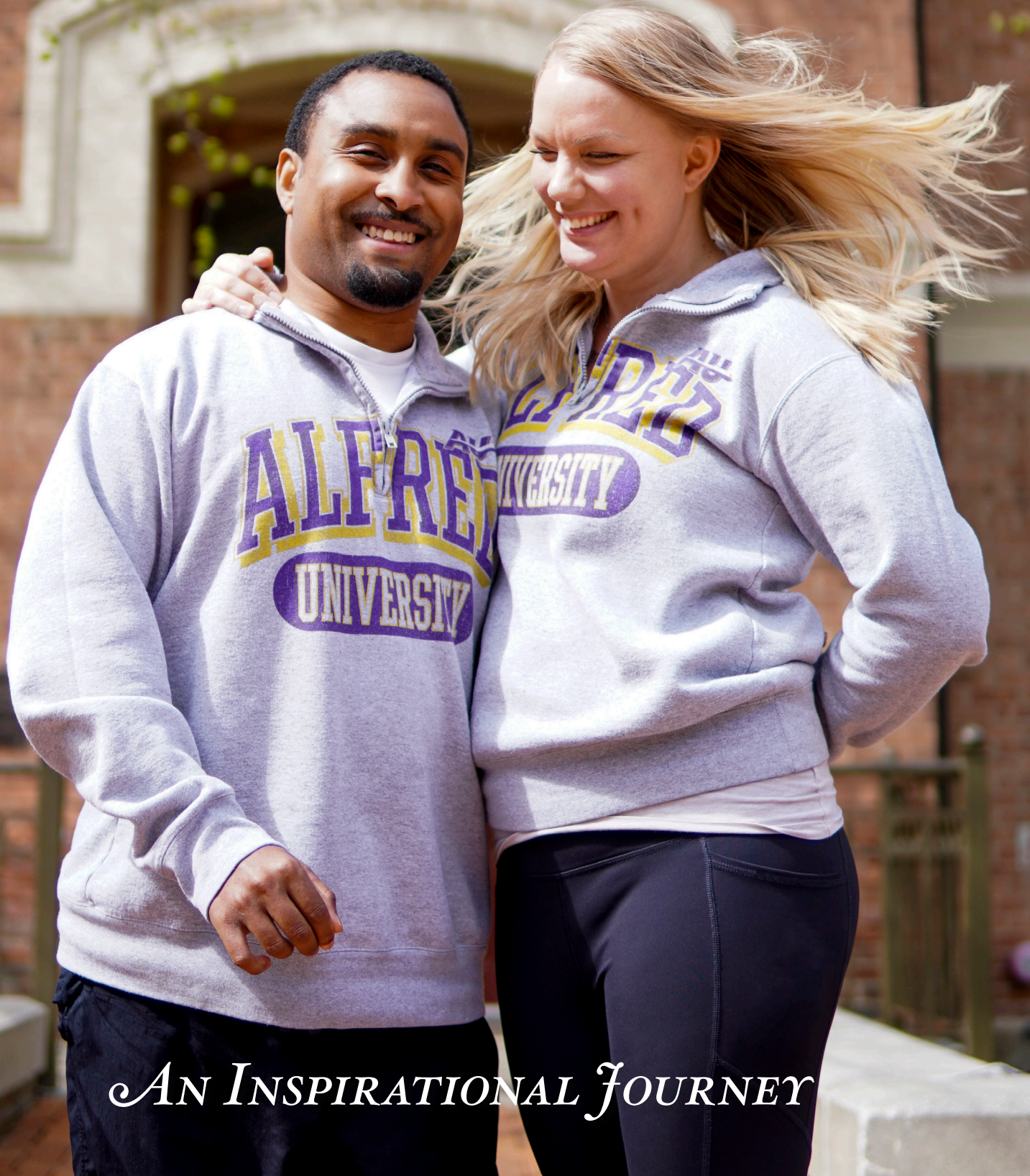


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JULY 2021



AN INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY



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Executive Editor
Jason Amore '97, MS '99

Contributing Writers
Mark Whitehouse
Rob Price

Design/Photography
Olivia Piazza '19

Additional Photography
Peter Mangels
Ramsey Railsback

Alfred University
1 Saxon Drive
Alfred, NY 14802
607-871-2103
news@alfred.edu

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Facing page: Alfred University seniors perform a celebratory mortarboard toss near the King Alfred statue ahead of the May 15 Commencement. Due to COVID restrictions, Alfred University held a virtual commencement ceremony and awarded 350 degrees, including 280 baccalaureate degrees, 69 master's degrees, and one doctoral degree. The University had earlier conferred 96 baccalaureate degrees, 18 master's degrees, and six doctoral degrees to August 2020, December 2020, and 2021 Allen Term (January) graduates. On June 17, Alfred University honored graduates of its AU-NYC program. During that virtual ceremony, the University awarded 180 master's degrees in School and Mental Health counseling and Public Administration; and 85 Advanced Certificates in Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling.

Above: Mark Zupan, Alfred University president, with several BFA degree recipients who specialized in neon glass art and were advised by Sarah Blood (right of Zupan in photo above), assistant professor of glass in the School of Art and Design's Division of Sculpture/Dimensional Studies.

Cover image: Julio Fuentes with fiancé Heather Levia outside Kanakadea Hall on the Alfred University campus. See story, Page 2.

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THE LONG ROAD BACK

Sixteen years after suffering a devastating football injury, Julio Fuentes nears his goal of an Alfred University degree.

By Mark Whitehouse

Julio Fuentes was a 19-year-old sophomore at Alfred University and a standout on the Saxon football team when, in a split second on the Merrill Field gridiron, his life changed forever. While blocking on a kickoff in the Saxons' 2006 home opener, Julio suffered a severe spinal injury that left him unable to walk. His dream of walking across the stage in the McLane Center gymnasium to receive his diploma was seemingly dashed.

Thanks to his own incredible determination, and a helping hand from members of the Alfred University community, Julio's dream of earning a degree is back on track. After years of rehabilitation, he has begun to walk again. And, after re-enrolling at Alfred University in the Fall of 2017, Julio, now 34, is on his way to earning a bachelor's degree with dual majors in psychology and sociology.



After his injury in 2006, doctors told Julio he would never walk again. He used that as motivation during years of rehabilitation in his hometown of Olean, knowing that he would prove the doctors wrong and someday walk again. "It has always been the goal since my injury," he said. "With my mentality and the support I've gotten from people, I've known anything was possible."

That determination was evident in September 2016—nearly a decade to the day after Julio's injury—during the Alfred University football team's home opening game. With his younger brother Maleke, himself a star running back for the Saxons, watching, Julio served as an honorary captain for the pregame coin toss. As he made his way back to the sideline in his wheelchair, Julio stopped and, with help from staff from Rehabilitation Today, the Olean facility where he had been receiving physical therapy, he rose from his chair and, using a walker, took the final steps off the field.

Bob Rankl '01 MSED, who was an assistant coach for the Saxons when Julio was injured and has served as head coach since 2014, says it was "100 percent the greatest day in my coaching career" when Julio walked off the field. He says Julio's courage that day inspired the Saxons, who defeated visiting Husson College on their way to a perfect 10-0 season and a deep NCAA playoff run.

Julio's determination and progress were inspiring to a pair of 1967 alumni as well. Mark Mertel and Russ Cesari, who both played football for the Saxons, were at home—Mertel in Arizona, Cesari in Maryland—watching the Alfred-Husson game on a live stream when they saw Julio make his way off the field. "I reached out to (Mertel) and asked, 'Do you know anything about this? Is anyone helping this kid?'" Cesari, a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees, recalled.

"It was very moving and it caused me to do some digging and ask questions at AU about his

injury and what Alfred was doing to help him," Mertel said. "I decided to start rallying the troops and we formed Team Julio" to assist with his rehabilitation and, ultimately, his transition back to college.

Soon after Julio's walk off the football field, the Board of Trustees, chaired at the time by Les Gelber '77, approved offering Julio a full scholarship to resume and complete his studies. Team Julio included Mertel; Cesari and his wife, Jo Ann; faculty, including Danielle Gagne, associate professor of psychology, Lou Lichtman, professor of psychology, and Karen Porter, professor of sociology; and staff, including Nadine Shardlow '86, '17 MSED, executive director of Opportunity Programs and the Center for Advising, Liz Shea, director of the Center for Academic Success, Meghanne Freivald, instructional technology specialist/online coordinator, and other representatives of Information Technology Services, the Division of Athletic Training, the Department of Athletics, and University Advancement.

Philanthropic support from Cesari and Mertel made certain Alfred classrooms remote learning-compatible and underwrote the acquisition of equipment Julio could use to rehab from home.

"It's different being online, but (the University) has made modifications to the classrooms, so it seems like I'm there," Julio explained. "I can interact with the professors and students. I'm pleasantly surprised with how well it has gone. The teachers are so receptive and encouraging. Alfred has really helped me by making this process easier."

Eventually, Mertel and Cesari purchased Julio a van, which he is learning to operate. Their philanthropy also supported internship experiences for Alfred University athletic training majors to allow them to work with Julio in his rehabilitation.

"Alfred University was a great help in putting

"My experience has shown how much of a community Alfred really is. I had never been introduced to alumni like this."

Julio Fuentes

Continued on page 4

the effort together and continues to fully support Julio with encouragement, and to help him academically,” Mertel noted. “Julio is now in a full-time physical therapy program that is being funded by Team Julio and is making great progress, including being able to drive!”

Julio, who had majored in criminal justice studies prior to his injury, had taken some general education classes at Jamestown Community College in Olean in the years preceding his walk off the Yunevich Stadium field in 2016. He said his experience—the injury, the years of rehab—led him to pursue a degree in psychology and sociology.

“What I had gone through was my inspiration,” he says of his decision to pursue a career in counseling. “I wanted to be in a position where I could help others.”

Julio has been taking classes regularly, on a part-time basis, since he re-enrolled at Alfred University in 2017, and looks forward to the day he can join his classmates on campus, in person. Because of his injury, he has respiratory problems

that could be complicated by COVID-19, so he must remain in a remote setting for the time being.

Julio says he is on track to complete his degree requirements in December 2022. The following spring, he will finish the journey he began as a first-year undergrad in the fall of 2005. “I will come to commencement (in May 2023) and I will definitely walk across the stage to get my diploma,” he says.

To thank Mertel and Cesari for their support, Julio gave them replicas of the special black Saxon football jerseys the team wore for home games in 2019. Mertel received his when he was on campus having lunch in Powell Campus Center and Julio surprised him by walking in to greet him. Julio presented Cesari with his jersey during a Board of Trustees dinner on campus that fall.

For their part, Mertel, Cesari, and Rankl say Julio has served as an inspiration.

“Julio is an amazing young man,” said Mertel. “He’s not bitter about his situation and is always positive. He will never quit. He is working his ass



Julio Fuentes makes his inspirational walk off the football field at Yunevich Stadium.

off with physical therapy and I fully expect him to achieve his goal of unassisted walking.”

“Working with him, seeing the attitude and the fortitude he has...he said the worst day of his life turned out to be the best day of his life—it takes a special person to have that attitude,” Cesari added. “It’s been a real journey for him. He has been a real trooper throughout the whole process. He is someone who would inspire other people.”

“I am so proud of his work ethic and perseverance,” Rankl remarked. “Knowing what he has gone through and has overcome serves as a huge inspiration to me. To this day, I have Julio’s picture posted in my office with a quote that reads ‘The nose of the bulldog is slanted backwards so that he can continue to breathe without letting go.’ I love to tell our players his story.”

Julio is encouraged by the progression of his recovery, and knows it is a process that will be with him always.

“From not having the ability to walk without a device, I’ve come a long way. I can take steps on my own, 10 or 15 feet. It’s slow going. The main thing is I need to keep working on my balance and my strength. I’m significantly better. I’m so much less afraid of falling,” he said. “I’m really looking forward to that. In the next three years, the wheelchair should be discarded.”

Julio is quick to thank the people who have supported him over the years, including his fiancé, Heather Levia, Mertel, the Cesaris, Rankl, Robin Mazejka ’21 MBA from the Division of University Advancement, president Mark Zupan, alumnus Keith Gregory ’68, and former athletic trainer Matt Oakes ’05.

“Anytime I’ve faced a problem, they have been there to help. Coach Rankl has been a really big factor in my life. He reaches out to me, always offering words of encouragement,” Julio said.

“My experience has shown how much of a community Alfred really is. I had never been introduced to alumni like this. They embraced me with open arms and really encouraged me. Alumni came to the hospital to visit me after my injury. It shows how accepting Alfred University is.”

There was a time, Rankl admits, he thought Julio would never walk again. That, he realized, was a mistake.

“In retrospect, how foolish was it of me to doubt him. As a player, he was tough as nails and would never be beaten despite being the smallest guy on the field. His competitive,

fearless attitude made him a great player and I believe that is the exact attitude that has allowed him to walk again and ultimately return to Alfred University. Nobody should ever be surprised by anything that Julio Fuentes accomplishes.”



Julio Fuentes with Bob Rankl, Alfred University football coach, at the football field at Yunevich Stadium. Rankl is one of many in the University community Julio credits with helping him resume his Alfred University studies following his injury during a football game in 2006.

Scientist and CEO

By Mark Whitehouse

Photography by Ramsey Railsback

Dr. Cheryl Blanchard '86 credits much of her success as an engineer, and her accomplishments in the fields of medical devices and biotechnology—as a scientist and business executive—to her time as an undergraduate at Alfred University. However, as Cheryl tells it, there was a time when she had no interest whatsoever in enrolling at Alfred.

Cheryl knew about Alfred University well before she began considering colleges during her senior year in high school. Her father, Carlton Blanchard '60, earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Alfred University and went on to earn a master's in education, also from Alfred, in 1961. While growing up in Syracuse, Cheryl recalled, her father, now a retired guidance counselor at Westhill High School, spoke often about his alma mater, so much so that when it came time to begin looking at colleges, she was certain of one thing: "I was not going to Alfred."

As a student at West Genesee High School in Syracuse, Cheryl aspired to a career in music, but ultimately decided on a different career path, one that played to her other strengths. "I didn't want to end up a starving musician. I really liked math and science, so I started looking into engineering programs."

Her father carefully suggested a trip to Alfred University in the fall of 1981, during her senior year in high school. Cheryl and her dad made the drive to Alfred on Homecoming Weekend. She stayed with a former student of her dad studying ceramic engineering, who took her to visit Bill LaCourse, professor of glass science.

"We went to his lab, he shook my hand and gave me a lab coat and put me to work," Cheryl recalled. "Here I was a high school student, and this professor had me working with him in the lab on a Saturday. I got in the car on Sunday to go home and told my dad, 'This is where I want to go.' I fell in love with the place. I knew I would do a lot of things hands-on there. And it was a liberal arts school so I would have the ability to develop as a whole person."

