



Alfred MAGAZINE

APRIL 2023

INTERSECTIONS

CLASS NOTES • ATHLETICS • SUMMER ARTS • REUNION 2023



Alfred

MAGAZINE

APRIL 2022

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



Facing page: Students were treated to a concert by the rock band Plain White T's in the McLane Center's Galanis Family Arena on April 15.

Above: Alfred University's Pine Street descends to its intersection with Main Street, location of the village of Alfred's lone traffic light. This issue of Alfred Magazine features the importance of intersections in the lives of our students. Stories begin on Page 2.

Inside

- 2 Intersections:** Alfred University presents students with a generous cluster of academic, cultural, and social intersections: a rich and nourishing environment that has fostered in students an enthusiasm for the complex intersections they negotiate in their post-graduate years.
- 4 Patricia Nilson '88,** the newly appointed chief executive officer of Rochester Gas & Electric and New York State Electric & Gas, majored in English and Fine Arts as an undergraduate. "I can't string a wire, but I'm a very good listener," she says. "I'm comfortable being the odd person in the room."
- 9 Laurie Lounsberry Meehan '91,** Alfred University Archivist, oversees the historical records of Alfred University. Her office in Herrick Library is a repository of those records and is the intersection of the myriad narratives that form the University's history. "We are the intersection," Meehan and her team say.
- 14 Meghann Galloway '10** studied Psychology, Criminal Justice, English and Philosophy as an Alfred University undergraduate. She went to law school and also received her doctorate in Psychology. Now she works in Washington, DC, helping draft legislation in support of police reform and victims of abuse and violence. "I also learned to apply the literature to psychology, and the psychology to literature, which required critical analysis and close attention to details."
- 18 Amanda FitzPatrick '03** says her diverse teaching background—she has taught photography, media arts, graphic design, ceramics, drawing, and painting—has its roots in her time as a BFA student at Alfred University, where her first-year Foundations coursework encouraged her to explore a host of interests.
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The Pleasure of CURIOSITY

By Rob Price

Alfred University President Mark Zupan observed recently there is only one traffic light in Alfred, but “plentiful and potent intersections” at Alfred University. The occasion was an article in *The Washington Post* identifying the single-intersection Village of Alfred as the “Ultimate College Town in the United States.” Zupan’s observation points to the fact that Alfred University presents students with a cluster of other academic, cultural and social intersections. The abundance of those intersections and the positive impact they’ve had on Alfred University students over the years is the theme of this Alumni Magazine.

From an academic perspective, “intersections” refers to the multiple perspectives available in an interdisciplinary academic environment. Interdisciplinary isn’t the same as multi-disciplinary, notes Alfred University Provost and Chief Operating Officer Beth Ann Dobie. A multi-disciplinary academic environment presents an abundance of isolated possibilities; there are plenty of roads to follow, but each road confines its traveler within its path. “That’s a bit of an academic hodgepodge,” Dobie says. “Students can study in different areas, but they don’t make connections between the disciplines.”

The interdisciplinary ideal, she says, is “a back-and-forth. The student in an interdisciplinary environment like Alfred University begins to learn how different ways of examining issues are really related to each other. That kind of education allows a student to begin making more sense of the world.”

Dobie joined Alfred University as a member of the Division of Human Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; she taught art theory and philosophy, and her interdisciplinary ideal evokes many of the educational ideals of a traditional liberal arts and sciences education. “The value of that kind of education,” she says, “is that you learn how to ask questions that are significant. You may learn how a biologist looks at the world and the kinds of research tools they use. Then you learn how a philosopher does it, or how an engineer does it. Ultimately, as you start to accumulate these different perspectives, you can pull from different areas and approach a problem in a fresh way with valuable critical thinking skills.”

It’s what people mean when they use the expression “creative problem solving.” Dobie characterizes creative problem solvers as people “who combine things in new ways. You take what you’ve learned from different disciplines, and you ask, ‘Why don’t we twist it around this way?’”

Creative problem solvers, Dobie says, employ a kind of thinking – critical, analytical thinking – that is valued, encouraged and taught across Alfred University. “That’s the connection across all our academic worlds: All of us are trying to teach that careful, critical reasoning.”

It’s the kind of thinking, she adds, that organizations repeatedly say they value when looking for prospective employees. But beyond that modern, practical concern, Dobie argues there are deeper advantages in the kind of interdisciplinary education Alfred University offers.

An interdisciplinary educational environment encourages curiosity, which leads to intellectual and emotional growth. Alfred University graduates featured in these pages express that sense of deep, inner contentment. Patricia Nilsen, chief executive officer of utilities RGE and NYSEG, says for example she thrives on “a little bit of chaos” and believes “it’s important to find the joy in what you do.”

“We talk about people living enriching lives,” Dobie says. “I mean having a rich inner life, and I think that comes from being able to appreciate a wide range of academic disciplines and opportunities. Maybe that happier life means being connected to your family or community; maybe it means being about to go to a movie, or the theater, or a museum and finding that pleasurable. When people are able to avail themselves of a lot of different possibilities in the world, they feel they’re living a good life.”

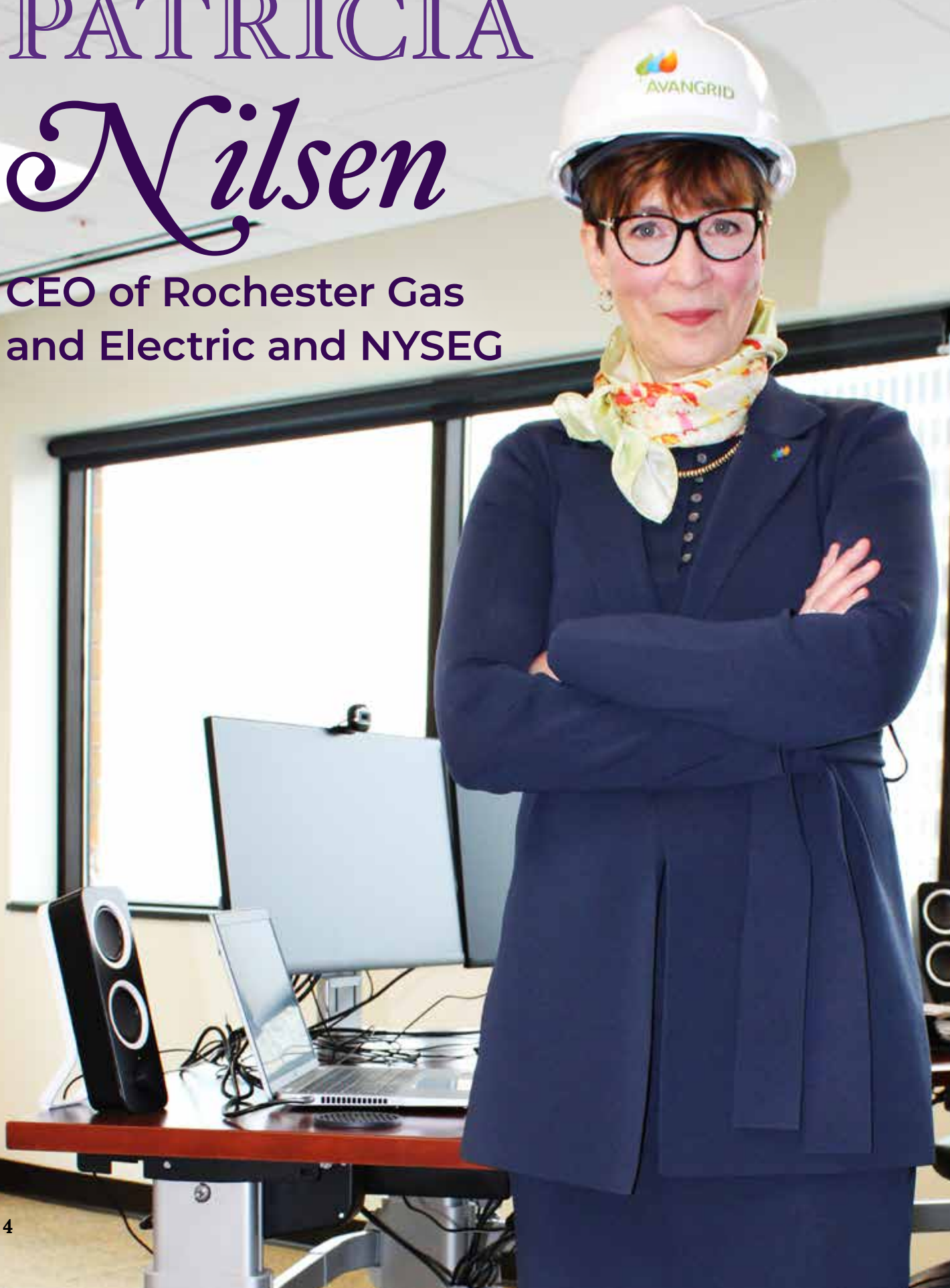
The alumnae you’ll meet in these pages continue to find their good lives beyond their years in school. People often forget the particulars they learn in classrooms, but they don’t forget so easily the pleasure they felt in asking a question that opened up a puzzle or mystery and stimulated a fresh conversation. That pleasure and that curiosity is going to stay with them, Dobie says. “It’s the pleasure of curiosity.”

“When people are able to avail themselves of a lot of different possibilities in the world, they feel they’re living a good life.”



PATRICIA *Nilsen*

CEO of Rochester Gas
and Electric and NYSEG



"Alfred let me *create* an intersection that hadn't existed"

By Rob Price

Patricia Nilsen '88 was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of New York State Electric & Gas Corporation ("NYSEG") and Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation ("RG&E") in 2022, the first woman to serve in the top job of the two utilities. When AVANGRID Inc., which owns the utilities, announced her appointment, the company described its decision as "momentous" and "a major step for our company toward achieving full gender parity."

Trish is not an engineer (she's the first to tell you that); nor is she trained in business or finance. She rose through the ranks, first at NYSEG primarily in its Communications offices, and in 2016 was appointed Director of Emergency Preparedness for AVANGRID. When AVANGRID's CEO, Pedro Azagra, announced her appointment as CEO of NYSEG and RG&E, he described her as "your fearless leader during storm response." Trish herself describes her professional career as an unusual rise to the top.

"I had a non-utility background, and I wasn't a traditional utility service worker. I'm comfortable being the odd person in the room."

