

A woman with long, curly brown hair and safety glasses is working in a glassblowing workshop. She is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and a silver heat-reflective glove on her left hand. She is holding a glowing orange-red molten glass sphere on a metal rod. The background is a workshop with various tools and equipment.

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A TOUCH OF GLASS



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



Facing page: N’Kosi Barber, a glass artist from Chicago, works in the School of Art and Design hot glass shop. Barber visited the University the first week of February in conjunction with the SOAD’s Black Glass Arts Series. The series brought glass artists of color to the University throughout February, with artists giving glass art demonstrations and artist talks. Third-year B.F.A. student Adeye Jean-Baptiste was instrumental in organizing the series, leading efforts to raise funds to bring the visiting artists to campus.

Above: Alfred University military veteran alumni participated during Reunion 2021 last August in the dedication of a memorial honoring the U.S. service veterans. The permanent memorial, located in front of the Davis Memorial Carillon, consists of a bench and granite inlays detailing each war and conflict Alfred University-affiliated veterans fought in over the years and the branches of the U.S. military.

Cover image: Elizabeth Lyons ’82 works in the shop at More Fire Glass, the small production glass studio and gallery she operates in Rochester. See story, Page 2.

Inside

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MORE FIRE GLASS

By Mark Whitehouse

Elizabeth Lyons '82, founder of More Fire Glass in Rochester, works with fellow Rochester natives and Alfred University alumni Jen Schinzing '04 and Mike Krupiarz '05 to create unique and beautiful pieces of glass art at a 4,000-square-foot building that houses the small-scale production glass studio and gallery. All three developed an interest in art while growing up in Rochester, and a particular love for working with glass while students at Alfred.

The daughter of Alfred University alumni and accomplished photographers—her mother Joan and late father Nathan both graduated from Alfred in 1957; Joan with a B.F.A. and Nathan with a degree in English—Elizabeth's interest in the creative process came naturally.

"We always made things, all the time," Elizabeth recalls of her childhood in Rochester. Nathan, who passed away in 2016, was curator of photography at the George Eastman House in Rochester before founding the Visual Studies

Workshop at SUNY Brockport, where he retired as Distinguished Professor of Art/Education in 2002. He received an honorary degree from Alfred University in 2006. In 1972, Joan founded the Visual Studies Workshop Press, which produces artists' books through a residency program. She has taught and lectured in printmaking, printing, and photography, and her work is part of permanent collections nationally and internationally.

Elizabeth's parents both taught at the renowned Penland School of Craft, outside Asheville, NC, and it was there, at the age of 11, that she saw the process of glass blowing. That experience, combined with visits to the family glass business on her fathers' side in New York City, piqued her interest in glass art. "It was magical to visit the place where they made chandeliers and fancy mirrors. I remember a giant card catalogue. In each drawer there were crystals of various colors and shapes. I spent hours opening those drawers," she recalled.

It wasn't until Elizabeth enrolled in art school at Alfred University that she discovered her passion for glass as an art form.

"After (first-year) Foundations, I started to focus on glass and was excited to be working in that medium, though I was still fascinated by the variety of studio experiences at Alfred," she said. "That's what was beautiful about Alfred. In my sophomore year, I was able to work multiple media areas that included ceramics, printmaking and wood. Not being limited by material has been so important to my work. I don't think of myself as a glass artist. I think of myself as a sculptor and designer. I love glass, but I also love metal, wood, found objects, concrete and paint. I would never limit myself. The medium is chosen to serve the idea."

Elizabeth earned her B.F.A., with a concentration in sculpture, in 1982. After graduation, she moved to New York City, working and taking film classes, before returning to Rochester in 1988. She earned a master's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and in 1989 began a 21-year career teaching art in the Rochester City School District, at the School of the Arts, and then at East High School.



Mike Krupiarz '05 (left), Jen Schinzing '04 (center), and Elizabeth Lyons '82 outside More Fire Glass studio and gallery in Rochester.

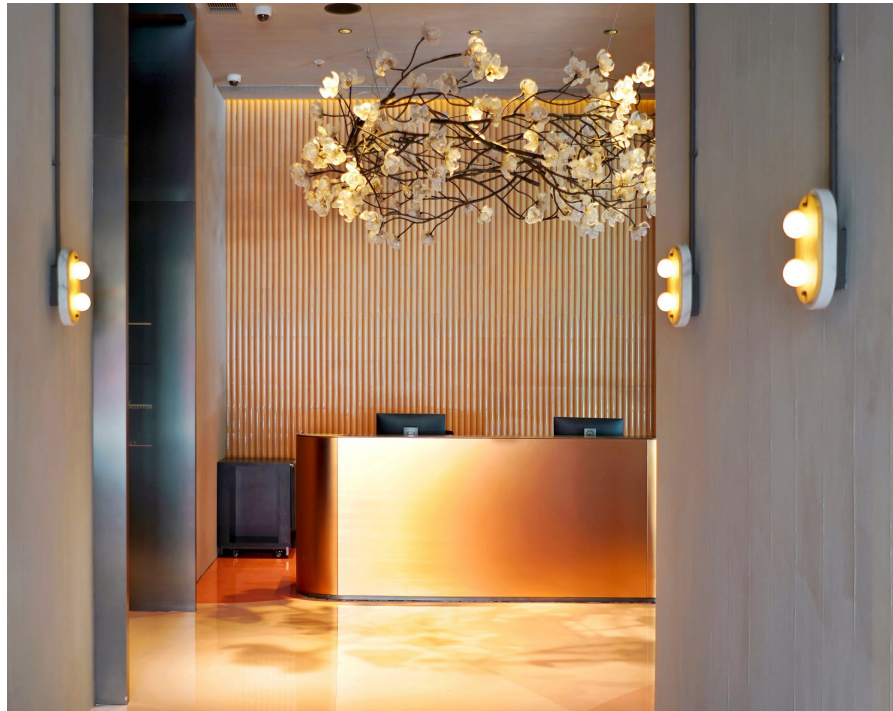
It was while she was teaching that Elizabeth opened More Fire Glass in Rochester in 1998. She had wanted to open her own studio, and found some space in Rochester. "I went to the bank and applied for a loan to purchase the equipment. The bank turned me down. They said they didn't

know what they would do with the equipment" if the studio venture failed, Elizabeth recalled.

Soon after, in a fortunate stroke of serendipity, a glass artist Elizabeth was acquainted with contacted her to say she was selling her glass-blowing equipment and asked if Elizabeth was interested. "It was very small and cobbled together, but I said yes, I would take it." Using her own \$5,000 as an investment, which was matched by a grant from the City of Rochester, Elizabeth bought the equipment and secured the space needed to open More Fire Glass studio. "That's how I got started. I moved the equipment into the space and used it for about two years until I was able to build new hot shop equipment, including a glass furnace."

Elizabeth said she made sure to continually invest in her business. "I was teaching at the time, so every cent I made (at the studio) I re-invested. I was super-conservative, and never borrowed any money. I'd make a little money and buy tools, equipment and materials or less glamorous things one needs to run a business."

In 2005, she was joined at the studio by Jen Schinzing. Like Elizabeth, Jen had a full-time job elsewhere, as a photographer at a local studio.



A chandelier Elizabeth Lyons created, consisting of glass magnolia blossoms attached to a forged metal frame, adorns the lobby of the Arca Hotel in Hong Kong.

"We'd come into the studio after our other jobs and worked to keep the place going," Elizabeth explained.

At the time, the focus of More Fire Glass was public access. "I wanted to create a studio that was an educational facility and it was a first for this area.

I was committed to offering summer and after school programs for city high school students, though kids came from all over. We raised money and offered lots of scholarships. Many of those students have continued in glass and the arts."

Elizabeth rented out studio time, and offered a variety of classes, taught by nationally renowned artists, including Einar and Jamex de la Torre, Emilio Santini, Karen Willenbrink, Ross Richmond and many others. That shifted in 2010, when Elizabeth retired from teaching and turned her attention full time to her studio practice.

"It was just me and Jen at the time and there was a complete course correction," Elizabeth said. "We both left our full-time jobs. I decided I wanted to focus on creating and making art. It was a big, risky leap for us, but it was what we really wanted to do. Not long after that things really started to take off. There is a point in life when you pare down and do fewer things, but do them better."

In 2016, More Fire Glass studio moved to its current location, a former welding supply shop on Rochester's Field Street, just off busy Monroe Avenue and easily accessible from I-490. Two



The showroom at More Fire Glass studio and gallery in Rochester. Founder Elizabeth Lyons '82 and fellow Alfred University alumni Jen Schinzing '04 and Mike Krupiarz '05 create original glass art at More Fire Glass.

years later, Elizabeth and Jen were joined in the studio by Michael Krupiarz, who returned to his native Rochester after several years working and teaching in North Carolina, including a stint as an instructor at Penland. Michael knew Jen from their time at Alfred University, and was a student at Rochester School of the Arts when Elizabeth was a teacher there. "When we got to a place where we could hire someone, Michael's name came up, and we reached out to him," Elizabeth recalls.

More Fire Glass serves a variety of clientele, from architects and interior designers to individual clients and retail showrooms. Elizabeth's work has appeared in national publications like the *New York Times*, *Vogue* and *Town and Country* magazines, and in specialty trade publications like *World of Interiors* magazine and *Architectural Digest*. Elizabeth's work has been exhibited in museums, is included in permanent collections, and has been sold in major retail outlets like Barneys, Bergdorf, and Holly Hunt. One of her most ambitious and stunning works is a chandelier made of glass magnolia blossoms attached to a forged metal frame. A large version of the chandelier adorns the lobby of the Arca Hotel in Hong Kong.

Jen and Michael, both talented and experienced

glassblowers, create their own works (which are available for sale in the More Fire Glass showroom and on the studio website) and work with Elizabeth on various projects. Jen serves as studio manager and Michael as studio coordinator.

"Jen has really helped me grow the business. There has been a lot of collaboration between us. We bounce ideas off each other all the time. Jen and Michael are very interesting artists in their own right. They bring a lot of creativity to the table," Elizabeth commented. "I couldn't ask for two more capable people to work with. They make it a joy to come to work. Both are incredibly organized and offer the perfect combination of working styles."

Jen says she has had an interest in "making and creating" for as long as she can remember. Growing up in Rochester and attending school in Fairport, she says she "took every art class I could in high school" and knew that her college plans would include attending art school.

"When I started looking, I asked my mom, 'How will I know?' She said, 'You'll just know,'" Jen recalled. "We visited Alfred. All the brick buildings and green spaces...it was just different from the other campuses. It had a cozy, homey feeling. It had that vibe. I knew as soon as I got to the campus, Oh my god! This is where I want to go."

Like Jen, Michael was taken with Alfred as soon as he set foot on campus for his first visit. “When I walked onto campus, and saw the facility, I said, ‘Yeah, this is it.’ It was pretty instant.”

He enrolled at Alfred planning to focus on ceramic art, but that began to change after his first year. “My introduction to glass was in my sophomore year, and I thought I’d try it out. It was so new and challenging, it just took over my interest,” Michael recalled, noting the influence of his first glass professor, the late Jackie Pancari, visiting professor of glass from 1998-2003. “Her energy and love for glass was contagious.”

Jen says her work has “evolved over the years,” and her sculptural work incorporates mixed media. “Even though I’m primarily a glassblower, I have a lot of respect for other materials.”

She says working with Elizabeth and Michael at More Fire Glass is so gratifying because she’s doing something she loves while working with great people. “It’s amazing. In the beginning both of us (Jen and Elizabeth) were doing other jobs. To be able to build this up to the point we could take the leap is amazing. It’s great to be at a place where your creative input is so valued,” she said. “Elizabeth, Michael and I make a great team. Glassblowing studios are such intimate spaces. You can’t work with just anyone. We work really well together.”

After graduating from Alfred, Michael studied and worked 12 years in North Carolina—including as a teaching assistant at Penland—before returning to Rochester in 2018. He jumped at

the chance to join Elizabeth and Jen at More Fire Glass

“Being able to do what you love, what you’re passionate about for a job...I’m very grateful and fortunate,” Michael said. Being able to work in his hometown, “is an extra perk. It’s great for me to be here in that respect.”

Looking back, Elizabeth is quick to credit her own time at Alfred for helping shape her career, as a teacher and artist.

“It’s huge. Alfred influenced my time as a teacher, particularly the Foundations class. It didn’t make sense at the time, but after I graduated and started teaching, I really drew on that experience every day,” she says, crediting “brilliant teachers” like John Wood (her instructor in Printmaking and senior advisor) and Andy Billeci, along with Harland Snodgrass, Jessie Shefrin and Val Cushing. The art school “is rooted in this history of collaboration and ingenuity. It’s a very special place. I feel very fortunate to have worked with those people.”

That sentiment is reflected in the students she has worked with—after they’ve come out of Alfred University, or those she steered to Alfred as a high school teacher. “Alfred graduates are really well-prepared as artists. There is a kind of creative growth that happens in the art school that is so unique to that program.”





THE *Optics* OF GLASS

Kathleen Richardson '82, a leading educator and researcher in infrared glass science and technology, got her start at Alfred University, albeit briefly, as a chemistry major. By her second semester, she had switched to ceramic engineering, a decision that would lead her to worldwide distinction in the field of glass and optical materials.

By Mark Whitehouse

Photos courtesy of
The University of Central Florida

Facing page: Kathleen Richardson '82, '88 M.S., '92, PhD oversees the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory in the College of Optics and Photonics (CREOL), University of Central Florida.

Today, Kathleen holds the prestigious title of Pegasus Professor of Optics and Materials Science in CREOL, the College of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, where she runs the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory.

A member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2006, Kathleen earned B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Alfred University. Her research and teaching specialize in infrared optical materials, chalcogenide glasses and glass ceramics; she has been granted 21 patents, with direct benefits to numerous industrial applications. Kathleen is a past president of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) and the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers and a past chair of ACerS Glass and Optical Materials Division. She is a Fellow of ACerS, the Optical Society of America (now Optica), the Society of Glass Technology, and the European Ceramic Society (honorary).

Growing up in Rochester, Kathleen's interest in optics developed at an early age. Rochester is home to Kodak, and an after-school Science Explorer program at the company piqued her interest in the inner-workings of cameras, and in the chemistry and science behind optical materials. Kathleen's love of chemistry—it was her favorite subject in high school—and her passion for sports led her to Alfred University. Her favorite teacher in high school was the father of one of her friends, also a softball teammate.