Cheryl enrolled at Alfred University in the fall of 1982, majoring in ceramic engineering. Soon, she decided that she wanted to enroll in dance classes—"I hadn't danced at all before coming to Alfred," she said—and in her first semester presented the idea to her advisor. "He said, 'engineering students don't take dance classes.'"

Cheryl changed advisors to Vernon Burdick '61, professor of ceramic engineering and a Delta Sig fraternity brother of her dad. She told Burdick she wanted to take dance classes and he worked with her to fit them into her schedule as liberal arts and physical education requirements. "At Alfred, you have people who want to help you. The engineering curriculum at Alfred is pretty packed; it's not easy to do something else seriously. But he (Burdick) told me if I wanted to study dance then we would find a way to make that work. Those classes were an important outlet for me with such a heavy engineering load."

Cheryl went on to take a dance class each semester and took part in various performances. She recalls the presentation of her senior honors thesis conflicting with a dance program and telling LaCourse, her thesis advisor, of her dilemma. "He said I could move my presentation back a couple of days. Then he asked when my dance program was and showed up for it."

Another experience at Alfred that helped shape Cheryl's career and education was the study abroad program. While at Alfred, she traveled to Lausanne, Switzerland, to study materials engineering at L'École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL).

"I loved the study abroad program. A lot of study abroad programs today are too structured. Everything—getting a place to live, finding your

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ANIKA



CHILARD

way around—is laid out for you. We had to do all that ourselves,” Cheryl said. “I traveled a lot, learned to speak fluent French, and studied my head off. It was hard, but it built me up, gave me independence. I told my parents not to expect the same person coming home.”

After graduating from Alfred in 1986 with her bachelor’s degree in ceramic engineering with a mathematics minor, Cheryl began what would be a successful and diverse career in the fields of medical devices and biotechnology—fields using materials science, engineering and drug delivery for developing medical treatments—as both a chief scientific officer and now a CEO.

In 1986, Cheryl joined Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) in San Antonio, TX, where initially she worked as an engineer, conducting research for the U.S. Department of Defense. “I loved the technology, but when I faced into how it was being used, I thought, ‘That’s not why I became an engineer.’”

“Bioengineering was pretty nascent at the time. One of my mentors at Southwest Research Institute, Jim Lankford, told me I should look into it; it’s the future. I worked on projects with him and eventually became an adjunct at the medical school and decided this is what I really wanted to do.”

Cheryl pursued her master’s and doctoral degrees in materials science and engineering from the University of Texas, Austin, while working at SwRI. She earned her master’s in 1989 and in 1993 became an adjunct professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, where she also served as associate director of a National Science Foundation Center, directing research on

regenerative medicine, implants, and biofilms.

Cheryl earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1994 and continued her work at SwRI and the Health Science Center, leading a team of scientists whose research focused on the use of keratin—the material found in hair, nails and skin—as a biopolymer, which led to the

founding of Keraplast Technologies.

“That’s where I first learned how to run a business,” Cheryl noted. “It’s where I was first exposed to providing therapies to patients. I knew that’s where I wanted to go. It’s when I decided to go to Zimmer to really learn the business.”

In 2000, Cheryl left SwRI for Warsaw, IN, where she joined Zimmer, Inc., a leader in orthopedic implants and surgical products. She was at Zimmer for 12 years, serving initially as director of research and progressing to senior vice president of Research and Development, and corporate chief scientific officer and general manager of the Biologics Business.

Early in her tenure at Zimmer, Cheryl proposed and won approval from the company CEO for building a business unit focused on biologic

therapies. “I built a case that regenerative medicine is the wave of the future and we should build a pipeline in that field,” she said. “He said put a business plan together and bring it to me.”

The Biologics Business at Zimmer, Inc. (now Zimmer Biomet) is a multi-\$100 million business unit today. Zimmer’s biologics portfolio includes regenerative medicine therapies including bone, soft tissue, and cartilage repair products.

Cheryl wore two hats at Zimmer: that of chief



Cheryl Blanchard '86 is president and CEO at Anika Therapeutics, an integrated orthopedic and regenerative medicines company. Her background in science and research has played a key role in her success as a business executive.



Cheryl Blanchard '86 began her career in the laboratory, working as an engineer and conducting research in the field of bioengineering.

scientist, and that of business executive building and leading a business unit. She credits her mentors, in college and in her profession, for preparing her to play those dual roles. "I was able to do the two jobs, but it was daunting. I've always kept a great group of mentors in my life that truly helped me. That is why I mentor anyone who asks. You have to pay it forward."

Cheryl said her time at Alfred—when she found time outside the rigors of her studies to take dance classes, for example—equipped her for handling the dual roles. "My experience at Alfred taught me the value of pursuing things I was curious about."

At Zimmer, Cheryl oversaw the launch of numerous products. Among them were gender-specific knee implants. She explained that knee implant designs were based on male bony anatomy, "so female (knee replacements) didn't always have the best outcomes." With an expert team, Zimmer designed a knee implant specifically with the female anatomy in mind.

"That had a major impact on the industry and on clinical outcomes for women. Those products have gone into millions of people. It was one reason I was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering."

Cheryl left Zimmer in 2012 and started Blanchard Consulting, LLC, a consulting practice serving companies and venture capital/private equity

clients in the biotech and medical devices sector, until 2020. In 2014, Cheryl was appointed president and CEO of Microchips Biotech, a venture-backed biotech company developing revolutionary active electronic microchip-based implants for controllable drug delivery focused on women's health and metabolic diseases.

Cheryl credits Alfred University alumnus Richard Mott '80, whom she counts as a mentor, for playing a key role in her development as a CEO. Mott, who has held several CEO positions in the biomedical industry, was chairman of the Board of Directors at Microchips when she was appointed CEO. "I likely wouldn't have become a CEO without him, he taught me so much" Cheryl said of Mott.

Microchips Biotech was sold to Dare' Bioscience in 2019. Cheryl now serves on their board. In February of 2020, she was appointed interim chief executive officer at Anika Therapeutics, Inc., a publicly-traded global, integrated orthopedic and regenerative medicines company based in Bedford, MA. Cheryl had been serving on Anika's Board since 2018. Two months later, she was named the company's president and CEO.

Does Cheryl, who accomplished so much as a scientist, miss the research side of an industry where she is now a leading business executive?

"I'm still involved (in the science) every day, but

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also from the business side of it. Finding the sweet spot of technology that addresses unmet needs, and turning it into a business that helps patients... that's what I love," Cheryl said. She is quick to note that her success as a business leader wouldn't have been possible without her achievements as a corporate scientist. "Most CEOs come from a business background. But with biotechnology, many CEOs are MDs or PhDs and need to know the technology behind the business, and all that goes in to getting products approved."

Cheryl attributes much of her success to mentors who encouraged and advised her to take risks. "I never pictured myself in this role. I was super shy as a kid and didn't know what I could do. But I had all these mentors— Bill LaCourse and Vern Burdick at AU; Rich Mott at Microchips; Jim Lankford at SwRI; Ray Elliot, former Zimmer CEO, who planted the idea in my head that I could be a CEO; Stuart Essig, former CEO at Integra Life Sciences, who encouraged me to serve on boards (Cheryl has since served on 11 corporate boards)—all who said, 'You can do this.'"

Cheryl said working in the biotech industry gives her a great sense of pride, because her work—and that of the teams she has led over the years—has helped so many people.

"I'm so grateful to work in a space that helps patients. I work with wonderful people, on amazing teams, who develop great therapies that help people, all while building value for shareholders" she said. "Millions of people have benefitted from the therapies my teams have put out. I love what I do. I can't believe I get to do this every day."

Cheryl and her husband, Ramsey Railsback, a professional photographer she met while studying and working in Texas, live in the Boston area and have two sons, Loren, 24, and Mitchell, 21. With Cheryl's mentorship, Sha'Ryia Hogue '20, who attended the same high school in Indiana as her sons, became close with the family and enrolled at Alfred University in 2016. Sha'Ryia grew and excelled during their time at Alfred, becoming president of Alfred's chapter of the American Marketing Association, treasurer of the Student Managed Investment Fund, and serving as a student ambassador before graduating with a degree in

marketing (minors in finance and data analytics).

"Here was a kid who struggled in high school, who really just needed confidence," Cheryl said. "Sha'Ryia found that at Alfred and now has their dream job doing data analytics for a national marketing firm."

Cheryl has given back to her alma mater, as a member of the Board of Trustees—where she serves on the Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Finance committees—and through her philanthropy. In 2017, she provided the initial gift for Cheryl's Closet. The program, which operates from the University's Career Development Center, provides students business attire, free of charge, which they can use for interviews, career fairs, presentations, thesis defenses, dinners and

networking events. Since its founding, Cheryl's Closet has served well over 400 students, with more than 140 alumni, trustees, staff, faculty, family members, and students having donated items.

The days when Cheryl was skeptical about attending Alfred University are a distant memory. She has served on the University's Board of Trustees since 2014, speaks fondly of her alma mater, and recruits students to Alfred. She says Alfred encouraged her to step out of her comfort zone, which helped prepare her for her career. To illustrate her point, Cheryl told the story of the late Milton "Doc" Tuttle, an electrical engineering professor at Alfred University who coached her father on the track team while he was a

student at Alfred.

"I had known Doc growing up, and I took one of his classes at Alfred – it was so hard," she recalled. Tuttle encouraged her to take a work study position in the electrical engineering lab and she did, immersing herself in the work. Years later, the experience paid off. "I wound up running a company (Microchips Biotech) that was based on solid state electronics."

"Alfred is a place where you can take risks, because there is someone there to catch you if you fall," Cheryl said. "It really allows you to develop as a whole person."

"Alfred is a place where you can take risks, because there is someone there to catch you if you fall. It really allows you to develop as a whole person."

Cheryl Blanchard '86



FROM Z TO AU

By Mark Zupan, president

While we have but one stop light in town, the luminosity emanating from Alfred University’s intersection is wondrous. At its essence, the mission and vision of our educational intersection is to transform student lives and better our world.

Institutions of higher education such as Alfred University have been so durable and impactful because of the intersections that they provide across people, disciplines, and time. Universities epitomize what author Matt Ridley points to as being the distinguishing feature of our human race—our ability to promote the sex of ideas; the capacity to store and build upon knowledge.

COVID threatened universities because it also thrived on intersections. To mitigate the pandemic’s spread, we had to learn how to preserve the most meaningful intersections at the heart of education while pivoting to new ways of behaving that avoided others: daily screenings, masking, social distancing, surveillance testing, tracing, and isolating/quarantining.

We were able to “Protect the Lux!” through the resourcefulness, resoluteness, and resilience of our students, staff, and faculty. The new norms that were established and adhered to allowed us to ensure the safety of our community members while preserving three key intersections at Alfred University: knowledge; the future; and ourselves. Throughout the academic

year, nearly 55 percent of our classes were in person, 25 percent were hybrid, and the remainder online. Safety protocols resulted in our classrooms being places that did not spread COVID while conveying knowledge. We treasure these old educational norms all the more now and look forward to returning fully to them during the coming academic year.

Successfully navigating the past year also permitted us to reaffirm our commitment to the future and creating a better world. As one pundit aptly put it, the time that we have been living through has been a combination of 1918, 1929, and 1968—a vexing amalgamation of viral pandemic and socioeconomic challenges. While the challenges have been manifold and monumental, the way to overcome them is through the education that is at the fore of our University’s mission and vision.

Finally, dealing with COVID created an opportunity to focus on our values. Trustee Jim Jordan ’72 is fond of noting that the first time he met himself was at Alfred. College provides a crucible for reflecting on and developing the principles that we live by—even more so when a pandemic amplifies a crucible’s heat. The heat, of course, affords enlightenment and serves as a reminder of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s observation that “what lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Please join me in commending our students, staff, and faculty for all that they have done to

bring Alfred University through and beyond COVID. Their unwavering commitment to learning—to creating intersections with knowledge, the future, and themselves—during these difficult times does them honor and has amplified Alfred University’s light.

Successfully navigating the past year also permitted us to reaffirm our commitment to the future and creating a better world. While the challenges have been manifold and monumental, the way to overcome them is through the education that is at the fore of our University’s mission and vision.

Mark Zupan

FIAT LUX!
Mark

MADAME *Mayor*

Alfred's past and present come together in the life and work of Professor Becky Prophet '70

By Rob Price



Alfred University Professor of Theatre Becky Prophet began adding a streak of purple to her hair almost three years ago. Not only did it look cool; purple is also an international symbol for women's rights and the official color of International Women's Day.

It's also one-half of the Alfred University colors, and for Prophet that's not a casual coincidence. She tinted her hair also to mark her lifelong involvement with a university that maintains a historic commitment to women's rights. Moreover, Alfred University's history is woven into Prophet's life as much as her devotion to women's rights. Her mother and father attended Alfred; Becky and her husband, Craig Prophet, graduated from our University in 1970 and 1968, respectively; five of Becky's brothers and sisters also graduated from the University, and the Prophets' son, Cameron, graduated from the University in 2010.

On top of all that, Becky loves Alfred University; also the larger Alfred community where she grew up.

When she and Craig Prophet moved back to Alfred in 1992, it was a homecoming that resonated in her soul.

"The paths always led to Alfred. We came back to the community and the University to raise our children here. We feel like we can never leave this community."

It's not just an emotional connection. She and Craig bought her parents' old home on South Main Street. She joined the A. E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Company; she became an EMT for the ambulance corps; she ran for and was elected to the village board. In 2016, when then-mayor Justin Grigg stepped down, she was elected to fill the remainder of his term; she was elected to her own mayoral term, and in March 2021, she was re-elected to a second full term.

As mayor of the village through the COVID crisis, she has worked to coordinate the responses of the village government with the administrations of Alfred University and Alfred State College, as well as with the Allegany County Public Health Department. As a former college student (and occasional hell raiser) during the 1960's, she makes an almost instinctual connection between the pandemic and those tumultuous years. "I'm seeing the highest

levels of civil unrest and stress since the 1960's," she says.

Becky's parents, Stanley and Lydia Menges Butts, settled in Alfred after the Second World War, having attended the University earlier and deciding the village would be a good place to raise their family. "They were drawn to the cultural, academic, artistic, and intellectual opportunities in a rural and farming setting," she noted.

As an undergraduate at the University, Becky majored in English, although as a child she had begun a lifelong devotion to theater under the mentoring of the esteemed Duryea Smith, who taught in our University's speech and drama department for 32 years. At Alfred University, she also met her future spouse, who was studying art as an undergraduate. They married in her senior year, moved to Boston while Craig studied for his MFA at Boston University and then began working in advertising. In 1970, Craig began a two-year stint in the U.S. Army that included a year on Okinawa for the couple.