When she joined NYSEG in 1991, Trish had just earned her Master's degree in Literature from Syracuse University. At Alfred University, she had been a dual English and Fine Arts major. As an

English major, she studied with the late Professor Carol Shilkett, who specialized in Medieval English literature. As a BFA student, she studied graphic design. For her senior project, she wrote a short story and designed the accompanying graphics. "Basically, I self-published," she says. "Alfred let me create an intersection that hadn't existed."

She also worked in the Writing Center, located in those days in the basement of Seidlin Hall. "I learned I liked working as a writing teacher," she says. "To me, writing was easy, and I wanted to be an English instructor. That's how I got my start at NYSEG, helping people get their ideas down in writing. You work with what you have. When I graduated from Syracuse, NYSEG gave me a chance to help its engineers put their thoughts into words. That's also what I'd learned to do at Alfred."

Continued on page 6

In mid-February of 2023, a winter storm blew across the Great Lakes, bringing down electric lines across western New York. The damage was particularly bad around the Companies' Lancaster division, particularly the villages of Cheektowaga and West Seneca. Trish was working in RG&E's corporate office in Rochester the following morning, overseeing RG&E's progress toward restoring power to nearly thirty-thousand customers. Trish listened to reports from multiple utility divisions, ranging from line crew responses to communications and public relations personnel; while she listened, she exchanged observations and suggestions with command staff, including in online chat and texts. The conference call lasted about 15 minutes, and Trish wrapped up the meeting with: "Thank you folks, and be safe." In less than half an hour, the meeting had generated a working overview of the emergency, and confirmed projections of Estimated Times of Response.

Trish recalls her earlier years overseeing emergency response protocols for NYSEG and RG&E. Before her promotion to that position, the utilities' priority after a bad storm had been to restore power to individual homes and businesses. There was a basic problem with that approach: Storms strong enough to knock down power lines also clogged streets with debris. Emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks could be stymied trying to get to downed lines.



Patricia Nilsen, who goes by 'Trish,' makes the rounds as CEO of RGE and NYSEG. She observed she never strung an electric line, but she's "a good listener."

"So now we've turned that response order around," she says. "We cut and clear power lines and tree debris from the streets first, then we start working on restoring individual electrical service. That was a policy and culture change I was a part of." She grins. "We turned that one on its ear."

She has also pushed for more proactive communications between the utilities and customers, local governments, and public safety offices. "We really weren't doing our best job at communicating," she says. The situation is improving. Both RG&E and NYSEG, for example, monitor customers who depend on residential life-support machinery. In the event of widespread power outages, the utilities contact those customers; if there are no answers after two phone calls, a utility representative is dispatched to the customer's residence. They also hold pre-event and during-event daily calls with elected and municipal officials during any significant event.

"If you can't communicate with your customers, you're not doing your job," Trish says. "You learn that when you're in the communications business."

Trish grew up on Long Island, the first person in her family to attend college. She quotes her father, who told her: "Follow what interests you, and the career will come." At Alfred University, making art and reading literature were her academic priorities, but a double-major in English and



Always listening: Trish started working for NYSEG in the utility's Communications office, helping NYSEG engineers with their writing. As an expert listener, she gradually learned the shape and scope of the company.

Fine Arts required the coordination of divergent, conflicting, academic schedules. Some fresh, flexible thinking was required, and Trish credits Carol Shilkett with coaxing the necessary accommodations from the academic side of the University. "Coaxing" may be a gentle word for what Shilkett accomplished. A student of Beowulf, she went to bat for Trish with the fervor of a great warrior.

"I was a little bit of a round peg fitting into a square hole, and Professor Shilkett was my champion," Trish says. "She ran interference for me, she networked with other professors, and Alfred University responded with its own ethos of 'We'll Make This Happen.'"

Another mentor for Trish was English Professor Paul Strong, whose office was next to Shilkett's

and who oversaw Alfred University's Honors Program. Strong had a good sense of humor and a generous, kind spirit. "When I needed someone with the drive to get doors opened for me, I went to Professor Shilkett's office," Trish says. "When I needed an emotional haven, I visited Professor Strong's office."

Shilkett and Strong provided Trish with the emotional and academic support she needed. Two floors below them, in the basement of Seidlin Hall, Alfred University's Writing Center provided her with a job that helped her discover other talents and future possibilities. As a graduate student at Syracuse University, she continued teaching and discovered she particularly enjoyed meeting and coaching older, non-traditional undergraduate students.

*The Geats were members of the Scandinavian people of southern Sweden, the warrior community to which Beowulf belonged.

"I liked listening to them tell their stories about their work in the business world, and I started thinking I'd like to become sort of a corporate writing and communications trainer. I trace that discovery to my work in Seidlin Hall's Writing Center."

Syracuse University awarded her a master's degree in 1990, and the next step was settling into Binghamton, where her husband had started working. She applied for a job at NYSEG, "a sort of bottom-rung position that mostly women were hired to work on," she says. "Then NYSEG discovered I like teaching writing, and at NYSEG you're surrounded by engineers who need that kind of collegial support."

"I just leaned into it. The writing job became my main work at NYSEG, and when you're helping engineers write, you can't help but start to learn the technical stuff yourself. I went from department to department teaching writing skills, and pretty soon I had a pretty good idea of the company."

Fast-forward about 25 years: By 2022, serving as Vice President of Reliability Assurance and Emergency Preparedness, Trish was ready to consider stepping back from a successful corporate career and joining her husband in retirement. They were vacationing in the Pacific Northwest, when a call came through from the AVANGRID corporate office: Would she consider being interviewed for the top job?

"My husband and I were having one of those conversations," she says, "asking ourselves, 'What do you want to do next?' Then I got the call, and my husband said, 'Well, that answers that question.'"

At the end of a workday, Trish likes to ask two more questions: What did she learn and where did she make a difference? "I can't string a wire, but I'm a very good listener," she says. "And learning to listen from people like Professor Shilkett and Professor Strong was fun. So, I'll pass along the advice my father gave me: He said, 'Get the skill sets you're interested in, set the foundation, and all the rest will fall into place.'"

Trish on a conference call in her Rochester office in the aftermath of a sleet and ice storm in Western New York.

“Get the skill sets you’re interested in, set the foundation, and all the rest will fall into place.”



Special Collections & University Archives

Laurie LOUNSBERRY MEEHAN

Alfred University
Archivist

*Laurie Lounsberry Meehan
at work in her office on the
second floor of Herrick Library.*

THE PLACE WHERE THE STORIES *Come Together*

Alfred University Archivist Laurie Lounsberry Meehan presides over the University's Archival Records:

“We Are the Intersections.”

By Rob Price

Alfred University Archivist Laurie Lounsberry Meehan '91 works on the second floor of Herrick Library in a rabbit's warren of nooks, crannies, and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves that somehow also are well organized. Nineteenth century oil paintings and vintage black and white photographs hang on the walls representing Alfred University in its early years, a patchwork of buildings climbing the hillside from Main Street. There are portraits of past University officials and their families: familiar images of Jonathan and Abigail Allen and their daughters. Stacks of newly acquired historical documents are piled on tables. A piece of terra cotta tile from South Hall – demolished last year – is on display next to a 19th-century saddle owned by President Boothe Davis.



Laurie, surrounded by Alfred University archives, works amid what she considers the historical intersections of Alfred University's history.

For Laurie, each object represents a story, or set of stories, about Alfred University. “I think in terms of stories,” she says. “People ask me questions about Alfred University, and there’s so much storytelling involved in answering.” If the long story of Alfred University is a collection of short stories, Laurie presides over the space where those stories intersect. She and her colleagues have an expression to describe the archives: “We are the intersections.”

Laurie grew up on a small family farm in nearby Greenwood, NY. Appreciating the outdoors is part of Laurie’s DNA. As a member of the University’s faculty, she teaches a popular Honors course on maple syrup – because, she says, “Maple syrup, as part of western New York’s history, is another one of our stories.”

She graduated valedictorian from high school and enrolled at Alfred University as a ceramics engineering student, after learning about the University’s program through a career orientation class. After studying engineering for three semesters, she decided a change was in order. “It wasn’t speaking to me,” she says. She enrolled in the University’s College of Business. “I don’t remember much from my business classes either,” she says, laughing. But by the time she was ready to graduate, she had fallen in love with library science and archive work in particular, having worked in Herrick Library during her undergraduate years, alongside her mother who also worked in Herrick as a staff member.

“It all clicked,” she says. “Basically, I love stories, and archives are collections of stories.”

Laurie followed her undergraduate years with two years of graduate work in Library Science at SUNY Buffalo, living on her family’s farm and working part-time at Herrick Library. After she earned her MLS degree, she joined Herrick Library as a cataloguer and archivist, and she eventually was appointed University Archivist, following in the footsteps of her mentor and previous archivist, Norma Higgins '51.

She describes archival work as “making connections and finding relationships.” That’s a traditional description of the liberal arts



As an undergraduate, at Alfred University, Laurie began as an engineering student. She switched to the College of Business, and after graduating began studying for her master’s degree in Library Science.

education, and Laurie’s own undergraduate education pulled her across the University’s curricula, into academic nooks and crannies that included classes in Sociology, English, Psychology, and Women’s Studies. “When I came to Alfred, I was a blank slate,” she says. “I was ready to jump into everything; I was just curious, and Alfred gave me so many opportunities to follow my curiosities. When I decided in my second year I didn’t want to be an engineer, I started reading through the University’s course catalogue. I read the entire book and saw so many courses that looked fascinating. I loved all the possibilities Alfred offered me.”

Now, years after her undergraduate days, Laurie finds herself drawing on the myriad academic disciplines she sampled as a student,

from Engineering to Business to Liberal Arts and Sciences. As University Archivist, she oversees the archive collections in both Herrick and Scholes libraries, and she fields inquiries that tap into her multi-disciplinary background. Got a question that involves the history of ceramic productions in Alfred? She knows the history of the Terra Cotta office building; she can help direct research into ceramic glazes. The Women's Rights Movement? Laurie was a student in Women's Studies classes, taught by the late Professor Vicki Eaklor. When Professor of English Allen Grove brought his Victorian Literature class to the library, Laurie

gave the class a tour of the Archives' collection of Victoriana: photographs, note cards, hand-bound books. "The students were fascinated. All those particulars filled in a little of the context for the literature they were reading."