While she was looking into colleges, her friend's sister, who had gone to nursing school at Alfred University, suggested Kathleen consider Alfred. "I visited Alfred and I knew it was where I wanted to go. It was a small campus: far enough away from home but close enough where I could come back for holidays. There was a lot of inclusivity and camaraderie at Alfred. And, I could still play volleyball!"

Kathleen enrolled at Alfred University in the fall of 1978 as a chemistry major, a course of study that would change after just one semester. "I was living in a dorm with ceramic engineering majors and they were having so much fun," she recalled. The following spring, she switched her major to ceramic engineering.

At Alfred, Kathleen took as many classes as she could that related to optics—which studies the behavior and properties of light and its interactions with materials, including glass—and in 1982, she

Continued on page 10

earned her bachelor's degree. In February of 1983, Kathleen began a five-year tenure at the University of Rochester (UR) Laboratory of Laser Energetics, initially as an electronics technician and then as a laboratory engineer.

Kathleen was one of the first ceramic materials engineering graduates hired to work at UR in optics. She recalled that when David Pye (then professor of glass science engineering) was called for a reference, he "was a bit miffed at the employer's lack of familiarity with the quality of Alfred's ceramic engineering program, and asserted that 'our graduates knew as much or more about optics and materials as the graduates of optics programs.' Most Alfred University ceramic engineering graduates went into traditional ceramics jobs.

I was the only one at that time who I knew had gone into optics. I was an outlier, and that decision, fortunately, changed my life."

While working at UR, Kathleen worked part-time toward her master's degree in glass science, which she earned in 1988. Seeking a career in education and research, she decided to pursue her doctoral degree.

"I was running some of the same projects (at Rochester) as some of the Ph.D. students, providing technical supervision for some as well as mentorship," she recalled. "I realized I could stay at UR or go to Alfred and get my Ph.D. I knew I needed additional education and training to get where I wanted to be, so I opted for the Ph.D."

Kathleen returned to Alfred to earn her doctorate in ceramic engineering. Her advisor, William LaCourse, professor of glass science, arranged for her to work in the glass lab, which "gave me the opportunity to learn how to teach and interface with students." She lectured in one class and was an instructor in another.

After earning her Ph.D. in ceramic engineering in 1992, Kathleen was appointed a research scientist in the Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers (CREOL) at the

University of Central Florida (UCF). In 1993, she was named an assistant professor in UCF's Departments of Chemistry and Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering. This position later transferred to the School and then College of Optics and Photonics, once those entities were established at UCF.

Kathleen served as an instructor in the U.S. and abroad, including at the University of Rochester Institute of Optics and as visiting professor at Université Claude Bernard in Lyon, France, and Université Bordeaux in Bordeaux, France in 2000 and 2001.

In 2002, while on leave from UCF, Kathleen was appointed manager of the R&D Materials and R&D Technology groups for Schott Glass, a German multinational glass company specializing in the manufacture of optical glass and glass-ceramics. "For me, it was an industry test drive after spending 10 years in academia. I wanted to try something different. It was great from a corporate experience standpoint."

In 2003, Kathleen returned to UCF, as associate professor in the School of Optics, Departments of Chemistry and Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering. Two years later, she left for Clemson University, where she served for 12 years—seven as a professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering (including five years as department chair) and five as a research professor. During her tenure at Clemson, she was an affiliate professor at UCF.

"Clemson provided me a leadership opportunity," she said. Among her chief tasks was that of combining two departments: Ceramics and Metallurgy, and the School of Textiles.

Enrollment in the two programs had been declining. Kathleen created two endowed chairs in Clemson's School of Materials Science and Engineering and also increased the co-op and internship opportunities available to students.

"I visited Alfred and I knew it was where I wanted to go. It was a small campus: far enough away from home but close enough where I could come back for holidays. There was a lot of inclusivity and camaraderie at Alfred."

Kathleen Richardson '82



Kathleen Richardson is one of the world's preeminent researchers and teachers in the field of optics. The Pegasus Professor of Optics and Materials Science at the University of Central Florida, she has played a key role in lobbying the United Nations to designate 2022 as the International Year of Glass.

Using her Alfred University connections, she helped develop a student internship program at Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken County, SC, where Alfred University alumnus John Marra '83 (BS ceramic engineering, BA chemistry) was serving as chief research officer.

"I had a wonderful Alfred network to help me during those years at Clemson," Kathleen said, noting that Marra also agreed to send some of his employees at Savannah River (some also Alfred alums) to serve as adjunct professors at Clemson. Her work at Clemson was successful in increasing enrollment in the School of Materials Science and Engineering.

Kathleen left Clemson in 2012 to return to UCF, but retained her position as a Clemson research professor through 2017. She has been professor in the College of Optics and Photonics at UCF since 2012. In 2018, she was named Pegasus Professor of Optics and Materials Science and Engineering. UCF Pegasus Professors are recognized for

success in teaching, research, creative activity, and service. That same year, she was awarded the Florida Photonics Center of Excellence Professorship at UCF.

At UCF, Kathleen leads a team conducting research in the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory (GPCL) in CREOL, a global leader in education, research, and industrial partnership in the fields of optics and lasers.

"I, with my colleagues, lead the optical glass side of the lab," she explained. "We actually make components based on glass and glass ceramics that we hope someday make it into an innovative optical system that requires something special, not currently available on the market."

While these infrared (IR) materials are engineered to transmit light that we cannot typically 'see', they also must meet other metrics of performance based on their thermal and mechanical robustness, and compatibility

with unique manufacturing methods. Many IR systems are now deployed for security and imaging systems that must be small and compact, a challenge with crystalline IR materials.

Applications where infrared optics are widely deployed include night vision systems, such as those used in infrared lens systems and cameras. Other applications include sensing of chemical and biological species in vapor or liquid form where IR glasses are integrated onto silicon chip-based structures. For example, this planar IR technology can be used to detect the presence of a deadly bio-chem material like anthrax or other toxins possessing a 'fingerprint' signature in the IR. Current GPCL research partners are a mix of governmental agencies—the U.S. Army, National Science Foundation, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and NASA, i.e.—as well as private industry, including defense contractors like Lockheed Martin (all their infrared optics are manufactured at their Orlando location), BAE Systems, and Raytheon Corporation.

"There is nowhere else in the United States you can go to find this type of expertise," Kathleen says. "I can count on one hand the places in the world that do what we do. And for this reason, we are extremely proud, but very busy."

"This gives me joy when I think about our team's impact – it gives me the opportunity to work with great people," she added. "And, most importantly, it provides my students an opportunity to get really great jobs in a wide range of locations and for diverse employers."

Kathleen's husband, Martin Richardson, is professor of Optics and Photonics, Physics, and Electrical and Computer Engineering at CREOL, where he is founding director of the Townes Laser Institute at UCF. The Institute, which is associated with CREOL, is funded by the state of Florida to develop the next generation of laser light engines for applications in medicine, advanced manufacturing and defense. Most

recently, Martin established the University's new Center for Directed Energy.

Kathleen has sought to pay her success forward, through service to her profession and to her alma mater.

This past spring, the United Nations designated 2022 the International Year of Glass. As a tribute to her former undergraduate advisor David Pye, Kathleen and Pye were closely involved in lobbying the UN for that designation. She is currently leading efforts to organize the U.S. kickoff event, the National Day of Glass, which will be celebrated in April in Washington, DC.

"Dave Pye envisioned (the International Year of Glass) five years ago. It was very much his idea," she said, explaining that Pye knew she had been

involved in the United Nations International Year of Light from 2015 and encouraged her to help with securing the Year of Glass designation from the UN. "I worked with my international glass colleagues to help make it happen. It's a testament to all of our passion in the art, engineering and science of glass and how it touches our lives. We are truly entering the Age of Glass and the multitude of areas where it impacts our everyday activities."

Kathleen is grateful for her time at Alfred, to which she

attributes much of her professional success, and speaks glowingly of the faculty who mentored her, including Pye and LaCourse, James Shelby and Arun Varshneya.

"I came back to Alfred (to pursue graduate degrees) knowing precisely what I wanted to do," she said, referring to her pursuit of a career focusing on glass science and optics. "I was so fortunate to have such great people around me, this community of glass professors well known in their field."

"It's why I serve as a trustee, to give back to the University. I know what I've been able to do is because of my Alfred education. And for that, I'm extremely grateful."

"It's why I serve as a trustee, to give back to the University. I know what I've been able to do is because of my Alfred education. And for that, I'm extremely grateful."

Kathleen Richardson '82

MASTER Chef

John Mauro '01 developed ways to use mathematical modeling to cook up newer, more durable versions of Corning Inc.'s Gorilla Glass for cell phones. He's also a terrific chef.

By Rob Price

John Mauro '01, PhD '06 grew up in the Southern Tier, in a house his father designed on a hillside overlooking the Canacadea Valley in Almond. His father was an engineer and worked for the New York State Department of Transportation. His mother was an elementary school teacher in the Alfred-Almond school district. During the summer months, the Mauro family vacationed in a cottage, also designed by John's father, on Waneta Lake, about 40 miles from Almond. He learned to paddle a kayak there when he was boy. His grandfather taught him how to catch and clean fish. His grandmother taught him how to cook the fish.

He lives in Boalsburg, PA, these days with his wife, Yihong, and their daughter, Sofia, having joined the faculty of Penn State University in 2017. Before moving to Pennsylvania, he and his wife lived and worked in Corning. John was a glass scientist for Corning Inc., and he is often described as the co-inventor of Gorilla Glass, the ultra-thin, scratch-resistant, nearly unbreakable glass used in



Apple iPhones and Samsung Galaxies. He is also often described as one of the top glass scientists in the world, although he's too modest a man to describe himself that way. He does confirm that he loves the academic life; he loves teaching; he loves working with his undergraduate and graduate students. And he traces his happiness at Penn State to his years as an undergraduate and graduate student at Alfred University.

"The Alfred experience was formative for me. My professors taught by their own example, and I'm just trying to follow their example."

John started working at Corning Inc. while he was still an undergraduate at Alfred University. He joined the company on a full-time basis after his graduation in 2001 – just about the time the company was sinking into a financial crisis driven by, among other issues, the implosion of the fiber optics market. In June 2000, Corning's stock had soared to more than \$100 per share. By June of 2002, the stock had dropped to about \$1 per share. It began its slow climb out of the cellar

Continued on page 14

during the second half of 2002, supported in part by its sales of glass to manufacturers of flatscreen video monitors.

On the West Coast, Apple Inc. was working on a product that would need a different kind of flat glass. Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs was looking for a rock-hard, thin glass that would respond to the touch of a fingertip while also resisting scratches and fracturing. Jobs met with Wendell Weeks, Corning's new chief executive, and described the various properties Apple needed for the new glass, which would cover the flat-screen surface of a new gadget Jobs was thinking of calling the

iPhone. Did Corning make any glass that would withstand the punishment Jobs anticipated each iPhone would suffer? Weeks knew of a hardened glass material that Corning had developed in the early 1960s – called Chemcor – which the company had set aside due to the lack of demand. Weeks thought Chemcor could be adapted to Apple's needs, and the company committed itself to an intense campaign to manufacture thousands of square feet of thin, scratch- and fracture-resistant glass that would

coat the screens of the newfangled iPhone. In 2007, the first shipments of Gorilla Glass began leaving Corning's manufacturing facility in Harrodsburg, KY.

Now, enter John Mauro. Once the first version of Gorilla Glass was delivered to Apple, it was necessary for Corning to begin improving the product, hardening the glass further, making it stronger and more scratch resistant. At that point a 27-year-old Mauro began working on subsequent iterations of Gorilla Glass, and in

January 2012, Corning announced the invention of Gorilla Glass 2. A year later, Corning invented Gorilla Glass 3. Each iteration of the glass was stronger and more damage resistant than its previous version, and less prone to fracturing in the event of being dropped (cell phones get dropped a lot). Mauro contributed to Gorilla Glass improvements by developing mathematical models to assemble a theoretical recipe of materials that would create versions of Gorilla Glass that satisfied the needs of companies such as Apple.

To understand John's accomplishment, it's

useful to compare the development of Gorilla Glass with the invention of a new recipe for a favorite meal. A chef can spend months and years testing different ingredients until finding the precise mixture of herbs, spices and other ingredients that yield the best tasting meal. John Mauro, instead, used a computer.

"We build equations," he explains, "in which we insert the chemistry of the glass, and the computer eventually gives us the values of the glass

properties, such as density and thermal expansion coefficients. Each model gives a separate property and if we put all these models together, we get a kind of magic chemistry. ...I remember one of the products we commercialized: The model told me what the optimized glass would be, and I thought about it for a while and realized: That actually makes sense. So, I melted that glass, I melted a whole bunch of other glasses, and the glass that the model predicted was indeed the model with the optimum composition."



John Mauro leads a class at Penn State University as Professor of Materials Science and Engineering.



The Mauro family: John and Yihong with daughter Sophia.

He wasn't working in a vacuum. John credits individual professors with whom he studied at Alfred University as major contributors to his success at Corning. Physics Professor Roger Loucks, in Alfred University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), provided hours of support while John was developing the mathematical models for new iterations of Gorilla Glass. He and Loucks have co-authored numerous papers together.

Then there were History Professor Gary Ostrower '61 and the late Fiona Tolhurst, former Alfred University English professor, also members of CLAS. "Professor Ostrower is such an effective and engaging lecturer. When I was in his class, I was captivated not only by what I was learning but also by watching his teaching style. ...And Professor Tolhurst was transformational in helping me take my writing to the next level. I've published hundreds of journal articles and I now have two textbooks under my belt; people seem to know me for the clarity and accessibility of my writing style."

In the Inamori School of Engineering, John points to Arun Varshneya, emeritus professor of glass science, as his principal mentor. "Professor Varshneya was numero uno," he says. "He invited me to co-author the third edition of *Fundamentals of Inorganic Glasses*, which was published in 2019. ...Little did I know how much that book would change my life. And my own teaching style was inspired by Professor Varshneya's style, which boiled down to engaging students and conveying the technical rigor of glass science and glass technology."

And of course, John salutes David Pye '59, PhD '68, former dean of the New York State College of Ceramics and now the inspirational force behind the United Nations' declaration of 2022 as the International Year of Glass (IYOG). John, who serves on the International Year of Glass North American Steering Committee, worked with Pye in galvanizing international support for IYOG; "but the original idea was David's," he says. "He's someone who not only has these big ideas, but he's successful in implementing them as well. He

was probably the single biggest influence on me when I made the decision to go into academia after working at Corning. He said there was no better job in the world than being a professor, and now I know he was right.”