Life in the Army had its ups and downs. Both Becky and Craig adamantly opposed the war in Vietnam and had considered moving to Canada. On Okinawa, they avoided U.S. military parties, became friendly with Japanese neighbors, and immersed themselves in the surrounding Okinawan culture. After Craig's discharge from the Army, they returned to Boston, where he worked again in advertising and Becky began teaching English at Uxbridge High School, where she helped found the school's theater program. Eventually they agreed she should begin her graduate work in the theater; they moved to Ann Arbor, MI, and she enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Michigan.

"I always loved drama," she says. "I was an English major at Alfred, partly because I didn't think my parents would have a lot of sympathy for my majoring in theater. I studied English, history and political science, but in my mind they were all bridges to the theater."

In 1982, her dissertation nearly finished, Becky and Craig moved to Atlanta, where she joined the faculty at Agnes Scott College, a women's school and institution suffering an unfair reputation as a

finishing school for southern women. Becky didn't mind the reputation. The challenge of turning the college's all-women's traditions in new directions appealed to her. "At Agnes Scott, I learned about doing theater with women. I bought into single-sex education and how it empowers women."

Ten years later, in 1992, she and Craig moved back to Alfred, where she became chair of the Division of Performing Arts. Settling into the family home on South Main Street, they confronted the challenges of an old home with little insulation, a galley-sized kitchen, old plumbing, old bathrooms, raccoons in the attic – the kind of place a lot of prospective buyers would look at and say, "No thanks." They chased off the raccoons and began renovations, injecting insulation into the walls, replacing

infrastructure, and eventually building a new kitchen and studio space for Craig. They made it livable again, a place where they could comfortably raise their children, Cameron and Riha, and a place where they could entertain students and friends.

Nearly 30 years after moving back to Alfred, Becky continues to teach theater and acting in the Division of Performing Arts. She envisions a full retirement within the next two years, but she shows no signs of slowing down. In September 2020, she helped spearhead passage of a local mask law in the Village of Alfred, modeled on a local law passed in the downstate Village of

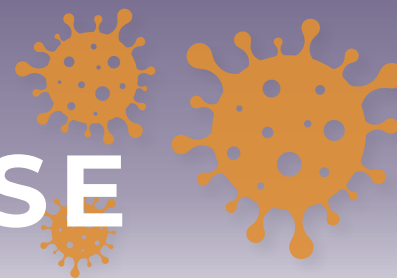
New Castle. The law coordinates mask regulations on village sidewalks with similar requirements on both the Alfred University and Alfred State college campuses. And while some controversy attended the law's passage, Alfred University and Alfred State College managed to continue offering on-campus classes through the fall semester and spring semester, in contrast with numerous institutions in New York and other states.

That's an accomplishment both Alfred University and Alfred State can take pride in, and Becky says she's happy to have played a role. "Alfred was built on the work of volunteers," she says. "It's just part of our ethos. My life and education in the different Alfreds have enhanced what I can offer and accomplish in each and all of the others. If I can contribute to the overall health, that's great"

"Alfred was built on the work of volunteers. It's just part of our ethos... If I can contribute to the overall health, that's great."

Becky Prophet '70

ALFRED UNIVERSITY AND THE COVID RESPONSE



The COVID pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges across our nation and around the globe. Alfred University alumni, faculty, and students have helped meet those challenges.



James Hart '01, (B.A., chemistry) is medical director at Abbott Laboratories Diagnostic Division in Irving, TX, which developed tests to identify the presence of COVID. Jim helped develop a serology test launched in April 2020, which detects antibodies produced to fight off infection by the virus.

In 2010, after earning doctoral degrees in medicine and biophysical chemistry from the University of Rochester, Jim began his career at Abbott Laboratories. He has held several positions in Abbott's Diagnostics Division, including systems engineer, engineering manager, and systems development manager. He joined Abbott's Medical Affairs organization in 2017, serving as associate medical director until his promotion to medical director in July 2019.



Cassondre Kronau '18, (B.A., biology; minor in chemistry) is lead biotech dispensing technician at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, in Rensselaer, NY. In November, Regeneron was awarded Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA for a novel anti-viral antibody cocktail—a combination therapy of two antibodies, casirivimab

and imdevimab—for treatment of appropriate patients with COVID.

The cocktail treats adults with mild to moderate cases of COVID, as well as some pediatric patients who tested positive and are at high risk of progressing to severe COVID and/or hospitalization.

In her position with Regeneron, Cassondre is responsible for dispensing the required amounts of raw materials used to manufacture each batch of the antibody cocktail.



Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, one of two medical schools where Alfred University alumnus **Dr. Robert L. Johnson '68** serves as dean, hosted a clinic to administer COVID vaccines from Pfizer in December, four days after Pfizer's vaccine obtained emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration.

University Hospital—the teaching hospital for Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, in Newark, NJ—opened a COVID vaccine clinic on Dec. 15, and began administering Pfizer-BioNTech inoculations that day to frontline workers. Robert was among those to receive the vaccination.

Robert earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Alfred University in 1968 and is the only dean in U.S. history to oversee two medical schools simultaneously. In addition to serving as dean at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, he is interim dean at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Robert "Rob" Schaut '02, (B.S., ceramic engineering; minor glass science engineering), scientific director for Corning Incorporated Pharmaceutical Technologies, led his company's development of glass vials used to transport COVID vaccines.

Rob co-invented Valor, Corning's new medical glass container. Valor containers are more durable and resistant to flaking or cracking—and less susceptible to particulate contamination—than vials made from conventional glass; can be filled faster and with a decreased chance of breaking; and can better withstand the harsh subzero temperatures needed to store some of the vaccines being produced.

Under the White House's Operation Warp Speed

Initiative, the U.S. Departments of Defense and Health and Human Services selected Valor glass packaging to accelerate delivery of COVID vaccines



Kian Merchant-Borna '07, (B.A., biology, environmental studies) served as principal investigator for a University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC)-hosted clinical trial of a quick COVID diagnostic testing device.

Abbott Laboratories' BinaxNOW, a point of care diagnostic, was evaluated in the clinical trial at URMC. The \$5 diagnostic test, roughly the size of a credit card, detects COVID from a nasal swab within 15 minutes. It has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization for use by health care providers.

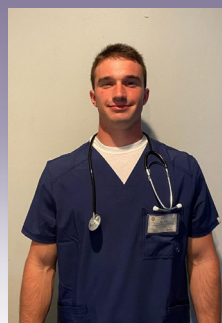
Kian is a member of the research faculty in the URMC Department of Emergency Medicine. As principal investigator of the Emergency Medicine Industry Sponsored Research Program, Kian oversaw the clinical trial at URMC. The University of Rochester was one of 19 universities that served as test sites for the clinical trial of BinaxNOW.



Paula Clarke '15, an alumna of Alfred University's AU-NYC program (MSEd, public administration) is an administrator at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, NY, referred to as "coronavirus ground zero" during the early stages of the COVID pandemic. Paula was featured in an ABC News story

titled "How NY hospital faced COVID devastation and came back from the brink," a retrospective of how the hospital responded to and is still recovering from the effects of the pandemic. Read the story here: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/ny-hospital-faced-covid-devastation-back-brink/story?id=76638912>

Junjun Ding, assistant professor of materials science and engineering in the Inamori School of Engineering, led a group of graduate students who used 3-D printing technology to produce air filters for use in personal respirators used to protect against COVID. The group used graphene oxide to 3-D print the air filters and the respirator frame, into which the filters are fitted.



Ryan Elliott '21, (biology major; chemistry minor) worked over the summer of 2020 as a specimen accessioner at Acutis Diagnostics in East Northport, NY, and as a phlebotomist at Medicenter, an urgent care facility in Huntington Station, NY. The work at both facilities was key in the response to

COVID, not only in the Greater New York City area, a virus hotspot for most of the pandemic, but throughout the United States.

Acutis is one of the first mass diagnostic laboratories in the country to test for COVID, releasing its test under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization last March. The test involves analyzing specimens taken from nasal swabs, which are delivered to Acutis from across New York State and locations all over the country.

At Medicenter, Elliott drew blood and ran the samples through a centrifuge, and sent them to a lab for further analysis to determine the presence of antibodies. Antibody testing helps determine how many people have been infected with, and recovered from COVID.

Eric Zuckerman '03, (B.S., political science; public law and business administration minors) is president of Pac Team Group, a maker of custom displays and fixtures for high-end retail stores and a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees. He used his firm to make protective gear for health care personnel working the front line in the battle against COVID, and also started a business that produced a device that makes face masks more comfortable.

In late March 2020, about a week after the state of Illinois issued a stay at home order, Eric and some of his employees retooled Pac Team Group's Chicago plant to produce protective face shields. The move preserved his employees' jobs while contributing to the COVID response efforts.

In the spring of 2020, Eric started Comforband, a maker of a device—consisting of a cloth headband with two buttons attached, on which the loops of the facemask are secured—providing more comfort for the mask wearer. Comforband was announced as a finalist in the Accessories Council's annual Design Excellence Awards. The company went on to win the Design Excellence Award in the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) category.



All That JAZZ

Alfred University Life
Trustee David Miller '66,
HD '12 swings with new
CDs featuring jazz trio
and daughter/vocalist
Rebecca DuMaine

By Rob Price

Alfred University Life Trustee David Miller '66, HD '12 remembers sitting on his grandmother's lap as she played her Steinway piano in the family home in Great Neck, Long Island. Esther Singer was a classical pianist, and David continues playing her Steinway in his own family home in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he practices law with the Hanson Bridgett law firm and leads one of the Bay Area's leading jazz groups, the Dave Miller Trio.

The reach from the classical music his grandmother played to the classic jazz he plays now isn't that much of a stretch. "If you're going to be a good jazz pianist, you have to be grounded in classical music," David says. "So many of the distinguishing features of jazz are derived from classical music."

You can hear the classical undertones in the many recordings released by the Trio over the years, including the most recently released *Just Imagine and Chez Nous, Someday, Someday, and The Mask-erade is Over*. David's classical roots are also underscored by his willingness to bring the Trio to Alfred University's MostArts Festival and/or Reunion.

The complexities of classical music and jazz weren't always part of David's musical tastes, notwithstanding the hours he spent listening to his grandmother play. As a teenager, he preferred Little Richard to Brahms or Brubeck. "I loved playing rock and roll when I was a kid."

Jazz kicked in as his musical tastes matured. The music stayed with him through his years at Alfred University, where he met his future wife, Elizabeth "Bebes" Graves '65; then through law school and even into his law practice at Hanson Bridgett.

The story of how his love for both the law and jazz came together is a gem: At a Hanson Bridgett holiday party, the managing partner who had been responsible for booking the night's entertainment dropped the ball. A panicked, last-minute call to the local musicians' union turned up a bassist, Martin Clevinger, and the drummer Bill Belasco. "Don't

worry," the partner said over the phone. "We have a guy who can play piano."

"I was thinking," David says, "I got the last two guys in the hiring hall, and they were thinking: 'We've got to play all night with a lawyer.'"

That improvised night of music turned out to be serendipitous. In its aftermath, Belasco began playing drums regularly with David and has played for the Trio since its inception. Clevinger, a stand-out bassist who invented the Clevinger Bass, laid the groundwork for future Trio bassists: the renowned Mario Suraci, Chuck Bennett and Andrew Higgins.

The Trio also expanded what one critic calls "straight ahead jazz" with the addition of vocalist Rebecca DuMaine, an actor by training and currently a Professor of Voice and Speech at the Academy of Art University, in San Francisco. She joined the Trio for its 2011 album, *Deed I Do*, and her singing, evoking Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Sarah Vaughan, has been described as "high spirited impeccable jazz."

She also happens to be David and Bebe's daughter.

Rebecca began singing with her father as a three-year-old, and she began singing with the Trio when she was 16. "Now we're musical partners," David says. Rebecca and her own family live nearby – "We have lots of time to practice."

If there are such things as musical genes, they run deep in the Miller family. David's sister, Sarajane Miller Small, is a cellist. Dave and Bebe's second daughter, Stephanie, is a guitarist, and Rebecca's two children, Jackson and Kealy Bryman, 15 and 12, respectively, are showing all the symptoms. Jackson already is an accomplished pianist and vocalist, and Kealy is a guitar player and vocalist; she's also a great whistler. "You close your eyes while she whistles and you're just stunned," David says. He and Bebe also have a third grandchild, Stephanie's young son, Dylan Belgard, a budding drummer who has a keen interest in becoming a pianist as well.

The Dave Miller Trio has continued to play its "straight ahead jazz" through the months of COVID, thanks in part to San Francisco's mild climate which allowed the band to perform outdoors well into the fall of 2020.

"It's been pretty dark in the entertainment world, though," David says. He describes the band's album *Someday, Someday*, featuring Rebecca, as a meditation on the COVID pandemic. "All the tunes have gloom at one end and hope at the other." The Trio's recent release, *The Mask-erade is Over*, also alludes to the months of pandemic, punning on the title of the jazz number *The Masquerade is Over*. There's a political dimension to the joke, David adds, "in terms of what had been going on in Washington."

As a jazz musician, his work has been described as

"dead, solid perfect jazz piano" (Chris Spector, Midwest Record). In addition, *Someday, Someday* has received sterling reviews. Jazz critic Joe Lang described the combination of David's piano work and Rebecca's singing "a winning combination"; critic Jonathan Widran cited the "insightful and delightfully swinging daughter and father duo." Commenting on the work of the Trio, Tom Haugen calls *Someday, Someday* "a top notch jazz listen."

As with previous

recordings by the Dave Miller Trio, *Someday, Someday* has been released by Summit Records and also is available through Amazon. Altogether, the Summit collection of the Dave Miller Trio's jazz presents a musical experience David himself describes as soulfully beneficial. "Music is a common denominator for communication. It breaks down barriers, it brings smiles to people's faces. It doesn't cause stress. It engenders hope. It brings about harmony."

And playing with Rebecca and the Trio is "just plain fun. ...It's a nice diversion at a time when it's good to get your mind off what's been happening and hope for a happier future."



David Miller '66, HD '12 and daughter Rebecca DuMaine.



Cohen gift to fund new foundry project

A \$6 million gift from Board of Trustees member Michele Cohen HD '18 and her husband Martin will create a state-of-the-art foundry facility at Alfred University offering exciting new opportunities for art and engineering students, while also providing the campus with a new energy-efficient heating system.

The new foundry will be located in the building on the East side of the Carnegie Hall parking lot that now houses our University's centralized heating plant. The centralized heating plant will be replaced with an energy-efficient distributed boiler system, thereby creating significant savings in our utilities and maintenance costs while reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

The new foundry will be home to Alfred University's National Casting Center, Advanced Digital Fabrication Lab, and Additive and Advanced Manufacturing Center. The student-focused collaborative space will provide melting facilities, classroom space, and other experiential learning opportunities. It will be utilized by the School of Art and Design's Division of Sculpture/Dimensional Studies for its glass and

metal casting programs, and by the Inamori School of Engineering for the materials science and mechanical engineering programs.