Laurie extends her interest in local history through volunteer work. She is active in the Greenwood Historical Society and is a long-time member and past president of the Baker's Bridge Historical Society, based in Alfred Station. She also serves as historian for the Village of Alfred. On a recent sabbatical, she focused her research on Alfred's terra cotta history and now leads a local group focused on integrating and

As an undergraduate, at Alfred University, Laurie began as an engineering student. She switched to the College of Business, and after graduating began studying for her master's degree in Library Science.



preserving that history in the area. “Talk about intersections,” she says. “So many intersections cross the subject of terra cotta: business, engineering, art, architecture, creative writing, sustainability, manufacturing.” Laurie also is assisting the Ohio-based Ludowici Company to develop a company archive to capture their terra cotta story history, which intersects with Alfred’s. Both histories are interwoven with the national story of the Industrial Revolution.

After living in Alfred for 25 years, she has returned home, now living on the family farm in Greenwood, where she grew up baling hay and driving the family’s tractors. She and her

husband, Eric, maintain the original farmhouse, built in the mid-nineteenth century. While some old homes have names, this homestead is collectively referred to as “The Farmhouse” in the extended family. “It’s an identity,” Laurie says. “It’s our extended connection of shared memories.” It’s the site of gatherings for holidays and special family occasions. A large pavilion provides the shelter for outdoor picnics; the farm pond provides a venue for fishing, swimming and reflection.

“Do we tell stories?” Laurie laughs. “Of course, we tell stories! Our reunions are where all our stories come together!”



MEGHANN Galloway

By Rob Price

Photos by Rebecca Ondrey

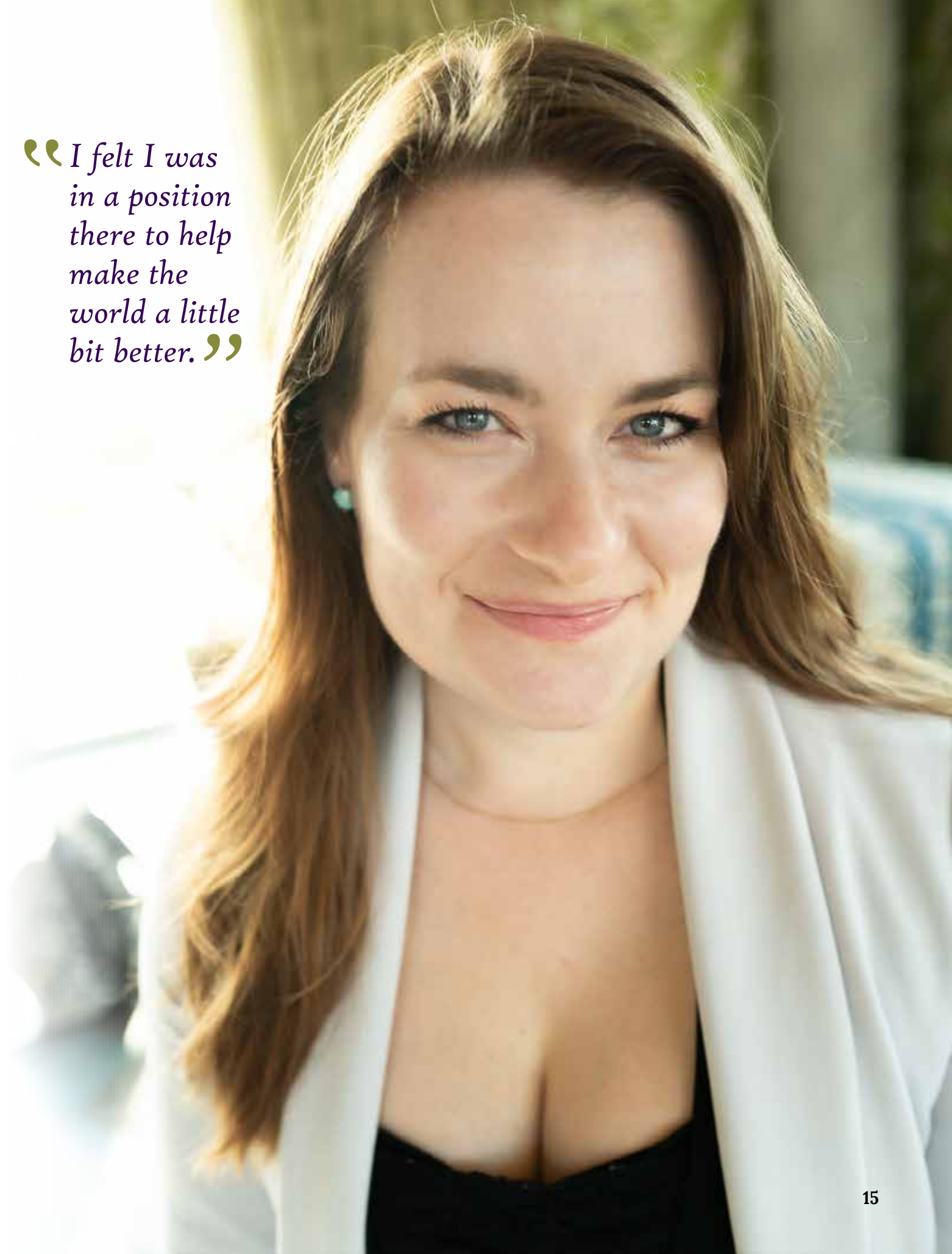
Meghann Galloway majored in Psychology, with minors in English and Criminal Justice. Now she negotiates the intersections of Capitol Hill.

Meghann Hudson Galloway '10 interned during her junior year at the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, in Quantico, VA, where she studied risk factors for serial abductors and murderers. She was majoring in Psychology at Alfred University and minoring also in Criminal Justice and Literature. She took nearly enough Philosophy courses to qualify for a minor in that field, and for a little light fun, she practiced karate, a sport she'd begun when she was about seven-years-old, growing up just outside of Syracuse. She liked mixing things up. "I loved reading fiction," she says, "and I liked the Clarice Starling character in *Silence of the Lambs*."

Meghann lives in Washington DC now, with her husband, Cory Meghann, and two daughters. She has worked as a counselor and advisor for New York Sen. Kristen Gillibrand, as well as Representatives Tony Cardenas (CA)

and Karen Bass (CA). Her work on Capitol Hill grew out of her academic intersections at Alfred University, as well as her intersections at Drexel University, where she combined a law degree with a PhD in Clinical Psychology. She finished law school at Drexel in 2015 and received her PhD two years later. Her doctoral dissertation examined attitudes among college men that contributed to sexual assault, and her clinical training included work at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Youth and Family Trauma Response and Recovery. By that time, she'd learned she didn't want to spend her time as a clinical psychologist. Her study of the law was pointing her toward Capitol Hill, where laws are written and legislation drafted to affect the lives of people needing clinical care – before they need the clinical care.

“ I felt I was
in a position
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bit better. ”



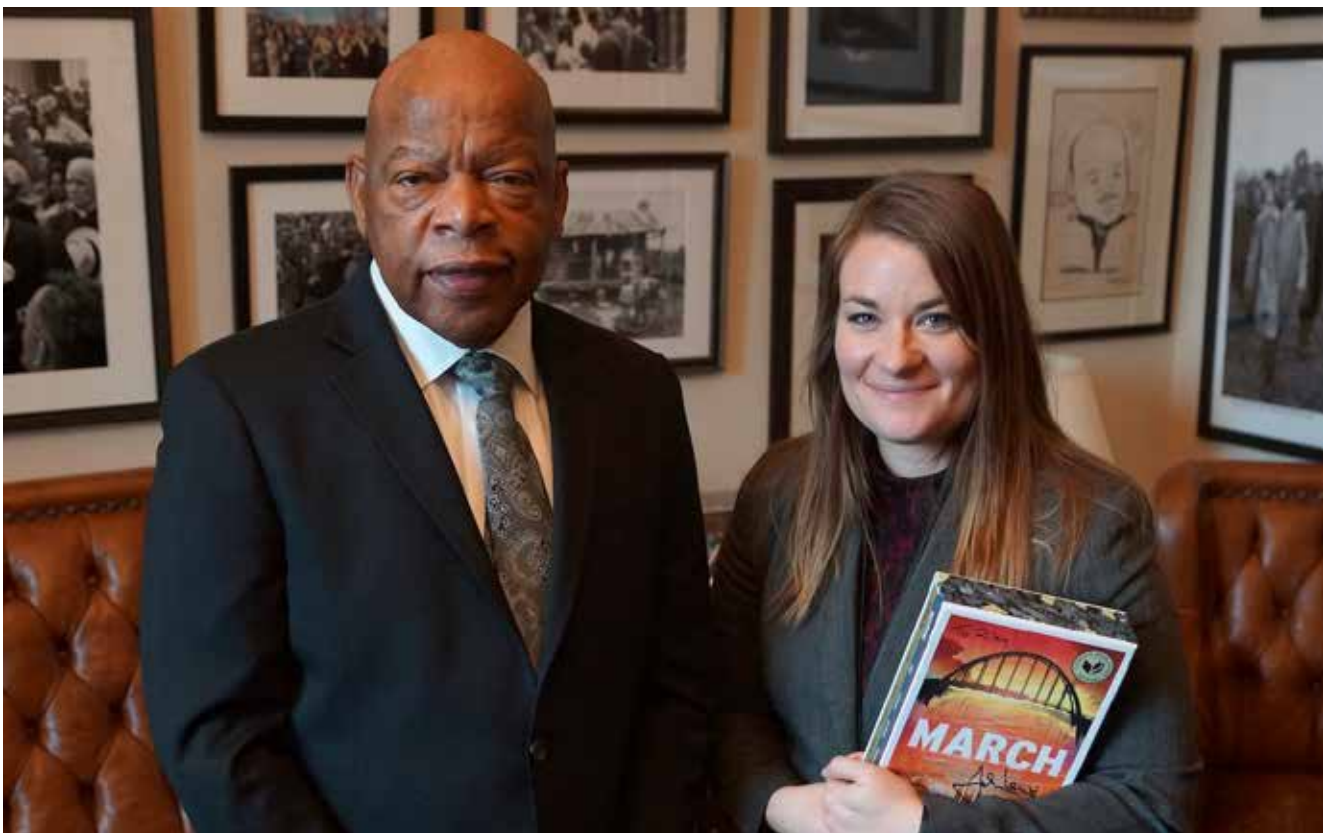
“A lot of my patients were in psychiatric hospitals, and a lot of my work was in acute distress,” Meghann says. “I saw the same kinds of systemic challenges over and over, and those structural issues were way above what I had access to change. Moving into policy work was a way for me to address the systemic problems behind the personal and individual psychological problems I’d worked with in the clinical area.”