John was living in Corning when the position he eventually would fill opened at Penn State with the retirement of Carlo Pantano, a glass engineering professor of international renown. By the time John heard Pantano was retiring, Penn State had already interviewed numerous people to fill the position. When Pantano heard John was interested in the job, he put up the money to bring John to Penn State for his interviews.

“Teaching was something I always wanted to do,” John says. “Even at Corning, I spent a lot of time mentoring young scientists. I helped start a sabbatical program for university faculty to spend time at Corning. In 2014, I was promoted to senior research management at Corning, and I eventually had 15 scientists and technicians working in my group, all of whom I got to mentor and support. I just love to teach and help people along with their intellectual development.”

At Penn State, John currently teaches Introduction to Glass Science for senior undergraduates and a graduate course in Materials Kinetics. He also continues a vigorous output of scholarly publications, with more than 300 scholarly articles and two textbooks: *Materials Kinetics: Transport and Rate Phenomena* and *Fundamentals of Inorganic Glasses* (co-authored with Varshneya). He continues to be a prolific inventor, now with 62 granted U.S. patents, and was recently inducted as a Fellow in the National Academy of Inventors. He is also heavily involved

in the organizational work going into making the 2022 International Year of Glass a success.

“The International Year of Glass should help educate the public about glass, the importance of glass and finding the next generation of exciting opportunities in glass. There are so many major challenges facing the world; how many of those can be addressed using glass? We want to get the next generation of students excited about glass: how ubiquitous it is, how important it is, and how there are real opportunities in this field of science.”

If John Mauro sounds busy, don't forget that he

is also married, with a daughter who is in her second year of high school. Yihong, his wife, served initially as a part-time researcher at Penn State when the Mauro family moved to Pennsylvania. When the COVID pandemic started, she stepped back to concentrate on their home life.

“She's into gardening,” John says. “She's a terrific gardener, and we have amazing vegetables.”

And John (no surprise here) loves to cook – which he learned before he understood how recipes could be developed with mathematical

modeling. Learning to cook was simpler; he just stood alongside members of his family during his childhood summers on Waneta Lake, learning how to fry fish.

“I am the luckiest person in the world,” he says. “I owe it to Alfred University, and to the people who mentored me at Corning. But I also owe it to my mother and father and grandparents. The lessons you learn when you're a child may be the most valuable. At least for me, all my lessons are coming full circle.”



An avid cook, John rustles up a meal with Sophia.



GLASS ARTIST
LEO TECOSKY'S
ART EVOKES
A WORLD OF
CULTURES

THE
**HIP
HOP**
MAN

By Rob Price

Leo Tecosky '03 didn't know he liked working with his hands until he was a teenager, visiting relatives in Vermont during summer vacations away from his home in Florida. He was working in a bakery and café owned by an uncle, near Montpelier; at the same time, he began working with a local blacksmith, learning the ways of fire, and hammers, and anvils.

"I always drew, I was always creative," he says. "But that's when I realized I was interested in working with my hands and material manipulation."

In Vermont, learning the basics of blacksmithing, he also heard of a school in western New York, Alfred University, and its School of Art and Design, where teachers and artists were dedicated to helping students work with their hands, manipulating material and making art.

He enrolled in the University and studied with Art Professor Fred Tschida, in the School of Art of Design, focusing on tubes and neon gas. He also took summer

Continued on page 18

classes in glass blowing – “just to get my feet wet,” but Tschida was an important mentor. After Leo graduated, Tschida invited him to return for an art residency in the neon studio.

Leo also took classes in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where the late William Cassidy, Professor of Religion in the Human Studies Division, served as his advisor and mentor. Cassidy was a student of eastern religions; he practiced Tai Chi; loved opera, downhill skiing, and watching NFL football Sunday afternoons in the fall. His intellectual life was a medley of Americana and international.

Leo himself is now described as an artist drawn towards combining different experiences and cultures into complex glass forms. He “works at the intersection of cultural exchange,” according to an art critic cited on his website, <http://www.leotecosky.com/bio>. “His experience living in many places and traveling to others has helped shape his view of the world.”

He was born in New Mexico and spent his early years growing up near Albuquerque before his family moved to Miami. In the years following his graduation and residency at Alfred University, he joined an apprenticeship program at the Wheaton Cultural Center, in southern New Jersey, where he began crafting glass art under the mentorship of Hank Adams and Beth Lipman. He has enjoyed art residencies in Stockholm, Istanbul, and Hohr-Grenhauzen, Germany; also Corning, Pittsburgh, and New York City. He describes his art as an amalgamation of different designs, images, and icons drawn from different cultures including Islam and one of its U.S. offshoots, the Five-Percent Nation, which was founded in Harlem in the early 1960’s.

Places like Harlem and the Bronx have been vital sources of inspiration in his evolution as an artist. In the 1970s, in the Bronx, a young Jamaican-born teenager named Clive Campbell

began providing music for parties using two turntables and spinning the vinyl LPs backwards and forwards, achieving a new rhythmic sound that in turn inspired a new style of dance – break dancing. Campbell eventually changed his name to DJ Kool Herc; his DJ-ing experiments inspired a new style of singing – Rap – that had a bravado equal to the energy of break dancing. Other cultural innovations developed alongside Rap and DJ Kool Herc’s DJ-ing: Inner city graffiti, for one, which was regarded by municipal authorities as property destruction but which also was yielding extraordinary designs on the facades of inner city buildings and subway walls. Altogether, the scholar Henry Louis Gates notes, DJ-ing, graffiti, breakdancing and Rap fused into the cultural medley known as hip hop.

Hip hop is where art begins for Leo. “I create glass art using hip hop as a jumping off point,” he says. “I think my art has concepts that aren’t talked about in the art world or in the world at large: graffiti as a sub-culture, typography as language, Arabic art and Islam as a marginalized culture and religion. And it brings awareness to all those ideas as creative and decorative beauty.”

One of Leo’s favorite icons, a sign he returns to over and over in glass, is the arrow, a common symbol in graffiti, but when Leo crafts a glass arrow he moves the straight lines of the image into graceful curves that shift the implications. The sharp, leading point of one of his arrows may announce: Look here! But the other end is a graceful curve, like a dolphin’s tail; it disrupts the rigidity of the point and introduces a more natural, organic element. Hip hop culture has sharply defined edges too; it makes no bones about itself. “But a lot of hip hop is smooth and soft,” Leo says. “And blown glass is round and soft also.”

*“A lot of hip hop
is smooth and
soft, and blown
glass is round
and soft also.”*

Leo Tecosky

So, the arrow has become a subject for formal study and focus in his work. "It's a symbol used across the graffiti canon," Leo explains, "It's a very stylized element, moving from straight to squiggly, and it comes from the language of hip hop, which is what my work is about at its core. The arrow is evocative. It guides the eye. It's a connector in terms of joining letter forms and graffiti pieces. It's a striking element in terms of its physical form."

Music adds an additional element. Click on one of Leo's videos (www.leotecosky.com), and you can watch him craft one of his arrows accompanied by a hip hop rap piece by Dewey Decibel, a rapper and artist born in Boynton Beach. Decibel was originally named Dewey Bryan Saunders, but he manipulated the material of his name to become Emcee Unless and then in 2011 Dewey Decibel (These days, he goes by the name Dewey Bryan). He may have been born in Florida, but his

music is pure inner city (He describes Philadelphia as his city of "origin"). He also traveled frequently to Alfred, when Leo was studying at the University, to enjoy a local party, which he would help Leo host.

"Dewey would come and rap while I did the DJ-ing," Leo says.

Leo now lives in Brooklyn, where he and his wife are raising their two-year-old daughter, Coretta. Lauren Tecosky, a writer and former science teacher at the Community Roots Charter School, now teaches at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Coretta is two. "We split her care," Leo says. "And I have other family members who live in Brooklyn." He teaches at the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Philadelphia, and also

works as a glass fabricator and gaffer for different companies around New York.

He is busy, and he hopes to stay busy, "making more of my own art, and that depends on doing my day-to-day work as a glass fabricator. I also want to keep traveling as much as I can. I want to take my daughter around the world and show her new places. I want to gather new material for my world."

He likes his life. "It's a great life," he says. "It's a balancing act between my fabrication work, different

workshops, and

making my own art. Glass has taken me all over the world. That's something I really appreciate about the medium. It opens up doors internationally, because glass artists make such a tight-knit community."



Leo Tecosky's neon artwork. Tecosky initially studied neon art at Alfred University with Fred Tschida.



CELEBRATING *Glass*

Alfred University plans events, activities around UN International Year of Glass

When Alfred University Professor Emeritus **David Pye** '59, '68 Ph.D., learned the United Nations would declare 2015 an International Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies, he began thinking of a similar UN resolution that would establish an International Year of Glass.

Six years later, in May 2021, a resolution approved by the UN General Assembly declared 2022 the International Year of Glass. Pye's colleagues at Alfred University, working in both the Inamori School of Engineering and the School of Art and Design, now are preparing for a year that celebrates Alfred University as one of the preeminent glass science and arts education institutions in the country.

Alfred University is renowned in the world of glass, both in art and science. The University is the only institution of higher education in the country that offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in Glass Science Engineering. Side by side with glass technology research, artists studying in the

School of Art and Design have used the medium of glass in creating art on display in private and public collections around the world.

Glass art and glass technology are changing world culture and industry, and Alfred University students and alumni are emerging as leaders in what may be known someday as the Age of Glass. Alumni include glass artist **Pearl Dick** '98, artistic director and founder of Firebird Community Arts, in Chicago, whose art programs encourage growth and healing in inner city youth and were featured on an NBC Nightly News telecast in 2017; **Mike Pilliod** '01, director of glass/manufacturing innovation for Tesla; **Robert Schaut** '02, scientific director for Corning Incorporated Pharmaceutical Technologies and co-inventor of Corning Inc.'s Valor Glass, used in glass vials used to transport COVID vaccines; **Don McPherson** '84 M.S., '88 Ph.D., co-founder of EnChroma, a maker of eyeglasses for people with color blindness; **John Edmond** '83, co-founder of Cree (now Wolfspeed, a global leader in the development and manufacture of silicon carbide power and radio frequency semiconductors. When it was founded in 1987, Cree focused on producing LED's and, subsequently, LED lighting solutions); and **Richard**

Sturzebecher '58, who developed the formula for a glass fiber capable of transmitting light signals.

Alfred University undergraduates themselves are exploring new uses and applications for glass, including fourth-year student Aiden LaCourse,

who has developed a nearly unbreakable, and reusable, glass straw; LaCourse is also working with Alfred University glass technology professors to develop a glass medium for agricultural fertilizers



that will reduce levels of fertilizer run-off.

In other words, the “Glass Future” is happening. As Bill LaCourse, uncle of Aiden LaCourse, and retired professor of glass science in Alfred University’s Inamori School of Engineering, puts it: “Glass is booming.”

Alfred University’s standing in the world of glass, both in science and engineering, and art, undoubtedly played a role in successful efforts to establish 2022 as the International Year of Glass.

The University has held, and is in the process of organizing, numerous on-campus events marking IYOG. They include:

- **The Black Glass Artist Series.** Supported by the School of Art and Design, Sculpture/Dimensional Studies Division and Student Senate, the series featured glass artists of color visiting Alfred University in the month of February (celebrated as Black History Month) for one-week residencies, offering artist talks and creating original artwork to be exhibited at the School of Art and Design.
- **Summer Arts at Alfred Festival.** Plans are under way for the festival, which will include events and activities focused on glass art.
- **A concert by Denis James**, a well-known musician who performs on instruments made from glass.
- **Summer workshops** in glass art and engineering and a summer “institute” in Glass Explorations.
- **Reopening of the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center** as a center for interdisciplinary glass studies. Vickers, a 1930 graduate of the University’s New York State College of Ceramics, served as curator of ceramics and glass at the Smithsonian Institution.
- **New York State of Glass**, an on-campus celebration of the state’s leadership in glass art and science, during which companies, universities, museums, and individuals who play a key role

in the advancement of glass in New York will be recognized.

- **Conference on Glass Recycling Sustainability**, hosted by the Inamori School of Engineering, and opening of the Center for Glass Innovation.
- **Scholes Lecture**, held in April (date, speaker to be announced). The Scholes Lecture Series was established in 1982 by alumni of Alfred University to honor the late Samuel R. Scholes, who in 1932 established the first glass science program in the United States at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University.
- **Bill LaCourse** is leading a project to design and create medals, made partially from glass, which will be given to competitors in World University Winter Games next January in Lake Placid, NY.
- **A Fall semester GlassArtEngine course.** Glass engineering and art students partner to work through research and technical challenges, exploring new physical combinations of glass as a material.

Some of the aforementioned events and activities are tentative; dates and times will be announced when finalized.



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
GLASS
2022**



FIAT LUX!

LOOKING
Back

Retired History Professor Gary Ostrower '61 reflects on a half century of teaching

By Rob Price

On Dec. 2, 2021, Alfred University History Professor Gary Ostrower wrapped up the final class in his History 211 course, American History from 1492 to 1865. It was also his last class at Alfred University, where he has taught for the past 52 years. He also graduated from Alfred University – in 1961, which means he has lived in and around the Alfred community for more than six decades. It's difficult to estimate the number of individuals whose lives have been impacted by the experience of studying under Ostrower. But his colleague in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Professor of Philosophy Emrys Westacott, estimates the figure is high.

"Gary has had a profound influence on so many," Westacott says. "Not just on students but on everyone who has worked with him. To be a colleague of Gary is to be student. I'm always learning from him."

In his more-than five decades at Alfred University, Ostrower has published three books on United States foreign policy in the 20th century: *The United Nations and the United States: 1940-1998* (Twayne Publishers, 1998); *The League of Nations: From 1919 to 1929*

(Avery Publishing Group, 1996); and *Collective Insecurity: The United States and the League of Nations* (Bucknell University Press, 1979). He also has written numerous scholarly articles dealing with the United States' involvement in world affairs during the 20th century. He has written dozens of book reviews – too many to list ("For space reasons, I have omitted all reviews written before 1986," he writes in his CV). He is currently researching material for an article about the American Nazi (and former AU faculty member) Edward Sittler.

Meanwhile, he has served as ombuds officer for both Alfred University and St. Bonaventure University. He has served as university parliamentarian, vice president of the Faculty Senate, and Chairperson of the Committee for the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators. In the Village of Alfred, he coached Little League. For a quarter century, he served as a trustee

for the Village and as Mayor. He has appeared on hundreds of local radio programs, offering his take on domestic and international politics, especially on the historical backgrounds of current events and national controversies.