The overall project also will create upgraded space to house displaced facilities team members who now work out of the existing central heating plant.

Michele Cohen, who has served on the University's Board of Trustees since 2001, is retired from Cohen and Steers Capital Management in New York City. She currently serves as chair of the Board of Trustees at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City. Alfred University awarded her an honorary degree in 2018. Martin Cohen, who co-founded Cohen and Steers in 1986, is the company's chair. The Cohens' son, Adam, is a 2003 alumnus of the Alfred University School of Art and Design.

The Cohens' previous philanthropy has endowed the deanship of the University's School of Art and Design and Division of Performing Arts, established the Cohen Center for the Arts and Cohen Gallery, and launched APEX, our applied experiential learning program.

Trustee gifts help fund Openyhm renovations, campus beautification



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



Greg Connors '92

Gifts from two members of our Board of Trustees helped fund renovations of Openyhm residence hall, while gifts from three other trustees supported a paving project that created a new walking/jogging/biking path on campus.

Board of Trustee member Marlin Miller '54, HD '89, HD '19 and Board Chair Greg Connors '92 helped fund renovations of Openyhm residence hall. Construction on the \$9 million project, which renovated 156 student rooms on Openyhm's top three floors as well as common spaces on the ground floor, was done over the summer in time for the 2020-21 academic year.

Students living in Openyhm have the ability to independently control heating and cooling in each room. The fully renovated bathroom facilities have

individual stalls and all-new fixtures, and each floor has its own common area. The ground floor houses a full kitchen area, maker space, a gaming area, study spaces, small lounge and meeting areas, bathroom facilities, and the resident director apartment and office.

Thanks to the generosity of Board of Trustees members John Edmond '83, James Jordan '72, and Marlin Miller a stretch of campus roadway, approximately 3,000 feet of Upper Pine Hill drive extending from the intersection with Ford Street to the entrance of the Pine Hill Suites, was repaved. A five-foot-wide walking/jogging/bicycling path, painted purple, runs parallel to the roadway, and has been renamed Marlin Miller Way, in recognition of our University's most generous benefactor.

Edmond, a co-founder of Cree, Inc., a company which initially succeeded by producing innovative LED lighting systems and has more recently pivoted to manufacturing silicon carbide wafers to help power electric vehicles, underwrote the cost of installing energy-efficient LED lighting along Marlin Miller Way.

The \$600,000 roadway project was also supported by a generous commitment made by Jordan in 2018 to help beautify our campus. The project created 97 new parking spaces, replaced the existing guardrail on the roadway, and installed benches in a common area near the hairpin turn of Upper Pine Hill.

Beth Ann Dobie appointed provost, vice president for Academic Affairs



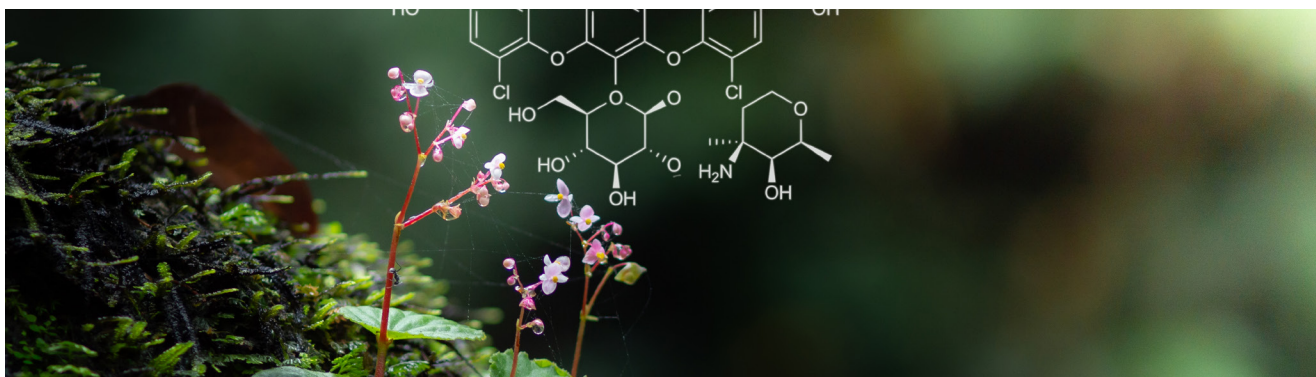
Beth Ann Dobie

Beth Ann Dobie was appointed provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, effective July 1, 2020. Dobie had been serving in those roles on an interim basis since 2019.

Dobie, who holds a B.A. degree in philosophy from Southern Connecticut State University and M.A. and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Connecticut, has been with Alfred University for 25 years. She came to Alfred in 1995 and served as professor of art theory and philosophy until 2017, when she was appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A past winner of Alfred University's Joseph Kruson Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dobie created new courses that addressed contemporary issues in art theory and philosophy, and chaired honors theses in Fine Arts/Interdisciplinary Arts and philosophy. She is past chair of the Division of Human Studies and past director of the Fine Arts/Interdisciplinary Arts program.

During her tenure as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dobie guided the transition of the divisions of Education and Athletic Training into the College; led efforts to gain reaccreditation of our Education Program; and improved retention by implementing a mid-semester scholastic standards review with at-risk students.



New B.S. degree programs in biology and biochemistry

Beginning with the 2020-21 academic year, Alfred University began offering Bachelor of Science degrees in biology and biochemistry. Both degree programs are housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Alfred University had already offered a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology. In some cases, biology majors—those with plans to go on to medical or professional school, for example—are already taking classes required to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. Jean Cardinale, professor of biology and chair of the Biology Department at Alfred University, explained that the B.S. degree in biology is attractive to students because it has a number of concentration areas: Animal Science, Plant Biology, Human Biology, Ecology and Evolution, and Molecular Biology.

“Students come to Alfred University with a lot of different careers goals—human health sciences, conservation and the environment, veterinary, molecular biology, or microbiology, for example,” she said. “By distinguishing concentration areas, we can cater to and support diverse student interests and career paths.”

Students enrolled in the B.S. degree program in biochemistry—the study of chemical processes within

and relating to living organisms—can start directly in the program or move into the program after starting as biology or chemistry majors. Among the careers available to biochemistry majors are scientific researcher; pharmaceutical sales, pharmacologist, forensic scientist, and work in the bio-technology field. Other options include enrolling in graduate (medical school, for example) or professional schools (such as veterinary, dentistry, pharmacy).

Beth Ann Dobie, Alfred University provost, said the new degrees demonstrate the University’s commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational offerings. In addition to the Bachelor of Science degree programs in biology and biochemistry, Alfred University has submitted an application for a new B.S. degree in chemistry and plans to apply for B.S. degrees in physics and astronomy.

“Our new B.S. programs complement and enrich our offerings in the sciences,” Dobie commented. “Alfred University is committed to supporting student success in STEM fields through our experiential learning curricula and opportunities created by our Career Development Center.”



Lauren Lake

Lauren Lake named dean of the School of Art and Design

Lauren Lake was appointed the dean of the School of Art and Design and Division of Performing Arts in July 2020. She came to Alfred University from the University of North Texas, where she had served as chair of the Department of Studio Art since 2017.

Lake succeeded Gerar Edizel, who served as the inaugural holder of the Michele and Martin Cohen endowed deanship from 2017 to 2020. In the position of dean, Lake also oversees the Division of Performing Arts.

Prior to her appointment at North Texas, Lake served as chair of the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham from 2013-17. She was assistant director and graduate chair and director of Graduate Studies-Studio at the University of Florida School of Art and Art History from 2010-13. Lake earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Education from the University of Florida and an M.F.A. in Drawing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alfred University home of first-ever Center for Glass Innovation

In January, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a new nation-leading collaboration with the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University to bolster markets for recycled glass and improve the quality of glass available for recovery throughout New York.

The Center for Glass Innovation (CGI) was established at the New York State College of Ceramics to develop next generation glass materials and improve glass manufacturing processes to optimize material performance for industrial and government applications.

The CGI's first major initiative—a collaboration with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)—will use \$1.7 million in funding from the state's Environmental Protection Fund over three years to research ways New York State-based glass manufacturers can increase their utilization of recycled glass feedstock.

The NYSCC at Alfred University is one of the preeminent glass science education and research institutions in the country, and is the only one offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in Glass Science Engineering. Glass Science Engineering faculty and students at Alfred University will lead

research efforts at the Center for Glass Innovation, while private sector industrial involvement from across New York State will include a number of glass manufacturers and firms supporting the glass manufacturing supply chain. The Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT) at Alfred University—one of 15 Centers for Advanced Technology (CAT) in New York State—will facilitate and support research partnerships between the Center for Glass Innovation and the private sector.

Alfred University is currently collaborating with Hillcrest Industries, of Attica, NY, a leading manufacturer of glass microbeads used for reflective road marking, to develop

a process that will increase Hillcrest's recycling efficiency. The project—funded by a FuzeHub grant awarded to Alfred University glass science professors Alexis Clare and William Lacourse—will permit Hillcrest to recycle its glass powder waste by reprocessing it into a dense solid glass. The recycled glass will be used in reflective glass beads used by Hillcrest, as well as a wide range of new glass microbead products that may spur development of other business ventures making use of the technology.



Jonathan Kent appointed vice president for Enrollment Management



Jonathan Kent

Jonathan Kent was appointed vice president of Enrollment Management at Alfred University, effective July 1. Kent had been serving in this role on an interim basis since last May.

Kent has been at Alfred University since March 2020, when he was appointed director of admissions. He came to Alfred after three years at Colby College in Maine, where he served as leadership gift officer and director of athletic fundraising. His career in higher education spans 15 years, and includes a four-year tenure, from 2013-17, as vice president of Enrollment Management at Thomas College in Waterville, ME.

Under Kent's guidance, Alfred University's recruitment efforts for the 2021-22 academic year are far outpacing those from 2020-21. His record of achievement in his previous positions is noteworthy. In his four years as vice president of Enrollment Management at Thomas, the college enrolled three of its largest incoming classes. In three years as director of admissions at Hartwick College, he led efforts to recruit the college's largest-ever incoming class, in 2013.

Kent earned a bachelor's degree in biology from St. Lawrence University in 2004 and a Master of Education degree in general studies, also from St. Lawrence, in 2008. His career in higher education began in 2006, as assistant director of admissions at Clarkson University.



Bob Stein

Bob Stein appointed CLAS dean

Alfred University appointed Robert Stein dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective July 1, 2021. Stein, an associate professor of political science, takes over for Professor of English Susan Morehouse, who served as interim dean since December 2020.

Stein has been at Alfred University for 18 years. He was an assistant professor of political science from 2000-01 before serving in that role for three years at St. John Fisher College. Bob returned to Alfred in 2004, serving as assistant professor of political science from 2004-11. He has served as associate professor of political science since 2011 and as chair of the Division of Social Sciences since 2017.

Bob has served as director of Alfred University's Social Justice Studies program since 2017 and has been co-coordinator of our Common Ground program since its inception in 2018. Common Ground—initiated at the start of

the 2018-19 academic year with financial support from our Board of Trustees—is an extended orientation experience for first-year and transfer students, in which facilitators lead small group discussions; students gain a better appreciation for the different backgrounds and aspirations their fellow students bring to our University; and develop a common set of values to live by as citizens of Alfred University.

Bob's teaching accolades at Alfred University include: the Joseph Kruson Award for Excellence in Teaching (2016-17); the Ruth Berger Rubenstein Award for Excellence in Teaching (2008-09); and the Alfred University International Fellowship for Faculty Development (2006).

Aanu Adeloye and Holly Passetti named Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors

Alfred University students Aanu Adeloye and Holly Passetti have been selected to receive the 2021 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award.

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

nominations by faculty, students, staff, or alumni. The award was established to honor Alfred University alumnus Marlin Miller '54, H '89, H '19 one of Alfred University's most generous supporters.

Miller has been a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees since 1972 and is a former Board chair.

Aanu Adeloye, from Ile Ife, Osun, Nigeria, is a mechanical engineering and physics major, and a minor in mathematics. He recorded a 3.99 GPA and was named to the University's Dean's List each semester he has been at Alfred University.



Aanu Adeloye '21

The son of Dr. Adewale Adeloye and Omosalewa Adeloye, he is a graduate of God's Image Secondary School, Ile Ife. This fall, he will enroll at the University of Texas-Austin to pursue a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering.

Holly Passetti, from Nichols, NY, is a chemistry and biology major (minors in mathematics and biomaterials engineering) with a cumulative GPA of 4.00. She has been named to the Dean's List and Empire 8 President's List (recognizing academic excellence) and is an American

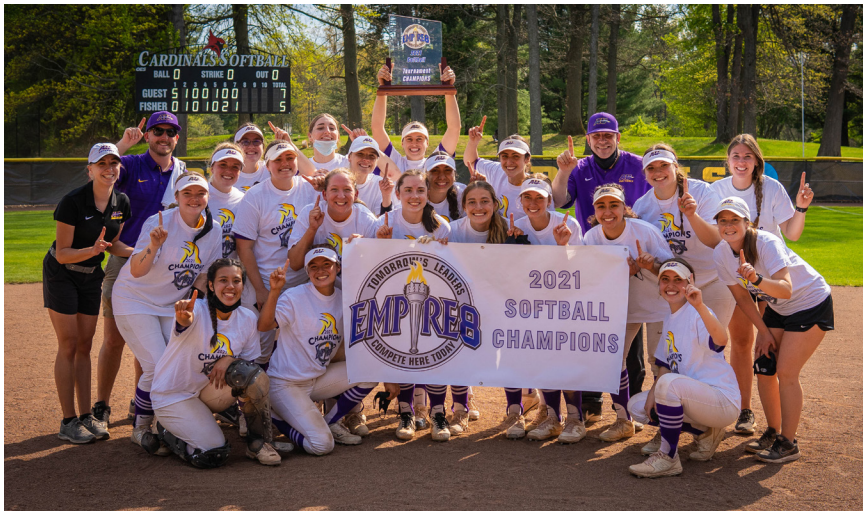


Holly Passetti '21

Chemical Society (ACS) Outstanding Senior award recipient for 2021.

A graduate of Tioga Central High School, she is the daughter of Michael and Sue Passetti. After graduation from Alfred University, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biochemistry, microbiology, and molecular biology from Pennsylvania State University.

After year lost to COVID, Saxon softball team enjoys dream season



When the 2020 season was cut short for the Alfred University softball team last March, an emotional Saxon squad lamented that the COVID pandemic robbed them of a chance to compete for an Empire 8 conference title. Fourteen months later, the team's dream came true, as the Saxons claimed the Empire 8 crown and in doing so punched their ticket to the NCAA Division III championship tournament.

