

Thanks to the generosity of Trustee Michele Cohen and her husband Marty, who provided the seed money, Alfred University will offer one-time grants of up to \$1,000 to 200 juniors and seniors effective this fall in support of an internship, co-op, study abroad, research experience, service learning, or other applied, experiential learning opportunity. By the time our entering first-year class this fall becomes juniors, the maximum one-time award will increase to \$2,000 and will be available to second-semester sophomores as well.

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

Hands-on learning has long been a hallmark of Alfred University. Through the APEX program, we intend to make applied, experiential learning experiences even more available to our students and a visible component of the Alfred



*Hands-on learning has long been a hallmark of Alfred University*

**Mark Zupan**  
Alfred University president

University brand. Our ultimate objective is to have Alfred University be the first higher educational institution in the country to provide meaningful applied, experiential learning opportunities for each student while offering financial support to help students pursue those opportunities.

While we have always had great opportunities for co-ops, undergraduate research, off-campus study, service learning, and internships, they were not coalesced under a common applied/experiential learning roof.

Whether through making APEX opportunities available to our current students or becoming involved with other elements of our strategic plan—being part of our Volunteers in Service to Alfred (VISA) program to recruit the next generation of Alfred University students or investing in our Saxon Circle—we welcome your engagement and support.

*Fiat Lux!*

– Mark







# Reasons to Cheer

Mark and Loretta O'Meara have cheered for Alfred University ever since their graduations in 1974 and 1975.

They have cheered the Saxons on Merrill Field for 48 consecutive Homecoming games.

They have cheered for Alfred with events and big-screen promotions at their Cinema Arts Theater in Fairfax, Virginia.

And their cheer will continue, through their generous bequest specifically designated to support student activities.

Thank you Mark and Loretta, for all you do. We cheer for you!

**HERITAGE**  
CIRCLE

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

# VISA

## 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)





# Enriching the student experience



***“Alfred has done so much for me; I felt it was time for me to do something for Alfred.”***

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 447 Saxon Circle members which includes 47 faculty/staff and 34 students who have collectively pledged \$8.4 million over a five year period to Alfred University.

Senior mechanical engineering and former President of Student Senate, Justin Fossum (left) has spent a great deal of his life leading. He was an early member of the Saxon Circle and has encouraged participation from students across campus. When asked why he joined Saxon Circle his response (above) spoke to the heart of what Alfred University is.

Justin will take his immense talents to Corning Incorporated where he will start his career after graduation.

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)



# from Nadine

Hello Alfred University alumni and in particular my Arthur O. Eve Opportunity Programs (H/EOP) family members!!! When I was asked to write in a section titled "Afterthoughts," a flood of memories filled my brain! The first class I was responsible for helping bring in was followed by the first summer program, then culminated with me watching the Class of 2005 walk across the stage after completing the requirements for their undergraduate degrees. WOW! What a rush! This year's commencement marked the 17th graduating class to take the stage since I began at Alfred University. Every year, I think about the incoming and graduating classes of the years before with a flurry of emotion, for those who accomplished their goals and for those who faced challenges that could not be overcome. I miss each and every student that I have had the privilege of encountering and often



wonder where you are and what you are doing. I would challenge each of you as you move along through the journey of life, that no matter how bad it may get along the way, respect and accept the commitments that you make. Ride out the storm knowing the challenges you face will bring great growth. Continue to increase your knowledge base, take the opportunity to listen with intent (even if you do not agree) and finally, remember where you come from – your foundation. If you follow this path, self-authorship/self-actualization is yours! Alfred Reunion Weekend is right around the corner! For those of you touched by H/EOP, our family is being recognized as an Honored Group this year! Please come home and spend some time with us! **We miss you!**

# from Dan

When the recent Black Panther movie hit theaters, several alumni reached out to me, reminiscing about how we once used King T'Challa and other comic book characters as part of Alfred University's diversity education. Superheroes have played a big part in my various roles at the University but not necessarily the heroes featured in these blockbuster films.

I have had the honor to guide hundreds of students when they were first discovering their power to change the world. They started clubs, ran concerts, educated others, fought injustices, created amazing art, competed in club sports, built skate parks and even failed miserably in achieving their goals but kept picking themselves up to fight another day. The students have always shaped this campus more so than any administrator or faculty member, and when I look around I see daily reminders of their contributions.

What astounds me even more is witnessing their contributions beyond Alfred. Our alumni are contributors to so many impressive causes and make a difference within their communities. They now return to our campus with their remarkable children



in tow, and allow me the privilege of retelling the legend of their parents' earlier days in Alfred. There have even been a few moments of late when I've been choked-up telling an alumnus how proud I am of their success... or their parenting...or the generosity they have shown back to our existing programs. (You know who you are, so thanks for keeping my softer side our little secret.)

This summer, we'll expand our superhero family to not just include Alfred University students but heroes from across the SUNY system – because it is the Alfred way to share good things. The Art Force 5 will even have our own house on Governor's Island from mid-May to mid-August. We'll invite kids to make superhero action figures and design their own capes. We fittingly call that program "HEROES WITHIN." I hope you take the ferry over with your friends or family so we can unite heroes past, present, and future under one Alfred roof. The fictional Justice League can't hold a candle to the real power of the AU Family.

# afterthoughts



Alfred University

1 Saxon Drive  
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**2018**  
JUNE 8-10

*We can't wait to  
welcome you home!*

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

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