Meghann took her first Psychology course as a high school student. She was also interested in the law, and at Alfred University she was drawn toward forensic psychology. The intersection of psychology and law was what drew her toward the FBI internship (along with her fondness for characters like Clarice Starling). “I loved the FBI internship,” she says. “It was practical. But I realized it’s work that occurs after the fact. You’re working after a crime has

been committed, instead of working to keep violent crimes from happening in the first place. So I started looking towards the issue of crime prevention as well as how to help people who have experienced interpersonal violence. That’s how I ended up on Capitol Hill, working on policy: I felt I was in a position there to help make the world a little bit better.”

Meghann cites her recent work with former Rep. Bass as an example of how cross-sectional educations can combine on Capitol Hill to create useful social programs. Bass, who serves now as mayor of Los Angeles, had trained as a nurse and served also as a community organizer after the Rodney King verdict, in 1992, sparked riots in the city. Once she was elected to Congress, in 2011, Bass worked as a lead negotiator for a bill on police reform, and Meghann served as her legal counsel. Their efforts contributed to

Meghann Galloway with the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis (GA). Meghann says her work on Capitol Hill influences local law enforcement and assistance to victims of abuse through the development and enactment of national policy in Washington DC.



the passage of a bill that funded more sophisticated crisis intervention training for police departments around the country. The purpose of the legislation ultimately, Meghann says, was to provide individual police officers with a better understanding of people in crisis, and a broader range of responses in crisis situations.

Meghann also worked with Bass on legislation to fund reforms in law enforcement involving young women. “The large majority of women in the legal system are mothers, and many of them are primary caretakers of young children,” Meghann notes. “The threat of losing custody over their children impacts what happens when they’re arrested: Women are much more inclined to take a plea bargain because they want to get home to their children. So that legislation worked on sentencing reform; it also addressed prison conditions for pregnant women, making sure they would have the health care they needed.”

Overall, Meghann observes, policymaking on Capitol Hill is “a multi-disciplinary exercise,” requiring input from professionals with a variety



Meghann with former Rep. Karen Bass (CA). Meghann worked with Bass, now mayor of Los Angeles, on federal support for changes in how local police respond to crimes involving women.

of backgrounds. Meghann found herself negotiating with police organizations and legal prosecutors, and while there were plenty of disagreements, “we negotiated in the areas where we could actually get something done.”

Alfred University’s Phi Beta Kappa Society inducted Meghann, recognizing her accomplishments in the interdisciplinary world of undergraduate arts and sciences. Meghann describes herself in those days as an individual with an evolving focus in psychology, mixed up with a person who, basically, just enjoyed learning. she says. “I didn’t feel I needed an English minor to get into graduate school; I just enjoyed reading literature. But I also learned to apply the literature to psychology, and the psychology to literature, which required

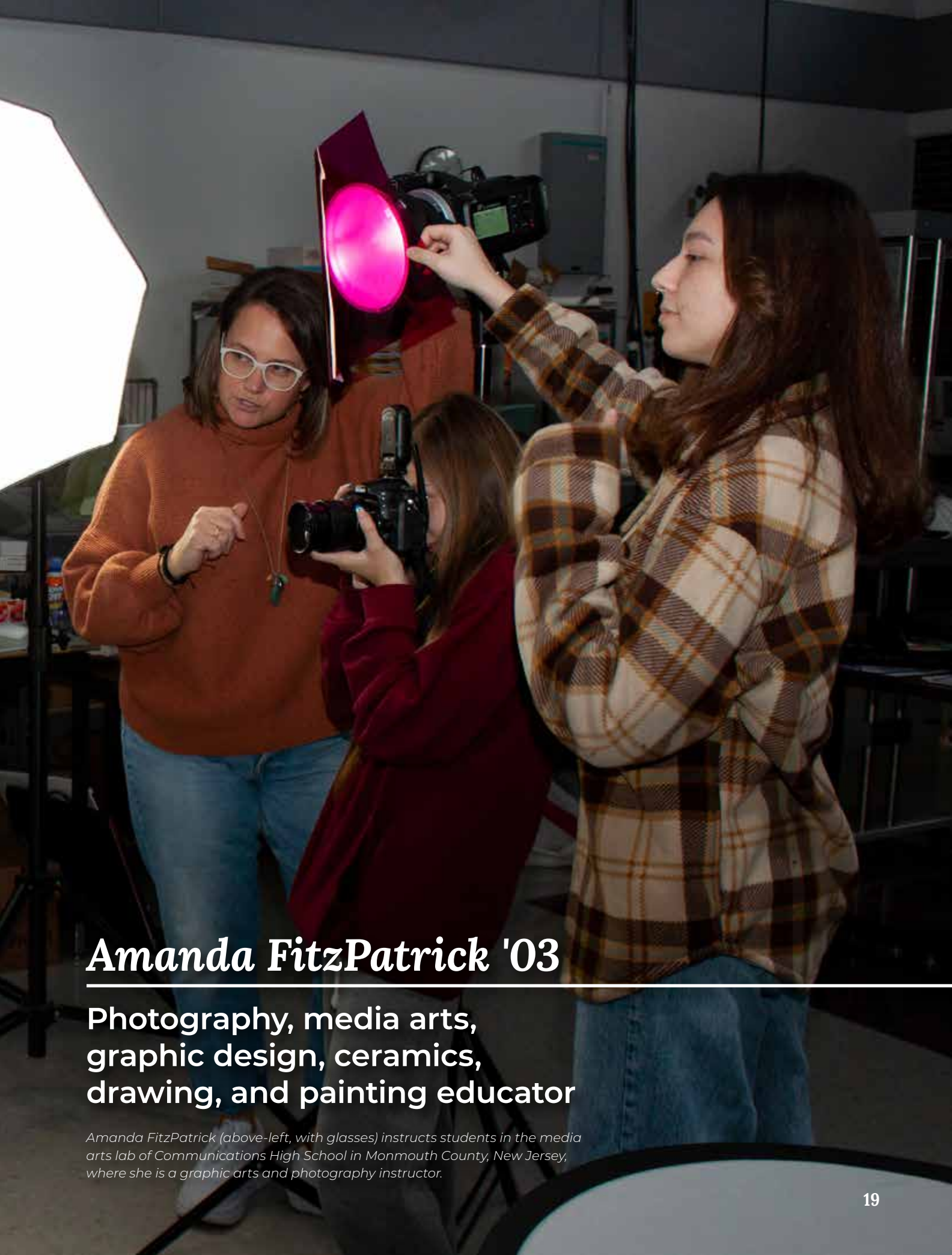
critical analysis and close attention to details. In my case, by paying attention to those details, I moved from researching psychopathy and moral development toward my work in violence prevention. At Alfred, I learned how to evolve productively in that direction.”

“By paying attention to those details, I moved from researching psychopathy and moral development toward my work in violence prevention.”

LEARNING TO

Explore





Amanda FitzPatrick '03

**Photography, media arts,
graphic design, ceramics,
drawing, and painting educator**

Amanda FitzPatrick (above-left, with glasses) instructs students in the media arts lab of Communications High School in Monmouth County, New Jersey, where she is a graphic arts and photography instructor.

By Mark Whitehouse

Photos by Patrick Gallagher, Communications High School '23

When she arrived on the Alfred University campus in the fall of 1999, Amanda (Burr) FitzPatrick aspired to a career teaching art, with a focus on ceramics. But like so many others who have come to Alfred, Amanda's plans changed as she began to explore the myriad opportunities the University has to offer.

While her goal of teaching remained steady throughout her time at Alfred, Amanda discovered an interest in glass art rather than ceramics. "When I first enrolled at Alfred, I wanted to be a potter. But once I stumbled upon a porthole window looking down into the glass hot shop, I was hooked and never threw a pot while at Alfred."

Amanda went on to earn a BFA (focus on glass studies) in 2003 with minors in art education and art history. Her Alfred education prepared her for a teaching career in her native New Jersey that now spans 19 years—the last four-plus as a photography and graphic arts instructor at Monmouth County (NJ) Vocational School District.

The Monmouth County Vocational School District comprises 14 campuses throughout Monmouth County, including five career-focused, college preparatory academies. The academy where Amanda teaches—Communications High School—offers instruction in areas like Digital

Video, Journalism, Publishing, Commercial Art, Computer Programming, and TV/Radio Broadcasting. Amanda says the academies provide an experience similar to what she was exposed to as a student at Alfred.

"Students cycle through mandatory electives, just like I did in Foundations," she said, referring to Alfred University's first-year Foundations course for art and design students, which exposes them to a broad range of disciplines. "Sophomore year, there are scripted electives they have to take, and by junior year they have to pick their track. The program is set up like my college experience, so it really made so much sense to me when I got here."

When she is not teaching, Amanda—who lives in Wall Township, NJ, with her husband Bill, daughter Mallory (15), and son Tim (13)—works as a portrait photographer. Her interest in photography began when her father gave her his 35-millimeter camera just before she left for college.



Amanda FitzPatrick looks over some photographic film negatives with one of her students.

“I took a darkroom course my sophomore year and really enjoyed the in-the-moment process of the darkroom and came to life with the energy of the hot shop. Now, I use my camera every day at school or with family portraits and haven’t touched glass in over 10 years,” says Amanda, whose freelance work is mostly sunset family portrait sessions. “I learned more about my camera through workshops, tutorials, and taking pictures of my kids.”

Amanda first learned about Alfred University while attending a college fair at her high school in 1998. “To be honest, I skimmed past (the Alfred University table) as the whole event was very overwhelming,” she says. “It was really my mom who suggested we drive out to an open house to see the area and the campus.”

She and her mother left New Jersey just after midnight on a Friday and arrived in Alfred in time for breakfast Saturday morning followed by a campus tour. “We ate at the Jet, not knowing that eventually I would work there for four years!” she recalls.

“Out of all the campuses we visited my senior year there was something really captivating about Alfred,” she says. “Harder Hall had so much to offer. I loved that the arts were all in one building, not spread across the campus. I was also drawn to the diversity of the arts offered. The ceramics program is world renowned, and at the time I thought that was my direction.”

By the time the weekend was over, Amanda’s decision was made.

“I had a good feeling about the connection between campus and community which I grew to love and respect over my four and half years there,” Amanda says. “In the car on the drive home by Sunday afternoon, I knew that Alfred was where I belonged.”

At Alfred, Amanda immersed herself in her coursework, as well as activities outside the classroom. While she didn’t take many classes outside her BFA coursework—the exceptions

“There were so many influential people I met during my time at Alfred. People who honestly have shaped the mother, wife, friend, and educator I am today.”