In early November of 2021, he delivered his last Bergren Forum as an Alfred University Professor:

"What You Didn't Know about World War II." For an hour, he hopped through issues such as the pros and cons of the United

States' use of atomic bombs to end the war, the virtues and vices of Winston Churchill, and the German failures to adequately equip the huge German army, noting the Nazi war machine employed 400,000 horses when it invaded Russia. The number of Bergren Forums he has delivered over the years, according to Westacott, is incalculable.

Born in 1939, growing up in Woodbridge, NJ, Ostrower was acutely conscious of the world war surrounding the United States and his community. "I had uncles who fought in the

"To be a colleague of Gary is to be a student. I'm always learning from him."

Professor Emrys Westacott



Professor Gary Ostrower lectures to a packed history class. Ostrower has favored a traditional lecture/discussion format for teaching History.

War. My father served as a civil defense official. We collected tin cans and newspapers, we were involved in blackouts. I recall air-raid warnings vividly.”

In high school, he began enjoying the study of events that had led to the world wars. As an undergraduate at Alfred University, he majored in history and political science, studying with people like Professors David Leach and Melvin Bernstein. “On the first day of the first class I took with Leach, I walked out of the classroom knowing that I would teach History,” he says. “Leach made the light bulb come on for me.” As a graduate student at the University of Rochester, he initially thought he would study French History, but the French scholar was on leave. “So I started taking courses in American History. I loved it.”

He joined the Alfred University faculty in 1969 after two years teaching at Vassar College. The University became his professional base for the next four decades, and the surrounding community his home. He has been a visiting professor at places as varied as the University of

Pennsylvania and Denmark’s Aarhus University.

He met his future wife, Judy Samber, when she was an Alfred University undergraduate. They have two children, Sarah and Peter, who attended Alfred-Almond Central School. Judy went on to law school, eventually becoming Allegany County’s first female judge and an outstanding judicial referee. Meanwhile, in 1996, Ostrower was named the Margaret and Barbara Hagar Professor of the Humanities at Alfred University.

In 52 years of teaching at the same institution, he has had a bird’s eye view of the development of the liberal arts and sciences, as well as on the evolving Alfred University student body. He remembers when, early in May of 1970 during his first year at Alfred, four students were killed during an anti-war demonstration at Kent State University and two more at Jackson State.

Protests erupted across the country. He remembers, “Alfred University students went on strike. The University cancelled classes, final exams were cancelled.”

Other changes: The extraordinary shift in

the History curriculum over forty years from political, diplomatic, and military history to a new emphasis on social and cultural history. This includes the history of race and gender. He estimates that fifty years ago at scholarly historical meetings, eighty-five percent of scholarly papers focused on political issues. "Today I would estimate that's down to five percent."

There are pros and cons to that evolution, he adds: "Of course, students should have knowledge of the women's movement and slavery, but it's a sad commentary that so little attention is paid to American political development—from the Federalist Papers to the Gettysburg Address. Unfortunately, many students arrive at AU not knowing the importance of 1776."

He also observes that history studies have "broadened" from a focus on western civilization to world civilization. "Now we know more about other cultures, but less about the principles that undergird our own.

It's a conundrum for him: recognizing the value of a "broadened" history curriculum while also recognizing a downside. In his recent Bergren forum, he noted that historical knowledge is in short supply. Some of his students have estimated the number of deaths in Nazi concentration camps in the tens of thousands – as opposed to the millions.

But despite his misgivings regarding the state of higher education, he enjoys listing memorable – positively memorable – events from his years at Alfred. They include leading a group of students

to Nuremburg and touring the Palace of Justice, where the trials of Nazi war criminals were held. At the conclusion of the tour, extended by the tour guide for questions and answers, the guide told Ostrower's group that he had never heard such an intelligent range of questions from any previous group of students.

Another fond memory: Acquainting Alfred University's then-new President Mark Zupan with the facts regarding the university's handling of a 1950's-era racial incident involving undergraduate student Warren Sutton. Under pressure from a University administrator, Sutton,

a young African American – one of six Black students at the University – left Alfred after the administrator learned Sutton was dating his daughter. In his first year as president, Zupan addressed the way the university had mishandled the situation and awarded Sutton an honorary degree.

"Rarely do institutions ever admit they were wrong," Ostrower says. "Alfred University admitted it was wrong about Sutton and publicly apologized. Credit to

Zupan and Leslie Gelber, then chairman of Alfred University's Board of Trustees."

And there are personal memories too; how could there not be after 52 years? Ostrower's short list includes his wedding day and the birth of his two children.

"My daughter was born Sept. 15, 1981 at 12:25 in the morning," he says. "I met my 8 a.m. history class without a wink of sleep. I delivered a pretty good lecture if I may say so. Then I reached into a shopping bag and gave every male student in the class a White Owl cigar. I'd be fired if I did that today!"



A young Professor Gary Ostrower. Ostrower taught at Alfred University for 52 years.

FROM **Z** TO **AU**

Alfred University's Promise: Helping Our Students to Realize Theirs

By Mark Zupan, President

Fellow Alfredians:

We are presently in the midst of recruiting the next generation of students to Alfred University. Whenever possible, I personally welcome prospective students and their families when they visit our campus. Given the significant investment they are about to make in professional and personal development and the fact that the higher education landscape is a competitive one, distinguishing Alfred University is of paramount importance to our University's future. In speaking to prospective students about the Alfred "brand" I convey that our promise to them is to help them realize their promise.

How does Alfred fulfill that promise? In three distinctive ways. First, through **a broad range of top curricular and co-curricular offerings** which allow students to identify and develop their purpose and benefit from many powerful intersections across the campus and in the classrooms.

The appeal of distinctive intersections is evident in some of the outside of ordinary pathways chosen by our students: engineers who dance or minor in music; football players who create costumes for our theater performances; psychology majors who write for our campus newspaper and host programs for WALF, our campus radio station; environmental studies majors who ride for our dressage and Western equestrian teams; marketing majors and sports management minors who play rugby; and criminal justice majors and social justice studies minors who are involved with our Women's Leadership Academy.

The ability of intersections across academic units to provide a competitive advantage to our students and University is suggested by growing enrollments in our leadership minor; data analytics major and minor; and a 4+1 option that allows students to earn two Alfred degrees, including the one-year MBA, in five years.

A broad array of offerings also gives students options. We have had engineers switch to majoring in history as well as students who migrated in reverse and thereby identified their purpose and realized their promise.

Second, Alfred University emphasizes **applied, experiential learning** in accord with Aristotle's observation that "we learn by doing."

Think about what it takes to become proficient in playing a sport such as tennis and to what extent it could be accomplished by solely focusing on understanding the theory of the game versus practice. Likewise for becoming an effective speaker, writer, educator, musical performer, artist, critical thinker, builder, entrepreneur, vehicle driver, leader, team-player, and parent.

In 2018, through the generosity of trustee Michele Cohen HD '18 and her husband, Marty, we launched the Applied and Experiential Learning Program (APEX) to promote applied experiential opportunities for our students. Students apply for APEX funding to engage in learning opportunities aimed at furthering their professional success.

Finally, Alfred's inclusive, intimate, and highly personalized learning environment fosters **enduring and impactful relationships**. We learn most from those we love and who love us. When asked about their most treasured memory of Alfred, our alumni overwhelmingly note that a faculty, staff, or other community member took an interest in them as students—assisting them in identifying and nurturing their passions. I convey to prospective students that, at Alfred, they will meet faculty, staff, and fellow students who will change their life's trajectory for the better and help them find their voice.

Fiat Realizing Our Students' and thus Alfred University's Promise!

MARK ZUPAN

P.S. For those of you who would be willing to create a brief video of how the distinctive Alfred University educational experience altered your life's trajectory for the better, please let me know (zupan@alfred.edu). Nothing provides more compelling evidence to prospective students and their families than testimonials from individuals who have previously traversed Alfred University's powerful educational pathways.



Alfred University program will improve access to autism assessments

Alfred University is home to a center for autism evaluations, thanks to \$20,000 in grant funding secured by the University's Child and Family Services Center. The program, which began in the fall, will provide families in the rural Southern Tier of Western New York easier access to services aimed at diagnosing and treating autism in young children.

Last summer, two third-year doctoral students in the Division of School Counseling and Psychology completed specialized instruction in Autism Spectrum Disorders and best practices in assessment techniques. Starting in the fall and continuing through the end of the 2021-22 academic year, the two students will provide weekly comprehensive diagnostic Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments.

It is estimated that by the end of the academic year, 20 children will have received autism evaluations and provided diagnostic decisions and treatment plans. The assessments by graduate students will be conducted on campus at the Child and Family Services Center, under the supervision of licensed faculty, Lynn O'Connell, professor of school psychology, and Andrea Burch, assistant professor of school psychology.

Making autism assessment services more accessible is important, as early detection of autism is key to effective treatment. Currently, the only autism evaluation programs are in Buffalo and Rochester, a 90-minute to two-hour drive for many families in the area. Those facilities have waiting list times of three or more months, and travel expenses can make this prohibitive to families, many of whom lack adequate health insurance. Services provided through the Child and Family Services Center will come at little or no expense to families; fees are determined by a sliding scale based on family income and size.

The program is made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the Family Foundation, Inc., of Bethesda, MD, a small grant making foundation that assists programs that offer direct mental health and educational services to underserved populations, both in the United States and abroad, and \$15,000 in funding from the Lea R. Powell Institute for Children and Families at Alfred University, which serves as an organizing entity for the research, training, and service missions of the Division of Counseling and School Psychology.

Trustee Cheryl Blanchard '86 delivers Opening Convocation keynote



Cheryl Blanchard '86

Alfred University Board of Trustees member Cheryl Blanchard '86 gave the keynote address at the Opening Convocation ceremonies in August, which welcomed first-year and transfer students to campus.

Cheryl, who earned a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering (minor in mathematics) in 1986, has enjoyed a successful career as a leading scientist and business executive in the field of biotechnology.

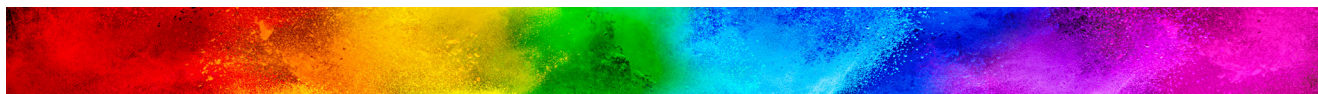
In delivering the keynote address to first-year and transfer students at the Opening Convocation, she

reflected back on her undergraduate years, and advised students to make the most of their time at what she calls "one of my favorite places on earth."

A member of the National Academy of Engineering, Cheryl holds master's and doctoral degrees in materials science and engineering from the University of Texas. She is currently CEO and board member of Anika Therapeutics, Inc., a publicly-traded, global, integrated orthopedic and regenerative medicines company based in Bedford, MA, and also serves as a board member of Ceramtec, Dare Bioscience, and Vigil Neuroscience.

Said Cheryl of her time at Alfred: "Even though I only spent four years of my life here, they were magical: full of hard work, some failure and some success, a lot of learning with academics—but more learning about myself, trying new things on for size, making lifelong friends with fellow students and professors, studying abroad, and becoming a person with the basic skills to tackle the world with the great preparation I received right here."

EnChroma provides Alfred University with glasses for color blindness



Last fall, EnChroma and Alfred University announced that special EnChroma glasses for color blindness will be available for staff and students who are Color Vision Deficient. The glasses are free to borrow from the Alfred University's Herrick Memorial and Scholes libraries to help them better navigate schoolwork that utilizes colors.

In addition to providing more than 20 pairs of glasses that help correct color blindness, EnChroma will give Alfred University faculty and staff guidance on adapting learning materials to accommodate those who are color blind.

EnChroma was co-founded in 2010 by Alfred University alumnus Don McPherson, who serves as the company's chief science officer. McPherson earned master's and doctoral degrees, both in glass engineering science, from Alfred University in 1984 and 1988, respectively. He was awarded an honorary degree from Alfred University in 2018.

One in 12 men (8%) and one in 200 women (0.5%) are color blind: with a total student population of 1,792, and 616 faculty and staff, roughly 76 students and 26 faculty and staff at Alfred University may be color blind. For them, understanding colorful information in school, at work and in daily life can cause obstacles. Since 80% of information is conveyed visually, and often includes colors, this can lead to frustration, confusion and other issues for color blind students.

This marks the second time EnChroma has provided Alfred University with glasses that help with color blindness. In December 2019, the University partnered with EnChroma on a loan program in which 40 pairs of the glasses—20 at Herrick Library and 20 at Scholes Library—were made available for library patrons to borrow. Students, staff, faculty, and community members with an account at the libraries can sign the glasses out just as they would a book.

Construction continues on \$7.75 million CREATE Center



McMahon Engineering Building

Construction continues on a facility in Alfred University's New York State College of Ceramics which will assist the state's ceramics industry in developing new materials and processes that can be made ready for commercialization.

The Ceramic Research, Education and Technology Enterprise (CREATE) Center, located in the first floor of the McMahon Engineering Building, will house a research center focusing on the development of novel materials and scalable processes in the areas of additive manufacturing/3-D printing, high-temperature processing, and ceramic machining/finishing. The project is supported by a \$7.75 million grant from the State University of New York, administered by the SUNY Construction Fund.

The CREATE Center aims to address challenges faced by New York's ceramics industry by providing access to cutting-edge research, intellectual property, analytical testing services, and workforce development programs. The facility will be promoted to industrial partners through Alfred University's Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT), whose mission is to support the growth of New York State's technical ceramics and glass sectors. CACT works to develop industry-sponsored projects at Alfred—from short term analytical projects

to long term sponsored research agreements—and provides matching support for projects with New York State-based firms.

Construction on the approximately 13,000-square-foot space which will house the CREATE Center began in the spring and is expected to be completed by late summer 2022.

Approximately half the \$7.75 million in grant funding will be used for construction

costs, while the other half will fund the acquisition of equipment supporting applied research.

The CREATE Center will house ceramic additive manufacturing, machining, and high-temperature processing labs, staffed by faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students from Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering. The Center will achieve new revenues primarily through a mix of research—industry- and government-sponsored—and educational programming.