Two key members of the team — pitcher Jessica Wilcox and infielder Elena Ceja — were seniors last year and returned for a fifth season as graduate students. Both played a significant role in the Saxons' run to an NCAA tournament berth: Wilcox had a win and a save in Alfred's two victories over St. John Fisher in the Empire 8 tournament (and was named tournament MVP), while Ceja drove in a run in the Saxons' 7-5 title-clinching win.

Wilcox dominated the pitcher's circle, setting school single-season records for strikeouts and wins while going 18-5 with eight shutouts and a 1.48 earned run average. Wilcox, the Empire 8 Pitcher of the Year and an NFCA Second Team All-American and First Team All-Northeast Region selection, finished her career as the program's all-time leader in wins, strikeouts, and shutouts. Ceja hit a career-best .353 and blasted a team-high four homeruns in 2021.

After beating top seed and host St. John Fisher for the Empire 8 championship, Alfred University was placed in

the six-team Eau Clair, WI, region of the NCAA tournament. The Saxons, ranked 17th in the nation entering the NCAAs, won their opening game of the double-elimination regional but dropped their next two contests to finish the year with a 32-11 record. The 32 wins are third-most in a season in school history, eclipsed only by the 2010 and 2015 squads. In addition to Wilcox and Ceja, seniors Sydney Saucedo and Moreta Dyke also wrapped up their Saxon careers.

Several key players are set to return in 2021, including junior Ashley Lugo, an NFCA Second Team All-American and First Team regional all-star. Lugo, Alfred University's

representative on the Eau Claire All-Region team, hit .416 and set school and Empire 8 single-season records for stolen bases with 52, which ranked second in the nation. She was joined on the NFCA Northeast Region all-star team by Wilcox and First Team pick, junior Allison O'Toole, along with a pair of Third Team selections, juniors Tatiana Mejia and Alyssa Guitron. O'Toole joined Wilcox and Lugo as NFCA Second Team All-Americans.

Mya Wells was Empire 8 Rookie of the Year and a First Team conference all-star. Other First Team E8 picks were Wilcox, O'Toole, and Lugo. Ceja, Guitron, and Mejia, were named to the Second Team, while Saucedo and first-year Megan Bennett were Third Team selections.

The bulk of the Saxons' offense is set to return in 2022, including eight of the team's top 10 hitters. Lugo led the team in batting (.416), runs (52) and hits (62), and Wells (.380 batting average, 46 hits) topped the squad with 35 RBIs. Guitron hit .385 with 52 hits and 31 RBIs; Wells hit .380 and had a team-best 18 walks; Mejia batted .331 and scored 36 runs; and sophomore Isabella Carrillo hit .304 with 26 runs.

Bennett and sophomore Arden Hatch will look to step up in the pitcher's circle with Wilcox's departure. The pair went a combined 14-5 this year, with one and two shutouts, respectively.



Athletics Director Paul Vecchio with two of the 2021 Nicholas F. Clark '11 Ideal Saxon Award recipients, Danielle Perry (left) and Holly Passetti (right).

Saxon Athletics recognizes seniors at year-end awards luncheon

The Alfred University Athletics Department held its annual year-end senior awards luncheon, during which student-athletes' achievements were recognized. Among those honored were recipients of the Nicholas F. Clark '11 Ideal Saxon Award.

Recipients of the eighth annual Ideal Saxon Award were seniors Holly Passetti and Danielle Perry, as well as 2020 graduate Nick Milgate. The award, established in honor of 2011 alumnus Nicholas F. Clark, recognizes the achievements of senior male and female student-athletes at Alfred University who "display excellence in both academics and athletics while providing service and leadership of distinction to the Alfred University Community."

Clark, an All-America linebacker for the Saxon football team, was killed in the line of duty as a New York State trooper in 2018.

Passetti was a three-sport athlete, competing on the Saxon cross country, track and field, and women's soccer teams. She earned All-Empire 8 honors in track and field and cross country. In the classroom, Passetti achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average and was one of two Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior honorees.

Perry played for the women's soccer and track and field teams. In track and field, she is a school record holder in both the indoor and outdoor triple jump events. After graduating last Fall with degrees in biology and biomaterials engineering (minor in chemistry), Perry is serving as a graduate assistant for the women's soccer team.

Milgate lettered four years on the football team, starting three years at linebacker. As a senior in 2019, he earned All-America recognition. He graduated in 2020 with a degree in health and fitness management with a minor in coaching and is currently a member of the AFC Rangers of the Austrian American Football League.

Also recognized at the luncheon were the following student-athlete award winners:

Muriel Strong Morley Award: (Outstanding Female Athlete): Lauren Serotta '21, swimming and diving

Franklin Morley Award: (Outstanding Male Athlete): Shane Weber '20, men's lacrosse

ECAC Merit Medal: Garrette Briggs, men's lacrosse, and Danielle Perry '20, track and field, and women's soccer.

Unsung Hero Award: Kelley Andrews, women's basketball

Exceptional Saxon Award: Tony Aquilina, associate director of athletics/compliance director.

Chi Alpha Sigma inductees (student-athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or higher). Senior inductees were: Ryan McDonald, football; Adam Shearer, men's tennis; Ben Cafolla, men's lacrosse; Gage Ponsetti, men's lacrosse; Kyle McGlynn, swimming and diving; Billy Mirenda, swimming and diving; Kala Farley, cross country and track and field; Krissy Roberts, track and field, cross country, and women's soccer; Morgan Brothers, track and field; Holly Passetti, women's soccer, and track and field; Danielle Perry, women's soccer, and track and field; Elena Ceja, softball; Moreta Dyke, softball; Amanda Guariglia, women's soccer, and swimming and diving; Lyndsey McCoy, women's basketball; Amanda Figueroa, women's basketball; Sarah Raeman, volleyball; and Alex Taylor, volleyball.

Saxon student-athletes reflect on challenging year

The COVID pandemic made for an interesting twist to the 2020-21 athletics season at Alfred University. The Fall semester was completed without a single intercollegiate contest for the first time since World War II. Twenty-two of the University's 23 athletic programs competed in what was a busy Spring semester.

Alfred University's student-athletes quickly adjusted to the new norm and eventually thrived. Three student-athletes reflect on the complexities with training and competing in a pandemic.

Krystina Gauer '21, Women's Lacrosse



"This year has been extremely challenging as a student-athlete. When our women's lacrosse season was abruptly cancelled in March of 2020 due to the pandemic, I felt a lot of emotions which at first seemed to be a setback. At home I felt my world had flipped and getting back into a routine of training was a challenge, both mentally and physically. I began training for lacrosse again in the summer. My workouts were in a small space I created in my basement, or I used the outdoors when possible. When I came to school there was a pause on athletics. With the limited access I had to the training facilities, I continued to use my resources at my apartment for training.

This spring was very different from last spring in a lot of ways. While we have been extremely grateful to have the chance to play, our pre-season was shorter than normal. Still, we had to adjust and adapt to a new way to train. This new routine included more individual training sessions, wearing masks at all team gatherings, and being tested for COVID before every game.

This past year taught me a lot. Not only did it toughen me mentally, but it also taught me to appreciate the opportunities we as players often take for granted. I believe that I speak for most athletes when I say how appreciative I am to experience one of the toughest and most challenging years of my life here in Alfred University athletics, surrounded by endless support."

Ethan Stewart '22, Football



"August usually brings in the start of my favorite sport, football. It was tough to come onto campus and not immediately get my gear and begin practices at the Pit to get ready for a fall season, a routine that I've been used to for most of my life.

Training for the sport this past year was unorthodox, to say the least. In the summer it was hard because there were no gyms open and I didn't have a weight set in my apartment. Coming back to campus in the fall, we had to lift outside under the bleachers and had a specific time limit in each section and had to make sure we finished the tasks in that time. As a co-captain, I had to make sure we kept the energy high in practices and make sure we never got down when things got rough. It honestly felt like we were in high school again with the weird practice schedules and mid-week contests.

Even though we only played two games it felt great to get back out and play some organized collegiate football. I just want to thank the University administration for trusting the team enough to not make any dumb choices and be able to trust that we'd do what we would have to do to be able to play. I also want to thank Coach [Bob] Rankl and all the other coaches for being persistent in their efforts for the season."

Catherine Donahue '21, Equestrian



"Coming back for my senior year was both exciting and nerve-wracking. It was my last year as a Saxon, so I was hopeful that we'd be able to compete, but I wasn't sure what would need to be changed. Our normal preseason in August, where I usually get to know my teammates and start getting back into shape, was nonexistent. Even after the semester began, our normally very busy fall semester was quiet. Usually, from October through finals week, we would either be hosting home horse shows or traveling away for competitions every weekend.

In the spring semester, we were able to get back to practicing and hold a few smaller intramural horse shows. This was very odd at first because it was nothing like our past seasons. It was only our riders competing and there were no spectators, but we still found a way to make it as fun as it could be. Even though we couldn't compete for IHSA [Intercollegiate Horse Show Association] championships this year, I am incredibly grateful that we were still able to ride and compete."

CLASS NOTES

1949 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION* **Rhoda (Jacobson) "Rho"**

Sharp (B.A., English) was elected commissioner of the Human Relations Commission in Beverly Hills, CA. Rho is a retired Career and Vocational director in the Beverly Hills School System.

1954 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION*

Joseph Fasano (B.S. business, M.S. Ed. '64) was recognized by the Allegany County Board of Legislators for his service in the military. Joe's military career began at Alfred University. As a

student in 1951, he completed Marine boot camp at Parris Island and later went through the Platoon Leadership Corps, a program similar to the U.S. Army's Reserve Officers' Training Corp (ROTC). After graduating from Alfred, Joe served three years active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and nearly three decades more in the Reserves, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1991. Joe was alumni director at Alfred University from 1959-69. He is past president of the Alfred University Alumni Association and is a former member of the University's Athletics Hall of Fame Selection Committee. In 1999, Fasano was awarded the Lillian T. Nevins Award for lifetime service to Alfred University. A standout football player at Alfred University, Fasano played three seasons (1951-53) for the Saxons, twice earning All-America honors. He was inducted into the Alfred University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1985.

1956 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION*

Robert Littell (B.A., English), considered a master of American espionage fiction, published his 20th novel, "Comrade Koba." The book, which tells the story of a fictional encounter between Joseph Stalin—the Koba of the title—and a 10-year-old chess wizard, appeared in bookstores nationwide in November. Robert

has been awarded both the English Gold Dagger and The Los Angeles Times Book Prize for his fiction. His novel "The Company: A Novel of the CIA" was a New York Times bestseller later made into a TV miniseries starring Chris O'Donnell, Alfred Molina, and Michael Keaton. Overlook Press will reissue the book this fall along with another of the author's spy novels, "Legends", winner of a Los Angeles Times book award in 2005. After graduating from Alfred University, Bob worked as a wire service and newspaper reporter in New Jersey and New York before joining Newsweek magazine in the early 1960s as a staff writer and editor. He moved to France in 1970 to become a full-time novelist. With his wife, Victoria, a Moroccan-born artist, he migrates annually between a Paris apartment, a country home in Normandy, and a winter retreat on Morocco's Atlantic coast. Bob is at work on his 21st novel.

1960 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION*

Craig Leiser (M.S., glass science) is president of the Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) Board of Managers in Oakdale, MN, which was recently presented with two awards. The American Water Resources Association presented the BCWD with its annual Integrated Water Resources Management Award for outstanding teamwork on complex water resources efforts. In addition, the Water Environment Federation honored the BCWD this year with its Water Quality Improvement Award for significant, lasting and measurable excellence in water quality improvement or in prevention of water quality degradation in a region, basin, or water body. BCWD is a special-purpose, local

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SNAIL MAIL

Mark Whitehouse
Director of Communications
1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802

unit of government, established in 1997 to address flooding concerns and protect the health of area lakes and streams. The district encompasses 29.9 square miles of land in central Washington County, MN. Craig is owner of Kismet Group Ltd in Stillwater, MN.

1962 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION*

Dr. Stephan Greenburg (B.A., biology) was recognized for his nearly 50 years of medical service in the city of Hornell, NY. Stephan, an ophthalmologist who has had a practice in Hornell since 1973, recently announced his retirement. The city of Hornell issued a proclamation and the New York State Assembly a citation in his honor.

1967 *GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION*

Dr. F. Ronald Feinstein (B.A., biology) was a guest lecturer in a Spring 2021 semester class on public health taught by assistant professor of management Fred Farley. Ron is clinical professor of surgery in the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, and an Adjunct Professor in the Healthcare Systems Engineering Program at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. His lecture was titled "Improving Quality and Reducing Costs in the Pursuit of Value in Healthcare Delivery."

1973

Gary Messing (B.S., ceramic engineering) retired in 2020 as professor of ceramic science and engineering, ending a distinguished 40-year career at Pennsylvania State University (PSU). Gary spent his career at PSU teaching and researching technical ceramics and improving the University's materials science facilities. He was head of Penn State's Department of Materials

Science and Engineering from 2001-15, during which time he oversaw the transformation of the Edward Steidle Building to a state-of-the-art education and research facility with 22,350 square feet of shared research space for materials research. He is past president of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS), the International Ceramic Federation, and the World Academy of Ceramics.

1980 *HONORED REUNION YEAR*

Katherine "Kitty" McCarthy (B.S., marketing) was named associate provost for enrollment management at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), effective August 2020. In this role, Kitty develops and oversees programs, policies, and initiatives leading to continued growth in enrollment; expanded geographic, cultural, and economic diversity; sustained selectivity; and supports the College's retention efforts. She leads the College's admissions and financial aid teams and works collaboratively across the College to sustain ESF's national prominence and recognition among the premier environmentally focused institutions in the country. Kitty came to ESF from Radford University in Virginia, where she served as the vice president for enrollment management and the interim associate vice president for transfer partnerships and recruitment. Kitty served as director of admissions at Alfred University from 1996 until 2001, when she was appointed assistant vice chancellor for enrollment marketing for the SUNY system.

1982

Kathleen Richardson (B.S., ceramic engineering; '88 M.S. '92 PhD) was presented with the

Maria J. Yzuel Educator Award. The award, given by SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics, recognizes sustained outstanding contributions to global research, education, and training in optical materials. Kathleen is Pegasus Professor of Optics and Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Central Florida and a world-renowned leader in infrared glasses. Her achievements include quantifying composition- and form-specific effects on these glasses' defects and optical properties, as well as collaborative efforts to transition such glasses into photonic structures. Her work resulted in the creation of the first integrated optical waveguides and gratings based on chalcogenide glasses. In a press release announcing her as the recipient of the Maria J. Yzuel Educator Award, SPIE stated Richardson "has demonstrated long-term and sustained commitment to education and training, incorporating these efforts into her research activities." Kathleen is a SPIE fellow who served on the Society's Board of Directors from 2013-15. She is also a fellow of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS), the Society of Glass Technology, and the Optical Society of America. In 2009, she received the Outstanding Educator award from ACerS. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering in 1982, Kathleen went on to earn a master's degree in glass science and a doctorate in ceramic engineering, both from Alfred University. She has been a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2006. Kathleen was also named winner of the 2021 University of Central Florida Excellence in Research award.