Amanda FitzPatrick '03. (Photo by Joshua Spio).

being classes required of her art history and art education minors—she did take a glass science class. “That class was enlightening. It helped me better understand the properties of glass,” she said.

She fondly recalls her four years waiting tables at the Jet, which she said helped her connect with the campus and local community. “Working with people from the community helped me

to feel like I really belonged in Alfred for that period of my life. It also helped me establish relationships with professors outside of the classroom as I brought them their breakfast and filled their coffee cups on the weekend mornings,” says Amanda, who worked as an Orientation guide her sophomore year; and spent Spring Break 2001 on a trip organized by Habitat for Humanity to Daytona, FL, where she and a group of students built homes.

Amanda attributes much of her career success to her time at Alfred University where she formed long-lasting friendships and was guided by a number of mentors dedicated to helping her on her academic journey.

“There were so many influential people I met during my time at Alfred. People who honestly have shaped the mother, wife, friend, and educator I am today,” she says. “Chris Picconi ('03), is godfather to my daughter. He and Eric and Amy Zuckerman (both 2003 graduates) are among my dearest friends. We've all remained close. They're my Alfred family.”

Amanda was particularly close to late professor of glass Jackie Pancari '96 MFA, who passed away in 2021. She counts Pancari, her advisor senior year, and Fred Tschida, former professor of glass, as her most influential mentors.

“My true mentor at Alfred University was Jackie Pancari. Her genuine being, honesty, experience, and dedication to craft, both in glass and in education, have helped me to be a better teacher every day of my 20-year career,” she says,

noting that Pancari and her husband, David “Freddie” Fredrickson (retired master kiln builder in the Alfred University School of Art and Design) attended her wedding in 2006.

“Jackie made learning so real. She made teaching about life lessons. Fred (Tschida) was so amazing to learn from. They both had this teaching dynamic that made learning fun, so it never felt like a failure if something didn't work out. They really created a sense of safe exploration and true creating.”

The influence Tschida had on Amanda is reflected in the influence she has on her own students, who see her as a mentor. “I have a student who said to me, ‘I'm going to talk about you the way you talk about your wacky glass professor at Alfred.’ The ultimate compliment.”

Looking back at her time at Alfred University, Amanda says being able to pursue many different interests and courses is evident in a teaching background that is about as diverse as it could possibly be. Throughout a teaching career of nearly two decades, she has taught photography, media arts, graphic design, ceramics, drawing, and painting.

“It all starts with Foundations,” she says of a culture at Alfred that encourages students to explore. “You get to meet a number of different professors, each with different interests, which impacts what you do moving forward. Being encouraged to explore a wide variety of courses and media gave me base knowledge to build my career in art education.”

“It all starts with Foundations. You get to meet a number of different professors, each with different interests, which impacts what you do moving forward.”



FROM **Z** TO AU

By Mark Zupan, President

Alfred University's *Intersections*

Alfred University's answer to the "Why we exist?" question, our purpose, is to help our students identify and realize their purpose. We do this through two distinctive approaches: first by leveraging our intersections that foster student exploration, and second by supporting student engagement through mentoring.

While there is only one traffic light in town (we celebrate its birthday every June), the intersections that Alfred University affords our students are plentiful and potent. This issue of our Alfred magazine illustrates these intersections: across our broad-ranging curricular and co-curricular offerings; through the diverse backgrounds, interests, outlooks, and career aspirations that our various community members bring to campus; with the development of power skills such as leadership, communication, critical thinking, team-playing, and creativity; through applied/experiential learning opportunities. The professional outcomes of our fine graduates are proof that these approaches are powerful and practical.

The Alfred University alumni profiled in this issue of our Alfred magazine aptly illustrate the power of our University's intersections to impact our students' lives and thereby the broader world.

Fiat Intersections!

MARK ZUPAN

Dr. Robert L. Johnson '68 to offer commencement keynote

Alfred University alumnus Dr. Robert L. Johnson '68, who broke ground as the only dean in U.S. history to lead two medical schools simultaneously, will deliver the keynote address for Alfred University's 2023 commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 13.

Johnson, who earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Alfred University in 1968, went on to receive his medical degree from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now the New Jersey Medical School) in 1972. He is dean of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ, and interim dean of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. (Johnson is of no relation to the namesake of the latter.) In addition to being the only medical school dean serving at two schools simultaneously, he is one of only



Dr. Robert L. Johnson '68

a handful of African Americans serving as medical school deans.

A member of the faculty of the New Jersey Medical School since 1976, Johnson has enjoyed a teaching career that spans nearly a half century. In addition to serving as the Sharon and Joseph L. Muscarelle Endowed Dean, he is also professor of Pediatrics and director of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. He is chair of the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and the Newark Ryan White Planning Council, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and vice chair of the Community Prevention Task Force of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Digital cadaver table provides unique learning, teaching opportunities

At most typical college or university biology labs, the human body is studied by using textbooks, molded plastic models, and printed diagrams. Some, possessing the financial resources to do so, utilize real human cadavers. At Alfred University, a relatively new technology allows instructors and students access to a seemingly endless resource for studying human anatomy.

Last October, the University's Division of Biology and Biochemistry acquired an Anatomage digital cadaver table, bringing to the department a piece of equipment most often found in graduate level and professional environments. The table contains a digital database of four human cadavers, as well as more than 15,000 computerized tomography (CT) scans of human and animal bodies. With a touch-screen surface, images of bodies can be manipulated so that specific body systems (digestive, respiratory, circulatory, e.g.), organs, and skeletal parts can be isolated and studied.

Scans of human bodies show medical conditions which can be examined in ways not possible with diagrams or models. Jennifer Gordon, assistant professor of anatomy and physiology, is the resident

digital cadaver table guru. "It makes our job as instructors exponentially better. The possibilities (for instruction) are endless," Gordon said.

"It is a resource that allows our students to advance their knowledge and understanding of anatomical and physiological science to a much greater degree than traditional resources," commented Jean Cardinale, professor of biology and division chair.

Gordon said she uses the equipment to teach her anatomy and physiology classes, and that it can also be used for upper-level classes like human pathophysiology, immunology, toxicology, and animal nutrition. For students pursuing any number of careers in health and science, the cadaver table is a valuable learning tool. "It hits all the medical disciplines: physical therapy, occupational therapy, athletic training, physician assistant, nursing, chiropractic, pre-med, veterinary," Gordon said.

"I started using it right away," said Elias Orfanides, a senior biology major from Bath, NY, who is set to enroll in the Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine's Physician Assistant program after graduating from Alfred in the spring. "It's giving me an idea of what I'll see when I go into an actual cadaver lab. It will allow me to better identify (parts of the human body) by structure, as opposed to an artist's rendering."



Assistant professor of anatomy and physiology Jennifer Gordon (second from right) demonstrates the biology lab's digital cadaver table to students, from left: Elias Orfanides, Natalia Rychman, Monica Lewis, Morgan Drohan.

Gordon said the table has proven to be a valuable recruiting tool. "It's huge," she said. "We put this on the tour (for prospective students). We can say, 'check this out.' This is what makes us better than other undergraduate biology programs."

Alfred named the "Ultimate College Town"

Known for being friendly and offering a warm welcome even in the winter, Alfred, NY—home of Alfred University and Alfred State College—ranked number one in a February 2023 nationwide survey to earn the nickname College Town USA.

Data analysis by *Washington Post* Reporter Andrew Van Dam defined the Ultimate College Town by the share its college students in the overall population of the host



Alfred was dubbed the 'Ultimate College Town' in a recent *Washington Post* article.

community. Alfred ranked number one by a wide margin. Winning the number one national ranking for the Ultimate College Town—and earning Alfred “the collegiest town” (a term Van Dam coined) in the U.S.— proves that Alfred's picture-perfect environment away from big city worries stands out among all other university and college towns in the country.

"Students make up an astonishing 85 percent of the town's population," the *Post* story notes. "If you go left at the town's only stoplight, you're on one campus. Turn right, you're on the other. Now that's a college town."

"There are plentiful and potent intersections that benefit faculty, students, and staff—including those offered by our sister school, Alfred State College, and the friendly surrounding village. Alfred University's purpose is to help our students identify and realize their purpose," said Alfred University President Dr. Mark Zupan. "The combination of our small size, wide range of programs, applied learning opportunities, and commitment to student engagement through mentoring allows Alfred University to be a talent incubator and socioeconomic development engine."

"In this beautiful valley of Western New York, the word Alfred is applied to three communities that coalesce into a single multifaceted gem," commented Becky Prophet '70, retired professor of theater at Alfred University and the Village of Alfred mayor.

Alfred University hosts Winter Games ‘Torch Run’

On December 7, Alfred University hosted the initial leg of a ceremonial torch run leading up to the FISU 2023 World University Winter Games, which were held January 12-23 in Lake Placid, NY. Five students jogged along Pine Street on the Alfred University campus, passing an LED-lit torch to each other as they made their way toward Harder Hall, where a brief ceremony was held.

The awards medallions that will be presented to competitors at the Games were designed and created by glass science researchers in the University's Inamori School of Engineering. Four of the five torch bearers—Ashley O'Toole, Mikaela Perez, Neil Peters, and Alina Zabihailo—were Saxon student-athletes. The fifth, Charles Bellows, is a doctoral student in glass science engineering whose thesis project developed the glass awards medallions that were presented to athletes competing in the Lake Placid Games.

A key mission of the FISU Winter Games was sustainability and saving winter, appropriate given that the awards medals were made from recycled glass. Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering, under the leadership of Dean Gabrielle Gaustad '04, has shown its commitment to sustainability through numerous



Student-athletes (from left) Ashley O'Toole, Alina Zabihailo, Mikaela Perez and Neil Peters participate in the Torch Run.

recycling initiatives in its glass science program. "This project is very special to me professionally and personally. When I became dean (in 2019) I wanted to infuse sustainability into our curriculum," she said.

Retired glass science professor William LaCourse, Stuart Yaniger, glass research chemist, and graduate students Lucas Greiner and Jacob Kasprick were recognized for their work in the Winter Games medals project.

Faculty, students, alumni take part in NCECA Conference

The 2023 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference was held March 15-18 in Cincinnati, OH. As always, Alfred University was well represented, with more than 50 alumni, along with a number of faculty and students, taking part.

The conference's annual exhibition, "I Contain Multitudes," was curated by Garth Johnson (MFA 2000), the Paul Phillips and Sharon Sullivan Curator of Ceramics at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, NY. The exhibition included work by 10 Alfred University alumni.