The formation of new businesses, including student-led firms, is a significant objective of the CREATE Center. New companies which arise from research at the center may initially be housed in the IncubatorWorks facility on Main Street in Alfred before relocating to other regional brick-and-mortar sites. Ideally, businesses leaving IncubatorWorks would set up shop at the nearby Sugar Hill Development Corp. industrial park in the town of Alfred.



Erin Martinovich named new VP of Advancement



Erin Martinovich

Erin Martinovich was appointed vice president for University Advancement, effective January 1. Erin came to Alfred University from the University of Rochester, where she had served since 2018 as executive director, Annual Giving Programs.

“It is truly my honor and privilege to have been selected to serve Alfred University as the next vice president of University Advancement,” Erin commented after her appointment. “Everything that I have learned about this unique, impressive institution throughout the search process has inspired and excited me and I am looking forward to continuing to build upon the already strong foundation of success.”

Erin has 25 years of experience in higher education fundraising. She supervised the Direct Response program for the University of Rochester and its Medical Center, managing a team of 12 and overseeing all annual giving marketing channels for more than 21 academic and academic medical units, URMC hospitals, clinical areas, and affiliate programs. Her team worked directly with university leadership to ensure the successful realization of a \$25 million annual fund goal.

Prior to coming to the University of Rochester, Martinovich was managing director of the Fund for Babson, at Babson College in Wellesley, MA, from 2013-18; was director of The Northeastern Fund, at Northeastern University in Boston, from 2009-13; and director of Annual Giving, at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, from 2004-09. She also previously directed reunion giving at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY (2001-04), annual giving at Philadelphia University (1998-2001), and special gifts and volunteer programs at University at Albany (1996-98). Martinovich earned a B.A. degree in public communication in 1993 from the College of St. Rose. Her husband, Chad, is the head football coach at the University of Rochester. The couple has two children: daughter Hailey, a freshman at Castleton University in Vermont, and son Tyler, a freshman at Brighton High School, Rochester.

Demolition of South Hall completed



Demolition of South Hall on the Alfred University campus was completed in a little over a month last fall. The building on Park Street, which had fallen into disrepair, was razed upon receipt of approval from the Village of Alfred Planning Board.

Alfred University contracted with Empire Build Diagnostics (EBD) to demolish the 113-year-old structure. The project, which commenced on September 8, included asbestos remediation, demolition, waste disposal, filling with topsoil, and grass re-seeding. The roof of South Hall consists of historic terra cotta tiles; EBD performed select terra cotta roof tile salvage prior to demolition; all salvaged tiles have been wrapped and stored.

South Hall was originally constructed in 1908 as the Alfred Grammar School and eventually became the Alfred High School. Some additions were made to the South Hall building in 1929, and it remained the Alfred High School until 1940, when Alfred, Almond and adjacent town schools centralized to form the Alfred-Almond Central School District. In 1941 Alfred University bought South Hall back from the town and the University converted the building into classrooms for business administration, social sciences and education.

From 1976-87, the University allowed Allegany ARC to use space in South Hall to operate Piece Work Industries, an employment and training program for the developmentally disabled. South Hall remained empty from 1987 until 1993. While Alfred University's Powell Campus Center was being built, South Hall acted as the campus center as well as an exhibition space for the University's School of Art and Design.

South Hall had originally been set to be demolished in 1994, before it was learned that the National Historic Trust had not given permission for the building to be razed. Over the years, plans were discussed to renovate the building, but the projects proved to be cost-prohibitive.

Carnegie Hall renamed in honor of alumnus James Jordan '72



James Jordan '72, Alfred University trustee, at the dedication ceremony renaming Carnegie Hall in his honor.

Carnegie Hall, which houses Alfred University's administrative offices, was renamed in honor of alumnus James Jordan '72, a longtime member of the Board of Trustees whose philanthropy has been at the forefront of the University's campus beautification efforts. Jordan Hall was dedicated during a ceremony on October 22.

Jim's philanthropy to his alma mater includes a \$1 million gift made in 2018 to fund campus beautification initiatives—the most recent being a project to install modern Alfred University-branded signage in front of buildings and along campus roadways. A new sign in front of the newly-renamed Jordan Hall was unveiled during the dedication ceremony.

Carnegie Hall was constructed in 1912 and was named for businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who funded the construction of more than 2,500 libraries around the world, including nearly 1,700 in the United States. Today, the building houses Alfred

University's offices of the President and Provost/ Vice President for Academic Affairs, as well as the Business and Finance offices, including that of the Vice President for Business and Finance.

Jim earned a bachelor's degree in business from Alfred University in 1972 and is president of James Jordan Associates, a family-owned architectural firm founded in 1932 in Richfield Springs, NY. He has been a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2003 and currently chairs the Board's Building and Grounds Committee.

In addition to supporting campus beautification initiatives, Jim helped underwrite the cost of a new boiler, installed as part of the University's new energy efficient distributed boiler system. He also endows a scholarship fund benefiting students from his hometown of Richfield Springs, NY, who enroll at Alfred University. To date, the James Jordan Scholarship has provided more than \$80,000 in scholarships to six Alfred University students.

Chris Boswell named director of Athletic Communications



Chris Boswell

Chris Boswell was promoted to director of Athletic Communications in January, replacing Nate Smith, who had left the University to take a similar position at Buffalo State. Boswell has been at Alfred University since 2014, when he was appointed assistant sports information director. At the time of his promotion, he was serving as interim director of Athletic Communications. Boswell specializes in electronic/social media, videography and photography. He oversaw the redesign of the GoSaxons.com website that launched in the fall of 2017. In the fall of 2016, Boswell became the recipient of the NCAA Division III and D3SIDA Recognition Award for his Division III Week video in the spring of 2015.

He came to AU from Division III Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, where he served two years as assistant sports information director, covering 24 varsity and four club teams. He also was acting sports information director at Vassar from March until July in 2013. A 2012 graduate of Mansfield (PA) University, Boswell earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications with focuses in journalism and broadcasting. While at Mansfield, he worked in the Office of Sports Information for five years, serving as the primary media contact for several Mountaineer teams including women's soccer, field hockey, women's swimming and softball while also helping advance video and graphic production.

Boswell is the 2012 recipient of the prestigious Bill Esposito Memorial Award. Presented by the Eastern College Athletic Conference Sports Information Directors Association (ECAC-SIDA), the award recognizes a graduating college senior or first-year graduate student who wishes to pursue a career in the athletics communications field.

Alfred University appoints Erich Kaempffe new men's basketball coach



Erich Kaempffe

Erich Kaempffe was appointed head coach of the Saxons men's basketball program in June, replacing Russ Phillips. A North Rose, NY, native, Kaempffe becomes the 16th head coach in the 113-year history of the men's basketball program.

"I am absolutely elated to have Erich join our Saxon family and to continue to build upon the successes of the program, competing for championships year in and year out," Paul Vecchio, athletics director, said. "Erich's background and experiences to date aligned perfectly for what we are seeking. He is extremely bright, a noted and highly successful recruiter, and builds lasting relationships with his players. I am also incredibly grateful to Russ Phillips for his seven years of exemplary work with our men's basketball program and look forward to Erich continuing to build on those successes."

Kaempffe came to Alfred after spending four years as an assistant coach with the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's (RPI) men's basketball program, serving in a number of roles including recruiting coordinator, scouting director, and academic coordinator for the teams' upperclassmen. Working alongside head coach Mark Gilbride, he was instrumental in the turnaround of

RPI hoops, as the team went 53-28 over his last three seasons in Troy. The 2019-20 RPI squad finished as Liberty League regular season champions with a 17-1 conference record and earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament appearance. The Engineers advanced to the tournament's second round and finished the year with a 24-5 mark. Gilbride and Kaempffe were named Liberty League Coaching Staff of the Year for their efforts.

In 2020, Kaempffe was one of only two Division III assistant coaches to be named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Under Armour 30-Under-30 list, which honors the top 30 outstanding college coaches in the country under the age of 30. Prior to arriving at RPI, Kaempffe spent the 2016-17 season as an assistant at Oswego State. Kaempffe started his collegiate coaching career at Ithaca College, serving as a graduate assistant for the 2015-16 season.

A 2015 graduate of Wells College, he played four years of basketball as a guard for the Express. A two-time captain, he set the school single season record for three-point shooting percentage (47.6), while ranking in the top 10 in single season free throw percentage, career games played, career free throw percentage, and career assists.

Ronald Demchak appointed new head athletic trainer



Ronald Demchak

The Alfred University Athletics Department appointed Ronald Demchak head athletic trainer, effective June 1. Demchak had served as co-head athletic trainer on an interim basis for much of the 2020-21 academic year, following the departure of longtime head athletic trainer Jessica Hurlbut.

Demchak leads a staff of six sports medicine professionals and graduate assistants as well as a host of student workers in evaluating, treating, and preventing sports injuries, and improving the general well-being of Alfred University's student-athletes. He also serves as the primary athletic training contact for the women's soccer, men's basketball, women's lacrosse, and alpine skiing programs. Last year, Demchak and his staff navigated the return to athletic competition, keeping student-athletes and staff safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They helped administer tests, set return-to-play guidelines, and worked alongside Alfred University's 20 athletic programs while adhering to changing state and county COVID-19 regulations.

Demchak arrived at Alfred University in the summer of 2019 after a four-year tenure as the athletic trainer for Iroquois High School in Erie, PA. In 2015, he served as the assistant athletic trainer at Alfred State College, where he coordinated and provided medical coverage for the local Special Olympics hosted by Alfred State. While working at Alfred State, Demchak worked with Alfred University student athletic trainers, scheduling their hours and overseeing their clinical experiences.

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Alfred University welcomes six into Athletics Hall of Fame Class



Alfred University Athletics Hall of Fame members inducted in November 2021—from left: Jared Manzer '10, Steve Lester '77, Bryan Hill '90, Jesika (LeBarron) King '10, Kameron Chambliss '10, and John "Skip" Hyde '83—are shown with Paul Vecchio, athletics director (far right).

Alfred University inducted six new members into its Athletics Hall of Fame during an on-campus ceremony November 6.

Jared Manzer '10 (football), Jesika (LeBarron) King '10 (softball), John "Skip" Hyde '83 (swimming and diving, men's soccer), Kameron Chambliss '10 (swimming and diving), Bryan J. Hill '90 (men's basketball), and Steven Lester '77 (football), made up the 2020-21 induction class. The Hall of Fame selection committee also chose Hill as the second recipient of the Distinguished Saxon Alumni award, and Lester as the second Silver Saxon honoree.

"This is another tremendous Hall of Fame class that truly highlights the accomplishments of Saxon student-athletes in a variety of sports and a group that has continued to be difference makers in our communities after graduation," said Paul Vecchio, Director of Athletics.

Jared Manzer is one of the more decorated players in AU's storied football history, suiting up as a wide receiver, free safety, and a return specialist for four seasons (2006-2009). He made an immediate impact as a first-year starter, leading the team with 53 catches for 678 yards

and 10 touchdowns, the touchdowns setting what was then an AU single-season record. He was named Rookie of the Year by the Empire 8 as well as the ECAC for his efforts. In 2008, he set single-season marks in receptions (69) and receiving yards (1,058), while tying his own mark with 10 touchdowns. As a senior in 2009, he caught a school-record 15 receiving touchdowns while also compiling five interceptions, returning two for touchdowns. He was named the Empire 8 Conference Player of the Year and earned his first American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) All-America nod as the Saxons charged to the team's first conference title since 1981, advancing to the NCAA Tournament.

He left Alfred with nearly every receiving record and has five records that still stand to this day: career receiving yards (3,517), receiving yards in a season (1,058), career receptions (237), touchdown receptions (43), and longest interception return for a touchdown (98 yards). He is the only Saxon football player that is currently in the record book for both offense and defense.

Manzer graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree and currently serves as a youth counselor for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Jesika LeBarron was a four-year starter at third base and pitcher (2007-10), playing a key role in Alfred's softball success. The three-year team captain was a member of four Saxon teams that all advanced to postseason play, going to the ECAC Tournament in 2007-09, and winning the Empire 8 Conference title in 2010, advancing to the program's first NCAA Tournament with a then school-record 37 victories.

As a rookie in 2007, LeBarron showed her power, hitting a school-record six home runs. The next year, she batted .381 with 20 runs scored and 18 RBIs, and posted an 8-1 record in the circle with a sub-2.50 earned run average, earning her first of three consecutive National

Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Northeast Region honors. She then had one of the best seasons in AU softball history in 2009, batting .424 with nine home runs, setting new school single-season records for hits (53), runs (32) and RBIs (54). She also became the school's career leader in hits (130), RBIs (93) and home runs (18) en route to being named an All-Empire 8 and ECAC selection, as well as a NFCA All-Northeast Region First Team pick. In her final season, LeBarron once again earned NFCA All-Region honors as the squad had its best season in program history at the time. She is still the program's all-time leader in RBIs in a season and career walks (62).

LeBarron graduated from Alfred with a B.A. of Science in Chemistry and has been with Corning Incorporated as a research technician since 2012.

Skip Hyde is known as a consummate leader, excelling as a two-sport athlete and captain in his dominance of the soccer field as well as in the swimming pool.

When Hyde arrived in 1979, the men's swimming and diving roster was small in number, but mighty. 'Skip' played the role of trailblazer for the program, sowing the seeds for its dominant run in the 80s. After competing in the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships for the first time in 1981 in the 100-yard butterfly, he earned NCAA All-America honors in 1982 as part of the 400-yard medley relay team with Hall of Famers Tim Schaeberle '85, Howard Seidman '84, and the late Tim Jaenecke '84, finishing 12th at the NCAA Championships. As a senior captain, Hyde led his team to an undefeated dual-meet season and State and ICAC titles in 1982-83, the start of a record 29-dual meet winning streak.

On the soccer field, Hyde was a goal-scoring dynamo at midfield, earning all-conference honors. Like his tenure in the pool, the team was transformed during his tenure, culminating in one of the finest soccer seasons in program

history in 1982. That squad went 11-5-1, winning the ECAC Championship as the fourth seed. After a 2-1 road victory at Fredonia, Hyde and his teammates played host and top seed Plattsburgh State in the title game. Trailing 1-0 at halftime, Hyde tallied two assists, including the overtime game-winner.

Hyde has the rare distinction of leading two teams to postseason championships during his senior year. He broke several school swimming records, including the 200-yard individual medley, 100- and 200-yard butterfly, and swam on teams that set new school marks in the 400- and 800-yard freestyle relays, as well as the aforementioned 400-yard medley relay.