1983

Rich Wuerthele (B.S., business administration) joined Crayola LLC as the company's new CEO in January 2020. Rich came to Easton, PA-based Crayola with more than 30 years in the consumer goods industry. He joined Crayola from Newell Rubbermaid, where he had been the CEO of their Home Fragrance portfolio, including the notable Yankee Candle brand. Home Fragrance is a global consumer products business with end-to-end operating capabilities, as well as 450 company-owned retail stores. Prior to Home Fragrance, Rich was the CEO of Newell's Outdoor and Recreation business, which includes the Coleman brand. Rich has led a variety of other brands and divisions throughout Newell's, leveraging a unique blend of experience in marketing, manufacturing, and consumer and commercial products across multiple product categories and formats.

1984

Steven Masia (B.S., ceramic engineering, '85 B.A., mathematics) recently published a fantasy novel titled "The Trials of Uwe: Parts I, II, and III." The book is described as "a coming-of-age story about a wizard who has been trained since birth to take his role." Masia, who also has a master's degree in materials science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is senior research scientist at Armstrong World Industries in Lancaster, PA, a leading designer and

manufacturer of ceiling and wall products used in the construction of commercial buildings and residential spaces.

1985 HONORED REUNION YEAR

John Krouse (B.S., ceramic engineering) serves as president



*At its annual meeting in January 2020 in San Diego, CA, the Yuma Pacific Southwest Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) presented **Barbara Cohrsen '59** (B.S., ceramic engineering, left in photo above) with the George and Florence Clayton Award. The award is presented to a member of the Yuma Pacific Southwest Section of AIHA who has been exceptionally effective in promoting the field of industrial hygiene. Membership in the Yuma Pacific Southwest Section includes professionals in occupational and environmental health and safety practicing industrial hygiene in industry, government, labor, academic institutions, and independent organizations. Barbara, a certified industrial hygienist, lives in San Francisco, CA, where she is a semi-retired consultant.*

of Boston Valley Terra Cotta, which received the 2020 Innovator of the Year award at the Architect's Newspaper Design Gala, held in March in New York City. Boston Valley Terra Cotta

was honored for being on the cutting edge of architectural ceramic manufacturing, which is exemplified in projects like 512 West 22nd Street and One Vanderbilt, both in New York City, where the company has pushed the envelope of architectural terra cotta for high performance buildings. Through its Architectural Ceramic Assemblies Workshops—the next one is planned for August 2021—Boston Valley Terra Cotta guides architects and facade engineers as they choose to use materials in daring and complex ways. The annual event, now entering its fifth year, encourages architects to consider the manufacturing process early in the design phase to ensure its success.

1986 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Patrick Shea (B.A., psychology) has been appointed chief executive officer of Intrance Medical Systems' U.S. Operations. Intrance Medical Systems, a subsidiary of Sweden-based Intrance Holdings AB, announced on May 13 that it had established its U.S. Operations and named Patrick CEO and a member of its Board of Directors. Patrick will be responsible for building the company's operational and business structure and initiating the U.S. clinical development program for its fixed-dose combination treatment of levodopa, carbidopa, and entacapone for enteral infusion in patients suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease. The product is currently marketed as Lecigon in the Nordic countries

and certain European markets. He joins Intrance from Antares Pharmaceuticals, where he served as senior vice president, Commercial. Before Antares, Patrick held senior leadership positions at Eaglet Corporation and Clarus Therapeutics (chief financial officer); CSL Behring (vice president, Commercial, U.S.), Astellas Pharmaceuticals U.S. (senior vice president, Commercial).

1988

Annie C. (MacElroy) Crimmins (B.S., nursing) was named chief operating officer of Canary Sound Design, LLC in 2020. The Missoula, MT-based firm is the creator of CanaryBox, a smart music solution for the operating room, which integrates with patient monitors to reduce or silence music at appropriate times during a medical procedure, based on certain signals from the patient. Music is often played in the operating room as a way to improve focus and motor skills of the medical team. The CanaryBox pairs with the operating room music source and then syncs with the patient monitor. If something happens, such as a drop in vital signs, the device adjusts the sound accordingly. After graduating from Alfred University with honors, Annie was a registered nurse at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. She was a registered nurse at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA, from 1989-99 and for a year was an intensive care nurse at Bryan Health in Lincoln, NE. In 2016, Canary Sound Design was co-founded by Dr. Alastair MacDonald, who practices anesthesiology and serves as the company's chief executive officer; Annie Crimmins; and Annie's husband, Dr. Eric Crimmins, who practices anesthesiology and

serves as the company's chief clinical officer. Annie served as manager of Canary Sound Design from 2017 until 2019, when she was appointed COO. Annie and Eric Crimmins live in Lincoln, NE.

Anthony Reid Harvey's (B.F.A.) book titled "Environmental Health and Development for All, Micro-scale Industry, Starting with Ceramics," was published by Lambert Academic Publishing. The book discusses the use of clay addressing two pressing problems in the developing world: pathogen contaminated drinking water and air pollution from cooking stoves. Ceramics, Reid writes, are highly effective and low in cost for safe and sustainable use in water filters and cookstoves. His previous book, published in 1993, is titled "Pressing Ceramics With Air Release." That book describes the process of making your own air release molds for hydraulic clay pressing, and contains directions for fabricating your own small hydraulic clay press. It, too, was published by Lambert Academic Publishing.

Bill Paulus (B.S., ceramic engineering) was appointed in October as chief executive officer at Cerahelix, a leader in the development and manufacture of disruptive ceramic nanofiltration membrane products. The company is located in Orono, ME. Bill, who joined Cerahelix in January as chief operating officer, will oversee the company's plans to accelerate growth and firmly establish its leadership in the growing market for ceramic nanofiltration to solve often complex filtration and separation challenges. He brings more than 30 years' experience in manufacturing and global operations to his position. Prior to becoming part of the

Cerahelix team, he was vice president of Global Operations at Celgard, a leader in the development and manufacturing of high-performance membrane separators, where he also served as vice president of Product Development and director of Intellectual Property and Corporate Strategy. He also served as vice president of Manufacturing and Supply Chain at Blackmore Sensors and Analytics, and vice president of Manufacturing at Pittsburgh Glass Works. He has also held senior management positions at Delphi (now global technology company Aptiv). Bill began his career as senior manufacturing engineer at General Motors. He has three masters degrees – two from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University (in finance and strategic management), and another, in Solid State Science, from Pennsylvania State University.

Wendy (Wolfe) Smith (B.S., ceramic engineering; business management minor) was named chief operating officer of Optimization, a global design, engineering, and fabrication company for industry. Wendy, whose appointment was announced in June 2020, has over 30 years of experience in plant operations and design and engineering services management. She started her career at Corning Incorporated as a melting engineer and went on to hold key manufacturing and operations leadership positions over the next 15 years, including department head, product line coordinator, supply chain manager, operations manager, and plant manager. In 2003 she joined Optimization as mechanical and process engineering/design supervisor as well as the COO of



Lester Friedman '67 (B.A. English) visited his classmate and friend, **Saul Friedman '67** (B.S. ceramic engineering), in Alaska in August 2019. Saul is an attorney in Anchorage and Les is professor emeritus of Media and Society and former chair of the Media and Society program at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. In the photo above—taken by the “Tahku, Alaska Whale Sculpture” in Juneau—Les and Saul (no relation) display a Li'l Alf placard. Les is author of “Citizen Spielberg,” the first scholarly evaluation of director Steven Spielberg’s films. The first edition of the book was published in 2006; a second edition was published last year. Saul is an attorney with the Anchorage, AK, law firm of Jermain, Dunnagan & Owens, PC, specializing in Education Law, Labor and Employment Law, Administrative Law, and Construction Law. He serves as the general counsel for a number of Alaska school districts.

Klug Systems (a company that Optimization had recently acquired). Over the next 15 years, Wendy took on additional management and leadership roles at Optimization where in addition to serving as COO, she is a member of the sales team and the executive team,

and sits on the Board of Directors. Wendy and her husband, Gary, live in Penfield, NY, and are the parents of Alfred University alumna Amber Smith '20 (B.S., glass science), a star volleyball player during her time at Alfred University.

1990

HONORED REUNION YEAR

A.N. Sreeram (M.S., glass science) was appointed in the Fall of 2019 by then-President Donald Trump to the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), a presidential-level advisory council of the nation’s science and technology leaders from the private sector and academic communities. A.N. is vice president and chief technology officer for Dow Chemical, Midland, MI, and has been a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2017. He joined Dow in 2006 as vice president of core research and development and is a former global technology director and chief technology officer for DuPont Electronic Technologies. He was also vice president of worldwide technology for Cookson Electronics, and was employed by Sarnoff Corporation

early in his career where he led the electronic and flat display program. A.N. was also named recipient of the 2020 Henry F. Whalen Jr. Award. Presented by the American Chemical Society, the award recognizes outstanding contributions to the development

and management of business within the chemical industry. At Dow, A.N. led the adoption of high-throughput experimentation for the discovery of new molecules in a variety of businesses, from electronics to paints and coatings. His work helped to accelerate the research and development process and lower costs for the company. A.N. was honored during a virtual awards ceremony April 12 hosted by the American Chemical Society’s Division of Business Development and Management.

Dhiraj Nayar (B.S., ceramic engineering) was recently appointed chief operating officer for Boston Globe Media Partners in addition to his responsibilities as the company’s chief financial officer, which he has shouldered since 2018. Boston Globe Media Partners publishes the *Boston Globe*, one of the oldest and most respected newspapers in the country. Before joining Boston Globe Media, Dhiraj was managing director for Meritum Consulting Partners, a New York City-based advisory firm providing procurement optimization, globalization, operational analytics and growth strategy services. He founded the firm in 2008 following a five-year tenure as principal and partner at Opera Solutions, a global provider of artificial intelligence solutions. Dhiraj was senior manager at Zeborg, Inc., an information technology services company in Los Angeles, from 2001-03 and was senior consultant at the management consulting firm AT Kearney from 1998-2001.

1991 HONORED REUNION YEAR

A piece of ceramic art by **Chris Longwell** (B.F.A.), lecturer of art and art history at Elmira College, was included in the Rosenfield Collection of ceramic

art acquired in the fall of 2019 by the Everson Museum in Syracuse, NY. The collection, which includes nearly 3,000 ceramics pieces, is considered the preeminent collection of contemporary functional pottery in the United States. David and Louise Rosenfield of Dallas, TX, assembled the Rosenfield Collection. Louise Rosenfield, herself an artist, is an honorary trustee of the Everson Museum, which is the first museum to dedicate itself to the collection of American art, including ceramics.

1992

Artwork by **Brad Evan Taylor** (M.F.A.) was part of an exhibition hosted in September by the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art in Salt Lake City, titled "Growing Rocks." Brad, a Salt Lake City native, is a member of the faculty at the department of art and art history at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Richard (Rick) Russo (B.S., accounting) has been named dean of extended education and associate vice chancellor of undergraduate education at University of California, Berkeley. Rick, who has been with UC Berkeley since 2005, will lead UC Berkeley's University Extension (UNEX), Summer Sessions, Study Abroad, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute under one umbrella organization. Rick had been dean of Summer Sessions, Study Abroad and Lifelong Learning since 2011, and in 2015 took on the additional role of associate vice chancellor of undergraduate education. Rick has an MBA from Boston University and is a certified public accountant.

1993

Nick Basta (B.F.A.) has appeared in numerous television series and films since he graduated and decided to pursue an acting career, including the film, "The Glorias," which began streaming on Amazon Prime in September. Based on the life of Gloria Steinem, "The Glorias" traces Steinem's biography from her time in India as a young woman to the founding of Ms. magazine in New York City; from her role in the rise of the women's rights movement in the 1960s to the historic 1977 National Women's Conference; and beyond. In "The Glorias," Nick plays the role of a magazine editor based loosely on New York Magazine co-founder Clay Felker, who gruffly oversees Steinem's early journalism work. Nick, a Syracuse native, has been acting, teaching, and writing for 25 years. In addition to his work in "The Glorias," he also appeared in the movie "Harriet," and in the movie "Where's Rose," currently in post-production. His television credits include: "Stargirl," "Bluff City Law," "True Detective," and "NCIS: New Orleans." While an undergraduate at Alfred University, Nick appeared in Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" in his senior year, directed by Becky Prophet, professor of theater, with whom he remains in close contact.

Michelle Plucinsky (B.F.A.) is co-owner of the Glass Academy, a glass art studio in Dearborn, MI. The Glass Academy, located in a 14,000 square foot warehouse, is privately owned and operated, and is Michigan's most popular glass studio, creating innovative and trend setting designs and classes in the art community. Michelle and co-owner Chris Nordin were trained at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Pilchuck,

Haystack, Corning, and Penland and are serial entrepreneurs in the art industry.

1994

Kristan Kennedy (B.F.A.) has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in Portland, OR. Kristan is artistic director and curator of Visual Art at Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) and teaches contemporary art history at Portland State University, where she also organizes their MFA visiting artist program and lecture series. An artist who has exhibited her sculpture and painting internationally, Kristan lectures on curatorial practice and artist-centric ethics at institutions across the United States. She oversees the Precipice Fund, a grant for artist-run organizations and collaborative projects in Portland, as part of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts' regional re-granting program.

On March 4, 2020, **Dorothea "Seth" Kellogg** (B.A., environmental studies, geology) briefed members of the United States Congress on the effects of per-polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on the nation's groundwater supply. The Congressional briefing was given on behalf of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). Seth is a New Jersey-based senior geologist with Geosyntec Consultants, with more than 25 years of experience in the areas of project management, project planning, remedial investigation, feasibility study, remedial design, data evaluation, and report preparation for state and federal regulatory agencies. Seth is a leader in evaluating and managing sites impacted by per- and

polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In January 2020, she was elected vice chair of the Scientists and Engineers section of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). As vice chair of the Scientists and Engineers section, Seth will be responsible for working with the organization to identify priorities, recruiting volunteers, advocating for groundwater professionals, and supporting the chair in organizing and conducting meetings. After a two-year term as vice chair, she will serve two years as chair and two more years as past chair. The NGWA is a community of groundwater professionals working together to advance groundwater knowledge and the success of its members through education and outreach; advocacy; cooperation and information exchange; and enhancement of professional practices. NGWA's vision is to be the leading groundwater association advocating the responsible development, management, and use of water. Seth earned an M.S. degree in geology from Purdue University in 2003.