The University presented five scholarships at the reception of the 26th Annual National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition, the premier annual juried ceramic competition for Kindergarten through Grade 12 students in the United States. Each year, Alfred University awards five scholarships to participants in the exhibition, including the Val Cushing Memorial Scholarship, which provides full tuition. The other four—the Wallace C. Higgins Memorial Scholarship, Marion L. Fosdick Memorial Scholarship, Theodore A. Randall Memorial Scholarship, and William D. Parry Memorial Scholarship—provide 90 percent of tuition.

Bruce Dehnert (MFA '91) received an Excellence in Teaching Award and Julia Galloway (BFA '88) became a Fellow of the Council.

Forest People share a love of nature, from different perspectives

Alfred University's Outdoor Club calls its members "The Forest People." A love of forests is a common feature of the club's approximately 80 members. But beyond that shared trait, club members hail from divisions and colleges across the University. According to the club's president, Elijah Hammarlund, the Outdoor Club is a kind of intersection for Alfred students arriving from a wide-open field of different academic pathways.

Hammarlund, a native of Northampton, MA, is studying biomaterial engineering with minors and chemistry and biology. "I've been an outdoorsy person most of my life," he says. "One of the reasons I chose Alfred University was because I didn't want to spend all my time with engineers. The fact that we have so many majors in the club is great."

About 13 Forest People recently traveled to the Shenandoah National Park for a one-week trip during Spring Break, supervised by Chemistry Professor Andrew Eklund, club advisor. Once in the Park, the students split into two groups: One group stayed in cabins near Luray Caverns, in Virginia, doing single-day hikes; the other group traveled to the New River Gorge for rock climbing.

Getting together with students from other areas of the University for a week of hiking is a great way to absorb not only Nature's beauties but the differing perspectives of his friends, Hammarlund says. "Everyone has so many perspectives. A club like this brings the University together. It's kind of an interdisciplinary way of making new friends."



Members of Alfred University's Outdoor Club hike through the Shenandoah National Park during their recent Spring Break.

Men's basketball team crowned 2023 ECAC Division III champs

The Alfred University men's basketball team defeated top-seeded Alvernia University 65-63 to secure the 2023 ECAC Division III Men's Basketball Tournament Championship. Alfred, seeded third in the six-team tournament, hosted the March 4-5 championships.

With the win, Alfred finished the season with a 22-7 record (14-4 Empire 8).

The Saxons' Brewster Marshall and Mike Schmidt were named to the ECEC Division III Men's Basketball All-Tournament Team. Marshall was additionally named as the tournament's Most Valuable Player, totaling 50 points and 11 rebounds on the weekend.

"It's truly hard for me to put into words what this group means to me. How they responded and played this weekend after a tough loss in the Empire 8 Tournament shows what kind of people they are – individually and collectively," Head Coach Eric Kaempffe said, referring to the Saxons' loss in the semifinals of the Empire 8 Championships. "It wasn't exactly how we wanted the season to go but winning your last game and winning a postseason championship is something not a ton of people get to do. Our guys deserve it and I'm so happy for them."

The Saxons relied on Marshall early in the first half, as he was responsible for team's first five points. The Golden Wolves led for most of the opening half, but 11 additional points from Marshall tied the game 31-31 going into the break. A jump shot from Elliot Bowen was followed by a bucket from Marshall to give AU the lead.

An 8-0 run from Alvernia had Alfred trailing by as many as six points with just over 10 minutes to play. The Saxons responded with an 8-0 run of their own to take back the lead. In the final minutes, baskets from Adam Enders, Darren Miller, and Schmidt gave Alfred University a four-point advantage with 10 seconds remaining. Alvernia scored once more in the final seconds but were unable to land a full-court shot as the clock expired.

"I wanted to thank Coach Beam, Coach Gelb, Evan Hamed, and Ron Demchak for all their work, help, and support this season," Kaempffe said. "I am so incredibly fortunate to work with people like them and our program would be nothing like it is without them."

Other postseason awards earned by Saxon players included: Marshall, First Team Empire 8 (the fourth time he has earned all-conference recognition), Schmidt, Second Team Empire 8, and Bowen, Empire 8 Sportsperson of the Year; and Enders, Miller, Casey Curran, and Kevin Durkin, 2022-23 College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team for Division III.



The Alfred University men's basketball team celebrates winning the 2023 ECAC Division III Championship.

Saxons capture Empire 8 men's swimming and diving title

The Alfred University men's swimming & diving team clinched the Empire 8 Men's Championship title and finished second overall in the Allegheny Empire Swimming & Diving Championships held at the Webster Aquatic Center near Rochester Feb. 15-18. Teams from the Empire 8 Conference and Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference competed in the championships.

Alfred University Coach Brian Striker '00 was named the Empire 8 Men's Swimming & Diving Coach of the Meet as well.

Phillip Volaski was the first outright individual event champion as he won the Allegheny Empire title in the 200-yard backstroke, clocking in a time of 1:53.12. William LaMastus and Paul Tuttle completed the E8 sweep in the event's Top-3 spots as LaMastus finished third overall with a 1:54.00 and Tuttle claimed sixth with a 1:59.44.

The Saxons continued to find podium spots throughout the meet and had another big jump in score when Colin Schultz claimed the Empire 8 title in the 200-yard breaststroke to end his collegiate career with a time of 2:08.13.

Wade LaMastus and Emiliano Terrazas earned All-Empire 8 Second Team in the 200 breast. Ryan Way earned his first collegiate All-Empire 8 honor as a member of the Second Team on the 1-meter diving board.

The Saxons closed out their undefeated Empire 8 season with the group of Fernando Lagos, Allesandro Lagos, Tuttle, and Colby Watkins winning the Empire 8 title in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:10.96.



The Alfred University men's swimming and diving team celebrates winning the 2023 Empire 8 Championship.

CLASS

Notes

1957 *Golden Saxons Reunion*

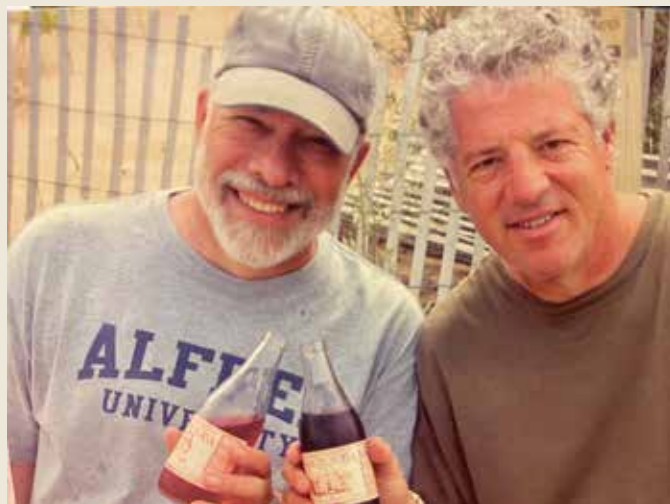
Joan Lyons (BFA) has work shown in an exhibition which opened Feb. 25 at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery (MAG). A Retrospective Exhibition” is the first museum retrospective dedicated to the artist in her hometown of Rochester, NY. It features a broad and representative selection of Joan’s

work from all six decades of her career. The exhibition, which will remain on view through Aug. 13, will begin in MAG’s introductory Forman Gallery, which welcomes all visitors to MAG, and will extend into spaces throughout the American galleries on the first floor. Joan’s work was also shown in another exhibition, “Joan Lyons – Symmetrical Drawings,” from Feb. 29 through

April 8 at More Fire Glass Studio in Rochester, a glass studio owned by her daughter, **Elizabeth Lyons ’82**.

1966 *Golden Saxons Reunion*

Paul Larson (BA, general science) is a member of the business faculty at St. Joseph’s College in Standish Maine. He



Paul Kaye '71 (left) and Mark Morrison '71

magazine writer, he also contributed to *Rolling Stone*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *Bon Appetit*, *Wine Spectator*, *Sunset*, *People*, *Redbook*, *Emmy*, *USA Weekend*, and *Men’s Journal*.

His love for Alfred found expression throughout his life. He attended school reunions, maintained contact with many of his classmates, attended alumni gatherings in the Los Angeles area, and kept in touch with some of his favorite professors.

Survivors include his high school sweetheart and wife of 43 years, Merrill; daughters Marina and Monica; son-in-law Andrew; and grandchildren Daryn and Billie.

Paul Kaye, Class of '71

Remembering Mark

It has been just over four years since **Mark Morrison '71** (B.A. English) died after a brief battle with leukemia. Our friendship extended over 41 years, initially meeting on the second floor of Tefft Hall during our freshman year. He was a loyal, devoted friend to many with a strong heart for giving to others. He was a wonderful mentor to many early career journalists and had a penchant for demonstrating the sacred aspects of friendship.

Following the completion of his master’s degree in creative writing at the University of Denver, Mark distinguished himself as the West Coast editor of *InStyle Magazine*, which he helped to launch.

During his 40-year career as a journalist and

lives in San Antonio, Texas, and has been an online instructor for 15 years, teaching courses in St. Joseph's graduate business. Paul has an extensive background in business, having been a manager of a corrugated container company, vice president of manufacturing of a metals company, plant manager of a plastic injection molding and finishing operation, and most recently as vice president of operations of a promotional products company.

1967 *Golden Saxons Reunion*

Mark V. Mertel (B.A., economics) has published a book which focuses on ways to successfully start and grow a business. Mark's book, "The Entrepreneur's Gameplan: Taking Your Idea from Thought to Winning Execution," was published Dec. 19, 2022, and is available on Amazon. "Using the real-life lessons he's learned over his career as an entrepreneur, Mark Mertel walks you step-by-step through developing a gameplan for launching or expanding your business," Amazon says of the book. As founder/co-founder of several companies and nonprofits, "Mark brings nearly 50 years of entrepreneurial experience to guide entrepreneurs into becoming as prepared as possible before they launch or expand a business." Mark is founder and CEO of Entrepreneurs Growth Group,

a small business consulting firm, and is CEO of Partners Managing General Underwriters (PMGU), which provides medical stop loss insurance to self-funded health plans.

1971 *Golden Saxons Reunion*

Claudia M. Smigrod (BFA) opened a solo exhibition titled "Paper Light," on Oct. 28, 2022, at the Torggler Fine Arts Center at Christopher Newport University (Newport News, Virginia). The exhibition remained on view through March 5, 2023. Claudia also served as artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colorado, from Feb. 1 to March 8, 2023.