Hyde graduated AU with a bachelor's degree in general studies in 1983 and stayed for graduate school, eventually earning his MEd in Coaching in 1987 while serving as an assistant coach for both the men's soccer as well as the swimming and diving programs. He currently works in New York City, at Columbia University as the Assistant Director of Career Development and Alumni Services.

There have been few divers in AU's rich swimming and diving history more accomplished than **Kameron Chambliss**, whose AU story began in 2006 as a 17-year old walk-on with just a few years of diving experience under his belt. By the end of the year, Chambliss impressed head coach Brian Striker '00 and the coaching staff as he finished his rookie season sixth on the 1-meter championship platform, as the Saxons swam away with the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association (UNYSCSA) title. He was a big part of the team's 27-meet winning streak in dual competition from 2006-2009.

Individually, Chambliss broke out as a junior in the 2008-09 season, winning both the 1- and 3-meter Empire 8 diving titles at the UNYSCSA Championships, earning Empire 8 Diver of the Meet. As a senior captain in 2009-10, Chambliss

had his best season, breaking the school's 1- and 3-meter voluntary and championship diving records, en route to winning his first state titles in both diving events. He was named UNYSCSA and Empire 8 Diver of the Year and earned the Douglass McDevitt award, which was given annually by the UNYSCSA to a senior swimmer or diver, recognizing their career accolades both athletically and academically. He finished his stellar career with his first appearance in the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships, finishing fifth in the nation at 3-meters and sixth on the 1-meter board.

Chambliss earned a B.S. degree in materials science and engineering from AU in 2010. He then served as a graduate assistant for the Saxons' men's and women's swimming and diving program for two seasons while obtaining his master's degree in materials science and engineering. He is currently employed by Corning Incorporated in Corning, N.Y., serving as a senior development engineer.

Bryan Hill is the second Saxon alumnus to be honored with the Distinguished Saxon Alumni award. This award, established in 2018, recognizes Alfred University student-athletes for outstanding achievement following their playing career at Alfred University. The award is not necessarily based on athletic achievement, but on the nominees' career success following graduation via leadership, service, advancement, or other similar means.

Hill was a two-year letter winner of the men's basketball team from 1985-87. Nicknamed "Thrill" by his peers, Hill helped run the offense as a point guard off the bench. He played a role in helping the Saxons to a 25-3 record, the best in program history, and a trip to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball East Regional Championship game. He graduated from Alfred University in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in public administration and earned an MPA from the University of Southern California in 1995.

Hill then embarked on a remarkable career

in finance. He served as the vice chancellor for finance and operations at the University of South Carolina's Beaufort/Bluffton Campus, and as the director of finance for the University of Maryland's Office of Information and Technology as well as director of administration for the Department of Aerospace Engineering. In 2008, Hill held his first governmental role, serving as deputy county administrator in Beaufort County, S.C., a role he would hold until 2014. He then moved to James City County, Va., a then-struggling county of about 73,000 people, serving as the chief administrative officer and clerk to the county board. His infrastructure and economic proposals helped turn the county around, triggering financial stability for the county's residents and businesses.

He then got the call to lead Virginia's most populous county, earning the position of county executive in Fairfax in 2018, overseeing 12,000 employees and serving 1.3 million residents, with a \$4.29 billion general fund budget, one of the highest county budgets in the country. He serves as a member of the International City/County Management Association's Advisory Board on Graduate Education, a nod to his academic roots.

Hill has earned numerous awards in his professional career, receiving an award for academic excellence from the American Association of Budget and Program Analysts and also earned the A. James Clark School of Engineering Staff Award at Maryland, while also receiving a commendation from the Department of Aerospace Engineering at its 50th anniversary celebration. He has also given back to AU, serving as a Saxon Circle member, mentor to students, and also participates in the VISA recruitment program.

A member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, Hill served as the keynote speaker at Alfred University's Opening Convocation in 2019.

Steven Lester is the second Saxon alumnus to receive the Silver Saxon award. Created in 2018, the award honors student-athletes alumni who graduated from Alfred University prior to 1979, for outstanding athletic achievement.

Lester was a four-year letter-winner of the AU football team from 1973-76 under legendary coach Alex Yunevich, anchoring the team's stout defensive line. Lester was named team captain and MVP of the 1976 season in what was the final season of Yunevich's coaching tenure. The 1976 team was strong defensively, allowing just 26 points in Independent College Athletic Conference (ICAC) action, en route to a 3-0-1 record against conference foes. Lester proved to be a big-time play-maker, recovering a fumble in the end zone for a touchdown in the conference finale against RIT, helping to seal a conference title in a 37-15 victory on Merrill Field. Lester's teams went 22-10-2 in his four years at Alfred University.

After earning a bachelor's degree in 1977, Lester stayed at Alfred University to earn his master's degree, serving as a graduate assistant on the football staff for the 1977 and 1978 seasons while also serving as a resident hall director on campus. He earned his master's degree in education in 1979 and returned to coach the defensive line in the 1984 and 1985 seasons.

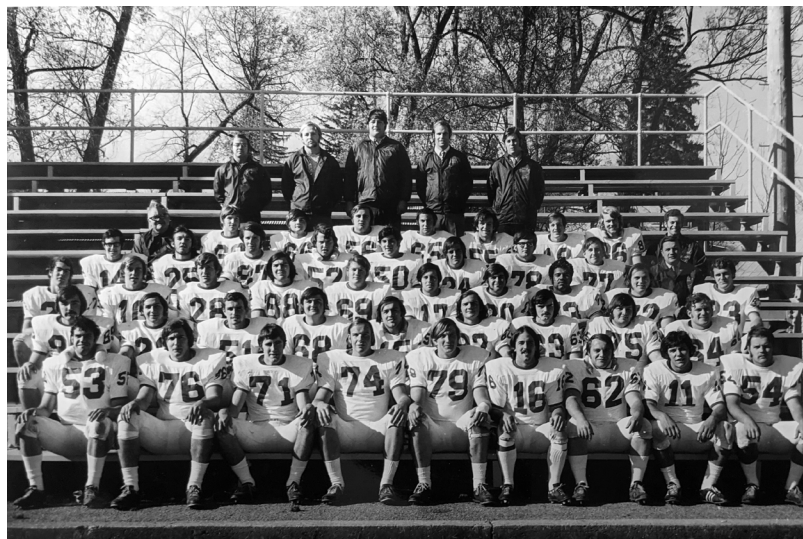
Lester worked for 15 years at Alfred State College as the Director of Facilities and Physical Plant Operations. In 1995 he moved on to Atlanta, working at Georgia State University as the Associate Director of Housing. While in Atlanta, Lester had the opportunity to serve as the Director of the Gold Zone, part of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. He currently works at Clark-Atlanta University as the Manager of Maintenance HVAC Lockshop Operations.

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1971 Football Team Joins 48th Hall of Fame Class

Alfred University and the Saxon Nation Hall of Fame Committee honored the 1971 football team as the inaugural Team of Distinction honoree. The team was honored during Hall of Fame induction ceremonies held on campus on November 6.



1971 Alfred University football team.

Writers Association of New York, and quarterback Jim Moretti '72 earned All-America honors by the Associated Press. Nine members of this squad, including Yunevich, Moretti, and head athletic trainer Gene Castroville '75, are Alfred University Hall of Fame inductees.

"I am elated about the addition of the "Team of Distinction" to our Alfred University Athletic Hall of Fame as we have so many outstanding Saxon teams that deserve this recognition," said Paul Vecchio, director of athletics. "It makes perfect sense on the 50th Anniversary of our Lambert Bowl-winning 1971 football team, to have them as our first honoree because of the tremendous amount of recognition they earned for AU, and the excitement they brought to our community and campus."

The 1971 Football team under the direction of Hall of Fame head coach Alex Yunevich went a perfect 8-0, winning the second of three straight ICAC titles in the midst of a 22-2 run between 1970-72. The two losses during that incredible stretch were by a combined three points. The Saxons shut out a pair of opponents in 1971, including a 32-0 road victory at Hamilton in the season finale on Nov. 6. That win was the last of four consecutive road games to end the season, and the Saxons outscored its opponents by a 236-89 margin.

The Saxons were showered with plaudits after the season, as Yunevich was named the Eastern College Division Coach of the Year by the Football

The Team:

Players: Richard C. Allen '73, Glen A. Bannister '75, James M. Bassage '74, Thomas L. Bassage '74, Lawrence R. Bauer '73, Randy C. Brown '74, Henry C. Bzdak '74, Richard J. Clark, Jr. '75, Paul T. Collins '74, Douglas Earle '75, Gary R. Egger, '73 (captain), William M. Ekman '72, Thomas R. Evans '75, Howard S. Fahey, III '73, Joseph W. Farrell '72, Todd D. Flaherty '73, James E. Gardner '72, William R. Gibson '75, Robert F. Guedner, III '72, Richard A. Gulvin '75, Richard M. Hansinger '75, John B. Henderson '75, Scott S. Herring '76, Kevin G. Hildebrand '72 (captain), Howard A. Hink '72, Donald E. Hock '74, Donald R. Hockenberry, Jr. '75, John F. Horsington '72, Keith R. Kelchner '74, Thomas J. Krenzer '74, Gerald R. Lachut '73, Mark J. Lawrence '73, Edward M. Louiz, Jr. '75, Joseph A. Marino '74, Miles McNett '75, James M. Moretti '72, Richard C. Morse '75, James E. Mylott '74, Allen J. Naples '74, Benjamin Ostrer '73, Andrew G. Pomeroy '72, Joseph J. Prunoske '75, Gerald E. Roe '75, Michael Santa-Donato '74, Alan P. Sefcik '73, Thomas C. Sperl '75, Steven J. Tierney '75, John K. Valentine '72, William H. E. Vaughn '73, Thomas F. Vredenburgh '74, David B. Warner '74, William G. Wilcox, Jr. '75, Gary A. Williams '75, Charles B.

Young '74, and Robert P. Young '74. Coaching staff: Head Coach Alex Yunevich, assistant coaches Robert A. Codispoti '66, Nicholas A. Teta '58, Todd Flaherty, Howard Hink, Moody Johnson, Jr. '68, and Lambros J. Touris '70. Training staff: Gene J. Castrovillo '75, head trainer, and Richard Allen, assistant, trainer. Manager: Mark O'Neil.

Team Honors:

ICAC Champions and Lambert Bowl Winner; Small College Coach of the year, Alex Yunevich; Associated Press All-American Jim Moretti; Alfred University Hall of Fame members Alex Yunevich, Henry Bzdak, Gary Egger, John Henderson, Jim Moretti, Nick Teta, Tom Vredenburg, Charles Young, and Gene Castrovillo.

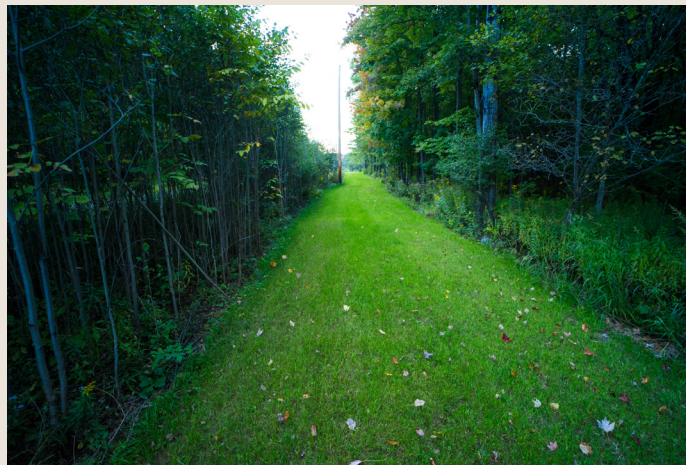
Grant award funds construction of trails on Jericho Hill

The Jericho Hill trails were completed during the Fall 2021 semester at Alfred University through a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, Project Play WNY and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund.

"We are extremely thankful to the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, Project Play WNY and the Ralph

C. Wilson Jr. Fund for this grant which further strengthens outdoor opportunities for members of the Alfred community," Paul Vecchio, director of athletics at Alfred University said. "As we look forward to continued growth of the nearly 40 acres of land that Alfred University owns on Jericho Hill, these trails further enhance opportunities to walk, run and bike on the property in more nuanced ways while enjoying the beauty of our valley."

Jericho Hill is already a hotbed of Saxon athletics action as it plays host to the Alfred University men's and women's cross-country teams. The venue has hosted collegiate short runs, high school meets and the 2018 Empire 8 Cross Country Championships. There are two fields, one utilized by the Alfred Rugby Team and another used by soccer, football and lacrosse teams when Yunevich



A portion of the trails on Jericho Hill that were completed last fall with grant funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, Project Play WNY and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund.

Stadium is unavailable.

The work done on the new trails has involved clearing of small bushes and trees with minimal disruption to the natural environment. The installation of crushed rock paths and drainage pipes will allow for a sustainable, durable path that can endure walking, jogging and bicycling through the wooded areas surrounding the fields of

Jericho. Along with those additions, improvements were also made to upgrade the Saxon cross country course, such as creating a more suitable running surface through the grass instead of having runners cross over the dirt road that leads to the back field, as much as the previous layout had.

"With the addition of some new trails, we can allow for an exciting course to race on, but also provide spectators, coaches and fans, the ability to get to various spots along the race to really help cheer and motivate the athletes as well," said Matt Phillips '10, head cross country coach at Alfred University. "The trails will also open up options for people who just want to get outside and go for a walk/hike/bike and for those who enjoy being in nature."

CLASS NOTES

1953 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Allan Littell's (B.A., sociology) book *Caroline* was published by Jericho Hill. The book, which chronicles the life of Alan's wife, the late Caroline Byass Littell, was listed by Amazon in this country and in Europe following its Aug. 1 release. Alan is also the author of *Winter Passage: Essays, Memoirs, Journeys* (Six Mile Creek Press, Ithaca, 2018) and the novel *Courage* (St. Martin's Press, New York, 2007).

1961 GOLDEN SAXONS REUNION

Charles Williams (B.S., ceramic engineering) was awarded the 2021 Gold Will Rogers Medallion for Cowboy Poetry, honoring his book, *Dust From Distant Trails*.

1962 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Leslie (Billings) (B.A., general studies) and Fred Depenbrock celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 24, 2021. Leslie and Fred married on June 24, 1961, at their home in Metuchen, NJ, with several of Leslie's classmates from Alfred University in attendance. The couple currently resides in Pompano Beach, FL.

1972

Gail Hosking (B.A., elementary education) has had several of her literary works published recently.