Aaron Codispoti (B.A., criminal justice studies) has been a security officer in the U.S. Department of State for 21 years and currently serves as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in the West African nation of Burkina Faso. Aaron joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1999 as a special agent assigned to San Juan, Puerto Rico. He has served three overseas tours in Brazil at the U.S. Embassy in



*Brian Benesch, son of **Jim Benesch '79** and **Bettie (Majors) Benesch '78** dons an Alfred University t-shirt while hiking at Superstition Mountain in Arizona last fall. Jim earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University, while Bettie earned a bachelor's degree in nursing. Jim says Brian has visited Alfred several times with his parents.*

Brasilia and the Consulate General in Sao Paulo. In Sao Paulo, as the regional security officer, he was the executive representative to the world's largest Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC). He was also the first regional security officer assigned to Libreville, Gabon, covering security responsibilities in Gabon and the island nation of Sao Tome and Principe. In 2013, Aaron was assigned to the U.S. Consulate General in Peshawar, Pakistan as the deputy regional security officer. Peshawar is considered the Department's most dangerous and challenging assignment. Aaron has served several assignments in Washington D.C. He was the division chief and acting office director for the State Department's criminal investigations program, where he

oversaw over 400 special agents conducting passport and visa fraud investigations across the globe. Most recently, as the deputy assistant director for Domestic Facilities Protection, he was responsible for security at over 200 Department of State facilities across the country and a uniformed officer force of over 1,300 armed men and women. After graduating from Alfred University, Aaron served three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Bolivia. He speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and French, and holds a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

1995 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Darren Miller (B.F.A.), associate professor and chair of photography at Columbus College of Art and Design, received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar program award to Brazil. Darren worked abroad for the spring 2020 semester through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, conducting interviews and collaboratively producing a series of photographs and short videos with Dr. Lucinéa Marcelino Villela and her students in the School of Architecture, Arts, and Communication (FAAC) at São Paulo State University (UNESP) in Bauru. Fulbright is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program and is designed to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright program is funded

through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State.

Tyler Maroney (B.A. history) is author of a book, "The Modern Detective: How Corporate Intelligence is Reshaping the World," which was reviewed in October by *The New Yorker* and in November by the *Wall Street Journal*. The book, published by Riverhead Books and released in September, is described as "a fascinating examination of the world of private investigators by a 21st-century private eye." In its review of the book, *The New Yorker* writes, "It is part memoir, part how-to guide, a celebration of the analytical and interpersonal intelligence that makes a great investigator....It takes nothing away from Maroney's fascinating account to say that the gap between the profession's noblest aspirations and its customary activities is a subject worth investigating." Tyler is co-founder and partner in Quest Research and Investigations, an investigations firm based in New York City that collects evidence for civil litigators and criminal defense lawyers, conducts internal investigations, looks into allegations of misconduct, and unravels complex corporate structures.

1996 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Maggie Siegel (B.F.A.), an artist in Providence, RI, was featured in *Boston Voyager*, a magazine that publishes news and features about small businesses, independent artists, and local entrepreneurs in Boston, MA. In the story, "Life and Work with Maggie Siegel," Maggie, a native of Cuba, NY, talks about her career as an independent artist. The full interview is archived on the bostonvoyager.com website.

1998

Artwork by Alfred University alumna **Teresa Van Etten** (B.F.A.) is being shown as part of the Art of the Vote exhibit shown in several locations in New York State. The exhibit, which celebrates the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, opened at the Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute Museum of Art in Utica. The Art of the Vote exhibit was also shown at the Utica Public Library; Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts in Little Falls; View in Old Forge; the Rome Art and Community Center, Rome; and the Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland. The exhibit was sponsored by the Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida counties to honor the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution—the amendment was ratified in 1920. The Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties held a competition for artists in the two-county area to create works of art based on the suffragist movement. More than 40 artists applied and 10 winners were chosen, including Van Etten.

1999

Carissa (Healy) Knapp (B.A., history; '02 masters in Community Services Administration) was appointed county administrator for Allegany County in January 2020. Carissa, who holds a law degree from George Washington University, has served as an employee of Allegany County for 15 years. She was county attorney from 2018-20, and also held the position of acting county administrator from October 2019 until her appointment as county administrator. Carissa is a native of Belmont, NY, in Allegany County.

2000 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Michael Pellicciotti (B.S., business administration, minor in economics), running as a Democrat, won the November election for Washington state treasurer, defeating incumbent Republican Duane Davidson, becoming the first challenger to defeat an incumbent treasurer in Washington state history. Michael, who took office as treasurer in January 2021, was in his second term as a state representative, representing Washington's 30th legislative district, at the time of the election. He was elected to the State House in 2016 and was re-elected in 2018, serving on the House Capital Budget Committee and as vice chair of the House State Government Committee. Michael also served as an assistant attorney general at the Office of the Washington State Attorney General. At Alfred University, Michael was honored as an Outstanding Senior award recipient. Following his graduation from Alfred, Michael was named as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Canada, where he earned a master's degree in economic development from Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba, in 2003. He returned to the United States on a full-tuition scholarship to the Gonzaga School of Law, where he received his law degree in 2004. After clerking for the associate chief justice of the Washington Supreme Court, Michael became a state prosecutor. A resident of Federal Way, WA, Michael was a 2011 recipient of the Alfred University Alumni award for Distinguished Achievement.

2001 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Tim Cox (M.S., reading and literacy) was named recipient of the Jane Bullowa Award



MaryJo Finocchiaro '86 (B.S., accounting; second from left) and her husband, **Brian Finocchiaro** (left), hosted an alumni gathering in March 2020 at their home in Delray Beach, FL. Those attending included (left to right): **Brian and MaryJo Finocchiaro**, **Dr. Stuart Lestch '62** (B.A. biology), president **Mark Zupan**, **Rita Lestch**, **Robin Mazejka** from University Advancement, and **Mark Mitchell '69, '71 M.S.** (ceramic engineering).

Service and Leadership award, given by the New York State Staff/Curriculum Development Network (S/CDN). Established in 2014, the award recognizes outstanding individuals whose accomplishments have improved the field of education in areas of innovation, quality of services to students, and impact on administrator preparation. Jane Bullowa, the inspiration for the award, was a long-standing member of S/CDN and inspired the educational community in Ulster County for more than 37 years. Tim, who is assistant superintendent for the Cattaraugus-Allegany Board of Cooperative Educational Services (CA BOCES), has been serving the regional educational community for the past 23 years. Prior to serving as assistant superintendent for CA BOCES, he was the director for Instructional Support Services, program manager for Schools Attuned, and a staff specialist for instructional excellence, all at CA

BOCES. He was also a teacher for the Wellsville Central School District. Tim has been heavily involved in the Advancing STEM science kit program and has acted as a National Schools Attuned Facilitator for All Kinds of Minds. He has facilitated professional learning in neurodevelopmental understanding, curriculum mapping, technology integration, assessment implementation, data analysis, and differentiated instruction.

Paintings by **Liz Ainslie** (B.F.A.) were included in a two-person exhibition, "Unearth," which was shown in January at the SARDINE gallery in Brooklyn. Liz's work was also included in an exhibition titled "Purple" shown in February and March at the Underdonk gallery in Brooklyn.

John Mauro (glass science engineering, '06 PhD glass science engineering) was named a 2020 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Election to

NAI Fellow status is the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors. John is a professor of materials science and engineering and chair of the intercollege graduate degree program in materials science and engineering at Pennsylvania State University. During an 18-year career at Corning Incorporated, Mauro co-invented three generations of Gorilla Glass, a groundbreaking material used in consumer electronic devices. A Fellow of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) and the Society of Glass Technology, he joined the Penn State faculty in 2017. John will be inducted at the 10th annual meeting of the National Academy of Inventors scheduled for June 7-9, 2021, in Tampa, FL. He will be joining a cohort of 175 elite innovators from around the world selected for this honor in 2001.

2003

Charlotte (Potter) Kasic (B.F.A.) was appointed interim director of the Barry Art Museum at Old Dominion University. She joined the staff at Barry Art Museum in January, 2020, when she was named manager of museum education and engagement. In announcing her appointment, the Museum cited Charlotte for the work she has done during her tenure there. She has pursued new on- and off-campus partnerships for the Museum; developed interpretive materials, workshops, lectures and seminars; and supported new exhibition research. She was also instrumental in the Museum's response to the COVID pandemic, facilitating the transition to online activities and the reopening of the Museum to the public. After graduating from Alfred University, Charlotte went on to earn her MFA

from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2010. She has taught glass, performance, and new media courses at universities and summer programs nationwide including Old Dominion University, Penland School of Crafts, and Oxbow School of Art. Prior to joining the Barry Art Museum, Charlotte had served since 2017 as executive director at the Yestermorrow Design/Build School in her native Vermont.

2004

Gabrielle Gaustad (B.S. ceramic engineering) was named to Rochester Business Journal's 2020 "Forty Under 40" list, which recognizes 40 men and women, under the age of 40, who have achieved professional success and who have made significant civic contributions to the Rochester area community. In choosing the winners, a panel of judges looked for candidates who excel professionally and who are actively involved in and give back to the community. Gabrielle began her duties as dean of Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering in January 2019. Since September 2019, she has also served as vice president of Statutory Affairs at Alfred University. She came to Alfred from Rochester Institute of Technology, where she served 10 years as an associate professor and master of science program coordinator for the Golisano Institute for Sustainability. Gabrielle also holds a master's degree in computation for design and optimization and a doctorate in materials science and engineering, both from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The 2020 "Forty Under 40" honorees were recognized Nov. 12 at a virtual celebration.

2005 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Alfred F. "Al" Mancuso (M.A. school psychology, '08 Psy.D. school psychology) was promoted to professor of psychology and counseling at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ, where he has served on the faculty since 2007. Al is currently completing his second term as chair of the department of psychology and counseling, a position he has held since 2015. He became the director

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SNAIL MAIL

Mark Whitehouse
Director of Communications
1 Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802

of the university's then-defunct school psychology clinic in 2013 and led the process of re-opening the clinic and having it approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. Al led the development team that produced the university's first doctoral program in school psychology. In 2019, the program enrolled its first cohort of doctoral students, and Al was named the founding director.

Brett Swiatek (B.A. fine arts) was named to Buffalo Business First's "40 Under 40" list for 2020. Now in its 28th year, the Buffalo Business First "40 Under 40" program recognizes 40 men and women — all under the age of 40 — who are both successful in their professional pursuits and heavily involved in the Buffalo community. Brett is president of Swiatek Studios in Buffalo, a family business that provides high-quality restoration services for commercial buildings, sacred spaces, museums, theaters, private residences, and historic landmarks. Under his leadership, Swiatek Studios has grown to employ a dozen employees whose work can be seen all over Western New York at sites such as Shea's Performing Arts Center, Shea's Seneca, the North Park and Palace Theaters, the Curtiss Hotel and many churches. Brett is involved with Preservation Buffalo Niagara, and has taught classes to help educate the public on restoration services and DIY projects. He provided continued education courses with Preservation Buffalo Niagara; pro bono services and education for local parishes and municipalities; and is a coach for Clarence Little League. The 2020 honorees were recognized during a virtual celebration on Nov. 19.

2006 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Erika (Wastrom) Dewey (B.F.A.), a Cape Cod painter who has a studio in Barnstable, MA, was interviewed for a July 2020 *New York Times* story about the arts in the Cape Cod community of Provincetown, MA. The story—titled "Can a New Arts Center Revitalize Provincetown?"—appeared in the Times' July 2 issue. Erika, a teacher at Nauset Middle School in Orleans, MA, earned an M.F.A. degree from Boston University in 2012.



A group of alumni and others affiliated with Alfred University gathered in San Francisco in November 2019. They are pictured here, from left: **Marc Shaw**, **Don McPherson '84 M.S., '88 PhD (glass science), '18 H** and his wife, **Elle McPherson**, **Dave Judson '66 (B.A. history)**, the late **Sandy Coplton '62 (B.S. nursing)**, president **Mark Zupan**, **David '66 (B.A. English)** and **Bebes Miller '65 (B.A. French)**, **Michael Johnson '93 (B.A. history)**, **Roger Underhill '64 (B.A. business and economics)**, **Laura Ackerman-Shaw (daughter of Jerome "Jerry" Ackerman '52)**, and **Gary Horowitz '91 H**, former history professor and director of Alumni Relations at Alfred University.

Elizabeth (Sanger) Brown (B.A., chemistry; secondary education minor) was a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching in 2019. Elizabeth, who teaches at North Harford High School in Harford County, MD, was among a group of just four educators from Maryland schools to be cited by President Donald Trump. The award is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to math and science educators who teach kindergarten through 12th grade. The process for selecting award winners is facilitated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation. Teachers across the nation were chosen based on their performance in the classroom and dedication to improving science, technology, engineering, and math education. Four teachers were chosen in each state, the District of Columbia, and from schools in the U.S. territories

of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

2007

Yasmin Mattox (B.S., political science) was one of two Rochester area women professionals honored for their work in the field of technology. During a virtual ceremony in October, Tech Rochester named Yasmin the Emerging Technology Professional Woman of the Year. Tech Rochester, founded in 2000 as Digital Rochester, honors professionals in the technology field who live, work and make a greater impact on the Greater Rochester area. Yasmin is founder of Arkatecht, which creates products that assist women in realizing their fullest potential in accordance with family and career goals. Arkatecht's mission is to help working parents more easily advance in their careers.

Yasmin and her team do this by creating software that tackles the unique logistical obstacles to advancement that parents face—increasing time constraints and the scarcity of childcare—on their behalf. In doing so, Yasmin seeks to help working parents accomplish their professional aspirations in a manner that respects their parenting needs.

Jessica Richard (B.S., finance) was named 2019 “Mother of the Year” by *Working Mother*, a magazine and on-line resource for the country's more than 17 million mothers who are devoted to their families and committed to their careers. *Working Mother* profiled working moms in the magazine's “100 Best Companies for 2019” issue. Among those honored was Jessica, chief of staff, Investment Platforms and Solutions Americas for Global Wealth Management at UBS, a financial services firm. Jessica and her husband, Seth Richard '04, live in New York City with their daughters Siena and Elle. Seth earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Alfred University. He is vice president of Investments and senior director of the National Retail Group at Marcus & Millichap, a national commercial real estate brokerage firm.

A Brooklyn gallery's exhibition of artwork created by **Andrew Erdos** (B.F.A.) was featured in the July 14, 2020 issue of *Glass Quarterly*, an art magazine published four times a year by UrbanGlass in Brooklyn, NY. Andrew's exhibition, titled “Not for the peak, but for the mountain,” was on view at the Chimney gallery in Brooklyn in 2020. Andrew is a Brooklyn-based artist whose practice often combines traditional glass blowing and sculpting techniques with new media art

installations. His work has been shown internationally at venues such as the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia; Deitch Projects (Art Parade) New York, NY; Jilin University Changchun, China; and The National Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow. His work is in the permanent collections of the Corning Museum of Glass; the Knoxville (TN) Museum of Art; and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art Kansas City, MO.