1974

Gwen Williams (BS, nursing) recently returned to the emergency room of Rochester General Hospital after a brief retirement. Williams, who retired in 2019 after working four-plus decades as an emergency room nurse, returned to the ER in the midst of a nursing shortage across the region in order to mentor young nurses. She was featured in a story which aired March 29 on Rochester NBC television affiliate WHEC. Gwen began working in the RGH emergency room in 1974, shortly after her graduation from Alfred University. She has been a certified emergency room nurse since 1986.

1977

Mike Alexander (B.S., ceramic engineering) retired, effective March 31, after more than 34 years of combined service with Riverside Refractories and Allied. Mike retired with more than 40 years of experience in the iron and steel industry. He started with Riverside Refractories in 1988 as a technical sales manager, and in 1995, he was named vice president of Research and Product Development. When Allied acquired Riverside in 2017, Mike joined Allied as technology manager, Taphole Clay. Before joining Riverside, Mike was a product development engineer and technical salesman for Ferro Corp. in the Lackawanna plant near Buffalo, NY. Before that, he worked for Quigley Company

KEEP *in touch*

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

EMAIL

whitehouse@alfred.edu or
alumni@alfred.edu

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

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And Speaking of Intersections

David Wilcox '58, Tom Klinder '58, and Bill Rhodes '57 were roommates in the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity; Dave Wilcox met his future wife, Claire Forbes '57, a member of the Sigma Chi Nu Sorority, on the Alfred University campus; and Bill Rhodes met his future wife, Jacqueline Monahan '59 also while she was also an undergraduate. Tom Klinder meanwhile married his fiancé, Norma Slack, and all three couples have continued to maintain a close friendship, as well as extended family connections, in the more-than 60 years since they became Alfred University alumni.

Tom and Norma Klinder live in Australia, but they keep in touch with their old friends via Zoom. The Wilcoxes, who live in Arizona, have relatives in the Northeast; they enjoy dropping by the Rhodes home in New England when they travel east. Most recently, recognizing the upcoming 65th anniversary of Dave and Tom's graduation, the three couples organized a joint Zoom call so they could all get together in a digital Cloud.

"Currently Zoom is our main conduit for communication," says Bill.

But face-to-face intersections continue: According to Bill, while serving as president of the American Ceramic Society, he led a delegation on an exchange visit to Australia that included an evening with the Klinders at their home in Sidney.

A little later, the Klinders' son, Gregory, immigrated to the U.S. and the Rhodes's hosted him at their home in Massachusetts until he found a job. Then the Rhodes' granddaughter visited Australia as part of an international tour and was hosted at the Klinders' home.

"Our 65 years of marriage are special," says Claire "Tinker" Wilcox, "but so too are our beginning at Alfred and the continuity of our friendships. It must be King Alfred that made this possible, for it started under his watch, and he possibly is impressed with what grew from his campus years ago. We too are grateful."

in Old Bridge, New Jersey, developing blast furnace trough gun mixes and lightweight insulating products for the petrochemical industry. He is also a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS), of which he has been a member for 35 years, as well as past president.

1990

Bryan Hill (B.A., public administration), county executive for Fairfax County, Virginia, hosts a recently-launched podcast, "Connect With County Leaders," a monthly opportunity to meet and connect with Fairfax County leaders, hear the latest county news and information, and learn

more about specific Fairfax County programs and services. In the inaugural March 31 podcast, Bryan spoke with Victor Hoskins, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (EDA). The episode covers business developments in the county, EDA updates, and ongoing efforts to bring equity, diversity, and productivity to the region.

1991

Melissa Hirshson (B.A., history; minor, English) recently had a church handbell choir anthem commissioned in her honor. Melissa has been the handbell director at Christ Church,

Cambridge, Massachusetts, for 25 years, and the piece, an arrangement of the hymn tune "Come, Labor On," was written for her anniversary by a nationally renowned handbell composer.

1993 *Honored Reunion Year*

Trent Cooper (B.A., political science) co-produced a documentary by "NFL360" which chronicles the lives of American football players in Ukraine fighting against the Russian invasion of their homeland. Trent is a renowned documentary filmmaker/producer whose work focuses on issues of social justice. He oversees NFL Network's critically

acclaimed series “NFL360” and has won five Emmys for sports features and documentaries that he produced and directed for the NFL. His documentary, “Who If Not Us,” premiered on NFL Network on Christmas Eve following the broadcast of the Las Vegas Raiders-Pittsburgh Steelers game. In the film, NFL Network personality Kyle Brandt corresponds with members of the Ukraine League of American Football (ULAF) who have fought against the Russian forces which invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

1998 *Honored Reunion Year*

Jason Gray (B.A., English; minor, environmental studies) has been named an Artist-in-Residence at Zion National Park in Utah. Jason, who will serve as Artist-in-Residence for the month of June, was one of three chosen for the honors from among approximately 100 applicants. He will spend the month in Zion's Grotto House, working on a long poem about the park and the greater Grand Staircase region, as well as running poetry-related programs for park visitors and area residents. A photographer, author, and poet, Jason's book of poetry, *Radiation King*, won the 2018 Idaho Prize for Poetry. In addition to *Radiation King*, he published a full-length collection of poetry, *Photographing Eden*, a full-length collection of poetry which won the Hollis Summers Prize in 2008.

1999

Michael Christakis (B.A., political science, history), vice president for Student Affairs at the University at Albany, has been selected by the Student Affairs Administrators in High Education (NASPA) Foundation Board as a 2023 Pillar of the Profession. As a 2023 Pillar of the Profession, Michael was honored in recognition of his many years of outstanding contributions to the profession. Being selected as a Pillar is one of the highest distinctions bestowed by NASPA, the largest student affairs association in the world. Michael has a master's degree in public affairs and policy and a doctoral degree in public administration and policy, both from the University at Albany. He has been VP of Student Affairs at Albany since 2015.

2000

David “D.J.” Hampton II (B.A., biology; master's in Community Service Administration, '02), was named President and CEO of Trident United Way, serving the tri-county area of Charleston, South Carolina, effective April 17. D.J. brings to Trident United Way more than 20 years of experience in the United Way network at both national and global levels. He has held critical leadership roles at some of the largest nonprofits in the U.S., including over two decades within the United Way Network.

He also led development for The ALS Association and worked to increase system-wide revenue 40 percent over three years following the Ice Bucket Challenge and previously served as the senior vice president of market leadership and chief development officer for March of Dimes. Most recently, D.J. founded and led ALoDay Consulting, where he advised and supported a variety of nonprofits globally.

2003 *Honored Reunion Year*

Fabienne (Raszewski) Johnson

(BS, ceramic engineering; '04 MS, glass science; '07 PhD, glass science) recipient of the Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Energy. Fabienne is a principal investigator at the Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken, South Carolina, where she leads a team focused on glass waste form development for the Defense Waste Processing Facility, which is currently the only operating high-level radioactive waste vitrification plant in the United States. Each year, the U.S. Secretary of Energy presents Achievement Awards to a group or team of Department of Energy employees and/or contractors who together have accomplished significant achievements on behalf of the Department. The awards represent the Department of Energy's highest form of employee recognition for

excellence and achievements that support the Department's mission. The Secretary of Energy Achievement Award was presented to the Accelerated Basin De-Inventory (ABD) Team, an interdisciplinary group of experts focused on the accelerated disposition of spent nuclear fuel at the Savannah River Site.

2004

Bang Geul Han (MFA has been named a recipient of a prestigious Creative Capital Award, presented to artists to finance their project, and assist them in building their artistic careers. Bang Geul, who earned an MFA through Alfred University's Expanded Media, Integrated Electronic Arts (IEA) program, was one of just 66

individual artists presented a 2023 Creative Capital "Wild Futures: Art, Culture, Impact" Award. The awards, which each come with funding up to \$50,000, were presented in the categories of Technology, Performing Arts, and Literature, as well as Multidisciplinary and Socially Engaged art forms. Creative Capital Awards are presented to artists to finance their project and assist them in building their artistic careers.

2005

Casey Lumbra (B.A., Fine Arts) has been named senior director of Marketing and Creative Services at Empire State University. Casey started at Empire in 2010 as a graphic designer in the marketing department. He served as senior creative director before his appointment as senior director of Marketing and Creative Services. Casey was in the HEOP program at Alfred University, where he was a member of the comedy troop Friday Night Live.

2018 *Honored Reunion Year*

Sierra Kucko (B.S., biomaterials engineering) recently won a video contest sponsored by the Bioceramics Division of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS). Sierra, a doctoral student in materials science

and engineering at Alfred University, took first place in the Youtube video contest with her entry, "Advanced antimicrobial bioceramics." Videos submitted for the contest highlighted recent innovation and technological advancement in the field of bioceramics. The Bioceramics Division of ACerS is dedicated to stimulating the growth and activity of the Society, particularly in the areas of the science, engineering, and manufacturing of bioceramics, biocomposites, and biomaterials. Sierra, who earned a master's degree in biomaterials and regenerative medicine from the University of Sheffield (England) in 2019, expects to earn her PhD from Alfred University in December 2023. The focus of Kucko's research is on bone graft substitutes, which is reflected in her winning video entry.

2022

Robert J. Hillman (B.A., history) is living in Fort Collins, CO, and attending Colorado State University, where he is a first-year graduate student seeking a master's degree in Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Management.