"Brat Time Stories," included in an anthology collection was published in 2020 for Museum of the Military Family, is an essay about memories of being an army brat. "River Teeth," published in *Two Hawks* in spring 2021, is an essay about what remains in our bodies after trauma. "Dear Nobody: Dispatches Decades Later," an essay published in *Reed Magazine*, (No. 153) in 2020, is a narrative of who is involved in the conflict of war, and how the circle of those who suffered grows larger with each passing year.

"Two Places," published in *Another Chicago Magazine* in November 2020, is an essay about how war turns home into a battleground and destroys romance. Gail received a Pushcart Prize Nomination in 2021 for her poem, "Proprietary Rights," published in *Big Windows Review* in 2020. The poem is about memories of a grandmother's boyfriend named Walter Snyder.

1978

Wayne Holly (B.S., finance) was awarded a Rochester Business Journal "2021 ICON Honors Award" at a ceremony in December. The awards recognize Greater Rochester Area business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable

success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field. Wayne Holly is president, CEO, and chairman of Sage Ruty & Company, Inc., an investment brokerage firm in Rochester. He is the son of the late William Holly '51, who was chairman of Sage Ruty from 1977 until 2004. William Holly, who served as a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees from 1980-97, passed away in 2019.

1980

Mark Mortenson (B.S., ceramic engineering, physics) is co-founder and chief science officer at Clene Nanomedicine, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company based in Salt Lake City, UT, which is conducting a clinical trial program for the development of therapeutic treatments for Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. In August, Clene announced it had achieved positive top-line results from the Phase 2 REPAIR clinical trials investigating the

KEEP in touch

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

EMAIL

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

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Director of Communications
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improvement of brain energetic metabolism in Parkinson's disease (PD) and multiple sclerosis (MS). The objective of the REPAIR clinical trial program is to demonstrate the effects of Clene's energy-enhancing nanotherapeutic, CNM-Au8, on brain energy metabolites in two sister studies of patients with Parkinson's and MS. CNM-Au8, is currently being evaluated in a Phase 3 registration trial for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). While a student at Alfred University, Mark was named recipient of the Outstanding Senior Award. He went on to earn a master's degree in materials science from Pennsylvania State University and a law degree from George Washington University. Mark co-founded Clene Nanomedicine in 2013. He is co-inventor of the technology platform developed to produce the company's Clean-Surface Nanocrystal therapeutics and is the inventor or co-inventor of 30 other U.S. patents. Mark was among the members of the Clene Nanomedicine team who attended a Nasdaq closing bell ceremony in January marking the one-year anniversary of the company's Nasdaq listing.

1981

JoAnn Schnabel (BFA) recently retired after 31 years of teaching at University of Northern Iowa. Her retirement celebration included a retrospective exhibition of her work at the UNI Gallery of Art alongside many of her former students and Alfred University Associate Professor of Ceramics Matt Kelleher, who studied under her at UNI. Following JoAnn's undergraduate education at Alfred University, she received her master's degree from Louisiana



Kara Mackey '88 (B.S., ceramic engineering) and **Mark D. Sikora '88** (B.S., ceramic engineering) were married on January 20, 2022, at the Little Church of the West in Las Vegas, NV. In attendance were the couple's four adult children: Cameron Dopman, Carissa Dopman '21, Kaci Sikora, and Brooke Sikora. Two Alfred University alumni who live in the Las Vegas area—Emily Bologna Balcom '95, '97, and John Barber '88—were surprise guests at the wedding.

State University in 1986. She has participated in artist residencies at the International Ceramic Studio, Kecskemét, Hungary; Banff Centre for the Arts, Banff, Canada; Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, Montana; Robert M. MacNamara Foundation, Maine; Creta Rome, Italy; and at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts in New Castle, Maine.

1982 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Kathleen Richardson (B.S., ceramic engineering; M.S., glass engineering science '88; PhD, ceramic engineering '92) received the 2021 Distinguished Life Member Award and ECerS (European Ceramic Society)-ACerS Joint Award from the America Ceramic Society (ACerS). Kathleen, a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees, is Pegasus Professor of Optics and Materials Science and Engineering in the

College of Optics and Photonics at UCF, where she runs the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory. She was one of just three ACerS Distinguished Life Member honorees for 2021; the award is considered the most prestigious of those given by ACerS. The ACerS-ECerS Joint Award recognizes individuals who foster international cooperation (between ECerS and ACerS), in demonstration of both organizations' commitment to work together to serve the international ceramics community better.

1983

Joseph Ceserano (B.S., ceramic engineering) received the 2021 Rishi Raj Medal for Innovation and Commercialization Award from the America Ceramic Society (ACerS). Joseph, a member of Alfred

University's Board of Trustees, is president of Robocasting Enterprises, LLC, in Albuquerque, NM. In 1996, he co-invented the robocasting technology used for extrusion-based additive manufacturing (3-D printing) of ceramics. His current focus is on commercialization of robocasting for large-scale ceramic and composites. The Rishi Raj Medal for Innovation and Commercialization is awarded annually to recognize an individual whose innovation lies at the cusp of commercialization in a field related, at least in part, to ceramics and glass.

John Edmond (B.S., ceramic engineering) is co-founder and Research Fellow at Wolfspeed, a global leader in the development and manufacture of silicon carbide power and radio frequency semiconductors based in Durham, NC. Wolfspeed was originally named Cree when it was co-founded by Edmond and others in 1987 as a company focused on producing LED's and, subsequently, LED lighting solutions. Cree changed its corporate name to Wolfspeed on October 4, 2021, and moved on that day from being listed on NASDAQ to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

1984

Dr. Richard Terry (B.A., psychology) was interviewed for a story in Rochester Business Journal about the partnership between Rochester Regional Health (RRH) and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM). The story, titled "Creating doctor pipeline is end goal for RRH partnership with medical school," discusses how the partnership could help replenish the supply of medical providers across Upstate New York. Richard is associate

dean of academic affairs at LECOM's Elmira campus. LECOM is the largest medical school in the country, with students at four campuses: Elmira, two in Pennsylvania, and one in Florida.

1991

Ken Kelleher (B.F.A.), who has enjoyed a successful career in sculpture, has a full-time studio practice at Rehoboth Farm in New Hampshire. Ken, who studied sculpture at Alfred University under Glenn Zwegardt and William Parry, worked at Hudson Studio, Fine Art Foundry in Niverville, NY, after graduation, where he performed finishing work on cast bronze pieces. He produced several series of large

(including Google, Netflix, Cargurus, and Red Bull) before opening his studio practice. Ken's work is installed in Buffalo and Alfred NY, Doha, Qatar, China, and one in production for Indonesia. Small pieces will be available soon through J Steven Manolis Gallery in Miami as well as large commissions for private estates and public spaces.

1998

Steven Young Lee (B.F.A., '04 M.F.A.) is recipient of a 2021 Smithsonian Women's Committee Delphi Award. The award is presented annually at the Smithsonian Craft Show by the Secretary of the Smithsonian. Steven is a master ceramicist, having studied the intricacies and unique forms of ceramics not only in the United States, but in China and Korea as well. He is the resident artistic director of the Archie Bray foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Helena, Montana. He has lectured and taught throughout North America and Asia, and was a visiting professor at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver, B. C. Steven's work has been collected by the Smithsonian Institution and the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, among other museums, and he has recently shown in exhibits in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

2001

G. Brian Juk (B.F.A) was commissioned by the Corning Museum of Glass to create the museum's 2021 "Pumpkin of the Year." Each year, the Corning Museum of Glass chooses a glass artist to create a "Pumpkin of the Year," and G. Brian's Harmony Pumpkin, which features a color



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 Session 2, July 3-8
 Session 3, July 10-16
 Session 4, July 12-22

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abstract sculptures, some of which were sold into private collections. He served as a creative director in advertising, as well as a user interface and user experience designer, at several companies

blend of purple and amber, was chosen as the 2021 honored glass pumpkin. G. Brian joined the Hot Glass Team at Corning Museum of Glass in 2004. As a gaffer and narrator in the Museum's Hot Glass Show, he gives demonstrations in which he uses blown, kiln-cast, and hot-worked solid glass to create dazzling pieces of glass art. His glass art creations are available at steubencountyglass.com. In 2018, G. Brian showcased his skills on the Glass Barge, a floating hot shop used to give glass art demonstrations along the Erie Canal. GlassBarge, launched by the Corning Museum of Glass, was the signature event for the statewide celebration of the bicentennial of the Erie Canal. In 2019, G. Brian assisted glass artists competing on the popular Netflix show, *Blown Away*.

2003

Ryan Elliott (B.S., materials science and engineering, physics) has joined Deringer-Ney as president, effective July 20, 2021. Deringer-Ney, located in Bloomfield, CT, is a global leader in precious metal alloys, micro manufactured parts (MICROMfg®), electrical contacts, and precision components for medical devices. Ryan, has a professional background in the ceramics, solar energy, graphite, plastics, and metals industries. He came to Deringer-Ney from Materion Corporation of Cleveland, OH, where he started as director of product marketing for their Copper-Beryllium alloys before being

named general manager of its Microelectronics Division.

Joshua First (B.A., theater) received a 2021 Emmy nomination in the category of Outstanding Contemporary Hairstyling for his work on the Netflix series *The Politician*. Joshua currently is working on a new project for Apple TV, following work he did on Apple's *Little Voice* production.

2007 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Artwork by **Li Hongwei** '07 (MFA, ceramic art) is on view in a solo exhibition entitled "Brilliant Illusions: Crafted Forms by Li Hongwei," which opened January 18 and runs through June 4, 2022, at the University of Kentucky Art Museum. Born in Tangshan, China, in 1980, Li now divides his time between Beijing and New York. He holds a bachelor's degree in sculpture from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. His work has been collected internationally by institutions

that include the Art Institute of Chicago, the British Museum, Harvard Art Museums, the Israel Museum, and the National Art Museum of China.

2008

Victoria Blair (B.S., ceramic engineering; PhD, ceramic engineering '14) received the 2021 Robert L. Coble Award for Young Scholars and Du-Co Ceramics Young Professional Award from the America Ceramic Society (ACerS). Victoria is a materials engineer at DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory in Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. The Coble Award for Young Scholars recognizes an outstanding scientist who is conducting research in academia, in industry, or at a government-funded laboratory. The Du-Co Ceramics Young Professional Award is given to a young professional member of ACerS who demonstrates exceptional leadership and service to ACerS.



Emily Whitehouse '17 (B.S., athletic training, MBA '18) and **Thomas Halladay** '17 (B.A., English) were married on August 28, 2021, in Andover, NY. The couple lives in Wellsville, NY.



Kristin Rubisch '10 married Michael Estrada on Nov. 6, 2021, in Pearl River, NY, with several of Kristin's fellow Alfred University alumni in attendance. Pictured above on Kristin and Michael's special day are (clockwise from front-left): Michael, Kristin (holding the Li'l Alf placard), **Avery MacKellar-Nogueira '10**, **Gillian Lichter '11**, **Karen Aldrich '10**, **Salvatore Mameli '11**, **Thomas Fleming '10**, and **Kacie Dean '11**.

2009

Zac Weinberg (B.F.A.) received a 2021-22 Fulbright All-Disciplines Postgraduate Award to study design at the University of Sunderland, England. As a Fulbright Award recipient at Sunderland's National Glass Center, Zac will explore how craft practice can be augmented by the digital technologies of 3D modeling, physical outputs such as CNC milling and 3D printing, as well as the ever-expanding knowledge base of YouTube instructional videos, online forums and digital 3D model libraries.

Zac received a BFA from Alfred University and an MFA from Ohio State University. He is an artist/designer, working primarily with glass. His work explores the ways in which we interpret and allocate status to objects: the histories, methods of making, and presentation that affect our understandings of things. His projects often augment traditional glassmaking with disparate interests such as statistical analysis, kinetic apparatus, and video and found objects. Zac's artwork has been exhibited widely throughout the United States and Europe, and supported by grants

and awards from The Ohio Arts Council, Massachusetts College of Art, Toledo Arts Commission, Flint Institute of Arts, The Sculpture Center, Cleveland and Cité Internationale des Artes, Paris. In 2019, he participated in the Momentum Intersection collaboration with Pilkington Glass, one of the largest producers of float glass globally.

2012 HONORED REUNION YEAR

Chris Boyd Taylor (M.F.A.), an associate professor of sculpture and art at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, recently unveiled a sculpture installation at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Chris's artwork titled "The Door is Open," depicts a gigantic human-sized bird cage designed to explore a whimsical avian-centered theme for an exhibition this past fall called "Uncaged: Birds, Nature, & You." The exhibition included a collection of interactive pieces that explored "the lives of our charismatic feathered friends." It featured seven different structures spread throughout the Garden, providing guests of all ages an opportunity to discover and enjoy sculpture in a feathery dreamscape. Chris has shown work at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York City and has a permanent sculpture installation in Montevideo, Uruguay.

2015

Georges H. Leconte (M.P.A.) who earned his degree through the University's AU-NY programs, has been appointed chief executive officer of NYC Health and Hospitals/Harlem, effective Jan. 10. Georges has served with NYC Health and Hospitals for three decades, most recently as senior associate executive director for the Ancillary Services Division at NYC Health and Hospitals/Elmhurst.

In that role, he managed a staff of 600 in the biomedical engineering, cardiology, pathology, pharmacy, radiology, radiation oncology, and respiratory care departments. He had also previously served as the Regional Director of NYC Health and Hospitals/Elmhurst and NYC Health and Hospitals/Queens' Respiratory Care Services. As CEO of NYC Health and Hospitals/Harlem, Georges will help the health care professionals at Harlem Hospitals continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and address the ongoing public health challenges some of the city's hardest hit communities still face. He will also ensure an ongoing focus on employee wellness, clinical excellence, exceptional patient experience, and financial integrity, expanding access to high-quality, affordable, and comprehensive healthcare for the Harlem community. Georges and fellow AU-NY alumnus Paula Clarke '15 were among the administrative staff at NYC Health and Hospitals/Elmhurst, which was considered "ground zero" during the earliest stages of the COVID pandemic. Georges holds a Bachelor of Science degree from CUNY/Hunter College. He is past president of the New York Regional Chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE), and a member of the American Association of Respiratory Care, and the Lambda Beta Society, the national honor society for the respiratory care profession.