2008

Victoria (Knox) Blair (B.S., PhD '14) was the subject of the "Volunteer Spotlight" feature in the November 2019 American Ceramic Society (ACerS) newsletter. "Volunteer Spotlight" honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to ACerS through volunteer work. Vicki received her bachelor's and doctoral degrees, both in ceramic engineering, in 2008 and 2014, respectively, researching synthesis, processing and characterization of oxide semiconductors for photocatalysis and water splitting. Vicki joined the U.S. Army Research Lab as a post-doctoral fellow in June 2014 and has conducted research on solid state materials for Li-air batteries, magnetic field processing of transparent alumina, and synthesis of transparent nanocomposites as a laser host material. Now a staff materials engineer at the Army Research Lab, she has focused on the area of transparent ceramics for Army applications, primarily infrared transparent windows for sensor protection. As a volunteer for ACerS, Vicki has served in several roles since she was an undergraduate, first as a founding member of the President's Council of Student Advisors (PCSA) and

recently as the mentor-at-large for the PCSA. She is also the co-chair of the Washington DC/Maryland/Northern Virginia section of ACerS.

Katherine "Kat" Wright (B.A., fine arts) and the Indomitable Soul Band, an eight-piece soul/rock group for which Kat is lead singer, performed in February 2020 at the Kodak Center in Rochester, NY. Kat, who has fronted for the band for nine years, and two other members of the group also served as the opening act for the Wood Brothers tour, which supported the latter's new album. The tour included stops in Kat's native Rochester as well as her current hometown of Burlington, VT.

2009

Spencer Rhys Hughes (B.A., psychology) recently had a novel published by Permuted Press. The book "The War Beneath," is available in hardcover and eBook. The supernatural crime thriller can be ordered through Amazon and Barnes & Noble and by visiting Hughes' website, www.thesrhughes.com.

2010 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Kate Roberts (B.F.A., M.F.A. '15)

was featured as an Emerging Artist by the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts in a recent NCECA newsletter. Kate is currently an assistant professor in ceramics at the University of Memphis. In 2019, she co-curated with artists Allison Rose Carver and Katie Coughlin "Matter at Hand", an exhibition of ceramic art for the NCECA conference in Minneapolis, MN. Last year, she created a site-specific installation in Seattle, WA, Walking on Ghosts. Kate minored in art history while earning her BFA degree.

Robert Cain (B.A., communication studies) was named by Rochester Business Journal as a 2020 Forty Under 40 honoree. Robert is a senior real estate developer for PathStone Development Corp. in Rochester. Forty Under 40 recognizes 40 men and women, under the age of 40, who have achieved professional success and who have made significant civic contributions to the community. In choosing the winners, judges looked for candidates who excel professionally and who are actively involved in and give back to the community. Robert is a senior real estate developer for



A group of alumni from the Class of 2004 got together for a luncheon in Penn Yan, NY, in January 2020. It marked the first time the group had gotten together in 10 years. Attending were (pictured above, left to right): **Erich Ely** (B.S. electrical engineering) **Jake Martin** (B.S. mechanical engineering), **Stephanie (Forsey) Martin** (B.S. mechanical engineering), **Chad Currie** (B.S. mechanical engineering), **Joe Goodsell** (B.S. mechanical engineering), and **Patrick Bell** (B.S. mechanical engineering).



A group of 17 Alpha Kappa Omicron sisters recreated the house tradition of a “pool party” when they met in the Poconos June 11-13, 2021, to celebrate life, love and sisterhood. Pictured in the photo above are, front row, from left: **Keli Turner Walker '01, Danielle Johnson-Kutch '03, Margaret Honti Quinn '03, Jennifer Stiglmeier King '02, and Penny Schader Dunn '00.** Middle row, from left: **Kendra Stratton Albertson '02, Billie Furlong McNabb '00, Bridgette Henne Elston '02, Andrea Mottram '93, and Jessica Trapasso McElveen '98.** Back row, from left: **Maggie Fairman Williams '01, Tracy Young Kochey '03, Stephanie Webster '01, Kelly Knee '99, Christie Swarts '96, Hollie Cornell Wagner '98, and Desiree Lombardo Caruso '01.**

PathStone Development Corp. in Rochester. Robert has been with PathStone for 11 years, serving the agency as a program coordinator, program administrator, real estate developer, and, since 2019, as senior real estate developer. In 2018, he was recognized for being PathStone’s lead developer for the Eastman Reserve, the first-ever mixed-use residential community within Eastman Business Park in Rochester. Eastman Reserve, with nearly 200 mixed-income single-family and multi-family rental units, was recently presented by Novogradac & Company LLP with the 2020 Development of Distinction Award for Metropolitan Community Impact. The 2020 “Forty Under 40 honorees” were recognized in a virtual ceremony held November 12.

Will Lepry (B.S. ceramic engineering; minors in chemistry and environmental studies)

was named inaugural winner of the Global Young Bioceramist Award, given by the American Ceramic Society (ACerS). The award recognizes the outstanding young ceramic engineer and materials scientist, who has made significant contributions to the area of bioceramics, for human healthcare around the globe. Will is a postdoctoral fellow in the department of mining and materials engineering at McGill University in Montreal, researching sol-gel derived bioactive glasses. His PhD thesis at McGill represented the seminal work on bioactive sol-gel borate glasses which has led to multiple academic, innovation, and start-up awards as well as two patents. Will is also on the Bioglasses Technical Committee of the International Commission on Glass. After graduating from Alfred, he worked as a post-bachelors research

associate at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

2011 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Justin Crowe (B.F.A.) is the founder of Parting Stone, a company that turns the cremated remains of loved ones (including pets) into solidified stone-like objects. His interest in finding a new way of preserving cremated ashes followed the death of his grandfather in 2014. With a background in conceptual product design, he helped develop the technology at the heart of Parting Stone, based in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, NM, which transforms ashes into stone-like objects that use the entirety of the cremated human or animal. The ashes cohere due to a glass-like binder that is subjected to high temperatures; the resulting form may range from marble- to palm-size.

Zach Grosser (B.F.A.), who owns a design agency in Amsterdam, Netherlands, was recently interviewed for a feature on Troopl, a website connecting working professionals with employers. A native of Corning, NY, Zach is founder of Zacht Studios in Amsterdam, which he describes as “a presentation design agency” that assists “companies with their company storytelling and investor fundraising.” His clients include companies like Adobe, Square, Dropbox, and Spacex.

2012

Sondra Perry (B.F.A.) has been awarded the Rolls-Royce Art Programme’s first-ever Dream Commission and will create a new work on the subject of “dreams”, which will be exhibited at Fondation Beyeler, Switzerland in early 2022 and Serpentine, London in 2022. The Dream Commission

was created to award an artist working in the field of moving-image art. Sondra was one of four shortlisted artists considered for the biennial prize, which was selected by a jury of international art world figures. Sondra, a New Jersey-based interdisciplinary artist, works across the media of artificial intelligence, animation, performance, and video, among others. At the forefront of her work lies an exploration of the themes of race, identity and technology. In 2021, Artnet News named a piece of video art created by Sondra as among the top 100 most influential pieces of art of the last decade. "IT'S IN THE GAME '17 or Mirror Game for Vitrine of Projection (2017)" was No. 82 on the Artnet News top 100 list. IT'S IN THE GAME '17 is a video installation that confronts the circumstances Sondra's twin brother, Sandy, faced as collegiate basketball player at Georgia Southern University from 2008-10. During his collegiate playing career, video game maker Electronic Arts released a video game, NCAA March Madness, in which likenesses of college players, including Sandy, were used without the players' consent. In February, Sondra had her work, titled "FLESH WALL," included in a month-long digital exhibition in New York City's Times Square. From 11:57 p.m. to midnight each night during the month, FLESH WALL was displayed as part of Times Square Arts' Midnight Moment exhibition series. Times Square Arts is the largest public platform for contemporary performance and visual arts.

Nick Moen (B.F.A.) is founder and owner of Bright Angle, a porcelain design studio located in Asheville, NC. After graduating from Alfred, Nick settled in Asheville, where he started a career as a potter. Since

he started Bright Angle in 2016, the studio's focus has been on creating well-crafted and intentionally designed tabletop and lighting pieces.

2013

Brad Turner (M.F.A.) was one of 10 glass artists featured in the second season of Netflix' popular series "Blown Away." Over the course of the season, artists compete head-to-head creating glass art. One competitor is eliminated by a panel of judges each week until a winner is determined. In addition to his appearance on "Blown Away," Brad has received numerous awards, including support from the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, the BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and Craft Ontario. He also received the 2013 Canadian Award for Glass. Born in Calgary, he lives in Toronto with his wife, Annie Tung; and their three-year-old daughter.

Alyssa Hansen (B.S., accounting) has been promoted to audit and accounting senior associate at the Syracuse accounting firm of Dermody, Burke & Brown CPAs LLC. Alyssa earned an MBA, with a concentration in accounting, from Alfred University in 2016.

2017

Anna Burke (B.F.A.), a clay modeler for Ford Motor Company, was featured in a recent story on Ford's online publication. Anna has been a clay modeler for Ford Motor Company for three years. In that role, she uses clay to create scale models of Ford cars and trucks, which are used in the vehicle design process. The story appeared in the March 18 issue of @FordOnline as part of the company's observance of Women's History Month.

2019

Elisabeth Estep (B.A., biology, minor in Spanish and chemistry) was sworn into the U.S. Air Force as a Second Lieutenant on April 3. Elisabeth is currently enrolled in the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. She is expected to earn her Doctor of Dental Science degree in 2023, at which time she will serve as a dentist in the Air Force.

2020

Matthew Eisenhauer (B.S., mechanical engineering) has been appointed assistant project manager for LaBella Associates. In this position, Matthew is responsible for assisting Avangrid utilities in developing, handling, and performing the interconnection of large-scale solar photovoltaic projects (up to five megawatts) across New York State.

Obituaries & Death Notices

Obituaries for alumni, friends, and former employees, as well as alumni death notices, are being published online for this issue of the Alfred Magazine.

Please go to go.alfred.edu/notices to read the complete most recent listings.

Outside of Ordinary: Jim Jordan '72

Jim Jordan '72, the great-grandson of Irish immigrants who fled the potato famine in search of freedom, democracy, and gainful employment, is responsible for the design of over \$500 million worth of educational and commercial space as president of James Jordan Associates, Architects.

A fourth generation native of Richfield Springs, NY, Jim has led and served on dozens of community boards and professional organizations. As a valued member of Alfred's Board of Trustees, Jim's expertise ensures that every Board decision is informed by both aesthetic and pragmatic considerations.

Jim's **Outside of Ordinary** philanthropy enhances Alfred both visibly (his campus beautification fund ensures we look our best) and behind the scenes (energy efficient heating finds no better champion), and always with an eye to impacting students' lives (just ask the most recent Jordan Scholarship recipients).

Jim's generosity, further bolstered by his generous bequest commitment, builds the foundation for Alfred University's future.



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MAKING CONNECTIONS, *forming relationships*

Megan Jones '21, from Far Rockaway, NY, earned her bachelor's degree in psychology on May 15 and is returning to Alfred University to pursue a master's degree in school counseling. She has served as a resident assistant and student ambassador, and was the recipient of a Saxon Six award, presented by the Division of Student Affairs.

"I joined Saxon Circle because I wanted to continue being a part of the Alfred University community, even in the years after graduation," Megan says. "I have committed to Alfred University for two more years which means I will still have a lot more time to become familiar with our most notable alumni. I hope that the connections and relationships I form in Saxon Circle follow me all throughout my professional career."

The Alfred University Saxon Circle program is in its fifth year and has made a significant difference in the lives of our students. We currently have 673 Saxon Circle members, including 58 faculty/staff and 84 students, who have collectively pledged \$10.1 million over a five-year period.

SAXON
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now is the first one printed since the fall of 2019, and is also the first ever designed by someone other than Rick McLay. (Olivia Piazza '19, the graphic designer in our Marketing and Communication Department, who took over many of Rick's duties after his retirement, designed the current issue.)

Rick's memory lives on in the hearts and minds of all who knew him, as a friend and colleague—in the case of Wayne Higby, director of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, as both friend and colleague. Earlier this year, Wayne established the Rick McLay Memorial Award in Graphic Design, in which an annual prize of \$1,000 is presented to a B.F.A. student with a concentration or interest in graphic design. In May, Ellie Gamble '23 received the inaugural McLay award.

To contribute to the fund that supports the Rick McLay Memorial Award in Graphic Design, please call the Alfred University Advancement office at 607-871-2144.

In memory of

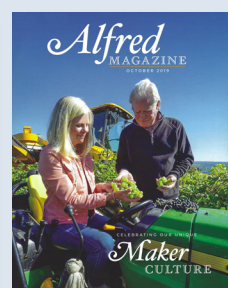
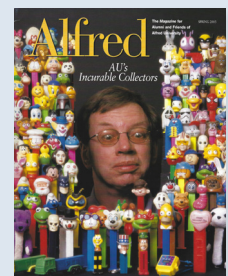
Rick McLay '89

Rick McLay '89 (B.F.A.) filled many roles as Alfred University's director of creative services: graphic designer, photographer, video producer, editor, and writer. Despite his busy schedule and the variety of tasks he juggled on a daily basis, Rick also found time to serve as an adjunct instructor of graphic design.

In his work, no detail was overlooked and no shortcuts were taken. The meticulous nature in which Rick approached his craft was evident in the thousands of pieces of printed and online materials he created over his 36-year career at Alfred University.

Rick, who retired in 2019 and passed away in December of 2020 at the age of 66, took exceptional pride in producing the Alfred alumni magazine (a few examples of which are pictured here). In 1998, he designed the first magazine, which replaced the Alfred Reporter, a tabloid-size newspaper. What began as a black-and-white magazine, with color cover, transitioned the following year to a full-color publication. Rick oversaw several design upgrades in the Alfred magazine between its inception and his retirement in 2019.

Creative to the core—he was also an accomplished musician, illustrator, and watercolorist—Rick never settled for cookie-cutter page design or generic cover images. Each issue was a piece of art. The COVID pandemic postponed publication of the last three editions of the Alfred magazine. The issue you hold in your hands





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Alfred University

REUNION 2021

Celebrating TOGETHER

Join us for Alfred University's 2021 Reunion, August 5-8. All alumni are welcome with honored celebrations for alumni from the class years ending in 0, 1, 5 and 6 and our Alfred Golden Saxons. There are special gatherings scheduled to celebrate Delta Sigma Phi's 100 +1 Birthday and all ROTC alumni. Our celebrations will also include honored year Nurses, Lambda Chi Alpha and Kappa Psi Upsilon Brothers.

Alfred University's annual Reunion offers you the opportunity to reunite and reconnect with friends and classmates. We have something for everyone!

Come back to the place that feels like home!

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

Save the date for Reunion 2021, August 5-8