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

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In Memoriam

1947

Yutaka Kobayashi, Feb. 27, 2023

1948

Marilyn Herrick, Jan. 31, 2023

1949

Hermine D. Plotnick, Oct. 11, 2022
Evelyn Marie Seymour, Oct. 10, 2022

1950

Edward C. Flurschutz, Nov. 4, 2022
Gwendolyn Lester Harkness,
March 1, 2023
Joseph H. Holmstrom Jr., Jan. 4, 2023

1952

Allen J. "Al" Baxter, Oct. 12, 2022

1953

Theodore J. "Ted" Belling,
Oct. 18, 2022
John S. Pearsall, Jan. 7, 2023

1954

Carleton B. Moore (HD, '77),
Feb. 10, 2023
James D. "Jim" Sclafani,
February 2023

1955

Daniel D. "Dan" Button,
March 15, 2023
George W. Boll, Jan. 8, 2023
John F. Grant, March 9, 2023
Theodore P. McKnight, Feb. 16, 2023

1956

Hermann L. Rittler, Dec. 5, 2022
James M. Murphy, Dec. 30, 2022

1957

Roger M. Ajluni, Dec. 29, 2022
Patricia "Pat" Kirk Wolverton,
Jan. 30, 2023

1958

Eugene R. Clough, Feb. 22, 2023
Bernard "Barney" DiBenedetto,
Oct. 10, 2022
Richard T. "Dick" Sproule, Jan. 8, 2023

1959

George T. Lewis, Nov. 14, 2022
Malvin Nechis, Jan. 31, 2023

1960

Martha Shafer, Nov. 16, 2022

1961

Robert R. Wiggins, Dec. 28, 2022

1962

Stuart L. Blank, November 2022
Peter S. "Pete" Buttress, Dec. 8, 2022

1963

Judith K. Carr, Feb. 24, 2023
Paul Crosswaith, Jan. 13, 2023
William "Bill" Harwood, Oct. 22, 2022
Morris J. Reddout, Dec. 3, 2022

1964

George E. Donaldson, Jan. 11, 2023
Robert "Bob" Wade, Nov. 24, 2022
David Finfer, April 3, 2023

1966

William C. "Bill" Morin Jr., Feb. 19, 2023

1967

Saundra T. "Sandy" Bialos,
Jan. 24, 2023

1968

James H. "Jim" Coleman, Nov. 3, 2022
Susan "Sue" Ehmke, Jan. 29, 2023

1971

Dr. Richard "Rick" Cudahy,
Oct. 14, 2022
Edward W. "Ed" Mack IV, Dec. 15, 2022
Mary Swaney, Oct. 6, 2022

1972

Terry D. Naylor, March 10, 2023
Harold M. "Skip" Wood, Jan. 3, 2023

1973

Myra Greenberg Brand, Feb. 21, 2023
Santo Mignosa, Nov. 1, 2022

1974

Richard Allen Derr, Oct. 19, 2022
Terry Harold Kline, Nov. 22, 2022

1976

Kenneth A. Korwin, Feb. 7, 2023
Frances N. Sherman, Feb. 26, 2023

1977

Robert C. Butler, Jan. 21, 2023

1978

James J. McNeil, Dec. 5, 2022

1980

George A. Ackley, Feb. 7, 2023
Nancy (Hawkins) Petrichick,
Nov. 30, 2022
Betty (Weitz) Sweet, Dec. 19, 2022

1981

Scott E. King, Jan. 5, 2023

1982

Joanne Crawford-Dew,
March 20, 2023
David Winslow Levine, Feb. 2, 2023

1983

Mary Rita Billo-Brown, Dec. 9, 2022

1984

Grace Dean, Jan. 1, 2023

1985

Cecelia M. Skott, Dec. 25, 2022

1986

James M. "Jim" Marshall,
Dec. 14, 2022

1989

George B. Chapman, March 9, 2023
Timothy A. Galarneau, Nov. 22, 2022
Joseph K. "Kevin" Jacobs,
Dec. 13, 2022
Pamela S. Schu, Dec. 13, 2022

1993

Chad D. Deroy, Dec. 12, 2022

1994

Pamela Jan "P.J." Fisher, Feb. 26, 2023

1995

Karen (Patrick) Sweezy,
March 10, 2023

2001

Thomas Gary "Tom" Cosola,
Nov. 6, 2022

2009

William "Billy" Brosi V, Jan. 6, 2023
Jodi Veeder, March 8, 2023

Obituaries

Edward Coll, Alfred University's 12th president

Edward G Coll Jr., 12th president of Alfred University, passed away Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, in Gainesville, Georgia, at the age of 88. Ed served as president at Alfred University for 18 years, from 1982-2000. Under his leadership, the landscape of the University changed dramatically, both in terms of physical facilities and academic offerings.

Six new buildings were constructed, including the Miller Performing Arts Center, F.W. Olin

Building, Scholes Library, Arthur and Lea Powell Campus Center, Saxon Inn, and the Ceramics Corridor Innovation Center. Four others—including landmarks Alumni Hall (which houses the Division of Enrollment Management offices) and the Steinheim (which became home to the Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center)—were renovated.

During Ed's presidency, Alfred University became the only

institution in the United States and only the third in the world to offer a doctoral degree in glass science; implemented new graduate degree programs in a variety of areas, including master's degrees in business administration, biomedical materials engineering science and integrated electronic arts; and launched new undergraduate programs in fields such as molecular cell biology and management information systems.



Edward Coll, Alfred University's 12th president at Carnegie Hall.

Alfred University completed two major campaigns during Ed's tenure, raising a total of more than \$90 million against a combined goal of \$53 million. A third campaign to raise \$70 million by June 2000—announced in 1998 and at the time the most ambitious fundraising initiative in University history—had raised more than \$67 million by July 1999. The University's endowment increased from \$8 million when Ed took office in 1982 to \$54 million when he retired in 2000.

On a national level, Ed was long involved in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), serving as vice chair of the President's Commission, 1988-91; vice president for Division III, 1994-96; a member of the executive committee, 1994-96; and a member of the NCAA Council, 1993-97. He was one of four officers charged with restructuring the organization in 1995-96. He was also very involved with the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a national organization of professionals in the development field. He served as chair of the CASE Board of Trustees, as district director, and as a national director from 1981-82 and again from 1989-93.

Ed came to Alfred University in 1982 from the University of Miami, where he had served as vice president for development since 1973. A Pittsburgh-area native, Ed received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Duquesne University, which later awarded him an honorary doctorate. He was also named a Fulbright Fellow, studying at Warwick University in Coventry, England.

At Alfred University's Commencement ceremonies in 2000, Ed served as keynote speaker and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. He and his wife, Carole Lee Hulse Coll—who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University in 1999—had five children: Thomas, Jean, Peter, Karen, and Kelly. Thomas earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Alfred University in 1988.

The oldest classroom building on campus, Kanakadea Hall, underwent a complete renovation in 2000-2001 and was renamed the Edward G. Coll Jr. and Carole Hulse Coll Center at Kanakadea. Alumni and friends donated more than \$2.3 million to fund renovations of the building, which houses the Division of Human Studies.

Peter Buttress '62, former trustee

Peter Buttress '62, former member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, passed away on Dec. 8, 2022, at his home in Lexington, SC. He was 90.

Peter, who graduated from Alfred University with a bachelor's degree in English, served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1979-89.

After graduation from Alfred University, he enjoyed a long career with IBM, serving as director of personnel before retiring in 1987. Following his retirement, Peter was a journalist and freelance writer whose work appeared in newspapers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Florida; and magazines in North and South Carolina. He was also the author of two children's books.

Introducing the

Alfred University Family Association

A new group organized by the Office of University Advancement provides opportunities for parents and family members of Alfred University students to engage with the University.

The Alfred University Family Association (AUFA) was formed this academic year to help facilitate community amongst the family members of our students. All families of current students are recognized as members automatically.

The goal of AUFA is to provide parents and family members with the tools and resources they need to be engaged with the Alfred University community, connected with fellow parents, and empowered to support their student's academic journey.

Members receive a bi-monthly e-newsletter and are invited to attend an AUFA reception which occurs during Fall Family Weekend (scheduled this year for Sept. 15-16, 2023). The reception is an opportunity for parents to spend time together and network, and Alfred University leadership will be on hand to give members updates on the University.

AUFA members are also offered access to periodic webinars throughout the year which discuss topics that are key to student experience and success. A February webinar focused on residence life; one held in April highlighted career development and the University's libraries.

Members of AUFA are invited to support Alfred University by volunteering, serving as an Alfred Ambassador, or by making a gift to the Alfred Fund, the Student Experience Fund, or to an area or program of the University that is important to members and their students.

For more information on how to participate in the Alfred University Family Association, and to learn more about engagement or giving opportunities through the AUFA, please visit the AUFA website (link inserted here), or email Jennifer Gibson at gibsonj@alfred.edu



Jennifer Gibson, director of family engagement and philanthropy in the Office of University Advancement, led efforts to develop the Alfred University Family Association.

Alan Littell '53

Several years ago, Alan Littell '53 was living in Paris, working as a journalist. Residing in an old, historic enclave of the city, Alan had friends, but still experienced his share of difficulties adjusting to a foreign culture. "As an American abroad," he recalls, "it was still difficult for a time to find my footing. I had stumbled into uncharted territory, linguistically and culturally."

With those recollections in mind, Alan made a Saxon Circle gift to Alfred University that will provide annual scholarship support to an international student coming to Alfred from a country suffering from unrest. His decision was inspired by the story of four students from Ukraine who enrolled at Alfred University last fall. The students were given full academic scholarships, which were approved by the Board of Trustees in the wake of the brutal Russian invasion of their homeland in February 2022.

"I take the view that among the international students now enrolled at Alfred University there are those, particularly the Ukrainians, who are working through what it means to be a stranger in a country not their own," Alan says. "They may have special needs—and these may well include financial needs. This is the reason I decided to offer support."



Alan Littell '53

Alan earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Alfred University in 1953 and worked for more than 40 years as a freelance journalist, reporting on travel for publications like the New York Times and Travel & Leisure Magazine. In the early 1960s, he was assistant news editor at the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune newspaper. He is the author of two novels, as well as a non-fiction collection of his career in journalism. Most recently, he published "The Absentminded Stargazer (And Other Tales of Alfred University)," a collection of essays of unique characters

associated with Alfred University whom Alan got to know while overseeing the University's News Bureau from 1968-85.

Alan is part of an Alfred University family that includes brother Robert Littell '56, a novelist who has lived in France for 50 years; son Harry Littell '88 MFA, a professional photographer living in Ithaca; son Matthew Littell, who attended Alfred University and is a realtor living in California; and his late wife, Caroline, who in the 1970s served as director of the University's study abroad program.



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Reunion 2023

The 2023 Reunion is scheduled for June 8-11, and plans are well underway. All alumni are welcome to attend Reunion. We will honor all class years ending in 3 & 8. We will honor our 50 Year alumni along with a special celebration for the Class of '73 Nurses. There will be special group celebrations for Alfred University's Golden Saxons, InterVarsity, Habitat for Humanity and Alfred's Chamber Singers.

Alfred University's Greek Community will celebrate this year too. Kappa Psi Upsilon, Lambda Chi Alpha and Delta Sigma Phi will celebrate their Golden Saxons and Honored Years, all members are welcome. Alpha Kappa Omicron will hold their annual meeting during Reunion weekend.

Alfred University's annual Reunion offers you the opportunity to reunite and reconnect with friends and classmates. If you have a special group that you would like to celebrate, call our office at 607-871-2144 and we will work with you to create a memorable event. The weekend offers something for everyone!

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

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

Save the date for Reunion 2023, June 8-11