2020

Brian Topper (M.S., materials science and engineering) was named recipient of the prestigious Oldfield Award, presented annually by the Society of Glass Technology in recognition of students' theses and research projects. The Oldfield

Award honors excellence in students' undergraduate project theses and taught master's theses. It is open to students in the United Kingdom—where the Society of Glass Technology is based—and international students from around the globe. Brian was presented with the overall first prize; the second place winner and two third-place winners are from institutions in the UK. Brian's master's thesis, which he successfully defended in November 2020, was on the structure of lithium and strontium borate glasses modified with yttrium and rare-earth cations investigated by vibrational spectroscopy. He was supervised in his thesis by Doris Möncke, associate professor of glass science in Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering. Brian, who earned a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Richmond, is working on his Ph.D. in optical science and engineering at the University of New Mexico, where he serves as a graduate research assistant. His current research, with Arash Mafi, director of the Center for High Technology Materials and professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UNM, is focused on laser cooling silica. Their latest results, which represent a new world record in the optical refrigeration of silica, are set to be published in the journal *Optics Letters*.

2021

Carissa Dopman (B.S., glass engineering, minor in mathematics; B.F.A., minor in arts management) was selected as a 2021 Laureate of the Tau Beta Pi Association. Tau Beta Pi is the oldest engineering honor society, with chapters in more than 250

colleges and universities. The Tau Beta Pi Laureate Program was formally established in 1984 to recognize Tau Beta Pi student members annually for academic achievement as well as a commitment to personal and professional integrity. Carissa—one of only two Laureates in the country named for 2021 and one of just 115 named since the award was established 37 years ago—was honored at the Tau Beta Pi annual convention Oct. 21-23 in Knoxville, TN. At Alfred University, Carissa excelled in her work with neon, as it applies to both art and engineering. She participated in several exhibitions of her neon artwork, and her senior thesis project studied enhancing the ultraviolet (UV) emission capacity of argon gas in order to replace the use of mercury in neon lighting.

KEEP *in touch*

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

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

SNAIL MAIL

Mark Whitehouse
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Deaths

1942

Ora L. Slingerland, Sept. 22, 2020

1946

William Burton Dailey, Aug. 6, 2021

1948

Dr. Donald B. Polan, Sept. 7, 2021

1949

Edward Benson, July 23, 2021
Nicholas C. LiCalzi, Aug. 2, 2021

1950

Anita Ann Shick, June 25, 2021
Robert H. Brooks, July 9, 2021
H. Mitchell Bliss, Aug. 26, 2021

1951

Edwin J. "Jack" Morley, Oct. 7, 2021

1952

Donald A. Boulton, July 14, 2021
Anna (Holmquest) Luke, Oct. 22, 2021
Barbara Ann Schneckenburger
Dirlam Bernstein (MSEd '53),
Nov. 15, 2021

1953

William I. Nelson, Sept. 18, 2021
Marilyn J. Gibbin, Nov. 16, 2021

1954

Frederick W. Gibbs, Jan. 4, 2022

1956

William W. Decker, July 16, 2021
Dr. Stephen M. "Steve" Berque,
Sept. 25, 2021
Kenneth P. Fitzgerald, Sept. 26,
2021
Sumner McDanel, Oct. 28, 2021
Jay Friedenson, Nov. 9, 2021

1957

Barbara A. (Fifield) Cushman,
June 21, 2021

1960

Craig F. Leiser, July 18, 2021
Dr. Bertram W. Droga, Sept. 22,
2021

1961

Lewis W. Smith, June 24, 2021

1962

Andrew E. Yazwinski, July 17, 2021
Deborah (Dixon) Ries, Nov. 15,
2021

1963

Charlotte F. Gormsen, Oct. 13,
2021

1964

Robert L. Baker (MSEd), Nov. 19,
2021

1966

Stephen "Steve" Zawojski, Aug.
4, 2021
Harry T. Evans, Oct. 7, 2021

1967

Rev. William H. West, Aug. 26,
2021

1968

Russell E. Leavitt, June 20, 2021

1969

John S. Howard, June 17, 2021
Carol A. (Frazier) Reed, Oct. 3,
2021

1970

Cameron R. May, Aug. 19, 2021

1972

William M. Eckman, Aug. 23, 2021
Joshua Nadel, Oct. 16, 2021

1974

David R. Cobb, July 13, 2021
Maria Hovak, Oct. 25, 2021

1975

Joseph M. Brugan, June 28, 2021
John A. Hill, July 5, 2021

1976

Randall M. Rudolph, Aug. 10, 2021

1977

Amy Christine (Skeggs) Medrud,
Nov. 16, 2021

1979

Arnold "Arnie" Zimmerman
(M.F.A.S.), July 29, 2021

1983

Mary Oneida Grace (Sell)
Kingdon, Aug. 1, 2021

1984

Mary Kelly O'Connor, June 22,
2021
Richard W. Falvey, Sept. 5, 2021

1989

Antoinette Moon, July 2, 2021

1990

Patience L. Windsor, July 17, 2021

1995

Michael J. "Arg" Argentieri, Sept.
29, 2021

1996

Jacqueline "Jackie" Pancari
(M.F.A.), Aug. 14, 2021

2002

Rita Louise Varian, Aug. 30, 2021

Obituaries

Barbara Bernstein '52, '53,

Barbara Ann Schneckenburger Dirlam Bernstein, an Alfred University alumnus who taught English at her alma mater, passed away on Nov. 15, 2021. Barbara earned a bachelor's degree in English from Alfred University in 1952 and a master's degree in education, also from Alfred University, in 1953. An adjunct lecturer in English in the 1960s, she was the widow of the late Melvin Bernstein, who was an English professor at Alfred University.

Frederick W. Gibbs '54,

Frederick W. Gibbs '54, a former member of the Board of Trustees at Alfred University, passed away on Jan. 4, 2022. Fred, who graduated from Alfred University with honors with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, was elected

to the University's Board of Trustees in 1980 and was an active member of the Board until 2018. Fred was a generous supporter of his alma mater. His philanthropy supported the Gibbs Endowment for Athletic Excellence, the Gibbs Career Placement and Research Program Quasi Endowed Fund, renovations to the Gibbs Fitness Center (named in his honor), the Steinheim/Career Services Library, the Fasano Memorial Scholarship, and the Alfred Fund.

Robert "Bob" Baker, MEd '64, Robert L. "Bob" Baker, who served as the first men's soccer coach at Alfred University and also served as the Saxons' men's basketball and tennis coach, passed away on Nov. 19, 2021. Bob was appointed the Saxons' men's basketball coach in 1962 and served in that role for 16 years, until 1978. He was head men's tennis coach for 15 seasons, from 1963-77. In 1965, Bob was appointed the first men's soccer coach at Alfred University and remained in that role for four seasons (1965-68).

Arnold Zimmerman '79 M.F.A., Arnold "Arnie" Zimmerman, whose sculpture is part of the permanent collection of numerous art museums including New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, passed away on July 29, 2021. Arnie was a groundbreaking artist who crafted monumental, deeply carved vessels and sculptures. At the time of Arnie's death, his work was on display in the Metropolitan Art Museum's

exhibition *Shapes from out of Nowhere: Ceramics from the Robert A. Ellison Collection*.

Wil Huang, Wilfred V. "Wil" Huang, emeritus professor of management information and retired founding director of the Confucius Institute at Alfred University, passed away on March 14, 2022. Wil was appointed one of the original faculty in Alfred University's Industrial Engineering program—which would later be renamed Management Information Systems—and held the title of professor of management information systems until his retirement in 2016. After a few months of retirement, he re-joined the University as director of the Confucius Institute, where he remained until his final retirement in December of 2018.

Jackie Pancari, '96 M.F.A., Jacqueline "Jackie" Pancari, an Alfred University alumna who taught glass art in the University's School of Art and Design, passed away Aug. 14, 2021. Jackie, who earned her M.F.A. degree in ceramic art, was a visiting assistant professor and adjunct professor from 1998-2003. At the time of her death, she was living in Alfred Station with her husband, David "Freddy" Fredrickson, retired master kiln builder in the Alfred University School of Art and Design.

David Meissner, David Meissner, emeritus professor of psychology at Alfred University, passed away July 22, 2021. David joined

the Alfred University faculty in 1971, serving as a professor of psychology until his retirement in 1996.

Steven Peterson, Steven Peterson, who served 24 years as a professor of political science at Alfred University, passed away December 10, 2021. Steve was professor of political science in Alfred University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1973 until 1997, when he left to teach at Penn State University-Harrisburg.

Fiona Tolhurst, Fiona Tolhurst, former professor of English at Alfred University, passed away on Dec. 21, 2021. At the time of her passing, she was professor of English and chair of the Department of Language and Literature at Florida Gulf Coast University. Fiona joined the Alfred University faculty in 1996 and served as a professor of English until 2008.

William Underhill, William Underhill, renowned sculptor and emeritus professor at Alfred University who cast the King Alfred Statue located in the center of campus, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 16. Bill taught sculpture in the Alfred University School of Art and Design, Division of Sculpture and Dimensional Studies, from 1969 until his retirement in 1997. In 1990, he installed the King Alfred Statue, cast in bronze, in the center of the Alfred University campus between Alumni Hall and what is now Powell Campus Center. The Alfred Ceramic Art Museum will open an exhibition of Bill's work on April 21, 2022.



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In support of mathematics: *Jim Becker '69 and Marie Zaczkowski*

Jim Becker graduated from Alfred University in 1969 with a B.A. degree in mathematics and went on to earn a master's degree, in computer sciences, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1975. After college, Jim spent two years serving in the U.S. Army, before working more than two decades as a software engineer at Texas Instruments, Inc. Much of Jim's professional career was spent developing computer applications systems, mostly in the manufacturing environment.

Marie Zaczkowski, Jim's wife, is a graduate of the College of Saint Benedict and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is retired from the City of Dallas, Texas, where she was manager of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. She is an avid quilter who is a member of several quilt guilds. She and Jim now reside in Clear Lake, Minnesota.

Jim and Marie both grew up with an appreciation for the importance of education. Jim's mother began her teaching career in rural one-room school houses in western New York. Marie's mother taught high school for two years and her father was a Professor of Biology. Jim and Marie have been long time supporters of both AU and CSB. They have utilized the planned giving program to express their appreciation for education and everything their alma maters have provided to them.

"My AU experience prepared me for a career filled with change," says Jim. "Funding an endowment gift through planned giving will help others benefit from a similar experience."

Especially through their involvement with our Saxon and Heritage Circles, Jim and Marie are generous philanthropic supporters of Alfred University. In 2015, they established the James E. Becker '69 Endowed Scholarship, awarded to students majoring in mathematics or natural sciences. The couple, through their Heritage Circle bequest commitment, are now funding an endowed professorship of mathematics.

ENRICHING THE *Student Experience*



David Bachrach '94 earned a B.A. degree in criminal justice studies and sociology. He was a Dean's List student who participated in WALF Radio, FNL, and Hillel, and was a member of Alpha Phi Omega and Pi Gamma Mu. He earned his master's degree in social science from Sam Houston State University in 1998 and has been a consultant and/or analyst for a variety of organizations, including the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Management Partners, Inc., and Government Innovations Group, Inc. Since October 2016, David has been an independent management consultant. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife, Melanie, and their two sons, Joshua and Adam.

"Alfred gave me a sense of leadership and inner confidence that I carry with me to this day," says David, shown in this photo hiking near St. George, Utah. "Not just the faculty, not just my peers – the whole experience did that for me. This is my way of providing the opportunity for other young persons to experience and benefit from that kind of gift."

The Alfred University Saxon Circle program is in its sixth year and has made a significant difference in the lives of our students. We currently have 718 Saxon Circle members, including 58 faculty/staff and 113 students, who have collectively pledged \$9.7 million over a five-year period.





MAKING *Meaning* IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

July 10 – 16

This summer, participants and emerging artists are invited to collaborate with internationally known visual artists, composers, choreographers, designers, and filmmakers. In addition to a daily schedule of workshops, the festival offers nightly program of events, culminating in site-specific performances generated over the course of the week.

Morning Workshops:

- Rhythm, Movement, and Voice *with choreographer Sandy Silva*
- Low-Watt Radio and Echolocation *with composer and vocal coach Kathy Kennedy*
- Illuminated Japanese Lantern Making *with artist George Ferandi*
- Animating the Found Object *with choreographer and dancer Melanie Aceto*

Afternoon Workshops:

- Experimental Printmaking *with artist William Contino*
- Learning to Play Experimental Instruments *with composer Dr. Jonathan Golove*
- Making Constellation Maps *with Founder of the Land Arts of the American West Program Bill Gilbert*
- Writing Your Manifesto *with psychologist Dr. Vincenzo di Nicola*
- Illuminated Japanese Lantern Making *with artist George Ferandi*

Emerging Artists: Ben Zucker, Michaela Neild, Jeanne Côté, Matias Homar, Thelonious Garcia, Leo Portelance, Jasmine Nagano, Ana Kim, Max Erwin

Artist in Residence: Jesse Chandler

Alfred Summer Arts Workshops all levels; beginners encouraged



Session 1 June 26 - July 1

- Figure Painting *with Augustine Uzor*
- Portable Papermaking From Rag to Relevance *with Patsy Rausch*
- Shades of Blue: Indigo Dye, Shibori and Other Methods *with Rachel Davis*

Session 2 July 3 – 8

- Illuminated Paper Sculpture Be Coming Birds *with George Ferandi*
- HipHop Dance *with James Levy Jr.*
- Bodywork: Embodied Practice *with Erin Law*
- Ceramic Science *with Dr. William Carty*

Session 3 July 10 – 16

Alfred Summer Arts Festival: Making Meaning in an Uncertain World
Featuring morning and afternoon workshops

Session 4 July 12-22

- Field Report Painting on Site *with Jason Mitcham*
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration *with Nelia Miller*
- Listening and Composing with Acoustic Environments *with Heidi Jensen*
- Colors from Nature's Gifts *with Deb MacCrea*



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REUNION 2022

The 2022 Reunion is scheduled for June 9-12, and plans are well underway. All alumni are welcome to attend Reunion. We will honor all class years ending in 2 & 7. There will be special group celebrations for Alfred University's Golden Saxons and Alfred's Rugby Club. Alfred University's Greek Community will celebrate this year too. The Lambda Chi Alpha Golden Saxons will hold their yearly celebration over Reunion. Theta Theta Chi and Kappa Psi Upsilon will each celebrate their 100th.

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

Come back and celebrate at your "Outside of Ordinary" home away from home.

Alfred University - Your Forever Magic Valley.

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

Register for Reunion 2022, June 9-12

